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The centre piece of this campaign will be a massive anti-Tory rally at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Sunday, March 11.

At this rally a pageant of working-class history—the first of its kind ever presented in Britain—will be staged. Details of the campaign were worked out at the SLL Central Committee meeting.

The campaign, which will be fought throughout the length and breadth of the Labour and trade union movement, is launched at a time when the basic democratic rights of the working class are being stripped away in a series of legal conspiracies by the Tory government.

These conspiracies are self-evident. Every trade unionist now knows that the Industrial Relations Act has the single objective of tying the trade unions to the capitalist state. In this process all the rights won in 200 years of struggle—the right to strike, to black, to picket, to organize in shops—are virtually abolished.

Tomorrow Premier Edward Heath proposes to tighten this legal stranglehold by introducing legislation which will outlaw the right to negotiate wages. He proposes, in effect, the corporate state in which the government and the employers fix wages. Unions or sections of workers who don't accept the state control of wages face severe fines or imprisonment.

Was Heath elected to carry out this wholesale onslaught on the working class? Has he any mandate for attacking the standard of living of millions of working-class families? Of course not. This is a government with no mandate for what it's done; it has lied and conspired at every turn.

# SLL CALLS A MASS RALLY

## Empire Pool, March 11

The working people of Britain fought from the latter part of the 18th century to win the vote to express themselves through parliament. But the Tory government entered the Common Market without allowing the possibility of approximately 30 million voters to have their voice heard in a General Election.

Then we come to the runaway cost of living. The Tories are directly responsible for creating this attack on the standard of living of millions of people. They began their conspiracy following the miners' strike and the railwaymen's pay claim by 'floating' the pound—thus devaluing it by up to 10 per cent.

As a result all imported goods—which includes most foodstuffs—have gone up. The increases have been passed directly to the working man in an attack on his wage packet. Heath, who promised to cut prices 'at a stroke', has introduced policies to let prices skyrocket, while 'at a stroke' he has brought forward legislation to hold down wages.

The basic democratic rights of the working class were won in struggle—and they can only be maintained in struggle. It was as a result of the long, drawn-out legal battles from 1890 to

1906 that the trade unions went forward to found the Labour Party.

Today the trade unions are facing another historic legal onslaught. The Tories have been assisted by the treachery of the TUC leaders and the reformist Labour Party leaders who have deserted in this hour of imminent battle.

Only revolutionary action and revolutionary leadership can now defend and restore basic rights. This means the preparation of policies which unite the working class in struggle against the common enemy—the Tory government.

It also means the immediate task of building the revolutionary leadership. That is why the SLL has called on its members, its trade union and youth supporters and readers of Workers Press to work unsparingly to transform the SLL into a revolutionary party in the coming months.

We will continue to stress and to fight for the widest possible unity in action to defend basic democratic rights. In these vital weeks, the most crucial since those preceding the 1926 General Strike, the SLL and its daily paper, the Workers Press, will do everything in its power to rally the working-class in defence of basic

democratic rights and against the Tory government.

At the Empire Pool pageant workers and their families will be able to see the founding history of their unions. Material for the pageant will be drawn straight from this heroic history.

● The fight from 1800 to 1824 against the Combination Laws.

● The struggle of the Chartist Movement.

● Karl Marx's work in London in the 1860s.

● The Taff Vale judgement against the railway unions in 1901.

The preparatory work for recreating this history will be done in the areas where the history was made—Lancashire, the north-east, in London and South Wales.

By re-enacting this history it is hoped that workers will be able to draw strength and courage for the showdown with the Tories which is in front.

We call upon trade unionists and members of the working-class, and young people everywhere to come forward in their thousands and give us their utmost support.



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### DOCKS ROUND-UP

#### 'Casuals' threat to dockers' jobs

BY DAVID MAUDE

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Now the docks management say they cannot handle the current levels of work with the depleted number of dockers available.

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# Workers Press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • TUESDAY JANUARY 16, 1973 • No. 972 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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# 50,000 engineers answer right wing

MUCH OF THE south Midlands was an industrial graveyard yesterday as 50,000 workers staged a one-day strike against the £61,000 fines and costs imposed on the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

It was a powerful reply to the attempt by the right-wing in the local divisional committee to sabotage the fight against the Industrial Relations Act.

Last Friday, the No. 20 Committee—which claims to represent 75,000 workers in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, passed a resolution calling for attendance at the National Industrial Relations Court.

But the treachery at divisional committee level was effectively answered by the shop-floor yesterday.

At the Vauxhall plant in LUTON, 12,000 hourly-paid workers responded to the call for the strike from the local district committee.

At the giant car plant pickets were out trying to persuade white-collar staff to support the stoppage.

There were also shutdowns at Chryslers, DUNSTABLE, the big Electrolux factory, Kent Meters, Skefco and many other smaller plants.

'Luton and Dunstable is not operating today,' said an AUEW spokesman. 'To all intents and purposes it has been a very good turn out.'

'The response is very heartening,' he added. 'We don't know of one blackspot. The stoppage has been supported by workers at many smaller firms as well.'

On the Vauxhall picket line, many workers were bitter at the divisional committee resolution and called for a campaign to rid the area of the right wing.

Glyn Morgan, AUEW convenor, told Workers Press:

'The voting was unfair in any case. It was a 10 to 10 vote and Les Randall, president of the district committee, used his casting vote.'

He said the make-up of the divisional committee was completely unrepresentative. 'In an area like Luton, with 20,000 workers, we only have two delegates. But a one-branch district—like Wolverton—also has two delegates.'

AUEW shop steward Patrick Deveney criticized the union's executive council for abandoning the fight at a crucial point.

'At the moment they're passing the buck up the line to the workers instead of taking the initiative themselves.'

'A one-day stoppage is not strong enough. We're right in our policy not to attend the NIRC but now we should have an all-out strike.'

'We're left with no alternative really. The Tories are tying everyone up and we can't move any more. The way it's going we'll be like slaves not workers.'

# Over 400 attend north-west rally



Above: The platform and a section of the audience at Sunday's meeting. Below: Tenants' leader Connie Fahey . . . learn to fight the Tories.

# Defend basic rights in struggle

EVERY SINGLE right of the working class was won in struggle and these rights can only be kept in struggle, Gerry Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League, told a meeting in Liverpool on Sunday night.

He said the Tory government had passed the legislation to strip the working class of its basic democratic rights.

Having passed the Industrial Relations Act, the Tories now had an Act to abolish legally the right to negotiate.

'They have taken away bargaining rights and tied the trade unions hand and foot to the state. And it is Labour Party leaders and the TUC who have permitted the government to increase its legal stranglehold on the working class.'

Healy was addressing an audience of more than 400 at the Everyman Theatre at which the 40-minute colour film on the Young Socialists February-March 1972 Right-to-Work marches was shown.

He reminded the packed theatre that men, women and children in the 1800s had fought, against pain of imprisonment, deportation and even execution, to build the trade unions.

At Peterloo, not many miles from where the meeting was being held, the police and army turned on a defenceless demonstration of workers and their families who

were demanding the right to have unions.

These rights could not be defended by simply protesting or by one-day strikes.

'Anyone who says you can be a coward. Worse, he's a coward. The fight for basic democratic rights, for the right to a decent standard of living, involves a fight to bring down the Tory government.'

He said the order of the



Christine Smith . . . no future on dole.

day in Britain was creeping dictatorship, as a prelude to fascism. Healy called on every worker, housewife and youth at the meeting to come forward and help build the revolutionary movement. They could take a decisive step by signing the resolution passed by

the national conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance at Birmingham on October 22, 1972, which called for the transformation of the SLL into a revolutionary party.

Opening the meeting the chairman, engineering worker John Forde, said the existing leadership in the labour and trade union movement expressed the economic crisis by running and collaborating with the Tories.

'If you think about it, the essential task is building the alternative leadership. That is what this meeting will revolve around.'

Christine Smith, a Young Socialist member of the Liverpool contingent on the Right-to-Work march, said:

'There is no future on the dole. It's just a scrap heap. I know, I've been forced to live on the dole for 18 months. Youth, apprentices and students should think seriously about their future—they should join the YS which is building the leadership to defeat the Tories and the rest of their class.'

Brian Geaney, a member

of the Union of Post Office Workers—speaking in a personal capacity—said 1973 would be the most important year in the history of the British working class.

The urgent and burning question for the YS and the working class is to build an alternative revolutionary leadership which will fight.

Brian Stanley, a shop steward from Vauxhall's



Brian Geaney . . . important year.

at Ellesmere Port—also speaking in a personal capacity—emphasized the economic crisis and its world implications.

He said there was no confidence, no stability and no growth. This was the economic situation which drove the Tories in Britain

to attack the rights of the working class.

Connie Fahey, tenants' leader from Manchester, told the meeting:

'What we must stress is that time is very, very short. For the Tories, Ireland is the dress rehearsal. They're coming to get us and the trade union leadership is doing absolutely nothing to stop it.'

'We've got to learn to fight the Tories. We've got to learn to be unafraid. Looking at these members of the Young Socialists gives me hope. They won't



Brian Stanley . . . workers' rights attacked.

join any army to fight for the capitalists. We, the older ones, must support them.'

After a lively questions-and-answers session, a collection conducted by John Simmance, national secretary of the YS, raised £50.

# Shepperton film workers hostile to Bentley's carve-up

ALTHOUGH heavily boosted by the Fleet Street Press, millionaire John Bentley's plan to carve up Shepperton film studios seems certain to get short shrift from workers there this afternoon.

The plan is designed to allow the lucrative redevelopment by Bentley's company, Barclay Securities Ltd, of three-quarters of the present 60-acre site.

It involves more than 100 immediate redundancies, the dismantling of Shepperton's famous 'silent stage', the knocking down of about 50 cutting rooms and the elimination of its independent power house. A new company, Shepperton Studios (1973)

Ltd, would be set up, based on a small 14-acre lot in the middle of Barclay's building site.

These proposals—already extensively 'leaked' to the Press—will be put to the Shepperton workers today. Union leaders have indicated their opposition.

As sugar-coating round his plan, Bentley has come up with something which one London evening paper described last week as 'an amazing workers' participation deal'.

In fact this is nothing of the kind. Bentley proposes to place 49 per cent of SS (1973) Ltd shares in trust for all Shepperton workers with more than a year's service.

These would be administered by the unions, who would have

the right to appoint two representatives to the board.

But the controlling 51 per cent share would still be held by the studios' present directors.

Acceptance of this set-up—described by cinema technicians' union leader Alan Sapper as 'an old trick'—would depend on the unions pledging 'no objection or interference or resistance' to Bentley's redevelopment plans.

Yet these would effectively spell the end of serious filmmaking at Shepperton.

Besides the cutting-up of 45 acres of parkland, which have provided the backdrop for innumerable films over the years,

perhaps the most crippling blow will be the dismantling of the 'silent stage'.

This has unrivalled facilities for flooding or the construction of sets and has been vital to the making of many recent films.

Bentley talks in his plan of adapting two smaller stages for flooding, and of enlarging 'their shoot-through facilities . . . to cater for Cinemascope'.

This proposal has been greeted with derision by experienced filmmakers at the studios, who point out that Cinemascope depends on size of lens rather than size of studio.

Another part of the Bentley plan would make three smaller stages virtually unusable, because

they would be surrounded on three sides by the constant din of a building site and would have only one means of access.

Meanwhile the axing of 50 cutting rooms would deprive producers of the ability to edit their films on the spot and remove a valuable source of work from the studios.

The 275 out of 381 workers who would be left with jobs would have firm guarantees of employment for only a year.

The feeling at Shepperton yesterday was that the plan as a whole is a desperate bid to gain a year's grace for the redevelopment plan. And workers' determination is growing not to allow this.

## WHAT WE THINK

THE DANGEROUS ROLE played by the middle-of-the-road centrist International Socialism group has rarely been displayed more clearly than in Mr Tony Cliff's article '1972: Tremendous Year for the Workers' in the 'Socialist Worker' of January 6.

Cliff's assessment is based entirely on an arithmetical count of the number of days lost in strikes during the year. This, of course, reveals the willingness of the working class to fight. More working days were lost in strikes than at any time since 1926.

It is also true, as Cliff says, that the Tory government was forced to retreat on miners' pay and on the imprisonment of the five dockers in Pentonville jail. But all this is only one side of the picture.

IT IS not Marxism but unprincipled eclecticism to pick the 'good' bits out of an historical record and ignore the 'bad' bits in order to present an optimistic picture.

Revolutionaries must at all times tell the truth to the working class.

Yes, 1972 was a year of rising militancy. But it was also the year in which the main provisions of the Industrial Relations Act came into force, when the Housing Finance Act imposed swingeing increases in the name of 'fair' rents, when the Counter Inflation (Temporary Provisions) Act imposed state control over wages, when entry into the Common Market was legislated in the interests of the European capitalists against the working class.

It was also the year when arrest and imprisonment without trial was imposed in Northern Ireland and 13 peaceful demonstrators were shot dead in Derry by the same British army which Harold Wilson had sent to Ulster in 1969 with the full support of Cliff's International Socialism group.

Only a complete fool would fail to recognize that these measures were serious blows against the working class. And only a political charlatan like Cliff could review the class struggle in 1972 and not even mention them.

### Corporate state danger

THE TORY government, with the acquiescence of the leaders of the Labour Opposition and the TUC, has taken definite strides towards the establishment of a corporate state in which all basic rights would be taken away from the working class and their trade union organizations transformed into instruments of control over them on behalf of capitalism.

In order to defeat this danger, it is necessary first of all to recognize it.

By keeping silent on this most important of questions, Cliff seeks to disarm the working class and leave it to face the Tory onslaught unprepared.

Of course, even Cliff cannot avoid mentioning that the Labour and trade union leaders sabotaged the struggles of the working class in 1972. But his dishonesty is breath-taking for anyone not familiar with his organization.

For instance, he places responsibility for the Jones-Aldington betrayal of the dockers on the leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Jones was responsible for that along with his allies in the Communist Party.

But Cliff never mentions the Communist Party. And for a very good reason. To do so would be to disrupt the International Socialism group's uncritical tail-ending of the Stalinists in the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

For the same reason, Cliff makes no mention of the ending of the Stalinist-led 'work-in' at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders which cost 2,500 jobs and the loss of the right to strike in the new companies.

Some sort of comment was surely called for here, since 'Socialist Worker' hailed the beginning of the work-in with a banner headline: 'Militancy Can Win at UCS!'

But what Cliff does not mention either is that when 'Socialist Worker' assessed the significance of the 1972 dock strike it blamed, not Jones, but the dockers themselves. 'Socialist Worker' declared on August 18



By simple arithmetic, counting the number of days lost in strikes, the IS group considers last year to have been a 'tremendous' one for workers.

that the dockers were 'unworthy' of their stewards—most of whom were influenced by the Communist Party.

### No accident

FROM BLAMING the workers for their leaders' treachery, 'Socialist Worker' now swings round to telling them that they have had a 'tremendous' year.

This is not accidental. These two 'opposites' are connected. To pose the nature of the Jones-Stalinist sell-out last August, as Workers Press did, raised the question of building an alternative leadership.

The state capitalists blamed the workers then precisely in order to avoid the question of leadership. It is for the same reason now that they bleat that everything in the garden is lovely, precisely when the working class needs to be on its guard as never before.

The leadership of the working class is in full collaboration with the Tory government. Feather and his TUC colleagues are yanked into Downing Street every time Heath pulls the string.

They seek to give the Tories exactly what they want—time to disarm the working class and prepare even more vicious attacks on its standard of living and basic rights.

Unless the working class is warned and prepared it faces a bigger betrayal than that of 1926.

This is the purpose of Cliff's 'optimistic' arithmetic. Now the real meaning of rank and filism—the worship of spontaneity—is made clear. It is to undermine the essential development necessary for the defeat of capitalism—the struggle for revolutionary consciousness in the working class.

### Cliff distorts Lenin

CLIFF even has the audacity to quote Lenin in defence of self-sufficient spontaneity—a concept which the founder of the Bolshevik Party fought against all his life.

In 'What is to be Done?', Lenin's basic handbook on party building, he refers to the Party's newspaper as its 'organizer'.

Cliff bowdlerizes this: 'When Lenin said the paper is an or-

ganizer, he meant not only, say, the carworkers' paper, but also separate factory bulletins in different car factories, written by militants in the factory itself, read by the whole workforce in the factory, not only the minority of militant socialists.'

This is a deliberate, conscious, cynical distortion of Lenin. Cliff has been in politics over 30 years. He knows perfectly well that Lenin was not talking about 'workers' bulletins' (although, obviously, these have a place in certain circumstances), but about a centralized, all-Russian, Party newspaper.

Indeed, Lenin specifically says that 'local newspapers, preparation for demonstrations, work among the unemployed' as single issues cannot gather and organize the working class. ('What is to be Done?' p. 161.)

Lenin spells his meaning out clearly:

'I continue to insist that we can start establishing real contacts only with the aid of a common newspaper as the only regular All-Russian enterprise, one which will summarize the results of the most diverse forms of activity and thereby stimulate people to march forward untiringly along all the innumerable paths leading to revolution, in the same way as all roads lead to Rome.' ('What is to be Done?' p. 163.)

Cliff replaces this insistence on an organized, centralized party fighting for revolutionary consciousness in the working class with the tail-ending of 'local initiatives'. He says:

'Members of the International Socialists and other militant workers in Lucas Birmingham factories started a monthly bulletin called "Lucas Worker" about a month ago.

'Had they started, say, a year earlier . . . if . . . if . . . A different initiative from the local Lucas leadership could have brought a totally different outcome.'

Cliff is here referring to the strike at Sudbury CAV over the Goad fine and the decision of Birmingham stewards not to join it.

### Militancy not enough

THE ATTACKS on the unions via the Goads and the Langstons

# Illusion and reality



IS leader Tony Cliff whose article appeared in the January 6 'Socialist Worker'.

formation of a revolutionary party.

This is the significance of the Socialist Labour League's decision to launch the revolutionary party in 1973. By building Councils of Action in every area, linking all those who fight against the Tory attacks on the workers, we intend to create the conditions for forcing the trade union leaders to call a General Strike to make the Tories resign.

A Labour government pledged to socialist policies and returned by the mass of the working class would be split wide open. In such a situation a revolutionary alternative leadership could emerge at the head of the working class.

This is the revolutionary perspective of the Socialist Labour League.

### Contempt for working class

THE INTERNATIONAL Socialists group's enthusiasm for 'militancy', 'local initiatives', and rank-and-file bulletins really conceals a deep contempt for the working class. These revisionists have absolutely no confidence in the revolutionary potential of the class.

They think workers can do no more than strike on immediate issues and distribute little papers—under the guidance, of course, of 'educated' people.

Today they strive might and main to hold back the working class from the historic task that it faces now—the building of the revolutionary party.

Just as the 'intellectual' Fabians considered the working class unfit to have a Labour Party separate from the Liberals, so Cliff and his friends consider the working class incapable of building a revolutionary party independent of the reformists and Stalinists.

The Socialist Labour League is dedicated to the building of the revolutionary party. For that it will be necessary to expose and destroy politically the International Socialists group every step of the way.

Socialist Labour League Yorkshire Rally

**FORCE THE TORY  
GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!  
BUILD THE  
REVOLUTIONARY  
PARTY!**

SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 7.30 p.m.

Great Northern Hotel,  
Wellington Street (near Leeds station),  
LEEDS

**FILM: THREE YEARS  
OF WORKERS PRESS**

Speakers:

G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)

PAUL WHETSTONE (Young Socialists)

In personal capacity:

GEORGE LUBY (U.P.W.)

ROBBIE ROBERTS (N.U.M.)



# THE TORY PENSIONS SWINDLE

The new Social Security Bill now going through the House of Commons, is introduced by former head of Bovis building giant, Sir Keith Joseph, as a 'landmark'. The Bill actually worsens the conditions of millions of workers.

Millions of people now in their early fifties will actually have worse pensions when they retire than if the present scheme had continued.

As for existing pensioners, the Bill does next to nothing for them. And at the same time the Tory measure condemns millions of people to dependence on the means test for the next 40 years at least.

On top of all these 'benefits' nearly every worker will have to pay more!

In a special examination of the Bill, the Labour Research Department showed that only the big insurance companies would benefit from the Tory government's plans.

Many of them—seeing the prospects ahead—are rushing to get new business through extension of occupational pension schemes.

In the past couple of years the number of people contributing to such private pension schemes has slumped from 12.2 million in 1967 to 11.1 million in 1971.

It has always been Tory philosophy to get everyone into a private pension scheme. Not only would this accord with the bracing 'self-help' ideology, but also—more importantly—provide a lot of money for their friends in the City who would get all the business.

The new Bill gives this idea some real flesh, winding up as it does the present state graduated pension scheme.

In its place will come a so-called Reserve Scheme which is so unattractive that its existence will act as an incentive to both employers and workers to introduce an alternative occupational scheme.



Pensioners on a TUC lobby for higher pensions last November. The Tories' latest scheme will mean workers pay more but get less

The flat-rate pension is now a pitiful £6.75, or £10.90 in the case of a married couple. Millions of workers are at present earning the right to some addition to this pension when they retire through graduated contributions.

Included are those who are not in an occupational scheme but contribute to the state graduated scheme, now to be wound up; those who contribute to the state scheme and an occupational scheme; those who have 'contracted out' of the state scheme and rely entirely on their occupational scheme to supplement their flat-rate retirement pension when the time comes.

Only half of all these 23 million workers are in an occupational scheme.

Those not in a 'recognized' occupational scheme will automatically go into the new Reserve Scheme.

New contributions to the Reserve Scheme will be on a graduated basis, instead of the flat-rate system at present, of 5½ per cent of all earnings; if the employee is not in a recognized private scheme, he will have to contribute another 1½ per cent.

For men earning more than £25 in the Reserve Scheme—most factory workers—the contributions will rise.

Contributions will stay the

same for the 6 million already contracted out of any state scheme.

The really interesting point, however, is what happens to those over 5½ million workers paying for the state graduated scheme but not in a 'recognized' occupational scheme. In effect, these people are the ones the insurance companies could really do with.

Well, the Bill makes provisions for a considerable reduction in contributions if this group of workers enters a 'recognized' scheme, becoming exempt from the Reserve Scheme.

Probably about half the existing workforce in Britain will

be transferred to and remain in a Reserve Scheme.

But all these people will be worse off when they retire than if the present state graduated scheme continued. For example, a man earning £30 a week would in 1985 under the old scheme be entitled to £1.65 a week to supplement the flat-rate pension. Under the new scheme this will be cut to £1.30.

As for existing pensioners, some 7½ million workers, nothing is done except to make the ritual promise of an annual review. Meanwhile, down in the City, the champagne is about to be poured. The toast: Sir Keith and the Tory government.

## CITY RATES STRIKE?

The skyrocketing rates which are being forecast have created deep indignation—even in the City of London.

The square mile of the City, the wealthiest part of Britain, has been stunned out of its vaults by the rates rises.

A group of City officials intend seeing Geoffrey Rippon, new Environment Secretary, to ask for some 'leniency'.

The protest comes not only from big companies, but also the rich idlers who have expensive flats in the City area.

The new rateable value of a three-room flat in the Barbican will be about £450—just over double the present level.

Top of the valuation list comes the Bank of England building in Threadneedle Street. Its rateable value will increase 4.9 times to £3,229,972.

Other high-rated City buildings are Britannic House, the BP headquarters, whose new rateable value is £3,224,972 (up 5.16 times), the Bank of England, New Change at



Geoffrey Rippon

£2,652,472 (up 4.9 times), Barclays Bank new building at 42-58 Lombard Street at £2,116,638 and the National Westminster Bank building at Drapers Gardens, at £2,108,305 (up 5.06 times).

Rateable value of the new Stock Exchange is £987,472 (rateable value of the old one was £124,970 and Lloyd's is £1,541,638 (up 4.78 times).

But London newspapers do not face such dramatic increases in rateable values. The new rateable value of 'The Times' building is £500,000 (up 2.25 times) and the 'Daily Express' building is £360,000 (up 2.5 times).

## SPEED-UP SLASHES GAS LABOUR FORCE

The rate of job loss in the gas industry has been no less spectacular, since nationalization, than in the rest of Britain's state-run industries.

When union leaders meet today to decide whether to proceed with national industrial action, they will represent less than half the number of workers their counterparts did when the Gas Industry Bill took effect in 1949.

A large part of the slashing 54-per-cent cut in the labour force is a result of the union chiefs' co-operation with productivity deals. 30 per cent of the total loss since nationalization has taken place in the last five years.

Leaders of both the General

and Municipal Workers' Union, which organizes 42,000 of the industry's 47,000-strong labour force, and the Transport and General Workers' Union have boasted of their co-operation.

A statement from the G&MWU last week for instance, spoke of the 'unprecedented scale of contract work' and the 'flexibility in the many skill retraining requirements' that have been accepted in the industry.

It was as a result of this that the gas industry was profitable, the statement pointed out. In 1971-1972 it had made a profit of £15m, compared with the losses in the electricity supply and coal industries. Yet for all this gas-

workers' earnings were lower than those in the power stations and mines.

The G&MWU does not, of course, draw the conclusion that its own policies may in any way be at fault.

Yet the story told in the statement graphically reveals the disastrous effect of these policies.

Since 1967 no less than 22,500 jobs have been lost. 12,000 of these have gone since the Prices and Incomes Board report on the industry, ordered by Labour's Barbara Castle in 1970.

At the same time productivity over the last five years has rocketed 200 per cent.



# CHILE LOSES OUT ON COPPER PRICES

The Copper Corporation of Chile (Codelco) has just published a report on the drastic effect that the world economic crisis is having on the Chilean economy.

The report analyses the huge loss of income caused by the rapid drop in copper prices on the world market, pointing out that the main factor in this drop has been 'the economic crisis which affected western countries and currency problems'.

## \$250m loss

Codelco states that every time copper prices drop by one cent, Chile loses \$15m a year in foreign earnings. In the four years previous to President Salvador Allende's election, there was a decrease of 18 cents. During the two years of his Popular Unity coalition



Vice-President Prats

government, the price has fallen from 64.2 to 48.5 cents a pound.

This adds up to a \$250m foreign earnings loss.

The report reveals the complete bankruptcy of the 'democratic road to socialism in one country' adopted by the arch-reformist Allende.

The Popular Unity government has only opened the way for the coming to power of a right-wing dictatorship which will attempt to emulate Bolivian dictator Hugo Banzer by outlawing the independent working-class movement.

## No strikes

General Carlos Prats, Chilean vice-President, issued a threat in his December inauguration ceremony; the same day Allende left for Moscow:

'Workers must refrain from struggling for higher wages and must not go on strike... If the strikes were to become widespread, the government would be transformed into a completely repressive dictatorship.'

He concluded that a crisis in Chile would be much worse than in Uruguay because those repressed 'would not be a small group like the Tupamaros, but the whole people'.



# GHANA'S HAND-TO-MOUTH ECONOMY

One year ago—on January 13, 1972—a group of colonels and majors effected a military coup in Ghana and took power in the name of the National Redemption Council under the leadership of Colonel Acheampong.

The previous civilian government of Dr Kofi Busia—now exiled in Britain—had been extremely unpopular because of a sharp rise in prices following a devaluation of the cedi by almost 50 per cent. Many prices rose by 50 or even 100 per cent in three weeks.

Another serious cause of the unpopularity of the Busia government was its approaches to South Africa. Busia was invested as Prime Minister by the military-police National Liberation Council (NLC) that had overthrown Kwame Nkrumah on February 24, 1966.

Busia caused a national outcry by advocating a 'dialogue' with South Africa, and moving away from the Organization for African Unity. In its very first broadcast after taking power, the NRC referred to this as one of its major objections to Busia, and proclaimed its intention of forging strong links with the other African states.

The Ghanaian economy was at crisis point. Overseas debts amounted to \$886m.

The NRC, however, has been able to do little about the central economic problem of Ghana—its over-dependence for foreign exchange and domestic revenue on cocoa.

A continental balance-of-payments problem is created by Ghana's dependence on

imports because of insufficient home production of food and raw materials. For instance, only 50 per cent of the country's annual consumption of fish is produced at home.

One of the first actions of the NRC was to repudiate a number of foreign debts and to unilaterally change the terms of others. This resulted in all Ghana's major trading partners cutting off insurance cover by late February last year.

A 'revolving credit' of some £12m has been arranged with overseas banks—in the UK with Standard, Barclays, National and Grindleys and the Midland—but on the basis of 'payment on sight' for all imports.

The NRC also took a controlling share in the two major mining and three timber companies (all British)—in fact Ghana was one of the last African states to take such a step.

This, of course, has made foreign aid more difficult to obtain. (When Tanzania carried out a similar measure early last year, it led to the British Tory government holding up a world bank loan.)

Today, cocoa still accounts for some 65 per cent of Ghana's total export earnings.

In the early years after 'independence', when reserves were adequate and cocoa prices high, the economy appeared fairly stable. But cocoa prices fell disastrously in the mid-1960s.

In the last years of the Nkrumah regime, import and exchange controls were imposed. The succeeding National Liberation Council also imposed controls and cut spending.

The civilian government of

Dr Busia attempted to repay the country's over-scheduled debts, negotiating the best terms it could for a further moratorium from its western creditors. It was this that led to the devaluation.

In the last year Ghana has developed from higher world prices for cocoa, timber and gold and has built up a trade surplus of £45m, plus £100m in foreign reserves.

Nevertheless, this is still a hand-to-mouth existence and the national economy is hardly developing. And there is little likelihood of Ghana's external creditors agreeing to the NRC's demand for a ten-year grace on the debts followed at only 0.75 per cent interest.

But foreign aid is largely dependent on an agreement being reached on the debts, although the World Bank has agreed to a loan of \$15m to rejuvenate the sugar industry.

And the NRC's policy of shutting out all but essential imports in order to help the balance of payments only exacerbates another problem—shortage of home produced raw materials for the manufacturing industries.

The development of Ghana's own industrial raw materials involves high capital expenditure, which the country cannot afford.

Last year utilization of Ghana's industrial capacity fell to 15-20 per cent, with some factories closing down for three or four months. Even now productive capacity is only utilized up to 30-35 per cent.

The state-owned footwear division of the Ghana Industrial Holdings Division (GHIOC) is working at only 21-per-cent capacity. Out of

Above: Timber production in Ghana—one of the main industries. Inset: Dr Kofi Busia, head of the last civilian government.

17 divisions of GHIOC, nine are operating at a loss and some have never made a profit in their entire existence.

The two main sugar refining plants—at Komenda and Asutsuare—are operating at 50-per-cent capacity.

'Operation Feed Yourself', launched by the NRC in an effort to boost agriculture, has recorded some successes. But it is largely dependent on the efforts of small farmers.

The State Food Production Corporation has rarely achieved more than 20 per cent of its production target in any sector.

Hampered by transport and storage problems, it achieved only 0.6 per cent of its target last year, selling 172,500 tons of food during the main crop period.

There is little likelihood of foreign investors being enthusiastic about Ghana, despite the present 'pay-on-the-nail' policy on imports, until they have some assurances on dividend repatriation and until foreign governments reinstate credit insurance.

Stagnation of such investment could have incalculable consequences for Ghanaian industry.

Meanwhile, the entire economy is extremely precarious and could be hit by any one or more of a number of factors.

These include: a bad harvest, a drop in cocoa prices, the effect of import controls on industrial production, and a drain on foreign exchange resulting from foreign firms participating in Ghanaian industry (like the bauxite-alumina project).





# THE NIXON CLIQUE TAKES OVER

By ALEX MITCHELL

Each day of the week White House correspondents file into the Press briefing room to ask questions about what the President is up to. Since the election, these affairs have been less enlightening than ever.

Every question is stonewalled by smiling public relations men from the Nixon personal staff.

Even the capitalist newspapers have started to rail against the secrecy of the administration and its leader. The advocate of the 'open society' has become a recluse whose ideas and movements are fed through a battalion of

cyphers.

One White House conference last week serves to show the conspiratorial-style of government Nixon is pursuing.

It was conducted by Gerald L. Warren, who is authorized to say nothing. Of this particular briefing, White House reporter Carroll Kilpatrick said:

'Yesterday Mr Warren declined to answer almost all questions asked him, even as to the President's plans for the 60th birthday today.'

When a reporter asked about celebrations for Nixon's birthday, Warren replied: 'Tomorrow is his 60th birthday and I just don't know exactly where he will have dinner with his family on that occasion.'

'Are you confident that to-

morrow is his 60th birthday?' one reporter asked.

'Supremely,' Warren replied.

For more than a week reporters had been asking for a breakdown of Nixon's mail, for and against, the bombing of North Vietnam. Each time the Press aides had promised the information 'tomorrow'.

## 'BERLIN WALL'

Asked on this particular day if the mail had been counted, Warren said: 'No, we haven't.' A disgusted newsman walked out saying: 'We are getting no information and haven't for the last week on any subject.'

Nixon is now enclosed by a small circle of unelected aides who front for him with the Press and television. This

group consists of Henry Kissinger, H. R. Haldeman, John D. Ehrlichman and Ronald Zeigler. To the Washington Press corps they are known as the 'Berlin Wall'.

This foursome showed their undoubted strength last week when Herb Klein, Nixon's director of communications, 'resigned'. The more accurate reading of the situation is that Klein was forced out because he was 'too soft' with the Press. Klein is an old-time newshand and he shared with many of the reporters the frustrations of no news from the President.

Haldeman, Nixon's chief of staff, and Zeigler, the White House spokesman, are not journalists but come from the advertising industry. Since the election Nixon has given only one Press conference and he moves unobtrusively from his remote residence at Camp David to his summer retreat in Florida accompanied only by a group of security men.

There has scarcely been a Cabinet meeting and throughout the bombing campaign the only persons he consulted were Kissinger and other members of the 'Berlin Wall'. Nixon has been stealthily elbowing out

the Cabinet as the source of policies and programmes and installing his handpicked men as a supra-executive accountable to nobody but himself.

This is most noticeable in the pack of nonentities he has elevated to his reshuffled Cabinet. These include such people as Caspar Weinberger at human resources, Earl Butz for natural resources and James Lynn for community development. When a reporter recently asked about Lynn's qualifications to launch the 'Great Society' in the ghettos, a Nixon aide said cynically:

'Jim Lynn is there to stop programmes, not start them.'

A similar role is envisaged for Weinberger. His predecessor, 'liberal' Republican Elliot Richardson antagonized the White House by disagreeing with policy decisions reached at the top.

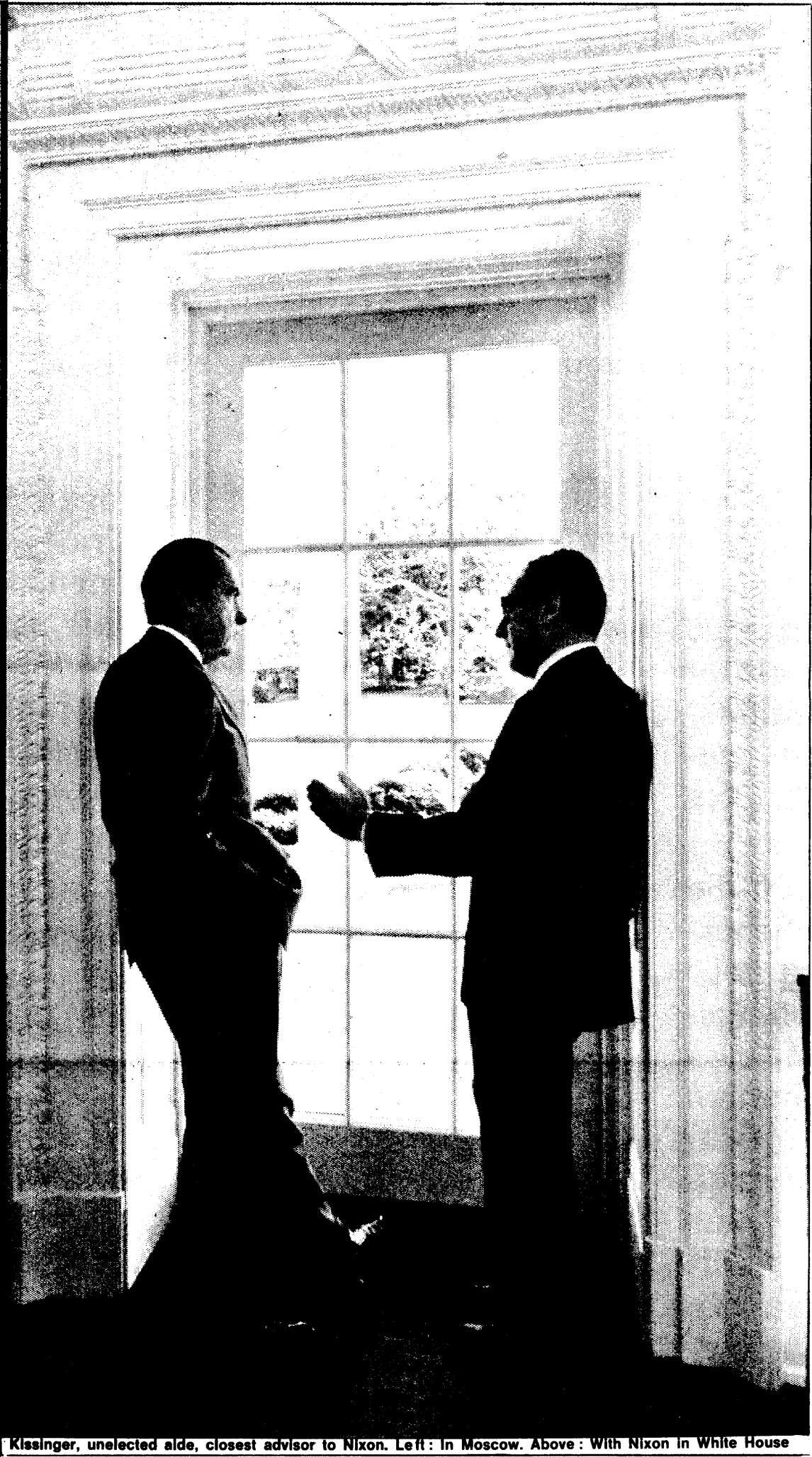
An aide said the new Cabinet members had the decided advantage of being 'dependable' and all had 'low profiles'. 'Thus,' the 'New York Times' noted, 'working in stealth while Congress recessed, Mr Nixon has rebuilt the government to make sure domestic policy and operations will now be tightly controlled for the

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Kissinger, unelected aide, closest advisor to Nixon. Left: In Moscow. Above: With Nixon in White House

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White House'.

On the face of it there has been little 'stealth' about the operation. Nixon has determinedly been creating his presidential bureaucracy for some time. Since he took office in November 1968 the cost of operating the Executive Office of the President has risen from \$31m to \$71m. Meanwhile the size of the office has more than doubled from 250 to 510 persons.

Within the vast Executive Office—which includes 18 separate groups ranging from the National Security Council to the Office of Economic Opportunity—the vital core of White House staff has grown steadily. Casper Weinberger testified before the House appropriations subcommittee in May 1972 to give 'candid and accurate' figures of staff requirements of the White House.

## SPOT-CHECK

The administration requested appropriations for a White House staff of 540 in the financial year 1972 and a staff of 510 in 1973. Unfortunately the aide who submitted the memo to the subcommittee was not included on the list of White

House staff detailees. He was one of the many aides who have been hired by the administration without budgetary permission.

When one newspaper recently conducted a spot-check of White House offices it found that there were more than 80 employees not shown on the payroll records of either the National Security Council or the Domestic Council staff. Who are they and who pays their salaries?

Many Congressmen have been quick to criticize the growth of the White House staff.

A report by the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee prepared under the direction of Representative Morris K. Udall, a Democrat from Arizona, contrasted Nixon's reorganization pledge 'to reduce duplication, to monitor performance and to promote greater efficiency throughout the executive branch' with the staff growth and with what Udall called 'new layers of bureaucracy' in the Executive Office.

The personal staff of Richard Nixon, with its overwhelming size, shadowy functions and obvious influence has

undermined the traditional decision-making rules and inter-relationship of the other branches of our government,' Udall charged.

'Not only has this affected the powers of Congress, but it has unquestionably eroded the responsibilities of the cabinet and the stabilizing controls of the civil service.'

## \$100m A YEAR

The staff figures, with or without details, do not include any of the 1,280 Secret Service agents, the 805 members of the Executive Protective Service, the uncounted numbers of military personnel detailed to the White House mess and to the medical care of the President and his staff, a score of army sergeants who chauffeur Nixon's principal assistants, 15 archivists who are preparing files for the Nixon library and various gardeners detailed by the National Park Service for the White House grounds.

A recent Associated Press compilation estimated the true cost of operating the Executive Office at \$110m a year and added that this figure 'actually may be conservative'.

'Time' magazine says in its

cover story this week:

'The US is facing a constitutional crisis. That branch of government that most closely represents the people is not yet broken, but it is bent and in danger of snapping. A Congress intended by the framers of the Constitution to be the nation's supreme policy setter, lawmaker and reflector of the collective will have been forfeiting its power for years.'

'Now a President, in the aftermath of a landslide, seems intent upon further subordinating it and establishing the White House ever more firmly as the centre of federal power. In an age of growing complexity a strong presidency is necessary. But not a presidency made strong with the usurped powers of another branch.'

'Time' magazine's arguments flow from the most reactionary concepts. The Congress has never been anything but a bourgeois institution.

But it is a sign of the growing panic in the American ruling class that although the right-wing publishers who run 'Time' want a 'strong presidency', they are fearful of the consequences.

As the economic crisis of

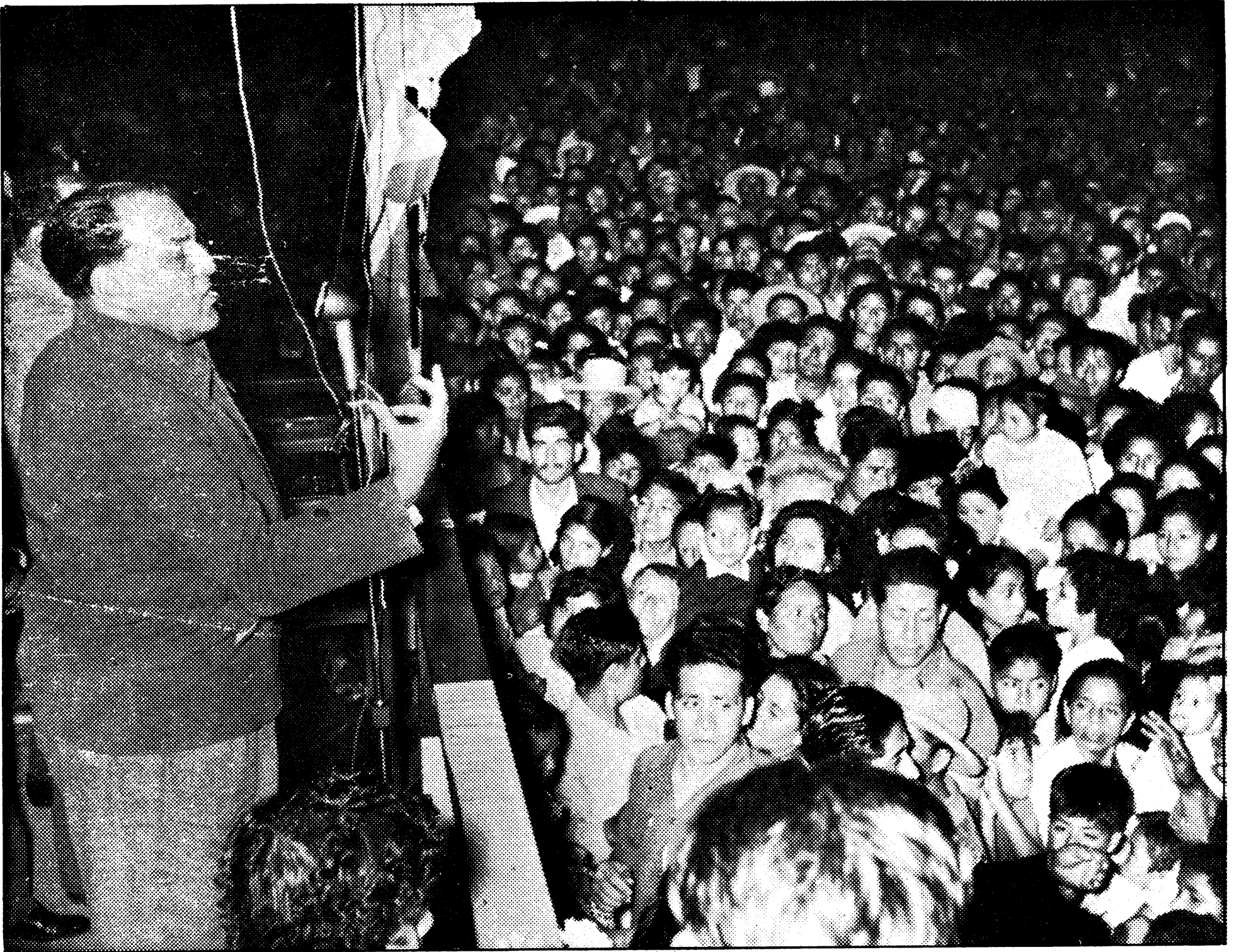
US imperialism worsens and the working class becomes more combative, all the pretences of bourgeois democracy must be stripped away. Just as Nixon increases the size and strength of his bureaucracy to meet the coming social conflicts, so Edward Heath has begun taking tentative measures in the same direction.

He has brought paid Conservative Party officials into Whitehall to work alongside his ministers; he has placed leaders of big business in charge of departmental committees and is in the process of creating an 'inner-executive' to wield presidential-style powers.

The long-term implications of the Heath scheme are being drafted by Lord Rothschild, head of the Cabinet 'Think Tank'. In Britain and the US the plans to introduce dictatorship and repression can be halted only by a massive political and industrial campaign to force the Tories and Nixon out of office.

In Britain a Labour government pledged to socialist policies must be elected. In America a Labour Party must be built in opposition to Nixon and the two dominant capitalist parties.





Special correspondent JUAN GARCIA examines Stalinism and Trotskyism in Peru following the attack by Pompeyo Mares of the Communist Party on the Liga Comunista, which works in solidarity with the International Committee of the Fourth International. Part three.

## WHY THE PERUVIAN STALINISTS SLANDER TROTSKYISM

**Collaboration with Juan Velasco's Peruvian dictatorship is nothing new in the history of the country's Communist Party leadership, which has always been loyal to the edicts from Moscow.**

Mares' lies cover up for a history of Stalinist zigzag which has been responsible for many a split and expulsion, and for the movement of many leading Party members out of the Central Committee of the party and into the pay of ruthless dictators.

In reply to the series of articles published in the Liga Comunista's weekly paper 'Comunismo' analysing the CP's history, Mares notably falsifies the facts and attributes examples of corruption in Party leadership to individual mistakes and unscrupulousness.

This is no more than a typical Stalinist cover-up for the real cause of this corruption—the training given by the leadership of the late Third Communist International controlled by Joseph Stalin.

The Peruvian CP was founded during the ultra-left phase of Comintern policy of 'third-period' Stalinism. It was this policy which led CPs throughout the world to describe social-democratic parties as 'social-fascist'. In particular, this divided the German working class and ensured the victory of Hitler.

The main problem for the Comintern in relation to Peru

was how to deal with Haya de la Torre's petty-bourgeois nationalist party, APRA, which had considerable support among trade unionists and the peasantry. APRA wanted agrarian reform and national independence.

Julio Portacarrero, Peruvian delegate to the Congress of Red Labour Unions (RILU), raised in 1927 the question of forming a Communist Party.

In a memorandum to Portacarrero, the Comintern Secretariat described Peru as a semi-colony which was dominated by rural landlords and American imperialism. The danger was that APRA isolated the Peruvian working class from the world revolutionary movement. A CP should be formed, a class organization, which could 'pressurize' the APRA into the Comintern inspired Anti-imperialist League of America.

However, the Comintern still made every effort to court Haya de la Torre who, after attending the 5th Congress of the Comintern in Moscow, had declared that communism was not applicable in Latin America.

In 1928, Haya and the Peruvian, Ravines, attended the Anti-imperialist Congress organized by the Comintern in Brussels. Ravines was later leader of the Peruvian CP and promoter of the Popular Front throughout the continent.

Lozovsky, in his report to the 4th RILU Congress in Moscow held out a friendly hand to Haya behind a barrage of phrases about working-class

independence.

Haya was accused of 'wanting to withdraw all forces into the struggle against imperialism', and of being 'a comrade who thinks it possible to make a united front with Senator Borah'. (Borah was previously described as a liberal-imperialist.)

Lozovsky concluded, after calling Haya 'a good element, and a very honest man', with the following recommendation to the representatives of the Peruvian working class: 'Our tactics ought to consist in this—to work for the defeat of all imperialism, for the defeat of our own bourgeoisie.'

The line seemed to harden with a Comintern letter at the end of 1929 to those groups considering the formation of a CP in Peru which was then under the dictatorship of Leguia. It must be a class-party, concentrating on the perspective of 'drawing the proletariat towards the sole objective of its class action—the seizure of power by the working class'.

Haya came under attack for class collaboration, and using 'all the arsenal of counter-revolutionary Trotskyism to combat the CP'.

The Comintern combined an abstract conception of the class struggle against imperialism with an ambiguous attitude to APRA. The Stalinist leadership did not want to abandon APRA, for it might be useful at a later stage in the game of manoeuvring with imperialism.

Both APRA and the CP were able to operate legally



**Top: Haya de la Torre, leader of the petty-bourgeois nationalist party APRA, harangues a meeting of peasants in 1957. It was the ambiguous attitude of Stalin to APRA that enabled it to build a movement amongst Peruvian peasants and workers. Above: Manuel Prado y Ugarteche, elected President of Peru in 1939 with the support of the Peruvian Communist Party.**

after the removal of the dictator, Leguia. But they were outlawed again by Manuel Benavides after the failure of a General Strike called at the end of 1934.

In the spring of 1935, many Party members were surprised by the appearance of an 'Open Letter to Haya de la Torre', calling for a Popular Front between APRA and the CP. What now of the Comintern call for the 'defeat of our own bourgeoisie'?

Haya de la Torre rejected

unity with the CP and was able to make the most of the CP's Popular Front support for American imperialism.

The policies of the Comintern had been completely reversed by the decision of Stalin to join up with the 'progressive capitalist democracies', as the best ploy to defend the bureaucracy in the Soviet Union against Nazism. The success of Nazism was, it will be remembered, determined by the previous policy of ultra-leftism emanating from the Kremlin.

It is this line which Mares endorses enthusiastically in his attack on Trotskyism: the policy which led the Peruvian CP to subordinate the working class to President Manuel Prado, who was chosen as Benavides' successor.

The Popular Front in Latin America brought open support for American imperialism:

'In Peru, the Prado government, despite its oligarchic and conservative character, had lined up our country in the world anti-fascist front of the United Nations . . .

'Leninism teaches that, confronted with such an emergency [the aggression of Nazism] the struggle to defend national independence takes first place in the strategy and tactics of communist parties . . .

'Prado, being a well-known representative of the oligarchy, adopted circumstantially an international anti-fascist position similar to that of Roosevelt and the north American government.' (Mares pamphlet.)

**CONTINUED TOMORROW**



# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## CHINA CLUB

Having joined the United Nations and established cordial relations with the ruling class in America, Britain, Italy, France, Australia and Japan, the Peking Stalinists are now tarring up the place for expected visitors.

Last week a new and lavishly-appointed International Club was opened.

The club, which occupies a large site facing the capital's Chang An (eternal tranquillity) Boulevard, includes a 420-seat cinema, a 50 yard indoor swimming pool, outdoor tennis courts and even a two-lane bowling alley.

There are also well-equipped hairdressing salons for men and women, a large banqueting hall, billiards, table tennis and cards rooms, and facilities for a variety of other sports including basketball, volleyball and badminton.

The new complex replaces the rather dowdy, 70-year-old International Club in Peking's old legation quarter, which was becoming inadequate for the rapid influx of foreigners resulting from Peking's vigorous foreign policy initiatives in the past two years.

The new club is built in a functional modern Chinese style, softened by pale brown tile facings on exterior walls and the lavish use of marble inside.

## GLOOM PRICES

Housewives are being told that the Tories have tough plans to hold down prices.

Do you believe it? Lend an ear to Sir Richard Trehane, chairman of the Milk Marketing Board of England and Wales.

He has just made a speech in Canada on this subject. He says that retail butter prices in Britain will double in the next five years.

For other products the prices would also be sharply increased.

What of the future trade with our previous Commonwealth suppliers?

'For certain of our traditional, particularly Commonwealth suppliers, the outlook for continued trade with the UK, even this year, looks distinctly gloomy.'

## INTO POLITICS

Actor Ronald Reagan is Republican Governor of California, Shirley Temple Black is one of Nixon's special UN envoys, Rudy Vallee is to stand as a Los Angeles councillor. Into the political stakes has marched ageing William Lundigan who says he wants to work for 'a more beautiful tomorrow'. Any rumours that Popeye, Mickey Mouse and Trigger are standing for the Senate have so far been discounted.

## UNWANTED

'Clear out your unwanted Marxist literature, paper backs, books etc. Cash paid.'—advertisement in the 'Morning Star', newspaper of the Communist Party.

## SUBSTITUTE

Remember Kesp, the marvellously nutritious 'meat' made from a soya bean protein base and fed to workers in the canteens of Merseyside? Well the predictable has happened. Standard Brands, the Liverpool manufacturers of the Royal range of products, has introduced Kesp 'sausage-flavoured' rolls and a 'beefburger-flavoured' Kesp.

First the products will go out to caterers, but the firm is preparing a direct assault on the housewife and planning to market the new invention through the retail trade.

The products are based on the 'natural goodness' of the soya bean. As usual, great claims are made for its protein value, nutritious qualities, etc.

Despite these attributes, Standard, like Courtauld's, who market the canteen Kesp, seems reluctant to promote the food for what it is—soya bean extract.

Instead it is marketed as 'sausage rolls' and round objects that look disarmingly like beefburgers.

Apart from the words 'beefburger flavour' on the pack, the housewife would be forgiven for imagining she was buying the real thing.

The advantage of Kesp is it is very cheap to produce. Real meat, of course, is very expensive and will remain so.

I am sure we will see more of Kesp.



# INDIA'S ANGRY YOUNG MEN

Satyajit Ray's 'The Adversary' (Paris Pullman, from January 4, with 'Behind the Lines' reviewed last Friday) provides a fascinating glimpse of petty-bourgeois life in contemporary Calcutta for those new to such experiences.

It is a simple well-observed tale of a medical student—Siddhartha—who has to quit studies to look for a job after his father's death. Massive unemployment turns this search into a major test of his whole attitude to life.

Interwoven in this reappraisal are the lives of his younger brother, Tunu, a student revolutionary, and his pretty sister, Sutapa, who wants to get on and is the family breadwinner.

Everything in the background points to revolution as being the likely way forward in India.

There is grinding poverty and constant political ferment. Tunu and many friends are totally given over to revolutionary agitation. Siddhartha himself is finally driven to the violent wrecking of a company interview room after a humiliating cattle-market scene with 74 applicants for just four vacancies.

But still Siddhartha resists the revolutionary call.

It is the other pressures on his life which eventually triumph. The doubts and fears that beset the petty bourgeoisie finally get Siddhartha to conform, but when the film ends, we remain far from certain if that is how things will remain in view of the great social turbulence going on around him.

What dejects Siddhartha is that he cannot outgrow the moral fastidiousness of his upbringing. Although surrounded by the monumental degradation of semi-colonial India, his first real anger in the film is his outburst against a medical student friend who is rifling a Red Cross collection tin to replace textbooks that have been stolen from him.

With his friends, Siddhartha looks at 'Playboy', watches a Swedish skin-flick and ogles the girls at a nightclub. But when he is introduced to a friendly amateur prostitute, he runs a mile.

Certain memories of childhood pinpoint Siddhartha's make up. He fondly recalls, with his sister, hearing a sweet bird sing in the countryside.

But his memories of his revolutionary brother are connected with an incident when he, with horror, and Tunu, with fascination, watched a chicken being beheaded.

Apart from the interview room rucus at the end of the film, the nearest Siddhartha

gets to decisive action is over another piece of petty-bourgeois moral outrage. He, and his mother, suspect that the pretty sister is getting on well at work because she does not discourage the boss's attentions. This follows an hysterical outburst from the boss's wife, which 'shames' them.

He resolves on a man-to-man confrontation about his sister's honour, but is quickly and easily outfaced. In his humiliation and frustration as he walks home, he helps beat up the driver of an expensive foreign car which has knocked down an Indian girl in an accident.

Siddhartha is teetering on the brink, wondering if the whole country is falling apart and he will be left in a void. But eventually, he turns down the chance of doing revolutionary agitation work and, after making friends with a pretty but rather naïve bourgeois girl, comes down on the side of settled respectability and takes a job as a medical salesman in a boring regional town from where he writes love letters to his girl.

In portraying this picture of the surface triumph of conformity, Ray puts the whole focus on the unresolved contradictions and the conflicts of the situation. His style is unfussy if occasionally gauche. An interesting film, brilliantly acted.

## BOOKS



**Moscow Trials Anthology**

Paperback, 62½p  
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**TODAY'S TV**

**BBC 1**

9.38 Schools. 12.30 Ar y trywydd. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Andy Pandy. 1.45 Cartoon. 2.05 Schools. 2.50 Going for a song. 3.20 Rolf Harris. 3.45 Behaviour and belief. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Josie and the pussycats. 5.10 John Craven's news-round. 5.15 Vision on. 5.40 Magic roundabout. 5.45 News. Weather.

**6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.50 TOM AND JERRY.**

**6.55 FILM: 'A FRENCH MISTRESS'.** Cecil Parker, James Robertson Justice, Ian Bannen, Agnes Laurent. A new French teacher shatters the calm of Melbury Public School for Boys.

**8.30 WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LIKELY LADS?** Home is the Hero.

**9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.** Weather.

**9.25 DOCUMENTARY: IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GO.** Air travel.

**10.15 FILM 73. 10.45 MIDWEEK. 11.30 LATE NEWS.**

**11.35 REFLECTION. 11.40 Weather.**

**ITV**

9.30 Schools. 10.30 This week. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Pinky and Perky. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Lunchtime with Wogan. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 The splendour falls. 3.25 A family at war. 4.25 Junior showtime. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 I dream of Jeannie. 5.50 News.

**6.00 TODAY. 6.30 CROSSROADS.**

**6.55 FATHER, DEAR FATHER.** It's in the Book.

**7.25 FILM: 'TO TRAP A SPY'.** Robert Vaughn, Luciana Paluzzi, Patricia Crowley, David McCallum, Victoria Shaw. Men from UNCLE.

**9.00 LOVE STORY.** Conversations in the Dark. **10.00 NEWS.**

**10.30 DOCUMENTARY: 'WARHOL'.** Andy Warhol, American artist and film-maker.

**11.30 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING. 12.15 DEAR LORD.**



A welcome repeat on BBC 2 is 'The Gangster Show'—George Tabori's adaptation of Bertolt Brecht's 'The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui', with Nicol Williamson as Ui.

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**REGIONAL TV**

**CHANNEL:** 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Film: 'The Time Travellers'. 9.00 London. 12.15 News, weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.25 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 12.12 News. 12.15 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Junkin. 7.05 Father, dear father. 7.35 Film: 'Cool Million'. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 And mother makes three. 7.00 Film: 'The Great Sioux Massacre'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 12.15 Time to remember. 12.45 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd. 10.30 Bro. 11.15-11.30 O'r wasg. 12.15 World in action. 12.45 Weather.

**HTV West as above except:** 6.15-6.30 Report West.

**ANGLIA:** 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 About women. 3.00 London. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Smith family. 5.50 London. 6.00 About

**BBC 2**

11.00-11.25 Play school.

**6.40-7.05 OFFICE.** Information Processing.

**7.30 NEWS.** Weather. **7.35 ART AT ANY PRICE?** Granny's Attic.

**8.05 INTERNATIONAL TENNIS.** The Commercial Union Masters Tournament.

**9.00 THE GANGSTER SHOW.** 'The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui' by Bertolt Brecht. With Nicol Williamson and Sam Wanamaker.

**10.45 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. 11.15 NEWS.** Weather.

Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Longstreet. 9.00 London.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Osmonds. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Banacek. 9.00 London. 12.15 Peter Plant reports. Weather.

**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 McCloud. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Banacek. 9.00 London. 12.15 Scotland Yard mysteries. 12.45 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Looking at. 3.00 London. 5.15 Primus. 5.50

London. 6.00 Newsday. Police file. 6.35 Partridge family. 7.05 Father, dear father. 7.35 Film: 'Murder Once Removed'. 9.00 London.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.25 Prologue. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Kreskin. 3.00 London. 5.20 Jackson five. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Banacek. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.30 Lectern.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Adam Smith. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 McMillan and wife. 8.55 Cartoon. 9.00 London. 12.15 Late call.

**GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 1.32 Schools. 2.35 Cartoon. 2.50 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Country focus. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Banacek. 9.00 London. 12.10 Meditation.

**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS**

Fight Rising Prices  
 Force the Tories to Resign  
 Support the Engineers

**CLAPHAM:** Tuesday January 16, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4.

**BRISTOL:** Tuesday January 16, 7.30 p.m. Building Design Centre, Colston Avenue (opposite SWEB building).

**WANDSWORTH:** Tuesday January 16, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Tooting Broadway, SW17. 'The fight for a living wage'.

**HOLLOWAY:** Thursday January 18, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Rd (near Finsbury Park tube).

**TOTTENHAM:** Thursday, January 18, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers' Arms', Tottenham High Road, N17 (near White Hart Lane).

**CONISBOROUGH:** Sunday January 21, 7.30 p.m. 'The Castle Inn'. 'How can workers fight the Tory offensive?'

**LEICESTER:** Wednesday January 24, 8 p.m. Queen's Hotel, Rutland Street.

**WILLESDEN:** Thursday January 25, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW10.

**MIDDLESBROUGH:** Sunday January 28, 7.30 p.m. Settlement Community Centre, Newport Road.

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

THE Plymouth Fine Tubes strikers have just completed two years and seven months on strike.

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.

These latest months have been the hardest of all for the men, their wives and 53

children. Common Market entry, with rapidly rising prices, has imposed a severe financial burden. The 37 strikers face the challenging months ahead with a depleted strike fund—this is in a period when meat has now become a luxury for all but the highest paid. 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 Workers 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.

**I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE**

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

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Address.....



# Medvedev to research in London

ZHORES MEDVEDEV, the Soviet geneticist, who was detained in a psychiatric hospital in May 1970 for his criticism of Kremlin policy, has left Moscow in order to do medical research in London.

Medvedev told his friends that he wanted to return to the Soviet Union and intended to engage in purely scientific research in London. He did not want to be involved in political activities that could be

used as a pretext for taking away his passport, making him a permanent exile. Last summer, he was barred from attending an international geneticists' conference in Kiev.

Medvedev's twin brother Roy is the author of the important book 'Let History Judge: the Origins and Consequences of Stalinism' (published by Macmillan, £5.75), the first Soviet attempt to assess Stalin.



Zhores Medvedev

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## Pompidou has huge security guard

PRESIDENT POMPIDOU has taken every precaution on his present visit to the French colony of Afars and Issas to avoid an outbreak of demonstrations and riots in favour of independence that greeted de Gaulle in 1966.

Three companies of riot police—240 men—have been flown in from France to reinforce the 3,000-strong Foreign Legion and regular army troops.

The capital of Afars and Issas, Djibouti, is surrounded by barbed wire guarded by French units to prevent entry by people from Somalia and Ethiopia into the capital of former French Somaliland.

The change of name, which followed the 1966 riots and a rigged majority 'vote' for continued dependence on France, has not deterred the claims of Somalia to the territory.

Pompidou's visit is aimed at 'confirming the French presence' in this outpost of French imperialism at the entrance of the Red Sea.

It is confirmed in customary imperialist style with army units and riot police by the President who has just had such friendly talks with Moscow.

# Pressure all round for Hanoi to do a deal Maintain fight against second partition of Vietnam

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE UNITED STATES and North Vietnam yesterday pushed ahead with high-level technical talks as President Nixon conferred in Florida with his chief negotiator Henry Kissinger.

Nixon has despatched Kissinger's deputy, General Alexander Haig, to Indo-China to report to the US puppet regimes there on the latest developments in the Paris talks. He will visit South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

These moves come at a particularly ominous stage in the Paris negotiations, where there are indications that Hanoi has made certain important concessions to the Americans' demands.

According to reports from Nixon's headquarters at Key Biscayne, North Vietnam has 'yielded slightly' on some of the issues in dispute, among them the terms relating to the international commission to supervise any agreed ceasefire.

Hanoi originally insisted that this commission should have only 250 men and be largely tied down in Saigon. The negotiations are said to have reached a compromise on a figure of 2,500, drawn from the Indonesian, Canadian, Polish and Hungarian forces.

The vital question at the heart of the secret negotiations is the division of Vietnam, which was partitioned along the 17th parallel in 1954, under the treacherous Geneva accords approved by Moscow and Peking.

On this question, Reuter's correspondent reported yesterday that Hanoi might have agreed to some sort of formula that would be written into the agreement which provided for removing its troops from South Vietnam over a period of time, although not necessarily before a settlement is signed.

'This has been a major point

of contention with South Vietnam which objected to the terms reached in October which contained no such assurance. There was no indication how such a condition might be phrased, bearing in mind that Hanoi has never acknowledged having any forces in the south.'

Such an agreement would amount to *de facto* recognition of the puppet regime of Nguyen Van Thieu in South Vietnam. This is one of the main concessions being demanded by the Nixon regime under threat of renewing bombing—this time by guided missiles.

If such a deal were actually to come into operation it would detract heavily from the legality and status of the Provisional Revolutionary Government in the south.

According to one high Washington official, quoted in the 'Daily Express', Kissinger and Le Duc Tho had reached the outline of an agreement which would yield to Hanoi's demands that in the long term there should be a united Vietnam.



Nixon (right) with his Vietnam team (l. to r.) Henry Kissinger, Melvin Laird and General Haig. He has sent Haig to south-east Asia to explain the latest Paris moves.

Such an agreement is assured of the enthusiastic support of the Stalinists and Liberals who have become the advocates of peace at any price in Indo-China.

The main demand in the Stalinist campaign is for the signing of the October nine-point draft agreement, which ratifies the continued presence of US troops in Thailand, the Tonkin Gulf and other parts of Asia.

It is important to note that the deal would leave US Air Force planes positioned ready at any time to resume the terror bombing of the north.

This campaign is masterminded by the Soviet and Chinese bureaucracies, which have repeatedly made clear they want to liquidate the Indo-China revolution so that they can improve their relations with Nixon.

Olivier Todd, reporting from Hanoi for the French magazine 'Nouvel Observateur' witnessed Soviet officials in the beleaguered Hanoi during last month's bombing raids openly chiding the North Vietnamese for their lack of 'realism' and for standing in

the way of overall peaceful co-existence!

These leaders are undoubtedly intriguing behind the scenes to undermine the intransigence of the North Vietnamese fighters and undermine their morale as the B52 bombers were unable to do.

There is undoubtedly great hostility among the Vietnamese fighters to the Moscow-Peking line-up. According to the French newspaper 'Valeurs Actuelles', the US bombing raids provoked a split in the North Vietnamese politburo, with one wing, headed by Truong Chinh, the president of the National Assembly, giving priority to the 'construction of socialism' which, it claims, is endangered by the war.

The other wing, led by Le Duan, the Vietnamese party's first secretary, reportedly maintains that the consolidation of socialism in North Vietnam can only be brought about by its victory in the south.

This position is echoed in a recent speech by the veteran strategist General Vo Nguyen Giap. Speaking at a ceremony last Friday to mark the award of medals to anti-aircraft units, Giap warned:

'We have won glorious victories, but we should never be complacent because our task remains very heavy. As long as the enemy continues to invade our country, our armed forces and people will have to continue to step up our resistance . . . to defend our entire territory and our beloved fatherland's territorial space and waters.'

Nowhere in his speech did Giap refer to the 'peace' prospects which are noted with such approval by the advocates of pressure to force Nixon to sign. This campaign is nothing more than a political extension of the treachery of the Soviet and Chinese leaders.

There must be no second partition of Vietnam. The secret diplomatic manoeuvres of Kissinger and Nixon, Brezhnev and Mao, are the gravest danger to the Vietnamese struggle, which is the highpoint of the world revolution against capitalism.

The Socialist Labour League is for the victory of the North Vietnamese Army and the National Liberation Front and unequivocally for the defeat of imperialism both in Indo-China and by the working class at home.

Against the protesters and vigilantes we consider that the campaign to force the Tory government to resign is the high point of working-class solidarity with the Vietnamese revolution.

## Hong Kong shares on never-never

THE HONG KONG government has taken emergency action to stem the speculative boom on the colony's four stock exchanges.

Civil servants have been barred from visiting the exchanges or brokers' offices during working hours and banned from using their office telephones to phone through share deals.

After a meeting with the financial secretary to the governor, the heads of the exchanges issued a joint statement urging investors to show restraint.

The government has also apparently prevailed on some of the colony's banks to call in loans which have been used by investors to buy shares on credit.

The banks are reported to have advanced £230m (a sum almost equivalent to the colony's budget) last September for new share dealings and general market operations.

Hong Kong is a tax haven and is readily accessible to speculative capital from Britain, which has been flowing in to the stock markets there at a considerable rate.

The lack of companies to invest in was not an obstacle for long. Firms like Slater Walker, Ralli International and others

floated their own subsidiaries to fill the gap.

One company had as its sole asset a 16-year-old ship. The shares of these firms shot up in price, pushing the index from just over 300 at the beginning of last year to nearly 1,000 last week.

The rise bore no relation to the current earnings of the companies involved—or to any earnings they are likely to get in the future. Some of the firms involved had price/earnings ratios of over 100.

But this is not the most important aspect of the share boom in the colony. It appears that much of the buying was 'on margin' the method which

brought the downfall of Wall Street in 1929.

This involves a virtual hire purchase system, in which as little as 10 per cent of the share price need actually be paid by the buyer.

In this way credit is transformed into fictitious value with a call on part of the total surplus value produced. The government's intervention indicates that the credit relations are close to the point of breakdown.

Indeed the intervention itself could be the final straw to initiate the credit collapse. Even a small fall in the share index could be enough to set in motion selling by margin buyers, which could then snowball into a crash.

## Spain and East Germany to exchange ambassadors

THE SPANISH Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced at the weekend that Spain and East Germany had decided to establish diplomatic relations and would exchange ambassadors in May.

The agreement was reached in Warsaw on January 10, after

negotiations between the East German ambassador and the leader of the Spanish consular delegation in Poland.

East Germany has become the first Stalinist regime in eastern Europe to extend commercial relations with Franco's regime into the field of diplomatic recognition.

## SLL LECTURES

### TODMORDEN

Monday January 22 'Stalinism'

Monday February 5 'Trotskyism'

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

### HULL

Wednesday January 17 Stalinism and Trotskyism

Wednesday January 24 Marxist theory and the revolutionary party

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

### DONCASTER

Sunday January 21 What future for the labour movement.

Sunday January 28 The crisis and the socialist answer.

Sunday February 4 The revolutionary party in Britain.

Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter.

SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL Westlaithgate

7.30 p.m.

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THERE IS not a moment to waste. We are a long way yet from completing our target. Raise everything you can immediately and help us turn the situation around.

We are confident you will do everything possible to complete our January Fund. More and more sections of the working class are being stirred into action to defend their basic rights. Workers Press was the first daily paper to warn that the Tory government would attempt to take away every one of these hard-won gains.

In this political situation, we are sure thousands and thousands of trade unionists will be rallied around our pageant of History at a mass rally at the Empire Pool on March 11.

Workers Press is determined to build that revolutionary leadership necessary today to force the government to resign. Let's therefore go all out and raise extra amounts for January's Fund. Post these immediately to:

**Workers Press  
January Appeal Fund  
186 Clapham High Street  
London, SW4 7UG**

# 200 items go up 8 to 12 per cent Bangers and bacon join price rise list

THE PRICE of about 200 branded foods went up yesterday between 8 and 12 per cent and more increases will take place later this week.

The Ministry of Agriculture is still refusing to name the firms concerned. This is in sharp contrast to the publicity the Tory government encourages over workers fighting for wage rises.

THE TORY government has abandoned all attempts to control meat prices. Farmers' leader Henry Plumb said after a meeting with the Tory Agriculture Minister Joseph Godber that there would be no attempt to 'freeze' farmers' meat margins which have rocketed since entry into the Common Market. Farmers are now getting 50 per cent more for their beef than they were a year ago.

Almost all the increases are in canned and sliced meat lines. The biggest company involved so far is Spiller Foods which is raising the price of its Tyne Brand canned meats and pies.

Other increases include: Scot Meat Products (hams, sausages and pork); Porky Boy Products (hams, bacon and sausages); Baron Meats (ham, pressed beef, continental sausages); S. Daniels

## CONSUMER ROUND-UP BY STEPHEN JOHNS

(pork shoulders, hams, hot dogs, processed chicken, canned fruit); Primecut Foods (sausages, pies, pasties); and John Morrell hams.

These increases will be the green light to other smaller manufacturers in the field. They will not have to apply to the Ministry for permission to increase the price of meat products and it will be entirely up to the shopper to complain if profiteering is suspected—a near impossible task as the names of the brands increasing prices are kept secret.

A spokesman for 'The Grocer' said that more price increases in sausages, meat and pie lines were inevitable this week. Big firms considering taking this step are Bowyers and Walls, the largest manufacturers in this field.

Many of the increases are a result of the 37-per-cent increase in fresh meat prices over the past year. The government has now launched a determined campaign to put beef beyond the range of the working-class household and substitute other foods like pig meat and chicken.

But big prices are expected here as well. The government campaign against beef as well as the pig slaughtering caused by swine disease will send the price of pork and ham rocketing.

Bacon is also likely to be much

dearer. Because of the switch to pork, the bacon producers are not getting the supplies they need. Farmers are selling their animals to pork producers.

The Common Market will also have an effect. Bacon is not a common food on the continent, therefore subsidies that farmers get on the price of pig feed stuffs favour animals that produce more pork than bacon.

When these regulations apply here on February 1, there will be an incentive to concentrate on pork instead of bacon production.

ANOTHER warning of big food price rises was issued yesterday by the Food Manufacturers' Federation.

Spokesman for the Federation said that margins had gone down from the usual 16 to 17 per cent to about 12 per cent.

'Now profit margins have declined to a point where we cannot allow them to go any lower. We hope that the government will give permission for price increases,' he said.

In addition, special market-sharing agreements between the UK and Denmark will disappear in Europe. This will boost exports to the continent and push up prices at home.

Mr L. W. Wright, president of the Manchester Provision Exchange, has predicted that these factors will mean five years of rising bacon prices.

# McGuinness for trial: Doherty tortured

A DUBLIN court yesterday sent Londonderry Provisional IRA leader Martin McGuinness and another man for trial on charges of possessing gelignite and ammunition and being members of an illegal organization.

McGuinness and Joseph McCallion of Co Donegal, who face eight charges, both refused to recognize the court and declined to ask for bail. Earlier in the day another young man aged 19 was also sent for trial on similar charges.

Also in Dublin, the extradition application against Tony 'Dutch' Doherty by the Royal Ulster Constabulary was adjourned for a week.

Doherty, said his counsel, had been tortured with needles and cigarettes while in jail in Belfast from where he escaped in December 1971.

'His shirt and trousers were removed. Needles were penetrated half-an-inch into his skin, then withdrawn and drawn across his body.' The torture had gone on for four hours.

An English MI5 agent and an Irish policeman involved in the Dublin spy ring case will face further charges today, the prosecution said yesterday.

John Wyman, of Chelsea, London, and Patrick Crinnion from Dublin, were arrested by the Republic's Special Branch while investigating the bomb explosions outside the Dail when Lynch's government was in jeopardy.

# 600 builders join Lincs steel strike

SIX HUNDRED men on the pay-roll of Redpath Dorman Long withdrew their labour yesterday in support of striking electricians at Scunthorpe's Anchor steel works site, Lincolnshire.

Over 2,000 contractors' workers on the 4,000 man site have downed tools since the dispute began on January 9.

Trouble first flared on December 21 after Watson Norrie Ltd sacked 38 men, including all the shop stewards and known militants, following the electrician's work-to-rule.

The men have agreed to drop their maximum safety campaign in return for a reinstatement of the sacked workers, but Norrie's have rejected the offer.

The company attempted to carry out a secret ballot and advertise the strikers' jobs in the local press.

Strike leader Mr Stewart Stevenson told me they had imposed the maximum safety campaign at the beginning of December after management had used 'iron fist' tactics.

He added that in the last three years seven men had died and over 200 had been injured on the site.

Anchor electricians have been pressing the union for three years to take action against the company on a variety of issues.

Finally the men elected shop stewards who were immediately recognized by Watson Norrie's and the British Steel Corporation, but not by the union.

As soon as the work-to-rule began two weeks

before Christmas, Norrie's sacked the stewards and any men they regarded as ringleaders. The firm warned that they would meet any further disruption with a run down of the site.

Said Mr Stevenson: 'The lads will stay out until the 38 men are re-instated because if this company gets away with breaking the union it will be the same in every fight.'

Resolutions from local branches have been sent to the electrical trades union headquarters calling for the strike to be made official and demanding the resignation of area secretary Mr. L. H. Hancock.

# 'Casuals' threat to dockers' jobs

FROM PAGE ONE

The management's plans, however, have run into immediate trouble with the port shop stewards' committee.

Norman Wright, the stewards' convenor, told Workers Press that the committee had instructed dockers not to let any casuals onto Preston docks.

Although men on the supplementary register are paid the same as permanent dockers, they enjoy no similar job guarantee under the Dock Labour Scheme. In fact they can be fired with only one week's notice by either their immediate employer or the Dock Labour Board.

Men on the permanent register fear that casuals could be used to break up their solidarity and act as a wedge for speed-up.

A LEADING haulage and warehousing company appears to have retreated on plans to get rid of registered dock labour at Bermondsey Cold Store, south London.

Following a High Court ruling last year, that the jobs at the cold store were not necessarily dockers' work, it had been feared that the store's owners would try to dismiss their six dockers.

But at a meeting with union officials and shop stewards yes-

terday, the management indicated that the owners, Transport Development Group, intended to retain the registered men.

A letter to this effect is to be sent to the Transport and General Workers' Union and, if the terms are acceptable, it is expected that notice of strike action from the end of this week will be withdrawn.

But the company still has to settle the problem of three men who it is keeping at home on full pay after they took severance from the register last June.

THE FUTURE of at least 500 dockers at the Royal group of docks in east London is expected to be finally decided this Friday.

Shipping lines in the South American conference are due to reply then to proposals from union officials and the Port of London Authority for keeping the valuable meat trade in London docks. The lines are threatening to transfer to Southampton.

A transfer could close Thames Stevedoring (1965) Ltd, the Vestey-owned firm which employs more than 800 men in the Royals.

Thames' work has already been cut by the transfer of much of the New Zealand meat trade to Sheerness—a decision in

which the Vestey organization itself had a powerful voice.

The proposals to which the South American lines will reply on Friday are believed to involve considerable speed-up.

SOUTHAMPTON dockers met yesterday, but did not discuss their shop stewards' recent statement that they would work South American meat ships unless the London men could guarantee the trade would not go elsewhere.

Instead they voted support for the hospital workers' fight against the Tory pay-control law.

MIDLAND Cold Storage yesterday formally withdrew the legal proceedings that last summer led to five London dockers being jailed.

**TONIGHT  
All Trades Unions Alliance  
Meeting**

**SOUTHAMPTON: Tuesday January 16, 8 p.m. 'The Bay Tree Inn,' New Road. 'The Tory State Pay Plan.'**

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

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

# WHAT WE THINK

## More Stalinist lies

THE Communist Party leaders say they want the TUC to break off talks with the Tories and organize a campaign against the state pay laws.

This fraudulent call by the British Stalinists was repeated at the national executive meeting at the weekend.

In a review of 1972, Party general secretary John Gollan made this claim:

'We gave mass leadership, doing everything we could to raise militancy while showing the need to go beyond immediate aims, and posing the need to challenge [not destroy!] capitalism as such and win social change.'

The campaign against the TUC-Tory collaboration over the state pay plan affords an example of Stalinist 'mass leadership'.

This issue first emerged for full debate at the TUC Congress in Brighton last September. A lengthy resolution about economic policy was passed unanimously. This did everything but mention the key question facing the working class—was the abysmal co-operation between the Tories and the TUC leaders to continue?

As such it was recognized as a brief for Victor Feather and his team to continue their grovelling act at 10 Downing Street.

Not one Communist Party delegate (and there were several from trade unions) raised a hand against this resolution.

Not one Communist Party delegate came to the platform and openly demanded that all talks with the Tory government be broken off.

Instead the Party faction at the Congress and the many Stalinist camp followers acted as the dishonest brokers between the right and so-called left-wing leaders.

These Stalinist forces participated in a squalid manoeuvre to remove from the agenda the one motion which would have meant an end to the talks. This called for a campaign to bring down the Tories and elect a Labour government

pledged to socialist policies. This is how the Stalinists began their campaign to give 'mass leadership'.

The reaction continued. At a decisive stage in the campaign to deprive the working class of the democratic right to a decent standard of living, the Tories were faced with a wave of industrial action in defence of the engineers.

How did the Stalinists lead this struggle?

Three of the national executive members participated in the fight—James Reid and James Airlie of UCS and Kevin Halpin, chairman of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

The one area where no mass action was taken against the AUEW fines was Clydeside—which includes the 'kingdom' of Reid and Airlie, both members of the engineering union.

Airlie failed to move any resolution for industrial action at a shop stewards' quarterly meeting the day after the fine was imposed and the Stalinists on the Clyde failed to organize mass meetings to bring workers out. As a result the right wing was able to cancel all strikes.

The Liaison Committee for its part did nothing to mobilize the working class. On the contrary, Halpin voted against a call for a national stoppage throughout engineering at a shop stewards' meeting the day London struck one day.

But above all the Stalinists never in any of these campaigns raised the political question of forcing the Tory government to resign by mass industrial and political action. Presumably this is not part of 'challenging capitalism'.

This is no longer news to many workers who are coming to regard the Communist Party with a degree of healthy cynicism.

Such cynicisms and anger must be developed into a political campaign against Stalinism. It is a force bound entirely to the bureaucratic caste in the Soviet Union which is now the main bulwark of imperialism throughout the world.