

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY DECEMBER 28, 1972 ● No. 956 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## Chinese-Soviet neutrality aids raids

# US BOMB GENOCIDE

## HANOI BEING REDUCED TO RUBBLE

BY JOHN SPENCER

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And as the raids went on, US officials indicated they were relying on China and the Soviet Union to get Hanoi to be 'more accommodating' at the negotiating table.

The Moscow and Peking Stalinists have done nothing that would jeopardize their good relations with Nixon, making only token protests against the bombardment of North Vietnam.

Yet their men on the spot are in a position to see exactly what Nixon is doing to the North Vietnamese capital, the nerve-centre of the Indo-China revolution.

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In southern Hanoi there were strips of 'dead soil' 500 yards wide and up to 1.2 miles long in what were formerly residential areas of the city, Tass reported.

Latest reports from Hanoi indicate that the bombing is now aimed right at the heart of the city and is more intensive than ever.

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It said the bombs had 'poured like rain' on the inhabitants of Pho Kham Thien Street, which seemed to be one of the main targets for the B52s.

But the defiant North Vietnamese defenders exacted a heavy toll in downed bombers, leaving the streets of the North Vietnamese capital littered with debris from crashed B52s.

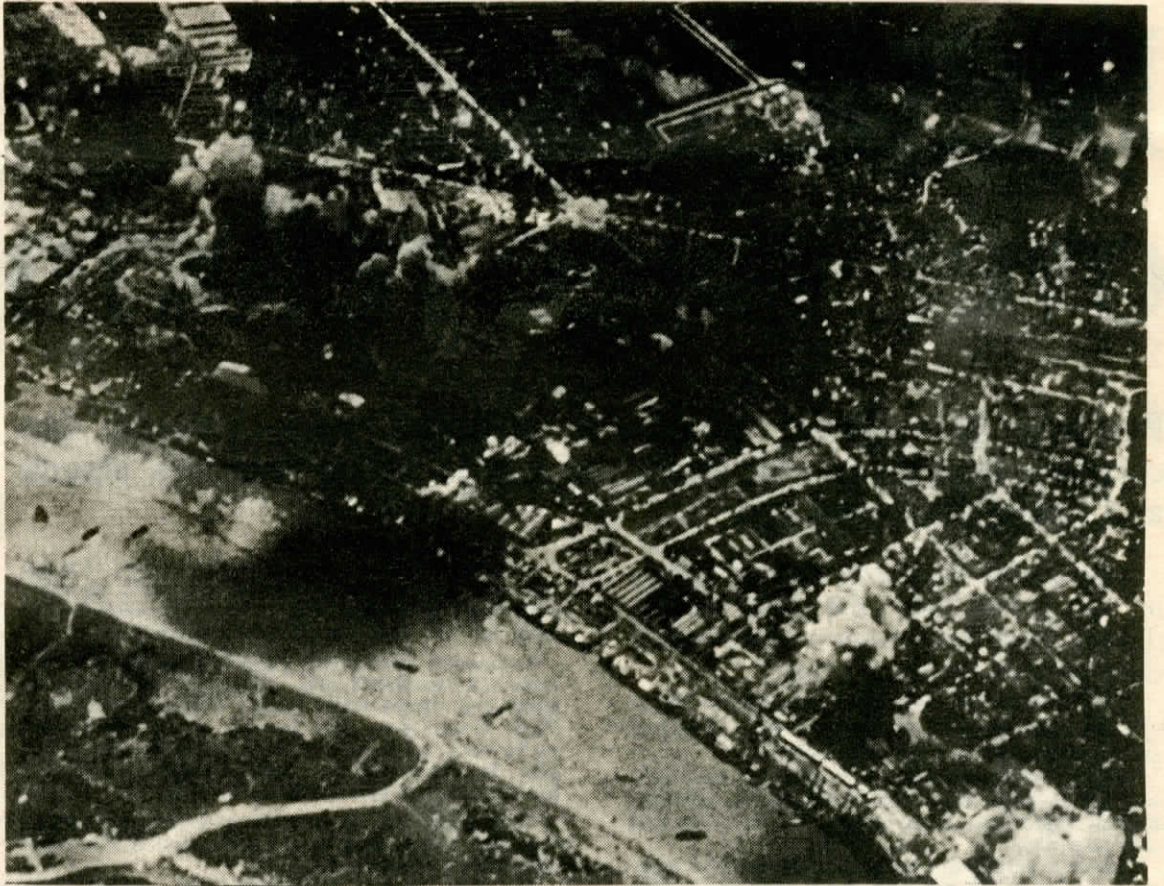
Eight more B52s were shot down over Hanoi yesterday morning, bringing the total number of the giant bombers destroyed to 26 since the raids began nine days ago.

All but the most essential personnel have been evacuated from the city, but the death toll from the unprecedented bombing is still extremely high.

White House spokesmen say the bombing will continue 'for several weeks', until the North Vietnamese leaders agree to resume what President Nixon terms 'meaningful negotiations'.

One officer of the US military command in Saigon said the bombing 'pause' was to enable the North Vietnamese to come back to the 'peace' talks 'and no fooling around', but that Nixon had made it known that 'if the Vietnamese say "OK, come and get us" then we're really going to kill them'.

Hanoi has made it clear that it will stand firm through its 'test of fire'. The latest Foreign Ministry statement on the bombing says the brutal and barbaric US attacks surpass Hitler's war



crimes in scope and intensity.

It adds: 'The US imperialists should not suffer any illusion that they can subdue the heroic Vietnamese people by force.'

The Americans, however, are not relying simply on force and brutality to crush the Vietnamese revolution and force Hanoi to settle on Nixon's terms.

Far more insidious are their secret diplomatic manoeuvres behind the scenes with the Moscow

and Peking Stalinists who want the Vietnam war brought to an end in the interests of 'peaceful coexistence'.

The position of the Moscow and Peking leaders provided the clearest indication of the counter-revolutionary character of Stalinism and the need for a ruthless struggle against it as an integral part of the defence of the Vietnamese revolution.

## Angry Jane Fonda leaves

JANE FONDA and Tom Hayden left Britain yesterday, still angry at their treatment by immigration officials. The actress and her husband-to-be were detained for two hours on Tuesday when they arrived for a conference against US policy in Vietnam.

Hayden, a leader of the US Students for a Democratic Society, was recently acquitted of conspiracy charges in connection with demonstrations at the Democratic convention of 1968.

As the couple left Heathrow airport, he said that the immigration men had told him they needed agreement from 'a higher authority' before he could be let in. 'They said they could not give us the reason. They did not have to give a reason.'

## No bail

A BRITISH MI5 agent was yesterday refused bail by a Dublin court. His application was heard in secret at the request of the Irish Republic's State Attorney.

John Wyman, of 3 Swan Walk, Chelsea, is charged with Irish police constable Patrick Crinnion under the Republic's Official Secrets Act.

The Londoner is accused of obtaining secret information from Crinnion and with attempting to obtain secret information. Crinnion faces three charges in connection with the possession of secret documents and one of passing secret information to Wyman.



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# Turkish teachers jailed for union activity

**FIFTY-TWO** Turkish schoolteachers have received sentences of up to eight years and ten months for belonging to an outlawed trade union and carrying out an illegal strike.

They were all members of the Turkish Teachers' Union which has been banned by the military regime. Another 92 defendants at the mass trial in

Ankara were acquitted.

The trial opened in October 1971 before a court-martial following mass arrests by the army. The teachers were arrested to stand trial for a strike organized in 1970 for better living conditions.

Martial law was imposed only in April 1971 so that the military court's jurisdiction to try the accused was retrospective.

The chief accused, the union's president Fakir Baykurt, a novelist, and Dursun Akcam, the general secretary, were both given eight years and ten months in jail followed by three years' exile. They were banned from teaching for life.

# Workers have learned from 1970 Baltic tension over wage reform

**POLISH** government plans for so-called wage reforms are creating tension at the Baltic shipyards where workers struck and rioted two years ago.

There have been a number of strikes in the yards over the past month, though there have been no demonstrations outside the dock areas.

Two years ago strikers were involved in violent clashes with the police who attacked them with considerable bloodshed.

Recently army reservists in the coastal area were reported to have been issued with police uniforms in case there was a repetition of the riots and demonstrations.

Although shipyard workers in Gdansk are earning from 10 to 30 per cent more than they were in 1970, according to party officials, they fear that new incentive wage schemes will work against them.

Attempts to 'explain' the wage systems through consultations between managers and party activists, with later mass meetings to put the case to the rank and file, have not been very successful.

Arguments break out when the vague formulations are translated into real terms or cannot be translated satisfactorily. James Feron of the 'New York Times' gives the example of the delegation of 40 dock workers who stopped work last month and demanded to see port managers over the introduction of labour-saving devices.

'The issue was only peripheral to the wage problem, but it was part of a pattern and it disturbed authorities,' Feron said.

He also quoted unsubstantiated reports that workers' groups are demanding an amnesty for those jailed in the aftermath of the riots of 1970.

Officials have for some time insisted that nobody involved in the riots remains in jail.

However, Party officials admit that the shipyard workers remain hostile and suspicious to their leadership. There have been thinly-veiled allusions to this attitude in the recent parliamentary debate on the current five-year plan.

One of Edward Gierek's chief aides, Jan Szydla, called for rapid growth of production as the only means of ensuring an adequately rapid rise in living standards and finding 'successful solutions to recurring tensions'.

The Gierek leadership has followed a policy of trying to placate workers with higher living standards while keeping its own bureaucratic privileges intact. The workers who frightened the bureaucracy into making concessions after December 1970 feel strengthened and are more ready to use their powers.

This poses serious problems for the Polish Stalinists, who are in the midst of carrying through a major economic decentralization, involving the linkage of wages to profits.

In the past shipyard wages have been bonuses based on the amount of work produced, but under the new system they would earn according to the profits of the yards, and in some cases of the industry.

The workers want to know what will happen if supplies fail to arrive on time. Are they to be penalized if the rivet-maker fails to fulfil his commitment? And what if rivet prices and other costs go up, trimming the shipyard profit? Will their wages be cut back?

The workers remain unconvinced, Feron says, when they are told by Party officials of the 'great improvements' made in deliveries in the past year. They are also hostile to a proposed new labour code, presented by the Party leaders as a streamlining of existing law.

The code has reportedly undergone nearly two dozen revisions and failed to gain approval at last month's trade union congress. A Party official said: 'We found that few people had read it.'

The workers it would eventually regulate were apparently among those unfamiliar with its terms and unable to gain satisfactory explanations, Feron reported.

# What we think

## The challenge to democratic rights

SINCE coming to power in June 1970, the Tories have pursued policies leading more and more in the direction of dictatorship.

This is amply evident in the Industrial Relations Act which jails trade unionists and fines their unions; the so-called Counter-Inflation Act which legislates against wage increases which in effect means that wage-cutting is now legalized. (Penalty for defying the Act is unlimited fines in the criminal courts); the amendments to the Criminal Justice Act which abolish the police caution and end an accused man's right to refuse to give evidence without comment to the jury.

In the summer of this year the homes of a number of members of the International Socialist group were raided and documents carried away. It was a liberty-taking swoop in which the Special Branch was allowed to collect a range of names and addresses.

Then the Tories closed down Trafalgar Square to all demonstrations on Northern Ireland and several men were arrested on 'treason' charges for making pro-IRA speeches at Hyde Park Corner on a Sunday afternoon.

In the past two issues of Workers Press we have been sounding the alarm bells about another encroachment on civil liberties. We have been warning about the activities of the faceless men in the secret police.

It is widely believed that Britain's secret police, who work behind the Ministry of Defence, are concerned with rooting out spies from foreign countries.

The myth is fostered that raincoated men stand around Hyde Park waiting to catch the Patagonian military attaché as he picks up the Concorde secrets from a hollow log.

The facts are far from funny. In reality a powerful section of this sinister body of men and women is dedicated to spying on the labour and trade union movement. The Ministry of Defence, with its implications of Polaris and secret weapons, is merely a cover for their real activity.

As the ruling class is plunged into ever-deepening economic ruin, this shadowy branch of the state's repres-

sive machinery will be used more vigorously.

The result will be even graver assaults on civil liberties and the taking away of democratic rights which have been won in years of struggle by our forefathers.

In recent years the liberals have raised an occasional squeal about police spies and agents provocateur. But they have done so in a way which deliberately separates the issue from politics.

This situation cannot continue. The defence of basic democratic rights is a class question. It must be taken up by the whole labour movement and those sections of the middle class—lawyers, film and TV directors, writers, journalists and actors—who are not prepared to sit by and watch the destruction of basic rights.

We are firmly convinced that the Tory government is being dragged deeper into social crisis. It is 'the period of civil wars' which Heath so accurately forecast when he spoke before the United Nations shortly after his election.

It is against Heath's statement that we have learnt that Tories with a military background are being invited to join some mysterious body of public-spirited citizens. It is ostensibly to 'protect the nation'. But from what are they protecting it?

The only conclusion is that this body is to be an army of scabs such as the notorious OMS which operated as strike-breakers during the 1926 General Strike.

Workers Press serves notice that it will not give way to the faceless political police who open mail, listen to telephone conversations and bug meeting places and private homes.

This clandestine group can be expected to step up its activities in the coming period. They will attempt infiltration and provocation in order to create an atmosphere of panic.

These special police are not being expanded to defend freedom, they are preparing to smash its remaining vestiges.

It will be the duty of Workers Press, the daily newspaper of the labour and trade union movement, to fearlessly unmask these sinister forces.

## BRIEFLY

**JAPAN** is considering curbing shipbuilding orders from overseas to prevent a heavy dollar influx which could stimulate pressure for another yen revaluation. The Transport Ministry was considering fixing a monthly quota for such orders while the Trade and Industry Ministry was considering curbing ship export licences, officials said. The Transport Ministry last month authorized building applications for 30 export vessels, but officials considered this figure was too high.

**JAPANESE** demonstrators yesterday staged a noisy protest outside a United States air base at Tachikawa City, near Tokyo, to demand that it be returned to civil use when it reverts to Japan in four to five years time. The demonstrators, including the mayor of Tachikawa, stood outside the base shouting slogans as a 128-man contingent of the Japanese armed forces moved in aboard helicopters.

**ISRAELI** planes bombed two villages—Dael and Saida—and some advance army posts in the southern sector of the Syrian front yesterday morning. Three civilians were killed and two soldiers wounded in the raid.

Socialist Labour League North West Rally

**FORCE THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!**

**BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY!**

SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 7 p.m.  
The Everyman, Hope Street,  
LIVERPOOL

## 'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM

A film made by ACTT, showing the five Right-to-Work marches from Glasgow, Liverpool, Swansea, Deal and Southampton to London ending with a huge Rally at Empire Pool, Wembley on March 12, 1972. Speakers:

- G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)
- CHRISTINE SMITH (Young Socialists)
- In a personal capacity:
- CONNIE FAHEY (Manchester Tenants)
- ALAN STANLEY (Vauxhall Shop Stewards)
- BRIAN GEENEY (U.P.W.)
- WALLY FOUCHS (CAV Occupation Committee)

# New danger faces sit-in Officials holding back on CAV blacking

BY DAVID MAUDE

SIT-IN STRIKERS at the CAV Fazakerley factory in Liverpool are facing a serious new danger—this time from local union officials.

The officials have been asked by the strikers, and by shop stewards from the laid-off Lucas Industrial Equipment factory on the same site as CAV, to arrange a meeting with stewards from Liverpool's Ford and Standard-Triumph factories.

Blacking action against all Lucas products has been called for by the CAV occupation committee. They are already picketing the car factories to stop Lucas lorries getting in. Now they want firm action from inside until the company reverses its decision to close CAV in April.

A district committee meeting of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions is expected to discuss the request this week.

But a number of officials are hesitant about serious blacking action at the car factories. And they are expected to support an 'alternative' course of action involving a new bid for talks with the company.

It is believed these officials want to bargain with Lucas's over the future of Lucas Industrial Equipment. They apparently hope to get a new lease of life for CAV in return for some formula which would allow LIE—closed by the stopping of supplies onto the Fazakerley site—to reopen.

Yet the company has already made clear that if LIE does not reopen on its terms 'within the next few weeks', it will close it permanently. And a series of meetings with union men and MPs have shown the firm in no mood for negotiation.

The suspicion is gaining ground at CAV, therefore, that the policy of this group of officials is merely a delaying tactic which postpones the vital blacking issue.

A call for effective blacking action has also been postponed on the docks.

Docks stewards are asking for a guarantee that they will be backed by industrial action in the Liverpool area if forced into a strike over the blacking of Lucas goods.

Stewards deny that this is because they fear action against their union in the National Industrial Relations Court. But whatever the reason for the delay, it leaves the CAV workers—now in their 13th week of sit-in—temporarily high and dry.

Despite this, the mood at the occupied factory over the Christmas weekend was of unshakable determination to continue the action and win.

● See Goad affair shakes CAV leadership p. 11.

## Overtime ban starts gasmen's pay protest

**GASWORKERS** in south London will ban all overtime from 6 a.m. today in protest against the Tory government's state pay law.

The ban which will be started by 600 men at the redundancy-hit East Greenwich gas-producing works and an hour later by 250 men at the Croydon plant could well spread to the whole of south-east England next week.

Sympathetic action is expected from other regions.

Since the East Greenwich plant—the biggest of

its kind in Europe—was opened in 1966, at least 2,000 men have been made redundant.

The plant will be finally closed along with other plants when natural gas replaces coal gas and the last 600 men will lose their jobs.

Over 46,000 workers in the industry are angered because the state pay law has interrupted negotiations for more pay and shorter working hours.

A spokesman for the main union involved—the General and Municipal

Workers—said that the gasworkers want parity with the electricity workers' pay settlement, which was agreed only two days before the 'freeze' began.

At the union's national delegate conference next month shop stewards in the north Thames and west Midlands areas will lead the demand for industrial action.

The union is also demanding shorter hours in parity with the electricity workers. This, it says, could also help halt redundancy.

## Worker-director scheme

### TUC joins corporatist plan

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

THE TUC is considering Common Market corporatist-style proposals aimed at drawing trade unions directly into the management structure of big corporations.

Tory Ministers have written to the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry asking their views on new EEC legislation on 'worker-participation'.

And the TUC has lost no time in rushing into action to elaborate its own scheme. A small

group of trade union leaders has prepared an interim report to be published by the end of next month.

The TUC has also gone further and drawn up its own 'guidelines' on the question. One includes the way an appointment of a 'worker-director' can allegedly relate to trade union principles.

As far as the European bourgeoisie is concerned, 'worker-participation' in industry is seen as one way to undermine the

independence of the trade unions.

At the same time, attacks on workers' conditions can be launched from a favourable position. This has been the case in the British steel industry. While union men sat on the board, 85,000 workers were lined up for redundancy.

The perspective of the EEC reflects its strategy in a period of trade war: A grand coalition of the capitalist classes against the insurgent working classes of Europe.

In Britain, the Tory government, of course, has taken this course with the Industrial Relations Act and now the state pay laws. In addition, campaigns like Working Together and organizations like the Industrial Society—which is well supported by union leaders—have tried to foster the idea of an identity of interests between the classes.

Now the TUC is not only discussing these plans but, according to one source, actually thinking of participating in the institutions of the Common Market in the near future.

With EEC entry only four days away, the building of a new, revolutionary leadership in the unions becomes all that more urgent.



Paul Channon, Tory Minister for Housing and Construction, at his Press conference yesterday.

## Rent Act: Now bonanza for private landlord

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

STAGE TWO of the Tory rent swindle starts next week when the government applies its Housing Finance Act to private unfurnished accommodation.

The move will mean that rents for over 1.1 million people living in slum houses could double as regulations passed in 1957 preventing rent increases are phased out.

These are the houses with a rateable value of less than £40 in London and £30 elsewhere.

The Act will also be the green light for landlords of properties regulated in 1965 to apply to tribunals to obtain so-called 'fair rents'—in fact new rents vastly inflated by property speculation.

Paul Channon, Tory Minister for Housing and Construction, yesterday presented this latest attack on the working class as some kind of hand-out to the private tenant. He made great play of the national rent-rebate scheme under which tenants can get relief to compensate for rocketing rents.

But he would not confirm or deny that the sum total of the scheme, despite the rebates, would mean that more people would be paying more rent to private landlords.

This would seem to be the inevitable outcome of the new legislation.

Figures show that over a period of three years 59.2 per cent of flats and houses which have undergone the 'fair rents' test have had their rents put up—the average rise was double the original rent.

Rebates will not make up the difference of this extra burden. The Minister said yesterday that some controlled properties had 'incredibly low' rents and that it was eventually inevitable that they would increase.

Another problem is highlighted by the poor response to existing private rebate schemes. In the London borough of Lambeth only 360 out of an estimated 20,000 eligible have applied for rebates in the first two months.

Mr Channon said yesterday that he was 'satisfied' that councils were capable of making sure all those who could would get a rebate. He said the next phase of the government campaign to 'sell' the legislation would involve TV and newspaper advertising.

Under the scheme a couple on £26 with two children would get a £1.55 rebate on a rent of £5. If the rent was increased by £3 to £8 the rebate would increase by only £1.80—yet rents increases of this nature will be commonplace when the new law is in full swing.

The controlled tenancies, many of them slums and not worth the small rents already paid, will be decontrolled over the next four years.

The new legislation will draw the private tenant into the fight against the Tory government. Later in the New Year it will be the turn of the tenants in private furnished accommodation who will be subjects of a similar Tory attack.

## An appeal on behalf of the Fine Tubes strikers of Plymouth

This is the third Christmas that the Plymouth Fine Tubes strikers, their wives and their 53 children, have spent on strike with very little money.

These men have waged a bitter struggle for the most basic right a worker can possess—the right to belong to a trade union.

Strike committee members have travelled over 100,000 miles to sustain their fight.

This Christmas is the hardest of all. It has imposed a great financial burden. Now the 37 strikers face the rest of the winter with a depleted strike fund. January is always a difficult month to raise money to further their fight.

Yet they are determined to fight on. This is a struggle the working class cannot afford to lose. That is why the Socialist Labour League and the Work-

ers Press wishes to make a special appeal to all trade unionists to take collections in their factories and branches for the Fine Tubes men in order that their heroic and determined action can be carried forward. All money should be sent to:

Fine Tubes Treasurer  
c/o 65 Bretonside  
Plymouth, Devon.



# JUKES BLASTS PLANT BARGAINING

Martin Jukes, QC, president of the most powerful section of employers in the country, the Engineering Employers' Federation, is another eminence in the ruling class who is now calling for sterner measures against trade unionists.

Listen to Jukes talking to the Industrial Correspondents' Group luncheon recently:

'Should free collective bargaining as we have known it in the past be restored in the future?'

'It is my belief that if it is restored we should within a year thereafter be involved in the same inflationary situation as before.'

'But to me the most important problem facing the government is to redefine the role and influence of plant bargaining.'

In a breath Jukes is proposing attacks on collective bargaining and plant bargaining. He wants to end both! This is a pretty tall order even for a group like the EEF.

It is seriously urging the dismantling of procedures for winning decent wage awards which the working class has erected during decades of struggle.

In their place the employers wish to impose state-control over wages in the style already partly outlined by Edward Heath. Under Phase Two of the state pay plan the government is expected to set 'norms' which will be legally enforceable in the criminal courts.

Workers and their trade unions will be threatened with unlimited fines if they seek to break the 'norm' barrier.

The Tories' and Jukes's chief hope is that the trade union leaders will be able to deliver



this wage-cutting proposal: 'One of the factors that would affect the situation most favourably would be a strengthening of the control of the unions over their members and an understanding by those members that there must be some limit on the claims they put forward in the interests not only of themselves but of the economy as a whole.'

If the ruling class is relying on the trade union leaders, it is a sad case of the blind leading the blind. Though both parties may desperately wish

to co-operate, they are heading towards a precipice over which both may well fall.

Time and again throughout this year the rank and file has demonstrated that it does not share the class-collaboration policies of its leaders. Jack Jones may have gone to the National Industrial Relations Court (NIRC) and paid his fines, but the dockers committed gross contempt of court and went to jail. And it was the unofficial action of the working class which secured their release.

## LETTER: STALINISM AND INDONESIA

Dear Editor,  
I feel that your article on Indonesia on Wednesday, November 29 is incomplete without reference to the role of Stalinism and in particular the Chinese bureaucracy.

The defeat suffered by the workers and peasants in 1965 when General Suharto's military regime came to power is probably the most serious reverse suffered in any country since World War II.

As your article pointed out, the Indonesian Communist Party in 1965 was the largest Communist Party in the world outside China, Russia and eastern Europe. With a membership of one million it was in an extremely powerful position.

But Suharto and his generals were able to triumph, murdering in the process an estimated million workers and peasants, with scarcely a whimper of organized opposition. How did this terrifying defeat take place?



Sukarno

It is directly attributable to the reactionary Stalinist theory of constructing socialism in a single country. The leadership of the PKI was in the hands of men who were the tools of the Chinese bureaucracy.

The bureaucracy was not concerned with the fate of the Indonesian masses, but with 'good diplomatic relations' with Sukarno, then president of Indonesia. Sukarno was nothing but the representative of the Indonesian national bourgeoisie, a leader who balanced between the army on the one hand and the Communist Party on the other.

Sukarno and the PKI allowed the generals full rein to prepare the counter-revolution. Too late the PKI leaders realized that their fate hung in the balance and very probably they made an abortive attempt at a putsch. Certainly they never turned to the masses.

They paid with their lives. Without leadership the workers and peasants were disoriented and counter-revolution was able to triumph with very little resistance. Thus ended another 'peaceful road to socialism', and another page in the book of the crimes of Stalinism.

The entire betrayal has a remarkable resemblance to the events which took place in 1927 in China itself, when Chiang Kai-shek was enabled to murder the flower of the Chinese working class through the betrayals of Stalin.

Lest anyone should imagine that there has been any change since 1965, one has only to remember Nixon's visit to Peking and the role of the Chinese bureaucracy over Bangladesh. Truly today the crisis of humanity resolves itself into the question of leadership for the working class.

London reader.

# GOOD MONEY ONLY FOR TOP GASMEN

North Thames Gas Board men who are demanding strike action over the suspension of pay negotiations might like to know how much their bosses are making.

Salaries among the full-time members are as follows:

Chairman Mr G. E. Cooper is getting £13,000; deputy chairman Mr L. W. Smith £10,000; chief executive Mr P. R. Rhodes £8,910.

There is also good money to be made as a part-timer. Labour Lord Collison, chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, the Earl of Halsbury and Dr K. G. Denbigh of Queen Elizabeth Hospital all get £1,000. For some unexplained reason Mr C. T. Higgins, former company director and chairman of the Peterborough Development Corporation, the final part-time member, gets £2,100.

Stewards representing 8,000 North Thames manual workers, members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, voted last week to press the union's executive to authorize

strike action from January 28 unless the Gas Council resumes negotiations.

The union has submitted a four-part claim which includes:

- A 'substantial' increase on the present £19.10 labourer's and £22.87 craftsman's basic weekly rates

- A reduction in hours.

- More holidays.

- Better redundancy terms as plants close down with the switch to North Sea Gas.

Heath, who gave himself a pay increase a year ago which took his salary to more than £20,000, has told the G&MWU that all pay talks must be halted.

The union's executive meets on January 16 at which the strike action proposed by North Thames stewards will be discussed.

They should note that part-time members of the board—they only have to turn up for occasional meetings—are drawing a fee which is as high as some of the lower-paid manual workers. And they work five days a week in all weather and under filthy and often dangerous conditions.

# TORIES' SCHEMES WILL NOT CURB JOBLESS

Policies which the government claims will reduce unemployment will, in fact, have no serious effect, according to an article in 'Monitor', the journal of the Institute of Manpower Studies.

This argument is based on a study—carried out at Sussex University by Mr Colin Leicester—of trends in employment, productivity and national output over the last 21 years.

Mr Leicester finds first that labour productivity in Britain has been growing faster than the output of goods and services since the mid-1960s. In other words, fewer people are required to produce more.

This means that the government's stated belief that any increase in the Gross Domestic Product will automatically increase the number of jobs available is fallacious.

Since about 1966 the opposite has been happening.

Mr Leicester's other main finding is that when extra jobs become available, many of them are taken by people who were not previously registered as unemployed.

'The past 20 years' experience', he says, 'suggests that any economic policy aimed at reducing unemployment from the recent 800,000 to the "acceptable" 300,000 would have to provide, not 500,000 jobs, but 1.5 million.'

'A 5-per-cent growth rate', he continues, 'might produce an extra 500,000. But it certainly would not produce three times that number.'

A comparison of changes in numbers employed over the years, with changes in numbers of registered unemployed showed, for example, that between 1966 and 1971 the numbers employed fell by roughly 1.2 million while the numbers of registered unemployed rose by only 400,000.

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Papadopoulos and Pattakos, leaders of the Greek military regime which came to power in 1967.

## THE TORTURE OF CHRISTO SARTZETAKIS

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The case of Greek judge Christos Sartzetakis provides an instructive insight into the quality of fascist justice and into the extremes to which the ruling colonels are prepared to go to destroy all opposition—real or imaginary.

In a recent 'Sunday Times' article, Greek-born Lady Fleming, widow of Sir Alexander Fleming, told how a man who refused to compromise his concept of justice was tortured and persecuted by the military regime.

On May 22, 1963, in the northern Greek city of Salonika, left-wing MP Grigoris Lambrakis was murdered in full view of the chief of police and 200 of his men who made no move to apprehend the attackers.

### RIGHT-WING

Sartzetakis (33), a brilliant local lawyer, respected for his integrity, was appointed to look into the incident.

He brought charges of murder against two men who had clearly been seen to commit the crime and who had been detained by a watching crowd as they tried to escape on a motorcycle combination.

Both men were members of a violent right-wing organization.

Sartzetakis went further. He charged the police commander

for northern Greece, General Mitsou, and several of his officers with actually instigating the attack on Lambrakis.

All were arrested, in defiance of the wishes of the public prosecutor in Athens, Constantine Koliass, who was made Prime Minister when the colonels came to power in 1967.

### DISMISSED

It took three and a half years for the accused police to be brought to trial and then the case against them was dismissed. The two motorcycle men were jailed for 11 and eight years, but have since been freed.

Sartzetakis was in Paris when the colonels seized power and need not have returned. When he received orders to go back to Athens he did so.

For a whole year after the colonels' coup there was no mention of retribution for his dangerous audacity in pressing charges against the police and attempting to bring the murderers of a left-wing MP to justice.

Then, without warning, in May 1968, the colonels suspended for three days the rule making judges immovable from office and Sartzetakis and 28 other men were abruptly dismissed. They were forbidden to practise as lawyers and banned from leaving Greece.

Sartzetakis was never a 'political' figure. Though hostile to the colonels, he refused to side with the opposition.

He had always been against 'totalitarianism' and limited himself to putting into practice his stringent concepts of justice.

Nevertheless, on Christmas Eve 1970 he was arrested at his parents' home—his father was an ex-general of police.

For months the colonels had told the world that nobody could be arrested without a warrant or after sunset. Sartzetakis was not shown a warrant and he was arrested at night.

A week later, despite the fact that his father had been promised he would be told if Sartzetakis was moved from Salonika, the lawyer was taken in secrecy to the special interrogation centre of the military police in Athens.

### TORTURED

From December 24 to January 15 Sartzetakis was subjected to beatings and tortures which brought him to the brink of death. He was allowed one glass of water a day and only a bite of food.

Forty-seven days after his arrest, he was charged officially with attempting to overthrow the regime, despite his consistent denials and factual innocence.

Months later he was freed and allowed to practise as a lawyer again.

But it was a brave man who would risk offering him a case and in the 12 months since he was freed he has dealt with only ten cases—all put his way by close friends.

# THE VALUE ADDED TAX FRAUD

A major contribution to the lowering of the standard of living of the working class is planned with the introduction of Value-Added Tax (VAT) on April 1 next year.

The new tax is one of the chief aspects of a sweeping change in British taxation currently being undertaken by the Tory government.

One reason for bringing in VAT is to align the British system of taxation more closely with the Common Market countries, as required under the Treaty of Rome.

But the Tory aim is also to produce a massive shift of the tax burden away from property-owners and high-earners and onto the backs of the working class.

Adopting the Common Market system is the easiest way to achieve this, because EEC tax systems are far more favourable, in general, to the rich than the present British system.

The standardization of taxes throughout the Common Market is a necessary step towards the eventual object of economic union. Differences in taxation constitute a barrier to the free movement of capital and goods.

It was for this specific purpose that VAT was first introduced in the EEC as the standard tax. All the six member-countries were required to bring in a VAT system by January 1970.

Only Italy has yet to put this decree into practice, successive governments fearing the upheaval that would be created by price rises and increased administration costs.

In order to cut the burden of taxation on the rich, the Tories are adopting the classic strategy of cutting 'direct' taxes and increasing the weight of 'indirect' taxes.

'Direct' taxes are levied on income and profits, while 'indirect' taxes are imposed on goods or services. An example of indirect taxation is the tax on cigarettes, which is raised by increasing the price of the goods.

The Tory government's first budget in 1971 sharply slashed surtax (which naturally penalized the wealthy) and now plans to replace income tax and surtax altogether with a new unified personal tax which will treat unearned incomes much more favourably than at present.

A new (and more lenient) type of corporation tax will benefit companies, while death duty seems likely to be replaced by inheritance tax, cutting the amount that will have to be surrendered to the taxman on death.

VAT can be levied on the whole range of consumer goods and services and can thus bring in a vast yield. Its great attraction is its universal character. It can cover practically every item in the shops and every form of service industry as well.

To bring in the money on the necessary scale, the tax must be applied, above all, to necessities. And it is no accident that in all the countries

of Europe where it operates, VAT is applied to food.

The Tory government is making great play with the fact that food, rents, fares, rates, fuel and light are all 'zero-rated' under the tax.

But this simply means that the tax is not yet being levied on these items. They are not exempt and the Chancellor is empowered to change the rating when he wants to.

VAT replaces existing purchase tax and Selective Employment Tax (SET). It is levied at each stage in the trading process: the value added by any trader is calculated as the value of his sales less the cost of materials and services purchased from other firms.

Effectively the tax is levied as a percentage of the sum of wages and profits.

Each firm involved in production or handling of a good pays the tax and then passes the extra cost onto the next firm or person in the chain. The entire total burden thus falls on the unfortunate shopper.

But though in theory the 'middlemen' pay nothing towards the tax, they will be forced to undertake the complex financial administration associated with VAT. Only those with less than £5,000 a year turnover will be exempt.

Many small traders expect to be ruined by the crippling administration burden of the new tax and are planning to sell up their shops.

As a first stage, VAT is actually being charged only on about 40 per cent of consumers' expenditure, though this includes such items as children's clothing and shoes, which are now exempt from purchase tax.

Nobody should be deceived by appearances. It is only too clear that the Tory government, once it gets the chance, will raise both the coverage and the rate at which the tax is levied.

The standard VAT rate on April 1 is likely to be 10 per cent, which compares with rates of 23 in France, 20 in Norway, 18 in Belgium, 14 in Holland, 12.5 in Denmark and 11 per cent in Germany.

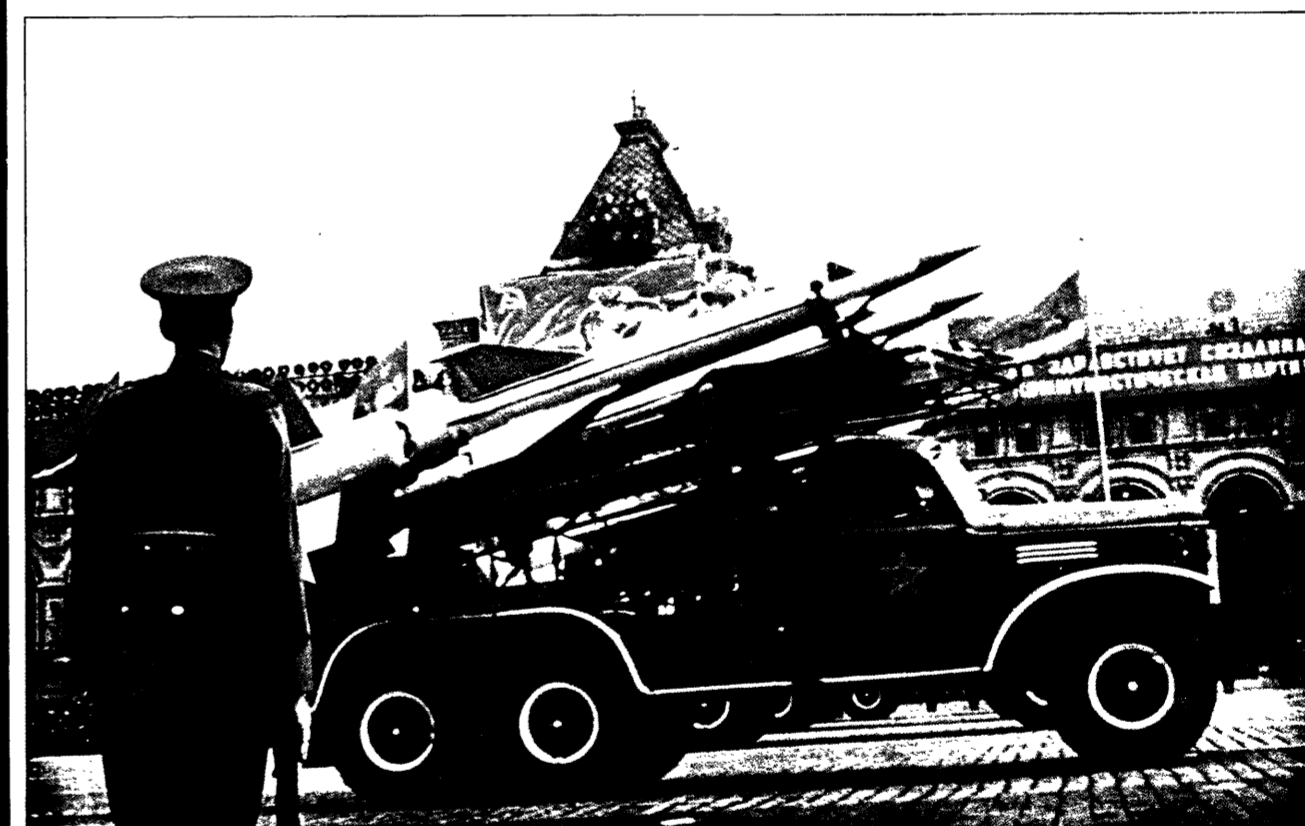
The government has already taken powers to increase the rate by 2½ per cent in the first year of operation and then to make changes of up to 20 per cent of the rate in any year, without further legislation.

Obviously it will not be 10 per cent in Britain for long. Nor is food—which is affected by the tax in all countries, presently applying it—likely to remain exempt for any length of time.

The tax is officially estimated to increase the cost of living by 2½ to 3 per cent when it is introduced. This estimate is certainly on the low side. The experience of other countries has been that VAT introduction is accompanied by substantial rises in the cost of living.

In Denmark the cost of living rose 7.9 per cent in the six months after VAT was introduced, while in Norway retail prices rose 6.25 per cent over the year, despite so-called price control.





# SOVIET WORKERS TOLD TO WAIT

BY OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

**Drastic changes in the current five-year plan are being undertaken by the Soviet leaders in the wake of the disastrous grain harvest this year.**

At the Supreme Soviet session held in Moscow last week they reversed the priority given to consumer goods industry in the original plan. They also announced big increases in investment in agriculture and a general cutback in investment throughout industry.

At the Supreme Soviet session Nikolai Baybakov, the chairman of the state planning committee, presented a gloomy report on the prospects for the coming year.

He cautiously avoided specifying the actual harvest short-

fall, but stated that 'the targets for production and procurement of grain and a number of other agricultural crops were not met in our country as a whole'.

To prevent a serious shortage of grain the Soviet leaders have had to import almost \$1,000m-worth of wheat and other grain from abroad, mainly from the United States. But the grain is not being given away free by the imperialists. Far from it. The money to pay for the shipments has to be found from the meagre foreign exchange reserves of the USSR or from credits negotiated with overseas banks.

Measures have already been introduced to cut down the import of 'non-essential' items and officials are carefully scanning the lists of imported

goods to see whether more cuts can be made.

This is undoubtedly one of the main reasons for the Soviet decision to invite considerable foreign investment, notably from the United States. This is a means of acquiring capital for investment, particularly in the vast mineral projects whose production can then hopefully be exchanged for western consumer goods.

## CONSUMER PRIORITIES

Foreign investment can enable the bureaucracy to overcome some of its most severe immediate headaches by making political and economic concessions to imperialism. This is essentially what the

theory of peaceful co-existence means.

Baybakov said there were 'serious shortcomings' in the work of certain economic sectors. 'The main problem has been the under-fulfilment of the plan for commissioning productive capacities and in a series of cases delay in reaching their rated capacity'.

This is a severe blow to the development of increased industrial production and reveals that though the immediate strains created by the harvest are the most important cause of the budget revision, they are not the only one.

The ninth five-year plan, which enters its third year in 1973, envisaged major increases in the output of consumer goods. It was billed as the plan which would provide

a 'better life' for the Soviet people.

Priority was given to investment in light industry, for the production of such items as washing machines, electronic goods and other symbols of improved standard of living.

However, these plans have proved more difficult to put into effect than the planners thought. Attempts to raise the productivity of labour, either by exhortation or by increased investment have not been notably successful.

This is not simply a matter of lack of eagerness on the part of the workers. They are subjected to an extremely bureaucratic managerial regime in the factories which suppresses all independent initiative.

The general level of industrial development is such that

piecemeal investment can have little effect on overall productivity—a bottleneck overcome in one place simply reappears in another form elsewhere.

This is one of the reasons why Baybakov had to report that 'planned measures for increasing production efficiency in certain industries have not been fully effected'.

## GRANDIOSE PROMISES

The growth in gross industrial output for this year is down to 6.2 per cent from an original estimated rise of 6.9 per cent.

But this existing shortfall is mild compared with the cutbacks planned for 1973. A wholesale reversal of priorities has been undertaken and the grandiose promises made to the workers in 1970 are being snatched from under their noses.

In order to prevent the recurrence of this year's disastrous harvest, the planned expenditure on agriculture has

been considerably stepped up. The sum allocated in Baybakov's budget for agricultural investment in 1973 is nearly equal to that spent over the past two years.

The state will spend 25,400m roubles on agriculture next year compared with expenditure of 28,000m roubles for the first two years of the ninth five-year plan.

This increase is to come largely from the consumer goods section of investment, where the targets have been drastically downgraded. Consumer production is to rise under the revised plan by only 4.5 per cent next year, a reduction of 3.6 per cent on the original target in the five-year plan.

This cutback comes at a time when the previous years' targets for increasing consumer goods production have already fallen short of the plan.

By contrast, the rise in output of heavy industry is to be cut by only 1.5 per cent, from an originally scheduled figure of 7.8 per cent to a revised estimate of 6.3 per cent.

In effect this means that the whole axis of the present five-year plan, which was presented originally as a scheme for vastly increasing the amount of available consumer goods, has been reversed.

Now the emphasis is again, as in the past, on heavy industry and agriculture and consumer goods production has once more been pushed into the back seat. This will hit the working class quite disproportionately, for the bureaucracy has always been first in the queue for consumer products and invariably takes the cream of what is available.

## NO MILITARY CUTBACKS

Trotsky formulated 'a unique law of Soviet industry' . . . 'commodities are as a general rule worse the nearer they stand to the mass consumer.' By contrast, the most fastidious customers are the armed forces.

Trotsky's analysis is entirely

borne out by the Supreme Soviet discussion. There is to be no cutback in military expenditure. The necessity to defend the Soviet Union means that the armed forces must be kept up to exacting standards.

But this is only a graphic expression of the Utopian character of the bureaucracy's dream of socialism in a single country. So long as imperialist encirclement remains, the economy must continue to bear this unnatural burden.

The political implications of this move are extremely serious for the men in the Kremlin. They have already commenced a new police drive against the intellectual opposition and there have been a number of important arrests.

Clearly they want to get rid of any focus for popular discontent and the oppositionists of Moscow and Leningrad are the obvious target. But there is a much more basic danger facing the bureaucracy and one which they appear powerless to avert.

It is the spectre of the political revolution of the working class, which in the USSR

must take the form of an elemental explosion of workers' anger against the bureaucracy which has robbed them of their political rights and flaunts its usurping power in their faces.

The Soviet bureaucracy must know that it was the reduction of consumer supplies in Hungary before 1956 which played a prominent part in sparking the Hungarian Revolution. They have the fresh reminder of the Polish Baltic port strikes of December 1970.

The question for the bureaucrats in the Kremlin is that they have kept the workers quiet with promises of a better life. Will these workers now be content to be once again pushed to the back of the queue?

Above left: Soviet workers in an automobile factory. The cutbacks in consumer goods will hit workers hard, depriving them of a rise in living standards, long-promised to them by the bureaucracy. Top: Harvest—disastrous this year, but it was not the only shortcoming. Above: Military parade in Red Square. In this field there is to be no cutback.



The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is today in the forefront of the struggle against the Tory government's Industrial Relations Act. Here a special correspondent highlights important and significant episodes in the history of the engineers' fight to build their union against the employers, their governments and their courts.

# HOW THE ENGINEERS BUILT THEIR UNION

Part five: Engineers turn to politics and the building of the Labour Party. The right wing goes over to the 'war effort' in 1914-1918 and the shop stewards' movement is born. The new Amalgamated Engineering Union of 1921 fights for survival.

The consequences of the 1897 defeat and the continuous legal attack on the status of the unions in the 1890s, culminating in the Taff Vale decision, required, as in 1897, a decisive shift to the political front.

Again there was inevitably much hesitation among the majority of members to pursue a policy of campaign for independent labour representatives in parliament. The Taff Vale judgement produced the turning point in consciousness.

In 1904 the Amalgamated

Society of Engineers (ASE), by a majority vote of its members, endorsed the Labour Representation Committee as a major step towards the building of the Labour Party.

One section of engineers headed by Tom Mann and Charles Duncan campaigned to open the ranks of the exclusive ASE to the numerous and growing body of semi-skilled and unskilled engineering workers.

Mann and Duncan and many young engineers threw themselves into the work of recruiting those sections into the Workers' Union (later the Transport and General Workers' Union) around a fighting

industrial and political policy as the best means of presenting a strong front against the employers and government and as a positive answer to the machinations of the official leadership.

ASE members formed the front line in the struggle for defence of wages and conditions during the 1914-1918 war.

When war broke out, the trade union leadership deserted to the side of the national government, declaring their members' support for the war effort.

By the terms of the Treasury Agreement of March 15, trade union rights were 'voluntarily' suspended for the duration of the war. The Munitions of War Act and the Defence of the Realm Act further enabled the state to strip away all union rights and force a ruthless policy of speed-up, long hours and the breaking down of the long-established workshop practices of skilled engineering workers.

Abandoned by the official leadership, the resolution of grievances at workshop level was taken up by the Shop Stewards' Movement which first rose into prominence during wartime. Beginning with the Clyde Workers' Committee, formed out of ASE members, the movement blossomed out into other areas and into a national organization.

The Shop Stewards' and Workers' Committee movement had an important influence in the main munitions centres in the country. The Clyde Workers' Committee led strike action against dilution (of skilled labour) before being dispersed by the government in April 1916.

A labour historian in Coventry, John Yates, informs us the normal working hours in

munitions factories in the city were from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m., 'with Saturdays and Sundays thrown in'. The shop stewards fought to reduce hours and win recognition as the democratic representatives of the workers.

The Engineering Employers' Federation refused to recognize shop stewards. The bosses were promptly answered by a strike of 50,000 men, women and girls in Coventry aircraft and munitions factories. Engineering workers brought Sheffield to a standstill over the conscription of the skilled craftsman and the 'May Strike' of 1917, occasioned by the general extension of dilution and the ending of the exemption of skilled craftsmen from military conscription, involved over 250,000 engineering workers in all the big centres.

As a result of the determination of the working class, particularly in engineering and munitions, to hold on to its past gains, the status of shop stewards was officially recognized and the rules and rights suspended in August 1914 restored in the summer of 1919.

In the immediate post-war period, ASE members and engineers still outside it, continued a militant policy, rejecting the Whitley Councils projected by the government and the trade union leaders. They participated instead in the Council of Action in 1920 to prevent the prosecution of the counter-revolutionary war against the new workers' state in Russia.

The election of Tom Mann to the position of general secretary indicated the shift to the left. Under his leadership, the ASE, with nine smaller craft societies, achieved the formation of the Amalgamated Engineering Union in 1921.

Union rights were suspended during the war enabling the employers to introduce speed-up, longer hours and the recruitment of unskilled labour. Above: A woman munitions worker.

The temporary economic boom after the war was followed by roaring inflation, slump and heavy unemployment. Engineering was one of the first industries to feel the pinch of depression and the employers resumed their offensive against recent wage gains of AEU workers, including the bonuses paid out in 1917 and 1919.

A whole range of rights came under attack with a near 20-per-cent reduction in wages, on overtime and the manning of machines. Like its predecessor, the ASE, the AEU almost at birth was faced with a battle for survival against a vastly strengthened Engineering Employers' Federation of over 2,000 firms.

Weakened by the effects of unemployment, by the collapse of the leaders of the Triple Alliance, the defeat of the miners and the inability of the AEU leadership to raise the consciousness of the struggle of their members beyond the level of the wages issue, the union was brought to its knees.

By drawing certain political conclusions from their experience of defeat, the politically-conscious elements in the union were able to agitate for the accession of the Labour parliamentary representatives sponsored by the union as their strategy for beating the employers in the near future.

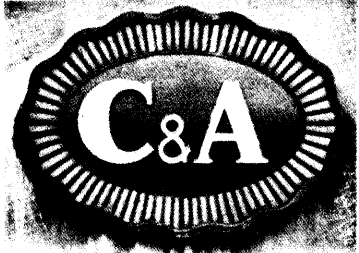
They also recognized the need to break out of the practice of fighting single-handed battles and broadened their front against the employers and the plans of the Baldwin Tory government.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## WHY THE DELAY ?



'The Sunday Times' Colour Magazine has just produced a remarkable feature article on the history of the chain of fashion stores, C&As.

The article revealed that the international conglomerate has never published an annual report, nor issued comprehensive balance sheets, accounts, profits or dividends.

'They have never discussed their business in public nor given interviews to the Press or television,' the article went on.

The investigation explained that the group was founded Clemens and August (hence C&A) Brenninkmeyer in the last century.

It is still in the Brenninkmeyer family who are millionaires several times over.

The family is fanatically Roman Catholic and among other Dutch businessmen the standard remark is that 'They're more Catholic than the Pope'.

Of particular interest, however, were revelations among the company's wheeling and dealing with the Nazis. In 1937 the family wrote to Hermann Goering announcing an intention to open a store in Leipzig. They promised to stock the



Clemens Brenninkmeyer

sort of clothes 'generally required by the largest group of citizens with the lowest incomes—that is, small wage-earners'.

On a second page the company sets out its reasons for seeking sympathetic treatment from the Nazis: 'We were one of the companies that penetrated the position of power held by Jews in the textile industry before the war and we were obliged to pit ourselves against the financial strength of the department stores and shops and against the power of the entire Jewish establishment—which we did successfully.

'Since the foundation of the firm no non-Aryan has ever been employed by us.'

But before you rush to commend the courage of 'The Sunday Times' for publishing these revelations, there is a point worth mentioning. The article was completed two years ago.

Why the delay in publishing it?

We don't know, except that C&A are very big advertisers in the Thomson newspaper chain. That may have had some effect. . . .

## UNINHABIT

It wasn't a Merry Christmas for everybody, especially for 22-year-old Mrs Sandra Gregory, judging by a recent report from Broughton in Lancashire.

Mrs Gregory, her husband and seven-year-old son, Stephen, have to live and sleep in the only habitable room in her Worcester Street home.

The ceiling in her living room collapsed a month ago and a week later three holes appeared in the roof. The entire house is damp and, says Mrs Gregory, it is infested with mice—'You can hear them squeaking when you're lying in bed'.

She has withheld her rent for some weeks. She says: 'I've got all the rent money and if the landlord will do the repairs he can have the money. But I'm not paying it with the house in this state.'

Health Department inspectors have been to the house on several occasions, but the Gregorys were told they could not be rehoused until a report sent to the Medical Officer of Health had been approved.

# COLD SLABS FOR CHRISTMAS

T.V. Review by Anne Blakeman

8.30 p.m. 'War and Peace' by Leo Tolstoy. Dramatized by Jack Puiman. Directed by John Davies. Produced by David Conroy: Episode 13—'BORODINO'. BBC 2.  
9.25 p.m. 'COLDITZ': 'Tweedledum'. By John Brason. Series devised by Brian Degas and Gerard Glaister. Directed by Michael Ferguson. Produced by Gerard Glaister. BBC 1.  
10.15 p.m. 'Monty Python's Flying Circus'. Produced by Ian MacNaughton BBC 1.

11.00 p.m. 'Something to Say': 'Will the Real Ronnie Laing stand up'. Directed by George Sawford. Produced by Udi Eichler. Thames Television.

Christmas is done with again and in case any misconceptions lurk that there is a wage freeze on our doorsteps, along with a decorative package called the Common Market which should up the cost of living around 20 per cent, the Press has been busy reminding us that a spending spree of around £50m has been going on about us.

And such spending in turn reminds us of three things—that there will, of course, always be a crowd of vultures in the worst crisis who can fatten themselves on the pickings; that an orgy of this proportion can only be carried out by people who are panic-stricken at the thought of a dearth to come; that the money itself is worthless stuff swilling in the tills and pockets like so much sawdust.

But stability asserts itself where it should and the television screens have been clogged with goodies of the consistency of cold slabs of Christmas pudding—all the old faces (Alf Garnet, Dad's Army, the Two Ronnies and the like) to give us a laugh, variety for a bit of a song and dance and, above all, a vast selection of old films presented with as much triumph as if they were hot from the cutting room floor. All this in the name of that grand old myth—'entertainment'.

As economic and political crises tighten up internationally and unrest grows the television boys grub about ever more frenetically for material to 'take our mind off things'—churning out the digestible, the innocuous, the bland, like stuffing being poured down the neck of the goose being fattened for the kill.

Take one evening spent in pursuit of these mystic qualities—all hands to the task of 'entertaining': 'War and Peace' is still moving along—less like a juggernaut than a streamroller: the armies were on the field singing in remarkable unison in preparation for the battle with a formidable array of extras, cannon and the like.

The music was suitably restrained, the acting, with Anthony Hopkins as Pierre, Alan Dobie as Andrei, and David Swift as Napoleon, earnest, persevering, ponderous. Some of Tolstoy's words came ringing home against some odds:

'I say no quarter—kill and be killed—then people would never go to war. War is the vilest thing in life and we should have done with the humbug of it.'

Battle ensues with plenty of enthusiasm and exploding cannon balls, digging of bayonets into unseen stomachs; Andrei dies, Pierre sees the nature of war before him.

Great trouble has been



Anthony Hopkins (centre) as Pierre in 'War and Peace'.

taken with the details. A fortune has been spent. And with all this welter of worthy equipment, impeccable 'acting' and concern for authenticity, the thing is almost unrecognizable as Tolstoy's major work.

The roar of life which issues from his pages has been obscured by an apparent preoccupation with achieving the scale of it all with no feeling for the bustle and confusion, the raw pain and vitality with which Tolstoy himself gave us his giant canvas. With elaborate care the tale has become nothing more than an everyday story of 19th-century Russian folk.

Michael Bryant was the guest star in this week's episode of 'Colditz' which was concerned with the medical orderly's successful attempt to escape by feigning a version of insanity—only to fall victim to his own self-imposed madness.

Even Michael Bryant's undeniable talents could not but be dimmed in the dreariness of this production.

This travesty of what the truth must have been and is known to have been shows something along the lines of a Boy Scout camp in which no stronger emotion than irritation is apparent. The tension, the savagery and the bitterness of the real prisons like Colditz together with inordinate explosions of grotesque humour in such a pressurized situation, never touch this production.

Life and death, the minute-to-minute obsessions which kept men on the knife-edge between the two, are handled with a contempt and flippancy which permeates the majority of all efforts like this which 'cash in' on history and dredging up the trivia, leave the big issues to rot in obscurity.

After a brief but nonetheless stunning glimpse of General Amin on the news busy making his own history and comparing himself favourably with Hitler ('British and American economy have been milked by the Jews')—after, as he himself pointed out, an education thoughtfully rendered at the hands of British colonialists in the past, a move to lighter stuff and 'Monty Python's Flying Circus'.

Perhaps the leaden quality of earlier programmes had mutilated my sense of humour, but I was unable to raise a laugh at the ingenious antics and surrealist inventions of the team. Their talent lies chiefly in being able persistently to upend and to disperse some of the deadly order and routine that sits on society to keep it where it is. But I find them more curious than funny.

They're certainly not bent on any searching analysis, but they do have great talent for nonsense in the right place.

Finally almost in the mood of a religious epilogue, two grey intellectuals curtsied to one another across an interview in 'Something to say': psychiatrists Dr Ronald Laing and Professor G. M. Carstairs played at gentle debating under the guise of a kind of attack by Carstairs on Laing's aversion to physical methods of treatment, his 'politics' and his view of society.

In fact the discussion took place on the basis of opinions and a kind of philosophy which Laing was expounding with some fervour four or five years ago. In fact, although the anaemic exchange in this programme gave little hint of it, Laing has contributed some important ideas on sanity, and insanity—on the 'policing' work done by psychiatrists in society, on the jungle of dead wood lying in the so-called mental hospitals, in human and intellectual terms, and only now being brought to light.

He is a man of extraordinary abilities and capacity for struggle, but like so many, despite all his early pretensions to Marxism, he has chosen to abandon the fight. He made this abundantly clear in the programme by saying he saw no possibility for any change in society, despite the fact that he could see ills and predicaments quite clearly. He seems now a man in limbo and even Carstairs was plainly unable to draw any concrete response from him on any issue to his satisfaction.

From all these programmes and so many like them being turned out every week there is to be drawn nothing so much as the sense of a dreadful apathy, a desert of lies and and half-truths about the world we live in. This is really nothing more than a way of temporizing for those who put the programmes out: there's concern about which way the axe is going to fall—where the liberals, the middle-of-the-roads, the vacillators will be when the crises of the next few months explode and the corporate state is evolved.

By playing for time, by non-committal material of third-rate quality, the intent is not only to fool the viewers but the producers of such stuff themselves. All energy is devoted to prevarication and downright dishonesty. It's a debilitating business and at best creates tedium, at worst revulsion.

## BOOKS



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### All Trades Unions Alliance MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices  
Force the Tories to Resign  
Support the Engineers

**DAGENHAM:** Thursday December 28, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, corner of Fanshawe Ave/Longbridge Rd.

**WATFORD:** Monday January 1, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall (upstairs), Woodford Road, opposite Watford Junction station.

**LIVERPOOL:** Thursday December 28, 8 p.m. 'The Mitre', Dale Street.

**CENTRAL LONDON (Press and Entertainments branch):** Sunday December 31, 3 p.m. Inns of Court Mission, Drury Lane/Broad Court. 'The Common Market'. Speaker: John Spencer (Workers Press).

**ACTON:** Monday January 1, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3.

**EAST LONDON:** Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Chriss Street Market, E14.

**WEST LONDON:** Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, King's Cross.

**BRACKNELL:** Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre.

**HARROW AND WEALDSTONE:** Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Railway Approach, Station Road, Harrow.

**CLAPHAM:** Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Clapham Baths, Clapham Manor Street. 'Transform the SLL into a revolutionary party'.

**LETCHWORTH:** Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. Trades Hall.

**TOTTENHAM:** Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayer's Arms', Tottenham High Road.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Thursday January 4, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road. 'Build Councils of Action! Defend the engineers!'

**WOOLWICH:** Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road.

**HARROW AND WEALDSTONE:** Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Railway Approach, Station Road, Harrow.

### BBC 1

9.45 The sky at night. 10.00 Desert crusader. 10.25 Before the event. 10.50 Huckleberry hound. 11.00 The Pennine way. 11.50 Master mind. 12.20 Tom and Jerry. 12.30 Jimmy Young asks. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Pogles' wood. 1.45 Film: 'The Inn of the Sixth Happiness'. Ingrid Bergman, Curt Jurgens, Robert Donat. Story of a missionary in China. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.25 Yogi bear. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.  
6.45 TOMORROW'S WORLD.  
7.10 TOP OF THE POPS 72. Review of the year's best sellers.  
8.00 SYKES. Cafe. Eric Sykes.  
8.30 HOLIDAY 73. Hong Kong and Northumbria.  
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.  
9.15 COLDITZ. Court Martial.  
10.05 TOM JONES. With Johnny Spence and his Orchestra.  
10.50 THE LIFE AND TRAVELS OF MIGUEL DE CERVANTES. Film about the author of 'Don Quixote.'  
11.40 Weather.

### ITV

9.30 Out of school. 11.15 Homes of history. 11.20 Bellbird. 11.35 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.10 Enchanted house. 12.25 Witches' brew. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Jokers wild. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Out of town. 3.25 Rivals of Sherlock Holmes. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 5.50 News.

6.00 THE WORST OF KENNETH ROBINSON.  
6.30 CROSSROADS.  
7.05 FILM: 'THE TROUBLE WITH ANGELS'. Rosalind Russell, Hayley Mills, Binnie Barnes, June Harding. Two students at a convent school are constantly in trouble.  
9.00 NEAREST AND DEAREST. Good Time Girl.

### REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.25 Follyfoot. 4.50 Elephant boy. 5.20 Doctor at large. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 Cross-

roads. 7.00 Film: 'The Honey-moon Machine'. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 11.02 Frighteners. 11.30 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 London. 11.15 Cartoon. 11.35 Jackson five. 11.55 Katie Stewart cooks. 12.25 London.

12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 10.59 News. 11.30 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 11.15 Good cook's trade. 11.35 Images. 11.55 Cartoon. 12.05 News. 12.10 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Junkin. 7.15 Film: 'Happiness is a Warm Clue'. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Guide-line. 11.15 Film: 'The Tingler'. 12.35 Weather.

HARLECH: 9.30-11.15 London. 12.05 Once upon a time. 12.25 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 7.00 Film: 'Full House'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Spectrum on the Street. 11.00 Spyforce. 12.00 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 2.30 Hamdden. 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 4.50-5.20 Rovers. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Sport West.

ANGLIA: 11.33 Cartoons. 11.50 Winter of enchantment. 12.04 News. 12.05 Mr. Piper. 12.25 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 News. 4.30 Land of the giants. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 Film: 'Kill or Cure'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Baron.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 11.15 Film: 'One Way Out'. 12.00 Today. 12.10 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.20 Dick Van Dyke. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Up the Down Staircase'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Gardening today. 11.30 Film: 'Hot Enough for June'.

ULSTER: 9.30-11.15 London. 12.05 News. 12.10 London. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 Elephant boy. 4.50 Phoenix five. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 Film: 'Bride of Vengeance'. 9.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Champions.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 11.30 Andretti and friends. 12.00 Arthur. 12.25 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 4.25 Woobinda. 4.50 Lone Ranger. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Weather. 6.05 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Where the Spies Are'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Ugliest girl in town. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 A place in the country. 12.05 Scales of justice. 12.35 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 11.15 Tarzan. 12.10 Enchanted house. 12.25 London. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 London. 4.25 Cartoon. 4.50 Rainbow country. 5.15 Dave Cash. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Police file. 6.30 Crown court. 7.00 Film: 'Carry On, Follow That Camel'. 8.50 Cartoon. 9.00 London. 11.00 Film: 'The Face at the Window'.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 11.35 Minutes that changed history. 12.05 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Let's face it. 3.00 London. 4.25 Bush boy. 4.50 Funky phantom. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Esther and the King'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 News. 11.50 Scales of Justice. 12.25 Epilogue.

BORDER: 12.05 London. 2.00 Galloping gourmet. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.25 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 4.50 Elephant boy. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Annie Get Your Gun'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Spyforce.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 11.15 Katie Stewart cooks. 11.40 Phoenix five. 12.10 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 4.45 Lost in space. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Beverly hillbillies. 7.00 Film: 'The Forstye Saga'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 sourny to the unknown.

GRAMPIAN: 9.30-11.33 London. 12.05 News. 12.10 London. 2.00 Rovers. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.25 Bush boy. 4.55 Merrie melodies. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Seventh Dawn'. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London 11.00 Spyforce. 12.00 Meditation.



It's singers' night on BBC channels, with Georgia Brown in concert at 11.20 on BBC 2 and Tom Jones in his own 'special' at 10.05 on BBC 1.

# TV

9.30 THIS WEEK.  
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.  
10.30 CINEMA.  
11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY. Growing Old—Decay or a New Experience?  
12.00 SCOTLAND YARD MYSTERIES. Crime of Honour.  
12.35 RECONCILIATION.

### SLL LECTURES

#### TODMORDEN

Monday January 8  
'The economic crisis'  
Monday January 22  
'Stalinism'  
Monday February 5  
'Trotskyism'

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

#### SHEFFIELD

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

#### HULL

Wednesday January 10  
Stalinism and Trotskyism  
Wednesday January 24  
Marxist theory and the revolutionary party  
WHITE HART HOTEL  
Alfred Gelder Street  
(near Drypool Bridge)  
8 p.m.

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### BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.  
7.30 NEWSROOM. Weather.  
8.00 EUROPA. The Story of a Song 'Lilli Marlene'.  
8.30 WAR AND PEACE. Escape.  
9.15 HORIZON. Navigating Europe.  
10.00 NEWS ON 2. Weather.  
10.05 FILM. 'THE MAD TRAPPER'. New film by David Cobham about a manhunt in the far North of Canada in 1932.  
11.20 GEORGIA BROWN. In concert.

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## Tortuous road to strike action

# Goad affair shakes up the CAV leadership

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE GOAD affair, which has so far cost the engineering union £69,000, has sent shock-waves throughout the shop-floor leadership of the CAV combine which employs the Suffolk evangelist.

At Sudbury, where Goad worked, it provoked a three-day strike which was only called off when the leaders of other factories in the Lucas combine failed to mobilize support.

The Rochester factory in Kent was only prevented from striking last Wednesday when the convenor circulated an 11th-hour letter telling workers to stay in.

Perhaps the most tortuous road to strike action was taken at the Acton complex, in west London.

When the right-wing leaders of the joint shop stewards' committee there decided to fight for strike action on Monday, December 18, many long-time observers of the industrial scene in the area were amazed. The reason for this turn of events is that the stoppage was forced on them.

During his speech to a factory-gate meeting the Friday before the strike, Acton's AUEW convenor, John Paxman, admitted that the shop stewards' leaders in the CAV group's south-eastern factories had been instrumental in 'getting Sudbury to return to work' the previous day.

## Formula

Sudbury convenor Bill Duckling had been offered a formula for getting his members back to work without loss of face, he said.

The resolution agreed by the stewards' leaders—known as the 'Group committee'—on Wednesday, December 13, stated that Sudbury had given a lead to the whole trade union movement.

But it went on to say that this lead had not been taken up as it should. Having led the way, the implication was, Sudbury should now get back into line with the one-day stoppages which were being called nationally.

Having supported this resolution Acton was honour-bound to undertake some action itself over the £50,000 fine.



TWO CAV MEETINGS . . . Above at Acton convenor John Paxman was forced to call for action. Below at Sudbury the stewards were persuaded to get a return vote.



But this was easier said than done.

Already the fact that the Sudbury factory had returned to work was widely known among the Acton workers. On the morning of the mass meeting at Acton, newspapers reported that the Rochester plant had rejected a call to strike. Simms Motor Units at Finchley, which joined CAV-Lucas in 1968, had pledged support for any action taken by the rest of the group.

At this point it is worth looking briefly at the nature of the

## CAV 'Group committee'.

The committee is composed of the executive members of each shop stewards' committee.

For many years these committees have held quarterly meetings, always on Saturdays. Travelling expenses and meals come out of the group fund—itsself dependent on donations from the respective shop stewards' funds.

Over a period of years, the group has degenerated into a forum for swapping comparative rates of pay, friendly chit-chat

and other items of gossip. This was done over quite sumptuous meals with drinks to follow. Then it was back home on the train.

Managements seemingly had little to fear from these gatherings and the factories' social clubs were always available as venues. Three months ago the company offered to underwrite group meetings financially—and even to permit them to take place in works' time.

This offer was accepted with suitable gratitude.

Two conditions were attached, however. The first was that management would appreciate a copy of the minutes. And the second . . . that the number of delegates be limited.

The company now pays all expenses except the delegates' meals. They offered to pay for the lot, but the 'Group committee' felt that it should retain some show of 'independence'.

## Investment

The December 13 visit to Sudbury was to some extent out of the ordinary. Management did not offer to help with the cost. Yet in the view of many CAV workers, the company's investment in good cheer over the years did yield its pay-off.

When it became clear that no determined backing was forthcoming from the 'Group committee', those Sudbury stewards who wanted to continue the strike were weakened.

Although the Sudbury strike committee later rejected the 'Group committee's' resolution, it undoubtedly influenced the decision to call a mass meeting the following morning. There it became obvious that the right wing had done its work well and undermined the confidence of the strikers.

A growing number of CAV workers believe that one lesson of the affair is the need for a genuine, independent combine committee.

With workers at CAV Fazakerley, Liverpool, now in their 13th week of sit-in strike against closure, and the Tories' pay-control law blocking all piecework increases in the south, there is no shortage of issues on which to fight.

## Ex-Yard detectives to probe credit card debts

A FRAUD spree is being conducted at the expense of the newly-formed Access Credit Card group. A special security team has been assembled quickly to combat fraud and bad debts.

The company has recruited from Scotland Yard ex-Detective Sergeant Ray Mogg, formerly of 'T' Division, and former Detective Sergeant Alfred Laughlan of the Flying Squad.

It is believed that other Flying Squad men have been drafted into the team.

When Access began business three months ago, 3.4 million cards were distributed. Since then a number of cards have gone astray and others have been

stolen and used for fraudulent purposes.

Shops accepting Access can sell up to £30 worth of goods on production of the card by a customer without check. Because of the delay in submitting bills, it is feared that people may have been spending, at £30 a time, for as long as 11 weeks.

The company thinks that many cardholders may have spent beyond their capacity to repay.

The Access computer is so heavily loaded that it will not be known until the second half of January how much credit has been given.

## Leyland stewards chairman to contest Scottish seat



McGARRY . . . Left Scotland 30 years ago.

EDDY McGARRY, joint chairman of the British-Leyland combine shop stewards' committee, has won pre-selection for a parliamentary seat in Scotland.

McGarry will stand as Labour candidate in a newly-created seat in East Dunbartonshire at the next General Election.

McGarry (53), is convenor at Leyland's Standard Triumph works in Coventry.

His success in winning Labour selection has caused deep disquiet in the Scottish Labour Party. He is regarded as 'an outsider'; he won over a number of local candidates because he is officially sponsored by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

In his letter to the constituency party McGarry said he had left Scotland 30 years ago. Local Labourites are planning to write to T&GWU general secretary Jack Jones, to complain about backing McGarry for the seat.

When one of the constituency party workers recently complained about McGarry's selection, a trade union leader replied: 'But he's a trade union MP.' The worker replied: 'Yes, and so was Ray Gunter.'

One of McGarry's close collaborators used to be Cyril Morris, a leading combine committee official. British-Leyland recently announced Morris was joining the management as a personnel manager.

During the recent combine strike in support of the occupation at the Basingstoke works, Standard's was one of the factories which stayed at work.



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SHOP STEWARDS from all over the West of Scotland yesterday halted a public inquiry held by the Tories into the refusal by Clydebank Labour council to put up rents from last October 2. The 350 demonstrators filled the town hall and refused to take their banners down when asked. After a 40-minute break the inquiry continued—with the banners still in place.

**THE GOAD AFFAIR**

**More court trouble for engineers**

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SUFFOLK evangelist James Goad may not try to attend the Sudbury branch of the engineers' union tomorrow. But the union faces more trouble under the Industrial Relations Act in the Midlands today.

Joseph Langston, a welder from Chrysler UK's Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry, factory, will ask an industrial tribunal in Birmingham this morning to back his refusal to join a union.

He will point to Section 5, paragraph i(b) of the Act. This union-busting clause seeks to establish the so-called 'right' of every worker 'if he so desires, to be a member of no trade union or other organization of workers or to refuse to be a member of any particular trade union or other organization of workers'.

An official of the industrial tribunal has said that they may not proceed to hear the case immediately today because three union men named in Langston's application may not attend.

But even if the engineers' union policy of non co-operation with the agencies of the Act is followed to the letter, the case must eventually be heard and decided. This would open the way to further action in the National Industrial Relations Court and further big fines on the union.

At present Langston is suspended on full pay of £41.20 a week from the Ryton assembly-line.

WHILE indicating that he does not intend to go to tomorrow

night's meeting of the Sudbury AUEW branch, Goad has told district secretary J. W. Morley that he intends to carry on his bid for union membership under clause i(a) of Section 5.

The next meeting of the branch is on January 5. If Goad is barred again, he can go back to the NIRC with a further charge that its orders are being held in contempt. Such an action could produce an even bigger fine than the £50,000 seized from the union last week.

OVER the next three weeks at least 100,000 workers are expected to strike against the enforced sale of a nominal £69,250-worth of the union's shares to pay the fine.

By the end of the week, the union should have received the balance of the money the sale yielded after the NIRC, its commissioners, their stock-brokers and Goad's solicitors had all taken their cut. This was expected to be about £100.

NEXT MONDAY (January 1) the Leeds district committee of the AUEW has called its members out. Engineers in north Gloucestershire are also due to strike.

A week tomorrow will see engineers in the Swansea dis-



GOAD . . . Not going to branch meeting

trict taking action against the fine, while the following Monday, January 8, the Tyne and Blyth Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers has said all its members will back an AUEW strike call.

The CSEU has also promised to support the last in the present series of protest strikes—on Merseyside on Friday, January 19.

But pressure is already building up both in the AUEW and the CSEU generally for much more extended, national action. Many thousands of engineers are recognizing that the Act has not gone away, that protests against it are not enough and that both it and its Tory authors must be removed from the scene.

**Hull AUEW**

**stewards demand national action**

HULL engineering stewards have called for more leadership from the AUEW National Committee in the fight to defend the engineering union.

The Hull district committee is already on record for further action in the new year following the 100 per cent stoppage of all Hull's 9,000 AUEW members on December 20.

That strike completely stopped production at Hawker Siddeley's Brough plant and Fenner's engineering plant and seriously affected Hull's shipbuilding and ship-repairing yards.

But the district committee will now have to discuss the stewards' demands for more action.

Ken Spoose, AUEW steward at Metal Box, Dairycoates, told Workers Press:

'The action up to now has not been enough. There is need for real national leadership. The members in the different districts are showing their complete opposition to the Industrial Relations Act, but their actions are unco-ordinated. Co-ordination means national leadership.

'The fine itself shows what this Act is. One individual can threaten a trade union.

'There must be an indefinite national strike. This is the only way to defeat the Act, since you have got to get rid of the government—they aren't going to repeal the Act.'

**Mid-Wales roadmakers' jobs are threatened**

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

A CREDITORS' meeting later today is expected to decide the fate of 271 jobs threatened as a result of a mid-Wales firm going into voluntary liquidation.

The company, Buttington Contractors Ltd of Trewern, are builders and specialist road makers. They are said to have lost up to £100,000 in the first nine months of this year alone.

Mid-Wales is almost entirely barren of industry and T&GWU district officer Mr John Llewellyn Cooke told me total shut-down of the business would be a 'disaster'.

He added that up to 1,000 jobs could be lost as a result of the effect of the closure on sub-contractors, quarries, builders suppliers and haulage workers.

If the worst happens the sacked men and the union will organize 'community pressure' on the Tory government to set up alternative work projects in the area.

If nothing concrete emerges from tonight's creditors meeting at the Lord Hill Hotel, Shrewsbury, the union may also decide to set up 'roadblocks' as a means of leafletting the public.

Said Mr Cooke: 'We will accept nothing less than 271 jobs.'

But the likelihood is that this is just what the company, which is owned by the Val de Travers Group, has in mind.

Montgomeryshire's MP Mr Emlyn Hooson said that the receiver is 'interested in finding a way of continuing the business in one form or another to preserve the most jobs'.

Most of Buttington's losses have been incurred on the building-construction side which employs two-thirds of the labour force and rumours are circulating that Sir Val de Travers himself may be interested in buying the road-making section alone after liquidation.

There can be little doubt that it is this section of the business that the receiver will try to keep going and we understand that Bovis and Tarmac are among potential buyers.

If the carve-up goes ahead at least 180 men could find themselves on the dole-queue early in the New Year.

The future is bleak. Some may find work building 117 new houses scheduled by the Mid-Wales Development Corporation at Newtown early next year and others could be employed on a new £400,000 office block due to go up in the town next spring.

Nothing like the full 180 can expect to find jobs and those who do will succeed only after competing with men thrown onto the labour market after work at other sites in the locality has ended.

**STEEL: No new talks on Scunthorpe dispute**

NO NEW talks are planned to end the strike by 6,000 Scunthorpe steelworkers which began on December 29, a spokesman for the British Steel Corporation said yesterday.

The dispute is over a claim by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation for recognition and bargaining rights in middle-management grades.

At present these grades are represented by the Steel Industry Management Association.

A Confederation spokesman at the union's Sheffield office refused to comment yesterday but confirmed: 'The strike is still on.'

The stoppage has shut down all steel-making and steel-rolling at BSC's three Scunthorpe plants

and 12,500 other workers may be laid off.

It began after management sent home 34 Confederation members for refusing to take part in plant-testing trials at BSC's new £230m Anchor Works.

The union has said that their recognition claim must be dealt with before the Anchor project came into operation.

**STEEL: Cardiff plant discussed**

THE FUTURE of Cardiff's East Moors steelworks will be discussed with city and trade union officials tomorrow by Lord Melchett, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, and Guest, Keen and Nettlefold chief Sir Raymond Brookes.

If the works closes—as the BSC's national modernization programme seems to indicate—4,600 jobs would be lost.

The latest available breakdown of unemployment figures shows 7,803 workers already out of a job in Cardiff. This represented

a rate of 4.8 per cent.

Brookes' GKN combine were the previous owners of the East Moors works, before nationalization in 1967. East Moors and

another former GKN factory, the Brymbo works at Wrexham, are the subject of continuing discussion between Melchett and the combine.

SOUTH KOREAN dictator Park Chung hee cabled condolences to President Richard Nixon upon the death of former president Harry S. Truman: 'His name has become so dear to the Korean people and will continue to occupy the warmest spot on the thoughts of the Korean people.'

THE PROSPECT of higher interest rates in the New Year sent prices tumbling on the London stock exchange yesterday on the first days trading after the holiday. At the end of the second hour the Financial Times Index was 5.2 points lower with government securities leading the fall.

**Vendetta against Pentonville dockers**

THE VENDETTA against rank-and-file dockers who protested at their union's headquarters in August against the calling off of the national dock strike is to be continued at a meeting of the T&GWU's London executive committee next month.

Five dockers, including Anthony Merrick and Cornelius Clancy, two of the Pentonville Five who went to jail in defence of trade union principles, are to face an inquiry into incidents of alleged violence inside Transport House.

A large number of protesting dockers invaded the offices to remonstrate with secretary Jack Jones and other national officials after the announcement that the dock delegate conference had voted to end the strike.

The capitalist Press made a big song-and-dance at the time about the so-called intimidation and personal violence threatened to Jones. The union bureaucracy has dutifully followed up this scare-mongering by starting a witch-hunt against the protestors.

Many dockers wanted the strike to continue at that time in order to force the employers

and the government to end the threat to their livelihoods from containerization once and for all.

The union bureaucrats accepted the Jones-Aldington plan which liquidated jobs in return for cash payments and now want to stifle their most determined critics.

The accused dockers could face a £10 fine, or be barred from office, or expelled. This 'trial' will add to the growing conviction among dockers that the union leadership will have to be fought and eventually forced from office.

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