

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● SATURDAY OCTOBER 28, 1972 ● No. 906 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

AS TORY STATE PAY TALKS HANG FIRE

BANKERS PLAN MORE INFLATION

BY ALEX MITCHELL

THE BANK of England was forced to enter the foreign exchange markets yesterday to arrest the plunging value of the pound. Before the holding action began, the pound dropped to \$2.32—the lowest in its history.

The overnight drop of more than 2 cents followed the deadlock in the No 10 Downing Street talks between the government, the CBI and the TUC and the announcement of industrial action in support of the power workers' pay claim.

The bank's intervention was purely a stop-gap to prevent the fourth successive day of hammering of sterling.

By lunchtime the price had been revived to \$2.3445, which was still 35 points down on the overnight position.

The collapse of sterling since the Paris EEC summit will intensify the currency crisis which has been shaking the whole of the capitalist world since August 15, 1971, when US President Nixon ended the convertibility of dollars into gold.

One definite implication of the sterling devaluation—it has now dropped more than 10 per cent since floating on July 23—is that it has irrevocably wrecked the Smithsonian agreement cooked up in Washington last December to fix new currency parities.

All the weaker European currencies—the lira, franc and the Danish crown—have since come under pressure to devalue.

At the same time dollars are flooding into Japan to buy the yen which has been at its parity ceiling since the middle of July.

The continued fall in sterling has raised the spectre of a series of competitive devaluations as countries try to cut each other out of export markets.

Against the background of this currency anarchy, Edward Heath summoned a special Cabinet meeting yesterday to review the crashing of the pound and Thursday's 17-hour session with the representatives of the trade unions and the CBI.

The special committees attached to the talks held meetings yesterday afternoon in preparation for Monday's full meeting at Downing Street.

This can only indicate that the TUC is getting deeper and deeper into the Tory trap.

The continuation of these phoney and treacherous talks with Heath leave the powermen and other public sector workers dangerously isolated.

The retreat of their leaders on the question of action yesterday makes that treachery doubly dangerous (see p. 12).

The Tories and their friends in

INFLATION



2.30 a.m. Friday morning—the TUC's Victor Feather, Chancellor Anthony Barber and the CBI's W. O. Campbell Adamson announce a further joint meeting on Monday. Workers should demand the TUC calls off the talks NOW!



Hospital pay lobby refused reply on claim

banking and business circles know that a voluntary deal with Feather, Scanlon and Jones cannot solve the truly monumental crisis rocking British capitalism. Sooner or later the Tories have to unleash total war on the working class.

This is already taking the form of a bankers' conspiracy to let inflation rip thereby escalating the cost of living on a vast scale.

This is the most compelling reason why the trade union leaders must be stopped from crawling before the Tory Cabinet.

They should be forced to mobilize their members to force the Tories to vacate office forthwith.

- Full support for the powermen's claim!
- No talks with the Tories!

OVER 200 hospital ancillary workers struck work yesterday in support of a demand for £8 wage increase. They lobbied pay talks at Alexander Fleming House, south London, where union negotiators were meeting the management side.

● See hospitals stop p. 12.

SOCIALIST
LABOUR LEAGUE
PUBLIC MEETING

BEHIND THE
ASSASSINATION
OF TROTSKY



a reply to Joseph
Losey's film

WEDNESDAY NOV 1

'The Three Legs'
The Headrow
LEEDS

7.30 p.m.

Speaker:
Cliff Slaughter
(SLL Central Committee)

admission 10p

Workers
Press
MONTHLY
APPEAL
FUND

FOUR DAYS LEFT TO RAISE £642.19

THIS IS our last weekend for a huge effort to raise our Fund. We have £1,107.81 and still need £642.19 by Tuesday. It's all stops out from now on to complete our target in time.

While the union leaders desperately try to come to terms with

the Tories and the CBI on curbing wages, the pound continues to slip.

The working class, however, continues undaunted to press for wage increases, more determined than ever to defend its standard of living.

Behind our paper is the same determination. Workers Press alone has explained the serious nature of this economic crisis and prepared workers for the struggles ahead.

Our Fund this month is therefore more important than ever.

A huge last-minute spurt and we will make it. Raise everything you can. Leave not a stone unturned.

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October Appeal Fund
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Big jump in US trade deficit

SEPTEMBER'S figures showed a big jump in the US trade deficit, from \$462.6m to \$513.2m. This reversed the downward trend which had appeared in August and had led some Administration officials to conclude that an improvement in the trade position of the US had begun.

In fact imports rose to a new record figure in September while exports fell. The September deficit was the twelfth in succession.

Dollar sales on the Tokyo exchange have accelerated despite a tightening of controls and Japan's external

reserves are expected to have grown by \$1,000m over the month.

Fearing a yen revaluation, foreign buyers of ships have stepped up pre-payment to shipyards. Exporters are hastening to step up shipments and sell dollar proceeds to the Bank of Japan.

If the present influx of dollars continues, many bankers believe that Japan will have to introduce an export surcharge or float the yen if another revaluation is to be avoided.

From November 1, Japanese exporters will need approval from the Ministry of Trade for

the export of ball bearings to Britain and from November 2 for the export of cassettes to 12 European countries.

Cassette exports to the 12 European countries doubled in the first eight months of this year. The Ministry is considering similar restrictions in other 'sensitive items' such as cars, steel products, TV sets and desk-top calculators.

The chronic and growing US trade deficit and the desperate effort of the Japanese to ward off another yen revaluation by export controls are further symptoms of the acuteness of the international economic crisis.

Moscow warns Tokyo against 'subversion'

FOLLOWING the opening of diplomatic relations between China and Japan, the Soviet Press and radio are warning the Japanese employers to beware of Maoist 'subversion'.

Moscow radio said on Wednesday that Japanese newspapers were being too optimistic about prospects for trade with China, whose total trade with the rest of the world is only about \$4,000m.

It pointed out China's foreign exchange reserves are small and added that 'at present China wants to obtain factories and up-to-date know-how not toothbrushes and transistor radios'.

The radio went on to warn the Japanese employers about Maoist 'subversion': 'The Maoist group has been carrying out extensive subversive activities in Japan for many years . . .

'If Chinese organizations are established in Japan the Maoist group will make best use of them to develop subversive activities not only against the democratic movement, but also all social organizations in Japan,' the radio said.

Including, presumably, such imperialist organizations as the Keidanren employers' association and the semi-fascist organizations of the extreme right!

To judge from the tone of Moscow's broadcast it is to these organizations that the witch-hunting advice is primarily addressed.

WORKERS struck work and demonstrated through the streets of all major industrial centres in France on Thursday in response to the call from the trade-union federations, the CGT and CFTD, for a 'day of action'. In Paris 20,000 marchers demonstrated from the Place de la Nation to the Place de la République calling for the unions' demands of a minimum monthly wage of 1,000 francs (£83) and retirement at 60. The token strike of protest was aimed by the Stalinists at dissipating the militancy of the French working class and the growing movement against the Pompidou government.

Kissinger proceeds with 'peace' fraud

Thieu falls in with Nixon vote-catcher

BY JOHN SPENCER

NORTH VIETNAM'S publication of the draft Vietnam peace treaty with the United States has thrown the Saigon puppet government into turmoil and revealed its complete dependence on the Americans

President Thieu is maintained in office only by the barbaric bombing north and south of the 17th parallel which has reached new heights of brutality in the four years of Nixon's presidency.

He now recognizes that if the deal published by Hanoi on Thursday is agreed, his corrupt military regime will crumble in a very short time. Much of his army is disaffected and many sympathize more or less openly with the liberation forces.

As Hanoi has pointed out, the man is entirely dependent on Washington and 'everyone knows that the Saigon administration has been rigged up and fostered by the United States'.

Nixon may well have briefed Thieu to oppose the draft deal—his air force officers are talking in terms of continuing the

war to 1976 and the whole 'peace' manoeuvre may be a vote-catching effort on the eve of the presidential election.

Nixon's envoy Dr Henry Kissinger, however, said on Thursday that he thought the treaty could be signed shortly, though he did not want to rush it. The Americans are presumably calculating what they will gain and what they will lose by signing.

They are said to be assuring Thieu that he stands to inherit the larger slice of power under the proposed settlement, which would provide for a military standstill in South Vietnam under rival administrations.

Thieu's forces will occupy the main towns, but the countryside will fall mainly to the National Liberation Front and North Vietnamese who have extended their area of control con-

siderably since they began a nationwide offensive in April.

The ceasefire is not expected to put an end to the guerrilla war in Vietnam: the 'New York Times' said yesterday that 'intense political competition as well as strenuous "police" actions and guerrilla activities are expected to continue'.

In effect the ceasefire will mean that Thieu and the liberation forces will be left to fight it out on the ground while the Americans and South Vietnamese withdraw and US bombing is halted.

Under the published treaty, North Vietnam is under no obligation to withdraw its units from the south. While the struggle continues on the ground, attempts will be made to form a government of 'reconciliation' in Saigon.

Military change in Egypt in line with Moscow

THE DISMISSAL of the former Egyptian Minister of War and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, General Mohamed Sadek, is an outcome of Prime Minister Aziz Sidky's visit to Moscow.

General Sadek was one of the Egyptian leaders responsible for the ending of the Soviet military presence in the country last July.

He is replaced by General Ahmed Ismail, former head of the Intelligence Service, who accompanied Sidky to Moscow and is believed to be acceptable to the Russians.

The change may also be connected with the incident on October 12 when an army captain led three armoured cars into the centre of Cairo and tried to harangue a crowd at the Hussein mosque. This led to reports of an attempted military coup.

A general tightening up of security has taken place since then.

Croatian intellectuals jailed

TWO CROATIAN intellectuals were jailed for four and two and a half years for 'criminal acts against the Yugoslav people and state' following a trial in Zagreb which ended on Thursday.

Both men, Vlado Gotovac and Hrvoje Susic, were members of the Croatian cultural movement, Matica Hrvatska, and were accused of turning it into a nationalist political movement in opposition to the Tito regime.

This week the president and secretary of the central committee of the League of Communists in Serbia were dismissed as a result of Tito's criticism of their policies.

They have now been replaced

after trial in Zagreb

by Tihomir Vladkalic, a professor of economics, and Nikola Petronic, a locksmith and a graduate of the School of Political Science.

The change of leadership is part of a drive to increase party control and combat growing nationalism in the six republics which make up the federal republic of Yugoslavia.

Power for the picking in Dahomey

A NEW military regime is now in power in the former French colony of Dahomey in West Africa following the fifth coup since it became independent 12 years ago.

Armoured vehicles smashed their way into the grounds of the presidential palace in the capital, Cotonou, and broke up a cabinet meeting. President Pompidou was due to visit the country next month and the old government was divided about how to receive him.

The coup caused no surprise in Paris. One view was that 'it was not a question of somebody taking power. Power was just waiting to be picked up'.

It has been—by a military junta headed by Major Mathieu Kerekou which has called civil servants and workers to remain at their posts.

Six Concorde cancelled

UNITED AIRLINES, the biggest domestic airline in the US, has cancelled its option to buy six Concorde supersonic jetliners. A company spokesman said that the plane did not fit in with its route planning. He wished the Concorde venture every success. This represents a further blow at the expensive and controver-

sial Anglo-French project. It may mean that other American firms will cancel or reduce their options which now amount, in any case, to only 32 aircraft. The cost of running Concorde increasingly makes it an uneconomic proposition for airlines hit by rising prices and cut-throat competition.

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Management attempt to end Yarmouth sit-in

MANAGEMENT attempts to end a six-week-old sit-in at the Gainsborough Cornard textile factory in Great Yarmouth have failed.

Two directors of the parent company, Carrington Viyella, tried to persuade workers to co-operate in emptying the plant, which was closed down last month, saying that the occupation was impeding the sale of the premises to another industrial user.

David Arnold the sit-in leader, said yesterday:

'The directors told us they had received 59 inquiries showing interest in taking over the premises, but it was difficult to carry on negotiations while there was a sit-in.'

fails

'But we take assurances from Carrington Viyella with a pinch of salt. It was only last Christmas they were telling us we had a good, strong future here.'

When a contract to purchase had been signed, the company would clear the factory as quickly as possible. If they agreed to the clearance of machinery and fabric before they had something concrete, they would lose their power to negotiate with the management, he said.

When the factory closed down 340 people lost their jobs.



Some of the Gainsborough Cornard occupiers who lobbied the Viyella parent company's London headquarters in September.

Car breakdown

A dull thud in Leyland sales

LORD STOKES' 'bumper year' at British-Leyland has started with a dull thud. The car giant has lost yet another slice of the home market and export sales are down. Figures for September show the combine's share of the British market is down to 31.3 per cent. A total of 38,000 cars were sold—8,000 less than in the same month last year and half August's total.

The poor performance is despite an 11-per-cent rise in total British sales. Leyland lost ground to the other British manufacturers like Ford's and Chrysler and to foreign competitors.

This is a blow to optimistic forecasts made by Lord Stokes at the Motor Show last week. He told journalists: 'Next year will be a bumper year for new models from British-Leyland.'

The September performance will increase the dangers of a cash crisis at Leyland during the next 12 months and a shortfall in profits.

This problem is behind Leyland's drive to hive off parts of its empire to raise ready cash. Subsidiaries in New Zealand and Canada have already been sold and workers at the company's Basingstoke transmission plant, have just ended an 11-week sit-in against plans to hive it off.

The need to grab a greater share of the market will also mean intensified pressure on the Leyland labour force for a big increase in output.

The most urgent problem is to get rid of piecework at the Longbridge plant in Birmingham.

LEADING shop stewards from a number of Swindon factories yesterday joined women workers on strike picket at the Square D switchgear factory. The 200 production workers at the factory are on strike for a substantial pay increase across the board. Strikers at the town's Garrard record-player factory are returning to work after accepting a £2 interim pay-and-productivity deal.

Negotiations to introduce Measured-Day Work there are reaching their climax.

But the change to a new payments system has brought its own problems. It is estimated that productivity has fallen by a third among the 60 per cent of workers who have changed over from piecework. This has brought

a tremendous increase in wage costs.

Other British car manufacturers fared marginally better. Chrysler UK sold 13,500 cars and took 11 per cent of the market and Ford sold 40 per cent more cars in September than in the same month last year.

Another noticeable feature was the steep decline in the commercial vehicle output for August at 5,473 compared with 7,072 in the same month last year.

Volkswagen once more came top of the importers' league with 4,657 sales and Fiat overtook Renault for second place.



Stokes: 'Bumper year' claim at Motor Show

Dunlop pay dearly for euphoria

IN 24 HOURS the shares in the Dunlop Rubber Company have dropped from 132p to 105p wiping millions of pounds off the company's market value.

The sharp drop in share price follows news that Dunlop's European partner, Pirelli of Italy, has again sustained massive losses.

Interim results just published show that the Italian end of the Dunlop-Pirelli merger has recorded a loss of £9.8m for the first six months this year.

This is on top of the £18.6m loss in 1971. At this rate losses could reach £40m for the two years to next December.

When the London Stock Market opened yesterday there was hectic selling of Dunlop shares. A spokesman said the two-day fall in Dunlop stock meant a loss in market value of £24.5m.

The merger between the two rubber giants was completed 22 months ago. It was announced

amid euphoric statements about 'European co-operation' and the 'great future' in EEC entry.

It is clear from this particular union that although the European monopolies desperately want to gang up against the working class, their merger also brings about a merger of their individual weaknesses as well.

Thus Pirelli brings into the amalgamation with Dunlop all the difficulties it has with its own militant workforce.

In an effort to break up this fighting capacity of the Pirelli workers, the management is closing down factories and moving plant to the depressed south of Italy where unemployment is chronically high and the standard of living more depressed.

In one recent decision 870 workers were suspended and 1,900 placed on short-time working. Meanwhile at the Bicocca plant in Milan a big jobs struggle is underway to defeat management attempts to sack 3,000 of the 8,000-strong workforce.

Members of the United Kingdom steering committee representing workers in all Dunlop-Pirelli factories have sent a telegram to Bicocca expressing solidarity.

This is the other cutting edge of the EEC development. As capital internationalizes itself, so too does the working class.

To withstand the huge losses the corporation must attack the jobs and conditions of workers in the UK and Italy.

Workers Press at Provos' conference

MORE than 800 delegates from all parts of Ireland will attend this weekend's annual conference of the provisional Sinn Fein in Dublin.

For the first time British journalists will be allowed into the public session on Sunday.

Workers Press staff reporter, IAN YEATS, will be covering this important conference on the spot. For analysis of the conference and the best coverage, make sure you obtain copies of Workers Press throughout next week. Telephone 01-622 7029

Eire students national protest day

UNIVERSITY students in the Irish Republic yesterday staged a national day of protest against the education system.

A spokesman for the Union of Students in Ireland, organizing the protest, said:

'We are challenging the present government position and its apparent inability to deal with such problems as education in a clear and logical manner. We are extremely concerned at the lack of any overall educational policy.'

Dublin students marched on government buildings to register their complaints with the Education Minister Pdraig Faulkner.

The students also demanded higher grants.

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LABOUR GURUS BACK THE TORY PAY CONTROLS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

'I view this (state pay) plan with admiration. For these new proposals in structure and conception are far superior to anything thought of, let alone put forward, in the days of George Brown or during the whole administration of Harold Wilson.'

Professor Nicholas Kaldor, Labour Party member and economics adviser to the Wilson government, 'The Sunday Times' on October 8, 1972.

'I hope that this bold government, which has already brought about more beneficent fiscal reforms than any since Gladstone's, will see it as an opportunity for constructive policy-making.'

Professor John Vaizey, Labour Party member and education adviser to the Wilson government, in the 'Sunday Telegraph' on October 22, 1972.

Think of the academic luminaries who advise the Labour Party on economic policy and you think of Professor Nicholas Kaldor, Lord Balogh and Professor John Vaizey.

This trio have written more words of bourgeois economic 'analyses' than one cares to remember. As economic gurus over the past ten to 15 years they have filled hundreds of column inches in newspapers and publications like 'The Times', 'Telegraph', 'Sunday Times', 'Observer', 'New Statesman' and 'The Listener'.

There was a period when their faces were rarely off the television screen and their views on the state of the world were heard from one end of Hampstead to the other.

When the Wilson government was elected in 1964 they moved into official and semi-official positions in Whitehall to bring about 'the white-hot, technological revolution'.

Kaldor and Balogh advised on taxation and the economy, Vaizey was at Anthony Crosland's elbow imparting various chunks of genius on 'education economics'.

Today Kaldor and Balogh sit on the party's finance and economic affairs sub-committee chaired by shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey and Vaizey belongs to the science and education sub-committee along with former party chairman Anthony Wedgwood Benn, deputy leader Edward Short, shadow minister and pro-Marketeer Shirley Williams, and Andrew Cunningham, the General and Municipal Workers' Union official named in the Poulson bankruptcy case.

In the past three weeks, two of these academics have emerged as vociferous supporters of the Heath state pay plan.

First of all Kaldor took a page in the Tory 'Sunday

Times' to propound the virtues of this Heath move towards corporatism. 'I view this plan with admiration,' Kaldor said.

He went on: 'For these new proposals in structure and conception are far superior to anything ever thought of, let alone put forward, in the days of George Brown or during the whole administration of Harold Wilson.'

Since this article appeared the Tory editorial writers on every capitalist newspaper have enthusiastically referred to the Labour adviser's remarks. He is being quoted up and down the country as the voice of reason to justify this vicious attack on the standard of living of millions of working-class families.

Kaldor has now been joined by Vaizey. In the extremely reactionary 'Sunday Telegraph' last weekend, Vaizey, Professor of Economics at Brunel University, lavished praise on the government for its economic policies — policies, incidentally, which have created the highest post-war levels of permanent unemployment.

He wrote about Anthony Barber's 'brilliant achievements' with the economy which 'means a very substantial rise in the standard of living for most families'.

Piling one ludicrous assertion upon another he goes on to welcome 'Mr Barber's brilliant new tax scheme'—a reference to the pie-in-the-sky tax proposals which the Tories say will come into effect in five years' time!

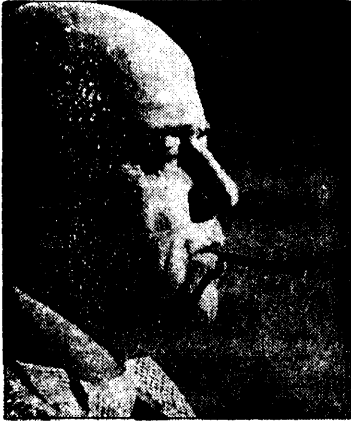
Vaizey calls for a stepping up of the Tory policy to smash existing basic industries like coal, iron and steel: 'If modern methods were more widely adopted there would only be a third of the present labour force in iron and steel' and by the year 1990 only speleologists (cave men) need be the only people to go underground.

In demanding these 'sensible' policies he sees that 'alas, the dear old Labour Party is the reactionary party trying to save nasty jobs in disagreeable places, instead of reacting instructively to change'.

Vaizey has got so many things wrong in this single outburst. The Labour Party is not in principle opposed to the mass attack on the pits on the steel industry: witness the massive closures carried out by ex-National Coal Board chairman Lord Robens under Labour and the 'reorganization' of the British Steel Corporation, which has meant the axing of more than 30,000 jobs.

The 'reactionaries' Vaizey is talking about are workers who are desperately fighting for the right to work. Vaizey would take away this right to work and thus take away their right to live. His cave-man economics end on a note which is politically appropriate.

He says: 'By the way, the late and evil Hitler had a good



Economic advisers to the Labour Party—Nicholas Kaldor (top) and John Vaizey.

economic adviser. Before rearmament got under way in 1935 Schacht had reduced unemployment from 6 million to 2 million and strengthened the external balance by price and wage controls and expanding demand.

'Mr Nixon has done the same in Vietnam while ending the Vietnam war. So can Mr Barber here if he keeps it up.'

Vaizey glibly tells us how Hitler brought down unemployment. He does not tell us the precise way he did it.

By 1935 the trade unions no longer existed in Germany. Hitler had destroyed all the basic workers' organizations. He had herded the workers into Nazi Labour Front headed by Dr Ley and the 'leaders' and militants into the concentration camps. The penalty for striking was death and wages had been cut by at least a third in most industries.

This was Schacht's 'economic miracle' so warmly applauded by Vaizey.

The political significance of these Labour academics' endorsement of the present state pay plans comes at a time when their own reformist policies are made utterly redundant.

The crisis in the capitalist system in Britain and internationally has reached such proportions that these egg-heads fall into line with the only solutions which the ruling class knows—attacks on the working class.

It is just as important to recognize, however, that what Kaldor and Vaizey say openly in the Tory Press is only a reflection of what Wilson, Jenkins, Healey and Callaghan privately think too.



MP WILL RENT YOU A CONCORDE

With the sales of Concorde in a desperate state, a Tory MP has come forward with a scheme for 'Rent-a-Concorde'.

Stephen Hastings, Conservative MP for mid-Bedfordshire, has established a company called European Supersonic Aviation Limited, which hopes to sign its first contract by the middle of next year.

Hastings, a former vice-chairman of the Tory aviation committee, is the chairman of the company and the principal shareholder.

He is being backed by City bankers, William Brandt and Sons, which was recently taken over lock, stock and barrel by National and Grindlays. The chairman of National and Grindlays is Lord Aldington, former Tory Party deputy chairman and one of Heath's closest advisers and personal friends.

Other finance is coming from Lloyds Bank and the American First National City Bank.

Hastings said that while the government would not be giving any financial assistance to the project, it had given the operation its 'full blessing and support'.

The idea is that the firm will lease supersonic Concorde air-

craft to airline operators who do not wish to purchase them in full.

The length of each contract period can be anything up to 15 years.

Hastings is a well-known business entrepreneur. His past business connections include directorships with Anglo-European Marketing Limited, Emerson Associated Limited, Handley Page Limited, John Tysack (Training) Limited, BPW Organization Limited, Lomont Holdings Limited, Oxley Developments, Roger Tomlin Limited.

Before entering politics Hastings was a career army officer and then served with the Foreign Office in Helsinki and Paris.

His company will have a share capital of £40,000. Sitting on the board with Hastings will be Sir Peter Compston, a vice admiral and former deputy supreme allied commander in the Atlantic. He served as naval attaché in the Paris Embassy in the early 1960s.

Another director is Mr Geoffrey Dodsworth, a director of William Brandt's.

Consultants to the company are Professor Hugh Ford and Professor James Lighthill, who was director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough during the design stages of the Concorde.

HAULIERS SET UP A LEGAL FUND

The powerful Road Haulage Association has decided to set up a compulsory annual levy on all members to pay for costs of court actions.

The RHA national council has taken this decision following the expensive legal battles fought against dockers in the National Industrial Relations Court, the High Court, the

Court of Appeal and the House of Lords.

The new National Legal Cases Fund will come into operation on January 1 and the amount of levy will be based on fleet size.

The introduction of the fund can only mean that the RHA is planning further attacks on trade unionists. It must be remembered that when the House of Lords upheld the road hauliers' appeal, all costs were awarded against the Transport and General Workers' Union.

An appeal fund set up over the recent cases to reimburse members has raised almost £15,000. Amounts ranging from £3 to £250 was raised from 2,310 members.

The RHA has also decided to increase its subscription rates from January 1, the first increase for three years.

SOVIET INSURANCE FOR LON NOL

BY JOHN SPENCER

The American-backed dictatorship of Cambodian General Lon Nol now controls only about 15 per cent of the country's land area and 2 million of its 7 million inhabitants.

It is propped up by an estimated 110,000 South Vietnamese and American soldiers and by massive injections of American aid. The capital Phnom Penh, is surrounded by liberated territory and has recently been hit by daring guerrilla raids.

Lon Nol remains in office only by courtesy of the US Air Force. The only reason the liberation forces have not taken the Cambodian capital is their fear that the US would promptly reduce it to rubble.

Lon Nol may be on his last legs, but he can also fall back on the support of the Kremlin. Moscow maintains a 55-man diplomatic mission in the Cambodian capital and recognizes the puppet dictatorship as the legal government of the country.

The Russian diplomats must find it uncomfortable to live in a city which is regularly bombarded with 122-mm rockets supplied originally to North Vietnam by the Soviet government.

But they were doubly embarrassed when a recent US Senate investigation revealed the extent of Soviet aid to the counter-revolutionary regime. The Senate committee on government operations, headed by Senator William Moorhead, discovered that a Soviet insurance company was underwriting US military aid shipments to the Lon Nol regime.

Thousands of tons of US aid are brought up the Mekong river under air and naval escort to supply the beleaguered Cambodian army. They are insured by the Cambodian National Insurance Corporation, which then re-insures itself with the Russians.

Moorhead's revelations came as something of a shock for Lon Nol's functionaries, too. One official of the Cambodian insurance company complained that now that the arrangement was public knowledge the Soviet insurance company might be forced to bring it to an end.

'The war is good business for us', the official said—and the profits of the Cambodian National Insurance Company bear him out. The company made a net profit of some 22.5 million riels in 1969, dropping to 18.8 million in 1970 but rising to a new peak of over 27 million riels in 1971 following the US invasion.

Company sources indicate that while the war may have disrupted the economy, insurance is a growth industry. Premiums have been sharply raised and, naturally, profits are up. In practice protection for insured property is provided by the Lon Nol armed forces, the South Vietnamese and the US.

And one way or another a good slice of the profits finds its way into Soviet foreign exchange reserves. War sure is hell . . . but it's good for business!



Top: the American-backed dictator Lon Nol and his right-hand man Sirik Matak. Above: 'War is good for business'

LORD VESTEY AND THE THAMES LAND GRAB

BY IAN YEATS

On a sunny day an observer standing on the deck of the 'Discovery' looks across the Thames at a gleaming ribbon of south bank development.

The vista begins with the squat white bulk of the Festival Hall and rising opposite it on the other side of Waterloo Bridge, the National Theatre.

Adjacent the distinctive, almost television-shaped, windows of the London Weekend Centre stare like great black eyes from a new multi-storey white tower.

The vista ends in the network of girders and concrete piles at the feet of Blackfriars bridge which builders are transforming into a 30-storey office block, a 750-bed hotel, flats and a shopping precinct.

Slap in the middle of this otherwise futuristic panorama is an untidy, derelict looking huddle of warehouses—owned by the Vestey Organization.

In the rectangle formed by Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges, the Thames and Stamford Street only the central area occupied by these buildings remains to be redeveloped.

Many of the 87 workers at Vestey's Nelson's Wharf cold store, due to be closed in November, claim their jobs are being sacrificed on the altar of property speculation.

They argue that even if the present store cannot be modernized it would cost under £1m to put up a completely new depot on the same site.

Why, they ask, doesn't Vestey do this, unless he is thinking of the profits to be made as a result of the south bank redevelopment.

In the central area of the rectangle, from Hatfields to Coin Street, Vestey is certainly in a dominating position.

With Gabriel's Wharf, Nelson's Wharf, Stamford Wharf and the old Eldorado ice cream factory either leased or owned, the Organization controls two-thirds of the site.

The land, on both sides of Upper Ground, falls into about six blocks—four controlled by Vestey, one by the Greater London Council and the sixth by at least 12 different owners, including a bank.

The planning authority is the GLC and they will only grant the whole site—not individual plots.

In other words the hoped-for profits from redevelopment cannot be realized until all the existing businesses in the area are wound up and the parties reach joint agreement on new investment.

Most of the site is either already disused or on the threshold of it. The closure of Vestey's last waterside cold

store at Nelson's Wharf leaves a row of near derelict early 20th-century warehouses along the south bank.

Vestey's Duchy Street cold store—the old Eldorado ice cream factory—has been shut for two years and a fifth portion of the site has been converted into a temporary car park.

This leaves the hotchpotch of properties sandwiched in the corner between Broadway and Hatfields still to be sorted out.

The development speculators expect that investment anywhere in the rectangle between the two Thames bridges would be highly profitable.

The whole area has been designed a 'West End Zone' which in the eyes of the GLC planners means that only West End-style developments will be allowed there.

Plans now well advanced in the two wing segments of the rectangle show clearly what this means.

The massive Hatfields-Rennie Street development is being undertaken by the King's Reach Consortium dominated by Sainsbury's and the International Publishing Corporation.

The Vestey Organization controlled only one tiny part of this area at Hanbury's Wharf—once a cold store—but Vestey is not involved in the consortium.

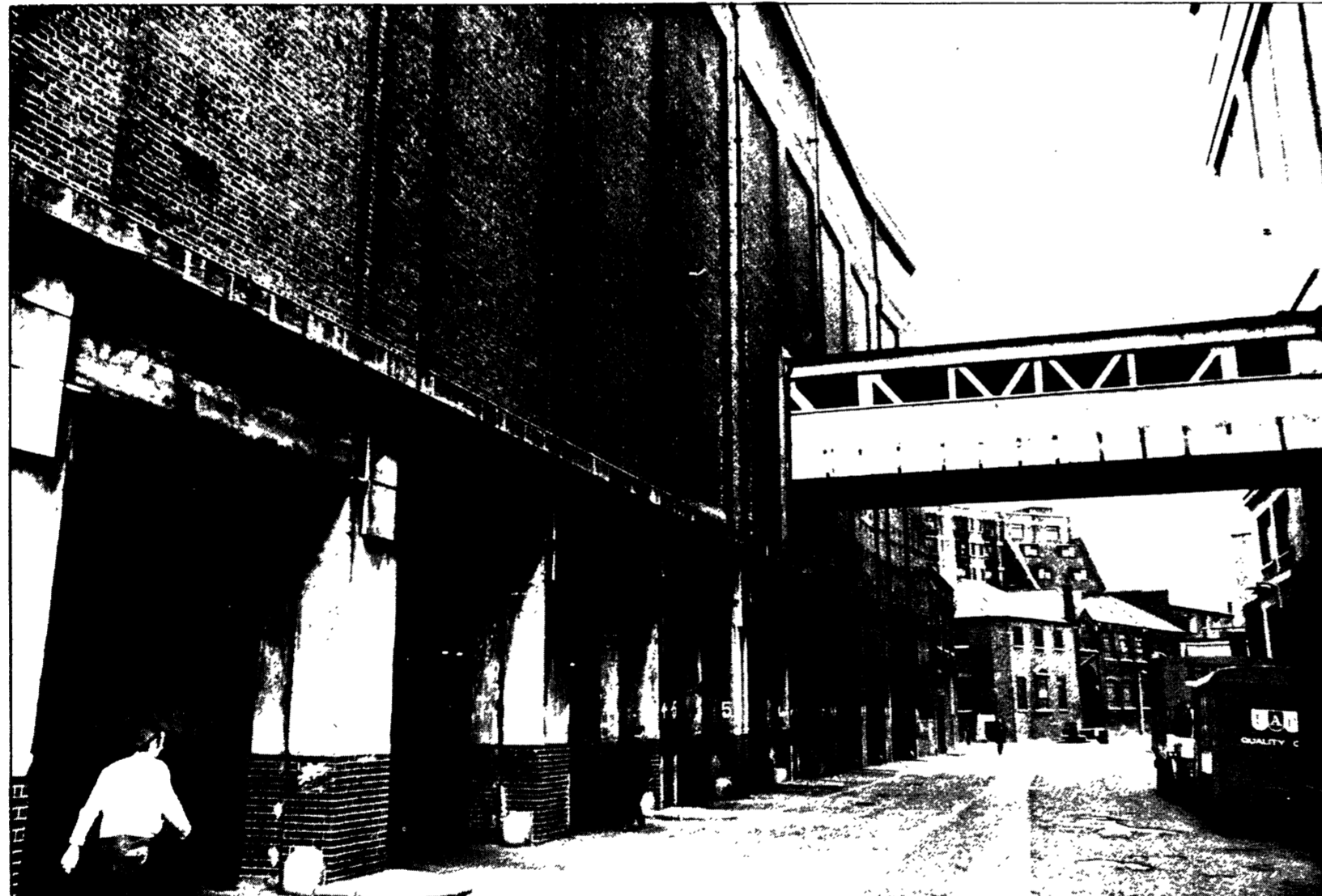
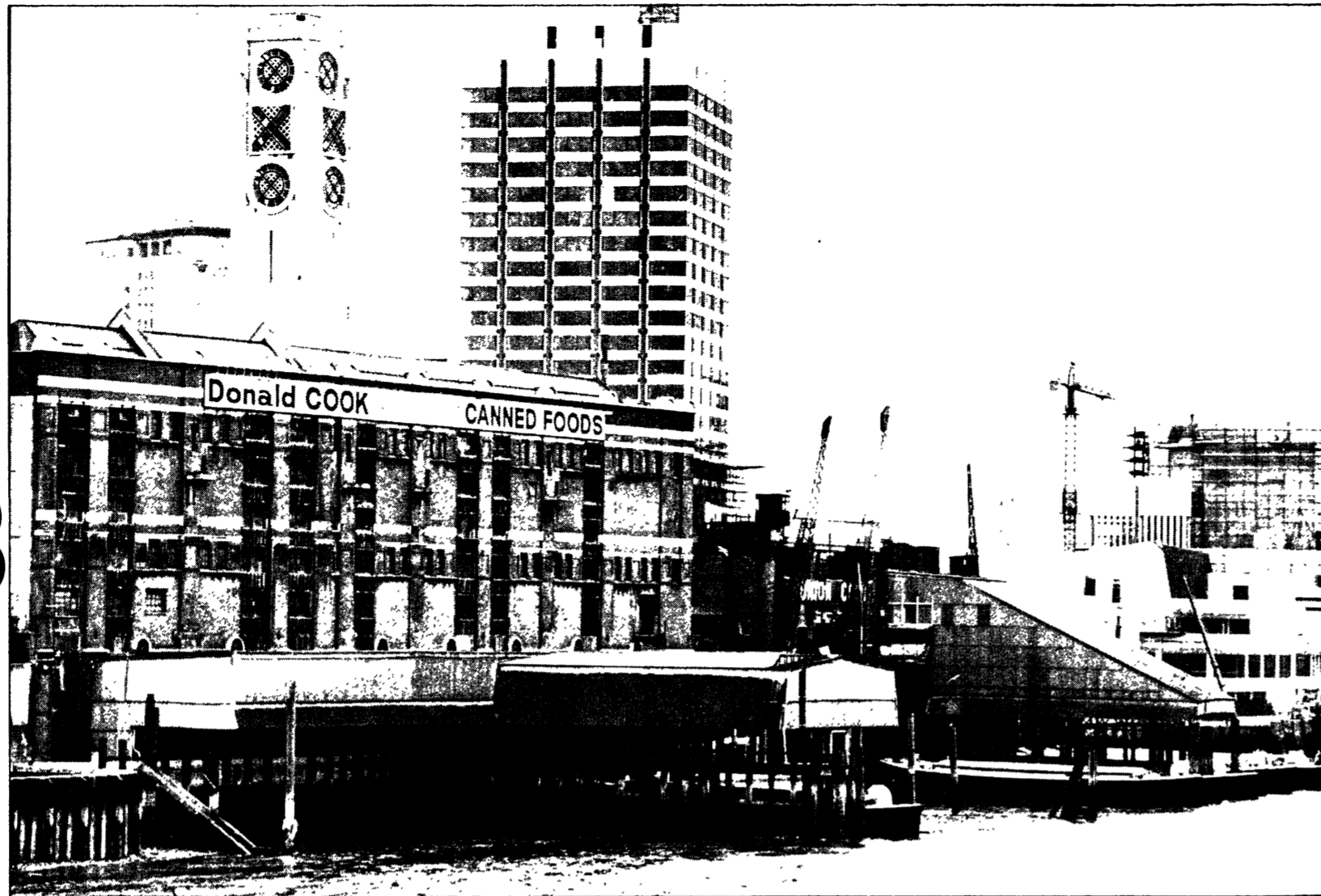
In place of the jungle of century-old warehouses and offices the consortium are raising 200 West-End type flats—let at appropriate rents—rent £6 a sq ft plus—a shopping precinct with restaurants, cafes and two pubs and a 750-room hotel for the Spanish-based Melia group.

A second hotel is planned for the river side of Doon Street on land leased by the GLC from the old Princes Meadow Estate of the Duchy of Cornwall.

Cultural buildings are not profitable and the National Theatre is likely to be the only one in the rectangle—rising rapidly in the Waterloo Bridge-Coin Street area controlled by the GLC.

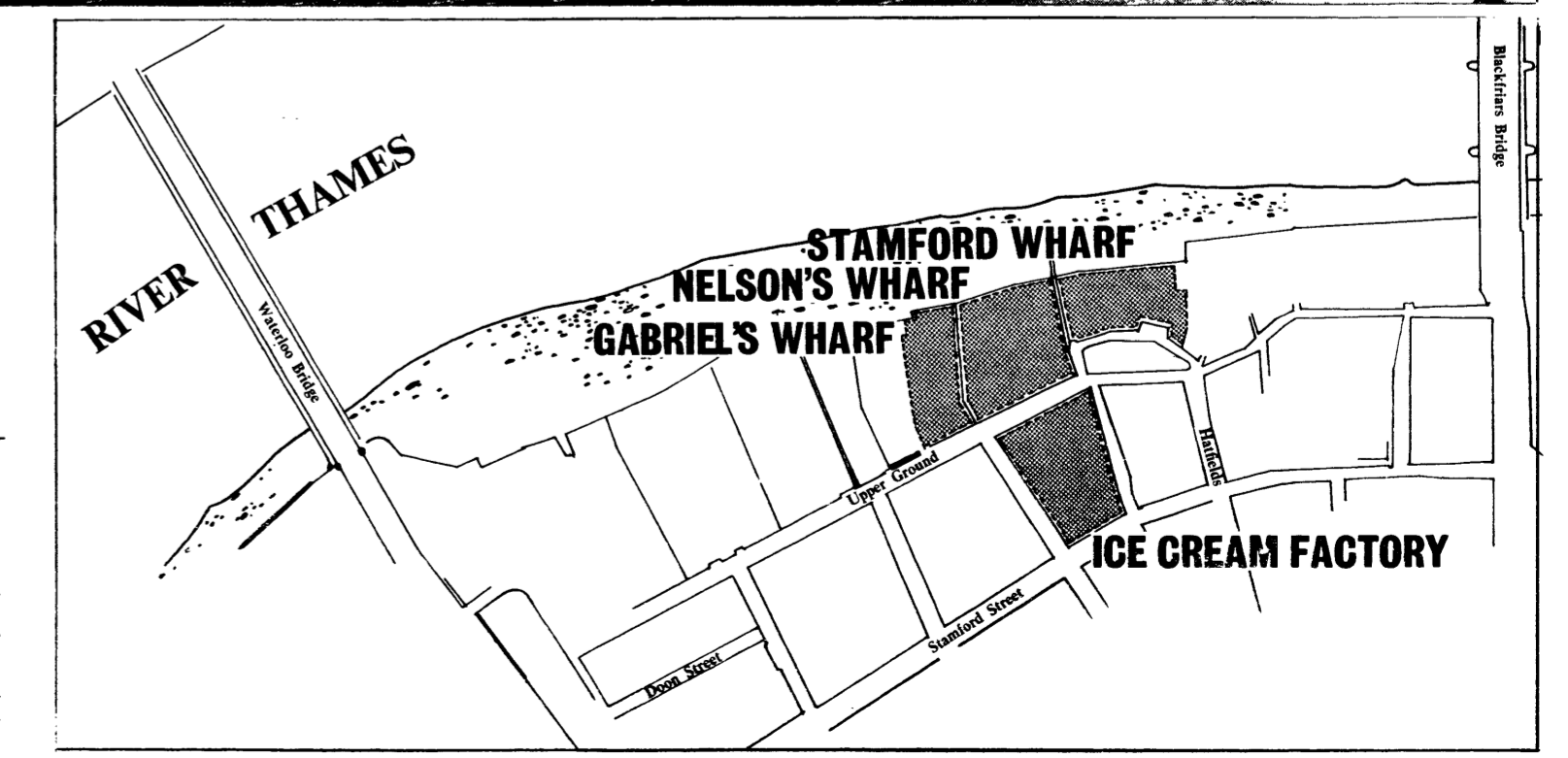
The London Weekend Television Centre is a money-spinner as far as rents to the council are concerned and other offices are planned, including the possibility of one for Reuters news agency on the site currently occupied by the 'Evening News'—between the National Theatre and London Weekend.

The commercial development by the King's Reach Consortium is expected to pay for itself and the GLC hopes that rents from offices will subsidize buildings like the National Theatre.



All this development is either prestige or highly profitable—the one thing the GLC will not allow is more warehouses or industrial premises. For businessmen like Vestey the arguments for new investment in the area far outweigh those for keeping open obsolete and therefore costly cold stores, even though dozens of men will be made redundant. As it happens the Vestey hand has not had to be forced to close down the riverside cold stores. The redevelopment of the south bank has coincided with the revolutionary technological changes in the docks industry based on containerization. Beginning in the early 19th century, warehouses spread upriver from the Pool of London on both sides of the Thames and 100 years later, faced with the choice of building close to the West End or far down river, businessmen preferred sites at Southwark and Bermondsey. Containerization has changed

the whole pattern of goods storage and in the last three years alone over 4½ miles of river-front warehouses have become derelict in Bermondsey and Southwark. Thousands of jobs have been lost as old-fashioned warehouses have given way to new container depots characterized by large 'parking' areas, giant single-storey storage sheds and a handful of men working with a maximum of mechanical handling gear. The relatively large land holdings required have proved to be cheaper away from the Inner London boroughs—at Stratford, Hackney, Dagenham and a dozen other places east along the Thames to Tilbury. Twelve years ago Vestey was unsuccessful in a bid to opt out of the scheme and ever since he has seized every opportunity of axing his central London depots. Duchy, Stamford, Hanbury's, Kennet's, Cannon Street, Red Bull, Gunner's Shop and soon Nelson's are but memories in the minds of hundreds of redundant registered dockers. Where new stores have been opened, as in Hackney, 'ex-



Top left: The Vestey owned Stamford's Wharf. Close behind are the two cranes of Nelson's Wharf and the National Theatre. Top right: Warehouses of Stamford's Wharf. Above left: The last of Vestey's waterside cold stores to close—Nelson's Wharf. Above right: The old Eldorado Ice Cream factory. Right: Map showing the area between Waterloo Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge, south of the Thames. Marked are the four key pieces of Vestey's property—Stamford Wharf, Nelson's Wharf, Gabriel's Wharf and the Eldorado Ice Cream factory. The GLC will only allow the site to be redeveloped as a whole—and this means Vestey holds a dominating position to reap the profit.

persive' registered labour has been deliberately kept out in favour of 'cheap' non-scheme workers. It is this combination of the prospects for new investment, new docks technology and the need to slash labour costs which is at the root of the spate of Vestey cold-store closures which next month will drag unobtrusively to a close.

THE GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY UNDER HITLER

BY TOM KEMP. PART 2.

The obvious growing power and warlike ambitions of Hitler Germany in 1934 led to a revision of policy in Moscow.

It had become obvious that the masses were not going to rise up—as the Kremlin hoped—and establish a Soviet Republic in Germany after having smashed Social Democracy. In fact the whole working-class movement had been crushed. Although underground work went on, the Gestapo was as tireless as it was bloodthirsty and the concentration camps were full.

Stressing the danger of 'fascism and war' Stalin embarked on a rightward turn. In 1934 the Soviet Union entered the 'thieves' kitchen' at Geneva—the League of Nations.

The next year a pact was made with France, in the person of Laval, and he endorsed French rearmament. This was the prelude to the Popular Front policies of the second half of the 1930s, the way for which was cleared at the 7th World Congress of the Communist International in 1935.

Then, with indecent haste, all the slogans and theories of the so-called 'third period' were buried and everything possible was done to prevent anyone exhuming them. From that day to this the communist parties have been unable to offer a coherent explanation of this period or the reason for the abrupt shift in policy. Popular Frontism sought the maximum alliance with bourgeois and nationalist politicians in order to defend bourgeois democratic institutions.

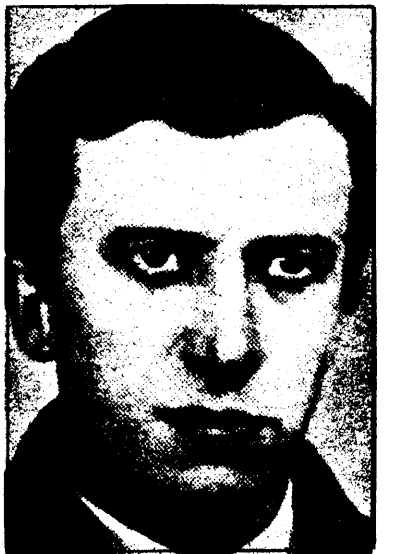
This change of policy was supposed to have been based upon the German experience. In fact it represented Stalin's hope that the Nazi threat to the Soviet Union could be warded off by an alliance with the other imperialist countries. When this proved impossible, he turned back to the policy of the early years of Hitler's rule and made the infamous 'non-aggression pact' of August 1939.

Not least among Stalin's crimes was the fact that while the Pact was in operation a number of German communists were handed back to the Nazis for punishment and almost certain death. But it should also be remembered that few of the communist exiles who took refuge in the Soviet Union survived to return to East Germany in 1945.

In the purges of the 1930s Stalin's victims included many leading communists and their families; of those who survived, many were imprisoned and sent to labour camps or remote Siberian areas during World War II.

Stalin was particularly vindictive against the German Communist Party (KPD) members because a number of them had criticized his policies even before the Nazis came to power. Others expected that in Moscow there would be some kind of reckoning with the past and they spoke their minds too freely.

Evidence about the situation inside the KPD leadership either in the pre-Hitler years or during the years of exile in the Soviet Union is scarce and not completely reliable. It is, of course, known who did not survive Stalin's purges—and who did. And a certain amount



Top: loyal Ulbricht beside Stalin. Above: Stalin's victims (left to right) Hugo Eberlein, Willy Munzenburger, Willy Leow and Hans Kippenburger

of other information is available.

From this it is clear first of all that many KPD members were opposed to the dubbing of the Social Democrats as 'social fascists' and the whole 'third period' extravaganza. No doubt Trotsky's writings on Germany did circulate among them, because it is known that they had a considerable impact in some circles both inside and outside the KPD.

FATAL MISTAKE

The campaign against 'Trotskyism' was important in keeping alive the mistrust of (or hostility towards) Trotsky which was, of course, prevalent in all sections of the Comintern at this time. It was a tribute to the strength of Trotsky's analysis.

Party discipline and loyalty, however, prevented a serious challenge to Party general secretary Ernst Thaelmann being made and some of the fiercest critics left the KPD in despair, some going into the Social Democratic Party (SPD) or the SAP (the centrist Socialist Workers' Party) which Trotsky tried to win over to the Fourth International after Hitler came to power.

Many Party leaders thought that a united front had become impossible and that the victory of the Nazis and a period of underground work had become inevitable. They had illusions about the help which would be forthcoming from the Soviet Union and made the fatal mistake of believing that the Nazi regime would be weak and short-lived, an illusion which some of them kept

up in the emigration.

The liquidation of the critics in Moscow began in 1935. As we have seen already, Neumann and Remmele had already been denounced for their errors. They were among the first to be arrested and shot or tortured to death in the next two years.

Willy Leow, Thaelmann's assistant at the head of the Rot-Frontkämpferbund, was arrested in 1937 and tortured in an effort to extract a 'confession'. He refused and proclaimed his innocence in a powerful voice; he was, it is said, carried off to be shot singing 'The Internationale'. Others died more slowly in prison: their 'crime'—criticism of the 'third period' or doubts about Stalin's policy voiced in private conversation.

Another of Stalin's victims was Hugo Eberlein, Spartacus delegate to the First Congress of the Communist International in 1919. Others included Leo Flieg, Hans Kippenburger, Max Holz and Leo Roth—all loyal Stalinists in their time. Willy Munzenburger, who ran the KPD Press and propaganda activities and broke with Stalin in the 1930s, died mysteriously in France in 1940, probably killed on Stalin's orders.

The former editor of the KPD's central daily 'Rote Fahne', Fritz David, appeared in the 1936 frame-up trial in Moscow, claiming to have been appointed by Trotsky to assassinate Stalin. No doubt he made the 'confession' in a desperate attempt to save his own life or the lives of members of his family or friends.

A number of 'unreliable' German communists who had left the Soviet Union or never gone there were shot by the OGPU in Spain during the

1936-1939 civil war. Others were rounded up after Hitler's attack on the Soviet Union in June 1942 and shot or deported to remote areas. In all, thousands of German communists perished on Stalin's orders. Only the yes-men of the type of Ulbricht, Pieck and Grotewohl survived to form the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party in East Germany after the war.

After all, Stalin could not shoot the whole lot, but he knew that the reign of terror would enable him to count on the complete and utter loyalty of a certain number who could head the kind of servile, bureaucratized party he required in Germany as in other countries in Eastern Europe.

What Hitler did not destroy of the KPD, Stalin did. What was left was a party of the bureaucracy completely servile to Stalin and installed in power in the area of Germany liberated by the Red Army. Even now it has not been able to give an account of its past, although some of the legends of the Stalin era have been abandoned since Khrushchev's revelations at the 20th Party Congress in 1956.

DISTORTED ROLES

In the Stalinist rewrite of the history of the KPD, up to that date complete distortion prevailed. The Party line had always been correct. Documents were falsified. Unpleasant incidents were simply not referred to. Individuals who had played a prominent part in the history of the movement and had then defected or been purged by Stalin were erased from the historical record as though

they had never existed.

Since 1956 the falsification is less blatant, but it continues. The forgotten figures have been restored, though their role is still distorted. Documents are reproduced more fully, photographs are not touched up to remove certain individuals.

Although the rightward orientation of the bureaucracy now permits some criticism of the 'third period' and an idealization of the policy of the Popular Front, orthodox history in the German Democratic Republic (and no other kind is permitted) still maintains that only KPD policy was correct in the period leading up to Hitler's assumption of power.

Many aspects of the period are passed over in silence as is the fate of the many German communists, almost all faithful Stalinists, who fled to the Soviet Union to perish in the KGB's prisons and camps.

Naturally other communist parties, such as the British, are careful not to raise these awkward questions either. They simply take their lead from the SED and generally speaking pass off the history of the communist movement in Germany with a few set phrases.

The great question which remains is why the KPD was destroyed without a fight and who was responsible for Hitler's victory? And this cannot be answered without the most rigorous critique of Stalinism back to the first formulation of the theory of 'socialism in one country' in 1924 and an examination of the struggle of the Left Opposition against the bureaucratic degeneration of the Soviet Union and the Comintern.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

VICTOR SERGE: IDOL OF THE ANTI-TROTSKYITES

BY JACK GALE

'Several friends have asked us what Victor Serge's relationship is to the Fourth International. We are obliged to reply that it is the relationship of an opponent. Ever since his appearance outside the Soviet Union, Victor Serge has done nothing but change positions.

'There is no other way to define his political position than "changeability". Not on one single question has he presented clear or distinct proposals, rebuttals or arguments. He has invariably, though, supported those who have moved away from the Fourth International, whether towards the right or the left. Surprising everyone, Victor Serge declared in an official letter that he was joining the POUM.

'This without ever having attempted to reply to our criticism of the POUM as a centrist organization that has played a miserable role in the Spanish revolution. He flirted with the Spanish anarcho-syndicalists in spite of their treacherous role in the Spanish revolution . . . he repeated on several occasions that his differences with us were of a "secondary" character. To the direct question of why he did not then collaborate with the Fourth International rather than with its rabid opponents, he never came up with an answer.

'All this deprived his politics of any consistency whatever and turned it into a system of personal combinations, if not intrigues. If Victor Serge speaks of his "sympathies" with the Fourth International . . . (he has) in mind not the real International, but a mythical one created by his imagination in his own likeness and necessary to him only as a cover for his opportunist or adventurist policies . . . neither the Russian section nor the International as a whole takes any responsibility for the politics of Victor Serge.'

So wrote Trotsky in December, 1938. And, after Trotsky's death, Serge proved to be even more 'changeable'.

For Serge's final alignment was not with the Fourth International of Leon Trotsky, but the Fourth Republic of Charles de Gaulle.

Six days before his death, in November 1947, Serge wrote a personal letter to André Malraux, one of the most prominent figures of de Gaulle's 'Rassemblement du Peuple Français'.

Part of the letter ran: 'I wish to tell you that I judge the political position you have adopted (i.e. joining de Gaulle—JG) to be courageous and probably reasonable; if I myself were in France, I should be among those socialists who support collaboration with the movement of which you are a member. The electoral victory of your movement, which I foresaw, but whose magnitude surprised me, was in my opinion a great step towards the immediate safety of France.'

This final crossing to the side of counter-revolution caused considerable embarrassment to his English translator and editor, Peter Sedgwick—a prominent member of the anti-communist International Socialism group.

In an appendix to Serge's 'Memoirs of a Revolutionary'—published in this country in 1963—Sedgwick explained that, after all, this wasn't a public statement.

Apparently, it would have been all right for Serge to support de Gaulle if only it hadn't leaked out!

Then, Sedgwick claims, Serge supported de Gaulle in order to save France from Stalinism. It is, of course, totally impermissible to fight Stalinism by lining up with the far right, the most rabid representatives of the bourgeoisie.

The fact that this is all right by Sedgwick could say much about the possible future development of his own organization.

But in 1947, of course, de Gaulle had just kicked the Stalinists out of the French government—not in order to 'save France' from them (they were indeed only too anxious to continue collaboration with the General), but as a precondition for the receipt of Marshall Aid from the United States.

Sedgwick, however, carries distortion of history even further than this. Arguing that Serge might have changed his position if he hadn't died, Sedgwick declares:

'If Lenin had died in April 1917 on the sealed train provided for his return to Russia by German imperialism: or if Trotsky had died in December 1939 the instant after consenting to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee, it would be suspected that two more subversives had made their peace with the old order.'

This is breath-taking in its deceit. Lenin and Trotsky—historical figures beside whom Serge is a pygmy—were prepared to utilize capitalist institutions in order to overthrow it. There is no suggestion that Serge's letter to Malraux was a means of fighting Gaullism.

The incident of Lenin's sealed train journey is well enough known to need no further explanation—though it is interesting that Sedgwick raises the ghost of the old 'German agent' slander.

And Sedgwick's claims to historical scholarship should make him familiar with Trotsky's position on the invitation to appear before the Dies Committee (it is now available again in 'The Writings of Leon Trotsky 1939-1940', Merit Publishers).

Trotsky agreed to appear only on his own terms in order to warn the American working class of the dangers of Stalinism.

He explicitly declared that he was against the use of the instruments of the bourgeois state against Stalinism and that he would give no evidence on the alleged 'un-Americanism' of the US Communist Party. As a result his invitation to speak was withdrawn.

How can either of these actions by unsullied revolutionaries be equated with Serge's declaration that if he had lived in France he would have collaborated with de Gaulle?

Sedgwick is concerned to whitewash Victor Serge because Serge's anti-communism appeals to the International Socialism tendency.

It is no accident that Serge was closer to the anarcho-syndicalists in the Spanish revolution than he was to Trotskyism. And anarchism

has an attraction to the state capitalist revisionists.

(Serge, of course, had started out as an anarchist. He had written in his organ 'L'Anarchie' in 1911: 'I am with the bandits!')

At decisive periods in Russia, Serge leaned towards the anarchists and against the Bolsheviks. Sedgwick, in his introduction to 'Year One of the Revolution' (reviewed yesterday), quotes him as saying in 1921 that 'the Communist Party no longer exercises a dictatorship of the proletariat but over the proletariat'.

Although in this particular book Serge defends Bolshevik rule, Sedgwick hastens to point out: 'Serge is too honest not to see that the ideals of "soviet democracy" which had fired the hearts of millions in Russia and throughout the world in 1917 had given way to the authoritarian monopoly of the Bolshevik leadership.'

Thus Serge enables the state capitalists to pre-date Stalinism to the years of Lenin.

Sedgwick, however, is anxious to open the door to even more reactionary speculation. He declares:

'A third group of critics of Bolshevik history has attracted attention. These would share Serge's chronological focus, in concentrating on developments in Soviet Russia during the immediate aftermath of the Bolshevik assumption of authority, but would offer a radically-distinct explanation for the tendencies towards political repression, centralization and monopoly that are evident in the practice of Lenin's party as early as 1918.

'Such writers as Naom Chomsky, the Cohn-Bendit brothers and Paul Cardan are inclined to ascribe the Bolshevik expropriation of the Soviets not to the sheer pressure of historical events but to the . . . conceptual deformities within Bolshevism . . . pre-dating the October Revolution (and) traced back to Lenin's centralizing politics in the 1902-1903 split with the Mensheviks.'

Better still, it might, says Sedgwick, be traced to 'elements in the philosophy of the proletarian state as developed by Marx himself in the old controversy with anarchism.'

What attracts the IS to Serge is not his better side—that he did, however romantically, support the Revolution, join the Left Opposition and suffer exile under Stalin, but his leanings towards anarchism, opening the door to rejection of Trotskyism, Leninism and Marxism in its entirety.

In fact, his stand with the Left Opposition lends some 'authority' to these ideas. It is, indeed, particularly 'useful' for the anti-Trotskyists when they can find a survivor of the Left Opposition who steadfastly refused to join the Fourth International.

The state capitalists seize upon Victor Serge not for his historical writings, which have a place, but for his fundamental opposition to revolutionary organization and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat. These are the historical requirements of the working class and as such are anathema to Sedgwick and his ilk.

¹ Appendix to 'Memoirs of a Revolutionary'.

² Sedgwick's introduction to 'Year One of the Revolution'.

SCABBING

Tories are very concerned over workers' rights, you know. An example is Edward Gardner, MP for the Fylde division of Lancashire.

He told Party members at St Anne's recently that it was the government's responsibility to defend a man's right to work. No, it was not an attack on Tory employment policies, but a plea for more scabbing.

It was just as important, said Gardner, to defend a man's right to work as his right to strike. He explained exactly what he had in mind:

'The best hope of defeating industrial thuggery lies in the determined exercise by the government of what is clearly the national will—to end these intolerable situations by using the growing strength, experience and mobility of the police.'

'I believe the government's first duty in any future strike . . . is to make sure that the violence and intimidation do not succeed in stopping workers from working.'

Powerworkers watch out.

Poynton and Wilmslow out. Wilmslow, especially, is an area ripe for development. It is near Manchester airport, a mile for ICI pharmaceutical division and offers many sites for office development.

Already it supports one of the most exclusive shopping centres in the north of England.

Inclusion in greater Manchester might have led to these schemes taking second place behind projects for homes, schools and other such developments totally unconnected with the essential quest for profit.

QUOTED



On Wednesday, October 17, Spain's Minister of Education, Villar Palasi, finally officially opened the universities of Madrid. His speech was remarkable for its frequent reference to the works of that well-known lover of universities and philosophy, General Francisco Franco.

Palasi quoted Franco on 'dynamic' solutions to university problems (a lorry load of armed police?) and on our changing times in which 'universal revisionism' upsets ideas and leads to pessimism (is the detente with Moscow anything to do with Franco's battle against revisionism?).

The students who were blacklisted and the lecturers who were sacked before term started will have been pleased by Palasi's final comment that the universities must cater for 'youth's search for truths and realities which are sometimes magic'.

EXCLUSIVE

The gin and tonics are flowing freely in the commuterland south of greater Manchester.

The two middle-class communities of Poynton and Wilmslow have won their battle to stay outside the greater Manchester conurbation. They were due to be absorbed next year as part of the local government re-organization.

The two areas, set in the pleasant surrounding Cheshire countryside, have long been a preserve of the nouveau rich who get their money from exploiting workers in Manchester.

Alarm began to spread when the first council-house scheme was built to house over-spill and slum clearance families from the city.

The fear of being swamped led to the campaign—headed by local dignitaries, the church etc., who all went on at great length about the areas' amenities and community life.

In fact there is a more pecuniary motive for keeping

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CHANNEL: 11.10 Merrie melodies show. 11.35 Puffin. 11.40 Bonanza. 12.30 London. 5.10 On the buses. 5.40 Sale of the century. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Sierra'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 All our yesterdays. 11.55 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 All our yesterdays. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Man from Uncle. 12.00 Merrie melodies. 12.27 Weather. 12.30 London. 5.10 Smith family. 5.40 London. 7.00 Film: 'Gunfighters of Casa Grande'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 News. 11.40 Spyforce. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.00 London. 9.50 Bugs Bunny and friends. 10.00 Tomfoolery show. 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 Follyfoot. 12.00 Farming diary. 12.30 London. 5.10 UFO. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Honeymoon With A Stranger'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Name of the game. 12.55 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 41 and 7 as above except: 5.10-5.40 Dora. 5.40-6.10 Sion a sian.

ANGLIA: 9.00 London. 10.00 Sean the leprechaun. 10.15 Rovers. 10.40 Film: 'Manu the Killer Whale'. 12.15 Cartoon. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Honeymoon With a Stranger'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'The Black Torment'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Lord Mountbatten. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.05 Tomfoolery show. 11.30 London. 12.00 Elephant boy. 12.30 London. 5.15 It takes a thief. 6.10 London.

SATURDAY

TV

7.00 Film: '13 Rue Madeleine'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Diary of a Madman'.

ULSTER: 11.00 Thunderbirds. 12.00 Woobinda. 12.30 London. 5.10 Flintstones. 5.40 Sportscast. 6.10 London. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 Columbo. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Journey to the unknown.

YORKSHIRE: 9.05 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Tomfoolery show. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 UFO. 12.00 Skilful rugby. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Posse From Hell'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Mannix. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.05 The craftsmen. 10.40 Sesame street. 11.40 Arthur. 12.05 Clapperboard. 12.30 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 Sky's the limit. 6.10 London. 7.00 Mr Magoo. 7.05 Film: 'Do Not Fold, Spindle or Mutilate'. 8.25 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Charlie Chan at Treasure Island'.

TYNE TEES: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Film: 'Tarzan and the She Devil'. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Man in the Saddle'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Edgar Wallace. 12.30 Epilogue.

GRAMPIAN: 11.15 Beagan gaidhlig. 11.30 Tomfoolery show. 12.00 Rumble jumble. 12.30 London. 5.10 Batman. 5.40 Protectors. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Guns of Wyoming'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Jason King.

BBC 2

3.00 Film: 'Misty'. David Ladd, Arthur O'Connell. Story of two children and a colt. 4.25 Play away. 4.50 Hoffnung. 5.00 Heritage. HM the Queen holds an Investiture. 5.25 The Burke special. 5.55 Man alive.

6.45 **TELEVISION DOCTOR.**
7.00 **WESTMINSTER.**
7.20 **NEWS. SPORT.** Weather.
7.35 **RUGBY SPECIAL.** Western Counties v The All Blacks.

8.20 **WAR AND PEACE.** Austerlitz.

9.05 **FULL HOUSE.** Introduced by Joe Melia. 9.15 Gladys Knight and the Pips, The Fine Art of Goofing Off. 10.00 The Millenarian, Ram Marayan. 10.45 Vernon Scannell, Eccentrica.

11.10 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

11.15 **FILM: 'MOMENT TO MOMENT.'** Jean Seberg. A lonely American wife's indiscretions almost lead to murder.

BBC 1

10.00 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.30-10.55 Avventura. 11.40 Weather. 11.45 Mr Benn. 12.00 Harlem globetrotters. 12.20 Barrier reef. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 Football preview. 1.15 Boxing. Charlie Cooper v Ricky Porter. 1.35, 2.05, 2.35, 3.10 Racing from Aintree. 2.55 Winner of Grandstand's Grand National Competition. 3.40 International sport. 4.35 Final score. 5.05 Photo. 5.15 Mary Tyler Moore show. 5.40 News and weather. 5.55 Bruce Forsyth and the generation game.

6.45 **DIXON OF DOCK GREEN.** Conspiracy of Silence.

7.35 **THE TWO RONNIES.** Ronnie Corbett and Ronnie Barker with Georgie Fame and Alan Price.

8.20 **FILM: 'MASQUERADE.'** Cliff Robertson, Jack Hawkins, Marisa Mell. A boy prince from a Middle Eastern oil state becomes a pawn in a game of politics.

10.00 **NEWS.** Weather.

10.15 **MATCH OF THE DAY.**

11.15 **PARKINSON.** Michael Parkinson meets The Goons.

12.15 **Weather.**

ITV

9.00 Time off. 9.30 Collecting on a shoestring. 9.55 Return to Peyton Place. 10.20 Sesame street. 11.20 Merrie melodies. 11.30 The Osmonds. 11.55 Junior police five. 12.00 Partridge family. 12.30 News. 12.35 World of sport. 12.40 On the ball. 1.05 International sports special. 1.20 The ITV seven. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Teesside. 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Newmarket. 3.10 International sports special. Boxing—America's fight of the week. 3.55 Results, scores, news. 4.00 Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.10 Adventures of Black Beauty. 5.40 Sale of the century.

6.10 **NEWS.**
6.15 **THE ROLF HARRIS SHOW.** Guests Vikki Carr, Gilbert O'Sullivan, Dailey and Wayne.

7.00 **FILM: 'CATTLE DRIVE.'** Joel McCrea, Dean Stockwell. Story of the great Santa Fe stampede.

8.30 **THE JULIE ANDREWS HOUR.** With Robert Goulet.

9.30 **UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS.** A Pair of Exiles.

10.30 **NEWS.**

10.40 **RUSSELL HARTY PLUS.**
11.40 **INTERNATIONAL BOOK YEAR.**

11.45 **McCLOUD.** Give My Regards to Broadway.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.00-12.25 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'How to Murder a Rich Uncle'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Genghis Khan'. 10.00 London. 11.30 Avengers. 12.20 Epilogue. Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 Talking hands. 9.30 London. 10.30 Farm progress. 10.57 Weather. 11.00 London. 12.30 Bush boy. 1.00 Superman. 1.20 How. 1.50 Hogan's heroes. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Somebody Loves Me'. 4.55 News. 5.05 Fenn street gang. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'A Prize of Arms'. 9.50 Cartoon. 10.00 London. 11.30 Strange report. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 London. 12.30 Art for all. 1.00 University challenge. 1.25 Love, American style. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Three Brave Men'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Doctor in the House'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 11.30 Avengers. 12.30 Weather. HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 6.40-7.00 Llusern.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 10.30 Survival. 11.00 London. 12.30 Simon Locke. 12.55 Randall and Hopkirk. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming. 2.30 Name of the game. 3.55 Football. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Scandal Sheet'. 9.30 London. 11.30 Department S. 12.25 Book for today.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 London. 12.30 Citizen's rights. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Soccer. 3.00 Film: 'The Greengage Summer'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Genghis Khan'. 10.00 London. 11.30 Spyforce. 12.25 Stories worth telling. Weather.

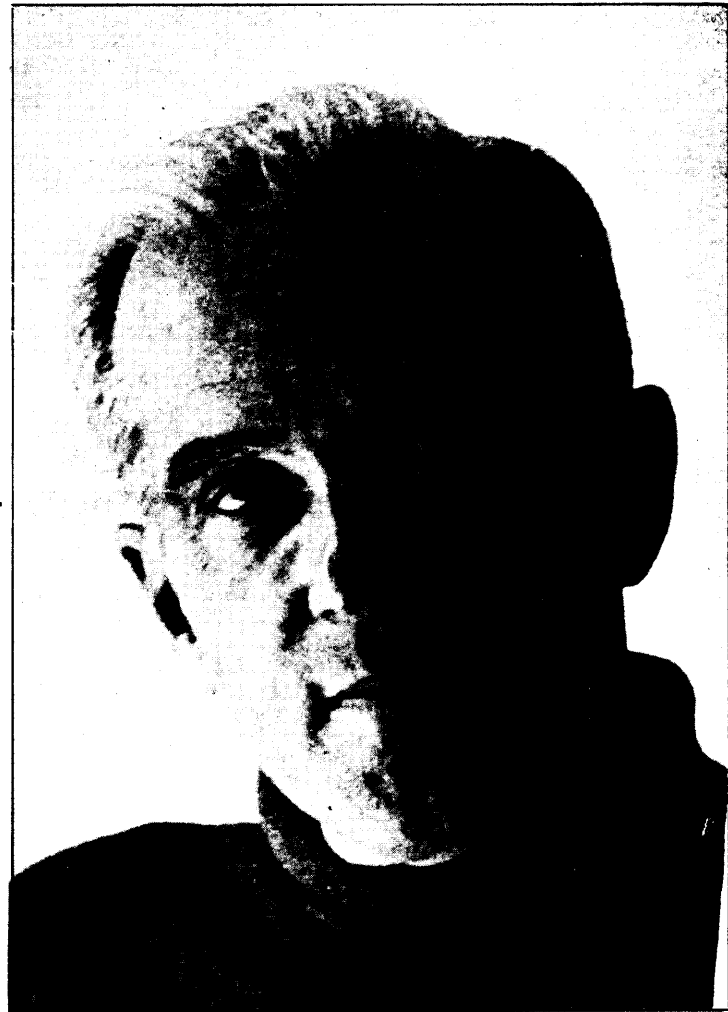
ULSTER: 11.00 London. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.30 HR Puffin. 1.55 Women only. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Good Morning Boys'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.53 Sports results. 7.55 Film: 'Gold of the Seven Saints'. 9.30 London. 11.30 Department S.

YORKSHIRE: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 11.00 London. 12.30 On the buses. 1.00 Farming outlook. 1.25 Calendar. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'About Mrs Leslie'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'When Michael Calls'. 9.20 Emmerdale Farm round up. 9.30 London. 11.30 Strange report. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30-10.30 London. 10.35 Time to remember. 11.00 London. 12.25 Merrie melodies show. 1.00 Corwin. 1.50 Survival. 2.20 Football. 3.20 Film: 'Twice Round the Daffodils'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Hell is for Heroes'. 9.30 London. 11.30 Scotland Yard casebook.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 11.00 London. 12.30 On the buses. 1.00 Farming outlook. 1.25 World War I. 1.50 Where the jobs are. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'My Friend Irma'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'When Michael Calls'. 9.30 London. 11.30 Challenge. 12.20 Epilogue.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.30 Farm progress. 2.00 Scotsport. 3.25 Film: 'Duel Allibi'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Frogmen'. 9.30 London. 11.30 Faroese choir.



Felix Greene's (left) study of the minority peoples living in China—'One Nation, Many Peoples' is on BBC 2 on Sunday at 7.25. And if you switch over to BBC 1 immediately it is finished you will catch Otto Preminger's 'Advise and Consent'—a film full of powerful performances, including Charles Laughton (above) as Senator Seabright Cooley.

SUNDAY

BBC 2

3.15 Men at work. 3.40 Money at work. 4.40 Horizon. 5.30 International rugby league. World Cup 1972. Great Britain v Australia.

6.05 **NEWS REVIEW.**
6.50 **NEWS.** Weather.
6.55 **DOUBTS AND CERTAINTIES.**

7.25 **THE WORLD ABOUT US.** China—One Nation, Many Peoples.

8.15 **MANTOVANI AND HIS CONCERT ORCHESTRA.**

9.00 **SCOOP.** Stones £20.

9.35 **KENNETH MORE IN SIX FACES.** An Old Deceiver. With Zena Walker, Pamela Brown. Catherine Lacey.

10.25 **FILM: 'SOME LIKE IT HOT.'** Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon. Billy Wilder's comedy about two jazz musicians who are involuntary witnesses to the St Valentine's Day Massacre.

12.20 **NEWS HEADLINES.** Weather.

BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.00-10.25 Avventura. 10.30-11.30 Children's mass. 11.35 A job worth doing? 12.00 Design by design. 12.25 Search for the ideal. 12.50 Farming. 1.15 Made in Britain. 1.30 Jimmy Young asks. 1.55 News and weather. 2.00 Chigley. 2.15 Ken Dodd. 2.25 Ask Aspel. 2.50 Where there's brass. 3.15 Voice of Britain. The BBC 37 years ago. 4.10 Film: 'Casbah'. Yvonne De Carlo, Tony Martin, Peter Lorre. An exiled jewel thief heads a gang of crooks. 5.40 The hole in the wall

6.05 **NEWS.** Weather.
6.15 **A CHANCE TO MEET.** Mrs Shirley Williams, MP.

6.50 **SONGS OF PRAISE.**

7.25 **The ONEDIN LINE.** Coffin Ship.

8.15 **FILM: 'ADVISE AND CONSENT.'** Charles Laughton, Henry Fonda. A US President, knowing he hasn't long to live, chooses a radical as Secretary of State.

10.25 **NEWS.** Weather.

10.35 **OMNIBUS.** The Performers. Film about the Spanish painter Francisco Goya 1746-1828.

11.35 **Weather.**

ITV

9.30 Morning service. 10.30 Return to Peyton Place. 11.00 Weekend world. 12.30 Forest rangers. 1.00 Thunderbirds. 1.50 Beloved enemy. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Persuaders! 4.20 Golden shot. 5.15 Aquarius.

6.05 **NEWS.**

6.15 **ADAM SMITH.**

6.45 **THE GOOD LIFE.**

7.00 **STARS ON SUNDAY.**

7.25 **THE FENN STREET GANG.** The Woman for Dennis.

7.55 **FILM: 'THE PISTOLERO OF RED RIVER.'** Glenn Ford, Angie Dickinson. A young gunman is determined to prove himself faster than the local lawman.

9.30 **THE STANLEY BAXTER PICTURE SHOW.**

10.15 **FILM: 'THE SAMARITAN.'** Tom Bell.

11.30 **THE FBI.** The Predators.

12.15 **INTERNATIONAL BOOK YEAR.**

12.30 **COSMO AND THINGY.**

What we think

Rochdale: A warning to Labour

LABOUR'S defeat at the Rochdale by-election is a warning to the working class. Despite ten months' bitter struggle over wages, rents and trade union rights, a Labour seat is lost, towards the end of the year.

And the Labour vote dropped by more than the Tories'.

Those Labour Party leaders, who were allowed to vote with Heath on the Common Market, and the TUC chiefs, who now continue discussions on Tory plans for state control of wages, bear the brunt of the responsibility for this setback.

Rochdale is overwhelmingly a working-class town based in the past on the now declining textile industry. Workers there face daily problems of housing, rents, jobs and prices. There is no doubt they could be rallied round a campaign to unite the working class in a struggle to bring down the Tory government.

The Liberal success is not a vote

of Liberal Party policies — which include support for the Common Market, the Industrial Relations Act, statutory wage limits and oppression in Northern Ireland.

It reflects dissatisfaction within the ranks of the middle classes.

Caught between the power of the working class and big business, the middle class is incapable of dealing with either. It is disappointed because Heath cannot control inflation and he has failed to defeat the working class.

A recent television programme—'The Natives Are Restless'—revealed identical feelings among rank-and-file Tory Party members and supporters.

At the same time the Labour leaders fail to provide an alternative which could unite the middle class and the workers against the Tories and big business.

In these conditions a vote for the Liberal candidate was a holding vote—in anticipation

of a strong 'man of the people' who could deal with the working class while attacking in words the dominance of big capital.

It is in this way that fascism emerged in Germany and mobilized the middle class and the most backward section of the workers. Backed by wealthy industrialists, fascism presented itself as a force to smash the working class and defeat Marxism while, in the early days, making demagogic attacks on capitalism.

The Liberal MP is not, of course, a fascist, nor does he have the slightest sympathy with fascism. But a considerable part of his vote reflects a feeling for a 'new force' in politics which the Liberal Party cannot possibly become.

Another significant development was the 4,074 votes cast for Mr Jim Merrick of the British Campaign to Stop Immigration. Merrick's vote came from the middle class and backward workers—although he, too, is

not a fascist.

Merrick's campaign consisted of providing a very easy target. An ex-Tory councillor from Bradford, he falsely accuses immigrants of being responsible for unemployment, bad housing and poor health, and he links this with loud calls for 'law and order'.

While voting was taking place extreme right-wingers stood inside the polling booths and challenged the right of many immigrant workers to vote.

Many immigrants complained that their people—especially the women—were intimidated by the behaviour of these right wingers.

Such developments are not to be taken lightly by the working class. The Labour Party and trade union leaders consistently undermine the attempts by the working class to fight the Tories. And all the revisionists who seek to keep politics out of the unions assist them to do this.

In these circumstances right-wing forces begin to emerge.

Rochdale underlines the need for a revolutionary leadership in the working class. This can be forged in the struggle to force the Tories to resign and to put Labour in power committed to socialist policies.

Stainless Tubes workers must learn UCS lesson

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE £270m Tube Investments group yesterday got the go-ahead to split its factory at Green Lane, Walsall, Staffs, close down half with the loss of 300 jobs and speed up the 350 to 400 workers who will be kept on.

A secret ballot among the 800 workers eligible to vote on the company's proposals showed 612 in favour and 98 against. There were eight spoiled papers and 82 abstentions.

Shortly after announcing this result yesterday, convenor Alan Colpitts told Workers Press that the fight for jobs was not over at the factory.

'People who say the struggle's finished here are wrong,' he said. 'What's happened is that our members have said they think there is a basis for negotiation in the proposals.'

'But there's a lot of hard talking to be done yet, a lot of detail to be tied up.'

Mr Colpitts, a Communist Party member, went on: 'We shall be trying to extract as much as we can from the company, and it won't be easy. If we can't get these things then we'll be going back to the membership again.'

Exactly what union officials and shop stewards will be pressing the company for during their next round of talks, expected to start on Monday, is not clear.

What is clear is that TI chairman Lord Plowden and his board can now proceed with their plans for the Walsall factory, Stainless Tubes.

These plans make 300 workers direct victims of the capitalist crisis. And at least 350 others

'Reprieve' still means 300 jobs are lost

face a form of Measured-Day Work as a result.

Yesterday's ballot result poses some serious questions about the fight against unemployment at Stainless Tubes.

In June, TI announced that the factory would have to close with the loss of 1,400 jobs. The blame for this situation was hung on world overcapacity in stainless steel tubes, low world prices and lack of orders for Green Lane itself.

The stewards immediately set up an action committee to fight closure, which sought the support of local councillors, MPs and others.

Interviewed by Workers Press at that time about the need to make removal of the Tory government the centre of the fight against unemployment, Alan Colpitts said: 'It's one thing saying it, but it's another doing it.'

'I'm left, but I know that the views of the working class are not. A lot of them vote Tory



Alan Colpitts: Fight not over.

workers redundant. Some of these have already been found alternative work, but a hard core of 300 will face an 'extended lay-off', as the stewards call it, getting an average of £23-£50 a week for 12 months.

Of the 1,400 originally threatened 190 have left 'voluntarily' and 200 have already been placed in alternative work.

The 'laid-off' 300 have little chance of finding a job in an area where 5,000 are already out of work. And the only guarantee they will have, even if the stewards get their way next week, is a promise of first option on any new jobs that become available on the site.

Mr Colpitts says that two companies—a small tube firm and a motor-components' manufacturer—are interested in starting up there.

But if nothing comes of their interest, he says, the stewards will probably go for a lump-sum payment to the 300. 'We will go for the most favourable terms possible,' he told Workers Press yesterday.

The convenor went on: 'The company will also be looking for certain things which we cannot agree to, such as no-strike clauses and clauses related to the Industrial Relations Act.'

As at UCS, Stalinist-influenced refusal to fight the Tory authors of unemployment has laid the Stainless Tubes workers wide open to attack.

Unless the lessons of the upper Clyde are learned, and learned quickly, there will be equally disastrous results at Walsall.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Report back from ATUA conference

BRADFORD: Sunday October 29, 7 p.m. Talbot Hotel, Kirkgate.

CENTRAL LONDON (Press and entertainments section): Sunday October 29, 7.30 p.m. London Film School, Langley Street entrance, WC2. Speaker: David Calder.

READING: Monday October 30, 8 p.m. Trades Union Club, Minster Street.

ACTON: Monday October 30, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road.

CROYDON: Monday October 30, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, nr South Croydon Station.

BRACKNELL: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Bridge Road.

WOOLWICH: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Chrisp Street Market, E14.

WEST LONDON: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross.

COVENTRY: Wednesday November 1, 8 p.m. Hertford Tavern, Hertford Place, off Queen's Road.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday November 2, 8 p.m. Bricklayers' Arms, Tottenham High Road (nr White Hart Lane).

BASINGSTOKE: Sunday November 5, 7 p.m. The Hop Leaf, Church Street.

BIRMINGHAM: Monday November 6, 8 p.m. Lecture Room 5, Digbeth Civic Hall.

Socialist Labour League

Leeds

LECTURES

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM

Given by Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee member)

Building the revolutionary party

Monday November 6
GUILDFORD HOTEL
The Headrow, 8 p.m.

First asbestos case in Scotland

TWO WORKERS in a factory were exposed to an illegal level of asbestos dust which has been linked to lung cancer, the Sheriff Court was told in Glasgow yesterday.

In the first prosecution of its kind in Scotland, the firm, Marinite Ltd, of Hobden Street, Glasgow, admitted two contraventions of the Factories Act and was fined £60.

The firm was accused of allowing the level of asbestos dust, on October 14 last year, to rise above the limit in two different plants of the factory where two employees were working.

Graham Peacock, a factories inspector, referred to 'considerable public concern' about the effects of exposure to asbestos dust. There had been a noticeable increase in the number of lung cancer cases associated with death from asbestosis.

Advocate Brian Gill, for Marinite, said that a strong wind and a faulty fan had caused the high dust level.

BIRMINGHAM machine tool workers are to lose 360 jobs after a reorganization of H. W. Ward Ltd, who have factories in Selly Oak and Worcester. Machine-tool production is to be concentrated at Worcester and part of the Selly Oak factory closed.

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

Hospital workers refused reply on pay claim

BRITAIN'S 250,000 hospital workers were yesterday refused a reply to their £4 pay claim by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Union leaders, who face sporadic industrial action already in several areas of the country, said that unless the Department made a suitable offer at their next meeting on November 17, it would be impossible to prevent widespread strikes breaking out.

Militant London hospital workers yesterday lobbied the talks after marching from their hospitals (see p. 1). John Cousins, Transport and General Workers' Union said later that it would be extremely difficult to restrain action from breaking out.

A 24-HOUR unofficial strike hit some London hospitals yesterday. Many non-emergency operations were called off because of the walk-out by catering and domestic workers, porters, drivers and switch-board operators. But volunteers kept all other services operating normally. The strike was called to back a national claim for an £8 a week rise for hospital ancillary workers.

The main hospitals involved were the Queen Mary, Roehampton, Westminster and the Westminster Children's, the Gordon and King's College.

Infested cargo strike

HUNDREDS of Merseyside dockers walked out yesterday in sympathy with a gang demanding extra pay for unloading cargo they claimed was infested.

The stoppage was supported by more than 650 men, stopping work on seven ships. All the dockers involved work for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Co.

Port health authorities denied that the cargo—cotton from an Egyptian freighter—was infested. IN LONDON today, docks stewards are to meet lorry-drivers' leaders in what they describe as a bid to settle their differences in the fight for jobs.

Some dockers believe their leaders are close to calling off the picketing campaign of a London cold stores on the strength of a 'joint approach' to the employers with the lorry drivers.

Rough Tyneside ride for McGarvey

A STORMY meeting is expected on Tyneside this morning when Boiler-makers' Society president Dan McGarvey tries to get his Swan Hunter members back to work after eight weeks.

McGarvey will outline the terms of a deal giving the 3,800 men an immediate increase of £2.50, 50p in January, 50p in April and £1 next

August.

Although this appears to come close to the men's initial demand for a £4.72 cost-of-living rise, a large minority of shop stewards have already voiced their dissatisfaction with the terms.

They are unhappy that not all of the increase is to be put on the basic rate.

Swan Hunter is insisting that part of the £4.50 increase should be paid as bonus, which does not affect overtime

earnings or raise the rates of other workers in the yards.

Voting at the stewards' meeting on Thursday which endorsed the offer, is understood to have been extremely close, with only a small majority in favour.

● Order for new ships from British owners have 'practically dried up', a shipping chief said last night. John MacConochie, president of the United Kingdom Chamber of

Shipping, warned:

'We are convinced that if this present dearth of orders continues much longer, there will be unhappy consequences not least for the national economy.'

'... Before we can go in for new investment, we have to be able to see a reasonable prospect of an adequate return,' he told a North of England Shipowners' Association dinner in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Power union chiefs hold back action

BY DAVID MAUDE

POWERMEN'S leaders yesterday postponed their threat of industrial action over pay after the Electricity Council offered to 'put proposals' to them next Thursday.

And after a 45-minute meeting of the four unions representing the 110,000 powermen, chief negotiator Frank Chapple said that they could not help but be influenced by any agreement at Downing Street between the TUC and the Tories in the interim.

The union leaders' bluff of industrial action if there was no offer by yesterday was called in a letter

delivered by hand to Chapple from Harold Spear, Industrial Relations member of the Electricity Council.

'We should be glad to resume our negotiations on your claim in the National Joint Industrial Council on Thursday, November 2, when we can review the position in the light of the further tripartite talks at Downing Street,' Spear said, 'and we should expect to be in a position to put proposals to you.'

The power unions are

claiming a £5.50 increase across-the-board for their members. This claim already represents a reduction of their expected demand for £5.50 on minimum rates, with proportionately more for semi-skilled and skilled workers.

But Chapple denied yesterday afternoon that the postponement of industrial action meant his members would be 'sold out'.

'They're never sold out any year, although some of them always

think they are,' he said. 'That's not the kind of terminology I go along with.'

He said that the powermen's claim would have to be considered on its merits and in the light of their productivity contribution rather than be determined by whatever agreement was agreed at Downing Street.

But he added: 'This doesn't mean to say that if a settlement was reached at Downing Street we would not be influenced by it.'



Chapple: 'Sell-out' not his terminology.

Ulster elections postponed

LOCAL GOVERNMENT elections planned to take place in Northern Ireland next month have been postponed, Ulster Supremo William Whitelaw announced yesterday.

Instead, he said, a plebiscite on the border issue would now take precedence.

The local elections, which were due to be held on December 6, would have been the first in the province for more than five years.

Yesterday's announcement said they will now be held next spring and the date will be fixed when Whitelaw has consulted political parties in the Six Counties.

Whitelaw's statement said that the postponement decision had been taken as a result of 'very strong representations from political parties and other responsible organizations'.

The most violent opposition to the poll came from the militant Loyalist groups like the para-military Ulster Defence Association and the Loyalist Association of Workers.

On Thursday night a leading member of the Alliance Party revealed that candidates had been threatened if they took part in the elections.

When polling finally does take place, 26 district authorities will be selected under the proportional representation system.

Originally local government in Northern Ireland was in the hands of 70 authorities.

The elections will be the first in Ulster's history where the multiple vote system and householder qualifications will not apply.

It was these two conditions—where businessmen and holders of large amounts of capital had more than one vote and no one who was not a householder could not vote in local elections—which were a major provocation to the minority Catholic population in the province.

Bitter disappointment as Thornycroft sit-in ends

UNION OFFICIALS yesterday finally succeeded in ending the 11-week sit-in at the Thornycroft gearbox factory in Basingstoke, Hants. After a 90-minute intervention by Bill John, executive council member of the AUEW, over 400 men voted two to one to accept British-Leyland proposals.

But many were bitterly disappointed with the outcome. 'Eleven weeks for nothing,' one told Workers Press. 'This is a sell-out by national officials—we could have had these terms in the beginning.'

In effect the terms are no different from those decisively rejected twice last week except for an extra £100 for those sitting in.

British-Leyland only guarantees to supply three years' work for 740 men who the Eaton Corporation will employ next January.

But the orders will be subject to 'market conditions'. And yesterday it was announced that Leyland's share of the new car market had slumped from 40 per cent to 30 per cent in a year. (See p. 3).

So, all in all, the deal amounts to a betrayal of the Thornycroft workers' principled fight for the right to work.

During the meeting Bill John told the men that union officials were not prepared to fight for an 'unscrambling' of the hiving-off deal with the Eaton corporation.

And as Leyland would not offer better terms, they should go back to work.

Basingstoke's Tory MP David Mitchell also made a similar appeal yesterday. He told the local paper that to unscramble the deal would mean 'major changes in the whole economic and political organization in Britain'.



The AUEW's Bill John was tackled by workers after the decision to return.

'Of course this is a sell-out,' AUEW member Noel Geraghty told me. 'The blame has to be laid at the door of the national executive.'

'Workers will have to start choosing their leaders very, very carefully from now on,' he added.

Albert Robertson AUEW steward said: 'We've achieved what we could have. The national officials have not given us the support we should have got.'

As Bill John left the factory angry workers gathered round and said they had been made scapegoats by the union leaders.

'There's nothing in it for us,' one told John.

Earlier in the morning the occupation committee had split 12-10 with eight abstentions in favour of the deal. Committee secretary Tom Lewis, who voted against the proposals, was bitterly disappointed with the result.

After a long pause he told me: 'Right along the union officials have taken British-Leyland's word this deal would not be unscrambled.'

'For 11 weeks this was drummed into the men and the result was inevitable in the end.'

LATE NEWS WEATHER

STEEL HOPES DASHED
SCOTLAND'S hopes for a revival in the steel industry were dashed yesterday. Lord Melchett, chief of the British Steel Corporation said in Edinburgh it was unlikely that a major integrate works would be built at Hunterston on the Clyde.

All that could be hoped for was a mini-mill employing perhaps 500 workers. With the planned closure of all open hearth furnaces, workers in the Scottish steel industry face an estimated 18,000 redundancies.

IRISH STUDENTS ON THE MARCH

ABOUT 15,000 students from at least five colleges marched on Leinster House in Dublin yesterday in a day of student action throughout the Republic. The students are demanding a comprehensive review of the education system and an end to discrimination against technological students.

NORTHERN Scotland will remain mostly cloudy, with rain at times. Over remaining districts of Scotland, over Northern Ireland, northern England and north Wales, the Midlands and east and south-east England there will be bright periods with showers at times.

Over south-west England, the showers will be few, but cloud will increase during the day with perhaps some rain later.

Temperatures will be near normal.

Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Rain at times. Sunny periods. Temperatures near normal.

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