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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TORIES PROVOKE A CRISIS WITH UNIONS

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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We want to reaffirm that warning with all the emphasis we can muster. The past week has seen the Cabinet in action preparing, step by step, for an all-out confrontation with the trade unions. Here is the record.

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He was followed by Macmillan who screamed about the Railways Board being 'gazumped' by the rail unions.

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'Indications are that he will take up the challenge of trade union "economic blackmail" in the course of a general warning that rising prices and unemployment will not be curbed unless the unions

show restraint and responsibility in wage demands.

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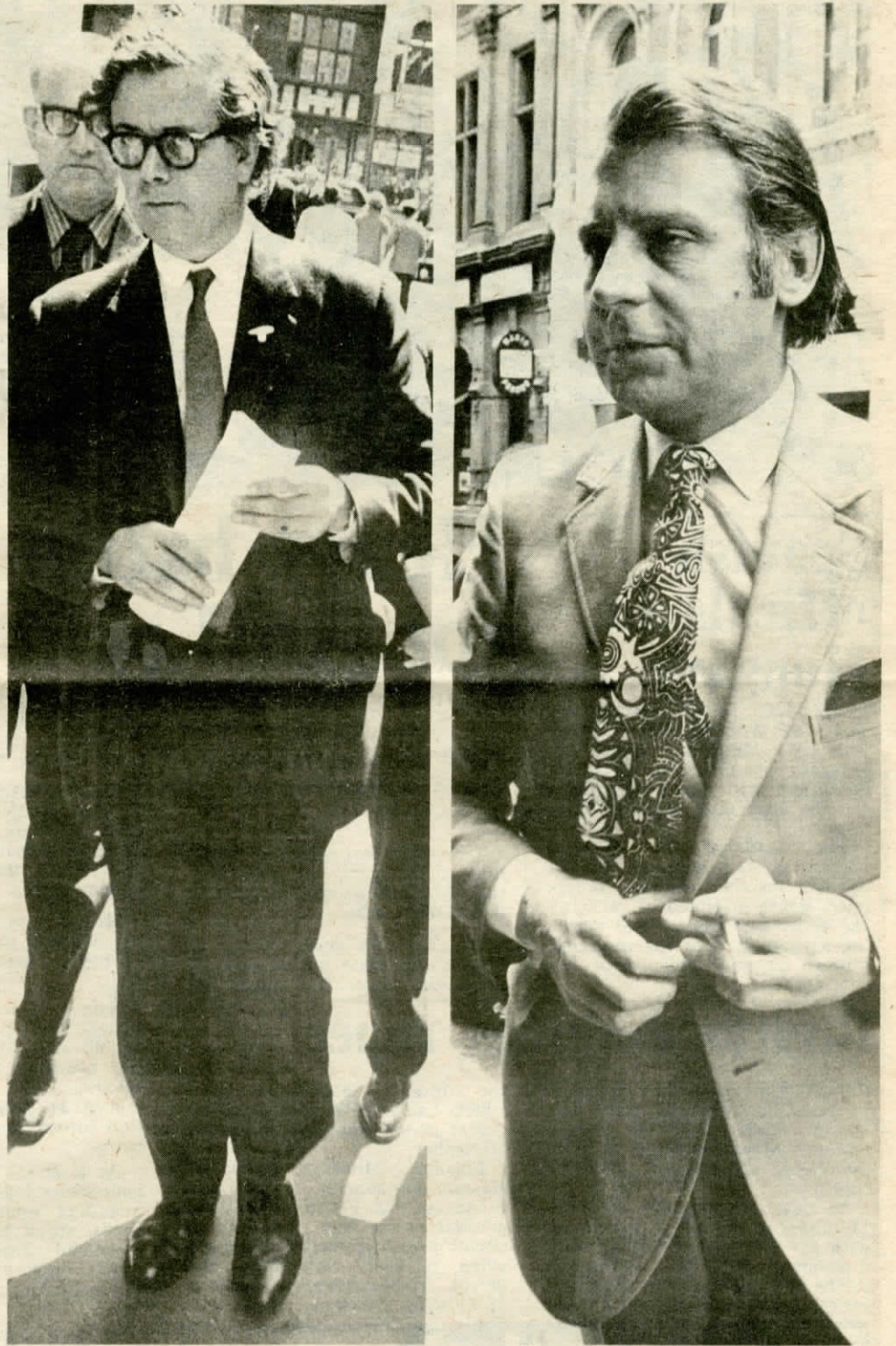
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- Reaffirm the decisions of last September in relation to the Industrial Relations Act.
- Call upon the movement to answer Tory provocation by preparing for a General Strike to create the industrial and political conditions to make the Tory government resign.



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He gave examples of rail workers who were alleged to have refused to man trains because of minor oil leaks, dirty windows and toilets that did not flush.

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In written affidavits rail union leaders challenge this. Percy Coldrick, general secretary of the Transport and Salaried Staffs Association, said a ballot would be a costly and futile exercise. 'It would only lead to one result, a firm rejection of the offer,' he said.

Locomotion's leader, Ray Buckton, said telegrams and letters showed overwhelming support for the union's action. Some had even urged the unions to take stronger measures against British Rail.

Board chairman and ex-Labour Minister, Richard Marsh, was in court to observe the legal battle. Court president, Sir John Donaldson, has said the court will sit today if necessary to complete the hearing.

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A drawing of Angela Davis in court, exclusive to Workers Press.

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US Embassy arrests in London

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS



Six hundred student demonstrators paraded outside the US Embassy in Grosvenor Square, London, yesterday against President Nixon's bombing of North Vietnam. There were a number of arrests.

Spanish officials in Hungary

BUDAPEST Radio reported on Thursday that Spanish Foreign Ministry officials were in Hungary for talks on 'questions concerned with the preparations for the European Security Conference'.

The Stalinists are actively cultivating the support of the Spanish fascists for this conference, which is aimed at ratifying the division of Europe and reaching agreement with the capitalist powers on joint policing of the continent.

Heavy battle for An Loc

SOUTH VIETNAMESE troops and liberation forces were locked in battle yesterday for control of the key town of An Loc.

Liberation forces poured shells into government positions and the Americans retaliated with B52 bomb raids.

An Loc, 56 miles north of Saigon, has been under siege by liberation forces for almost six

weeks. It is now almost completely destroyed after fierce battles on its outskirts and in parts of the town.

Field officers at Chon Thanh village, 20 miles south of An Loc, said yesterday two or three North Vietnamese tanks were still inside the town menacing Saigon forces.

Heavy ground fire was keeping South Vietnamese helicopters at bay as ground fighting went on.

Saigon sources said the besiegers had poured more than 10,500 shells into An Loc over the previous 24 hours. In retaliation, B52 bombers flew a record 21 strikes against liberation forces' positions around the town.

At least six South Vietnamese helicopters loaded with supplies, including grenades and mortar shells, stood by at the Lai Khe command headquarters further south unable to break through the withering ground fire at An Loc.

Military sources said supplies for An Loc had to be dropped by a C130 Hercules cargo plane, but about 40 per cent of the supplies fell into the hands of the liberation forces.

The South Vietnamese admit having lost at least 60 helicopters.

Two US light observation planes were shot down and their pilots listed as missing near the city on Thursday when fierce hand-to-hand fighting flared up in the town centre after a relatively quiet spell.

The liberation forces are believed to be equipped with wire-guided missiles for use against low-flying aircraft.

Bhutto devalues rupee

PAKISTAN has finally responded to repeated demands from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund with a swingeing devaluation of the rupee.

Its new rate has been fixed at 11 rupees to the dollar, compared with the old rate of 4.78 rupees, a devaluation of 56.7 per cent.

The devaluation was one of a series of drastic measures to meet

the intense economic crisis which has hit Pakistan since its defeat in the war with India last December.

Finance Minister Mubashir Hassan announced in a radio broadcast that President Bhutto's administration had inherited a situation of rampant inflation when it took over after the defeat. The national debt stood at \$3,466m, he said.

AROUND THE WORLD

CANADIAN CRISIS

Newspapers strike over jailings

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST five Montreal newspapers suspended publication yesterday as workers went on strike and occupied buildings in a second day of protests against the jailing of three Quebec Labour Federation leaders.

The three men — Louis Laberge, president of the Quebec Federation of Labour, Marcel Pepin, president of the Confederation of National Trade Unions, and Yvon Charbonneau, president of the Quebec Teachers' Group — began one-year jail sentences earlier this week.

They were imprisoned for contempt of court after urging their members to disregard injunctions ordering maintenance of essential services during a strike by 200,000 public service workers last month.

The strike, which brought the province to a virtual standstill, was ended after 11 days by an order under Canada's industrial relations laws.

On Wednesday, workers demonstrating against the jailings clashed with police in a number of Quebec towns. Special riot squads were airlifted to Sept Iles, an iron ore port on the east coast, after workers had taken over the town. The strike there continued yesterday.

About 5,000 metal and construction workers yesterday pledged to remain on strike until the three leaders were released.

Trade blocs fear

DELAY in dealing with the world monetary crisis might lead to the formation of restrictive world trade blocs, Arthur Burns, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, warned in Montreal yesterday.

He told a conference of international bankers:

'It is not pleasant to contemplate the kind of world that might evolve if co-operative efforts to rebuild the monetary system are long postponed.

'We might find the world economy divided into restrictive and inward-looking blocs, with rules of international conduct concerning exchange rates and monetary reserves altogether absent.'

Since August 15 last year, when President Nixon ended the dollar's convertibility with gold, repeated attempts to resolve the monetary crisis have ended in failure.

Burns admitted it was unlikely

other nations would accept a system which did not allow convertibility of the dollar into gold or special drawing rights ('paper gold').

But US spokesmen have repeatedly emphasized there will be no return to convertibility, at least until the huge US balance-of-payments deficit is eliminated to American satisfaction.

Burns' fears of the formation of monetary blocs are already realized. The Common Market has fixed all its members' currencies around an agreed parity and is actively discriminating against Japanese imports.

At the same time the United States is demanding further trade concessions from all the other main capitalist countries in an attempt to improve the balance of payments and favour home manufacturers. The trade war which Burns discreetly warns about is already a reality in the post-August 15 world.

SLL LECTURES

Cliff Slaughter, Central Committee member of the Socialist Labour League, will give a series of lectures on Marxism and the Socialist Revolution in Britain on the following dates in Sheffield.

Monday, May 15, at 7.30 p.m.—Economics
Monday, May 22, at 7.30 p.m.—History
Monday, June 5, at 7.30 p.m.—Philosophy

at the

Burngreave Vestry Hall
Barnsley Road

SHEFFIELD

Spain's work-to-rule expert

DURING the last work-to-rule by the railway unions, the British press remained particularly silent about one visitor entertained by Richard Marsh and the Tory government—Gonzalo Fernandez de la Mora, Minister for Public Works in Franco's government in Spain.

On his return to Madrid, de la Mora revealed that he had had very friendly discussions leading to the signing of a new trans-

port agreement with Britain, including plans for investment of some £400m yearly.

He was also impressed by the Tory government's 'struggle against pollution' and thought this had great lessons for Spain.

Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home had a half-hour meeting with Franco's representative as preparation for the forthcoming visit to Britain in

July of the Spanish Foreign Minister, Lopez Bravo.

No doubt, in exchange for Tory advice on pollution and technological development, de la Mora was able to tell the Tories one or two things about dealing with recalcitrant railway workers.

Last year, his department ended a work-to-rule by workers on the Madrid underground by threatening them with conscription into the Spanish army.

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Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill



Applauding the call for a General Election



David Palmer turns round to address a group of Tory hecklers

Rents pressure on Labour wards

FROM OUR OWN
CORRESPONDENT

THE TORIES are beginning to launch a series of campaigns to get councils in London to

accept the government's 'fair rents' Bill.

At a public meeting on the Bill called by the Labour-controlled Lambeth Borough Council, a group of Tory councillors, ex-councillors

and their political friends unexpectedly turned up. In all there were about 50 of them at the 200-strong meeting.

They constantly interrupted the speakers, John Fraser, MP for Norwood, and Councillor Ewan Carr, chairman of the housing committee.

Fraser was accused, among other things, of turning the meeting into a political one and of 'inciting' those present 'to break the law of the land'. The platform generally was criticized for bias and for not inviting a speaker from the other side to put the case for the Bill.

Neither of the two speakers went beyond the technical aspects of the bill and its workings, and neither answered satisfactorily the two main questions from the floor:

What will the next Labour

government do about rents and will the Lambeth council refuse to implement the Bill?

Fraser ended by saying that the Bill had met with such resistance and pressure from all quarters that 'even now, I believe, the government is on the retreat'.

It was left to the floor speakers to answer the taunts of the Tories present and bring out the real hatred of workers for the Tory law.

David Palmer, a National Union of Railwaymen member, turned round angrily on a group of hecklers behind him asking how they would like to work 60 hours a week for £25 take-home pay and support a wife and three children and pay the extra rent.

Vic Bennett, a builder, said that one of the purposes of the Bill was to cut the number of new houses being built and that the building workers he knew

were now working on hotel sites where the government was giving away £1,000 for every room in every new hotel.

Ted Knight, a council tenant and a member of the local Labour Party, said he saw no reason for inviting a Tory on the platform, but saw the main problem as one of how to force a General Election and get the Tories out.

This drew widespread applause from the meeting—and a number of poker faces, with hands raised trying to stem the onslaught with points of order.

The position of the Lambeth Council on the Housing Finance Bill is that although no vote has been taken on whether to implement the Bill in October, no plans for doing so have been made and the council is hoping for support from other boroughs for a policy of non-implementation.

I'll resign—councillor

ONE MEMBER of South London's Lambeth Council has threatened to resign if the borough decides to implement the Tories' Housing Finance Bill.

Councillor Bill Weston has warned at several recent public meetings he will resign and he has announced he will try to persuade other councillors to take the same action.

Until now the Labour majority group on the council has refused to make a final

decision on the Bill. There have been suggestions that they would not implement the clause which means they would put council rents up by £1 a week in October.

Already in the neighbouring Wandsworth borough, council leader Ian McGarry, two committee chairmen and a number of the Labour group's executive members have handed in their resignations following its decision to enact the 'fair rents' Bill.

US 'profit-oriented' boss for ICL

A BOARD reshuffle has taken place in International Computers Limited in a misguided bid to meet the slump in computer output.

Mr Geoffrey Cross has been appointed managing director and also joins the board of ICL's holding company.

Cross joins ICL from the Univac division of the American-owned Sperry Rand Corporation where he was vice-president and general manager of all Univac marketing and service activities in North and South America.

His annual salary will be £25,000.

The announcement that ICL had 'poached' an American executive was made by the company's chairman, Mr Tom Hudson. Hudson recently became chairman in place of Sir John Wall, who resigned rather abruptly earlier this year.

Hudson himself is an 'import' to ICL. Before joining the firm he was managing director of the American-owned IBM group in the United Kingdom.

ICL is a semi-nationalized organization. It was brought together as an amalgamation of various smaller British computer firms and given enormous financial backing by the Labour government.

Under the gee-wizardry of Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Wilson's Minister of Technology, the consortium was to have established a British computer industry to compete against the Americans.

The idea was a pipedream.

And the invasion of senior executives from big capitalist firms means that the future of ICL looks even grimmer. New ICL chief Cross said yesterday: 'Profits—that is my total orientation.'

Meanwhile figures released yesterday show the rolling depression in the computer industry. Total output in 1971 was 3 per cent down on the previous year.

Value of last year's output was £307m which showed a fall of £11m on 1970's figures.

Smith's engineers stay determined

THE SEVEN-week strike at Smiths Industries Limited, Cricklewood, North London, is beginning to bite.

The 70 engineers who mount a picket at the gates each day told Workers Press that production is almost at a standstill. The company is also planning to lay off certain semi-skilled workers, many of them women.

The engineers have been attempting to negotiate a domestic claim of £6 a week since last December. Management's take-it-or-leave-it offer was £2.40.

The strikers' claim is now £8 a week and also a reduction in hours to 35 a week.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' district



committee is backing the strike. Feeling on the picket line is very determined. 'We are just learning what trade unionism really is,' one worker said.

'We are getting good support from all sorts of quarters. The local GPO was among those who have taken up collections for us,' he said.

Militancy at the factory has not been high in recent times. No mass meeting has been held for the past ten years.

The youngest of the pickets is 21, the oldest over 60.

'We are fighting on our own, however,' one of them said. 'Scanlon should never have abandoned the national claim.'

Pupil revolt: Parents get a letter

PARENTS of children at four West London schools who have taken a leading part in demonstrations this week have received letters from the Inner London Education Authority warning that the children are 'harming themselves and damaging their own cause'.

In a letter to over 3,500 parents who have children at the schools—Rutherford Comprehensive, Sarah Siddons, Quintin Kynaston and Marylebone Secondary—ILEA education officer Dr Eric Briault appealed to parents to co-operate in stopping children not attending school.

Briault said he was also concerned that a large majority of children should have their schooling interrupted by the 'activities of a minority'.

Copper complaints

A TOTAL of 4,314 complaints made against members of the Metropolitan Police were investigated last year, said the Home Secretary Reginald Maudling in a written Commons reply yesterday.

He told Paul Rose (Lab, Blackley) that 1,149 were withdrawn by the complainant; in a further 280 cases the complainant was unwilling to proceed with the complaint; 2,619 were not substantiated; and 266 were substantiated. In these cases an apology was made.

CONFUSION IN THE HOUSE THAT CLIVE BUILT

No other union in Britain has quite worked itself into a position with the Industrial Relations Act as the white-collar Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

CONFUSION

Confusion in relation to the Act is rampant throughout the trade union movement — but there's nothing to match ASTMS.

ASTMS' various policies to the Act are these:

- In a show of hands at last weekend's annual conference at Bournemouth, the union overwhelmingly voted to de-register.

- But a card vote was necessary to permit a change of rules to get the union off the register. The card vote failed by 0.66 per cent to reach the necessary two-thirds majority. Thus the union stays registered.

- But ASTMS general secretary Clive Jenkins assured the conference that the union would act to 'all intents and purposes' as a de-registered union.

- This, however, did not mean the union would boycott the National Industrial Relations Court. The union would go to court to 'defend members' interests'. Jenkins has already appeared before both the Tory NIRC and the tribunal.

The sum total of these 'policies' is that there are no policies at all.

With his accustomed eloquence Jenkins himself unwittingly expressed the confusion when presenting the NEC annual report:

'The Act has its pluses and its minuses.' The NEC policy, he said, was a sensible 'package deal'.

Deregistration was necessary to preserve the 'tender plant' of trade union solidarity, but appearance before the NIRC was essential to preserve members' interests. He claimed that appearance before the Court in the Thetford case was a victory.

Many delegates, stunned and disappointed by the failure of the amendment to rule to permit de-registration expressed the view that Jenkins' looking-both-ways policy was responsible for confusion in the union.

The delegates' mood was very angry. R. F. Stone from Bristol Engineering branch withdrew his motion calling for a complete boycott of the NIRC. He explained that this was because his delegation

were so angry at the rule-change vote 'they were preparing to walk out of the conference'.

Such confusion, of course, is fostered by Jenkins. 'I never regarded non-registration as a permanent tactic', he said.

In supporting a call for a recalled TUC conference, he said that this was necessary, not to prepare to defeat the government, but to 'set up a sensitive apparatus to advise us'.

He made other demands—such as that for a Labour Market Board—which if taken in the context of the present onslaught on the unions, have clear corporatist overtones.

However, what ASTMS members must grasp is that there is a clear division of labour in the union. Both the Communist Party and the revisionists, above all the International Socialists group, have consciously worked to oppose any clear policy of linking the fight against the Act to a fight to bring down the Tory government.

At last year's conference they opposed the call for the TUC to prepare a General Strike to force the government to resign and have consistently upheld this stand in branches and divisional councils.

They therefore find themselves overthrown by the executive. This became quite clear in the debate on unemployment. A resolution from London School of Economics branch called for the TUC 'to lead a campaign for a General Strike to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government pledged to a socialist programme'.

In supporting this resolution Socialist Labour League members were alone in bringing before the conference the realities of the economic crisis.

RESOLUTION

They pointed out that the retreat of the trade union leadership, in which ASTMS had played a key role when Jenkins was the first union leader to appear before the Court, exposed the working class to the imminent danger of a corporate state.

This was the only resolution which made the demand for defeat of the Tory government. Many Communist Party delegates supported the motion, which, although defeated, received a substantial vote. Others opposed it on the grounds that such a call was premature.

'There is no co-ordination between us', a prominent Dublin CP member said afterwards. 'I don't even know who



the Communist Party members here are.'

The executive council opposed the resolution. Their spokesman ridiculed it as a 'call for revolution which ignored the practical questions'.

Earlier a CP supporter, Harry Fairbrother, had proposed a resolution from Imperial College which stated that a fight for a four-day week could 'solve the social problem of unemployment'.

CHANGE

In correctly arguing for a rejection of this resolution, vice-president Len Wells said that it could not be separated from a political fight. He argued for the removal of the Tories and the early return of a Labour government pledged to implement economic policies which would end unemployment.

'And of course', he said, 'if such policies cannot be carried out under this system, then we must change the system'.

Such demagoguery did not give any explanation how, short of a General Strike to force the Tories' resignation, Wells' 'political fight' was to be conducted.

Ron Murphy, AEI-GEC Trafford Park, Manchester, deplored the attitude of the leadership to the General Strike resolution.

'It confirms their position on non-registration', he said. 'Their own policies opened the way for the decision on non-registration. They must be forced to fight in every way to reverse that decision.'

Mr Murphy, a supporter of the IS group voted for the General Strike motion. None of the IS members spoke in

favour of the motion in the debate. They had issued a bulletin in the morning condemning a resolution from Manchester containing purely syndicalist demands on unemployment and ignoring political issues.

A number of IS members who failed to support the General Strike motion apologized profusely for their 'mistakes' to the movers afterwards. Because of inexperience of conference procedure they had arrived back too late.

Of course this was no mistake. Ample confirmation of this was given at an IS meeting the previous evening. Called originally on the demand 'How to fight the Tories', this had been changed to a discussion on how to fight against registration (which were, of course, different topics in IS eyes).

Speakers were IS members Peter Osborne, secretary of the London Divisional Council, and Ian Gibson, NEC member of ASTMS.

The meeting was a quite conscious attempt to wall off those delegates who were preparing to fight for any political struggle. Gibson and Osborne managed to discuss the Act while hardly referring to the Tory government.

When this was raised by Socialist Labour League supporters it was ignored as being 'irrelevant'. There must be a rank-and-file movement built up at grass-roots level, Gibson claimed.

He said that Thetfords could have been won without going to the NIRC because members there were militant. Presumably if they weren't militant it would be all right to use the courts.

Clive Jenkins, (centre) ASTMS general secretary.

This whole approach disarms workers. Osborne made the amazing claim that the present position of the TUC leadership was a mockery of the earlier desire to 'kill the Bill', 'but it is of course a continuation of it'.

Such apolitical centrist verbiage as the IS propagate must be exposed. Many members of ASTMS are very worried and anxious about the present position in the union.

One delegate from East Kilbride, Jimmy McGregor, said: 'The vote on registration could disintegrate the engineering section. There is a danger of a big defection to TASS.'

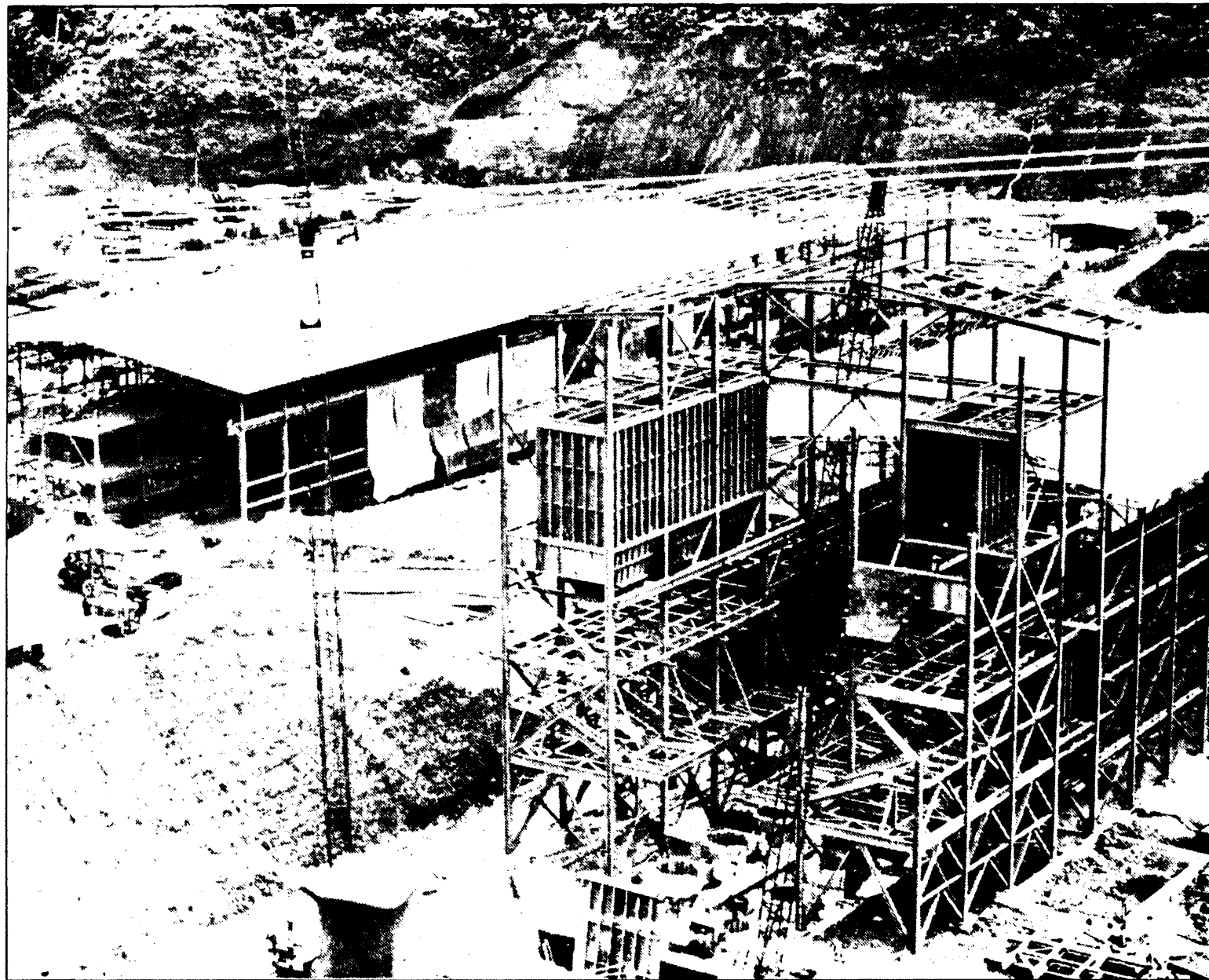
DANGER

In ASTMS there have been massive redundancies over the past year in firms like Rolls-Royce, Austin Morris and AEI-GEC. The middle-of-the-road militancy on which Jenkins has built the union places members now in enormous danger.

At every turn he has avoided a principled fight. The union has been growing, steadily unionizing many new sections of workers such as insurance staff, supervisors, areas where staff associations are now encroaching.

The fight, of course, is not over. Members must take up the demand for a recalled conference to make the necessary amendments to rule.

Above all there must be clarity on the political questions to prepare the union to take a stand with millions of other workers for the defeat of the government.



'GIVE TO FASCISTS' APPEAL BY FRENCH BOSSES

Several hundred French company directors have received the following curious communication signed by a prestigious group of former officers and dignitaries.

'Leftist groups have decided to carry the struggle in the factories. There must be a response, therefore, from the managements of factories. We do not agree with all the ideas of Ordre Nouveau, and we frequently advise them to be careful.

'Nonetheless, we are convinced that the members of this movement have struggled alone and without weapons for many years against the communist and leftist extreme left. They alone foresaw the coming of the May 1968 events. But they lacked the means to prevent them in time.

'Police repression can to a certain extent lessen the damage done by the leftists. It cannot, however, prevent it. Only a movement which turns the youth away from the nihilism and terrorism preached over the years by the well-financed leftist groups can do this.

'That is why we have created the Committee of Support for Ordre Nouveau and ask you to aid this movement financially . . .'

Ordre Nouveau is the French fascist organization. Their circular is signed by General Paul Vanuxem, a veteran of the French Indo-China debacle, Colonel Horace Savelli, a member of the compagnons de la liberation, Christian Pigeonneau, a French diplomat, Maitre Paul Leandri, a barrister, and Francois Brigneau, editor of the right-wing newspaper 'Minute'.

NEW GUINEA: WHO WILL KEEP THE LOOT?

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

After years of promises from Australian government after Australian government, the territory of Papua-New Guinea is nearing independence.

In the life-time of the current New Guinea parliament both these things will be achieved—self-government in 1972 and independence four years later.

The Territory has always been a source of great profit and anxiety for Australian capital since it was handed over in 1906 by Britain and now they want to get rid of it, but retain the loot.

The Papuan's are technically Australians, but of course are not allowed onto the white

mainland. The main aim of the Australian government has been to keep the territory and its 2.3 million people as a vast labour reserve for the big firms.

Illusion maintained

With demands for independence growing, however, it has been necessary to train a native bourgeoisie which can safeguard foreign capital while the illusion of independence is maintained.

The move to create a privileged caste began last year when shares in the multi-million Bougainville mining company (owned by Rio Tinto Zinc) were offered to civil servants. Previously civil servants were not allowed to hold any shares in a company operating in the Territory.

The change was made, to quote the administrator of the Territory, L. Johnson, with—'the possibility of conflicting interests in mind'.

The head of this tame bourgeoisie is likely to be Michael Somare—chief minister of the new House of Assembly who will become Prime Minister when the country become self-governing later this year.

He was once an angry young man, but now he is busying himself at balancing the conflicting interests of the die-hard planters of the highlands, the big companies and

demands from his own people for real independence.

The main issues will be nationalization, and particularly nationalization of the big firms like Bougainville Mining, which is expected to make £54.9m out of the island's copper by 1980.

Opinions span from the right wing who represent the most reactionary imperialist interests and want to see only a token native private ownership of equity, to demands for total nationalization.

Somare has to balance these forces to keep his coalition afloat and the Australian government is behind the move.

At present copper boasts 9,000 shareholders in Papua-New Guinea, but they own less than 5 per cent of the shares. So one can see the kind of local 'control' Somare has in mind.

To excuse the refusal to act as anything less than a puppet over his country's economy he says:

'We are a communal people. Land is owned communally. Individual ownership is a western law and we shall have to change and adjust to the capitalist society. It will take time and education to do this—and any foreign country wanting to come here should bear this in mind.'

He also wants to curtail the practice of foreign firms investing in the Territory and promptly exporting the surplus earned from native labour abroad to their homelands.

In short, the self-government of Papua-New Guinea will hold nothing for the workers,

peasants and tribesmen—they will be as cruelly exploited as ever.

Just how oppressed they are was revealed last year when a delegation from the Australian Labour Party, led by Shadow Labour Minister Clyde Cameron, toured the country. He said conditions existed which were a blatant violation of minimum standards laid down by the International Labour Organization.

White employers often imposed a two-year contract on workers and failed to pay wages at least twice a month. Other abuses included a failure to pay any benefit to widows of the many men who were killed on the job.

Resistance growing

Many workers are intimidated and frequently forgo an entitlement rather than stand up to the white capitalist.

But resistance is growing slowly—a fact that has not gone unnoticed in the Territory by men like Dr J. Guise, ex-sergeant major in the colonial constabulary. He recently voiced his concern in parliament over the 'creation of human groupings whose objectives would be anti-social'.

He said the forces of the state would have to lay a greater role in 'forging national unity'—in short he proposed a doubling of the police force.

GERMAN WAGE CUTS

The wage of the average male worker in West Germany was cut by 1 per cent in the period between October 1971 and January 1972, according to government statistics.

Miners were the worst hit. Cuts in overtime reduced monthly income by 250 Deutschmarks in some cases. The miners' union is demanding a 9 per cent wage increase from June 1 for its 245,000 members.

However, regional miners' leaders say that the demand should have been much higher.

Fritz Schlosser, head of the district committee in Wiebelskirchen (Saar), said that 'the massive attacks of the employers and the government on the economic and social position of the working man must be answered by a decisive wages struggle by the miners. Our goal should have been 13 per cent'.

In the Ruhr area, the Gelsenkirchen-Buer-Hassel district committee originally put forward a 15 per cent demand.

The British miners' strike has increased German miners' determination: Fritz Schlosser said that 'if the companies turn down our minimum demands, we know how to fight as hard as our English comrades'.



Top: Bougainville copper complex—the subject of violent conflict between the people and the interests of foreign investors. Above: New Guinea's Administrator with police

ANGELA DAVIS ON TRIAL FOR HER LIFE

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT AT THE COURT IN CALIFORNIA

On March 29, in her first statement to the jury, Angela Davis said: 'When all the testimony surrounding the events of August 7, 1970, is complete, the prosecutor will certainly have demonstrated that in some way lives were lost and individuals were wounded. But this is all he will have proven. He will have proven nothing — absolutely nothing — with respect to my guilt.'

With the state case just about wrapped up, it is appropriate to test the accuracy of Miss Davis' forecast. The prosecution has been presenting its case for ten weeks and it has brought forward 71 witnesses.

But so far—as Miss Davis declared—all that California assistant Attorney General Albert W. Harris, Junior, has proved is that deaths occurred and human beings were injured on August 7, 1970, at the Marin Civic Centre, San José.

This, of course, the defence has never disputed. The prosecution is a long way off proving the charges they have brought against her—charges of murder, conspiracy and kidnapping. If convicted she faces the death penalty.

If he has been short on facts and cast iron evidence, Harris has been big on innuendo, smear and guilt by association.

The most obvious comment one must make about the state case is that it is as flimsy as can be. Miss Davis' defence lawyer, Leo Branton, has already condemned the fact that his client has been kept in custody for 16 months with essentially no evidence against

her. Branton accused Harris of 'a callous and shocking display of unconcern for the rights of human beings'.

Before examining the state case, the events leading up to Miss Davis' trial need to be swiftly set out.

On August 7, 1970, Jonathan Jackson, younger brother of Soledad Brother George Jackson led a daring escape bid from the Marin County Courthouse. He taped a sawn-off shotgun to Judge Harold Haley's neck and took him as a hostage.

In a shoot-out in the car park, Judge Haley, Jonathan Jackson and two prisoners from the court were killed. Miss Davis subsequently was named on the FBI's 'Most Wanted' list and designated 'dangerous'. She is alleged to have supplied four guns for the escape attempt.

Throughout the preliminary stages of the trial last year Harris argued a political, anti-communist case. With little or no evidence to go on, he apparently intended to launch a straight reds-under-the-bed attack.

But on August 17 last year George Jackson was murdered by prison guards at San Quentin. Harris ordered Jackson's cell searched and found an 18-page diary belonging to Miss Davis. He admitted in court the other day that this discovery 'changed the whole theory of the case'.

HOSTAGE

He has switched from a political prosecution to one in which he is arguing that Miss Davis' 'passionate involvement' with George Jackson caused her to help plot his escape. Harris is maintaining that the purpose of the Marin courthouse escape was to hold the judge hostage to get George Jackson out of San Quentin. The first point to observe

about the diary is that it was written a year after the shoot-out. And even Harris admits that the August 7 incident is not mentioned.

The state has linked the diary with three letters Miss Davis wrote to George Jackson on June 2, June 10 and August 18, 1970. The desperate theory being advanced by Harris is that Miss Davis' 'love affair' with Jackson drove her to being implicated in the murders.

Harris told the judge that although the diary 'hadn't changed at all our thinking about the fact of guilt, it had changed our whole theory of the case'.

Superior Court Judge Richard E. Arnsason admonished the jury not to read, hear or see any news reports on the trial. But at the same time he unsealed for publication details from the letters which have been sensationalized out of all proportion in the right-wing press.

In one of the letters, Miss Davis says: 'I see myself tearing down this steel door, fighting my way to you, ripped down your cell door and letting you go free . . . To Harris this paragraph is the nub of his case. It means, he says, that Miss Davis 'conspired with other people to bring about the freedom of George Jackson through violent means'.

He believes this passage will convince the jury Miss Davis 'had a state of mind by which she would undertake a conspiracy and she would undertake violent means to bring about the freedom of George Jackson'. In asking the court to read the letters into evidence Harris said: 'We might as well pack up and go home if the jury can't read at least portions of it. This is what this case is about.' He said the writings showed 'the state of her mind'.

Leo Branton strenuously



opposed the introduction of the diary and letters. In an angry exchange with Harris he shouted: 'I consider this entire session an obscenity.'

'That is how sickening I think this whole procedure is here in which we are attempting to pry into the most intimate, the most personal expressions of another human being because the prosecution

in this case feels that, without doing that, he cannot get a conviction.'

Before walking out of the proceedings Branton said: 'I feel almost like a man who has been forced, at gunpoint, to watch the rape of his mother.'

LETTERS

There was a further bitter clash when defence co-counsel Howard Moore, Junior, accused Harris of attempting 'literary lobotomy' with the diary. 'You are a distorted bigotist,' said Moore. 'It is disgusting absolutely. It is not the things in the letter that are obscene. It is your pawing over it that is obscene,' he snapped at Harris.

Workers Press has obtained copies of the three letters and we will be reproducing them. The defence was correct to oppose them being entered into the case. They are totally irrelevant to the charges against Miss Davis.

It is alarming, however, that the defence chose to oppose the letters on 'moral' grounds. Their pleas in court sound more like the prudish shrieks of the middle class than a political defence in a blatantly political trial.

Primarily, the letters are political. They range over a variety of topics in a confused and urgent way; she talks

about black nationalism, women's liberation, Cuba and Vietnam.

How did the prosecution lay its hands on these personal letters?

This in itself makes an interesting sidelight into the conduct of the trial. Two of them were confiscated by Special FBI Agent James McCord (now a Los Angeles attorney) on August 18, 1970, from Miss Davis' apartment.

In court the prosecution only produced photocopies of the letters and denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of the originals. McCord led 'a very comprehensive search' on August 18 when he took anything which related to the 'substantive violation', namely murder, kidnap and conspiracy.

Then it emerged, however, that McCord and four other agents had been in Miss Davis' flat on August 17, the day before, allegedly to arrest her for a federal offence—unlawful flight across state lines to avoid prosecution.

But how could McCord have expected to arrest her in her home in Los Angeles if she was suspected of unlawful interstate flight? He then admitted he had no arrest warrant when he paid the first visit claiming 'it is not the practice of the bureau' to take warrants when making an arrest.

He admitted 'looking around' her apartment, although he agreed that this was a violation of privacy rights. Next day he returned with a warrant to confiscate letters and other documents and books, he said.

There have been other 'irregularities' revealed—particularly in relation to witnesses.

Take the evidence of Lieutenant Robert A. West, a San Quentin prison warden who testified that Miss Davis visited George Jackson on August 4 and 5 with Jonathan Jackson.

He said 'a fair skinned black lady' signed the prison register as 'Diane Robinson' but he knew her to be Miss Davis, now sitting in court. Under cross examination West admitted that three weeks before coming to court he was a registered member of the American Independence Party since July 1, 1968.

(Governor George Wallace, the racist, ran for the 1968 presidency on the Independent Party ticket.)

West told the court that three weeks ago he had changed his registration to the Democratic Party. He said he was primarily interested with 'the issue of the working poor'.

Under further cross-examination he admitted he only saw 'the backs of the heads' of

the two prison visitors. He was asked why he had refused to meet with defence counsel when he had met with Harris—the last time only two weeks ago.

'I kind of look at Mr Harris as my lawyer,' West replied. 'Then you feel you are on the prosecution's side?' Moore asked.

'Yes,' West answered. 'You don't think that's unfair?' Moore asked. 'No, sir,' replied West.

Serious doubts on identification were cast during another session of the trial. The prosecution presented two witnesses who claimed to have seen Miss Davis with Jonathan Jackson in a rented yellow van on the day before the murder.

The witnesses swore they could make 'positive identifications' of Miss Davis. Yet under questioning one admitted that he had told Federal agents he was unable to positively identify Miss Davis when they interrogated him while the other picked out a photograph of Mrs Fania Jordan, Miss Davis' sister, as the defendant.

The capitalist press in California eagerly splashed the evidence of Frank Blumenthal (25) of the Eagle Loan Company who claimed to have sold Miss Davis a 12-gauge Spanish-made shotgun two days before the shooting.

'She told me she wanted to purchase a shotgun—an inex-

pensive one,' he said. 'I sold her one for about \$35. She paid cash.'

He said he recognized Miss Davis and she identified herself by her California drivers' licence. This was enough for the 'San Jose Mercury' which headlined the story: 'Shotgun purchased by Angela'.

Many of the newspapers didn't bother to report the cross-examination in which Blumenthal admitted that any person can buy a gun merely by showing identification such as a social security card.

SHOTGUN

Then Branton asked: 'If a person wanted to buy a gun and didn't want his name connected with it, he could use a social security card which he could have found or faked, couldn't he? Anyone can buy a gun without proper identification, can't he?' 'Yes,' replied Blumenthal. Branton pointed out that the woman made no effort to hide her identity.

The next witness was aimed at making absolutely sure Miss Davis was connected with the purchase of the shotgun.

A salesman in the firm, David Lifson, said he recognized Miss Davis as soon as she came in. 'I told Frank, you know who you're waiting on—that's Angela Davis. Then I asked for her auto-

graph and she said, "I'd be happy to". I felt like we had a rapport. She wrote it on my calling card in flowing letters.'

Strangely, however, Lifson had lost the autograph. 'I don't know where it is now,' he said lamely.

'I thought I had it in my wallet, but it's gone now.'

Branton's handling of Lifson seemed almost flippant. Instead of engaging in a demolition of his evidence, he simply said:

'You say you lost Miss Davis' autograph. Would you like to have another one?'

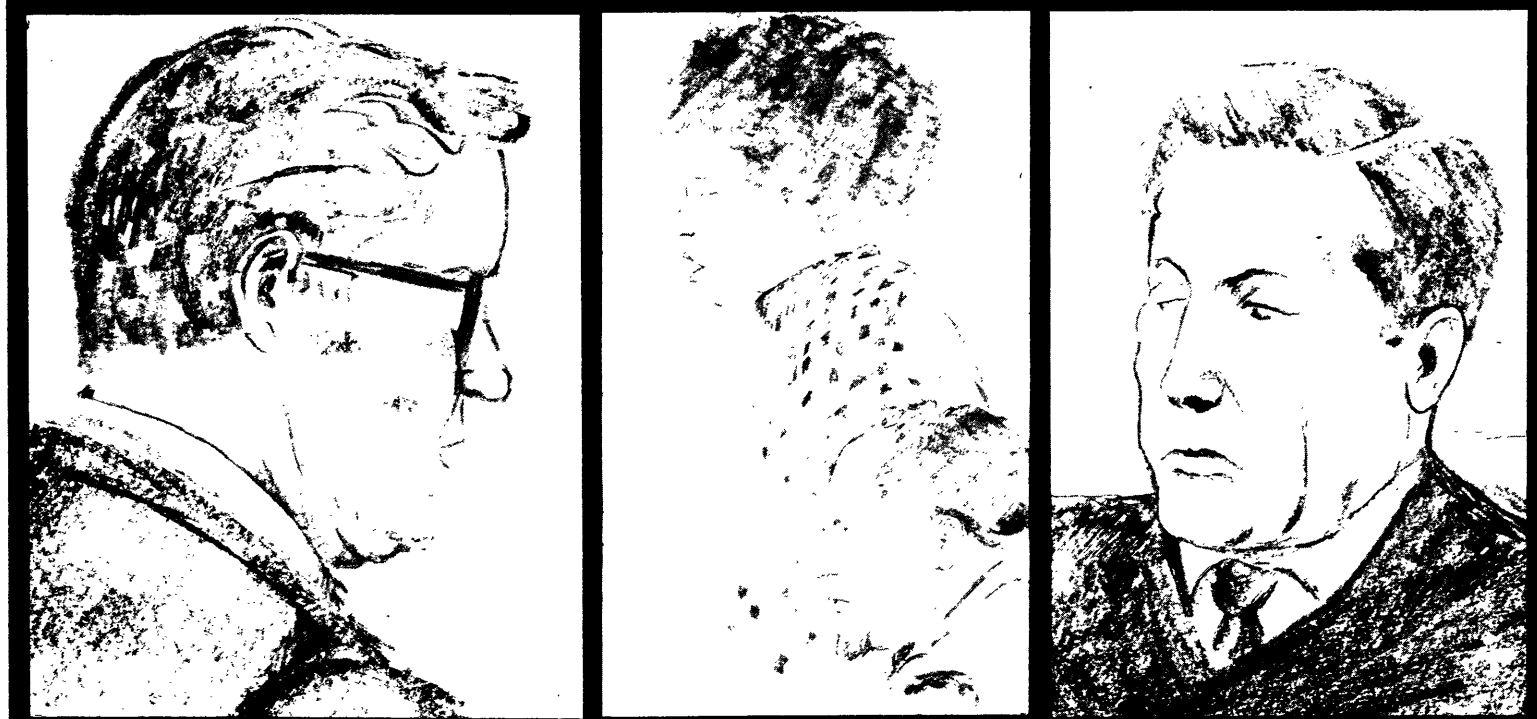
'Yes, sir!' Lifson answered.

'No further questions, your honour,' said Branton as the court rocked with laughter at his 'joke'.

Next week the defence will present its case. There are about 30 witnesses to be called and the jury is expected to retire to reach a verdict early in June.

The presentation of the state evidence shows that it is nothing less than a frame-up. But Angela Davis is still not a free woman. Some of the antics of her defence lawyers present the gravest dangers for her future.

It is also dangerous for the working class because the Davis trial is a show trial and as such is an assault on the democratic rights of the working class.



Left: Prosecuting attorney A. H. Harris. Centre: Angela Davis with defence accepting the Jury. Right: Judge Arnsason (Drawn in the courtroom)

Pages from Railway History 1839-1972 by Ian Yeats.
Part three

THE CHALLENGE OF TAFF VALE

The struggle which took place at Taff Vale, South Wales, in 1900 and which led to the union being sued successfully for damages, had nothing whatever to do with the fighting determination of the ASRS leaders.

When Richard Bell rushed to Cardiff on the first day of strike by 1,227 men demanding pay rises and the reinstatement of a signalman, NUR historian Philip Bagnall writes: 'When Mr Bell arrived in Cardiff on the morning of the first day of the strike bent on arranging a settlement as quickly as possible, he found the men in a very determined mood.

'He was a man whose mission was peace at any price while the powers behind him—the rank and file—were in a war-like mood.'

Two days earlier Bell had tried desperately to persuade the management of the Taff Vale Railway Co to moderate their position. He even took Board of Trade President Ritchie along. But no deal.

Once the strike began he wrote to Ammon Beasley, the general manager of the Taff Vale Railway Co—'to discuss the conditions for a return to work'.

Bell squirmed uneasily between the intractability of management and men. Trade was bad for the railway company. The coal strikes of 1893-1898 had hit their profits and competition from the rival Barry, Cardiff and Rhymney railways was making further disastrous inroads.

This was reflected in railwaymen's pay and in January 1900, men at the Taff Vale, Rhymney, Barry and Cardiff railway companies submitted a joint pay claim. Ninety-seven per cent favoured an immediate strike, but Bell had urged them to give the companies more time to consider their demands.

All the companies except Taff Vale made concessions, in some cases up to 50 per cent of what the men were demanding. This was extremely important because it split the men and securely buried the psychological moment for joint strike action on all four railways.

When the Taff Vale men finally struck in defiance of the union on August 19, 1900, they fought alone. But the Taff Vale management was determined not only to break the strike, but to smash the union as well.

Beasley, a fanatical union-hater, was the ideal man for the job. His first move was to call in William Collison's

National Free Labour Association which boasted of breaking 300 strikes using blackleg labour.

At the same time, all men and their families occupying company cottages were thrown out onto the road. Meanwhile, says Bagnall: 'Richard Bell made strenuous efforts to secure a return to work on honourable conditions.'

The men were not so much concerned with a return to work as with the immediate objective of preventing blacklegs taking their jobs and snatching the bread from their mouths.

Eight hundred and forty seven pickets were out day and night 'in evidence pretty well everywhere when you turned a corner', according to management, and only a handful of the 400 blacklegs sent by the Association managed to start work.

But the Taff Vale Co was not going to succumb to having their business halted by pickets. Beasley applied for an injunction—ironically granted the day the strike ended on August 30.

The management followed this up by suing 208 of the strikers who were held to have broken their contracts through failure to give appropriate strike notice.

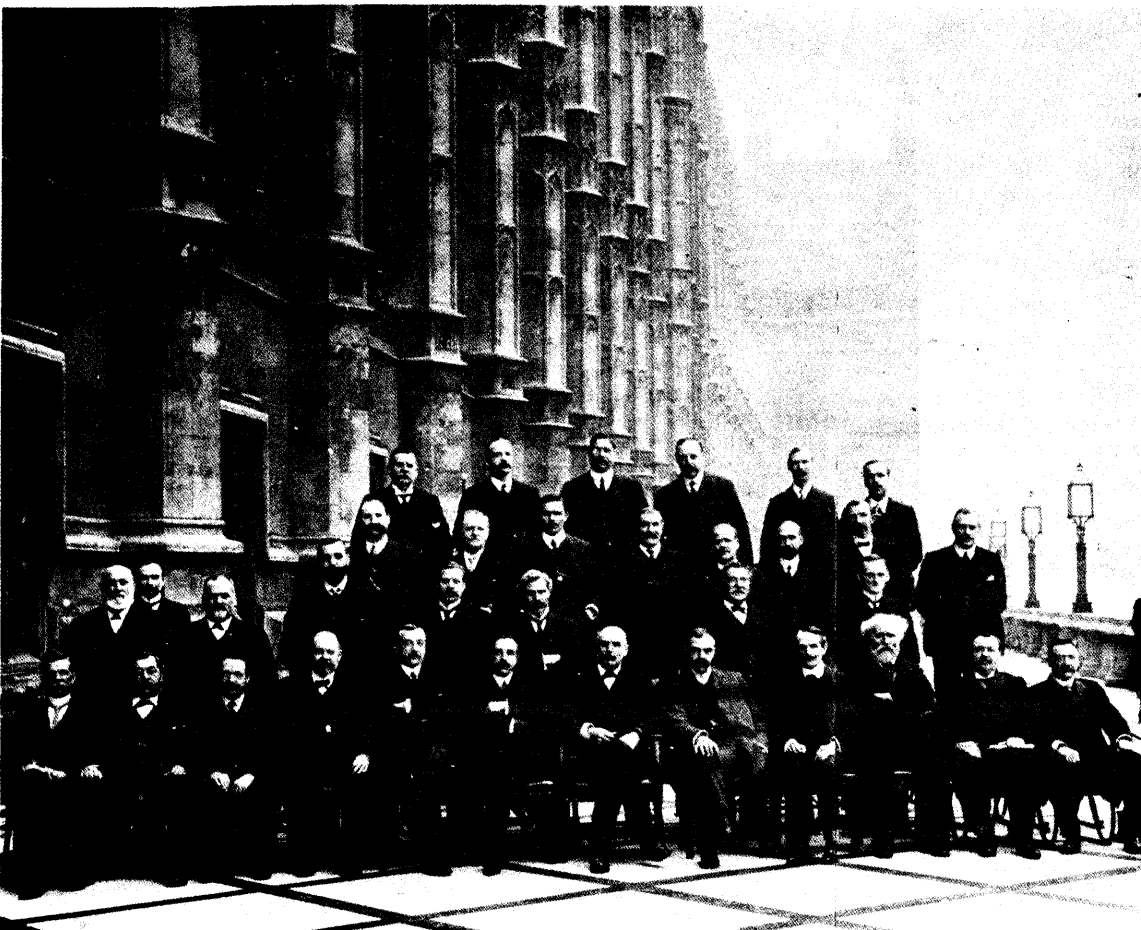
The settlement reached by Bell with the company on August 30 gave the men nothing. It promised to refer the case of the signalman's reinstatement to the Board of Trade, abandon legal proceedings against the men, restore pension rights, re-employ the strikers over the period of one month, phasing out any blacklegs still working, and refer the pay claim to a Conciliation Board to be set up by October 31, 1900.

By February 1901 nothing had been heard of the Conciliation Board and 76 blacklegs were still working.

During the strike Bell had put his name to a leaflet urging them not to be known as blacklegs. This was illegal.

So, on August 30, 1900, Mr Justice Farwell, with the Lyons v Wilkins precedent of 1896-1898 before him, issued an injunction restricting Bell and local organizers from picketing—known as watching and besetting—extending the order to the union itself on September 5, 1900.

The decision was reversed on appeal by the ASRS and reversed again on July 21, 1901 by the House of Lords law peers. On December 31, 1901, the Taff Vale Railway Co lodged a claim for damages and a cheque for £23,000 was paid over by the union on March 23, 1903.



Top: Richard Bell, General Secretary of the ASRS at the time of the Taff Vale judgement. Below: Some of the 54 Labour and Lib-Lab MPs elected to Westminster in 1906. These include the 29 members of the Labour Representation Committee.

The outcome of the Taff Vale strike was that the railwaymen's leaders had negotiated a return to work with virtually no concessions.

And in trying to break the strike the company had confirmed the illegality of picketing and established the legal precedent that damages against trade union funds could be obtained in the event of strikes.

The first three years of the 20th century saw the employers cock-a-hoop at the thought that they had decisively

crippled the power of the trade unions. It was illegal to picket and union members dare not strike.

The repercussions of the notorious Taff Vale judgement shot through the labour movement. In 1906, 29 Labour Representation Committee candidates were returned to parliament compared with two in 1900 and the Liberal government, trembling at the loss of working-class votes, passed the Trade Disputes Act, proposed by Kier Hardie, legalizing

picketing and banning all legal action against trade unions.

Reformism now entered a new phase. With the formation of the Labour Representation Committee at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon St, London, in February 1900, it was recognized that although the law could not be broken it could be changed—without, of course, any basic threat to the social order.

CONTINUED ON MONDAY

US ROUND-UP PHONE TAPPERS AT WORK

American police tapped over a third more phones last year than they did in 1970, according to figures presented to Congress last week.

By far the largest amount of tapping was done by the New York and New Jersey police, who together accounted for over four-fifths of the official wire-tapping authorized by the courts.

This may simply mean that the police in these two states are more conscientious about getting court permission before tapping a phone, because the total figures reported fall ludicrously short of the real total.

According to the report, a total of 531 wire-tap orders were issued last year by US state judges, of which 254 were to New York prosecutors, 187 to New Jersey officials and 90 to officials in 11 other states.

Another 285 orders were issued by Federal judges, spread more evenly across the major US cities. The law permits the police to tap a phone for 30 days after a court order is issued, with 30-day extensions under certain circumstances.

Some phones were tapped for as long as 300 days, however, the report indicates. The New York police use wire-tapping extensively because the state courts have long accepted evidence obtained in this way.

In most states, however, the courts would not accept such evidence until, in 1968, Congress passed the Crime Control Act.

Not every tapping operation has to have court approval, however. The Federal government can switch into the phones of 'security risks' without anybody's approval—and no figures for the extent of this practice are released.

In addition the police frequently tap phones without court orders—taking advantage of the mass sophisticated electronic surveillance gear freely sold in the United States.

RAIL RESCUE BID

American railways have been in a bad way for a long time but their financial position is now rapidly becoming desperate.

Privately-owned, many of the lines have only been kept in operation with cash provided by Congress.

Five lines are already bankrupt and another 12 could go broke at any time. Track and operating facilities are deteriorating and there has been an alarming increase in the number of derailments.

The railways have been losing out steadily to road transport for freight and to the airlines for passenger traffic. Little has been done to win back trade by aggressive sales drives.

For a whole era the railways had a virtual monopoly of transport. They received from



New York and Minneapolis were the scenes of new anti-war demonstrations last week, protesting against Nixon's mining of Halphong harbour. Meanwhile the offensive of the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front goes forward. Above picture shows US 'advisers' leaving Quang Tri when it fell to the advancing army.

the Federal government enormous grants of land as well as favours from the state governments.

For a long time some of the biggest American fortunes came from railway promotion and speculation. Bumper profits were made by rigging freight rates and exploiting their monopoly position.

Those happy days are now in the distant past. The rail system is now ailing and private enterprise has no solution except the bankruptcy which overtook the great Pennsylvania Central.

To save these lame ducks left over from the heroic past of American capitalism, Congress is now being asked to grant further financial aid.

The Nixon Administration proposes to provide government guaranteed loans for the purchase of rolling stock. The rail industry wants a bigger guaranteed loan which would be available for renewing track and yards.

Both Bills would permit a Beeching-style close-down of unprofitable lines and both admit that unaided private enterprise is doomed. It is partly to forestall a demand for 'nationalization' that these last minute rescue operations are being proposed.

WAR FIRMS FACE THE LAME DUCK AXE

Two big American naval contractors have asked to be released from fixed-price contracts which they claim are losing them money.

They are Litton Industries and Grumman Aviation, both of which rely heavily on government defence contracts for their revenues. Grumman has told the Senate that it cannot fulfil the rest of its

\$2,400m contract to supply the navy with 313 F-14 fighters.

If it is forced to stick to the agreed terms, Grumman says, it will have to close its aerospace plants, throwing 20,000 workers out of work on Long Island. The company's aerospace subsidiary has lost \$65m on the contract so far, and stands to lose more than \$100m on the next batch of fighters which Congress is likely to demand soon.

Grumman's chief banker has threatened to cut off credit and the company estimates it needs more than \$500m to complete the contract, signed in 1968. Grumman blames inflation for its problems, but in fact it seems to have been caught at least partially by its own greed for orders.

Grumman cut its bid just before the contract was awarded, hoping to get the contract over the heads of other bidders. In retrospect, the move was not very wise. The Senate has set its face against helping 'lame-duck' defence contractors and is unlikely to show Grumman much generosity.

Litton is facing similar problems. It is under contract to build five helicopter carriers and 30 destroyers at its Mississippi shipyard. Originally there were to have been nine carriers, but when the navy cut its order, Litton demanded an increase of \$400m in the contract, originally worth \$1,000m.

One member of the House Armed Service Committee has described the proposed price hike as 'outrageous'. It would raise the price of a carrier from \$153m to \$250m. Troubles are crowding in on Litton, who are already 19 months behind schedule with the carriers.

Their competitors are suggesting that the destroyers will be delivered late, too. Litton management fear they will run into similar problems to Grumman unless they get the extra money they want.

The irony is that fixed-price contracts were once cornucopia of goodies for the big defence contractors. Now the boom is over, however, there is no longer enough to go round and the weakest are being forced to the wall.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Great evil

The Muggersh is at it again. This time he's decided that man is about to plunge into the new Dark Ages.

He told worshippers at St Thomas Episcopal Church, Corstophine in Scotland: 'Indeed order is already breaking down everywhere: the road to the next Dark Ages may prove to be a motorway with many lanes, brilliantly lit, and overflowing with enlightened hopes and sentiments.'

And what forces on earth are trying to return us back

to the days of barbarism—the bomb, President Nixon's decision to bring us all to the brink of world war three, the collapse of the capitalist economy?

Oh no. According to Malcolm Muggersh — an ex-spy for the British government—the great evil is, SEX.

At St Thomas' he raved: 'From the cradle to the grave, at the hands of all manner of pundits—purveyors of sex education, pornographers on the make, trendy clergymen, advertisers—young and old are endlessly persuaded to be carnally minded.'



Sporting clergy

That remark about 'trendy clergymen' is a rebuke to one of Muggersh's big praying pals.

We refer to the so-called liberal Dr Trevor Huddleston, the preacher who has performed with Muggersh at orgastic rallies organized by the bible-mad Festival of Light.

He recently tried to raise his church flock from the dead with a daring reference to sport.

We quote from 'The Guardian' of May 9:

'Derby County are the new Football League champions. Leeds United, needing one point from Wolverhampton to take the title and achieve the double of League and FA Cup, were beaten 2-1 at Molineux. Liverpool, who would have gone above Derby on goal average had they beaten Arsenal at Highbury, could only draw 0-0. The results were announced at a church service in Derby where Dr Trevor Huddleston was preaching. There was a loud burst of applause.'

BOOKS



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'KEEP LEFT', the official paper of the Young Socialists is now a weekly. Its first issue, out today, marks an entirely new period for the Young Socialists and their fight to build a mass socialist youth movement in Britain.

KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS SATURDAY MAY 13, 1972 VOL 21 NO 1 PRICE 3P

4,000 on MAY DAY march demand

DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS! FIGHT THE ANTI-UNION LAWS!

By Keep Left reporting team

THERE CAN be no retreat from the fight against the Tory government—the biggest May Day march organized by the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League was held last week.

The message came from Gerry Healy, ILL National Secretary speaking after the 4,000-strong march through London.

There can be no retreat from the working class because the enemy has divided to fight, he said.

A crowd of Young Socialist members and supporters took part in the march which was held in London.

● a national TUC conference to fight the anti-union laws.

● a general strike to force the Tories out of office.

● the right to work.

● withdrawal of troops from Ulster.

● the military defeat of US imperialism in Vietnam.

Young Socialist members travelled to London from all parts of the country to march in the half-mile long demonstration.

Led by an impressive array of red flags, they passed through the streets of London to a packed meeting at St Pancras Town Hall.

Filed a month after the YS conference, the march confirmed the growth in influence and membership of the Young Socialists.

A resolution passed unanimously at the May Day meeting called on the working class to demand the right to work, the right to strike and a Labour government which would nationalise all major banks and take power workers' control without compensation.

The resolution added the demand for the political crisis was the transformation of the British Labour League into a revolutionary party.

Gerry Healy, told the meeting that revolutionaries, engineers, dockers and the construction workers of the electricity had secured justice on the government to quit.

But the labour and trade union leaders had refused to initiate the working class using the revolutionary force that the struggle of one and all must constitutionally roll by another three years.

He said the real enemy of the working class is the Tory government and the capitalist class.

The Young Socialist members of the Young Socialist League, it is stressed by the Young Socialist League.

John Simpson, national secretary of the Young Socialist League, said the YS had organised the training of a new leadership movement.

Through the Right-to-Work campaign we have begun to link up the struggle of one and all with those still working.

The Right-to-Work campaign was one of our best practical contributions.

The results of the campaign, he said, could be the key to the production of a weekly Keep Left.

Some of the YS delegations who marched on May 7.



Democracy in the schools!

say West London pupils

LAST Tuesday over 1,000 pupils from 15 West London schools marched from Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park, to the London Education headquarters at County Hall in support of their demand for an end to canings, detentions and victimization.

Protesting rates at Hyde Park did not deter them as they listened to march organizers who told them that the leader of Monday's demonstration, 15-year-old Steve Finch from Rotherfield Comprehensive, had been remanded on £50 bail until June 7 at Marylebone Magistrates' Court that morning.

On Monday, after a lunch-time meeting at Paddington Green, almost 1,000 pupils had marched round schools in the area calling out support for Tuesday.

One young member of Tuesday's delegation which went into County Hall to meet education officers said: 'We want the same as the doctors and the railways, if they can't come out, why can't we?'

On page eight in interviews with boys and girls at Rotherfield Comprehensive and Sarah Siddons Comprehensive Keep Left gives the reasons why West London pupils have taken action.

'Keep Left's' role, says its editorial, will be 'the training and education of a cadre of young revolutionaries who will play a decisive part in the construction of a revolutionary party in Britain'.

As the voice of the Young Socialists, the paper will cover all issues facing young workers both in Britain and internationally.

Selling for 3p a copy, it will 'campaign unceasingly to prepare the youth for the major class battles ahead. It will fight to mobilize the working class to force the Tories out of office'.

In the first issue, the paper carries a front-page report of the Young Socialists' 4,000-strong May Day march.

'Held a month after the YS conference at Scarborough and two months after the 8,500-strong Right-to-Work rally at Wembley, the march confirmed the growth in influence and membership of the Young Socialists.'

One major feature in this week's issue is an interview with Radio One DJ Stuart Henry. (Henry was one of the compères at the YS Right-to-Work rally on March 12.)

The world news page has a report of proceedings at Angela Davis' trial in San José, California.

Together with on-the-spot detailed coverage of the London schools revolt, 'Keep Left' features a sports column which this week reports on the Young Socialists' football league cup final.

Young Socialists' work in the Lancashire town of Preston is spotlighted in a feature article.

Leading role

'Keep Left' will play a leading role among youth. It will campaign to defend the hard-won rights of the working class—the right to a job, the right to a living wage, the right to strike—all of which are under vicious attack from the Tory government.

The paper will publish historical articles every month on theoretical issues which are today vitally important for the working class.

Central to its campaign and drive will be the extension of the Right-to-Work campaign into the regions, including local marches and rallies.

As the main weapon of the Young Socialists, 'Keep Left' intends to play a big role in the construction of the youth movement. It will report continuously on YS branches and activities throughout Britain.

How does a paper like 'Keep Left', previously with a monthly circulation of 21,000, not only



'Keep Left's' editor Gary Gurmeet looks at a first copy of the weekly 'Keep Left' as it comes off the press

survive where others have so hopelessly failed, but develop and expand?

The answer to this does not lie in some sales wizardry or organizational genius.

It can be understood only in terms of the paper's history as a principled fighter for socialist policies whose support among thousands of youth is won on the basis of a fight against the hated Tory government and its boot-lickers in the bureaucratic leadership in the official labour movement.

'Keep Left' has a long-standing tradition in the struggle against the Tories. Twenty years ago it started as a duplicated paper produced by Wembley Labour League of Youth (the Labour Party's youth movement).

Its circulation soon extended to other branches of the League of Youth.

And when, in 1955, a frightened Labour Party right wing closed down its youth section, 'Keep Left' continued its fight to recruit youth into the organization.

In 1958 'Keep Left' was printed for the first time. It was welcomed at the time by MPs Michael Foot, Frank Allaun, Maurice Orbach and Konni Zilliacus.

This was the year of the first Aldermaston march in which thousands of youth took part in the four-day protest against the H-Bomb.

'Keep Left' condemned the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress for not going 'far enough' in its campaign to even get the nuclear tests suspended.

In 1959—General Election year—'Keep Left' campaigned vigorously for the election of a Labour

government pledged to socialist policies of nationalization, voting rights at 18, independence of the colonies and withdrawal of all troops from other countries.

But a jittery Labour leadership just couldn't stomach a militant youth movement and when it proscribed the Socialist Labour League it also moved in to close down the Streatham and Norwood youth sections.

1960 proved to be a year of action for the youth. Thousands of youth came out on strike following a lead given by Clyde-side apprentices.

It was also the year in which the Labour Party national executive declared its intention of setting up another Labour youth movement—the Young Socialists.

'Keep Left' welcomed its formation and published a solemn warning.

It drew attention to the fact that the bureaucratic machinery of the Labour leadership could be seen in the organization proposals drawn up by it.

The following year 'Keep Left' appeared as a six-page edition and organized anti-Tory rallies throughout the country.

1962—a bright new format, but also the year when 'Keep Left' was proscribed by the Labour Party executive.

Continue fighting

The Editorial Board declared its intention to continue fighting for socialist policies and Transport House continued its campaign to crush the paper. It failed.

Subscribe!

First issue out

The eight-page youth paper which leads the fight against the Tory government, for the right to work, in factories, schools and on the dole queues.

Plenty of news, views and features at 3p a copy. Order your regular copy now. Yearly subscription £2.86. Send to Keep Left, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG

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out

Throughout 1963 'Keep Left' continued to gain wide support. This was reflected in the considerable backing for its policies at the Easter YS national conference in Scarborough.

Growing unemployment under the Tories was taken up in several demonstrations organized after a campaign was launched by 'Keep Left' and its supporters in the YS.

It was this campaign and the development of YS branches through political and social activity that finally gave 'Keep Left' supporters a majority on the YS national committee and overwhelming support for its policies at the 1964 Brighton YS conference.

The Labour bureaucracy then moved in with a vengeance, expelling 'Keep Left' supporters on a wholesale basis and closing down branches.

Independent YS

Police dogs were called in by the right wing to prevent YS members picketing the Streatham General Management Committee and the first meeting of the National Committee with a 'Keep Left' majority—was closed down after its passed a resolution condemning the witch-hunt.

This became the split with the Transport House bureaucracy and 'Keep Left' spearheaded the independent Young Socialists' movement.

Later in 1964, the editorial board announced technical improvements and the first annual general meeting of the paper—impossible under the witch-hunting conditions inside the Labour Party, when to be seen selling or writing for the paper could mean instant expulsion.

Over 450 readers attended this meeting in January 1965 and elected Aileen Jennings as the paper's editor. The fifth annual conference of the official YS in Morecambe adopted 'Keep Left' as its official paper and voted for an independent programme and constitution.

'Keep Left' continued to lead the Young Socialists and announced a circulation of 18,000 in 1968. In May 1969 it produced the first 16-page edition.

Consistent fight

The following year 'Keep Left' had built up its circulation to over 20,000. The paper's annual meeting that year decided to produce a regular 16-page paper.

It led the campaign for the 4,500-strong anti-Tory rally at London's Alexandra Palace on February 14, 1971. A special issue of the paper in June that year called for the re-election of a Labour government.

It answered Tory anti-union plans with a call for a General Strike to make the government resign. In 1971 'Keep Left' led a big campaign against unemployment with the YS plans for the Right-to-Work marches which culminated on March 12 this year with the 8,500-strong Empire Pool, Wembley, rally.

Its annual meeting earlier this year laid firm plans for the development of a weekly paper. Speaking at the May Day meeting earlier this month, John Simmance, YS national secretary, said: 'The Right-to-Work marches were part of our most successful campaign ever. We can see the results of the campaign today in the production of the weekly "Keep Left".'

The weekly, he added, was possible only because the Young Socialists carried out a consistent fight against Toryism and its allies in the labour movement.

TV

BBC 1

10.00 Wie Bitte? 10.30 Zarabanda. 12.40 Weather. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.55 International Football Preview. 1.10 Fight of the Week. 1.25, 1.55, 2.20 Racing from Ayr. 1.35 International Tennis. 2.40 Rugby League Cup Final. 4.45 Final Score. 5.05 Basil Brush Show. 5.35 News, weather. 5.50 Dr Who
6.15 WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY.
7.00 FILM: 'JOHN PAUL JONES'. Robert Stack,

ITV

10.45 Joe 90. 11.15 Sesame Street. 12.15 The Jackson Five. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport: 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Lingfield; 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Newmarket; 3.15 International Football, West Germany v England; 5.50 Final Verdict. 5.55 News.
6.05 KEN DODD.
6.35 THE ROLF HARRIS SHOW.
7.20 NEW SCOTLAND YARD. The Palais Romeo.
8.20 SATURDAY VARIETY. The Val Doonican Show.
9.20 FILM: 'THE HOUSE THAT

BBC 2

9.35 Open University. 3.00 Film: 'How to be Very Very Popular'. 4.25 'The Wedding' (Russian film without dialogue). 4.45 Tutankhamun's Egypt. 5.05 Look. 5.30 Television Doctor. 5.50 Man Alive. 6.40 Westminster.
7.00 NEWS, Sport, Weather.
7.10 CHRONICLE. The Seam and Iron Contest.
8.05 INTERNATIONAL LAWN TENNIS.
9.00 THE PHILPOTT FILE: THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI. 2: The Workhorse and the Queen.

Bette Davis. True-life exploits of America's first great naval hero.
9.00 TARBUCK'S LUCK. Variety.
9.45 A MAN CALLED IRON-SIDE. The laying-on of hands.
10.35 NEWS, Weather.
10.45 MATCH OF THE DAY SPECIAL. International Soccer. The Rugby League Cup Final.
12.15 Weather.

WOULDN'T DIE. Barbara Stanwyck, Richard Egan. Frightening events occur in early American house near Gettysburg.
10.30 NEWS.
10.40 MATTHEW WINKLER IS ALIVE AND WELL. In November 1970 six-year-old Matthew Winkler was dying of rabies but Dr Michael Hattwick refused to accept that the disease was an automatic killer...
11.25 THEATRE OF THE STARS. Nightmare.
12.20 ONE POINT OF VIEW.

9.50 SOUNDS FOR SATURDAY. Richie Havens.
10.35 PETS AND VETS.
10.50 THE GOLDEN BOWL. By Henry James. 2: Mr Verver.
11.35 NEWS, Weather.
11.40 FILM NIGHT.
12.15 MIDNIGHT MOVIE: 'PHONE CALL FROM A STRANGER'. Shelley Winters, Garry Merrill, Michael Rennie. Four strangers meet on board ill-fated aircraft from which there is only one survivor.



Jack Jones—no not the union leader—has his own 45-minute show on BBC 2 on Sunday night.

REGIONAL TV

All regions as BBC-1 except:

Wales: 11.00-12.40 (and in Grandstand 12.45, 6.15) The Benson and Hedges Cup: Glamorgan v Somerset. 6.35 Disc a Dawn. 12.17 Weather.
Scotland: 10.45 Sportsreel. 11.10 Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association Conference: report. 11.35 Star UK Ballroom Championships. 12.10 News, weather.
North Ireland: 5.45 Sports, News. 12.17 News, weather.
England: 12.17 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 11.15 Yesterdays. 11.45 Thunderbirds. 12.42 Weather. 12.45 London. 11.25 News. 11.35 UFO. 12.30 Weather. Life and death.

WESTWARD: 11.40 Gus Honeybun. 11.45 Rupert Bear. 11.55 Lone ranger. 12.20 Lidsville. 12.45 London. 9.20 Film: 'The Mad Magician'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Faith for life. 11.30 Weather.

ANGLIA: 11.20 Yesterdays. 11.50 Cowboy in Africa. 12.45 London. 9.20 Jason King. 10.15 Cartoons. 10.30 London. 11.25 Film: 'Shadow of the Cat'. 12.50 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 12.10 Horoscope. 12.15 Captain Scarlet. 12.45 London. 9.15 Film: 'The Black Dakotas'. 10.30 London. 11.30 Horse show. 11.55 Who knows?

ULSTER: 12.30 Enchanted house. 12.45 London. 9.20 Film: 'The Killer Is Loose'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Theatre of stars.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 Yesterdays. 11.25 Make a wish. 11.50 Skippy. 12.15 Lidsville. 12.45 London. 9.15 McMillan and wife. 10.30 London. 11.25 Windsor horse show. 12.10 Black olives. 12.40 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.50 Play the game. 12.15 Secret service. 12.45 London. 9.15 Film: 'The Narrow Margin'. 10.30 News. 10.40 Mad dogs and Englishmen. 11.25 Danger man.

TYNE TEES: 11.00 Yesterdays. 11.25 Bush boy. 11.50 Arthur. 12.15 Lidsville. 12.45 London. 9.15 FBI. 10.30 International boxing. 11.30 Windsor horse show. 12.15 One step beyond. 12.45 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 11.40 Beagan Gaidhlig. 11.55 Clapperboard. 12.15 Tom Grattan. 12.45 News. 12.50 Melody inn. 1.20 Racing. 3.10 Zingalong. 3.20 Roadrunner. 3.45 UFO. 4.45 Film: 'The Fake'. 5.55 London. 9.20 Department S. 10.15 Conservative Party conference from Perth. 10.30 London. 11.25 Late call. 11.30 Scotsport.

GRAMPIAN: 12.15 Yoga. 12.45 London. 3.15 Film: 'Spare the Rod'. 5.00 UFO. 5.55 London. 9.20 McMillan and wife. 10.30 London. 11.40 Windsor horse show.

TV

BBC 1

9.04 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 9.30 Wie bitte? 11.00 Seeing and Believing. 11.30 Boomph with Becker. 11.45 Mistress of Hardwick. 12.10 Bellamy on Botany. 12.35 Profit by Control. 1.25 Farming. 1.55 Hammer it Home. 2.20 Made in Britain. 2.30 Going for a Song. 3.00 Laurel and Hardy. 3.15 Shari Lewis. 3.25 Film: 'Heart of a Child'. 4.40 Monaco Grand Prix. 5.10 British Empire. 6.05 News, weather.

ITV

10.30 Yesterdays. 11.00 Service. 12.05 Farmhouse Kitchen. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Out of Town. 1.55 Stingray. 1.45 University Challenge. 2.15 Sportsworld '72. 3.15 Jason King. 4.10 Shirley's World. 4.45 Golden Shot. 5.35 Pretenders.
6.05 NEWS.
6.15 PRIVATE VIEWS. (New Series.) Clive Jenkins.
7.00 STARS ON SUNDAY.
7.25 DOCTOR IN CHARGE. Doctors' Lib.

BBC 2

9.35 Open University. 1.50 Cricket. 7.00 News Review.
7.25 MUSIC ON 2. Music in Japan.
8.25 THE WORLD ABOUT US. Impressions of Snowdonia.
9.10 JACK JONES. With Johnny Harris and his Orchestra and Segment.

REGIONAL TV

All Regions at BBC 1 except:
Wales: 1.25 Farming. 3.00 Top of the Form. 3.20 Cricket. 3.50 Spy Trap. 6.15 Hen Allorau. 10.05 O'r Neuadd Gyngerd. 11.42 News.

6.15 HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
6.45 SING A NEW SONG.
7.25 THE GOOD OLD DAYS.
8.15 LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN. By Oscar Wilde.
9.55 NEWS, Weather.
10.05 OMNIBUS. Two Arts Centres.
10.55 KENNETH HARRIS INTERVIEWS. Sir George Weidenfeld.

7.55 THE TOMMY STEELE HOUR.
8.55 WEEKEND OF TERROR. Robert Conrad, Lee Majors, Carol Lynley. Two kidnappers become desperate when their hostage is accidentally killed.
10.15 NEWS.
10.30 THE ORGANIZATION. Peter Frame and Veronica.
11.30 MUSIC IN THE ROUND. Baroque Around the Clock.
12.00 ONE POINT OF VIEW.

9.55 TUTANKHAMUN'S EGYPT.
10.15 THE LOTUS EATERS. 4: A Touch of Home.
11.05 NEWS SUMMARY, Weather.
11.10 UP SUNDAY. Line - Up takes a last look at the week with James Cameron, Roy Hudd, Molly Parkin, William Rushton, John Wells.

Scotland: 11.00 Seeing and Believing. 6.15 Christianity Grounded. 11.42 News, weather.
N. Ireland: 11.42 News, weather.
England: 11.42 Weather.



Clive Jenkins—yes the union leader—airs his 'Private Views' at 6.15 on ITV on Sunday.

SOUTHERN: 11.00 Service. 12.00 Weather. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to sing. 12.55 Farm progress. 1.25 Dog training. 1.45 Stingray. 2.15 Sportsworld '72. 3.15 Film: 'When the Daltons Rode'. 4.35 News. 4.45 London. 11.30 Something to say. 12.30 Weather. Life and death.
WESTWARD: 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Kitchen. 1.20 Homes of history. 1.35 Farm and country news. 2.00 Avengers. 2.55 Film: 'She'll Have To Go'. 4.30 Date with Danton. 4.45 London. 11.30 Aquarius. 12.25 Teach a man to fish. 12.30 Weather.

ANGLIA: 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music in round. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.20 University challenge. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming diary. 2.30 UFO. 3.20 Dick Van Dyke. 3.45 Windsor horse show. 4.45 London. 11.30 Saint. 12.30 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.40 Horoscope. 1.45 Yesterdays. 2.15 Horse show. 3.15 Film: 'That Woman Opposite'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Forest rangers. 6.05 London. 11.30 Spyforce.

ULSTER: 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Kitchen. 1.45 London. 3.15 Film: 'Namu, the Killer Whale'. 4.45 London. 11.30 Saint.

YORKSHIRE: 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Camping. 1.00 Kitchen. 1.25 Farming. 1.55 Calendar. 2.15 Windsor horse show. 3.15 Film: 'The Girl on the Boat'. 4.45 London. 11.30 Aquarius. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Kitchen. 1.20 Yesterdays. 1.50 Mad movies. 2.15 Mad movies. 2.15 Sportsworld '72. 3.15 Film: 'The Mouse That Roared'. 4.40 London. 11.30 Aquarius.

TYNE TEES: 10.20 Farming. 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Camping. 12.55 Kitchen. 1.25 Farming. 1.55 Out of town. 2.15 Where the jobs are. 2.20 Windsor horse show. 3.15 Film: 'Soho Incident'. 4.45 London. 9.00 Film: 'The Pigeon'. 10.15 London. 11.30 Aquarius. 12.30 Beauty of the countryside.

SCOTTISH: 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Yesterdays. 1.55 Over the hills. 2.55 Film: 'Never Let Me Go'. 4.45 London. 6.15 Class of '72. 7.25 London. 10.30 All for your delight. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Randall and Hopkirk.

GRAMPIAN: 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Yesterdays. 1.55 Farm progress. 2.15 Windsor horse show. 3.15 Film: 'Hot Spell'. 4.45 London. 11.30 His and hers. 11.55 Job look.

Blacking: Pressure on in Preston

PRESTON dockers yesterday decided to increase their pressure on blacked hauliers. Instead of letting lorries into the docks, where they had remained untouched, they are now organizing picket lines at the dock gates to turn those lorries away.

During the last three days dockers' leaders have been meeting union officials and members of the Road Transport trade group of the T&GWU. After their last meeting on Thursday morning a leading docks shop steward said: 'The RTC men categorically state that they don't want to be registered dockers.'

'However, if the employers wanted them to become registered they say they'll reconsider.

That's like committing murder today and joining the police force tomorrow to cover your sins.'

Another leading steward said: 'The employers must be laughing at this, but we won't stop the blacking.'

● A MASS meeting open by union card only to road haulage drivers will be held in Hull tomorrow. The drivers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, will discuss the container issue and a pay claim.

Hull dockers are blacking two local haulage firms, Panalpina (Northern) Limited and MAT Transport Limited.

On Monday an interim order granted against the union and the chairman of the Hull docks shops stewards' committee, Walter Cunningham, will be reviewed in the National Industrial Relations Court. The order calls on

both parties to lift the blacking, described as 'an unfair industrial practice'.

Sunday's meeting in Hull will be followed on Monday evening by one between the commercial district committee of the road transport group and the Hull docks district committee, the union's official policy-making body in the port.

● In Liverpool next Friday, May 17, the regional secretary of the T&GWU, Mr Douglas G. Farrar, will participate with Tory ministers and port employers in a seminar organized by the Merseyside Productivity Association.

The conference is also being backed by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company and the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Apart from Farrar other speakers at the conference will be:

Mr J. Lindsay Alexander, Chairman, Ocean Steam Ship Co—Ports and Modern Ship Operation.

Mr Philip E. Chappell, Chairman, National Ports Council—National Developments of the Ports Industry—Merseyside's Role.

Mr George W. Brimyard, Managing Director, Mersey Docks and Harbour Co—The Port of Liverpool in the 1970s.

Mr Eldon Griffiths, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of the Environment, will also address the conference.

Chairman will be Alderman Sir Harold MacDonald Steward, President, Merseyside Productivity Association.

Eldon Griffiths is an extreme right-wing Tory. When in opposition he represented the Police Federation in the Commons.

Ford prices due to rise

EXCLUSIVE

AS FORECAST exclusively in yesterday's Workers Press, Ford of Britain has made a £30m trading loss. The loss was the first since Ford moved to Dagenham 39 years ago.

After tax adjustments the loss is reduced to £17m.

In announcing the disastrous figures Ford chairman Sir Leonard Crossland blamed last year's nine-week strike.

We can now reveal that the company intends to break the Confederation of British Industries' prices pledge on May 22 by raising the price of its vehicles.

The decision to push up prices above the 5-per-cent limit, voluntarily imposed by the CBI, was taken only after a series of tough bargaining sessions with CBI leaders.

To substantiate the price rises, Ford took its books to the CBI and revealed the critical state of its finances.

Reluctantly, the CBI agreed that Ford was 'an exceptional case'.

But British-Leyland, which has already broken the prices barrier, must also be a 'special case'.

The moves by these two car giants to force up prices signals the total collapse of the fraudulent prices strategy which the CBI and the Tory Cabinet reached last year.

Only last Monday the CBI leaders saw Edward Heath at No 10 Downing St to explain that the facade of price-holding had reached its final lap.

Crossland foreshadowed a new round of price increases when he said yesterday: 'An increase in the price of our products now seems inevitable.'

MAY FUND REACHES £723.80

IT IS vital that we do not sit back for a moment. Nixon, the Tories—everywhere the capitalist class is poised for an all-out war against the working class.

Workers Press is more determined than ever to fight back. All our confidence is with the working class in these decisive struggles. So back us up all the way.

Use this weekend for a special effort to raise our May Fund. Raise extra amounts. Collect as much as you can. Don't forget that our target this month is £1,750—£500 more than usual to help us cover our greatly increased expenditure. Send all your donations immediately to: Workers Press May Appel Fund 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

First refusal

DUSTMEN on strike at Jarrow, Co Durham, have been asked by borough engineer Roy Stewart to clear the worst of the piles of refuse accumulated during their 12-day-old strike.

He was offering the men first refusal for the work in return for a payment to charity before he called in outside contractors.

The men's General and Municipal Workers' Union shop steward Derek Sadler said that they might be prepared to undertake the work.

Nottm boycott

TRENT Polytechnic, Nottingham, students' union unanimously passed a motion on Thursday put forward by staff and students of the fine art department boycotting an official internal inquiry instigated by the director into the working and discipline of the department.

The inquiry follows recent incidents in the department which resulted in the sacking of a laboratory assistant and the disciplining of two others.

Threat to spinning

THIRTY thousand jobs in the Lancashire spinning industry are threatened by Britain's entry into the Common Market, according to Edmund Gartside, chairman of the Textile Industry Support Campaign.

Once Britain entered the Common Market, cotton yarn would be treated the same way as a raw material. As such, imports would be allowed from virtually anywhere in the world free from quota restrictions and subject at the most to a 'devisory' tariff.

21 days, or else

Court ultimatum to

T&G

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

IN ITS most important ruling to date the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday told the Transport and General Workers' Union to discipline or even sack shop stewards for disobeying court orders.

The judgement will have the most profound implications in the labour movement.

It virtually requires trade union leaders to act as 'policemen' within their organizations or face severe penalties.

The court gave the T&GWU 21 days to obey its decision or, in the words of Court president Sir John Donaldson, the Court would 'assert its authority in an unmistakable manner'.

This deadline coincides with the first day of the threatened national docks' strike over the use of containers.

Sir John launched an attack on the practice of blacking. 'Blacking damages the public, fellow workers and the employers of those fellow workers. It does not damage those who do the blacking—they draw their pay.'

'It is an unfair weapon and parliament has declared it to be unlawful. The duty of trade union officials at every level from shop steward upwards is to lead.'

'Leadership takes many forms—setting an example, advising, explaining, and using the elected constitutional committees of the union to the full, and when all else fails, using the disciplinary powers with which they have been entrusted by the membership.'

In a 27-page judgement—arising from the blacking of two



Jack Jones: Policing members?

container firms on Liverpool docks—Sir John rejected the union claim that they were not responsible for shop stewards who acted outside union policy.

He quoted from a passage in the Taff Vale case of 1901 to support his conclusion.

This ruled that a principle was responsible for the actions of his agent, even though the agent carried out a class of work in a manner not intended.

'The law is plain. The union is accountable if its officers, officials, representatives or shop stewards do their union work in

breach of the law. It is for the union to see that they do not break the law. If they persist in doing so, they are unworthy of the union's trust and of continuing in office.'

Sir John said the T&GWU shop stewards' handbook clearly gave the shop stewards the authority of the union.

'So long as he remains an accredited shop steward of the union, management is entitled to assume and usually does assume that he has the support of the union and is acting in its behalf and in accordance with such policies as it may have.'

Sir John said it was true that the union had 'advised' their shop stewards to obey Court orders and cease blacking, but he argued that this was not enough. At no time did anyone say that it must cease that action in such circumstances was contrary to union policy or that it was unauthorized.

'Indeed this has not been said to this day, otherwise than to a modified extent in the affidavits read to the Court.'

Sir John said that in these circumstances the Court had 'no hesitation' in affirming the earlier decision that the union by the action of its stewards had disobeyed the court order.

'We have been reminded on more than one occasion that a trade union is not an army, but a voluntary association. This is, indeed, the case and it will be a sad day if the movement ever loses this character.'

'But the voluntary principle and active participation by the membership are not an excuse for irresponsibility and lawlessness. It is a challenge to real leadership.'

'It is not for this court to tell the leaders of the union how to do their duty. But it is for us to point out where that duty lies.'

Scottish Tories hear 'lame-duck' philosophy

THE TORIES can do no more to stimulate the economy, Trade and Industry Secretary John Davies told the Scottish Conservative Party's conference at Perth yesterday.

He said the government could not create demand or markets where they did not exist and that the next move was up to industry.

In other words the Tories feel they have done all they can to provide industry with a framework of opportunity within which they can expand.

But if the possibilities are not there and there has to be a slump, then so be it.

Davies said the government had aimed at stepping up business efficiency and providing cash assistance to projects they could be fairly sure would become viable.

Referring to steel and with an eye on the Hunterston multi-industrial complex, which could provide thousands of extra jobs, he warned:

'... what would be unpardonable in government would be to assent to the creation of plant whose future might be precarious with dire consequences for those who work in it and for the nation's resources.'

He stressed: 'We

don't believe in sustaining enterprises for which we cannot, with certainty, envisage a viable future, but we have bent our rules recently under the pressure of other considerations— notably unemployment.'

'But when we have done so—as in the case of shipping on the Upper Clyde—we must not compound our heresy, if heresy it is, by pretending to get away with it at minimal cost and then see the whole problem surge up again for want of having faced reality.'

'So we have sought without equivocation to assess what it really costs to give the suc-

cessor enterprises the best chance of a satisfactory future. And to face the whistles and the cat-calls that result.'

'Some concerns—and Rolls-Royce springs naturally to mind—play such a part in national and international life that their loss would constitute such a catastrophic blow to our national interests or those of our friends overseas as to be insupportable.'

'So we rescue them. In our rescue operation we must not, at public cost, salvage the interest of those whose management has failed or those whose stake has been lost as a result of that failure.'

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