

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

What we think

Black Africa in revolt

THE SPECTRE of the African revolution which the white racials of S Africa thought was effectively buried at Sharpeville 11 years ago is once more haunting the Salisbury and Pretoria dictatorships.

This is the unmistakable message of the curling columns of black smoke rising out of Rhodesia's third largest city Gwelo after three days of violent demonstrations against the terms of the Rhodesian settlement and the Pearce Commission.

Despite the presence of heavily armed troops and police firing tear gas, over 8,000 Africans—mostly unemployed youth—demonstrated through the townships of Monomatapa and Mambo.

They were singing 'Ikelele Africa', the national anthem, and shouting a continuous chant of 'No'.

More than 70 per cent of Gwelo's African work force struck.

As a result of this massive demonstration the Pearce Commission was forced to abandon its fraudulent exercise in 'fact-finding' and 'consultation'.

The Gwelo demonstrations, coming so soon after the very effective Ovamboland miners' strike against contract labour and the 100 per cent asbestos miners' strike in Shabani, are clear proof that the African working class is the undisputed leader of the national struggle—and the greatest threat to the white racials and petty-bourgeois black nationalist regimes.

Social Democratic reformists and Stalinists would very much like to attribute the Rhodesian African opposition to the reactionary constitutional proposals of the Smith-Home settlement. This is not so.

Behind the hatred to the constitutional settlement lies the growing problem of urban and rural unemployment; increasing landlessness and the constant haunting fear of dispossession by a ruthless white bourgeoisie.

At the same time the world economic recession has affected the mining industry directly. Mineral prices have toppled and costs have soared.

Predictably the profit-hungry mining magnates have tried to offload the burdens of the crisis on the backs of the mining workers.

So, unlike 1961, when the S African regime, because of rising investment and a soaring demand for its goods, was able to stabilize its system after the Sharpeville massacre, today it is faced both with an insurgent working class and a declining market and profits.

The situation for the racials is further vastly compounded by the example of the defeats inflicted on imperialism in Indo-China and Bangla Desh.

In S Africa this has led one section of the ruling class, the so-called liberals, to urge the Vorster regime to grant full citizenship to the 2 million Cape coloureds in case this community becomes completely alienated from the whites.

But the white rulers—like the proverbial Bourbons—have learnt nothing and forgotten nothing.

Their chief spokesman, Dr Schalk Van der Merwe, Deputy Minister of Coloured Affairs, summed up the bankrupt philosophy of every ruling class doomed by history when he told a symposium at the University of Cape Town:

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The Opposition 'attack' was led by millionaire banker Harold Lever who, voted with the Tories to get Britain into the Common Market.

The first Labour speaker in the debate, Mr Joel Barnett, demanded of Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath:

'When are you going to do something in this strike and when are you going to use your good offices to bring the two sides together?' The chamber was half-empty when he spoke.

Other Labour MPs distinguished themselves in a more bizarre way. In a flourish of utter selfishness, a group of them have decided to contribute £1 a week to miners for the duration of the strike.

If the strike lasts as long as the 1926 affair, this could mean MPs could suffer an almighty loss of earnings totalling £26!

(By the way, these same MPs recently voted themselves salaries of £4,500 a year which was a 38 per cent increase.)

The debate however did confirm two essential features of the present miners' strike which today enters its 11th day.

● The Tories have declared all-out class war on the miners who are today bearing the brunt of the working-class fight for jobs, better wages and a decent standard of living.

● The Labour Party and the Communist Party reformists are totally paralysed to enter the fight with the miners because they evade the central political demand of the working class today—GET THE TORIES OUT.

The evasions of the trade union bureaucrats, the 'lefts' and the 'radicals' can best be seen by examining the actions of three men.

VICTOR FEATHER, of the TUC has refused to convene a meeting of transport unions to fight alongside the miners. And now he has written to the Tories pleading for the reconvening of the Energy Advisory Council, a body of top Tory and trade union bureaucrats.

His latest stunt came at noon yesterday when he announced he was calling together the NCB and NUM for 'talks about talks' today. In this meeting lie the treacherous seeds of arbitration or courts of inquiry.

JACK JONES, the transport workers' leader, has told the miners his union is 'holding out the hand of fraternal friendship'. In the coalfields this gesture is cynically called 'the stab in the back'.

Members of Jones' union are still handling coal and oil. The absence of a decisive

T&GWU statement is creating confusion and acrimony on picket lines and only helping the Tories' reactionary plans.

HUGH SCANLON, the engineers' chief, has abandoned a national pay claim, thus atomizing his members' struggle against the Tories.

When the working class needs unified action to get rid of this hated government, the engineers' sector is hived off into literally dozens of small local actions which will have to be fought under the shadow of the Industrial Relations Act.

The Tories are drawing tremendous comfort at present from the activities of these men.

But what's afoot is a Tory onslaught against not only the miners, but the whole working class.

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T & GWU docks chief attacks jobs strike

BY DAVID MAUDE

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His attack was made at a meeting of the Transport and General Workers' Union's docks and waterways committee in London, where 800 dockers have just been told they will lose their jobs by the end of the year.

O'Leary's argument was that a nine-point programme for defending dock jobs had been put out for discussion in the ports, but that some stewards and committee members had jumped the gun.

The meeting was expected to discuss calls for a national docks delegate conference to discuss the crisis which will threaten 5,000-6,000 jobs in the ports by mid-June.

As the T&GWU men were meeting, there were further rumblings of the crisis from the Port of London Authority. Yesterday, PLA director-general John Lunn sent out letters to all employees warning that 800 more jobs and ten-15 more berths than previously expected are to be axed by the end of the year.

Originally 1,200 jobs were threatened.

Now the figure is 2,000, with Lunn looking further ahead to only 45 conventional berths in London by 1974-



Continual police intervention has prevented effective picketing

WEST DRAYTON, MIDDIX Pickets face large-scale scabbing

From IAN YEATS

MINERS picketing Europe's largest coal depot at W Drayton, Middlesex, said yesterday that scab lorry drivers were taking out hundreds of tons of domestic coal.

And they claimed that the action of the National Coal Board in employing 16 non-union men to load stocks for delivery was the only thing keeping supplies moving.

'It's disgusting,' said Sam Harrison, vice-chairman of Coventry mine lodge, Keresley. 'If they were union men we could have pulled them out and put a stop to all this. This is an NCB plant, but there is non-union labour handling union coal.'

'We're taking it up with the liaison committee, but after the strike we'll insist that there is union labour at this depot.'

Mr Harrison told me pickets had come close to being run down by scab workers trying to drive their lorries into the depot without stopping.

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WIVES BITTER ABOUT NCB PAY OFFER



FIFTY housewives from Bolsover, Derbyshire, came to London yesterday to demonstrate their support for their husbands and sons in the miners' strike. They were met at the House of Commons by four miners' group Labour MPs and then went to No 10 Downing St and the NCB headquarters to hand in letters. They were bitter about the NCB's paltry £2 offer. Mrs S. Williams, whose husband works at Whitwell colliery, remembers 1926: 'I was ten and I remember the soup kitchens and my father who was a miner. We won't give in now. However long we strike we're right behind them,' said Mrs Joan Butts. 'We're NCB offices, so we get no social security under the new laws. But to accept £2 is to take a drop in wages and we're behind our husbands on this principle.' Two coaches of striking miners and their wives from Kent lobbied parliament at the start of the emergency debate on the miners' strike.

Coal 'talks' about talks'

MINERS' leaders have agreed to TUC general secretary Victor Feather's invitation to meet the Coal Board this morning for 'talks about talks'.

NUM president Joe Gormley said yesterday that the general secretary of the trade union movement 'was entitled to call us together'.

But Gormley added that any useful talks must include the possibility of an improved offer.

Asked how this move would be viewed in the coalfields he replied: 'I don't see why anybody should read anything sinister into it unless they want to.'

MINERS IN Scotland stopped essential oil supplies to power stations yesterday, writes Stephen Johns from Edinburgh.

Oil tankers were turned away at Cokeridge power station outside Edinburgh by pickets after the intervention by Scottish miners' leaders.

'Our aim is to bring the generation of electricity in

Scotland and in Britain, for that matter, to a halt,' said Jimmy Young, a member of the Scottish miners' executive.

The district strike committee of the Lothians area will meet today to extend the ban on oil.

Without these supplies the coal burners in the power stations cannot be started off each day.

Oil supplies were stopped after two Transport and General Workers' Union representatives from the big Grangemouth refinery on the Firth of Forth met members of the Scottish executive on the Cokeridge power station picket line.

Asked if electricity was the miners' concern, EC member James Tennyson replied: 'We surely are concerned with the disruption of industry in this country because our strike is against the government.'

He was speaking after a meeting of 700 Lothians miners had made it clear that they would outlaw any attempt to bring in an independent tribunal to judge their claim.

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Persistent selling on the foreign exchange markets is driving down the dollar's price in relation to other currencies, while the price of gold is being pushed up to record levels.

The Italian central bank was forced to intervene in the market on Monday to maintain the agreed relationship between the dollar and the lira.

In W Germany, Belgium and Holland, the dollar fell below its newly-agreed official central rate.

The Group of Ten meeting in Washington a month ago has done nothing to restore confidence in the dollar.

One banker was quoted yesterday as saying the meeting 'may just turn out to have been a reprieve before the next crisis'.

Sharp reductions in US interest rates are discouraging dollar-holders in Europe from repatriating them to the US.

At the same time, there are growing fears in capitalist circles that America will devalue by even more than the amount agreed at Washington, in order to undercut its competitors.

These considerations have deterred holders of 'hot' money from moving their funds back into dollars, despite the December 18 agreement.

Since August 15, when President Nixon stopped selling gold for dollars, there has been no stability in the relations between currencies.

Even the ever-optimistic 'Times' economics editor Peter Jay is now forced to admit: 'The US authorities are never going to restore the convertibility of the dollar into gold whether or not the official gold price is raised as agreed on December 18.'

And there is no guarantee that the US will raise the gold price. The administration has said it will not put the legislation before Congress until Europe agrees to tear down its tariff barriers against US goods.

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EVERYWHERE, in Rhodesia, Britain, Ireland, and throughout the world, the enormous strength of the working class is making itself felt.

The magnificent support we receive each day for Workers Press expresses the growth of this mass movement. It gives us great confidence to go forward now to the expansion of the paper next month to a 12-page tabloid.

We must keep up this big struggle. Make January's fund our best effort yet. Our total stands at £713.80—so press on as fast as you can, and keep pushing this figure right up. Post all donations to:

Workers Press
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In London, the Division of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs representing clerical workers in the area has voted to support the campaign and to sponsor one unemployed marcher with a £25 donation.

Engineering union branches, Coventry No. 5, Ilford No. 3 and Deptford, SE London, have pledged support and donations. Engineering workers' shop stewards at Decca and Morgan Carbonite in Battersea, S London, have contributed to the fund.

Building workers' shop stewards at McAlpine's Bloomsbury site, Russell Square, London, unanimously agreed at their works committee to raise at least £25 from the site for the campaign.

Railwaymen in the Swansea No. 1 NUR branch have backed the campaign and have raised a collection of £5.

In Leeds, garment workers in the city's No. 1 Tailor and Garment Workers' union branch have added their voice to those supporting the campaign.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS
Right-to-work campaign begins

We will be marching from
GLASGOW FEBRUARY 5 — LIVERPOOL FEBRUARY 19
SWANSEA FEBRUARY 19
To a mass rally at
EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY on MARCH 12
WANTED URGENTLY

Loan of vehicles—road-worthy vans, cars (reasonable hire will be considered)

Accommodation

Cooking equipment

Tinned food

Finance

Brass/jazz bands

Please tick box where applicable.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

Please complete above form and post to:
Clive Norris, national secretary
Right-to-Work campaign
186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.
Or phone 01-622 7029.

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1975 instead of the 54 forecast.

Since late 1967 the authority has cut back its work force from 12,500 to the current level of 8,700.

It now wants a reduction to 6,700—a drop of over 46 per cent—inside five years.

But it seems certain that the latter phase of this cut will not be achieved in the atmosphere of industrial peace the PLA claims for the earlier ones.

Lunn's explanations for his stiffer cut-backs include the severity of the unexpected slump in world trade, ship-owners' speeded-up shift into containerization and the faster turnarounds planned for conventional cargoes.

He confirms that discussions are taking place both locally and nationally to achieve the necessary reductions of registered dock workers—ostensibly through the 1947 Dock Labour Scheme.

The plans of the PLA and the employers are designed to explode the scheme, however. Requests for a government inquiry into the scheme are already believed to have been made by the employers.

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if there are too many here they'll disperse us. They said the 25 here yesterday were too many."

Police yesterday accused pickets of intimidation after scab drivers were told their lorries would be black-listed from all NCB depots if they crossed the picket lines.

But Sam Harrison said: "I don't care what the police say. If we're digging coal we'll have to say about who handles it."

"I think we'll win this strike, but the TUC should call everybody out. It's a General Strike we want. They've offered us fraternal sympathy, but we want action."

"We'll not go back until we get the full amount."

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WANTED URGENTLY

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 - Accommodation
 - Cooking equipment
 - Tinned food
 - Finance
 - Brass/jazz bands
- Please tick box where applicable.

NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE NUMBER

Please complete above form and post to: Clive Norris, national secretary Right-to-work campaign 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4. Or phone 01-822 7029.

TV column

The British Empire —

An everyday story of BBC disaster and confusion

By Anna Tate

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It was not so much an 'echo' as a celebration, a tribute to 1897, the 'high noon' of Empire, the 'zenith', the 'apex'.

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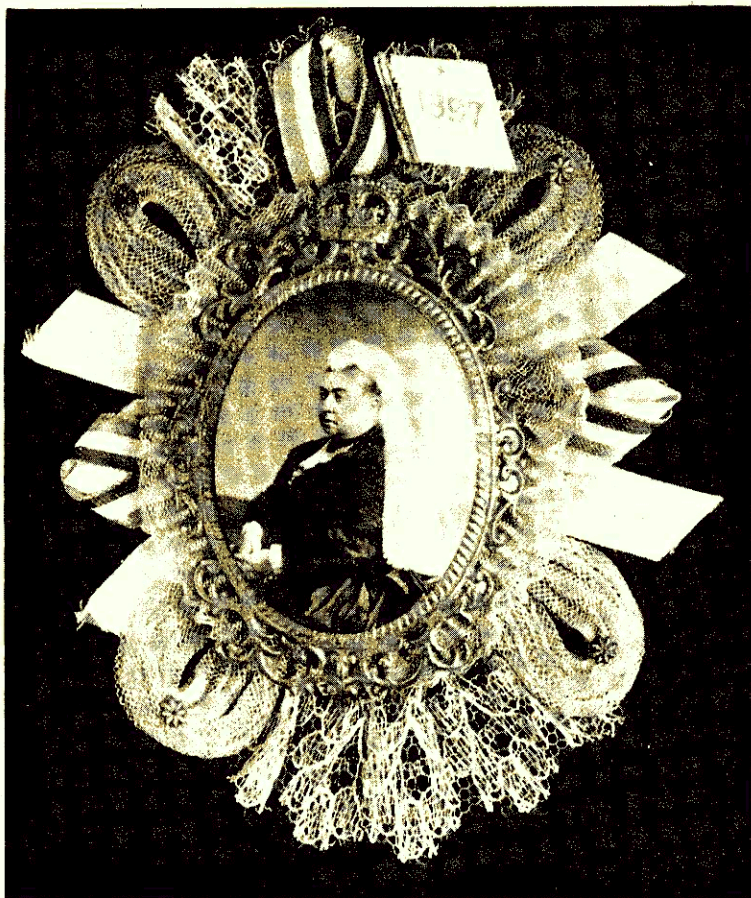
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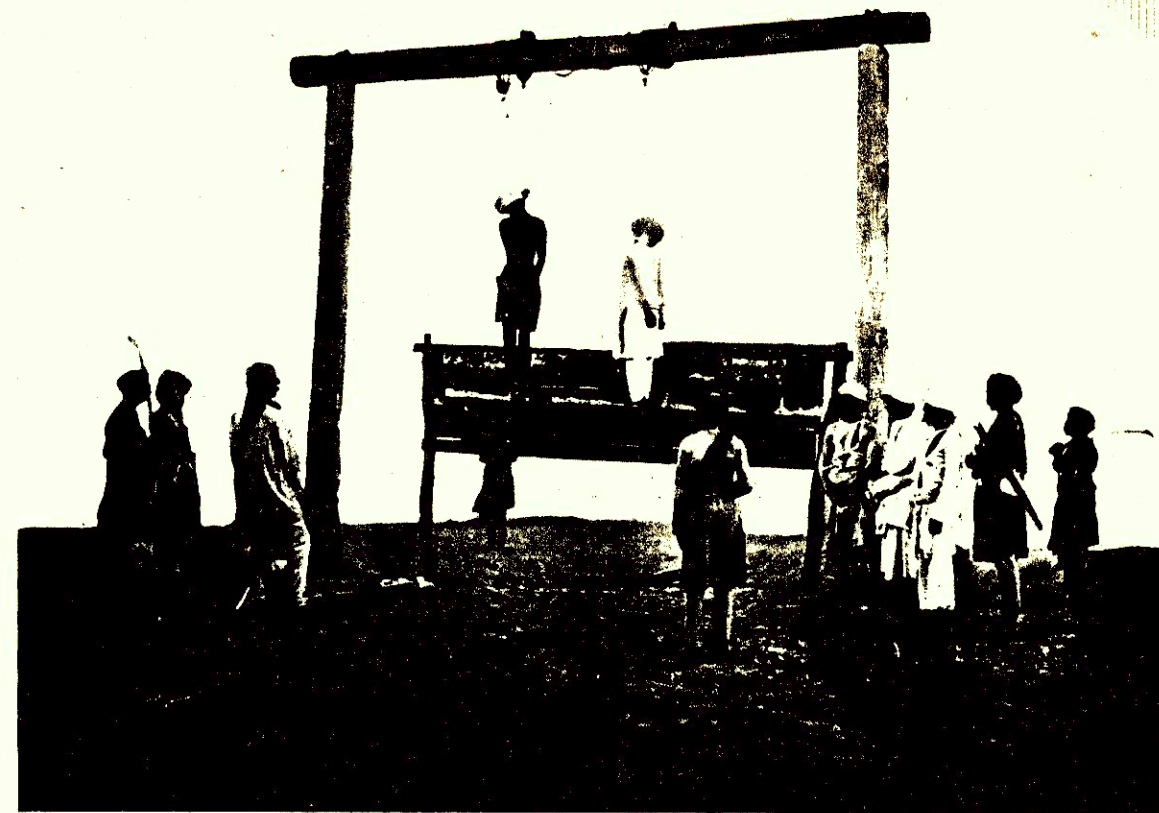
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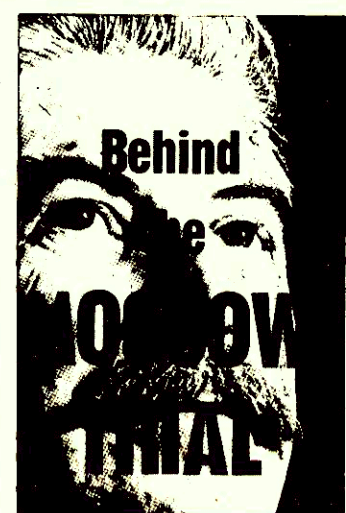
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IN DEFENCE OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

tv column

The British Empire —

An everyday story of BBC disaster and confusion

By Anna Tate

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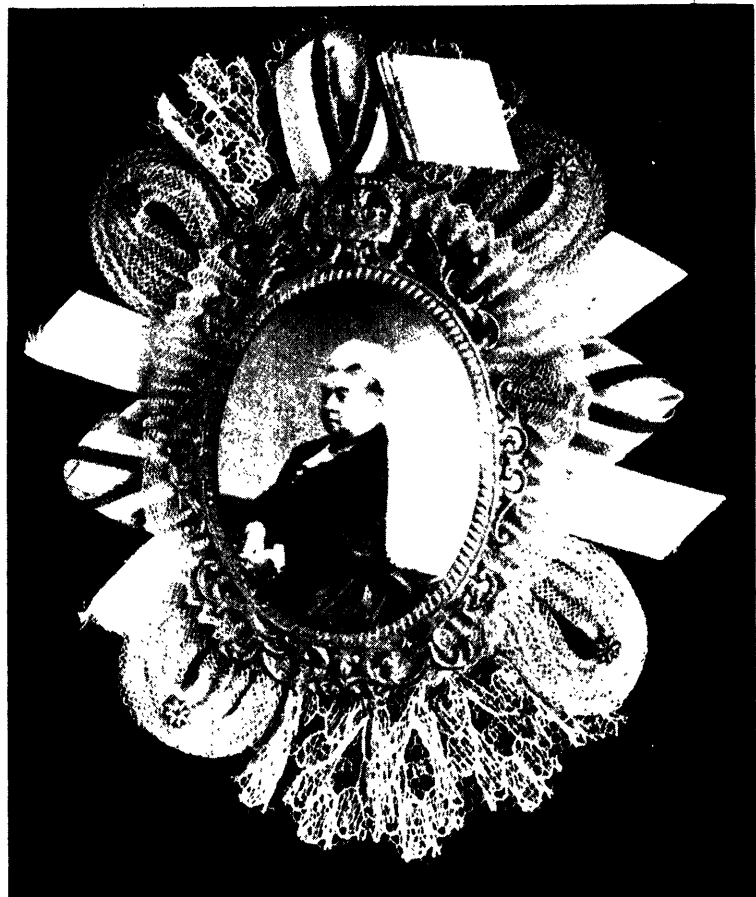
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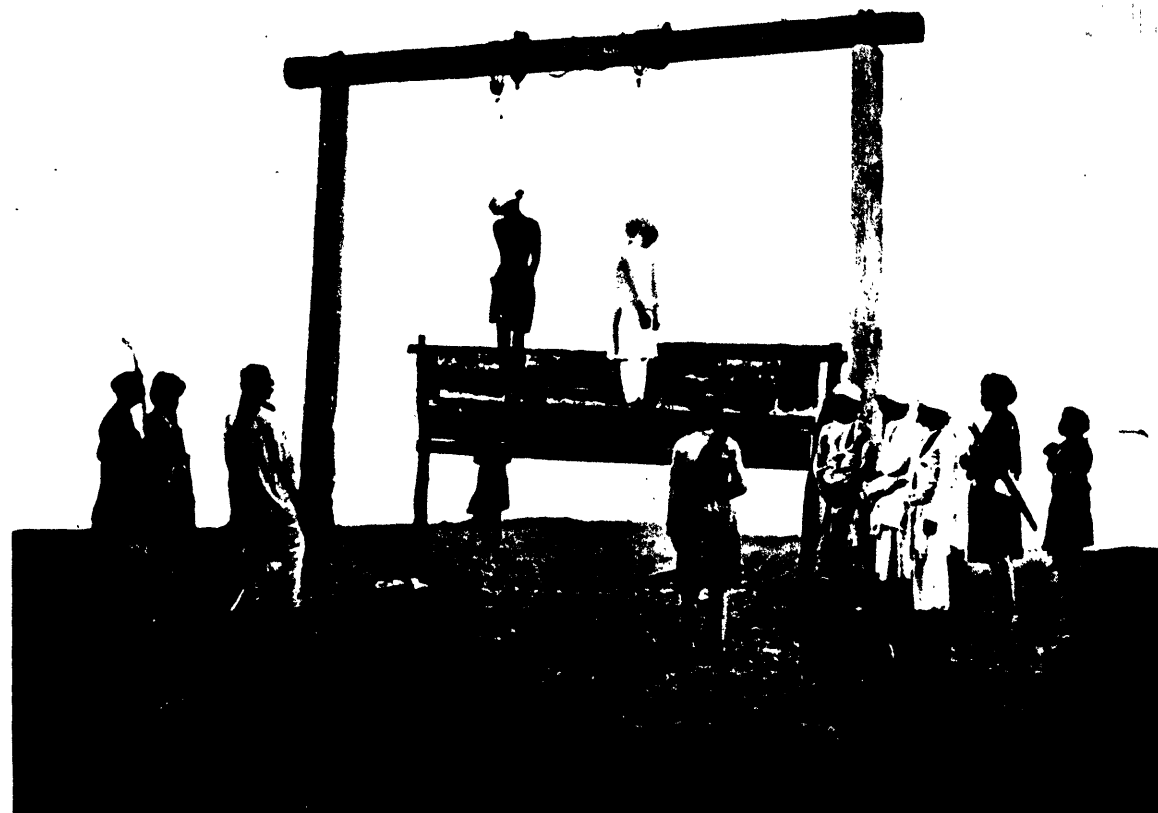
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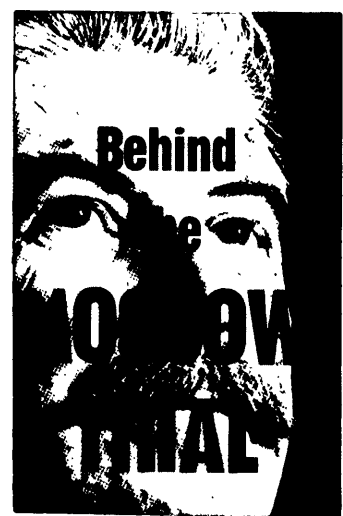
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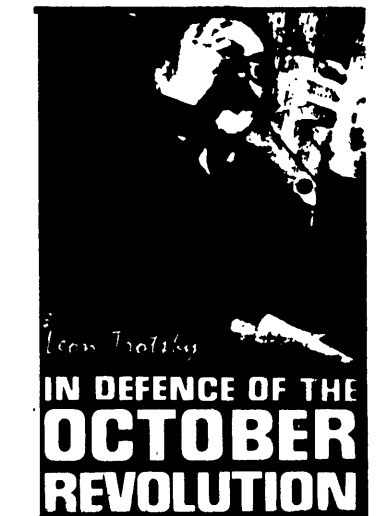
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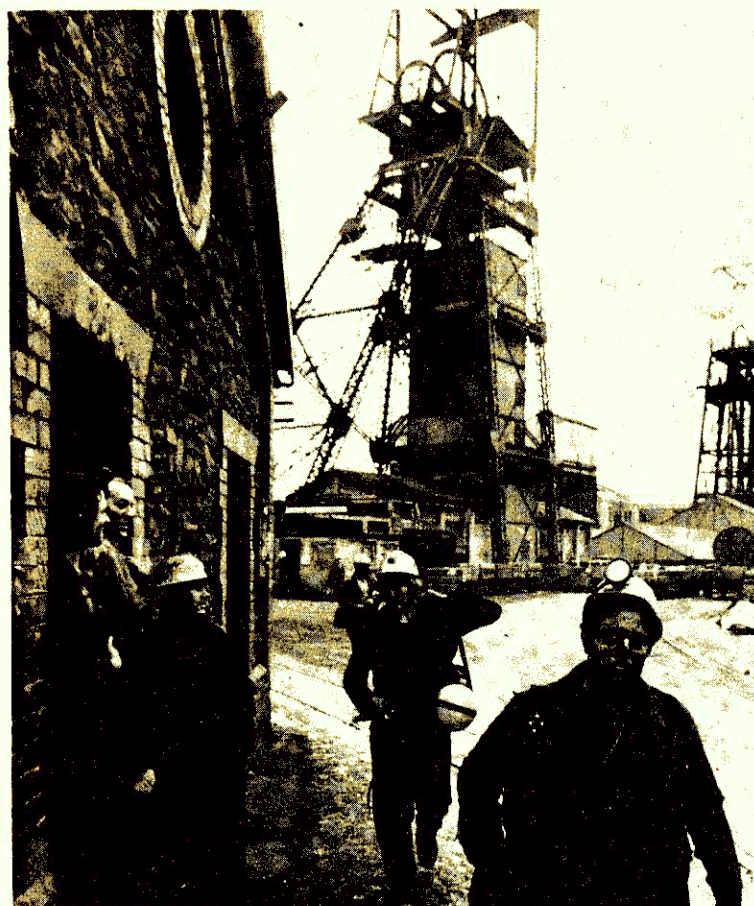
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The price of coal



didn't have a car and I couldn't drive, but a pal lent me a car and another pal drove me down home.

'When I got home we were told that everybody on the face was dead. At the pit there was a list of names up. Some had question marks against them. It meant that those without question marks could be recognized, but those with question marks couldn't be recognized. There was a question mark against my Dad's name.

'The bodies were brought up that night. They were put in some old stables at the pit top and they had to be identified. There were a lot of wives there, but mostly men went in instead of the women—relatives, or neighbours or friends—just to spare the women from having to do it.

'When I went in and looked at my dad, all there was charred flesh and bone. I had one look and I said "Aye". I couldn't really recognize him for sure, but I said "Aye" because I couldn't bear to look any more.

Recognizable

'They could tell who was dead by the numbers on the lamps, but they had a legal requirement for identification.

'I didn't see them all, and some of them might have been recognizable. But, my Dad, all that looked recognizable was the shape of his skull. If I'd been in a rugby scrum I'd have been able to pick out my Dad's head. And that was how I did it then.

'The features of his face were non-existent. There was a smell all over the room like meat burning. I came out and I was sick. I can't remember much else about it. I was 20 years old, then.

Taffy says 'But this is no sob story on behalf of miners. Miners have never had much time for sob stories or looking over their shoulders at sad yesterdays.

'But the public must be made aware of the price of coal. And I don't mean in cash but in lives, men, and in half-eaten aways, rotten, diseased lungs. Miners know this, but tend not to think or talk about it.'

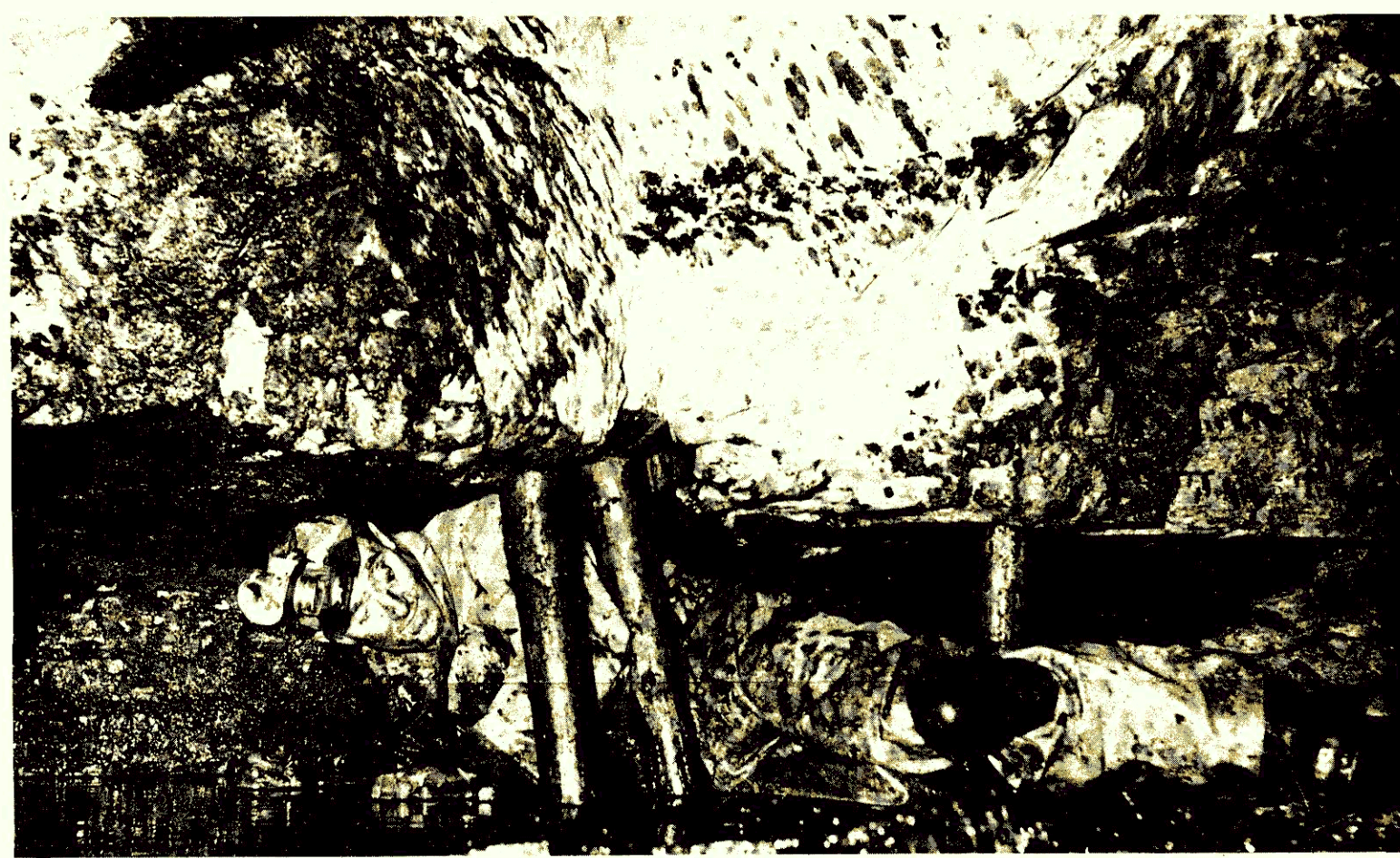
'Taffy' King is now on strike at Bilthorpe Colliery, Nottinghamshire.

Even today with modern technology miners work in conditions unimaginable to other workers.

Right: Working on a wet seam at Canderrig Colliery.

'Our fight is always against the Tories'

—Scottish Miner



ANDREW HORSBURGH will be 66 in March. He began his working life before he was 14—down the pit driving the ponies to and from the narrow seams.

A lifetime of work down the mine generally wrecks a man. Only a handful finish their days without some permanent disability from the decades of toil.

Few get any compensation. Mr. Horsburgh was invalided out last year with an arthritic back—the doctor said it was because of the 'knocks' received at the coal face.

'But,' he told me, 'arthritis is not an industrial disease. The Coal Board gave me nothing. I get £1.50 a week pension which I paid for myself.'

Andrew says he would never let his sons work down the mine. 'I have seen the two big strikes, 1922 and 1926. We were betrayed both times.'

'Churchill sent the troops up round here in 1926. Then the miners had to scramble on the tips hunting for scraps of coal.'

'The soldiers used to patrol with fixed bayonets, but some of them were human, you know, they used to give us a bag or two. But I'll never forget what that man Churchill did.'

'Now look how this strike started.'

'The TUC didn't organize the other unions. They should have settled all the problems of moving the coal before the strike. They say they have 'confidence' in the miners' struggle.

'They give us sympathy just like they did in 1926.'

The Loamhead miners' welfare club where I met Mr Horsburgh

recently collected for the Asturias miners' strike in Spain. I told him of the coal exported from Poland to break the strike and that the Polish government were now trying to get coal into Britain. He was not surprised.

'They did the same in 1926. They brought coal over—and even miners—from Poland. It's always the same, Baldwin or Heath, Tories always try to use the workers of one country to break the strength of the workers at home.'

Nationalization was a great day for miners like Andrew and he still views it as a reform. In the days of the private owners, the men worked under a contract system or were on piecework.

'This was a system where one man earned money at the expense of another.'

'It was a vicious weapon the owners used to turn man against man, the way we are paid now is better. The more the money is shared out between men like brothers the nearer it is to socialism, and that's what I stand for,' he said.

'But otherwise nationalization was a failure.'

'It didn't benefit the miner. The Labour government took it over but paid massive sums to the owners and we—the taxpayers, and the miners—have been paying these people ever since. This should be stopped right away.'

'This strike, like all miners' strikes, is against the Tories. Our fight is always against the Tories, the country will never be right until we get rid of them.'

'I came to that conclusion 45 years ago when I saw those bayonets marching up and down.'

July 1960:

Explosion in the pits

SOME Workers Press readers may have seen episodes of Emile Zola's 'Germinal' on television. A story of a miners' strike in the 19th century, this novel expresses the sufferings and degradation—almost dehumanization—forced on miners by the coal-owners in their never-ending search for profit.

S Wales. The result was an explosion. There were 47 men working the face.

Nobody can say exactly what it was like down there that morning, because no one lived to tell the tale.

All that can be said for certain is that some of the 47 men were lucky. They died in the blast. The unlucky ones were caught in the ball of fire that swept round the face immediately afterwards.

Graham 'Taffy' King was working at Steely Colliery, Worksep, Notts, that day. He told me:

'I was at work and somebody said there had been an explosion in Wales. I was surprised about it and then an hour later I got a telegram from my mother.'

'It said "Dad in explosion. Come as soon as possible". I

Treatment

Men aren't treated like animals these days. Or are they? Is it all so far away? How far away?

On July 28, 1960, at 10 a.m., too much gas accumulated on a coalface at Six Bells Colliery in

FBI man signs off

THE UNITED STATES Internal Revenue Service has a special seven-man unit to collect information on 'extremist political organizations'.

This was revealed by former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Robert N. Wall.

Other FBI activities included monitoring the telephone of the Israeli Embassy, planting informants in a liberal research institute and fomenting strife between radical groups by sending anonymous letters.

Wall has written a full account of his experiences which is to appear in an American journal. He says he is disillusioned with the American way of life and intends to move to Canada.

An FBI spokesman, who would not comment on the revelations, confirmed that Wall had been a special agent.

'Wall said that when an "extremist organization" appears to have money to spend, the information is passed on to the Internal Revenue. Misleading information was circulated to New Left organizations with the intention of fomenting dissensions.'

During the six-day war Wall was detailed to listen in to the Israeli Embassy's phone; other agents monitored the Arab embassies. He said he found it difficult to understand the accents.

He also took part in an investigation of a 'liberal' research group called Institute for Policy Studies. It was followed by individual investigations of those who worked for or received money from it. The FBI secured its records from a bank without a subpoena and had them photo-copied.

Wall said that he resigned from the FBI after investigating the Centre for Black Education, which his superior insisted was a cover for guerrilla training. He said he found no evidence that it was any such thing. When he sent a memo to that effect, the reply was that either the agent was naive or he had been duped.

Bukovsky speaks on his trial

Part two



Vladimir Bukovsky

TODAY Workers Press publishes the second part of the courtroom speech of Vladimir Bukovsky, the young Soviet oppositionist sentenced to 12 years imprisonment and exile for so-called 'anti-Soviet propaganda' by a Moscow court earlier this month.

Bukovsky, who was tried in semi-secrecy and great haste, fell foul of the Stalinist bureaucrats for his exposure of the dreadful psychiatric prisons where oppositionists are held.

'THE TRIAL proceedings today have been conducted with numerous procedural infringements. The indictment, in which the word 'slanderous' is used 33 times and the word 'anti-soviet' 18 times. Contains no concrete indications of which facts are slanderous among those I communicated to western correspondents and which materials of those taken from me during the search and which I allegedly

distributed, are anti-Soviet. Of the nine petitions I made at the beginning of the trial proceedings and supported by my lawyer, eight were refused.

Not one of the witnesses I named, who could refute various points of the indictment, was called by the court.

I am accused, specifically, of handing over anti-Soviet materials in the presence of Volpin and Chalidze.

[A reference to Alexander Yesenin-Volpin, son of poet Sergei Yesenin, and Valeri Chalidze, a physicist and member of an unofficial Soviet civil rights committee].

However, my demand that these two people be called as witnesses was not met.

Further, not one of the eight people I called who could confirm the authenticity of my assertions on the facts of confinement and conditions of 'detention of people in special psychiatric hospitals was summoned to the court.

The court rejected my petition that these witnesses be called and motivated it by saying they were mentally ill and could not testify.

At the same time, there are two people among them—Z. M. Grigorenko and A. A. Fainberg—who have never been placed in special psychiatric hospitals, but have been to these hospitals only as relatives and could confirm my testimony on confinement conditions in these hospitals.

[The two people mentioned are relatives of Major-General Pyotr Grigorenko and Mr Viktor Fainberg, both dissidents confined in psychiatric hospitals].

Only those witnesses named by the prosecution have been invited to the court. And what kind of witnesses were they?

Well, before my arrest, a former school comrade was sent to me, a certain Nikitinsky who now works at Sheremetyevo Airport's customs inspection section and who was entrusted with provoking me to a crime—arranging for underground printing equipment to be brought in from abroad.

In all probability, Nikitinsky, who did military service in the state security forces, was sent by KGB officials.

But the ill-starred provocateur did not succeed in doing this. Then the investigation, and then the court too, tried to make him into a witness on this point of the indictment. We saw here how Nikitinsky was not up to this task either.

What were all these provocations and crude procedural violations needed for, this stream of slanders and unfounded accusations?

What was this trial needed for? Only to punish one person? No, there is a 'principle', a kind of 'philosophy' here. Behind the accusation presented, there

stands another, unrepresented. With the reprisal against me they want to frighten those who try to tell the whole world about their crimes.

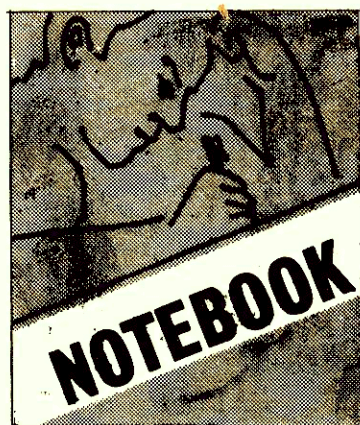
They do not want to 'carry filth out of the izba' [peasant hut] so as to appear on the world arena as such irreproachable defenders of the oppressed.

Our society is still sick. It is sick with the fear which has come down to us from the Stalin era. But the process of the public's spiritual enlightenment has already begun and cannot be stopped.

The public already understands that the criminal is not the one who carries filth out of the izba but the one who makes it filthy.

And however long I have to spend in detention I will never renounce my convictions and I will express them, availing myself of the right given me by article 125 of the Soviet constitution, to all who want to listen to me.

I will fight for legality and justice. And I regret only that over the short period—one year, two months and three days—during which I was at liberty, I managed to do too little for this cause.



Sex-change vicar?

BRENT Labour council's plan to provide contraceptive pills to women of 16 and over has run into opposition from the local Catholic hierarchy.

The council's offer to meet the churchmen was turned down and the Catholic Dean of Brent, the Rev C. E. McMenemy, in his sermon last Sunday, told his parishioners that he wished he was a woman so that he could lead such a protest to the town hall as they had never seen before.

'Eccentric' Mr Hughes

HOWARD HUGHES, the multimillionaire, recluse, has a phobia about germs.

And he plans to have himself frozen immediately after death in the belief of future revival. His theory is that he can be unfrozen when a cure is found for the disease that killed him.

This anecdote appears in a biography of Hughes published on Monday. The book, edited by Robert Eaton (Lana Turner's ex-husband), describes Hughes as 'mysterious and eccentric'.

Apologists are useful

PRAGUE has found a useful apologist in the ultra-Stalinist journalist and novelist James Aldridge. In an interview with 'Rude Pravo', the Czechoslovak Communist Party daily, published on Saturday, he defended the Warsaw Pact invasion of August 1968.

According to Aldridge, Czechoslovakia was threatened by a plot to restore capitalism; the original idea was British and the whole thing was masterminded by the Intelligence Service. The CIA did the dirty work while the W Germans acted as go-betweens.

Aldridge sees something terribly sinister in the visits made to western countries by Czech intellectuals before 1968.

'In articles published after their return', he said, 'one can trace out exactly the changes and trends that were in tune with the plan thought up in England, regardless of whether they were infiltrated with these trends directly in England or in W Germany, Austria or elsewhere.'

This is the great conspiracy theory used by apologists for the Moscow Trials and the whole of Stalin's policies. It resembles that of some bourgeois politicians who see in every strike or revolution the evidence of a plot organized, according to taste, in Moscow, Peking or Havana.

In Aldridge's case, he still has to explain why the policies put forward at the time of the 'Prague Spring' had such an enormous popular appeal after nearly a quarter of a century of 'socialism'.

The idea of this, and presumably the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, the riots in Poland in 1970 and the Berlin uprising of 1953, all being the work of British Intelligence, has something pathological about it.

Perhaps Aldridge has been taking his own books too seriously, or perhaps his hobbies of trout fishing and underwater swimming have something to do with it. In any case, it is very convenient for the Czech bureaucracy to find a foreign author to give an explanation of the events of 1968 which it has hardly dared to put forward itself.

READERS' LETTERS WELCOME

The Editor, Workers Press, 186 Clapham High St, London, SW4

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BBC 1

9.15 For Schools. 10.45 Boomph with Becker. 11.05 For Schools. 12.45 Nal Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 12.55 Disc a Dawn. 1.30 Chigley. 1.45 News, weather. 2.05 For Schools. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 The Tinderbox. 5.20 Soper at Large—Sussex Downs. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.50 TOM AND JERRY.

7.00 OWEN MD. Comings and Goings. Part 1.

7.25 STAR TREK. The City on the Edge of Forever.

8.10 SOFTLY, SOFTLY: TASK FORCE. The Amateur.

9.00 NEWS, Weather.

9.20 SPORTSNIGHT WITH COLEMAN. FA Cup Soccer, International Amateur Boxing, European Bobsleigh.

10.45 24 HOURS.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University.

7.05 MAN IN HIS PLACE. We Are the Masters Now. What happened to the miners' dreams of the new Jerusalem?

7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.

8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED. Esther Rantzen talks to Professor Hyman Levy. 2. Conditioning.

9.00 LOOK STRANGER. The Statue Man.

9.20 FILM: 'LOVE ME TONIGHT'. Maurice Chevalier, Jeanette MacDonald. Musical comedy.

10.45 NEWS, Weather.

10.50 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.



ITV

9.00: A Family at War —'Coming Home'

ITV

10.20 For Schools. 2.32 Garden Indoors. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Tea Break. 3.40 Edgar Wallace. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Get This. 5.20 Tightrope. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Music at night.

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SOUTHERN: 3.35 Horscopse. 3.40 Tea break. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.23 Cartoon. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.30 University Challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Dick Van Dyke. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 South News. 11.55 Weather.

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 For Schools. 2.33 World in Action. 3.00 Pied Piper. 3.05 House and Garden. 3.35 Calendar. News. 3.45 Women Today. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.30 University Challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Mr. Digby Darling. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Weather.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 For Schools. 3.37 Grampian News Headlines. 3.40 Smith Family. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Tuku. 4.55 London. 6.00 Grampian News, weather. 6.10 Grampian Week. 6.35 London. 8.00 Department S. 8.35 Police News. 9.00 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Music of the Highlanders. 12.00 Evening Prayers.

SCOTTISH: 10.20 Schools. 3.30 Winter of Enchantment. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline: Early.

REGIONAL ITV

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Mrs. Muir. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Tightrope. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 Wrestling.

4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline: Wednesday. 6.20 Popeye. 6.30 University Challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Department S. 9.00 London. 10.30 McQueen. 11.00 Scotsport. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Wrestling.

GRANADA: 10.18 For Schools. 3.40 Yoga. 4.25 News. Here's Lucy. 4.35 Rupert Bear. 4.55 London. 6.00 Newsday. 7. What's On. 6.25 Teyton Place. 7.00 London. 8.00 Cad's Country. 9.00 London. 10.30 Shirley's World. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 What the Papers Say.

ULSTER: 10.20 Schools. 4.30 Romper Room. 4.50 Ulster News Headlines. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV Reports. 6.15 What's On? 6.35 London. 6.00 Strange Report. 9.00 London. 10.30 Tommy Cooper. 11.00 Wrestling.

HARLECH: 10.20 Schools. 3.50 Katie Stewart Cooks. 4.15 Tinker-tailor. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Smith Family. 7.00 London. 8.00 Cad's Country. 9.00 London. 10.30 Tommy Cooper. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.01-6.30 Report West.

HTV Wales as above except: 3.50-4.15 Hamlyn. 6.15 Dyfed. HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales.

CHANNEL: 10.20 Schools. 4.05 Paulus. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Tea Break. 4.55 London. 6.00 Channel News, weather. 6.10 Towards the Year 2000. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure Hunt. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Hawaii Five-O. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weather. 10.32 The Comedians. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Westward Diary. 11.44 News. 11.47 Faith for Life. 11.52 Weather.

The price of coal



didn't have a car and I couldn't drive, but a pal lent me a car and another pal drove me down home.

'When I got home we were told that everybody on the face was dead. At the pit there was a list of names up. Some had question marks against them. It meant that those without question marks could be recognized, but those with question marks couldn't be recognized. There was a question mark against my Dad's name.

'The bodies were brought up that night. They were put in some old stables at the pit top and they had to be identified. There were a lot of wives there, but mostly men went in instead of the women—relatives, or neighbours or friends—just to spare the women from having to do it.

'When I went in and looked at my dad, all there was was charred flesh and bone. I had one look and I said "Aye". I couldn't really recognize him for sure, but I said "Aye" because I couldn't bear to look any more.

Recognizable

'They could tell who was dead by the numbers on the lamps, but they had a legal requirement for identification.

'I didn't see them all, and some of them might have been recognizable. But, my Dad, all that looked recognizable was the shape of his skull. If I'd been in a rugby scrum I'd have been able to pick out my Dad's head. And that was how I did it then.

'The features of his face were non-existent. There was a smell all over the room like meat burning. I came out and I was sick. I can't remember much else about it. I was 20 years old, then.'

Taffy says 'But this is no sob story on behalf of miners. Miners have never had much time for sob stories or looking over their shoulders at sad yesterdays.

'But the public must be made aware of the price of coal. And I don't mean in cash but in lives, men, and in half-eaten away, rotten, diseased lungs. Miners know this, but tend not to think or talk about it.'

'Taffy King is now on strike at Bilsthorpe Colliery, Nottinghamshire.

Even today with modern technology miners work in conditions unimaginable to other workers.

Right: Working on a wet seam at Canderrig Colliery.

'Our fight is always against the Tories'

—Scottish Miner



ANDREW HORSBURGH will be 66 in March. He began his working life before he was 14—down the pit driving the ponies to and from the narrow seams.

A lifetime of work down the mine generally wrecks a man. Only a handful finish their days without some permanent disability from the decades of toil.

Few get any compensation. Mr Horsburgh was invalided out last year with an arthritic back—the doctor said it was because of the 'knocks' received at the coal face.

'But,' he told me, 'arthritis is not an industrial disease. The Coal Board gave me nothing. I get £1.50 a week pension which I paid for myself.'

Andrew says he would never let his sons work down the mine. 'I have seen the two big strikes, 1922 and 1926. We were betrayed both times.'

'Churchill sent the troops up round here in 1926. Then the miners had to scramble on the tips hunting for scraps of coal. The soldiers used to patrol with fixed bayonets, but some of them were human, you know, they used to give us a bag or two. But I'll never forget what that man Churchill did.'

'Now look how this strike started. The TUC didn't organize the other unions. They should have settled all the problems of moving the coal before the strike. They say they have 'confidence' in the miners' struggle.'

'They give us sympathy just like they did in 1926.' The Loanhead miners' welfare club where I met Mr Horsburgh

recently collected for the Asturian miners' strike in Spain. I told him of the coal exported from Poland to break the strike and that the Polish government were now trying to get coal into Britain. He was not surprised.

'They did the same in 1926. They brought coal over—and even miners from Poland. It's always the same, Baldwin or Heath, Tories always try to use the workers of one country to break the strength of the workers at home.'

Nationalization was a great day for miners like Andrew and he still views it as a reform. In the days of the private owners, the men worked under a contract system or were on piecework.

'This was a system where one man earned money at the expense of another.'

'It was a vicious weapon the owners used to turn man against man, the way we are paid now is better. The more the money is shared out between men like brothers the nearer it is to socialism, and that's what I stand for,' he said.

'But otherwise nationalization was a failure. It didn't benefit the miner. The Labour government took it over but paid massive sums to the owners and we—the taxpayers, and the miners—have been paying these people ever since. This should be stopped right away.'

'This strike, like all miners' strikes is against the Tories. Our fight is always against the Tories, the country will never be right until we get rid of them. I came to that conclusion 45 years ago when I saw those bayonets marching up and down.'

July 1960:

Explosion in the pits

SOME Workers Press readers may have seen episodes of Emile Zola's 'Germinal' on television. A story of a miners' strike in the 19th century, this novel expresses the sufferings and degradation—almost dehumanization—forced on miners by the coal-owners in their never-ending search for profit.

Are these days long since gone? Is capitalism more 'human' now? Perhaps that's all long, long ago.

Treatment

Men aren't treated like animals these days. Or are they? Is it all so far away? How far away?

On July 28, 1960, at 10 a.m., too much gas accumulated on a coalface at Six Bells Colliery in

S Wales. The result was an explosion.

There were 47 men working the face.

Nobody can say exactly what it was like down there that morning, because no one lived to tell the tale.

All that can be said for certain is that some of the 47 men were lucky. They died in the blast. The unlucky ones were caught in the ball of fire that swept round the face immediately afterwards.

Graham Taffy King was working at Steely Colliery, Worksop, Notts, that day. He told me:

'I was at work and somebody said there had been an explosion in Wales. I was surprised about it and then an hour later I got a telegram from my mother.

'It said "Dad in explosion. Come as soon as possible". I

FBI man signs off

THE UNITED STATES Internal Revenue Service has a special seven-man unit to collect information on 'extremist political organizations'.

This was revealed by former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Robert N. Wall.

Other FBI activities included monitoring the telephone of the Israeli Embassy, planting informants in a liberal research institute and fomenting strife between radical groups by sending anonymous letters.

Wall has written a full account of his experiences which is to appear in an American journal. He says he is disillusioned with the American way of life and intends to move to Canada.

An FBI spokesman, who would not comment on the revelations, confirmed that Wall had been a special agent.

'Wall said that when an 'extremist organization' appears to have money to spend, the information is passed on to the Inland Revenue. Misleading information was circulated to New Left organizations with the intention of fomenting dissensions.

During the six-day war Wall was detailed to listen in to the Israeli Embassy's phone; other agents monitored the Arab embassies. He said he found it difficult to understand the accents.

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(The two people mentioned are relatives of Major-General Pyotr Grigorenko and Mr Viktor Fainberg, both dissidents confined in psychiatric hospitals).

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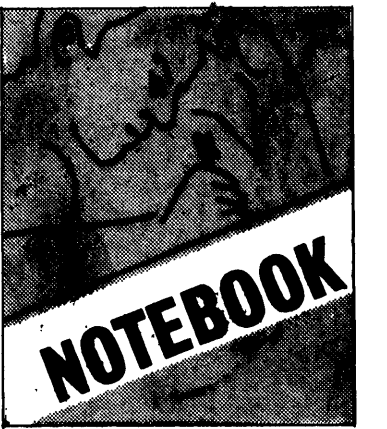
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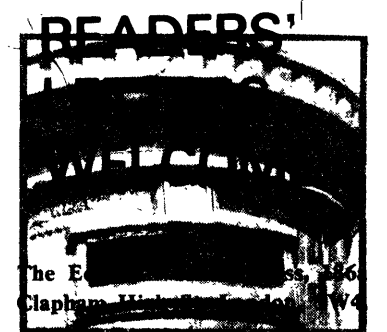
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SOUTHERN: 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Tea break. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.25 Cartoon. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.30 University Challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Dick Van Dyke. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 South News. 11.55 Weather.

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 For Schools. 2.33 World in Action. 3.00 Pled Pipers. 3.05 House and Garden. 3.10 Calendar. News. 3.45 Women Today. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 London. 6.00 Crossroads, weather. 6.30 University Challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Mr. Dibs. Darlings. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Weather.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 For Schools. 3.37 Grampian News Headlines. 3.40 Smith Family. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Tuktuk. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 What's On? 6.30 Grampian Week. 6.35 London. 8.00 Department S. 8.35 Police News. 9.00 London. 10.30 Quid couple. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Music of the Highlanders. 12.00 Evening Prayers.

SCOTTISH: 10.20 Schools. 3.30 Winter of Enchantment. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. Early.

4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline: Wednesday. 6.20 Popeye. 6.30 University Challenge. 6.45 What's On? 6.55 Department S. 9.00 London. 10.30 McQueen. 11.00 Scotsport. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Wrestling.

GRANADA: 10.18 For Schools. 3.40 Yoga. 4.05 News. Here's Lucy. 4.35 Rupert Bear. 4.55 London. 6.00 Newsday. What's On. 6.25 Peyton Place. 7.00 London. 8.00 Cade's Country. 9.00 London. 10.30 Shirley's World. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 What the Papers Say. 11.55 Wrestling.

ULSTER: 10.20 Schools. 4.30 Romper Room. 4.50 Ulster News Headlines. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTU Reports. 6.15 What's On? 6.35 Report Wales. 6.30 Smith Family. 7.00 London. 8.00 Cade's Country. 9.00 London. 10.30 Tommy Cooper. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Weather.

HARLECH: 10.20 Schools. 3.50 Katie Stewart Cooks. 4.15 Tinker-tainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Smith Family. 7.00 London. 8.00 Cade's Country. 9.00 London. 10.30 Tommy Cooper. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.01-6.30 Report West.

HTV Wales as above except: 3.50-4.15 Hamdden. 6.01-6.15 Y Dydd. HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales.

CHANNEL: 10.20 Schools. 4.05 Paulus. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Tea Break. 4.55 London. 6.00 Channel News, weather. 6.10 Towards the Year 2000. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure Hunt. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Hawaii Five-O. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weather. 10.32 The Comedians. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 3.55 Honeyburn. 4.20 News. 6.00 Westward Diary. 11.44 News. 11.47 Faith for Life. 11.52 Weather.

35,000 GEC jobs slashed since merger

SIR ARNOLD WEINSTOCK begins the New Year with a characteristic flourish — he is to sack another 1,100 men from his giant General Electric Corporation.

This brings the number of GEC redundancies to 4,000 for the past nine months. By Weinstock standards, this mass sacking is almost a drop in the ocean. In the financial year ended March 31, 1971, he axed 11,000 employees.

And since the GEC-AEI merger four years ago, a total of 35,000 men have been put out of work.

The Labour government—and in particular Anthony Wedgwood Benn—gave approval to the merger which formed the £890m Weinstock empire.

And Edward Heath can have nothing but admiration for Weinstock—after all, last year he gave him the knighthood for 'services to industry'. GEC, Britain's ninth largest company, made a profit last year of £82m, an increase of more than £10m on the previous year.

The company is desperate to maintain this high profitability and to pay fat dividends to its shareholders. For this reason when GEC's markets are threatened and sales decline, the first 'savings' is made in the work force. They are thrown on to the dole to protect profits.

The list of redundancies in the electronics giant is spread all over the country. About 605 redundancies will occur at the GEC-Marconi plant at Chelmsford, Essex, because of the 'continuing work shortage'. The company's order book is now 40 per cent lower than in January 1970.

A spokesman said: 'This reflects the world-wide position in electronics. Of the men to be sacked 150 are hourly-paid workers and 455 are staff employees.'

At Stafford, about 450 men are being sacked at the GEC Power Engineering works during the next nine months. And company officials say these cuts are only the beginning.

A company statement said a shortage of orders—from the Central Electricity Generating Board in particular—is causing the staff reductions.

The plant manufactures heavy electrical equipment, including turbine generators, transformers and switchgear. The problems of this section of industry have already been sharply highlighted by the sacking of 950 men at C. A. Parsons, Newcastle upon Tyne, last month.

At Wembley, Middlesex, all 500 employees stand to lose their jobs with the closedown of the factory 'towards the end of 1972'.

The factory manufactures marine and general communications systems. The company says that the situation in the plant has worsened rapidly since the cancellation of a contract with Bolivia for radar defence equipment.

Further staff cutbacks are being put into effect at the company's Merseyside operation. The GEC used to employ 12,000 men at its three plants on the East Lancs Road.

But as part of its so-called rationalization two of the plants—Napier and Netherthorn—have been closed down leaving only the domestic appliances and switchgear divisions. The remaining staff numbers between 4,500 and 5,000.

At Lewisham in SE London the GEC-Elcott Automation's Century Works is threatened with closure. This comes on top of previous closures at Woolwich, Blackheath and Sydenham during the past three years.

More than 100,000 jobs have been lost in SE London during the past seven years as a result of the closure of more than 100 industrial premises.

Chrysler pay strikers stay out Fresh burst of militancy in car plants

LOCAL and national union officials were making a second bid last night to end a major Scottish pay strike which has brought chaos to the Chrysler car combine.

Their success depends on whether they can break the new wave of militancy now sweeping Chrysler's Linwood plant near Glasgow.

From STEPHEN JOHNS IN SCOTLAND

Officials tried last week and forced management to remove some of the strings on a £4 offer, but the 6,500 Chrysler workers rejected this unanimously on Friday.

The men's determination continues in the face of a vicious press campaign to intimidate them back to work. It marks a new burst of industrial unrest in a plant which has been docile for a year.

The strike has already threatened the company's bid to get an 18-month pay and productivity agreement. Chrysler offered the deal without naming the wage increase involved, but spiced its move with a promise that after 18 months there will be a three-year climb to full parity with the highest paid Chrysler men at Ryton, Coventry.

Car workers at Luton and Dunstable have fallen for this, but the Linwood men want nothing to do with group negotiations or deals. Chrysler's countered by withdrawing the package deal and offering £4 with strings to their Linwood employees, who are demanding an across-the-board £8 increase.

The capitalist press has angered the men in two ways. Firstly it maintains that the latest £4 offer is without strings. But this is not so. One Linwood steward explained: 'They have withdrawn to conditions which demand an amalgamation of various skills and groups. But a clause on overtime remains personally against this.'

This clause insists on one hour's compulsory overtime four nights a week whenever production requires this. Newspapers have also dubbed the dispute as a 'parity' strike. This the steward vehemently denied. They want the money rewards that go with wage equality with the top earners at Ryton. But not the conditions.

For example, Ryton men have 'sold' their tea breaks under their Measured-Day Work scheme. MDW has operated at Linwood too since 1968. But it was not until the piecework that they apply under this vicious form of exploitation are the best that can be obtained.

There is another reason to their opposition to 'grades'. Workers on lower grades at Linwood, like viewers and mechanical handlers, get more money than their Ryton counterparts. This is an advantage the Scottish workers would be loath to lose.

One man explains why: 'With the stress and strain of the Linwood track, we all end up sweeping the floor sometime—keeping the pay up our insurance. But why the sudden burst of militancy?'

bonus payment already paid to workers on the BP Baglan Bay site as well as the reinstatement of a shop steward who was sacked for refusing to work in the rain. The men are to meet again in a week's time.

NIGHTSHIFT workers at Rover's Birmingham plant are due to strike tomorrow as part of a campaign of stoppages to win a piecework average of £40. This follows a stoppage by 1,700 engines and transmissions workers on Monday. The strikes were decided on at a mass meeting last Friday.

All overtime has been banned in support of the claim. Shop stewards believe the management's refusal to concede the claim stems from British-Leyland's determination to introduce Measured-Day Work.

Three factors have affected this.

Last year, against advice from shop stewards, Linwood workers passed up the chance of a parity fight and went for a £5 increase instead.

Predictably the management tagged on the promise of parity. But the pledge was only words and now the strikers are demanding money.

Secondly, the new structure of the factory floor leadership has given more power to the shop stewards.

The union side of the plant is normally run by a Joint Representative Council. On this body the more conservative ancillary trades can command a majority with one or two votes from the big three unions—the engineers, the vehicle builders, and the Transport and General.

This dispute, however, is run by a 44-man strike committee consisting of the JRC plus the works committees of the unions.

Even this body has shown weaknesses. Last Thursday a split developed when local union officers, acting on instructions from head office, attempted to persuade a delegation of stewards to enter 'informal discussions with the management.'

A mass meeting of the 33 shop stewards was called to decide the issue. And the vote rejected the talks.

There is a third factor. The Linwood strike coincides with the shutdown at Bathgate—British-Leyland's truck division near Edinburgh.

The strikes have similarities. The 3,500 Bathgate workers are in for a £9 'no-strings' rise.

Both disputes are an indication of a new upsurge of militancy among workers in Scotland.

ENGINEERS in W London are attacking union leaders' abandonment of their national pay claim as a blow against the miners.

Chiswick No. 5 branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers views the union national committee's decision last week to go for plant bargaining 'with disgust'.

A resolution to be forwarded to the executive adds: 'Small factories and those whose organization is weak will become victims of unscrupulous management.'

'Those traditionally strong would face the full force of the Industrial Relations Act in the context of more than a million unemployed.'

The branch concludes that had the national committee called on the membership to fight for the claim, 'we would have linked with the miners and rallied the whole trade union movement to bring down this reactionary Tory government.'

W SCOTLAND and N Ireland will have a few showers. The rest of Scotland except the SW will have sleet or snow at places, gradually clearing during the day. SW Scotland, Wales and W England will have rain and sleet at first, becoming mainly dry during the morning.

The remainder of England will have sleet or snow in places, gradually clearing from the W during the day. Temperatures will return to normal except in SE England, where it will be rather cold. Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Some rain or showers in most places. In SE England probably also some snow. Temperatures near normal but rather cold in SE England.

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Dec 18 cash deal

FROM PAGE ONE

The instability of currency relations has a direct impact on production, particularly for export, as there are no longer any guarantees, even in the short term, that contracts will be profitable.

Production is going down and unemployment mounting throughout the capitalist world. Japan's steel barons reported yesterday that world production had fallen last year for the first time in more than a decade.

The drop in this basic product was 2.5 per cent, the Japanese steel federation said. Unemployment is growing throughout W Europe, the brunt being borne within the Common Market by migrant workers from Spain, Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey.

In both Italy and Britain, about a million workers are out of work. Major commercial failures are now likely.

In W Germany, for example, the Ruhrkohle coal cartel has reported a \$108.9m loss over the last year and sources in Dusseldorf say the company's situation is so severe it may not be able to pay its current bills by the end of next month.

Some stewards fear that Chrysler's will come back with an increased offer in exchange for the old package.

Certainly the strike is hurting them. The Linwood men produce body panels for the key Avenger range on which Chrysler is staking its fortunes after a disastrous performance last year.

If the men get past Friday's meeting without going back, they will face their first week on social security.

Having cleared this obstacle, the strike may be a long one—long enough to coincide with the other strikes looming in the industry over the engineers' pay claim now being fought at plant level.



Seamen and miners on joint picket outside the NUS headquarters demanding more positive support for the pit strike (see story below).

Coal talks

FROM PAGE ONE

SEVERAL hundred Kent and Warwickshire miners lobbied parliament yesterday afternoon to 'bring home to our representatives the serious situation confronting the miners', as Betteshanger NUM president Bill Morris put it.

A major talking point among the lobbyists was the intervention of TUC general secretary Victor Feather in the dispute.

'It's about time he got off the fence,' commented Derek Streeton. 'But we don't want to go to any kind of arbitration.'

William Tills sported a large placard demanding solidarity action from other trade unionists. He pointed out that while production in the Kent coalfield had rocketed over the last few years, wages had gone down. 'We want some action from MPs to help us change this situation,' he said.

'We want to register our disgust at the whole position of the NUS. This lobby is in solidarity with the miners.'

The NUS executive, however, refused a request from miners' pickets to receive a miners' delegation to ask for support for the strike.

MINERS' ATUA MEETINGS
AYLESHAM: Monday, January 24, 7.30 p.m. The Greyhound.
DEAL: Tuesday, January 25, 1 p.m. The Yew Tree, Mill Hill.
CASTLEFORD: Friday, January 21, 7.30 p.m. Sagar St. Rooms.

Class lines

FROM PAGE ONE

the success or otherwise of the whole gamut of their policies for Britain in the next few years.

The Tories want to cut wages, smash the trade unions with their Industrial Relations Act, create even higher levels of mass unemployment to intimidate the working class and to get into the Common Market on any terms so that the big European capitalists can join 'fraternal hands of friendship' to fight workers.

The class lines, therefore, are drawn quite clearly: the reactionary plans of the bourgeoisie against the fight of the miners on behalf of the entire working class for a decent wage and the right to work.

On the outcome of the miners' fight hangs the future of this government.

Despite the treachery in the trade union and Labour leadership, the conditions are rapidly building up for the Tories to be forced out of office.

Camp protest

REFRIGERATOR workers at LEC Refrigeration Ltd, Maydown, Londonderry, have staged a walk-out in protest against the opening of a new internment camp at Magilligan, Co Derry, N Ireland.

A workers' spokesman on Monday stated that two-thirds of the 100-strong work force left the factory.

'This half-day stoppage represents one of the only ways left by which our workers can express their condemnation of the present repressive policies, he said.

31 unions now registered

THIRTY-ONE organizations have been registered as trade unions under the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act.

A government spokesman said 120 organizations had been removed from the provisional register at their own request.

The TUC had hoped to know the registration position of all unions by next Monday. But this now looks impossible.

Lord Cooper's General and Municipal Workers' Union has postponed its decision and he will not be coming to Monday's meeting of the TUC.

ANGRY scenes flared at Dover yesterday after the driver of a coal lorry struck a picket over the head with an iron bar. The injured miner was taken to Dover hospital for treatment.

In the ensuing incident police arrested three miners.

SEAMEN and miners staged a joint picket outside the National Union of Seamen's S London headquarters yesterday calling on the NUS to take a 'more positive line' in support of the miners' strike.

London seaman Jack Rawlins told Workers Press: 'We are fully in support of the strike. We will give it as much support as we can.'

'We're lobbying the executive to ask them to give fuller support to the miners' strike. If it comes to it we will take the position that we can't supply labour to scab ships.'

Commenting on the TUC's position Jack said: 'I would hope that the TUC would take a more positive position, in the same way as we are asking our executive to do here today, which would entail financial and physical contact.'

Seaman Stephen Devreux said: 'We want to register our disgust at the whole position of the NUS. This lobby is in solidarity with the miners.'

The NUS executive, however, refused a request from miners' pickets to receive a miners' delegation to ask for support for the strike.

MANCHESTER: Thursday January 20, 8 p.m. Room 3, Social Centre, Brownley Rd, Wythenshawe.

WILLESDEN: Monday January 24, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Rd, Willesden, NW10. 'Rents and housing.'

LIVERPOOL: Monday January 24, 7.30 p.m. Museum (nr tunnel entry). 'Right-to-Work campaign.'

E LONDON: Tuesday January 25, 8 p.m. All Hallows Hall, Devons Rd, Poplar. 'Right-to-Work campaign.'

DAGENHAM: Wednesday January 26, 8 p.m. Room 11, East Ham Town Hall, East Ham. 'Right-to-Work campaign.'

LUTON: Thursday January 27, 8 p.m. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Rd, Luton. 'Right-to-Work campaign.'

N LONDON: (Please note change of date.) Thursday January 27, 8 p.m. Town Hall, Edmonton. 'Support the miners.'

SE LONDON: Thursday January 27, 8 p.m. Room 2, Deptford Engineers' Club, opp New Cross Stn. 'The Right-to-Work campaign.'

SLough: Thursday January 27, 8 p.m. 'The Merry-makers', Langley. 'Right-to-Work campaign.'

LANCASTER: Monday January 31, 7.30 p.m. Yorkshire House, Parliament St (nr bus stn). 'Right-to-Work campaign.'

Bukovsky's lawyer appeals

MOSCOW lawyer Vladimir Shveisky has appealed against the imprisonment of oppositionist Vladimir Bukovsky earlier this month.

The appeal was lodged on Monday with the Russian Federal Supreme Court. Bukovsky (29), was sentenced on January 5 to seven years' imprisonment followed by five years' exile to a remote region.

He was sentenced after a semi-secret trial at which he accused the court of reviving Stalinist practices. He has become known abroad for publicising the fact that sane oppositionists are detained in mental asylums.

Bukovsky's sentence has been followed by increased police activity against other members of opposition groups. In the Ukraine, at least six people have been arrested in Kiev, and another seven at Lvov. Among them is the noted Ukrainian critic Ivan Dzyuba, accused of Ukrainian nationalism.

In Moscow, police recently searched the homes of eight people suspected of opposi-

tional tendencies. The Stalinist press is also taking part in the clamp-down.

Valeri Chalidze, physicist and co-founder with Academician Andrei Sakharov of an unofficial civil rights committee, was attacked yesterday by 'Izvestia'.

Noting that visiting US Congressman James Scheuer had been to see him in Moscow, the government newspaper said he had hoped to obtain 'slanderous information about Soviet reality'.

Last week's 'Pravda' launched the present campaign with an article attacking oppositionists, and trying to establish an amalgam between them and Maoists, 'revisionists', 'bourgeois ideologists' and the US Central Intelligence Agency.

SEE INSIDE for part of Bukovsky's speech to the court.

W coast dockers resume strike

PORTS from San Diego up to Seattle along the American W coast were closed down yesterday as 13,000 dockers resumed their 100-day pay strike interrupted by a government 'cooling-off' order.

Talks on a new contract broke down in San Francisco on Monday night and President Nixon's troubleshooter J. Curtis Counts was on his way to Washington yesterday to recommend legislation to end the strike.

The dock dispute began at the end of June last year, and after 100 days the Nixon administration invoked the Taft-Hartley Act to force a return to work.

This expired at Christmas, and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union have since tried unsuccessfully to get agreement on a new contract with the employers.

The Nixon government now has no further powers to order the dockers back under existing law and it is thought almost certain to appeal to Congress for more powers.

workers press READERS MEETINGS

Meet Editorial Board speakers. Discuss your ideas for the expanded paper.

CENTRAL LONDON
Wednesday January 19 7 p.m.
'Weish Harp'
Temple Lane off Fleet Street

SOUTHAMPTON
Thursday January 20 7.30 p.m.
Conference Room Civic Centre Southampton

S LONDON
Wednesday January 26 8 p.m.
Lower Hall Brixton Town Hall Brixton SW2

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Make the Tory government resign! Return a Labour government pledged to restore full employment and repeal all laws against the unions!

SW LONDON: Tuesday January 18, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor St. SW4. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday January 18, 8 p.m. Indian Workers' Association, 18 Featherstone Rd. 'The miners' strike'.

W LONDON: Tuesday January 18, 8 p.m. Prince Albert, Wharfedale Rd, off York Way, Kings Cross. 'Back miners: Force Tories to resign!'

CORBY: Wednesday January 19, 8 p.m. Civic Centre. 'The Right-to-Work' campaign.

ACTON: Wednesday January 19, 8 p.m. The Greyhound, Becklow Rd, Acton, W12.

SKELMERSDALE: Wednesday January 19, 8 p.m. Quarry Bank community centre. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.'

CROYDON: Thursday January 20, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd, E Croydon. Support the miners.

KIRKBY: Thursday January 20, 8 p.m. St Chad's Hall. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.'

Socialist Labour League

Special courses of lectures

In line with decision of ATUA November 6 conference to build revolutionary party

Lecture Room 1 Digbeth Hall, Digbeth BIRMINGHAM, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY JANUARY 25 Economics and Politics

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 1 Historical Materialism today

Mid-Hall Woodside Hall, St George's Cross GLASGOW, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY JANUARY 23 Essential Marxism

SUNDAY JANUARY 30 Economics and Politics

given by G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

LATE NEWS

NEWS DESK
01-720 2000
CIRCULATION
01-622 7029

LINWOOD STRIKE

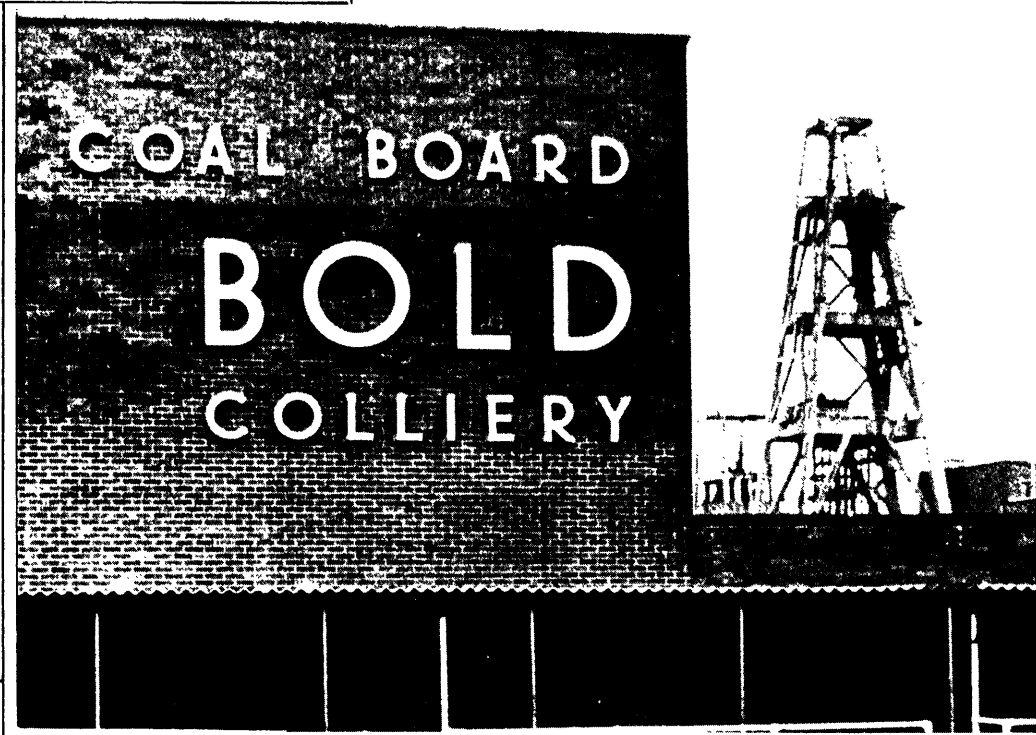
SHORTLY before shop stewards met management in London, Chrysler's managing director Gilbert Hunt issued a statement saying the company could not possibly afford to meet the pay demand at Linwood. He said the company would face 'commercial suicide by pricing ourselves out of the market.'

ABOUT 2,000 construction workers on the Esso oil refinery site at Milford Haven, S Wales, went on strike yesterday. They are claiming a

WEATHER

bonus payment already paid to workers on the BP Baglan Bay site as well as the reinstatement of a shop steward who was sacked for refusing to work in the rain. The men are to meet again in a week's time.

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VIEW OF THE PIT WHICH WORKED DURING 1969 AND 1970 STRIKES

'THROUGH this strike the non-militant lads have become more militant than the militant lads', says Malcolm Gregory, president of the 2,000-strong Bold (Lancs) branch of the National Union of Mine-workers.

The truth of what he says is borne out by his branch's solidarity and determined action against the Coal Board and the government.

When NCB chairman Derek Ezra withdrew his offer in the first days of the strike, Bold pulled out the safety men. At the weekend, the last remnants of the workforce, including the scientists at the Bold NCB laboratory, joined the strike.

Bold has never been a militant pit. It took no part in the unofficial strikes of 1969 and 1970. It has never lost money since nationalization and the Board had it on the list for capital development.

It is in the heart of right-wing NUM president Joe Gormley's home territory, but his supporters are watching him closely in this strike—and they are not sure they like what they see.

'This is not the Joe we knew,' says Malcolm Gregory. 'The trouble is there are too many right-wingers on the executive. If they were stronger and more militant they'd have had the safety men out from the start and the strike would have been over more quickly.'

'There's some miners living for five years ago. We can't afford television sets and they're working five or six days a week. They work their life out in the pits and they get pneumoconiosis or bronchitis [which is not termed an industrial disease]. They're put on light work and their money comes down by half.'

Thomas Brown, who has worked in Bold for 42 years, said: 'We're worse off now in the main than we were when the mines first opened. We were drawing wages six years back far superior to what we're drawing now. Some miners at this pit

LANCS

nationalized industry,' says Malcolm Gregory. 'Full nationalization would mean workers' management.'

'The present management is no good. Look at this safety issue. Last week, after we withdrew the safety men, they wanted us to send an electrician down because one of the machines was arcing. They had the chief electrician and the chief engineer down there and they weren't able to deal with it.'

'They told us the cost of living had gone up 14 per cent last year. It's gone up 11 per cent this year. They won't



Malcolm Gregory, president of Bold NUM

even give us a wage rise that would give us an average living for five years ago. We can't afford television sets and they're working five or six days a week. They work their life out in the pits and they get pneumoconiosis or bronchitis [which is not termed an industrial disease]. They're put on light work and their money comes down by half.'

Thomas Brown, who has worked in Bold for 42 years, said: 'We're worse off now in the main than we were when the mines first opened. We were drawing wages six years back far superior to what we're drawing now. Some miners at this pit