

## Lesson of Heath-Ford meeting

# Beat the Bill with General Strike

**Is this a 'riot' OR IS IT POLICE PROVOCATION?**  
See page 4

What we think  
**A grim warning**

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This means, as one Derby union official has already said, that Nicholson can rip up the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' book of established agreements on redundancy, procedure and work methods. And this he has done. Before the recent crop of sackings there were no negotiations with the unions involved. In some cases the last in-first out principle has been abandoned and in others unskilled workers continue to do a skilled man's job while skilled Rolls-Royce workers find themselves on the dole. But viewed against the wider context of Tory policy Nicholson's rampage has a more profound significance for workers and unions.

In effect he has a *Tory carte blanche* for a ruthless rationalization at Rolls-Royce. He can break down all standards in the firm's plants, close some and parcel up the rest ready for re-sale to private enterprise — job done! The point is that this method of class war may now become a more common feature of Tory policy. There are, for example, several major combines in Britain who face bankruptcy soon if they cannot break the resistance of their labour force to new and more intensive work methods.

Might not the government, with the complicity of these desperate employers, use the Rolls-Royce formula again, allow firms to 'go bust', appoint the Official Receiver who can then, free from cumbersome agreements, rectify the problem of a recalcitrant labour force and hand the tidy packet back to the original owners?

In this sense one Derby Rolls-Royce worker was right when he said Nicholson was anticipating the Tory Industrial Relations Bill. But it is more serious than this. The Receiver formula could be employed in addition to the anti-union laws.

A labour force, scared by sackings and itself afraid of the dole might, for example, be intimidated into signing legally-binding agreements, abandoning the closed shop — accepting, in short, all the Bill's clauses.

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which will be put to delegates at Croydon tomorrow by the TUC General Council.

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'The Prime Minister's main concern was to convince Mr Ford that the government was working towards putting the British economy on a sound footing so that industry would be confident its investment would produce profitable returns.'

And how did Ford respond? 'Mr Ford made the point at his press conference that the company was not at the moment getting as good a return on investment in Britain as in Germany... Customers were at the mercy of the situation here and something had to be done about it.' ('Financial Times', March 16.) The problem could not be made clearer. The entire apparatus of the capitalist state and all the resources of the big monopolies are being concentrated now on one objective: the breaking of the unions. This is the meaning of Henry Ford's statement that 'things have to be cleaned up'.

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## RB211's future still uncertain

THE GOVERNMENT has received no positive response from Lockheed's of America over the RB211 contract and it has extended the indemnity on Rolls-Royce capital to enable work on the engine to continue for four weeks from March 5.

In the absence of any progress from America on the contract, there was no discussion at yesterday's Cabinet meeting on the proposals for an Anglo-American project to produce the engine, on which the jobs of 20,000 British workers depend.



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## More troops or I resign —Ulster PM

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**Lessons of the post workers' strike**  
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Speaker: G. HEALY (national secretary, Socialist Labour League)

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Special train: Tickets £2 return  
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Might not the government, with the complicity of these desperate employers, use the Rolls-Royce formula again, allow firms to go bust, appoint the Official Receiver who can then, free from cumbersome agreements, rectify the problem of a recalcitrant labour force and hand the tidy packet back to the original owners?

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All that has so far been received from Lockheed chairman Daniel Haughton is a report on his talks with American airlines and representatives of the American government. Meanwhile union chiefs, company officials and the Rolls-Royce Receiver, Rupert Nicholson, met last night for talks on the demand for the withdrawal of the 4,300 redundancies announced by the Receiver last week.

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# Tories—they don't give a damn for any Rolls-Royce workers'

A VOICE over the loudspeaker will summon a dejected group of shop-floor workers to the 'office' at Rolls-Royce, Derby, today. There they will get a short note from the Official Receiver—'You're fired' it will say.

The same evening these 520 men will tell their wives that within a week they will be on the dole, joining the 1,450 staff and technical workers sacked in the first wave of redundancies last Thursday.

The rest of the Company's workers will view today's events with a mixture of relief and trepidation. They have escaped this time, but next week or the week after...

The cloud which gathered over Derby on February 4 when it was announced that 'dealings in Rolls-Royce shares were halted on the London Stock Exchange this morning' has grown blacker and blacker.

Now the company's 20,000 labour force cling to a desperate hope—the RB211.

If that should go...

John Sutton, manager at Derby employment exchange, simply shrugs his shoulders:

'It's not a thing we think about,' he says.

'We say no news is good news and carry on trying to fit men into jobs.'

## Like Jarrow

The existing redundancies at the Rolls-Royce plants which employ one-third of the town's working population have near doubled Derby's rate of unemployment from 2.8 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

If Lockheed say no to the Tory government's deal on the RB211, about 10,000 men will be driven onto the streets of the town.

'It would be like Jarrow, and Jarrow was very, very, bad you know,' said Les Chapman, a radial driller at Rolls-Royce.

'They're all sweating it out on the top line in there,' he added.

Redundancy? What does that word mean for the Rolls-Royce worker used to the security of employment at Britain's premier company.

It means the end of years of careful prosperity. It would mean eviction from your Rolls-Royce home if you occupied one and it could easily mean pulling up your Derby roots and hawking your labour round the country searching for work—your family in tow.

This has already happened for hundreds of technicians—newcomers to Derby, but settled in the town and happy with the company.

Take Jim—he's a technical author who was working on the RB211 maintenance manual until last Thursday.

Now, reluctantly, he is viewing the prospects of leaving the town. His biggest concern is for his children and the disruption the move will mean in their education.

In one way Jim is lucky; he may get another job.

Older Rolls-Royce workers will not. They have resigned themselves to living without work until they die.

The shock of the initial collapse on February 4, is beginning to wear off. The ruthless way the first redundancies were carried out has been a big factor in this.

The workers read on March 8:

'As Official Receiver and manager I am not bound by any contract of employment with the company nor by any agreement between the company and the trade unions.'

The way the redundancies have taken place has, in the words of one union official, 'ripped-up the agreed book of rules between management and unions.'

Skilled men have been fired while 'dilutees'—unskilled men doing skilled men's jobs—have been reprieved. In some cases unions claim that the 'last in, first out' principle has been breached and the 'blue-eyed boy principle' operated in its place.

## 'The contract'

Thes. tactics by the Receiver have tended to start arguments between groups of workers and increased the level of suspicion.

Clearly if the 'Royce' men at Derby are going to fight for their jobs and win they must not allow themselves to be divided.

The unions, the men complain, have done 'nothing'. No national officials have visited them, talked to them at mass meetings or kept them informed of day-to-day events that affect their very lives.

And they are right. Union opposition to date has been abysmal.

The delegations have trailed to see the Tory chiefs of the aviation industry. Labour MPs have wailed in parliament. 'Leaders' of all varieties have argued capitalist economics with Heath and his henchmen.

The latest gimmick is the court case launched by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs to halt the redundancies by order of a Tory judge.

Understandably with this leadership Rolls workers at Derby have not begun in any organized way to fight the sackings. But as one older worker warned men. 'Even the most apathetic worm can turn.'

The catalyst of change may well be the 'the contract', which in Derby means the RB211.

If this goes workers either fight or accept an express ticket to the dole.

But, then, the question remains how will they fight?

Will they go on arguing with Mr Heath that he's got his sums wrong?

Will they go on pleading with the government and banks to give cash because of the 'social consequences' of total collapse?

Will they travel across the Atlantic and ask the American government to prop-up the British aero-engines after that same government has decimated its own aero-space industry?

I would like information about  
**THE SOCIALIST  
LABOUR LEAGUE**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## AN ON-THE-SPOT REPORT BY STEPHEN JOHNS



Clive Bayliss and family. Clive received his redundancy notice last week. Now he and his wife Carol fear they might be evicted from their Rolls-Royce house in Derby.

All this would, of course, be useless; as one worker said 'this government does not give a damn for any worker at Rolls-Royce'.

It is cheaper for this government to continue its policy of class war, to be ruthless, to kick all those 'Derby sheep' onto the streets. If they do not the system of capital will collapse.

Now is the time for Rolls-Royce workers to take the offensive, to stop being bewildered and sad. They are crying themselves into poverty.

Fighting will mean politics and the politics are the politics of struggle—struggle to throw out a government that speaks only the language of class war.

That war is on now in Derby, at Rolls-Royce Hillington, Bristol, Coventry and at all their British factories.

Until now one side has taken some terrible punishment and it's about time they started fighting back.

Les Chapman, 51-year-old 'Royce' worker. The crisis has caused him to cancel a project to build a garage and buy a car.



Clive Bayliss (31) voted Tory for the first time in his life at the last General Election. 'Never again,' he says now.

Last Thursday he walked in ready for the night-shift at Rolls-Royce and was greeted by the manager with his redundancy notice.

He has worked at 'Royces' for seven years, five as an assistant foreman and one as a foreman on the night shift.

On nights he earned about £46 a week. On Friday he will be on the dole.

## 'I was sick'

He lives in a Rolls-Royce house right outside the gate of one of the factories in the town.

Now he and his wife, Carol, are worried that they will be evicted. 'But they won't get me out,' says Clive, 'they are not putting my wife and three kids onto the street.'

'They have sacked people on the basis of length of service with the company and I was one of them to go.'

'The saying in the plant over the last few weeks has been, "Well I'll be relieved when they announce the redundancies and we can get it over with", but I'll tell you it's not pleasant to learn that you are one of them.'

'When I heard, I was sick. I could have gone outside the office and been sick.'

'They way I was sacked is against all union rules. I haven't been given the chance of demotion, yet I am trained in a skill and there are "dilutees" working in my department.'

'I felt even sorer for one foreman. He was back from the hospital pleased as punch—his wife had just had another baby.'

'The first thing he learned when he came to work was that he would be out of work soon.'

'I have worked hard for this company. I'm not a Rolls-Royce man, like some, but I thought I was made when I got on in the factory.'

'When I was eventually made foreman I thought I was in clover then—bang.'

'It makes you realize how ruthless the employers and the government really are. They don't care a damn for any Rolls-Royce worker.'

'I voted Conservative for the first time in my life last year. But believe me I will never do that again as long as I live.'

## 'They're all sweating'

Les Chapman is a 51-year-old shop-floor worker. He's been with the firm at Derby for 21 years.

So far the axe has not fallen on him. But he's worried enough to cancel his plans to buy a car.

'Everyone is scared in there' (the factory), he says, 'they're all sweating on the top line.'

'There is suspicion for everyone. In the factories its like living in a battery hen house waiting for the choke.'

'This crisis does not just affect Royces. It affects the whole of Derby. It will de-value the quality of life here.'

'For example the Co-op estimated the collapse of the RB211 could lose them £12,000 a week—just think what would happen to the smaller shopkeepers if the worst came to the worst.'

'I wouldn't be able to get work again I doubt. I have faced crises like this before. One was during the great strike in 1926, the other was in the 1931 redundancies and the third was when I was prisoner of war in a Japanese camp.'

'In the 1930s I was really too young to understand. But when you have a family to strive for, it hits you more.'

'The trouble is the Derby worker is not aggressive enough. The collapse has already made itself felt on their minds.'

'They did not come out on the one-day strike against the Industrial Relations Bill and we had hardly anyone down on the TUC's march against the Bill—it made me ashamed to witness it.'

'If the RB211 went, it would be like Jarrow here and Jarrow was very very bad you know, I remember.'

'Now the men come back from the office with their redundancy slips, some of them have been there for 30 years, they have tears in their eyes.'

'It's not very pleasant to see things like that, not pleasant at all.'



Sacked Rolls workers will no longer be able to afford to live in such houses as these—and will have to accustom themselves to inhabiting houses such as those pictured below.



## They heard the news from England

LARGE COMMUNITIES on both sides of the Atlantic stand to suffer if no agreement is reached between Rolls-Royce and Lockheed over the RB211 contract.

Marietta, a suburban area 18 miles NW of Atlanta, is deeply involved in the fate of the Lockheed TriStar. Rolls-Royce had intended to provide the RB211 jet engines for the aircraft until the company ran into financial difficulties last month.

More than 31,000 people worked in the Lockheed plant in January 1970. Now the total has been slashed to 21,000.

Part of the problem originated with unforeseen costs incurred in developing the C-5 military jet transport—largest aircraft in the world.

But the biggest jolt came with the Rolls-Royce crash. The Lockheed plant makes the tail assembly for the TriStar which is completed by the parent Lockheed Aircraft Corporation at Burbank, California.

Any problem that affects the parent corporation hits the offspring. News that the Burbank plant had laid off 6,500 workers last month caused repercussions—but not a panic—in Marietta.

Lockheed is still America's largest military contractor. It has hoped that TriStar would open the door for a healthy slice of the commercial aviation market—especially if the Vietnam war looked as if it would come to an end in the next year or two.

The Marietta plant has thrived on war. As the Bell Company's bomber factory, it produced the Enola Gay, the B-29 used to drop the first atomic bomb on Japan in the Second World War. While Rolls-Royce workers are being dismissed by the thousands, Marietta has tried to keep its head up and look to a better future.

But money is getting short now that Lockheed, which bought the plant after the war, is in financial trouble.

One former Lockheed engineer, Brad Chatfield, who operates a small antique shop, says:

'In Marietta, there is a Lockheed psychology. People tend to get psyched out and they don't buy cars and they don't spend money. They hold back and that makes it worse.'

'The slump in car sales began about three months ago. One motor agent, James Cox, says:

'I think the sun dawned on these people one morning and they realized they could lose their jobs. They had heard the news from England.'

Others are more optimistic. They claimed that Marietta, located in Cobb County, is not as dependent on Lockheed as many people believe.

Mr Ernest Barrett, chairman of the Cobb County Commission, says he sees, 'No serious effect right now' on the county's economy.

'If Lockheed were to close,' he adds, 'We would feel it real bad but not nearly as bad as it would have been five years ago. Other industries moving in in recent years have meant a lot.'

Huge signs along the new inter-state highway between Atlanta and Cobb County proclaim: 'Come to Cobb with confidence.'

TV Column will appear on Friday.

IMPORTANT READING

Germany  
1931  
1932

Leon Trotsky

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

4,300 workers' jobs have been lost.  
20,000 more are under the axe if  
the RB211 dies.

# 'Socialism in one country'

THE narrow, parochial outlook that Khrushchev (or his Soviet 'ghost writer') displays in this book was also a characteristic of the entire caste that came to power under Stalin's leadership.

'Socialism in one country' was not just Stalin's programme, but the political expression of a whole philosophy which dominated the Bolshevik Party following the double hammer blows of Lenin's death and the temporary defeat of the revolution in Germany and the rest of W Europe.

Further defeats in Britain (the 1926 General strike) and China (Chiang Kai-shek's massacre of the Shanghai workers in April 1927) only strengthened the belief among Khrushchev's generation that the Soviet Union had to make its own way, unaided, to socialism.

The revolutionary role and potential of the western working class and the colonial peoples was paid lip service to, but in practice, written off.

Together with hundreds like him, Khrushchev's career as a loyal Stalinist prospered in direct proportion to the defeats of the working class in the imperialist countries.

We find, in these writings, no echo of the British General Strike, the Chinese Revolution, the rise and victory of German fascism, and the titanic class battles in Spain and France.

## Historic

All his energies during this historic epoch were concentrated on resolving the internal crises of the Stalinist bureaucracy, on beating back the challenges to Stalin's leadership mounted by not only the Trotskyist Left Opposition but the right opposition of Bukharin and Rykov.

And side by side with this vicious factional struggle (in which Stalin's GPU and not political argument, was the final arbiter) there developed the bureaucracy's struggle to defend its own economic foundations—the nationalized property relations created by the 1917 revolution.

But fearing the movement of the masses as much as the threat from the right, Stalin defended these property relations by reactionary means.

When the rich peasants (Kulaks) staged their revolt against the regime, the bureaucracy leaned

on the working class and poor peasants for support, but made no political concessions to them.

Stalin's iron grip on the state and Party in fact tightened even more in the years of collectivization and industrialization (1929-1933).

These administrative, bureaucratic methods had their counterpart in the Kremlin's foreign policy, which based itself increasingly on manoeuvres between rival imperialist powers, using the working class of the capitalist states to threaten and pressurize the working classes into agreements with the Soviet bureaucracies.

While Stalin — together with Bukharin — allied himself with the rich peasant against the working class and against Trotsky, the International pursued a policy of collaboration with reformist trade union leaders (like the TUC General Council) and bourgeois nationalists in the colonial world (Chiang in China).

In each case, these alliances led the working class to defeat, and strengthened the imperialist enemies of the Soviet Union.

When Stalin broke off Bukharin in 1929 and launched his adventurist collectivization programme, the entire International was forced to swing to the ultra-left with him.

His reformist allies of 1926 were by 1929 being denounced as 'social fascists'.

## Banned

United-front agreement between reformist and communist parties to fight fascism were banned (after all, there could be no united action by communists with 'social fascists'). In Germany this policy led directly to the victory of Hitler.

Then in 1935, as the new privileged layers thrown up by Stalin's industrialization programme began to congeal, there came the turn towards the 'popular front', a policy which involved class-collaboration between the parties of the working class and so-called 'liberal' sections of the ruling classes in the main capitalist states in conflict with Nazi Germany.

Stalin took the Soviet Union into the League of Nations (dubbed by Lenin a 'thieves' kitchen') and signed a military pact with the leaders of French imperialism.

The social foundations of this openly reformist and, in practice, counter-revolutionary policy, were well understood by the most astute bourgeois commentators.

A report on the Soviet Union published by the London Royal Institute of International Affairs stated at the time:

'The internal development of Russia is tending to throw up a "bourgeoisie" of managers and officials who possess sufficient privileges to make them highly content with the status quo...'

'It is possible to regard the various purges as part of a process by which all who desire to change the present state of affairs are being rooted out.'

'Such an interpretation lends colour to the belief that the revolutionary period in Russia is over, and that henceforward her rulers will only seek to conserve the gains which the revolution has brought them.'

Khrushchev's rise to power and privilege inside the Party can only be understood against this broad setting of Stalin's political counter-revolution.

Khrushchev, himself, could only have been dimly aware of the role he was playing in the early years of his political career.

Each of these important stages in Stalinist policy passed Khrushchev by so far as their international implications were concerned.

Though deeply involved in implementing each internal policy decision of Stalin, he makes no reference to their international consequences until he reaches the Stalin-Hitler pact of August 1939.

Although the International was officially pursuing its 'anti-fascist' Popular Front policy right through to the summer of 1939, Stalin had begun to sound out the possibility of a deal with Hitler much earlier.

The military purges of June 1937, which wiped out a section of the Red Army leadership favouring military agreement with France anticipated Stalin's pact more than two years later.

But for Khrushchev, who was at this time excluded from the ruling clique around Stalin, the news of the pact was a bombshell.

And here too, he is very frank about Stalin's policies and motives. Official Stalinist histories refer to the pact as simply one of 'non-aggression'. But Khrushchev thought differently: 'It was very hard for us — as Communists, as anti-fascists... to accept the idea of joining forces with Germany. [Emphasis added.]'

## Paradox

It was difficult enough for us to accept this paradox ourselves. It would have been impossible to explain it to the man in the street.

'Therefore we couldn't admit outright that we had reached an agreement on peaceful co-existence with Hitler.'

'Co-existence would have been possible with the Germans in general but not with the Hitlerite fascists...'

Not only was the Soviet Union terribly compromised in the eyes of millions of workers all over the world as a result of Stalin's deal with the butchers of the German labour movement, but it also enabled Hitler to prepare for his future invasion of the USSR.



# Khrushchev remembers

In the hall of columns, Moscow

A review by Robert Black

PART SIX

The Nazis gained most from the trade and economic agreements which followed the signing of the pact, as Khrushchev admits:

'According to the treaty, we were supposed to give the Germans a certain amount of wheat, oil, and other products. We made all our deliveries punctually.'

The Nazis, on the other hand, did everything they could to slow down the deliveries of the goods to the Soviet Union.

Another side to the Stalin-Hitler pact kept secret by the Kremlin was its collaboration with the Nazi Gestapo after the partition of Poland.

## Conference

There have been claims that Stalin's NKVD (successors to the GPU) met Gestapo leaders for a conference in Krakow, some time in 1940.

Though Khrushchev does not refer to such a meeting, he does

mention the activities of NKVD boss in the Ukraine, I. A. Serov, who later added to his notoriety by carrying out Stalin's order to deport six Soviet national minorities to central Asia:

'Serov's duties required him to have contacts with the Gestapo. A Gestapo representative used to come to Lvov on official business...'

'I don't know what sort of a network the Gestapo had in the Ukraine, but it was extensive. The cover [i.e., pretext] for this network was an exchange agreement whereby people on German-occupied territory who wanted to return to their homes in the former Polish territory now occupied by Soviet troops were allowed to do so...'

But there was also a considerable traffic in the other direction as well, a fact that speaks volumes for the repressive national policies of the Stalinist regime in the Ukraine. Khrushchev goes on to relate

a scene described to him by Serov:

'There are long lines standing outside the place where people register for permission to return to Polish territory. ... "When I took a closer look I was shocked to see that most of the people in line were members of the Jewish population. ... "They were bribing the Gestapo agents to let them leave as soon as possible to return to their original home...'

## Bribes

Comments Khrushchev: 'The Gestapo agents were eagerly accepting the bribes, getting rich, and shipping these people straight to the gas chambers. There was nothing we could do to stop them...'

'Nothing we could do... and yet these revolting scenes took place on Soviet-ruled territory!'

# Bid to discredit socialists

THE PROBLEM of the Tory daily 'The Scotsman' is how to keep up with 'The Times'.

Following the recent series of articles in the latter paper entitled 'The Revolutionaries', 'The Scotsman' felt it could not allow the Sassenachs to outdo it in witch-hunting.

So it sent a reporter to see what he could dig up to make Scottish middle-class flesh creep. He wasn't very successful.

As an article last Thursday bemoans: 'The current wave of political violence has so far passed Scotland by'.

In a desperate attempt to confuse the movement of the middle-class anarchist groups, 'The Scotsman' turns to the testimony of an unnamed 20-year-old male model.

This young gentleman described how his equally unnamed group had planned to blow up an even less identified Edinburgh building and to rob bookies' offices in Glasgow.

He also asked 'The Scotsman' for cash to enable him to go to India to take refuge from his former comrades since he had now become an agent for the Special Branch.

He didn't get any money, however, and the police told 'The Scotsman', 'We know of this man. He is rather fanciful'. Having filled up half the article with this rubbish 'The Scotsman' goes on to interviews with Maoists, and with the ever-obliging Spartacus League. These people allow 'The Scotsman' to introduce the word 'Trotskyist'!

Poor stuff for a leader-page feature. But it was, apparently, the best the paper could do as its contribution to the campaign to discredit the fight for revolutionary politics in the growing movement to defeat the Tories.

# Workers Press notebook

## Brass bands and Bolshevism

THE TERROR of Bolshevism shown by ruling-class circles at the end of the First World War was tremendous. Discussions in the Cabinet were frequently about how to combat the menace, especially among returning soldiers.

I doubt whether the panic was much allayed by the following letter, circulated as a secret memo to the Cabinet in November 1918, and to be found in the Cabinet papers at the Public Records Office.

Addressed to Mr Austen Chamberlain, it is from Lt-Col J. Norton Griffiths, KGB, DSO, a Tory MP:

'There is a strong current of what might be called "revolutionary ideas" running in an aftermath of the long duration of the war.

'One of the best ways of counteracting this, in my opinion, is that every brass band in the country should be let loose as often as possible, and to encourage flag-waving—one form of letting off steam.

'I also suggest the early release—even starting now on a small scale—of men who have got more than two wounded stripes.

'Directly Germany caves in, parading in all the principal towns in celebration should take place—in short everything possible should be done to work up a high patriotic feeling from the results of victory.'

Not surprisingly, another memo appears, this one from Sir Alfred Mond, describing these ideas as 'insufficient'. Rather more was needed to stem the revolutionary tide. The ruling class found it in the treachery of the labour leaders.



# Booking the Albert Hall

SEVERAL commentators on the 100th anniversary of the Royal Albert Hall have talked about the notorious conservatism of the authorities of that institution. Usually, they have referred to the recent cancellation of Frank Zappa's pop concert.

But long before the infant Zappa had uttered his first lyrics the Albert Hall had clashed with

the workers' movement — and lost. It was in 1918, as the war ended and revolutionary ideas swept through the European working class. George Lansbury's 'Herald', then the leading left-wing paper, was about to reappear as a daily.

The Albert Hall was booked for a mass rally on November 23, using a series of false names. But the Albert Hall management found the real purpose of the meeting and cancelled the booking. Lansbury appealed to Prime

Minister Lloyd George, who, of course, said he had no power to intervene. Then the London working class took a hand. The Cab drivers said they would refuse to take anyone to concerts at the hall and bus drivers said they would drive straight past it. The tube men declared they would not stop at 2 Kensington station.

Then the electricians took action, pulling out the main fuses and threatening to black out the whole of Kensington if the 'Herald' did not get its meeting.

This did the trick. The power workers were getting ready for a strike over pay at that time and the Minister of Labour, the former printing trade union leader, later a Tory, G. H. Roberts, decided that he did have power to intervene after all.

After a couple of candle-light concerts, the Albert Hall people took Roberts' recommendation and the 'Herald' rally took place a week later on November 30.

Typically, Lansbury had Ramsay MacDonald as a main speaker, and he was loudly heckled by a left-wing and jubilant audience.

- ## BBC 1
- 9.15 a.m. Schools. 12.25-12.50 p.m. Nai zindagi—naya jeevan.
  - 1.00-1.25 Disc a dawn. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05 Schools. 2.50 Racing from Cheltenham. 4.30 Tom and Jerry. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Golden Goose. 5.15 Terry.
  - 5.50 News and weather.
  - 6.00 NATIONWIDE. London.
  - 6.45 THE DOCTORS.
  - 7.10 STAR TREK. 'The Devil in the Dark'.
  - 8.00 SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BELIEVE YOUR EYES? A test of observation, quickness of eye and anticipation.
  - 8.50 THE FIFTIES. December 1950.
  - 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.
  - 9.20 SPORTSNIGHT WITH COLEMAN. Heavyweight Championship of Great Britain, Europe and the Empire. Henry Cooper v Joe Bugner.
  - 10.30 24 HOURS.
  - 11.00 GOVERNOR AVERELL HARRIMAN. Talks to Kenneth Harris about his wartime meetings with Churchill and Stalin, looks back to Russia in the 1920s and talks about contemporary politics.
  - 11.40 Weather.
- ## BBC 2
- 11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.
  - 6.35-7.00 p.m. OPEN UNIVERSITY. Arts.
  - 7.05 HARDY HEATING INTERNATIONAL. 'Overseas Agents'.
  - 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.
  - 8.00 BIRD'S-EYE VIEW. 'Inis Fall'. For St Patrick's Day, the story of a journey around Ireland by James Plunkett.
  - 9.00 POT BLACK. BBC-2 Snooker Competition. Gary Owen v Fred Davis.
  - 9.20 ELIZABETH I. 'The Enterprise of England'. Glenda Jackson as Elizabeth I.
  - 10.50 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
  - 10.55 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

- ## REGIONAL BBC
- All regions as above except:
- Midlands, E Anglia. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today. Look East, weather. 11.42 News, weather.
  - North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North, weather. 11.42 News, weather.
  - Wales. 6.00-6.45 Wales today, weather. Nationwide. 6.45-7.10 Huddi. 7.10-7.20 A question of sport. 7.30-8.00 Misen a nl. 11.20-11.50 Late call. 11.42 Weather.
  - Scotland. 10.25-10.45 Around Scotland. 2.30-2.50 Modern studies. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. Nationwide. 11.42 News, weather.
  - N Ireland. 10.25-10.45 Ulster in focus. 6.00-6.45 News. 6.45-7.10 six, weather. Nationwide. 7.10-8.00 If you're Irish. 11.00-11.50 Profile. News, weather.
  - SW, South, West. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Points West. South today. Spotlight SW, weather. 11.42 News, weather.

- ## ITV
- 11.00 a.m.-3.00 p.m. Schools. 3.45 Yoga for health. 4.10 Rupert Bear. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Sooty show. 5.15 Freewheelers. 5.45 News. 5.55 Today.
  - 6.30 ARNIE. 'Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow'.
  - 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE.
  - 7.30 CORONATION STREET.
  - 8.00 I SPY. 'Carmelita is One Of Us'.
  - 9.00 A FAMILY AT WAR. 'A Separate Peace'.
  - 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
  - 10.30 ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL. Scottish League v Football League.
  - 11.25 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.
  - 11.55 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.
  - 12.10 a.m. SURVIVAL IN THE CITY. Ivor Mills talks to John English of the Midlands Art Centre.

- ## REGIONAL ITV
- CHANNEL: 11.00-3.00 London. 3.25 News. 4.05 Puffin. 4.15 Open house. 4.50 London. 5.55 News, weather. 6.10 Overseas press club. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 11.50 News, weather.
- WESTWARD: As Channel except: 3.25 News. 4.05 Gus Honeyburn. 5.55 Diary. 6.30 Horscope. 8.00 I takes a thief. 9.00 London. 11.55 News. 11.59 Faith for life. 12.04 Weather.
- SOUTHERN: 11.00-3.00 London. 3.25 Horscope. 4.30 Women. 4.40 Houseparty. 4.12 Sean. 4.25 London. 4.50 Bush boy. 5.15 London. 5.55 Day by day. 6.30 Bird's eye view. 7.00 London. 8.00 Man in a suitcase. 9.00 London. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. It's all yours.
- HARLECH: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.09 Moment of truth. 4.35 Rupert. 4.50 London. 5.56 Report. West. 6.16 Report. Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.55 News, weather.
- HTV (West): 4.07-4.09 Report West. 6.16-6.35 Sport West.
- HTV (Wales) and HTV (Cymru/Wales): 5.16 Cymraeg i bawb. 6.00-6.16 Y dydd.
- ANGLIA: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.00 News. 4.05 Women. 4.30 Rupert. 4.50 London. 5.55 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Mannix. 9.00 London.
- ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-3.00 London. 3.10 Houseparty. 3.20 Stars. 3.25 Women. 4.00 Peyton Place. 4.30 Cartoon. 4.35 Rupert. 4.50 Fireball. 5.10 London. 5.55 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Saint. 9.00 London.
- ULSTER: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.25 Romper room. 4.45 News. 4.50 London. 5.55 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Warm side up. 8.30 Singles sign. 9.00 London.
- YORKSHIRE: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.30 Sabre. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.10 News. 4.25 Mattine. 4.50 London. 5.55 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Department S. 9.00 London. 11.55 News, weather.
- GRANADA: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.30 News. Peyton Place. 4.35 Enchanted house. 4.50 London. 5.55 Newsway. 6.20 Hillsides. 6.50 This is your right. 7.00 London. 8.00 Department S. 9.00 London.
- TYNE TEES: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.00 News. 4.05 Women. 4.35 Rupert. 4.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Jokers wild. 7.00 London. 8.00 Department S. 9.00 London. 11.55 News. 12.00 Epilogue.
- BORDER: 1.38-2.55 London. 3.50 Houseparty. 4.03 News. 4.05 Nanny and the professor. 4.35 Rupert. 4.50 London. 5.55 News. Lookaround. 6.30 Horscope. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Invaders. 9.00 London. 11.55 News, weather.
- SCOTTISH: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.00 Datteline. 4.10 London. 5.55 Datteline. 6.30 Bless this house. 7.00 London. 8.00 Man in a suitcase. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.15 London. 12.00 Late call.
- GRAMPIAN: 11.00-2.55 London. 4.05 News. 4.10 London. 4.25 Moment of truth. 4.50 London. 5.55 News. 6.05 Week. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Mannix. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 11.55 Epilogue.

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### Danger of deal in E Bengal

EAST BENGAL'S bourgeois nationalist leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, met President Yahya Khan in Dacca yesterday for crisis talks over the rift between the country's two wings.

Earlier, Rahman had modified his campaign of non-cooperation with the military authorities in E Pakistan.

But Dacca workers have made it very clear they want no compromise with Khan over Bengal's national rights.

Thousands demonstrated past his Dacca residence on Monday night, chanting slogans for an independent Bengal and 'Yahya beware'.

#### CORRECTION

Part Five of Russian Nationalism in Tuesday's paper contained two errors:

Column four, paragraph six should read:

'The liquidation of Lenin's national programme, long before accomplished in practice, was given theoretical justification with this speech.'

Column five, paragraph two, should read:

'We stand full square for the right to self-determination of all the nationalities oppressed by the chauvinist Kremlin clique, and this applies with equal force to those East European states still occupied by Soviet troops [i.e., E Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland].'

# 'Riot' distortion of E London march

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

ON JANUARY 26, 19-year-old E Londoner Stephen McCarthy died in prison from what a coroner later described as 'natural causes'.

His family allege he was murdered by two uniformed police, and that a conspiracy reaching from Islington's Upper St police station to the Home Office has been built to conceal this fact.

Some of the McCarthy family and friends at the front of Monday's protest march.



Some 250 people marched on the station in support of these claims in Upper St on Monday night.

And 17 of them—four members of the McCarthy family among them—were remanded on bail at Old St yesterday on charges ranging from assault to threatening behaviour.

These are the bare bones of a story which has disgusted and enraged many working-class families in E London, but which at least two Fleet St papers tried to fudge over yesterday morning by claiming Monday's protest was a 'riot'.

Our page one picture helps to scotch this blatant distortion by showing a typical incident from the march, in which police moved in to drag away a demonstrator despite appeals from one of Stephen's sisters.

This reporter attended the march throughout and was within a few feet of most of the so-called 'riot' incidents.

Even the 'Daily Mirror', which front-paged the story, made clear that scuffles broke out only after three vanloads of police piled out from the police station—as the march was breaking up—and started to try to clear the demonstrators from the pavement.

Chief-Supt. Donald Forest, who had just received a protest letter from 59-year-old Mrs Bridget McCarthy on the station steps, admitted to the 'Mirror' that he had 'ordered his men to break up the march "because they were obstructing the footway".'

And the 'Daily Express' had to report that 'as the crowd moved away from the station, squads of police who had been on duty at the Arsenal football ground moved in...'

#### Screams

There were frightened screams from many of the young local girls at the rear of the march, where most of the arrests were made.

The police later split up the demonstrators and placed two mounted officers—one actually on the pavement—at their rear.

It must be said, however, that many of the arrests could have been avoided had members of two Maoist groups who joined the march helped to organize it.

Despite yesterday's remands, the McCarthy family and their supporters are planning to picket Upper St police station on Saturday in the hope of 'breaking the ring of silence' surrounding the causes of Stephen's death.

Two witnesses of his re-arrest after absconding from Borstal told a mass meeting which preceded Monday's march that his head had been beaten against a bus shelter by police.

### Railmen oppose 9p.c. offer

THE employer's offer of 9 per cent pay increases for railwaymen met strong opposition from many workers yesterday.

For large sections of the country's rail workers it immediately revived the lessons of the still unsettled postal dispute.

'The best move our leadership could have made was to have joined the postmen when they were on strike,' James McCarthy, a porter at London's Euston station, told us. He thought the offer was 'disgraceful to men who had asked for 25 per cent.'

The Tory government in his opinion had 'gone too far with the postmen.'

'But it also showed how harsh they intend to be with other workers.'

One of his workmates at Euston, Hopton Jones, a train driver, explained that they faced the same dangers as the postmen.

'Postmen were absolutely betrayed because Jackson was scared of Heath and his government,' he said.

The railway unions, he said, were weaker in militancy because:

'When it comes to a confrontation we don't have much of a chance because our leaders stand in the middle.'

Some workers expressed fear that acceptance of 9 per cent or anything slightly better would certainly be tied to productivity deals.

'But what are they going to give away this time?' questioned a train driver from Bristol.

'We have such a bad record of productivity dealing, we haven't got much left to sell.'

The offer, he said, 'was completely out of proportion with price increases' and felt that strike action was necessary 'not only over the pay claim, but against the Industrial Relations Bill as well.'

# Polarization in French municipal elections

VOTING in the first round of France's municipal elections reflects growing polarization between the working class and the Pompidou regime.

More than any previous local election held under the Fifth Republic, voters have grouped themselves around the country's two main parties—the Stalinist Communist Party and the ruling Gaullist UDR.

There were wholesale desertions from the aptly named 'Centre Party' and other middle-of-the-road formations.

Yet even with their increased vote—40.3 per cent as against 31.6 in 1965—the Gaullists have failed in their campaign to capture the municipalities of the large industrial cities.

BY ROBERT BLACK

Only in Bordeaux, where Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas presides over a precarious anti-socialist coalition, do the Gaullists control an important French city. They lost Calais, Nevers and Laval.

The stubbornness and consistency with which the French working class plumped for Communist Party—and, to a far lesser extent, Socialist Party—candidates is the Achilles heel of the Pompidou regime.

Its complete inability, despite the opportunist policies of the Stalinist leaders in the CP and the CGT trade unions, to make any inroads into the ranks of the French working class compel it to lean for mass support on the rural population and the small-town middle class.

But the rapid growth of large-scale capitalist farming is now undermining the mass basis of Gaullist rule.

#### REVOLTS

Peasants, wine growers, Alsac dairy farmers are all turning to violent revolt against Pompidou's ruinous economic policies, which favour only the biggest and most competitive producers.

Meanwhile a spate of strikes has hit all the docks and airlines, the huge Creusot-Loire engineering works at Batignolles, the Lorraine coalfields, the General Motors' gearbox plant at Strasbourg and the Pyrenees-Biarritz Snaoc plant, which, after its owners went bankrupt, has been occupied by its workers.

These class tensions also find their expression in the growth of ultra-rightist and fascist groups—notably the 'New Order' group, which last week staged a provocative rally at the Paris Palais Des Sports, calling for a 'tough' government that would 'clean up the leftist mess'.

#### UNDEFEATED

But the French working class remains undefeated. Its decisive vote for the CP list does not necessarily imply confidence in that Party's Stalinist leadership.

On the contrary, many French workers are very wary of Duclos, Marchais, Rochet and Seguy after their great betrayal of the 1968 May/June General Strike.

The line-up of class forces is unfolding after a European, British and French workers now confront basically the same task—the defeat of right wing, Bonapartist regimes through the construction of a revolutionary leadership able to expose and defeat both reformism and Stalinism.

## Bolted chairs in Davis trial

THE PRE-TRIAL hearing of black American militant and Communist Party member Angela Davis began in San Rafael, California, yesterday.

She is charged with murder, kidnapping and conspiracy in connection with the San Rafael courthouse last summer, which ended with three black militants and Superior Court Judge Harold Haley being shot dead.

Davis has denied the charges and insists that she is the victim of a political frame-up.

Co-defendant Ruchell Macee, 31, his legal aides said, will be chained to a chair bolted to the floor when he appears in court.

In past hearings, he has made political speeches to the court, and this time the authorities intend to silence him.

The opening of the Davis-Macee trial must be the signal for a world-wide campaign to secure their release.

BARCELONA bus workers struck yesterday after a suburban company refused to pay bonuses awarded to them by a 'labour court' for holiday work.

They joined the city's hospital doctors, who are continuing their strike which began last week in support of demands for higher pay and improved working conditions.

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Wednesday March 17  
Wednesday March 24  
Room 3a, University of London Union  
Malet St, WCI  
Given by Michael Banda

## Wide call for a General Strike

● FROM PAGE ONE

whole of the working people in Britain.'

FROM THE Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, assistant general secretary ERNIE ROBERTS said that the TUC recommendations were 'mere obstacles' to the working of the Bill that employers and the government would easily overcome.

The AUEW was the first to call out its members on official strike against the Bill and it will be leading Thursday's stoppages while its delegates at Croydon vote against the TUC document.

### Correct

'I don't think the Bill or the laws will be defeated without industrial action. It is quite correct for the working class to take industrial action for political ends because they are faced with a Tory government that is taking political action for industrial ends.'

'The AUEW has given a lead on this front so far, but we can't go on standing alone.

'All of the trade union movement must be involved. The TUC leadership should make it quite clear that workers are prepared to use the ultimate weapon of industrial action including the General Strike.'

EDDIE MARSDEN, the general secretary of the Construction Engineering Union, said that his executive were 100 per cent against the TUC recommendations as they existed.

'We believe, contrary to the General Council's document, that the TUC should instruct all its member unions not to register under the Bill.'

'We are also, of course, against No 7 of the council's proposals which in effect rules out industrial action against the Bill,' he told me.

'We feel that it is now an urgent necessity for the TUC to lead the whole of the movement in industrial action against this vicious piece of class legislation.'

Mr Marsden said he would like to see a series of one-day national strikes.

'But if these are not sufficient to destroy the Bill that national industrial action of a longer duration must be launched,' he said.

'With the engineers on strike tomorrow will be workers in the massive Transport and General Workers' Union.'

ERIC EVANS, a national executive member of the union and a leading steward at EMI Hayes, in Middlesex, said that he thought industrial action was 'vital' to destroy the Bill which was a step towards fascism.

'We cannot allow this government to run its full term of office,' he said.

'I believe eventually the whole of the trade union movement must wake up to this. The Tories will have to be forced out.'

'The T&GWU's policy is for industrial action and for non-registration as a condition of TUC membership,' he added.

### Inadequate

THE 87,000-strong Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association has also called its members out and will be voting 'against' at Croydon with the engineers.

Vice-president, MIKE COOLEY, told us that the TUC General Council's proposals were 'dismally inadequate'.

'Their attack on industrial action against the Bill, he said, was 'treacherous and served only to encourage Carr to continue to shackle the unions.'

'The ruling class has never been impressed by moral or just arguments, as Feather must know. Yet this is the kernel of the General Council's proposals.'

The Congress on Thursday, he said, should instruct the General Council to call a series of industrial actions starting with guerrilla strikes and culminating, if necessary, in a General Strike.

'If the TUC fails to provide this lead then the powerful industrial unions should do so themselves,' said Mr Cooley.

SPEAKING from Rolls-Royce, Derby, HAROLD BROWN, district secretary of the National Society of Metal Mechanics, said that he was disappointed that his union had not called the 46,000 membership out on strike tomorrow.

'I think the TUC policy is far too weak. They are just nibbling like mice at this Tory Bill. This won't move a government like this. Rolls-Royce is the proof of that,' said Harold.

A leading militant among London postal workers and secretary of his union's Paddington branch, JOCK COWAN, told us that the General Strike was the only answer to the Tory government.

'The unions must now unite. Each day that passes the government pushes its plans further and their main tactic is to take the workers on one at a time like they did with us. How long, I ask, are our leaders going to stand by while this happens.'

'The only way to defeat this Bill, this government and all its plans, is by an unlimited General Strike. That's where I stand.'

### Heath-Ford

● FROM PAGE ONE

are sufficient proof that the task of the TUC is not to try and reform this bunch of arrogant Tories, but to make them resign and replace them with a Labour government that will put an end to the Tory counter-revolution.

This can and will be done only by the maximum exercise of the power of the trade unions through an indefinite General Strike.

General Strike and not another step back—that must be the clarion call from Croydon on March 18.

#### Discipline

Like every monopolist, Ford—and Heath too—knows that only the defeat of the unions and their subordination to the capitalist state can secure an uninterrupted continuity of production, establish capitalist labour discipline and raise efficiency and profit rates to a new level.

The meeting of Heath and Ford proves conclusively that the Ford strike is not an industrial dispute which can be settled by conventional methods, but is a political battle in the war against capitalism.

Those who ignore this aspect of the struggle, like the Stalinist stewards from Ford's who tried to exclude Ford workers carrying placards attacking the Tory government from a recent picket outside Ford's Regent St headquarters, will do so at their peril.

If Ford's cannot be defeated by conventional methods of industrial warfare then neither can the Industrial Relations Bill.

Delegates to the special TUC on March 18 must learn the lessons of the Ford dispute or face the prospect of a catastrophic defeat by the Tories.

They must not only reject the spineless policy of the TUC right wing but, what is more important, they must reject the equally reformist line proposed by Mr John Bonfield of the National Graphical Association for a one-day national stoppage against the Bill and any other such suggestions by any of the left trade union leaders.

Such a policy will in the end strengthen the right-wing witch-hunters and demoralize the weaker sections of workers who, understandably, will question the efficacy of one-day protests.

They certainly will not prevent the implementation of the Bill if it becomes law. The enormous increase in prices and unemployment, as well as the events in Ulster,

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#### BRIEFLY

MEXICAN government is to try a group of 19 arrested revolutionaries, Public Prosecutor General Julio Sanchez Vargas told a press conference in Mexico City on Monday night.

The group had been trained by the N Korean government, claimed Vargas, 'to impose a Marxist-Leninist regime in Mexico'.

executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers decided yesterday that the men should take part in the strike on March 18.

Over 2 million workers are now expected to take part in Thursday's one-day strike against the Industrial Relations Bill.

THURSDAY'S national and London evening newspapers will not be produced after all.

In spite of attempts by the Newspapers Publishers' Association to get exemption for the Fleet St engineers, the

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