

WORKERS PRESS

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

FULL SUPPORT TO THE ENGINEERS

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

TODAY'S GREAT WAVE of strikes is a continuation of the campaign which forced the Tory government to release the Pentonville Five in July.

Tens of thousands of engineers are downing tools: no national dailies will appear, engineers all over London will be out, 20,000 workers in the Oxford area are joining the stoppage and will demonstrate in a march through the city.

They are all political strikes which bring the trade union movement into open conflict with the Tory government. Behind this widespread defiance of the Tory laws is more than anger with James Goad and the £50,000 fines on the union. As each day passes new issues are being caterpaulted into the situation.

● Last Friday Edward Heath wrote to Lord Cooper of the General and Municipal Workers' Union stating that employers and unions cannot take pay discussions to the point of an offer. In line with Phase Two of

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

his state pay plan Heath is clearly proposing a permanent, legal structure to arbitrate over workers' wages—something we have been warning about since the breakdown of the tripartite talks.

● At the same time Martin Jukes, president of the powerful Engineering Employers' Federation, told industrial correspondents in London that his organization will urge the government to impose permanent restrictions on collective bargaining.

So the Tories and the employers are drafting plans to hold down wages—while at the same time Britain has the highest rate of price rises in Europe, about 12 per cent a year.

Such a situation spells an end of the era of trade union reformism and class collaboration. There can and must be no deals or compromises reached with this government which is purposefully slashing the standard of living of millions of working-class families.

The economic crisis of the capitalist system now has a direct bearing on the rapidly-

unfolding political situation. More and more sections of the Tory Party are demanding tougher action by the government against the unions. It may seem strange to many workers, but these representatives of the bourgeoisie don't think Heath is reactionary enough!

In the past week the 'Daily Telegraph' feature page has carried two articles which superbly reflect the desperation of the ruling class.

Michael Harrington ('DT' 12.12.72): 'Can the government stand up to a General Strike? How ready is it to face such a crisis?'

'Defeating a General Strike consists, essentially, in keeping the community going somehow or other without the work done by the men on strike, and being able to do so indefinitely. In 1926 there was a vast reservoir of volunteer middle-class labour, particularly students, on which the government could draw. Would this help be forthcoming in 1972? On the face of it, it seems a bit unlikely.'

'Which means that the government would have to rely on the instruments of public force: the police and the army.'

Colin R. Coote ('DT' 16.12.72): 'The error of the government is that it thought that it was elected in one age and found itself in quite another. The danger of a slide into government by corporals (or colonels) is deep.'

This is the language of men who are already anticipating right-wing dictatorships and brutal repression. The strategies they are debating in the columns of the Tory Press are a total indictment of the trade union leaders who are today miserably dragging their feet.

While they were waltzing in and out of No. 10 Downing Street during the tripartite talks, the Tories were drafting the state pay plan which, if it becomes law, will crush the standard of living of the millions of members they represent.

The Tories are armed to the teeth to take away every basic right which the working class has fought and won in two centuries of struggle. If the situation is allowed to continue, the working class can suffer the gravest blows from this crisis-ridden government.

With such violence threatening the working class it is impermissible to flinch from the main issue—the bringing down of this hated government and the election of a Labour government.

Those who oppose or refuse to fight for this demand directly assist the ruling class. For us the demand is not simply an electoral

WORKERS PRESS A statement by the Editorial Board

Today's issue of Workers Press is printed with the consent of the two unions whose members produce this paper—NGA and SOGAT.

Since no members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers work in our print shop, we are not involved in the present dispute. At the same time the editorial board and the staff extend full support to the decision by engineers in London to hold today's one-day strike in defence of their union.

On an issue of fundamental principle we believe that dispensation to print should have been given to the only other daily newspaper of the workers' movement, the 'Morning Star', which does employ engineers.

Close down the Tory Press by all means; the Fleet Street Press has deliberately misrepresented and under-reported the Tory court's attack on the AUEW.

But this is precisely the time when the newspapers of the workers' movement must be given all facilities to publish and counter the ruling class's propaganda machine.

- Defend the engineers!
- Force the Tories out!
- Elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies, particularly the repeal of all anti-trade union and anti-working class legislation!

Merseyside dockers back engineers

MERSEYSIDE'S 10,000 dockers are to strike on Wednesday against the fine on the engineers' union. This was decided at a mass meeting in Liverpool Stadium yesterday, which, though thinly attended, expressed overwhelming support for the stoppage.

Out today will be engineers from most factories north and south of the Thames. Besides stopping the presses on Fleet Street the strike is also expected to hit some bus and tube services.

Among today's biggest stoppages will be the one in Oxford.

Most factories in the area are expected to stop. Some 25,000 workers are likely to be involved.

Reading district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has called out its members today, while in the Watford district, 900 British-Leyland workers at Alford and Alder, Hemel Hempstead, will also be out.

Meeting today to decide on action will be Rolls-Royce workers at Bristol, who may come out tomorrow or Wednesday, and shop stewards in the Birmingham East district of the AUEW.

Those striking tomorrow will include the 10,000 engineers in Slough, where the engineers' strike is expected to stop Ford's, at Langley, and most other big factories in the district.

Climax of the one-day stoppages will come on Wednesday, when hundreds of thousands strike in Manchester, on Merseyside in Scotland and many other areas against the fine.

Enthusiastic welcome for prices protest



TWO LIVELY demonstrations by the North and South London Councils of Action on Saturday were enthusiastically received by hundreds of shoppers.

In north London (above) housewives thronging the busy Wood Green High Street stopped to watch the marchers as they shouted 'Tories Out!', 'No price

increases!' and 'No rent rises!' Many passers-by cheered and clapped, showing their support for a fight against the Tory government.

The march finished with a meeting addressed by Norman Dinning, until recently the president of the local district committee of the Amalgamated Union

of Engineering Workers.

Other speakers were Richard Goldstein, secretary of the Gestetners shop stewards' committee and Joan Courtney for the Young Socialists. The meeting agreed to hold further demonstrations.

● South London pictures p. 12.

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Palestinians tortured by Zionists—report

PALESTINIAN prisoners held in Israel are being tortured by the Zionists, says a report out today. Details are given of allegations of torture, collective punishment, destruction of Arab homes, Jewish political prisoners and discrimination against Israeli Arabs.

The report, 'Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Israel', published by the Union of Liberal Students, is made up of evidence from several authoritative sources.

Since the 1967 Six-Day war, 4,000 Palestinians have been con-

demned to prison, 10,000 held in administrative detention without trial, 16,000 Palestinian homes destroyed by the Israelis, 800 Palestinians arbitrarily deported and 11,000 displaced or evicted from their homes.

The report says that

the treatment for prisoners includes being stripped naked and left for long periods, beaten, suspended by hands for long periods, soaked and left in cold water during the night, being burned by cigarette stubs and electric shocks.

Stalinists' EEC illusions play into Franco's hands

BY JUAN GARCIA

REPRESENTATIVES of the Workers' Commissions of Spain and the main trade union federations in Italy—the CGIL, the CISL and UIL—have just finished talks on the fight against repression in Spain. High on the agenda was the Public Prosecutors' demand for sentences of 162 years for ten leaders of the illegal Commissions.

The Spanish workers were arrested on June 24 and have been in the Madrid prison of Carabanchel ever since awaiting trial.

The Public Prosecutor has accused the Commissions of 'extending a national organization for subversive activity in order to produce a general strike to bring about the violent overthrow of the Spanish regime'.

He then outlined the case histories of the arrested workers, men like Marcelino Camacho who have spent most of the past ten years in Franco's jails for their struggle to build working-class organizations independent of the corporatist state-controlled unions.

This struggle has been stabbed in the back at every stage by the policies of the Spanish Communist Party which believes that fascist Spain can be democratized peacefully.

Its secretary Santiago Carrillo opened the way to Carabanchel with his theory that it was necessary to 'come out in the open and bring democracy through our practical example'.

The latest development of this 'theory' is that Spain's entry into

the Common Market will bring democracy with it.

Yet the Common Market is precisely a conspiracy of the monopolies against the democratic rights of workers to organize in trade unions and their own parties throughout Europe.

That is why the Pompidou government and the French employers now bring anti-riot charges against workers who organize meetings and demonstrations to back wage claims. That is why the Tory government and its National Industrial Relations Court is attacking British trade unionists.

Any fomenting of illusions in the Common Market aids the monopolists' plans and can in no way help defend the ten workers locked in Carabanchel.

The claim by the CP leadership of the Commissions that the Italian trade union federations—also dominated by Marketeering Stalinists—'have got definite agreement from the European Economic Commission that they will intervene in the case' means that Camacho and the rest are to be abandoned.

This monopolists' Commission spends its time producing blueprints for the rationalization of industry throughout Europe, and fully recognizes the opportunities for 'rational' investment in Spain.

As Francois Xavier Ortoli said when visiting Spain in February as Pompidou's Minister of Industrial Development: 'We must work more and better with Spanish industry and government.' Ortoli becomes a leading member of the Commission from January 1.

There can be no defence of the Spanish working class—or any section in Europe—which does not start with a rejection of any compromise whatsoever with the institutions in Brussels.

Yugoslavia: White-collar wage cut

WAGES of white-collar workers in Yugoslavia are to be frozen by law at their current levels as part of the Tito government's attempts to stabilize the economy.

The measure, which affects hundreds of thousands of office workers and professional employees, has been rushed through the Federal Assembly.

It follows the decision to slash wages of workers in major sections of industry as a way of liquidating accumulated debts. Wages of nearly a million factory workers are being cut by up to 25 per cent.

The freeze on white-collar wages will last until June 30, 1973. It is clearly designed to placate factory workers angered by the cuts in their own pay.

Premier Bidejic, announcing the freeze earlier last week, said the producers could not be allowed to bear the whole burden of stabilization. The wage freeze applied to the 'non-productive' sphere of society which got its income more easily than direct production because it was supported by taxes and the sale of services.

Bidejic said the measures would apply to the wholesale and retail trades, foreign trade, commercial services, tourist agencies, housing enterprises, business associations, journalism, publishing, planning, surveying and investigation.

Election stunt served its purpose

Logic of 'peace' fraud

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE PARIS 'peace' talks on Indo-China have been recessed on orders from President Nixon amid a barrage of self-righteous statements from American officials.

Amazingly the United States is now trying to pose as the aggrieved party, accusing North Vietnam of turning the Paris talks into a 'charade'.

This is a pack of lies, for the United States has never had the

CP pleads with Heath

A LETTER urging Tory premier Edward Heath to act for peace in Vietnam was handed in at 10 Downing Street on Saturday by a delegation representing the British Communist Party.

Signed by Party secretary John Gollan, the letter said: 'I am writing to you on behalf of the executive committee of the Communist Party to ask you to contact President Nixon and insist that he signs the draft document on Vietnam without further delay.'

'We ask you to intervene actively in this matter. It is high time that the whole weight and international prestige of Great Britain were used to secure peace for the people of Vietnam.'

least intention of seriously negotiating an end to the war.

Their participation in the talks is only one side of Nixon's strategy for extending the war in Indo-China, intensifying the bombardment of North Vietnam and strengthening the puppet regime of President Thieu in Saigon.

The US had hoped that diplomatic pressure mounted on the North Vietnamese from Moscow and Peking following President Nixon's visits to these capitals would force Hanoi to come to terms.

What Kissinger wanted was a capitulation by the Vietnamese liberation fighters—his most consistent demand was for the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from the south.

The course of the negotiations over the past two months clearly reveals Nixon's cynical calculation and exposes his attempts to pose as a 'peace-monger'. It also demonstrates the treachery of the Stalinists in Moscow and their supporters in this country.

The current round of talks was begun after massive American air power had finally stalled the liberation offensive which opened in April this year. The following month the US blockaded Haiphong and other ports and began bombing Hanoi.

There was no protest from Moscow, which went ahead with its plans for Nixon's visit. He was feted by the bureaucracy, creating great bitterness in Hanoi—where the Press denounced the USSR leaders' 'national selfishness'.

Seven weeks ago the American side at the talks had agreed to sign a nine-point draft agreement which was accepted by both sides. Dr Henry Kissinger announced 'peace is at hand' on October 26.

Since this was less than a fortnight before the presidential election, it undoubtedly helped to ensure Nixon's re-election. But it proved to be a vote-catching lie.

The US refused to sign the nine-point draft, claiming at first that 'minor' items needed to be settled—later that the North Vietnamese must agree to withdraw the bulk of their forces from the south.

At the same time, war materials from the US, and from such US client states as Iran, Pakistan and elsewhere, were rushed to South Vietnam together with hundreds of plainclothes US advisers.

President Thieu was actively encouraged and prompted to de-

nounce the prospects of a political settlement and tighten his dictatorship in the south.

The Stalinists were also encouraging illusions in the prospects of peace—calling for a campaign to 'force Nixon to sign' the nine-point deal.

Since Nixon never had any intention of signing anything except the unconditional surrender of the North Vietnamese this campaign simply gave more credence to the threadbare 'peace' fraud being generated by Kissinger and the Press.

Kissinger now claims agreement is 99 per cent complete—the rest is up to Hanoi, he says. Yet considering the man's record over the past two months it is impossible to believe a word he says.

More reliable is the statement of the North Vietnamese who have said that they will not withdraw their troops from the south, which is part of Vietnam and where they have every right to be.

Amnesty barred from seeing tortured Turks

THE TURKISH government has denied an Amnesty International mission access to prisoners who had previously made statements condemning the use of brutal torture in Turkey's prisons.

The Amnesty delegation, led by Mr Muir Hunter QC, was only able to interview a 26-year-old medical student, Mrs Ilkay Demir, although Minister of Justice Fehmi Alpaslan had promised they

would see 31 other prisoners.

Mrs Demir said that the mission had been able to see her because she was the only one who had not suffered from torture.

She confirmed that she had personally tended the wounds of her husband, Necmi, and a number of women who had been subjected to the 'falanga'—beating on the soles of the feet with sticks and iron bars.

Other prisoners were given electrical shock treatment or beaten up in prison-cells. The floor of the 'tortureroom' was covered with blood from the feet of prisoners given the 'falanga treatment'.

Muir Hunter attempted to locate three other women prisoners, said by Mr Tekerek, Director of Prisons, to be under military jurisdiction. This contradicted statements made by prison authorities, the Public Prosecutor, Atesoglu,

and the Martial Law Command themselves.

At one stage in the investigations, the Amnesty mission was told they were interested in 'anarchists and terrorists, the people responsible for the present state of the country'.

The final report of the mission refutes the statements on Thursday at the Council of Europe by Turkish Foreign Minister Haluk Bayulken that there was no torture of political prisoners in Turkey.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

FROM PAGE 1

issue. Nobody in their right senses believes that Wilson has changed his spots; he will try to pursue the class collaboration policies which he followed during 1964-1970.

It is no accident that Wilson and his right-wing leadership have no policies today to meet the economic crisis. They don't want office in this period, hence their failure to lead any real opposition to Heath on a whole number of issues from the Common Market, to the Industrial Relations Act, to the Housing Finance Act.

But those who don't fight for the bringing down of the Tories and the re-election of Labour ignore the all-important experience of the masses. The building of a revolutionary leadership to take the power is determined by the movement of the working class.

To force the Tories out would itself be a massive stride in the

experiences of the masses. It must immediately coincide with a ruthless fight to force the Labourites to adopt socialist policies.

The labour and trade union movement must demand that Labour introduces a socialist alternative to the anarchic disintegration of capitalism.

Such a programme would meet with the bitterest opposition from Wilson and his friends. But in the process of fighting the reformists, the masses would gain yet another experience—the inability of the social democrats to deal with unemployment, soaring prices, inflation, poverty and slum housing.

The opportunity would then open for workers to fight to build a revolutionary leadership as the only means of putting an end to the barbarism of capitalism.

This is the task of the hour. It is a task which must be commenced now.

This leadership must take up

cudgels against the deceivers and fakers in the labour and trade union movement; by exposing and drawing out the right-wing traitors.

It is in the crucible of the rapidly-deteriorating economic crisis and the growing militancy of the working class that the Socialist Labour League has launched its campaign for the transformation of the League into a revolutionary party.

Trade unionists and all those employed in the professions should read the document passed unanimously at the national conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance in Birmingham on October 22. They should then sign it—thus agreeing to give practical assistance to the building of the party.

● Copies of the ATUA statement can be obtained by writing to: Workers Press,

186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

LONDON'S EMPTY OFFICES

Well over 10 million square feet of office space in London is vacant, according to David Eversley, the retiring chief planner of the Greater London Council.

His total includes old offices and new offices which have been previously let and blocks not yet completed but due for completion.

He said the actual figure was in reality much higher. Much office space was held in reserve. Few were in a hurry to complete unfinished buildings and there was little interest in taking up planning permissions.

'The space that is available is kept—in my view—deliberately empty by asking rents which nobody can afford on very short leases,' according to Mr Eversley.

If all the planning permissions granted by the GLC were taken up, the figure of vacant office space might be nearer 15 million to 20 million square feet by now, he added.

There was a tacit agreement between property developers not to reduce rents.

BID FOR CAR TRADE



The Port of Liverpool Authority are making a serious bid to take the lucrative Fiat car import trade away from Preston. Last week it was reported that the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company is in the middle of negotiations with the French organization Carline to win the Fiat import trade for Liverpool 'on a permanent basis'.

The move has caused a great deal of consternation among Preston dockers, who have seen their jobs decimated in the past few years. The loss of the Fiat trade could cause even more unemployment in a town which can little afford it.

About a month ago Carline's car carrier 'Monza' was diverted to Liverpool's new Seaforth dock because of a lack of deep water at Preston at the time. Since then two other Carline ships have berthed at Liverpool.

Managing director of the Carline agents in Liverpool, Mr C. W. Harrison, said the firm was concerned at delays of two or three days at Preston.

However, he doubted whether Carline would use Liverpool permanently. 'Costing as well as berthing comes into this. Liverpool is more likely to be used as an escape valve when ships can't get into Preston.'

A spokesman for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company has insisted that Liverpool is going all out for the trade.

YOU HAVE 'A DUTY TO WORK', SAY EMPLOYERS

BY PHILIP WADE

Such is the speed of the development of the economic and political crisis that what were once thought views of the extreme right now become the views of leaders of British industry.

Two weeks ago it was the Aims of Industry attacking the right to strike as 'morally indefensible'. Now Michael Clapham, deputy chairman of ICI and president of the Confederation of British Industry, has joined battle with an almost identical speech.

Aims of Industry, the right-wing group of businessmen who give most of their money to the Tories and fight like mad against nationalization, recently produced a pamphlet on the 'Right to Work and the Right to Strike'.

Increasingly worried about the prospects of an open confrontation with the organized working class, they wheeled out a learned professor of moral philosophy, Harry Burrows Acton from Edinburgh University.

His job was to show, with the use of the best bourgeois concepts of morality, which derive from the sky and are presumably God-given, how workers were ruining the country with strikes.

Morally, according to Professor Acton, there 'is a duty to work, and no commitment to some better society of the future can absolve us from it'.

Of course, the other side of the 'duty to work' is the duty not to strike. Professor Acton does not let us down on that score.

First, he comes to the astounding conclusion that 'a strike is a collective cessation of work by members of a trade union or some more loosely-organized group'.

Quite correctly the moral philosopher says that if the employer can get other men to work during the dispute, the strike must fail.

'If they are to be successful, the strikers must be able to prevent anyone else from doing the work they are ceasing to do.' That is nothing new.

But what Acton says next coincides with the views of Michael Clapham.

'In this way [by making the strike effective] they limit his [the employer] choice of workers to those who strike or are threatening to strike, and this means they establish a monopoly.' (My emphasis.)

He then concludes that on that basis, large-scale strikes 'to make the government make the employer give in to strikers' demands' must 'constitute an unacceptable drain upon the economic and moral resources of the nation. It is ridiculous to claim there is any fundamental right to engage in such activities'.

Last week Michael Clapham told the CBI Welsh Council that 'unfortunately, people as yet are only beginning to glimpse the abuses that may result from excessive monopoly power in the labour market—especially if it is wielded as irresponsibly as over the past few years'. (My emphasis.)

'The public in general have long been aware of the potential abuses of monopoly power over the supply of goods and services. Quite rightly, government efforts to curtail it have always been received with strong public support.'

All this from a man who

is deputy chairman of the fourth largest concern in Britain, ICI! This group has a near monopoly position in many fields, including chemicals, paints and explosives.

ICI's turnover is a staggering £1,500m a year. Profits reaped from the combine's 190,000 workers amounted to £190m last year.

Most significantly of all, however, is the formation at ICI of one of the first staff associations in industry which has registered under the Industrial Relations Act. Undoubtedly Clapham will approve of that.

Clapham, who the other week attacked the Tory government's feeble economic policies and demanded a drastic shift of resources from consumption to investment, called for a return to market forces, echoing in that sense the economic policies of Enoch Powell.

'It is a weakness of our present society that market forces, the price mechanism and the profit motive, are so little understood. No other system of economic organization performs so well the fantastically difficult task of co-ordinating the efforts of the millions of individuals and firms that constitute a complex economy,' he said at Cardiff.

The monopoly of the labour market, so-called, by the unions and the competition of the 'product market' were an 'ideal recipe for inflation', Clapham added. 'The disciplinary forces of the market' had to be restored.

Clapham's speech and the outburst from the Aims of Industry show that big business is coming to see that nothing short of an all-out offensive against the working class to destroy the trade unions will save their dying system.

The monopolists, represented by men like Clapham, say they cannot work while the trade unions remain intact, defending the interests of the working class and still able—despite the passage of all the Tory laws—to use the strike weapon when necessary.

Capitalists throughout Britain now know that it is one thing to pass the laws and another thing to enforce them. That is the task for which they are now preparing.



Michael Clapham of the huge ICI consortium, whose speech warns fellow employers of excessive 'monopoly power' in the labour market.

CRITICAL OF HEATH

The Heath government has more than the attacks of the working class to contend with. The sniping is now rampant in the ruling class itself.

Take this month's issue of 'The Director', the journal of the Institute of Directors.

The editorial is a sharp attack on the government's economic record. And it comes from a powerful quarter of the Tory Party.

Summarizing the economic position the editorial says: 'Inflation in the UK has been slipping out of control. The pound has been under attack. In a month's time Britain enters the EEC and must

shoulder the burden of the common agricultural policy.'

'The Director' offers 'two cheers' for the temporary state pay plan, but goes on: 'Many businessmen, nonetheless, believe not that the government has acted wrongly, but that it left action too late. The Prime Minister should have made his dramatic U-turn a long way back along the road. Inflation has been moving at such speed that even last month's far-reaching measures may do little to restrain it.'

In its closing paragraph the journal sums up the sort of feeling which was expressed in the by-election at Sutton and Cheam: 'Business will show itself during the coming months a very critical partner of government.'

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HELP FOR OLD FRIENDS

BY PHILIP WADE

One thing promised by Lord Erroll's report on licensing hours and opening times is a profits bonanza for the breweries.

The proposed increase in drinking hours can only help the breweries. Those who stand to benefit are the groups with high concentrations in urban areas.

Investment analysts had been saying that the brewery section of industry had come to the end of a period of sustained expansion. Now Lord Erroll's men have enforced a drastic rethink of future prospects.

Take-overs

Longer opening hours and easier availability of licences are likely to be accepted by the Tory government—which receives large donations from the big brewers—and could become law within two years.

What will also open up will be a period of intense rationalization among the brewery giants, with weaker competitors eliminated or taken over, and the monopolies increasing their stranglehold on the market.

The present system of licences is apparently so archaic that companies are reluctant to close down unprofitable outlets for fear of not getting new licences where the pickings look better.

With this obstacle removed, rationalization processes should be speeded-up.

The beer industry is dominated by a handful of firms, chief among them being Allied Breweries and Bass Charrington.

Allied Breweries' turnover last year came to well over £430m, making it the 24th largest firm in Britain. The company's 50,000 workers turned out profits of about £50m.

About a year ago, Allied made a take-over bid for Trust Houses Forte, the hotel and catering group. It failed, but another bid is still possible.

Bass Charrington, Britain's 29th largest concern, is going so well that last week it announced a £25m motel deal with Esso, the 11th biggest combine.

Bass is to buy the nine Esso motor hotels in the United Kingdom and eight in four other western European countries. It will also lease from Esso nine motor hotels in West Germany and one in Austria.

The brewery group's hotel offshoot, Crest Hotels, is to manage the new hotels interest. Crest already manages 74 hotels in the UK, of which 16 are motor hotels.

Next in strength is the Guinness company, whose prodigy, Jonathan, is chairman of the Monday Club and prospective Tory candidate for the Lincoln by-election.

Last year's returns showed a £21.8m profit from just over 8,000 workers. Quite a healthy state.

Whitbread comes next, with almost a £23m profit last year and employing almost 26,000 workers.

£23m profit

No longer independent, but part of Grand Metropolitan Hotels, Watney Mann is the fifth biggest brewer. Before it went under, the company managed to snap up Truman beers as well. The last figures turned in by Watney's showed a £23m profit and 24,000 workers.

The last among the giants expecting a bonus from Lord Erroll is Scottish and Newcastle Breweries. Latest profits show figures of almost £20m a year.

So drink up!



THE MOVES AWAY FROM PARLIAMENT

LETTER

Dear Editor,
In an important article entitled 'Mr Heath and the Mandarins', the 'Daily Telegraph' (8.12.72) reveals a state of affairs which the Workers Press has been warning about for some time. It is of the utmost importance that the working class understand the dangers and lessons implicit in this revealed situation.

The article commences by questioning the reasons for the 'reversal' of the traditional Tory policies of free enterprise and 'commercial freedom for the nationalized industries' which were the present government's declared policies when they were elected to office. The article extracts the answers by tracing the course of the developing government policy of a controlled economy and in particular the creation of the government's package which was presented to the unions at the tripartite talks.

It states that the argument for a policy of controlling the economy by legislative intervention was evolved by the permanent Civil Service and that in broad outline this policy was created by three men: Sir William Armstrong, head of the Civil Service, Sir Frank Figgures, Director-General of 'Neddy', and Sir Douglas Allen, head of the Treasury.

Moreover: 'As long ago as August 4 last Neddy set up a group of four consisting of Sir Frank, Sir Douglas, Mr Campbell Adamson of the CBI and Mr Victor Feather of the TUC to look at low paid workers, differentials and unemployment. These behind-the-scenes talks continued until this summer, when they were expanded to become the tripartite discussions on inflation. Sir William and Sir Frank drafted the government's £2 flat rate increase offer for these wider talks. At the second session a group of five was asked to prepare more detailed proposals. It was, of course, Neddy's old group of four with the unsurprising addition

of Sir William as chairman.' (My emphasis.)

The first important fact for all trade unionists to grasp is that Victor Feather led the trade union delegation to the tripartite talks to discuss a set of government proposals which he had helped to draft.

The second issue which is raised in the article is, however, more important.

It goes on to name Ministers and an ex-Minister who supported the idea of a controlled economy while it was not government policy. They are Peter Walker, Robert Carr, William Whitelaw and Reginald Maudling.

It is to be noted that the two first named have recently received promotion to key positions in the government (Home Office and Department of Trade and Industry) and that Whitelaw is the Minister directly responsible for the operation of anti-working class policies in Ulster.

Maudling may have had to leave a position of key influence, but he is much valued as a theoretician and less than a month ago stated on 'The Money Programme' that the difficulty in the economy lay in 'The monopoly position of labour', suggesting that further legislation would be necessary to curb the power that such a monopoly confers. According to the 'Daily Telegraph', these men are 'committed to a consensus policy of state intervention in the economy'.

It may be that publicly this group states a desire to have 'a consensus policy', but the manner in which the prices and incomes policy has emerged shows a decisive step away from consensus politics and parliamentary democracy. At least one situation arose in the earlier days of the government when John Davies had his speeches censored by civil servants 'on the grounds that their contents were in conflict with the forthcoming Bill'—a 'forthcoming Bill' which Davies was ignorant of at the time. The article states further:



Maudling: a much valued theoretician. Above: Tripartite talks—Feather, Barber, Campbell Adamson.

'Not only have important policy questions been resolved against the general trend of Cabinet opinion; increasingly they are decided elsewhere before Cabinet debate and presented as a fait accompli for endorsement. This was so with the £2 package.'

The conclusion is inescapable. This country is now being ruled by a small cabal of Ministers and senior Civil Servants working with the Prime Minister in such a manner as to remove policy-making from the area of any debate.

The theoretical road to reform is dead since the operation of power has removed itself from even the theoretical check of parliamentary democracy.

The only way forward for the working class now is to:

- Rid the working-class movement of its treacherous reformist leaders and fight for a revolutionary leadership of the working class.
 - By the united action of the working class force the Tory government out of office and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.
 - The revelations contained in the 'Daily Telegraph' article pose the necessity of undertaking these tasks with the utmost urgency and resolve.
- Yours fraternally,
A reader.

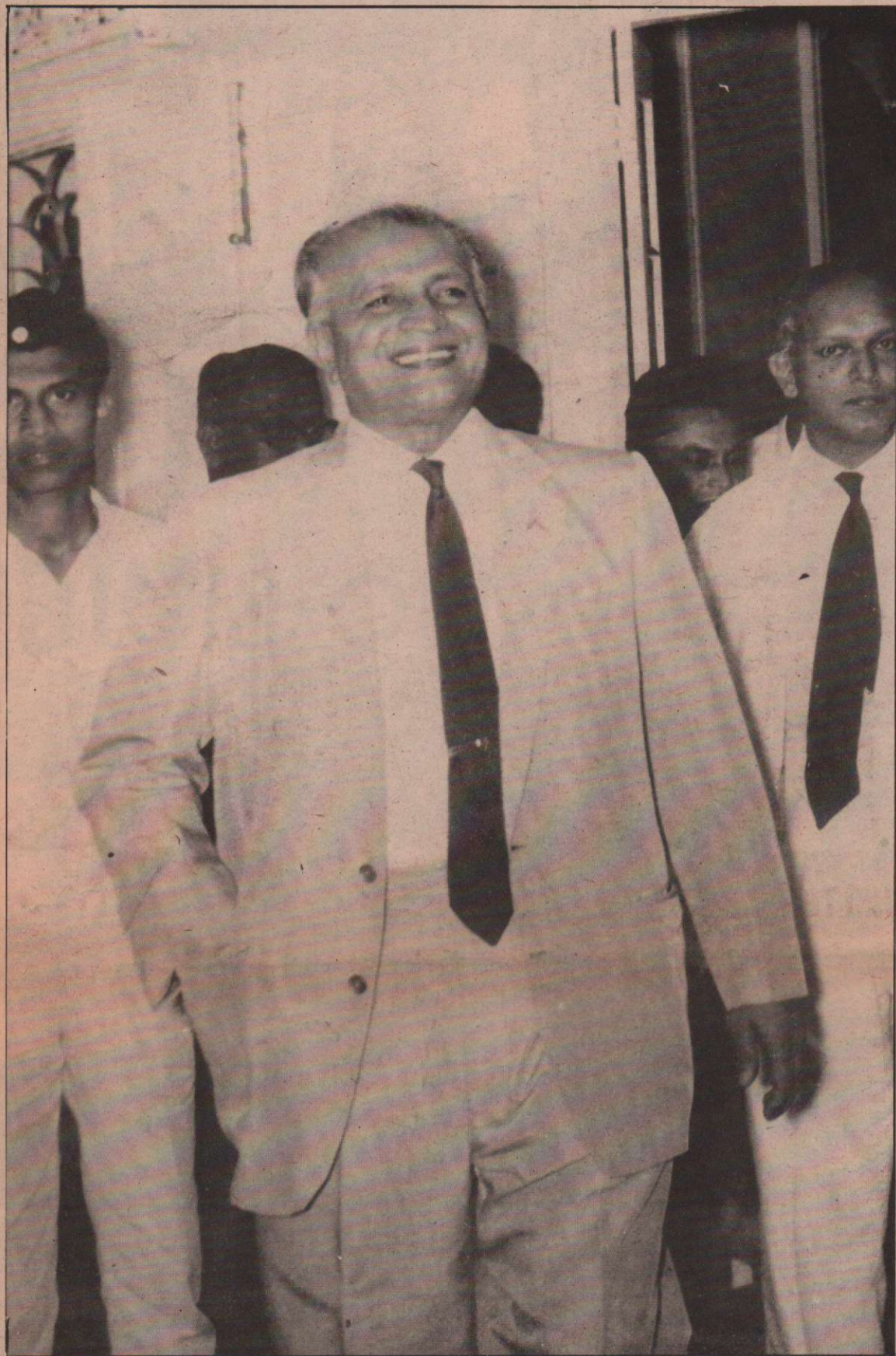
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CITY PLEASED BY CEYLON GOVERNMENT POLICY



British plantation owners were delighted with the recent budget of Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Finance Minister Dr N. M. Perera who heads the Lanka Sama Samaja parliamentary fraction in the United Front coalition government.

Perera's party was once the recognized Ceylon section of the revisionist Unified Secretariat of the Fourth International, but it has travelled much further to the right since then.

It is now openly on the side of capitalist law and order, having backed to the hilt the bloody suppression of the April 1971 uprising by the Che Guevarist youth of the JVP.

Perera has been touring the world on behalf of prime minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike assuring foreign investors they have nothing to fear from the Ceylon working class.

In his budget he imposed major cuts in rice subsidies and loaded the burden of the country's massive \$223m deficit onto the backs of the workers.

At the same time he gave big concessions to the parasitic owners of the tea and rubber plantations.

The extreme right-wing London 'Investors' Guardian' enthused that the budget had brought 'Relief for Sri Lanka Tea and Rubber'. It said: 'The tea and rubber industries of Sri Lanka have been assured of some measure of relief so that they may retain their competitive position in world markets.'

It quoted Perera as saying that he felt it was 'both vital and necessary' to cut the tax on tea exports.

He disclosed that long-term measures designed to encourage investment in these crops were being worked out. The budget also gave rubber producers a guaranteed minimum price for their product 'in order to prevent rubber pro-

ducers from neglecting or abandoning their holdings'.

The two industries are among more than 60 specific areas opened up to foreign investors earlier this year with generous incentive schemes.

When the United Front coalition came to power two years ago it brought in a range of measures to deter foreign capitalists, including punitive tax levels and a ban on export of profits from Ceylon.

Perera has thrown all this overboard, together with his last threadbare pretensions, as a 'socialist'. Investors in agriculture and fishing now get an eight-year tax 'holiday', the right to remit profits abroad and permission to bring in foreign workers who are exempt from tax and allowed to send money home to their families.

There is a rebate of customs duty on all industrial products exported by these investors.

As a further encouragement, the giant harbour of Trincomalee is being developed as a re-export and transshipment area. It has been declared a special free export zone to encourage foreign firms to set up there.

These desperate attempts to attract foreign capital are the government's response to the acute economic crisis. Ceylon has accumulated massive debts to the imperialist powers, which Perera is determined the workers will pay off.

Following the new policy turn, the British government allowed Sri Lanka to roll over the bulk of its debt to Britain and extend the repayments over a longer period.

To keep Sri Lanka safe for imperialism, the government has bloodily suppressed the revolt of youth and students, set up special tribunals under conditions where the rule of law is suspended and taken military 'aid' from both the imperialist and the Stalinist powers to do it.

As the London 'Evening Standard' commented earlier this year, the new measures show how far the coalition has 'departed from the socialism it proclaimed on the election platforms in May 1970'.

Left: N. M. Perera-touring the world and assuring investors.

FRAUD CHARGES

Ernest Shinwell, son of former Labour Minister Lord Shinwell, has been sentenced to four years' jail on fraud charges by a Luxembourg court.

Shinwell (54) was also fined 20,000 Luxembourg francs and was sentenced with another Briton, company director Frank Holmes (47), and two other men.

The prosecution claimed that in June 1971 the four men borrowed \$150,000 from the Investors Overseas Services' bank in Luxembourg on the strength of \$375,000 worth of stolen or forged securities.

Shinwell was arrested in July last year and has been in detention since. Holmes, who was given three years' jail and fined 5,000 francs, was sentenced in his absence.

Also sentenced in his absence was Italo Tresch, a doctor in law from Basle, Switzerland, who was given four years. The fourth man, a Luxembourg bank employee, Jacques Wollner (33), was sent to prison for three years.

JAPANESE WORKERS STRIKE BACK

Japanese workers have threatened the Tanaka government with an international boycott of the country's goods.

Shogo Ohki, the secretary-general of the 4.5 million-strong General Council of Japanese Trade Unions, said the government was denying several million civil servants the right to strike.

'Such suppression of the workers' basic rights, coupled with the low wages of Japanese workers, are the main factors for the low cost of Japanese goods, accelerating exports and accumulating trade surplus,' he said.

He said his General Council was preparing a boycott appeal to be sent out if negotiations with the government failed.

Direct appeals might also be made to the International Labour Organization when it meets next February.

Right: Japan's premier Tanaka faced with a boycott of the country's goods.





CAPITALIST RIVALS GEAR UP FOR

BY JOHN SPENCER

The outbreak of full-scale economic warfare between the Common Market and the United States is the inevitable result of the breakdown of the international monetary system and the resurgence of capitalist anarchy in the relations between states.

The financial pages of the capitalist Press bring new evidence every day of the exceptionally tense state of relations between European employers and their American rivals.

The dispute is carried into every sphere of diplomatic and commercial relations: it emerges within NATO on the question of military expenditure; at the group of 20 meet-

ing of the International Monetary Fund and in Nixon's contemptuous refusal to meet EEC heads of state.

At its basis is the insistent American demand that Europe must put itself on short rations for the greater glory of American big business. European exports must be slashed, the Common Market opened to US products on advantageous terms and the world monetary system retailored to allow US firms to go on buying up factories and investing all over the capitalist world.

Against this onslaught the countries of the enlarged Common Market are making desperate efforts to reshape their 'community' in accordance with the trade war requirements of their own monopolies. Unfortunately for them, this is far easier said than done.

Since the formation of the

EEC 14 years ago, the six member countries have been trying to create a single economic unit which would enable the capitalists of the various member states to exploit to the full the possibilities of a unified market.

But what has been achieved has fallen far short of this aim. The Common Market today is little more than a glorified customs union in which the development of genuinely European monopolies—transcending national boundaries—has barely begun.

Paradoxically, the companies that have benefited most from the formation of the EEC are the huge US firms like Ford, General Electric and General Motors which have established their factories inside the protective walls of the Market.

Backed by the huge resources of American parent

companies, and bound to no particular state inside the EEC, these companies have been able to utilize to the full all the efforts of the EEC member states to create a unified economic entity.

They have played a major part in establishing a capital market (the so-called Euro-dollar market) which extends to all corners of the EEC and beyond and is effectively outside the control of the member-states.

By contrast the few attempts of the European employers to create trans-national monopolies powerful enough to combat the Americans have been less than totally successful. The Dunlop-Pirelli merger has run into great difficulties and there are sharp divisions between the associated firms of Fiat and Michelin, to give only two examples.

Repeated moves to establish a common European currency through gradual progress to monetary union have foundered. The latest and most grandiose scheme, conceived last April in the wake of Nixon's decision to abolish dollar convertibility, fell apart within two months when Britain floated the pound.

Under the spur of Nixon's threats, the Common Market leaders are trying to make up for lost time. At their summit meeting in Paris in October they adopted the following worded resolution:

'The heads of state or of government consider it necessary to seek to establish a single industrial base for the community as a whole.

'This involves the elimination of technical barriers to trade as well as the elimination, particularly in the fiscal and



R TRADE WAR

trade fields, of barriers which hinder closer relations and mergers between firms, the rapid adoption of a European company statute, the progressive and effective opening up of public sector purchases, the promotion on a European scale of competitive firms in the field of high technology, the transformation and conversion of declining industries, under acceptable social conditions [of course!], the formulation of measures to ensure that mergers affecting firms established in the community are in harmony with the economic and social aims of the community, and the maintenance of fair competition as much within the Common Market as in external markets in conformity with the rules laid down by the treaties.

This resolution, to which Tory premier Edward Heath

set his signature, together with the other eight EEC leaders, indicates the kind of Common Market the leaders would like to see.

But just as important it indicates how far the European capitalists have fallen short of the aims they set themselves when the EEC was established. The Common Market commission is quite frank about this. Its commentary, released with the summit communiqué, is a lengthy catalogue of difficulties.

As the EEC commission put it in a memorandum dated March 20, 1970: 'If the general well-being (!) is to be improved, industry must be able to make the most of the Common Market as an entity, and as an entity permitting large-scale operations. . . . Too often industrial policy has been used to refer to measures designed



Economic warfare between America and Europe means ruthless attacks on workers of both continents. Above: Nixon. Left: Strikers in Turin.

It cites as an example the tractor market within the EEC which is held back by the fact that in some countries, tractors must not be capable of exceeding speed limits which in other countries are regarded by buyers as far too slow.

Some member countries forbid passenger seats, while the public in another will not consider buying tractors without them. The commission is 'very dissatisfied' with the progress towards removing restrictions of this type.

Despite literally hundreds of directives showered on governments and manufacturers from EEC headquarters in Brussels, actual progress has been minimal. Targets set in mid-1969 should have been implemented by the end of 1970. But at all levels the commission has met resistance and inertia.

Altiero Spinelli, one of the top EEC bureaucrats in charge of industry, described in February 1971 the frustrating process of trying to implement this type of policy:

'The commission has organized many meetings of experts to draft the proposed directives; over a hundred of these have already been submitted to the Council [of Ministers].

'They are then examined by the deputy permanent representatives who call on the self-same experts who have already helped the commission. These experts are then asked to undertake a complete re-examination of the proposal, as if they had not already taken part in its drafting.

'Following this second examination, the proposals go forward to the Council. During 1970, 31 of these were submitted but the council has so far only approved nine. The member states have not yet taken all the necessary legislative or administrative action to implement these nine directives.

The 'integration' of European capitalism is inconceivable under the continued rule of private property without a fascist dictatorship of a type more brutal than has ever been known. To carry through their plans the European employers need to wage ruthless civil war against the working class all over the Continent.

This is the reality behind the bureaucrats' talk of the 'general well being'. The eruption of trade war has exposed the real face of European imperialism—threadbare delusions of grandeur, provincial aims which are beyond its reach and malignant hatred for the class which produces the wealth.

The national state is the historical form of the rule of the bourgeoisie in Europe, where capitalism had its birth several centuries ago. Where it once played a progressive role in the development of the productive forces, the national state is now a great fetter on economic and social development.

Nearly 50 years ago, in his speeches on Europe and America, Trotsky characterized the decline and decadence of capitalist Europe. World War I, he said, was not an accidental phenomenon.

It was the blind revolt of the productive forces against capitalist forms, including those of the national state. The productive forces created by capitalism could no longer be contained within the framework of social forms of capitalism, including the framework of national states. Hence the war.

What has the war brought Europe? A situation ten times worse than before, the same capitalist social forms, but more reactionary; the same tariff walls, but more rigid; the same frontiers, but narrower; the same armies, but more numerous; and increased indebtedness; a more restricted market. Such is the general situation in Europe. If today England rises a little, it is at the expense of Germany; tomorrow it will be Germany's turn to rise at England's expense.

If you find a surplus in the trade balance of one country you must seek for a corresponding deficit in the trade balance of another country. World development—principally the development of the US—has driven Europe into this blind alley. America is today the basic force of the capitalist world and the character of that force automatically predetermined the inextricable position of Europe within the framework of the capitalist regime.

European capitalism has become reactionary in the absolute sense of the term; that is, not only is it unable to lead the nations forward, but it is even incapable of maintaining for them living standards long ago attained. Precisely this constitutes the economic basis of the present revolutionary epoch . . .

Trotsky's analysis retains all its force today, when European capitalism has undergone a further 50 years of decline, including a second bloody inter-imperialist conflict even more destructive than the first.

European capitalism must be destroyed. All those like the French Stalinists who talk about 'democratizing' the Common Market machinery are simply deceiving the working class and providing a smokescreen for the preparation of huge repression against them.

The working class is the only progressive force in Europe. It alone can destroy the archaic barriers of the national state, establish genuinely European industry in the service of need, not profit and lead the way out of the blind alley of capitalism towards the Socialist United States of Europe.

'It is quite clear, therefore, that if we continue to work along these lines we will still be trying to implement the May 1969 programme in the year 2000.'

Spinelli's sorry catalogue of bureaucratic entanglement barely conceals the conflicts of interest between the various national states comprising the EEC.

Representing its own manufacturers, each state naturally seeks to gain for them the greatest advantage over their rivals within the community. The conflict is turned into a nightmare by the labyrinthine bureaucracy permanently established at the Common Market headquarters.

to keep alive activities that no longer have any prospect of competing in the modern world.'

The basic drift of its memo was that 'Much of Community industry is unduly fragmented and this is a serious weakness in the face of competition from the United States, Japan and other outside countries.'

Commenting on the summit proposals, the commission catalogues the failures of previous attempts at rationalization within the EEC. 'In many sectors,' it says, 'full access to the Common Market is badly hampered by conflicting national regulations controlling important technical aspects of production.'

TEES MAKES ATTACK ON DOCK SCHEME

The Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority has revealed the shape of things to come in the smaller ports under the terms of the Jones-Aldington report.

By the end of the year, the authority boasts, all 112 dockers who have taken severance and left the industry under the report's terms will have been replaced.

More than half the new men will be from outside the industry altogether. The remaining 45 will be casuals who have previously worked for the authority only for limited periods.

This development bears out the warnings of those opponents of Jones-Aldington who said that its real purpose was not a solution of the so-called surplus labour problem, but an attack on dockers' conditions under the Dock Labour Scheme.

Teesside is a port which had no one on its temporarily unattached register at the time of the national docks strike.

The severance of 112 men—

at a total cost of £440,000—has therefore produced an acute labour shortage. And at the same time it has handed the port authority an ideal opportunity to undermine the dockers' existing conditions.

All 67 men who have not previously worked for the authority will attend a one-week training course at the National Dock Labour Board school in Hull, plus an induction course organized by the authority itself.

No doubt the dockers' instructors will seize every chance to school their pupils in a spirit of submissive co-operation. The lengthening dole queues from which they came will thus export their warning message directly onto the quayside.

This, presumably, is what Teesside docks manager Stanley Wright meant last week when he gloated that by the end of the year the port would have 'a balanced labour situation'.



AS BENTLEY GETS RICHER DOLE QUEUE GETS LONGER

Mr Asset Stripper 1972, John Bentley of Barclay Securities, is poised to ring in the New Year with yet another million pound killing.

The Stock Exchange is waiting for the name of the buyer (or buyers) of the remainder of Bentley's toy empire based on Triang Pedigree and Mobo.

Bentley wants to clinch the deal before December 31 which marks the end of the financial year for the parent firm Barclay Securities. American buyers are said to be interested and the price for Chad Valley is estimated between £1.5m and £1.8m.

If the deal comes off it will mark one more money-spinning chapter in Bentley's rise to wealth and prominence.

His excursion into toys began when he bought D. Sebel and with it the Mobo brand. A year later Chad Valley was added to the empire and then Triang Pedigree—bought for £5.28m from the Lines Brothers liquidator. Then Bentley set to work with his old formula.

The object is not to go on making toys, but to sell-off the

least profitable parts of the new group at prices inflated by the property boom, then rationalize the remainder. The group is then ripe for stage two—sale to some interested buyer—the very manoeuvre Bentley is involved in at this moment.

The first to suffer were workers at Triang. Bentley shut five of the firm's nine factories within a few months of purchase. In June the worst cut back of all came when 1,200 employees were paid-off with extra redundancy money at the Triang plant in Merton, South London. Production has been centred on Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales, but results have been poor.

The break-up realized a cool £5.75m, with another £1m to come. The Mobo business fared little better. Plants at Erith, Harborne and Redcar were shut.

The only healthy division of the toy sector is Chad Valley which is said to be heading for a £400,000 profit.

Bentley's original aim was to hold on and sell Chad and Triang in one go, but other toy firms have kept their distance, not wanting to take on such a burden. Now the whole oper-

ation seems to be nearing completion.

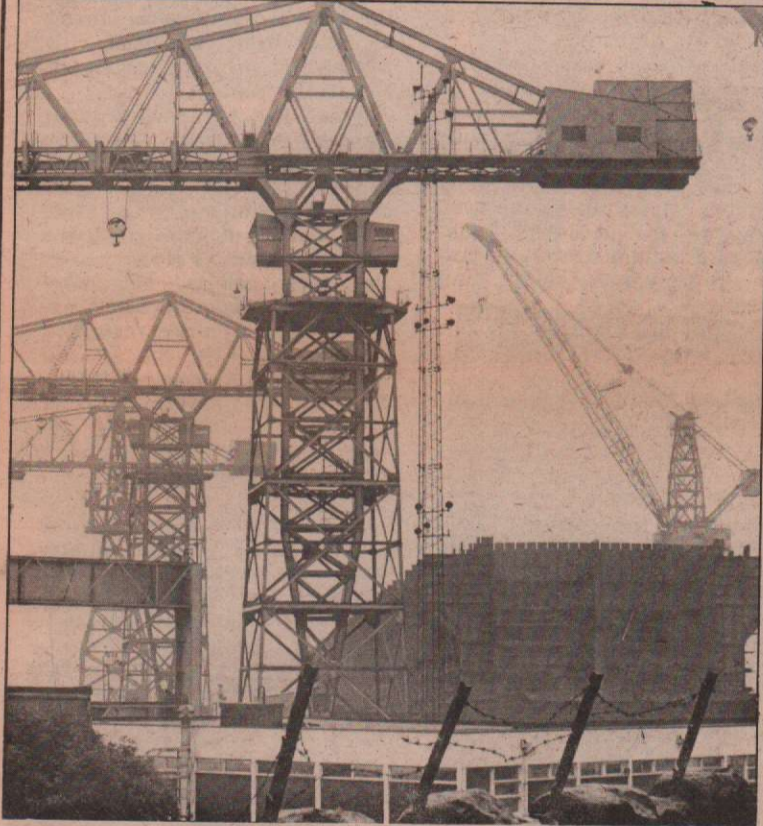
Of course asset-stripping is not unique to toys. Barclay Securities has done the same with its advertising and hair-dressing interests. And now the Big Stripper is sitting on the greatest prize of all—60-odd acres of land owned by Shepperton Studios which came with British Lion.

Technicians at the studios are in occupation against an expected move by Bentley to sell the property. The latest toy deal is bound to strengthen their determination to keep their fight going.

Chairman Bentley justifies his activities with an appeal to efficiency.

'Barclay is undergoing a transformation,' he said recently, '... in which it demonstrates its catalytic policy of acquiring smaller companies, modernizing them over a period and floating them or selling them off again as far more efficient and streamlined organizations...'

Somehow the Bentley employees, many still employed, don't see it that way. They watch Bentley getting richer and the dole queue getting longer.



COUNTER-BUG

Industrial espionage has led to the promotion of private firms specializing, for a price, in counter-espionage.

One company, Management Investigation Services, is offering a low-cost protection against telephone-tapping and

other forms of electronic eavesdropping.

Big business is finding it more and more difficult to actually spot bugging devices themselves. They are apparently so well made these days that the devices can be disguised as one of the normal components inside any ordinary telephone.

MIS is offering a package deal covering one year. Inspections will include electronic 'sweeps' over a wide range of radio frequencies.

NO ONE WANTS TO KNOW

Hospital ancillary workers in Liverpool are planning to continue their round of one-day strikes in support of a pay claim.

When the workers went on strike for 24 hours the outraged Tory Press

slandered them for their action.

None of the papers bothered to print the facts and figures of wages in hospitals. In the House of Commons a Tory minister was forced to give details of wages among ancillary workers.

The ministerial answer revealed the following:

Basic weekly rates of hospital ancillary workers

	Under £20 (Lowest included)	Between £20 and £25	Between £25 and £30	£30 and over
Men	2,600	38,120	22,410	720
Women	29,300	66,750	2,380	20
Total	31,900	104,870	24,790	740

(1) Lowest rates are £17.48 (Men), £15.28 (Women).

(2) All figures are for full-time staff.

(3) Estimated total of full-time staff in England and Wales is 130,400.

Thus four out of five get less than £20 a week basic.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

TRADE WAR STARTS— AND JAPAN RE-ARMS

RED FACES

There were a few red faces on the picture desk of the 'Yorkshire Post' in Leeds on Tuesday when they turned to see how their story on the strike at CAV Sudbury had turned out.

The main angle of the paper's story was the plea made by Bill Duckling, the factory's convenor, that evangelist James Goad should call off his legal bid to get into the engineers' union meetings at Sudbury. And there, across two columns, was a picture of Bill Duckling in his snappy new trilby.

But the caption to the story read embarrassingly . . . 'Mr James Goad'.

ATTITUDES

A 16-year-old girl had been committed to a mental hospital three times because she was cheeky and not because she had been mentally ill, a barrister alleged last week.

Miss Susan Klonin told Manchester Crown Court that the girl had spent most of her time between the ages of 11 and 14 in the company of mongols and spastics and was not aware of ever receiving any treatment for mental illness.

'It seems to me that she has been committed to mental hospitals because she has been cheeky, rude, lacking in discipline and manners and not because she has been mentally ill,' said Miss Klonin.

The girl had been committed for sentence by the city magistrates for stealing clothes worth £48 from a store.

But Judge Philip Hinchliffe, QC, said the girl had been given every kind of help. She had absconded from hospitals and hostels and had rebelled against society in general.

Sentencing her to Borstal, he said she would benefit from the training if she went with 'the right attitude'.

PILL

Quote of the week. During last week's debate on providing the pill on the NHS Dr Shirley Summerskill said that giving free contraceptives to women only after they had had an abortion or an illegitimate child was 'shutting the stable door after the horse had bolted'.

REVIEW

So 'Waltzing Matilda' may become the new national anthem in Australia. It may be time we reviewed our boring old 'God Save the Queen'. Perhaps we should follow the Aussies example and choose some suburban folk melody like 'If you were the only girl in the world' or 'Underneath the Arches'.

DOGS

Clean-up in the church. The Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral have sold their stock holding in the dog racing track of Gloucester and Cheltenham Greyhound Company. They made £115,000 on the transaction.

COALITION

The election of Francesco de Martino as secretary of the Italian Socialist Party makes a shift to the right which is reflected in the composition of the new leadership as a whole.

Martino was supported by veteran ex-Party leader Pietro Nenni on a policy of collaboration with the Christian Democrats who are led by prime minister Giulio Andreotti.

The defeated rival candidate, Giacomo Mancini, favoured closer links with the Communist Party. The way is now open for the participation of the Socialist Party in a coalition dominated by the Christian Democrats.

Friday December 8: 'Money at Work: Japan'. 8 p.m. BBC 2. Exec. Prod. John Dekker.

Friday December 8: World Cinema: 'Les Enfants du Paradis'. 9.25 p.m. BBC 2. Directed by Marcel Carné.

Monday December 11: Play for Today: 'The Bouncing Boy'. By John McGrath. Directed by Maurice Hatton. Produced by Graeme MacDonald.

In 1970 Japan exported 27 colour television sets for the British market. This year just under 300,000 sets made their way in and at a record low price of £88 a set. Five years ago Japan had a surplus of imports over exports. Last year there was a 7.7 billion surplus of exports over imports.

Facts of this kind and plenty more like them mean that at the very least, any television programme on the subject of Japan, and her economy in particular, is bound to make strong viewing. Even the inevitable ambiguities and evasions of a good liberal documentary in the series *Money at Work* (why on earth is this on BBC 2?) couldn't detract from the sense of staring down the barrel of a gun, waiting for the big explosion to hit home.

And to do them credit, John Dekker and his team turned out a sharp and varied film on most aspects of the Japanese question.

If there are, in fact, any questions about it, it's doubtful whether they're so much why and what, as, when and how? For Japan is today an essential component in the giant interlocking combat of western capitalist economy in the biggest crisis it has ever faced.

At this very moment, under increasing pressure from the US, well into the early stages of out-and-out trade warfare with Japan and Europe, Japan hurtles down the slippery slopes towards revaluation of the yen—a mere nine months after being forced to raise parity of the yen over 16 per cent by the Finance Ministers in Washington.

As various commercial dignitaries on the programme confirmed (members of the Japanese CBI—the Keidanren; the vice-President of MITSUI; officials from the Japanese Ministry of Trade and Industry etc.) there is great alarm at the idea of revaluation and strenuous efforts not to do so have been and are being made.

But all the furious buying up of dollars to keep the yen from breaking through and the other small ploys of cutting back and changing tariffs can do nothing to resolve an impending revaluation which threatens to disrupt the entire Japanese economy, instigate slump and bankrupt many small industries, aside from the international consequences which must include a rise in what is already a crippling flood of imports into Europe from Japan.

When this occurs there will be additional upsets in British industry to those mentioned on the programme by such as Edward Bishop, MP, whose constituency in the west country depends on the ball-bearing industry.

(There have already been 1,500 redundancies in his area as a result of the Japanese taking over 21 per cent of the British ball-bearing market.)

Lord Kearton of Courtauld

tells the same kind of story now that the Japanese have swamped the synthetic textile and fibre industry.

Of course radio and electronics, already mentioned, are the hardest hit in this country —'the death-knell has sounded' as a representative put it.

The Nixon government took stern measures against the Tanaka government in August 1971 with its 10 per cent import surcharge which so swiftly diverted Japan's exports into Europe, but it's nothing to what they're likely to establish in the forthcoming trade negotiations next year under William Casey.

Japan knows that it may well be forced to accept more US goods to rectify its huge trade surplus (currently running at \$300m a year) and, in fact, most big firms in Japan, and other internationally, are already discounting currency for any future transactions: an 8 per cent revaluation is the least expected.

The trade rapport between Japan and Peking and the implied abandonment of Japanese trade with Taiwan reveals a measure of the desperation felt; as, in different form, does the grotesque sight in the programme of the Institute of International Businessmen set up to train young Japanese into western style trade and commerce preparatory to getting them out into the new markets, new terrain for the biggest exporter of manufactured goods in the world.

The camera showed something of Tokyo and Osaka where 1 per cent of Japanese land holds 33 million people and where 32 per cent of the population produce 75 per cent of the industrial output; where land is five times the price of that on the French Riviera; where there's an average of half a square yard per person (compared to London's average of nine square yards per person); where 17 million road vehicles take to the road each day; where only one quarter of the population have main drainage.

But these are only the wretched symptoms of a capitalist economy which out-boomed all other post-war booms and now finds itself sweating under the weight of lifeless paper dollars which can bring it nothing but trade warfare.

Trade warfare? Some might find the term too strong: let them note that Japan is to double its defence budget over the next five years. All speculative chat on the programme

of 'liberalizing capital' and 'adapting industrial structures' of 'weak and strong currencies' is sheer lunacy beside such a fact as this.

The second half of Marcel Carné's celebrated *Les Enfants du Paradis*, made in Occupied France during the two years ending in 1944 and released in 1946, appeared last Friday on World Cinema.

There is no doubting Carné's masterly achievements within the fairly rigid framework he establishes for himself—a calculated escape from any hint of social realism and into the romantic, highly theatrical world where man is always governed by his fate.

Theatrical in all senses, the film is concerned with the rise to fame of two utterly contrasting persons — Baptiste Debureau the famous mime (played at the peak of his abilities by Jean-Louis Barrault) and Frederic LeMaitre, the extravagant actor-manager (Pierre Brasseur) in 19th century French theatre.

It's all very brilliant, very remote, very unsatisfying except on a purely technical level. The mechanics of director, writer (the poet Jacques Prevert) and performers are employed with extraordinary skill and are always apparent.

By contrast John McGrath's play *The Bouncing Boy* about a young couple's problems as the girl gives birth to their first child and the boy struggles to wheeler-deal his way through the intricate passions of the second-hand car market, appeared as a rather appealing shambles.

Nothing very original about any of it, but the writing and Maurice Hatton's direction was nicely underplayed and some of the scenes in the car auction and the labour ward lingered well after the play had finished —some of this was due to an absolutely solid performance by Norman Ashley as the husband, with his heart in his car and his mind on easy deals.

A lively and sensitive enough picture of a working-class couple cut off from each other and the life they were living by crude economics. The regret always remains that such a talented team could not give us something more than just another 'impression' of the scene we all know so well, however intelligent an impression it may have been. These days it's not enough.

Below: Baptiste the famous mime (Jean-Louis Barrault), in 'Les Enfants du Paradis'.



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'Guilty' before court hearing

SEAN KEENAN (22), of Londonderry's Creggan Estate, appeared at a special court in the city on Saturday night accused of being an IRA member. The army declared him guilty even before he went to court.

Keenan, who is married and lives in Rathlin Gardens, was detained by the army earlier in the day. The special court remanded him in custody to a court in Maze, Co Down, on Wednesday.

Early reports of his arrest, emanating from the army public-relations machine, described him categorically as 'a high-ranking member of the Provisional IRA' and 'formerly second-in-command of the Derry Provisionals'.

This was while he was still being questioned by police and before the special court hearing.

He was detained after stopping at a vehicle checkpoint set up by the army between Derry and Muff, in Co Donegal.

ANGRY BRIGADE

AFTERMATH

Clenched fist salutes in protest outside jail



Sir John leaves town...

SIR JOHN Donaldson, president of the National Industrial Relations Court arrives in Cardiff today for his first sitting outside his London headquarters.

The new-style, fully-mobile NIRC is a result of Sir John's decision a year ago—when the court opened—that where appropriate the court would go

to the scene of a dispute than bring the parties to London.

He will be accompanied by two of the court's industrial members, Richard Davies and Herman Roberts.

Roberts, the former industrial correspondent of the 'Birmingham Post', is a member of the National Union of Journalists.

He sat on the NIRC in London

when the five dockers were jailed for contempt and more recently, was with Sir John when the engineers' union was fined first £5,000 and then £50,000.

The NIRC will sit in the conference suite of the Department of the Environment in Cardiff on Tuesday to hear an appeal by two companies against a decision of a local Industrial Tribunal.

It is expected that the case will last two days.

MORE than 400 demonstrators gathered outside Wormwood Scrubs on Saturday to protest against the jailing of four members of the Stoke Newington Eight for ten years. As they called for the release of all prisoners, inmates of the Scrubs waved through their bars.

An inconclusive meeting was held in Denbigh Hall, Notting Hill, at which it was agreed that a campaign should be launched for improving prison conditions.

JACK JONES, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday the whole weight of his union and the TUC was behind the taxi drivers fight against Value Added Tax. At a mass meeting Jones called on the Tories to 'rethink' the whole position of VAT. But if they decided to go ahead, whatever was done should be 'fair and just'.

Technical teachers claim £450 pay rise

BRITAIN'S 50,000 technical teachers have decided to go ahead with a claim for at least a £450 a year pay rise.

An emergency salaries conference of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions in London on Saturday voted overwhelmingly for the claim.

But all the resolutions urging strike action to achieve the £450 rise were ruled out of order. The delegates did eventually, however, pass an executive resolution including the provision to revise the sanctions policy to include forms of strike action.

Delegates rejected, against the wish of the executive, a proposal to claim a further 2 per cent on top of the £450 for senior lecturers who have already had big percentage rises over the last few years.

Safe seat for G & M

GILES RADICE, head of research at the General and Municipal Workers' Union, has been picked as prospective Labour candidate for the by-election at Chester-le-Street, Co Durham. The selection has to be approved by the party's national executive on Wednesday. Radice (36) lives in London. All the other candidates were local men.

Labour has held Chester-le-Street since 1906. Norman Pentland, the previous MP, who died in October, had a 20,000 majority.

Jail protest over death

THREE HUNDRED prisoners in Durham jail sat down in the main exercise yard and refused to return to their cells for over two-and-a-half hours, the Home Office said on Saturday night.

The sit-down, on Friday, was over the death of prisoner Henry Whisker (20) in Durham hospital last week after he was taken ill in the jail. Whisker's father has called for an inquiry into his son's death. Nine prisoners have been put on report because of their protest.

Conspiracy to smash NHS—MP

LABOUR MP Leslie Huckfield said yesterday he quit the Birmingham regional hospital board because some members were 'willing and witting participants in a gigantic and all pervasive conspiracy to smash

the Health Service.'

Huckfield, MP for Nuneaton, told a meeting that as a board member he had fought the private beds system for two-and-a-half years.

Last year he and another Labour MP alleged that two hospitals in the

Birmingham area had illegally treated private patients under the National Health Service.

In one hospital, Bromsgrove General, it was claimed that hundreds of private outpatients were charged absolutely nothing.

Police were present at some meetings of the hospital board and one of its most active members, Labour councillor Mrs Theresa Stewart, was not reappointed after her first term of office ended in March 1971.

Little publicity for extreme right rally

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THE UNION Movement of Great Britain attended a gathering of 1,000 youth at the largely unreported Congress of National-European Youth held in Munich in September.

They discussed with extreme right Germans the Italian Social Movement, the French Ordre Nouveau and Spanish Falangists three main topics: nationalism and bio-politics, Europe as an independent political power and the problems of minorities, the rights of ethnic groups.

The British Tory Press kept a complete silence on this particular celebration of the Common Market which stirred up the Nazi myths and racist 'scientific' theories of Hitler's movement

A report from the Falangist delegations relates how their spokesman voiced great satisfaction at seeing 'how as in Spain in 1936 and afterwards on the eastern front (applause) in 1941, Spanish and German comrades, together with others from all over Europe, are now again

(applause) ready to struggle for the future of our Race (standing ovation).'

At the end of the first day's session, delegates retired to a Munich beer-cellar to swill ale and chant national anthems and the songs of the 1930s.

They then paid homage to Hitler by visiting the Feldherrnhalle—the place where, in 1923, the National-Socialist uprising was bloodily put down by the German police and 16 comrades were killed.'

The Congress was a sharp warning to the working class of the reactionary forces which will have to be dealt with in crisis-ridden Europe.

Cheng stays for appeal

CHENG Tzu-tsai, the Formosan who faces jail in the United States for an assassination attempt on the son of Chiang Kai-shek, is to stay in Britain until his appeal against an extradition order can be heard. He has been fighting extradition for almost four months.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign

LONDON TEACHERS: Monday December 18, 8 p.m. Caxton Hall (near St James's Park tube).

SKELMERSDALE: Monday December 18, 7.30 p.m. Quarry Bank Community Centre.

SHEFFIELD

Monday December 18, 7.30 p.m. 'The Foresters Inn' Division Street

'Defend the Engineering Union. Force the Tories to resign'.

ROCHDALE: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. Rochdale Town Hall.

MEDWAY: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue, Rochester.

CAMBRIDGE: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. 'The Mitre', Bridge Street. 'Fight rising prices'.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Force the Tories to resign'.

KINGSTON: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. 'The Swan', Mill Street. 'Way forward for trade unionists'.

MANCHESTER: Wednesday December 20, 7.30 p.m. 'The Black Lion Hotel', corner of Blackfriars Street and Chapel Rd. 'Fight the Industrial Relations Act—Force the Tories to Resign'.

PRESTON: Thursday December 21, 7.30 p.m. 'The New Cock Inn', Fishergate. 'Fight the Industrial Relations Act—Force the Tories to Resign'.

SWANSEA: Wednesday December 20, 7.30 p.m. YMCA. 'Defend the AUEW. Force the Tories to resign'.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday December 21, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, New Cross Road (near station). 'Build Councils of Action'.

CLAY CROSS: Thursday December 21, 8 p.m. Social Centre, Derby Road. 'Fight Tory rent rises!' 'Make this government resign'.

SLL LECTURES

SHEFFIELD

Monday January 8
Marxism and the revolutionary party
FORRESTERS HALL
Trippett Lane, 7.30 p.m.

TODMORDEN

Monday January 8

'The economic crisis'

Monday January 22

'Stalinism'

Monday February 5

'Trotskyism'

THE WEAVERS' INSTITUTE, Burnley Road, 7.30 p.m.

Monday January 24

Marxist theory and the revolutionary party

WHITE HART HOTEL

Alfred Gelder Street (near Drypool Bridge) 8 p.m.

Powell tries to stop immigrants voting

ENOCH POWELL'S agent in his Wolverhampton constituency is objecting to the democratic right of Pakistani and Bangladeshi workers to vote in elections.

In letters to the town clerk of Wolverhampton, the Conservative agent, R. N. Pollard, claims that these voters are now aliens, and as such should be disqualified from voting.

Town clerk Kenneth Williams has rejected Pollard's proposal after consulting Home Office officials.

Bangladeshis and Pakistanis, he says, are British subjects and are therefore entitled to vote in elections.

Powell yesterday made it clear, however, that he was not prepared to let the campaign against immigrant workers die.

He said his agent would await the town clerk's formal reply before taking further action.

'There are various forms of legal action and there are quite a lot of interested parties. It is likely quite a lot of things could happen,' added Powell.

During the recent Rochdale by-election, immigrant workers going to polling booths were harassed by anti-immigrant groups.

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Drivers and dockers unite on meat trade

BY DAVID MAUDE

WITH LONDON docks still reeling from an announcement that the South American meat trade is to switch to Southampton, Transport and General Workers' Union officials

yesterday promised a top-level meeting of dockers and transport drivers early in 1973.

The promise came at a conference

of London drivers' stewards in the union's headquarters. It is expected that the joint meeting will draw six members each from the T&GWU's dockers' and the drivers' trade groups.

At least 530 dockers' jobs will immediately be hit by the meat switch, which is expected to take place early in 1973.

It could also spell the closure of the Vestey organization's Thames Stevedoring Co, which employs 690 dockers and 135 tally-clerks.

Employment in the Royal docks as a whole—already threatened by the New Zealand meat producers' pull-out—would be seriously undermined.

Hence the dockers' decision at Thames Stevedoring on Friday to black ships carrying South American meat and canned goods from January 1 unless 'constructive negotiations' start by then.

Yesterday Eric Rechnitz, chairman of the London transport drivers' stewards, said he was in favour of a joint campaign with the dockers against Vestey's plans.

'I've made an approach to individual stewards on the Royals with the intention of taking joint action,' he added.

The best thing, said Rechnitz, would be for the dockers to black the shipping lines and for lorry drivers to take forms of action against the Vestey group.

ABOUT 70 trade unionists joined the Lambeth Council of Action demonstration against the soaring cost of living. There were delegations from Lambeth Trades Council, local UCATT, USDAW and T&GWU branches, as well as a contingent from the Young Socialists' and International Socialists' local branches.

The marchers received attentive interest as they passed through the Brixton markets and high street (see below) to a meeting at Clapham Manor Baths. At points along the route shoppers joined in shouting 'Tories Out!'



DECEMBER
FUND NOW
£784.52

EIGHT more days to Christmas. We are still a long way from completing our £1,750 target by then. Let's make our biggest effort so far and raise the final £965.49 in time.

Strikes taking place today and throughout the week show the enormous feeling in the working class to fight back against the Tory government.

But this is just a beginning. Trade unionists everywhere are behind the AUEW National Committee in its determination not to pay the fine.

Workers Press is needed to provide a political lead to thousands of workers everywhere. The way to fight back against the Industrial Relations Act is with action by the trade union movement to force the government to resign.

Only Workers Press speaks out loud and clear. Back us up all the way in this fight. Make a particularly special effort for our December Fund. We need to complete it early to help us over the Christmas holidays. So raise all you can. Post every donation immediately to:

Workers Press
December Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG.

MINERS and tenants marched through Conisborough, Yorkshire, yesterday in support of the Labour councillors who will not implement the Tory government's Housing Finance Act.

The marchers chanted 'Tories Out!', 'Rent Rises Out!' and 'Hey! Hey! We Won't Pay!'. Contingents joined the demonstration from as far afield as Birmingham. Edlington and Cadeby NUM branch banners were also there.

Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire National Union of Mineworkers' official, told the meeting that followed: 'We will oppose any law which attacks the living standards of the working class.'

'We can mobilize the whole of the working class to bring down the Tories and put back a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.'

SHOP stewards from the laid-off Lucas Industrial Equipment factory at Fazakerley, Liverpool, yesterday backed the CAV sit-in strikers in their demand for blacking action at three other Merseyside factories.

Official IRA turns to reformism

FROM IAN YEATS IN DUBLIN

A TURN towards the Labour Party and a revision of Official Sinn Fein relationships with 'left' groups was called for at the movement's 67th Ard Fheis at the Mansion House, Dublin, on Saturday.

President Tomas MacGiolla told this year's relatively thinly-attended conference that unless they could break out of their current isolation and carry their policies into the trade union and labour movement, they faced failure.

While he spoke about 30 members of three disbanded Galway branches—expelled from the Officials for 'ultra-leftism'—lobbied the Ard Fheis to try to get in. They believe they are paying the price for the Officials' turn to 'respectable', social-democratic policies and methods, which has gathered momentum in the past year.

The Galway members clashed with the leadership by demanding the building of the Republican movement into a revolutionary Marxist party, committed not to the creation of a mixed economy, including small capitalists and farmers, but to a programme of nationalization of all industry without compensation and under workers' control.

They also urged an armed campaign

to overthrow British imperialism in the Six Counties.

Both these demands were vigorously opposed by the reformist leaders of Official Sinn Fein. And at the Ard Fheis MacGiolla emphasized that nothing must be done to alienate potential supporters in the northern Unionist Party, in Fianna Fail or in Fine Gael.

The price of this backing appears to be a purge of so-called 'ultra-lefts and Trotskyites'. Members of the axed Galway branches believe the movement is on the threshold of full-scale conversion to the status of a social-democratic party, perhaps even with deputies in the Dail.

For the time being the leadership's new emphasis on Republicans entering the trade unions and the Labour Party has rallied the strongly syndicalist Derry Republicans, who have long believed that the future of the movement and the completion of the national revolution lay with the unions.

In his oration to 600 delegations on Saturday night, MacGiolla claimed 1972 had been a victorious year for imperialism.

He said: 'The fact that we survived at all as an organization is a tremendous

achievement when we consider the combined machinations of three governments to smash us.'

He blamed Fianna Fail for the present wave of public hostility to Sinn Fein, which he said they had consciously fostered by giving clandestine material support to the Provisional IRA.

He said: 'Now that the origins of the Provisionals are being clearly exposed, and their policies are being shown to be not only futile but disastrous, I would appeal to their members who may have been misled by lies and distortions to examine our actions and policies.'

Assessing the record of the Officials since the last Ard Fheis, MacGiolla said: 'I must emphasize that the failure of the revolutionary movement to maintain its original momentum was not due to policy failures.'

'We may have failed in organizational methods and in propaganda, but our policies have been correct.'

The crucial switch from previous vague calls for the building of a mass movement to the demand for concrete intervention in the trade union and labour movement came at the end of MacGiolla's speech.

He said that Heath and Lynch were working towards the common objective of uniting Ireland to 'surrender her independent nationhood' to the EEC. And he warned that both governments were preparing for the huge working-class struggle against poverty and unemployment which would inevitably follow Common Market entry.

He said: 'The Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act was not designed or needed to deal with illegal organizations. It was designed to deal with workers' protests and the publicity given to them. It is a preparation for the total police-state era which is almost upon us.'

MacGiolla said that in this situation the trade unions and the Labour Party must reassess their role and take their place in the vanguard of the struggle for the reconquest of Ireland and the building of a workers' republic.

News broke yesterday that the Provisional IRA are near certain to call a Christmas ceasefire in the Six Counties. The final decision was to be made yesterday. And it was not known if fighting would be resumed.

There are rumours of top-level changes in the Provisionals' leadership which would hand power exclusively to the movement's political wing.