

Stop Wilson's Washington visit campaign

SCANLON SIGNS OUR PETITION

By a Workers Press reporter

Motor stewards reject piece-work changes

BY DAVID MAUDE

SENIOR Transport and General Workers' shop stewards from motor and engineering factories in the union's key No. 5 (Midlands) region warned yesterday that they would have nothing to do with the employers' attempts to tighten up the industry's disputes procedure and attack piece-work agreements.

Despite the retreat of the engineering unions' leaders, opposition to Measured-Day Work and job evaluation pay schemes remains at a high pitch in many engineering and car plants.

This is believed to have been reflected at yesterday's meeting by the rejection of proposals from the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering unions which would have meant fundamental changes in the T&GWW's piece-work agreement.

Reporting back from negotiations with representatives of the Engineering Employers' Federation at York, the union's engineering trade group secretary Moss Evans was told that the employers' proposals for the obligatory establishment of works' councils and for compulsory ratification of strike action at executive level were totally unacceptable.

They would agree to the proposed shortening of the procedure, the stewards said, only if they were guaranteed complete freedom of action at local level.

Evans was instructed that this should be the union's attitude at the December 16 meeting with the employers.

Insistence

So far, the employers have insisted that the shortening of the 55-year-old York procedure—usually taking at least three months to complete—down to a 21-day version ending at local level, must be accompanied by the provisions rejected by the region number five stewards yesterday.

It was intransigent opposition to these demands that provoked EEF director-general Martin Jukes' 'anarchy' outburst (reported in Saturday's Workers Press) a week ago.

Major issues are at stake here.

The employers must try and try again for the abolition of piece-work, attacks on trade union organization and on the right to strike.

As the Workers Press insisted on Saturday, 1970 is going to be an important year for the working-class movement.

The time to prepare politically for these struggles is now.

HUGH SCANLON, president of Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers, has signed a Workers Press petition, together with three executive council members—Ernie Roberts, assistant general secretary, Bob Wright, and Arthur Hearsey—which demands the cancellation of Wilson's visit to Washington.

They signed the petition yesterday after a meeting of the AEF national committee in Peckham, London. The petition states:

«The slaughter of innocent women and children and babies by the US army in Vietnam recalls the worst atrocities of the Nazis in occupied Europe. British labour can no more support US imperialism's genocide in Vietnam than it could support the massacre carried out by the Nazi SS.

Considering the enormous damage done to the labour movement by the continued co-operation of the British and American governments in the Vietnam war and the so-called defence of South-East Asia, we urge the leaderships of the trade unions and the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party to demand that Wilson's visit to Washington, which we consider a symbolic gesture to Nixon, should not take place. We also call upon the Labour Cabinet to cancel Wilson's visit immediately.

Enthusiastic

The campaign around this petition is being enthusiastically received throughout the country.

There has been a great response from trade unionists, young workers, students and housewives wherever the petitions have been circulated.

A few more examples below of the response from different sections of the labour movement show that thousands of workers, revolted by the atrocities in Vietnam, want an end to the Labour government's prostration at Nixon's feet.

Delegates who signed the petition at the London Divisional Conference of USDAW (the shopworkers' union) included Mr Christopher Norwood, Labour MP for Norwich, from the London Retail Trades Branch; three union organizers: Charles Farrer, G. R. England and C. G. Sibley, together with delegates from the London Departmental Stores, Hayes Food, London Wholesale Food, London Naafi, Metropolitan Fur Skinners, Booksellers and Stationers, Milk Marketing Board Head Office and three London Retail Branches.

91 signed

At the Manchester 'Morning Star' bazaar on Saturday, 91 signatures collected included 32 Communist Party members and nine members of the Young Communist League.

Three members of the Croydon Young Communist League have signed the petition. Ashford, Kent, Young Socialists collected 17 signatures at their weekly meeting.

30 pupils at Starcross Secondary School, Risinghill Street, Islington, have also signed a petition demanding that Wilson's Washington visit be cancelled.

Mr Peter Jackson, MP, has also indicated that he supports the campaign.

London School of Economics students' union, meeting yesterday, passed by 115-29 votes a resolution on the Wilson visit.

A hundred students there have already signed a petition.

PETITIONS

If you can take a petition around your factory, school, college, shop, university, or wherever you work, please send for copies to:

Stop Wilson's visit campaign
186a Clapham High Street,
London, S.W.4.



Drop in gold prices leading to new crisis

By an Economics reporter
FOR the first time since the two-tier gold system was adopted in March 1968 the price of gold has dropped below 35 dollars an ounce.

In appearance this would seem to be the direct opposite to the market crisis preceding the two-tier system.

The upward movement of the price of gold served as an indication of the measure of dollar inflation.

But now, although the price

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LONDON 2,000 teachers march for £135

TWO THOUSAND striking teachers who marched yesterday afternoon to the Department of Education and Science (DES) in Curzon Street, London, expressed their determination to struggle for a full £135-a-year pay rise.

Almost every striking teacher in London took part in the march led by the banner of the Inner London Teachers' Association.

The marchers were joined by strikers from outer London and the Home Counties and some teachers came from as far afield as West Bromwich.

Crowds of Christmas shoppers on Oxford Street gave the march an enthusiastic reception.

A deputation led by NUT executive member Jack Jones delivered a letter at the DES to education minister Edward Short expressing the teachers' determination to stand firm for £135-a-year.

Warsaw Pact-N.A.T.O. meeting by 1972

BY ROBERT BLACK

ACCORDING to the latest reports from Washington, the security conference proposed to NATO by the Warsaw Pact powers at their conference last week may well take place by 1972.

Though official US responses have been guarded, behind-the-scenes talks are thought to be preparing the way for a joint meeting of NATO and Warsaw Pact

countries within the next two years.

These reports are not only based on the rapid progress of negotiations between the new West German government and Moscow, but on the readiness of the Soviet bureaucracy to negotiate with the most powerful of imperialist nations, the United States itself.

Any agreement with Brandt is but a stepping stone to the big prize of a deal with Nixon.

TUBE TRAINS BLACKING?

LONDON underground train drivers and guards on the Northern line are to decide whether to black the shorter trains being run by London Transport because of the 12-week-old strike by maintenance men at the Acton depot.

Theatre journalist sacked in the Soviet Union

IT HAS just been revealed in Moscow that the editor of the Soviet Union's leading theatre journal 'Teatr' has been dismissed from his post.

The former editor, Yuri Rybakov, has been one of the most outspoken defenders of new trends in the Soviet theatre, which have voiced implied criticism of the bureaucracy.

A recent production of Gorky's 'Mother' was praised by 'Teatr' for its emphasis on Gorky's message that any repression of freedom was wrong.

Though it has only a circulation of 20,000, the journal is read avidly by writers and theatre people throughout the Soviet Union.

More attacks and repressions will undoubtedly follow.

Vietnam debate a farce

BY MICHAEL BANDA

BY 196 VOTES to 57 the Labour 'lefts' motion to adjourn the House was defeated. As we predicted yesterday the debate was a farce.

The agony of Vietnam was buried under a pile of demagogic platitudes and effusions of simulated sympathy and stabs of rhetoric.

But Wilson's policy despite, or rather because of the Labour 'lefts', remained inflexibly firm. He first attacked Greece to get the Labour benches on his side.

'Britain,' he said, 'will have to vote for the suspension of Greece from the Council of Europe.'

After this meaningless gesture, guaranteed to raise a belly laugh from the colonels and their torturers in Bouboulinas St. Athens, Wilson proceeded to evade deftly the issues of the Vietnam war.

DEFENCE

Like a Pentagon lawyer, Wilson argued cogently for the defence of the inspirers of the 'Pinkville' massacre known as the Vietnam war.

Referring to 'Pinkville' he asked, 'Is it an aberration or part of a policy of atrocities consciously followed out as part of a strategic pattern?'

His answer should be branded on the foreheads of every 'left' MP who thinks Wilson can or will speak for labour in Washington. I am certain most MPs will reject any suggestion that this is or has been part of the top direction of the war either at political or high strategic level.

UNCONVINCING

This statement might convince the credulous and the naive, but it will not convince those who today see the war as the continuation of 'politics by other means'. The lie in this version of

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Briefly

PROFITS UP: The Rugby Portland Cement Company's half-yearly profits have increased from £2,096,952 to £2,415,640 in the first half of this year following the recent government-approved cement price increase.

Barclays Bank DCO (Barclay's overseas banking subsidiary) has increased its net profit by £670,000 to £5.17 million for the year ended September 30, 1969.

Spears and Jackson—the steel and tool makers—on the basis of half-yearly profits of £274,000, have announced that their target of a 20 per cent profit increase for the full year should be easily attained.

BBC DEFICIT GROWS: The BBC's annual report has shown that the Corporation's home radio and television service ran at a deficit of £4,456,000 in the year ended March, 1969.

The size of the deficit—more than double the previous year's figure—will increase the pressure on BBC workers for greater productivity and throw the BBC's big expansion plans yet more into question.

The report blames the deficit chiefly on the government's delay in introducing the £6 combined radio and television licence fee, but also cites increasing SET and national insurance costs, and the ineffectiveness of the campaign to enforce the buying of licences.

TRAILER-LORRY MANNING: Minister of Transport Fred Mulley yesterday published proposed amendments to the Construction and Use regulations which would remove the requirement for a vehicle pulling a trailer to carry a second driver.

A deadline for comments on the proposals has been set by the Ministry of Transport for mid-January 1970.

BRS STRIKE: About 2,500 British Road Services drivers and loaders returned to work yesterday following Monday's shop stewards' meeting which voted by a small majority to accept the management's offer of £3-a-week more but with productivity strings.

Many BRS stewards and workers are angry that their £4 claim with no strings for which they struck, has not been fought for to the finish.

13 BRS depots were continuing the strike yesterday for the original claim, according to a National Freight Federation spokesman.

NICKEL SHARES BOOM: The shares of the Australian nickel mining company, Poseidon, reached a record high level of £40 10s. on the London stock markets yesterday.

The share values have rocketed from the £5 price at the beginning of October because of the discovery of a rich nickel field in Western Australia.

The shares could double or treble again in price, but the profitability of the field is still very much a matter of guesswork.

STOP WILSON'S WASHINGTON VISIT!

FOR THE DEFEAT OF US IMPERIALISM IN VIETNAM! DEMONSTRATION SUNDAY JAN. 11

ASSEMBLE: Speakers' Corner (Marble Arch), 2 P.M.

MARCH: via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Trafalgar Square past Downing Street.

MEETING: Lyceum Ballroom, near Aldwych, 4 P.M.

Auspices Young Socialists

WEATHER

London area, SE and central Southern England, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Mainly dry, some bright periods. Wind south-west, light or moderate. Near normal. Maximum 9C (48F).

SW England: Rather cloudy, occasional rain later. Wind south-west, moderate. Near normal, maximum 9C (48F).

Central Northern England, W Midlands: Rather cloudy, occasional rain later. Wind south-west, moderate. Near normal. Maximum 7C (45F).

NW England: Mainly cloudy, occasional rain, becoming brighter with showers later. Wind westerly, fresh, locally strong. Near normal. Maximum 7C (45F).

Edinburgh, Northern Ireland: Mainly cloudy, occasional rain, becoming brighter with showers later. Wind westerly, strong. Below normal. Maximum 6C (43F).

Glasgow area: Snow showers over hills, sunny periods. Wind westerly, strong. Rather cold. Maximum 5C (41F).

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Mainly dry with near normal temperatures in the south. Showers in the north.

GREET WORKERS PRESS



at public meetings

See the film of the first issue being prepared and printed and the film 'Young Socialists, 1969'

LIVERPOOL

Sunday, December 14, 7.30 p.m.
Shaftesbury Hotel, Mount Pleasant

SHEFFIELD

Sunday December 21, 7.30 p.m.
Industries Exhibition Centre
Carver Street (behind City Hall)

Speakers

MIKE BANDA (Editor of Workers' Press)
SHEILA TORRANCE (National Secretary of the Young Socialists)

The 'black republic' slogan

THE Communist Party of South Africa has never, nor can it ever, shed the collaboratorist influence of social democracy and of white liberalism.

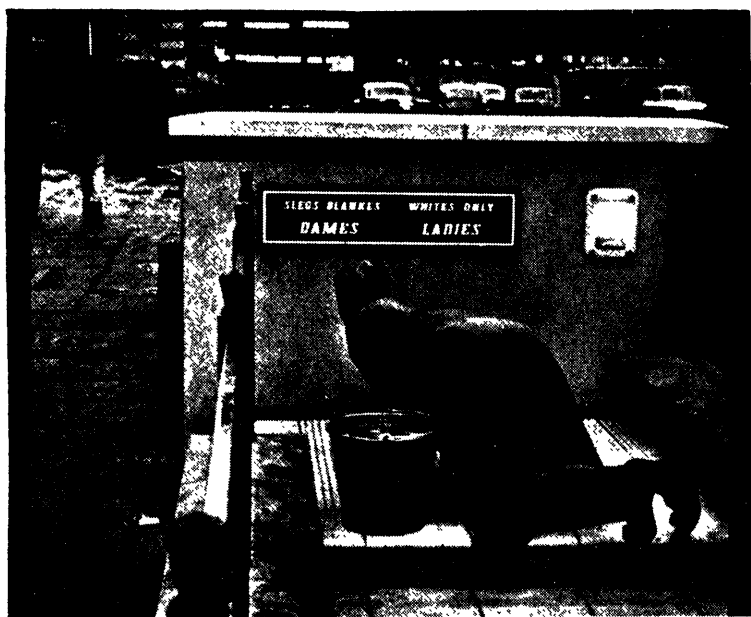
The former remained an ingrained element of the Party, even as it receded from the surface, while white liberalism became a more pronounced, 'indigenous' influence upon its thinking and actions.

For just as the essence of social democracy is collaboration with imperialism, so the essential CPSA policy remained collaboration—on one level or another—with the modus operandi of imperialism in South Africa: apartheid.

And it was for this reason—its basic adherence to collaboration—that it rejected organizations which were later, in the 1940s, to openly proclaim the policy of non-collaboration as paramount.

Marxism is the science of class struggle. Its antithesis is class collaboration.

In the Popular Front period of 1923-1934 the CPSA violated this principle by collaborating with two sections of the oppressors—white labour and the white farmers.



An African woman scrubs the steps leading to a (white) 'Ladies'.

This was to be followed, in the 1930s, by collaboration with other sections of the oppressors, such as white industry and commerce, and even imperialist mining finance, as represented—in social reality—by the 'liberals'.

Before this, there was the 'black republic' period in the CPSA story.

In 1928 the Party's spokesmen, like Bunting, had declared for a workers' and peasants' government 'predominantly native in character' (p. 386.)

By 1926, the CPSA had 'advanced' only as far as demanding the abolition of certain colour bars, not the entire colour-bar system.

Its policy at that time was for the repeal of certain racial laws, for 'an extension of the Cape franchise to other provinces' (i.e. for segregation politically, because the Cape franchise denied 90 per cent of the non-Europeans the right to vote and all non-Europeans the right to sit in parliament).

It also proposed 'the right of Africans to elect representatives to "native councils"' ('South African Workers', August 13, 1926, p. 388).

These 'native councils' were set up as the nuclei of the

A REVIEW OF 'CLASS AND COLOUR IN SOUTH AFRICA' IN THREE PARTS

BY N. MAKANDA PART TWO

present Bantustan 'parliaments' by Cecil Rhodes in his notorious Glen Grey Act.

They, like the Cape franchise, were integral parts of the whole apartheid system.

In 1926 the CPSA was still defending the system of apartheid by trying to reform it on the basis of segregation (apartheid) itself, as its policy clearly showed.

It was the rise of the International Coloureds Union and the strikes and political struggles by the ICU, the African National Congress and other non-European organizations, rather than the CP's policy, that brought a small number of African and Coloured members into the CP.

And, in 1927, three Africans were elected for the first time onto the Central Committee.

One of the Coloured recruits James la Guma, a delegate to Brussels and other overseas anti-imperialist conferences, advocated 'self-determination' for the Africans.

Whether he knew it or not, he was expressing, in an early

defence of 'native representation', which discriminated politically against Africans.

The social base of this latent nationalism was not the African workers, but the small, albeit oppressed, non-European, would-be bourgeois.

And the latter was again and again to prove an essential factor in the apartheid system of using 'Quislings' to regiment the Africans.

The CPSA and the 'Left turn'

La Guma went to Moscow in 1927 and met the executive committee of the Third (Communist) International, including Bukharin.

This was during the critical period in the persecution of Trotsky's Left Opposition and the rise of Stalinism.

Bukharin was passing through a phase in this process and was later to be liquidated as a 'right-winger' by the Stalin terror.

But at the time of the La Guma-Bukharin meeting, the rising and usurping bureaucracy in the Soviet Union was on the point of a 'left turn', known as the 'Third Period', when 'anti-imperialism' was on the order of the day.

It was also the period of the forced collectivization and similar drives against right-wing elements like the Kulaks.

The 'black republic' slogan, mooted by La Guma and echoed by Bunting, temporarily suited the rising Stalinist bureaucracy's foreign policy.

The Simons are silent about this and many other aspects of Stalinism.

On the other hand, the CPSA's 'right wing', led by Andrews, was opposed to the 'black republic'.

In its eyes the 'black republic' stood for an attack on white labour whose colour-bar interests were still being upheld by Andrews and others in the CPSA. (This was the period when Andrews rejected

the ICU application to join the TUC.)

Bunting was being influenced by Gumede and others in the reformist, 'nationalist' African National Congress.

But he had a paternalistic attitude towards the Africans and did not believe they could make a revolution 'yet', because of 'the extreme backwardness and widespread apathy of the native masses' (p. 393).

He came out, at first, against a 'Negro republic'. The Simons say: 'As in 1922, he tended to equate

workers' power with white power, and refused to credit the possibility of majority African rule' (p. 394).

(The last phrase of the Simons sounds like present-day British Labour - imperialists speaking on Rhodesia.)

Bunting and other opponents of the 'black republic' argued not from the Africans' viewpoint, but from the white workers', using the argument that the slogan would antagonize the white workers.

Roux, who sympathized with Bunting, and later wrote the biography 'S. P. Bunting', accused the Communist International of 'forcing' the slogan on the Party. But this was later (1949), and was made from a liberal standpoint, not a revolutionary one.

La Guma defended the 'black republic' against Bunting from a bourgeois-nationalist viewpoint (and later became a militant 'nationalist', often hounded by the CPSA).

He had a hard time fighting for his slogan in the CPSA, despite the fact that there were 200 Africans in the Party in 1927, swollen, by 'Third Period' recruiting, to 1,600, out of a total of 1,750 by 1928.

The adoption of the slogan was followed by a purge of Bunting, Roux and others, although they upheld the policy in public.

It is significant that they took the slogan to the first major Bantustan—the Transkeian region—during an 'election' in which Bunting stood as a European to be 'elected' by a handful of 'Cape franchise' non-Europeans, who themselves could not sit in parliament.

But even during the 'black

republic' period, the Party continued to collaborate with the apartheid machinery of oppression, as critics of the CPSA were later to call the racial elections.

The League of African Rights

The CP took the lead in setting up the League of African Rights, with the slogan 'Long live the native republic'.

The idea came from the Comintern's 6th Congress and from the British CP's 'colonial commission'. It was negro-phobic.

Roux later said that the League was dissolved on orders from Moscow (p. 421) in late 1929.

Bunting appealed to the British CP against the order, but to no purpose. The propagandist League was to be replaced by the general strike. The inevitable result of this adventurist 'turn' was the shooting down of militants and demoralization in and around the party.

One of the victims was the Durban 'Zulu' CP member Johannes Nkosi, stabbed to death and mutilated.

An adventurist 'anti-pass' campaign had sacrificed Nkosi. Again, the Simons are silent, when they are not justifying the 'Third Period', as they do on page 436. But more was to come.

In May 1930, the Executive Committee of the Comintern (ECCI) indicted the CPSA for 'serious mistakes of a right-opportunist character' (p. 438).

The Simons make no attempt to explain this in terms of the Soviet bureaucracy's policy at the time, nor to relate its foreign policy to its domestic policy.

The ECCI proposed an anti-Leninist two-stage theory for South Africa: first 'capitalist democracy', then 'socialism'.

The time was ripe, it said, for the 'national revolution' to realize the first stage.

The ECCI condemned the League, the ANC and the ICU as 'petty-bourgeois nationalist parties', with whom the CP should not form a common front (the same CP which had formed a Popular Front with the apartheid Labour and nationalist parties).

While the Simons gently criticize the ECCI resolution, they fail to explain its causes.

Bunting came in for direct attack by the ECCI, together with Roux and Andrews, whose chauvinism they had previously condoned.

The ECCI called for 'a struggle against the entire system of imperialist oppression', which had to be translated there and then into action.

The Party had to form 'independent native workers' and

peasants' republics as a transitory stage towards a subsequent Union of Socialist Soviet Republics of Africa'.

The white delegate to the Comintern, Wolton, led the attack on the right wing. He held that the workers were 'ripe for revolution'. (This was at the height of a government offensive against the African workers).

Bunting, Andrews, Sachs and other 'right wingers' were expelled in September 1931.

Wolton, leader of the campaign, had himself stood for parliament as a white standing for an all-white parliament. But this was not 'right-wing activity'.

La Guma was expelled. He had opposed Wolton in his 1929 'election' campaign.

Many of those expelled rejoined the Party and became expellers during the period following the 'black republic'.

In these expulsions, the right wing was accused of 'Trotskyism', among other things, a sin they were very innocent of. Thibedi, an African Party member, was accused of starting an 'Oppositionist' Trotskyist Communist League, with Bunting's aid.

(Bunting later wrote a book on South Africa in which he spends only 50 lines on the CPSA!)

The Simons go as far as saying that the ECCI's accusations that the right wing were 'agents of imperialism' was as groundless as the ECCI's assumption of an imminent revolutionary upsurge' (p. 452).

The expulsions were soon followed by the hounding out of the Party of the expellers and, indeed, of the 'black republic' itself.

The 'black republic' slogan was given many interpretations

In practice their white leaders continued to operate in the white trade unions, whilst most of their organizers in the African and coloured unions were non-white.

They did not 'mix' their unions, except for a few attempts such as that of W. Kalk, who tried to form a leather workers' union for white and non-white workers in 1934.

The attempt failed. The CP then began to operate the anti-African, segregationist and class-collaborationist Industrial Conciliation Act of the 1920s.

This was part of the government's policy of drawing the white workers into a common anti-black front with the employing classes.

It set up machinery for state control of white unions, for recognition of white labour as 'civilized', for the registration of unions which excluded Africans, defined African labour as 'uncivilized', denied registration to African unions and segregated the 'recognized' unions into separate 'white' and 'Coloured' branches.

The CPSA worked this anti-African, racial, apartheid Act to the full from 1934-1935 until it was banned in 1950.

Its trade unionists continued to operate this Act after the banning of the Party.

This well-known fact is admitted by the Simons (p. 458). However, they make no admission of its significance: that on a large scale and for a very long time, the CPSA worked, upheld and benefited from a major apartheid law and policy in a major field, the economic plane.

On the contrary, the authors criticize the 'black republic' period's refusal to work the segregationist Industrial Conciliation Act and they de-

Pictures by Ernest Cole from his book 'House of Bondage'



Wards in South African hospitals for Africans operate at 50 per cent beyond capacity. Chairs are used for beds.

by the CPSA, including one which meant the tribalization of South Africa.

Thus Lazar Bach, one of the 'Europeans' who led the expulsions and controlled the voluntary association of national republics—Sotho, Tswana, Swazi, Zulu, Xhosa—in a federation of independent native republics ('Umzebenzi', May 5, 1934, p. 473).

This was not an extension of the Leninist nationality thesis to South Africa, but an adaptation of tribal divide-and-rule policy, an acceptance of the racialist status quo.

Bach did not advocate separate republics for Jews, Englishmen, Germans and Afrikaners.

He accepted the unity of the 'white nation', but did otherwise for the Africans. He treated the 'tribes', whose system had long been destroyed by imperialism, as 'nations'.

What was sound for the USSR, when transferred mechanically to South Africa, was not national liberation, but plain segregation.

The Simons express the CP's barrenness in theory by making no attempt to analyse this question.

The Industrial Conciliation Act

During the 'black republic' period the CP operated the 'red trade union' tactic in theory.

fend its operation by the CP (p. 458).

Ray Alexander was a party Party, said that it meant 'a to this acceptance and working of racial discrimination in the industrial field.

She was party to the CP practice of running registered unions of white, coloured and Indian workers (often dividing these into segregated branches with coloured and Indian members in second-class branches, as in the Garment Workers' Union of Solly Sachs on the Rand).

At the same time the CP formed 'parallel' African unions, unregistered and without a legal say in the union or in wage determinations.

Moreover, when anti-segregationists attacked this racial policy and proposed that the only correct principle and practice was the formation of non-racial, unregistered unions outside the Act and independence of the state, the CP condemned this as 'impracticable', 'idealistic' and 'Trotskyist'.

The Simons apologize for the anti-African trade union line of the CP on the grounds that it was 'expedient' and that it brought results.

It is not the first time that they had betrayed principles on the altar of expediency, nor the last time that this sacrifice (of African labour to white apartheid) was to be justified by means of British pragmatism—results.

As for the latter, the African workers—segregated into inferior, tailoring unions—might well ask, with the unions in ruins anyway, what were the 'results' of the CP's 'expediency'.



African workers journey home: The big squeeze comes at the end of the ride when they have to wait up to 25 minutes before passing through the narrow exit gates.

B.B.C.-1

9.15 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 12.25 p.m. Nai Zindagi-Naya Ievan. 12.55 Disc A Dawn. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News and Weather. 2.05-2.50 Schools. 3.45 Representing The Union. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Heidi and Peter. 5.15 Tom Tom. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 National News and Weather.

6.00 London-Nationwide.

6.45 The Doctors. 7.10 The Laugh Parade: 'The Grass is Greener' with Cary Grant, Deborah Kerr, Robert Mitchum and Jean Simmons.

8.50 The Main News and Weather.

9.10 The Wednesday Play: 'The Vortex' by Noel Coward.

10.20 International Football: England v. Portugal.

11.00 24 Hours.

11.35 Weatherman.

All regions as BBC-1 except at the following times:

Midlands and East Anglia: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Midlands Today, Look East.

TODAYS TV

Weather, Nationwide. 11.37 News Summary, Weather.

Northern England: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Look North, Weather, Nationwide. 11.37 News Headlines.

Wales: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Wales Today, Nationwide. 6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 10.20-11.35 Springboks in Wales.

Scotland: 2.30-2.50 p.m. Schools. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. 10.20-11.00 Moviemakers. 11.30-11.52 Made In Britain. 11.52 Epilogue, News Headlines.

Northern Ireland: 10.25-10.45 a.m. Schools. 6.00-6.45 p.m. Scene Around Six, Nationwide. 11.37 News Headlines.

South and West: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Points West, South Today, Spotlight South-West, Weather, Nationwide. 11.37 News Headlines.

B.B.C.-2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School. 7.00 p.m. Expecting A Baby. 7.30 Newsroom and Weather.

8.00 Man Alive: What's the truth about Hell's Angels and Skinheads?

8.50 Know Your Onions.

9.10 Show Of The Week: Vera Lynn and guests.

9.55 My World... And Welcome To It.

10.20 News Summary and Weather.

10.25 Cuba—Ten Years After.

11.05 Line Up.

I.T.V.

4.15 p.m. News Headlines. 4.17 The Tingha and Tucker Club.

4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Lift Off.

5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 News.

6.03 Today.

6.30 The Ghost and Mrs Muir.

7.00 This Is Your Life.

7.30 Coronation Street.

8.00 The Champions.

9.00 Special Branch.

10.00 News At Ten.

10.30 Lonnie.

11.00 Professional Wrestling.

11.45 The Papers.

12.00 midnight A Question Of Human Rights.

All independent channels as London ITV except at following times:

CHANNEL: 11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-3.25 p.m. Schools. 4.01 Hatty Town. 4.13 Westward News Headlines. 4.15 Open House. 4.40 The Gus Honey-bun Show. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure Hunt. 8.00 The Saint. 11.45 Faith For Life. 11.51 Weather In French, Weather.

SOUTHERN: 11.45-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.00 House-party. 6.00 Day by Day and Crime Desk. 6.35 Castle Haven. 8.00 The Baron. 10.30 Facing South. 10.50 Southern News. 11.45 The Weather Forecast, The New Liturgy.

WESTWARD: 11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-3.25 p.m. Schools. 4.01 Hatty Town. 4.13 Westward News Headlines. 4.15 Open House. 4.40 The Gus Honey-bun Show. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure Hunt. 8.00 The Saint. 11.45 Faith For Life. 11.51 Weather.

HARLECH: 11.45-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.18 It's Time For Me. 4.25 High Living. 6.01 Report. 6.20 Batman. 6.35 Crossroads. 8.00 Marcus Welby MD. 11.45 Weather. Harlech (Wales) as above except: 2.55 p.m. Interlude. 3.05-4.18 Sherlock Holmes Festival. 4.29-4.55 Crossroads. 6.01 Y Dyd. 6.26 Castle Haven. 6.51-7.00 Report.

ANGLIA: 11.43-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.38-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.05 Katie Stewart Cooks. 4.30 Anglia Newsroom. 4.35 The Romper Room. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 8.00 The Avengers. 11.45 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.45-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.00 News Headlines. 4.02 Houseparty. 4.15 Halls of Ivy. 4.40 The Tingha and Tucker Club. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 8.00 Department 5. 11.45 Pulse, Weather.

ULSTER: 11.45-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.30 Romper Room. 4.50 Ulster News Headlines. 6.00 UTV Reporter. 6.35 Crossroads. 8.00 Marcus Welby MD. 11.45 Weather.

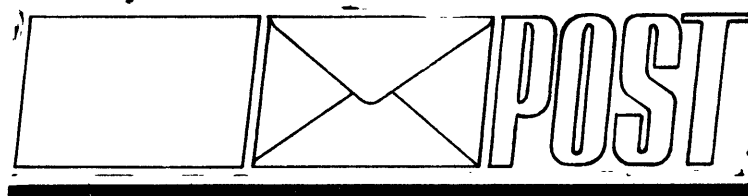
YORKSHIRE: 11.45 a.m.-2.35 p.m. Schools. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Hatty Town. 4.30 Tales From Dickens: 'A Christmas Carol'. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.30 Logan's Heroes. 8.00 The Saint. 11.45 Late Weather.

TYNE-TEES: 11.45-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.38-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.09 North East Newsroom. 4.11 News Headlines. 4.13 Torch. 4.30 Freud On Food. 4.53 North East Newsroom. 6.00 Today At Haven. 6.00 Police Call. 6.35 Castle Haven. 8.00 Man In A Suitcase. 10.30 Face The Press: Professor Henry Miller. 11.45 Late News Extra. 12.02 a.m. The Season Of Advent.

SCOTTISH: 11.45-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.05-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.20 Scotland Early. 4.50 Uster News Headlines. 6.00 The Legend of Jesse James. 8.00 The Saint. 10.30 Scotsport. 11.30 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 Late Call.

GRAMPIAN: 11.43-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.38-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.30 Castle Haven. 6.00 Grampian News. 6.10 Grampian Week. 6.35 Crossroads. 8.00 The Baron. 8.55 Police News.

Three Communist Party members write to Workers Press



From the Editor

WE welcome the letter of the three CP members. It shows clearly the profound concern of militant Party members with the rightward drift of the Party—so evident at the 31st Congress—and the growing interest in the programme and policy of Trotskyism.

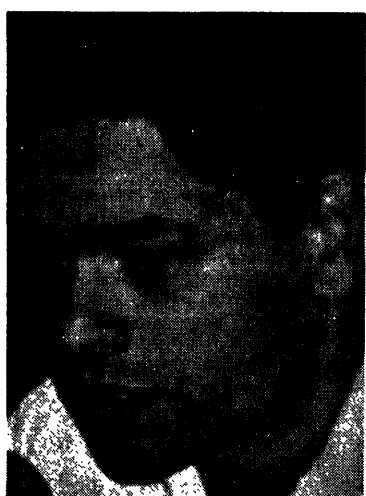
While welcoming their desire to work with the Socialist Labour League, we feel we must point out that there can be no question of unity; i.e. organizational fusion of the SLL with the Communist Party.

The Communist Party—and here we mean the programme and policy of its leaders—is a reformist party which aims to reform capitalism and defend the interests (read Sam Russell on Voroshilov) and policies of the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy in the Kremlin.

The SLL however, is a revolutionary Leninist party which subordinates the struggle for reforms to the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and, moreover, defends the USSR from imperialism while implacably opposing the excesses and methods of the Soviet bureaucracy, inside and outside the USSR.

Political and theoretical differences, however, do not preclude the coming together of the CP and the SLL in specific actions to resist the onslaught of the capitalist class or in taking the offensive against it. 'March separately, strike together' should be the watchword of such united action.

Such united action does not mean, however, that both parties sink all differences and



Michael Banda: Workers Press editor.

keep their mouths shut in relation to theory, policy and programme. It presupposes, in fact demands, an uncompromising struggle against reformism and opportunism.

The classic historical example of such a combination of struggle and unity is provided by Lenin's policy and method in the period between February and October 1917.

While fighting the right-wing policies of the Social-Revolutionaries and Mensheviks—as well as the conciliators within the Bolsheviks, Stalin and Kamenev—Lenin at the same time proposed to the reformists a joint struggle around the fundamental issues of 'Peace, Bread and Land'.

The refusal of the reformists to respond to the Bolsheviks led finally to the break-up of the SR and Menshevik parties and the passage of thousands of their members to the Bolshevik side in the Soviets.

At the same time it enabled the Bolsheviks to form a united front with the Left SRs—a split from the Social Revolutionary party—to defend the Soviets from the Kornilov-Kerensky conspiracy and prepare the overthrow of the Provisional government.

Lenin was neither a sectarian nor an opportunist. The united front to him—and to us—was

a tactic subordinate to the strategy of the revolution. In this sense there is a world of difference between Lenin and the antics of the CP and the revisionists at the National Convention of the Left.

This was a gathering of a varied assortment of reformist and opportunist groups, communists and anti-communists, atheists and god-believers on a completely promiscuous political basis. The purpose of the convention was to prevent the creation of a mass revolutionary leadership for the working class.

The 'Left' nature of the convention was belied by the presence of such groups as the 'Student Christians', Young Liberals and Zionists. What interests has the working class in common with the political descendants of Jesus Christ, Lloyd George and Theodore Herzl?

The real purpose as outlined by Raymond Williams—leader of the now defunct May Day Manifesto group—was to find a suitable substitute for the Labour Party and not a revolutionary alternative to it.

The issue of Stalinism—despite the lessons of May-June in France and the invasion of Czechoslovakia—was never discussed.

The most loathsome performance was certainly that of the 'International Socialism' group which despite its anti-Soviet 'state capitalism' grovelled at the feet of the Stalinists and even proposed immediate unification on 'a delegate basis'.

The subsequent history of this Convention representing 105 organizations (!) speaks for itself. It testifies in a pitiable way to the only correct thing which was said by one of its founders, Nigel Harris: 'The biggest single danger is that nothing will come out of this conference'.

The Socialist Labour League refused quite correctly to support the Convention because it was a Convention designed to confuse and disorientate the working class.

It did nothing to alarm the capitalist class and even less to inspire the working class which was then getting ready to struggle against Wilson's anti-union laws.

We have on many occasions since 1965 addressed letters and appeals to the Communist Party leaders for a joint struggle against Wilson's policies. These letters remain unacknowledged and unanswered. Instead King Street sought to sabotage every lobby called by the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League.

Why? Because Gollan and Dutt, instead of fighting to get rid of Wilson prefer to rely on the Left MPs and the TUC to pressure Wilson to change certain aspects of his policy.

This also explains the failure of the National Convention or any of the Communist Party-dominated Liaison Committees to campaign for the nationalization of the motor-car and components industry under workers' control.

It also explains, amongst other things, Gollan's support for Wilson's visit to Washington.

In conclusion, we are prepared to unite in action with the Communist Party in any common action to defeat the Prices and Incomes Bill, to stop Wilson's visit to Washington and to secure the nationalization of the motor-car and components industry under workers' control without compensation.

M. Banda.

Dear Editor,

CONSCIOUS of the heightening crisis of imperialism and the growth of fascist tendencies in Britain, we feel that the time is ripe for members of the CPGB and SLL and other factions on the left to unite their forces.

Many points in your programme have a strong appeal to us and at this stage of development are well considered and timely.

We pledge to do our utmost to achieve this unity with all other comrades in the CPGB. We cannot accept all your theories and concepts but we

have much in common with you on many issues and welcome a common platform.

Your consistent campaigning on nationalization of motors is more valid and necessary now than it has ever been.

However we would like to have seen joint discussions where SLL and CPGB could have met at the recent 'Left Convention' which provides a platform for the whole of the militant left.

Fraternally,
L. Llewellyn
J. Conbeer
G. Carter

A reply from the Editor



FEBRUARY 1917



OCTOBER 1917

JUST OVER two weeks ago a film 'Man's Fate' ironically enough was about to go on the floor at MGM's studios at Boreham Wood.

Something like three years' work had gone into the preparation of it.

Everything was set up, crews hired, technicians, plumbers, hairdressers, the whole catalogue of skills that go into the making of a film.

Then suddenly Metro Goldwyn Mayer announced that it was pulling out of the production and there were rumours too that their studios at Boreham Wood would be shut down.

That was that particular 'Man's Fate'.

It marks a new and more serious development in the crisis of the British film industry.

What was once an expected seasonal hazard has now taken on the ugly threat of unemployment.

'Out of work' is rapidly becoming the most common expression in the film world and there are little prospects that 1970 offers any improvement.

On the contrary it looks as though the crisis will intensify. The centre of the problem is, of course, located in Hollywood, and since 60 of the 70 films that constitute the annual British output are financed directly by American capital, it is clear that the growing crisis of American imperialism expresses itself most directly in this particular overseas outpost.

The big major companies are being hit by the credit squeeze and high interest rates.

According to the 'Economist' the balance sheets of the majors are as follows.

MGM has forecast a loss of 25 million dollars for the year; Columbia's profits were down 40 per cent; Paramount made a loss.

Twentieth Century Fox has declared a loss of 22 million dollars for the first nine months of the year, Universal a loss of 7 million dollars, Warner Seven Arts a loss.

Most of these companies have been taken over in the past year by vast American conglomerates. Gulf and Western is the parent of Paramount, Music Corporation of America of Universal, Transamerica of United Artists, Kinney National Services of Warner Seven Arts.

The movement into the entertainment industry by these vast combines reflects the general insecurity over the value of paper money which characterizes the crisis of world capitalism.

It is the speculative urge for quick returns which moves away from investment in basic industries and into service industries.

It is the same edginess and uncertainty that has produced currency speculation for quick killings.

The conglomerates have had to find new outlets for surplus capital and they have moved into the film world because there are still possibilities of enormous returns for relatively small capital investment.

The latest sensational example is 'Easy Rider' which cost merely 375,000 dollars to make and is estimated to gross 50 million dollars.

The implications of this move suggest that the giants have entered films for a flutter, a spin of the roulette wheel.

What follows then is a rapid rationalization, a cutting back in output, a pruning of all that is inessential.

Studios are closed because they have expensive overheads to run. The number of films for production is cut.

Associated British Picture Corporation (ABPC)—now part of EMI—until now, the only British film company, announced its programme a few weeks ago.

Its planned production in Britain for the next six months was only 17 films as opposed to the 27 made during the same period last year.

This is now the real threat for workers in the industry.

Assuming that the major companies recover from this year's losses, which are further intensified by the fact that they have large sums of capital invested in high budget films either not yet released, for which they are paying high interest costs, or else not yet earning their initial outlay, what then?

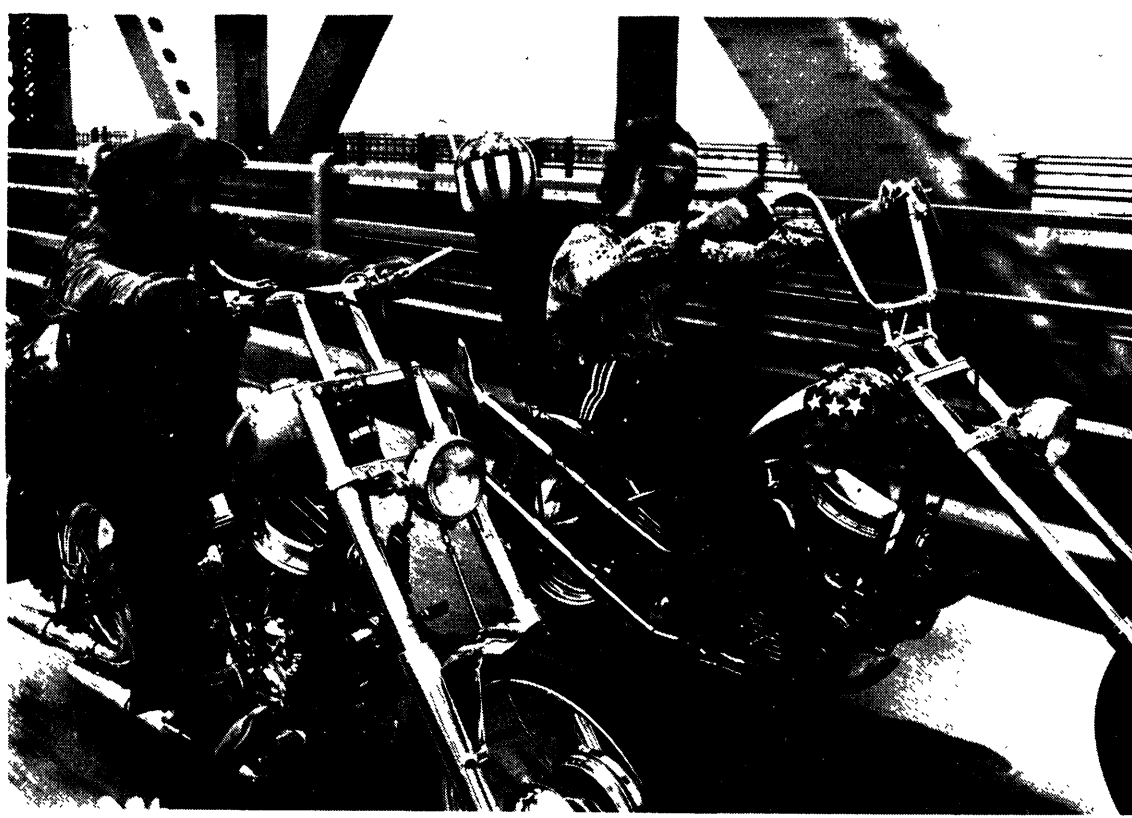
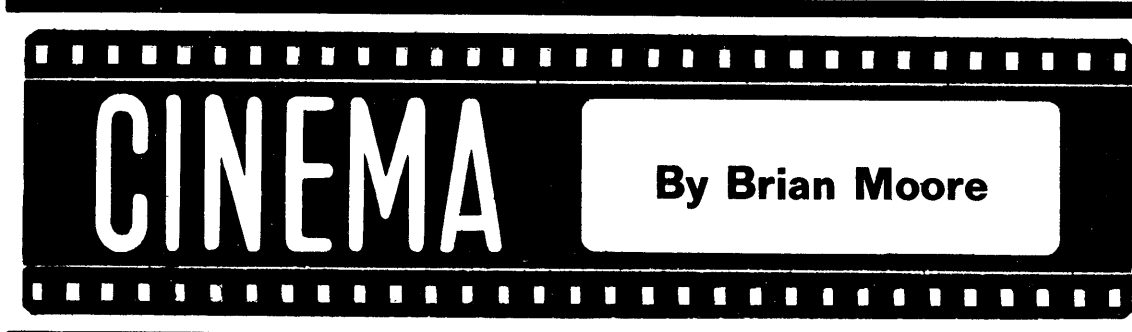
We can expect a freeze in production.

And it is in Britain that workers will be hardest hit.

For the conglomerates it is clear that the production of films is secondary to the hope of quick returns, so that the industry, in its present form, must be run down.

The anarchy of capitalist film production, concealed to a certain extent during a boom period, is now beginning to

Whose fate?



'Easy Rider': a quick flutter for the US conglomerates.

reveal itself in a much sharper form.

Four hundred workers were laid off the other week, and productions are terminated abruptly and capriciously.

As in other industries the threat of unemployment is the prelude to an attempt to cut production costs and cut back on wages and gains that have been fought for and won over the past years.

What must become clear to workers in the industry is that now they are very much thrown into the centre of the crisis of world capitalism and the old reformist and economist demands are totally inadequate to the new situation.

You cannot negotiate redundancies and it is clear that the conglomerates are in no mood to 'pander' to the unions.

They want blood; cheaper and fewer productions, and that means that they are trying for lower wages and less employment.

The only fight that can now be waged must be a political one, to call for a nationalization of the industry under workers' control.

Any other illusions can only lead to defeat.

This makes it even more important for workers to be on their guard against reformist and Stalinist influence in the unions.

The Workers Press has always insisted on the cravenness of their class compromise and their ultimate betrayals.

Closing the books of ACTT membership is merely a defensive action, a response to a worsening situation.

But there is no place for this. A headlong fight and campaign has now to be waged, to raise the political consciousness of the membership, to clarify the real economic and political questions.

Workers in the industry must not be isolated from the other workers' struggles throughout the country.

The problem is a common one, the problem of world capitalism entering a deep crisis which can only be understood by Marxist revolutionaries.

The only defence is revolutionary attack by mass working-class action under the banner of Marxism.

As workers internationally

are engaged in struggle on an unprecedented scale it is inevitable that middle-class reformists will enter the fray to curtail and head off this movement.

These tendencies must be fought.

The Free Communications Group tries to come onto the scene with all the old craven reformist illusions.

Workers in films and television must be on their guard against these poseurs and dilettantes.

They offer nothing but the polite gossip of the drawing room.

What must be done? The old policy of wait-and-see? Wait and see whether the conglomerates will sort out the problem for us, wait for further unemployment, doff our caps to the masters whose only reason in life is the extraction of profit, leave the problem in the hands of the reformist bureaucracy?

Or do we take up the fight politically as Marxists, finish this charade once and for all. Call for nationalization of the industry under workers' control without compensation! Whose fate is it?

MOSCOW



TRIALS ANTHOLOGY

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Despite witch-hunt Coventry strikers must beat 'speed-up' system

By a Workers Press correspondent

PRESS-SHOP workers at Coventry Radiators are continuing their strike over suspensions in the teeth of a vicious witch-hunt in the local press against the alleged influence of 'disruptive elements'.

The strikers' decision not to meet again until Friday has alarmed the firm's directors.

A statement by managing director Mr H. W. Raine has led to a huge smokescreen, obscuring the real issues, being blown up in the 'Birmingham Mail' and the 'Coventry Telegraph'.

On December 4, the day of the press workers' last meeting, a 'Birmingham Mail' article reported that union officials were calling on the 200 men to end their 13-day-old strike 'but strong opposition was feared from disruptive elements said to have persuaded workers to override an agreement reached with the company last June'.

'The trouble at the plant,' claimed a 'Mail' reporter, 'appears to be the first stand-up battle since last month's meeting in Birmingham of the All Trades Unions Alliance. Trotskyists made clear their determination to challenge the Communist Party hierarchy's claim to leadership in the struggle against existing economic and political order.'

Only the last point of this speculative nonsense is true.

Oppose deals

What is more, Trotskyists will fight all Measured-Day Work and other productivity deals.

Their refusal to co-operate with the employers in such schemes will certainly not be regarded with disfavour by the growing numbers of workers faced by precisely this battle.

The 'Mail' article was quickly followed up by another attack on 'extremist' groups from Coventry Radiators.

Extracts from a letter sent by the 'Telegraph' to every employee were given to the press.

His views were highlighted on the front page of the December 5 'Coventry Telegraph'.

Raine's claim, reported by the 'Telegraph', that 'Trotskyist activity is behind industrial unrest at the factory' is completely untrue.

Workers correctly point out that the press operators' strike is due to the actions of the company.

They allege that the management was trying arbitrarily to fix their pace of working and that even under the productivity deal accepted by the previous shop-steward leadership they had a 'status quo' form of agreement when targets were in dispute.

When there was a disagreement over target figures in relation to prices, the men would revert to a basic standard quantity until settlement was reached.

Denied

The management denies this. Every time workers have resorted to basic time-working in the last few months, they have been suspended.

The press workers have struck in the last four weeks and are still out now in support of their demand that prices and quantities are mutually agreed.

Raine's letter to employees states that he is 'so sure about what the terms of the agreement require from both parties that I would welcome a return to work and immediate examination by either the Trades Union Congress or the Department of Employment and Productivity'.

Of course! Like the capitalist press, the Labour government and the union leaders are for productivity deals.

The strikers have received full support from their Transport and General Workers' branch, but their union

officials still refuse to support them.

Now support must be enlisted from other workers in the combine.

The vicious system of continual speed-up in the press shop must be broken.

BRITISH BASES MUST GO SAYS LIBYAN LEADER

By a foreign correspondent

TALKS on the winding-up of British bases in Libya began on Monday night with a statement by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi that he was not prepared to waste time arguing about legalities:

'I would like to advise the negotiators not to waste time in discussing the case from the legal side by discussing the text of the 1953 Anglo-Libyan Treaty [concluded between the Tories and the recently deposed King Idris].'

'The question to discuss today is related to the existence of foreign troops occupying part of Libya and is not a question of a treaty at all.'

CHAIRMAN

Colonel Gaddafi is chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council established after King Idris was ousted by a military coup on September 1 this year.

Generator breakdowns cause crisis

THE BREAKDOWN of three of the four 500 megawatt generators at the Egborough power station in Yorkshire is causing some consternation to the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB).

Short circuits have occurred in the generator windings which have resulted in the melting of both copper and steel parts, causing gross failure.

So far, five of the machines supplied by AEI have been in trouble and until the fault can be traced some 22 generating sets at eight power stations are suspect.

AEI have stated that they believe there is no basic design fault in the generators.

The proposed massive expansion in generating plant has meant that the CEGB has pushed manufacturers to provide more massive generating sets at short notice.

13 stations

The Board's plans call for 43 of a total of 47 500-MW units to be in service by the end of 1970.

A total of 13 power stations are being equipped with these units.

So great is the advantage of scale—£4 per kilowatt (10 per cent) on capital cost for the jump from the 350-MW sets of the early 1960s to 500-MW machines—that suppliers have had to develop a new size of plant without the time to incorporate current operating experience.

The result is that by the end of next year about a third of the CEGB's generating capacity will rely on units which were first commissioned less than four years ago.

No bearing

Reports that two of the 500-MW sets at the Aberthaw station in South Wales have been 'sabotaged' have no bearing on the trouble at Egborough, as has been admitted by AEI.

It may be weeks before the cause of the generator failures is traced and rectified and could become the biggest of a series of problems that have plagued the CEGB in recent months.

It spent the summer and autumn welding a rash of

No agreement in Sino-Soviet border talks

NOW in their eighth week, the Soviet-Chinese boundary talks in Peking have so far failed to reach any agreement.

The negotiations are complicated by Soviet involvement in the arms limitation talks in Helsinki with the United States government on the one hand, and the news that Chinese-US contact was made in Warsaw last week on the other.

With these diplomatic moves and counter-moves taking place elsewhere, little can be settled in Peking between the Soviet bureaucracy and the Chinese leaders.

The Kremlin prefers agreement with US imperialism.

NURSES SEEK BROAD UNION SUPPORT FOR PAY AND CONDITIONS CLAIM

ONE HUNDRED and twenty nurses from London's University College Hospital have signed a petition—received by the Workers Press yesterday—asking trade unionists and workers to support their demands for more pay, student status and a shorter working week.

The Workers Press, the nurses felt, was the only paper which would stage a fight for their conditions.

For our part we will do our utmost to campaign for the alleviation of the scandalous conditions under which nurses are forced to carry out their work.

Pale reflection of 'white-collar' struggles at TUC conference

STALINIST and right-wing Labour speakers at Monday's Trades Union Congress non-manual workers' conference had no answers for the problems facing this section of workers.

Only the palest reflection of the struggles faced more and more by 'white-collar' workers as a result of productivity deals, automation and low wages could be seen in the discussion.

Fleeting references to the teachers' fight for more pay and the campaign against the Labour government's anti-union policies were made . . . and as quickly dropped.

'We want participation. Our members have a right to consultation,' said Government Supervisors' and Radio Officers' delegate Mr Percy Avery, moving a resolution on productivity deals.

'Admitting that many deals were a complete fraud,' designed only to achieve 'cuts in personnel for pay increases of only a few shillings a week,' Avery—like the TUC's non-manual advisory committee itself—was quite prepared to accept deals . . . as long as union officials were consulted first.

So, apparently, was the Communist Party!

'Elastic'

The Union of Post Office Workers' Mr Richard Lawlor—a long-standing Party member—was concerned only that the terms used by supporters of the motion should be 'a lot more elastic'.

Mr Ken Banks of the Draughtmen's and Technicians' Union, opposed the motion on the grounds that the movers had made 'a very

New wage freeze order before parliament

A GOVERNMENT order bringing into force Part Two of the Prices and Incomes Act from January 1 has been placed before parliament.

This order, giving the government power to delay wage agreements for up to four months, will come up for approval in the Commons on Tuesday next week, and is designed to operate over the so-called 'bridging period' until fresh legislation is ready.

Mrs Castle has already received Cabinet approval for the White Paper setting out the next phase of the prices and incomes policy.

This will be published tomorrow.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office, Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.
Printed by Plover Press Ltd (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETING

**Czechoslovakia, persecution
of Soviet intellectuals and the
Communist Party Congress**

Monday Dec. 15, 8p.m.

HOLBORN ASSEMBLY HALL

John's Mews off Northington Street
(nearest tube Chancery Lane)

Speaker: G. Healy (national secretary, Socialist Labour League)

Chairman: M. Banda (Editor, Workers Press)

**Meet Mr Lollipop in Leeds on Saturday
at the
Young
Socialists
GRAND XMAS
BAZAAR**

Saturday
December 13
CORN EXCHANGE
LEEDS

Doors open 12 noon



Nixon press conference

'Certainly a massacre' - and the war will go on

BY ROBERT BLACK

NIXON'S Monday night press conference in Washington only underlined what was known already—that the war is to go on and that there will be more 'Pink-villes'.

This was the message that lay behind all the double-talk and crocodile tears for those killed in the atrocities.

Unable to deny that the massacres took place, Nixon was forced, like Brown and company in Britain, to argue that they were incidental to the main aim of the war:

'What appears was certainly a massacre—under no circumstances was it justified.' Yet, Nixon claimed, 'One of the goals we are fighting for in Vietnam is to keep the people of South Vietnam from having imposed upon them a government which has atrocity against civilians as one of its policies.'

'Logic'

Nixon's logic is that in order to 'save' the Vietnamese people from non-existent 'atrocities' committed by the NLF, they must suffer 'Pink-villes' instead.

Taking his cue from his servants in the Labour government, Nixon attempted to



Nixon

distinguish the methods of US imperialism from its alleged aims:

'We cannot ever condone or use atrocities against civilians in order to accomplish that goal.'

Nixon claimed that Pinkville was an isolated incident which ran counter to US policy, and 'should not be allowed to smear decent men who had gone to Vietnam in a very important cause'.

It is because millions of Americans are discovering that Nixon's 'important cause' is directly responsible for 'Pinkville' and all the other atrocities, that they now come out in open opposition to the war.

Not enough

They will express this opposition in another 'moratorium' to be held during the coming weekend and again on December 24, but this is clearly not enough.

With a large-scale recession facing the US economy in 1970, and the Wall Street share index plunging down to its lowest level in three years, the working class will be brought into action on a nation-wide scale against Nixon's anti-labour policies.

This movement of the US working class presents the opportunity, as it does in Britain, of linking the struggle on domestic issues with the broader international questions and bringing out the relationships between the two.

Example

We have the responsibility in Britain of setting the example in how this international class solidarity can be established.

That is the meaning and importance of our campaign to block the Wilson visit to Washington.

By making this campaign a success in Britain, we can blaze the trail for the US working class in 1970.

This is the meaning of international solidarity.

Vietnam

FROM PAGE ONE

Wilson's story is given by none other than the ex-deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs, Townsend Hoopes. In his book on the workings of the Pentagon ('The Limits of Intervention', David McKay), he recalls how his boss, John T. McNaughton, came back from a White House conference on the war held in Spring 1967 and said:

'We seem to be proceeding on the assumption that the way to eradicate the Vietcong is to destroy all the village structures, defoliate all the jungles, and then cover the entire surface of South Vietnam with asphalt.'

This was the 'top direction of the war', no matter how much Wilson and Brown dissimulate.

There is no way out of this blind alley except to organize inside and outside parliament to stop Wilson's visit to Washington.

The magnificent response to the petition on Wilson's US visit shows that a powerful tide of working-class hatred and revulsion is waiting to be unleashed against Wilson's traitorous policies.

'Mr McNamara has gone doveish on me.'

Gold crisis

FROM PAGE ONE

of gold is dropping, dollar inflation, far from being arrested, is, in fact, getting worse.

'The Times' (December 9) remarked that 'the growing conviction in the United States and in Europe' is 'that the dollar is overvalued'.

Burden

In what would appear to be a lessening of the importance of gold, the dollar is forced to undertake an ever more heavy burden of world exchange. At least 113 countries

depend almost entirely upon it.

The United States Treasury needs the dollar devalued by mutual agreement between these countries, which in turn would tie them more and more to its coat-tails.

Thus, the economic crisis between Europe and America becomes more and more sharp.

It is even suggested that the Central European banks are encouraging the drop in gold prices, so that they can purchase the metal more cheaply in order to repay the 2,000 million dollars in gold

Egyptian delegation leaves for Moscow

By a foreign correspondent

A TOP-LEVEL Egyptian delegation led by Anwar Sadat of the Arab Socialist Union left Cairo yesterday for Moscow.

The delegation, which also includes the Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad and War Minister Mohammed Fawzy, will spend the next few days in the Soviet Union in talks with Soviet leaders on the Middle-East situation.

The visit may well be in connection with the recently announced agreement between the Soviet and US governments on the much-discussed Middle East 'package deal' based on the November 1967 United Nations resolution.

The terms of this deal are a sell-out by Stalinism of the Arab Revolution.

ATUA-Y'S PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Stop Wilson's
visit to
Washington**

COVENTRY
Thursday, December 11
7.30 p.m.

Willenhall Wood School
St James' Lane
Willenhall

GLASGOW
Sunday, December 14
3 p.m.

Partick Burgh Halls
(nr. Merikland St underground)
Admission 1s. 6d.

LEICESTER
Wednesday, December 17
8 p.m.

The Globe
Silver Street

NOTTINGHAM
Thursday, December 18
8 p.m.

People's Hall
Heathcote Street

CORBY
Monday, December 15
8 p.m.

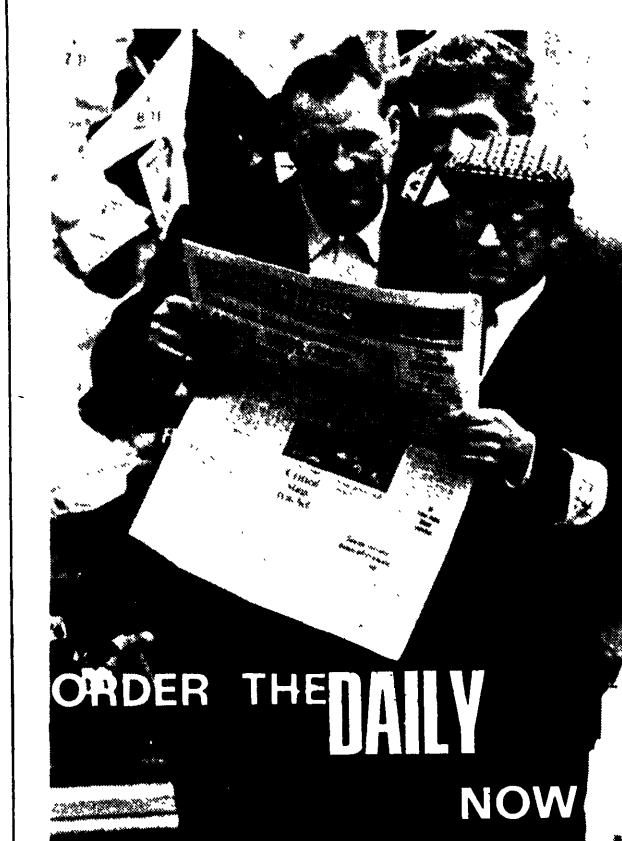
Corby Candle
Tinderbox Room

Ex-Gestapo officials accused of 30,000 murders

THE TRIAL began in West Berlin yesterday of three former Gestapo officials accused of being accomplices to the murder of at least 30,000 Berlin Jews.

With more than 500 witnesses due to be called, the trial is the biggest ever to be held in the former German capital.

The three accused men are Otto Boveniusen (64), Kurt Venter (58) and Max Grautstueck (66).



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