

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

What we think

Bankrupt!

THE STRONGEST possible case for nationalization under workers' control emerges from Edward Heath's television broadcast on the BBC's 'Panorama' programme.

He told viewers on Monday night that 'if firms are going to be irresponsible'—by conceding wage rises—they will find that they will not come here [to 10 Downing St] and get themselves bailed out'.

This policy—which Heath considers 'a responsible attitude towards society'—is a blueprint for bankruptcy in thousands of firms up and down the country.

Combined with the ending of investment grants and the drastic credit restrictions under discussion by the Cabinet, it provides a virtual guarantee that many firms will be forced to shut up shop or bleed to death.

Even giant enterprises like the British-Leyland combine are reported to be in serious financial crisis.

Heath's policy is not directed just at employers... and we weep no tears for them.

Above all, it is aimed at swelling the dole queues and forcing hundreds of thousands more workers to rot in unemployment and misery.

The entire capitalist system is bankrupt. British employers cannot keep their shaky system in being without depriving nearly 700,000 workers of their most basic right of work.

In the United States, nearly five million workers are tasting the bitter reality of enforced idleness. The disease is the same throughout the capitalist world.

Heath's solution is to encourage the huge monopolies to gobble up their smaller rivals in the interests of capitalist efficiency and Common Market entry.

If you can't stand up to the workers, he tells the employers, we won't keep you out of the bankruptcy courts.

The employers' problems are not and cannot be the concern of the workers.

Bankrupt capitalism will not be saved by working harder or backing down from the fight for a decent wage.

Workers who fall into this trap or are led into it by the treachery of their leaders will find themselves on the dole queues all the sooner.

Instead, workers must fight for their basic rights.

The right to work is the only serious right a worker has under capitalism. This right must be defended at all costs.

If the employers and their government cannot guarantee this right—and Heath's statement is a clear admission that they cannot and will not—then control of the bankrupt industries must be taken out of their hands.

The only way to combat Heath's policy, which faces millions of workers with catastrophe, is to fight for the nationalization of industry under workers' control.

There can be no question of compensation for the already bankrupt former owners.

The British-Leyland combine stewards have shown the way forward with their resolution answering Lord Stokes' 'Measured-Work Day' plans.

They demand: 'Fight sackings. Any firm which cannot give security to its workers should be nationalized under workers' control in line with the policy of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.'

This is a lead that must be taken up everywhere the employers and the Tories are threatening the right to work.

It is the way forward to sweep out the Tories and their bankrupt system for good.

Heath-Powell split means

Tory split—The unions must act!

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE CRISIS in the Tory ranks which we pointed to in yesterday's paper, has now reached a more serious stage with the defection of a number of Tory MPs, led by Enoch Powell, in Monday's debate on Rhodesian sanctions.

Pouring scorn on Home's proposal to approve the Southern Rhodesia Act 1965 (Continuation) Order, 1970, Powell told the Commons of his determination to defy the Tory leadership if ever any legislation based on the five principles was passed in the House.

To clarify any doubts about his unequivocal support of the racist white dictatorship in Rhodesia, Mr Powell declared emphatically:

'Sooner or later Britain will have to recognize reality (Conservative cheers). The

THE pound's key rate against the dollar plunged nearly a quarter of a cent yesterday morning on the foreign exchange market and was trading 21 points down on Monday night's final level of two dollars 38.88 cents.

Dealers admitted that the market is very nervous and inflationary wage settlements and next week's trade figures may make this worse.

reality is that there will continue to exist a sovereign independent republic in Southern Rhodesia.'

Powell's declaration and his open defiance of Heath's leadership is not accidental. It coincides with the greatest upsurge of working-class struggle since 1926 which has begun to tear large holes in the Tory defences.

Outburst

Heath's outraged outburst on TV on the same night and his description of the Scamp Report as 'blatantly nonsensical', is poignant proof of the Tories' disarray.

One section of them are howling for an 'incomes policy' while others hope that by some miracle of Heath's charisma and the collaboration of the trade union leaders, they can get a non-statutory wage freeze.

The conflict that now rages in the Tory party which, only two weeks ago, seemed so confident and united, is the direct result of the very force which they set out to control: the working class.

The fight between Heath and Powell which has now been resumed is a fight between two reactionary political bankrupts as to what measures are most effective to defeat the working class.

The Tories think they are powerful and unbeatable. In fact they are paper tigers who are sustained by the paper cats in the labour bureaucracy. They can and must be brought down.

The dustmen have sent

Ready to ride over Heath?



A scene from last night's ATV documentary on Mr Enoch Powell

Militants hamper General Motors deal

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

SEVENTEEN hours of talks in Detroit yesterday failed to produce a definitive settlement of the General Motors strike, now entering its third month.

Over 400,000 workers at the car company's factories in the United States and Canada are on strike for a new wage contract.

They are demanding rises of over 16s an hour to keep pace with the very rapid escalation in the cost of living. Other demands include guaranteed retirement pay after 30 years' service, improved fringe benefits, and unlimited increases to keep pace with the rising cost of living.

Union leaders' efforts to reach a compromise settlement on the claim have so far been thwarted by the determination and militancy of the strikers, who have demonstrated their intention to fight to a finish for the full demand.

The motor strikers will be heartened by a Presidential Emergency Board's recommendation that railway workers should be awarded a 32.5 per cent wage rise over three years.

The Board made its recommendation under the threat of a national rail strike due to begin on December 10.

The Board's award of about 11s an hour—against 13s 6d demanded by the unions—is a tribute to the administration's fear that the railway workers, like the General Motors strikers, will prove powerful enough to force the employers

to disgorge.

The car strikers' tenacity is now seriously worrying President Nixon and his economic advisers. His efforts to whip up a law-and-order fever among workers flopped during the Congressional elections.

Even the ultra-right union bureaucrat George Meany, leader of the AFL-CIO (American version of the TUC) has been forced to come out against Nixon's policies. Until recently he was Nixon's most fervent backer in the unions.

Yesterday he rejected a plea from leading Nixon economist Herbert Stein that unions should moderate wage demands or face the threat of increased unemployment.

Meany told a press conference that unemployment, prices and interest rates were continuing to rise despite Nixon's predictions that the economy would improve by 1972.

'We think this is a profit inflation,' he said, rejecting attempts to blame wage demands.

'We don't buy the idea that the Administration could lay this at the door of labour.'

Meany's remarks reflect the growing mood of class struggle in the US working class which is amply demonstrated by the General Motors struggle.

Arafat aids Jordanian repression

THREE ARMED Palestinian guerrillas were arrested yesterday in Amman by officers of the Liberation Organization for violating the agreement signed between the guerrilla Central Committee and the Jordanian government.

Under the terms of the agreement, which came into force as from midday yesterday, only guerrillas with permits issued by Arafat's Central Committee can carry arms in the towns.

Arafat's men handed over the three guerrillas to the Arab 'observer' mission in Amman, which in turn delivered them up to the Jordanian authorities.

Cover

Arafat's claim in Cairo yesterday that the guerrillas had 'achieved unity of the rifle' is a cover for the new repressions being mounted against the guerrillas under the terms of the Arafat-Husseini agreement of last month.

The authority of the guerrilla organization is being used to purge the movement of its most radical elements, which in turn only aids the Zionists and their imperialist backers.

November £1,250 Appeal climbs to £236 4s 5d

WE MUST keep pushing ahead. The determination of the working class to defeat the Tories is making the government split and divided.

Now is the time to go on the offensive. The Workers Press is out in front. We must answer every day the attacks of the Tory press, blow for blow.

Strengthen us in this fight. Help us raise £1,013 15s 7d in the next three weeks to complete the fund. Start by sending your donations to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

Increased dental charges condemned

AN ATTACK on the government's decision to increase dental charges was made in London yesterday by Sir Robert Bradlaw, president of the General Dental Council.

He said that dental health is 'starved of its share, even of the pitifully inadequate resources that are available'.

It was illogical, he added, to treat a headache or inflammatory condition without charge, but not the dental condition which caused it.

Tories tell miners

'A strike-breaking we will go'

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

FACED with a coalfield battle which may open another breach in their offensive to push down living standards, the government is now considering importing coal to break the miners' strike.

This would be an extremely costly policy. There is a world shortage of coal and the price of foreign supplies would be high.

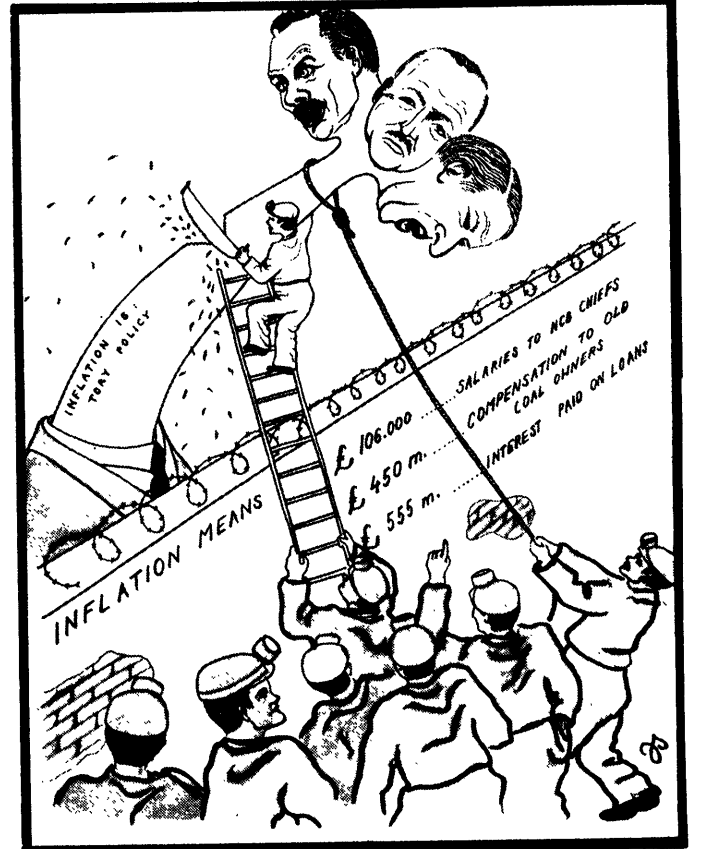
An import of 2.5 million tons—the weekly needs of industry—would undoubtedly pile up a substantial deficit item on the balance of trade, not to mention the bonanza fuel from abroad would afford to every profit-grabbing middle-man.

For the government there are, however, greater things at stake than hard cash. A miners' victory on the heels of the council workers' settlement would be a very serious blow to their attempts to outlaw wage increases.

CONCERN

This prospect is of greater concern to Heath than the partial paralysis of industry that the strike threatens.

Even if it costs more money to import coal than pay the miners their £5, it would be worth it to the government if it weakened



Miners don't 'red' scare More join strike

MINERS HAVE ignored the back-to-work call of their general secretary Lawrence Daly, the strike remained firm as more men in Yorkshire and Scotland walked out yesterday in support of the £5 wage claim.

In a statement issued from union headquarters in London, Daly appealed for the men to return.

'The strike total reached near half of the pits' labour force Daly said: 'Divisions and disunity caused within the union by the unofficial strike can only harm miners.'

'I appeal for all miners on strike to return to work. They will have the opportunity to reject or accept the Coal Board's offer at the ballot next week.'

He added that he expected they would vote overwhelmingly for acceptance and that this would be the best way to demonstrate their feelings.

Not weakened

But neither this defeatist statement, echoed in the areas by right-wing officials, nor Robens' red-scare appears to have weakened the miners' will to fight.

Few of the 3,500 KENT miners who strike today against the Board's £2 7s 6d to £3 offer are impressed by this bluster.

'I think Robens is trying to scare a few men, 20-year-old Betshegar surface worker Graham Williams told Workers Press yesterday.

'Well, it might scare a few, but I think the men will stick. It's an all-out fight now for Kent miners.'

'As long as the Coal Board and the government keep the fight up, the miners will be fighting back.'

At Tilmantone, another of Kent's three pits which voted solidly for strike action at the weekend—Snowdon,

which voted against, is being ordered out—T. Osborne told us:

'I have to work a 48-hour week for £19, which means £14 10s take-home pay. There's a lot of us who think the £5 could definitely be won. I don't think the strike need be all that long.'

More strike

In SCOTLAND too these provocative statements have persuaded more miners to strike. In N Scotland eight of the ten pits were idle and in the South 17 of the 22 were strike bound.

The Scottish area NUM reported that 25,000 out of 29,000 miners were out on strike.

In YORKSHIRE the dispute spread to one more pit bringing the total shut by the strike to 42. In the Doncaster area the stoppage is 100 per cent with all ten pits idle.

Four of Co. Durham's seven biggest pits are still strike-bound. These are Westoe, Dawdon, Vain Tempest and Eastington.

The dispute remains total in S WALES and miners there will join others from Yorkshire to give their national executive a tough reception when they meet in London tomorrow.

The Coal Board estimates 1,035,000 tons have been lost in production since the unofficial walk-outs started.

Already the steel industry is beginning to feel the pinch. The electricity power stations have stocks of their own that could last for seven weeks while the gas industry has enough for over four weeks.

UNITY IN INACTION?

PROPOSALS that the four sections of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers should combine forces to oppose the government's planned industrial relations reforms are to be made at York tomorrow.

In Kensington and Chelsea, an area where strikers faced an army of scab refuse drivers throughout the strike, the stoppage is to continue following a breakdown of negotiations yesterday.

Peter Evans of the Trans-

Some boroughs still out

port and General Workers' Union said that the London men were being supported

by the unions and were receiving between £4 and £6 strike pay a week.

Sicily unions call general strike

THE three major trade unions have called a general strike in S Palermo, capital of Sicily, for November 20, aimed at forcing 'concrete interventions by the state and the regional development of Sicily'.

Argentina's governing military dictatorship yesterday warned union leaders against holding the third in a series of nationwide stoppages to press their demands. Economics Minister Aldo Ferrer had offered a 30 per cent increase in the minimum wage but would not allow negotiations on wage structures until next April.

