

What we think industrial reform and Pilkington's

WHEN Mr Heath opens his Pandora's box of industrial reforms in a week's time, there will be a predictable outcry of horror and anguish from the trade union leaders.

But no one, least of all trade unionists, should be fooled by simulated anger and hypocritical opposition. Despite external appearances both employers and union leaders are extremely concerned about the swelling upsurge of working-class opposition to Tory policies. What separates them today is not a trade union determination to struggle against Heath's corporatist reforms, but an evident desire to meet him halfway by doing the job of the state apparatus.

The employers' and union leaders' mutual fear is even more obvious in Feather's letter to Tory Minister Carr today. Instead of telling Carr and Heath to go to hell and declaring his principled opposition to the reforms, Feather goes out of way to placate Cabinet die-hards.

'The introduction of penal sanctions into the relations between employers and work people would be necessary, irrelevant and unworkable,' he says.

Feather thinks Heath's dictatorial measures, pointed like a loaded pistol at the head of the working class, are not really reactionary, merely expedient!

Of course if capitalism was not a system based on the maximum accumulation of profit by the maximum exploitation of workers for a minimum number of monopolists, there would be little or no need for industrial courts, 60-day cooling-off periods, a Ministry of Employment and Productivity—or even a Trades Union Congress.

Mr Feather's reply to the Tory attacks is not as naive as some people might believe. His answer to the growth of monopoly is, in fact, to collaborate with it.

'Evidence of the continuing willingness of trade unionists . . . to adapt their policies and attitudes to new industrial needs and methods of working is to be found in such innovations as productivity bargaining . . . the negotiation of comprehensive redundancy agreements. . . .

As any worker knows, productivity bargaining and redundancy agreements have contributed greatly to steadily-growing army of unemployed in the country, while assisting the bosses to cut costs and augment profits.

Feather adds:

'The General Council have also been active in promoting agreements between unions as a means of settling conflict of interests in an orderly way, and one of the jobs of the Industrial Committees which are to be established (two are operating already) will be to help improve collective bargaining arrangements and to procedure agreements.

'They have in addition been engaged in an extensive and detailed review of the rules of affiliated unions, and have issued recommendations to unions on their procedures for calling strikes, and on rules relating to admissions, discipline and exclusion from membership.

'You will also be aware of the TUC's interventions to help settle industrial disputes and the ready co-operation that we have received in this respect, not only from trade unions but from employers (sic) . . .

The implications of Feather's reasoning are brutally borne out by the great at Pilkington's and the 'ready co-operation' of trade union leaders and employers in the victimization of 600 militant workers.

Having involved Woodcock and Payne in their corporatist programme, the Tories are confident that the passage of their laws will convince the remaining leaders to drop the last pretence of opposition and collaborate openly.

We urge all workers concerned with the Tories' sinister plans and the no less ominous advances of the union leaders, to treat these moves with the utmost seriousness and give their maximum support to the All Trades Unions Alliance Conference to defend the St Helens workers on October 3.

Sound and fury at LP conference

Labour rejects Tory anti-union laws

SOUND AND FURY formed the main bulk of yesterday's Labour Party Conference debate on the Tories' trade union legislation plans. But what did it signify?

There was talk — from Amalgamated Engineering and Foundryworkers' president Hugh Scanlon — of the Trades Union Congress's 'carefully planned strategy' for resisting the government's proposals.

There were threats — from Boilermakers' president Dan McGarvey that last year's TUC 'programme for action' would be dropped if the Tories proceeded regardless. And there were calls for Party unity against Heath's threats from Salford West MP Stanley Orme.

Scanlon warned that it would be a disaster if Labour adopted a 'look both ways' attitude on opposition to the Tory laws.

'In a phrase we use in Lancashire, I want to say to the platform—no pussyfooting about on this issue. . . . But echoing T&GWU secretary Jack Jones' remarks, Scanlon did not back militant phraseology with any real plans to destroy the Tory offensive.

'We will support through the medium of a unified General Council any trade union involved in a struggle with this government,' he said.

While Conference unanimously passed the Transport workers' hands off the unions' resolution, Barbara Castle, replying to the debate, ignored calls from the floor to repudiate her old attempt to pass anti-trade union legislation.

The nub of her opposition to Tory law was that the Labour government could and had done a better job of policing the working class.

The National Executive Committee supported the resolution, but Castle added that the opposition to anti-union laws must be a constructive one.



The platform at the opening of the Labour Party conference in Blackpool yesterday. At the microphone are Party secretary Sir Harry Nicholas and Ian Mikardo, MP for Poplar

Nationalize for housing call is rejected

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They called on the Party's national executive committee to set up a working party on housing problems to report to the 1971 conference.

But they endorsed by a 1½ million vote majority an executive recommendation to throw out a resolution—from Liverpool's West Derby constituency party—containing a call for nationalization of the building industry and the land.

They called for a socialist policy that would be implemented working-class people are still living in squalid conditions they shouldn't have to put up with,' said Heffer.

'Yet 25 per cent of the present 600,000 unemployed were building-trade workers who should be engaged in this work.

New fighting in Belfast

A STONE-THROWING crowd of several hundred was involved in fierce clashes with troops in Belfast yesterday afternoon.

For the third day running fighting broke out in the Shankill Rd as an army command post in Snugville St—scene of the weekend's conflicts—was again at the centre.

Demonstrators commandeered several vehicles for use as barricades and some were set alight.

Yesterday's fighting followed a weekend of the worst street battles since last July.

Then the clashes with troops took place in the predominantly Roman Catholic lower Falls Rd area. But through last weekend the fighting occurred in the Protestant Shankill Rd.

Support grows for Pilkington conference

WITH FOUR days to go to the All Trades Unions Alliance Pilkington's conference support is now building up.

The factory committee at Lead and Alloys Ltd in Wakefield have passed a resolution supporting the conference and are sending two delegates.

The Clapham, South London, branch of the Amalgamated Society of Painters and Decorators has agreed to send a delegate.

Backing for the conference has come in from Leeds where the W Yorkshire Foundries shop stewards' committee and the public employees' union has decided to send an observer.

An army spokesman said that 1,500 CS gas grenades and cartridges were fired on demonstrators over the weekend.

Another London wharf closes

THIRTY-FOUR dockers are to be returned to the 'unattached' pool when Horseferry Wharf, Rotherhithe closes shortly. Opened in 1934, the wharf handles a general cargo service from Rotterdam.

'Until we can talk about ownership and control of the building industry and nationalization of the land, we can't get this problem under control,' he said.

On Sunday night hundreds of people throwing stones surrounded an army command post and broke through the door with a battering ram.

Two hundred people were injured and three died, according to reports, from heart attacks.

Ulster's Security Committee was also expected to meet to discuss this fresh outbreak.

'Sick of inquiries' firemen start action

IT WAS 'emergency calls only' at fire stations all over Britain yesterday as 35,000 firemen began a week's action demanding higher pay and shorter hours.

The firemen—members of the Fire Brigades Union—want a 40-hour basic working week, instead of the present 46 hours.

In fact, because of chronic undermanning and the deliberate run-down of the force, all firemen work a compulsory 36-hour week and a reduction in the basic hours would mean wage rises of up to 25.

The claim has been turned down by the employers' side of the National Joint Council.

At the end of the week's action, the FBU executive is to consider further sanctions if, as seems almost certain, the employers do not meet the claim.

Only two days left to raise £389 8s for Sept Appeal Fund

THE WEEKEND post brought only £81.4s bringing the total to £610.12s 0d. We have only two days left and £389 8s 0d still to raise.

We are faced with a very big fight to complete the total this month. An all-out effort must be made to make it on time.

In less than two weeks we start producing the Workers Press six days a week. Our enemies all said we could never do it. On October 12 we will prove them wrong.

Help us by raising all the money to complete the September fund on time. Post your donations now to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

MID-EAST Cairo agreement strengthens imperialism

BY ROBERT BLACK

SEALED WITH a handshake between the butcher of the Palestinians King Hussein and Al Fatah leader Yassir Arafat, the Cairo conference of Arab leaders has dealt a heavy blow to the guerrillas in Jordan and the anti-imperialist movement throughout the Arab world.

Despite its cynical and purely verbal 'full support for the Palestine revolution', the 14-point agreement will be used to re-establish the power and authority of the Monarchy, so badly shaken in the last two weeks of civil war.

Arafat's claim that the guerrillas would turn Palestine into 'another Hanoi' rather than submit to the supporters of the 'peace plan' now sounds like a cynical joke.

However, the deal's main architects are not to be found either in Cairo or Amman.

The enormous US military pressure, combined with the Soviet bureaucracy's political and diplomatic manoeuvring drove both the ruling Arab bourgeoisie and the Al Fatah leadership towards a complete betrayal of the Palestinian struggle.

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But behind this proposal was the deliberate strategy to use the threat of a US intervention in Jordan to stampede the Nasserites and the Arafat leadership into a betrayal of the guerrillas.

The Soviet bureaucracy's insistence on a Syrian withdrawal from N Jordan, just when the Royalists were on the run, was very much in line with this counter-revolutionary strategy.

Everything turned on the nature of the guerrilla leadership—and Arafat did not let either the Kremlin, Hussein, Nasser, the Zionists or Nixon down.

Melted away Earlier attacks on the Hussein regime as a 'fascist cabinet' melted away as Arafat made haste to Cairo to comply with the 'peace' terms, arranged by Nasser and the other bourgeois Arab leaderships in Sudan, Libya and Tunisia.

Neither was Nasser's role as the 'fixer' accidental. It was through him that the Kremlin applied its strongest political pressure on the Palestinians. In a Moscow broadcast in Arabic last Thursday, night expected an all-out stoppage.

Forward with the first Trotskyist daily newspaper—WORKERS PRESS

Despite leaders' hesitation Council men eager for pay fight

BY JOHN SPENCER

VICTOR FEATHER, Trades Union Congress general secretary, was called into the public authority manual workers' dispute yesterday as council workers in 18 of London's 32 boroughs finalized arrangements for strike action today.

Derek Gladwyn, union-side secretary of the National Joint Industrial Council told Feather by telephone that any help he could give would be appreciated.

The unions involved—Public Employees, Transport and General, General and Municipal and Scottish Commercial Motormen—are looking desperately for a way out of the coming confrontation with the government over pay.

The London strikes are scheduled as the first in a rolling programme of selective stoppages.

The union claim is for £2.15s all-round to bring the lowest basic rate to £16.10s.

They have called on Feather because the Tories have denied conciliation facilities at the Department of Employment and Productivity.

The employers, stiffened by government support, have offered only £1.16s.

The union leaders' position is clearly another manifestation of retreat in the face of the Tory government.

All out Council workers are determined to win their increase, even if they have to take on the Tories to get it.

In the London boroughs—which include Tower Hamlets, Kensington and Chelsea and Southwark—stewards last night expected an all-out stoppage.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE CONFERENCE The Pilkington struggle and the right to strike Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws St George's Hall, Lime St LIVERPOOL Saturday October 3 2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Credentials and visitors' cards 5s each from Conference Secretary, W. Hunter, 58 Leighton View, Liverpool 8.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Trotsky Memorial Meeting

GLASGOW

Partick Burgh Hall (nr Merkleland St underground)

7.30 p.m.

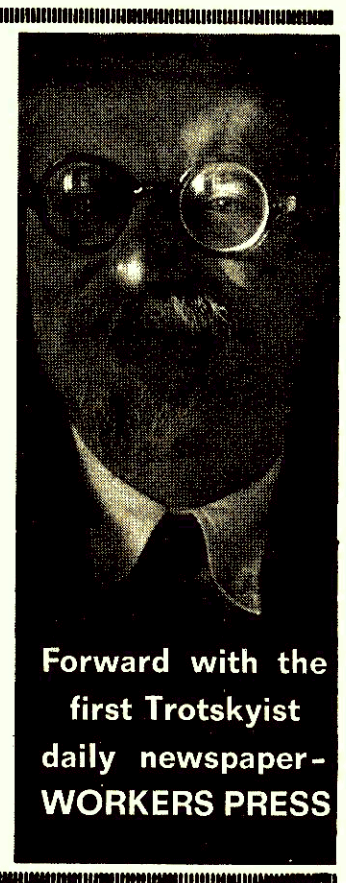
Admission 2s.

'Trotsky and the coming English Revolution'

Speaker: G. Healy (SLL national secretary)

Sunday October 4

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But no one, least of all trade unionists, should be fooled by simulating anger and hypocritical opposition. Despite external appearances both employers and union leaders are extremely concerned about the swelling upsurge of working-class opposition to Tory policies. What separates them today is not a trade union determination to struggle against Heath's corporatist measures, but an evident desire to meet him halfway by doing the job of the state apparatus.

The employers' and union leaders' mutual fear is even more obvious in Feather's letter to Tory Minister Carr today. Instead of telling Carr and Heath to go to hell and declaring his principled opposition to the 'reforms', Feather goes out of way to placate Cabinet die-hards.

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Feather thinks Heath's dictatorial measures, pointed like a loaded pistol at the head of the working class, are not really reactionary. Of course if capitalism was not a system based on the maximum accumulation of profit by the maximum exploitation of workers for a maximum number of monopolists, there would be little or no need for industrial courts, 60-day cooling-off periods, a Ministry of Employment and Productivity—or even a Trades Union Congress.

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As any worker knows, productivity bargaining and redundancy agreements have contributed greatly to steadily-growing armies of unemployed in the country, while assisting the bosses to cut costs and augment profits.

Feather adds:

'The General Council have also been active in promoting agreements between unions as a means of settling conflict of interests in an orderly way, and one of the jobs of the Industrial Committees which are to be established (two negotiating already) will be to help improve collective bargaining arrangements and procedure agreements.'

They have in addition been engaged in an extensive and detailed review of the rules of affiliated unions, and have issued recommendations to unions on their procedures for calling strikes, and on rules relating to admissions, discipline and exclusion from membership.

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The implications of Feather's reasoning are brutally borne out by the retreat at Pilkington's and the 'ready co-operation' of trade union leaders and employers in the victimization of 600 militant workers.

Having involved Woodcock and Paynter in their corporatist programme, the Tories are confident that the passage of their laws will convince the remaining leaders to drop the last pretence of opposition and collaborate openly.

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Labour rejects Tory anti-union laws

By Industrial Correspondent DAVID MAUDE in Blackpool

SOUND AND FURY formed the main bulk of yesterday's Labour Party Conference debate on the Tories' trade union legislation plans. But what did it signify?

There was talk—from Amalgamated Engineering and Foundryworkers' president Hugh Scanlon—of the Trades Union Congress's 'carefully planned strategy' for resisting the government's proposals.

There were threats—from Boltonmakers' president Dan McGarvey that last year's TUC 'programme for action' would be dropped if the Tories proceeded regardless. And there were calls for Party unity against Heath's threats from Salford West MP Stanley Orme.

Scanlon warned that it would be a disaster if Labour adopted a 'look both ways' attitude on opposition to the Tory laws.

'In a phrase we use in Lancashire, I want to say to the platform—no pussyfooting about on this issue.'

But echoing T&GWU secretary Jack Jones' remarks, Scanlon did not back militant phraseology with any real plans to destroy the Tory offensive.

'We will support through the medium of a unified Central Council any trade union involved in a struggle with this government,' he said.

Passed

While Conference unanimously passed the Transport workers' hands off the unions' resolution, Barbara Castle, replying to the debate, ignored calls from the floor to repudiate her old attempt to pass anti-trade union legislation.

The nub of her opposition to Tory law was that the Labour government could and had done the floor to repudiate the working class.

The National Executive Committee supported the resolution, but Castle added that the opposition to anti-union laws must be a constructive one.

In a fiery speech that drew ready response from delegates, Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers declared yesterday his total opposition to restrictions on collective bargaining and the Tory anti-trade union legislation.

But following the spirit of the composite resolution Jones proposed no specific campaign to defeat the Tory proposals.

Tory legislation, said Jones, was 'like trying to put out a fire with a stirrup pump.'

'The government are fanning the flames of industrial war. This is a little Reichstag fire to cover up their anti-progressive policies.'

'Their policy is to hold wages down and cause unemployment. Part of this policy is to pass anti-trade union legislation.'

But his contribution added little to the motion which merely instructs the national executive committee to give 'a vigorous lead and fully support the trade union movement in resisting such interference.'

Jones went on to advocate productivity improvements provided there was increased investment, economic growth and efficient management.

Seconding the resolution, Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association delegate John Forrest said that the biggest single factor responsible for the Labour government's defeat was their own proposed anti-union legislation; a point that drew applause from delegates.

Post Office Workers' general secretary Tom Jackson, echoing the pleas made in yesterday's Trades Union Congress letter to Employment and Productivity Minister Robert Carr,



The platform at the opening of the Labour Party conference in Blackpool yesterday. At the microphone are Party secretary Sir Harry Nicholas and Ian Mikardo, MP for Poplar

Nationalize for housing call is rejected

DELEGATES to the 69th Labour Party Conference yesterday called for the setting-up of a national construction corporation to rationalize public-sector house building.

They called on the Party's national executive committee to set up a working party on housing problems to report to the 1971 conference.

But they endorsed by a 14 million vote majority an executive recommendation to throw out a resolution—coming from Liverpool's West Derby constituency party—containing a call for nationalization of the building industry and the land.

Calls for a socialist policy that would be implemented

MORE children in the North leave school at 15 than in any other region in Britain, says a Northern Economic Planning Council report out yesterday.

Last year, only 44 per cent of children in an area comprising Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, Westmorland and part of Yorkshire continued at school, compared to 62 per cent in the South-East.

Only 6.4 per cent of school leavers had five or more GCE 'O' Levels compared with the national average of 8.1 per cent.

The report states that more than a third of primary school children in the North are being taught in schools built in the 19th century.

by a future Labour government were made by several delegates in yesterday morning's debate.

Slums

From Liverpool, two of them—Walton MP Eric Heffer and Trades Council president Eddie Loyden—laid part of the blame for June's General Election defeat on the Labour government's abandonment of its house-building pledges.

'After six years of Labour government, far too many

working-class people are still living in slum conditions they shouldn't have to put up with,' said Heffer.

'Yet 25 per cent of the present 600,000 unemployed were building-trade workers who should be engaged in this work.'

'A lot of people have a lot of things to explain from this platform,' he said.

Drawing attention to the serious housing cut-backs in many areas of the country, the rapid increase in interest rates and the 'anarchy and fragmentation' of the building industry, Loyden called on conference to adopt a socialist programme—and see that the next Labour government carried it out.

Nationalize

'Until we can talk about ownership and control of the building industry and nationalization of the land, we can't get this problem under control,' he said.

Another London wharf closes

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

CONFERENCE

The Pilkington struggle and the right to strike

Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws

St George's Hall, Lime St LIVERPOOL

Saturday October 3

2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

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Backing for the conference has come in from Leeds where the W Yorkshire Foundries shop stewards' committee have supported the conference and the public employees' union has decided to send an observer.

Commandeered bus

Troops attacked with repeated volleys of CS gas grenades and fighting continued as street barricades were set up and a bus commandeered to block the road.

Army helicopters were used to direct troop movements.

This fighting was preceded by ten hours of clashes during the previous night when crowds—running into hundreds—began to block the road.

Two hundred people were injured and three died, according to reports, from heart attacks.

Ulster's Security Committee was also expected to meet to discuss this fresh outbreak.

Some of the 47 arrested over the weekend were yesterday appearing in court in Belfast.

In another court in the city the re-trial began of three men accused of murdering a policeman—Constable Arbuckle—in the Shankill Rd in October last year.

Despite leaders' hesitation

Council men eager for pay fight

BY JOHN SPENCER

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The claim has been turned down by the employers' side of the National Joint Council.

At the end of the week's action, the FBU executive is to consider further sanctions if, as seems almost certain, the employers do not meet the claim.

Solid support

Reports from London stations yesterday indicated solid support all over the area.

'We're sitting absolutely tight. We will only answer strictly emergency calls,' Sanderstead firemen told Workers Press.

But many of the men feel the present action is only a sop to growing militancy within the union.

Particularly in London, FBU chiefs have come under heavy fire—including a barrage of flour and eggs at a meeting last November—for their vacillating policy.

Present pay is well below craftsmen's rates in industry, with which the firemen want parity.

One London fireman with over ten years' service told Workers Press his wage after 56 hours was £30 18s.

'It's just not comparable with wages in industry,' he said.

Of course, they claim that we're only really working 27 hours a week.

MID-EAST

Cairo agreement strengthens imperialism

BY ROBERT BLACK

SEALED WITH a handshake between the butcher of the Palestinians King Hussein and Al Fatah leader Yassir Arafat, the Cairo conference of Arab leaders has dealt a heavy blow to the guerrillas in Jordan and the anti-imperialist movement throughout the Arab world.

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But behind this proposal was the deliberate strategy to use the threat of a US intervention in Jordan to stamper the Nasserites and the Arafat leadership into a betrayal of the guerrillas.

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TUC CONGRESS — SEPTEMBER 7 1970

IT IS axiomatic in the British labour movement that when the right-wing plans a retreat and a compromise it summons the 'left' to lay down the smokescreen behind which to carry out its political deals.

During the six years of Labour government, Wilson, Jenkins and Castle were able to survive and maintain their hold over the Labour Party leadership and policy and prepare the attacks against the unions only because the political docility of the 'left' MPs allowed them to do so.

Every time the 'lefts' were urged to fight on principled issues like the Prices and Incomes Bill they evaded them by claiming that a successful struggle against Wilson would only restore the Tories to power.

Pave Way

In this manner they protected Wilson's rear and ultimately helped to pave the way for the return of the most reactionary post-war Tory government.

Now that Labour is out of power and the focus of struggle has shifted to the trade unions and the industrial struggles, the 'lefts' have found a new vocation. Their tactics, however, remain the same.

Instead of defending Wilson, they are now busy face-lifting the Trades Union Congress leaders and, together with the Stalinists, indulging in a lot of 'left' demagoguery on wages and industrial democracy and providing the necessary smoke behind which new retreats are being planned.

The most consummate practitioner of this art is Stan Orme MP for Salford West, who, in 1969, helped to cover up the retreat of 'left' union leaders on the TUC plan to police the unions and consistently protected Wilson from the criticisms of the Trotskyists.

Orme is well aware of the scepticism with which many trade unionists treat the TUC leaders as a result of the experiences at Pilkington's, the docks, GKN, Rolls-Royce and the mines.

Avoid Confrontation

Far from fighting the policies of the Tories, the trade union leaders have—and are—trying desperately to accommodate the unions to the Tories and, as the dock strike showed conclusively, they are more than eager to avoid an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation with the union-bashers in the government.

Mr Orme, writing in the September 18 'Tribune', tries just as desperately to conceal this trend and give the impression that the TUC is dynamically different from previous Congresses and that the Labour Party's annual conference must follow the TUC example and adopt socialist policies.

If this is done, according to Orme, the past will be buried and the future assured.

'Never has it stood out more clearly than it did at Brighton when, following the defeat of the Labour government, the trade union movement girded itself for the fight with the Tories.'

'Some people interpret this fight as a sham battle, believing that the implementation of legislation is inevitable and that the trade union movement

Stanley ORME MP and the TUC

A COVER FOR TREACHERY



'LEFT' MP STANLEY ORME

by John Spencer

will, in the final analysis, acquiesce. Nothing could be further from the truth.' (sic)

Mr Orme is hardly qualified to distinguish the 'truth' from its opposite in these matters since he is a representative of a party that has been confusing the working class about its true class interests and about the nature of capitalism for the last 70 years.

'Sham Battle'

Why shouldn't people interpret the trade union leaders' shadow boxing as a 'sham battle'?

The entire TUC history in the 20th century is a history of relentless betrayal and compromise unrelieved by even the slightest gesture of class defiance.

Its philosophy and its method is succinctly summed up in the words of the late Ernest Bevin who said that if he had to repeat 'Black Friday' 1921, over again, he would do it.

And it is fair to say that, as the crisis of British imperialism worsens, the TUC, far from becoming more militant or class-conscious, in fact displays all the anti-socialist features of its senile degeneration in the most insidious way.

Throughout the six years of Labour government, the TUC worked consistently towards a rotten compromise as Wilson, Brown and Castle unrolled their plans for anti-strike laws.

The compromise, finally sealed with the trade union executives conference in June 1969, allowed the government to operate a continuous wage restraint policy in one form or another, and the union chiefs' retreat laid the basis for present Tory plans for even more stringent attacks on the unions.

Direct Backing

This TUC policy has gone hand-in-hand with encouraging productivity deals and speed-up measures throughout industry, many of which have been pushed through against mounting opposition only with the TUC's direct backing.

And since the Tories came to office, the leaders of the trade union bureaucracy have proved unable to defend even

the most basic workers' rights under attack by the employers.

Anyone familiar with the St Helens factories since the events at Lord Pilkington's seven-week strike there earlier this year will know that this is the case.



TUC general secretary VICTOR FEATHER

The strike was only ended after TUC secretary Feather had personally guaranteed there would be no victimization.

But when some of the St Helens men came out on a three-day token strike only two months later, Lord Pilkington was able to sack 600 with impunity. To this day, the TUC has done nothing to honour its pledges to the Pilkington men.

What the union chiefs really think about this situation is best illustrated by the fact that at this year's TUC they elected as their chairman... Lord Cooper, leader of the

General and Municipal Workers' Union, whose role in the Pilkington strike aroused working-class anger all over the country.

This is how the TUC 'defends' the right to strike and 'honours' its agreements with workers.

How can Orme have the effrontery to claim that these leaders will fight the Tory government when he knows they are retreating not only before Lord Pilkington, but before every other employer in Britain?

There is nothing inconsistent or surprising in the TUC's attitude on these questions.

Drifted Right

Ever since it engineered the defeat of the 1926 General Strike and betrayed a generation of workers into unemployment, Toryism and war, the TUC has drifted steadily towards the right and into the embrace of the capitalist state.

What are the Feather-Carr talks and the TUC's tacit acquiescence before the Tory offensive in the factories but a modern version of the Mond-Turner talks of 1928—under conditions many times more dangerous for the working class?

The present trade union leaders are the products of almost a century of class-compromise, cemented by the betrayals of seven Labour governments, war-time collaboration in strike-breaking and the defeat and unemployment of the 1930s.

The TUC leadership reflects the defeated past of the working class. That is why it is coming more and more openly into conflict with a strong and confident working class which is determined not to go down in betrayal and defeat again.

But like all reformists, Orme views the class struggle through the distorting mirror of the bureaucracy. It is not the abysmal class-collaboration of the leaders which is to blame, but the workers themselves.

... the workers, at the present time, are not bloody-minded enough, for many who are fighting for better wages and conditions do not see this fight as the same side of the coin as political action.

'Some of the rank and file on the shop floor do not see the connection between industrial and political action. This is the job for the Labour Party: it should be explaining to the workers about who owns industry, how it is controlled and what needs to be done to achieve a civilized solution to a capitalist rat-race in which everybody is involved.'

Orme is nothing if not brazen.

He sat six years in the parliamentary chamber while this same Labour Party explained

over and over again that workers must accept wage freezing, anti-union laws and unemployment at the dictates of big business.

That was Wilson's 'civilized solution' to the 'capitalist rat-race'.

employment and a policy for growth and industrial expansion.

This is the authentic language of opportunism: 600,000 unemployed are reduced to an 'equivocation' and Orme reiterates the well-worn formula

Wilson at the TUC Congress



'The fight inside parliament,' he says, 'must be as real as the one which takes place on the shop floor and, in this regard we cannot be hampered by past policies and the past actions of ministers.'

It is no use Orme complaining about ministers' 'past actions' and trying to extricate himself that way.

Refused Point-blank

When the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League called on the 'left' MPs to fight Wilson during the period of the Labour government, Orme was prominent among the 'lefts' who refused point-blank to demand Wilson's resignation.

And even now, he peddles substantially the same line.

'The message to Harold Wilson from the Labour Party conference must be clear and concise: we want no sham parliamentary battle. The people who lead this fight must believe in the policies which the labour movement will adopt.'

There could be no clearer message to workers fighting the Tories about the position Orme intends to adopt.

Now that Wilson's policies have opened the door to Toryism in Britain, Orme and his 'left' parliamentary and trade union friends, backed by the Communist Party, will do their level best to ensure the future of reformism by this kind of bombast.



Tory minister CARR

These people are getting ready for another assault on the confidence of the working class.

The old combination of 'left'-ism and the parliamentary and trade union treachery is once again being activated.

Workers who want to fight the Tories and the employers for real socialist policies of nationalization and an end to Toryism must reject this political line and campaign inside the trade unions to build a revolutionary alternative on the basis of the policy proclaimed in last Tuesday's Workers Press.

That is the policy of the Socialist Labour League.

If that was the Labour Party's policy in government, what grounds does Orme have for thinking it will change in opposition?

And this is how Orme 'criticizes' Wilson's government policies:

'The Labour conference must extend the TUC decisions and give them a real socialist political interpretation. For instance, it must not equivocate as it has done over the past three (?) years on full

of industrial growth and expansion.

Since Orme makes no call for the labour movement to force the Tories to resign, he is presumably hoping that Heath and Carr will put this policy into effect.

Orme waxes tearful about the Labour government's record.

'We set out to attempt to run the mixed economy better than the Tories had. I think the last six years have shown how futile it is to try to persuade the private sector, whether in relation to planning or policy or prices. In fact, at the end of the day, we settled for a policy appealing to the private sector and applying legislation to the trade union movement. This policy must be reversed.'

Completely Bankrupt

In other words, 'our' policy was completely bankrupt and 'we' ended up attacking the working class on behalf of the employers!

An open admission of political bankruptcy.

But Orme is far from wanting to draw the logical conclusions. Instead he wants the mixture as before, but refurbished to look like something 'socialist'.

IMPORTANT READING

The death agony of capitalism and the tasks of the 4th International

Available from New Park Publications 186A Clapham High St. SW4

I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4.

Name _____

Address _____

'Taking socialism to the people'

JOHN McGRATH'S new play 'Random Happenings in the Hebrides, or the Social Democrat and the Stormy Sea', premiered at the Edinburgh Festival, is now in repertory at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

McGrath is a talented and politically-sophisticated playwright and 'The Hebrides' is skilfully constructed and lavishly staged.

In that it deals with real questions in serious theatrical terms, it marks a big step forward from the pawky escapism of most plays about Scotland.

The rise of industrial capitalism condemned the poor, isolated and semi-tribal communities of the peasants and workers of Scotland's Highland and islands to the fate of being the only large-scale area of rural backwardness in modern Britain.

Their way of life was destroyed in the 19th Century by the ruthless march forward of the united bourgeoisie of England and Scotland.

They were driven off the hills and out of the glens in force to the new industrial towns.

Suppressed

Or they were thrust into unsafe and insanitary emigrant

RANDOM HAPPENINGS IN THE HEBRIDES or THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT AND THE STORMY SEA BY JOHN McGRATH The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company of Edinburgh

Theatre

review by Robert Seaton



stars JOHN THAW and JOHN CAIRNEY in rehearsal

ships, in which most of them died on the way to the brave new world of the Americas.

In the 1880s the militant protests of the crofters in defence of the last vestiges of the old society were firmly suppressed at the command of the capitalist state machine in London and Edinburgh.

Thereafter the Highlands were used as a convenient testing-ground for the administrative experiments of the 'New Liberalism' and Social Democracy.

Government boards — culminating in the most recent charade, the Highlands and

Islands Development Board—were set up to 'deal with the Highland problem'. Not to be outdone, private enterprise, in the shape of the soap magnate, Lord Leverhulme, sought to get in on the act in the period after the First World War.

Eager to soothe his doubts, and, incidentally, to acquire a docile labour force, Leverhulme bought the island of Lewis and attempted, unsuccessfully, to get up a 'model' fish-canning factory.

Yet the 'problem' remains: Highland society is a casualty of capitalism.

McGrath's play, which centres mainly on the activities of a randy Labour MP, supposed to have been a junior Minister in the Wilson government, is not directly about the Hebrides.

Setting

Although it touches on the economic realities of the fishermen's lives, makes incest explicit and uses fairly realistic language, my impression was that the Hebrides is primarily a convenient setting for the almost operatic qualities of the plot.

The play is essentially about Jimmy Litherland, island-born of English parents, educated in Liverpool and Oxford, who returns to the islands to bring socialism to 'where the people are'.

He romanticises his old school-master, Aeny McPhee, who, he claims quite wrongly, knows the difference between Rosa Luxemburg and the Social Democrats.

McPhee is, in fact, a pathetic figure, unable to face reality, who degenerates to the level of an Irish whore with whom he takes up after his wife's death.

He continues to propagate Keir Hardie-style illusions in social democracy ('Begin with the banks, Jimmy lad') while proudly boasting that he himself has already descended to the level of the animals and is well on the way to achieving the state of consciousness of a clod of earth.

Litherland has meanwhile used McPhee as a stepping-stone to becoming Labour MP for the area, in the elections of 1964 and 1966, and, with the aid of a Hampstead wife, becomes under-secretary at the Board of Trade.

In the final scene, set in September 1970, Litherland seeks to recapture that first fine carefree rapture when he returned to the 'island in the early 1960s to organize a branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union among the fishermen.

He threatens to lead the men down to occupy the boats which have by then been sold up to an American company operating from Peterhead.

Indecision

Indecision wins the day, however, and Litherland is still on the phone to the Tory President of the Board of Trade to 'protest', when the boats sail out of the harbour.

Though there is no solution for the fishermen, Jimmy Litherland finds his way out.

He sends the Hampstead wife packing and takes up again with his only true love (he has had plenty of the other sort in the course of the play), Aeny McPhee's incestuous daughter, Catriona.

Off they go to watch the glimmerettes circling over the cliff—which was what Catriona has suggested was the best plan at the outset of the whole business.

CINEMA

'FELLINI SATYRICON' is probably the most expensive production so far by the Italian Federico Fellini.

He became famous with 'La Dolce Vita' ('The Sweet Life') which, among its other merits, exposed to view the decadence, spiritual corruption and private idiocy of the Italian aristocracy-cum-big bourgeoisie.

'La Dolce Vita' gave rise to bitter complaints even from some of the most distinguished prelates of the Vatican hierarchy.

In a sense 'Satyricon' does the same thing for an earlier generation of rich Romans.

Being dead, they are unable to complain.

But here Fellini is not starting from scratch. 'Satyricon' is a 'free adaptation' of the fictional work of Petronius Arbiter, an official of the Roman Empire under Nero.

It describes the escapades of two disreputable young men, Encolpius and Ascyltus, and their boy-slave Giton.

Petronius' Satyricon is not a 'novel' as we would now understand it—it has no overall plot or theme, and the characters do not develop in any way.

FINITE PASSIONS

Guest reviewer DAVID BARNES

behind THE NEWS CHEERS!

THERE'S nothing like a drop of the hard stuff, it seems, to soothe away the cares and stresses of top management. A tot or two on the expense account is just part of the daily grind, as every worker can understand.

However, to suggest that the consumption of alcohol in these rarified circles goes any further than the traditional dram necessary to cement friendly relations and oil the wheels of industry is going a little too far.

Concern about the problem of alcoholism among the captains of commerce has evoked an indignant statement from the Institute of Directors, saying that it 'does not believe that there is an alcohol problem among directors'.

Doctors who specialise in the subject are not so sure and are worried by the institute's

statement that of the 7,000 to 8,000 directors examined annually, no more than seven are revealed as alcoholics, less than 0.1 per cent.

These figures may well be taken with a pinch of salt as, in most doctors' experience, alcoholics are usually the last people to come forward for a routine medical examination.

In fact, it is estimated that alcoholism is probably costing industry a direct sum of £30 million a year, and probably about £75 million indirectly.

Not surprisingly, companies are not very free with information about the boozing habits of their executive master minds.

One managing director, cured of his thirst, decided to carry out an investigation.

According to his saviour, the late Dr Lincoln Williams:

'He personally wrote to 12 firms whose total number of employees amounted to 20,000, asking what policy they adopted towards an alcoholic employee. He promised that the replies would be regarded as strictly confidential.'

'About one-third did not bother to reply. One firm took the greatest exception to the insulting suggestion that a firm of their repute would ever employ an alcoholic.'

'Others replied they were happy to report that drunkenness in their area was a thing of the past. The largest firm, employing some 10,000 employees in three factories, replied that, in the strictest confidence, they knew of one man, but he was overseas and overruled. So out of some 20,000 workers there was only one, and he was out of the country!'

Of course, top people know how to keep such things to themselves.

Dr Williams reported the case of two company directors, one senior and one junior, members of the same firm, who happened to consult him on the same.

'I was quite unaware of their business relations. Later they were admitted to my clinic on the same day. Imagine their surprise when they met, each having heard the other was "down with 'flu" and neither knew the other was an alcoholic.'

'I remember, too, how laughingly they recalled their successful joint effort to get a private cocktail bar installed at the office for the ostensible refreshment of their clientele.'

'So now we know what's meant by the term 'drunk with power'.'

As the strains of industrial life reach breaking point, we may find many more managers being driven to drink.

Cheers!

Technical hitch



John DAVIES Tory Minister of Technology

THE NEW team at the Ministry of Technology under ex-Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry John Davies is very much in line with the Tory concept of a 'businessmen's government'.

It includes one lord and a trio of other ministers who have held a considerable number of directorships between them over the years.

Lord Bessborough, Minister of State (Aviation), joined the merchant banking firm of Robert Benson Lonsdale and Co. Ltd. in 1950 and was director of various companies, including Associated Television.

David Price, MP for Eastleigh and Parliamentary Secretary, has mainly concentrated on management consultancy and has had close connections with Imperial Chemicals Industries since 1949. From 1966 until the last election he was director of Associated Maltsters Ltd.

Nicholas Ridley, MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury, is now also a Parliamentary Sec at Mintech. He held directorships of civil engineering contractors Brims & Co. Ltd. and the larger Heenan Group Ltd.—Worcester engineers with over £11 million in capital.

Last, but by no means least, comes Sir John Eden, Bart and MP for Bournemouth West.

Sir John is the son-in-law of Sir John Pascoe, previously the chairman of Aberdare Holdings Ltd., a holding company for nine subsidiaries employing capital of around £15 million.

Sir John (junior) was director of the parent company and three of the subsidiaries as well as of British Timken Division of the Timken Roller Bearing Co. (of which his parent-in-law was chairman).

He was also directing Chesham Amalgamations and Investments Ltd. and he is currently president of the Independent Schools Association (having been director of Lady Eden's Schools Ltd., a private school for 200).

Finally, the Tory fivesome (including Davies himself) have one other important mark of class.

All were educated at either Eton, Oxford or Cambridge.

Pentagon roulette

THE AMERICAN government's decision to go ahead with the 'thin' Safeguard antiballistic missile system — designed to ward off a Chinese nuclear attack — has pleased the defence contractors and the Pentagon, but worried a large number of US scientists.

Over 400 members of the computing profession have formed an organization called 'Computer Professionals against ABM', with the object of alerting prominent politicians and others to the weaknesses of the complex computers involved in Safeguard's operation.

Conditions

In a leading article, which appeared last month in the American computer community's weekly paper 'Computerworld', some light is thrown on the conditions

under which the ABM system was given the go-ahead.

It appears that a majority of the advisers for the ABM computer systems come from computer companies that have, or hope to get, ABM contracts.

One of the members of the advisory group, Roy Nutt, is also vice-president and co-founder of Computer Sciences Corporation, which just happens to be working on three ABM contracts worth \$3.5 million.

Mr Nutt is quoted by 'Computerworld' as saying: 'Let's face it, we're talking about the national defence.' No comment.

However, the scientists are worried that the advisory group's 'patriotism' may be a little dangerous.

The computers are by no means perfect and they have the ultimate decision on whether to fire the ABMs or not.

The warning time for nuclear attack is necessarily short and no reference can be made to either top brass or the White House.

Failure

Large computers especially have a relatively high failure rate and the scientists are 'extremely reluctant to place so much life-and-death power in the control of a complex and untested machine'.

However, by its very nature, testing the system is out of the question. Nuclear testing in the atmosphere is banned and the defensive nature of the system means that it has to be sensitive to a far greater number of possible situations than one geared to attack.

Moreover, there is little chance of any improvement in the system's reliability. Nuclear war is unlikely to be a common occurrence, thus giving time for ironing out gremlins!

Just one small malfunction or a stray radar signal and the Pentagon could initiate the most expensive suicide yet devised.

Despite the impressive qualifications displayed by the anti-ABM group, however, the US Defence Department commented: 'Our computers will work'.

Unfortunately, that's the problem!

COMBINATION

Most of the episodes involve sex, violence, gluttony or avarice, and frequently combinations of these.

Encolpius and Ascyltus have a fine sense of the ridiculous, and a sharp eye for the main chance — which they usually miss through some unfortunate accident.

But they also feel the more serious meaning—or meaninglessness—of the life they pass through.

Throughout it all, though, they remain cheerful and intelligent Bohemians, providing the reader with a clear window out on the world they live in.

Fellini's film takes a series of Petronius' episodes and scenes and strings them together.

Visually, it resembles a lot of modern painting—startling, but after the first impact, uninteresting.

The scenery, the high-colour camerawork, the sudden images of painted faces and landscapes which seem like abstract compositions; these are the inventive side of the film.

ATTENTION

Since no scene is held too long, it keeps your attention, and sometimes makes you jump in your seat.

But on the human side it is barren.

The blurb claims for it 'the infinite passion for life', suggesting that Fellini has recreated the

TV

BBC 1

9.15 a.m.-12 noon schools. 12.55-1.25 p.m. Dyna wall. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Vision on. 5.20 Marine boy. 5.44 Babar. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. London.

6.45 TRANSWORLD TOP TEAM. International top of the form.

7.05 Z CARS. 'To Reg—Love Anne', Part two.

7.30 THE LAUGH PARADE. 'With Success Spoil Rock Hunter?' With Jayne Mansfield and Tony Randall.

9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.10 POLLUTION IS A MATTER OF CHOICE. Documentary from America.

10.10 MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS.

10.40 24 HOURS.

11.15 CONFERENCE REPORT 70. Labour Party Conference.

11.40 WEATHER.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as BBC 1 except:

Midlands, E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today. Look East. weather. 10.10-10.40 Contact. 11.42 News, weather.

North, NE, NW, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North. weather. 10.10-10.40 A Canney view. News, weather (NE only). 11.42 News, weather.

Wales: 5.20-5.50 Teletel. 6.00-6.45 Wales today. Nationwide, weather.

6.45-7.05 Heddlu. 10.10-10.40 Changing years. 11.42 Weather.

Scotland: 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. Nationwide. 10.10-10.40 Scottish comedy playhouse. 11.42 News, weather.

N Ireland: 6.00-6.45 Scene around six. weather. Nationwide. 10.10-10.40 In question. 11.42 News, weather.

SW, South, West. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Points West. South today. Spotlight SW. weather. 10.10-10.40 Enthusiasts. 11.42 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.

7.30 p.m. NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 FLOODLIT RUGBY LEAGUE. St Helens v Castleford.

8.50 WHEELBASE. Motoring news of the week.

9.20 MENACE. 'The Straight and Narrow'.

10.30 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

10.40 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

9.30 a.m. Labour Party Conference. 11.00-3.00 p.m. Schools. 4.17 Hatty town. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Bright's boffins. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News from ITN.

6.02 TODAY.

6.25 THE GHOST AND MRS MUIR. 'Surprise Party'.

6.55 TUESDAY FILM. 'Sands of the Desert'. With Charlie Drake as a meek travel agency clerk.

8.30 CRIBBINS.

9.00 ARMCHAIR THEATRE. 'The Second Interview'. By E. Y. Bannard.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. 'Fight and Fight Again'. 13 years of Conservative rule.

11.30 PEOPLE TO PEOPLE. 'Search for the Woman'. Film from Yugoslavia.

12.00 midnight FATHER D'ARCY'S FRIENDS AND CONTEMPORARIES.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.00 Honeybun. Diary. 11.30 Faith for Puffin's birthday. greetings. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 Nanny and the professor. 4.35 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Look-around. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'Lad: A Dog'. With Peter Brock and Patsy McCoy. 8.30 London. 11.25 Gazette. 11.30 News, weather.

SOUTHERN: 10.00-3.00 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Love American style. 6.50 Film: 'Green for Danger'. With Alastair Sim, Leo Genn and Trevor Howard. 8.30 London. 11.30 News. 11.40 Weather. Action 70.

HARLECH: 10.00 London. 4.18 Women today. 4.40 Oriami. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Bonanza. 8.00 Mr and Mrs. 8.30 London. 11.30 People to people. 12 midnight Weather.

HIV (West) colour channel 61 as above. except: 4.16-4.18. 6.18-6.35 Report West.

HIV (Wales) colour channel 41 as above except: 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30-11.30 Dan sylw.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 4.15 Decimalization programme. 4.30 Newsroom. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. Police call. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Coast of Skeletons. With Richard Todd, Dale Robertson and Derek Nimmo. An investigator is hired to find a diamond dropped just in Africa. 8.30 London. 11.30 NYPD. 11.58 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 3.50 Your stars tomorrow. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Oriami. 4.50 Catweaze. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Bibi the Kid'. With Robert Taylor, Brian Donlevy and Ian Hunter. The famous outlaw's life. 8.30 London. 11.30 Better driving, weather.

ULSTER: 9.30-4.15 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'Call Me Swans'. With Bob Hope and Anita Ekberg. 8.30 London. 11.30 White line.

YORKSHIRE: 10.00 London. 4.15 Wind in the willows. 4.30 Mattina. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar. weather. 6.30 Nanny and the professor. 7.00 Film: 'Gunfight at Comanche Creek'. A detective is hired to smash an outlaw gang. 8.30 London. 11.30 All our yesterdays. 12 midnight Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30-12.30 London. 1.40 London. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Oriami. 4.55 London. 6.01 Six-o-one: newday. 6.15 All our yesterdays. 6.45 Film: 'Babette Goes to War'. With Brigitte Bardot. A French refugee becomes involved in a plot against a Nazi commander. 8.30 London. 11.30 Four just men.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 4.10 Newsroom. 4.15 My three sons. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.25 Where the jobs are. 6.30 Film: 'The Rainbow Jacket'. With Kay Walsh, Bill Owen and Robert Morley. 8.25 Mr Magoo. 8.30 London. 11.30 News. 11.45 Quakers abroad.

BORDER: 9.30 London. 4.10 News. 4.12 Telephone games. 4.30 Mattina. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'The Boy from Oklahoma'. With Bill Rogers Jr. Western. 8.25 London. 11.30 Better driving. 11.55 News, weather.

SCOTTISH: 9.45 London. 3.40 Dateline. 3.50 Your stars tomorrow. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Telephone game. 7.30 Marcus Welby. 8.30 London. 11.30 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.15 London. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 Patterns of folk. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Max. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Western: 'Indian Fighter'. With Kirk Douglas and Elsa Martinelli. 8.30 London. 11.30 Better driving.

Firemen

FROM PAGE ONE

'If that's the case I'd like to tell me what I'm doing with the other 29 hours I'm at the station.'

This time, the executive has called for an independent Home Office inquiry into wages and conditions.

Inquiries

But firemen are sick and tired of inquiries.

'We've had the Martech report, we've had the Weber report, and now we've got the Holroyd report, one area official commented yesterday.

'As far as money is concerned—and that's what we're worried about—there's nothing in these except longer hours.

'Now they're talking of an 80-hour week—40 hours in the station and 40 hours "on call" at home. I ask you, which century are we living in, the 20th or the 15th?

'Another inquiry will simply be a delaying tactic, and we've had enough of that already.

'We know what the Tory government has said already about local authority workers and the nationalized industries. They must think we're naive.'

Sanderstead fireman Ken Bonter told Workers Press that in his opinion London men had seen protest actions before.

Escalate

'The governors just say: "Get on with it lads". It hasn't got a great deal of impact.

'After this week, I only hope the executive has the guts to take the bull by the horns and escalate the action.

'If this week doesn't do it, and I don't think it will, then let's go in with a bang.'

WEATHER

London area, SE, central southern, central northern and NW England, E and Channel Islands: Dry with sunny periods after mist and fog patches clear. Wind south, light or moderate. Very warm. Max. 23C (73F).

SW England: Sunny periods but a few showers. Wind south, moderate or fresh. Warm. Max. 20C (68F).

Edinburgh, Glasgow area: Dry with sunny periods after mist or fog patches clear. Wind south, moderate or fresh. Warm. Max. 20C (68F).

N Ireland: Cloudy with occasional rain. Wind south, fresh, locally strong. Warm. Max. 18C (64F).

Outlook for following 48 hours: Changeable with rain or showers in most places but mostly dry at first in south-east.

IMF meeting overshadowed by trade war threat

PREPARATIONS for a full-scale trade war between the major capitalist countries, and in particular between Europe and America, while never openly discussed, were in the background of the International Monetary Fund's annual meeting at Copenhagen last week.

There are major and unresolved differences now existing between the leading financiers about the entire future of the Bretton Woods arrangements which established the IMF and laid the basis for the post-war international monetary system.

In Copenhagen this has taken the form of a growing conflict between the Americans and the representatives of the Common Market countries about the degree of 'flexibility' that should be built into the financial system.

Nixon's advisors, faced with a growing balance of payments deficit, have pressed their demands of the last 18 months for a relaxation of IMF rules governing the conditions for currency devaluation, together with a wider margin in which currencies could float around their 'par' values.

On the other hand, the European bankers have spent the week discussing plans for closer European monetary co-

operation aimed at reducing the possible fluctuation in currency movements against the dollar and aiming ultimately at a common EEC currency.

All these plans involve the undermining of the basis of the Bretton Woods agreement. This is aimed at reduction in currency movements, to avoid the convulsions of the 1930s, together with a firm commitment that all currencies would be tied directly to the dollar, which in turn was linked to gold.

In demanding a return to more 'flexibility' the Americans are serving notice on the other capitalist countries that they intend to pursue the brunt of the growing crisis.

Looming up behind these differences on financial matters is a trade war.

Already a bill is proceeding through the United States Congress aimed at limiting the import of Japanese textiles and other goods into America. This move has now been followed by similar moves against Japanese export of television sets.

W GERMANY Metalworkers open up strike battle

THE SITUATION in the W German steel and engineering industry is growing more tense following widespread unofficial strikes last Friday.

The national union involved—IG-Metall, led by Social Democrat Otto Brenner—is claiming a straight 15 per cent increase to compensate for

the employers have offered a desirous 9 per cent for steelworkers and 7 per cent for engineering and car-workers.

Their refusal to budge led to the abandonment of talks on Friday in the key region of N Rhine-Westphalia (which includes the Ruhr industrial complex).

The committee of union leaders responsible for contracts in the whole of West Germany will meet in Bochum on Thursday to decide whether to pursue the claim (involving 41 million workers) on a regional or national basis.

The workers' determination to force their leaders to fight culminated in a wave of strikes on Friday which left the employers and the capitalist press breathless.

DOWNED TOOLS

Without any lead from union leaders over 90,000 workers downed tools in many of the most important West European plants.

At the Opel car plant in Russelheim 40,000 struck and marched through the town shouting '15 per cent and not a pfennig less!'

At the Demag plant in Duisburg 15,000 downed tools; at the Westfaluenteel steelworks and the Krupp factories in Essen a total of 12,000; at Opel in Bochum 9,000; at Daimler-Benz in Mannheim 8,000; and the Ford factory in Cologne, where 12,000 struck, several workers were injured, two of them seriously, in clashes following management provocations.

This sudden eruption has left union leaders, and Brandt's Social Democratic cabinet, with little room for manoeuvre.

STRONGER

This movement of the German working class is even stronger than the bitter, unofficial strikes which crippled the industry a year ago.

Brandt and his Social Democrats came to power after that wave of industrial struggle, but now the wage claims being pushed forward threaten his policies of class collaboration after less than a year of his coalition in office.

ARABS MARCH in London

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

SW LONDON: Tuesday, September 29, Prince's Hall, Falcon Rd, SW11. 'Build a new leadership in the unions.'

LEEDS: Wednesday, September 30, 8 p.m. Trade Council Club, The Filkington Struggle and the fight against the proposed anti-union laws.

Taking no chances...

THE US-BACKED puppet regime in S Korea is taking no chances on its popularity. Dictator Park Chung Hee has given orders that the anti-aircraft batteries of the capital, Seoul, are to shoot down all aircraft entering a zone of three miles surrounding his presidential palace. The orders apply to all aircraft; domestic and foreign, military and civilian. They are prompted by fears that pilots may be tempted to drop a bomb on him.

Australian LETTER

Sydney, September 23—For those who were in any doubt about what was meant by politicians and police when they spoke of law and order, the recent anti-Vietnam War Moratorium rallies came as a sharp lesson.

In the space of a few hours police in Sydney and Adelaide arrested 300 marchers, and clubbed, booted, punched and threw to the floor many hundreds of others.

For the Sydney marchers, mostly students, it was more than a defeat, it was a massacre.

But it was also a very valuable political lesson. Hundreds of the 15,000 who began walking down the city streets singing 'Give peace a chance' had literally changed their tune to something more appropriate when they saw what the boys in blue thought of their peace efforts.

Inadequate

It also revealed the total inadequacy of the liberal-peacemaking leadership.

While hundreds of police were massing in the road to wait for the University of Sydney contingent to march, Moratorium leaders were still telling their audience what stupid 'pigs' they had for an enemy.

Minutes later the same stupid pigs had broken their 'right to march in the streets' into a demoralized shuffle along the pavements with a show of brute strength not seen in Sydney for a long time.

The liberal leadership of the march capitulated to pressure from both police and Labour Party leadership a few days before the march over the right to occupy the streets.

Permission to march was applied for, and refused by the police. This, coupled with several changes of venue, led to confusion among marchers and made the well-planned smashing of the demonstration that much easier.

Blew up

But the well-prepared law-and-order issue blew up in the face of the ruling Tories.

That the police-provoked violence in Sydney was kitemarking for a New South Wales by-election was evident.

As State Premier Askin put it, after the 'disgraceful be-



haviour' of a large number of demonstrators, the issue for the electors is clear.

Unfortunately for Mr Askin and his reactionary party the clarity revealed to the voters persuaded them to vote for the Labour Party, with a 9 per cent swing in that direction.

Not that Labour Party leaders were opposed to jumping on the law-and-order bandwagon.

NSW opposition leader Mr Hills attacked the Moratorium as did leaders in Tasmania and S Australia.

Overlooked

A Labour Party anti-war rally in Sydney two days after the Moratorium conveniently overlooked the Mr Hills' stand. And the Federal Party

leader, Mr Gough Whitlam, issued a mildly critical statement about the police violence.

The audience was then witness to the Labour Party and union big guns speaking in opposition to the Vietnam war—without the words socialism or imperialism being mentioned once.

A Royal Commission will be held into the cause of violence on the Adelaide march, and efforts are being made for the same in Sydney.

But no one should expect any condemnation of the police to come out of such liberal doings.

Labour Premier of South Australia Mr Dunstan offered an escape for the police while announcing the Commission when he said that he had received an allegation that the police had overstepped their powers.

Heed words

Efforts will be made to see that such political/police action does not create the same unfavourable back-lash again.

Though future demonstrators, whether students or trade unionists, should heed the words of Inspector Platfuss of Melbourne police who was in charge of a university contingent of the march, more than any liberals expressing dismay at events.

Inspector Platfuss said: 'But they needed what they got. They got some baton today and they'll get a lot more in the future.'

Clashes when Nixon starts Italy tour

PRESIDENT Nixon's whistle-stop European tour started on Saturday evening with the descent of his helicopter into the courtyard of Italian President Saragat's Quirinal Palace in Rome.

'Security' was tightened with the presence of 15,000 riot police stationed in and around the capital to prevent any too close encounters between the Italian workers' movement and the arch-butcher of imperialism.

Simultaneously a demonstration of over 15,000 marched to Rome's San Giovanni Square to protest against his visit.

Feeling was high in Italy, where rank-and-file pressure

Reform strike on Friday

ITALY's main (Stalinist-dominated) trade union, the CGIL, has confirmed at the weekend the decision for a two-hour national strike on Friday in support of inter-union demands for reforms in health and housing.

Socialists in the union leadership had opposed any strike action at all, claiming the need for 'unity' with the Catholic and Social-Democratic unions.

has compelled Communist Party leaders to support the Palestinian guerrillas.

A march on Sunday by workers and students near the US embassy led to fierce clashes with the police.

Demonstrations were also called in many other Italian cities, including Naples—today's stop on Nixon's itinerary.

Sunday's demonstration in Rome was a shining exercise in 'left unity'—extending right into Nixon's entourage.

Sharing the platform with notorious 'left' Stalinist Berlinguer was Enrico Manca, leading member of the Italian Socialist Party.

Meanwhile Manca's fellow-'Socialist' (and deputy Prime Minister in the centre-left coalition) De Martino was patiently waiting, with a bevy of assorted fellow-democrats, to welcome Nixon at the Quirinal.

Failures in E German economic plan

THE E GERMAN Council of Ministers last week announced a total deficit of 3,000 million marks in agriculture, building and industry in the 1970 economic plan.

They blamed weather conditions, including severe winters in the last two years, and the dry summer.

It resulted in unplanned imports of food and consumption goods amounting to 500 million marks.

In an attempt to correct the situation an increased share of the total product is to go to industrial investment, with a concentration of 'all efforts and all means' on the sectors of 'highest economic efficiency'.

This will involve a cutback in building, process, schools, creches, etc.—that is to say that the burden of breakdown in economic planning is to be foisted on to the working class.

The government commends its admirers the need for 'improved planning, leadership and control'.

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ARAFAT TO EXPLAIN

See page one

Damascus, Monday: Guerrilla chief Yasser Arafat flew here yesterday from Cairo to explain to his supporters in Damascus and 'liberated' N Jordan why he signed the co-existence agreement with King Hussein.

PIT CLOSURE MEETING

Miners' leaders representing the 450 men who are to lose their jobs at Sunderland's Silksworth colliery are to meet Coal Board officials this week. Silksworth miners are pressing for no less of earnings on transfer, a choice of new workplace and the pit's new manning requirements to be filled before any transfers.

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Warning

Last week Mr Pierre Rinfret, a leading American economic consultant, warned his business friends to prepare for this trade battle ahead and urged the American government to assist US competitors in a more determined way.

Citing such devices as tax rebates, credit insurance and assorted export financing arrangements, Mr Rinfret declared:

'Unless the US joins in that game there is going to be more trouble in that area.'

'There is,' he went on, 'no such thing as free enterprise in foreign trade. It never existed.'

Similar opposition is mounting from Europe to US plans aimed at expanding Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

European bankers have warned the Americans throughout the last week that unless the American deficit is significantly reduced, they will not agree to a further activation of SDRs—halted six months ago as a source of additional liquidity—due to operate from the beginning of 1973.

Weapon

Sections of European capital, notably in France, fear that a further expansion of SDRs will give the Americans an additional weapon in the growing struggle for exports as well as do nothing to correct the inherent instability in the world monetary system, focused as it is on the unstable position of the dollar.

But the European 'unity' on this and other matters is extremely shaky.

Thus the countries with 'stronger' currencies, notably W Germany, have tended to give some support to Nixon's proposals, while others, like Italy and the United Kingdom, have seen them as immediate threats to their exchange rates.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr Anthony Barber's IMF address stressed that freely floating exchange rates would mean a danger of a return to the conditions of the 1930s with a cycle of currency devaluations and a collapse of world trade.

The real meaning of the IMF Conference for the working class is clear: there can be no 'peaceful' or 'agreed' solution to the growing crisis of trade and finance.

The capitalist system increasingly heads towards anarchy in which matters will not be sorted out around the conference table but in bitter struggle of capitalist country against capitalist country in which the only agreement will be the need to defeat the organized strength of the European and American working class.



Some of the 40,000 workers who struck at Opel's Russelheim plant

Sound

FROM PAGE ONE

stressed that the TUC was still 'fulfilling the obligations it gave to the Labour government—for who has worked harder than Victor Feather for industrial peace in this country?'

Complaining that the government was 'spoiling for a fight', 'picking a quarrel' on trade union legislation and had 'already turned its back on conciliation', he drew attention to the TUC's work towards new procedures, more orderly collective bargaining and changes in trade union rule books.

There was more fire from Salford West MP Stan Orme.

He expressed confidence that the Party's national executive would fight to implement conference policy and hoped that the Parliamentary Party would do the same—'not a sham battle'.

The Party should be united to defend the unions.

If this was done, he said, 'the government will not be strong enough to resist'.



Crushing

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Onslaught

Contrast the fury of Hussein's anti-guerrilla onslaught with the wretched retreat of the Royalist army before the Zionist invaders in June 1967!

Hussein's main enemy is at home—the Palestinian and Jordanian people.

While we salute the heroism

Cairo agreement

FROM PAGE ONE

Nasser was presented as the main hope for a Middle-East settlement:

'It is quite natural to recognize the great part played by the UAR, and the role of President Nasser personally. It is not fortuitous that the leaders of the Arab countries have chosen Cairo for their emergency meeting. This great appreciation is shown of the efforts of the UAR not only to stop the fratricidal fighting in Jordan, but also to remove completely the consequence of Israeli aggression, by political means on the basis of the Security Council resolution of November 1967. (Emphasis added.)'

Moscow Radio was overjoyed, therefore by Saturday's deal, which would 'normalize the relations between the Palestinian patriots and the Jordanian authorities.'

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Six Basques face death sentence

SIX MEMBERS of the Basque revolutionary socialist movement (ETA) face the threat of death sentences from Franco's fascist regime.

They are among 16 who will appear on charges before a secret military tribunal in Burgos in October.

Their trial has already been delayed for a year, during which they have been held in jail in harsh conditions.

The prosecutor will request death sentences for Francisco Xavier Izoa, Joaquin Grostidi, Francisco Xavier Larena, José-Maria Dorronsoro, Eduardo Uriarte and Mario Onandia.

Their alleged 'crime' is the assassination, in July

1968, of Manzanar, chief of the political police in Guipuzcoa (ETA) face the threat of death sentences from Franco's fascist regime.

All six are already serving long jail sentences on other political charges.

For example, faces a 39-year term for his part in a courageous attempt to rescue a young girl, also a Basque liberation fighter, from the prison in Pamplona at the end of 1968.

Their trial throws into the sharpest possible light the vile treachery of Stalin's successors in the Kremlin and E Europe, moving every day towards closer relations and a diplomatic recognition of Franco's murderous dictatorship.