

## As 120,000 miners challenge the N.C.B.:

# Coal strike spreads

By John Spencer

MORE THAN half the collieries in Britain were on strike yesterday in defiance of the union leadership and the National Coal Board.

### Speed-up as the dustmen return

By Peter Read  
AS MORE London dustmen return to work this week, the councils are taking the opportunity to try and push through productivity deals and redundancy.

The danger of such deals are shown by the proposals put to the Ealing men last Friday.

The work force would be cut from 282 to 207 and drastic speed-up must inevitably follow.

Union officials are still trying to get the deal pushed through.

Mr Dave Ryland, regional officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, told the men last Friday that the gross wage including bonuses under the deal would be £28.

'Presumption'  
A town hall spokesman said afterwards that this was based on a 'presumption' that the bonus would be elevated by the increase in the basic wage.

The bonus is also conditional on job re-allocation.

When the work force is being cut, this can only mean more work for fewer men.

The council is trying to put on a friendly face to get the deal accepted.

It said it would support a call for an inquiry into the negotiating machinery for municipal manual workers.

Local union branch officers are reported to be enthusiastic about the attitude of the councils.

A National Union of Public Employees branch secretary, Mr Harry Leggett, said 'the council has so far been very generous'.

### Reject deal

This type of deal must be rejected as leading directly to speed-up and redundancy.

The wage increases paid for their implementation are soon whittled away by inflation.

Behind the so-called generosity of the councils lies the drive to cut back on public expenditure at the expense of the working class.

Yorkshire's 75 pits were solidly out, joined by 24 pits in South Wales, ten in Derbyshire, two in Nottinghamshire, one in Kent and a number of large pits in Scotland.

Altogether more than 130 of the 306 collieries in Britain were on strike.

More than 200 Yorkshire miners on Monday succeeded in calling out two of Nottingham's largest pits: Bevercotes and Thoresby. Bevercotes, an £18 million show-piece pit, is the most modern in England.

Hostility to the union leadership, which has recommended acceptance of the NCB's wages offer in return for 'further negotiations' on the question of surfacemen's hours, is growing rapidly.

Representatives of 17,000 Derbyshire miners on Monday passed a resolution of no confidence in the NUM leadership and demanded their resignations.

Leaders of the South Yorkshire branches have also called for the resignation of NUM president Sir Sidney Ford and general secretary Lawrence Daly.

Daly came under heavy fire on Monday night on the BBC's 'Panorama'.

He and NCB chairman Lord Robens faced a hostile group of strikers who proceeded to grill both for 20 minutes.

Procedure  
Daly pleaded with the miners to go through constitutional procedure, explaining that this would mean an executive recommendation going to a delegate conference and then a ballot of 300,000 members.

But as one striker put it: 'For far too long our union has provided cheap labour for the NCB. We've waited 22 years on this hours question, and we don't intend waiting another two days.'

They were equally unmoved by Robens' claim that their action amounted to anarchy and 'anarchy certainly won't pay off in this case'.

'There are rules of the game and you are breaking the rules,' he said.

The miners' action, he claimed, would make no difference to the NCB, except that it would lose customers and 'losing customers loses pits'.

The miners had heard this kind of talk before.

'We've been battered and brainwashed with all this talk of closure until we've lost our backbone—at least I thought we had until now!'

Said another: 'We've always been in a position where it's either take it or leave it. Well, we're not taking it any more.'

Trapped  
If anyone was trapped it was Robens himself, who admitted:

'As a public corporation the Board has simply to return the interest on the money that it has borrowed.'

While he might feel for miners on low wages, this was no concern of the Board in its public capacity.

This statement, described by one of the miners on the programme as 'a cynical remark', sums up NCB policy since nationalization.

Ever since 1947, Coal Board policy has operated entirely in the interests of the money-lenders and the old coal owners who draw fat compensation payments while the miners draw a pittance in wages.

During all these exchanges, left-talker Daly cut a sorry figure, appealing to the strikers to 'let the rest of the lads have a chance to consider the offer through procedure'.

Same line  
But every miner knows from bitter experience that once claims are in the tortuous negotiating procedure they are lost to sight for years at a time.

The miners have heard



### Union inaction behind tubemen's strike

MOST London Tube lines were hit on Monday when guards from both rail unions struck in support of their demand for higher mileage pay.

No trains ran on the Central, Piccadilly and Circle lines and Northern, Bakerloo and District services were restricted.

The Victoria line, which operates without guards, was unaffected.

Road traffic was jammed in and out of central London and Scotland Yard advised motorists to leave work early.

The strike was called, in defiance of their union's advice, by a joint meeting of London ASLEF (Locomotive Engineers and Firemen) branches last Wednesday and supported by Railwaymen's Union guards.

They intend to strike one day each week until their demands for equal mileage bonus with motormen (drivers) are met.

Smouldering  
This issue has been smouldering under the surface for two years, one striker told the Workers Press on Monday.

'Tremendous frustration's been building up because the executives of both unions have done nothing about this,' he said.

Guards were recently incensed when they were given a mileage award of only 6s. a week as compared to the amounts motormen receive, which can sometimes reach as much as 15s. a day.

### Greeting to the daily

I must take this opportunity of expressing my pleasure at the appearance of the Workers' Press as a worthy successor to 'The Newsletter'.

The new daily has come at an important point in the history of the working class, and in the immediate industrial struggles is indispensable to all militants for guidance in the defence of wages and conditions.

Primarily, of course, the Workers' Press is a political paper, and this is so because, as we have seen particularly since the implementation of the Labour government's policies, politics are part and parcel of trade unionism in all its stages.

Like many trade unionists, I have learned long ago that it is no use depending on our 'leaders'—be they right or the so-called left variety, as the people who will put up any genuine fight on behalf of the working class—the recent Jones-Scanlon charade at the Labour Party conference is a good example of that.

If the 'mistakes' of the past, which led to the betrayal of the 1926 General Strike and the rise of fascism, are to be avoided in the future, then a new leadership, as personified by the new daily, must be extended throughout the working class, ready and determined to lead the fight for socialism.

For these reasons, I urge all workers to support their paper.

Ronald Brown,  
chairman  
Edinburgh Workers'  
Committee  
SSEB.

### 'B.B.C. strikes will continue'

—Union chief

THE lightning strikes which have disrupted programmes and upset production schedules at the BBC are to continue, Mr Tom Rhys, general secretary of Association of Broadcasting Staffs, warned on Monday.

The strikes have already thrown the BBC's Christmas programme schedule into disorder.

The ABS has refused to accept a 4 per cent pay offer from the BBC and is fighting for a 10 per cent rise.

They are also demanding time-and-a-half for overtime—20 hours in some cases—instead of a fall-back rate.

They also want full pay for 18-year-olds.

Delivery men were still working and it is claimed that management and staff at some firms were baking bread.

COVENTRY  
'Crisis in the motor industry'  
Wednesday, October 22, 7.30 p.m.  
Coventry Cross  
The Brugges

### Krupp man in Brandt Cabinet

WEST GERMANY'S new Chancellor, Willy Brandt, has already run into trouble in forming his coalition cabinet with the liberal Free Democrats.

The provisional appointment of Dr Hans Leussink as Minister for Scientific Research is being criticised by members of Brandt's own Party, the Social Democrats.

Dr Leussink is not a member of any political party and does not sit in the Bundestag, the West German parliament.

He is, however, scientific adviser to the mammoth Krupp concern, and it is this, together with Leussink's isolation from the younger generation of social-democratic voters, that has triggered off the protests against his appointment.

Financed Nazis  
Krupp, it should be remembered, was one of the biggest financiers and benefactors of the Nazi regime, employing Soviet and East European slave labour.

Even before he officially takes office, Brandt is linking up openly with big monopoly interests, to the extent of

bringing a Krupp man into his cabinet in preference to his own party members.

Like all social-democratic governments, Brandt's will serve capitalism to the very end.

Mr Victor Feather's attempts to get the Standard-Triumph strikers back to work have been conducted in parallel with similar discussions with executive councilman Mr Arthur Hecox about Vauxhall's.

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Brewery drivers strike over work allocation

AS DRIVERS at Luton's Whitbread brewery ended their strike over allocation of work on Monday, all the 150 transport workers at the Northampton Watney Mann brewery came out over a similar issue.

The Northampton men are striking over the brewery hiring outside contractors on Saturdays without first offering its own workers the chance of overtime.

The drivers are not to meet again until Sunday.

The unofficial week-old strike in Luton ended after the drivers were threatened with sackings if there was no return to work.

The dispute arose over draymen carrying wine and spirits as well as beer.

### Two vital Mersey motor meetings

By our industrial reporter  
STRIKING carworkers from two Merseyside factories meet tomorrow after a week of attempts by employers and union officials to break their resistance.

At Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant on Tuesday, the company invited AEF members, over the heads of their stewards, to return to work.

This was endorsed by local union officials who had earlier conveyed return-to-work instructions from their national executive to the plant's 400 press operators.

But despite more than eight hours of top-level discussions at Trades Union Congress headquarters the same evening, the employers are refusing to settle the demands of the Standard-Triumph, Hunt's Cross, strikers.

DEADLOCK  
Employers and union leaders met separately, met together, met over a cold pork dinner, but the talks still ended in deadlock.

Vauxhall's move to get its 5,000 engineers back to work came close on the heels of the press operators' decision to resume work.

AEF divisional organizer Mr Norman MacDonald said the union's members were 'permitted to return to work on the invitation of the company'.

Press operators were laid off for four weeks in their dispute over the setting of machines.

But most of the engineers were home after working to rule against the company's new pay and productivity proposals.

Asked by the Workers' Press whether the press shop men would now join the latter dispute, AEF district secretary Mr Clifford Keech would comment only that:

'Attempts are being made to settle that one.'

Meanwhile 3,000 National Union of Vehicle Builders members are still laid off after six weeks, becoming not only increasingly determined to fight the company's new deal, but more and more angry with alleged discrimination at the docks.

Mr Victor Feather's attempts to get the Standard-Triumph strikers back to work have been conducted in parallel with similar discussions with executive councilman Mr Arthur Hecox about Vauxhall's.

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### A.T.U.A. meetings SWINDON

Speaker: Frank Willis  
Young Socialists candidate in the parliamentary by-election

Thursday, October 23 8 p.m.  
Pinehurst Common Room

Wednesday, October 29 8 p.m.  
Swindon Town Hall

CASTLEFORD  
Wednesday, October 22 8 p.m.  
Ship Inn

WILLESDEN  
Thursday, October 23, 8 p.m.  
Trades and Labour Hall  
High Road, N.W.10.

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Young Socialists  
**GRAND XMAS BAZAAR**  
Saturday, Nov. 29  
Canning Town Public Hall

doors open 12 noon  
Can you sew? knit? paint?  
make something for our Bazaar?  
give something towards our bazaar?  
Have you a tin of grocery? jumble?  
Help us make this the best bazaar ever held!  
Help us raise the money for our daily paper—  
THE WORKERS' PRESS





# TODAYS TV

**Anglia**

9.15 a.m. Schools. 12.25-12.55 p.m. Apna Hi Ghar Samajhiye. 12.55 Ble Carech Chi Fynd? 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News and Weather. 2.05-2.50 Schools. 3.45-4.15 Representing The Union. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Zokkol 5.15 Wild World. 5.44 Babar. 5.50 National News and Weather.

6.00 London-Nationwide.

6.45 The Newcomers.

7.10 The Laugh Parade.

8.45 The Main News and Weather.

9.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Party.

9.10 The Wednesday Play: 'Close the Coalhouse Door'.

10.30 24 Hours.

11.05 Free For All.

11.35 Weatherman.

All regions as BBC-1 except at the following times:

**Midlands and East Anglia:** 6.00-6.45 p.m. Midlands Today, Look East, Weather, Nationwide. 11.37 News Summary, Weather.

**Northern England:** 6.00-6.45 p.m. Look North, Weather, Nationwide. 11.37 News Headlines, Weather.

**Wales:** 10.25-10.45 a.m. Dysgu Cymraeg. 6.00-6.45 p.m. Wales Today, Nationwide. 6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 11.05-11.35 World Cup Soccer.

**Scotland:** 2.30-2.50 p.m. Modern Studies. 6.00-6.45 p.m. Reporting Scotland 9.10-10.30 Association Football: West Germany v. Scotland. 11.05-11.20 Made in Britain. 11.20 Epilogue, Scottish News Headlines, Weather.

**Northern Ireland:** 10.25-10.45 a.m. For Schools. 6.00-6.45 p.m. Scene Around Six, Nationwide, Weather. 7.10-8.45 World Cup Association Football: Russia v. Northern Ireland. 11.37 Northern Ireland News Headlines, Weather.

**South and West:** 6.00-6.45 p.m. Points West, South Today, Spotlight South-West, Weather, Nationwide. 11.37 News Headlines, Weather.

**Thames**

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School. 7.00 p.m. Expecting A Baby. 7.30 Newsroom, Weather. 8.00 Man Alive. 8.50 The Garden of the Three Glens. 9.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Party. 9.10 Rowan and Martin. 10.00 Know Your Onions. 10.20 Peter Sarstedt. 10.50 News Summary, Weather. 10.55 Line-Up.

**ITN**

11.00 a.m.-2.55 p.m. Schools. 3.10 Racing From Sandown Park. 4.07 Medicine In Question. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 The Tingha and Tucker Club. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 The Sooty Show. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 News From ITN.

6.03 Today.

6.35 The Saint.

7.30 Coronation Street.

8.00 It Takes A Thief.

9.00 Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Liberal Party.

9.10 Special Branch.

10.10 News.

10.40 Football.

11.35 Professional Wrestling.

12.15 a.m. The Papers.

12.30 Medicine In Question.

11.00 a.m. Schools. 2.55 p.m. Racing From Sandown. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Paulus. 4.30 Survival. 4.55 The Sooty Show. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 News. 6.00 Calendar, Weather. 6.30 Hogan's Heroes. 7.00 Jokers Wild. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Saint. 9.00 Party Political Broadcast. 9.10 Special Branch. 10.10 News. Weather. 10.40 International Football. 11.35 Professional Wrestling. 12.05 a.m. Late News. 12.11 Weather.

11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40 p.m. Schools. 2.55-3.40 Racing From Sandown Park. 4.01 Once Upon A Time. 4.13 Westward News Headlines. 4.15 Open House. 4.41 The Gus Honeybun Show. 4.55 The Sooty Show. 5.20 Sexton Blake and Captain Nemesis. 5.50 National News. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure Hunt. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Saint. 9.00 Liberal Party Political Broadcast. 9.10 Special Branch. 10.10 National News. 10.40 World Cup Football. 11.35 Professional Wrestling. 12.05 a.m. Faith For Life. 12.11 Weather.

# STYLE and STYLE...

**THE DAUNTING** thing about going to any West End theatre is that it is unequivocally middle-class territory.

The faces in the audience, the styles of clothing, the gossip in the aisles, the well-bred thuggery in the bars, where overworked attendants ladle out gins and tonics, the rustle of programmes—all these announce an enclave of bourgeois supremacy.

There is an atmosphere of collusion, a sense of ritual where class identities are reinforced in a reverent if often bewildered respect for the tombstones of culture, the masterpieces of the past, or with a kind of interested regard for the latest work from the pen of either an author who shares their world view or provides them with a therapeutic and often masochistic tremor between dinner and bed.

There is a sense of modish ceremony, of impenetrability, of a preoccupation with form for form's sake in these isolated pockets from some other era.

And on the stage so often the charade is echoed by the actors, whose modulated voices, caressed from the belly, intone such resonant melodies that never issue from the tongue of any living man.

## Backwater

What is this curious world of voice production and gesture, which draws its blood not from the vigour and struggle of the real world, but

from the rarified backwaters of drama school speech training.

The cold hand of death, of hollow forms, grips this, the most potentially living kind of creative expression.

Why is it that the potential of the drama, which confronts living audiences with living performers in the flesh, where the conflicts and passions of an era could be expounded publicly, has about as much living dynamism as an afternoon tea shop?

The theatre is dead, for it is a haven for a dying class; it reflects the stagnation of that class.

Last year in France, during the May-June days, the Odeon was occupied. The Odeon is possibly the most bourgeois of bourgeois theatres, but the stylized forms of empty drama were replaced by the living passion of polemics.

The building was crowded day and night. A new strength of release was found as the possibility of revolutionary change gripped the imagination of workers and students.

## Release

So it will be here when the revolution releases all the latent creative energy of the working class and sweeps aside these stagnant bourgeois formulae, these tired old cultural forms and recharges them with a new dynamic.

That is the only future for the theatre, as indeed for any form of artistic expression.

AT THE Saville Theatre is Berthold Brecht's 'The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui'.

Brecht was a convinced lifelong communist, whose politics were severely limited by the twists and turns of Stalinism in the 1930s and 1950s, but who fought for a vision of a new kind of Marxist drama.

Against the self-congratulation and narcissism of bourgeois drama, he posed a new Epic theatre, a dialect-theatre whose aim was to present and illuminate events and struggles in a materialist way, to say not merely 'this is so', but 'how can it be changed?'

For this kind of theatre he demanded a new kind of presentation and a new kind of acting.

The actor was not to become the character he was playing, so that the audience could identify with him, but the audience should be able to assess critically the character, by the author's objective portrayal of him.

# THEATRE



## THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI

### SAVILLE THEATRE



Leonard Rossiter (above) as the Chicago gangster Arturo Ui whose character source is Adolf Hitler. Bertold Brecht (right) says in his notes on the play 'great political criminals must by all means be exposed, preferably to ridicule, for they are not so much great political criminals as perpetrators of great political crimes.'

In other words the actor must demonstrate the character; in his performance he is showing the character, by his voice and gesture he is presenting him for criticism.

He is saying 'look at this

man I am showing you and judge'.

## Tribute

Brecht's theories have never been realized in practice by

any production in this country and it is a great tribute to Leonard Rossiter's performance that he exemplifies this method.

His Arturo Ui is a brilliant and sinister creation with all the objectivity of an animated cartoon.

## LETTER

# Eisenstein's original 'October' must be shown



A still from the new version of 'October', showing the fraternization between Russian and German troops at the front in 1917.

THE ADDITION of a sound track, music—and, dare we guess, one or two sneakily lengthened shots of Trotsky in this version of 'October'—do little to enhance the value of the film as we have known it. This stands good even if this is a visually refreshing new print.

The substance of the ghost (if I might be permitted that expression) of the Prince of Denmark in this version of Hamlet has only received more dimension. It is still, to all intents and purposes, Hamlet without the Prince.

But this does seem to point to a matter of greater interest to all those who combat Stalinism and its poisonous fruits, even in the field of culture.

Does not this exercise of the Soviet film industry indicate the existence of further material, the very cuts Eisenstein was forced to make in his film after its first showing to members of Stalin's entourage, viz. the references to Trotsky?

I have always suspected that somewhere in the vaults of the Soviet film archives, there lies the original, uncut version of 'October'.

If not, then in all probability the original cuts and deleted fragments could still be suffering a similar fate. We also know that Eisenstein was in the habit, or

should we say, followed the practice of filing film clips of practically every shot of his films (e.g. 'Bezhin Meadow'). This could prove still another source from which the film could be reconstructed.

This latest edition of 'October' should be challenged by all socialists, trade-unionists, professional cinematographers and cine enthusiasts who refuse to accept the lie.

They should insistently demand the opening of the Soviet film archives (a privilege that has already been extended to the most anti-communist capitalist television companies).

They must demand that Eisenstein's 'October' should be freed from the incarceration it has suffered these 42 long years!

We must refuse to accept this new version of 'October' for more than what it is, a new and just as shameful distortion of the 'Ten Days that Shook the World' (which, incidentally, constituted the script for the film).

We cannot accept the Eisenstein of the Stalin era, a broken spirit and, I might add, very much a prostituted talent.

Witness his disgraceful betrayal of Isaac Babel in the affair of 'publication rights'. Isaac Babel, it must be said,



Eisenstein: 'I'd probably die,' he told a visitor soon after his film was rejected by the Stalinists.

to his undying honour preferred his new-found 'metier of silence' to turning back to Stalin; an eternal silence, as it was to prove, in Stalin's concentration camps.

Eisenstein was broken by degrees. 'I'd probably die,' he replied to a visitor who inquired about his state of fatigue soon after the rejection of his film by the Stalinists.

He most certainly did, even if it was to prove a long-drawn-out process, only to be reincarnated as a pliant if subtle servant of the bureaucracy.

'October' as such as John Reed's 'Ten Days' remains the property of the international working class. And now is the time to agitate for its restoration to its rightful owners in its original, pristine condition.

Enough of lies and distortions, of censorship. Everywhere, millions of workers and, in particular, their more advanced sections are searching for a programme for power.

That programme can only be achieved when the mountains of lies, distortions and half-truths raised by the imperialists and their Stalinist agents have been swept away into the refuse bins of history.

## By Brian Moore

This is parody writ large which is the key to the theory of 'alienation', where the actor demonstrates gesture and intonation and reveals the essence of social and political man.

And what is Brecht showing in this play? In tracing the rise to power of a Chicago gangster called Ui, he describes the rise to power of Hitler in Germany.

What he emphasizes is not the personal dynamism of Ui—on the contrary, he is shown as a nonentity—but the objective economic forces impelling such a rise.

In a sequence of scenes first Ui is totally rejected by the bourgeoisie as an unpleasant thug, but when the shares start falling and a financial crisis breaks, Ui's methods of protection, of murder and violence, are the only ones that can ensure the survival of private enterprise.

It is an imaginative and clear exposition, rich in allusions and parodies.

## Weakness

But the central weakness in the play flows from Brecht's involvement with Stalinism.

For, although the crisis of capitalism is grasped, the mystery still remains why Hitler's rise to power was not challenged by the only historical force that could challenge it—the working class.

To understand the defeat of the most powerfully organized working class in the world demands an understanding of the role of Stalinism.

Brecht was incapable of confronting that question. Like many others, Stalinism thwarted his political development.

Consequently the only conscious expression of the working class in this play is a feeble cry: 'Will nobody help us?'

This weakness in the play is further compounded by Michael Blakeman's production, for there seems to be a deliberate equation of the grocers in the play, who represent for Brecht the individualism of the petty bourgeoisie, with the working class.

This at once distorts the whole emphasis, for it was precisely on this lower middle-class section of traders that Hitler found much of his support.

They were—quite separate from the working class whose unions and parties were smashed by Hitler.

But the production of the play is an important event and should not be missed because the play is coming off shortly.

Organized block bookings for factories and Young Socialists would be a good idea.

THERE is no urgency to go to the National Theatre where Peter Nicols' 'The National Health' has just opened.

It has all the neurosis of petty-bourgeois individualism, a hysterical catalogue of obsessions and hatreds, resentments and pessimisms, a bleak and embittered cry of contempt and confusion, with neither wit nor originality nor technical skill.

Its frustrated pretensions are admirably matched by the cynicism of the Old Vic Company's style. Taxpayers' money?

## Culture and Socialism



## Towards an Independent Revolutionary Art

Culture and Socialism and a Manifesto Art and Revolution

An article compiled by the author from a talk he gave to a Moscow club on February 3, 1926, and a number of other addresses.

The Manifesto, appearing in 1938 under the signatures of André Breton and Diego Rivera was in fact drawn up in collaboration with Trotsky.

Price: Two shillings and sixpence Available from 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4

