

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • WEDNESDAY JULY 12, 1972 • No 815 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## As TUC talks to Heath

# TORY ANTI- UNION LAW TIGHTENS

BY DAVID MAUDE Our Industrial Correspondent

A LEGAL web is tightening around the trade union movement as TUC leaders meet today to decide on further co-operation with the Tory government.

The focus of the action in the courts is once again the docks, where in three separate cases road-hauliers and warehouse firms are seeking to stop dockers 'blacking' and picketing their premises in the fight for jobs.

Actions are proceeding in the House of Lords, the Chancery Division of the High Court and the National Industrial Relations Court.

Were the employers successful in all these actions the effect would be to:

● **OVERTURN** the Appeal Court's judgement that the Transport and General Workers' Union is not responsible for blacking by its docks stewards in Liverpool and Hull;

● **FORCE** seven named London dockers to pay damages for conspiracy and intimidation to Midland Cold Storage Ltd; and

● **ORDER** the London dockers' joint shop stewards' committee to stop picketing Midland.

In the House of Lords, three haulage firms are seeking to overrule the Appeal Court's June 13 decision to allow eight T&GWU appeals against the NIRC.

The firms are Heaton Transport (St Helens) Ltd; Craddock Bros, of Wolverhampton; and Panalpina Services and Panalpina (Northern) Ltd, of Bradford.

They want to establish the principle that the union's national leadership can be penalized for failing to discipline its members and stop the blacking. (The Appeal Court paid back the £55,000 fines imposed by the NIRC for failure to do this.)

Yesterday in the Chancery Division of the High Court, counsel for Midland Cold Storage complained on six counts against picketing at the company's Hackney depot.

The counts were: conspiracy, intimidation, breach of statutory duty, wrongful procurement of breach of contract, actionable interference with contracts and nuisance.

The court was also asked to declare that work at the depot is not dock work as defined in the Dock Labour Scheme.

A stop-picketing order has already been obtained by Midland from the NIRC. The company's action in Chancery is an attempt to get a double bind on the dockers, both under the Industrial Relations Act and in common law.

Refusal to pay any damages arising out of yesterday's action, or any fines resulting from possible contempt proceedings in the NIRC, could again hang the threat of jail over dockers attempting to combat the redundancy crisis in Britain's ports.

Today, as the TUC Economic Committee gathers for its meeting at Congress House, Midland will go back to the NIRC just half a mile away to challenge its refusal to make an order against the London port stewards' committee.

Sir John Donaldson, NIRC president, argued on Monday that the committee was not 'an organization of workers' as defined by Section 61 of the Act.

The court had no evidence that it had sought recognition by the port employers, he said. No organization whose principal objects included regulation of relations between employers and workers could fail to seek such recognition. Therefore the court could make no order against the committee as such.

If Midlands succeeds in obtaining an order against the committee on review of this judgement, the scope of any future orders against picketing could be greatly increased,

laying the committee open to charges of contempt as a result of activities by almost any docker.

This, then, is the context in which the TUC chiefs will be considering Tory premier Heath's proposal for a joint working party on pay and industrial relations.

The right wing of the 17-man Economic Committee can be expected to argue that the proposal reflects government desire to move away from its hard-line stance against wage increases.

And if we allow Heath to save face on pay, they will reason, concessions may also be forthcoming which will stave off a clash between our members and the Act.

Above all else, the lords, knights and gentlemen who comprise the Committee fear such a clash.

The Tories, however, have no real room for concessions. Only abject surrender by the union leaders will fit their bill.

The steady tightening of the legal web goes alongside a rapid worsening of the capitalist economic crisis on a world scale.

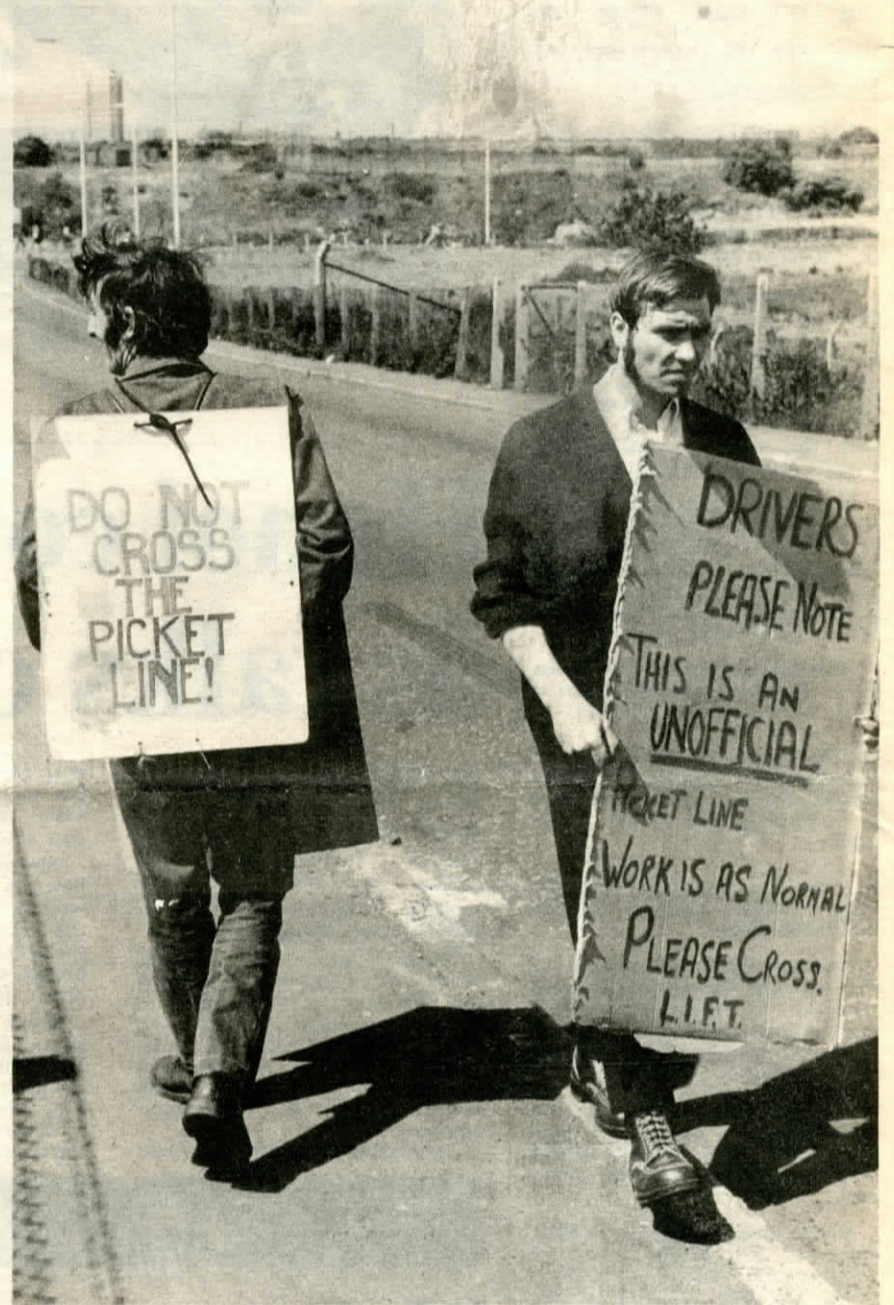
For the so-called left union leaders to go along with further talks with Heath, therefore, would be the most contemptible betrayal.

Jack Jones of the T&GWU, engineers' president Hugh Scanlon and Richard Briginshaw, the printworkers' leader, have for too long played the right-wing game and refused to express the massive rank-and-file pressure for a recall of the TUC.

This is why today's lobby of the Economic Committee, called by the All Trades Unions Alliance, assumes such great importance.

● All out behind its three demands: 'Break off all talks with Heath!' 'Recall the TUC!' 'Force the Tories to resign!'

London dockers yesterday extended their picketing of container depots to the London International Freight terminal at Stratford. But they were met by depot workers urging lorries to cross the picket line (below). And despite the orders issued against the dockers' leaders, pickets were out at Midland Cold Stores. The company has stated that in May it received 1,034 tons of goods for storage but this fell to 61 tons in June due to picketing. Meanwhile confusion reigned at Chobham Farm, the blacked depot involved in last month's showdown in the National Industrial Relations Court. The depot was picketed by drivers and other workers from container firms. Many of them belong to the 15,000-strong United Road Transport Union. They are angry because the 'settlement' reached last month in which dockers were given jobs in Chobham Farm has resulted in their being given menial tasks. Some have been asked to take on floor-sweeping as dockers take over their jobs.



## Ulster call-up?

**THE ARMY** is sending revised stand-by notices to thousands of men on the reserve list. The new orders bring up to date the procedure to be followed by reserve forces in the event of a sudden call-up.

The recent issuance of these forms is the firmest indication of the behind-the-scenes plans of the Tory government.

Workers Press has insisted on numerous occasions that Heath and his Cabinet have laid contingency plans to use troops when the need arises.

Over-stretched in Ulster, they are now forced to rely on reservists.

This week a leading shop steward on Preston docks, Billy Miller,

**WORKERS PRESS EXCLUSIVE**

received his papers. He bought himself out of the army years ago after an unhappy association with the military.

Now married with a family, Mr Miller is deeply concerned about the papers he has received.

He told a Workers Press reporter that he thought the army might try to send reservists to Ulster.

'I don't want to fight the IRA,' he said. 'I don't want to have anything to do with Heath's policies in Ulster.'

But Mr Miller can also see the possibility that it is not only Ulster where the Tories need

troops. The army could also be brought on to the docks.

The green-coloured form states that he will not receive any further official notification about his call-up. News of any emergency call-up will be broadcast over radio or television.

Mr Miller said that in such an event he will seek the backing of Preston dockers in refusing to go to the service of the Tory government.

The Ministry of Defence yesterday said the sending of revised orders was not new and there was nothing for the recipients to worry about. If anyone thinks it is some sort of emergency, 'this is a mistake on the individual's behalf.'

## LOBBY TUC TODAY 9.30 a.m

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE LOBBY OF TUC: GREAT RUSSELL STREET WC1 9.30 a.m. MEETING: HOLBORN LIBRARY, THEOBOLD'S ROAD 11 a.m. Break off all talks with Heath! Recall TUC! Force the Tory government to resign.

# workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • WEDNESDAY JULY 12, 1972 • No 815 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## As TUC talks to Heath

# TORY ANTI- UNION LAW TIGHTENS

BY DAVID MAUDE Our Industrial Correspondent

A LEGAL web is tightening around the trade union movement as TUC leaders meet today to decide on further co-operation with the Tory government.

The focus of the action in the courts is once again the docks, where in three separate cases road-hauliers and warehouse firms are seeking to stop dockers 'blacking' and picketing their premises in the fight for jobs.

Actions are proceeding in the House of Lords, the Chancery Division of the High Court and the National Industrial Relations Court.

Were the employers successful in all these actions the effect would be to:

● **OVERTURN** the Appeal Court's judgement that the Transport and General Workers' Union is not responsible for blacking by its docks stewards in Liverpool and Hull;

● **FORCE** seven named London dockers to pay damages for conspiracy and intimidation to Midland Cold Storage Ltd; and

● **ORDER** the London dockers' joint shop stewards' committee to stop picketing Midland.

In the House of Lords, three haulage firms are seeking to overrule the Appeal Court's June 13 decision to allow eight T&GWU appeals against the NIRC.

The firms are Heaton Transport (St Helens) Ltd; Craddock Bros, of Wolverhampton; and Panalpina Services and Panalpina (Northern) Ltd, of Bradford.

They want to establish the principle that the union's national leadership can be penalized for failing to discipline its members and stop the blacking. (The Appeal Court paid back the £55,000 fines imposed by the NIRC for failure to do this.)

Yesterday in the Chancery Division of the High Court, counsel for Midland Cold Storage complained on six counts against picketing at the company's Hackney depot.

The counts were: conspiracy, intimidation, breach of statutory duty, wrongful procurement of breach of contract, actionable interference with contracts and nuisance.

The court was also asked to declare that work at the depot is not dock work as defined in the Dock Labour Scheme.

A stop-picketing order has already been obtained by Midland from the NIRC. The company's action in Chancery is an attempt to get a double bind on the dockers, both under the Industrial Relations Act and in common law.

Refusal to pay any damages arising out of yesterday's action, or any fines resulting from possible contempt proceedings in the NIRC, could again hang the threat of jail over dockers attempting to combat the redundancy crisis in Britain's ports.

Today, as the TUC Economic Committee gathers for its meeting at Congress House, Midland will go back to the NIRC just half a mile away to challenge its refusal to make an order against the London port stewards' committee.

Sir John Donaldson, NIRC president, argued on Monday that the committee was not 'an organization of workers' as defined by Section 61 of the Act.

The court had no evidence that it had sought recognition by the port employers, he said. No organization whose principal objects included regulation of relations between employers and workers could fail to seek such recognition. Therefore the court could make no order against the committee as such.

If Midlands succeeds in obtaining an order against the committee on review of this judgement, the scope of any future orders against picketing could be greatly increased,

laying the committee open to charges of contempt as a result of activities by almost any docker.

This, then, is the context in which the TUC chiefs will be considering Tory premier Heath's proposal for a joint working party on pay and industrial relations.

The right wing of the 17-man Economic Committee can be expected to argue that the proposal reflects government desire to move away from its hard-line stance against wage increases.

And if we allow Heath to save face on pay, they will reason, concessions may also be forthcoming which will stave off a clash between our members and the Act.

Above all else, the lords, knights and gentlemen who comprise the Committee fear such a clash.

The Tories, however, have no real room for concessions. Only abject surrender by the union leaders will fit their bill.

The steady tightening of the legal web goes alongside a rapid worsening of the capitalist economic crisis on a world scale.

For the so-called left union leaders to go along with further talks with Heath, therefore, would be the most contemptible betrayal.

Jack Jones of the T&GWU, engineers' president Hugh Scanlon and Richard Bringshaw, the printworkers' leader, have for too long played the right-wing game and refused to express the massive rank-and-file pressure for a recall of the TUC.

This is why today's lobby of the Economic Committee, called by the All Trades Unions Alliance, assumes such great importance.

● All out behind its three demands: 'Break off all talks with Heath!' 'Recall the TUC!' 'Force the Tories to resign!'

London dockers yesterday extended their picketing of container depots to the London International Freight terminal at Stratford. But they were met by depot workers urging lorries to cross the picket line (below). And despite the orders issued against the dockers' leaders, pickets were out at Midland Cold Stores. The company has stated that in May it received 1,034 tons of goods for storage but this fell to 61 tons in June due to picketing. Meanwhile confusion reigned at Chobham Farm, the blacked depot involved in last month's showdown in the National Industrial Relations Court. The depot was picketed by drivers and other workers from container firms. Many of them belong to the 15,000-strong United Road Transport Union. They are angry because the 'settlement' reached last month in which dockers were given jobs in Chobham Farm has resulted in their being given menial tasks. Some have been asked to take on floor-sweeping as dockers take over their jobs.



## Ulster call-up?

**THE ARMY** is sending revised stand-by notices to thousands of men on the reserve list. The new orders bring up to date the procedure to be followed by reserve forces in the event of a sudden call-up.

The recent issuance of these forms is the firmest indication of the behind-the-scenes plans of the Tory government.

Workers Press has insisted on numerous occasions that Heath and his Cabinet have laid contingency plans to use troops when the need arises.

Over-stretched in Ulster, they are now forced to rely on reservists.

This week a leading shop steward on Preston docks, Billy Miller,

**WORKERS PRESS EXCLUSIVE**

received his papers. He bought himself out of the army years ago after an unhappy association with the military.

Now married with a family, Mr Miller is deeply concerned about the papers he has received.

He told a Workers Press reporter that he thought the army might try to send reservists to Ulster.

'I don't want to fight the IRA,' he said. 'I don't want to have anything to do with Heath's policies in Ulster.'

But Mr Miller can also see the possibility that it is not only Ulster where the Tories need

troops. The army could also be brought on to the docks.

The green-coloured form states that he will not receive any further official notification about his call-up. News of any emergency call-up will be broadcast over radio or television.

Mr Miller said that in such an event he will seek the backing of Preston dockers in refusing to go to the service of the Tory government.

The Ministry of Defence yesterday said the sending of revised orders was not new and there was nothing for the recipients to worry about. If anyone thinks it is some sort of emergency, 'this is a mistake on the individual's behalf.'

## LOBBY TUC TODAY 9.30 am

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE LOBBY OF TUC: GREAT RUSSELL STREET WC1 9.30 a.m.  
MEETING: HOLBORN LIBRARY, THEOBOLD'S ROAD 11 a.m.  
Break off all talks with Heath! Recall TUC!  
Force the Tory government to resign.

# Moscow gold sales assist dollar

BY PETER JEFFRIES

FACED with a huge balance of payments deficit, the Nixon administration is currently pulling out all stops to increase its purchases of Russian gold.

This is bound to be a matter at the centre of the first session of the US-Soviet Joint Trade Negotiating Commission, which is scheduled to convene in Moscow on July 20.

US Commerce Secretary Peter Peterson, who heads the American side of the Commission, said he hoped that a general trade package would be concluded with the USSR by the year end. Peterson is also to visit Warsaw later this year for similar talks with Polish trade leaders.

It appears the Kremlin agreed to sell gold to America in return for US commodities and industrial equipment at the suggestion of presidential adviser Dr Henry Kissinger during his visit to the Soviet Union last winter.

Although such sales have been made in the past, the current deals have two new features:

- They were concluded directly between the governments concerned. Previously intermediaries in London or Zurich have been used.

- The US Treasury was the buyer, rather than a private industrial user.

Another significant feature of the deal was the gold sales were made at the then current free market rate of \$58 an ounce, compared to the official rate of \$38 an ounce.

The Russians intend to use their dollars to finance the huge grain deal with America which Washington announced last weekend.

Under this arrangement, Moscow will buy \$750m worth of US feedstuffs over the next three years. Of this, around \$500m will be financed by the US Commodity Credit Corporation.

Backward agricultural methods, together with bad weather have intensified the crisis of Soviet agriculture. The bureaucracy has been forced to promise substantial increases in meat production which require considerable increases in grain supplies.

Only America has grain surpluses of a size which can meet Soviet needs at this time.

Since Nixon's visits to Russia and China, five major deals, apart from the grain contract, have been signed. Tenneco International will buy \$25,000 worth of Soviet natural gas over the next five years. Gulf Oil will help develop a Siberian oilfield from which it will ship up to 50 million tons annually for the next 20 years.

Two American tool and die manufacturers have won a \$55m contract to equip five Soviet factories. America's Parson and Whittemore will build a \$160m plant in Siberia. It will purchase 85,000 tons of cellulose from the plant each year for sale in France.

As recently as last week Boeing announced the sale of \$150m worth of jet aircraft and spare parts to the Chinese government.

As imperialism's crisis deepens, it is clear that the Soviet bureaucracy will make every effort, in both the political and the economic fields, to rescue American capitalism.



Right. Now let's talk!

## Hanoi counter-attack as talks open

AS FINAL preparations were being made for the latest talks which open tomorrow, North Vietnamese forces began a new offensive against Saigon's forces moving towards Quang Tri city.

Fierce fighting was reported north east of the provincial capital. Military sources admitted that government paratroopers who had moved into the south-eastern outskirts of the city were forced to withdraw under intense North Vietnamese artillery fire.

Hanoi Radio reported last night

that liberation forces in Quang Tri had wiped out 600 government troops south of the city and shot down one warplane.

Meanwhile US B52 bombers flew ten raids against North Vietnamese troops pushing out from the Laotian border regions southwest of Hue and fresh outbreaks of fighting were reported north and south of Saigon.

North Vietnamese forces also kept up their pressure on An Loc, which was hit by 250 rounds of mortar, rocket and artillery fire. About 40 miles south west of Saigon, in the Mekong delta, the district town of Sam Giang

has been under bombardment for the last few days. Two battalions of North Vietnamese are involved.

While the North Vietnamese appear to be stepping up their military activities, Hanoi diplomatic sources have remained completely silent about American and Chinese hopes that the war may be brought to an end by 'serious negotiations' in Paris.

Mr Xuan Thuy, Hanoi's chief representative at the talks who is now in Paris, would make no comment on these matters saying only: 'We will consider any new proposals the United States has to offer.'

### AROUND THE WORLD

## McGovern certain of winning in first Miami ballot

SENATOR George McGovern, the slick South Dakota Democrat, now seems almost certain to win the party's presidential nomination.

Barring unforeseen overnight defections, he will command a majority of convention delegates in the first ballot at Miami Beach tomorrow. Yesterday he won a crucial decision which gave him all the votes of the large California delegation.

The decision was carried by a large majority in the convention against the opposition of Senator Hubert Humphrey and the bulk of the old Democrat 'machine' politicians.

It brought McGovern's voting strength up to 1,618—more than the 1,509 he needs to win the first ballot outright.

'It would seem that the nomination victory we have anticipated is within our grasp,' McGovern said from his hotel room where he was watching the convention on television while puffing at a big cigar.

McGovern's campaign has run foul of the Democrat political bosses—men like Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago, whose 59-member delegation was unseated by a convention vote following the California delegation.

### JOHN SPENCER

Daley, who backs former vice-president Hubert Humphrey, is a leading light of the 'Stop McGovern movement'. This group also has the backing of the trade union bureaucrats who have long enjoyed a close relationship with the Democratic machine.

George Meany, extreme right-wing leader of the AFL-CIO



George McGovern

trade union federation, is a powerful opponent of McGovern's. This is not only because—like every other candidate—he has a long anti-union record, but also because of his statements against the Vietnam war and his alleged lack of enthusiasm in support of Israel.

The union leaders are fighting desperately to prevent the break-up of the Democratic Party in order to preserve their own thoroughly reactionary relationship with this section of the US bourgeoisie.

They fear that McGovern's nomination will eventually destroy their corrupt ties with these big business politicians. McGovern himself is no friend of the trade unions, but neither are Humphrey, Edmund Muskie and the other contenders.

This has not prevented Auto Workers leader Leonard Woodcock from allowing his name to be floated as a possible vice-presidential running-mate alongside Muskie, though given Muskie's weakness at the convention, the name of his proposed running-mate is an academic question.

The way forward for American labour does not lie in ties with this or that section of big business, but in the construction of an independent Labour Party based on socialist policies in struggle against both capitalist parties.

It is this development that Meany and Woodcock are determined to strangle if they can.

## Third Brandt man quits

STATE Secretary in the Defence Ministry Dr Gunter Wetzel, has left the West German Cabinet and also resigned from the Social Democratic Party after 27 years of membership.

Wetzel objects to Chancellor Willy Brandt's eastern policy and what he considers to be a lack of firmness in dealing with radical elements in the Party and country.

The resignation is particularly embarrassing to Bonn coming as it does on the eve of the Common Market monetary conference due in London next week.

This third resignation in less than a week follows those of Karl Schiller, the Economic and Finance Minister and Dr Johann Baptist Schollhorn, State Secretary in Schiller's former ministry.

## Language riots—many die

AT LEAST 14 people were killed on Monday in Pakistan as fighting continued between police and rival language groups.

In Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, five people were officially reported killed—four of them by police bullets—and in Hyderabad, 100 miles to the east, another nine were killed in fighting between Urdu and Sindhi-speaking factions.

Both Hyderabad and Karachi have been put under a 24-hour curfew which has apparently failed to stop the fighting. The Karachi district magistrates reported 'violent and massive violation' of the measure on Monday night.

The fighting began nearly a week ago when the Sind province government declared Sindhi the sole official language. Many Punjabis living in the province speak only their own language, Urdu.

## Briefly...

DOCKERS in Montreal, Canada, were forced back to work on Monday by a Federal law passed last Friday forbidding strikes there and at two other Quebec province ports. About 3,200 International Longshoremen's Association members struck on May 17 against management attempts to smash the old work-gang system to make way for computerization of the docks.

# THE BUILDERS' BATTLE

## Growing demand for national strike action

MEN AT the Wimpey site in Buckland, Portsmouth, are dissatisfied with the union leadership's failure to call for strike action.

Two weeks ago they decided almost unanimously to inaugurate strike action by bringing out key workers for a week at a time.

A union official told them that the go-ahead would take only a few days to come through.

At a meeting on Monday the men's plan to start unofficial action was averted when news arrived that 'substantial' action would start today. They were told that action would also start at another Wimpey site at Hillsea.

Union officials described the delay as part of the union's policy of 'not putting all their eggs in one basket'.

Nevertheless construction workers feel this policy has the effect of letting employers off the hook.

It also leaves those already on strike in an isolated position. One worker told our reporter: 'We don't want the union to hold back any longer.'

### Starved into submission power site men claim

MORE THAN 800 building workers at the Drax power station site near Goole claim they are being starved into submission by their employers.

The men who work for four contracting companies have been locked out for nearly seven weeks. The disputes are apparently over different issues, but because the lock-outs occurred roughly at the same time the men claim the employers are acting together.

Thirty men employed by British Steel Corporation pipe erection department say they were locked out after winning a safety battle. This occurred when two men were suspended for refusing to work a rig.

Other workers went on strike in sympathy. Then after an inspector upheld their safety claim, they demanded compensation for money lost.

They were subsequently locked out.

Workers for Yarrows were locked out when they went on to day rate in support of the national engineers' pay claim.

Other men at Babcock and Wilcox and Parsons were locked out over bonus and safety issues.

The 800 are appealing for financial support, donations should be sent to:

The treasurer,  
Site Shop Stewards' Committee,  
72 Malvern Road,  
Goole, Yorkshire.

A 24-HOUR picket is being staged at Goodman's Loudspeaker Company, Havant, Hants. AUEW members from the factory are striking for a £3-a-week cost-of-living demand. It follows token stoppages last week. The strike has been made official by district officers and union membership has risen from 200 to 300.

BUILDING workers in the Tooting (South London) UCATT No. 3 branch have overwhelmingly passed a resolution stating their opposition to the selective strikes policy and in favour of a national strike. It said: 'We support the £1 levy for the benefit of building workers on the selective strikes now in strike action. But this support must be given critically. Only a national strike of all building workers, to recall the TUC and to prepare for General Strike to make the Tories resign can succeed. The fight for reformist policies can only weaken the working class. Only mobilization of the working class on a programme to force the Tories to resign and to return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies can succeed.'

### Police at Bass site again



ABOUT 200 police have been on duty outside the Bass Charrington site at Runcorn in Cheshire. On Monday there were clashes between pickets, engineering workers attempting to enter the site and the police. One young building worker was arrested. Despite the intervention of the police no workers were able to cross the picket line.

MORE  
INDUSTRIAL  
NEWS p. 10

## Police used on brickwork pickets

UGLY SCENES have broken out between pickets and police at the London Brick Company's works at Beeby's Yard, Peterborough.

On one occasion last week management called in the police to remove shop stewards from the premises as they were talking to other workers.

Immediately the yard came to a standstill as 400 men walked out the gates. These were then followed by 400 workers at the Orton and Yaxley works and another 100 from the King's Dyke yard.

Trouble first flared when the LBC refused to pay 65p attendance money to 350 workers at the Beeby's Yard, because they had stopped work to discuss a recent pay offer. Workers retaliated with an overtime ban.

Then 'blockers' started an unofficial strike when the management also knocked back their

demands for a 10p increase on every 1,000 bricks stacked.

This increase would bring their rate up to 50p per 1,000 bricks, which would be the normal rate paid by a private contractor in the Bedford area.

Production continued in the Peterborough and Whittlesey yards at the normal level of 25 million bricks a week, but as there has been on 'blockers' to stack them for transportation, they have been piled up in the yards immediately on leaving the kilns. It was estimated that few loads left the yards last week.

Soon there would be no storage space left for the mounting piles of bricks and that this would inevitably force production to a halt.

However, as the police moved in, the Transport and General Workers' Union district organizer said that this was 'action the union deplores'. At the same time he advised the men to go back to normal working.

The union is now anxious for talks with management to start at Bedford as soon as possible.



**PAPERBACKS CENTRE**  
28 Charlotte St  
London W1



BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS

NOW OPEN  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs  
9 a.m.—6 p.m.  
Fri 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.  
Sat 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

# ONE MAN'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST RENT BILL

BY PHILIP WADE, HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

One of the leading members of the South London tenants' movement is Ron Brett. As chairman of the Lewisham Federation of Council Tenants' Associations he spends most of his time travelling from meeting to meeting, organizing against the Tory 'fair rent' Bill.

He is also deeply involved in a struggle inside the East Lewisham Labour Party against the right wing. Mr Brett has fought for the lifting of bans and proscriptions inside the Labour Party.

In the last period he has seen a substantial movement within the Lewisham Labour group, which at the moment is for implementation of the Housing Finance Bill.

## LOOKING FOR A LEAD

'Opponents of implementation have grown from nine to 15 to 26 in three months and the Labour group has changed its mind three times. On the last occasion, the leader of the council sent a letter to the meeting in his absence.

'It said if the group plumped for non-implementation he would resign as leader. All the middle-of-the-roaders swept back into line.'

Since then, however, the left-wing group on the council has ousted the right-wing deputy leader of the council and won a number of positions from the old guard.

It was true, said Mr Brett, that the tenants had been looking for a lead from the Labour Party nationally. But he queried for how long they would continue to do so.

'All people can see at the moment is big brother talking from the top, whereas the Labour Party is supposed to be ultra-democratic. It was founded by the trade unions and we have to say "he who pays the piper calls the tune".

'The Labour Party leaders have had since October, and I and others know why they haven't come up with anything. They don't want revolutionary socialist policies because so many of them have got their fingers in the pie.

'They would have to nationalize the banks, insurance companies, building societies, land, the lot in fact—with no half measures. And a lot of people at the top would have to give up a great deal,' Mr Brett told me.

He said as far as local councils were concerned, Lewisham tenants had demanded the resignation of those Labour members in favour of imple-

mentation and their replacement by those who will fight.

'There is only one answer and that is a real socialist society. People say you can't get that in five minutes. But I disagree. It is true to say we've had the Labour Party operating a capitalist system, or trying to, better than the Tories. If we had the will to carry the fight through, however, it would be different.

'I don't trust the Labour Party leaders. Nothing short of a complete socialist housing programme will do. That will determine whether I stay in the party or join another left-wing group.'

I asked Mr Brett how the fight of the tenants against the 'fair rents' Bill could be drawn into such a struggle for socialism. Wasn't it necessary to force the Tories to resign to defeat the Bill and also to open up the road to socialism?

He elaborated on the relationship between the tenants' movement and a political fight against the Tories as far as he saw it.

'We have absolutely got to keep it political. The main basis on which tenants' associations have been set up is on the basis of actions of governments.

'But,' he added, 'too full and comprehensive a political programme frightens people away. The tenants' movement is a pressure group and not a political party. The best way for Lewisham tenants to fight against the Bill would be to convince the council to follow the lead of Greenwich and others and refuse to implement.

'Any other approach would be fatal. We haven't got the strength of the trade unions. We are too open. It wouldn't be the same situation as you would get in a factory stoppage if we called a rent strike, for example.

'In a factory they've got commodities to sell. We haven't as tenants.

'As far as this is concerned, the thing that could strengthen our fight is if we could get a policy from the TUC which declares that if any tenant is evicted for withholding the rent, there would be a general stoppage of labour until he was reinstated.

## SOLUTION IN AN ELECTION

But didn't the political situation nevertheless require tenants to join in this political fight as the only way forward?

'I have never doubted that as an individual. We have to face these facts. We must work for a situation where this government retires. But because of our vulnerability



Top: Ron Brett. Above: tenants from South East London march against the Tory rent Bill

people are frightened.

'It is a struggle for us to convince people of the need for revolutionary policies. I still think you have to take it in stages,' said Mr Brett.

But, nevertheless, did he not think the situation so urgent that you had to mobilize against the Tories immediately?

Had he himself not said

none of the real questions facing tenants could be solved without socialism?

'Yes, you are right. The ultimate solution in the fight against the Bill is a General Election. The tenants' fight is not an individual fight and cannot be so.

'The whole range of legislation from the Tories has led to a drastic attack on the

standards of living of the working class and will, if not fought, set them back pre-war.

'A future Labour government has to be made to see that the Labour Party is not the whole labour movement—that it is bigger than the party. The day that is recognized, the Tories will have had it for good—and so will the leaders of the Labour Party.'

# THE CRISIS OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT

A special background series examining the class struggle in Ceylon from 1964 to the present day. Part three.

By the time the coalition government came to power in May 1970 with an overwhelming majority, the post-war boom period in world capitalism had reached a dead end.

It was during this period—August 15, 1971—that Nixon prepared the break-up of the post-war relationship between the dollar and gold. Through the break-up of monetary arrangements at Bretton Woods, Nixon was threatening to strike the death-blow to all political relationships established by imperialism with the help of reformism and Stalinism.

In this situation, where imperialism and local capitalism needed a direct tool which would smash-up the working-class organization after coming to power, the government which came to power was a coalition with mass support for election promises of 'socialism'.

While on one hand world capitalism faced its mortal crisis, on the other hand the mass upsurge reached a climax. It was inevitable that the coalition government which came to power under these conditions would be a government of crisis.

Within the first few weeks mass support drained from the government. The first Throne Speech was an attempt at conciliation by a government bewildered by the crisis and the mass upsurge.

Although it did not contain any concrete promises, it also was unable to take any decisive step to attack the masses.

The Finance Minister explained the grave balance-of-payments crisis and appealed to the masses to tighten their belts and sacrifice.

At the same time the Minister of Plantation Colvin de Silva issued a concrete assurance of no nationalizations in the plantation industry. Some leaders tried to compare the situation in Ceylon with the period soon after the Russian Revolution saying that socialism could be built only through the determination and tenacity of the masses. A fund was launched for national development.

The masses had expected at least some measures to bring down the cost of living and the government had to compromise by re-introducing the full rice subsidy cut previously by the UNP; giving political freedom to government servants; recognizing Korea, Vietnam, East Germany and breaking the relationship with Israel. These steps did not contain the radicalization of the masses, but sharpened it.

Realizing the government's despondent position and the complete defeat faced by the extreme right wing UNP, the monopoly capitalists and capitalist newspapers came to the government's rescue. The large amounts contributed by Pfizer Co, Lever Bros, etc to the National Development Fund and the praise given by the Lake House press, exposed the alliance between the government and imperialism.

At this point the working class began to question the long stagnation in their standard of living.

As soon as the working class entered struggles the government simply could not maintain its 'socialist' face any more. When N. M. Perera's talk of 'tightening the belts' failed the government had to use the state machinery to break strikes.

Workers from new industries who had no trade union rights came out first demanding the right for trade unions. While these workers in Velona, Lucky Industries, Munchi, Davasa daily press, etc came into struggle—defying the advice of the LSSP and CP trade union leaders—the strike for union rights at Keuna Kelay Estate, which started during the UNP regime, took a new militant form.

There was a one-day plantations' strike in protest against the shooting at Keenakely. The workers in the capital, Colombo, demonstrated on that issue.

The 800 workers in Davasa Group came into direct conflict with the LSSP bureaucracy on the question of the help extended by the government to the employers. The LSSP reacted by expelling these 800 workers from their union.

Confronted with militant workers on strike to defend their living conditions and trade union rights the 'left' leaders had to launch a campaign to force the government to legislate against the employers.

The Minister of Labour promised action. But under the conditions where world capitalism was rapidly moving towards breaking up the Bretton Woods agreement, the possibilities for the government to waver in the face of the working class were few. The government had to act steadfastly and urgently in order to face up to the problems raised by the economic crisis.

Finance Minister N. M. Perera returned from the conference of the World bank and the IMF in Copenhagen and stressed that there was no way out for the Ceylon economy without foreign loans, and that the necessary precondition for such loans were definite deflationary measures.

While admitting the importance of the steps taken in the sphere of economics by the previous UNP government, he said that Ceylon was moving towards stability in foreign exchange position after the rupee's devaluation. He also stated that the cut in the rice subsidy was economically correct although politically it was fatal.

He came back to this theme in introducing his Budget speech in November 1970: 'We have to depend on the aid from developed countries for some time. To get this aid under conditions agreeable to us, we have to take some steps in order to cultivate some confidence among the foreigners about our ability to organize our own home'.

The Budget, to a certain extent, tried to go along this road. Steps were taken to increase, directly or indirectly, the prices of cigarettes, toddy, hardware goods, brews, tinned foods, cigars, furniture, electrical goods, suitcases and bags. The basis was prepared to increase postage and bus and train fares.

The main theme of the Bud-



Top: N. M. Perera, Finance Minister. Above: clothing workers walk-out during the strike at Velona factory

get was to cut down consumption. In addition to the steps mentioned earlier, a new compulsory savings scheme and an increase in the deductions for provident fund were also introduced.

To give a socialist colouring to this Budget, Perera also proposed to limit companies' profits to 12 per cent.

This had no effect. The chairman of the Employers' Federation, Malory Wijesinghe, stated that since it was very seldom that profit rates went above 12 per cent the proposal had no effect at all in Ceylon anyway.

Although the Budget was a deflationary step it did not solve any problems. The capitalist class could not solve these without taking steps which are economically necessary but politically fatal, as Perera himself admitted at the IMF's Copenhagen conference.

At the same time the government decided to stop paying the annual bonus for the Ceylon Transport Board employees. Although the government tried its best to use the LSSP and CP bureaucracies to prevent any struggle developing against this, the CTB workers organized a strike within a day.

The Cabinet had to reverse its non-payment decision.

While the LSSP organ said trade union questions had become a headache to 'comrade' N. M., Stalinists com-

plained the government was failing to take loans from non-imperialist countries. They said that the main reason for all the problems was that the government expected everything from the imperialists. Instead they should open contacts with the Soviet bloc and nationalize foreign companies.

Divisions were due in the coalition as a result of the economic crisis and the upsurge started this way.

The UNP began to hold public meetings. The second in command, J. R. Jayawardena, again raised the necessity of a stronger government.

Pretending to find a way to solve all the problems, the government started to draft a new constitution turning the parliament itself into a constituent assembly. But the nature of changes expected from the new constitution created another crisis in government ranks.

There were reports that while the Minister for Constitutional Affairs, Colvin de Silva, was drafting the new constitution, the right-wing Minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike also was drafting his own constitution. The 'left' leaders said progress towards socialism would be accelerated after the new constitution was adopted!

In the midst of the crisis 'left' critics were seen within the government ranks itself. The government also got right-

wing backers from the UNP. Jayawardena stressed the fact that everybody must join together to rescue the government. The essence of his position was to strengthen the coalition government against the working class as the initial step towards a Bonapartist dictatorship.

While old opponents of the government became friends, conditions were ripe for old friends to become critics of the government. It did not take long to turn critics into enemies. But these enemies also began to arm themselves.

The working class was struggling to move forward fighting the grip of the Stalinist and Samasamajist leadership. Every strike came directly into conflict with the LSSP and the CP bureaucracies. At this point the bureaucracies decided not only to expel the members who were critical of the leadership but also to close down some trade union branches which defied their orders.

When the enormous rise in unemployment came together with the rocketing cost of living, the radicalization among the petty-bourgeois layers in the society reached its climax. A variety of petty-bourgeois movements, developed, and the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) was prominent among them.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

# ALGERIA'S BOUMEDIENNE A FRIEND OF IMPERIALISM

By Tom Kemp. Photograph by Andrew Dark.

As Algeria celebrates its tenth year of independence it is clear that President Houari Boumedienne presides over one thing above all — the plunder of the country's natural resources by international capital.

With the help of the natural gas and petroleum of the Sahara his regime has become, to all appearances, one of the most stable in Africa. Islets of modern industry have sprung up against a background of poverty, unemployment and backwardness.

From Italy, Spain, the United States and Britain, as well as France, capitalist firms are jumping in on the bonanza. Rich contracts and rich pickings are opening up for many. Algeria's vast, but not inexhaustible natural gas reserves, have been sold in advance to the highest bidder.

With the plunder go loans which keep the regime going, enabling it to have a big army and a big state apparatus. Development which leaves the masses in misery means jobs and opportunities for the new rich petty bourgeoisie upon which Boumedienne's rule is based.

Product of a long and bitter revolutionary war for national independence from French colonial rule which cost the peasants and workers enormous sacrifices, the Algerian state today is the guarantor against revolution. It is tied hand and foot to world imperialism as represented by the big capitalist enterprises whose representatives are everywhere.

What happened to the Algerian revolution? Led by representatives of the small and weak national bourgeoisie it found its elemental strength in the movement of the masses. But the workers and peasants were never able to find a party which gave expression to their historic needs as part of the international struggle of the working class.

The betrayals of the Communist Party and its complicity with imperialism, from the time of the Popular Front of 1936 onwards, left a profound mark. They reinforced the hold of the petty-bourgeois nationalists who came to the fore after World War II and assumed leadership of the armed struggle which began in 1954, under the banner of the FLN (National Liberation Front).

From the start the FLN was a heterogeneous movement without clear political perspectives. Pushed into adopting a demagogic, left-wing, pseudo-socialist programme by the mass movement, the leadership had no intention of carrying it

out. The balance of power shifted increasingly towards the army.

Finally, when that leadership sold out the struggle and made the Evian agreement with President Charles de Gaulle's Bonapartist regime in 1962, it was the armed forces built up in neighbouring Arab states under the command of Boumedienne who rapidly became the dominant force.

The transfer of power, as provided for in the Evian agreements, enabled the FLN leadership to take over the state apparatus from the colonialists without a sharp break. Personnel changed, but the nature of the state remained essentially bourgeois: an apparatus of oppression turned against the oppressed classes.

Boumedienne's army came forward as the main stabilizing force, the backbone of the new Algeria. While the revisionists were ready to proclaim that Algeria was a new workers' state and Michel Pablo himself became a highly-regarded adviser to Ben Bella, the head of state, the army was preparing to take over full power.

With the overthrow of Ben Bella in 1965 there could be no further illusions about the nature of the regime. Its path had, in any case, already been smothered by Ben Bella and the FLN leadership.

Nothing was more striking after the achievement of independence than the rapid reflux of the revolutionary energies of the masses. This ebb, which was to some extent inevitable, was assisted by the failure of the Ben Bella government, despite its 'socialist' phrases, to fulfil the hopes of the masses.

Instead there were diversions, like the occupation of lands left vacant by departing colonialists and the taking over by some enterprises under a form of 'workers' control'.

These measures harnessed the energies of some of the most active elements while changing nothing as far as property relations were concerned. Meanwhile a new bureaucracy was climbing into the position of power left by the colonialists.

In January, the only mass force which showed any independence from the ruling clique, the trade unions (UGTA) were brought under control by Ben Bella.

The way was prepared for the taking power by Boumedienne and the shift to the right of the regime in 1965.

Ben Bella was placed under house arrest where he still remains. A purge was conducted against oppositionists, including some of those who had gone into exile. Boumedienne rapidly became the fav-



Top: Algerian peasants—landless and homeless. Development leaves them this way, while it provides jobs and opportunities for the new rich, petty bourgeoisie. Above left: Boumedienne. Above right: Ben Bella.

ourite of foreign correspondents.

His sharp features and deliberate manner betray a natural dignity and reserve, occasionally relieved by a smile, or a restrained laugh, and a twinkle of sharp, dark eyes', wrote 'The Times' man in Algiers, Charles Hargrove, in February 1971.

Indeed, as representative of the rising national bourgeoisie—whose basis was in the richer peasantry and the petty bourgeoisie of colonial times—Boumedienne went about his task with deliberation.

Boumedienne's policy. It was now possible to reduce dependence on France and establish the basis for a stronger national industry at the same time as better bargains could be struck with foreign capital for the exploitation of the natural resources which the Algerian bourgeois recognized as the main asset and exclusive property.

Algeria's natural resources, which the old imperialism had failed to develop, now saved the weak national bourgeoisie from an acute crisis. It enabled it to set going a process of development as the junior partners of imperialism, exploiting the rich reserves of gas and petroleum on a vast scale.

The special privileges which the French had retained after Evian were largely abolished. They had to take their chance with other bidders in the scramble for profit from which the national bourgeoisie also made great gains but from which the bulk of the population benefited little if at all.

With at least one unemployed man for every job filled, wages were low. There was no agrarian revolution, or even an effective reform: the

great mass of the landless or semi-landless rural population which made up the majority of Algeria's 13½ million people continued to live in gruelling poverty.

Under the Four-Year Plan a certain amount of development has taken place with heavy state participation. In the absence of a big class of native capitalists the initiative had to come from the state, but this does not at all mean that Algeria is on a socialist path.

Algeria's 'industrial revolution' had to be state-sponsored or not at all. Without a state which inspired confidence the aid and investments from outside necessary to promote development would not have been forthcoming. As it is the building of metallurgical plants, gas and oil pipelines, oil refineries and gas liquefaction plants has offered lucrative contracts for many foreign firms.

All the staggering contrasts of uneven and combined development are visible in Algeria—huge new industrial installations alongside primitive agriculture, a jet-set upper-crust juxtaposed to extreme poverty. Contradictions abound and under the glittering surface

of apparent modernity pre-prepare new explosions.

The regime is only too aware of this. Behind the outward appearance of robust confidence must lurk dark doubts about the future. Far from being 'independent' in an economic sense, Algeria is more closely tied to the capitalist world market than ever. It is more susceptible to outside shocks, to the crisis of world capitalism and specifically to the demand for her raw products.

The promises to improve the conditions of the masses have not been fulfilled. Even the regime's boasts to have reduced illiteracy and raised the level of education is double-edged. New generations are coming forward because of rapid population growth and they will not accept with resignation what their parents have put up with.

In Algeria today there are no democratic liberties or working-class rights. The only party is the FLN, which is more a bureaucratic machine than a political party. Any signs of opposition give rise to oppression by the police. Foreigners report this as 'no overt opposition to the regime

is discernible'. In fact they would not know whether it was there or not.

As the articles appearing in the press to commemorate ten years of Algerian independence show, Boumedienne is a well-thought of figure. The bourgeoisie recognizes him as one of their own. They understand that the Algerian Republic has a regime which it is safe to do business with. That flow of natural gas hides many odours of rotteness and corruption.

Let's be friends with Boumedienne, he's a great guy, is the common call. Sir Geoffrey Furlonge, a former British Ambassador, writing in 'The Guardian' for July 3, is full of praise. Do not be worried, he says, because the Russians have been given naval facilities.

This 'does not betoken any extension of their political influence', he says. 'On the contrary, economic ties, such as the gas contracts, seem likely to draw Algeria rather towards the West'. And this accredited representative of British capital concludes: 'It will be worth while meeting her half way.' Is it necessary to say more?

## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- 1962
- July 1: Mass vote in favour of independence in referendum organized according to terms of Evian agreement with France.
- July 3: Ben Khedda becomes prime minister.
- August 3: Ben Bella arrives in Algiers in triumph.
- September 23: Ben Bella becomes Prime Minister with Colonel Boumedienne Minister of Defence.
- 1963
- April: Ben Bella becomes general secretary of the FLN.
- September: Discontent in the Kabylie region.
- 1964
- March 13: Ben Bella and de Gaulle meet.
- September 20: FLN win 85 per cent of votes in elections.
- 1965
- June-July: Boumedienne denounces Ben Bella and takes power.
- July 29: Agreement with France on gas and oil.
- 1967
- January 3: Opposition leader

- Mohamed Khider assassinated.
- May-June: French forces evacuate two bases.
- December: Purge of FLN.
- December 15: Attempted army putsch suppressed.
- 1968
- February 1: French evacuate famous naval base of Mers-El-Kebir (where the fleet was destroyed by British naval squadron in 1940).
- February 4: Student discontent.
- April 25: Attempted assassination of Boumedienne.
- May-August: Nationalization of many foreign firms.
- March: Visit of Podgorny.
- October: Visit by Maurice Schumann, French Foreign Minister.
- 1970
- January 1: Four-Year Plan drawn up in 1969 begins.
- October 20: Assassination at Frankfurt of Krim Belkacem, a nationalist leader who inspired a plot against Boumedienne in February 1968.
- February 24: Nationalization of natural gas and pipelines.
- April: Conflict with French government over control of gas and petroleum industry.
- September 21: Oil agreement signed with French combine.
- October: Visit of Kosygin.

Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested on May 5, 1920. They were sentenced to die in the electric chair April 9, 1927 and that sentence was carried out a few minutes after midnight on August 22, 1927. In the course of those seven years, one of the most glaring exposés of the nature of capitalist justice is revealed. Reprinted from the 'Bulletin' (April 3, 1972), organ of the Workers League of US. By Nancy Fields.

# SACCO AND VANZETTI

## Part 4. The case.

It is with an understanding of the history of the period (see Workers Press of July 8, 10, 11, 1972) that we can now turn to the actual case of Sacco and Vanzetti and see it for what it was: a vicious frame-up of two working-class leaders.

Two days prior to their arrest, Sacco and Vanzetti learned of the death of their close friend, and fellow anarchist, Andrea Salsedo.

Salsedo, and another anarchist Robert Elia, had been arrested by the Department of Justice and held incommunicado. Sacco and Vanzetti had received reports that Salsedo and Elia were being tortured in order to obtain 'confessions' from them that they had been involved in the so-called Wall Street bomb explosion.

Vanzetti had gone to New York to learn the details and report back on the situation. In New York, he conferred with Walter Nilles, the attorney for the two prisoners. Nilles advised the concealment of all their literature. New raids were expected.

Salsedo had crashed 14 stories to his death on May 3. As Shachtman noted:

'Whether the torture of eight weeks of barbarous persecution had made him seek desperately for immediate death rather than the continuation of living hell, or the fall was caused by the insane anger of the government operatives who, having been unsuccessful in exhorting a confession from his brave lips, sought to dispose of the evidence of their brutality by flinging him to his death, may never be known.'

With the death of Salsedo fresh in their minds, Sacco and Vanzetti stood resolute in their refusal to answer any questions concerning their political beliefs the night of their arrest.

Of course, they assumed that they were being arrested for their political activities. Both were known as leaders and agitators in the labour movement.

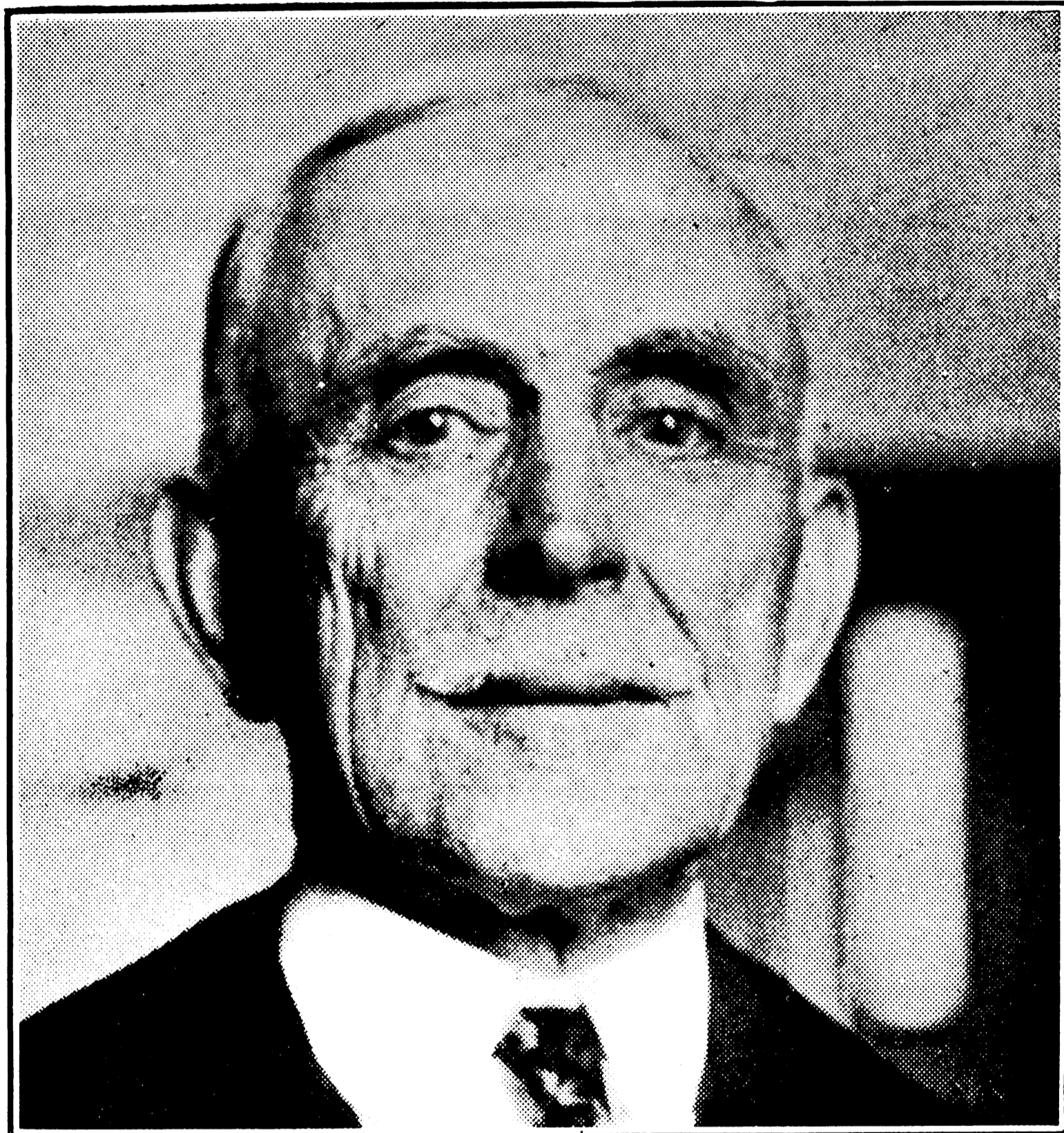
Vanzetti had led a strike in 1916 at the Plymouth Cordage Company which was the largest rope and cordage plant in the world. In the course of the strike, the employers called in the State Police, had men and women beaten and ridden over by troopers' horses, but the workers had stood firm.

When the strike ended with a small wage increase, Vanzetti was fired. He was black-listed throughout the area as a notorious agitator.

Sacco, too, had aided the strikers at numerous textile plants in the area. He had played an active role in the Lawrence strike of 1912 and the textile machine workers strike in 1913. In 1916, he was arrested at a demonstration in solidarity with the strike on the Mesabi Iron Range in Minnesota.

In addition to their activities in the labour movement, they had openly expressed their political beliefs during World War I. They opposed the war as an imperialist war and considered service in the armies of their exploiters as incompatible with their principles. They went to Mexico to escape the compulsory military service act.

Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested at a time when the press was stirring up hysteria over the two crimes and at a time when the State Police



was stalemated in its investigations. A resolution had been introduced in the state legislature which authorized the Governor to offer a reward for the arrest and conviction of the robbers.

Chief of Police Steward had participated in the Palmer raids and had proven his hatred of the working class. In addition, he had a vested interest in solving the crimes because he was in the pay of the White Shoe Company in Bridgewater. He had been informed by the Department of Justice that Sacco and Vanzetti were dangerous radicals.

The theory behind the crimes as well as the so-called evidence and the facts of the case, was established before the arrest of Sacco and Vanzetti. This was completely contrary to normal criminal procedure.

Even one of the most respected servants of bourgeois justice, Felix Frankfurter, noted:

'The build-up of the evidence against the accused usually occurs after the arrest; and the theory of the crime itself accompanies and follows it. The theory does not precede the facts.' ('Twelve Years After', p. 55.)

However, that was not the



Top: the judge—Webster Thayer. Above left: Vanzetti (with moustache) and Sacco. Above right: East Coast demonstration for their release—one of the many protests which took place all over the world.

only break from normal procedure to occur in the case. In fact, throughout the trial all that had been formerly considered normal, correct procedure was thrown out the window by the prosecution.

While the prosecution had wished to try Sacco and Vanzetti for both crimes, they finally were forced to excuse Sacco from the Bridgewater case because it was clear that he had been at work in a shoe factory in Stoughton.

In accord with legal custom, the South Braintree case

should have been tried first because in the event that one is being accused of a series of crimes, he is to be tried for the most serious offence first. Clearly, the robbery of \$16,000 and the murder of two men in South Braintree was far more serious than the attempted holdup in Bridgewater.

Since the prosecutor had nothing but circumstantial evidence for either case, he hoped to strengthen his position through this tactic. Obviously, if he could present to

the jury a defendant who was already convicted of one crime, he would have an easier time getting a conviction for the South Braintree affair. The press aided Katzmann by giving the Bridgewater conviction the most lurid publicity.

In fact, throughout the trial, the District Attorney employed racism, trickery, deceit and cunning in order to ensure the conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti.

CONTINUED TOMORROW





## ANOTHER CONSPIRACY TRIAL

The trial in Los Angeles of Daniel Ellsberg (above) and Anthony Russo is another attack on civil liberties in the United States by the Nixon administration.

Ellsberg, a former top Pentagon 'hawk', leaked a top-secret history of the Vietnam war to the 'New York Times', exposing the cynical barbarism of the US regime.

His action drew down the wrath of Nixon and the military top brass who discovered that American law, which incorporates certain constitutional protections, is not adequate to protect the secrecy of state papers.

And if every disaffected government employee were to Xerox copies of embarrassing memoranda and dish them out to the press, the Pentagon's style would definitely be cramped.

The First Amendment to the US constitution guarantees freedom of speech and of the press. It forbids 'prior restraint' on publication of material, though in practice this is a good deal less sweeping than it might appear.

Last year, however, the Supreme Court decided by a 6-3 majority that the 'New York Times' and the 'Washington Post' were not endangering national security by their published extracts from the Pentagon Papers. The ruling relied largely on the First Amendment protections.

Since then, Nixon has made a concerted effort to swing the judiciary to the right and systematically undermine the constitutional provisions protecting elementary rights.

The President now has four of his own nominees on the Supreme Court panel of nine. To a man they are strong supporters of 'law and order' and their presence ensures that the court, which plays a considerable political role, is the most reactionary for many years.

Already in connection with the case it has ruled that members of Congress can be hauled before grand juries to testify about how they acquired secret government documents. This ruling, voted 5-4 by the court, concerned the publication of the Pentagon Papers by Beacon Press of Boston.

The defendants were under the impression that the court was deciding whether a grand jury could summon assistants of Senator Gravel, an opponent of the Vietnam war who played a part in releasing the Pentagon study last year.

In fact, the court decided that even Congressmen, who have traditionally enjoyed parliamentary immunity for such actions, could be compelled to answer for them if they were not legislative in nature.

The last few months have seen a spate of similar decisions: newspaper reporters have been deprived of their immunity and can now be forced to reveal sources of information; political pamphlets can no longer be distributed freely in privately-owned shopping precincts—a triumph for the rights of private property over freedom of speech and assembly.

The same court also empowered the Justice Department to bar alien left-wingers from visiting the United States to attend academic conferences and in a judgement described by the Tory 'Economist' as 'reminiscent of the suspicious 1950s,' it ruled that states can sack public employees for refusing to take a loyalty oath.

Against this background, the Pentagon Papers case takes on some importance. The prosecution is trying to prove that Ellsberg and Russo are guilty of 'stealing, embezzling and converting to their own use' government property 'namely one of the original 15 copies of the Pentagon Papers'.

The two are also charged with conspiring to 'defraud' the nation by 'impairing, obstructing and defeating its lawful governmental function of controlling the dissemination of classified government studies, reports, memoranda and communications'.

Finally, the prosecution claims they have broken the Federal Espionage Act — a World War I measure aimed

to prevent spying. By relentlessly stretching the interpretation of this limited statute, the prosecution hopes, the court will decide Ellsberg 'communicated' material 'related to national defence' to people 'not entitled to receive' it.

The trial is of considerable importance to the federal classification system, which costs \$50m a year to guard secrets, many of which are widely known to the public. Among the more recherche items of classified information is the number of paper-clips used in the space programme.

One line of the defence is likely to be to try to demonstrate that much of the material in the Pentagon Papers was public knowledge anyway. The defence is also likely to make much of the Washington lobby system under which top-secret papers are unofficially dished out as 'background' to selected newspaper correspondents.

The defence does not seriously challenge the facts in the prosecution's case. Ellsberg has publicly declared his responsibility for leaking the Papers and declared that he considers his action was a public duty.

The prosecution has so far failed to induce the judge to rule that discussion of the government's policy in South East Asia should be barred as immaterial to the case.

The press in particular is taking the trial very seriously — it vitally affects rights to publish information received from 'secret' government sources. Columnist Jack Anderson, the man who blew the ITT scandal, says he fears the conviction of Ellsberg and Russo would dry up many of his own best sources. 'We can't let it happen,' he said.

The Ellsberg trial is a further step in Nixon's concerted campaign to tighten the law and by-pass some of the key constitutional guarantees. It has obvious parallels in Britain, where influential police and Tory Party sections are actively working to abolish defendants' basic rights in the courts.

Nixon's offensive against basic constitutional rights is part of a trend toward dictatorship which is evident and growing in every major capitalist country and is fuelled directly by the system's acute crisis.

**US ROUND-UP**

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## JAM

The axe continues to cut a swathe through the BBC. '24 Hours' is killed from this week and 'Late Night Line-Up' is to be taken off. At a stroke the Tories have more than likely pressured the Corporation to rid the screen of two programmes which had some vague reputation for candid reporting.

How the Tories are preparing to jam our screens is seen in the appointment of Alistair Burnet to the revamped 'Panorama'. Burnet, now editor of the right-wing business journal, the 'Economist', is a Tory. After the last General Election he was half-expecting a call to No. 10 Downing Street as whizz-kid adviser to Heath.

## INSTANT MONEY

Mr Roy Wright's construction company, Joviel Properties, has just gone public, instantly turning its founder into a millionaire. Joviel has offered 6m shares at 60p a share through brokers, Laing and Cruikshank. Mr Wright conveniently owns 1.6m of the total stock.

The 'Evening News' city pages have published a brief biography extolling Mr Wright's genius. 'Shortly after leaving the army he started on his own with just four navies to build eight bungalows. The venture was a success and since then he has never looked back.'

What happened to the four 'navvies' is not recorded.

## DREADFUL

Overheard on the tube. Two pin-striped suited businessmen:

'Good morning, Clive. How are you today?'

Clive, gloomily: 'Good morning. I'm all right, I suppose.'

'What's the matter, old man? You don't sound too cheerful.'

'What's there to be cheerful about? The army has no sooner settled with the Catholics in Northern Ireland than they are having confrontations with the Protestants — you would have thought the Protestants had enough intelligence to know who their friends are. The pound has all gone to pot. There was a time when you could get away from it all at the Club, but they are even murdering women in Pall Mall now. I don't know what the world is coming to.'

## DO-GOODING

'It has always been an axiom of British policy, and I trust still is, that peace is a function of civilized standards throughout the world. The process may take a long time, and meet many setbacks; but it cannot be accomplished at all without the spirit of do-gooding idealism which has always been a salient factor in our public life.'

These words were written by the ex-editor of the 'New Statesman', Paul Johnson, in this week's edition of that journal. He is a devout Roman Catholic.

## CELEBRATED VISITOR

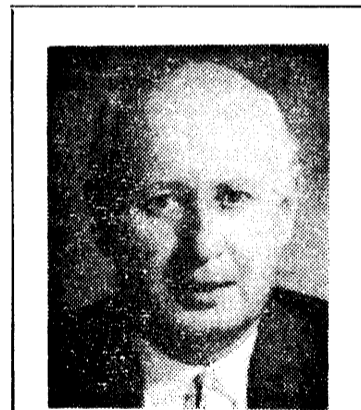
The second day of Mr John Poulson's bankruptcy hearing ended abruptly. The unfortunate Poulson suddenly felt ill and had to be taken from the witness stand. This was unfortunate for the hearing which was just reaching some juicy bits about his entertainment bills.

Mr Muir Hunter, QC, who was questioning Poulson said: 'We have lists of your invitations and large bills you paid at the Dorchester Hotel before paying your income tax.'

At this point Poulson collapsed. But the court official told the 'Yorkshire Post' that Mr Hunter would pursue this line of inquiry when it resumes.

Meanwhile the Dorchester, one of London's swankiest joints, has confirmed that Poulson was indeed a celebrated visitor.

'We remember Mr Poulson very well. He frequently booked in at the Dorchester. He did some entertaining, but he was never all that lavish. Well, we'll know soon enough.'



MR. JOHN POULSON

## BOOKS



**LEON TROTSKY:**  
Germany 1931/1932  
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87;  
**Where Is Britain Going?**  
Paperback 37p;  
**Revolution Betrayed**  
Paperback 62p—cloth £1.05  
**Problems of the Chinese Revolution**  
Paperback £1.12—cloth £1.87;  
**Permanent Revolution:**  
**Results and Prospects**  
Paperback 75p  
**In Defence of Marxism**  
Paperback 75p  
**Lessons of October**  
Paperback 60p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from:  
**NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS**  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG.

# Yorks GEC women workers demand pay parity

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

WOMEN workers at the Middlesbrough, Yorkshire, GEC factory are on strike over a claim for parity with other GEC workers.

The basic minimum at Middlesbrough for women workers of 21 and over is £14.50 a week, while at Hartlepool it is £15 and at Coventry £15.25 says Fred Gardiner of the electricians' union, to which most of the 1,600 strikers belong.

He said management had offered an increase in overtime and holiday rates, but women at the factory seldom did overtime. He said he was trying to arrange a meeting with the management.

Shop stewards at the factory gave management a week's notice after talks broke down and the strike began on Monday.

In Dover, Kent, male supervisory staff, members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, employed by GEC at a new telephone exchange went on strike over bad pay and what they claim to be 'bad management' at GEC headquarters.

A spokesman said that six sites in Britain had been selected this week for strike action. The stoppage would be spread to other exchanges if their demands were not met.

# Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

## Dangerous wait-and-see policy on Cumbernauld rent strike

TENANTS in Cumbernauld have been told to 'wait and see' what action the Tory-appointed Cumbernauld Development Corporation takes against rent strikers.

This was the dubious advice given to local tenants in the Cumbernauld Rents Action Committee by chairman David Kane, a prospective communist councillor.

So far 550 tenants have withheld rent increases.

With rates instalments due in July—when the full brunt of the increases will be felt—there is every indication the number of non-payers will rise sharply.

But Kane's 'wait-and-see' policy

is a useless marking of time in the political struggle to be waged by tenants against Tory rent policies.

Total confusion reigns in the misnamed committee of action, which is in fact a committee of protest, as to the nature of the Tory government. No attempt has been made to prepare tenants to face the legal intimidation which will certainly be unleashed upon them. They have been lulled with assurances of test cases, etc.

Douglas Gilchrist, a radical

schoolteacher recently censured by education authorities for revelations to the press about corporal punishment in Catholic schools, is the treasurer of the committee.

He outlined some particularly unfortunate cases among pensioners.

Guest speaker Finlay Hart, intimated the formation of SCOTA (Scottish Council of Tenants' Associations). The CP-controlled Scottish area NUM, Paisley AUEW district committee and the West of Scotland Shop Stewards' Co-

ordinating Committee had affiliated to it.

The reformist perspective of this body is to 'Smash the Act', leaving the Tories still in power.

Under this reformist and Stalinist leadership this big tenants' movement is in considerable danger of betrayal and ultimate defeat.

Only by transforming the rents committee into a real Council of Action can the tenants and workers be mobilized for a political — not protest — fight against Tory rent policy.

# Farm labour doing our jobs-dockers

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS ON HUMBERSIDE

HULL DOCKERS have launched a campaign to close unregistered ports on the Humber as part of their fight against cutback in jobs.

The dockers, who are also blacking several container firms, say the unregistered ports are employing cheap labour outside the National Dock Labour Scheme.

A main target is Howden-dyke Wharf where East Coast River Services (Goole) Limited are unloading timber vessels.

The dockers say that men working for East Coast in the registered port of Goole do not have sufficient work to keep them busy and that the company is diverting traffic to Howden-dyke.

The dockers are picketing the wharf carrying such slogans as: 'This is a scab wharf', 'Enter here and you will be blacked.'

A dockers' spokesman said yesterday: 'This stevedoring firm is using what is virtually part-time farm labour for what is dockers' work. Our lads are under-employed at Goole and Hull. We can't allow this to go on. Our livelihoods are at stake.'

Unregistered ports do not come under the National Dock Labour Scheme of 1947 and therefore can ignore pay and conditions built up by registered dock labour over the years.

EXPORT cargoes of refined sugar are being loaded at Immingham for the first time, say the British Transport Docks Board.

Over 13,000 tons of sugar will be handled by the port this week. Further cargoes amounting to between 15,000 and 20,000 tons are expected to be handled by the port in the next few weeks.

In the first six months of 1972, Immingham has handled 24,309 tons of foodstuffs, compared with 16,304 tons handled in the corresponding period last year.

## Briefly...

A PRELIMINARY police report on the 'Big Dipper' crash at Battersea Funfair—which killed five youngsters—has been submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions. But no action will be considered until a further investigation and full report on the May 30 tragedy have been completed. This will include a large section compiled on the instructions of the Home Office by technical experts.

# Sack threat at Portsmouth yard

SHOP STEWARDS at Portsmouth dockyard met yesterday morning to discuss management threats to sack all those who refused to work with men who did not take part in their strike last Friday.

Last week's strike was in protest against the government's paltry £1.50 pay offer.

Work on the 'Matapan', which was supposed to be on trial yesterday, stopped on Monday when men who struck on Friday refused to work alongside about ten alleged blacklegs.

By late afternoon the whole

yard was involved and only those who worked on Friday were still working. Boats, factories and workshops were laid idle as other sections followed suit.

Management refused to remove those still working and said that anyone not working by yesterday afternoon's muster (clocking-on) would have their wages stopped.

A young dockyard worker who had been working on the 'Matapan' told us:

'It's been very encouraging so far, but now we must be prepared to fight this threat through to the end and not back down.'

# British Rail surcharge

PASSENGERS travelling by ship and train to destinations beyond the continental Channel ports will have to pay about an 8 per cent surcharge on the continental portion of their fare, British Rail has announced.

Since the pound was 'floated', British Rail have carried the extra cost of settling with European railways for tickets sold in Britain. Meanwhile, the surcharge level will be kept under continuous review.

# Banker Barran

SIR David Barran, former head of Shell and one of the country's highest-paid executives, is to join the board of directors of the Midland Bank.

Since he left Shell, Barran has claimed a number of lucrative directorships here and in the United States.

He has joined British Leyland, General Accident and the Burton Group and more recently he has joined the American City Investment Company. At Shell he earned more than £76,000 a year. He was knighted by the Tories last year.

# EPTU's Chapple at NIRC

FRANK CHAPPLE, leader of the giant electricians' union, yesterday became the second major union leader to appear before the National Industrial Relations Court.

The general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union,

headed his union's team opposing a claim by the 1,000-strong Electricity Supply Union for recognition at the Ferrybridge, Yorkshire, power station. Chapple follows Clive Jenkins, leader of the white-collar union ASTMS, who last week opposed a similar challenge to his union.

# ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**The currency crisis and the working class**  
**NEWARK: Wednesday July 12, 7.30 p.m.** 'Rutland', Newark. 'Fight redundancies. Build Councils of Action.'  
**NORTH LONDON: Thursday July 13, 8 p.m.** 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Rd, (nr White Hart Lane).  
**SOUTHALL: Thursday July 13, 8 p.m.** Community Centre, Bridge Road.  
**WANDSWORTH: Thursday July 13, 8 p.m.** Balham Baths, Elmfield Rd. 'Make the Tories resign.'  
**CROYDON: Monday July 17, 8 p.m.** Ruskin House, Coombe Rd. 'Build the revolutionary party.'  
**DAGENHAM: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m.** Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

**SW LONDON: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m.** Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'  
**W LONDON: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m.** 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'  
**N KENT: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m.** SOGAT House, Essex Road, Dartford. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'  
**LUTON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m.** St John Ambulance Hall, Lea Road. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'  
**SE LONDON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m.** Deptford Engineers' Club, opposite New Cross Station. 'Force the Tories to Resign.'

# Subscribe! workers press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)  
 £10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)  
 £5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:  
 £1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)  
 £6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required	MONDAY	THURSDAY
(Please tick)	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for ..... months.

NAME .....  
 ADDRESS .....

Amount enclosed £

I would like information about

# THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4 7UG.

Name .....  
 Address .....

# TV

## BBC 1

9.20 Mr Benn. 10.40 Boomph with Becker. 10.55 Open Golf. 12.25 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 1.00 Race to the White House. 1.30 Andy Pandey. 1.45 News, weather. 1.53 Open Golf. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Starsport. 5.10 Pixie and Dixie. 5.20 Little Women. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.50 TOM AND JERRY.

7.00 RYAN AND RONNIE.

7.25 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. (New Series.) Bag Woman.

8.10 NO EXIT. (New Series.) Man in South of France has wife and mistress.

9.00 NEWS, Weather.

9.20 THE BATTLE FOR MOSCOW. Part 3 of Grand Strategy of World War II.

10.20 THE SPINNERS. With Sandie Shaw.

10.50 24 HOURS.

11.40 Weather.

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 4.20 Open Golf.

7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.

8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED. Men at Sea—Women Who Wait.

9.00 POT BLACK. Snooker Competition.

9.20 FILM: 'GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT'. Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire, John Garfield. Journalist poses as Jew to experience indignities caused by racial intolerance.

11.15 OPEN GOLF.

11.45 NEWS, Weather.

11.50 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

## ITV

11.00 Will Hay. 12.20 Women. 12.45 Freud. 1.10 Bellbird. 1.25 Sean. 1.40 Woobinda. 2.05 Castle Haven. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Simon Locke. 3.45 Edgar Wallace. 4.40 Hatty Town. 4.55 Little Big Time. 5.20 Fly into Danger. 5.50 News.

6.00 JUNKIN.

6.25 CARTOON TIME.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 THE SMITH FAMILY.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 THE EDWARD WOODWARD SHOW.

9.00 THE MAIN CHANCE. The Next Great Train Robbery.

10.00 NEWS.

10.30 TONY BENNETT. At the Talk of the Town.

11.00 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.

11.45 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. Andrew Fisher takes a look at the week's news.

12.00 POP FESTIVALS.

## REGIONAL TV

All regions as BBC 1 except:

Wales: 4.55 Cadi Ha. 5.15 Hector. 6.00 Wales Today. 6.50 Heddiw. 7.15 Eu Tyb A'u Tebyg. 7.45 Ryan and Ronnie. 11.42 News.

Scotland: 6.00 Reporting Scotland. 11.42 News, weather.

Northern Ireland: 10.55 The Twelfth. 11.25 Golf. 6.00 Scene Around Six. 11.42 News, weather.

England: 6.00 Look North, Midlands Today, Look East, Points West, South Today, Spotlight South West. Weather. 11.42 News, weather. (North West only: 11.42 Time to Talk. 12.12 News, weather.)

SOUTHERN: 12.55 News. 1.00 Let them live. 1.25 Hot dog. 1.50 Cooking. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Danger man. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.



Leslie Phillips, Dora Bryan and Edward Woodward do a 1920s sketch with The New Era Jazz Band in Woodward's hour-long show on independent channels tonight

HTV: 2.30 Yorkshire show. 3.20 Talking hands. 3.35 Enchanted house. 3.45 Ugliest girl. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Dave Cash. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 London. 11.45 Frighteners. 12.15 Weather.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 3.45 Hamdden. 4.15 Miri Mawr. 6.01 Y Dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.15 Report West.

ANGLIA: 1.40 World War I. 2.05 Rovers. 2.30 Yorkshire show. 3.45 Yoga. 4.15 News. 4.18 Cartoons. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Shirley's world. 7.30 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 2.30 Yorkshire show. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Mrs Muir. 4.40 Magic ball. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Who

do you do? 7.30 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 Wrestling.

ULSTER: 2.30 Yorkshire show. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sporting challenge. 7.30 London. 10.30 Drop in the ocean. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 News.

YORKSHIRE: 1.45 Simon Locke. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Yorkshire show. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 London. 10.30 Blue light. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 2.30 Yorkshire show. 3.40 Junkin. 4.10 News. Peyton place. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. What's on? 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 University challenge. 7.30 London. 10.30 Shirley's world. 11.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 1.45 Simon Locke. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Yorkshire show. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 London. 11.45 News. 12.00 One step at a time.

SCOTTISH: 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Animaland. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 The rush. 6.30 Melody inn. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 London. 10.30 At odds. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Alexander.

GRAMPIAN: 3.37 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.20 Canadian view. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 London. 11.45 Scales of justice.

# Put Act on ice? Not likely says EEF

**THE ENGINEERING Employers' Federation yesterday scoffed at trade union leaders who want to put the Industrial Relations Act on ice.**

As far as the EEF is concerned, the Act is working well.

In an editorial in this month's 'EEF News', the federation says: 'The trade union proposition that the Act should be put into cold storage as some kind of *pro quid quo* for an understanding on wage claims seems to seriously underestimate the responsibility of government.'

'It certainly reflects a mistaken assumption that the Act, having been tried, has been found wanting.'

The EEF says that too many people have made 'premature judgements' about the Act's operation. Referring to the rail and docks debacle, the editorial says: 'A rapid and smooth solution to them would have been little short of a miracle. The law did not surmount

these two major challenges with notable success, but it did not emerge with discredit either.'

Reducing industrial 'disharmony' would not be achieved 'overnight'. 'This was never to be expected of it, for an extensive reform of the industrial relations system can only be brought about progressively. Those who looked to the Act as an instant panacea were bound to be disillusioned.'

## Briefly...

AN OFFICIAL delegation of four scientists has visited Cuba for the first time since Washington severed relations with Havana in 1961. They were attending a United Nations conference on natural resources in the Caribbean. Ronald Ziegler, President Nixon's press secretary, said no political significance attached to the visit and it represented no change in US policy towards the island.

'The time to judge the effectiveness of the Act will be when case law has accumulated, when the code of practice is entrenched in the pattern of day-to-day relations. . . .'

In other words the setbacks to the Act during the rail and docks dispute does not disturb the big engineering employers. They are biding their time waiting until the legal shackles have been tested and refined.

NATO is prepared to begin full-scale preparations for a European Security Conference immediately after the United States presidential election in mid-November. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko is currently in Brussels apparently trying to speed up the conference preparations. It will involve the US, Canada and all European countries, including fascist Spain and the colonels' Greece and is obviously directed against the workers of Europe.

# Cabinet to decide on Poulson inquiry tomorrow

THE TORY Cabinet will decide tomorrow whether to stage a judicial inquiry into allegations of 'corruption in public life' involving the Poulson empire.

The Attorney-General's Department was yesterday studying the transcript of the Wakefield bankruptcy court which is examining

the financial affairs of Yorkshire architect John Poulson.

Ministers will have to decide whether proceedings have advanced far enough for an inquiry decision or whether it would be preferable to await the completion of Poulson's evidence at the resumed hearing on August 1.

In the court last week Poulson interrupted his evidence

when he suddenly fell ill. He was taken to hospital, but allowed to go home.

When parliament sits tomorrow afternoon Liberal and Labour MPs will cross examine Prime Minister Edward Heath on the Poulson affair.

Chairman of one of the Poulson companies and director of two others was Reginald Maudling, the Home Secretary.

# BOOKS



Moscow Trials Anthology  
Paperback 62½p

MAX SHACHTMAN:  
Behind The Moscow Trial  
Paperback 75p

ROBERT BLACK:  
Stalinism In Britain  
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2

LEON TROTSKY:  
Death Agony of Capitalism  
(The Transitional Programme)  
Pamphlet 5p

Class Nature of the Soviet State  
Pamphlet 20p

In Defence of the October  
Revolution Pamphlet 15p

The Theory and Practice of  
Revisionism Pamphlet 15p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per  
pamphlet. Order from:  
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG.

## NOW WEEKLY

## KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS SATURDAY MAY 13, 1972 VOL 21 NO 1 © PRICE 5P

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.

Please send me 'Keep Left' for one year

enclose £2.86

Name .....

Address .....

## JULY FUND £407.34— NO TIME TO WASTE

THIS EARLY start to our Fund is very encouraging but we must step up the fight even more. We need to raise our target of £1,750 even earlier this month—by July 22—before our Summer Camp begins.

Every day the treachery of the union leadership is more and more exposed. At our timely lobby of the TUC today, the union leaders must be forced to break off all talks with Heath and mobilize instead the trade union movement to make this government resign.

Workers Press is decisive for all those trade unionists determined to take up this fight. We urge everyone of you, therefore, to make an even greater effort for our July Fund. We are determined to make our target in time. We know with a struggle, you can do it. So let's go into action immediately. There is no time to waste. Post all your donations immediately to:

Workers Press  
July Appeal Fund  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG

CENTRAL London branch of the National Union of Journalists yesterday considered a proposal recommending that the national executive committee expel Herman Roberts, an honorary member of the union, because of his membership of the National Industrial Relations Court. The grounds of the complaint were that his membership of the court was inconsistent with the unions official policy of non-co-operation with the agencies of the Industrial Relations Act. The motion was lost by 25 votes to 31.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

# Container QC takes case to second court

BY IAN YEATS

AN ORDER forbidding London dockers from continuing to flout the law of the land should be granted as a matter of urgency, Mr Justice McGarry was told in the High Court yesterday.

Applying for an interim order banning dockers from picketing at the Midland Cold Storage depot, Waterden Road, Stratford, Mr Alan Campbell, QC, said:

'An order of the NIRC has been breached and is being breached. Our only relief is to seek refuge in common law. It is not to be believed that even dockers put themselves above the common law.'

'That is a step which would require very careful consideration.'

He claimed the NIRC had become a political shuttlecock which, encouraged by others, the dockers had made plain they would defy. But he said there were no political elements in the court of chancery and no one had ever suggested that its law should be disobeyed.

He said: 'If it is we shall have a situation of anarchy where the rule of law stands at the crossroads. Indeed it already stands at the crossroads.'

Campbell quoted two statements he alleged had been made by dockers' leader Bernie Steer to 'The Times', 'Daily Telegraph' and the 'Sun' in which he was claimed to have said: 'Carry on doing what we think is right. The court will not dictate to us.'

## WEATHER

SOUTH EASTERN districts of England will be dry and warmer. Wales and south-west England will remain cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle.

Scotland, Northern Ireland and the remainder of England will have rain at times with temperatures near or below normal.

If we wanted to play really rough, they wouldn't know what hit them.'

Campbell laid heavy emphasis on the fact that picketing, which he said included threats of intimidation and physical violence, was a flagrant defiance of the law. In his view it warranted urgent attention.

He added that the organization and scale of dockers' pickets was the exact counter-part of the operation mounted by the miners last winter.

The picketing of Midland Cold Storage is costing the firm £2,000 a week and tonnage handled had dropped from 1,900 to 61 tons a week.

Campbell asked the court for an injunction against seven

named dockers, including Bernie Steer and Vic Turner, and also against the joint shop stewards' committee of which they are secretary and chairman.

The order would compel them to cease all picketing and packing. He said evidence accumulated by agents of Eurotec, a private detective firm, provided a cast iron case against the dockers.

In view of the decision of the NIRC not to move against three dockers' leaders a fortnight ago, Campbell said Midland Cold Storage believed they needed detailed and particular evidence on pickets' activities.

The eight respondents are accused of conspiring to injure the company through unlawful

picketing and intimidation of customers and suppliers by threats, violence and the imposition of a nationwide black against vehicles crossing their lines.

They are accused of conspiring to induce the firm to break its contract with customers and suppliers and of inducing them to break their contract with their 57 employees.

The pickets are also accused of committing nuisance, threatening unlawful conduct, including physical violence, and obstruction of vehicles.

Campbell is asking the court to ban all picketing—lawful and unlawful—until the dockers or their representatives appear in court to clarify their position.

## Scanlon invited to Peking

THE Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has been invited to send a delegation to China in September.

The invitation came in a telegram asking for the delegation to be led by Hugh Scanlon, the president, and made up mainly

of rank-and-file members.

'We have accepted in principle and details have to be discussed. We believe this is the first such invitation to come from China to any trade union—certainly for many years,' said Scanlon.

Reg Birch, a member of the

union executive has visited China in recent years as chairman of the pro-Peking Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

Arrangements have been completed for a visit to Peking by Tory Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Home later this year.

## 'Let's talk' plea by Greene

ON THE eve of the TUC Economic Committee meeting Sir Sidney Greene, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, yesterday appealed to the government: 'Make it possible for us to talk to each other.'

He was willing to talk, but what was the government going to do

to assist the union movement in the dialogue?

Sir Sidney told the NUR annual conference in Scarborough that the government had to inspire people to do something about the present position.

'I am prepared to meet the Government, but I think they

ought to make it possible for the trades union movement to meet them. They have placed difficulties in our way in connection with the Industrial Relations Act so that now when you take any action you do not know whether you are going to land up in court' said Greene.

## WHAT WE THINK

# Army paves way for civil war

AS ANOTHER 1,200 troops prepare to leave for Ulster it is becoming painfully clear that the bi-lateral truce between the IRA and the British army was a deadly trap for the anti-Unionist forces.

'Peace', said the dictator Mussolini, 'is only an interval between wars.' For Ulster supremo William Whitelaw and the Army gorillas, the 'peace' in Ulster—the peace of the just', the IRA hopefully called it—was nothing more than an interval between one phase of repression and another.

'Direct rule' was the scaffold. The 'truce' was the noose—for the Provisional IRA. In the two weeks of the 'truce' the imperialist conspirators gained valuable time which they used to establish a political bridgehead, via the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Catholic Church, in the Catholic ghetto.

The barricades began to come down and an atmosphere of disarming tranquility was deliberately created by the media and the army. No doubt on instruction from Brigadier Frank Kitson's psychological warfare department cartridge belts were stowed away, faces unblackened and fraternization resumed with Catholic residents. But behind the facade of simulated friendship new imperialist conspiracies were being hatched.

The Ulster Defence Association was given semi-official status. Its mobile patrols were given full freedom to roam unchallenged in the Protestant 'no go' areas. Its leaders—including convicted murderers like Gusto Spence—were allowed to arm, train and parade with impunity and to provoke and intimidate Catholic workers living in the Protestant areas.

The UDA leaders—many of whom are ex-British army men—took advantage of the IRA retreat and the 'truce' to escalate their campaign and amplify their sectarian demands. While opposing 'direct rule' publicly, these bandits secretly welcomed it because it gave them all the scope they needed to create an extra-parliamentary para-military force—and to create new links with the British army.

The real purpose of the 'truce' and the extent to which UDA and British army

policies have been synchronized is revealed by the events around Lenadoon housing estate. First, the UDA drive Catholic workers from their homes and create a homeless problem. Then they intimidate and prevent these same tenants from occupying flats which have been legally allocated to them (the Catholics).

When the IRA tries to rehouse the homeless, the UDA retires and the British Army instantly appears and barbed wire barricades are put up to deprive Republicans of their legitimate rights!

And when the Provisional IRA is forced by the savage, brutal and intolerable provocation to end the truce and recommence hostilities, the UDA abandons its demand for the return of Stormont and openly calls for the establishment of a military dictatorship.

The IRA Provisionals have stated that the British army is an 'instrument of UDA sectarianism'. This is not so. The UDA statement welcoming the prospect of government by 'martial minds rather than political brains' is a muted echo of the political ambitions dominating the minds of the army top brass. The UDA is the ventriloquist's dummy.

In this context the IRA had every right to reject the truce and fight back—however tardily. Workers Press, while criticizing the policies of the IRA which led to the 'truce', nevertheless supports, unreservedly, the disruption by the IRA of the cynical and fraudulent 'truce' of imperialism. We also support critically the withdrawal of troops (not in 1975, but now) and the release of internees and political prisoners in Ulster and Britain.

For the same reason we condemn categorically the unprincipled and cravenly middle-class reformist attitude of the Official IRA and the 'Morning Star' to the breaking of the 'truce'.

The Official Sinn Fein in Dublin have 'regretted' the Provisionals' decision to resume fighting. Their statement alleges that 'the resumption of offensive action will take the pressure off Mr Whitelaw... Having made their peace with imperialism, these reformist-nationalists have no

desire to make Whitelaw's job any more difficult—or to embarrass Generals Ford and Tuzo.

Whilst correctly reproving the Provisionals for having secret talks with Whitelaw and accusing the British army of employing agents provocateurs to kill innocent people and inflame sectarian passions, the Officials conclude by the most pathetic display of capitulationism:

'The close co-operation between the British army and the UDA over the last week surely should have warned the anti-Unionist forces against the position of confrontation.'

At least 16,500 British troops, aided by the most brutal police force in the British Isles, stand menacingly over the Irish workers and the Official Sinn Fein says 'Don't fight!'

The same line of prostration before and peaceful co-existence with Whitelaw and the UDA is preached by the Stalinist 'Morning Star'. The decision of the Provisional IRA to end the truce, says the 'Star' editorial 'is wrong and wholly to be regretted'. Why? Because 'it gives the ultras and men like ex-Prime Minister Faulkner excuses to oppose the introduction of genuine democratic measures [!], to step up demands for the use of force by the British troops against the anti-Unionists and to justify their own use of force.'

The 'Star' editorial is supplemented by a vicious and distorted account by Star reporter Chris Myant: 'The Provisional IRA today faced wide condemnation among anti-Unionists for its return to offensive actions against the British army. Its excuse, army violence in the Suffolk area last night, was considered ludicrous and stupid because it fell into the trap laid by the right wing.'

Myant's apologies for Whitelaw were echoed by Bernadette Devlin MP. On Sunday she criticized the Provisionals for accepting the truce. On Tuesday she criticized them for breaking the truce! 'They could have gone on the defensive without breaking the truce,' she said.

The only people who believe this fantastic and implausible rubbish are those reformists who believe the Tory leopard will change its spots and maybe even its fangs and claws—with sufficient persuasion. Irish and British workers, however, will remember that similar calls for restraint were made by the Stalinists three years ago in order to defend the military occupation of Ulster. Then we were told that the British army was the alternative to the UVF and the B-Specials and that the army was there to guarantee the implementation of Callaghan's reforms.

Now workers are advised to lie low and accept Whitelaw's Bonapartist measures as an alternative to the British army and the UDA. What will they say next?

If Irish workers had followed the Stalinist policy three years ago, Ulster would today be saddled with a fascist military dictatorship and the working class smashed.

The Stalinist attack on the Provisional IRA reveals British Stalinism in its true counter-revolutionary colours. In this attack Stalinism not accidentally is joined by the spokesman of the Labour Lords Lord Shackleton and Liberal Lord Byers who congratulated Whitelaw and appealed to the 'moderates' i.e. the Stalinists, Official IRA and Civil Rights leaders, to 'try and tone down the atmosphere and get rid of violence.'

A defeat for the Provisional IRA would be a serious gain for Whitelaw and would strengthen the hand of the Tories in Britain. All those who refuse to defend the Provisionals, all those who stand by Whitelaw in this conflict, are committing an act of unpardonable treachery to the Irish and British working class. They must be exposed and routed.

The defence of the basic rights and historical interests of the Irish workers—Protestant and Catholic—and British workers are now more urgent than ever. They will only be secured through a joint struggle of the Irish and British workers to force the Tories to resign. This is the policy of the Socialist Labour League.