

What we think

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Dinning, in Stalinist eyes, committed the unpardonable sin of revealing aspects of the November 14 Conference which the Stalinists and the 'Star' were shamelessly trying to conceal from the working class.

Amongst other unsavoury things, Dinning revealed that Norman Atkinson, MP, had been intensely heckled, that there was a vociferous minority calling for a general strike to force the Tories to resign and that this demand, to his disappointment, had not been answered.

(If Mr Hiles was unable to keep bona fide Trotskyist delegates out of the conference it was certainly not for want of trying.)

The 'Star', by publishing the letter under a massive four column title 'We must move 9,000,000 into action', only helped to give credence to Dinning's views, which were an implicit criticism of the 'Star's' so-called objective reporting as well.

All this has pained Mr Hiles considerably. Angrily he writes:

'What was the point in Norman Dinning writing so many words... on the poor speeches and the "Trotskyists, International Socialists and similar sectarian views" when there were several good contributions... which he did not quote or amplify?'

'Nor did he try to explain why Norman Atkinson was heckled.'

According to Hiles, Atkinson 'gave the impression that he was trying to limit and divert the discussion away from the Tory government... Is it any wonder that the conference reacted as it did?'

Precisely! We would very much like to know how an avid reader of the 'Star', like Hiles, could swallow the following squalid distortion of the 'Star' in its report of the conference:

'Labour MPs Sid Bidwell and Norman Atkinson said all sections of the movement should be united in the campaign so that industrial action outside parliament would find backing among Labour MPs inside.'

Not a word about 'diverting the movement' here. Does Mr Hiles agree with this report? If he doesn't why did he not try to correct it?'

'I don't think that Bro. Dinning is quite accurate when he implies that no one dealt with the issue of a "general strike" which was raised by a vociferous minority'. In fact several speakers did, including an outstanding speech from Eddie Marsden...'

But even the 'Star' makes clear Mr Marsden's speech was vague.

'He [Marsden] warned against being defeatist: the TUC could be won for action. "It belongs to us, not to Vic Feather".' (November 23, 1970.) (Our emphasis.)

Mr Hiles does no credit to the jaded image of his Liaison Committee by his unprincipled evasions on the question of a political, general strike.

All his quotations from the November 14 conference declaration are worthless because none of them call unequivocally for the TUC to call a general strike to bring the Tories down.

If Mr Hiles concludes his letter with the surprising statement that December 8 is a form of pressure on the TUC to call an official general strike, it is only because he is embarrassed by the growing volume of support to the Socialist Labour

British-Leyland shows its hand

Either MDW deal

or the dole?

BY DAVID MAUDE

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There appear to be good grounds for this belief.

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'What can we expect next?', the magazine's editors ask.

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'We should have another scare put out in the next week or so...'

'What about an announcement of redundancies a few days before York?'

This forecast has now been almost uncannily borne out.

Sumner's decisive rejection of MDW by T&GWU members at the Pressed-Steel Fisher body plant must demonstrate to Leyland that a solid wall of resistance to their speed-up plans has now been rebuilt at Cowley.

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Friday's talks at Birmingham, Coventry, Oxford, Llanelli and Swindon could then be used to drive in a wedge amongst the weaker local officials and shop stewards, Oxford stewards warned yesterday.

They remain convinced that Leyland's desperation to implement MDW is the fruit of economic crisis, rather strength.

It can and will be pushed back.

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But Hull shop stewards have rejected the appeal and say the black will go on.

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'When we hear news like this we know we are not fighting alone to defend the right to strike and the right to work.'

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The other 400 have since been taken back, but have lost all their long-service pension, redundancy and other rights.

Speed-up interlaced with unemployment will now become the Tory whip for every Mersey portworker.

This was confirmed in the House of Commons late yesterday afternoon by Transport Minister John Peyton after three hours of discussion with MD&HB representatives and port users. (See photo p. 4)

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He announced that a receiver had been appointed to protect the financial interests of the government and other secured creditors.

Aid to the £35 million Seaford container and bulk-cargo site now under construction would continue, he said.

It is now almost certain, that the South end of Liverpool's seven miles of dockland will be wound up and sold off to private enterprise.

Walter 'left' Labour MP Eric Heffer's response to this threat to thousands of jobs was merely that the government 'was starting the wrong way round' and 'abdicated its responsibility' in appointing a receiver.

Peyton's angry retort to another questioner that he did not, and never would, 'regard nationalization of the ports as doing anything approaching a helpful solution', however, is the best possible argument for the rank-and-file.

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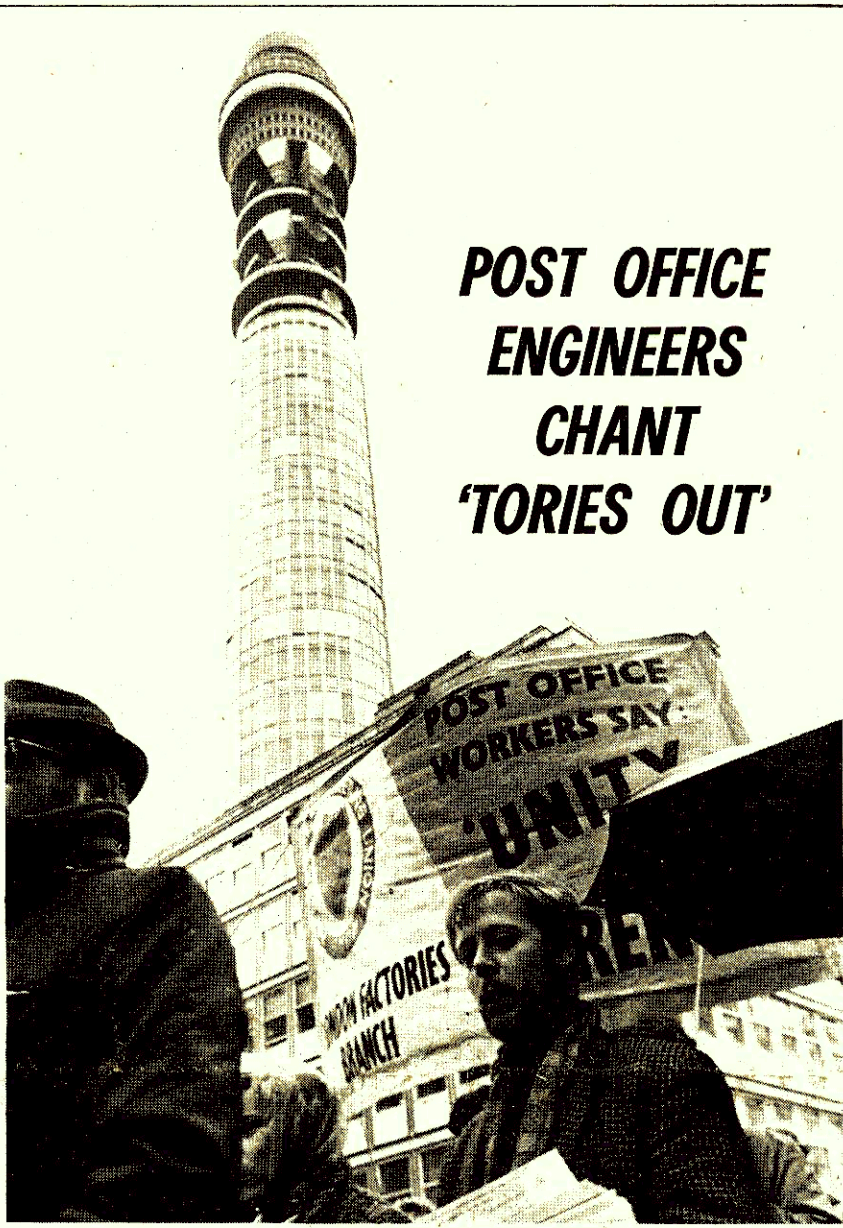
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This must be taken even to the extent of alienating Orange extremists.



POST OFFICE ENGINEERS CHANT 'TORIES OUT'

BY PETER READ

TELEPHONE, radio and telegram services at London's Post Office Tower were brought to a standstill yesterday when 3,000 engineers and technicians walked out after lunch.

They marched to Hyde Park Corner in protest against government plans to give off the more profitable parts of the Post Office service to private enterprise.

Death warrants

Government departments are now drawing up the death warrants of nationalized sections, posing the questions:

'Are all the activities carried out by the state industries necessary; could some of them be better performed by someone else, and if not are the state boards carrying them out as efficiently as possible?'

Threatened sections in the Post Office include telex and telephone installation services and computer and data transmission.

The Tory plans, first advanced in their pre-election publication 'Dial Enterprise', are now under discussion as part of a full-scale Whitehall examination of nationalized industries with a view to selective denationalization.

Hands off

Workers from Post Office factories and about 300 delegates from all over the country joined yesterday's marchers, who shouted, 'Chataway out!', 'Tories out!' and 'Hands off the Post Office!'

From the Hyde Park meeting, marchers went to Westminster to lobby their MPs.

Another inflation warning by US

PRESIDENT Nixon's economic advisors are preparing to issue a second warning on inflation this week amid mounting crisis for the US Administration's efforts to overcome the problem.

The real possibility of a US recession is reflected in increasingly panicky White House statements as the economy fails to respond to Nixon's relaxation of the monetary squeeze.

This week's report is expected to come out strongly against the wages struggle of US workers, who have wrung huge rises out of top monopoly concerns over recent months.

The first inflation alert, issued in the summer, listed products which had registered relatively fast wholesale price rises.

It had little effect and October's consumer price index showed a hefty 0.6 per cent rise.

The new report will launch a specific attack on the General Motors, teamsters', oil and construction wage settlements.

Election campaign

With unemployment running at 5.6 per cent, Nixon has been trying without success to revive the economy somewhat as part of the run-up to the 1972 presidential election.

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This undoubtedly reflects growing uneasiness about the economy's future in top capitalist circles.

The classic Keynesian solution of reducing interest rates, designed to make credit easier to obtain, has had no effect.

Instead the opposite has happened. A number of important business firms are believed to be on the edge of bankruptcy—several Wall St. broking firms among them.

The loss of confidence is directly related to the very large wage rises won recently by General Motors and by the Teamsters' Union.

US employers' hopes that General Motors would stand firm against the wages struggle of the motor workers were dashed by the settlement which gave wage increases of

Tremendous response to Dec. 8

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THE ONE-DAY strike against the Tory anti-union proposals has, in spite of the limitations placed on it by its organizers, received a tremendous response from large sections of the working class.

Some of the latest estimates have predicted over a million workers to strike on the day.

This will include 47,000 workers at Ford plants throughout Britain, whose stewards decided to back the strike over the weekend. Workers at British-Leyland plants are also being urged to stop work.

More than 10,000 dockers at Liverpool, together with tugmen and watermen from London docks also decided to join the strike which has been opposed throughout by the TUC and the Labour Party.

At Saturday's Liverpool mass meeting of dockers, Transport and General Workers' Union port steward Dennis Kelly was applauded when he said that the Tories could not be left in office for five years and must be brought down.

As already reported in yesterday's Workers Press, the expected magnitude of action and immense display of force on December 8, has prompted a witch-hunt in almost all the capitalist papers.

Disturbed by the fact that the strike is unofficial, yesterday's 'Daily Mail' comment column reported this as a 'sinister trend' which 'threatened the whole of our democratic system'.

PAPER TERRIFIED

Terrified at the prospect of December 8 being part of a dangerous trend towards political strikes, the 'Mail' points out the Post Office workers' strike as another symptom of this development.

But it knows who its allies are and whom it can rely on.

Over the top

WELL, we made it! The total stands at £1,313 9s 11d and money is still pouring in. We are overwhelmed by the magnificent support you give us each month.

The political confidence which you place in the Workers Press makes us determined to go on improving the paper. We hope to be able to announce some new proposals within the next few days.

Now help us sell the paper everywhere. Order extra copies to take into work, sell a copy to your neighbour, let us expand and keep expanding into new areas.

We are on the move with hundreds of thousands of trade unionists to force this Tory government to resign.

You, and all our readers, have a decisive role to play. Please accept our warmest thanks for this wonderful effort.

DECEMBER EIGHTH

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Meeting

The postmen have shown the way to defeat the anti-union laws!

Make the trade union leaders fight the Tories! Force the government to resign!

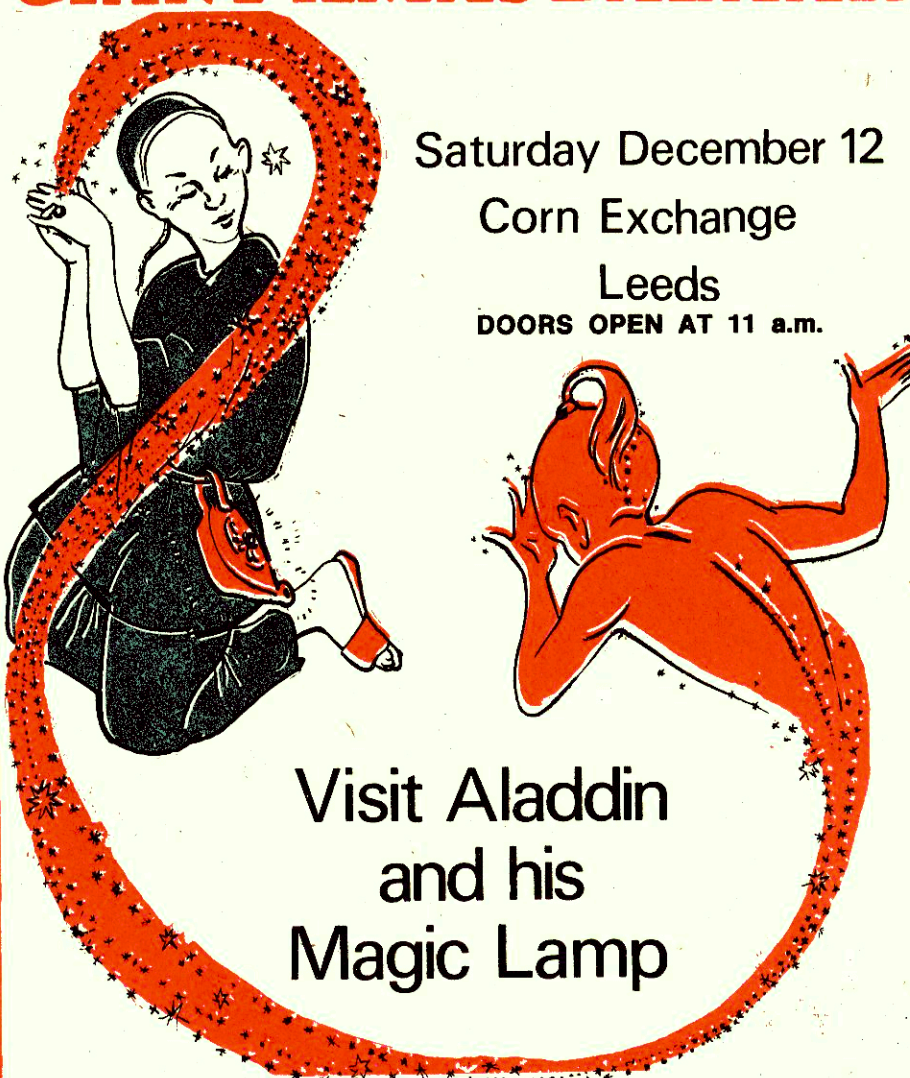
TUESDAY DECEMBER 8, 5 p.m.

The Lecture Hall Central Hall Westminster

- Speakers:
- G. HEALY (National Secretary of Socialist Labour League)
 - A. THORNETT (Deputy Senior Steward Morris Motors, Oxford)
 - G. CAUGHEY (Chairman Pilkington's Rank and File Committee)
 - T. SWEENEY (Chairman London Councilworkers' Liaison Committee)
 - A. WILKINS (ATUA Secretary)

Admission 2s

Something for everyone at the YOUNG SOCIALISTS GIANT XMAS BAZAAR



Saturday December 12
Corn Exchange
Leeds
DOORS OPEN AT 11 a.m.

Visit Aladdin and his Magic Lamp

- Toys — Bingo — Books — Raffles — Plants — Can-Can Records — Portraits — Xmas Gifts — Candy Floss — YS Boutique — Bottle Draw — Food Bargains — Lucky Straws — White Elephant — Instant Photo — Babies' Clothes — Punch 'N' Judy — Home-made Food — Fruit Machines — Childrens' Clothes — Alligator's Head — Xmas Decorations — Father Christmas — All the best jumble — Teas & Refreshments — Scarves, Hats & Gloves — Hot Dogs, Hamburgers — Stalls — Sideshowes

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'Mr Victor Feather and the TUC are within their democratic rights in speaking out against the Bill. So is the opposition . . .'

This right does not seem to exist as far as workers on the shop floor are concerned. Their action, continues the editorial, 'is to be condemned in the strongest terms. It could be the first step on the slippery slope to a shop-floor dictatorship . . . workers are

● PAGE FOUR COL. 6

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T. SWEENEY (Chairman London Councilworkers' Liaison Committee)
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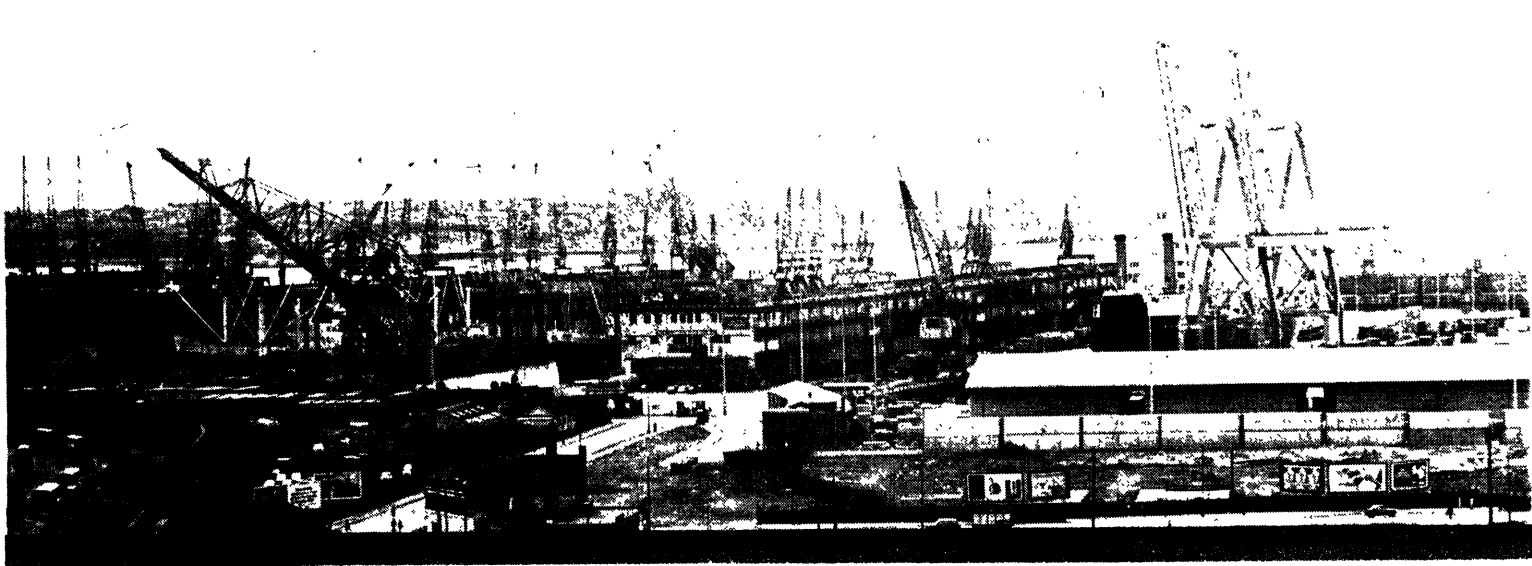
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Toys — Bingo — Books — Raffles — Plants — Can-Can Records — Portraits — Xmas Gifts — Candy Floss — YS Boutique — Bottle Draw — Food Bargains — Lucky Straws — White Elephant — Instant Photo — Babies' Clothes — Punch 'N' Judy — Home-made Food — Fruit Machines — Childrens' Clothes — Alligator's Head — Xmas Decorations — Father Christmas — All the best jumble — Teas & Refreshments — Scarves, Hats & Gloves — Hot

● PAGE FOUR COL. 3

● PAGE FOUR COL. 7



DATELINE: MERSEYSIDE

THE GOVERNMENT list the unemployed as cold statistics. But for each worker without a job, life on the dole is a grey universe where the aimless seconds tick by to fill a whole existence. Slowly, without work, he becomes a changed and depressed man.

Unemployment for a young worker is a new and gloomy experience. When they fight for more wages the opposition is readily identifiable—the boss who resists and clings to his profit.

But where or who is the enemy for the unemployed?

It is an abstract hand of injustice that bars him from the factories, docks and mines of the area where he was born and lives.

An unexplained law of capital forces him to live without money and without hope.

Frustration builds up, he blames himself for his plight or perhaps quarrels away the idle hours of the day with his wife.

The evening brings no solace. No more night excursions to the club or the cinema, only the accusing eye of the television will beam into a darkened living room while the young man without a job waits for sleep.

For the older workers the streets to the labour exchange stir dark memories of a bitter past.

Like a slow ache recollections of those awful times flood back. He perhaps began his life after school unemployed in an industrial age. Now he wonders if the wheel will turn the full, painful circle and he will die on the dole.

GEORGE BIBBY of St Helens remembers the 1930s when he left school and was recruited immediately into 'unemployed college', an institution established by the National government to keep the armies of unemployed youth 'out of mischief'.

He was sacked six months ago by the Pilkington glass empire for striking with 600 other glass workers in support of a fellow worker in dispute. He has been without a job ever since.

'I withdrew my labour from Pilkingtons because I am, and remain, a trade unionist. I have always fought for the free right to organize and I will go fighting for this right to the end.'

'If a man forgets this right he ceases to be true to the class to which he belongs.'

'Therefore this right is more precious to me than any money a job can bring. I don't want to be dramatic, but I will starve for this right because I know this system, and I know it from the bottom up; it's rotten and has to be fought.'

'This, you see, is not my first spell of unemployment. There was a time when I was used to it.'

'When I left school in the 1930s I was 14 and then you couldn't buy a job. I was on the juvenile dole up to the age of 18.'

'There was hardship — two to three million unemployed, with no relief like today. You used to take along a chit for food and with this came the means test.'

'I attended all the three dole schools they had in St Helens. You got 5s a week and if you had a day off they took 1s off you.'

'And the government that made these millions

UNEMPLOYMENT

'And the government that made me and those millions of workers unemployed in the 30s is the government that is in power today. The faces change but they are the same in their hearts—enemies of the working people.'

A St Helens worker remembers the Great Depression.



Pat Riley, one of an army of unemployed construction workers on Merseyside, with his family.



Ray Ibbett, once a boilermaker, now unemployed

'Let's hit them, and hit them where it hurts — in their pockets.'

A high percentage of Merseyside's unemployed are construction workers. In April this year there were almost as many construction workers on the dole than all the other categories of workers put together.

PAT RILEY, a site labourer, has been without a job for over two months.

This year his baby boy Jason will experience his first Christmas—but it will not have that element of bewildering magic and plenty that it holds for other children.

Though his father will give what he can his dole-budget will not buy many presents.

'I don't like factory work so I'm trying to get back on a site. But there is nothing. The Labour exchange just don't bother to look for a job for you any more and I must have been to every site in the area, but I'm turned away.'

'The only kind of jobs I am offered pay low money for bad work and I'm not prepared to do this.'

of workers unemployed in the 1930s is the government that is in power today. The faces change, but they are the same in their hearts—enemies of the working people.

'The Tories, I believe, are going out to create a pool of cheap labour. This will be used to undermine those in work who are fighting for higher wages and better conditions.'

'In the 1930s you couldn't say "boo" to the boss because there were thousands outside

the gate waiting for your job. Now the trade unions are strong and the workers confident, but the leaders are afraid of mobilizing all this strength.'

'Being unemployed was demoralizing. You were prepared to do anything to get money — steal if necessary. They didn't call us juvenile delinquents in those days. The term was "hooligan unemployed"; I remember it well.'

'It is this kind of viciousness that the Tories are trying to bring in today.'

'It could come back today, but they have one big obstacle — the working class who are now better educated confident and well organized.'

'The only way to stop it is to get rid of this government and to get rid of this government will need a General Strike.'

'The trades councils are demanding a one-day general strike. But this won't frighten this government. The demand should be for an indefinite General Strike organized by the TUC—this is the only kind of language the employers and the Tories understand.'

Unemployment is a grey universe where the aimless seconds tick by—George Bibby, a sacked Pilkingtons glassworker, remembers the 1930s when he was on the dole for four years.



Part Two: Part One appeared yesterday

STEPHEN JOHNS REPORTING

'We just scrape by at home, economize on coal and cut down on things like meat.'

Worse than this is the way being out of work gets on your nerves—you can't go out so you spend half the time arguing with your wife.

'Down on the dole they used to call you in once a week and try to get you fixed up. Now they don't bother. It's pretty quick down there; at the Birkenhead exchange they've got used to handling big numbers, so they have improved their system.'

'The situation will get worse I'm sure of that. Unemployment is Tory policy after all.'

RAY IBBETT is a boilermaker by trade.

Once he was in the money, working at Cammell Laird's shipyard, Birkenhead, and coasting around the mean streets of the town in his own car.

Now he's a changed young worker. His wallet is empty and he rides a push-bike to and from the exchange.

'The terrible thing is there is no work for boilermakers anywhere. I have been up and down the Wirral looking for a start, but everywhere is the same—they don't want any more men.'

'I'm finally thinking of leaving the trade—that will mean five years of apprenticeship and low pay all for nothing.'

'Eighteen months ago it was from one job to another. If someone had told me that soon I would be unemployed I would have laughed in his face.'

'But that was 18 months ago. I'm a changed person now, not half so cocky.'

'Of course in one way this spell of hard times has been good for me. It's shown me what Tories really are.'

'They want to create unemployment to make the workers servile like they were in

the past. Their biggest allies in this are the trade union leaders who are afraid of fighting.'

'It's a fifty-fifty thing whether they will get away with it.'

'So many people are asleep to what the government wants to do. Maybe they will all

have to be unemployed before they realize, but then it will be too late.'

'But I truly think that this government is not as all powerful as people might think. We have this General Strike coming off on December 8. What needs to be done is to

extend this indefinitely, eventually it will have to come to this.'

'To fight for this is the only way to show the workers what kind of stuff their own so-called leaders are made of.'

'If we don't do this it will be the 1930s again.'

BBC 1

9.15 a.m.-12.25 p.m. Schools. 1.00-1.25 O'Lein i lein. 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 Animal magic. 5.20 The perils of Penelope Pitstop. 5.44 The magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE. London. 6.45 QUIZ BALL. 7.05 Z CARS. 'Stop Over'. Part two. 7.30 LAUGH PARADE. 'The Square Peg'. With Norman Wisdom. A road-mender is accidentally drafted into the army. 8.55 POINTS OF VIEW. 9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 'MAN CALLED WILLY BRANDT'. Tuesday's documentary. 10.10 MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS. 10.40 24 HOURS. 11.15 POSTSCRIPT. 11.20 Weather.

Tonight BBC 1 9-20

Tuesday's documentary
A MAN CALLED WILLY BRANDT

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 6.30 p.m. TEST CRICKET FROM AUSTRALIA. The First Test Match: Australia v England. 7.05 PROSPECTUS. 'General, Liberal, and Complementary?' 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 FLOODLIT RUGBY LEAGUE. BBC 2 Trophy first semi-final: Leeds v Hull KR. 8.50 WHEELBASE. 9.20 MENACE. 'Nine Bean Rows'. With Constance Cummings, Charles Gray, Peter Blythe and Fanny Rowe. 10.35 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.40 THE CODEBREAKERS. 'Pearl Harbour'.

ITV

11.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m. Schools. 3.50 The Lone Ranger. 4.17 Hatty town. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Junior showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.02 TODAY. 6.25 THE GHOST AND MRS MUIR. 6.55 TUESDAY FILM. 'Please Turn Over'. With Julia Lockwood, Ted Ray, Jean Kent and Lionel Jeffries. A teenage girl writes a novel to impress her father and it becomes a bestseller. 8.30 THE LOVERS. 9.00 GRADY. 'Pieces On A Board'. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 'IT'S A SORT OF DISEASE'. Documentary about the obsession of fishing. 11.15 PEOPLE TO PEOPLE. 'What's A Belgian?' 11.45 PARTICULAR CHURCHES.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.00 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 Survival. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'The "I Don't Care" Girl'. With Mitzi Gaynor. 8.30 London. 11.15 Aquarius. 11.55 Gazette. 12 midnight News, weather. HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.16-4.18, 6.01-6.35 Report West. HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 as above except: 6.01-6.18 11.15 dydd. SOUTHERN: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 London. 4.55 Hymn for children. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Screwball squirrel. 6.50 Film: 'Mystery Street'. With Ricardo Montalban, Sally Forrest and Bruce Bennett. A skeleton is found on a lonely beach with no identification. 8.25 A better place (6, 11, 27 only). 8.25 Laurel and Hardy (10 and 66 only). 8.30 London. 11.15 News. 11.25 Farm progress. 11.55 Weather. Action 70. HARLECH: 11.00-2.35 London. 4.18 Women today. 4.40 Origami. 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. 11.45 Weather. HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.16-4.18, 6.01-6.35 Report West. HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 as above except: 6.01-6.18 11.15 dydd. ANGLIA: 10.58-3.00 London. 4.30 News. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'The Battle of the Sexes'. With Peter Sellers, Robert Morley and Constance Cummings. An American company send their female

efficiency...expert to Scotland. 8.30 London. 11.15 Conceptions of murder. 11.45 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-2.35 London. 3.49 Horoscope. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Origami. 4.50 Flaxton boys. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'Thunder in the Sun'. With Susan Hayward and Jeff Haywood. A wagon train of French Basques head towards California to start a wine industry. 8.30 London. 11.15 Better driving, weather.

ULSTER: 11.00-2.35 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'These Dangerous Years'. With Frankie Vaughan and George Baker. A Liverpool gang leader gets into trouble as a National Serviceman. 8.30 London. 11.15 White line.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.15 Wind in the willows. 4.30 Matinee. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Nanny and the professor. 7.00 Film: 'The Quick Gun'. With Audie Murphy and Merry Anders. A young cowboy becomes a gun-fighter. 8.30 London. 11.15 All our yesterdays. 11.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00-2.35 London. 4.10 News. 4.15 Mad movies. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.25 Where the jobs are. 6.30 Film: 'Calamity Jane'. With Doris Day and Howard Keel. Story of the fighting heroine of the wild west. 8.25 Mr Magoo. 8.30 London. 11.15 News. 11.30 Epilogue.

TYNE TEES: 11.00-2.35 London. 4.10 News. 4.15 Mad movies. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.25 Where the jobs are. 6.30 Film: 'Calamity Jane'. With Doris Day and Howard Keel. Story of the fighting heroine of the wild west. 8.25 Mr Magoo. 8.30 London. 11.15 News. 11.30 Epilogue.

BORDER: 1.38-3.00 London. 4.10 News. 4.12 Telephone game. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'The Honeymoon Machine'. With Steve McQueen, Bridget Bazlen, Jim Hutton and Paula Prentiss. Sailors on a spree in Venice, Italy. 8.30 London. 11.15 Better driving. 11.40 News, weather.

SCOTTISH: 11.00-3.00 London. 3.40 Dateline. 3.50 Horoscope. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.30 University challenge. 6.00 Hogan's heroes. 7.30 Marcus Welby MD. 8.30 London. 11.15 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58-2.35 London. 3.49 News. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.25 Wally Whyton style. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Ron Thompson reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 6.55 Western: 'Son of a Gunfighter'. With Russ Tamblyn and Kieron Moore. Members of the Ketchum gang escape from jail. 8.30 London. 10.30 Gram-pian special. 11.15 Better driving.

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THEATRE



**BRIAN MOORE VISITS
AN AGITPROP PRODUCTION**

IN THE performances and presentations of Agitprop you sense the potential power of theatrical political propaganda rather than its realization at this stage.

They are a group of exceptionally dedicated young men and women, who all have full-time jobs during the day and give over their evenings to the rehearsal and preparation of short plays, which they take about the country and perform to trade unionists.

Their style of exposition is direct, drawing on a cartoon range of images. They use mime, music, placards. Their aim is to present events in clear, revolutionary class terms.

I went down to Southampton to watch a performance at the Department of Extra-Mural Studies. It was a small lecture room, orange carpet on the floor and an audience of about 30, many of whom were local shop stewards and convenors.

There was that institutional hush that such places engender while we waited for the play to begin. The smokers among us searched for non-existent ash trays. Then...

From the corridor outside came the thud of a booming drum, followed by the blast of a trumpet, and the room marched the actors, like a cross between a brass band and a strolling players' group.

It was a clever moment of uncertainty, the groves of academe affronted by the harsh uneven music, and I wondered if we were in for another one of those embarrassing, if well intentioned, theatrical experiences.

But not so. The abrasive quality of the entrance met any potential embarrassment head on and the players asserted a mood out of the uncertainty and commanded the attention.

Britannia was crowned in her long purple robe, her shield the Union Jack, her hand holding a golden trident, and her face painted like a whore, and a marriage of convenience followed between her and British capital, in bowler hat and dark suit.

On his black umbrella were the golden words 'PROFIT' and what made the umbrella sell and bloom like a flower with its lettering erect was the labour of the two workers in overalls and red shirts, whose movements of arms and legs and muscle worked the machine and wrote the machine at the same time.

The relentless noise of the line was cleverly created by the rhythmic percussion of rattles and scraper and drum, and the umbrella went spinning out its profit as the final product of the machine itself.

It was graphic and inventive and drew together connections that were direct and immediately grasped. I sat forward in my seat, eager now and attentive for what would follow.

The play sketched out the history of the Wilson government, Wilson a puppet head, manipulated by Britannia.

The relationships between the employer, the true boss, the government, its spokesman and the manipulative dealings of the trade union bureaucrat involved in collective bargaining, which was merely a form of horse trading, in which the worker was merely sold down the line, literally speaking, were presented with a great deal of clarity and irony.

Perched on their respective rungs of a hierarchical ladder, they commanded, connived, wheeled and dealt to keep the productive forces turning and the workers labouring.

On the floor, voicing their grievances in tea breaks, sitting astride a lavatory, one aggressive and militant, the other compliant, anything for an easy time, the two workers are literally driven, independent of their wills.

During one tea break they have a balletic fantasy of making the boss work for them. Awake they begin to ask for more money.

In a sense the play is a true, if simplified, version of the struggle between classes for their share of the profit.

An increased wage demand from the shop floor reduces the employers return, which though then laid off in increased prices, diminishes at the same time the competitiveness of the product internationally. Hence devaluation.

Devaluation is part and parcel of the 'We must tighten our belts' speech of Wilson, the 'I'm backing Britain' campaign, the call to the Dunkerque spirit—which is beautifully exposed in a parody of war-time Britain—calls to the nation under duress, militarism, Vera Lynn and 'We'll Meet Again', the whistling of Colonel Bogey.

It's an excellent exposé of the whole weight of nationalism manipulated by the ruling class, while the reality, the graft on the shop floor, carries on as before. Yet the workers will not sub-

mit; they learn through experience the hollowness of the call to arms. They demand more. The employer responds by trying to sack the militants and trouble causers. Profit sags.

Hence the need to introduce productivity deals and Measured-Day Work. The employer offers large wage increases at the expense of increased productivity, speed-up, the loss of the tea break, of piece work.

To ensure that such productivity can continue, Wilson tries to introduce, at the insistence of the employer, legislation which will bind workers to these agreements (the infamous Castle anti-trade union legislation) and silent opposition from the shop floor.

Removing his brief case from his head, like an ostrich from the sand, the trade union official, who has been party to all the earlier deals mouths 'Hands Off the Unions'.

There follows a tug of war between worker and employer for the union bureaucrat. Strike action defeats the Bill.

But Wilson has failed in his task to strap the unions to the state and a new man must be brought in to carry on the work. Heath is brought into the light of day, the new and direct spokesman for the ruling class.

He pushes through anti-trade union legislation. The worker, who has agreed to productivity deals, now sees that all his rights have been removed by the Bill. What faces him now is the direct struggle for power.

In a condensed form this is the essence of the play. It is in itself a masterpiece of brevity and contains the real germs of struggle.

Clearly there are weaknesses. There is a tendency to over parody the ruling class and to gloss over the real extent of its crisis both in Britain and internationally.

Without a grasp of the international crisis of capitalism, it is impossible to understand the depth of the national crisis and its relationships to foreign markets.

In fact the decline in profit of the capitalist class is not merely explained in terms of increased wage demands.

The overall question of value, liquidity, high investment rate with short-term capital returns, the reduction of markets and profitable outlet for capital, is the impetus for the assault on the working class internationally.

The tendency for the rate of profit to fall, together with inflation, is the pressure behind the need for an intensification of exploitation, increased productivity, the extraction of greater surplus value, and the need to make such agreements binding by law.

It is this contradiction that highlights the seriousness of the current attacks on workers as the only way to solve the crisis of the ruling class, and it is this that raises the question of workers' power so urgently.

The weakness of this play, promising though it is, seems to me to be of this order, though cannot be denied that it did have a considerable impact on its audience, and the discussion that followed was marked by the seriousness of the contributions from the floor.

And again it was here that the decisive factor that was absent from the play, and is part of the

**Agitprop
Theatre:
37 Gordon
Manions,
Torrington
Place,
London, WC1.**



Leadership and propaganda

limitation that this company must feel hampered by.

For what is crucial more than ever today, and this was certainly confirmed by the meeting itself, is the role of Marxist leadership in the struggle for revolution.

The play only expressed a sophisticated and important form of militancy. It raised political questions, yet there was no transmission mechanism to their realization.

It was this fact that faced the audience and this that limits the work of Agitprop.

The battle in the trade union movement today in the struggle against this reactionary Tory government is the battle for Marxist leadership. Without a historical and theoretical understanding of the role of the 'lefts' and social democrats, and more particularly Stalinism, then there will be the set backs and worse historical defeats on the agenda.

Again the latter, Trotskyists are in an implacable battle.

The Stalinists, who betrayed the miners' strike, are the same people who are imprisoning Grigorenko.

We must never forget that or blur that understanding. We are dealing here with the syphilis of the workers' movement.

That sharpness, that fight for leadership and, above all, for Marxist theory, is the crucial task for the Trotskyist movement.

Without that perspective Agitprop must remain an isolated group, must circumscribe and limit their potential. And potential they have in considerable proportions.

The fight for the English revolution is that fight for leadership. To remain isolated from it is to remain outside of history itself.

behind THE NEWS

BLACK PAPER THREE, published last week, would be the last said the editor Professor Brian Cox.

Cox, who is Professor of English at Manchester University said: 'We feel we are in a period of moderate reform and we see no reason to bring out another'.

The moderate reforms Cox refers to are, of course, those policies of the Tory government which have halted the activities of the 'educational extremists' primarily by undermining the comprehensives and the crucial selection principles which they embody.

Professor Cox was the man behind the anti-student rights petition signed by 150 academics and leaked to delegates at the NUS conference just over a week ago.

The Black Papers began as a reaction to the education policies of the Labour government and in the latest issue the editors—the other is A. E. Dyson—welcome the political demise of the Labour Party and of Mr Edward Short, Secretary of State for Education and Science, whom

they accuse of supporting 'an extremist group of progressive educationists' who 'flooded the newspapers and television with propaganda'.

The editors describe Labour's policies as 'wild and ill considered'. They say: 'Experienced teachers were astonished to read articles and speeches proposing that examinations should be abolished, that traditional subjects should be abandoned for "progressive" projects, that all sections should be banished from secondary education, that there should be no more streaming at any stage and that universities instead of being centres of excellence should turn comprehensive.'

But to describe any of these policies as 'wild and ill considered' is, as Edward Short told Margaret Thatcher, to fly in the face of all education thinking since the war.

The real concern of the editors is revealed when they say: 'The results of permissive education can be seen all round us in the growth of anarchy'.



Black is black

Kingsley Amis, Robert Conquest and Rhodes Boyson.

The editors say: 'The immediate task now is to look ahead to secondary organization under a government that is not bound by dogma in education and to examine the great opportunities ahead.'

'We can now build the best secondary school system in the world in Britain and Mrs Thatcher's first policy statements give every hope that this will be done.'

Their anxiety for the state of the nation and for the survival of capitalism is apparent in almost every line.

Comprehensives were a grass roots threat. They say:

'The Direct Grant schools and the remaining Grammar Schools are crucial not only for the children whom they educate but for the entire health of state education.'

Levelling-up

There can be no possible doubt as to the motives of the writers of the Black Paper. The editors say that given equality of opportunity the elitist schools will continue to set academic, cultural and moral standards and that there is every chance of levelling up taking place.

Why the emphasis on moral and cultural standards? Why the emphasis on levelling up? Why not levelling down to the cultural and morals of the working class?

The reason is that the capitalist class feels itself to be under attack and these are the first steps in its defence.

The editors say: 'The state will now continue to support schools which up-



PUBLIC LECTURES

Elements of Marxism

The importance of Marxist philosophy in the building of the revolutionary party.

Lectures by C. Slaughter (Central Committee member of the Socialist Labour League)

SWINDON: Eastcott Hotel, Manchester Rd, 8 p.m. Wednesdays. December 2, 9 and 16.

Lectures by G. Healy (national secretary of the Socialist Labour League)

SOUTHAMPTON: Polygon Hotel, the Polygon, 7.30 p.m. Sundays. December 6, 13 and 20.

BEXLEYHEATH: Roberts Hall, Christchurch, Broadway, 8 p.m. Tuesday. December 1, 15, and 22.

ACTON: Oddfellows Hall, Fletcher Rd, W3. 8 p.m. Thursdays. December 10 and 17.

Lectures by P. O'Regan (SLL)

BALHAM: Co-op Hall, 47-51 Balham High St, SW12. 8 p.m. Mondays. December 7 and 14.

towards a time when (say) 5 to 8 per cent of children will qualify for Direct Grant and Grammar Schools and other schools, mainly comprehensive, will become the normal mode of education, with no stigma attached.'

The addition of the words 'no stigma attached' points to the writers' own consciousness that these schools will, in effect, be the preserve of the working class.

For the sake of appearances they try to share as much common ground with the progressives they condemn as possible. For example they agree with the abolition of the 11-plus but, of course, they add that it should be replaced by selection at 13 instead.

'Exclusive elite'

They are at pains to deny that their system will produce an 'exclusive elite' yet they return again and again to the benefits to 'society at large' which will result from the continuance of the Direct Grant and Grammar Schools.



Thatcher

The student unrest, with which the papers coincided, has brought home to them the threat, however minimal in reality, that educational egalitarianism proposes for the capitalists.

That it is the survival of this class which is uppermost in the editors' minds is clear from their confusing statements about comprehensives to which, it turns out, they have no objection.

So long as they do not lead to the abolition of the elitist schools.

They say: 'We are moving

for a "better tomorrow". Above all we shall have reassured the importance of selection. That selection should be more humane and less rigid is a matter of general agreement, but without selection there can be no education worth the name.'

'Less lucky'

Almost as a footnote they add that there is a need to help 'the less lucky and successful' and children in underprivileged areas.

The editors conclude their utterly regressive statement with the notable words:

'During the next few years we hope the moderate, sensible reforms proposed by Sir Cyril Burt will become accepted policy. Certainly at the Conservative Party Conference this year Mrs Thatcher appeared to have her priorities right.'

IMPORTANT READING

Strategy and Tactics in the Imperialist Epoch

by LEON TROTSKY



Available from New Park Publications, 186A Clapham High St, SW4. Price 3s post inc.

They will, say the editors: 'Uphold the normal and cultural values of European civilization and ensure that the intellect does not, by becoming divorced from such qualities, form a meritocratic world apart.'

It cannot be too strongly stressed that the main danger to comprehensives comes, at this moment in history, from extreme "progressive" theorists who would like to see our traditional cultural values overturned.

'We do not doubt that the new system will set the pattern

Burroughs launch work force control system

A NEW computer system claimed to provide 'complete production control information at any factory-floor source' has been developed and introduced in Britain by Burroughs Ltd.

Aimed at controlling flow-line and batch production, the system requires that each worker, on completion of an operation, inserts his badge and punched job cards into a computer terminal.

The computer identifies the worker from his badge and the number of components completed from the cards.

This information can be read off directly by management on their own outlet terminals. The system is claimed to monitor and control costs of materials, labour costs, manufacturing time and delivery schedules.

Burroughs provide programmes written in the Cobol Computer Language and claim that the system can use them to control 'factory floor component progress very precisely'.

In order to extract the maximum amount of profit from the working of modern machines employers are increasingly turning to use of computer-control systems.

However, they regard such methods as useless if they do not provide complete control over the operative as well as the equipment he uses.

Developing
An increasing number of firms are developing computers and their programmes which can control any type of working operations.

Other experts are attempting rapidly to extend the development of production monitoring devices—especially electronic sensors—almost to the level of a new science.

'Unity' talks denied
A WEST GERMAN government spokesman denied yesterday that Chancellor Willy Brandt met Italian Communist Party leader Luigi Longo during the former's official visit to Rome last week. This was in reply to a report in the French weekly magazine 'L'Express', which claimed that the Social Democrat Brandt and the ultra-reformist Stalinist Longo discussed an Italian CP proposal for a meeting of W European Communist and social democratic parties in Stockholm to achieve 'left-wing' unity.

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LATE NEWS
JUKES 'GLIMMERS'
Despite the grave economic situation there were one or two 'glimmers of light' on wage inflation, Martin Jukes, Engineering Employers' Federation director-general said in London yesterday.

BANK OF ENGLAND BACKING R-R
The £18 million for Rolls-Royce from sources other than the Exchequer, included advances from the Bank of England, as well as additional facilities from the company's private bankers, said the Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr John Davies, in the Commons yesterday. He would not give a figure.

BREAD QUEUES IN SCOTLAND
Bakers' shops and supermarkets in W Scotland were without bread yesterday, though Co-operative shops in the area were largely unaffected. There were queues at some small shops served by independent bakeries as van drivers' strike entered fourth week.

BOAC PROFITS DIP
BOAC has announced a group profit of £8,500,000 during the first half of this financial year.

Charter of Basic Rights

CONTRIBUTING to the discussion on the All Trades Unions Alliance's draft Charter of Basic Rights today is the convener of N London's British Oxygen plant.

Arthur Lennon has been convener of Queen's St BOC for the last two years.

The Charter will be presented for discussion, amendment and voting at the second annual conference of the ATUA on December 19, and each day until then Workers Press will be carrying contributions to a continuing pre-conference discussion.

Readers are invited not only to let us have their views about the Charter, but about points raised by others in this discussion.

get the higher go prices. I do not agree with section 4 because where does it end, this more and more

wages and higher and higher prices? This just leads to inflation as in Germany in the 1930s. The only answer



Arthur Lennon

I can see is to change the system.

We are holding a shop stewards' meeting next week about the December 8 strike.

We have got to come out on December 8. If we don't the Tories will go to town on us, massacre us.

In my factory if you mention the Tories you will be lost because the men say this is just union business. But a lot of the men do want to come out on strike and the main complaint is what are the union leaders doing?

Eggs 7s a dozen soon?

TORY GOVERNMENT farm policy and a restriction on production could put up egg prices to at least the 7s-a-dozen mark after Christmas, according to some sources.

WEATHER

NW SCOTLAND will start mostly with rain in places, but brighter though showery weather will spread from the NW.

E and S Scotland, N Ireland, N England and N Wales will have mist or fog patches at first, clearing during the morning, with some bright intervals, but it will be come cloudy with some rain later.

S Wales and S and SE England will also have mist and fog patches at first, clearing to give sunny periods though with one or two showers.

It will be rather cold in the NW, but over much of Britain, temperatures will be normal and a little above in the SE.

Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: Some rain at times and bright intervals. Rather cold in the N, but near normal temperatures in the S.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Discuss the proposed draft of the Charter of Basic Rights

SW LONDON: Tuesday, December 1, 8 p.m. Princes Head, Falcon Rd., Clapham Junction.

ABERDEEN: Tuesday, December 1 and Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Music Hall.

OXFORD: Wednesday, December 2, 8 p.m. The Small Hall, Blackbird Leys Community Centre. Speaker: G. Healy, National Secretary Socialist Labour League. Chairman: Alan Thornett.

NOTTINGHAM: Thursday December 3, 7.30 p.m. Roebuck pub, Mansfield Rd.

SHEFFIELD: Thursday, December 3, 7.30 p.m. Young Socialists' premises, Portobello (near Jessop's Hospital). The Sheffield employers' offensive and the anti-union laws.

BRISTOL: Friday, December 4, 8 p.m. Old England pub, off Cheltenham Rd.

Public Meeting
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
7.30 p.m.

The fight for workers' rights
The Town Hall
St Helens, Lancs.
Speaker: G. HEALY
(National Secretary of SLL)

Inflation

FROM PAGE ONE

about 15s an hour, cost-of-living escalator clauses and a number of important fringe benefits.

Growing lobby
The settlement at the biggest US monopoly concern has struck fear into the rest of the American employing class.

That is why there is a growing lobby for some form of incomes policy, a direct government attack on the workers' wages offensive.

Heath's urgency in pushing for anti-union laws in Britain is linked to fear of the effects if the American economy goes into recession. Nixon, too, is preparing the way for much more authoritarian right-wing rule in the US with systematic purge of the administration to root out liberals, and replace them with right-wingers.

Latest victim, following the dismissal of Interior Secretary Walter Hickel, is Charles Yost, US United Nations delegate, who has been ignominiously pushed out of his job to make way for a Nixon nominee.

Ulbricht not pleased with Moscow

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

FOR THE second day running, E German border guards yesterday slowed down traffic on the three main routes leading from W Germany into W Berlin.

The Ulbricht regime correctly maintains that W Berlin is a separate political entity, and is using the traditional method to protest against W German political activities in the city's western sector.

Present traffic hold-ups are ostensibly directed against yesterday's meeting of Christian Democrats.

But it is significant that they began only hours after the statement on Sunday by Soviet leader Brezhnev that prospects of an agreement with the West over Berlin were improving.

PACT MEETING
The Soviet government confirmed yesterday that Warsaw Pact leaders (the USSR, E Germany, Rumania, Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary) will meet early this month to discuss the Berlin question.

Already Soviet officials are holding a series of talks with British, US and French representatives to ease the communications situation into and around W Berlin.

Meanwhile, Yugoslav press and radio report a growing tension between Ulbricht and the Kremlin.

One broadcast thought 'the main reason for the visit [of Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko to E Berlin last week] is Walter Ulbricht's absence from the Hungarian Party Congress'.

This absence, the broadcast went on 'was not the result of illness but rather the result of differences with Moscow and other E European countries'.

VISIT POSTPONED
Ulbricht's planned visit to Rumania, a regime which favours very close diplomatic and economic ties with Common Market powers, has been postponed indefinitely, underlining the E German government's determination to put the maximum pressure on its Warsaw Pact allies before the December meeting.

Computer staff face sack
OVER A DOZEN employers of Unilever Computer Services Ltd, Wembley, face the sack and others are to be downgraded.

One systems analyst, one software support specialist, three programmers and more than eight trainee programmers are to be made redundant. Senior operations room staff will be downgraded and receive consequent salary cuts.

New guerrilla offensive in Indo-China

LIBERATION forces again harassed government troops yesterday along Cambodia's main rice carrying road, Highway Five, which runs from Phnom Penh to Battambang.

The Lon Nol regime High Command also admitted that Liberation forces may have infiltrated the capital,

BY ROBERT BLACK

Phnom Penh, which is already besieged on all sides by guerrillas.

Liberation army leaflets, said a government spokesman, had been circulating in Phnom Penh for several months now.

FOR THE second day running, NLF guerrillas attacked US army positions in S Vietnam.

One marine was killed and another seven wounded after an NLF hand grenade attack on a US stronghold 25 miles SW of Da Nang.

SURPRISE

There was also a successful surprise raid on another US position in Binh Duong province, North of Saigon. RENEWED guerrilla pressure throughout Indo-China

A US F-105 Thunderchief yesterday bombed a N Vietnamese radar-controlled anti-aircraft site situated North of the demilitarized zone near the Laos frontier.

has led to speculation by Saigon vice-president Ky that a new guerrilla offensive is in the offing after the end of the wet season.

Interviewed on Washington television, where he has been talking with US leaders, this admiral of Hitler's warned that the war would go on despite the so-called 'Vietnamization' programme: '... if some day the war in Vietnam is ended for you Americans, for us in S Vietnam the trouble will still be there. We will still have to face the Communists.'

DEMOCRACY

The Saigon dictator revealed his own conception of democracy in defending the regime's arrest of communists:

'We have to prevent them

No stomach for Tory policy

WILLIAM PAYNTER—former Stalinist general secretary of the National Union of Mine-workers—said at Doncaster yesterday he was resigning from the Communist Party on Industrial Relations because he could not accept the Tory government's policy on labour and trade union relations.

Paynter joined the CIR direct from the Communist Party in early 1969.

His salary as a Commission member is £6,500 a year, with a plush office in the Commission's Kingsway headquarters.

Having swallowed Barbara Castle's anti-union package with every sign of enthusiasm, Paynter now apparently finds Robert Carr's proposals too much even for his powerful stomach.

Evasion

FROM PAGE ONE

League's demands and policy and the serious disension in Stalinist ranks over the CP's attitude to the Tory government.

In the same issue the 'Star' is forced to report that 'pressure' was coming from Merseyside for a one-day general strike on January 12, for a campaign to bring down the Tory government, for a Labour government with a socialist programme.

The Lancashire and Cheshire Federation of Trades Councils had called a conference to discuss these aims.

This is the answer of the working class to the 'peaceful' co-existence 'peaceful' parliamentary 'transition' fraud of Hiles and his Stalinist distorters.

It is one more reason to make December 8 the first step towards forcing the TUC to call a general strike until the Tory government resigns.

It is also an additional incentive to build the All Trades Unions Alliance to campaign for the Charter of Basic Rights and make the annual conference on December 19 a tremendous success.

More demos expected as Basque trial opens

COLONEL Manuel Ordoas, commanding officer of the 11th Armoured Regiment, is to preside over the court-martial of 16 Basque Nationalists which opens in Burgos, N Spain, on Thursday.

The prosecution is demanding death sentences for six of the accused men, all of whom are said to be members of the Euzkadi ta Azkatarra (Basque Nation and Liberty) movement.

The opening of the much-postponed trial is expected to spark widespread strikes against the Franco regime.

In Madrid, the university has been closed temporarily following a number of audacious demonstrations against the trial.

More than 100 professors at the university have voted to strike against the police who have been brought onto the campus in an attempt to discourage demonstrations.

A number of prominent opposition leaders, including liberals and social-democrats, have been rounded up by Franco's police as part of their campaign to ensure the necessary 'calm' for the trial to take place.

Weekend demonstrations

There was a demonstration against the arrests outside the Madrid Justice Ministry at the weekend.

The weekend also saw a number of demonstrations against the regime in Bilbao and Barcelona.

There are persistent rumours that one or more students were killed by police during a series of demonstrations last week.

All Trades Unions Alliance

Second Annual Conference

Discuss

THE CHARTER OF BASIC RIGHTS

The right to a job, to strike and organize, to retain gains made, to fair prices, to welfare benefits and to decent housing.

Defend and maintain these rights in a fight to force the Tories to resign.

BIRMINGHAM Sat. December 19

Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth 10.30 am

For delegates' or visitors' credentials send 5s to Alan Wilkins, ATUA secretary, 53 The Hiron, Styvechale, Coventry.

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