

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 1972 ● No. 889 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Labour MP accepts EEC job, then

SECOND WILSON

MAN

SUPPORTS

HEATH

BY ALEX MITCHELL

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Now to Kaldor and his enthusiastic advocacy of Heath's plan of state control over wages.

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In his speech Healey actually commended the Heath plan by saying: 'Now I do not want to be unfair to these proposals...' He urged the party and the TUC to continue talks on the economy. 'There is no harm in trying,' he said.

The conference went on to pass a resolution calling for a prices and incomes policy which gained victory because the giant T&GWU abstained. As the economic crisis worsens, the agents of the ruling class in the workers' movement are unmasked on a new scale.

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The capitulation by the Labour leaders to the Tories encourages the government to step up its attacks. On the eve of entering the Common Market, laws are stiffened against picketing, unemployment grows and the cost of living continues to rise.

Workers Press is vital for build-

ing an alternative leadership to the reformist traitors and the Stalinists who cover up for them. This government is in a severe crisis and there is no doubt that action by the working class would force it to resign.

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UDA forces Lynch clamp on IRA

LESS THAN 24 hours after Ulster Defence Association threats to carry the war into the Republic unless Eire premier Jack Lynch clamped down on the IRA, the Provisional Sinn Fein's Dublin headquarters were closed down.

Following a successful across-the-border arms raid, UDA vice-chairman Thomas Herron said:

'We will continue these raids until Mr Lynch stops these IRA men putting their feet on our territory and in our country. If it is good enough for him, it is good enough for us.'

On Friday night Dublin police closed the Provisional Kevin Street offices and a second premises in Blessington Street for three months. Members of the Provisionals are now picketing both buildings.

The organization's secretary Walter Lynch was arrested and will be charged under the Offences Against the State Act, which also permits closure where police suspect buildings are being used for unlawful purposes by illegal organizations.

The Official IRA issued a statement condemning the raids and accusing the Green Tory Eire government of a 'blatant denial of civil liberties'.

The raids were the first major public move against the Provos since the riot-



O'Brady: On crest of wave

ing in Dundalk last month, which accompanied a hunger strike by Republican prisoners at Curragh military camp.

In June Provo leaders Rory O'Brady and Joe Cahill were arrested under the same Act but released after courts decided there was 'insufficient evidence' against them.

Since direct rule the Dublin government has claimed to be pursuing a more vigorous anti-IRA policy and there have been tough anti-violence speeches from Justice Minister Des O'Malley.

Now Eire's Labour Party spokesman on Ulster Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien has said top priority must be given to stamping out terror.

In a book published today, O'Brien warns that if the terror continues all Ireland's 32 counties are in danger of becoming embroiled in a bloody Catholic-Protestant civil war with both sides pitted against the forces of 'law and order'.

Liam Cosgrave, leader of the right wing Fine Gael—currently talking with Labour leaders about the prospect of an electoral coalition—welcomed the anti-IRA moves: 'This is the kind of action we have been advocating for a long time,' he said.

If the Lynch government has taken the UDA threats seriously the Provos apparently have not. Their

BY IAN YEATS

Dublin command called the UDA's border raid claims 'ridiculous' adding: 'We shall not even bother to comment on it.'

Indeed weekend statements by Provos president Rory O'Brady (the Provos said last week they had banned all further press interviews) suggests there is an element in their leadership which believes the current terror in the north has brought them to the crest of a wave.

An article in the Irish 'Sunday Press' leads with the informed speculation that Dublin Provo leaders see the latest fighting in the north as 'being simply another round in the continuing Northern Ireland struggle before the British will finally want to meet the Provisional IRA at a conference table again'.

O'Brady said: 'My information is that the IRA can continue fighting indefinitely. Since Operation Motorman morale has never been so high.'

Provo leaders are said to be drawing comfort from British Labour leader Harold Wilson's Blackpool

policy statement spotlighting the urgency of new and genuinely all-party talks on the Ulster crisis—including Leinster House.

They are believed to feel that a fresh bi-partisan peace initiative is afoot in which they will be invited to participate.

MEANWHILE shootings and bombings went on throughout the weekend.

Late Saturday night a 25-strong UDA detachment stormed a Catholic bar, only dispersing after the army threatened to intervene. The UDA claimed two of their members had been assaulted in the bar.

And a 22-year-old mother of three Mrs Olive McConnell was killed and 12 people injured when a car bomb exploded in the Catholic Falls Road area of Belfast.

A 17-year-old youth was shot dead after an explosion in Co Tyrone when, the army say, he disobeyed an order to stop.

● Eire: Labour bid for right-wing coalition, see p.3.

Tito calls for purge

Yet bureaucracy is chief source of restorationist danger

BY JOHN SPENCER

PRESIDENT Tito said in an interview published at the weekend that there will be a thorough purge of the Yugoslav Communist Party ranks—and that some members will be prosecuted.

Interviewed by the Zagreb daily 'Vjesnik', the Yugoslav leader said 'we must be merciless' in the struggle against enemies of the working class. There must be no liberalism or sentimentality, he said.

He said the class enemies are all those who are against socialism, including those who would like to get rich at the expense of somebody else's work. Referring to those who had already grown rich he said:

'Those we must not only expel from the party, but administratively prosecute. We must return what they took away to those who created it.'

He said commissions should be set up to investigate the origin of the property of all such people, starting with Party members. The president said the Party was at a crossroad at which it must square accounts with all the enemies of socialist development of the country.

Energetic measures had already been taken in some republics—a reference to the wave of trials and the sacking of Communist Party leaders in Croatia—and legislation was being prepared to help counter opposing trends on the part of 'technocratic and bureaucratic forces in the country', he said.

Tito was speaking as the leader of the Yugoslav ruling bureaucracy, which is the chief sources of the danger of a capitalist restoration in the country. Like its counterparts in the USSR and Eastern Europe the Yugoslav bureaucracy appropriates the lion's share of the social product.

The fact that among the most

prominent 'class enemies' Tito speaks about are members—leading members naturally—of his own Party gives the lie to the Yugoslav leader's talk of 'socialism'. The Stalinist theory of 'socialism in a single country' to which Tito adheres is nothing more than a justification of bureaucratic rule.

Favourable conditions for those who are plundering the so-called 'self-management' economy are produced by the actions of the Tito bureaucracy itself. It has opened the country to foreign capital on favourable terms, entered the monetary institutions of world capitalism such as the International Monetary Fund and made the dinar a convertible currency.

This has shattered the monopoly of foreign trade, the main bulwark protecting Yugoslav industry from the impact of the capitalist world market. The wholesale corruption of functionaries by foreign capitalist firms and the emergence of an extremely wealthy layer within the country is an inevitable consequence.

Tito's deputy Stane Dolanc recently admitted that the state has no control or even knowledge about the operations of its own functionaries abroad, many of whom have accumulated big sums in foreign exchange which, under various guises, they can invest in Yugoslavia.

The profits of such enterprises are guaranteed by law under



Tito seen with US President Nixon

constitutional changes recently introduced to encourage investment from abroad. Tito's turn towards world imperialism has created an intolerable crisis for the Yugoslav workers' state and is driving the country towards civil war.

The bureaucracy reacts to the emergence of restorationist tendencies in a Bonapartist manner, hitting out at both right and left. It fears the anger of the working class which is suffering an actual decline in living standards through rampant inflation, cuts in social services and widespread unemployment.

Tito is unable to mobilize the workers' movement against the capitalist danger. To do this is to raise the question of political revolution and the overthrow of his own parasitic ruling clique. Hence the trials of left-wing critics of the regime, including three students from Belgrade imprisoned recently for 'Trotskyism'.

Yugoslavia is only the most extreme example of the crisis of

Stalinist rule in Eastern Europe. The Rumanian bureaucracy has followed its example and decided to apply for membership of the IMF and the World Bank, simultaneously taking powers to cut workers' wages by up to a third.

Poland and Hungary are also reported to be eager to follow the Rumanians, and in Paris last week Edward Gierak, the Polish leader, declared for close collaboration between the Common Market and Comecon, the East European economic bloc.

But the working class has yet to say the last word on these acute threats to its revolutionary conquests. Tito's fear of the political revolution is clearly demonstrated by the anti-Trotskyist trials.

The enrichment of corrupt bureaucrats is one thing, however—the restoration of capitalism involves inflicting decisive defeats on the working class.

The danger of such defeats is opened up by Tito's policy. But the decisive battles are still ahead.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

BRACKNELL: Monday October 9, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre. 'The ATUA national conference.'

COVENTRY: Monday October 9, 8 p.m. 'Market Tavern', Junction Street (off the Butts). 'ATUA conference.'

BIRMINGHAM: Monday October 9, 8 p.m. Lecture Room 3, Digbeth Civic Hall. 'ATUA conference.'

WEALDSTONE: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Wealdstone Labour Hall, Station Approach, Station Road. 'ATUA conference.'

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road, SW17. 'ATUA conference.'

WILLESDEN: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW10. 'ATUA conference.'

CLAPHAM: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Clapham Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'ATUA conference.'

MANCHESTER: Wednesday October 11, 7.30 p.m. Milton Hall, Deansgate. 'Fight the rent Act! Build Councils of Action!'

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday October 12, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opposite New Cross Station. 'The ATUA conference.'

LEICESTER: Thursday October 12, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Hotel', Rutland Street. 'ATUA conference.'

GLASGOW: Thursday October 12, 7.30 p.m. Trades Hall, Clydebank. 'UCS and the ATUA conference.'

BARNSELEY: Friday October 13, 7.30 p.m. Community Hall, Lathes Crescent. 'The rents struggle and the ATUA conference.' Speakers: Robbie Roberts (Dodworth miner), Chris Stones (chairman, Athersley tenants), Ray Jaxon (South Yorks YS).

CENTRAL LONDON (Entertainments and press branch): Sunday October 15, 7 p.m. London School of Film Technique, 24 Shelton Street, WC2. Speaker: Royston Bull, industrial correspondent of 'The Scotsman' (in a personal capacity).

DAGENHAM: Tuesday October 17, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking. 'Force the Tories to resign.'

KENT: Thursday October 19, 8 p.m. 'The Legion', Burgess Road, Aylesham. 'Reinstate William Griffiths fitters. Prepare the ATUA conference.' Speakers: A Griffiths' striker and leading Kent miner (both in a personal capacity).

Socialist Labour League

LECTURES THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM

Given by Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee member)

Leeds

The Marxist theory of knowledge

Monday October 9
GUILDFORD HOTEL
Headrow, 8 p.m.

The nature of capitalism
Monday October 16
PEEL HOTEL
Boar Lane, 8 p.m.

Historical materialism today
Monday October 23
PEEL HOTEL

Boar Lane, 8 p.m.

Building the revolutionary party
Monday October 30
PEEL HOTEL
Boar Lane, 8 p.m.

STATE HAND-OUTS TO PROPERTY MEN

Hammersmith's Labour-controlled council in West London has now named some of the property speculators which it claims has been soaking up improvement grants under the 1969 Housing Act.

Only recently the council said that most of the £1m of ratepayers' money paid out in grants last year went to speculators.

Ian Gray, chairman of the housing committee, said: 'One firm we stopped giving grants to, Limerston Securities Ltd., of Old Buildings WC1, got £120,000 from the council in three years.'

'We now know it was associated with other companies speculating in properties in the area.'

He said the companies were buying up old, red brick houses, converting them into four, six or eight flats with the help of council grants and then letting or selling them at 30 per cent profit.

In fact only 10 per cent of all grants issued benefited the existing tenants.

Up to 50 or 60 firms have now been banned from receiving grants, and the total number of grants issued has been cut by almost half.

Cllr Gray said that the rising house prices caused by the speculators had effectively increased the eviction of tenants at a time when the council's waiting list was over 5,500.

Only landlords converting for existing tenants or owner-occupiers can now get grants from Hammersmith council.

Limerston Securities were quite blasé about the whole thing last week.

Said Edward Church, a director of Verilo: 'Limerston is a holding company for us and other companies in the area.'

'Undoubtedly Limerston did get £120,000 in grants, but we see nothing wrong in this. We make a very good job of conversions—in fact, better than the council—and have a good name with building societies.'

'Most properties we convert



Above: Anthony Greenwood

are without tenants. We do make a profit of up to 30 per cent on the sale of converted property. I know it puts prices up, but mortgages can be obtained easily.'

Limerston Securities, Breck Investments Ltd and Verilo Securities Ltd all operate in the Hammersmith and Fulham areas.

Oliver Aylesford Burge, a director of Limerston is also a director of Verilo. Ian Tickler, a solicitor involved in the formation of Verilo, is a director of Breck Investments.

After being caught by an Act pushed through by Anthony Greenwood during the last Labour government—and which anyone could have seen would lead to nothing but speculation — Hammersmith Labourites are pressing the Tories to amend the legislation.

They would have done better if they had put up a fight against the Tories' 'fair rents' Act which they accepted with hardly a whimper, forcing home £1 increases on its tenants.

EIRE: LABOUR BID FOR RIGHT-WING COALITION

The possibility of a coalition government between the right-wing Fine Gael party and the Labour Party in the Republic of Ireland has been brought a step nearer by last week's decision to hold talks on the subject.

Between them they plan to oust the minority government of the Fianna Fail party headed by Jack Lynch when elections are held, it is thought, next year.

For the Irish working class, however, the very idea represents a dire threat and a conspiracy. If Labour does join a coalition with Fine Gael it will mean the working class will be deprived of an independent voice and expression.

FIRST TIME

Also, of course, in the last analysis such a coalition will be in essence nothing more than a platform from which to attack the living standards of Irish workers, faced as they already are with soaring prices when Ireland joins the Common Market in January.

Last week the Fine Gael party formally decided that for the first time in 15 years they would seek coalition talks with the Labour Party. In past months there have been unofficial discussions between individual members but only now have these been officially recognized.

It was Fine Gael's deputy leader, Tom O'Higgins, who announced to the world that they were seeking talks following a lengthy meeting of his parliamentary party.

'The party discussed arrangements for future general election strategy and the election of an alternative government and decided to hold discussions on these matters with the Labour Party.'

It is now thought the next step will be an elaboration of a common programme to put before voters.

The fact that the Fine Gael party—an extreme right-wing outfit—and the Labour Party, which many workers vote for, can reach such an agreement is itself an indication of the depth of the political and



Jack Lynch (above) and the right wing Fine Gael plan to oust the minority government of the Fianna Fail.

social crisis gripping Ireland. Commentators, in fact, have already said that both parties are agreed on housing, unemployment, education, the economy and health services.

The Labourites were absolutely delighted with the outcome of the Fine Gael meeting.

Brendan Corish, the Labour leader, said their decision would be discussed by the

parliamentary party before the Dail resumes later this month.

AGREED

When asked if the Fine Gael proposals would receive a good response from his party, Corish replied that the vast majority of the parliamentary party agreed with his pro-coalition speech made in June of this year.

PAPERBACKS CENTRE

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POCKET LIBRARY

Why a Labour Government?

A reply to some centrist critics

By Cliff Slaughter

A series which appeared in Workers Press in June, 1972 is now available as a pamphlet in the Socialist Labour League Pocket Library.

'WHY A LABOUR GOVERNMENT? A Reply to some centrist critics.' By Cliff Slaughter Price 5p

Other titles in this series include: **The Case for a General Election** By Alex Mitchell.

The Ulster Dossier

The Social Security Swindle which includes the All Trades Unions Alliance Draft Manifesto and the Charter of Basic Rights.

All are available from 186a Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG. Or The Paperback Centre, 28 Charlotte St, London W1.

THE JAY LOVESTONE STORY

From Stalinism . . . to the CIA. By Charles Parkins. Part Two

THE CASE OF TOM MBOYA

Serious allegations of CIA influence in the AFL-CIO American trade union organization were made by Victor Reuther, international affairs director of the United Automobile Workers' Union on May 23, 1966.

In an interview in the 'Detroit Free Press' Reuther charged that the AFL-CIO's department of international affairs was involved and that both the AFL-CIO and some of its affiliated unions had 'permitted themselves to be used by the CIA as a cover for clandestine operations abroad'.

The American labour movement does not have a political party of its own. But this does not mean that American trade unions have been able to stay 'independent' of politics.

Under the leadership of men like Meany and Dubinsky, the world's most powerful trade union movement, and its international contacts, have been used to further the interests of the world's most powerful capitalists.

The career of Tom Mboya in Kenya also serves as an illustration of CIA manipulations.

Mboya was born in 1930, the son of a Luo sisal worker. Educated at the Holy Ghost College, he became a sanitary inspector. In 1952, he was made secretary of the Kenya Local Government Workers' Union and in September the following year he became general secretary of the Kenya Federation of Labour.

Also in 1952, Mboya had joined the Kenya African Union, out of which the Kenya African National Union was later to emerge as the country's ruling party.

The banning of African political parties by the British authorities under the Kenya 'Emergency' gave added importance to the trade unions as a voice for African popular grievances.

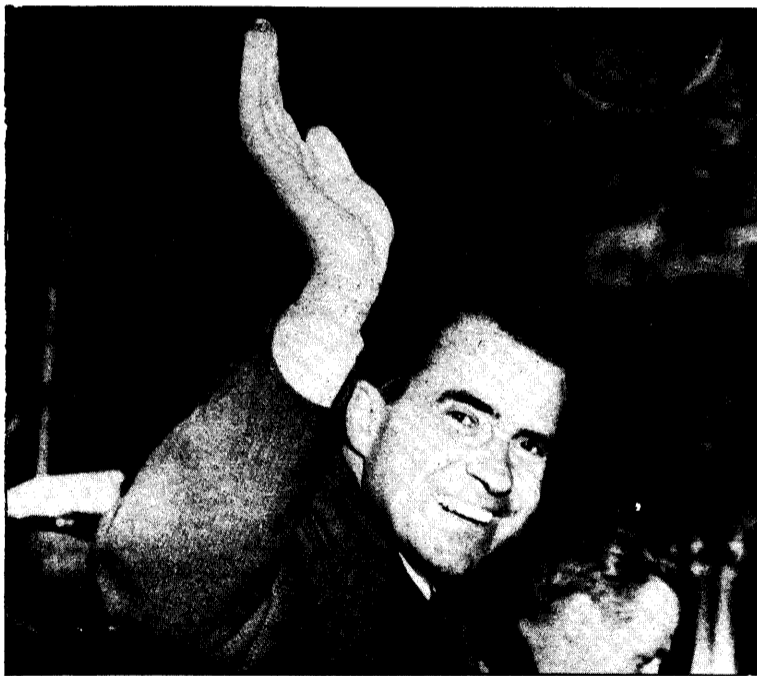
In 1954, the unions themselves were attacked, under 'Operation Anvil', their offices ransacked by the British forces and union leaders rounded up.

A British union official was advising the Kenya government's Labour Department at the time. He cautioned the Kenya unions against involving themselves in politics.

It was this alignment of British labour bureaucrats with British colonialism which was one factor in impelling the Kenya Federation of Labour out of the frying pan into the fire, so to speak, into turning to the American unions for advice and support.

The AFL-CIO was quite prepared to adopt a demagogic 'anti-colonial' pose, so long as it was dealing with countries where the dominant colonialism was that of America's rivals, Britain and France.

It was Richard Nixon who reported, after an African tour in 1957: 'American interests in the future are so great as to justify us in not hesitating even to assist the departure of the colonial powers from Africa. If we can win native opinion



Top: Jomo Kenyatta (left) and Tom Mboya in 1963. Above: Richard Nixon said: 'American interests in the future are so great as to justify us in not hesitating even to assist the departure of the colonial powers from Africa.'

in this process the future of America in Africa will be assured.'

Another representative of the American ruling class, George Cabot Lodge, explained in a book called 'Spearheads of Democracy':

'The obscure trade unionist of today may well be the president or prime minister tomorrow. In many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, trade unions are almost the only organized force in direct contact with the people.'

In 1955, Mboya used his office as leader of the Kenya Federation of Labour to act as 'mediator' in the strikes of Mombasa dockers and Nairobi local government workers. He acquired a reputation for preferring to use negotiation and 'contacts' rather than the strength of the labour movement.

It was in the same year that he came to England, to attend Ruskin College, Oxford. While

there, he associated a good deal with the Fabian Society and had discussions with such people as Margery Perham of the Fabian Colonial Bureau.

Before returning to Kenya, Mboya went to the United States for two months, during which he developed his contacts with American union leaders and arranged financial assistance and educational projects for the Kenya unions.

The AFL granted funds to subsidize the administrative costs of the Kenya Federation of Labour.

It provided scholarships for union leaders to study in the USA. It financed the building of a KFL headquarters.

More subsidies for the KFL were channelled through the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which the AFL-CIO and the TUC had set up in 1949 to counter communist influence in the international labour movement. By the early 1960s, these were

amounting to £1,000 a month. In addition, the Fund for International Social and Economic Education contributed more than \$25,000 to KFL funds. This body, of which George Cabot Lodge was a director, was itself supported by CIA money.

Mboya contributed articles to various publications receiving CIA support, such as the International Student Conference and the International Union of Socialist Youth. He also produced a book called 'Freedom and After', outlining such ideas as 'African Socialism'—'Those proven codes of conduct in the African societies which have over the ages conferred dignity on our people and afforded them security regardless of their station in life.' He also explained that his 'African Socialism' would not at all exclude foreign investment, banking, etc.

American investment in Kenya began to mount.

In 1962, Mboya was Minister of Labour in an independent Kenya. He introduced an Industrial Relations Charter, which was to set up a permanent Industrial Court and to lay down for the unions such duties as supervising discipline of the workers and discouraging negligence, damage to property, insubordination, 'interference with or disturbance to normal work', and 'abusive or intemperate language'.

However, this soon broke down and a wave of strikes began. Mboya declared: 'If the right to strike is abused, it will be removed. The government cannot see the country held to ransom and do nothing about it.'

He was not the only one to be worried. An important instrument of CIA influence in countries such as Kenya, where many workers are government employees, is a US-based international union organization, the Public Service International.

(The PSI was prominent in

the CIA scheme which brought down the Jagan government in British Guiana.)

On January 29, 1963, PSI general secretary Paul Tofahrn wrote a letter to Mboya urging him to do his utmost to avoid a strike.

Tofahrn, added that he was sending his special representative, T. Nynan, to Nairobi to see the Kenya unions, and concluded: 'This letter is written in order to urge you to drop hints in the appropriate quarter.'

On February 13, Nynan reported back to PSI headquarters that the situation was in hand. 'I was very lucky, getting the support of Brother Tom Mboya in my tries to avoid the strike.'

Funds originating from the CIA continued to be used to influence the trade union movement in Kenya and to support Mboya's political career.

In the AFL-CIO's International Affairs Department, the man chiefly responsible for African affairs has been one Irving Brown, who became head of an 'African-American Labour Center' in New York. According to an article in the 'New York Post' on February 24, 1967, the centre 'spends CIA money in Africa'.

The overall direction of AFL-CIO international affairs on behalf of the CIA has been in the hands of a man called Jay Lovestone. The 'Post' article, written by Drew Pearson, said: 'Lovestone takes orders from Cord Meyer of the CIA.'

The political association between Lovestone and Brown goes back at least as far as the 1930s when Lovestone headed a movement called the Independent Labour League.

Before that, Lovestone was in the Communist Party. In fact, this leading light of the CIA was once general secretary and attended the Communist International.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



MUJIB REGIME FACE TO FACE WITH THE MASSES

BY TOM KEMP

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has returned to Bangladesh to find prices soaring and food scarce. The hopes that inspired the liberation struggle have not been fulfilled. Any reconstruction of the shattered economy that has taken place rests on a fragile foundation.

What rankles with the masses of poor peasants and workers is the high living and corruption of the ruling clique.

The new rulers quickly established a reputation for incompetence and corruption. Coming from a small but wealthy bourgeoisie they use their position in the Awami League to feather their own nests and find jobs for relations and friends.

Basic economic problems have not been faced, let alone solved. Bangladesh is an extremely underdeveloped country and depends upon the sale of primary products in the world market. The severing of connections with Pakistan has been a serious blow to some sectors of the economy.

The tea industry, 70 per

cent British-controlled, has lost a protected market in Pakistan and now has to sell on the world market at lower prices.

The executive of one British firm explained that it costs three takas (17p) to produce a pound of tea which only fetches two takas (12p) at world market prices.

'The more tea I produce the more money I lose', he said. 'I don't see how we can survive without assistance from the government.'

As high-cost producers the three big British team firms in Bangladesh may be forced out of business.

The effects of last year's war and internal chaos is likely to mean that the crop will be about a third down on last year. In any case Bangladesh tea is not of high quality and is only suitable for blending.

The industry's collapse led to the unemployment of 130,000 estate workers and another 500,000 employed in ancillary industries.

Of course, the tea industry is only one of Sheikh Mujib's lesser troubles. The country still has to be endowed with a constitution. Relations with Pakistan remain uncertain. The economic future is bleak.

The administration is adept at shelving problems and hanging on, waiting for something to turn up. Many people still have faith in Sheikh Mujib who, while in England, did not deny himself the comforts of the best hotels.

His role now is to listen to grievances and to hand out consoling words while his Awami League henchmen consolidate their position and feather their own nests.

It is a straight-forward confidence trick in which the masses are deluded by the great leader while they are fleeced by the capitalists, landlords and usurers who dominate his party and have the real power.

Nothing less than a thorough agrarian revolution, the expropriation of imperialist concerns and the nationalization of the main industries can even begin to solve the problems of Bangladesh.

National liberation was won by armed struggle involving thousands of men. It is becoming increasingly difficult for Sheikh Mujib to hold the line. A further confrontation may not be far away in which he will have to show himself before the masses in his true colours.

TORY LIES ON VIETNAM NAILED

British aid to the American war effort in Vietnam has repeatedly been denied by government spokesmen. But it is clearly revealed in the statement we publish here.

The statement was made by Roger Marshall, a 37-year-old Kent prosthetic technician. He worked at the civilian province hospital in Quang Ngai, South Vietnam, for 3½ years as an unpaid volunteer with the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers).

Mr Marshall, who is a Fellow of the British Institute of Surgical Technicians, trained Vietnamese hospital staff in all aspects of prosthetics and orthotics (artificial limbs).

He has signed the following statement:

In late 1971, I visited and talked with the First Secretary of the British Embassy in Saigon about my concern as an Englishman of reports I had heard up country in Quang Ngai of a British police officer who was helping to train Vietnamese police. The British Secretary assured me that there were only a couple of British police officers that had been in Vietnam advising Vietnamese police on such problems as traffic control. After further questions by me, he also assured me that Britain in no way, either in country (Vietnam) or outside of country, was helping with the war effort or training South Vietnamese troops.

Shortly after this visit, two officers of the army of the Republic of Vietnam visited our house in Saigon with some other Vietnamese friends of ours. During the following conversations, they told our Saigon representatives, Michael and Diane Jones, who speak fluent Vietnamese, that they had recently returned from a three-month training course in Johore Baru, where they were trained by British army officers.

After further questions and investigations, we learned that in Johore Baru, Malaya, there is a training camp called 'The British Jungle Warfare Survival School' where some 1,500 Vietnamese officers have already been trained. In addition to this, the Vietnamese

officers told us that plans were afoot to train other Indo-Chinese troops. Also they told us that Vietnamese officers had been trained, again by British army officers, at a Counter Intelligence School in Singapore. Training covered such methods as interrogation of enemy prisoners, but did not include any methods of torture.

On receipt of this information, I wrote to the First Secretary at the British Embassy from Quang Ngai, but although he received my letter, asking if these facts were true, he did not reply. A few weeks later I managed a trip to Saigon and asked for an appointment to speak again with him. He invited me to lunch with himself and his wife at their home, and gave me vague answers to my questions regarding this matter. He said that if this training facility was a fact, that it was certainly now finished, or in the process of being finished. I thought this a strange and incomplete answer.

In January of this year, my wife and I were in Hong Kong, where we had occasion to meet some British soldiers socially. During conversations, one of them mentioned that he had been at a training camp in Johore Baru.

Learning that I was working in Vietnam, he told us that Vietnamese troops had been at this camp, and also Green Beret (American Special Forces Troops) were undergoing training there under the tuition of British troops. When I asked him why people were not aware of this, he replied that the place was 'hush-hush'.

Despite my questions at the British Embassy in Saigon, letters hand-delivered to the British Consul in Philadelphia, and to the British Ambassador in Washington, plus letters to various newspapers, I have yet to receive any satisfactory reply, or denial, of the above-mentioned situation.

Surely, those who are concerned about the brutal war going on in Indo China deserve a straight answer from our government regarding these serious charges.

Roger D. Marshall

FASCISTS BUILD RACIST MOVEMENT

The National Council of Ordre Nouveau has just announced its programme for the forthcoming legislative election. This is part of the strategy of the National Front of right-wing and fascist organizations in France initiated by a Congress in June.

The main aim of the policy of the French fascists, directed at 'silent France', is to build a racist movement which can be used against the French working class.



Above: Gabriel Aranda who exposed government corruption

They hope to drive a wedge between French workers and the millions of Portuguese, Spanish and Turkish immigrants who work in France.

In this protection of the community, immigration and the assimilation of foreigners is one of the main problems. It is no use protecting our frontiers if a specific, legal invasion changes the nature and char-

acter of the French nation.'

This statement by Ordre Nouveau coincides with an outbreak of anti-Semitism, connected with the exposures by Gabriel Aranda of government corruption.

Of course, the French fascists were most willing to collaborate with Hitler's Vichy regime against the resistance of the French working class!

KREMLIN SHAKE UP IN GEORGIA

BY JOHN SPENCER

The former deputy Minister of the Interior of Georgia has been put in charge of the republic's Communist Party organization in a new shake-up ordered by the Kremlin.

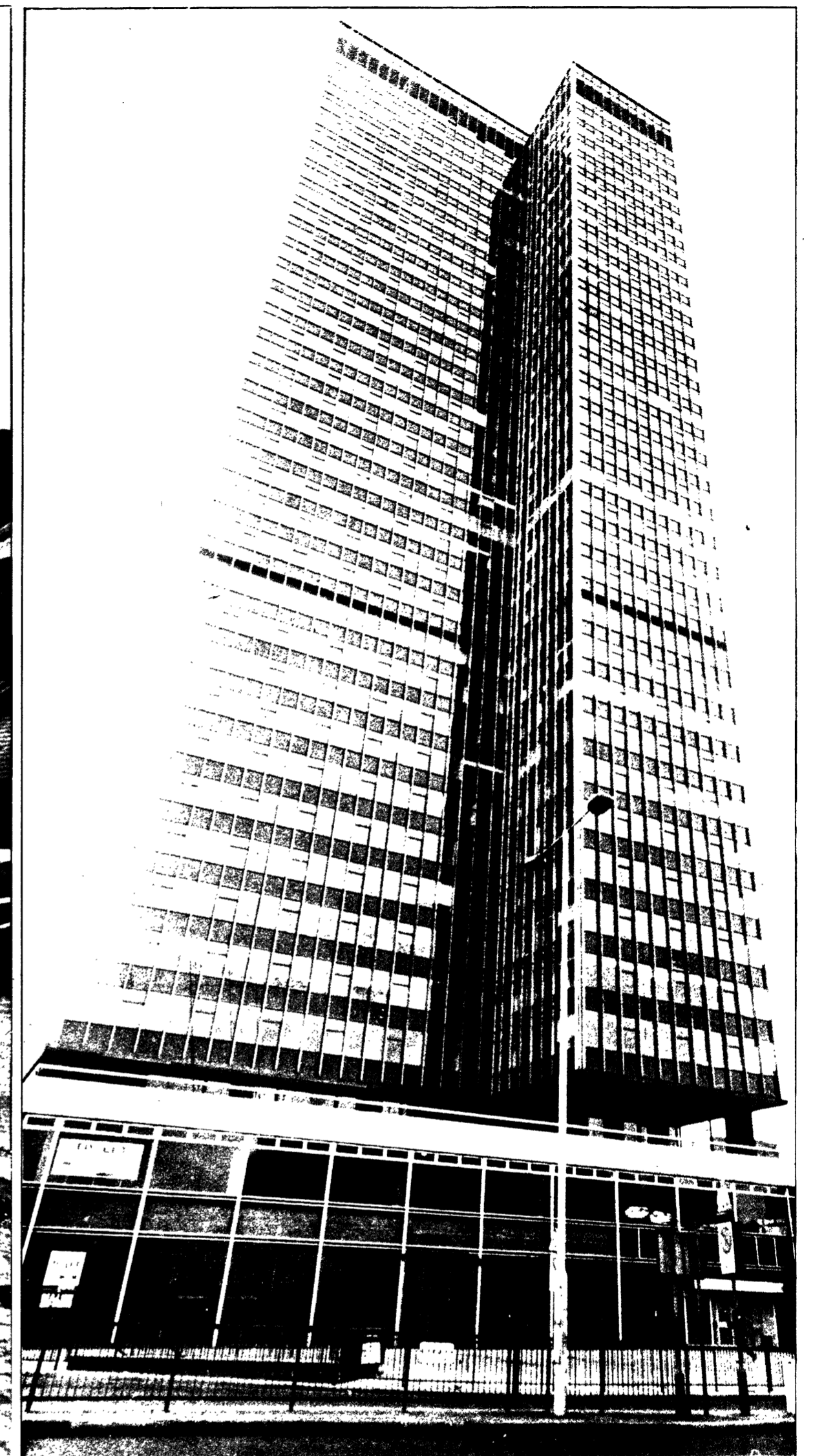
A dispute between Moscow and the leaders of Joseph Stalin's home state has been simmering for months. The promotion of Edward Chevardanadze to the post of first secretary of the Georgian CP is taken generally as an indication that the Kremlin is taking a tough line.

He replaces Vassily Mjavanadze who, according to Moscow, resigned at his own request. Mjavanadze (70) was a candidate member of the Soviet CP's politburo.

The origin of Mjavanadze's resignation could well lie in the severe criticisms of the local Party organization published six months ago in 'Pravda'. On August 29, Mjavanadze himself signed a 'Pravda' article dealing with the efforts to overcome the shortcomings attacked by the Kremlin.

Mjavanadze has been replaced by a much younger man: Chevardanadze is only 44 and is not even a member of the Soviet CP Central Committee. Nor was he a delegate to the Party congress in March last year.

But his career as deputy head of the local secret police over the last seven years has apparently qualified him for the top job: indicating that the Kremlin intends to go over from exhortation to other methods of persuasion in its relations with the Georgian Party.



LONDON: PROFITS SOAR WHILE POVERTY SPREADS

BY IAN YEATS PHCTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN MAYER

London council tenants pay on average £6 a week rent for their homes. The latest figure for prime office space in the centre of London works out at a rental of around £6.50 a square foot.

These sorts of figures explain starkly why the dice are loaded heavily in favour of men like Harry Hyams of Centre Point and not Joe Bloggs of Tower Hamlets.

And according to a report just out, working-class Londoners are heading for even

leaner times.

Dr David Eversley, who for the last two years has been in charge of strategic planning with the Greater London Council, claims the prospects are bleak.

Provide London's workers with jobs, higher incomes and new homes, he says, or face having 'a revolution on our hands'.

It is not an idle threat. In a city like Belfast, the heartland has deteriorated into poverty-infested slum ghettos shared by Catholic and Protestant alike.

As recession bites, the hearts of other British cities,

where workers once clustered close to unemployment while the middle class lived in their suburban villas, begin to resemble Belfast.

Middle class householders are still in their rose gardens, but as city centre industry shuts down or contracts, working-class districts are sliding deeper into the mire of poverty.

That so-called 'swinging' London deep in the 'prosperous' south east — where traditionally the sun is never supposed to set—is falling into this category may surprise many.

But glittering West End

shops and offices are deceptive. Behind the veneer of opulence lies the staggering fact that in the two years between 1968 and 1970, 80,000 jobs were lost in greater London.

So far this year 27,000 jobs have gone in Wandsworth alone and in south-east London as a whole over 200 firms have shut down.

In the past eight years one third of all manufacturing industry has disappeared from the capital.

Great chunks of the city like Erith, Greenwich, Woolwich, Bermondsey and Tower Hamlets are becoming an industrial wilderness. Others,

like Southwark and Lambeth, are slowly sliding into the same morass. Although unemployment overall is running at about 3 per cent, in individual blackspots like Tower Hamlets it can be as high as 10 per cent.

The unemployment that is now fingering out into the outer London boroughs was caused initially by the slow death of the enclosed docks at the upper end of the Thames in favour of container berths downriver.

Now recession is forcing employers to put up shutters in all sectors of industry and because much of London's

older industry was situated close to the centre the inner London boroughs have been hardest hit.

But it is not merely joblessness which is pushing the weekly budgets of London's housewives into the red.

Apart from the general effect of rocketing prices and despite the fact that the city contributes 28 per cent of all Britain's tax revenue, over 27 per cent of all men have weekly incomes of only £20 a week.

Thirty per cent of all households have incomes of less than £25 a week from all sources.

Last month government disclosed that some of them had basic rates, without overtime, which were as low as £11 a week.

Dr Eversley says in his report: 'The situation is deteriorating. On present trends the time is not far off when half inner London's population will survive on allowances, rebates and free services.'

Many of London's workers in and out of work are unskilled. Those without skills lucky enough to have work often have to find it in the notoriously low-paid service

industries sector which now dominates in London.

Added to the misery of low pay and unemployment is the problem of slum housing.

Private landlords are reluctant to invest in homes for poor people when they can sell flats for £35,000 a time in Hampstead and rent office space for £6.50 a foot off Oxford Circus.

And GLC house-building has been cut by the Tory government in its vain bid to halt the growing tide of inflation.

The operation of the so-called 'fair rents' Act, which will add up to another £1 a week to the rent of some

tenants, will only aggravate an already intolerable situation.

Even a year ago Eversley's comment that 'the central government may allow excessive amounts of office development permits for London, but that does not help the ex-cabinet maker or trouser presser' might have been entirely apt.

Today the bottom is beginning to fall out of the offices market just as it has out of the markets for all other commodities.

It is no longer, as Eversley thinks, a choice between offices and homes and getting to grips with curbing the speculators.

As recession deepens, all building, whether for offices, shopping precincts or houses, is slowing down. Soon it may virtually halt.

Left: Lotesworth Buildings. An overcrowded slum in Stepney and no garden to sit in. Right: Joe Levy's empty Euston Centre. Finished in 1970 and already thought to have made £22m profit.

Once, in the booming 1950s, he would have been right to say that there was a choice (after curbing the office developers) between building a few good houses or a lot of inferior ones.

Today there is no choice. As recession deepens, all building, whether for offices, shopping precincts or houses, is slowing down. Soon it may virtually halt.

SOCIAL FASCISM- A RECIPE FOR DISASTER

Part ten of a series by Tom Kemp on the history of the German Communist Party

When the world economic depression struck devastating blows at German capitalism in the months following the Wall Street crash in the autumn of 1929 the German Communist Party (KPD) had already embarked on the ultra-left course which was to lead the working class to disaster.

It was, indeed, in 1928 that Stalin broke with the Bukharinite right in the Soviet Union and embarked on a frantic drive to collectivize agriculture and carry through forced draught industrialization.

This sudden turn was supposed to coincide with the 'third period' in the history of post-war capitalism; the end of its temporary stabilization and the beginning of the proletarian revolution.

The sections of the Third International were required to shift sharply to the left and to direct their main attack against the reformist working-class organizations, now described as 'social fascist'.

Nowhere was this policy adopted with greater alacrity than in Germany, where the KPD had manifested strong ultra-left tendencies from the start. Despite splits and expulsions these tendencies constantly re-emerged and certainly found an echo in the working class.

While the majority of the working class remained faithful to the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the reformist trade unions, big sections were alienated by their repeated betrayals from 1914 onwards. The SPD leaders had crushed the revolution in 1918-1919. They had allied themselves with the upholders of reaction. They were a bastion of the bourgeois democracy of the Weimar Republic.

RELIEF

A main task of the KPD was to expose the reformists and break the worker masses away from their leadership. The question was how this could be done. The ultra-lefts always maintained that the SPD was a bourgeois party. The view that it was fascist had been put forward, with Zinoviev's sanction, even in the early 1920s. The ultras opposed the united-front tactic and refused to work in the reformist trade unions.

While Stalin maintained his alliance with Bukharin, the KPD leadership had accepted a shift to the right and many members had been expelled for ultra-leftism. But since its own background was largely left or ultra-left it was not really comfortable in carrying out such a policy. Nor had it brought much success in terms of membership or electoral support. It entered the left turn with relief.

Then in 1929, with growing unemployment and a rising danger from the Nazis, there was a shift to the left in the working class as well. The 'third period' policies had a definite social base in Germany at this time.

The new turn to the left began in the Comintern with



Above: Soup kitchen in Frankfurt during the German slump of 1929. Left: Thaelmann emerged as the great leader of the proletariat.



the Fifth Congress held in the summer of 1928, before the crisis had begun in the capitalist countries. In the next year or two it took on a more definite form and was extended into the trade union field.

The German Party had its own domestic crisis soon after the Moscow congress. A Hamburg leader, Wittorf, was accused of embezzling Party funds. He was close to Thaelmann, who tried to hush up the affair. Thaelmann's enemies in the leadership, and the right wing, used the episode to remove him from all his positions.

BUILT UP

Stalin intervened to support Thaelmann, the Party rescinded its previous decisions and a struggle began to clear out the rightists. Thaelmann emerged in a greatly strengthened position and was built up over the next few years as the great leader of the German proletariat, the KPD's answer to Hitler.

The purge of the right was carried through in the KPD.

Brandler and Thalheimer (who had resided in Moscow since their disgrace in 1924) were expelled along with the other leaders of the tendency.

On May 1, 1929, the KPD held a demonstration in Berlin—despite the prohibition imposed by the Prussian coalition government, which included the SPD. The SPD police chief, Zorgiebel, ordered the police to attack the demonstrators. For several days there were clashes with the police in the KPD strongholds in the working-class districts, ending with 25 dead and 38 seriously wounded.

These events, together with the calls from the right parties that it should be made illegal, convinced the KPD leaders that they might have to go underground at any time.

It was in this atmosphere that the 12th Congress of the KPD took place at Wedding—one of the quarters in which street fighting had been going on. It was a victory congress for Thaelmann, whose cult in the party was going at full blast.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

SUNDERLAND: 2000 CHASE 100 JOBS

Wednesday's 'Man Alive' feature film about youth unemployment in Sunderland was leaden with futility. Not because it was in any sense technically bad, but because in being fettered with the dead-end perspectives of reformism we ended up being told only what we already knew.

Twenty minutes of platitudes from Tory and Labour MPs and trade union leaders drove even the studio audience wild culminating in Weirside's mayor Leslie Watson intervening in the otherwise undistinguished discussion with a sharp 'We want action.'

Action was the very last thing any of the reformist bureaucrats on the 'experts' dais were in a position to give.

Newcastle Tory MP William Elliot all but brought the house down when he replied, somewhat resolutely: 'We are looking into it.'

A number of local civic leaders, their antennae finally attuned to anything which threatened to tarnish Sunderland's image as a sure bet for developers, were quick to sense the hopelessness which pervaded the programme.

John Hobbs, director of the North East Development Council, and Kenneth Dyos, a local headmaster, both voiced their anxiety about a programme which gave only the impression of Sunderland's inexorable decay.

The 60-minute documentary opened with 'Man Alive' reporter Jim Douglas Henry telling us that at 8 per cent the number of youth unemployed in Sunderland was twice the national rate.

At this very moment, he said, there were 2,000 young boys and girls, mostly between 15 and 18, chasing a mere 100 jobs. Later anchor man Desmond Wilcox told us there were 12,000 under-18s unemployed in the north-east.

To illustrate this in detail we heard young Anthony Hayes talk about what it was like being on the dole with nothing to do but lie in bed all day or run messages and with friends and neighbours looking down on you.

Headmaster Dyos explained there were hundreds of school-leavers in Kenneth's position—for some no prospects at all, for others jobs well below their potential.

All Harry Wilkinson, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' district secretary, could think of was that it was all a criminal waste of human resources. He felt a national retraining programme should be launched to provide employers with a pool of trained labour.

Knowing better than anyone the immediate problem of school-leavers Dyos broke in sharply saying the present problem could not be put off for future training.

The bankruptcy of Wilkinson's view was finally revealed in the disclosure that on the industrial estate behind Kenneth Hayes' home, four brand new factories were standing empty and had been for a considerable period.

The implications of this were at least recognized by Labour MP for Sunderland north, Fred Willey, who said what the city needed was work—now.



Top: School-leavers. Centre: Ken Dyos. Bottom: George Young.

He said: 'If private enterprise won't respond, state agencies must.'

What he did not say was how, if private enterprise could find no markets, public enterprise within the capitalist economy could.

Monday Club economic policy group chairman and merchant banker George Young scored points over his rivals by at least having an answer—albeit typically extreme.

'Let them head out into the wide world', he said, referring to the youth. 'Go to other parts of Britain or overseas if necessary.'

Realizing, quite rightly, that parents in the audience might not regard this as an answer, Young turned his remarks into the realms of blackest reaction:

'There has been no problem computerizing 50,000 Ugandan Asians (to find them a place in society) so why can't we computerize a couple of thousand youngsters?'

The only recipe for healthy industry, said Young, was changes in the tax system to enable industry to maximize its profits.

Tory MP Elliot reassured him that in future instead of being thrown about indiscriminately (possibly even for social reasons) development grants would, indeed, in future be related to profitability.

Neither mentioned that recession was actually cutting down the number of enterprises and the number of workers in them irrespective of their profits. In fact Elliot did his best to assure everybody that the country was in the grip of a massive reflation and that Tory measures which he did not specify would 'soon take effect'.

If the programme had a value, it lay in showing in unmistakable terms that no-one could or intended to do anything to solve Sunderland's problem of youth (and adult) unemployment.

Dyos made one of the few really relevant comments when he said: 'This is a national emergency.'

The film ended where it began—in a political vacuum from which there is no escape without a decisive break from reformism.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

BRASS

Miners' delegates to last week's Labour Party conference in Blackpool contrasted the warm reception given to them by the Tory mayor on the opening day with the controversial address made to their own union conference in Morecambe by a city father of the same political persuasion.

To the surprise of none of the local reporters present, the mayor of Morecambe started trying to win the miners' delegates over to an intriguing scheme for lowering their wage claims by insuring themselves against the rise in the cost of living. 'He always does it', one of the locals shrugged. Which may be part of the reason Blackpool gets so many conferences.

Actually Blackpool's Tories have every reason to welcome the Labourites. Where there's talk, there's brass.

The local hotels, restaurants, pubs, taxi-drivers and shopkeepers probably stand to make about £400,000 out of the fact that both Labour and Tory conferences are to be held in Blackpool for the next two years.

The Top Rank centre in Brighton—the only venue outside Blackpool now large enough—is being rebuilt.

HEALTHY USSR

'Though neither a prude nor a puritan I find myself broadly in agreement with the Longford report on pornography, and definitely opposed to the line taken by our paper.

'Sex has long replaced religion as the opiate of the people and, moreover, its commercial exploitation brings vast and easy profits to the class enemy . . . I look forward to the day when the magazine stalls of London and Liverpool are as healthy and interesting as those of Moscow and Leningrad.'

Letter in the 'Morning Star'

COME BACK!

The Labour Party is really dedicated to public ownership (their polite word for nationalization), as they showed last Tuesday.

At the end of Party leader Harold Wilson's keynote speech to the 71st conference at Blackpool, hordes of delegates started pouring out to the bars and coffee rooms to chew over what, if anything, had actually been said.

The consequence was that the mandatory debate on public ownership began in a half-empty hall.



Come back! appealed chairman Anthony Wedgwood Benn, when the debate looked like proving a flop. Some shame-faced delegates slunk back, conscience-stricken.

To be fair, it's not really the delegates' fault. If it takes experienced journalists, with the benefit of expert guidance from Wilson's acolytes and staff, to decide what on earth Wilson was on about and all day to hack together a few paragraphs, how is your average 'first conference' delegate expected to cope without at least a cuppa?

And since the more seasoned conference-goers know full well the Party leaders have no intention of fighting for nationalization (sorry, public ownership), why shouldn't they go for a pint instead of listening to all those pious platitudes.

BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY:
Germany 1931/1932
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87
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NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG.

LINING UP FOR THE RADIO PROFITS

The race is now officially on for licences to run the lucrative commercial radio stations which are to be set up by the Tories.

Last week adverts were placed in most papers by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) inviting applications for stations in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.

Only one contract will be awarded to any single applicant. Closing date for entry is December 8.

For years businessmen and others have been lobbying hard and vigorously for commercial radio. They were encouraged, of course, by the successes of those who captured the franchises for commercial television, described by one bright entrepreneur as 'licences to print money'.

There will be two London stations and at least a dozen contenders are in with a chance of winning the licences. Among them are groups backed by such well-known men as Hughie Green and Lord Mancroft. Two leading independent television companies and at least two national newspaper groups are also seeking London franchises.

One group which might claim to have begun the original lobby is Wigmore Broadcasting, a company registered 12 years ago which is now chiefly associated with quizman Hughie Green.

Green, who claims to have spent £45,000 pushing his case in recent years, did want to operate sponsored programmes along American lines.

Now he plans 'quality programming' and 'programmes which appeal to the majority', the IBA has been informed. This apparently involves round-the-clock broadcasting of all kinds—quizzes, music, drama and other entertainment.

Wigmore Broadcasting's chairman is Lord Mancroft, millionaire Tory peer and former head of the tourist industry.

Another old pressure group bidding for riches is Local Radio Services, founded by John Whitney and Philip Wadilove. They are backed by wealthy Robert Stigwood entertainment organization.

Watney's the brewers are also somewhat interested for some reason in local commercial radio. They are one of the backers of Artists in Radio, a group headed by Peter Hall, director-designate of the National Theatre, and



Above: Sir Lew Grade

Michael Kustow, former director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts.

Others involved are John Costello, a freelance television producer and member of the Bow Group—a Conservative Party 'ginger' group—and Derek Taylor, former public relations chief to the Beatles.

Two major companies in the radio and television field plan to bid for one of the London stations.

One is Sir Lew Grade's ATV Corporation and the other Rediffusion, formerly holders of the independent television franchise in London

and now operators of 13 overseas commercial radio stations.

Of the two London stations, one will be for broadcasting continuous news programmes. Not surprisingly this brought the Fleet Street barons running. The two who have so far proclaimed an interest are Associated Newspapers (publishers of Lord Rothermere's 'Daily Mail') and the Beaverbrook group, which publishes, among other things, the right-wing 'Daily Express'.

Both groups have formed subsidiary companies to fight for the franchise.

Three other groups are also in the running for the news circuit. They include Trident Television and Radio Barbican, which is headed by an advertising executive and former chairman of the Greater London Council's finance committee.

No doubt the IBA will have some problems sorting out the various contenders. Whatever the result, however, one thing is certain: plenty of money will be made and plenty of trivia pumped out to those on the other end of the sound waves.

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UNCONTROLLED HAZARDS OF INDUSTRIAL X-RAYS

Dear Editor,
Your article on the safety of workers and the indifference of many employers (Workers Press, September 28, 1972) is perfectly illustrated by the case of industrial radiographers.

In recent years the use of radioactive isotopes has increased rapidly in factories where they are used for such things as thickness determination of a product. By and large these applications, which are under the supervision of the divisional staff of HM Inspectorate, offer little hazard to workers.

But there are more incidents of workers being exposed to large doses of radiation in the field of gamma radiology than all other industrial applications of radioisotopes put together. The majority of these incidents occur on pipeline sites.

In the laying of pipelines, welding occurs at frequent intervals. Before the pipeline is put in use these welds are examined by gamma radiography.

This is a method of examining solid objects by passing gamma radiation through them and photographing the shadows cast. Gamma rays are very like X-rays and the technique is similar to that when an X-ray is taken of an internal organ in the body.

However in the latter case the operator is highly skilled

and is shielded from the radiation by a protective wall. In gamma radiography the operator must extract the radioactive source from a lead casket and place it near to the pipe, having previously placed a photographic film on the other side of the pipe.

During the actual exposure the radiographer receives a dose of gamma radiation, as well as when he is in the process of extracting and replacing the source. Apart from these hazards the radiographer is working at the bottom of a deep trench and is in danger of being buried by a collapsing wall and in some cases from drowning in water which collects there.

For such a hazardous occupation involving the use of a radioactive source, it might be thought that a period of training would be made obligatory. However, this is not the case.

Periods of training for industrial radiographers have been found to vary between two minutes and two weeks. At present there are 160 radiography contractors employing between two and 200 people, most of these at the lower end. This means that the training is usually given by people who themselves may have had little training and rarely possess any professional qualification.

Due to the nature of pipe-

laying work, very little is done in the winter months and then large numbers of radiographers are simply sacked, more men being taken on in the summer and these given their 'training'.

It is then that employers who, because they will suffer financial penalties if the job is not completed, put pressure on men to work longer hours and adopt dangerous practices.

In one case a man was told to pick up the radioactive source with a piece of tape instead of the long handling rod—which slows down the radiographic operation. The man received a large dose of radiation to his fingers causing severe damage.

More recently employers have realized that more radiographs can be taken by a man in one day if the radioactive source which he uses is made larger since less time is then needed for each photograph.

Hence source strengths which were once between one and five Curies are now as high as 30 Curies, bringing corresponding increases in the danger of radiation overexposure.

Industrial radiography is undoubtedly an instance of employers exposing workers to hazards which are not under control and in which workers are sometimes not aware of the dangers.

A Leicester reader

Officials 'watering down' lower Clyde pay claim

THE LEADER of the 1,100 engineers on strike for 16 weeks at Scott Lithgow, Greenock, lower Clyde, has accused union officials of trying to water down their claim and force a return to work. After two hours of talks with Donald Tonner, district secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, last Wednesday they decided to continue their strike.

Then on Saturday, the Confederation convened a meeting of shipbuilding finishing trades shop stewards on the lower reaches of the Clyde to outline proposals for a new agreement on wages and conditions.

Speaking to Workers Press in a personal capacity, John Fisher, leader of the Scott Lithgow engineers, said afterwards that he had walked out of the meeting.

'For us to come in line with the Confed proposals could only mean that we would have to water down our claim under conditions where we would be obliged to return to work and our 16-week strike would count for nothing.

'The Confed claim will be handled by the full-time officials and the strike committee would have no representation. For that reason I refused to take part in the discussions and walked out.'

He felt the Greenock engineers had carried out Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' national policy, which was for a substantial increase in wages and a reduction in hours.

'The unions have endorsed and re-endorsed our strike. So why should an official of the AUEW come down as a representative of the Confederation and advise us to return to work in favour of going forward for a local agreement?'

Their decision to continue the strike was right, he said.

'The strike must continue. Only a substantial increase will bring the wages on the lower reaches in parity with those on the upper reaches of the Clyde.'

In 1968 wages on the lower reaches were only 5p an hour behind those on the upper reaches. Now the difference was more like 30p.

Asians: Labour's 'cowardly course'

THE LABOUR and trade union leadership in Britain had taken a 'cowardly course' over the issue of the Ugandan Asians, the Fabian Society claimed yesterday.

The Fabian journal 'Third World' charges:

'The claim to represent the brotherhood of man will appear hypocritical for a movement in which colour prejudice is allowed to flourish through default of unconditional refutation by its leaders.'

But the article adds that in placing 'responsibility before expediency' the Heath government had acted correctly.

● Ugandan Asians arriving in London on Saturday night brought reports of panic and a race to buy airline tickets. Store-keeper Dilip Palan (19) said: 'There was panic among some Asian citizens since General Amin's threat to search houses. It is the stateless people who are in a panic. Some are being put in custody.'

TV

BBC 2

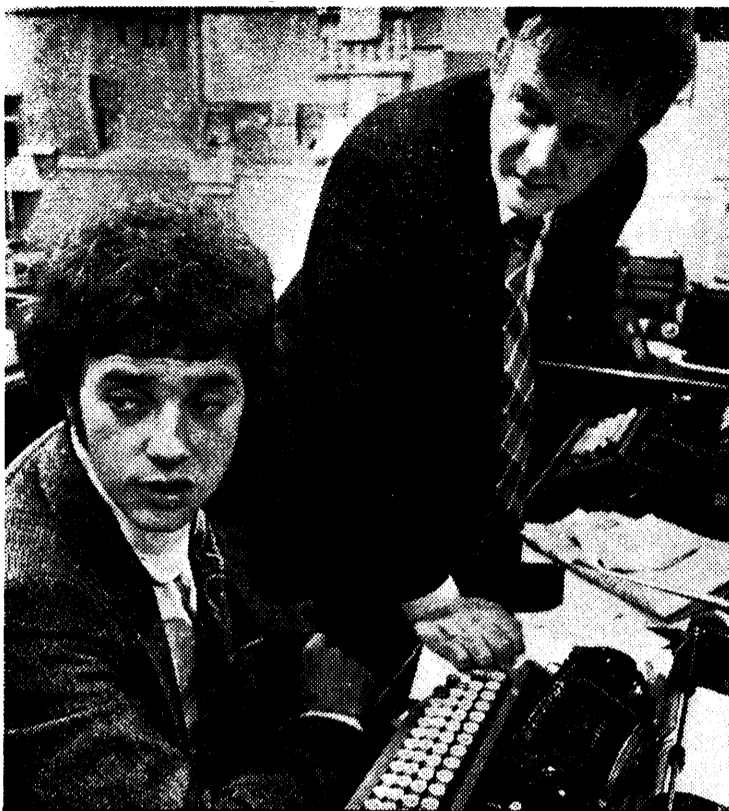
11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35 Open University.

7.05 CHILDREN GROWING UP. Making Sense.
7.30 NEWSROOM. Weather.
8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. The McCreedy Bust.
8.50 OUT OF THE BOX. Anniversary quiz.
9.25 SHOW OF THE WEEK: SCOTT ON THE SEX WAR. Terry Scott and June Whitfield.
10.10 THE PHILPOTT FILE.
10.40 NILSSON. Harry Nilsson sings and plays.
11.15 NEWS ON 2. Weather.
11.20 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 12.00 Larry the lamb. 12.15 Women today. 12.45 Freud on food. 1.10 Sound of The Dubliners. 1.25 Enchanted house. 1.35 Skippy. 2.00 Schools. 2.20 Cartoon. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'Ladies Who Do'. 4.25 Freewheelers. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 Bless this house. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.
6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!
7.30 CORONATION STREET.
8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.
8.30 LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR.
9.00 KATE. A Fact of Life.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 CADE'S COUNTY. Gray Wolf.
11.30 DRIVE-IN.
12.00 MUSIC MATTERS.



Robert Urquhart as the ageing Fleet Street reporter who returns to the provinces and Michael Kitchen as the ambitious young provincial reporter with eyes on Fleet Street in Arthur Hopcraft's 'The Reporters', BBC 1's Play for Today.

BBC 1

9.38-11.55 Schools. 12.00 Profit by control. 12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Along the river. 1.45 Look stranger. 2.05 Schools. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Magic roundabout. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 The long chase. 5.45 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.45 TRANSWORLD TOP TEAM. United Kingdom v Canada.

7.10 Z CARS. Sins of the Father.

8.00 PANORAMA.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.

9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'THE REPORTERS'. Robert Urquhart, Michael Kitchen, Barbara Young.

10.40 FILM 72. Joan Bakewell reviews the week's releases including Joseph Losey's 'The Assassination of Trotsky'.

11.10 LATE NIGHT NEWS.

11.15 IRELAND. Remember 1690!
11.40 Weather.

Labourites give in to rent Act

But tenants willing to fight on

ECCLES is likely to be the last Labour council in the north west to resist Tory rent increases. Despite a threat of disciplinary action from government housing chief Peter Walker, leading councillors in the Lancashire town say they will continue to defy the Housing Finance Act.

Letters from Walker were received by Eccles and Salford Labour councils giving them one month to fall into line or face action under Section 95 (1).

But Eccles housing committee chairman Cllr David Lancaster said that their decision would stand and no special meeting of the Labour group was planned.

He said: 'This is an issue of principle. We expected this kind of action and we are not shocked or surprised.'

Lancaster said he understood

the government was ready to take a court action or put a housing commissioner into the area to enforce the rent increases.

'But even if the commissioner did come in, we would obstruct him in any way possible. We will urge tenants not to pay.

'I do not like to break the law, but somewhere along the line someone has to make a stand. We owe it to our tenants who are fighting this struggle.'

But in nearby Salford, Labour is on the verge of collapse.

The surrender is likely to come this Wednesday after an

emergency Labour group meeting.

There, 11 councillors will demand an end to further resistance to the Tories. Originally Salford—an authority which controls some of the biggest estates in greater Manchester—voted 16 to 8 not to apply the Act. The Tories on the council abstained.

Ken Harvey, Salford tenants' leader, said he was expecting the collapse.

'Quite frankly I have given up bothering about Labour councillors who have neither the guts nor the intelligence to forecast the consequences of defying this government.

'I don't think we will bother to turn up to lobby the meeting. Now the campaign in Salford is on and we will not pay the increases.'

Tenants' leaders in Manchester report a growing response to their campaign. Activists are writing or phoning in asking to join in the resistance from the big overspill estates on the outskirts of greater Manchester, like Marple and Moston.

Hull councillor resigns from group to fight rent Act

HULL dock shop steward and local Labour councillor Tony Fee has resigned from the Party group over the 'fair rents' Act.

He accused the Labour-controlled city council of going against the wishes of the Hull Labour Party in implementing the Act. He described them as 'dishonest'.

'There are several other

councillors who must now be searching their souls,' he said, referring to the possibility that other councillors might follow him and resign the group.

Last Monday Hull's 42,000 council tenants received a demand for another 75p a week under the Tory Act.

On the same day the Labour group met and Tony Fee moved that they follow the lead of the city Labour Party who two months ago voted

for non-implementation.

But Fee claims he was not allowed to speak on the motion. 'Ten people voted with me, but it was overwhelmingly defeated although no count was made against me.'

'I believe it is an act of dishonesty not to do as the Party wants.' He will now continue as an Independent Labour councillor to pursue his fight against the 'fair rents' Act.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 2.00-2.22 London. 2.28 Yoga. 3.00 Film: 'House of Darkness'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Adams family. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.00-12.15 London. 2.58 News. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Date with Danton. 11.50 News. 11.53 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30-11.57 London. 11.00 News, weather. 1.05 Play better tennis. 1.30 Hot dog. 2.00 London. 2.20 Film: 'Riding High'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Man of the South. 11.00 News. 11.05 Theatre of the stars. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 12.20 HR Pufnstuf. 12.45 Common Market cook book. 1.15 Dick Van Dyke. 1.45 A place of her own. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Film: 'Find the Lady'. 4.10 Tinkertainment. 4.25 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'Victim'. 12.25 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 41 as above except: 4.10-4.25 Cantamil. 6.01-6.22 Y dydd.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 as 41 plus: 8.00-7.30 Yr wythnos.

HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.

ANGLIA: 9.30-12.15 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 London. 3.00 Saint. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Journey to the unknown. 11.30 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30-12.15 London. 2.25 Horoscope. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Carter's Army'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.40 London. 10.30 Stanley Baxter. 11.00 Name of the game. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00-12.15 London. 1.30 News. 1.32 Cartoon. 1.40-2.43 Schools. 4.00 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Smith family. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Film: 'Let's Do It Again'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 12.15 Common Market cook book. 12.45 Corwin. 1.45 Nanny and the professor. 2.15 Cartoon. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Village of Daughters'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.25 Country calendar. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 All our yesterdays. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.15 Sean the leprechaun. 12.30 Woobinda. 1.00 Galloping gourmet. 1.30 Cinema. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Film: 'The One Piece Bathing Suit'. 4.20 News. London. 5.15 Crossroads. 5.45 Felix the cat. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Revenge of Frankenstein'.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 12.15 Alexander the greatest. 12.50 Edgar Wallace. 1.45 Funny face. 2.15 Felix the cat. 2.30 Common Market cook book. 2.59 News. 3.00 Film: 'Convoy'. 4.25 London. 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 Loneliness of the high distance runner. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the press. 11.00 Spyforce. 11.55 News. 12.10 Greatest fights of the century.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 12.15 Saint. 1.10 Double talk. 1.40 The wedding. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Dateline Scotland. 3.00 Film: 'Carter's Army'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.40 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 Name of the game.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 12.15 Film: 'Lad: A Dog'. 1.38 Schools. 2.45 Cartoon. 2.57 News. 3.00 Let's face it. 3.30 Dr Simon Locke. 4.00 Skippy. 4.25 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Country focus. 6.35 Cartoon time. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Meditation.

Powell in another bid for influence

WITH the Conservative Party Conference four days away, Enoch Powell made a bid on Saturday for right-wing support by denouncing the 'nationalization' of Rolls-Royce, financial aid to the Clyde, Asian immigration, the ban on arms sales to South Africa and the continuation of 'humiliating and futile' sanctions on Rhodesia.

Above all, however, the Wolverhampton Tory lashed out at Heath's policies on wages and the Common Market.

Speaking to the Monday Club of Yorkshire at Ilkley, he demanded:

'Since when has it been Conservative policy to increase low wages relatively to high wages?'

Heath's £2-per-week wage rise limit, said Powell, was an 8-per-cent increase calculated to produce 5-per-cent inflation:

'Only a very naughty little boy would ask why, if controlling wage increases will stop inflation, we cannot control them at 3 per cent to have no inflation at all.'

Attacking the Common Market from his nationalist standpoint, Powell said that 'Britons' felt a 'sour and prevalent taste of having been cheated'.

State interference in free profit-making destroyed 'the whole Conservative case for competition, capitalism and private enterprise', he declared.

Thousands of rail jobs in jeopardy

THOUSANDS more railwaymen than are threatened at present will lose their jobs if a secret Environment Department report now circulating among senior officials becomes government policy.

The 61-page report envisages cutting the present rail network of 11,600 miles to 7,000 miles or under, with eventual reduction to only 3,800 miles not being ruled out.

Transport Minister John Peyton said yesterday that the report was 'part of a total examination of the railway system'.

No one, he claimed, was committed to the plans. 'Decisions are all in the future.'

Rebel Labour councillors forced to give up positions

THE RIGHT WING on the Labour-controlled Tower Hamlets council in east London is to punish the 15 councillors who defied the whip and voted against the 'fair rents' Act.

After the Labour group's annual general meeting last week, the 15 received reprimanding letters which ordered them to give up all positions on the group and offices held on organizations outside the borough to

which they were appointed by the council.

The all-Labour council earlier this year voted 34-16 in favour of implementing the Act. As a result the borough's 15,500 council tenants are having to pay another 95p a week.

Now the right-wing has, of all things, attacked the 15 for 'upsetting the unity' of the group. The 15 are to appeal against the decision.

ENVIRONMENT secretary Peter Walker has sent warning letters to six Labour councils who are refusing to implement the 'fair rents' Act. He has given them 28 days to change their minds after which a government housing commissioner might take over all the council's housing affairs. The six are Claycross, Doncaster, Wallsend, Salford, Skelmersdale and Eccles.

NW rent strikes spread

THE MANCHESTER rents struggle spread to the east side of the city yesterday when tenants on the Clayton estate formed their own association to fight the Tory rises. A campaign was launched after a spirited tenants' meeting by 100 housewives and workers.

Speakers urged them not to pay the increases.

Clayton tenants' leader Kath Hughes (24), a housewife with three children, told me: 'I am just not prepared to pay this £1. This money comes straight out of our children's mouths.'

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

'This is an old estate. These houses have been paid for several times over. We are not prepared to be pushed around any more.'

The tenants were told by police that they could not hold their meeting inside a local park. But after a vote the crowd moved behind the railings, with the speakers outside.

Connie Fahey, secretary of the Manchester and Salford Tenants' Action Committee, called on them to follow the example of the miners and the dockers.

'This fight doesn't depend on the Tory government or the Labour Party, it depends on people like you', she said. 'If we stick together and show solidarity we can win this battle. The Tories are not supermen. There are as many idiots out of Eton and Harrow as there are from secondary schools. Let's stop doffing our caps to these robbers.'

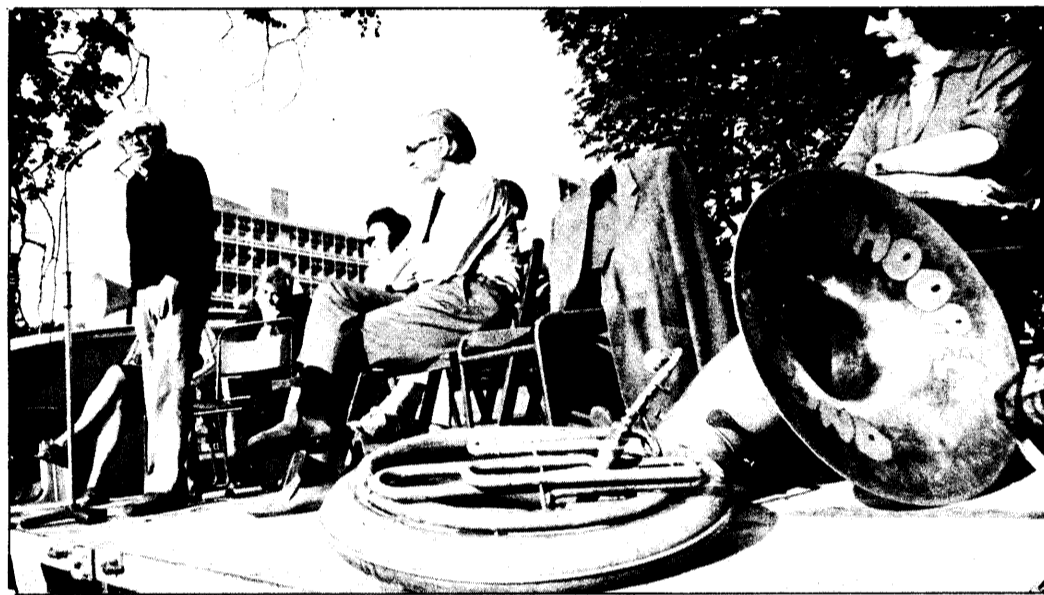
Three local councillors and MP Alf Morris were invited to speak at the meeting, but only

one, Cllr John Gilmore, managed to turn up.

There were cries of protest when he said: 'The rent increase is not a city council decision, it is not a housing department decision, but a law passed by the Tories.'

'The time to fight was at the last election when you elected the Tories.'

He told me afterwards that he had moved the resolution not to implement the increase on the city council, but claimed that eventually they had had no choice but to fall in line.



Also on Foot's platform were Joan Lester, Eton and Slough MP, and actor Anthony Booth



Makin' whoopee?

WHOOPEE! But Michael Foot MP, who last week topped the poll for the Labour Party executive, failed to wow some tenants who turned up for a rally he addressed in Roehampton on Saturday (see left). 'What are you going to do about our rents?' they heckled. Foot waffled about 'a plan to keep down price increases'.

In a bid to turn his 300-strong audience's attention to the Party conference at Blackpool, he said:

'I think we got considerably nearer to getting a sensible planned system in which, when you elect a government, that government will have real power over the financial institutions of the country and over the economy'. Was he talking about getting the Tory rent-robbers out? Was he talking about socialism? The tenants were not impressed.

Miners and powerworkers

fear for their claims

MILITANT MINERS and power workers fear their leaders may come under TUC pressure tomorrow to soft-pedal pay claims in the interests of a deal with the Tory government.

A special meeting of the TUC General Council has been called to discuss its terms for a deal.

Lawrence Daly, National Union of Mineworkers' general secretary, has already clashed with NUM president Joe Gormley over their £5.50 to £7 demand.

Daly says the union will be standing firm despite Tory premier Edward Heath's plan for a £2 limit on pay rises. Gormley insists the claim is subject to negotiations.

Frank Chapple, who, as secretary-president of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union is chief negotiator for the powermen, says the Heath plan is unacceptable.

But Chapple and his negotiating team have already reduced their expected claim for a £5.50 increase on minimum rates—with proportionately more for semi-skilled and skilled workers—to a claim for £5.50 across the board.

This is not to say the union chiefs would not have very severe difficulties selling open

BY DAVID MAUDE

capitulation to the Tories' pay-curb plans to their members.

On Saturday, the National Union of Teachers' executive voted to continue pressing its claim for rises of between £5 and £8 a week. A serious fight for these demands would clearly breach both the Tory £2 limit and the tentative £3.38 suggestion of the TUC.

Reg Bottini, leader of the farmworkers' union NAAW, said in South Wales on Saturday that it would be 'utterly unjust' if the Agricultural Wages Board tried to implement the £2 limit against his members.

(The board meets on October 30 to decide its award to the farmworkers. The union is claiming £25 for a 40-hour week. Present pay is £16.20 for 42 hours.)

But neither the teachers' nor farmworkers' leaders have opposed the principle of state regulation of wages, which is the essence of the Heath plan.

And with their phoney agreement with shopkeepers to peg prices so long as the unions do the same for wages, the Tories are keeping up their propaganda bid to whip up the middle class against the unions.

They can continue to do this only so long as the union leaders continue their treacherous crawling and refuse to expose and break off the fraud of talks.

On every occasion when the working class has challenged the Tory government on pay, it has won substantial increases. The only exception was the Post Office workers whose determination and militancy were tossed away by the TUC.

What the union leaders are doing is selling out to the Tories from a position of strength.

● Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said in Hull on Saturday that management and unions need not always be at each other's throats.

He said at an Institute of Work Study seminar that he was convinced of resolving the conflict between management and labour, but there was a degree of tolerance in Britain which did not exist in most countries he visited.

The tolerance existed when it came to choosing parliament, electing local authorities or trade union officials. But the moment one entered the factory door one became a cipher—an attitude that was a recipe for disaster.

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