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workers press

The daily organ of the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● PUBLISHED FROM TUESDAY TO SATURDAY ● NUMBER 57 ● TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1969 PRICE 6d.

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HOOVER
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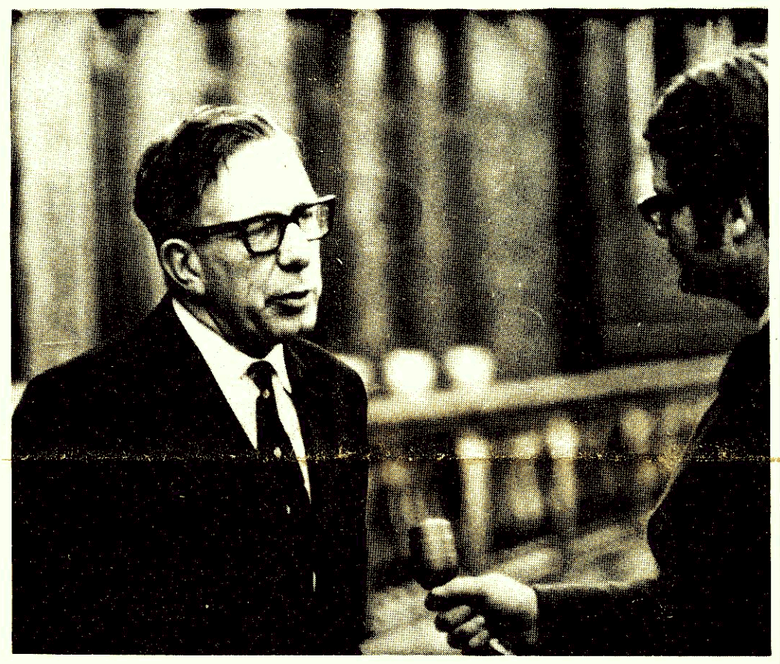

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STOP WILSON'S WASHINGTON VISIT!
FOR THE DEFEAT OF US IMPERIALISM IN VIETNAM!

DEMONSTRATION
SUNDAY JAN. 11

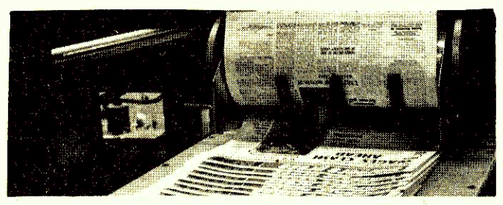
ASSEMBLE: Speakers' Corner (Marble Arch), 2 P.M.
MARCH: via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Trafalgar Square past Downing Street.
MEETING: Lyceum Ballroom, near Aldwych, 4 P.M.

Details from 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4

Tickets for the whole weekend 12s 6d

GREET

WORKERS PRESS



at public meetings

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

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)

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East India Hall 8 p.m.-11 p.m.

FILM MAKING AND THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Sunday, January 11 9.30 a.m.
CLASSIC CINEMA, POND STREET HAMPSTEAD, LONDON, N.W.3

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.

Details from 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4

Tickets for the whole weekend 12s 6d

GREET WORKERS PRESS

at public meetings

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

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)

We refute GOLLAN'S anti-Trotskyist SLANDERS

BY ROBERT BLACK

PART ONE

COMMUNIST PARTY general secretary John Gollan's slanderous attack on Trotsky at a recent CP public meeting in Leeds (reported in Workers Press of December 3) has raised a number of pertinent questions relating to Stalinist history and methodology.

In reply to questions from the floor on Trotskyism, Gollan claimed that Trotsky's ideas 'were a menace to the Soviet Union'.

Gollan stated that Trotsky had been for the defeat of the Soviet Union in any war with Nazi Germany, repeating the old Stalinist slander that 'whether he [Trotsky] got money directly from Hitler is open to question'.

As is invariably the case with such slanders, no documentary proof was quoted to substantiate the accusations.

This was also the hall-mark of the Moscow Trials, where scores of Communist leaders, all close comrades of Lenin, were sent to their deaths purely on the basis of 'confessions' extracted under enormous and prolonged physical and moral pressure exerted by their bureaucratic captors.

In this latest outburst, Gollan has revealed himself yet again as a Stalinist reared in the Vyshinksy - Yezhov - Beria mould.

Gollan makes two accusations.

Firstly, that Trotsky wished for the defeat of the Soviet Union in any clash with Nazi Germany.

Naturally this Stalinist quotes no documents of writings to prove his point, because no such writings exist.

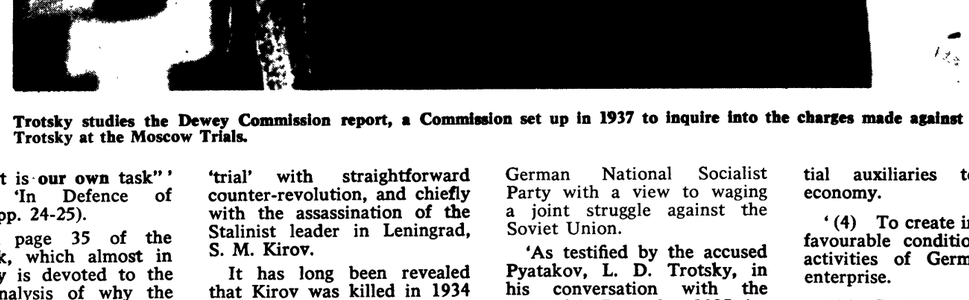
Unconditional

There are, however, ample available statements made by Trotsky and the Fourth International calling for **unconditional defence** of the Soviet Union in war-time, and Gollan is well aware of them.

For reasons of space, it is only possible to quote from a few:

'. . . let us suppose that Hitler turns his weapons against the East and invades the territories occupied by the Red Army. [Trotsky is referring here to the region ceded to the Soviet Union after the partition of Poland under the terms of the Stalin-Hitler Pact of August 23, 1939.]

'Under these conditions, partisans of the Fourth International, without changing in any way their attitude toward the Kremlin oligarchy, will advance to the forefront, as the most urgent task of the hour, the military resistance against Hitler. The workers will say: "We cannot cede to Hitler the overthrowing of Stalin; that is **our own task**" ' (Trotsky: 'In Defence of Marxism' pp. 24-25).



Trotsky studies the Dewey Commission report, a Commission set up in 1937 to inquire into the charges made against Trotsky at the Moscow Trials.

HESS

HITLER

And on page 35 of the same work, which almost in its entirety is devoted to the Marxist analysis of why the Soviet Union must be defended against imperialism, Trotsky expands on this question:

'We are completely and wholeheartedly for an independent (of Hitler as well as of Stalin) Soviet Ukraine. But what to do if, before having obtained this independence, Hitler attempts to seize the Ukraine, which is under the domination of the Stalinist bureaucracy?

'The Fourth International answers: Against Hitler we will defend this Ukraine enslaved by Stalin. What does "unconditional" defence of the USSR mean? It means that we do not lay any conditions upon the bureaucracy. It means that independently of of the motive and causes of the war we defend the social basis of the USSR [its nationalized property relations] if it is menaced by danger on the part of imperialism.'

This is but a small sample of the writings which Gollan deliberately ignores when he slanders Trotsky's position on the defence of the Soviet Union.

Gollan has nothing to offer except the same old lies.

The same applies to the other Stalinist slander of Trotsky's alleged relations with the Nazi regime in Germany.

It is important first of all to establish the exact conditions in which this lie was first given prominence by the Stalinists.

The first Moscow Trial of Old Bolsheviks in August 1936 did not accuse Zinoviev, Kamenev and the rest of the 'sixteen' with working on behalf of the Nazis.

They were charged at that 'trial' with straightforward counter-revolution, and chiefly with the assassination of the Stalinist leader in Leningrad, S. M. Kirov.

It has long been revealed that Kirov was killed in 1934 by the Stalinist police, **on Stalin's orders,** as the provocation required for the mass purges that Stalin had already prepared.

It was at the **second** Moscow Trial of January 1937 that the first allegations were made concerning Trotsky's dealings with the Nazis.

A study of the proceedings of the second Moscow Trial throw a great deal of light not only on the workings and motives of the Soviet bureaucracy, but the source of the slanders Gollan hurls at the Socialist Labour League today.

Defended trials

Through its influence in the 'Left Book Club', the British Communist Party was able to get published several books defending the purges and Trials in the Soviet Union. One such work was that of Dudley Collard, 'Soviet Justice and the trial of Radek and others'.

With the obligatory foreward by D. N. Pritt ('I welcome Mr Collard's book warmly') 'Soviet Justice' deals in some detail with the 'evidence' given by Radek, who from his desertion from the Left Opposition in 1929 until his arrest, was the most servile of Stalin's publicists.

Radek's testimony is most important, as upon it rested the Stalinist case for Trotsky's collusion with the Nazis, the same slander that Gollan repeated at the Leeds meeting recently.

The indictment at the trial reads:

'The investigation has established that L. D. Trotsky entered into negotiations with one of the leaders of the German National Socialist Party with a view to waging a joint struggle against the Soviet Union.

'As testified by the accused Pyatakov, L. D. Trotsky, in his conversation with the accused in December 1935, informed him that as a result of these negotiations he had concluded an agreement with the said leader of the National Socialist Party in the following terms:

'(1) To guarantee a generally favourable attitude towards the German government and the necessary collaboration with it in the most important questions of an international character.

'(2) To agree to territorial concessions.

'(3) To permit German industrialists, in the form of concessions (or some other forms), to exploit enterprises in the USSR which are essential auxiliaries to German economy.

'(4) To create in the USSR favourable conditions for the activities of German private enterprise.

'(5) In time of war to carry on extensive diversionist activities in war industry enterprises and at the front. These diversionist activities are to be carried on under Trotsky's instructions, in agreement with the German General Staff.

'Hess meeting'

'The principles of this agreement, as Trotsky related, were finally elaborated and adopted during Trotsky's meeting with Hitler's deputy, Hess' (quoted from 'International Press Correspondence', p. 128. No. 6, February 1937).

This was the indictment brought against Trotsky and the defendants at the second Moscow Trial.

Zinoviev, Kamenev and the other Bolsheviks killed after the first Trial were now, of course, posthumously included in the charge of collusion with Hitler, despite the fact that throughout the first trial no reference had been made to their alleged relationship with the Nazis.

We shall return to this indictment, the substance of which Gollan still publicly upholds, in a moment.

And what of the indictment of the third, 1938, Trial:

'The materials in the possession of the investigating authorities on the present case established that the connections between enemy of the people Trotsky and the German political police and the Intelligence Services of other countries were established at a much earlier date. The investigation has definitely established that Trotsky has been connected with the German Intelligence Service since 1921, and with the British Intelligence Service since 1926' ('Verbatim Report of Court Proceedings in the case of the Anti-Soviet bloc of Rights and Trotskyists').

These 'materials', claimed to be 'in the possession of the investigating authorities' have never been published. They cannot be, **for they never existed.**

But lack of documentary evidence apart, the case against Trotsky collapsed under the sheer weight of its internal contradictions.

Take the alleged meeting of the old Bolshevik and Left Oppositionist Pyatakov with Trotsky in 1935, when the details of Trotsky's deal with the Nazis were supposed to have been passed on via Pyatakov to the opposition in the Soviet Union.

It was vital to the Stalinists to prove that such a meeting took place. Without such 'proof', the whole of the case collapsed for lack of evidence that Trotsky had maintained contact with the 'pro-Nazi' opposition in the USSR.

This is the famous case of Oslo airport where, Pyatakov claimed, his plane had landed in December 1935 before he drove by car to meet Trotsky, who at that time was exiled in Norway.

Unfortunately for the Stalinists, no aeroplane landed at Oslo airport throughout the entire winter months of 1935-1936, let alone the month of December.

Established

The official records of the airport authorities established this fact beyond all doubt

Pyatakov never set foot in Norway either at that time or any other while Trotsky was in the country. Therefore there was no meeting, no negotiations, no plot with Hitler against Stalin and no counter - revolutionary conspiracy with the German General Staff.

All the details concerning the frame-up of the Old Bolsheviks in the Moscow Trials are set out in the 'Moscow Trials Anthology' (New Park Publications, 12s. 6d.) and therefore need not be repeated here.

But certain other aspects of the charges against Trotsky took on an added significance after the Second World War.

The capture of the Nazi archives provided the Allies with all the documentary evidence they required to try the leaders of the Nazi Party as war criminals.

These were the same leaders that the Moscow Trials had alleged were acting in collusion with Trotsky before the war to overthrow Soviet power and restore capitalism in the USSR.

Here was a wonderful opportunity for Gollan's charge to be confirmed. The Soviet judges at the Nuremburg trials would surely now demand an admission from Hess and company that they had indeed worked with Trotsky to further the aims of Nazi imperialism in the east.

KARL RADEK

Y. PYATAKOV

All the details concerning the frame-up of the Old Bolsheviks in the Moscow Trials are set out in the 'MOSCOW TRIALS ANTHOLOGY' (New Park Publications 12s 6d).

Here, at last, was the chance to prove for all time the genuineness of the verdicts passed at the three Moscow Trials and at the court-martials of the military leaders also charged with acting in concert with the German General Staff and Intelligence Service.

The Soviet judges could also demand that all the documentary material relating to the activities of the Nazi conspiracy in the Soviet Union be published.

Surely this was part of the charge to be brought against the Nazi leaders, that they prepared for war on the Soviet Union through the penetration of its political and military organs?

Gollan knows that the Soviet judges **remained silent** on this question.

They studiously avoided all reference to any alleged dealings between Nazi and Soviet leaders throughout the period of the Hitler dictatorship, and in this they had the active assistance of the other allied judges and legal experts.

Campaign

Neither can it be claimed that there were no attempts made to bring this question out into the open at the Nuremburg Trials.

The Fourth International, including its British section, the Revolutionary Communist Party, organized a world-wide campaign to compel the prosecution at the Trials to open an inquiry into the allegations made against Trotsky.

This campaign was part of the struggle of the Fourth International against counter-revolutionary Stalinism, and was essential for the education of the working class in the real history of both the Stalinist and Trotskyist movements.

The mid-January supplement of the Revolutionary Communist Party's journal 'Socialist Appeal' issued a challenge to the Soviet prosecuting counsel to publish from the Nazi archives the materials which proved Trotsky's guilt.

That challenge went unanswered, as it had to, **for there were no such documents.**

Similarly in the United States, an appeal was sent to the Chief Justice at the Nuremburg Trials, Sir Geoffrey Lawrence, asking him to put a series of questions to the Nazi defendants at the trial, particularly Hess, who, the Stalinists had alleged, served as the main contact between Trotsky and the Nazi regime.

The appeal was signed by many prominent figures in the American labour movement and intellectual circles, including Norman Thomas, veteran Socialist Party leader, Powers Hapgood of the CIO, Frank Crosswaith of the Negro Labour Council, Philip Randolph, President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the novelist and critic Edmund Wilson, the philosopher Sidney Hook and scores of other figures of equal standing.

The appeal asked for seven questions to be put to the defendants at the Nuremburg Trials:

1. Did the defendants ever meet with Trotsky or with his son?

2. If so, when and where and what was the occasion?

3. Did the defendants ever meet with anyone purporting to represent Trotsky? If so, whom, when and where, and what was the occasion?

4. To the defendants knowledge, did Trotsky or his son ever have any relations with the Nazi Gestapo or with the Nazi military Intelligence Service?

5. Did Trotsky or his son ever receive any money from the German miltary Intelligence Service, either directly or through any intermediary?

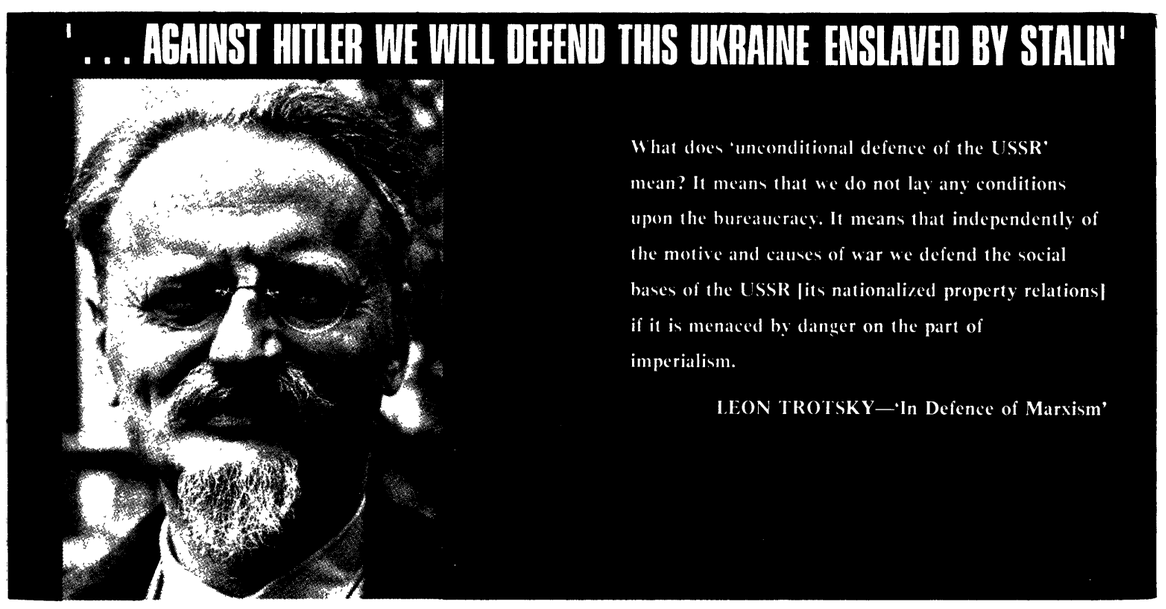
6. Did the other defendant at the Moscow Trial, G. Pyatakov, ever receive a passport from the Gestapo or from any official German source in order to fly to Norway to meet Trotsky? [Pyatakov was alleged at the second Moscow Trial to have flown from Germany to meet Trotsky near Oslo in December 1935—i.e., nearly three years after the Nazis had come to power.]

7. To the defendants' knowledge, were there ever any documents bearing on any of these questions or on their relations with any other of the Old Bolsheviks for anti-Russian purposes? If so, what were they and what has become of them?

Needless to say, the prosecution saw to it that none of these questions was in fact put to Hess and his Nazi co-defendants. As Trotsky himself remarked in 1937: 'The complete absence of evidence is the most terrible evidence against Stalin'.

G. ZINOVIEV

LEV KAMENEV



IN FRANCE the state has already mobilized its legal thugs to fight the working class. So-called 'preventive arrests' are becoming more common. No charge, just detention.

In Italy the authorities prepare to arraign policemen who refused to take part in attacks on striking workers.

In Britain, television puts out increasing floods of preparatory propaganda aimed at creating the atmosphere for acceptance of police repression in the coming struggles.

This is not, of course, always a conscious process for the producers, writers, directors and actors involved. But they accurately mirror the forces now sweeping through the society, even if at times they reflect a somewhat distorted image.

Let's speculate a little on how a series like **'Special Branch'** (Thames Television, Wednesday) might originate and get on to the air.

Response

If prices charged to advertisers are to be kept high, large audiences must be won to watch the commercial breaks. This management need will find a quick response amongst the heads of the drama department and from the producers there who often think they simply want a lot of people to watch their entertaining programmes.

Since Thames (under its old name of ABC Television) has experience in originating series like 'The Avengers', it will look to some similar-format show for the solution.

Such series are not cheap, but are certainly less expensive than one-off dramas.

They can use the same sets over and over, actors will often take a bit less each week if they are guaranteed a long period of employment and scripts are easier to commission and somewhat cheaper to buy.

There may also even be remunerative foreign sales.

The bright boys will then come up with an idea. This time it's to make a series based on the work of the Special Branch. If you asked them why the Special Branch they would probably say because it is surrounded by mystery, reputed to be filled with ruthless and skilled detectives, full of adventure and generally exciting.

The odd liberal might even add that 'it's important' to show 'the problem' to as many people as possible.

Next will come some specialized help. This time the technical adviser on the series is Peter Hill, formerly one of the youngest detective - inspectors in the country who 'gave up the police to run a coffee bar on his own former "patch" in Hampstead and to write'. ('TV Times', December 13-19.)

Then the writers must be found. Certain names of people who write regularly for such series will spring to the professional producer's mind and a few of the best literary agents might be contacted to see if they have any new 'talent' in stock.

Production

Guidelines will be laid down and outline plots supplied; once enough scripts are in and accepted, production will begin on the basis of two or three weeks rehearsal and a weekly recording schedule.

No one involved need be any more conscious than that. And yet what comes out?

A series of well-made programmes at peak viewing time which cleverly peddle everything reactionary about the British political police and skilfully sugar a poisonous pill of surveillance, secret dossiers, phone-tapping and photography.

Indeed, it is precisely these features of the Special Branch's work which are used to give the programmes their excitement, tension and intrigue.

Take last week's episode, **'Visitor From Moscow'.**

It concerned the goings-on of the British Special Branch in co-operating with a KGB officer over the security arrangements for a visit to London by a Russian minister.

The opening sequence was of the two officers at the monument to Marx over his grave in Highgate Cemetery.

The scene carefully began a clever double trick which was marked throughout.

The British officer casually denigrated Marx and then quoted Lenin. In response to the Russian's astonished question. 'You read Lenin?' he said, 'I do my homework'.

'Understand'

The two officers thus gradually began 'to understand each other'.

But all the way through, this 'understanding' was exploited to facilitate hostile remarks about the Soviet Union, under the guise of attacking the illegalities perpetrated there by the bureaucracy.

It also permitted a discussion by two English Special Branch men over the need for 'preventive arrests' here, as advocated by the Russian.

The senior officer, of course, explained that this wasn't British or democratic, but the younger, sharper, trendier man passionately wondered whether, if a policeman's job is to **prevent** crime, such means ought not to be legally available.

The writer of this episode, without necessarily being a conscious mouthpiece of the law, thus accurately reflects its needs. He did this in other ways too.

There was nothing sentimental about the forces involved. The police were seen as tough professionals who are still sharp dressers and have troubles with their girl-friends over the long hours they work.

The girl-friend—played incidentally by the wife of the technical adviser—helped to set the class background. She was directed as a chilly, upper-middle class woman living in a luxury flat and designing clothes 'too expensive for anyone to buy'.

She, her boyfriend and the KGB man ate in an extremely expensive restaurant and peaceful co-existence was fostered all round. As one character urbanely remarked, 'We are all tools in the hands of our masters'.

Central object

As the plot developed, a single individual protester who was in no way political but simply wanted an exit visa for his Russian girl-friend, became the central object of attraction.

Cast as a bearded, greasy-haired, thin man wearing a polo-necked sweater (like all left-wing troublemakers) he apparently constituted a grave threat to the security of the expected Russian bureaucrat.

So he got the full works: visits from Special Branch officers, his phone was tapped, all his movements were scrutinized by anonymous cars, his mail was opened and his English girl-friend investigated.

In the course of compiling their information, the Special Branch men got co-operation from a newspaper, checked with the Russians for their account of the suspect and never appeared to be delayed by any legal niceties.

The presence of KGB agents in London was constantly hinted at and the only unsympathetic characters were made out to be the Whitehall civil servant and his Kremlin counterpart.

The men on the job were seen as efficient and untiring, but also as stern, fatherly mentors of some wisdom.

Very properly, however, any real possibility of peaceful co-existence was ruled out at the end when the British and Russian policemen began a violent slanging match about each others' systems.

Other quality

No liberal nonsense here. This is of a different quality to the pathetically transparent propaganda shows like 'Dixon of Dock Green', 'Parkin's Patch' or 'Softly, Softly'.

These latter programmes set out to reinforce the need for private property, respect for the friendly bobby and fear of the cunning detective. 'Special Branch' begins a new phase in the attempted conditioning process.

We should perhaps recall a little about the real Special Branch (as revealed in an article in 'TV Times' recently).

Its officers can carry guns and have 'little difficulty' in obtaining the Home Secretary's authorization to tap phones. There are said to be about 300 officers, 20 of whom are women.

The headquarters are on the top floor of New Scotland Yard where they keep dossiers methodically and patiently assembled about 'anyone who might be a danger to the State. There are thousands of files on Communists, Fascists, the IRA **and protest organizations right** down to tenants' associations. Any of the people named in these files would be startled . . . They give a detailed picture of him—his favourite pub, where he takes his holidays, and his wife's family history'.

This force mans Customs desks, picks up people at airports, protects the Royal Family, Mr Wilson, Mr Heath, Mr Michael Stewart and Mr Callaghan.

It plants 'spies' in organizations and at meetings and unlike the thousands-strong MI5, has the powers of arrest and detention.

Its chief, Commander Ferguson Smith, is in direct contact with the Prime Minister and clearly receives maximum help in organizing this executive arm of the Security Services.

Most of the work is 'slog and boredom' and includes 'renting offices opposite a court where a political trial is on and photographing everyone going in or out', according to the 'TV Times' article.

Clearly this series is indeed to help create a crippling fear of the state and its forces amongst those preparing for its revolutionary transformation.

It should certainly be taken seriously, and all workers in struggle should be aware that the coming period will bring big risks and an intensification of pressure.

A cameraman at BSR in East Kilbride was recently recorded by a '24 Hours' team photographing the pickets from management offices. It's already with us.

But no one should miss the other side of the coin.

No Special Branch or political police in the world can deal with the force of the working class.

Our writers, producers and directors must stand ready for the day of judgement.

Those perpetrating 'Special Branch' appear to have chosen the other side. We have not failed to notice.

And please—no cries about 'harmless entertainment'.

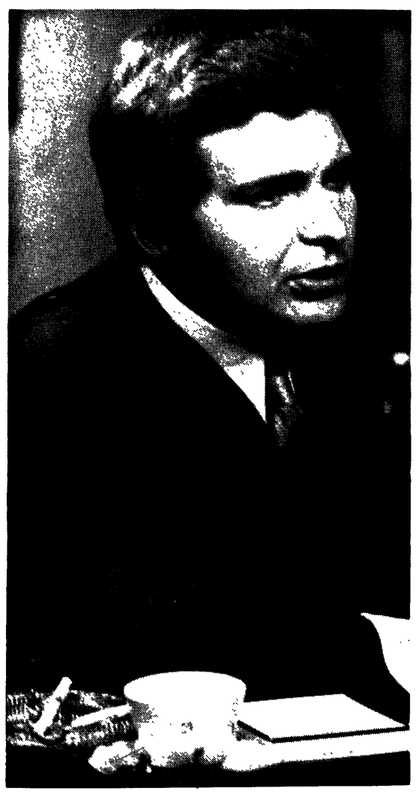
Our comrades in France, in Italy, in Greece, in South Africa, in the Kremlin prisons, hospitals and camps, in South American jails and United States penitentiaries will testify that it is harmful.

And their voices will be heard.

tv column

SWEETENING A POISON PILL

BY FRANK CARTWRIGHT



Derren Nesbitt: Detective Chief Inspector Jordan in Thames Television's new series 'Special Branch'.

TUESDAY TV

I.T.V.

1.15 p.m. Face Of The Earth. 2.50 Rugby Union. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News From ITN.

6.03 Today.
6.40 Branded.
7.10 The Tuesday Film: 'Westbound' with Randolph Scott and Virginia Mayo. American Civil War.
8.30 Cribbins.
9.00 Happy Ever After: 'The Prank' with Ann Lynn and William Marlowe. A nasty joke at a Christmas party.
10.00 News At Ten.
10.30 The All Or Nothing Man: Documentary about a stunt-man.
11.15 How About You?
11.45 Responsibility and the Job.

REGIONAL I.T.V.

CHANNEL: 11.45 a.m.-12.10 p.m. Supplementary Schools. 4.00 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.15 Castle Haven. 4.40 Chez Oscar. 4.55 London. 6.00 Channel News and Weather. 6.10 Channel Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Curtain Raiser. 7.05 Star Movie: 'Magnetic Monster'. 8.30 London. 11.35 Channel Gazette. 11.40 Commentaires et Previsions Meteorologiques, Weather.

SOUTHERN: 2.50 p.m. Rugby Union. 4.30 London. 6.00 Day By Day. 6.45 Tuesday Film: 'The Long, Long Trailer' with Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hadleigh. 10.00 London. 11.15 Southern News Extra. 11.25 Katie Stewart Cooks. 11.50 Weather, Happy Christmas.

WESTWARD: 11.45 a.m.-12.10 p.m. Supplementary Schools. 4.01 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.13 Castle Haven. 4.40 The Gus Honeybun Show. 4.55 London. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Curtain Raiser: Popeye. 7.05 Star Movie: 'Magnetic Monster' with Richard Carlson. 8.30 London. 11.40 Faith For Life. 11.46 Weather.

HARLECH: 2.50-4.25 p.m. Springboks v. Combined Services. 4.46 It's Time For Me. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report. 6.20 Batman. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Peyton Place. 7.55 Mr and Mrs. 8.30 London. 11.15 Mickey. 11.45 Weather. **Harlech (Wales):** 2.45 p.m. It's Time For Me. 2.50 Rugby. 4.29-4.55 Crossroads. 6.01 Y Dydd. 6.26 Castle Haven. 6.51-7.00 Report. 10.30 Dan Sylw. 11.30 Mickey. 12 midnight Weather.

ANGLIA: 4.10 p.m. Castle Haven. 4.35 Anglia Newsroom. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Western Movie: 'Terror In A Texas Town' with Sterling Hayden and Sebastian Cabot. 8.30 London. 11.15 All Our Yesterdays. 11.45 The Living Word.

ATV MIDLANDS: 4.00 p.m. News Headlines. 4.02 Houseparty. 4.15 Your Star Showcase. 4.40 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.55 London. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Western Movie: 'Branded' with Alan Ladd, Mona Freeman, Charles Bickford. 8.30 London. 11.15 Play With A Purpose, Weather.

ULSTER: 4.30 p.m. Romper Room. 4.50 Ulster News Headlines. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Midweek Movie: 'Chase A Crooked Shadow' with Richard Todd, Anne Baxter and Herbert Lom. 8.30 London. 11.15 Billy. 11.30 Weather.

YORKSHIRE: 2.35 p.m. The Tingha and Tucker Club. 2.50 Rugby. 4.25 Katie Stewart Cooks. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, Weather. 6.30 Castle Haven. 6.55 'Captain Pirate' with Louis Hayward, Patricia Medina and John Sutton. Pirates. 8.30 London. 9.00 The Avengers. 10.00 London. 11.15 The Man Who Never Was. 11.45 Late Weather.

GRANADA: 4.14 p.m. News Headlines, Paulus. 4.25 Short Story. 4.55 London. 6.00 The Beverly Hillbillies. 6.25 Newsview Special, Put It In Writing. 7.05 The Name Of The Game. 8.25 London. 11.15 Felony Squad.

TYNE TEES: 4.09 p.m. North East Newsroom. 4.11 News Headlines. 4.13 Paulus. 4.25 Mad Movies. 4.53 North East Newsroom. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today At Six. 6.30 Where The Jobs Are. 6.35 Castle Haven. 7.00 The Tuesday Film: 'The Bells Go Down' with Tommy Trinder and James Mason. 8.30 London. 11.15 Late News Extra. 11.32 Prince Of Peace.

SCOTTISH: 4.20 p.m. Scotland Early. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Scotland Early. 6.30 Raw Deal? 7.05 The Name Of The Game. 8.30 London. 10.30 Living '69 Style. 11.30 Letters From The Dead. 12 midnight Late Call.

GRAMPIAN: 4.15 p.m. News Headlines. 4.17 Sean The Leprachaun. 4.30 Skippy. 4.55 London. 6.00 Grampian News and Farming News. 6.15 Out Of Town. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 The Film Stars: Cilla Black in 'Ferry Cross The Mersey'. 8.30 London. 11.15 Play With A Purpose.

B.B.C.-1

1.00 p.m. Bob Yn Dri. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News and Weather. 3.45 Malcolm Muggeridge asks the Question Why? 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Animal Magic. 5.20 Wacky Races and Space Kidettes. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 National News and Weather.

6.00 London-Nationwide.
6.45 Z Cars.
7.05 Tomorrow's World.
7.30 Harry Worth.
8.00 Cilla.
8.50 The Main News and Weather.
9.10 The English Village Is Alive and Well . . .: Tuesday's documentary.
10.00 Noel Coward's Birthday Party.
10.35 24 Hours.
11.10 Weatherman.
11.12 Postcript.
11.17 Medicine Today.

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

Midlands and East Anglia: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Midlands Today, Look East, Weather, Nationwide. 11.52 News Summary, Weather.

North of England: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Look North, Nationwide. 11.52 News Headlines, Weather.

Scotland: 3.45-4.20 p.m. Sunday Set. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. 9.10-10.00 The Star Spangled Scotsman. 11.12-11.32 More Than Meets The Eye. 11.32 Medicine Today, Scottish News Headlines.

Northern Ireland: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Scene Around Six, Weather, Nationwide. 10.00-10.35 Speak Your Mind. 11.52 Northern Ireland News Headlines, Weather.

Wales: 5.20-5.50 p.m. Telewele. 6.00-6.45 Wales Today. 6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 7.10-7.30 Z Cars. 8.00-8.25 One Of The Family. 8.25-8.50 Ryan A Ronnie.

South and West: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Points West, South Today, Spotlight Southwest, Weather, Nationwide. 11.52 News Headlines, Weather.

B.B.C.-2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School.
7.30 p.m. Newsroom and Weather.
8.00 Floodlit Rugby League: Castleford v. Wigan or St. Helens.
8.45 Jazz Scene.
9.10 Hollywood In The Sixties: 'Spinster' with Shirley MacLaine, Laurence Harvey and Jack Hawkins. School teacher afraid of love in remote northern New Zealand.
10.45 Europa: A look at Eastern Europe.
11.20 News Summary and Weather.
11.25 Line Up.

POST

The Grangemouth strike

I AM A member of the Boilermakers' Society who was on strike at Grangemouth oil refinery and who was kicked a few times by the police when on picket duty.

Like a number of other boilermakers who got the same treatment (some got jailed), I would like to make some points concerning your Tuesday, December 9 report on Grangemouth that were missed.

1. Jim Murray, our Scottish Executive Committee member, came to the meeting on December 5 asking us to accept the ending of the strike on the agreements laid out by the EC and the employer, for only 253 boilermakers to get back on the site.

At the meeting he was asked before the vote was taken, if the men still voted to carry on the strike, would the EC put the sanctions back on again (black all work being done for Grangemouth by boilermakers in other firms in the UK and boilermakers who work with the same firms in Grangemouth BP contract in the UK).

He turned round and said, 'The EC would not put the sanctions on again'.

There were cries of 'blackmail'.

The men had no alternative but to accept these conditions as they were getting no support from the EC who supported the strike right up until they met the employer on December 3.

There were cries from a number of men for an immediate national strike in support of our struggle against the employers, but all was in vain.

2. Brother Murray also stated that boilermakers were not to touch the work done by CEU, PTU, ETU and AEF, but if it is necessary these other trades will do boilermakers' work.
3. In paragraph six of the report it should have read: the rest of the labour, with the agreement of the union leaders, are surplus, owing to the labour still occupying the jobs of the men while on strike.

Also boilermakers are to work with this labour while other boilermakers are unemployed through the labour who were brought in under clause six.

4. In paragraph four it should have read: and after listening to the terms agreed by their official the **majority** of the men did not want to work on the site again.
5. This strike emphasised that if rank-and-file trade unionists are going to fight against productivity deals, it must be done through the All Trades Union Alliance, or it will fail.

The employers will use the split between the unions, with the help of the EC of the other unions in the agreement, to defeat the union fighting against productivity deals and cause bigger splits in the rank-and-file union movement.

A boilermaker.

Wage demand made at Burmah Oil

FOR two weeks construction men on the Burmah Oil site, Ellesmere Port, have been on strike for £1 an hour average on piece-work rates.

Members of both the Constructional Engineering Union and the Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers united against the employers, William Neils Ltd., in a demand for parity between CEU men, who were earning 12s. average, and the boilermakers' 15s. average.

The firm returned with an offer of a 2s 6d increase for the CEU men.

It was rejected and the men put forward their demand for parity with other tank erection men in the industry.

An approach was made to stewards of another firm doing the same work on the site for details of their piece-work rates.

As a system of individual bargaining is carried out in this part of the construction industry, the stewards refused to reveal their rates.

Union delegates have also recommended a return to work on the day the management agree to a meeting.

This strike comes after a long period of disagreement with the firm over safety regulations on the site.

These workers and others in the construction industry should demand a parity of rates with non-piece-workers and between different firms and areas as a preliminary for the demand for a decent flat rate to replace piece-work or productivity deals.

Such demands can only be made on a broad collective base.

Individual bargaining strengthens the hand of the employer in dividing workers. Demands must be made on the basis of a unified struggle throughout the industry.

Chris Clode.

Labour's education policy and Enoch Powell

By an education correspondent

THE Labour Party has officially admitted that its policy of cuts in education is running parallel to the thinking of Enoch Powell and the right-wing Tories.

In a brazen article 'Education—an economic appraisal', which appears in the Labour Party's monthly 'Economic Brief', there appears the following statement:

'While we may not go as far as Enoch Powell in denying the correlation between education and investment and economic growth, **we must agree** [our emphasis] that in a state of affairs where education swallows such a huge proportion of national income, that such educational expenditure is equipping the nation for economic growth. To this end priorities must be re-examined. . . .'

Coming as it does just after Brown's outburst on the Vietnam atrocities, this statement by an anonymous, but undoubtedly leading party figure, shows just how far to the right social democracy has swung in Britain.

Indeed the question posed in the article is couched in exactly the same terminology as Powell himself used in 'Education for what?'

SAME QUESTION

That the government should find itself asking the same question as Powell in relation to educational expenditure is not surprising.

As the 'Times Educational Supplement' of November 21 put it, Labour now 'recognizes that the battle over the rising cost of education will have to be fought on Mr Powell's ground'.

But since the Wilson government seeks to defend British capitalism at all costs, Labour spokesmen discover themselves not only asking the same questions as right-wing Tories, but coming up with similar answers as well!

'Investment' in education, says the article, might soon need to be justified by productive returns to the nation's economy.

'The **old** [our emphasis] issue in defending increased expenditure in the field of education involved an assertion that education was the right of all and that no theoretical limits should be set on the demand of the population for education, especially in the post-school sector.'

So, to put it bluntly, forget about everybody having a right to education.

If it doesn't pay British capitalism to educate workers, they won't be educated.

This, briefly, is what is meant by 're-examining priorities'.

The article speaks of cuts in the 'post-school sector' so that money can be diverted into primary education. The purpose of this is to split workers who have children in schools from the students.

An attack on higher education is, in fact, an attack on primary education too, since this is the teacher-training sector.

As for the teachers, the article says they 'should be willing, with safeguards, to accept innovations in terms of auxiliary help so that they might do their own job more efficiently'.

Roughly translated this means unqualified teachers probably at cheaper pay rates.

Education Minister Edward Short has even smarter ideas.

He told Hillingdon NUT members recently that class sizes could be reduced 'as long as all concerned were prepared to be ruthless enough' ('Times Educational Supplement', November 7).

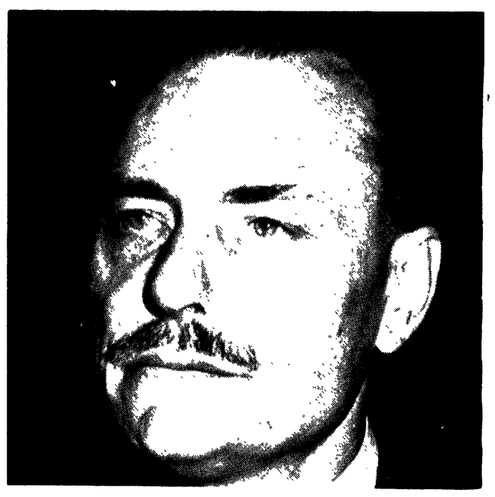
'If staff were moved without regard to other factors, from one school to another, or from secondary schools to primary schools, or if children were grouped so as to even out class sizes regardless of educational considerations, the effect on the statistics might be marked.'

So, we might add, would the effect on the children's education!

Bearing in mind Short's remarks and the thinking in Labour leadership circles, it is hardly surprising that the most recent proposals involve the scrapping of 'O' and 'A' levels.

If these proposals go through, young workers will have to stay on till 17 before they can take the new equivalent 'Q' level.

Thus, instead of those who leave at 16 being able to take a few 'O' levels with them, they could well leave at 16 with **nothing.**



Enoch Powell: Labour turns to his education policy.

Few could afford to stay on, and existing staff could certain not handle 'O', 'A' and the new 'Q' and 'F' levels.

Short's enthusiasm for sixth-form colleges can now be seen in a new light.

Secondary education could rapidly become a transit camp for the dole queues, with a select few going on to sixth-form colleges to take the new **'Q'** level examinations.

The logic of relating education 'investment' to economic returns is simply this—if capitalism is heading for slump, why invest in education at all?

Mr Powell is only a couple of jumps ahead of the Labour 'educationists'.

But they are doing their best to catch up.

Two detailed articles on building and construction

Building workers facing new pay and productivity deal

TIME STUDY, job-evaluation, inter-availability—these are just some of the 'strings' attached to the building employers' 'improved', 'final', wages package deal, which is expected to be signed by National Federation of Building Trades Operatives (NFBTO) leaders in London on December 17.

By a Workers Press correspondent

The union leaders' acceptance, which is almost a formality, comes at the end of some 12 months' bargaining and several interventions by Prices and Incomes (PIB) reports, and is just another in a long line of betrayals of the hard - worked building workers.

Meetings of building workers in London, Manchester and Liverpool have all condemned the employers' offer as being an insult to the men on the sites.

The London and Manchester men propose to lobby the joint NFBTE (employers) and NFBTO meeting to tell the assembled union leaders to reject the package deal.

Many thousands of Merseyside workers are expected to march to the Liverpool headquarters of the NFBTE and then on to a meeting at the Pier Head, also expressing their rejection of the deal.

What then does the improved wages deal offer building workers?

Craftsmen, it is proposed, would receive 10½d an hour more next February, followed by 5½d the following November, and 9d an hour in June 1971.

This would give a basic 40-hour week as follows:

£17 11s 8d February 1970
£18 10s 0d November 1970
£20 0s 0d June 1971

Labourers will receive increases of 9d, 4½d and 7½d, giving them a basic wage for 40 hours of:

£15 0s 0d February 1970
£15 15s 0d November 1970
£17 0s 0d June 1971

'Holiday'

In addition the workers are to get an extra 'week's holiday' as from Christmas 1971, when the Christmas—New Year break will be extended to a full week, which means in reality the employers are only paying for three more days, not a week.

The 'Morning Star' in a front-page article on November 22 headed 'Builders' pay deal agreed by leaders', said the new offer was an improvement on the employers' previous offer.

This would not have paid the rate until November 1971.

The article follows this with a quote from Mr Harry Weaver, the NFBTO general secretary, saying:

'The employers at long last have accepted the fact that building-trade rates should relate to reality.'

The writer, Mike Ambrose, somehow forgets to mention job-evaluation in his report; nor does he mention time-study nor any of the other strings attached to the deal.

In making this latest offer the employers have dropped the proposed new 'Minimum Earnings Level' (MEL) and increased the hourly rate.

The trade paper 'Construction News' tells us this was because of some powerful opposition among prominent employers, but I feel it was only brought into the negotiations so that when it was eventually dropped it would seem as if the NFBTO leaders had won a victory over the employers.

Let us now look at the 'strings' included in this 'improved offer'.

Bonuses go

The NFBTE feels that although it may not be able to do much about false overtime bonus unrelated to output and plus-rates on present contracts, it is most certainly determined to stop these unofficial payments on new jobs once the new 'high' rates come into effect.

The new agreement takes note of the great amount of work being done by the NFBTE on a new **job-evaluation-based wage structure for the building industry and contains a requirement that the unions will consider this during the lifetime of the new wage agreement.**

The employers hope that this job-evaluation scheme be used in negotiating its next national wage deal in 1972.

Another point is that the NJC will have the right to send work-study engineers on to any site that has any bonus disputes and 'sort out the problems'.

At the outset these engineers will be hired from time-study specialist firms, but it is hoped by the employers to make these teams 'full-time'.

The flexibility of labour clause has already been dealt with in a previous article: suffice to say it will help increase the already high unemployment figure in the industry.

Craftsmen's mates or labourers are to be scrapped.

Other points which the employers and union leaders are agreeing on are a new craft-training programme, a 40-hour guaranteed week and the continuation of the public holiday stamps for a period of a year.

What then does the improved pay deal offer to building workers?

Apart from the dropping of MEL, which, as I have stated, was questionable, absolutely nothing.

Two lines

There are two schools of thought amongst building-trade militants as to what line to take on the employers' offer.

One, which was given to a meeting of Merseyside shop stewards by Brother Jim Cousins of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers (AUBTW), who is also a prominent member of the CP, is that we have to accept the package deal as fact, and must now organize and prepare for the new wage deal in 1971.

The other policy is the one put forward by members of the All Trades Unions Alliance and supported by most building workers: outright rejection of the employers' latest, 'final' offer and all the strings attached.

Building workers must join with other sections of industry in fighting the employers' efforts to introduce speed-up and job-evaluation.

The programme of building workers should still be:

- **No three-year package deal.**
- **No time-study or job-evaluation.**
- **A bonus of at least 33 per cent on all sites and projects connected with the building industry.**
- **Nationalization of the building industry under workers' control.**

Only on the basis of the above programme can building workers lead a successful struggle against the right-wing union officials and the Labour government's DEP and all other anti-trade-union legislation.

Neddy Report hits at construction workers

BY JOHN SPENCER

FOLLOWING hard on the ending of the Grangemouth boilermakers' strike, in which half the strikers were left outside the gates and the other half were left with special penal clauses, the report of the government-sponsored working-party on large industrial sites aims another major blow at construction workers.

Workers, like those at one of the largest sites in Europe, Thamesmead, face tremendous speed-up with little in the way of increased wages if the latest offer is accepted.

The intended victims of the report's proposals are the 40,000 construction workers who build power stations, chemical plants, oil refineries and steel works.

Already highly exploited, these workers erect plant to a total value of £800 million a year.

But the report, commissioned by the National Economic Development Council, maintains they must be exploited even more.

The main planks of the working-party's proposals are the now standard prescription of work-study, cuts in the labour-force, ending of piece-work bonus schemes and the payment of a standard fixed national wage through a single national agreement.

Apathy

This, the report maintains, would put an end to the 'apathy and chaos' which is said to characterize the construction industry.

Blaming 'outdated management structures' and 'an extremely weak labour relations system' the working-party claims, like Barbara Castle, that the 'balance of power' on construction sites has 'shifted towards the workers', resulting in wage rises with no concomitant productivity increase.

To remedy this situation—again in line with the policy recommended by Barbara Castle—the report proposes to 'decasualize' construction work, a proposal which bears a marked similarity to the first stage of the Devlin scheme on the docks, and is just as dangerous.

In place of the present 13 separate agreements covering groups of construction workers, a single national agreement should be concluded, the working-party recommends, which would give a fixed national pay rate, applying without variation on all construction sites.

Decasualization

The working party wants 'decasualization' carried through by 1972, bringing 30,000 of the industry's 40,000 workers on to a national register of permanently employed construction workers.

The report makes no proposals for disposing of the remaining 10,000 workers—a quarter of the labour force—who will presumably be 'surplus to requirements' under the new order on the sites.

This scheme would have two great advantages for the employers and the Labour government.

It would do away with all existing bonus schemes, which have enabled workers until now to win wage rises at site level—thus abolishing at one stroke most of the power of the shop stewards.

In addition, the decasualization proposals place very great disciplinary powers in the employers' hands through the national register.

Blacklisting

Like the Joint Industry Board in the electrical contracting industry, such a register could be used to discipline militants by methods even more effective than the present 'blacklisting' widely practised by construction employers.

The report is quite frank in its criticisms of existing bonus payments.

The present schemes, it says, 'are a continuing source of industrial disputes and wage inflation [i.e., they allow workers to raise their wages] are ineffective in securing greater effort (l) and sometimes operate in the absence of work measurement'.

The eradication of bonus schemes is unlikely to save construction workers from the stopwatch threat, however.

Quite apart from the proposed 25 per cent cut in the labour force over two years—in an industry where unemployment is already high due to capital investment cutbacks — the working-party states that its decasualization proposals will pave the way for 'the introduction of the enlightened personnel policies that will be pursued more and more in industry generally'.

In the light of Mrs Barbara Castle's latest recommendations on the wider application of work-study in industry, this oblique phrase can mean only one thing.

Faced with serious crisis as the economic squeeze bites into their profits, construction firms desperately need to step up the drive against their workers.

The process has already been foreshadowed by the violent struggles at BP's giant Grangemouth oil refinery site.

Co-operation

Schemes like those proposed by the working-party cannot be imposed without the complete co-operation of the trade union leaders.

Grangemouth showed the way for this co-operation in imposing vicious and humiliating productivity terms.

With this record the union leaders cannot be trusted to resist any of the present proposals.

Construction workers must study the experience of the dockers, the electricians and the engineers and organize now to reject all productivity deals.

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

BULGARIA

Top bureaucrats in corruption scandal

EIGHTEEN leading Bulgarian government officials have been sacked from their posts and are due to stand trial for corrupt handling of the country's finances, it has been revealed in Sofia.

By a foreign correspondent

The charges affect at least three government departments—Trade, Transport and Finance.

The activities of the 18 bureaucrats are said to have caused 'enormous damage' to the Bulgarian economy.

One of the two trading organizations concerned, Pirin, is mainly engaged in trade with the Soviet Union.

On November 25 it was announced that its chairman, Georgi Naidenov, together with six of his directors, had been sacked.

Expelled

They had been found guilty of 'crude violations of financial discipline, as well as of Party work, socialist legality and Party standards'.

They were all expelled from the party at the same time.

At first the news of this scandal was played down, Premier Todor Zhivkov being reluctant, so it seems, to press for an investigation that might embarrass those in even higher office than the heads of the trading companies.

But last week Soviet security chief Yuri Andropov, together with a large team of KGB officials, arrived in Bulgaria, and met government and Party leaders in the north-eastern city of Shumen.

Under strong pressure from the Soviet government, a full-scale investigation is now under way.

All the evidence so far points to large-scale corruption, at the expense not only of the Bulgarian economy, but of Soviet trading companies.

Reactionary

It also underlines once more Trotsky's analysis of the reactionary role of the Stalinist bureaucracy in relation to the economies of the workers' states.

The bureaucratic exclusion of the working class from political power in the state and democratic control over production and planning in the economy prepares the way for large-scale corruption of the type now uncovered in Bulgaria.

Pro-capitalist forces can grow rapidly in such conditions, as we can see in the case of Yugoslavia and Rumania.

The intervention of the KGB can solve nothing, only create new soil for restorationist and nationalist currents in the population.

The overthrow of the privileged and corrupt bureaucracy by the working class remains the only method of defending and developing the nationalized economy established by the post-war destruction of capitalism in East Europe.

ITALY

Right-wing danger grows after Milan explosions

FRIDAY'S bomb explosion in a Milan bank, in which 14 were killed and another 90 injured, has enormously increased the dangers before the Italian working class.

BY ROBERT BLACK

The Christian-Democratic government, the army and the police are now using the incident to begin a large-scale witch-hunt of extreme left-wing groups.

A trade union rally called originally for Monday was banned by the government, while the Stalinist and other trade unions have themselves called off strikes due to begin yesterday until Wednesday.

There are many theories as to the organizers of the Milan bomb explosion.

Blame

The ultra-right-wing groups naturally blame the Maoists, the anarchists and even the Communist Party, whose leaders have studiously cultivated an ultra-constitutional image since the war.

Others believe that it was the work of Austrian nationalists from Alto Adige, the northernmost province of Italy, which includes a large German-speaking community.

By far the most plausible explanation is that the bomb was exploded by one of several fascist groups, all of whom have been calling for the army to establish a military dictatorship on the lines of the colonels' regime in Greece.

Coup

Only two weeks ago documents came to light which suggested that such a coup was being prepared with the active encouragement, if not assistance, of the Athens regime.

Fascist and ultra-right groups are springing up all over Italy, carrying out frequent attacks on trade union offices and left-wing political rallies.

The most powerful of these is the Italian Social Movement (MSI) which has 24 deputies in the Italian Assembly.

Other, 'strong-arm' groups, include the youth group 'Young Italy', based on right-wing students, the 'Movement for National Reconstruction', the 'Committee for Public Defence' (which organized the fascist rally at the funeral of the Milan policemen killed in an attack on strikers three weeks ago), the 'Europe Civilization' group (whose members are rumoured to be in military training in the mountains) and lastly the familiar-sounding 'National Front', led by a Roman aristocrat.

It would be a terrible mistake to write off these organizations as crank outfits.

Attacks

Several of them are backed by powerful interests and have carried out brutal attacks on workers over the past weeks.

Only on Sunday, a Communist Party Senator was beaten up by a fascist gang—just one of many such outrages committed by right-wing thugs since the strike wave began three months ago.

When the time comes for a showdown with the working class, these gangs will gain access to arms without any difficulty.

Many army leaders are openly in sympathy with their fascist aims.

Whichever political group was responsible, the Milan explosion without doubt served the interests of extreme reaction, giving new force to ultra-right calls for a military coup and the breaking-up of the Italian labour movement.

And it is equally true that the reformist policies of the Stalinists, who have used the strike wave simply as a lever to force recognition of their claims to a place in the government, greatly assist the work of the fascists.

Waiting

The extreme right are waiting and preparing for the time when the working class becomes exhausted.

Only then will they strike their decisive blows.

So it was in 1922 with Mussolini, helped to power by the treachery of the reformist and centrist leaders; and so it will be again if the Stalinists are allowed to betray the current strike movement.

We must be prepared to mount a massive campaign of solidarity with the Italian working class if the right-wing unleashes the beginnings of such an attack.

All the signs point to such an offensive in the very near future.

Italy must not follow the path to dictatorship travelled by Greece.

Ferranti meters

N. Wales strikers win back steward's job

FERRANTI Meters' strikers, Bangor, North Wales, returned to work yesterday.

By an Industrial correspondent

Eight men, including a shop steward, whose sacking had led to 800 walking out on strike, went back into the factory with them.

Ferranti Meters is the principal employer in an area where pay rates are generally very low.

The growing discontent at Ferranti's over the past months has been in line with the general movement of low-paid workers.

Militant

Workers allege that the real reason for the sackings of these workers as 'unsuitable' was that they had given militant expression to this discontent.

According to the firm's own advertisements, semi-skilled workers are paid £14 15s 6d (gross pay) a week. Unskilled men get £12 18s 6d and skilled setters' wages are £18 2s.

At the mass meeting last Friday, when the strikers decided to return, they were in fighting mood, despite the nearness of Christmas.

There were calls that the strike continue for wage demands.

There were also demands that trade union organization be tightened in the factory and that shop stewards be elected in every section.

There is no doubt that the strike will have big results in building a fighting trade union organization and heightening the struggle to raise wages in the whole area.

Parity fight

● FROM PAGE ONE

appalling weakness of the trade union leaders themselves—was shown by the company's labour relations director, Robert Ramsay, at November 28's National Joint Negotiating Committee.

Ramsay's argument, since backed up by the Dearborn announcement, was essentially that the company could only remain competitive so long as its high levels of capital investment are turned over rapidly and cheaply.

Parity, he claimed, was therefore impossible.

No answer

No reformist — right or 'left'—can answer Ramsay.

Ford's solution to the problem of falling demand on the US home market is to take it out of its workers in Britain and western Europe.

To argue, as have Ford's Communist Party stewards, that parity should be granted because of 'the productivity contribution Ford workers have made' is completely treacherous.

As a Halewood press shop steward explained:

'If we lose this fight, they'll sweat us even worse in the future.

'Already it's almost impossible. We get men—used to grafting—coming from the docks and other industries who are completely unable to stand the pace or get used to tearing every muscle in their body eight solid hours a day.

'We can't afford to lose this time.'

Serious retreats have already been made by some sections of Ford stewards.

A resolution passed by the last Dagenham stewards' meeting is seen by many Ford workers as both cutting across previous decisions and encouraging dangerous illusions in the trade union officials.

'Negotiate'

'In pursuing the campaign for parity of wages with Midlands motor workers', the resolution said, 'this meeting of Ford shop stewards throughout the Dagenham area calls upon the trade union side of the NJNC to negotiate continuously from Friday, January 23, a wage increase of a character consistent with the £10 wage demand by Ford workers.

'This meeting also recommends to the national conference of all Ford stewards being held on January 18, 1970, that a date be set for action if no satisfactory conclusion is reached by negotiations.'

It is also known that other sections of Ford stewards would favour acceptance of a £4 wage offer in the unlikely event of the company making such an offer on January 23.

These are dangerous trends.

The Workers Press advocates the following programme:

- **Scrap the NJNC! End the 'penal clauses' agreed by this body in March of this year!**
- **Set up a combine liaison committee to call a strike of all Ford plants if the claim is not immediately met without 'strings'!**
- **Resist interference by the Trades Union Congress or the Department of Employment and Productivity!**
- **Fight for the nationalization of Ford's without compensation and under workers' control!**

WEATHER

London area, SE, NW and Central Northern England, E and W Midlands: Showers of sleet with snow on hills. Sunny intervals, wind moderate or fresh. Westerly. Rather cold. Maximum 5C (41F).

Central Southern and SW England, Channel Islands: Showers of rain or sleet, with snow on hills. Sunny periods. Winds fresh or strong, westerly. Rather cold. Maximum 6C (43F).

Glasgow area, Northern Ireland: Sleet or snow showers. Sunny intervals. Wind northwesterly, fresh or strong. Rather cold. Maximum 4C (39F).

Edinburgh: Showers or longer periods of sleet or snow. Winds north-westerly, moderate. Rather cold, maximum 3C (37F).

Outlok for Wednesday and Thursday: Becoming colder in the north with some sleet or snow, continuing rather cold and changeable in the south.