

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2, 1973 ● No 987 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## US FIRMS TURN THE SCREW CONCORDE: VICTIM OF THE TRADE WAR

BY JACK GALE

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Mr Freeman, the father of the NATSOPA chapel at the Old Kent Road printing works, and his committee have stated that they will defy the writs.

Their action follows a mass meeting of the print workers at the occupied factory on Wednesday which decided that 'we would resist all moves to enforce the writs'.

The seven members of the committee named in the writs have 14 days to file their defence with the Chancery Division.

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# Nixon saddles his Trojan horse

PRESIDENT Nixon has described his summit talks with Tory premier Edward Heath as 'enormously important' and is making every effort to flatter and woo his guest.

Talks opened yesterday at the presidential retreat in Camp David, a rarely used venue for diplomatic meetings. As a further sign of favour, Nixon has agreed to attend a dinner at the British embassy.

Nixon said the agenda for the talks would include trade, the European Security Conference and negotiations on mutual and balanced force reduction. He said the question of relations with Europe 'must be put on the top burner'.

He wants to put pressure on the bankrupt British employing class to aid the US capitalists in breaking up the European market.

US capital has been pouring into Britain in the past few years in anticipation of EEC entry. In the car industry, for example, three firms out of the Big Four are in US hands. In banking, the big US banks are now using London as their base for operations in Europe.

France in particular is worried about this development. De Gaulle's chief objection in the past to British entry in the EEC was that it would be a Trojan Horse for US investment in European industry.

The Paris newspaper 'Le Monde', summarizing the trade questions involved in Heath's talks with Nixon, commented somewhat acidly that though the British government had never appreciated the agricultural policy of the EEC, it knew that its good relations with Paris were dependent on the determination to put it into practice.

Heath will no doubt try a balancing act in the face of harsh US demands for trade concessions. But one thing is already clear: he cannot please both Nixon and his newly-acquired European partners.

And as the fate of Concorde demonstrates, no amount of diplomatic footwork can avoid the blows of the trade war and economic recession.

# VAT myth explodes

BY AN ECONOMICS REPORTER

TORY myths about limiting the impact of the Common Market's VAT has been completely exploded.

The European Commission in Brussels has decided to place the strictest limits on goods which can be exempted from VAT. And it is also considering a new standard rate of VAT at 15 per cent, 5 per cent higher than the one which Britain will introduce on April 1.

These draft directives will be passed from the commission to the EEC Council of Ministers later this month.

They make a mockery of the private advice Anthony Barber, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has been giving to trade union leaders about making special exemptions

and even lowering the initial VAT surcharge to 7½ per cent.

By making these statements Barber has been leading the TUC up the garden path. Just as they got the tripartite talks off the ground by saying 'everything is on the agenda', now they are promising VAT leniency which they can't hope to achieve.

From yesterday, February 1, Britain adopts the Common Agricultural Policy. And as the Press Association's agricultural correspondent said, it means that Britain 'starts on the inexorable progress of bringing farm and food prices up in line with those in the rest of the EEC'.

He says that butter will double in price to 46p a pound over the next couple of years, apples will get dearer, bacon will go up by 3p a pound by June, bread will increase so will beef and cereals.

Eggs have shot up in price by up to 3p a dozen in the past three weeks since January 10. And they are to cost even more now that the CAP is introduced.

From today no packs of eggs from any part of the Common Market will bear their country of origin.

The housewife's only way of identifying a British pack will be by means of a code (No. 9).

The government has given permission for textile manufacturers to increase their prices by a staggering 75 per cent. This is because of a sharp rise in world raw-wool prices.

## Around the world

### African workers in wave of pay fights

# Police strike-breaking in Durban

STRONG mobile police units were moved into African and Indian townships around Durban yesterday to break a transport boycott as the city's strike wave mounts.

Armed squads were ordered to patrol stations and bus depots to prevent any 'intimidation' of people travelling to and from work. The head of this strike-breaking squad, Brigadier T. Bisschoff, said his men would 'crack down hard' on anyone molesting those who wished to travel.

The railways issued repeated assurances to everyone that

trains would be running as scheduled and some Durban firms were given official permission to keep workers on their premises overnight rather than send them home. Under the law, Africans are required to return to their townships at night.

Although aimed primarily at recently-increased fares, the boycott threat also reflected a marked hardening of attitudes among many black workers to-

wards working conditions and pay.

Key industries such as textiles, chemicals and sugar have been hit by strikes in the past three weeks over pay, which in one extreme case was only 4.50 rand (£2.25) a week.

Most of the strikes have been shortlived, but a number have won pay rises which are considerable on a percentage basis, if not in real money terms.

A number of workers who came out in two textile mills and a chemical factory on Wednesday were expected to return to work yesterday morning—if they did not join the threatened boycott.

The strike is not confined to the lowest-paid sections of workers. It is a general movement of the Durban workers against inhuman conditions which have been rendered intolerable by repressive laws and rampant inflation.

It is the first big strike movement in the Republic itself since the Sharpeville massacre of 1960 which clamped a fascist-style regime of terror on the black workers of South Africa.

Last year's strike of Ovambo contract workers in South-West Africa marked the beginning of a new wave of struggle against the white supremacy regime and brought previously quiescent workers onto the scene.

Now the force that the white minority has so long feared is on the march: the African working class.

The white liberals are running in terror to the government, begging and pleading for concessions to be made to the strikers. The venal white union leaders are making the same plea.

Their words are wasted on the leaders of the apartheid regime who know that their virtual slave-labour system can be maintained one way and one way only—by piling repression on repression and cutting down everyone who stands up for his rights.

The time has long passed when there can be any compromise between the South African rulers and the black majority, as the liberals want.

The strike actions in Durban are nothing less than a declaration of war by the courageous workers of this industrial city, who know they will face police bullets and prison camps as a result.

A BELGIAN experiment in broadcasting the parliamentary session on Tuesday when the new Leburton government presented its policy turned sour.

The proceedings began with a scuffle when members of the government overflowed onto the opposition benches. Then, while the Prime Minister was reading his statement, he was constantly interrupted with insults from Flemish nationalists, who also hurled leaflets at him.

Leburton's proposals have done nothing to appease the linguistic conflict which has plunged the country into a political crisis ever since the last elections.

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

## Ulster bus bomb kills builder

A BOMB thrown into a workers' bus at Kingsway Park, Dundonald, on the outskirts of Belfast early yesterday morning killed one man and injured nine others, five of them seriously.

The bus was taking building workers to the site of a new school in a Roman Catholic area. It was waved down by three youths who tossed the bomb inside and

made off.

There was a huge bang and the bus was wrecked.

Denouncing the sectarian murders by Protestant extremists, the Provisional IRA warned yesterday that it has no option but to take ruthless retaliatory action against criminal elements who engage in cowardly acts against defenceless, innocent

people'.

The Irish Republican Army has informed the Ulster Defence Association that a new phase of sectarian killings will not be tolerated.

As was to have been expected, the IRA's repeated appeals to the UDA for meetings to discuss the murders have met with no response.

The refusal of the

Whitelaw regime to neutralize known murder gangs in UDA territory has contributed immensely to the high casualty rate of sectarian killings, says the IRA.

The assassinations were first initiated by British troops operating in civilian clothes and the monster thus created can no longer be controlled by the British forces.

## BRIEFLY • BRIEFLY

WRITER Augusto Lindolfo, a former member of the illegal Portuguese Communist Party, has been shot as he entered his home in Oporto. He was hit in the chest, arms and legs by fire from two men in a passing car.

THE TURKISH prosecutor is expected to ask for sentences of 20 and 15 years' imprisonment for men accused of setting up a revolutionary organization in the army aimed at turning the country into a communist state. On trial is a former law professor Dogu Perincek, a student and 32 junior officers. At the start of the case on Wednesday they refused to recognize the military court in Ankara and the judges adjourned to consider their position.

SOCIALIST Party offices in Milan were seriously damaged by plastic bombs on Wednesday night. Notes nearby claimed that the explosion was the work of the fascist 'Mussolini Action Squad'.

RUMANIAN leaders have been giving French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann the honours during his visit to Bucharest. They have secured French backing for their application for preferential treatment from the Common Market which would enable their goods to enter at lower tariff rates.

# Kissinger bound for Hanoi with new Nixon bribe

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

PRESIDENT Nixon's special adviser, Dr Henry Kissinger, will visit Hanoi from February 10 to 13 for discussions with North Vietnamese leaders.

President Nixon said that the visit was an important development. If the North Vietnamese participated in rebuilding the country, Nixon said, 'they will have a tendency to turn inward to the works of peace rather than outward to the works of war'.

What he is talking about is a bribe to Hanoi not to carry through the Vietnamese revolution. The aim is to offer big financial aid in return for concessions which will ensure survival of the Thieu regime in the South and maintenance of American in-

fluence in the whole of Indochina.

The Soviet and Chinese bureaucracies have already bought their improved relations with Nixon with the blood and lives of the Vietnamese people. Now they will do their utmost to force on the North and the National Liberation Front a complete sell-out of the revolution.

That is what Nixon is counting on. In the Press conference announcing the Kissinger visit, he said: 'It would have been peace with dishonour had we bugged out and allowed what the North Vietnamese wanted—the imposition of a communist or coalition communist government in South Vietnam. This goal they have failed to achieve.'

HANOI has accused Thieu's government of trying to delay the activities of the four-party Joint Military Commission in Vietnam. The International Commission

for Control and Supervision, also set up under the ceasefire agreement, has still not begun its work.

American helicopters have picked up 30 officers of the National Liberation Army and flown them to Saigon to take part in the Joint Military Commission. They include Lieutenant General Tran Yan Tra who led the 1968 Tet offensive.

Heavy fighting has continued in a number of places although it appears to be tapering off. South Vietnamese marines were driven out of a base just below the demilitarized zone which they had grabbed only two minutes before last Sunday's ceasefire.

The first team from the International Commission is expected to leave Saigon for the countryside today. It will consist of 24 soldiers from Canada, Hungary, Indonesia and Poland. They will visit Hue, Danang and Pleiku.

900 jobs in jeopardy at Rockware, Greenford

# Asset-stripping at glass plant?

BY PHILIP WADE

THE CLOSURE of a major bottle factory just outside London was finally decided on the basis of the soaring market value of the land on which the plant stands.

At the same time, the shut-down and the sale of the land will enable the company—the giant Rockware Group—to ruthlessly rationalize production at its remaining plants.

At the Greenford site the 900 workers have been told there will be no work for them from January 1974. They are bitter.

They naturally resent being made the pawns of a deal between a property company and Rockware. It is certain that any attempt to close the plant or sack workers there will be met with stiff resistance, and possibly a sit-in.

Rockware controls 33 per cent of the market in glass containers, a proportion which is growing. United Glass, the leading firm in the industry, has about 40 per cent. The two companies therefore form a virtual monopoly.

At Greenford the workers produce 750,000 bottles and jars a day, about 320 tons worth out of a total 2,200 tons turned out throughout the group's five factories.

With the new technology used in the industry, Rockware says it can produce what it needs at four factories instead of five.

But equally the firm has admitted the need for £14m to finance the research and development needed to take it abreast of its competitor United Glass.

For a year the group had been studying what to do in this situation, where it was impossible to finance the rationalization programme from within the company itself.

In the past few years the group has developed two ultra-modern plants. One was at Wheatley, near Doncaster in Yorkshire, and the other at Irvine New Town in Ayrshire.

At both these companies it was discovered how to produce more bottles with fewer workers, while receiving government aid in the form of investment grants.

Remaining were the plants at St Helens, Lancashire, Knottingley, Yorkshire, and Greenford. It was a question of which one was to close.

It was at this point that the question of land values arose. Obviously the best site was that at Greenford — all 35 acres of it.



## Possible sit-in against £m firm

GEORGE COWLEY, an inspector in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, is spokesman for the co-ordinating committee set up to fight the closure. He told Workers Press: 'Shop stewards at the St Helens plant have offered their full support and we are visiting the other factories.'

'We have explained to them that if they sell the land and close the factory, the money will be used to rationalize and mechanize continuously—and it might be their turn next.'



Inspection department at Rockware

'If they start making workers redundant here we will undoubtedly take positive action. Although a sit-in has not been formally discussed, it is behind everyone's mind. It would be a practical means of keeping the factory open.'

'Workers are beginning to realize that large corporations are only interested in profit at the expense of human beings.'

'The West Middlesex area has thousands out of work. All that is going on round here is the construction of storage space. Everything is now being dominated by land speculators. Where does it end? Who cries halt?'

Last valued in 1964 it had a book price of £3.5m. But the group admits it is worth far more today. Some estimates put it at over £10m.

The picture becomes clearer at this point. Greenford—the group's first plant, built in 1919—would close, and the workers made redundant. Some property company would buy the land and Rockware would be on its way to a

further rationalization and closure programme.

Although no names have been revealed, it is most probable that Rockware already have an offer for the land.

And last year Slater Walker Securities began buying Rockware shares thick and fast. Jim Slater's group bought the land at Westland Helicopter's

THE ROCKWARE Group is run by the Bailey family. Managing director David Bailey has 209,000 25p shares with a market value of about £180,000. J. A. Bailey has 539,000 shares currently valued at £460,000. Group managing director J. H. Craigie has 194,000 shares worth about £160,000.

The firm manufactures milk bottles, beer bottles, vials for penicillin and so on. It has 33 per cent of the market.

For the six months ending June 1972 sales were up from £15.6m to £17.1m, pre-tax profits rising from £652,000 to £767,000 and the dividend increasing from £202,000 from £154,000.



Previous chairmen have earned about £17,000 a year. In 1971 several directors were sacked in a clear-out operation, each receiving £16,000 compensation.

The total workforce—including those at Greenford—is put at just over 7,500.

In 1971 the group gave £1,000 to the British United Industrialists, a right-wing Tory fundraising body. Some £300 was also given to the anti-trade union Economic League.

Peter Parker, chairman, commenting on the Greenford shut-down, said: 'With this move I think we can look forward to 1974 with some relish. Our view is that if you get the logistics right and do get concentration of the best modern equipment you can really get something humming in the 1974 period.'

site nearby. That factory is also closing down.

Ealing borough council, the local authority, says as yet there have been no planning applications for the site although 'a couple of inquiries' had been made about the 35-acre plot. The area is zoned for industrial use, but borders a residential area.

What the Rockware workers

are faced with here is a combination of a ruthless rationalization process by a big corporation and the work of land speculators.

As such it is part and parcel of what is fast becoming a natural occurrence throughout British capitalism. The planned victims in the process are the workers.

Backing the company is a Tory government which is determined to modernize and rationalize British capitalism at the expense of the working class. Rockware workers are therefore facing a process which is not special to them.

No amount of persuasion will deter Rockware from pursuing its course to a ruthless conclusion. It begins, naturally enough, from profitability.

At the centre of all the campaigns launched by the Rockware workers must be these central facts. The fight for the right to work today is a political fight against the monopolies and their government.

A call must go out from the co-ordinating committee for full support in action by the Labour government and trade union movement.

The Rockware workers' struggle for the right to work merges today with the offensive of the working class generally to defend its rights on all fronts. On the right to strike, to negotiate wage increases, against the 'fair rents' Act and rising prices, the working class is ready to move forward.

At the centre of such a mobilization can be only one demand: the resignation of the Tories through the mass action of the class.

A Labour government must nationalize the Rockware group without compensation, putting the plants under the control of those who work in them. Landowners must be similarly expropriated.

Only on that basis can the industry be run for the benefits of those who work in it.

## A new Gunter is born

REGINALD Prentice, the Shadow Minister for Employment, has become the Ray Gunter of the Labour Party in the 1970s.

His latest outburst is predictable enough from this rapidly-expanding right-winger from East Ham North. He has come out against strikes in opposition to the state pay laws.

Bad law, he says, must be opposed by 'democratic processes' and not by strikes.

He goes further: the strike should not be used as a political weapon in a democracy. 'That is why the Shadow Cabinet took the unanimous decision that we could not support any industrial action that was in conflict with the law.'

Prentice is a former full-time Transport and General Workers' Union official and is a union-sponsored MP.

## Welsh steelmakers plan huge march

STEELWORKERS throughout Wales are planning a one-day stoppage on March 1—St David's Day—in protest against the devastating cutbacks in their industry.

A demonstration by 10,000 steelworkers is being suggested at Newton in mid-Wales, which is conveniently situated for

workers from Shotton in Flintshire, the East Moors works at Cardiff and Ebbw Vale.

Mr Ken Monti, secretary of the Shotton works action committee, said:

'We are going to ask everybody to stop work for the day and turn it into a day of mourning.'

The steelworkers throughout

the country don't need a day of mourning.

They need a day of intense political organization to bring their demand for the right to work into the mainstream of today's struggles against the Tory government and its repressive laws.

● See Steel series on centre pages.



# THE COVENT GARDEN LAND GRAB

BY PHILIP WADE PART TWO

## OLD HOMES FOR OFFICES

Over 700 tenants have already been moved out of the Covent Garden area by the Greater London Council. In two instances, evidence exists that the vacated dwellings have been smashed up to prevent their being used again.

North and south of Cambridge Circus are Trendishoe Mansions and Sandringham Buildings respectively. Owned by the GLC and Westminster council between them, they used to house working-class tenants.

After the tenants began to move out, workmen moved in to destroy the fixtures and fittings, rendering the dwellings almost uninhabitable. Today the blocks are empty, save for four families in Trendishoe.

This week the nature of the deal over Trendishoe Mansions became clearer. It was announced that Town and City Properties, which own the block behind, had been sold

Trendishoe by the GLC for a mere £625,000.

The company means to go straight ahead with a gigantic office block on the site, while the GLC will undoubtedly get the land it needs to widen Charing Cross Road.

Sandringham Flats will also be needed to provide room for the eight-lane road and discussions are in progress over future development on the site. Plans are for a multi-storey car park, an office block up to 200 ft high, 100 luxury flats and a new fire station. There is no provision for public housing.

In March and April 1971 the GLC began moving out tenants from Siddons and Stirling Buildings, Tavistock Street, at the rear of the Waldorf Hotel.

Of the 70 one- and two-bedroom flats, 68 were vacated by June 1972. The site, which is owned by the GLC, is interestingly enough seen by the planners as the spot for a luxury hotel, car parking for 450 cars and the sunken road.

The London 'Evening Standard' reported on April 21, 1971, that tenants were '... against plans which would demolish their flats to make way for a 400 bedroom extension. Trust House Forte has applied for planning permission for the hotel extension, but will not get a decision from the GLC for some time'.

Trust House Forte's chairman of directors is Lord Thorneycroft, ex-Tory Aviation Minister.

With the GLC's rush to clear the dwellings, nearly all the tenants had to move out of the area. And, of course, where before they were paying just over £2 a week, the GLC could now only offer flats at around £8 or £9 a week.

The site is strategic to the plan for a sunken road and International Conference Centre.

## CENTRE FOR BUSINESS

Every one of the Greater London Council's millions of rate-payers would undoubtedly agree that the thing to do at the end of the Strand would be to demolish two theatres (among other things) and build a £5m conference centre for big business.

Well, that is what the well-loved Tories at County Hall are going right ahead with.

Two victims of the scheme would be the Lyceum and Duchess theatres, together with the Covent Garden flower market.

Not surprisingly there are a number of developers thought to be interested in the

'scheme', including Town and City and an American chain of hotels.

Presumably most of the land would have to be bought from the Covent Garden Market Authority which was given a £12m government loan last year to buy up all the small market traders in the area.

The London 'Evening Standard', reporting a number of developers 'interested' in the idea, said in May 1971 that the 'huge conference centre' would hold between 4,250 and 6,000 delegates'.

It went on: 'County Hall planners think the conference centre would cost £5m to build and equip, excluding land acquisition. Running costs, to be covered by income, are calculated at £600,000 a year. Additional revenue could be raised, suggests the GLC, by using the centre for other purposes than conferences whenever possible.'

Obviously such a centre would not be complete without the usual hotel, offices, shops and restaurants. The GLC showed willingness to have such aspects incorporated into the plan and not long after the announcement no less than nine private development agencies were said to be swarming into the GLC headquarters seeking out the route to multi-million pound profits.

Last month the London Convention Bureau—an offshoot of the London Tourist Board—confirmed that the conference centre was turning into another potential money-spinner.

A report recommended that the GLC set its sights higher and build a main hall capable of seating 5,000 instead of the proposed 2,000.

One enthusiastic Tory MP would seem to be Robert Adley, who sits for Bristol

The Arts Theatre Club, on a site near Leicester Square underground station, is another theatre threatened by the scheme. Inset: Fixtures destroyed in GLC housing, rendering the dwellings uninhabitable.

North-East. In January of last year Adley asked two questions in the House of Commons about the conference centre proposals. He is listed as a director of the Commonwealth Holiday Inns of Canada Ltd, among other things.

If this centre ever gets built, businessmen will certainly find enough room in London to lounge about. The International Trade Centre at St Katherine's Docks has conference facilities; there is room for 2,000 at the Grosvenor Hotel; another 4,000 will come at the Barbican and at the new Cunard International Hotel.

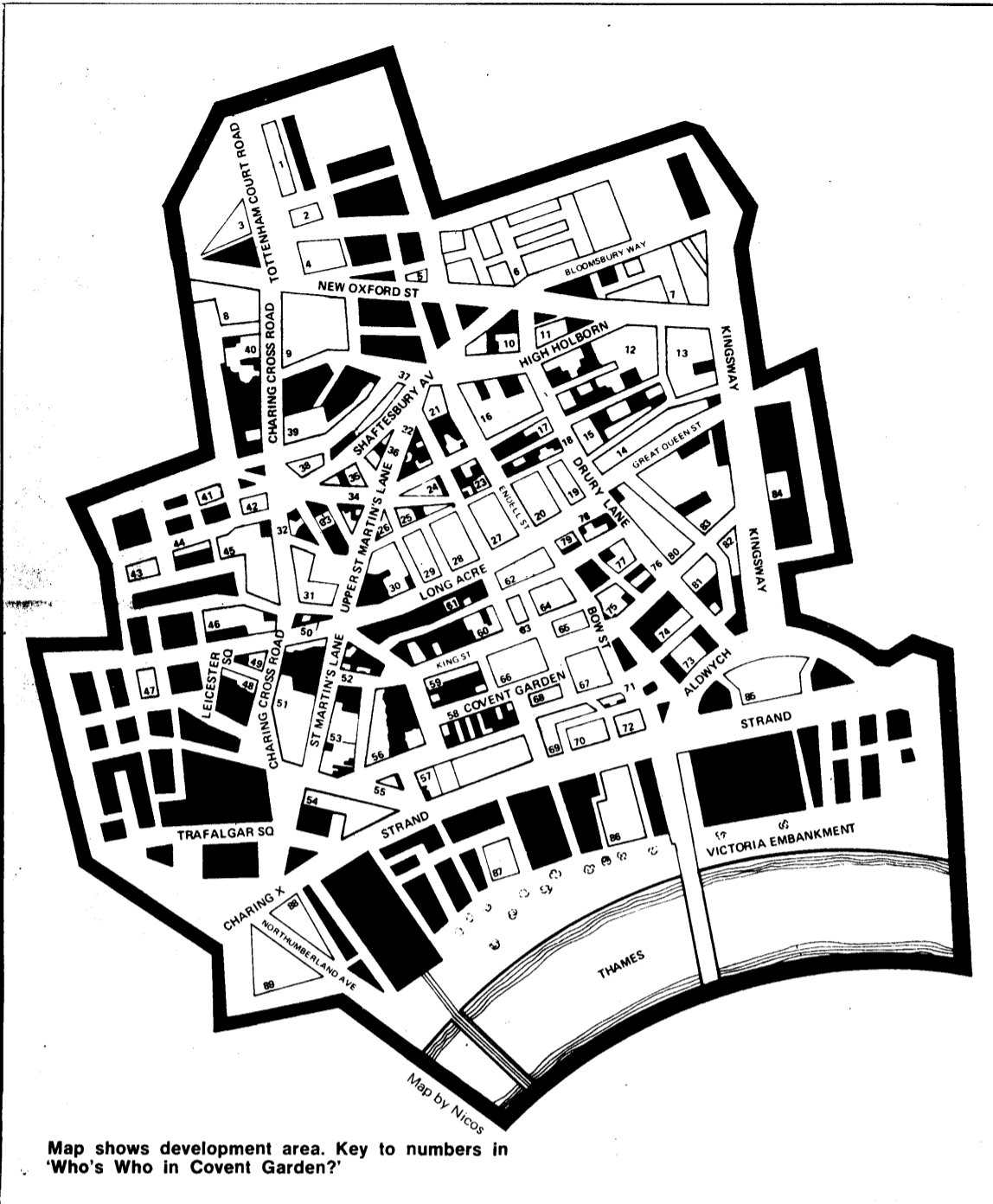
## THEATRE TO GO?

Yet another potential site where offices are planned and the GLC wants to build roads is the one owned by Town and City Properties Ltd, near Leicester Square underground station.

Geoffrey Rippon has just listed for preservation the pub on the corner of Upper St Martins Lane and Great Newport Street. But this should not hold up things for ever.

Rippon himself told the Tory Bow Group's annual dinner last month that listing was not an absolute prohibition on redevelopment. All it meant was an extra stage of consideration.

'There may be cases where much-needed new development



Map shows development area. Key to numbers in 'Who's Who in Covent Garden?'

can take place only at the sacrifice of one or more listed buildings,' he said.

Barry East's £90m T&C group first revealed its plans for the site in September 1971, around the time of the public inquiry into the GLC redevelopment plan for the Covent Garden area.

'A £15m scheme . . . would include a substantial amount of air-conditioned office accommodation; a theatre, a cultural and sports centre; 19 shops; car parking and residential accommodation comprising some 36 flats,' said a company spokesman.

He also revealed that a special joint company had been formed with Management Agency and Music Ltd, run by Tom Jones and other pop stars, to develop the site.

In October, after plans for 200,000 sq ft of office space had broken, the 'Daily Telegraph' revealed how the T&C/MAM partnership was working.

' . . . MAM has bought the leases of 6, 7 and 8 Great Newport Street . . . The group of companies owning the leases, Thalia, MEC Productions, and the London Arts Theatre Committee, were acquired by MAM for £85,000,' the paper reported.

Town and City already owned the freeholds of the properties which were vital in making up a viable block for redevelopment.

On the site at present are the Arts Theatre Club, the Photographers' Gallery, Sir Joshua Reynolds press, three publishing groups, designers, film-makers and around 20 low-income flats, as well as a secondhand book shop and the pub.

During October 1971, the 'Telegraph' announced that Peter Birtwistle, director of the Arts Theatre Club had been appointed to the board of International Property Development, the T&C/MAM company.

Again, one of the vital questions to be asked is: if the GLC wants its roads, will there be some give and take on both sides?

## WHO'S WHO IN COVENT GARDEN?

*Here are the landowners. The list is as complete as it can be, given the possibilities of new owners coming in all the time, and the difficulty in establishing the true identity of the owners. Remember when reading about the plans for the sites that London now has 10,000,000 sq. ft. of vacant office space.*

### Stock Conversion and Investment Trust Ltd:

Britain's 11th largest property company with capital valued at £60m. Pre-tax profits last year were over £3.2m. Total dividend before tax was 30 per cent. The company has interests in 38 subsidiary or associated companies.

Joe Levy built this empire, which involves the Euston Centre and much of Piccadilly Circus. Levy recently threatened that if the go-ahead was not given for the Piccadilly scheme, he would put out his land on long leases, frustrating any future plans.

Besides the luxury offices at plot 1, Stock Conversion own parts of King Street, West Street, Tower Street, Monmouth Street, Earham Street and Shaftesbury Avenue, Long Acre and the Cambridge and Palace Theatres. Map numbers include 34, 36, 42, 43, 44 (with the GLC—to be demolished for the widening of Shaftesbury Avenue) and part of 59.

### Town and City Properties:

A fast-growing company with

an estimated £250m development programme. It has established control over significant areas on Charing Cross Road, which, it will be remembered, is to be widened.

This week it was announced that the GLC had sold Trendishoe Mansions (38—see separate story) to T&C to go with the massive site at 39. The price was just £625,000. Only recently Camden, in an attempt to thwart T&C offered the GLC £500,000. This was turned down.

Now that the block has been consolidated, T&C, in partnership with Shipman Estates, will go ahead with a 325,000 sq. ft. office block (1½ times the capacity of Centre Point) for which they already have outline planning permission. And it is almost certain T&C will enable enough land to be taken to allow the road-widening operation to take place.

The block will, if and when completed, make a nice partner to T&C's plot 31 where it wants to build another 200,000 sq. ft. of offices and the AA building in Leicester Square. Barry East's company, which also owns plot 5, donated £2,747 to the Tory Party in 1971.

### Hammerson Property and Investment Trust:

The fourth largest company in this field, it owns the four-acre site numbered 7. Over £1,000 was given to the Tory Party in 1971. With total property assets of over £130m, Hammerson has nearly 90 subsidiary companies. Profits last year were over £9m.

### Metropolitan Estate Property Company and Reed International:

These two giant companies have joint assets of over £630m and formed a special company to develop the sites owned by Reed International (See yesterday's Workers Press).

Reed's embraces the International Publishing Corporation which puts out the 'Daily Mirror' and several magazines. Sir Don Ryder's company is, of course, also in-

involved in paper manufacturing and packaging.

MEPC is Britain's second largest property company and recently announced the results of a revaluation of one-third of all its UK holdings and all the company's Australian investments.

And what was previously valued at just over £70m, was suddenly found to be worth, in book values that is, some £119m! Former British Rail chief, Sir Henry Johnson, now MEPC's chairman, said honestly: 'There have been substantial changes in the market level of property prices.'

Reed and MEPC between them made almost £55m profits last year.

In addition to the Odhams Press site (20, most of 27 and part of 19), the companies intend another Centre Point office block at site 8 directly opposite Harry Hyams' empty giant on block 9.

Other land owned by this group is at 12 and 13 (73,000 sq. ft. of office), part of 30, part of 69 (for more offices) and all of 79.

The architect for most of the schemes is Richard Seifert, designer of Centre Point.

### Oldham Estates:

Harry Hyams' company, in which his personal share is put above £20m, of course owns Centre Point at 9. It also owns the southern half of 83, which is the site of another empty Hyams block—Space House.

### Trust Houses Forte:

This £160m hotel and catering group, with ex-Tory aviation minister Lord Thorneycroft as chairman, is deeply involved. It owns most of 10 (the remainder is held by Pruella Investments), 46, the Talk of the Town (to be pulled down for road widening), and 73, the Waldorf Hotel. Under managing director Sir Charles Forte, the company is also involved in the Piccadilly scheme.

### Land Securities Investment Trust:

This is Britain's biggest property company with quoted assets of more than £700m, annual rents totalling £33.3m and a net profit last year of £28.5m.

Sir Harold Samuel, the chairman, is also financial adviser to the Covent Garden Market Authority, which has a lot of land to dispose of.

Land Securities, which is also involved in Piccadilly and Victoria Street owns part of site 22, and the whole of 88.

### Sterling Land:

This £2m company is 16-per-cent owned by Slater Walker Securities. Owns part of 12, 40, 52 and part of 56.

### Haslemere Estates:

This £54m company expects to complete its offices-hotel block next year on site 16. The other piece of land owned by this company is part of 59.

### Amalgamated Investment and Property Company:

The chairman and managing director of this company is Gabriel Harrison. Through a subsidiary AIP owns 50 per cent of the Hay's Wharf £300m redevelopment. In Covent Garden it owns the northern section of 21 part of 35 and 40 and the whole of 89.

### Star (Great Britain) Holdings Ltd:

This £268m company recently revalued and found itself worth another £100m. It is the third largest property company in Britain. It owns the centre of block 37 along Shaftesbury Avenue and the western part of block 15.

### Country and New Town Properties:

This company has outline planning permission for the redevelopment of the Adelphi Theatre. It intends to replace the whole site (57) with the usual array of offices.

This £10m company is a subsidiary of the British and Commonwealth Shipping Corporation, which has assets of £175m. Directors include Lord Rotherwick.

### Howard Properties:

This company owns part of blocks 22 and 23.

**Trafalgar House Investments:** Nigel Brookes' £60m company, which also owns Cunard, has part of block 23.

### Groewood Securities:

Owns block 24 as a whole. Moving out Donmar Rehearsal studios, the only ones in Covent Garden.

### Post Office Superannuation Pension Fund:

Now owns the gigantic plot 85—Bush House. It is an interesting story. Last year the GLC sold it for £3m to the Church of Wales who, a few weeks later, sold it to the English and Continental Property Company for £23m.

Partly-owned by the semi-official Crown Agents, E&CP at the end of 1973 sold Bush House to the Post Office for £30m. It was a case of profits all round.

### David Lewis:

This company is a subsidiary of Eastern and General Holdings Ltd, an oil company. It owns part of blocks 30, 52, 53.

### Covent Garden Market Authority:

Owners of plots 63-68.

### Grand Metropolitan Hotels:

Sir Maxwell Joseph's group owns several properties in the northern section of block 53, while the Sadler's Wells Trust owns the southern half. Grand Metropolitan also has the freehold of the northern part of 48.

### Crown Estates:

The Queen owns the northern part of 51 in partnership with Lex Real Estate Ltd, a subsidiary of Eastern and General. Lord Salisbury's Cecil Gasgoyne estate owns part of this block. The Crown Estates own all of 54.

### British Transport Hotels:

It owns block 55, the site of the old Charing Cross Hospital. A hotel is planned.

### National Provident Institution:

This multi-million insurance company owns several pieces of land in Covent Garden. They are: parts of 58, 60, two parts of 75, several in plot 78 and small sections in the southern half of 81.

### Mercers Company:

It owns most of block 19, with Reed/MEPC, and all of 28, 29.

### Prudential Assurance:

Britain's most powerful life assurance company is doing well in Covent Garden. The GLC sold the company most of block 82, which is comprised of several office blocks, for just £11m. (Cornwall Properties also owns a slice here. The company gave £500 to the Tories last year.)

Block 84 also came to the Prudential as part of the GLC deal. The company owns some properties in 83 and the eastern and southern parts of 69. The Prudential spent £25m on property last year.

### Freshwater Group

London's biggest owner of private flats hold the Strand Palace Hotel on 70. The chairman of the company was a leading advocate of the Tory 'fair rents' Act.

### Great Portland Estates/Rank:

The Drury Lane site is jointly owned by the two companies. Great Portland Estates donated £10,000 to the Tory Party in 1971. Rank also owns the Dominion Cinema at 4.

### As to the rest:

EMI owns the land at 3, the YMCA at 4, while the Sun Alliance Insurance Company owns parts of 60. The Eagle Star Insurance Company owns the eastern section of 62. The flats at 82 are owned by the Peabody Trust, while the northern section belongs to the Grosvenor Square Property Company. Glenlig Properties own plot 50 for redevelopment.

The government owns the British Museum extension site at 6 and part of 32. The GLC is involved in several properties including 45, 61, 74 and the Lyceum site at 72 in the Strand.



# STEEL

## Part Two. Shotton: 'We won't let them take our works'

BY IAN YEATS

**'Everything I have come from steel', Shotton action committee vice chairman Mr Geoff Hett told me at his home. 'We won't let them take it away from us.'**

On December 28, 1972, the Tory government irrevocably rung down the curtain on a steelworks which has been the pride of the industry. The 13,500-strong plant has made a profit every year since it was first opened by John Summers

around 1908, and even last year it was £500,000 in the black.

During the worst period of the inter-war depression, when other works like East Moors, Cardiff, and Ebbw Vale were shut down for years on end, Shotton stayed open.

Its men were on short time and there was work-sharing, but all through the slump the demand for Shotton's special soft steels carried the steelmen through the blackest days.

By 1926 John Summers' integrated steel plant was the largest producer of steel plates in Britain.

Three years later, when blast

furnaces 100 miles south were being blown out as the export market collapsed, the expansion of the car industry kept Shotton in business.

As the German panzer divisions rolled into Czechoslovakia in 1939 firing the opening shots in World War II, in addition to its steel-making Shotton became the most modern rolling mill in Europe.

Since the war £60m has been spent modernizing the 1,000-acre plant on the banks of the River Dee, £20m of it in the last decade and £7m of that in the last three years on new coke ovens and production lines for aluminium coated

steel.

In 1962 all previous and subsequent profit levels were smashed with a weekly output of 33,000 tons—a level of production only exceeded the week after the British Steel Corporation announced the closure.

By the mid-1960s the 8,750-strong town, which sprang up at the turn of the century almost overnight in green fields on the banks of the Dee, became known as one of the most prosperous in Britain.

Despite its successes, due mainly to two periods of reconstruction after wars which hamstrung competitors, the Summers project was doomed from the start.

It opened in 1908 in a high-cost area remote from the cheap ore fields of South Wales or north east England and away from deep-water berths for ore imports.

Had Summers opted to follow Dorman Long in setting up the new plant in Lincolnshire—now along with Port Talbot one of the key areas where steel production is to be concentrated—things might have been different.

But they did not. When the time came for John Summers to move from Stalybridge to a new site where it could

expand, the company opted instead for Shotton—close to the big markets of Liverpool, Manchester and the Midlands.

In 1972 with both export and home markets in contraction the transport costs which make Shotton a dearer proposition than Port Talbot or Lincolnshire have turned out to be its kiss of death.

Shotton is an open-hearth steel plant. Massive investment (about £50m) to install the vastly more effective and larger basic oxygen converters could have been poured in. But for the crucial fact that the competitiveness of British steel in a period of world excess capacity means viciously driving down costs, including transport charges.

### FREIGHTING

Although they would rather not believe it, many steelmen sense that this is the logic guiding the Melchett axe. At Shotton and Ebbw Vale the burning question is not when will steel-making end, but when will the axe slice into the finished products divisions as well.

The same arguments apply at both works. If it is too expensive to cart ore from the north east to Shotton or from



Geoff Hett, v Shotton work

SHOTTON  
Steelworks  
SUPPORT  
SCANLON

WORKERS

SHOTTON  
Steelworks  
DEMAND  
THE RIGHT  
TO WORK

SHOTTON  
Steelworks  
WE SUPPORT  
SCANLON

THE  
STEEL TRADES  
UNION  
SUPPORTS  
THE  
STRIKE

SHOTTON  
STEEL  
NOT  
JAPANESE







Geoff Hett, vice chairman of the Shotton action committee formed to fight the closure of the steelworks. Above: Shotton workers and their families march through the town, in one of a series of demonstrations against closure.

the coast to Ebbw Vale, how long before the cost of freighting steel to the finishing plants will also look ripe for pruning?

Equally important, the hot-mill machinery is immediately post war and compares most unfavourably with the labour savings to be had from BSC's new mechanized and automated mills.

The Shotton men claim they have no intention of letting things go that far.

Said Mr Hett: 'We will go all out to maximize production to show the BSC our worth.'

'But we are going to have none of this slow amputation to the point where you can't work.'

The decision of John Summers, the Stalybridge clog-maker, to build his new works at Shotton threw up a thin ribbon development of shops and houses all along the coast road from Chester to Flint.

Whatever living standards workers have they owe to steel. And it was the boom years of the early 1960s which gave Shotton and Connahs Quay their new public buildings, including a college, Library, baths and municipal offices.

Over half a century of relative security of employment and rising living standards, during which generations of steelmen never experienced a major strike, has understandably led many to the conclusion that if only they work harder the plant can be saved.

Of course, it cannot. But the very same history which produces this attitude—almost as a reflex—at the same time has triggered another.

Mr Hett (46), whose father and grandfather before him were in steel, summed it up when he told me: 'Nobody is going to stop us making steel at Shotton.'

And, at the very least, Welsh T&GWU leader Tom Jones' statement that 'we will fight on the beaches of the Dee estuary to keep steel making here' reflects the deep mood of defiance among steelmen.

Their determination is understandable. Shotton steel is the largest single industry from Merthyr Tydfil to Liverpool and the biggest on the entire north Wales coast.

Together with Flintshire's two other major industries, aircraft and textiles—Hawker Siddeley, Broughton and Courtaulds, Holywell employ 10,500—steel accounts for 23,000 of the 54,000 insured working population. Steel alone represents 24 per cent of the work force.

If only 6,500 jobs are axed by 1980 in the steel-making division, as promised by Melchett, at present levels unemployment would leap at a conservative estimate from 3.8 to 15.5 per cent.

In practice it would be far worse than that. Dockers' jobs at Birkenhead, where the steelworks ore is imported, would be threatened, so would 700 jobs at Beresham colliery, which supplies coke.

An incalculable number of jobs in building, engineering, and haulage would disappear and all types of service trades from the corner shop upwards would be hit.

Mr Hett estimates that for every job lost in the steelworks another will go in dependent industries and trades. If the entire works closes, more than 20,000 jobs could be affected and Flintshire's economy would collapse.

Over the years Flintshire County Council has sought to persuade John Summers to make available land it owns adjacent to the steelworks for other industries, but it has always been turned down.

Many workers guess this was because the company did not want wage and labour competition from other firms.

After the Tory carve-up, this land will certainly be made available—but too late. Since

Flintshire was granted intermediate status as a depressed area in 1972 there have been only 28 applications from industrialists with a potential of providing a mere 1,000 jobs—800 for women.

The failure of new factories to appear in Shotton has not been lost on the steelmen.

Almost from the moment the Tories came to power on June 18, 1970, waving the denationalization plan above their heads, Flintshire formed a committee to fight any proposals to shut the steel works.

MPs, local councillors, professional people and traders sat on the committee and three months ago, as the storm clouds gathered over Shotton, the 13,500 steelmen set up their own works' committee.

On Wednesday January 10 Lord Melchett went to Shotton to explain to both committees that his hands were tied. He had no power to stop the closure.

The immediate response from the steelmen of the community was, 'we'll fight it all the way'.

Initially the men intend to pull out all the stops to increase the plant's profitability and thereby sell it to BSC as a proposition worth hanging on too. They will also propose the modernization of existing furnaces.

But there are limits to what can be done. The plant already operates a three-shift system, there is a record of good labour relations, productivity has been drastically hiked up and the labour force reduced by a policy of non-replacement.

Even if Shotton's profits can be marginally increased through harder work, the steelmen will be on a treadmill with the effect of slump on costs providing the ever faster current.

More important, the logic of world excess capacity dictates that BSC must dramatically increase its share of dwindling markets by savagely pushing down costs—this means the fewest number of plants with the largest possible output.

## OCCUPATION

It also means a fight. At all the threatened steelworks this must involve a bitter struggle.

There can be no work-in at steelworks which produce no finished products they can sell. Most important, who will supply the ore from which the steel is made even if they could dispose of it?

From the outset Shotton steelmen know that if raised production fails there is only outright occupation left.

Tom Jones who, as well as being Welsh T&GWU leader is also secretary of the North Wales TUC, vice-chairman of the Council for Wales and chairman of the Shotton Campaign committee, says the union will back an occupation.

He does not say how or in what way. And there is little doubt that his view that the only real solution to the sackings is a 35-hour week throughout industry is being brought to bear on the works committee.

Mr Hett put the same view. But the steelmen are faced with an immediate problem and their solutions are tending to be more practical and more capable of rapid attainment.

The works committee has already acted to prevent all plant and machinery from leaving the works.

And talk is ranging over calling on other organized workers for help—especially Liverpool dockers—if it comes to an occupation.

Said Mr Hett: 'They are not taking our works from us. We can have £200m in capital tied up here overnight. The men on the finishing side will be behind us too. They know their reprieve is only short term. We are united to a man.'

CONTINUED ON MONDAY

# THE PRICE OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

BY JOHN SPENCER

The latest issue of 'Turkish Digest', put out by the military regime's State Information Organization, reveals the close collaboration between the Turkish government and the Communist Party leaders of eastern Europe.

It also provides a glaring exposure of the Stalinist idea of 'peaceful co-existence', which is used to justify collaboration with anti-communist regimes.

Under the headline 'The Yugoslav Prime Minister in Turkey', the paper recounts how upon an invitation extended by the Turkish Prime Minister, the president of the Federal Executive Council of the Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr Djemal Bijedic, paid an official visit to Turkey on November 19 to November 24.

On its front page the magazine carries a large photograph of the Yugoslav delegation chatting amicably with president Cevdet Sunay, one of the leaders of the army-backed government.

The Turkish premier, Ferit Melen, gave a dinner in Bijedic's honour and 'expressed his delight at the presence of the Prime Minister and the distinguished members of the delegation, in Turkey'. He explained that the repeated visits [sic] between officials were contributing to the development of understanding between the two countries.

Both parties declared their appreciation of the principles and aims of the Charter of the United Nations (which supposedly guarantees human rights!) and they looked forward to the further development and intensification of the close contacts between the two countries.

The visit had its lighter side: 'The guests paid a visit to Istanbul where they showed admiration for the Topkapi Palace. Other touristic places were visited and a cruise along the Bosphorus was made.'

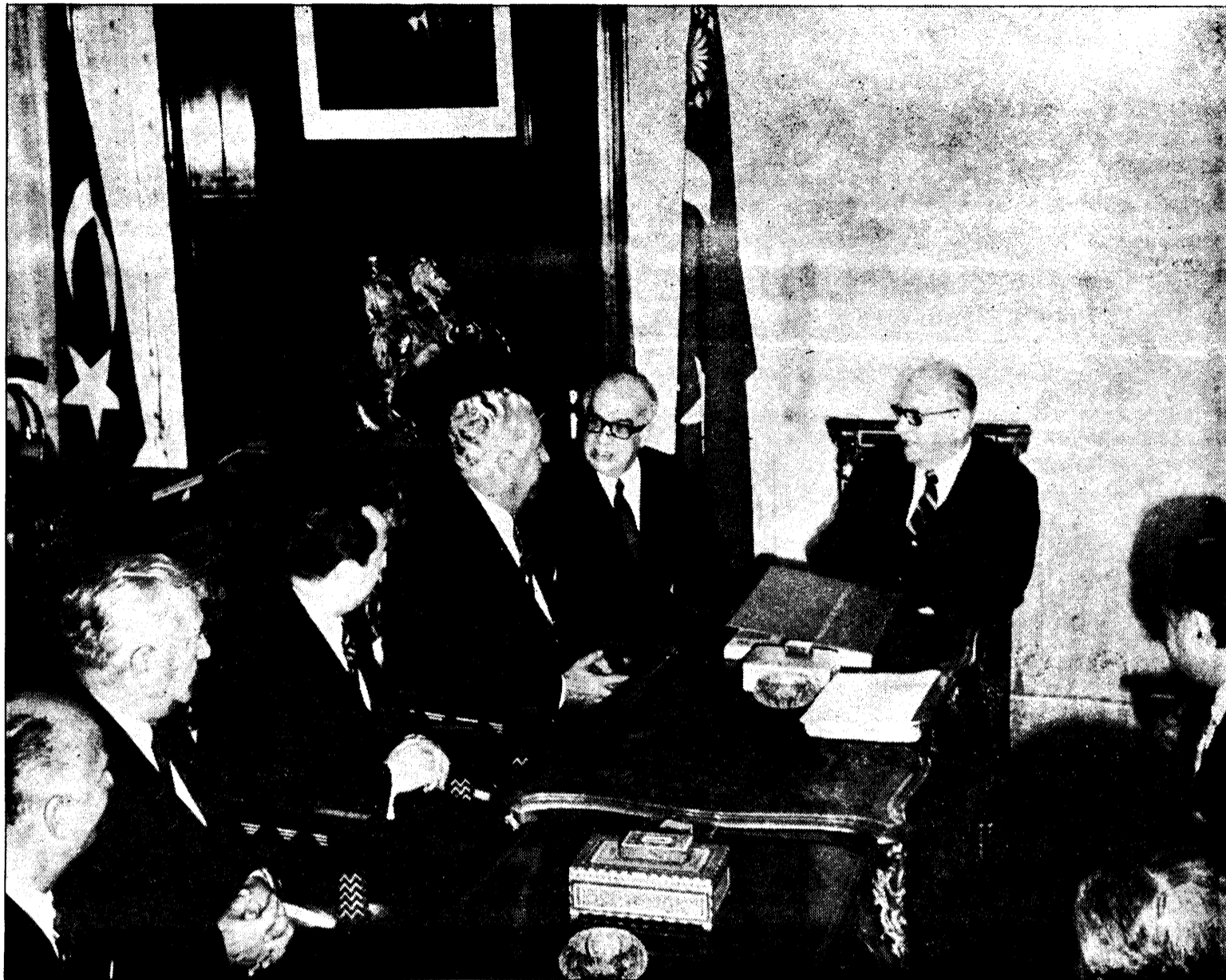
But serious matters were not neglected: 'On the second day of his visit to Istanbul, Mr Bijedic visited the Cayirova Glass Factory and the Ipras Refinery at Yarimaca, where he was briefed on the petrochemical industry in Turkey.'

It is to be hoped that the visit did not tire Bijedic and party too much because he had another, similar, appointment to keep elsewhere: 'Mr Bijedic left Turkey on November 24 for Tehran, where he was to begin another week of official visits, upon invitation of the Iranian government.'

While Bijedic was in Turkey, another visitor arrived from the so-called 'socialist' camp. This was Mr Peter Mladenov, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, who arrived on the eve of Bijedic's departure. He held talks with his Turkish counterpart Hadluk Bayulken on Mediterranean and European security questions.

The same issue of the 'Digest' also reported the participation of a Soviet delegation in talks on the expansion of the Iskenderun iron and steel plant. The plant was constructed with Soviet credit aid and the extension is costing some £60m.

Other sections of the magazine report the participation of the Polish Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra



Liberation fighters in East Turkey, killed by the Army. Above: Front page of the 'Turkish Digest' showing Yugoslav visitors with Sunay.

and the Budapest Symphony Orchestra in the Istanbul Festival being held this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the Turkish Republic.

According to the classic Stalinist theory of peaceful co-existence the good relations between Turkey and the USSR, Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, etc., should make life easier for the Turkish Communist Party.

Not a bit of it! The same issue of 'Turkish Digest' carries a lengthy report of a Press briefing given by the First Army and Martial Law Command of Istanbul on 'anarchistic activities aiming to destroy the state'.

The report is worth quoting at some length: 'The officials made it clear that the International Communism Centre, which has deliberately chosen Turkey as its "target", extended its activities by the intermediary of a secret Turkish Communist Party.'

'A group of individuals and some organizations in Turkey, taken in by communistic

activities, served the purpose of international communism although they did not take an active part in movement.

'The terrorist organizations were enumerated and defined as follows:

**'The Turkish Peoples Liberation Party and Front:**

'A group of its militant members died in the Kizildere incident, after escaping from Maltepe military prison. 300 of the members of this organization are now under arrest.

**'Turkish People's Liberation Army:**

'Without being organized, as the other groups were, aimed to provoke a civil war by carry-out sabotage, kidnapping, gradually extending their activities from urban to rural areas. It worked as small cells of 3-7 persons called "foko".

**'Turkish Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Party:**

'This party claimed to be the true heritor of the banned Turkish Communist Party and aimed to extend its network all over the country.

**'Democratic Radical Worker-Peasant Power:**

'Its militant members assembled in Ankara to encourage communistic activities, by publications. These members were seized in their first attempts to implement what looked like a long range plan.

'It was also disclosed that the underground organizations were actively trying to infiltrate into Turkish student and worker groups in Europe, under the control of the secret Turkish Communist Party, and by the intermediary of some extreme leftist student organizations.

'The officials went on to explain how sabotage teams were formed between workers. A case cited was of a shipyard workers' union which was responsible for the arson of the Opera House and the Marmara Passenger Ship, and the sinking of the Eminönü Ferryboat in Istanbul. No doubt, if not brought to justice, they would proceed with their deviated ideology, to destroy other major installations as in the

case of the thwarted Bosphorus Bridge and Kastamonu Cargo boat.

'The organization to deceive the workers was accomplished by choosing workers to be trained as militants, those chosen agents were specially trained and provided with propaganda equipment so that they would initiate activities, say in their working fields, and push as many workers as possible into action.

'At the end of the briefing, the Military Prosecutor explained the judicial activities of the Martial Law Command, and said that out of 416 law suits brought before the courts 315 have been finalized, 159 of them resulting in the conviction of the defendants and 59 in acquittal. There were 477 arrested and 18 detained in military jails.'

Perhaps the British Communist Party's experts can answer whether these people are benefiting from peaceful co-existence or whether they are its victims?

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## NEWS

Tory premier Edward Heath, who starts his talks with US President Nixon today, should be able to swap a few ideas with him on subjects other than destroying the unions and cutting wages. Both men face growing allegations of attempting to manipulate the news media.



Heath is the centre of a storm over his House of Commons denial that the government secretary briefed selected journalists on Friday, January 19, about the government's Phase Three pay-control plans, while Nixon has been accused of 'wholesale intimidation' against the media in the US. Senator Sam Ervin, a North Carolina Democrat who chairs the judiciary sub-committee on constitutional rights, is to hold hearings on Press freedom.

It is he who has charged Nixon with intimidation. Recent actions by the Administration 'appear to go beyond simple reactions to allegedly irresponsible or biased reporting', he said last week.

He pointed to the recent decision by the government-controlled public broadcasting corporation to withhold funds from commentary programmes by public broadcasting services and to the attempts in some court cases to subpoena journalists to testify before government bodies.

## VISITS BAN

Three Glasgow Labour councillors have been hauled before the Glasgow Labour Party executive for signing a motion asking the Labour administration to ban overseas visits by corporation members and to end the serving of free drinks at corporation functions.

Cllrs James Wray and John Lavelle and Bailie Albert Long were questioned on comments in newspaper reports attributed to them.

Before the executive meeting Cllr Lavelle and Bailie Long, together with Cllr Thomas Muir, voted at a housing committee meeting against a proposal that a deputation should represent the corporation at

a conference-study tour in Amsterdam.

After the meeting Labour leader, Cllr Richard Dynes, said no decision had been reached by the executive and the matter would be considered again at a further meeting.

## CORPORATISM

Propaganda for the corporate state is now being churned out so fast that woolly-headed liberals and social democrats are already failing to see the wood for the trees.

The BBC television programme 'Midweek' had a good example on January 24 with a discussion between ex-liberal candidate Ludovic Kennedy, union bureaucrat David Bassnet (G&MWU), Pat Lowry of British-Leyland, and ex-Labour Minister Lord Wilfred Brown (no relation).

They were examining Brown's new brainchild—the National Council of Regulating Differential Wages, an anti-working class scheme being peddled by 'The Times', the BBC and other media.

The Council's basic purpose would be the abolition of free collective bargaining exactly as proposed under the Tory laws, but carried out under the guise of a 'community of interest' body with the trade unions taking part.

Bassnet, the trendy Lowry and Kennedy all fell for it hook, line, and sinker, and proceeded to debate in learned fashion what would be the snags such an innovation would run into on points of detail.

They thought it would still be difficult to control prices sufficiently to persuade the unions to accept the basic idea—a government-decided percentage increase on the national wage bill which the unions themselves would then have to decide how to split up amongst them.

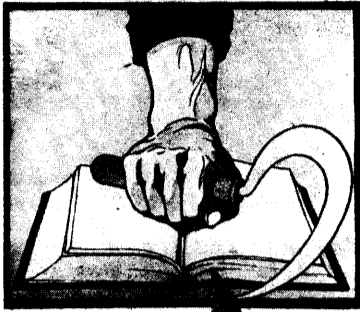
Not one word of criticism was raised throughout against the notion itself, which reeks of corporatism.

David Bassnet, newly-elected general secretary of Britain's third biggest union, sat silent while a plan was trotted out which would deprive the working class of all its rights to fight the employers for the proceeds of its labour.

And the plan, appropriately enough, originated with a big business representative whom Harold Wilson made a life peer and put in the last Labour government.

# US FINGERS IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN PIE

## BOOK REVIEW



'Civil Strife in Latin America'. By William Everett Kane. Johns Hopkins University Press. 240 pages.

BY JACK GALE

From the beginning of the Pan-American movement during the Wilson administration right through to the establishment of the Organization of American States in 1948, the US government has been loudly proclaiming a policy of non-intervention in the affairs of its southern neighbours.

Indeed, article 15 of the OAS Charter specifically states: 'No state or group of states has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal affairs of any other state.'

But in 1965, when President Johnson sent 15,000 US troops into the Dominican Republic, the Department of State declared: 'We recognize that, regardless of any fundamentalist view of international law, the situation existing in the Dominican Republic required us to take action to remove the threat.'

And Johnson himself, in a speech at Baylor University, said: 'The old distinction between civil war and international war has lost much of its meaning.'

In other words, revolutionary movements in the Latin American continent would be met by full-scale war.

The aim of this book—published under the auspices of the American Society of International Law—is to trace the development of US intervention.

The way was paved by a number of agreements which perpetuated American military and political influence in the area after World War II.

The 1945 Act of Chapultepec declared that an attack on any American state by any state would be an attack on all of them. Following this, the Inter-American Defence Board standardized the equipment, organization and training of the military forces of all the participating countries.

Article 6 of the Rio Treaty of 1947 provided for collective measures against 'subversion and penetration' or 'any other fact or situation that might endanger the peace of America'.

The Bogota Conference of 1948 spelled this out more clearly: 'The political activity of international communism is incompatible with the concept of American freedom.'

In the early years after the war, the South American armies were usually supplied with surplus equipment from the United States—under the Surplus Property Act, the Mutual Defence Assistance Act of 1949 and the Mutual Security Act of 1951.



American troops in the Dominican Republic, sent by Johnson in 1965.

Even then, the control of military supplies was enough to give the US control of governments.

Its policy was spelled out as 'destroy the unfavoured, reward the favoured and manipulate the friendly'.

In early 1960, for example, President Goulart of Brazil sought economic aid from eastern Europe. The US organized his overthrow by the Brazilian military, led by General Humberto Branco.

The government, schools, unions and Press were purged and 7,000 people thrown into jails—to paeons of praise from US ambassador Lincoln Gordon.

It was after the Cuban revolution of 1960 that the main emphasis in the American aid programme shifted to counter-insurgency and civic actions projects. Over 70 per cent of all US aid to Latin America is specifically earmarked for those purposes.

And, of course, aid allegedly for other purposes is channelled in this direction as well.

Military officers from all over Latin America go for training and political indoctrination at the US Army Forces Southern Command at Fort Gulick in Panama.

One of the main instruments of American political domination is the Central Intelligence Agency. Some of this organization's activities came to light in 1968 when the Bolivian Minister of the Interior—Antonio Arguedas—fled to Chile after forwarding a copy of Che Guevara's diary to Cuba.

Arguedas revealed that he had been a CIA agent for three years. In 1965 he had been forced to resign his government post because the CIA accused him of being a 'communist infiltrator' and threatened to stop all US aid to Bolivia. He underwent four days' interrogation, drugging and lie-detector tests at the hands of the CIA.

On his release he was paid to corrupt politicians, union officials and Press men on behalf of the CIA. Arguedas named two officials of the American embassy who directed CIA activity in Bolivia.

US intervention, of course, goes beyond the manipulation of military regimes and CIA activities.

Three times since the Organization of American States was set up, the United States has intervened with

armed force—in Guatemala, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

A look at one of these will show how the US operated.

In 1950, 2 per cent of the owners of farmland in Guatemala held 78 per cent of the arable land.

Behind this lay an even more important factor—the United Fruit Company of the USA. This held more than 400,000 acres of uncultivated land, had long been powerful in the internal politics of Guatemala and was tirelessly represented by the US Department of State.

The original contracts between the company and the government in 1930 and 1936 had been drawn up by John Foster Dulles. Allen Dulles, his brother, then head of the CIA, was a one-time president of the company, and Henry Cabot Lodge was one of its largest stockholders.

In March 1963 the Arbenz administration made its first expropriation of United Fruit lands. It took over 219,160 acres of uncultivated land and offered to pay twice the company's costs and exactly the sum at which United Fruit had valued the land for taxation purposes.

The US declared that Guatemala was 'playing the communists' game'.

In February 1954, Arbenz accused the US government of planning an invasion, in collaboration with the governments of El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

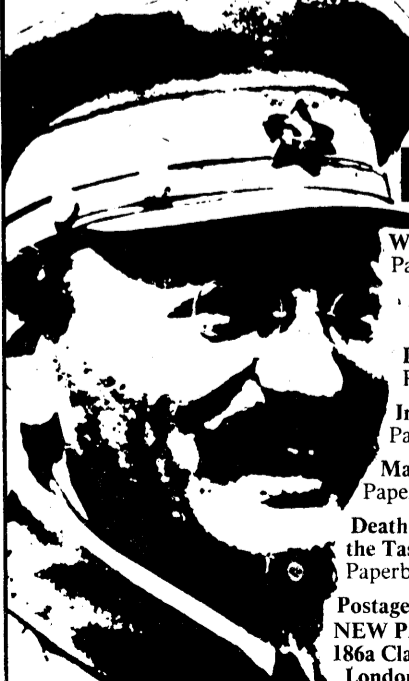
The US called an OAS conference and railroaded through a resolution calling for action against 'the domination or control of any American state by the international communist conspiracy'.

An invasion force was trained in Honduras and Nicaragua and crossed from Honduras on June 18 with air-cover provided by the CIA.

The Arbenz government was brought down and replaced by the dictatorship of Castillo Armas.

The author concludes his book with 'the faint hope that the US may understand that Latin American instability is not communism in disguise'.

But despite his inability to understand the revolutionary implications of developments in Latin America, William Kane has presented a lucid exposure of the workings of American imperialism and its agencies in the area.



## BOOKS BY TROTSKY

Where is Britain Going? Paperback 37p

Problems of the British Revolution Paperback 35p

Lessons of October Paperback 60p

In Defence of the October Revolution Paperback 15p

Marxism and the Trade Unions Paperback 25p

Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International Paperback 10p

Postage: 10p per book. Order from:  
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG

**TODAY'S TV**

**BBC 1**

9.38-11.45 Schools. 12.25 Y garej. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Teddy Edward. 1.45 Television doctor. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Children talking. 2.35 Parkinson. 3.35 Tomorrow's world. 4.00 Clangers. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Deputy dawg. 5.00 Crackerjack 73. 5.40 Magic roundabout. 5.45 News. Weather.

- 6.00 **NATIONWIDE. 6.45 TOM AND JERRY.**
- 7.00 **THE VIRGINIAN: MEN FROM SHILOH.** The Angus Killer.
- 8.15 **THE MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW.** Guests Frank Finlay, Wilma Reading, Design.
- 9.00 **NEWS.** Weather. 9.25 **CANNON.** The Salinas Jackpot.
- 10.15 **THE DIMBLEBY TALK-IN. 11.00 NEWS.**
- 11.05 **FILM: 'STRIKE UP THE BAND'.** Judy Garland. A high school band tries to turn itself into an orchestra. 1.00 **Weather.**

**ITV**

9.30 Schools. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Happy house. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Time was . . . 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Junkin. 3.25 Marcus Welby MD. 4.20 Elephant boy. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 Nanny and the professor. 5.50 News.

- 6.00 **TODAY. 6.35 CROSSROADS.**
- 7.00 **THE PROTECTORS . . .** With a little help from my friends.
- 7.30 **IT'S ALL IN LIFE.** Al Read, Design.
- 8.00 **HAWAII FIVE-O.** The Odd-Lot Caper.
- 9.00 **FRIDAY PLAYHOUSE: 'AFTER LOCH LOMOND'.** Leonard Rossiter, Margery Mason, Joan Hickson.
- 10.00 **NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 POLICE FIVE.**
- 10.40 **FILM: 'THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES'.** Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee. The Baskerville family is cursed.
- 12.10 **ALL IN THE MIND. 12.15 JASON KING.** Variations on a Theme.

**BBC 2**

- 11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.
- 7.05 **HAMMER IT HOME.** Painting and papering.
- 7.30 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.
- 7.35 **COME FISHING.** For West Highland Salmon.
- 8.00 **MONEY AT WORK.** Steel—Efficiency or Employment? What future has the British steel industry?
- 9.00 **SIX FACES OF ROYALTY.** George IV—the caricature king.
- 9.15 **FILM: 'MODERATO CANTABILE'.** Jeanne Moreau and Jean-Paul Belmondo. A discontented industrialist's wife starts an affair with a worker from her husband's factory.
- 10.45 **FILM NIGHT.** Films of the month. 11.15 **NEWS.** Weather.



Frank Finlay is the guest of Morecambe and Wise on BBC 1. Ernie Wise is the one with the short fat hairy legs disguised as a crinoline dress

**REGIONAL TV**

**CHANNEL:** 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 Film: 'If Tomorrow Comes'. 4.23 Puffin. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Report. 6.35 London. 7.30 FBI. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.35 Film: 'Chicago Syndicate'. 12.05 News, weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.23 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sport. 10.32 News. 12.05 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Galloping gourmet. 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Weekend. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.30 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 It's all in life. 7.05 Sale of the century. 7.35 Film: 'Terror in the Sky'. 9.00 London. 10.35 Film: 'It'. 12.10 News. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Doctor in charge. 7.00 Film: 'Ransom'. 9.00 London. 10.30 It's all in life. 11.00 Press call. 11.30 Dead man's chest. 12.30 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 4.25-4.50 Stesion cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd. 10.30 Sports arena. 11.00 Dragon and the lion. 11.45 UFO. 12.45 Weather.

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

**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 About women. 3.00 London. 3.30 Dick Van Dyke. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 O'Hara. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Film: 'Corridors of Blood'. 12.40 At the end of the day.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.20 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Protectors. 8.00 Adventurer. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Ship of Fools'. Weather.

**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women only. 3.55 Yoga. 4.23 News. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 UFO. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Spectrum. 11.00 Name of the game.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.30 North country. 10.55 Film: 'The Revenge of Frankenstein'. 12.35 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Felix the cat. 12.05 London. 3.25 Shirley's world. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.15 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30 It's all in life. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 Film: 'Ten Gentlemen From West Point'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Kick off. 10.55 Film: 'Seven Women From Hell'.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.25 Communications have broken down. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Yoga. 3.00 London. 3.30 Dangerman. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Me and the chimp. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.30 London. 10.30 North country. 10.55 Film: 'A Study in Terror'. 12.35 News. 12.40 Lectern.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 3.30 It takes a thief. 4.25 Nanny and the professor. 4.50 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Doctor in charge. 7.00 London. 7.30 Film: 'The Patient Vanishes'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Friday night. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Hawaii five-o. 12.05 Love American style.

**GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Good afternoon. 3.55 Shirley's world. 4.20 Dave Cash. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Happy is the Bride'. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Job look. 10.35 Film: 'Cat Baitou'. 12.20 Meditation.

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**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS**

Fight rising rents and prices  
Defend basic democratic rights  
Force the Tories to resign

**BARNSELY:** Sunday February 4, 6.30 p.m. 'White Hart Hotel'. 'Miners and the Tory government'. Speakers: R. Roberts and Brian Lavery.

**CORBY:** Sunday, February 4, 7.30 p.m. 'Nags Head', Corby Old Village.

**SWINDON:** Sunday February 4, 7.30 p.m. 'The Locomotive'.

**CENTRAL LONDON (Press and Entertainments branch):** Sunday, February 4, 3 p.m. London Film School, Langley Street, WC1. 'The fight to smash Phase Two' Speaker: Roy Bull, Admission 10p.

**WIGAN:** Monday February 5, 8 p.m. Market Hotel, Mesmes Street. Speakers: Frank Kelly, UCATT, Bill Lyons, AUEW, Ray Hudson, UCATT. (All in a personal capacity.)

**LONDON TEACHERS' SECTION**  
Monday February 5, 8 p.m.  
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square  
London WC1.

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Tuesday, February 6, 7.30 p.m. 'Star Hotel', Thornhill. 'Build Councils of Action'.

**DAGENHAM:** Tuesday February 6, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Inflation and state control of wages'.

**EAST LONDON:** Tuesday February 6, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Crisp Street Market, E14. 'Defend basic rights'.

**SKELMERSDALE:** Wednesday February 7, 8 p.m. Quarry Bank Community Centre.

**WOOLWICH:** Wednesday February 7, 8 p.m. 'The Castle', Powis Street, SE18. 'Defend basic rights'.

**LEEDS:** Thursday February 8, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane.

**HACKNEY:** Thursday February 8, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall (opposite Town Hall). 'Build Councils of Action.'

**WILLESDEN:** Thursday February 8, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, High Road NW10. 'Victory to the NLF. Down with Stalinism and imperialism.'

**BASILDON:** Sunday February 11, 5.30 p.m. Barnstable Community Centre. 'Defend basic rights'.

**WANDSWORTH:** Monday February 12, 8 p.m. 'King's Arms', Wandsworth High Street. 'Fight rising rents and prices'.

**CLAPHAM:** Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Defend basic rights'.

**CAMDEN:** Tuesday February 13 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Lessons of the rents fight'.

**HARROW:** Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. Labour Hall. 'Defend basic rights'.

**TOOTING:** Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. 'Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road. 'Defend basic rights'.

**LIVERPOOL:** Tuesday February 20, 7.30 p.m. AEU House, Mount Pleasant.

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

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

Name .....

Address .....

# Croasdell uses 'The Times' to attack his own members' fight for policy

## Equity secretary sees Trotskyists under his desk



Actors at their AGM where they voted to fight for the West End deal.

NO GROUP of workers has a more powerful motive for fighting the Tory government than actors and actresses. Despite the impression that many people hold that the acting profession is highly paid and 'glamorous', the reality is very different.

Only a tiny minority of actors are well-paid. For most, behind the glitter of the stage lie poky little dressing rooms in theatres over 100 years old, weeks upon weeks of unemployment and insecurity, and miserably low pay.

Equity has the highest rate of unemployment of any union in the land—last year it reached 92 per cent.

Of those members employed by the week, the average number of weeks worked last year was 25 for men and 22.5 for women. In the West End the average was 16.9 weeks and in repertory it was 12.4.

Of those employed by the day, the average number of days worked last year was 31 for men and 17 for women. On television, the average was 17 days' work in a year.

Sixty per cent of Equity members earn less than £1,000 a year. One quarter of the 41-50 age group and one-third of the 31-40 age group earn less than £500 a year.

Last year the average wage for men was £20 and for women £12. In the West End the minimum wage was £18 a week for shows and £12 for rehearsals.

This was the background to last summer's West End claim for an immediate £30 minimum for performance and rehearsals, eight

weeks guaranteed employment, holiday pay and better sick pay.

This claim was backed up by a resolution passed at Equity's 1972 AGM calling for full mobilization of the union if the claim was rejected.

And the Equity Council did not oppose an amendment demanding strike action if negotiations broke down.

The leadership then proceeded to accept a rise to £25, not becoming £30 until January 1973, to make important concessions on the other aspects of the claim and to agree to fixed rises of £3 a year on the minimum rate until 1977.

This left their members totally unprotected against rises in the cost of living for five years!

Then, on January 1, Equity became the first union to suffer a direct wage-cut under the Tory state pay laws.

Not only was the £5 second stage of the West End award halted, but the £7 paid since November 13, 1972, was taken back.

Equity Council met three times in January, but was unable to decide on any action to fight the state control of the members' wages.

It was, however, compelled to call a general members' meeting for Sunday, January 28.

### A COMMENT BY JACK GALE



CROASDELL . . . 'Politically-motivated' slur

That meeting passed a resolution by 156 votes to 129—opposed by both the right wing and the Stalinists—calling for:

- Implementation of the decision of the union's AGM to strike in defence of full payment of the West End claim.
- Immediate lodging of pay claims for every section of the membership, in total opposition to the state pay laws.
- Removing the union from the Tory register created by the Industrial Relations Act.
- Joining with the whole trade union movement to force the Tories to resign

and return a Labour government pledged to repeal all anti-union legislation.

This resolution threw general secretary Gerald Croasdell and the rest of the right-wing leadership into a panic.

These leaders had all along fought for a 'non-political association' as a cover for accepting Tory policies.

Equity had been one of the first unions to register (early in March 1972) under the Industrial Relations Act.

Far from fighting the management and the Tories, the Equity Council had collaborated with the management in seeking a

closed-shop agreement through the National Industrial Relations Court.

Its leaders had used political smear tactics to narrowly avoid defeat at the 1972 AGM on resolutions calling for nationalization and strike action against BBC wage-cuts in the region of 25 per cent.

They had played on the fears of their members to gain acceptance of the watered-down West End settlement and to win a referendum vote on registration.

But the first-hand experience of Tory state pay control changed the atmosphere within the union and led to last Sunday's fighting resolution.

Croasdell's immediate reaction was to rush to the Tory Press to announce that 'the motion has no authority' and that the Equity Council would not implement it.

This 'democratic' union leader did this even before the Equity Council had had time to consider the resolution!

He went on to say that the 156 members who voted for the resolution were only 'a tiny minority' of the union.

Vice-President Hugh Manning told the Press that many of those who spoke in favour of the resolution 'made much of their association with the Socialist Labour League'.

And in 'The Times' on Wednesday Croasdell said Sunday's resolution was 'politically motivated by members of the Trotskyist Socialist Labour League'.

The right wing in Equity is dragging in 'Trotskyism' as a smear and a diversion.

The Socialist Labour League was not involved in the decisions of the Equity general members' meeting.

Of course, some members of Equity support the Socialist Labour League, just as others support the Labour Party... and still others the Conservative Party. It is a trade union which contains all shades of political opinion within its ranks.

To say that the 156 members who voted to fight the Tory state pay laws were all politically motivated by the Socialist Labour League is nonsense.

They were trade unionists fighting for trade union policy.

This witch-hunt and attack on the integrity of his own members is the act of a man who completely accepts Tory policies and Tory state control of wages.

It proves that actors must not only fight the Tory government and its corporatist-style legislation against the working class, but they must fight to remove such leaders from the head of their union.

## Socialist Labour League Public Meetings

### UNITE IN ACTION TO DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

**CLAPHAM**  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 8pm  
South Island Library  
South Island Place  
Stockwell, SW9  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

**WATFORD**  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm  
Trades Union Hall  
near Watford Junction stn  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

**NORTH KENT**  
MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm  
The Shakespeare,  
Powis Street  
Woolwich  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

**GLASGOW**  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 7.30pm  
Govan South Town Hall  
Langland Road  
nearest underground  
Govan Cross  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

### London

**ACTON**  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 8pm  
Woodlands Hall,  
Crown Street  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

**WANDSWORTH**  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 8pm  
Wandsworth Town Hall  
Wandsworth High Street  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

**MIDDLETON**  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 8pm  
Middleton Baths,  
Middleton, Manchester  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

**MEDWAY**  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 8pm  
Aurora Hotel  
Brompton Road  
Gillingham  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

**SLOUGH**  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 8pm  
Britwell Community Centre  
Long Furlong Drive  
Britwell Estate  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

**DAGENHAM**  
THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8pm  
Manor Park Library  
Romford Rd/Rabbitts Road  
opp Rabbitts Pub  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

**BIRMINGHAM**  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 7pm  
Digbeth, Civic Hall  
Digbeth, Birmingham  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

## SLL LECTURES GLASGOW

Sunday, February 4  
The Left Opposition's struggle against Stalinism.

**MID HALL**  
Patrick Burgh Halls  
7.30 p.m.

Lectures by Tom Kemp, SLL Central Committee member

## DONCASTER

Sunday February 4  
The crisis and the socialist answer.

Sunday February 11  
The revolutionary party in Britain.

Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter.

**SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL**  
Westlathgate  
7.30 p.m.

## TODMORDEN

Monday February 5  
'Trotskyism'

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

**Lecture 2**  
1924-1933—The Left Opposition's struggle against Stalin

**Lecture 3**  
1933-1938—From the German defeat to the founding of Fourth International  
given by TOM KEMP  
(SLL Central Committee)

## ACTON

Wednesday February 7  
Lecture 2  
Wednesday February 14  
Lecture 3

**Woodlands Hall**  
Crown Street, W.3. 8 p.m.

## EAST LONDON

Thursday February 8  
Lecture 2  
Thursday February 15  
Lecture 3

**Old Town Offices**  
Poplar High Street  
E.14. 8 p.m.

## MANY MANY THANKS FOR A £2,150.22 FINAL TOTAL

WE HAD to announce our final total—it was so magnificent. Well over £100 arrived yesterday bringing our final figure up to £2,150.22. What more can we say!

Clearly no other paper can boast of such a record. Each month you, our readers, not only raise our monthly target of £1,750, but, without exception, collect an amount well over the top.

We know that your great response comes from the fact the Workers Press remains the only daily paper that fights for socialist principles every day. And as more and more workers in every industry are driven towards a major showdown with the Tory government, this adherence to principles becomes the most decisive question.

We are determined to build a revolutionary leadership throughout the working class and our paper must be in the forefront of this fight. We are confident that you are all fully behind us. But we cannot sit back in any way. Greater support must be won. So post everything you collect to:

Workers Press  
February Appeal Fund  
186a Clapham High Street  
London, SW4 7UG

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because Concorde could fly from Europe to New York, Tokyo or Rio de Janeiro with passenger fares 10 per cent below that of first-class subsonic flights.

They are concerned also at the break-up of the authority of International Air Transport Authority which, in the period of expansion, could fix the Atlantic fares charged by the 104 airlines which belong to it.

But last October the British Aviation Authority unilaterally declared that airlines operating into or out of Britain could charge whatever passenger fares they liked.

This amounted to a 60 to 75-per-cent cut in basic North Atlantic air fares and opened up a ferocious price war, in which the Americans are at a disadvantage because of their high operating costs.

This is a crisis situation for the aviation industry which entered an enormous expansion programme in the early 1960s based on forecasts of a ten-fold increase in the passenger market between 1960 and 1980.

Early estimates anticipated delivery during the 1970s of 3,500-3,800 aircraft, including 700-800 supersonic planes.

But by 1970 the rate of growth of passenger transport was decreasing.

1969 marked a decisive change. That year Pan American lost \$25m, compared with a profit of \$49m the previous year.

In the first quarter of 1970, TWA lost \$39.9m.

These losses have continued. Last year Pan-Am lost \$28.9m, bringing its total losses over the last four years to more than \$150m.

Early in January the firm had to offer \$75m of convertible debentures on the New York market, despite an earlier agreement by its 38 banks to extend a \$270m revolving credit arrangement for a further two years.

Such losses set the pattern for the future: ruthless trade war, growth of monopoly, rationalization, speed-up, wage-cuts and unemployment.

British Press reports that all is not yet lost are simply whistlings in the dark. Every aviation correspondent knows that Pan-American sets the pace for purchase of new aircraft. Prospects for orders in Australia, Asia or the Middle East are extremely slim.

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# Lorry bonus halts more cars

BRITISH ROAD Services yesterday continued to refuse its heavy-vehicle drivers equal treatment to those at other transport firms, causing the lay-off of hundreds more Midlands carworkers.

The total number laid off rose to well over 10,000 at nine factories as assembly-line workers at Oxford and Abingdon joined those already sent home at Birmingham and Coventry.

Supplies of bodies and other components are now completely disrupted. Yet BRS maintained its resistance to the drivers' demand for a £2.50 merit bonus, which is being paid by almost all private hauliers in the area to men possessing the new heavy goods vehicle (HGV) licence.

Meanwhile the 1,000 BRS drivers demanding the bonus remained available for work at their depots.

But since they have all handed their HGV licences into the Transport and General Workers' Union, they are unable to drive the big lorries and transporters which supply the car factories.

HGV licences became compulsory for all vehicles over three tons unladen weight this week. So as long as BRS withholds the payment it cannot send the drivers outside the depots.

To describe the situation as a stalemate, however, would be to leave out of account the enormous power of the weapon the drivers have decided to deploy.

With one action—handing a piece of card to their shop stewards—they have exposed the weakness of car giants like British-Leyland when confronted by united action of just one section of workers.

Hence the embarrassed silence of the capitalist Press, and the union leaders' rush to settle.

The most frequent comments

BY DAVID MAUDE

around the depots are about the Press lies about how much drivers earn, the fact that drivers now need three certificates to get a job and the unfairness of BRS's refusal to pay what is already being paid by private firms.

Nevertheless BRS has itself introduced politics into the dispute—claiming it cannot pay the £2.50 because of the pay laws. The drivers' answer is quiet confidence that they can crash the Tory roadblocks.

Jack Jones and the T&GWU leadership instructed Alan Law, the union's Birmingham transport official, to return to the city to try and settle the dispute.



Ted Groves (above), a driver at Birmingham's Oldbury depot, took home £29.50 after 50 hours work last week and his was one of the biggest pay-packets in the depot. Here he holds up his pay-slip to demonstrate that even with £2.50 bonus and ten hours overtime, his gross pay was only £34.47.

## Clydebank still defiant

MRS BETTY BROWN, a member of the rebel Clydebank Council, has said she would rather go to jail than implement the Tory rent Act.

She is one of 11 Clydebank councillors who are defying orders issued by the Court of Sessions to implement the Housing Finance Act.

She said: 'This could be the culmination of the confrontation the Conservative government appear to be seeking with the working class.'

● A big demonstration in support of the Clydebank council has been organized for tomorrow. Philip Wade, our housing correspondent, will be on the spot.

## CONCORDE: VICTIM OF TRADE WAR

The President of Japan Airlines, Mr Shizuo Asada, said yesterday that there was little possibility that JAL would extend its deadline of February 28 for taking up its option on three Concorde.

The decisions of Pan-Am and TWA, he said, 'provided JAL with a good guideline' in deciding her policy.

Last year British government spokesmen refused to answer parliamentary questions about how much of Concorde's escalating costs could be covered by sales. But, according to French sources, at least 300 sales are needed.

The Pan-Am decision to cancel its option on seven and TWA on its six will certainly be followed by more blows—from American Airlines (six) and Eastern (six). This leaves only six options still standing in the United States, three each from Continental and Braniff airlines.

American United Airlines cancelled its options for six in October and Air Canada cancelled four some time ago.

The original order book of 74 options from 16 airlines has now shrunk to five from BOAC and four from Air France.

This means that the project is almost certainly doomed and Press estimates of 30,000 lost jobs in Britain are likely to be very wide of the mark. Far more jobs will go.

Eight thousand of the workers at the BAC plant at Filton, Bristol, are directly concerned with the Concorde, together with more at the Weybridge, Surrey, factory.

Some 5,000 of the Rolls-Royce workers at the Bristol engines department are working on the Concorde's engine, the Olympus 593.

Firms involved in production of metals able to meet the high temperatures and stringent conditions of supersonic speeds include the British Steel Corporation, Brown Bayley Steels, Chesterfield Tube, English Electric, Firth Brown, High Duty Alloys, Jessop-Saville, Smith-Clayton

Forge, Titanium Metal and Alloys and Union Carbide UK.

Daniel Doncaster and Sons installed the world's largest screw press at its Monkbridge Forge works in Leeds, primarily to produce compressor blades for the Concorde engine.

There are 300 firms in Britain involved in major work on the Concorde and more than 400 others involved to a lesser degree.

These include Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems, supplying an advanced auto-pilot, which would eventually include automatic landing (Marconi also supplies navigation and guidance units); Smith Industries (temperature and rpm indicators and other equipment); Triplex Safety Glass (flight-deck glazing); Flight Refuelling and Plessey Dynamics (fuel systems); Gravinier, a Wilkinson Sword substitute (fire protection); Lucas (generating equipment); Dunlop (wheels, brakes and tyres) Ekco Electronics (weather radar equipment); Dowty (flying controls and associated equipment); Normalair-Garret (cabin pressurization systems); Davall (radiation detectors); Honeywell (switches and control units); Hymatic (gas and liquid control valves); Walter Kidde (oxygen equipment); Thermatic Controls (pressure switches); Bradley Engineering (drain caps); Cementation-Muffelite (racking and elfin cases); Zenith (pressure control equipment); Abex (hydraulic pumps) and many more.

Work undertaken by various firms ranges from £320 worth to £3.7m.

A similar situation, of course, exists in France—on the eve of the elections!

No further proof could be needed of the total inability of capitalism to maintain living standards for the working class. On the contrary, important technological developments lead only to economic collapse and the loss of jobs for thousands of workers.

The Concorde affair is only one aspect of the ferocious trade war now developing between America, Japan and Europe. If capitalism is allowed to continue the same fate is in store for workers in cars, shipbuilding, steel, machine tools, textiles and every major industry.

This underlines the urgent need to mobilize the unions to call a General Strike to destroy the state pay laws, force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government pledged to the nationalization of all these industries, without compensation and under workers' control.

There is no other way to prevent millions of workers joining the dole queues.



FILM producers and journalists picketed the Independent Broadcasting Authority, Knightsbridge, yesterday for the second time this week. They were protesting against the banning of the 'World in Action' film, 'The Friends and Influence of John L. Poulson', a documentary on the business network of the bankrupt Yorkshire architect. The IBA banned the screening of the film which was due to have been transmitted in an hour-long slot on Monday night. Members of the film union, ACTT, at the Granada Television shop say the IBA is political. They have threatened to black-out ITV screens if the ban is not lifted. On yesterday's picket they were joined by members of the Central London branch of the National Union of Journalists and the branch chairman, Roy Bull.



SPECIAL LECTURE: Given by G. Healy, SLL national secretary  
Marxism and the Road to Workers' Power  
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 7p.m.  
BEAVER HALL, GARLICK HILL  
(nr Mansion House tube)