

## What we think

### The need for the Workers Press

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All the anti-working-class venom accumulated in the editorial offices of Britain's prostituted capitalist press was vomited into print when the Tory press heard the good news from Westminster.

As the Tory backbenchers howled with delight at each fresh blow to workers' living standards — school meals, school milk, sick pay, prescription charges, food prices, dental treatment, rents, fares and ports nationalization — Fleet St reached hitherto unplumbed depths of class hysteria.

Predictably, the 'Daily Mail' led the pack.

'Well Shaved!' screamed its headline, below a five-column eulogy of Barber:

'Two days ago Mr Barber was largely unknown to the public. Now he may go down in history as one of Britain's greatest chancellors...'

The 'Express' splashed the headline 'Jolly, jolly, sixpence' and went on to exult at the 'sharp increases in the rents of well-off council tenants' — 'Away will go the present blanket system of subsidies, and help will go only to families who need it.'

Its Beaverbrook stablemate, the 'Evening Standard' greeted the income tax cut with unmitigated delight.

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And more in the same nauseating vein.

'Barber lights the load', sang the 'Telegraph'.

'Doubts about Mr Barber's mini-budget must centre largely on whether it does enough', the paper editorialized.

'His first stab at undoing the economic damage of decades, will eventually be judged by the further changes it implies for the future.'

'The Times' took a similar line. Worried that even Barber's cuts might be insufficient, the paper was enthusiastic, but a little guarded.

'This is as effective a contribution to the strategy of the Conservative government as could have been expected. It is anything but hard-faced and in no way constitutes an attack on the Welfare State or on the welfare of the poor!'

Even the 'Sun', which felt obliged to temper its enthusiasm in deference to its working-class readers, gave the government 'credit for good intentions'.

'The Tories were elected to cut taxes. Their determination to do so is praiseworthy. And it is right and proper for them to try and create a society in which ability, initiative and endeavour are better rewarded.'

There could be no more compelling argument for a revolutionary working-class daily paper than the class-war politics of Fleet St.

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● PAGE FOUR COL. 9

### Threats inquiry

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## TUC and LP must call all-out action

# Mass revulsion against Tory government

By the Editor

STATEMENTS by the Labour Party National Executive Committee and the Trades Union Congress General Council constitute a complete abdication of responsibility for leadership and a clear encouragement to the Tories.

If the struggle against the Tory government is left in their hands, then our defeat is a foregone conclusion.

The NEC motion called on MPs to fight the Tory laws 'by every possible means'. What it really meant was contained in the next section which asked Wilson to repeal Tory legislation when returned to power.

Predictably, Mr Wilson—a firm advocate of wage-freezing—did not oppose the motion and said it was 'the proper procedure to adopt'.

Despite the phrase 'every possible means', it is clear that the NEC does not intend to take the anti-Tory fight beyond St Stephen's gate and that they are reconciled to the passage of the laws.

According to this macabre reformist logic, millions of workers, pensioners and even schoolchildren must stoically endure the cuts and lashes of the Tories for another five years whilst their representatives indulge their talents for constitutional shadow boxing and parliamentary rhetoric.

The Tories prepare for a fight. The NEC prepares for a funeral.

If the situation weren't so grim the General Council's attitude would be even more facetious.

### 'Do nothing'

Whilst millions of workers and a considerable section of the middle class, are being radicalized by the social service cuts and the fare increases; whilst tens of thousands of trade unionists are planning for industrial action before the Tories unleash the war against the unions; whilst thousands of lower-paid workers are stubbornly resisting the employers' attacks and the use of state force in strikes and thousands more prepare to do likewise; whilst the battle rages all around, the General Council calls on the working class to say nothing and do nothing.

The only alarm it raises is a circular advising affiliated unions not to join protests such as that of December 8 called by 'unofficial bodies' and instead to support its own campaign of regional conferences.

This is to culminate in a national demonstration at the Albert Hall on January 12. Since the Albert Hall holds only 6,000, even this 'campaign' will be an ignominious failure, particularly since its results will not be evaluated till mid-March 1971!

### Evasion

Mr Feather's statement that the General Council had not 'ruled out industrial action' against the Bill is an evasion. Revolutionary opponents of the Bill are not opposed to conferences and meetings to educate and inform workers.

But all this is surely subordinate to the main task which is to mobilize the whole working class movement on a programme of action to defeat the Bill and its sponsors.

This requires an integrated campaign involving the trade unions and the Parliamentary Labour Party on a national scale, the former organizing a one-day general strike against the Bill as a first step and the latter conducting a line-by-line attack on the Bill as well as organizing support outside the House for industrial action.

Radicalization of the working class brought about by the policies of the Tory bankers and monopolists—

● PAGE FOUR COL. 1

### Coalfield strike move from S Wales NUM

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outside yesterday's Barnsley meeting of their union's Yorkshire area council as more pits came out against the National Coal Board's new pay offer.

A growing number of miners are beginning to feel the same way as they realize that the government is hell-bent on speeding them up and taking away the proposed increase even before they have accepted it.

The S Wales executive of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday decided to recommend strike action of the area's 35,000 miners to today's coalfield conference at Portcaw.

But the union's YORKSHIRE leadership followed the pattern of Wednesday's Scottish delegate conference and, while crushingly rejecting the NCB offer, refused to endorse a stoppage.

Although nearly 17,000 miners at nine out of the ten pits in Yorkshire's Doncaster panel were already involved in unofficial action, Yorkshire NUM president Sam Bullough refused to accept resolutions supporting it.

He also refused to take motions either for a ban on overtime or for a work-to-rule—and he turned a deaf ear to demands that he should leave the chair.

Area panel meetings will now take place throughout Yorkshire within the next two days to decide whether to take further unofficial action.

### Continued

In SOUTH WALES, face-workers at Bargoed colliery continued their strike over both the national pay settlement and an internal dispute.

Miners at W Lothian's Polkennet colliery and the Valleyfield section of the Kinneil-Valleyfield colliery in SCOTLAND resumed work yesterday in response to Wednesday's delegate-conference call.

The Coal Board hopes that most of the 3,200 Scottish miners involved will have decided by the weekend to return to work.

Just what are the miners' leaders doing?

### Credit squeeze will hit jobs

A DRASTIC cut-back in bank lending with repercussions on hire purchase, individual borrowing and industrial investment was announced by the Bank of England yesterday.

Acting on Tory government instructions, the Bank called on clearing banks to increase their special deposits—already standing near £260 million—by a further £100 million. The additional funds must be

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The men also want a two-hour reduction in the 40-hour week, more holidays, and scrapping of the notorious 202 clause in the agreement signed by unions in 1967.

Under this, electricity workers can be moved from district to district and from job to job within the power stations.

'We want £10, but quite frankly with the price increases and cuts in social services announced by the

Tories on Tuesday, this is not enough and I expect we will be back next May for more,' one worker from the London Electricity Board's northern district told the Workers Press.

### Notice

'We want an end to this 202 clause as well. This has meant redundancies and speed-up.

For example, a man might suddenly be told he's going to have to work in a new district. If he says no this is considered the equivalent to him handing in his notice.'

The unions have said that they will put in for a 'substantial' increase but only the Transport and General Workers' Union has indicated that this means asking for £10.

They can agree to an increase without consulting the men though a report-back meeting has been arranged for November 11.

'But we won't be able to do anything about the claim at the meeting. We will be forced to accept it,' said another London worker from the LEB's Borough district.

### Breaking

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Rates in the industry are low. A labourer can take home as little as £11 after stoppages and his average wage is around £14.

An electrician's wage, after stoppages, averages about £16 to £17 and the top rate for an inspector is £22 gross.

Over time is also unsatisfactory—calculated on a now defunct basic rate which is well below the normal time and a half.

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## Pilkington Scottish plant to close

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A delegation from the factory—which employs 500 workers—met management on Wednesday at the St Helens headquarters of the Fibreglass Pilkington subsidiary.

But the management 'found no new factors in the situation which would warrant reversing' the decision to close the plant.

Management did agree after discussion to an ex gratia payment of about £50 a head 'in recognition of the prevailing unemployment situation in the Glasgow area.'

The payment will supplement the company's standard redundancy payments.

The doomed factory makes glass fibre for industrial weaving and textile applications. Pilkington's claim they are withdrawing completely from this market and will not manufacture any further industrial weaving fibres.

### New plant

However, Fibreglass is to open a new plant in Wrexham which will eventually employ about 1,500 workers, to make reinforcing material for cars, boats and plastic castings.

The new factory was to have been built at Skelmersdale, Merseyside, but was switched to Wrexham because the company claims a larger site was needed.

Pilkington's deny the move was aimed at countering militancy in the Liverpool area.

### Home complains

ONE OF THE things asked of the Stalinist bureaucracy by the British Conservatives during Mr Gromyko's visit was that the Soviet press and radio drop criticism of British government policy in N Ireland.

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## Short reprieve for Lynch

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AFTER yesterday's parliamentary debate on Mr Jack Lynch's motion of confidence in himself, his position as Prime Minister of the Irish Republic has become if anything even more precarious.

The debate stands adjourned until next Tuesday, leaving four days for the opposition to whip up support in the country.

The Labour Party had promised it would vote with Lynch if he would sacrifice his Minister of Agriculture, Gibbons. But this was never a real possibility.

Speaking in the debate, Mr Brendan Corish, Labour Party leader, called for Lynch to resign.

Evidence at the recent Dublin arms trial, he said, made it appear there was a plot at the highest level for war in the North.

Money was spent on military preparation without the knowledge or approval of the Dail.

Mr Liam Cosgrave, leader of the main opposition party, Fine Gael, also denounced the unapproved allocation of £100,000 for a 'relief of distress fund' in N Ireland.

It had been stated that a police investigation was being carried out and parliament had become suspect.

'What a Minister says cannot be accepted, and what the Prime Minister says cannot be accepted because it might be completely wrong or only half true,' said Cosgrave.

Technically, Lynch's fate hangs on whether three members of his own Fianna Fáil Party who defected this week will vote for him on the confidence motion.

Lynch himself has called for support on the grounds of the urgency of putting through the legislation to enforce the recently decided wage-rise ceiling of 36s.

It is precisely the doubts about his ability to handle the working class in the South or the struggle arising out of the oppression in the North, which have brought him to the brink—and will do the same to the next Eire government.

### Give police water cannon—Nabarro

SIR GERALD NABARRO, Conservative MP for Worcestershire South, wants to see the police in London armed with water cannon for quelling civil disorder in the city.

Nabarro asked Ian Gilmour, Defence Under-Secretary in the Commons yesterday: 'What is the constitutional difference between employing water cannon for the purpose of quelling civil disorder and disturbances in N Ireland but refusing to equip the metropolitan police in London with these admirable weapons for quelling civil disturbances by disorderly persons in Grosvenor Square, for example?'

The Under-Secretary replied that he didn't think there was any constitutional difference and that the employment of water cannon was a matter for the Home Secretary.

When it was suggested to him that the British had not wanted to use troops, the official replied: 'But we never wanted to use our troops in Czechoslovakia, either.'

British police must have been unsuccessful, he said, or there would not be such a lot of trouble. 'Britain had had to use troops to put down the unrest, and people had been killed. This was newsworthy.'

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## £1,250 Oct Appeal Fund reaches £1,156 0s 1d

WE'VE nearly made it. Yesterday we received a magnificent response of £214 1s 5d to our appeal. If we can keep it up we will certainly raise the last £94 by tomorrow.

The tremendous determination of the working class can clearly be seen in this fight for the Workers Press.

However, we must by no means sit back. We are not quite there yet.

Let's go all out now for a grand finish. Help us not only complete the fund but push it right over the top.

Post immediately all donations to:  
Workers Press Appeal Fund,  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London, SW4.

## Some London men return, but Council strike escalates

COUNCIL WORKERS ended their strike in a large area of London's East End yesterday, but dustmen remained out to negotiate incentive payments before they start clearing the mountains of rubbish rotting in the streets.

Both TOWER HAMLETS and SOUTHWARK councils ratified their offer of 55s at meetings on Wednesday night.

At Tower Hamlets the councillors were continuously barracked by scores of workers in the gallery, including a large contingent from the borough's biggest depot at Stepney.

In both boroughs the dustmen are demanding incentive payments which they say they will share amongst all the strikers.

'The dustmen usually go back last because they have to negotiate rates of pay for this extra work,' said Brian Connolly, spokesman for the three unions in Tower Hamlets.

'But I do hope that this secondary issue does not delay the return to work. I want

A DAY of solidarity with council workers in London has been called by council white-collar and craft workers in conjunction with the London council workers' strike committee.

Addressed to all engineers, builders, white-collar workers, hospital workers and ambulance and fire-brigade-men a leaflet issued by the strike committee calls workers to 'close the ranks, and face the challenge of the government-directed resistance to this meagre claim'. The meeting will be at Tower Hill, London, at 10.30 a.m. on Monday.

The lads to go back as a body, united, as they came out,' he said.

The strikers, he added, would continue to boycott Northumbria. What's in Raileana Road, Millwall, because black-leg labour has been used there to load rubbish into barges for dumping.

While strikers went back in London elsewhere the dispute escalated.

Striking dustmen marched through CRAWLEY, Sussex, and presented a petition at the town hall. Workers here have refused a council offer of 48s.

In SOUTHAMPTON strikers voted unanimously for a one-day stoppage next Monday when they will demonstrate through the city.

The vote was carried against union advice. Ernie Allen, local official of the transport workers, said that workers was the likelihood of a return on Monday on the basis of the recommendations of the Scamp report.

BRISTOL university's manual staff—porters, cleaners and kitchen workers—yesterday voted unanimously at a mass meeting to strike and the university moved towards closing down.

The staff have a 55s claim in, similar to the council workers' and submitted to the same negotiating council.

The Bristol students' union has expressed complete support.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 8

THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY DAVID MAUDE

Bullough, in Yorkshire, describes area action as unconstitutional.

At Wednesday's Edinburgh delegate conference, Scottish NUM president Mick McGahey appealed for strikers to return to normal working 'in the interests of unity and having achieved some success.'

Yet only the previous day he was calling on the union's executive to sanction strikes in areas where miners had voted for them by simple majority.

Lawrence Daly himself accepts that the proposed increase will be greatly reduced as a result of the Barber cuts (see interview page three), but turns miners' attention to new pay resolutions at next year's union conference... in July.

The Doncaster miners' call must be answered now.



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'But we won't be able to do anything about the claim at the meeting. We will be forced to accept it,' said another London worker from the LEB's Borough district.

'This is bad because under the new Industrial Relations Bill we can be fined for breaking an agreement.'

'Some of us might find ourselves in court for breaking something we did not agree to in the first place.'

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Nabarro asked Ian Gilmour Defence Under-Secretary in the Commons yesterday: 'What is the constitutional difference between employing water cannon for the purpose of quelling civil disorder and disturbances in N Ireland but refusing to equip the metropolitan police in London with these admirable weapons for quelling civil disturbances by disorderly persons in Grosvenor Square, for example?'

The Under-Secretary replied that he didn't think there was any constitutional difference and that the employment of water cannon was a matter for the Home Secretary.

When it was suggested to him that the British had not wanted to use troops, the official replied: 'But we never wanted to use our troops in Czechoslovakia, either.'

Some of us might find ourselves in court for breaking something we did not agree to in the first place.'

Rates in the industry are low. A labourer can take home as little as £11 after stoppages and his average wage is around £14.

An electrician's wage, after stoppages, averages about £16 to £17 and the top rate for an inspector is £22 gross.

£1,250 Oct Appeal Fund reaches £1,156 0s 1d

WE'VE nearly made it. Yesterday we received a magnificent response of £214 1s 5d to our appeal. If we can keep it up we will certainly raise the last £94 by tomorrow.

The tremendous determination of the working class can clearly be seen in this fight for the Workers Press.

However, we must by no means sit back. We are not quite there yet.

Let's go all out now for a grand finish. Help us not only complete the fund but push it right over the top.

For immediately all donations to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

## Some London men return, but Council strike escalates

COUNCIL WORKERS ended their strike in a large area of London's East End yesterday, but dustmen remained out to negotiate incentive payments before they start clearing the mountains of rubbish rotting in the streets.

Both TOWER HAMLETS and SOUTHWARK councils ratified their offer of 55s at meetings on Wednesday night.

At Tower Hamlets the councillors were continually barracked by scores of workers in the gallery, including a large contingent from the borough's biggest depot at Stepney.

In both boroughs the dustmen are demanding incentive payments which they say they will share amongst all the strikers.

'The dustmen usually go back last because they have to negotiate rates of pay for this extra work,' said Brian Connolly, spokesman for the three unions in Tower Hamlets.

'But I do hope that this secondary issue does not delay the return to work. I want

A DAY of solidarity with council workers in London has been called by council white-collar and craft workers in conjunction with the London council workers' strike committee.

Addressed to all engineers, builders, white-collar workers, hospital workers and ambulance and fire brigade-men a leaflet issued by the strike committee urged workers to 'close the ranks, and face the challenge of the government-directed resistance to this meagre claim.' The meeting will be at Tower Hill, London, at 10.30 a.m. on Monday.

the lads to go back as a body, united, as they came out,' he said.

The strikers, he added, would continue to boycott Northumberland Wharf in Raleana Road, Millwall, because black-lag labour has been used there to load rubbish into barges for dumping.

While strikers went back in London elsewhere the dispute escalated.

Striking dustmen marched through CRAWLEY, Sussex, and presented a petition at the town hall. Workers here have refused a council offer of 48s.

In SOUTHAMPTON strikers voted unanimously for a one-day stoppage next Monday when they will demonstrate through the city.

The vote was carried against union advice. Ernie Allen, local official of the transport workers, said that there was the likelihood of a return on Monday on the basis of the recommendations of the Scamp report.

BRISTOL university's manual staff—porters, cleaners and kitchen workers—yesterday voted unanimously at a mass meeting to strike and the university moved towards closing down.

The staff have a 55s claim in, similar to the council workers' and submitted to the same negotiating council.

The Bristol students' union has expressed complete support. ● PAGE FOUR COL. 8

## Pensioners lobby MPs

See story page 4, col. 8



## Credit squeeze will hit jobs

A DRASTIC cut-back in bank lending with repercussions on hire purchase, individual borrowing and except for privileged export customers. It will have drastic repercussions on overdraft holders, who can expect to have these called in soon.

Even more serious will be the effect on unemployment. Thousands of firms and businesses which have borrowed bank money for

investment will now be asked to pay it back, posing a threat to their workers' jobs.

Following closely on Chancellor Barber's Corporation tax concessions, the move will favour big monopoly firms which have their own sources of liquid cash.

For the working man it can only mean foregoing planned expenditure and the threat of the dole.

US Round-up

ON TUESDAY US electors go to the polls in the national mid-term elections after one of the most bitter campaigns of the century.

Nixon and Agnew have been barnstorming the country in one of the largest and most elaborate political productions ever.

By the beginning of the week only about a dozen states had not been visited by one of the duo.

Agnew has been on the trail for six weeks and Nixon for three, with the vice-president often speaking in ten states in as many days.

ASSUMPTION

It is only a superficial explanation of this pace to argue that Nixon had no choice because of his assumption that his presence might make a difference amongst uncommitted voters in perhaps 15 close races.

On Tuesday Americans will elect all 435 members of the House of Representatives and 35 members in the 100-member Senate, as well as 35 governorships and thousands of state and city officials.



NIXON

Nixon desires very strongly to have a workable majority in Congress and to put an end to two years of frustrating wrangling with a Congress in which he does not have a majority.

At present the Democrats hold a 57-43 majority in the Senate, where Nixon has received the biggest setbacks to his proposals, and an approximate 243-187 majority in the House of Representatives.

Nixon and Agnew have been running on a vicious 'law-and-order' ticket against—as one commentator put it—'pot, permissiveness, protest, pornography and dwindling patriotism'.

Barnstormers in trouble

Agnew has been most successful in this type of rhetoric, outshining his mentor.

But this is not at all to say that Nixon is in a strong position.

The louder and more strident the red-baiting demagoguery, the more we can be sure the problems are building up underneath Nixon.

And he knows it.

Not only is unemployment steadily rising, but inflation continually spurs on the wages struggle of the working class.

ACCELERATION

Last month the Consumer Price Index growth rate showed an acceleration to a 6 per cent annual increase.

The pressure building up from the working class found an expression last week in the attack on White House policy by one of its most loyal camp followers, AFL-CIO president George Meany.

He urged workers to repudiate candidates who run on

'phony issues' such as crime and permissiveness.

As if, he said, 'forward-looking candidates' favoured crime, rioting, arson, vandalism and big public spending for its own sake.

Meany accused 'conservative candidates' of trying to sweep such 'facts' as unemployment and inflation under the carpet.

CORDIAL

This, it must be remembered comes from a man who had the cordial relations with the White House.

At the notorious Labour Day dinner at the White House for union leaders, Meany toasted Nixon for his dedication to 'the American way of life'.

He has outspokenly backed Nixon's Indo-China war and recently aped Agnew's anti-intellectualism with attacks on 'egg heads' and their sympathizers.

Now the AFL-CIO president has evidently felt the



MEANY

wind from the other direction and has accused the Administration of failing to honour its promises of five million new jobs and to curb inflation without 'forcing American workers to pay for it with their jobs'.

'But the workers are paying', he said. 'The burden of recession and inflation is falling on them...'

If Meany is forced to side-step to attack his bosom friends today, this will be tactical preparation for new betrayals of the working class tomorrow.

This emphasizes again the urgent necessity of building an independent US Labour Party on a Marxist programme.

Stalinists paint a rosy picture of the Peru regime

AN ARTICLE by a 'Professor' Santisteban, published in the October 24 issue of 'Comment', gives us yet another example of the counter-revolutionary character of the Communist Parties' policies throughout the world.

In this case, it is an article on the 'marvellous achievements' of the Peruvian military regime without even a hint of criticism.

We are fed, one after another, with the ever-more astonishing feats of reformism in Peru.

At the end of the article we are told that this reformist road was the one chosen by the Peruvian generals rather than the 'way of repressions' followed by the Brazilian and Argentinian generals 'which will inevitably lead to an impasse'. (Our emphasis.)

Yes, an 'impasse'! Which is challenging the very existence

of the bourgeois state, in particular in Argentina!

In Peru, of course, the wise generals took the course of reform of the 'socio-economic structure'.

Not a word is said about the political objectives of the present government, nor about its anti-democratic and repressive policies.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

The rosy picture painted by the Peruvian Stalinists would be ruined if the article dared mention the imprisonment of revolutionary leaders and cadres such as Hugo Blanco and Hector Bejar, and the endless repression against 'stubborn' union cadres, militants, etc.

Nor would the picture remain so rosy if Santisteban had the courage to mention the massacres of over 50 peasants, workers and students carried out by the present government.

The article does not mention the industrial reform code either, which was hailed by the Peruvian Communist Party as a step forward in the 'legal restriction and limitation of private property and of the exploitation of wage labour'.

The mode in which such 'legal restriction and limitation' of private property and exploitation takes place consists of linking wage increases to profit increases!

In expressing such open and unconditional support to the military Bonapartist regime in Peru, the Stalinists are doing nothing less than joining hands with far-sighted monopolies who also openly support the Peruvian regime.

The workers facing the Peruvian working class are extremely serious.

Integration into the state machinery by means of a government-controlled union structure is certainly the most immediate and serious menace.

This integration would undoubtedly be a tactical defeat of the Peruvian working class.

In the context of a rising revolutionary situation in Bolivia, the opening of a permanent crisis situation in Chile with the inauguration of the Socialist-Communist-Christian Democrat government, and the worsening of the capitalist equilibrium in Argentina, this would be a particularly harsh blow that could delay the development of revolutionary struggle.

The Stalinists in Peru pretend no danger exists and, on the contrary, say that all support should be given to the military and all independent banners should be lowered.

Predictably British Stalinist leaders are supporting them and publishing their misleading and false views. The task in Peru, as in Britain, is to destroy the poisonous influence of Stalinism and construct the Trotskyite party.

SOLDIERS SPEAK OUT

THE DEEPENING cracks in the morale of the US army in Vietnam and the corresponding growth of the troops' opposition to the war now almost daily find pale reflections even in the columns of the capitalist press.

Last week members of the Concerned Officers' Movement again defied official intimidation and spoke out against attempts to muzzle their opposition.

The dissenters said in interviews that the Pentagon had retaliated in the three weeks following a September press conference at which their spokesmen announced their intention to speak publicly against the war.

Officers had been discharged, had their resignations demanded and been transferred to less 'sensitive' duty.

DETERMINED

They said that they wished to avoid violating military regulations and hoped to complete their military obligations, but were determined to speak out.

This intransigence is both impressive and widespread. At the September news conference, five officers said that they were speaking for the 28 officers present and for about 250 members of the Concerned Officers' Movement at Army, Navy, Marine and Air Force bases in the United States and abroad.

One of the spokesmen, Major Albert Braverman said he had been summoned by his commanding officer two days after the news conference, threatened with court martial or transfer and finally offered 'a form to resign my commission'. He signed.

This quiet militancy is, of course, complementary to the turbulent and noisy currents sweeping through the other ranks.

MILITANCY

The militancy with which soldiers are opposing the war is epitomized by Ronald Ridenhour, the former 'Americal' division soldier who first brought the My Lai massacre to public notice.

He has returned to Vietnam, this time as a journalist, and last week had once again been driven to expose the genocidal activities of the division.

Ridenhour revealed that troops of the 'Americal' division have violated a Pentagon order by continuing to use a chemical defoliant known to cause terrible deformities in the children born to mothers who come into contact with it.

The herbicide, 2,4,5-T, has supposedly been banned since the April outcry over its use, but was in fact sprayed from US helicopters over Vietnam all summer.

According to a 'New York Times' despatch: '... it appeared highly unlikely that soldiers undertook the action on their own or that the spraying could have escaped the attention of responsible officers.'

Another story to make page one in both this and last week's US newspapers was the unedifying history of one Brigadier-General Eugene P. Forrester.

The General was awarded a Silver Star for valour on the basis of acts of heroism in Cambodia that were invented by enlisted men under orders.

The gaff was blown by six soldiers working in the Awards and Decorations Office at an army base camp at Bien Hoa.

The six sent a letter to the head of a congressional committee and to the 'New York Times' stating they had been required to 'prepare a descriptive narrative of his supposed acts of valour, a citation for these imaginary acts'.

The six all insist that the acts were invented late at night under great pressure because they had no choice.

BIRTHDAY

The date of the General's alleged deeds of valour was picked because one soldier said it was his birthday.

The citation described the General's aircraft coming under fire but the General remained coolly in position to call in and adjust artillery fire on the enemy.

He was also graphically described as delivering ammunition to a ground unit and evacuating casualties.

'It is possible that General Forrester could have seen a lot of action', one private commented, 'but he certainly did not see this action.'

The army, faced with virtually incontrovertible evidence, ducked out as best it could, but was believed to be withdrawing the award.

Colonel George Newman, chief of staff of Forrester's division, admitted that he had ordered the recommendation drafted in a hurry so it could be presented before Forrester left the division.

Newman admitted that the citation was not ordered through knowledge of a particular act of courage, but said he knew that Forrester had flown a helicopter in Cambodia and had frequently heard how courageous the General was.

Although the matter was rushed through, the army cannot explain why no eyewitness statements were collected, as is normal procedure.

One statistic — that may be relevant — is that almost half of the army generals who served in Vietnam last year brought back medals for bravery in combat.

Whereas no more than one in ten soldiers of other ranks received similar awards.



'African socialism' goes sour on Tanzania

'NYERERE ON SOCIALISM' By Julius K. Nyerere Oxford University Press, Dar-es-Salaam, 1969. 8s 6d 58 pages.

But Heath knew well enough that Zambia did no trade at all with S Africa, but that it was the British-owned S African gold, diamond, copper and other mining capitalists who did all the trading, using Zambia's state and name in order to do so.

Nyerere's introductions say next to nothing of the economic basis of apartheid — namely British capital, whose interests his 'African Socialism' has always served.

Nyerere repeatedly stresses the need for 'private investment organizations' (p. 19) despite the formal acceptance of common property as the basis of socialism.

Re-enslaved But the 'private investment organizations' cannot come from the negligible capitalist class Nyerere, willy-nilly, represents.

It has to come from the imperialist powers and, through 'using' such capital, Nyerere ipso facto re-enslaves Tanzania to monopoly capital.

His acceptance of 'international capital' leads to his acceptance of the international agency of imperialism — UNO itself (p. 21).

The 1967 'Arusha Declaration' of TANU defined 'African Socialism' and absorbed the 'familyhood' (ujamaa) idea of Nyerere (p. 28).

Once again the idea of work was emphasized (p. 35). Nyerere uses the low national income per head of £20 per annum to call for more work.

But he takes no trouble to explain that it is those who work most who get this £20 a year, while the British and S African capitalists in Tanzania who do not work at all get millions.

He evades the question of the uncompensated expropriation and nationalization of the foreign imperialist business interests, capital, investments, trade rights, concessions and leases; in particular of British capitalist interests in Tanzania.

Myth

All his talk (pp. 40-46) about Marx and Lenin and of social progress in the USSR, N Korea and China are part of the fashionable myth that Tanzania is a 'transition country', and a masking of the fact that it is a semi-colony, mainly of Britain.

Nyerere's attitude to Britain is not sufficiently explicit in the pamphlet, including his stand on the Commonwealth, that institution of 'white domination' and African servitude to which his government still subscribes.

Despite this and many other omissions (including his calling in of British troops to save his government in January 1964, after the Zanzibar rising), the booklet should be read by all real socialists.

'African Socialism' is not socialism, because it is not anti-imperialist.

Nor is it 'African'. It is European (Social Democratic-Catholic) in origin. As has been said more than once, 'African Socialism' remains an apology for 'European capitalism'.

THIS BOOKLET consists of 'Freedom and Socialism' and 'Freedom and Unity', which were introductions to a larger collection of speeches by Nyerere in 1966.

tribal custom of common labour to justify working for the colonial masters.

Next to work, Nyerere stressed the element of 'authority' in the tribal family, and used this concept to justify acceptance of the semi-colonial state by the tribal peasants (p. 11 et seq.).

Undermined

Nyerere explains how the colonialist system of Britain undermined the common property of the tribal 'family'.

He gets around the difficulty raised by his own operation of a semi-colonial economy by arguing (p. 13) that everyone had to work in order to help mitigate the violation of sharing raised by the invading capitalist society.

Nyerere uses the low national income per head of £20 per annum to call for more work.

But he takes no trouble to explain that it is those who work most who get this £20 a year, while the British and S African capitalists in Tanzania who do not work at all get millions.

He evades the question of the uncompensated expropriation and nationalization of the foreign imperialist business interests, capital, investments, trade rights, concessions and leases; in particular of British capitalist interests in Tanzania.

Domination

Nyerere has a lot to say in both introductions about the struggle against 'white' domination in S Africa, Rhodesia and Portuguese Africa.

But he says nothing of the fact that his own government is heavily dominated by British-S African capital, in the diamond mining industry half-owned by Harry Oppenheimer on behalf of the giant British-based monopoly-capital company, Anglo-American Corporation.

The Tan-Zam railway line serves the giant British and S African capitalist interests in the copper mines of Zambia, whose almost total economic domination over Zambia has not been changed by the 50 per cent nationalization agreements early in 1970.

When Nyerere and Kaunda saw Heath in October about arms for S Africa, Heath reminded Kaunda that Zambia traded via S Rhodesia with S Africa.

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.

STEPHEN JOHNS INTERVIEWS MINERS' SECRETARY LAWRENCE DALY LESS THAN 24 HOURS AFTER PAY TALKS.

# Tory cuts mean 'miners will face a hard winter'

## Despite new pay offer

SOON MINERS will be balloting again. This time on the new Robens offer of £18 and £19 for surface and underground workers in place of the demanded £20 and £22.

There is no clear indication from the coalfields which way the vote will go. In the most militant areas like Scotland, miners have struck against the offer in the face of union opposition. But other observers feel that they will take the money and accept an increase which is 18 per cent below the 33 per cent demanded.



NUM general secretary Lawrence Daly speaking in Edinburgh at a pre-strike ballot rally

One of the people who thinks they will vote 'for' is their general secretary Lawrence Daly.

When we talked to him at NUM headquarters in London less than 24 hours after the talks he told us that the miner usually went for the 'bird in the hand rather than the one in the bush.' The wives, he thought would play a key role.

'With Christmas coming on they won't want their husbands on strike. They will be telling them to get a bit of money in. In many ways I think this is a pity because it will mean they will vote for the offer.' (See wives' comments this page.)

On Tuesday a key vote on a Scottish resolution asking the national executive to back strike action if areas asked for it only attracted six votes. Mr Daly as general secretary, has no vote, but he made it clear to committee that he supported this resolution.

'I think if we had passed this vote we could have forced more out of Robens—the result of the ballot proves this. Previous to this Robens was saying that the £17s 6d and £2 10s was definitely his final offer. But the 55 per cent in favour of strike action got another ten bob out of him.'

### Bang! It's gone

The same day the miners were offered this money Anthony Barber the new Tory Chancellor announced measures to take it back off them.

One visit to the doctor or the dentist and bang goes the increase.

Not only this, the effect of Barber's decision to abolish investment grants and regional employment premium will mean increased unemployment in areas like Wales, Durham, Cumberland and Scotland—in the long run miners will lose.

A point that Mr Daly did not disagree with.

'We know that the miners, like all workers, face a hard winter, but I believe that the concession we have won from the Coal Board will only encourage them to fight harder in the future.'

'There are other claims in the pipe-line, one proposing an increase in holidays and the other to get rid of the bonus shift and get everyone on the day-wage system so that the lads can have more overtime—though I don't think overtime is any substitute for a better basic.'

'A better basic is, of course, the answer and the rate the miners are on now, even given the increase, is still far from adequate. This is why I would hope and expect new resolutions on pay coming forward for the annual conference next year demanding an increase in the basic.'

One of the issues that will clearly concern miners is any productivity undertakings made by the union.

Robens said after the talks that he thought the union recognized that there was a need for increased productivity and lower absenteeism.

But Mr Daly insists that no guarantees on these matters have been given.

'At first the 10s offer was on condition that next year we maintain the global level of output achieved in the first six months of this year and that we attempt to reduce absenteeism. But we completely rejected these suggestions.'

'Eventually the union offered its co-operation in these matters, but gave no guarantees. How can we guarantee increase after increase in productivity when manpower is continually being reduced and in some cases geological conditions are getting worse? In fact what we undertook on Tuesday was no more nor less than our position in the past.'

The future is still unclear. There could be immediate trouble or the flash point may come when and if Robens insists in delaying pay-parity of all miners under the National Power Loading Agreement.

Another big struggle could come on the other hand, after the annual conference next July when the new resolution on pay, closures and productivity will be discussed.

There might also be the possibility of a special conference to discuss the lessons of the ballot and especially the two-thirds majority rule. There are moves to revise it in favour of a simple majority clause.

One thing is certain the turmoil in the ranks of the miners can only increase.

The government cuts and the general Tory policy is bound to provoke a reaction from this newly-aroused but traditional group of fighters.

'It was true to say that if we had struck we would have been involved in a big political battle. But then on the question of fighting on political grounds there are great difficulties.'

'There is great anti-Tory hostility amongst miners, but then there are the men at all levels in the union who will advise you of using them and the union to fight your own political battle—even if you say, as I did around the coalfields before the ballot, that the strike would involve political issues. Therefore you must keep the wages question at the centre.'

### Fight! Politically

'I think you have to fight politically, but it is a question of exactly how you do this. Here I suppose your paper and I differ.'

'And we do now have a broader struggle opening up before us, that is against the Tory government and its anti-union laws.'

'The TUC is going too slow in their campaign of opposition. I said that they should have called an immediate congress to discuss the question of industrial action.'

'As far as my union is concerned, we have at present been asked to send our observation in to government.'

'But then when the issue comes up again, let me say that I would hope the national executive would pass a resolution calling on the TUC to organize industrial action against these laws. I shall be urging this point of view.'

'I entirely agree with you; it is up to the leadership of the movement to go out and mobilize their members against these laws.'

## What the miners' wives think

Workers Press spoke to several miners' wives before Tuesday's pay offer. Their comments are still relevant to their husbands' wage claim

MRS LINDA KING, Ollerton (Notts):

I AGREE with the miners having more money, they work for it—don't they? My friend's husband is a pit top man. He had a heart attack 18 months ago. Now he is having to work a seven-day week. That isn't right.

It is the wives who suffer if they go on strike. But they work hard for their money and I don't think it's anything.

I have to go out to work because miners don't bring enough in.

This strike frightens me. We'll suffer. But I think I will stand firm for it because they are only fighting for what's right. Even if they get the £5, about £2 will go in tax.

I read the statements from miners in the 'Workers Press' and I thought they were good, especially the one from Ecky Barker who asked if Robens would take a cut in his pay rise.

MRS LEE BURKILL, Castleford, Yorkshire:

THE MINERS' wages, in my opinion, are disgusting. Every woman knows how the cost of living is continually rising and how the miners' wages have stood still.

Every woman should support her husband and not be put off by Robens' talk of pit closures. Pits have been closing for years anyway.

The way I see it, the miners and the whole working class are struggling against the employers who are backed up by the Tory government, which is now thinking of bringing in anti-union laws.

And the NUM leaders, what about them? Are they preparing to fight a Tory government? Are they preparing to stick out till the demands are won?

The miners have the strength and other sections of workers—the dockers, transport workers and power station workers—have already offered their support. So it is important that we as miners' wives give our support too.

MRS MAUREEN BALDERSON, mother of five children aged nine years to four weeks, from Castleford, Yorkshire:

I THINK the present wages in the mining industry are an insult to the miner and his family and

MRS VALERIE PARSONS, Ferry Fryston, York-shire:

AS A miner's wife I think that the wages of a miner, with the continuous rising of prices, are really much too low.

It is the miner's wife who has to make these pathetic wages last from one Friday to the next. The wages claim is an absolute necessity for any miner to at least keep his family's head above water.

In fact, I think the increase they are putting in for is not enough anyway. The miner has a filthy job to do and to ask him to work all week for the present wages or even a little extra is just not on.

Robens sent every miner's family a letter telling them it was impossible for the economy of the country to pay the £5 increase. Well I say it's more impossible to expect a miner to work all week for a mere existence level.

They have gone right down the wages table.

It is also very clear to me that the miners need an alternative revolutionary leadership in the NUM.

I heard Jock Kane, one of the leading Communist Party members in the Yorkshire coalfield, say that he would not insist on the leadership standing out for the £5 and I also heard Sammy Taylor, another CP member, saying he would be willing to negotiate with Robens about phasing the increase over two years.

The miners are fighting not only Robens but the Tory government who, if they have their

MRS PARR, Ollerton (Notts):

THEY should give them the money without causing a strike. I've been a miner's wife for 25 years. I've always supported the miners.

The attitude of the government is terrible. If there's a strike I'll help them with it. I'm all for it. I think the strike is justified.

My husband has been a miner 32 years. He's been a face-worker all his life. His wages have dropped immensely.

I am all in favour of my husband and his fellow workers doing what has to be done.

The only way to show you mean business is to strike, but they must at all costs stick together and stand firm.

They must stay out on strike until they get what they want—a decent wage. No family would starve.

I would beg, borrow, or even steal for my family provided that my husband and his fellow workers are prepared to fight for what they believe in—a decent living.

## 'Steel News' loses three journalists

# Suppressed strike story leads to resignations

THREE JOURNALISTS have resigned from the British Steel Corporation's fortnightly 'Steel News' over what they described as suppression of a strike story.

An eight-paragraph story about an unofficial strike of chauffeurs and messengers at BSC's Grosvenor Place headquarters was cut to three

lines because, according to managing director for administration Ron Peddie, 'it included a number of statements which were dangerous.'

'We had national negotiations going on for the whole of the Corporation and we did not want to see anything which might have rocked the boat with these bigger negotiations.'

'I said the article must be cut because of this.'

### DECISION

A later decision not to publish even the abridged version was, Peddie says, taken editorially.

In fact this decision was made by the BSC's director of information services Will Camp—a Wilson aide during the June election campaign. Assistant editors Derek Dewey-Leader, who wrote the article, and Ron Knowles—both members of the National Union of Journalists—promptly handed in their resignations in protest.

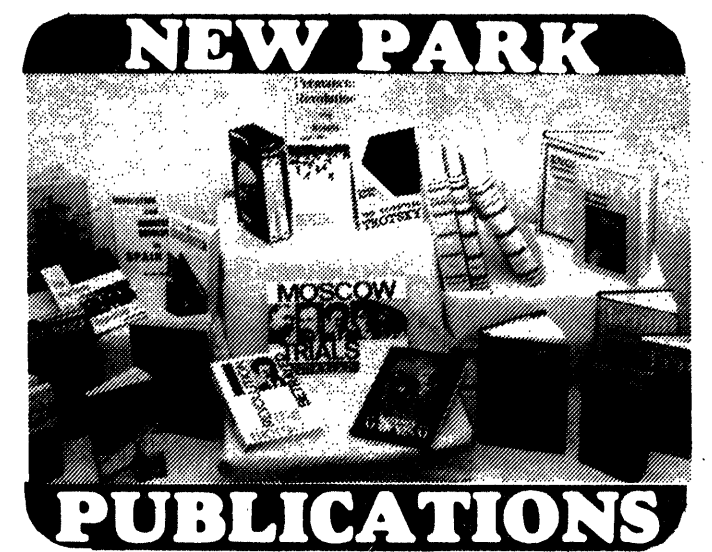
'It seemed to us that something was dreadfully wrong when a journalist could sit in an office collecting £50 a week for not publishing a story about men who have a basic take-home pay less than a third of that amount,' says Dewey-Leader.

Knowles pointed out to Workers Press that reticence about strikes is rarely practised in 'Steel News' when it comes to discussing their effect on production.

### RESISTED

Both have resisted attempts to persuade them to withdraw their resignations.

Since the two assistant editors have confirmed their resignations a third member of the paper's staff—graduate-trainee Robert Bailey—has resigned in support of them.



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BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

Crisis behind Congressional elections campaign

Nixon's 'nice-guy'



mask drops

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT NIXON'S campaign tour for the Congressional elections took him yesterday to Dallas—the first visit there by a US President since the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Revulsion

FROM PAGE ONE
which no doubt played a decisive role in bringing about the unofficial strike of Yorkshire miners who now see their wage demands undermined by Barber's budget — makes such a policy entirely possible.

ists that the General Council might give a more militant lead in the fight against the Tories if the Tories remain adamant.

Faith

On the one side of the Stalinist coin we have episodic protest actions, on the other an abiding faith in bureaucracy — and capitalism.

This is why the 'Morning Star' editorial avoids any call for a real campaign within the unions to make the union leaders fight and to force the TUC to call a one-day national stoppage on the condition that, if the TUC fails, then a general strike of the working class must be called.

Symbols

They incarnate the previous defeats and the demoralization of the working class. They are the living symbols of 1921, 1926 and 1931.

Their collaboration with monopoly capitalism is based entirely on the reformist idea that the working class can never win power from the ruling class.

Not only can the Tories be defeated by the organized struggle of the working class, but right-wing union bureaucracy must be thrown out by the trade unionists.

When Walton, Liverpool MP Mr Eric Heffer writes in 'Tribune' that 'The General Council of the TUC had made a good start' (October 23, 1970), he confuses the working class about the right-wing's nature and intentions.

Yesterday's 'Morning Star' does the same when it informs us that the General Council's vague reference to 'further action' has 'given rise to hopes among left-wing trade union-

In calling upon electors to put aside party loyalties and vote to give Nixon himself a strong position, the President is expressing the need of the US ruling class to move towards more Bonapartist forms of rule in order to deal with the growing capitalist crisis.

Nixon suggests that a number of issues are 'above party': the Vietnam war, halting inflation, curbing crime and violence, and 'preserving the environment'.

The last point is thrown in for the liberals, who will allow themselves to be persuaded that a strong President can preserve the environment from capitalism.

Government economic statistics published in the last week indicate very clearly what lies behind the energetic campaigning and the growing emphasis on 'strong government'.

Maturing

These statistics foresee a major inflationary crisis maturing by 1972.

Since the President was elected in January 1969, purchasing power of wages earned in America has declined by 2 per cent.

Unemployment is now 6 per cent or over in all five major industrial areas. Over-time is being cut back everywhere.

Despite this rapid worsening of conditions, businessmen are loudly protesting that the main problem still to be solved is to stop wages from out-pacing productivity.

The present solid strike of General Motors workers is obviously only the first sign of a necessary head-on clash between capital and labour.

Behind the tough talk of Nixon and Agnew is their concern in strengthening the political positions of the ruling class for this struggle against the labour movement.

Concerned

Agnew seems concerned about being misunderstood, saying on Wednesday:

'It's time to take the gloves off. No more of this Mr Nice Guy. Starting tomorrow I will try to switch off my low-key approach and start calling a spade a spade.'

ITV mergers urged

THREE WAYS in which independent television could halt falling profits were suggested by the Prices and Incomes Board in a report published yesterday.

Main proposal is a reduction in the number of companies through merger. The second — an extension of broadcasting hours — would affect the BBC, by increasing its costs.

The third method proposed is a second commercial channel.

Speaking in the Commons, Stoddart said that he has received a letter from the Prime Minister 'which stated that local authority grants may be affected by a settlement made ...'

As the recipient of that letter, let me make it quite clear that the Prime Minister did, in that letter, state quite categorically that the level of grants to local authorities must be a concern of government and would be considered.

Bellowing above the angry din from the Tory benches he added: 'It is absolutely true that the government has been putting pressure on the employers.'

The NW London postmen are refusing to collect letters from London and to despatch any there because of a 'borderline' dispute.

The NW London postmen

Canada: Denial

LAWYERS IN Montreal yesterday protested strongly against the Canadian government's refusal to allow people imprisoned under the emergency laws to see their legal representatives.

WEATHER

ENGLAND will be mainly dry and warm with sunny spells. Wales and England, except the extreme N, will be cloudy with occasional rain and temperatures a little above normal.

The rest of England, Scotland and N Ireland will have sunny spells and showers. The showers will be more frequent in the W. Temperatures here will be near normal. Winds will be strong in the NW.



SPANISH YOUTH MARCH AGAINST TRIAL OF BASQUES

IN A RARE picture out of Spain young people are seen in a recent Madrid demonstration against the trial of 16 Basque socialists before a secret military tribunal in Burgos. Six of them face possible death penalties. The demonstrations, in Madrid and others at the same time in Barcelona, were attacked within a space of minutes by the police, who made dozens of arrests.

CAV Acton demand for cost of living rise

WORKERS at CAV Acton are demanding a pay rise because of increases in the cost of living caused by the Tory government's 'mini-budget'.

Miserable

But they at least had looked miserable while they were doing it. The Tories, on the other hand were exultant. 'In all my 20 years in the House, I never saw class war so blatant as during this mini-budget speech,' he said.

Critical

The demands come at a critical time. The setters working in the Acton plant's 55 and 66 departments will soon be involved in the tele-control pilot scheme which will be the forerunner of its total introduction in the factory.

Another businessman appointed

A TOP Royal Dutch Shell oil company official, Lord Rothschild, 60, has been appointed by the Prime Minister to head the 'think tank' central review staff in the Cabinet Office.

My Lai defendant charges General

AN ARMY sergeant involved in the My Lai massacre filed criminal charges against General Creighton Abrams, commander of US forces in Vietnam.

Attorney Charles Weltner said his client, Sergeant Esquel Torre, accused the General of dereliction of duty and failure to take action after witnessing a felony.

Earlier this month secretary of the army Stanley Resor dismissed dereliction of duty charges against the Chief of Staff, General William Westmoreland, who preceded General Abrams as Vietnam commander.

Mr Weltner said the Abrams charges were sent to Mr Resor.

'If they treated this (the Abrams charges) the way they've treated the My Lai cases of privates and corporals,' said Mr Weltner, 'then they would have an investigation and it would lead to a court martial.'

'It will be up to him [Resor] to explain how a four-star general is immune to such a charge when the privates and corporals aren't. It should be more difficult for him to sweep this under the rug than it was in the Westmoreland case,' Mr Weltner added.

Mr Resor ruled that General Westmoreland was not guilty of My Lai atrocities because they occurred without his knowledge.

In the Abrams case, however, Sergeant Torre has cited a press report that General Abrams actually witnessed the mistreatment of Vietnamese civilians at the village of Chanh Luu in August, 1968.

Sergeant Torre is one of ten soldiers charged in connection with the deaths of Vietnamese civilians at My Lai on March 16, 1968.

On Tuesday and Wednesday rumours were being spread in Montreal that 'certain influential persons' had been plotting to overthrow the Quebec provincial government.

M. Lévesque, chairman of the Parti Québécois, declared that the rumours came from people in power wanting to discredit prominent persons and trade unions who are in opposition to the war measures.

Union spokesmen and student leaders have reflected the growing awareness that Trudeau's special measures are directed against all trade union and socialist organizations.

In the last few days the police, having arrested every FLQ suspect they could lay their hands on, have set about arresting the members of all left groups, many of them unconnected with the separatist movement.

Canada offers the clearest proof of what the ruling classes in the capitalist countries understand by Heath's remarks at the United Nations about 'civil war'.

Behind the smokescreen of combating terrorism, they build up the machinery for suppressing the left and the labour movement.

At a joint meeting of St Helen's amenities, public works and education committees it was decided not to pay the council's manual workers the full 55s increase, but wait for the results of the national settlement.

Left-wing councillors will challenge this ruling at next Wednesday's full council meeting when the decision will be discussed.

Hackney manual workers—believed to number about 2,000—walked out over a pay dispute. A union official said the men had done it 'off their own backs'. Their strike was not part of the national plan.

A Southwark council spokesman said the striking dustmen would be back at work today.

WHEN Black Panther leaders Martin Kenner and Donald Cox, together with Jennifer Dohrn (sister of student leader Bernardine Dohrn, who is on the FBI's 'Ten Most Wanted List') and Dr Timothy Leary, 'hippie' leader, were bundled on a plane out of Beirut last Tuesday, they were feeling the effects of increased US imperialist influence in the Arab countries.

The Lebanese government had been asked by the US Embassy in Beirut to lift Leary's passport on the grounds that he is an escapee from Chino Prison, California, where he was serving a sentence on drug charges.

There is no extradition treaty between Lebanon and the US, but clearly the Lebanese government did not want to clash with the Americans.

The four Americans are in the Middle East to voice their support for the Palestine liberation struggle against Israel.

Arrangements for their visit were apparently agreed between Al Fatah and Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther leader.

Their flight from Beirut went to Cairo, where they were refused permission to stay and arrangements were made to return them to Algiers.

Since the four Americans' original plans were to go from Beirut to the Syrian capital of Damascus, there is little doubt that the Syrian government had taken the same attitude as those of Egypt and Lebanon.

FRENCH MINERS' STRIKE Officials spread confusion

THE STRIKE in the Lorraine coalfield was much weakened yesterday by an appeal for a return to work issued by the Communist (CGT) and Socialist (FO) unions.

Previously, local union officials had spread confusion in the pits by their refusal to give a lead to the fight, which centres on the demand for minimum pay of 55 francs (about £4 5s) a shift.

At Merlebach, where the action began, a small majority voted at a pit-head meeting on Wednesday to continue the strike, although union officials refused to make a recommendation one way or another.

No meetings

No meetings were held in the other pits. At Petite-Rosselle the unions had made their position clear by withdrawing officials who had addressed meetings at the gates during the previous ten days of the strike.

According to a management claim on Wednesday, only a third of the miners were still out in the coalfield as a whole.

Steel strike still on

THE STRIKE in three Lorraine steel mills continued yesterday against the lock-out threat by the Thomas d'Uzinor company at Thionville.

The threat was in reply to a claim for an increase of less than 1s an hour and a five-hour reduction in the working week, presently fixed at 47 hours.

Ultra-modern

One of the mills shut by the strike is the ultra-modern automatic SACILOR plant, part of the WENDEL group administered by Francois Ceyrac, deputy head of the French National Employers' Federation.

In a televised debate with CGT chief Seguy on Tuesday Ceyrac demanded the lifting of pickets at SACILOR and went on to demand the 'right to work' in the course of all strikes.

Attack on the right to strike

A GAULLIST deputy in the French National Assembly, M. Bouchacourt, has set down a proposed law to impose compulsory five-day notice for all strikes, to 'allow further negotiations'.

In addition, the draft law allows the Prime Minister, without reference to parliament, to extend the period to up to a month.

It also provides for permanent arrangements under which public service employees are compelled by law to provide a skeleton service during all strikes.

Such a service would go far beyond the emergency services provided, for example, by hospital workers under the instructions of their trade unions during strikes.

Workers Press

Prices will rocket. Dole queues will lengthen. And over everything hangs the imminent threat to the right to strike, the right to the shed shop, the right to fight for wages.

The class enemy is going to war. It will not be swayed by protest, as the Stalinists of the 'Morning Star' think. Nor will simple militancy be sufficient to drive back the carefully-calculated plans.

The trade union chiefs and the Labour leaders are flat on their backs, without any programme or policy to protect the Tory onslaught.

Only the mobilization of the entire working class, through its enormously powerful mass organizations, can drive back the Tory Party and their hired propaganda machine.

The Workers Press wages a constant campaign to force the Labour and trade union leaders to fight the Tories. This is the only road forward for the working class.

We appeal to all readers to campaign boldly and audaciously to raise the alarm throughout the labour movement and use the Workers Press as never before to lead the fight against Tory reaction.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE CONFERENCES
Support Pilkington glassworkers and their right to strike!
Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8
COVENTRY: Keith's Club, Cox Street, 3.30 p.m.
NEWCASTLE: Royal Turk's Head Hotel, Grey Street, 3 p.m.
SHEFFIELD: Crooksmoor Vestry Hall, Crooksmoor Road, 2.30 p.m.
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15
GLASGOW: Partick Burgh Lesser Hall, near Merkland Street underground, 7.30 p.m.
LONDON: Woodlands Hall, Crown Street, Acton, 7.00 p.m.
Speakers will be from the Pilkington Rank and File Committee

LATE NEWS
BILL RESTORES SCHOOL FEES
Scottish education authorities would regain the power to charge fees in a limited number of their schools, under a bill published yesterday.
The Education (Scotland) Bill, also makes provision for the charging of fees to pupils from outside an authority's area both in fee-paying and non fee-paying schools.
Fees were abolished by the Labour government earlier this year.

WORKERS PRESS—CLAIM
Swindon's Labour MP David Stoddart yesterday accused the government of pressurizing councils not to give in to their striking manual workers.

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