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Socialist Labour League

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T&GWU delegates must echo rank and file

'No' to Pearson 'No' to Devlin

BY THE EDITOR

THE ONLY answer that today's docks delegates conference can give to the so-called Pearson 'peace formula' must be a resounding no!

Close the ranks against retreat

HOSTILITY to the findings of the Pearson Report quickly found expression in many ports yesterday.

Arthur Atkinson, member of the Humber Area Committee NAS&D, just one of several fruit dockers' inter-

viewed, summed up what many of his fellow dockers are thinking:

In my opinion the Pearson Commission Report should be rejected in its entirety, despite the fact that it is obvious that Jones and O'Leary are clutching at straws and are clearly ready to accept a compromise.

The call must go out now to all dockworkers to close the ranks to fight any attempts at a retreat.

We should make it perfectly clear to the lay delegates who are meeting today that we will not accept any retreat from our original demand for £20 basic, and will press with all the means in our power for the full claim.

It is becoming increasingly clear that if we win the struggle for £20 basic it will place the employers' Devlin Phase Two in jeopardy.

Phase Two is an employers' charter. It paves the way for the employer to achieve something that he has failed to do throughout the years, namely the complete domination of a diminishing labour force at very little cost to himself.

The employers know that with the reduction in the

As the Workers Press confidently proclaimed in its banner headline on July 23, the 'Pearson inquiry is suspect'.

And as our reporter rightly predicted 'Lord Pearson's committee of inquiry into the national docks strike is the spearhead of a Tory attempt to strangle the dockers' fight for a £20 basic wage.'

We were absolutely right.

No other paper—including the 'Morning Star'—and no other organization outside the Socialist Labour League was prepared to tell the dockers the grim and brutal truth that the inquiry, which had the blessing of the union leaders, was nothing more than a trap, a device to try and split the dockers while preparations to move the troops and break the strike went on unimpeded.

The capitalist press used the court of inquiry to its maximum by conjuring up all manner of 'offers' which were designed to create an atmosphere of complacency and even euphoria amongst some dockers in the same way as the opinion polls were used during the General Election.

All this was done to help the union bureaucrats per-

Nothing to discuss SAY ROYAL MEN

FIRST REACTIONS to the Pearson-Paynter report from strikers at the Royal group of docks in London combined hostility to Pearson with a growing mistrust of the official union leadership.

Dockers feel that Pearson has offered nothing new for the delegates conference to discuss and will be mounting a mass picket at Transport House this morning to press delegates to throw Pearson out.

Any move to return to work on Pearson's terms will meet with stiff resistance.

As one docker put it: 'If we swallow this lot we will be ridiculed. After two weeks on strike no docker could go back with nothing on the basic.'

But many strikers consider the delegates conference may well accept the Pearson recommendation.

They are confident this will not be the end of the struggle however.

Many think an unofficial strike would be more solid.

As one picket put it earlier this week 'I have been expecting this right from the time we were recommended to stay at work when the strike began.'

John Barber, an NAS&D member, told Workers Press:

'As a "Blue" union member this is a strike I didn't particularly want any part of, but since Jones has sort of jumped the gun and brought us out on this very irrelevant



'Press through the demand' SAY S. WALES DOCKERS

DOCKERS at all five nationalized ports in S Wales have turned down a plea from Jack Jones and local employers to unload 30

Arab Revolution at the crossroads

THE US 'peace plan', combined with Soviet diplomatic pressure and the treachery of the Egyptian bourgeoisie, has successfully split the various Arab states menaced by imperialism and its Zionist outpost in Israel.

The proposal put forward by Rogers for a three-month 'cease fire' and a negotiated settlement which denies self-determination for the Palestinians, has been accepted by the following Arab governments:

Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The Ba'athist regimes in Syria and Iraq have rejected the plan, a position which is consistent with their opposition to the United Nations Security Council resolution of November 1967, on which the Rogers deal is based.

REJECTION

The Iraqi Revolution Command Council has issued a statement which 'reaffirms its absolute rejection of any plans whose aim is to liquidate the Palestine issue and the right of the Palestine people to return to their homeland, and in particular the recent US proposals'.

The Rogers plan makes no provision whatsoever for the return of Palestinian refugees—an issue which Nasser and his fellow 'Arab Nationalists' have capitulated on completely.

Damascus Radio denounced the Rogers-Nasser deal in equally strong terms, calling it 'no more than a link in the chain of successive imperialist plans aimed at covering up the real aims of the aggressors and the intentions of imperialism, which seeks various pretexts to supply the Zionists with more imperialist weapons of destruction and annihilation.'

The greatest pressure falls obviously on the leaders of the many guerrilla organizations, which draw their sup-

July £1000 Fund
With three
days to go
we need
£220 4s 10d

£152 12s 2d ARRIVED at our offices yesterday, bringing our July Fund up to £779 15s 2d.

This is the best post so far this month. Thank you readers.

But we must not be complacent. We still have £220 4s 10d to collect with only three days to go.

There is no time to waste. Post your donations at once to:

Workers Press
Appeal Fund,
186a Clapham High Street,
London, SW4.

Pearson splitting tactic

say Mersey dockers

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

MERSEYSIDE dockers who stand to gain a mere 6d an hour from the inquiry recommendations are, for the most part, bitterly hostile to the Pearson Report.

And support for their stand from other sections of workers is growing.

The port's 12 Transport and General Workers' delegates to today's London conference met for two hours yesterday morning.

And whilst they would make no formal statement on their attitude to the report, one steward confided that they are virtually certain to reject it.

Shop stewards' chairman Jim Symes, speaking in a personal capacity, said he thinks this means the continuance of the strike.

'I don't think Liverpool will accept this. It is not a compromise of any description.'

Other members of both the 'White' Transport and General and 'Blue' NAS&D pointed out that they never expected a compromise anyway.

'As we thought,' said one rank-and-file Transport and General Workers' member, 'the report gives us nothing. We're already on a £16 basic. Jones never had any right to call back the delegates on this basis. The whole thing's just a splitting tactic.'

'No self-respecting, trade

DONS RISE

THE Association of University Teachers, representing 20,000 university lecturers and dons, is submitting a 20 per cent salary claim.

This would increase salaries from October 1 by £245 to £1,600 a year on minimum scales and by £545 to £3,650 at the maximum.

Last October, when an interim 9 per cent increase was agreed, it was accepted that more should follow this year.

Scanlon re-elected

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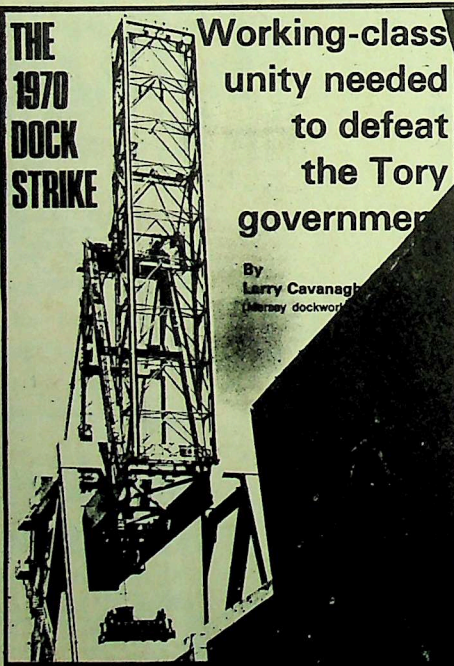
Last October, when an interim 9 per cent increase was agreed, it was accepted that more should follow this year.

Scanlon re-elected

PRESIDENT of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers, Mr Hugh Scanlon, has been re-elected with a greatly increased majority it was announced yesterday.

He secured 76,063 votes against 32,002 for his right-wing opponent Mr John Boyd, senior executive council member and former Labour Party chairman.

JUST OFF THE PRESS



THE 1970 DOCK STRIKE

Working-class unity needed to defeat the Tory government

By Larry Cavanagh
(Mersey dockworker)

A SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PAMPHLET PRICE 6d

Available from 186a, Clapham High Street, SW4

clearly are clutching at straws and are clearly ready to accept a compromise.

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It is becoming increasingly clear that if we win the struggle for £20 basic it will place the employers' Devlin Phase Two in jeopardy.

Phase Two is an employers' charter. It paves the way for the employer to achieve something that he has failed to do throughout the years, namely the complete domination of a diminishing labour force at very little cost to himself.

The employers know that with the reduction in the labour force, increased mechanization, reduced manning scales, flexibility, mobility and docility of labour, a figure of £35 for those that are left is ludicrous and will mean a saving of millions on the cost of labour.

It means an industrial way of life completely alien to all that the dockers have fought for so bitterly.

We were absolutely right.

No other paper—including the 'Morning Star'—and no other organization outside the Socialist Labour League was prepared to tell the dockers the grim and brutal truth that the inquiry, which had the blessing of the union leaders, was nothing more than a trap, a device to try and split the dockers while preparations to move the troops and break the strike went on unimpeded.

The capitalist press used the court of inquiry to its maximum by conjuring up all manner of 'offers' which were designed to create an atmosphere of complacency and even euphoria amongst some dockers in the same way as the opinion polls were used during the General Election.

All this was done to help the union bureaucrats persuade the dockers to scab on their own strike and move perishable cargoes as part of a plan to get a return to work.

Nothing moved

As usual, both the press, the union bureaucrats and the 'Morning Star' seriously underestimated the dockers' intelligence and integrity.

Not a single banana was moved in any port in Britain!

And despite the efforts of certain so-called rank-and-file leaders to reduce the original demand to £16, the majority of dockers remain unmoved on the £20 basic because they correctly see this as the opening shot in the decisive battle over Devlin Phase Two.

Not only did the dockers refuse to scab, but they also decisively rebuffed attempts in the docks to distract them with racialist slogans.

As Brother Atkinson of Humberside Area Committee has correctly commented:

'It is becoming increasingly clear that if we win the struggle for £20 basic it will place the employers' Devlin Phase Two in jeopardy. Phase Two is an employers' charter.'

Mr Jack Jones knows this painfully well. That is why, from the start of the strike, he has been 'clutching at straws' and looking for some face-saving formula to get the men back to work.

Equivocal

That is also why Mr Jones continues to maintain an equivocal attitude so clearly articulated in his reaction to Pearson:

'I don't think it is right to comment at this stage

● PAGE FOUR COL. 6

press delegates to throw Pearson out.

Any move to return to work on Pearson's terms will meet with stiff resistance.

As one docker put it: 'If we swallow this lot we will be ridiculed. After two weeks on strike no go back with nothing on the basic.'

But many strikers consider conference may well accept recommendation.

They are confident this will not be the end of the struggle however.

Many think an unofficial strike would be more solid.

As one picket put it earlier this week 'I have been expecting this right from the time we were recommended to stay at work when the strike began.'

John Barber, an NAS&D member, told Workers Press:

'As a "Blue" union member this is a strike I didn't particularly want any part of, but since Jones has sort of jumped the gun and brought us out on this very irrelevant issue it's a strike we just can't afford to lose.'

'This is not just a strike for more money.

'It's a complete class war.

'The Tory government has forced a complete showdown because if they pick a strong section to beat it leaves the working class right open to Measured-Day Work and modernization.'

Another 'Blue' union member, Maurice Nichol, put it like this:

'I don't think the men will go back until we receive what we came out for—the £20 basic rate. All I can say about Pearson is that it must be thrown out completely.'

'Press through the demand'

SAY S. WALES DOCKERS

DOCKERS at all five nationalized ports in S Wales have turned down a plea from Jack Jones and local employers to unload 30 million bananas worth £375,000 from ships at Barry docks.

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

On Monday the first 113,000 stems from one of the three ships were being dumped in the Atlantic six miles offshore.

Earlier 150 Barry men had said they would be prepared to work the boats without pay if dockers in other ports shared the work with them.

But Mr F. G. Tyrrell,

regional T&GWU secretary, said:

'The men were anxious to comply with Jack Jones request to unload the bananas, but all the ports have refused to co-operate. They felt it would not be fair while everyone else was on strike.'

No reaction

There was no official reaction on Monday from leaders of the 1,600 dockers in S Wales to the findings of the Pearson inquiry.

But among the men there is strong support for pressing their demand for a minimum time rate of £20 a week.

Mr Tyrrell said: 'It's too early for me to make an official comment. We have to wait to see what happens at the delegate conference on Wednesday.'

The T&GWU officials in S Wales claim that their men are not so much concerned with increasing the basic time rate as their colleagues in other parts of the country.

Mr Tyrrell told me: 'Most of the work is on piece rate here and these are not related to the basic time rate. The men earn on average between £32 and £36 a week.'

Workers on Cardiff docks agree that in good weeks they can earn an average of £36, but they claim that is only on the basis of continuous working.

One of the 300 dockers at Cardiff told me:

'In some weeks we can earn as much as £36, but that's for working a full seven days with overtime on top.'

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Sovex strikers resolute

RESOLUTE not to concede anything on their original claim, the Sovex, Erith, strikers now enter their 12th week on strike.

Even with the possibility of tentative talks between union officials and management at the end of the week, one worker made it clear at the strike meeting yesterday:

'We have not been out 11 weeks to go back on it now!'

Support continues to come in from all sections of workers with a latest promise of money from Fleet Street electricians, plumbers union and engineers.

As convenor Laurie Smith explained:

'What is encouraging in this strike is the support which we have received from the working class and the way they have identified themselves with our struggle for a straight increase with no strings.'

Jan Palach monument removed

THE SMALL monument on the grave of Jan Palach, the student who burned himself to death in Prague on January 26, 1969, as a protest against the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia, has been removed.

Palach was buried in the Prague Olsany cemetery, and his grave was carefully tended by his friends and political sympathisers in the student movement.

FUNERAL ARRANGED

THE FUNERAL of Comrade Peter Crossley, who died in hospital on Monday at the age of 26 after a road accident last Saturday, will be held on August 3 at Bushbury Crematorium, Bushbury Lane, Bushbury, Wolverhampton, at 3.40 p.m. An appreciation of Comrade Peter appears on page four.

whose aim is to liquidate the Palestine issue and the right of the Palestine people to return to their homeland, and in particular the recent US proposals.

The Rogers plan makes no provision whatsoever for the return of Palestinian refugees—an issue which Nasser and his fellow 'Arab Nationalists' have capitulated on completely.

Damascus Radio denounced the Rogers-Nasser deal in equally strong terms, calling it 'no more than a link in the chain of successive imperialist plans aimed at covering up the real aims of the aggressors and the intentions of imperialism, which seeks various pretexts to supply the Zionists with more imperialist weapons of destruction and annihilation. . . .'

The greatest pressure falls obviously on the leaders of the many guerrilla organizations, which draw their support from the thousands of

● PAGE FOUR COL. 7

And whilst they would make no formal statement on their attitude to the report, one steward confided that they are virtually certain to reject it.

Shop stewards' chairman Jim Symes, speaking in a personal capacity, said he thinks this means the continuance of the strike.

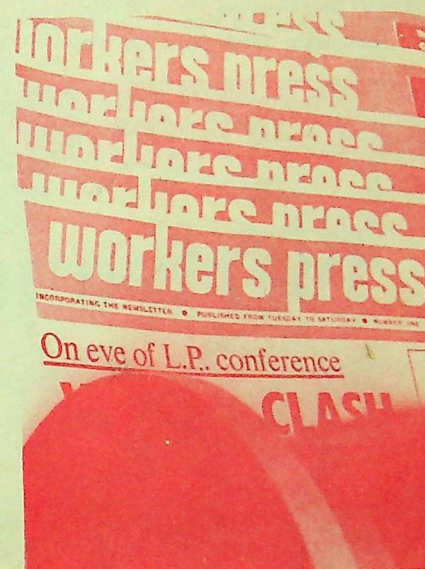
'I don't think Liverpool will accept this. It is not a compromise of any description.' Other members of both the 'White' Transport and General and 'Blue' NAS&D pointed out that they never expected a compromise anyway.

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'No self-respecting trade

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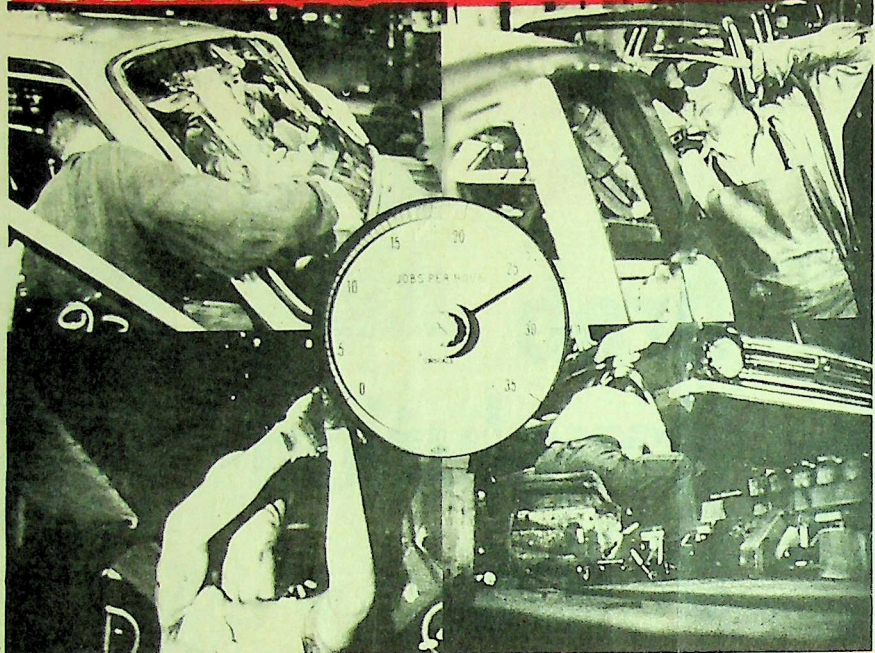
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CRISIS IN THE



FACTORIES

BY
BERNARD
FRANKS

Job evaluation phasing and equal pay (3)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS 11

Workers' participation, profit sharing and co-partnership schemes have been in the news recently. What are all these about?

THESE schemes have been tried on and off for years by the employers. They were great favourites with some non-union firms in the 1930s.

The idea is that a worker is paid a section of his wages in the form of shares instead of in cash. He may also get an annual bonus which is related to the level of profits and which is paid in the same way.

This is supposed to make him feel like a capitalist and become enthusiastic about big profits.

It is also supposed to make the worker concerned about big output and efficiency and to make him more loyal to the employer.

The system being discussed at government level is that of

needed to hold down wages and increase output.

The 'last-ditch' stand by employers as far as confidence trickery goes i.e. before they decide that the working class can only be beaten into submission by strongarm methods, is 'workers' participation' and 'workers' control' of the work process.

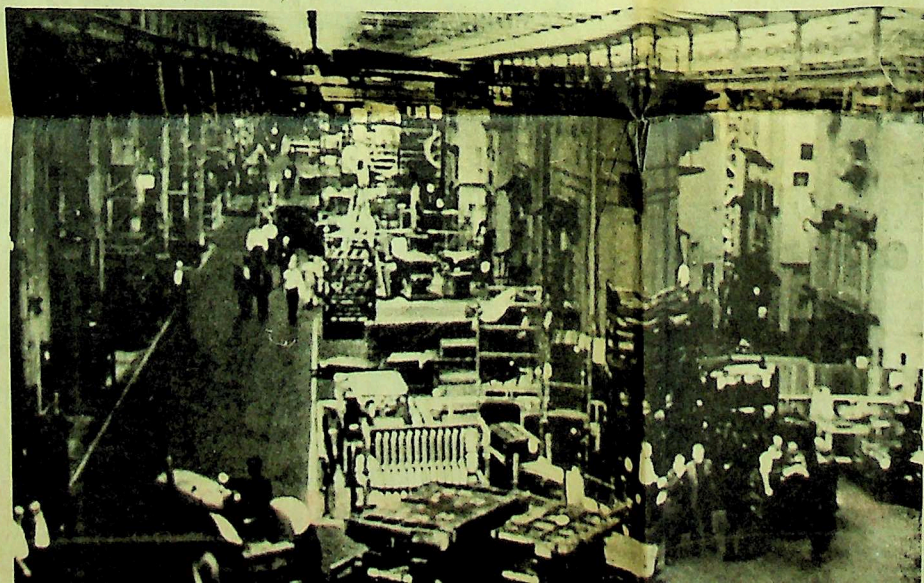
A great many conferences and discussions are taking place at the moment within capitalism's 'top brass' on these very subjects.

The theory of this is that if workers can be involved in managing capitalism, they will feel that it is their system and they will not want to change it.

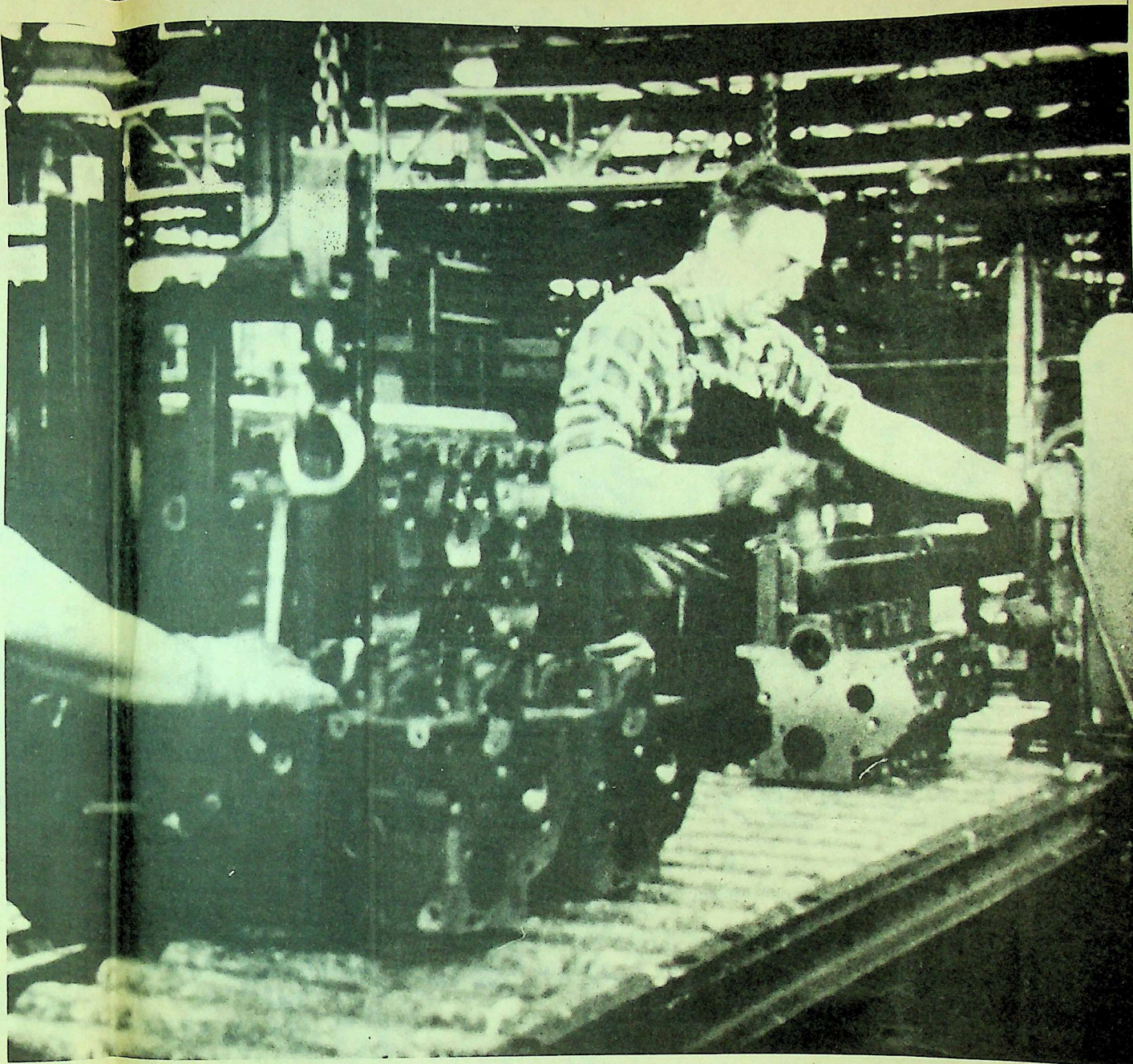
Control

Of course the bosses at all times retain majority control of the enterprise and the workers really have no control at all.

This is why when socialists use the slogan 'workers' control' they are always very



'The implementation of job evaluation, work study and Measured-Day Work, is not just a policy of an individual firm or industry, but a political action affecting every single industry and the lives of millions of workers.'



worker, and further, attempts to institute laws that will fine or imprison any operatives opposing its measures, then we must say that the new system has become a political weapon of the government.

This is why we feel it is important to tell those workers who quite rightly tell us that many of these systems are not new and that workers have made substantial amounts of money working on them, that what is now different is that these systems are used as a political attack on the capitalist class against the work-

ing class. For leading militants to deny this is the utmost treachery.

It means that workers will be fighting the joint power of the state, the employers and the union leaders' army on a purely local (home guard) basis.

Defeat

This will inevitably lead to defeat and demoralization.

Let's take an example of just one government agency—the Prices and Incomes Board.

This body, which was set up by Act of Parliament has systematically examined the operations of the major industries and has in each case put forward the acceptance of job-evaluation, work-study, and Measured-Day Work systems as the only means of increasing wages.

We repeat, this is not just a policy of an individual firm or industry, but a political action affecting every single industry and the lives of millions of workers.

● Continued next Wednesday.

BBC 1

TV

12.25-12.50 p.m. Nai Zindagi—Naya Jeevan. 12.55 Y 'Royal Welsh' 1970. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45 News, weather. 2.20 Racing from Goodwood. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory request week. 4.55 Happy age. 5.15 Tom Tom. 5.44 Abbott and Costello. 5.50 News, weather. 6.00 LONDON. 6.45 THE DOCTORS. 7.10 LAUREL AND HARDY. 7.30 COMEDY PLAYHOUSE. 'Don't ring us . . . We'll ring you'

HTV West colour channel 61 as above except: 4.23-4.25 and 6.01-6.35 Scene West.

HTV Wales colour channel 41 as above except: 11.45 Y ydydd. 12.15 Weather. HTV Cymru/Wales black and white service as above except: 6.01 Y dydd. 6.30-6.35 Report—Wales

THESE schemes have been tried on and off for years by the employers. They were great favourites with some non-union firms in the 1930s. The idea is that a worker is paid a section of his wages in the form of shares instead of in cash. He may also get an annual bonus which is related to the level of profits and which is paid in the same way.

This is supposed to make him feel like a capitalist and become enthusiastic about big profits.

It is also supposed to make the worker concerned about big output and efficiency and to make him more loyal to the employer.

The system being discussed at government level is that of wages increases being paid in this way. Of course it has been known in similar situations for workers to cash the shares and spend the money. Such 'disloyalty' would be blocked by regulating withdrawals.

The reason this system is being looked at is because it is obvious that the productivity deal swindle is not going to fool anyone for long and that a new confidence trick is

'workers' control' of the work process.

A great many conferences and discussions are taking place at the moment within capitalism's 'top brass' on these very subjects.

The theory of this is that if workers can be involved in managing capitalism, they will feel that it is their system and they will not want to change it.

Control

Of course the bosses at all times retain majority control of the enterprise and the workers really have no control at all.

This is why when socialists use the slogan 'workers' control' they are always very careful to explain that it must be workers' control of an industry that has been taken completely out of the hands of its capitalist owners and that nothing is owing in the way of compensation.

The bosses have already had their money's worth ten times over and all production for profit must be brought to an end.

Some very left-wing sounding people often spend a great



'Workers' control can only take place after the industry has been completely taken out of the hands of its capitalist owners.'

deal of time talking about 'workers' control' without explaining this point. So what they are advocating is something the employers have no great objection to i.e. that the workers participate in the running of the processes of capitalism.

This actually happens on some jobs where work study has been introduced.

Management and supervision are withdrawn and the stopwatch carrying 'workers' representatives' are given free rein to fix standards and ensure that they are adhered to.

This, of course, is no more than 'workers' participation' in raising profits and 'workers' control' of speed up!

Some sections of workers have had substantial rises under job-evaluated graded systems. Does this disprove what you are saying?

NO. The real crunch does not come until payments-by-results (PBR) and piecework are completely abolished from a combine or even an industry. While sections remain on PBR, managements with fixed rate payments are sometimes forced to concede rises they would not otherwise give.

They may find themselves in a situation where the gap between those individual factories on fixed rates and those on PBR become so wide that it becomes impossible to resist the pressure for the militancy generated by the differential itself.

Alternatively, since it is the requirement of management to abolish PBR in all factories, this would be impossible if

the gap between PBR factories and fixed-rate factories, particularly within a combine, became enormous. It would obviously then be impossible to sell these schemes to those remaining on PBR.

It is not unusual for a management to deliberately give a rise to a factory or a section in order to tempt another section who are reluctant to take the bait.

Why do you say that graded systems are so dangerous?

GRADED systems are often introduced in order to get rid of incentive bonuses. The main danger involved is that they absorb all forms of payment into a number of grades with fixed payments and established differentials.

This effectively ends the normal form of negotiations which go on all the time under incentive payment over such things as changes in means and method, schedules, condition money merit payment, etc.

Productivity

Almost all such agreements contain basic clauses under which the unions have to agree not to submit claims which prejudice the established differentials, and clauses which tie all future wage negotiations to annual reviews based on productivity.

Such systems based on job-evaluated grades not only effectively peg wages, but when disputes take place they are often directed not against the company but against another grade of workers or against another union.

Often if a grade of workers

take action and claim to be upgraded, let's say for example AEF workers in the tool room claim to be upgraded on parity with the electricians, the ETU may well insist on maintaining the established differential and the company will stand outside the resulting dispute, standing only to gain in the long run.

In some cases grading disputes are referred to a panel of union representatives from each grade, at which the dissenting grade is simply outvoted by the rest.

Such graded systems should be totally opposed.

You say that the introduction of these systems is a political question, but many leading militants, including Communist Party members, have continually denied this over the last five years. What exactly do you mean by this?

IN THE past, before the government began to develop these schemes, if an individual employer got hold of a particular method and tried to apply it on his own initiative, then this was purely a local matter, a local firm 'trying it on'.

However, when the government takes up such a system, sets the country's leading managements, university experts and trade union leaders to develop it, and when it sets out through state legislation and state agencies to ensure that every single employer is setting about putting this system into operation against every single

who quite rightly tell us that many of these systems are not new and that workers have made substantial amounts of money working on them, that what is now different is that these systems are used as a political attack on the capitalist class against the work-

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7.10 LAUREL AND HARDY.
7.30 COMEDY PLAYHOUSE. 'Don't ring us . . . We'll ring you'.
8.00 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. 'Recovery'.
8.50 NEWS AND WEATHER.
9.10 24 HOURS.
9.40 ROYAL INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW 1970.
11.00 THE FIFTIES. 11.15 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as BBC 1 except:
Midlands, North, South and West and E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 region tonight, weather. 11.17 News, weather.
Wales: 6.00-6.45 Wales today, weather. 6.45 Heddiw. 7.00-7.30 Bric-a-brac.
8.00 Derek and Iris in session. 8.20-8.50 Drosodd at Alun Williams. 11.17 Weather.
Scotland: 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. 11.17 News, weather.
N Ireland: 6.00-6.45 Scene around six. 11.17 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.
7.30 p.m. NEWS and weather.
8.00 LOUIS MALLE'S INDIA. Part 2.
8.50 FANNY AND JOHNNIE CRADOCK INVITE . . .
9.55 PHILBY.
11.05 News and weather. 11.10 LINE UP.

ITV

2.15 p.m. Racing from Redcar. 4.17 The Tingha and Tucker Club. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Anything You Can Do. 5.20 Ace of Wands. 5.50 News.
6.02 I DREAM OF JEANNIE. 6.30 THE SAINT.
7.30 CORNATION STREET.
8.00 IT TAKES A THIEF. 'The Suzie Simone Caper'.
9.00 HUSBANDS AND LOVERS. New series. 10.00 NEWS.
9.00 HUSBANDS AND LOVERS. New series. 10.00 NEWS.
10.30 NEAREST AND DEAREST. 11.00 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.
11.45 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.
12 midnight FUTURE OF THE FAR EAST.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 2.15-4.15 London. 4.30 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.40 Wind in the willows. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 African patrol. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Nanny and the professor. 7.30 London. 8.00 Baron. 9.00 London. 11.40 Epilogue, weather.
SOUTHERN: 2.15-3.45 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Sara and Hoppity. 4.30 London. 6.00 Day by day. Crime desk. 6.30 Doris Day. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Avengers. 9.00 London. 11.45 News. 11.55 Weather. Action 70.
HARLECH: 2.45-4.15 London. 4.25 Women today. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report. 6.10 F troop. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Avengers. 9.00 London. 11.45 Weather.
WESTWARD: As Channel except: 4.25 News. 4.27 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 11.45 Faith for life. 11.50 Weather.
ATV MIDLANDS: 2.15-3.45 London. 4.02 Women today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Tingha and Tucker. 4.55 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Branded. 7.30 London. 8.00 Avengers. 9.00 London. 11.45 Who knows, weather.
ULSTER: 2.15-4.15 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Viewfinder. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 News. 6.05 Viewfinder. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Marcus Welby. 9.00 London. 10.30 From glen to glen. 11.00 London.
YORKSHIRE: 2.15 London. 3.55 Houseparty. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 Matinee. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 F troop. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Saint. 9.00 London. 11.45 Weather.
GRANADA: 2.15 London. 3.40 Encore—university challenge. 4.10 News. Short story. 4.40 Tingha and Tucker. 4.55 London. 6.00 Newsview. 6.10 Octopus. 6.30 Big valley. 7.30 London. 8.00 Baron. 9.00 London.
TYNE TEES: 2.15 London. 4.10 Newsroom. 4.15 My three sons. 4.40 Paulus. 4.40 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Court martial. 9.00 London. 11.45 News. 12 midnight Man with all the resources.
BORDER: 2.15 London. 4.13 News. 4.15 Freud on food. 4.40 Tingha and Tucker. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Baron. 9.00 London. 11.45 News, weather.
SCOTTISH: 2.15 London. 6.00 Summer scene. 6.25 Police call. 6.30 Raw deal? 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Man in a suitcase. 9.00 London. 11.00 Gateway. 11.35 Late call. 11.40 Two-shot golf.
GRAMPIAN: 2.15-4.20 London. 4.25 Handful of songs. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Mad movies. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Joker's wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London.

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Germany 1931 1932

Leon Trotsky

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FRANK CARTWRIGHT'S

tv column

EVERY FEW hours pilots of the US Air Force take off and fly around with nuclear bombs in the bellies of their B-52s.

Every child born in the world since the testing of such weapons began has been born with the radioactive element strontium 90 in its bones.

But if someone goes out into the street and screams that they have an atomic bomb inside them or that they are being destroyed by invisible rays, they will usually end up in a mental hospital with a few shots of 110 volts across their frontal lobes and nicely subdued in a hefty chemical straight jacket.

This situation is repeated in countless ways in modern capitalist society; madness often fiercely illuminates the normal world, and lights it so brightly and clearly that the mad one has to be shut up or locked away with great speed before he upsets too many people.

Most of the progressive thinking and practice in contemporary psychotherapy is concerned with precisely this state of affairs.

Alienation

Any treatment which does not recognize and found itself upon the alienation which capitalism fosters merely serves to prolong the confusion and despair so necessary to its survival.

But that in no way glorifies insanity. The desperation, terror and pain which make up so much of the experience are rarely welcome; they usually reflect not a growing awareness of intolerable objective contradictions, but a defeat in the battle of a subjective vehicle of those contradictions.

Sometimes, however, the subject gets a brutal and shattering insight into the real world; this may take a symbolic form where the reality of the unconscious mind surges up and invades the conscious mind with all its archetypal images, monsters and raging demons.

People who have experienced this breakdown of normal barriers sometimes speak of it afterwards as a crucial and enlightening episode. They occasionally emerge from it with memories of an experience of 'identity with all that is or ever was' and may be utterly changed in their comprehension of the world.

Sometimes too they refer to

**GOD
IN THE
HEART**

their insight as an experience of God—not in an abstract, metaphysical or personalized way, but simply as a means of alluding to the apparent totality of their subjective perception.

This, of course, can also lead to endless confusion, metaphysical ramblings and theological speculations—most of which nicely lend themselves to propping up the archaic and reactionary churches and their dogmas.

Such a way of speaking about such a valuable experience in itself reveals and flows from clear historical and philosophical traditions.

Lenin noted very clearly Feuerbach's analysis of the attempt to convert subjective existence into an objective one ('Collected Works', vol. 38, p. 81) and there is no cause for any Marxist to remain caught in this idealist trap.

However it is currently very popular to tread this well-worn dead-end of idealism and even to incorporate into it certain selected aspects of Marx's writings.

It is especially treacherous ground because the experiences upon which it is founded are undoubtedly revealing and central in any appreciation of modern capitalist life.

But the attempt to use them to help tie us to reactionary thought is not to be ignored.

Much of the art of the past 100 years, for example, is an interlacing of language and delirium, but equally the opposition of these two, of art and madness, is total: its an opposition of life and death, reason (in its fullest sense) and unreason, man and nature.

For the assertion of madness is the assertion of nature over consciousness.

'There is nothing that the madness of men invents which is not either nature made manifest or nature restored,' (Michel Foucault, 'Madness and Civilization', p. 283.)

ALL THIS is prompted by the BBC-2 series 'The Timeless Moment' (10.20, Friday).

These three programmes give us Geoffrey Moorhouse 'talking to people about insights into reality glimpsed through drugs, madness or mysticism'. 'Radio Times'. (My emphasis.)

Last week's film concentrated on two women who have gone through profound subjective crises and for both of whom the experience was creative.

Mary Barnes was a hospital

nurse; her insanity took the form of a complete regression to infantile life and the gradual regrowing back into adulthood and reason.

She now paints and exercises an often irreplaceable compassion and understanding for other people in similar circumstances.

She has had exhibitions and, wishing no unkindness, has become a star spokesman for a particularly interesting form of approaching mental illness.

But the contradictions of this method of approach in capitalist society remain dangerously confused in the minds of many who regard themselves as progressive and enlightened.

Mary Barnes expressed it well when she said about her experience:

'The more I kept in touch with my own depth the more I understood the world.'

This is precisely Hegelianism, where being is converted into a special reality.

The truth is still Hegel on his head—the more I keep in touch with the world the more I understand my own depth.

And indeed the paintings of the two women (Morag Coate was the other) showed the same idealist inversion. As therapy there can be no quarrel with a picture which shows a chimpanzee who, after dismounting a bicycle and shaking hands with a man, climbed a pylon and was electrocuted by grasping the overhead cables.

The process of putting this onto canvass, along with much else in the form of representational fragments, helps to objec-

David Cooper



tify experience and thus make it comprehensible to the person involved.

But art, which also objectifies, also attempts to connect inner and outer experience and serves to forward consciousness of objective reality—even though it is inevitably passed through the subjective experience of the artist.

It may be therapeutic, but it is so on the premise that where the artist can no longer bring the work into being, where he can no more wrest a formed expression out of the raw opposite of nature and unconsciousness, it is exactly there that art faces us with the next great question to be answered.

In other words, it is the triumph of reason over unreason that we celebrate, the victory of form over chaos that excites our admiration.

We accept all of the world, all of nature and its workings in us, only the more to change it and bring it to comprehension.

The programme did nothing of this sort though.

It was intensely interesting in its material, but its makers totally reflected the latter-day idealism of theologians like Tillich and others.

One of the therapists taking part in the film is similarly placed.

David Cooper, along with R. D. Laing, Aaron Esterson and others, has made a large contribution to the understanding of subjective processes and their dialectical nature.

Clarity

In his writings ('Psychiatry and Anti-Psychiatry', for example) he has traced these processes with great clarity and with clear acknowledgement of the influence of Marx and other materialist philosophers. But the outcome is still existentialism.

None of them have been able to make the step into a truly materialist and dialectical theory of the unconscious.

Some—especially Laing—have come as close as you can go before veering off from the implacable logic of the class struggle and their responsibility before history.

This film was merely a glimpse of some of this; it is an area where a revolutionary film maker will one day make a critical intervention.

But in this period it is unlikely that we shall see such a piece on television. Idealism and God (however identified) are too important a part of the ideology of capitalism to be lightly broken with or easily thrown away.

R. D. Laing



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Workers Press notebook

STRENGTH THROUGH JOY

AS YOU bask in the holiday drizzle of the English summer, ponder the fate of Walter K., of Cologne. It might happen to you one day.

Returning from a mountain-climbing holiday, Walter was told by his boss that he had to refund his holiday pay, because he was so tired that he couldn't concentrate on his job.

Appealing to the Bonn Ministry of Labour, he was informed that the boss was right.

Said the man from the Ministry:

'The holiday exists so that workers can draw new strength for their jobs. The best way to spend a holiday is to sit back and do nothing.'

★

He warned workers not to spend long hours on do-it-yourself jobs around the house and told them that long cycle tours might jeopardize their holiday pay also.

However, a court has ruled that this does not apply to W German soldiers. For some reason, they are entitled to tire themselves out as much as they please.

So don't be surprised if the next productivity deal demands full reports on employees' expenditure of energy while outside the factory, checked by inspectors and special sleep-meters attached to everybody's bed.

A Ministry spokesman even warned that anyone arriving back from holiday too tired to work might have to lose a week's pay as well. The W German trade unions' legal department said this was correct.

Questions to Gollan

A LETTER in the latest issue of the Communist Party journal 'Comment' illuminates the depth of the CP crisis—even if it can do little to resolve it.

Written by a sincere believer in the 'British Road to Socialism', the Party's reformist programme, it nonetheless puts some questions to the leadership which blow the whole policy sky-high.

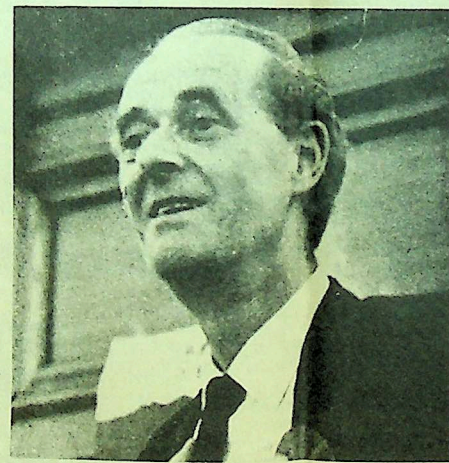
The author, David Waddington, remarks on the urgings of Party leaders to contest all elections, even when little local political work had been carried out, while at the same time they talk about 'the general election being a culmination of five years' mass work, not an interruption.'

'Who are they trying to kid, besides themselves?' asks Waddington.

'One wonders just how out of touch with the reality of branch life they must be. As for the "important political reasons" for our low votes, they have been with us for a long time. They don't explain the disastrous deterioration.'

Waddington insists on asking the obvious, but studiously-avoided questions.

'Why the continuing low level of local Party activity? Why so much passivity in our ranks? Why the continual loss of membership, the inability to grow? Why our weakness amongst young people, the critical section for Communists and the Left? Why the loss in votes and sometimes seats in areas where we should expect advances, e.g. GLC tenants? Why the crisis in "Star"



Gollan

sales by local CP branches? It's a fine paper . . .

Waddington's demand for answers to these questions is all the more powerful because it comes from someone who so clearly agrees with the basic outlook of the leadership.

(His only tentative suggestion to solve the problem is: 'Perhaps we can learn from the Italians.')

He reflects many workers who found their way into the CP because they thought it really was a Communist party, and got caught up in the basically conservative politics of Stalinism.

Now, as the working class enters massive struggles against the Tories, they try to understand the CP's decline, and why Gollan and company refuse to discuss it.

ponder the words of J. Gollan when he said:

'The Chinese comrades by implication suggest that Stalin was against the concept of the possible peaceful transition to socialism. "The British Road to Socialism" was published in full in "Pravda" with Stalin's full approval.'

KING BILLY

AN AD in Paisley's 'Protestant Telegraph' announces: 'MAGNIFICENT ORANGE AND BLACK SHIELDS AND PLAQUES. The very latest tribute to Dr Paisley's success in Lacquered Mahogany.'

The shop, situated in Belfast's Sandy Row, also offers 'All general Orange badges, pins, wallets, notebooks and jewellery, at PROTESTANT PRICES'.

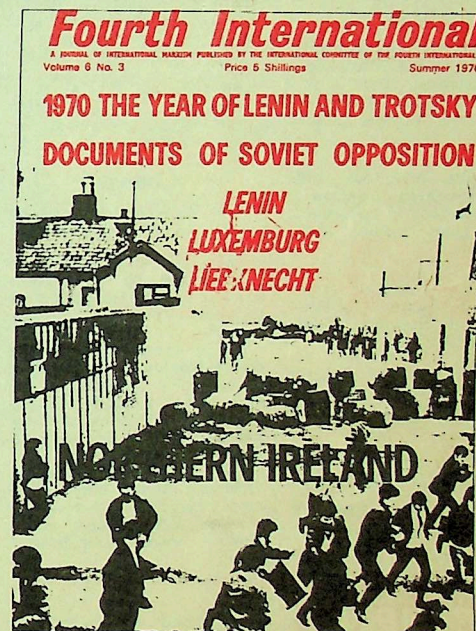
However, the main attractions are photographs not only of Dr Ian R. K. Paisley, but also of William, Prince of Orange.

This is a considerable technical achievement, since King Billy passed into the Protestant heaven in 1707.

He might do worse than to

JUST OUT

64 pages



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Behind Coventry DATA strike

Rolls-Royce offensive on pay and jobs

THE WORSENING economic position of Britain's aero-engine giant Rolls-Royce now lies at the centre of every sectional dispute arising in its many factories.

That is why the struggle of the company's design and technical staff at Coventry must now change course if its claim for a substantial wage increase is to be successful.

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

The strategy of the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association for its 1970 increase followed its successful 1969 tactic and only Coventry was chosen for the battleground.

In 1969 it was Scotland and it took a four-week strike for the Scottish factories to win their claim.

This claim was then lodged in all Rolls-Royce factories nationally. Having conceded the claim in Scotland, the company was in no position to resist elsewhere.

On June 16, 1970, the Coventry Rolls-Royce factories lodged a claim for a substantial increase in wages. The company replied with a national offer of 7 per cent.

This was rejected by the union which continued to fight on a local level by calling out 24 key design staff in Coventry and all other Coventry DATA members then applied sanctions (work to rule).

Letter

Rolls-Royce replied with a personal letter to each DATA member informing them that unless normal working was resumed their pay would be stopped from July 14.

On July 15 the company technically locked out 900 DATA members from its Parkside and Ansty factories in Coventry.

It is the reason for this change of tactics by the company from 1969 that is important and must be grasped if defeat is not to follow.

Behind Rolls-Royce's decision to take on DATA is its intention to rationalize its present wages structure, to make the labour force pay for its present economic troubles.

Rolls-Royce is in serious financial trouble. Their need to attack wages stems from:

(1) A fall in profits from £15.9 million in 1968 to £6.4 million in 1969 and a continuing fall expected through 1970 and 1971.

(2) A drop in share prices from 45s in 1968 to 11s at present for a pound share.

(3) The cost of development of its main new product, the RB-211, has risen from £70 million to over £100 million.

(4) The financial difficulties of the Lockheed Aircraft Co and the fact that it is now only expected to sell 175 of its L-1101 airbuses, instead of the original estimation of 350 aircraft, making it impos-

sible to recover the cost of research and development.

For Rolls-Royce the problem is to find new customers.

In Britain the only possibility is the BAC 311 engine which at present has no funds for development.

The European air bus contract has gone to Pratt and Whitney and in the USA Rolls-Royce has General Electric as well as Pratt and Whitney to contend with.

Rolls-Royce has put top management into the hands of so-called economic advisers.

From connections with Hambros Bank comes Mr Thomas Murrow, who, as well as five other directorships, is President of the Institute of Chartered Accounts of Scotland.

From Royal Dutch Shell comes Mr David Fleming and from British Rail fame comes Dr Beeching.

According to the 'Sunday Times', July 26, 'the company is looking hard at areas it could most easily hive off and since non-aero activities are relatively neither very large or very profitable, hiving off in some cases should be perfectly practicable.'

To do this, of course, would throw Rolls-Royce into even greater conflict with the American giants.

It is only through this conflict and the driving to the wall of one or more of these giants that profitability can be restored, because total output of aero engines, particularly in the civil field, outstrips total demand, as it does also in airframes.

Competition

This is why Lockheed is also in trouble. It has to compete with Boeing and Douglas.

It is this competition that has ended the British air-frame industry's position as a leading producer. This was the reason for the turn towards European joint ventures like Concorde and the air-bus.

So Rolls-Royce has no basic home market and last year home sales only accounted for £14 million out of a total of £100 million.

In order to compete Rolls-Royce must reduce its total wages bill.

This is the reason for the lock-out in the present DATA dispute.

Rolls-Royce says its 7 per cent offer would put £4.2 million on the total wages bill and the company can afford no more: also, that each

THE DOCKER AND HIS FAMILY

A SERIES OF WORKERS PRESS INTERVIEWS

'These stories of the highly-paid docker are a lot of nonsense. I've never seen this £35 wage they talk about...'

GEORGE McCRUDDEN has worked on the Royal docks in London for 12 years without ever experiencing the mythical £35 a week wage.

'The papers keep talking about this fabulous sum we are all supposed to get—I haven't seen it. Last year I earned about £1,400, this was with an average of three or four nights overtime,' he says.

Mr McCrudden is 'fortunate' enough to be sick, so for the moment he doesn't have to manage on £5-a-week strike pay.

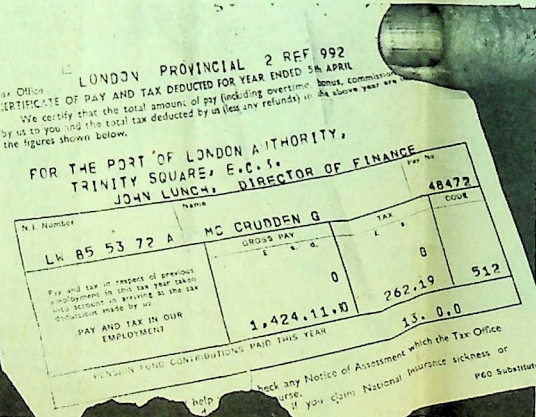
This is what he told us in his Canning Town council house shadowed by Ronan Point.

'You can see what the issues are behind this strike. In the next decade under Devlin the staff on the docks is going to be cut by 70 to 80 per cent.

'Phase Two is happening now, the machinery is on the dock at this moment.

Replaces men

'At Tilbury, for example, you have a grain terminal where two "legs" can unload 4,000 tons of grain in



Mr McCrudden's annual income shows that he receives, on average and after stoppages, just over £22 a week.

an hour. This replaces the grain hoppers and all the staff that used to work with them.

'I have been told they can even operate ships in Tilbury without any men at all. The demand for a decent basic is connected with all this, we want an insurance for the future.

'The point about pro-

ductivity is that the employers always gain; they don't give anything away. Now the last time there was a rise I was working for the PLA [Port of London Authority]. When we got the rise they increased the tonnage so we really didn't get anything out of it at all.

'This is what they will try to do again.

nearly 100 yards and at the end of a day I've been so tired I can hardly stand up.'

Other dockers claim that they only get a good pay packet once every two or three months and that then it only rose to about £27.

The rest of the time they would earn £16 minimum.

The S Wales ports grew up and declined with coal trade.

Co-operation

The dockers' leaders have been prepared to co-operate with the employers to halt

S. Wales

FROM PAGE ONE

'We have to work hard to get it. For example on a timber ship every piece has to be bundled separately and the pieces are very heavy. With fruit we have to stack the boxes in about six different places which may be up to 50 yards apart.

'Sometimes we have to carry the boxes at speed

Officials' actions anger Devon strikers

AFTER 12 weeks the strike of workers at Ottery Switchgear Ltd., at Ottery St Mary in Devon is entering a crucial stage.

The strike is for an increase in the basic rate of

work.



Royal Group, London, docker George McCrudden shows his yearly earnings slip.

'Even better would be nationalization, all the dockers want this.

Nationalize

'When Wilson was beaten in the election, people on the dock had their feet knocked from under them. Nationalization would have covered a lot of sins and complaints.

'Wilson should have introduced the bill earlier. I wished to hell he had.

'The other thing I would like to talk about is these stories of the highly-paid docker. This is a lot of nonsense. The average on these docks, for example my average earnings last year, were about £1,400.

'I have never seen this fabulous £35 wage they talk about. And to get what I did, I have to work three or four nights a week overtime, that is up until about 7 p.m. each night—say a ten-hour day.

'We're also annoyed about Jones, he had no authority to defer the strike. He was entirely out of order on this.

'I think there should be a change at the top, but you try to change it. Men won't

go to their branch meetings, at the most you will get about five.

'The times of these used to be about 7.30 in the evening, this gave people some time to get home and change, etc. But now they are 5.30 no one goes at this time, after a day's work they want to get home.

'At the moment on the dock we have a stewards' leadership. Since Devlin, they have been feeling their way and the union have been schooling them.

Took over

'This is the group that took over from Dash.

'The power of Jack Dash was this: You could go along to your delegates in the union and ask to be negotiated on a job, I have done it myself personally, and they would refuse to represent you.

'But Dash would always try to come along and sort it out.

'But anyway I don't know what is eventually going to happen down here.

'With Devlin the labour force is simply going to be cut to pieces—cut to pieces.'

Moscow tells Indo-Chinese 'defeat is inevitable'

WHILE THE Soviet bureaucracy finds Arab leaders only too willing to collaborate with imperialism against the national movement in the Middle East, it is becoming increasingly frustrated with resistance to a similar strategy in SE Asia.

In a Chinese-language broadcast to SE Asia a week ago, Moscow Radio openly called on the peoples of Indo-China to accept the victory of imperialism as inevitable.

Ignoring the whole history of the Indo-Chinese struggle, and especially the complete rout of the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, the broadcast stated:

'As US imperialism has expanded its aggression against Indo-China, the self-

Pearson

FROM PAGE ONE

unionist can accept this report.

'But Merseyside dockers always expect a retreat at some point. They're prepared for this and I'm certain they'll fight unofficially even if the delegates rat.'

But the dangers of what some dockers are beginning to call the passive strike are revealed in the comments of seamen on the situation.

NUS member Joe O'Rourke said 'At our branch meeting the question of seamen taking perishable goods to be dumped at sea was raised. It was stated by the NUS official that there had been no approach whatsoever by the T&GWU workers for solidarity or any communication as regards the present docks dispute.'

Another seaman, Sid Carthew, said:

'The Pearson inquiry into the seamen took two years to complete and resulted in defeat for us (seamen).

'The Tories see this as a test case for their incomes policy and anti-trade union laws. And the whole of the trade union movement must be mobilized in support of the dockers.'

Frank Lennon (NUS) added:

'The militant seamen feel that the dockers are quite justified in the fight for a £20 basic and deserve their full support.'

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

styled revolutionaries have asserted that "a weak nation can defeat a strong one; a small nation can defeat a big one; the people of a small country can certainly defeat aggression by a big country".

Opposed

The Stalinist peaceful co-existence policy is diametrically opposed to this contention. So the broadcast continues:

'Frankly speaking, such a policy has isolated the peoples of small countries. The peoples of small countries will inevitably be defeated in the anti-imperialist struggle because their strength is no match for that of imperialism.' (Our emphasis.)

Under the guise of attacking the Maoist theory of 'self-reliance' (itself a response to the treachery of the Soviet bureaucracy in Vietnam) the Kremlin recommends a line of

'No' to Pearson & Devlin

FROM PAGE ONE

other than to say that it is a significant advance on the previous offer of the employers.'

Not even the 'Daily Telegraph' has dared to go as far as Mr Jones.

This reactionary paper has been forced to point out that Liverpool dockers will gain nothing from the new overtime offer, whilst also find very little extra

tion in the docks.

Jones and O'Leary must go! Demand of your EC that all trade groups be

called out on strike when the troops go in!

Force the Tories to resign!

Crossroads

FROM PAGE ONE

Palestinian Arabs expelled from their homeland by the Zionists in the wars of 1948 and 1967.

foreign observers here is that both Mr Nasser and the Kremlin's leaders genuinely want a settlement if the price is right.'

The same writer notes that

troubles.

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WEATHER

London area, SE and central southern England, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Dry with sunny periods. Light afternoon showers. Near normal. Max. 20C (68F).

W Midlands, NW, SW and central northern England: Sunny periods, isolated showers. Near normal. Max. 18C (64F).

Edinburgh, Glasgow area: Dry and sunny. Isolated showers in afternoon. Cool. Max. 17C (63F).

N Ireland: Scattered showers at first. Dry later, with sunny periods. Rather cool. Max. 15C (59F).

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Dry and bright at first, but rain spreading from the West later. Temperatures about normal.

LATE NEWS

JUDGE KIDNAPPED

Armed men yesterday kidnapped Uruguayan Judge Daniel Manelli, who has handled cases dealing with members of the guerrilla movement. The kidnappers broke into his house and carried him off in a stolen car.

NASSER CLOSES COMMANDO STATION

(See page one)

In his first move against the Palestinian guerrillas, who oppose his deal with the US, Nasser yesterday closed down two Cairo-based Palestinian Commando radio stations. The betrayal of the Arab revolution has already begun.

COMMONS GAS: BELFAST MAN HELD

Scotland Yard detectives investigating the throwing of CS gas grenades in the House

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Rolls-Royce says its 7 per cent offer would put £4.2 million on the total wages bill and the company can afford no more; also that each extra 1 per cent on the total wages bill must mean a 3 per cent reduction in the labour force over the next five years.

This statement opens the door for a compromise, a settlement with strings attached.

This puts the DATA claim in line with the company's attempt to end piecework for manual workers.

Change

The lock-out cannot be fought as an economic struggle.

The workers' strategy must be changed to a political strategy to fight the company's and the Tory government's attacks.

At its centre must be the nationalization of Rolls-Royce as part of a nationalized aircraft industry producing aircraft for a co-ordinated transport industry under workers' control.

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Hartlepoons 'no' to compromise

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'The men are more determined than ever after a report in the local newspaper quoting Robinson, the managing director of the Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority, as saying that the dockers earn £1,800 a year without any mention of the excessive overtime that would have to be worked to get anything like this amount.

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'But under a local agreement if we work two hours overtime we only receive the basic rate for one hour.

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'We are also disgusted at the employers' splitting tactics by negotiating a £19 5s basic with the crane drivers, members of the NUR, only weeks before the strike.'

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In an area with unemployment twice the national average (40,000), the dockers' leaders have been concerned to work with the employers to build up trade in the ports.

But the price of these efforts was summed up by the dockers who told me: 'I rue the day I ever came to the docks. You have to work hard and fast and at the end of the day you just feel dead.'

PETER CROSSLEY (26) was fatally injured in a car accident on Saturday July 25 and died in hospital on July 27.

Peter was a member of the Stockton branch of the Socialist Labour League and developed as an enthusiastic worker for the Workers Press.

A computer systems analyst in Darlington, he first became active with the Young Socialists during the summer of 1969.

He was quickly attracted by the campaign to found the Workers Press as the first Trotskyist daily paper in the world, and began to give considerable help in the circulation of 'The Newsletter', predecessor of Workers Press.

In November 1969 he applied for membership of the Socialist Labour League and was admitted as a candidate member.

Since then he had become one of the mainstays of the work of the League in the Teesside area.

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This reactionary paper has been forced to point out that Liverpool dockers will gain nothing from the new overtime offer, whilst many pieceworkers 'will also find very little extra because their overtime is already at a rate well in excess of the time workers' 8s 3½d an hour.

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There is nothing fortuitous in Mr Jones' politics. Having accepted the Devlin Plan he must accept the Pearson report and all its implications.

Therefore to fight Pearson is to fight Devlin; to fight Devlin, is to oppose Jones and the Communist Party all down the line and build a new leadership in the docks industry which will not compromise on the £20 basic or the larger issue of 'modernization' and will fight for the nationalization of the industry under workers' control without compensation to the port bosses.

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'... it would mean a ban on fida'i [guerrilla] action consequently producing a conflict with the Palestinian Resistance.'

And that, of course, is the whole purpose of the deal so far as Nasser and the other nationalist government leaders are concerned.

The counter-revolutionary role of the Egyptian leadership is openly acknowledged and welcomed in the United States, where the deal was first contrived.

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foreign observers here is that both Mr Nasser and the Kremlin's leaders genuinely want a settlement if the price is right.'

The same writer notes that Nasser's line is reflected even in the new slogans adorning the hall where the Arab Socialist Union Congress is being held.

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To enforce the terms of the deal, Nasser will now join with Hussein in attacking the Jordan-based liberation movement.

FIRST STEPS

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Opposed

The Stalinist peaceful co-existence policy is diametrically opposed to this contention. So the broadcast continues:

'Frankly speaking, such a policy has isolated the peoples of small countries. The peoples of small countries will inevitably be defeated in the anti-imperialist struggle because their strength is no match for that of imperialism.' (Our emphasis.)

Under the guise of attacking the Maoist theory of 'self-reliance' (itself a response to the treachery of the Soviet bureaucracy in Vietnam) the Kremlin recommends a line of total capitulation to imperialism, and at a time when the puppet regimes in Saigon and Phnom Penh (recognized by the Kremlin) are faced with growing armed and mass opposition to their rule.

The history of guerrilla struggle against imperialism in S Vietnam and now Cambodia and Laos proves that workers and peasants of small semi-colonial countries can inflict defeats on even the most powerful and well-armed capitalist states.

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The NLF Test offensives of 1968 and 1969 established this for all time.

The immense sacrifices of the Indo-Chinese people have failed to produce final victory only because of Stalinist treachery at the conference table and in the embassies of Europe and America, and, above all, because of the refusal by the Stalinists and reformists to mobilize the working class of the imperialist countries for industrial action against the Indo-China war.

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His chances appear slim since the Social Democrats are still refusing to join any administration with the Socialists, no matter how right wing the programme, until Socialist-Communist co-operation at regional and local level is ended.

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troubles.

Rolls-Royce is in serious financial trouble. Their need to attack wages stems from:

(1) A fall in profits from £15.9 million in 1968 to £6.4 million in 1969 and a continuing fall expected through 1970 and 1971.

(2) A drop in share prices from 45s in 1968 to 11s at present for a pound share.

(3) The cost of development of its main new product, the RB-211, has risen from £70 million to over £100 million.

(4) The financial difficulties of the Lockheed Aircraft Co and the fact that it is now only expected to sell 175 of its L-1101 airbuses, instead of the original estimation of 350 aircraft, making it impos-

This is why Lockheed is also in trouble. It has to compete with Boeing and Douglas.

It is this competition that has ended the British air-frame industry's position as a leading producer. This was the reason for the turn towards European joint ventures like Concorde and the air-bus.

So Rolls-Royce has no basic home market and last year home sales only accounted for £14 million out of a total of £100 million.

In order to compete Rolls-Royce must reduce its total wages bill.

This is the reason for the lock-out in the present DATA dispute.

Rolls-Royce says its 7 per cent offer would put £4.2 million on the total wages bill and the company can afford no more; also that each extra 1 per cent on the total wages bill must mean a 3 per cent reduction in the labour force over the next five years.

This statement opens the door for a compromise, a settlement with strings attached.

This puts the DATA claim in line with the company's attempt to end piecemeal for manual workers.

Change

The lock-out cannot be fought as an economic struggle.

The workers' strategy must be changed to a political strategy to fight the company's and the Tory government's attacks.

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LATE NEWS

JUDGE KIDNAPPED

Armed men yesterday kidnapped Uruguayan Judge Daniel Manelli, who has handled cases dealing with members of the guerrilla movement. The kidnappers broke into his house and carried him off in a stolen car.

NASSER CLOSES COMMANDO STATION

(See page one)
In his first move against the Palestinian guerrillas, who oppose his deal with the US, Nasser yesterday closed down two Cairo-based Palestinian Commando radio stations. The betrayal of the Arab revolution has already begun.

COMMONS GAS: BELFAST MAN HELD

Scotland Yard detectives investigating the throwing of CS gas grenades in the House

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What we think One year of the Workers Press

IN A statement issued by the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League which appeared in the first number of Workers Press on September 27, 1969, we said:

'1970 will be an historic year for the Trotskyist movement. At last, after all the betrayals of social democracy and Stalinism, the working class of central and W Europe has within its grasp the political and theoretical resources for the construction of genuine mass revolutionary parties based on Marxism.'

The significance of a revolutionary daily paper is not only that it enables us to carry out more activity in the workers' movement, but that it insists upon a day to day analysis of what is taking place in the class struggle. We have passed through one year of such experience with impressive results.

By posing the need for a serious understanding of Marxist theory, we have created the largest group of steadfast supporters in our history. Since the election of a Tory government last June, the numbers are growing almost daily simply because the working class now feels that a showdown is coming and the more advanced layers want to be prepared.

It is appreciated that our paper, precisely because it

news agency services through four teletypes. This will be in addition to specialist monitoring services of overseas news.

We have almost completed the arrangements for four combined news and camera reporting teams in addition to our regular reporting staff. Within a few weeks we hope to be able to announce the release date of the first Workers Press film concerning events in the North of Ireland. Film-making is to be built up as a permanent feature of our news-team work.

At the same time we have drawn together the beginnings of what promises to be a very effective provincial news team. This has been a slow job over the past 12 months because most of our efforts have gone into the central work which is nearing completion. The most we could do in the provinces was to lay the groundwork for regular news stories. But that will be rapidly improved upon in the next few weeks.

When we launched the Workers Press we devoted a great deal of attention towards an accurate estimate of our basic costs. Because of rising prices, this wasn't

Heath throws down the gauntlet

BY THE EDITOR

MR HEATH'S TV interview on Thursday night is a clear warning to the working class and, in particular, to this year's Labour Party Conference delegates in Blackpool, that the Tories mean business.

Continuing his Seldon theme, Mr Heath reaffirmed Tory determination to legislate on 'industrial reform' and to stand up to a general strike of the unions regardless of consequences.

He dismissed the labour bureaucracy's objection to anti-union laws: 'I know there are going to be a great number of howls going up about it.'

The timing and content of Heath's speech proves to the hilt what we have said since June 18; that the trade union leaders' continued retreat on wages and unemployment would encourage Heath to increase the intensity and widen the scope of his attack.

It is no accident that Heath should have made his sinister speech on the same day that the unemployment figures were published.

Unemployment is to the Tories what carrion is to crows. They thrive on it.

Heath is fully aware that the deflationary Treasury and Bank of England policies, backed by the International Monetary Fund, are working and that the criterion of their efficiency is the index of unemployment.

Problem

MERSEYSIDE

Docks crisis must speed fight for nationalization

TWO PRONGS of Tory policy have come right out into the open with the scare announcement that Britain's second-largest port—Liverpool—faces a serious financial crisis.

BY DAVID MAUDE

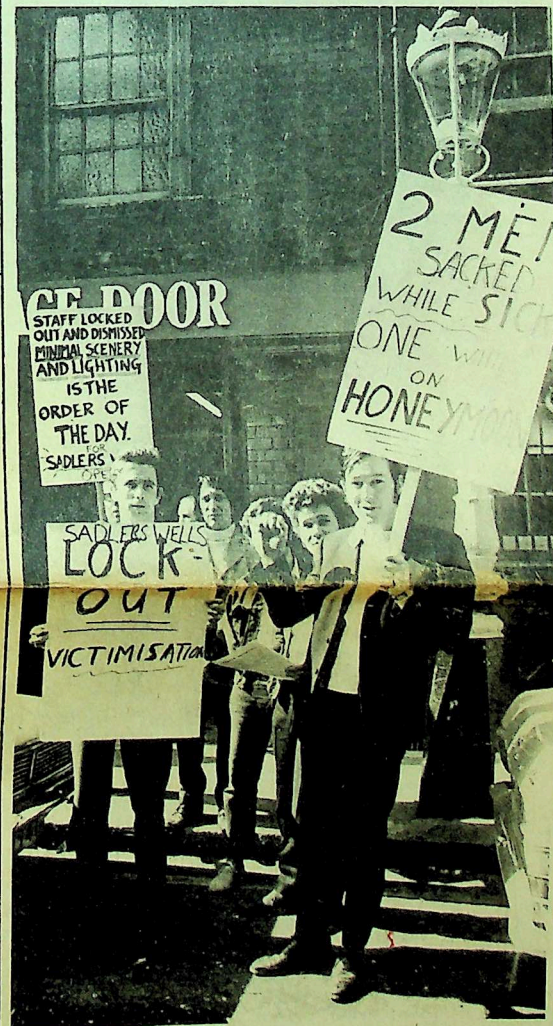
Minister of Transport John Peyton has immediately made clear that the Tories have no intention of bolstering loss-making industry in order to save jobs.

And a press campaign is already under way to try and pin at least part of the blame for the port's escalating losses on the dockers and their unions.

In line with Technology Minister John D

Feather
sees NUM
leaders

Pickets at the stage door of the Sadler's Wells Coliseum. Chris Isherwood and James Byrne in foreground were sacked, one while on holiday, the other while sick—without explanation by the management.



VICTOR FEATHER

The TUC general secretary in an exclusive interview with Workers Press reporter STEPHEN JOHNS



- Wages
- Anti-union laws
- Productivity and unemployment
- Victimization at Pilkington's glassworks

Talks to Workers Press

Stalinist and Nasserite
betrayal means

Guerrillas face serious set-back

BETRAYED by Stalinism, butchered in their thousands by Hussein's Bedouins, and menaced throughout by massive US intervention, the Arab guerrillas have suffered a serious reverse.

Commando leader Yassir Arafat's decision yesterday to sign a cease-fire agreement with the Jordanian royalists was above all brought about by the military pressure of the American war-machine.

Even though not a single US soldier or marine has so

BY ROBERT BLACK

far set foot on Jordanian soil, Nixon's massive concentration of forces in the E Mediterranean has set the pace for Hussein's pogrom of the Palestinians.

The imperialists hoped from the beginning that Hussein would crush the guerrillas without an open armed intervention from either the United States or Israel.

WITHDREW

Their hopes were based on the fact that the Syrian regime, responding to the pressure of Moscow, withdrew its armoured forces from North Jordan after inflicting severe defeats on the royalists.

A desert war cannot be fought without armour. The Stalinist-inspired Syrian withdrawal was therefore decisive, leaving the guerrillas exposed to the full fury of Hussein's tanks and planes.

So the Royalists, embold-

DATA strikers back ATUA conference

ROLLS-ROYCE draughtsmen, who themselves have been locked out of the firm's Coventry plant since July, have backed the All Trades Unions Alliance Pilkington's conference on October 3 by deciding to send a delegation.

Support for the conference has also come from



FLASH-BACK TO SEPTEMBER 1969: Imperial Father of the Plough Press National Graphical Association Chapel, Mr A Roa (left)—who recently moved a motion against Rudi Dutschke's deportation at the London Trades Council—seen with SLL national secretary G. Healy, looking at the very first issue of Workers Press as it rolled off the presses.

is a Marxist newspaper, cannot and will not pander to the backwardness of militancy which is separate from the historical tasks posed in the struggle for socialism. We are out to stimulate an interest in theory whilst at the same time demonstrating its significance in the way we approach all the struggles engaged in by the working class.

To do this Workers Press engages in a dialogue and at times a debate with its readers. This is its strength which explains at the same time why our readership is growing.

Our two great sources of support are undoubtedly the factories and the youth. It is from these sectors that we receive the regular contributions to the Fighting Fund, together with an ever-expanding readership.

From October 12 we shall be producing Workers Press six days a week and our plans for further expansion are by no means over. We are convinced that we shall be able to build up a circulation that will enable us to go forward to the inclusion of additional pages in the not too distant future.

Together with a continuous effort to improve the political effectiveness of the paper, we are about to embark on the most ambitious project of news gathering.

We are pleased to say that we have now built up a team of reporters who have become very experienced in their work. In addition, thanks to the training some of them have received on the capitalist press, we are able to employ really talented efforts towards the gathering of news.

From October 1 we will have a full complement of Press Association and Reuters

easy. But the groundwork we put in has paid off. The publication of the six-day Workers Press will mean a substantial increase in costs. This we estimate to be in the region of £300 a week. We have proposed therefore to increase our campaign fund from £1,000 to £1,250 a month. Since already we receive over £1,000 each month, this should not be difficult.

We are appealing for 1,000 six-day subscribers which will be, in addition, to an increase of over 2,000 copies a day in circulation.

We are confident now, just as we were confident last year when we started the Workers Press, that we can achieve these results.

We say this because we know that the working class is on the move against the Tories and the employers which in turn contributes powerfully to the building up of the revolutionary forces. We are confident that our readers will respond as enthusiastically as they have done over the past year.

FINAL WEEKEND-- £470 12s STILL TO BE RAISED FOR SEPTEMBER £1000 APPEAL FUND

YESTERDAY'S post was disappointing. We received only £25 0s 0d, giving us a total of £529 8s 0d for the fund. This is our last weekend and we must make this the biggest effort yet. We need to raise £470 12s by September 30. We know with a massive fight we can do it. We appeal to all our readers—begin the campaign immediately. Make sure that all money arrives first post Monday morning. Send your donations to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

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Problem

Without a rapid and massive growth of unemployment the Tory wage-cutting and union-bashing policy becomes problematical.

But this accounts for only part of Tory optimism. The rest can, and must, be attributed to the trade union leaders.

Mr Heath said there must be a proper process of bargaining between unions and employers.

The dock strike resulted in one of the lowest settlements of recent months. This lesson, he added, had got home and the GKN dispute ended with acceptance of an offer which was made at the beginning. 'The country has to learn this lesson' he said. ('The Times', September 25, 1970.)

Mr Heath is right. The trade union leaders are retreating so fast that the Tories are running out of breath keeping up with them.

The reply of Mr Feather succinctly epitomizes the political bankruptcy of this group of people, while clearly indicating their line of flight.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 5

nationalization

TWO PRONGS of Tory policy have come right out into the open with the scare announcement that Britain's second-largest port—Liverpool—faces a serious financial crisis.

BY DAVID MAUDE

Minister of Transport John Peyton has immediately made clear that the Tories have no intention of bolstering loss-making industry in order to save jobs.

And a press campaign is already under way to try and pin at least part of the blame for the port's escalating losses on the dockers and their unions.

In line with Technology Minister John Davies' recent statement on Palmer's Tyne ship-repair yard, which closed yesterday, Peyton stressed that while loans for the new Seaforth container complex would continue under existing agreements this 'does not imply acceptance of responsibility for financial losses'.

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board—which has been warned by its accountants, merchant bankers and legal advisers it may have to cease operations at the end of this year—must, he says, proceed with its plans to reach viability 'with vigour and speed'.

Charges up

All port charges were increased yesterday by an average of 25 per cent.

But the chief import of Peyton's statement is that the port authorities and employers must go full steam ahead with their plans to make the dockers pay for a crisis not of their making.

The press attack—opened up in Liverpool's 'Daily Post' yesterday—forms the second prong of this strategy; to frighten union leaders into whipping their members in line behind speed-up and labour-cuts under the second phase of Lord Devlin's 'modernization' scheme.

Co-operation

'On the part of the unions and the men,' says the 'Post', 'it demands an end to the crippling strikes, particularly the unofficial stoppages, and the utmost co-operation in modernizing the port.'

And it complains that 'union opposition to recruitment over the last four years—due to fear of

● PAGE FOUR COL. 1

Feather sees NUM leaders

TUC SECRETARY Mr Victor Feather had informal talks yesterday with National Union of Mineworkers' leaders to discuss the present pay deadlock.

The union's executive is calling on Britain's 292,000 miners to support official strike action through a ballot to be held during the week commencing October 12.

The miners have turned down the NCB's 37s 6d to 50s-a-week offer.

● See page four: Jobs and pit pay fight.

Council workers' action

Hot speech for lukewarm policy

ALAN FISHER, leader of the National Union of Public Employees, replied to Edward Heath's television attack on the union's pay struggle.

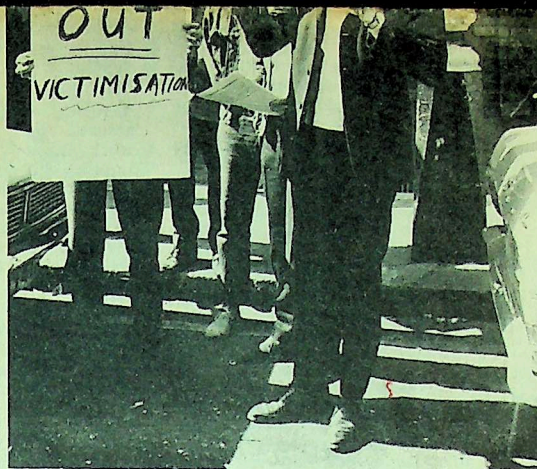
He accused Heath of trying to provoke strikes by lower-paid workers and using them as an excuse for new laws to curb the unions.

'Nothing,' he added, 'could be more calculated to unite the whole of the trade union movement against Mr Heath and his government.'

Very high-sounding, but it hardly accords with NUPE's luke-warm policy of selective strikes of carefully-chosen key operatives, which seem likely to leave the bulk of the 750,000 public authority workers in work.

EXTRA TIME FOR RUDI

THE HOME Secretary has offered to consider extending the stay in Britain of Rudi Dutschke, the former German student leader, if he is not ready to leave by September 30. In a letter to Dutschke and his wife the Home Secretary makes it clear he thinks September 30 is adequate time, but will allow extra time for them to make 'alternative arrangements'.



Stage-hands still picket theatre

SACKED STAGEHANDS will make a call at a Brighton conference this weekend for other workers in London's theatreland to back their fight against Sadler's Wells Opera Company.

The 34 men employed by the company at their Coliseum Theatre have been sacked and locked-out for refusing to work a productivity deal which would reduce their weekly earnings by at least £10.

Each day pickets patrolling the theatre entrance face police, some with guard dogs, and management have sacked drivers who joined the line last Saturday.

But support is growing among other West End theatre workers who have pledged sympathetic action if necessary.

The lock-out will be dis-

● PAGE FOUR COL. 8

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

CONFERENCE

The Pilkington struggle and the right to strike

Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws

St George's Hall, Lime St
LIVERPOOL

Saturday October 3

2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Credentials and visitors' cards 5s each from Conference Secretary, W. Hunter, 58 Leighton View, Liverpool 8.

far set foot on Jordanian soil, Nixon's massive concentration of forces in the E Mediterranean has set the pace for Hussein's pogrom of the Palestinians.

The imperialists hoped from the beginning that Hussein would crush the guerrillas without an open armed intervention from either the United States or Israel.

WITHDREW

Their hopes were based on the fact that the Syrian regime, responding to the pressure of Moscow, withdrew its armoured forces from North Jordan after inflicting severe defeats on the royalists.

A desert war cannot be fought without armour. The Stalinist-inspired Syrian withdrawal was therefore decisive, leaving the guerrillas exposed to the full fury of Hussein's tanks and planes.

So the Royalists, emboldened by the knowledge that the Kremlin was strenuously opposing any Syrian backing for the guerrillas in the North, did their bloody, murderous best to carry out Nixon's strategy.

The incredible courage of the Palestinians, and the Royalist massacres in the refugee camps, are now beginning to take their toll even in the ranks of Hussein's government.

Prime Minister Mohammed Daoud's resignation and call for a new 'civilian national government that would work for Jordan's national unity' is only the visible tip of the iceberg.

ALIENATED

A Palestinian by birth, Daoud reflects the fear of many government supporters that the Royalists have permanently alienated and embittered not only the Palestinians, but millions of Arabs throughout the Middle East.

They sense that whatever the tactical military gains Hussein may secure in the next days or weeks, the Palestinian uprising has inspired millions of Arabs in the Middle East to renew their struggle against imperialism.

The guerrillas have proved that it can be done, while Hussein has equally clearly demonstrated that the Arab ruling class are in the pockets of imperialism.

Nixon and the Zionists, as well as Hussein, badly miscalculated the profoundly popular roots of the guerrilla movement.

Fearing a deal between Hussein and the more moderate guerrilla leaders, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon warned Hussein against permitting any compromise with the guerrillas.

'I warn the King that he will be in even more trouble than he was before if he does this.'

● PAGE FOUR COL. 4

to sign a cease-fire agreement with the Jordanian royalists was above all brought about by the military pressure of the American war-machine.

Even though not a single US soldier or marine has so

DATA strikers back ATUA conference

ROLLS-ROYCE draughtsmen, who themselves have been locked out of the firm's Coventry plant since July, have backed the All Trades Unions Alliance Pilkington's conference on October 3 by deciding to send a delegation.

Support for the conference has also come from Deptford Scientific Workers' branch which has voted to support the Pilkington conference and elected two delegates.

THE CAMPAIGN for the reinstatement of the sacked Pilkington's glassworkers at St Helens has been joined by Sheffield No 2 branch of the Amalgamated Society of Painters and Decorators which has passed a resolution calling on the National Federation of Construction Unions and its affiliated bodies to support the national blacking of Pilkington glass.

The branch felt that this action was necessary to the fight against the Tory government's proposed anti-trade-union laws.

Jack Grasby, secretary of South Shields Trades Council, told Workers Press:

'It's quite obvious from yesterday's unemployment figures the struggle of workers on Tyneside is the same as those in St Helens and the Merseyside for the basic right to work, the right to organize and the right to strike.'

'The October 3 conference deserves every support.'

Wages

Stephen Johns in an exclusive Workers Press interview with TUC general secretary Victor Feather

Unemployment wages and the Pilkington dispute



SJ: Mr Robert Carr, Minister of Technology for Employment and Productivity, has made it clear that the government intends to resist all the way wage increases like those of the miners' and the local government manual workers'.

Is the TUC General Council going to actively support these claims and how will it resist any intervention by the Tory government?

VF: We have heard this kind of talk before from a Tory government.

Mr Carr has two hats, you see; he has a politician's hat and a Minister's hat. I think on Saturday [September 19], when he was speaking to a Conservative association, he was prodded by his right-wing. I think he feels that many Conservatives believe him to be too liberal, that they want him to be more forthright and aggressive.

You see the Conservative Party is not as united as it would like to be. They have the wild men on the back benches who are out to do the moderates and hit the unions. But you have the other kind of Conservative who realizes that you have to live in this world and exist on a practical basis.

SJ: But should they intervene on these pay claims, what would the TUC do?

VF: Well that's a hypothetical question. At the moment we have been assured by the government that they do not intend to intervene in the public sector or the private sector.

Last night [Tuesday, September 22], we had talks with the heads of nationalized industries and they assured us that the government had given no directives on the wages question.

We have found this too in the public sector. I know the secretary of the employers' side of the Joint Industrial Council [non-manual workers in local government] has had no directives and I know the people responsible for the fire brigades have none.

So it seems to me there is no directive from the government.

SJ: But suppose they did intervene?

VF: I would prefer not to deal with that particular question, you know that. My approach is that I deal with a situation as it arises. I might have ideas about what I will do, but I do not necessarily publicise them.

SJ: There was this talk at Brighton about an offensive wages strategy.

VF: Yes this was the phrase that was used.

I don't know if I would use

on high wages than you do with the lower paid. I would rather talk about flat-rate money increases therefore—this brings about more equalitarian attitudes on the question of wages.

SJ: Are the TUC discussing specifically how such a strategy is to be put into practice?

VF: Not at the moment. I think these are early days. The TUC does not normally intervene in wage negotiations. As a policy body we will be talking about wages and prices.

There is at the moment all this concentration on wages. We would like to talk about wages in relation to prices, to profits, to dividends and to

bring about a peaceful social revolution.

Therefore I don't believe in industrial action for political ends. I think that the democratic processes and the lawful means that exist for exercising pressures on governments are the ones we should use.

There will be demonstrations and they will be organized by the TUC and the affiliated unions to convince the public that this legislation is harmful to industrial relations.

SJ: One of the things you said at Brighton was 'the TUC does not sing one song when Labour are in power and another song when the Conservatives are in power', and that 'the unions are not

federation of British Industry told the Chancellor that there ought to be some modest reflation to facilitate an increase in demand.

If there is this increase in demand, workpeople will be assured that they will not work themselves out of a job. It also gives encouragement to management to invest in the knowledge that they will be able to sell the goods that they produce. It will also bring employment for the unemployed.

SJ: Do you think that you will be able to persuade a Tory government to reflate?

VF: It will not just be the leadership of the unions that

trades councils have called a one-day strike against unemployment in their areas. Would you support this?

VF: No I would not. I don't think this is the way to do it. I don't think by a lot of people staying away from work that they are increasing the opportunities for other people to work. I think this is cutting off one's nose to spite one's face.

SJ: But mere pressure has not worked at Palmer's has it?

VF: That's perfectly true, perfectly true. But I think this is the only way. It's not so dramatic as striking—but then there is nothing dramatic in being unemployed.

believe, and many workers believe, that wage increases are only being won today because workers are paying for them by speed-up and labour cuts; in the guise of productivity deals, Measured-Day Work and job evaluation. Such deals create redundancy....

VF: There is this fear of redundancy. But I believe with productivity deals you get greater use of mechanical operation, you get greater use of capital investment on the basis of being able to sell a greater amount of products.

For this, of course, you must get increased demand or people will be working themselves out of a job. This is why I want increased demand. So that people will know they

signed a document together with Lord Cooper of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and Gerry Caughey of the Pilkington's rank-and-file-committee....

VF: What sort of document was this?

SJ: I have it here.

VF: This is an agreement between the parties, I was only the chairman.

SJ: The point is there was this agreement made.

VF: Between the parties, that's right.

SJ: And yourself?

VF: No, it was an agreement

of signing anyway. If I had signed it, it would only have been a matter of counter-signing an agreement to which I was not a party, you see.

Anyway we are not playing around with words. This was a row with the rank-and-file committee and the union. I got the two parties together as, I hope, an honest broker. I also arranged another meeting, I was here [TUC headquarters] the rank-and-file committee was here, but I regret to say the union did not come. I'm sorry about this, but I am not criticizing anyone.

SJ: To go onto the broader issue. After the settlement of the dispute, 250 men were sacked because they

no directive from the government.

SJ: But suppose they did intervene?

VF: I would prefer not to deal with that particular question, you know that. My approach is that I deal with a situation as it arises. I might have ideas about what I will do, but I do not necessarily publicise them.

SJ: There was this talk at Brighton about an offensive wages strategy.

VF: Yes this was the phrase that was used.

I don't know if I would use exactly the same phrase. I suppose an 'offensive wages strategy' means, to a degree, a defensive wages strategy.

I hope we are using the word offensive in the sense that we should concentrate rather more on improving the pay of the lower-wage workers.

But I wouldn't describe this as an offensive strategy; these are emotive words. I would call it an intelligent wages strategy, one with a bit of humanity about it, one that will bring about increases for the lower-paid workers, without necessarily causing expectation of the same increases among the higher paid.

I would, in fact, like to see more talk about flat-rate increases rather than percentage increases. Because with percentage increases you get much bigger rises for people

Because of the importance of this interview part two of Peter Jeffries' series PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY is postponed until next week.

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.

Name

Address

with the lower paid. I would rather talk about flat-rate money increases therefore—this brings about more equalitarian attitudes on the question of wages.

SJ: Are the TUC discussing specifically how such a strategy is to be put into practice?

VF: Not at the moment. I think these are early days. The TUC does not normally intervene in wage negotiations. As a policy body we will be talking about wages and prices.

There is at the moment all this concentration on wages. We would like to talk about wages in relation to prices, to profits, to dividends and to investment. We have to think of real wages rather than money wages.

Anti-union laws

SJ: Would it be correct to say that you are opposed to strike action taken by unions and unionists to defeat the Conservative government's anti-union legislation and, also, would you be opposed to any political campaign that involved industrial action to make the government resign on this issue?

VF: I believe that the democratic process is the best safeguard there is for the protection of workers. It has its shortcomings—I recognise these—but I don't think industrial action for political purposes is the best way of securing necessary reforms.

I use the word reform in the proper sense here, that is the accumulation of reforms to

Therefore I don't believe in industrial action for political ends. I think that the democratic processes and the lawful means that exist for exercising pressures on governments are the ones we should use.

There will be demonstrations and they will be organized by the TUC and the affiliated unions to convince the public that this legislation is harmful to industrial relations.

SJ: One of the things you said at Brighton was 'the TUC does not sing one song when Labour are in power and another song when the Conservatives are in power', and that 'the unions are not looking for a showdown with the government'.

VF: That's right. What we think is that twice two equals four whether it's Labour arithmetic, Conservative arithmetic or Communist arithmetic.

We say, in other words, that the problem is as much economic as political. Governments come and governments go. They make an impact, but rarely on economic problems. It's a solution to the economic problems we are looking for and you don't solve these by swapping governments.

Unemployment

SJ: The TUC and the whole of the Congress is on record as saying that there must be a reduction in the number of unemployed. The policy seems so far to have been one of discussions and pressure on the Tory government.

I am talking particularly of discussions recently with Mr John Davies, Ministry of Technology, over the closure of Palmer's shipyard in the North East. After these Davies made a quite blunt press statement that he was not going to do anything about redundancies at Palmer's.

Just how are you going to fight unemployment?

VF: The only way you can fight unemployment is to compel government to change its attitudes. We are having some success. Our advice—to increase demand—has been taken up in such influential quarters as the National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

And this week we made some impact when the Con-

told the Chancellor that there ought to be some modest reflation to facilitate an increase in demand.

If there is this increase in demand, workpeople will be assured that they will not work themselves out of a job. It also gives encouragement to management to invest in the knowledge that they will be able to sell the goods that they produce. It will also bring employment for the unemployed.

SJ: Do you think that you will be able to persuade a Tory government to reflate?

VF: It will not just be the leadership of the unions that will do this, but public opinion as a whole. I don't think that any government likes to be unpopular and I think democracy works. I think democracy is free speech, free discussion, argument.

I think governments can change their minds; if I didn't think this I would be doing something else.

SJ: On the question of unemployment, you may have seen in the Workers Press that South Shields and Kirkby

employment in their areas. Would you support this?

VF: No I would not. I don't think this is the way to do it. I don't think by a lot of people staying away from work that they are increasing the opportunities for other people to work. I think this is cutting off one's nose to spite one's face.

SJ: But mere pressure has not worked at Palmer's has it?

VF: That's perfectly true, perfectly true. But I think this is the only way. It's not so dramatic as striking—but then there is nothing dramatic in being unemployed.

I think the way to do it is by a lot of pushing, showing, arguing and stressing the case all the time.

Productivity

SJ: The other thing that is of increasing interest now is the issue of productivity deals. We

believe that wage increases are only being won today because workers are paying for them by speed-up and labour cuts; in the guise of productivity deals, Measured-Day Work and job evaluation. Such deals create redundancy....

VF: There is this fear of redundancy. But I believe with productivity deals you get greater use of mechanical operation, you get greater use of capital investment on the basis of being able to sell a greater amount of products.

For this, of course, you must get increased demand or people will be working themselves out of a job. This is why I want increased demand. So that people will know they are using machinery for better effect and not working themselves out of a job.

SJ: But to go back to productivity. You praised the fact that 3,000 productivity deals have been signed this year....

VF: That's right.

SJ: But are you not, by supporting this policy, increasing the pool of unemployed through redundancy a thing that you on the one hand deplore?

VF: No... sorry. You see I'm not just taking productivity on its own. It's part of a programme which includes increased demand.

Because if you don't improve demand as well, you are perfectly right, improved productivity will increase unemployment.

SJ: It all depends, then, on the Conservative government reflation. Do you believe they will do this?

VF: I didn't say that. I said that pressures must be on for them to do this. There must be pressures on every government. This is one of the first things that you are taught on the Workers Press. Governments must be pressurized because governments are naturally conservative.

Pilkingtons

SJ: To return to a particular issue that is of great concern to the Workers Press, an issue on which we have launched a campaign. This is the Pilkington's victimization. Now you

with Lord Cooper of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and Gerry Caughey of the Pilkington's rank-and-file committee....

VF: What sort of document was this?

SJ: I have it here.

VF: This is an agreement between the parties, I was only the chairman.

SJ: The point is there was this agreement made.

VF: Between the parties, that's right.

SJ: And yourself?

VF: No, it was an agreement made at a meeting at which I was chairman. I'm sorry, you

signed it, it would only have been a matter of counter-signing an agreement to which I was not a party, you see.

Anyway we are not playing around with words. This was a row with the rank-and-file committee and the union. I got the two parties together as, I hope, an honest broker. I also arranged another meeting, I was here [TUC headquarters] the rank-and-file committee was here, but I regret to say the union did not come. I'm sorry about this, but I am not criticizing anyone.

SJ: To go onto the broader issue. After the settlement of the dispute, 250 men were sacked because they struck in support of a man who wanted a representative of his choice

At the meeting held at Congress House today, May 22,

between Mr Victor Feather, General Secretary of the

TUC, and the Rank and File Strike Committee and the

General Secretary and officers and representatives

of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, agreement

was reached as follows

(a) all the parties concerned agreed that there

would be no victimisation of any kind of any

individual or group of individuals and that

every endeavour would be made to remove present

tensions at Pilkington's

(b) the local GMWU representatives at Pontypool

would make representations to the management for

the reinstatement or re-employment of the twenty-

seven workers at Pontypool whose employment had been

terminated

The May agreement reached at the TUC headquarters

see I don't go to Pilkington's, I don't work at Pilkington's, I don't work at St Helens and I don't work at Pontypool.

The unions were there, the rank-and-file committee were there. I was only seeking to help these two parties to get together. This was an agreement reached between parties that were under my chairmanship, it was the maximum that I could do at the time.

SJ: I was under the impression that you did sign.

VF: No, that was a press statement. It's not a question

to speak for him in a disagreement with management.

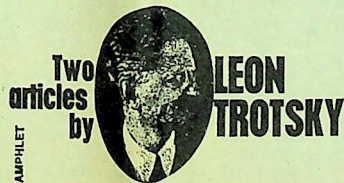
Also the 127 men at Pontypool remain sacked. The local union representative there has accepted management's claim that there are no more vacancies at Pontypool.

You are in the leadership of the trades union movement. We would like to know what you have done about this situation and what you are going to do.

VF: I am sorry. If people take my advice then I accept responsibility. If they don't take my advice then I can't take responsibility.

IMPORTANT READING

MARXISM and the TRADE UNIONS



Two articles by LEON TROTSKY

Trade unions in the epoch of imperialist decay. Communism and syndicalism.

Available from New Park Publications 186A Clapham High St. SW4.

Price: 3s. 6d.

If people insist in doing things a different way to what I advise, that's their decision, not mine. I believe that if my advice had been accepted, then these further difficulties would not have arisen.

SJ: What was your advice?
VF: Well I don't want to go into detail here. But my advice was for the men to get back inside the union and to use the machinery there.

If they had done and had met impediments, then I would accept some degree of responsibility. You see I knew there was a committee of inquiry...

SJ: The sacking occurred after the inquiry.

VF: That's right, but I gave my advice before then. But I am sorry. I will act and be held responsible for my own advice but I can't be held responsible if people don't accept it.

SJ: I am not suggesting you should be held entirely responsible for what has happened. After all it was the Pilkington's management who sacked the men. What I want to draw your attention to is that there are 250 men being victimized on Merseyside, they can't get jobs...

VF: I regret that very much.

SJ: ... don't you feel you ought to do something about this?

VF: No.

SJ: They are, after all, in many ways defending the right to strike?

VF: That's what you think.

SJ: Well they were sacked for going on strike.

VF: That may well be. But this is not the way I would have done it at Pilkington's. I am sorry, this is something you and I will not agree on.

I want to put on record here that my advice was given. I think it was helpful advice, that if it had been carried out these difficulties would not have arisen.

I would still give them advice.

But I'm not too sure the men would accept it or that the union would afford them facilities for carrying out the advice. This is the trouble.

SJ: There is still the clear issue of the Pontypool men. These workers are in the union. They were sacked in the course of the main strike, but they remain to this day outside the plant. The union are not doing anything about this yet this was a specific undertaking of the agreement.

VF: Well you should ask the union about that.

SJ: But as chairman of the original meeting, don't you feel that you have a responsibility to point this out to the union? That is what I am trying to say.

VF: No, what was done was carried out. I was only involved at the start.

SJ: So you don't feel you can do anything about these two issues?

SATURDAY

BBC 1

11.40 a.m. Time machines. 12.40 p.m. Weather. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 Football preview. 1.10 Fight of the week: Featherweight Championship of Scotland. 1.35 Speedway. 1.50, 2.20, 3.25, 4.30 Racing from Ascot. 2.05, 2.35, 4.45 International athletics: Great Britain v W Germany. 3.00, 3.45 Rugby league: Hull v Wigan. 4.55 Results service. 5.20 Pink Panther show. 5.40 News and weather. 5.50 Here's Lucy. 6.15 SHOW OF THE NORTH. Artists from America, Brazil, Ireland, England and Scotland. 6.45 HIGH ADVENTURE. 'Gunman's Walk'. With Van Heflin, Tab Hunter, Kathryn Grant and James Darren. A tough oldtimer who tries to bring his sons up in his own image finds he has raised a gunfighter. 8.15 THE HARRY SECOMBE SHOW. 9.00 BEN TRAVERS FARCES. 'A Cuckoo in the Nest'. With Arthur Lowe and Richard Briers. 9.50 NEWS and weather. 10.05 MATCH OF THE DAY. 11.05 SOMEWHERE UP THERE. Entertainment from the North. 11.40 CONFERENCE REPORT 70. Liberal Party Assembly. 11.50 WEATHER.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as BBC 1 except: Midlands, E Anglia, North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: SW, South, West. 11.52 Weather. Scotland: 3.00-3.25 Swimming. 5.00-5.20 and 10.05-10.35 Sportrel. 10.35-11.05 Monty Python's flying circus. 11.52 News, weather. Wales: 11.20-11.40 Cadi ha. 5.50-6.15 Iris. 10.45-11.05 Match of the day. 11.52 Weather. N Ireland: 5.05-5.20 Sports results and news summary. 11.05-11.40 Sports final.

BBC 2

10.30 a.m. Liberal Party Assembly 1970. Rt. Hon. Jeremy Thorpe addresses the final session. 3.00-4.25 p.m. Saturday cinema: 'Dragon Wells Massacre'. With Barry Sullivan and Denis O'Keefe. 7.30 NEWS, SPORT and weather. 7.45 DISCO 2. 8.15 GREAT ZOOS OF THE WORLD. 'Frankfurt'. 8.45 GARDENERS' WORLD. With Percy Thrower. 9.00 CHRONICLE. 'Cadbury, Silbury and the Barbarians'. Excavation. 9.50 THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL. 'Revolt'. 10.35 ROWAN AND MARTIN'S LAUGH-IN. 11.25 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 11.30 MIDNIGHT MOVIE: 'Portrait in Black'. With Lana Turner and Anthony Quinn. Murder mystery.

ITV

9.30 a.m. Liberal Party Assembly. 11.45 Cartoon. 'A Rainy Day'. 11.50 RAC road report. 11.55 Climbing. 12.20 p.m. Climbing. 12.45 News from ITN. 12.50 World of sport. 12.55 On the ball. 1.20 They're off! 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Market Rasen. 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Catterick. 3.10 International sports special. 'Skol Six-day Cycle Race' from the Empire Pool, Wembley. 3.55 Results, scores, news. 4.00 Wrestling from Bolton. 4.55 Results service. 5.10 Stewpot. 5.40 Foreset rangers. 6.10 NEWS FROM ITN. 6.15 THE BEVERLY HILLBILLIES. 'The Clampetts in London'. 6.45 NO, THAT'S ME OVER HERE. Ronnie Corbett with Rosemary Leach and Gillian Lind. 7.15 CROWTHER'S IN TOWN. With Leslie Crowther, Libby Morris, Kathy Kirby and Clive Dunn. 8.00 HAWAII FIVE-O. 'The One With The Gun'. 9.00 FRAUD SQUAD. 'The White Abyss'. 10.00 NEWS FROM ITN. 10.15 THE FROST PROGRAMME. David Frost. 11.15 THINK TWICE. With Russell Davies and Clive James. 11.30 REFLECTION. William Rushton Reflects on Lord Northcliffe. 11.55 FROM ONE POINT OF VIEW.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 12.45 London. 5.10 Road West. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, that's me over here. 7.30 Film: 'Adventures of Sherlock Holmes'. With Basil Rathbone and Eillea Jones. 8.00 London. 10.15 Theatre. 11.15 Frost. 12.10 Weather. WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.50-11.45 a.m. London. 12.10 a.m. Faith for life. 12.15 Weather. SOUTHERN: 10.45-11.45 London. 12.17 Weather. 12.20 Mr Piper. 12.45 London. 5.15 Cowboy in Africa. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 Film: 'Hilda Crane'. With Jean Simmons. 8.30 No, that's me over here. 9.00 London. 11.15 News. 11.20 Name of the game. 12.45 Weather. Action 70. HARLECH: 10.00-11.45 Liberal Assembly. 12.15 Skippy. 12.45 Lon-

SUNDAY

BBC 1

9.00-9.30 a.m. Nai zindagi-nayan jeevan. 11.00-11.30 Seeing and believing. 1.25-1.50 p.m. Farming. 1.55 The education programme. 2.20 Made in Britain. 2.29 News headlines. 2.30 In a class of their own. 'What a daft question—find out!' 3.00 Film for the family: 'Missouri Traveller'. With Lee Marvin. 4.40 Asterix the Gaul. Cartoon film from France. 4.50 Golden silents. 'The Great Stone Face'. 5.15 Going for a song. 5.40 The Black Tulip. 6.05 NEWS and weather. 6.15 MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE asks the question why. 6.50 HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE. 7.25 DR FINLAY'S CASEBOOK. 'Comin' Thro' The Rye'. 8.15 IN TIME OF WAR. 'Yangtse Incident'. With Richard Todd, William Hartnell, Akim Tamiroff and Donald Houston. Story of the HMS Amethyst's run down down the Yangtse river in 1949. 10.05 NEWS and weather. 10.20 OMNIBUS. 'Shapes in a Wilderness'. A...

don. 5.10 No, That's me over here. 5.40 Sky's the limit. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 Love, American style. 8.00 London. 11.15 Name of the game. 12.40 Weather.

HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 6.15-7.00 Rhifedd O Fyd.

ANGLIA: 9.30-11.45 London. 12.15 All our yesterdays. 12.45 London. 5.40 Sky's the limit. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, that's me over here. 7.30 'Stage to Tucson'. With Rod Cameron, Wayne Morris and Sally Eilers. Western. 9.00 London. 11.15 Name of the game. 12.35 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30-11.45 London. 12.15 Joe 90. 12.45 London. 5.10 No, that's me over here. 5.40 Jokers wild. 6.10 London. 6.15 'Crowther's in town. 7.00 Your stars tomorrow. 7.03 Film: 'Roustabout'. With Elvis Presley, Barbara Stanwyck, Joan Freeman and Lief Erickson. A tough young man joins a carnival as a handyman and sings to a singing star. 8.50 Popeye. 10.15 Theatre. 11.15 Frost, weather.

ULSTER: 9.30-11.45 London. 12.30 Wind in the willows. 12.45 London. 5.10 Flipper. 5.40 Sportscast. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, That's me over here. 7.30 Film: 'On the Double'. With Danny Kaye, Margaret Rutherford, Dana Wynter, Diana Dors, and Wilfrid Hyde White. A GI is forced to impersonate a Blimpish British general. 9.00 London. 10.15 Theatre. 11.15 Frost.

YORKSHIRE: 10.00 London. 11.45 Better dog. 12.10 Training the dog. 12.30 Cartoon. 12.45 London. 5.15 Gunsmoke. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, that's me over here. 7.30 'Flying Leathernecks'. With John Wayne and Robert Ryan. Conflict between two pilots at Guadalcanal continues when they are re-united at a California training school. 9.00 London. 10.10 This is... Tom Jones. 11.10 Human jungle. 12.05 Weather.

GRANADA: 10.15 London. 11.45 Casting around. 12.10 Climbing. 12.35 Cartoon. 12.45 London. 5.10 Greatest show on earth. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, that's me over here. 7.30 Tough guys: 'The Over the Hill gang'. With Walter Brennan, Pat O'Brien, Chill Willis and Edgar Buchanan. Four Texas Rangers try to clean up a mob-ruled town. 8.50 Cartoon. 9.00 London. 10.10 Film: 'The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner'. With Michael Redgrave and Tom Courtenay.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 12.15 Joe 90. 12.45 London. 5.15 Bonanza. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, That's me over here. 7.30 Film: 'Law of the Lawless'. Starring Dale Robertson and Yvonne De Carlo. A man is on trial for his life in a small western town. 9.00 London. 10.10 Big Brother. 11.10 Frost. 12.10 Psalm.

BORDER: 9.30-11.45 Liberal Assembly. 11.50 All our yesterdays. 12.20 Phoenix Five. 12.45 London. 5.10 Bir Valley. 6.05 Sports results. 6.10 News, weather. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, That's me over here. 7.30 'Carter's Army'. With Stephen Boyd, Susan Oliver and Robert Hooks. 9.00 London. 10.10 This is... Tom Jones. 11.10 On the house. 11.40 Love, American style.

SCOTTISH: 9.30-11.45 London. 12.25 Peter. 12.30 Wind in the willows. 12.45 London. 5.15 Richard the lionheart. 5.40 Sky's the limit. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, that's me over here. 7.30 Movie: 'At Sword's Point'. With Cornel Wilde and Maureen O'Hara. 9.00 London. 10.10 This is... Tom Jones. 11.10 Match report. 11.25 Late call. 11.30 Film: 'Bride of Frankenstein'. With Boris Karloff, Valerie Hobson and Colin Clive.

GRAMPIAN: 10.30-11.45 London. 12.30 Wind in the willows. 12.45 London. 5.15 Laredo. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, That's me over here. 7.30 Movie: 'Interpol'. With Victor Mature, Trevor Howard and Anita Ekberg. A US narcotics agent is sent to Europe to smash an international dope ring. 9.00 London. 10.15 This is... Tom Jones. 11.10 Match report. 11.28 Untouchables.

HARLECH: 11.00-1.30 London. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Sunday matinee. 4.45 London. 7.55 Screen: 'Major Dundee'. With Charlton Heston and Richard Harris. Western. 10.00 London. 12 midnight Weather.

HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 and HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 12.10-1.00 Dan sylw. 1.00-1.30 Sei a'i sylwedd.

ANGLIA: 11.00-1.25 London. 1.55 Jokers wild. 2.00 Farming diary. 2.30 Jokers wild. 3.00 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased). 3.55 Match of the week. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Seven Days in May'. With Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas and Ava Gardner. The Pentagon plans a mock alert. 10.00 London. 12.10 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 London. 1.30 Mr Piper. 1.45 London. 2.15 Screen...



Milan metalworkers demonstrate September 21.

Provocations

ONE OF the main problems faced by the financial 'experts' of the world at this week's joint conference of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank (President—ex-US Defence Secretary McNamara) in Copenhagen is the inflation raging in all the main capitalist countries.

The combined wizardry of the delegates was agreed that rocketing prices were acceptable only in so far as they could be used to cut back the real wages of the working class.

This means that the workers' struggle for increased wages clashes head-on, on an international scale, with the absolute need of employers to call a halt

to pay increases and extract greater profits through speed-up and sackings.

In the past fortnight Italian and French employers have met workers in a number of sharp struggles in which they have tried to cripple the drive, at factory and shop level, for better wages to keep up with the soaring cost of living.

In Milan last week over 10,000 metalworkers held a one day strike and a mass demonstration through the city.

Though the action was given the blessing of the official union leaderships, it sprang from management attempts to cripple the unofficial organizations in some of Italy's most important plants.

The SIT-Siemens workers faced a blatant provocation when the firm decided, without warning, to withhold money due from the state medical insurance for time lost through sickness.

EAST & WEST European REVIEW

Previously this money was included in wage-packages and deducted only after workers had actually received the insurance payments. The result was that some workers received less than £1 for the week.

Alfa-Romeo in Milan was also shut down for the day in protest against the sacking of a shop steward on the pretext that he had hit a scab during an unofficial stoppage.

And at the plant at nearby Arese, workers joined the action following the lay-off of 1,200 using stoppages in some shops as the excuse.

Workers from Borletti and Ponteggi Dalmine factories joined the demonstration after similar provocations in their plants.

French workers at the Grenoble plant of Caterpillar faced a similar situation.

Following a strike at Grenoble and at Echirolles, which

developed at Grenoble into a four-day occupation of the plant, the employers sacked 23 men, mostly stewards and militants, and started legal proceedings against 29.

Last Monday the whole of the Grenoble plant struck and 4,000 workers marched through the town in solid opposition to the attacks.

These are the clearest examples of many similar struggles on the shop-floor of European capitalism.

With the Stalinists in the union bureaucracy pleading with governments to 'restrain prices', workers are driven to unofficial action to halt the inexorable erosion of wages.

The provocations they face are the cutting edge of the conscious attempts of the employing class to probe, weaken and sabotage this movement of the class on an international scale.

Whose violence?

WE NOTED in this column last week how the Soviet and E European mass media reacted to the hi-jackings carried out by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

That story would not be complete without following through the Stalinist coverage of the Jordanian civil war.

With splendid impartiality, Moscow Home Service relayed without comment both the Royalist claim that the commandos had fired on the army headquarters—and the guerrilla counter-charge that Hussein's troops began the fighting.

Just like the press and radio

coverage of the hi-jackings over the previous ten days or so, once the Kremlin line became clear—that Hussein and the guerrillas were fighting each other by mistake—the rest of the E European Stalinist propaganda machine chimed in.

For example, Prague Radio complained 'the people shooting each other in the streets of Amman are those who have every reason for being the closest of allies', while Polish Radio observed rather gloomily, and with more than a suspicion of understatement, that 'the restoration of unity appears to be rather difficult'.

By last weekend, when it became clear that a full-scale revolution had broken out in Jordan, Polish pessimism turned rapidly into anger:

'... the uncontrolled irresponsible extremism of Dr Habash and his comrades, the resorting to methods of terrorism, have dealt a deadly blow to... [What, the reader might ask? Imperialism? Zionism? Arab reaction?...] to all that the Palestinians had achieved.'

It is particularly ironic to find the Gomulka government, so fond of hunting down 'Zionist agents' in the universities of Poland as part of a thinly disguised anti-Semitic campaign against the regime's opponents, now denouncing all those who hit back against the real Zionists in the Middle East.

Throughout the Jordan crisis, the Stalinists have chorused their apologies for Hussein, who, according to Budapest Radio last Saturday, had been 'misinformed

by certain elements in the Jordanian army to take ill-advised steps'.

In fact, the whole crisis has been one long series of mistakes and misunderstandings.

Well might Moscow Radio chide the Palestinians with that age-old Christian homily 'Violence breeds violence'.

Never noted for their susceptibility to the blandishments of the Christian faith, Palestinians have also learned from the bitter experiences of recent years that it simply doesn't pay to turn the other cheek.

Imperialist violence and repression, whatever the Stalinists might claim, can and must be answered by the organized, just and revolutionary violence of the oppressed.

That is the only way to end all violence.

Scandal-snuffing THE PLAYER AND THE PAWNS



These workers are in the union. They were sacked in the course of the main strike, but they remain to this day outside the plant. The union are not doing anything about this yet this was a specific undertaking of the agreement.

VF: Well you should ask the union about that.

SJ: But as chairman of the original meeting, don't you feel that you have a responsibility to point this out to the union? That is what I am trying to say.

VF: No, what was done was carried out. I was only involved at the start.

SJ: So you don't feel you can do anything about these two issues?

VF: No, not at this stage. I wish I could, quite frankly. But then I know what the limitations are.

I know that any advice I gave now would probably be rejected by these lads. It would be unpalatable to them, yet it would be the proper advice.

I'm sorry I can't give the advice they would like to accept.

Workers Press

SJ: Finally Mr Feather, you may know that the Workers Press is coming up to its first anniversary quite soon. We have had expanding sales and improved production throughout the year. We are also going six-days a week on October 12. What do you think about these achievements?

VF: I think it is good that there should be expression of every point of view. That there should be argument and discussion; acceptance of some views rejection of others.

Anything that adds to the dialogue is a contribution to democracy. I am very glad that there can be expression of views like those in the Workers Press and expression of views like my own. . . .

SJ: Do you read it?

VF: Obviously. That's why I am commenting, and I hope you will support me in my free expression as I will support you in yours.

SJ: Of course, that's why we wanted to do the interview. Thankyou Mr Feather.

9.00 London. 11.15 News. 11.20 Name of the game. 12.45 Weather. Action 70.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.50-11.45 a.m. London. 12.10 a.m. Faith for life. 12.15 Weather.

HARLECH. 10.00-11.45 Liberal Assembly. 12.15 Skippy. 12.45 Lon-

SUNDAY

BBC 1

9.00-9.30 a.m. Nai zindagi-nayan jeevan. 11.00-11.30 Seeing and believing. 1.25-1.50 p.m. Farming. 1.55 The education programme. 2.20 Made in Britain. 2.29 News headlines. 2.30 In a class of their own. 'What a daft question—find out!' 3.00 Film for the family: 'Missouri Traveller'. With Lee Marvin. 4.40 Asterix the Gaul. Cartoon film from France. 4.50 Golden silents. 'The Great Stone Face'. 5.15 Going for a song. 5.40 The Black Tulip.

6.05 NEWS and weather.

6.15 MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE asks the question why.

6.50 HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE.

7.25 DR FINLAY'S CASEBOOK. 'Comin' Thro' The Rye'.

8.15 IN TIME OF WAR. 'Yangtse Incident'. With Richard Todd, William Hartnell, Akim Tamiroff and Donald Houston. Story of the HMS Amethyst's run down down the Yangtse river in 1949.

10.05 NEWS and weather.

10.20 OMNIBUS. 'Shapes in a Wilderness'. Art therapy.

11.05 THE MAN WHO SHOT AT THE MOON. Dr Thomas O. Paine answers questions.

11.45 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as BBC 1 except: 3.55-4.15 Transworld top team. 4.15-4.40 Debbie Reynolds. 11.47 Weather.

Midlands, E Anglia, North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland. SW, South, West: 11.47 Weather.

Wales: 10.00-11.00 Oedfa'r bore. 2.30-3.15 Doctors. 3.15-3.55 Rugby union.

N Ireland: 11.05-11.30 Gaelic football.

BBC 2

7.00 p.m. NEWS REVIEW and weather.

7.25 THE WORLD ABOUT US. 'Where Two Worlds Meet'. Birds on migration between Asia, Africa and Europe.

8.15 THE CAROL BURNETT SHOW. With guests.

8.50 CHILDREN TALKING. Some view of France.

9.00 MUSIC ON 2. 'Music Now'. Profile of Neville Marriner and the Academy of St Martin's, a new work by John Tavener and Alfred Brendel.

10.05 OH IN COLOUR. New series with Spike Milligan.

10.35 THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL. 'Pursuit'.

11.20 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

11.25 FILM NIGHT.

ITV

11.00 a.m. Church service. 12.10 p.m. On reflection. 12.35 Music room. 1.00 Toolbox. 1.30 Wind in the willows. 1.45 All our yesterdays. 2.15 Survival. 2.45 The big match. 3.45 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased). 'All Work No Pay'. 4.45 The golden shot. 5.35 The Flaxton boys.

6.05 NEWS FROM ITN.

6.15 BEYOND BELIEF.

6.35 INCLUDE MEN/OUT. 'The Breaking of a Priest'.

6.55 APPEAL.

7.00 STARS ON SUNDAY.

7.25 PLEASE SIR! 'Stitches and Hitches'.

7.55 'THE YELLOW ROLLS ROYCE'. With Ingrid Bergman, Rex Harrison, Omar Sharif and Shirley Maclaine. The story of a car and its successive owners.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.15 BIG BROTHER. 'A Little Bit Like God'. With Alfred Burke, Andre Morell, Richard Easton and Rudolph Walker. A man must be found to run a giant corporation set up to solve the economic problems of new African states.

11.15 THIS IS . . . TOM JONES.

12.10 a.m. FROM ONE POINT OF VIEW.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 11.00 London. 12.10-12.35 On reflection. 2.13 Weather.

2.15 Big match. 3.10 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 4.05 Cartoon.

4.35 A date with Danton. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Undercurrent'.

With Katherine Hepburn, Robert Taylor and Robert Mitchum. 10.00 London. 10.15 This is . . . Tom Jones. 11.15 Avengers. 12.05 Epilogue followed by Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.10-1.00 London. 1.45 Farm and

country news. 1.55 Acres for profit. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 11.00 London. 12.07 Weather. 12.10 London. 1.30 Sara and Hoppity. 1.45 London. 2.15 Farm progress. 2.45 London. 3.45 Seaway. 4.35 News. 4.45 London. 7.55 Picture. 'Hell Is For Heroes'. With Steve McQueen, Fess Parker, Bobby Darin and James Coburn. McQueen is a self-destructive war veteran with platoon under Nazi attack. 9.30 Max. 10.00 London. 12.10 Weather. Action 70.

and . . . 12.00-1.30 London. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Sunday matinee. 4.45 London. 7.55 Screen: 'Major Dundee'. With Charlton Heston and Richard Harris. Western. 10.00 London. 12 midnight Weather.

HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 and HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 12.10-1.00 Dan sylw. 1.00-1.30 Sel a'i sylwedd.

ANGLIA: 11.00-1.25 London. 1.55 Weather. 2.00 Farming diary. 2.30 Joker's wild. 3.00 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased). 3.55 Match of the week. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Seven Days In May'. With Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas and Ava Gardner. The Pentagon plans a mock alert. 10.00 London. 12.10 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 London. 1.30 Mr Piper. 1.45 London. 2.15 Soccer. 3.15 'It Came From Outer Space'. With Richard Carlson, Barbara Rush and Charles Drake. A strange object lands in the Arizona desert. 4.43 Your stars tomorrow. 4.45 London. 5.35 Forest rangers. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Major Dundee'. With Charlton Heston, Richard Harris, Jim Hutton and James Coburn. American Civil War story. 10.00 London. 10.15 This is . . . Tom Jones. 11.15 Saint, weather.

ULSTER: 12.10-1.30 London. 2.15 London. 7.55 Movie: 'An American in Paris'. With Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. An ex-GI stays in Paris hoping to become an artist. 10.00 London. 10.15 This is . . . Tom Jones. 11.15 Prisoner.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00-1.30 London. 1.35 Calendar Sunday. 1.55 Farming diary. 2.25 Soccer. 3.20 'Cat and Mouse'. An army deserter holds a woman hostage. 4.45 London. 7.55 'Men In War'. With Robert Ryan and Aldo Ray. An American pilot fights his way to safety in the hills of Korea. 10.00 London. 11.15 Frost. 12.15 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 12.35 Music room. 1.00 Toolbox. 1.20 All our yesterdays. 1.55 Flipper. 2.20 Football. 3.20 Quentin Durgens. 4.15 Survival. 4.40 London. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Hollywood. 'Thirty-Six Hours'. With James Garner, Eva Marie Saint and Rod Taylor. An American intelligence officer is drugged by German agents and flown to Berlin. 10.00 London. 11.15 Frost.

TYNE TEES: 11.00-12.10 London. 12.10 Sunday Session. 12.35 Music room. 1.00 Toolbox. 1.25 All our Yesterdays. 1.55 Farming outlook. 2.25 Shoot. 3.20 Champions. 4.15 Stewpot. 4.45 London. 6.55 Give at Seven. 7.00 London. 7.55 'Four for Texas' starring Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. A stage coach attack is prevented but then \$100,000 is found in the coach. . . . 10.00 London. 10.15 This is . . . Tom Jones. 11.15 Japanese. 12.10 Quakers Abroad.

BORDER: 11.00-12.10 London. 12.10 On Reflection. 12.35 Music Room. 1.00-1.25 Toolbox. 1.50 Diary. 1.55 Farming Outlook. 2.20 Soccer. 3.20 Saints. 4.15 Making whoopee. 4.40 London. 6.55 Give at seven. 7.00 Stars on Sunday. 7.25 London. 7.55 'Sergeant's Three' starring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Peter Lawford. Comedy-western. 10.00 London. 10.15 London. 11.15 Frost. 12.15 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 12.10-1.25 London. 1.45 London. 2.15-2.45 Farm progress. 3.45 Gazette. 4.45 London. 7.55 'Man of the West'. With Gary Cooper Julie London, Lee J. Cobb and Arthur O'Connell. 10.00 London. 11.15 Frost. 12.05 Late call.

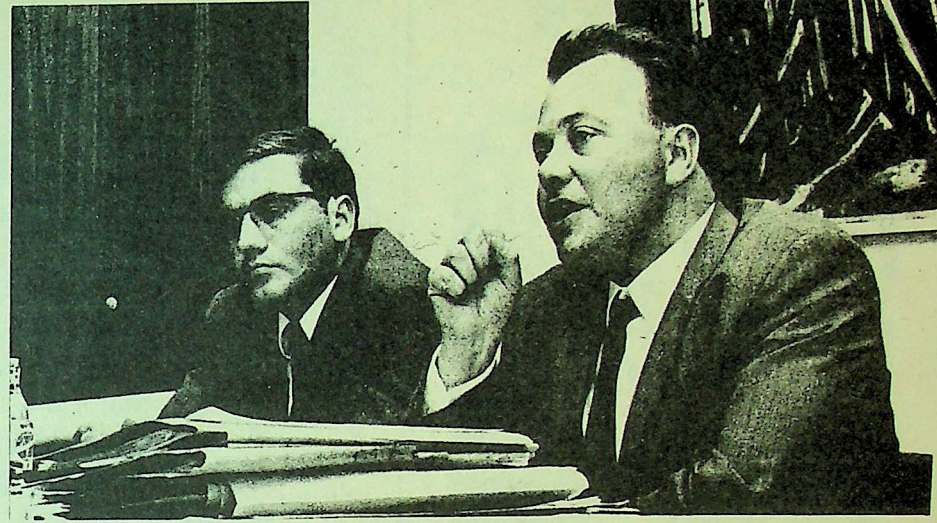
GRAMPIAN: 12.10-1.25 London. 1.45 London. 2.15 Farm progress. 2.45 Movie: 'Grl in the Headlines'. With Ian Hendry, Ronald Fraser, Margaret Johnston and Natasha Parry. Thriller about the murder of a top model. 4.15 Stewpot. 4.45 London. 7.55 Cinema: 'The Singer, Not the Song'. With Dirk Bogarde, John Mills and Mylene Demongeot. A church-hating bandit terrorizes a Mexican town. 10.30 London. 11.15 Frost. 12.10 Epilogue.

Scandal-shuffling

THE PLAYER AND THE PAWNS



MULLER



GRANTZ AND KLEIN

IN THE tangled undergrowth of European political life many strange creatures are to be found.

Some are engaged on feathering their nests while others devote themselves to gathering moss.

But when a forest fire threatens, they prove capable of remarkable flights of inventiveness, as the following (much simplified) account of events in the W German city of Bremen will illustrate:

Local government in Bremen, an industrial centre in the North of the Federal Republic, has been controlled by Federal Chancellor Brandt's Social Democratic Party (SDP) since the end of the war.

The Christian Democrats (CDU) have thus had a quarter of a century to acclimatize themselves to the role of loyal opposition.

Over two years ago a major scandal—the 'Bauland affair'—broke in Bremen province.

It involved massive speculation in building land and alleged 'tips' to local politicians running into millions of marks.

Propelled by their collective instinct for survival, members of the provincial parliament united to form an inter-party commission of inquiry, headed by two legally-qualified deputies, the Social-Democrat Wolfgang Grantz and Christian-Democrat Gunter Klein.

It was assumed by all concerned that this pair would have the job of actually going through the small mountain of documents in which it was hoped the essentials of the Bauland affair were hidden.

Naturally, they were not expected to carry out such a task without recompense.

This matter was in the hands

of Wolfgang Muller, head of Bremen Citizens' Council.

Muller is the husband of Gizella Muller-Wolff, another SPD deputy.

Muller explained to Grantz and Klein that they could, of course, claim for expenses and fees for meetings held without the Commission's other 11 members.

He apparently assumed, though, that they could not claim for time spent except when they were working together. As he later put it:

'You can't have a meeting with only one person.'

In July of this year Grantz went on holiday and Klein stayed home to draft the final report, to be debated in the provincial parliament this month.

Unaware of Muller's assumption, Klein claimed 900 Deutsche-marks (about £100) for work by him and his secretary.

A note of the payment was on Muller's desk before he went on holiday on August 3 and stayed on it for a fortnight after he returned on the 24th.

As he explained, his in-tray was 'very full'.

Only on September 8 did he mention to parliamentary president Dieter Klink that he had 'accidentally discovered' these improper payments to Klein, and similar ones to Grantz.

On September 14 the light shone a little brighter when the SPD-controlled parliamentary executive, having interviewed the luckless Klein and Grantz, moved that they should be barred from speaking in the debate on the Bauland affair.

Since they are the only ones familiar with welter of obscure detail in which the scandal is cloaked, it is expected that the debate will succeed in drawing a veil of decency across the scene.

What is called in chess 'a sacrifice of pawns'.

JUST OUT

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Mersey

FROM PAGE ONE

possible redundancy — has shrunk the labour force by nearly 2,000 men.

Increasing port charges is plainly only a 'stop-gap' measure as far as Liverpool's port employers are concerned.

What they must really try to do is force through acceptance of Devlin Phase Two—so far firmly resisted by the dockers—and proceed apace with their £39½ million Seaforth container complex to the north of Liverpool's seven miles of docks.

Jobs fear

But dockers have had their fears that a combination of Phase Two with a fully-operational Seaforth could wipe out thousands of jobs in the rest of the port confirmed by the crisis scare.

Announcing this year's possible £3 million deficit, MD&HB director-general Robert Edwards said there is little doubt the docks at the port's relatively-antiquated south end 'will have to go'—including the recently-modernized King's dock.

These docks are in the main concerned with the lucrative W African export-import trade.

Backward

But cargo-handling companies have been unwilling to introduce containerization and other new methods there because their host ports remain tremendously backward and labour-intensive as a result of the long history of colonial exploitation and cheap labour in W Africa.

Everything now hinges on the development of a leadership amongst the port's dockers able to continue the fight to defend jobs and improve wages and conditions under the barrage which will now inevitably be directed against it.

The port stewards' present demand for £60 for 20 hours is totally inadequate.

No struggle against the Tory government-sponsored offensive that has now been opened up is possible without a fight for the nationalization of the ports under workers' control — which means a campaign to force the Tories to resign.

A fight 'to the bitter end'

Jobs future linked with pit pay fight

ANGRY LOCAL miners' leaders are accusing the National Coal Board of 'treating their men like cattle' following the announcement that 450 are to lose their jobs at Sunderland's Silksworth colliery in December.

BY A CORRESPONDENT

At a mass meeting on Sunday the men are expected to pledge themselves to a fight 'to the bitter end' to ensure that no one takes a cut in wages.

The thousand miners in this pit fear that re-deployment will mean moving into jobs at other N Durham pits spread over a large area—with inevitable loss of earnings.

The vast majority of the men will be moved into other jobs, according to the NCB.

There are already 500 miners on the dole in Sunderland.

More than 80 delegates from miners' lodges all over the S Wales coalfield met in Porthcawl earlier this week to discuss the Coal Board's rejection of their pay claim.

The delegate conference voted unanimously to support the executive decision to call a miners' strike after a national ballot.

One delegate said: 'Even the right wingers of the delegation voted for and seemed to want strike action. This is the first time for years.'

Pit-head meetings will be taking place throughout the coalfield as the ballot—October 12—draws near.

The response throughout the coalfield is magnificent. S Wales executive member G. Rees, of Ferndale Colliery, told Workers Press:

'We realize we are fighting both the NCB and the government in this. If the NCB is not paying, then the government has to give the money. And they have made their plans very clear in attacking wages of public sector workers.'

'This is not what I would call nationalization. We are holding meetings at all the pits to urge the miners to vote for strike action.'

'In fact, it was our delegation at the national conference which proposed the strike call.'



S Wales miners seen at a previous Porthcawl conference.

Guerrillas

FROM PAGE ONE

General Moshe Dayan, commenting on the situation in Jordan on Thursday, declared his support for Hussein and hoped he would defeat the guerrillas. There would be no need for a direct Israeli intervention, he added, unless his...

THE SUCCESS of the Soviet Union's Luna-16 mission, despite the relatively moderate publicity given to it in comparison to the Apollo flights, has been justly recognized as a key step in any planned programme of space exploration.

As Anthony Tucker commented in the 'Telegraph' yesterday: 'She [the US] is now trailing behind Russia, not in achievement, but in potential future achievement.'

'Automated spacecraft of the Luna-16 type, needing only more sensitive radio equipment and more powerful boosters, can go where no cosmonaut will ever tread.'

However, Luna-16 undoubtedly completed the programme that Luna-15 set out to accomplish over a year ago at the time of the Apollo-11 flight.

ABORTED

Little information is known about the circumstances under which Luna-15 crashed on to the lunar surface, but, as Tucker remarks, it was 'in marked contrast to

ISOLATION DANGER IN DATA STRIKE

DRAUGHTSMEN at Rolls-Royce Coventry plants expressed disappointment yesterday after 2,500 men at Derby had voted—against their union executive's advice—to accept the company's 7 per cent pay offer.

The DATA national executive wanted a solid front of all the 7,500 workers employed in the combine.

Pickets at the strike-bound Coventry plant said yesterday that naturally they were disappointed.

But, as strike committee man Dick Jones said:

'Coventry members will continue the fight to get more than the company offer. We extend our greetings to those hundred or so Derby members who wanted to fight on.'

Gasmen back

COVENTRY gas workers return to work on Monday, following a vote to end their three-week strike.

The decision was taken after the men heard a report of the strike meeting of 3,000 Birmingham gas workers which narrowly decided to end their strike—for a £20 minimum wage—to allow further negotiations.

Coventry men shouted 'Let down by the union again'. They held the full-time General and Municipal Workers' Union officials responsible for the Birmingham decision.

The meeting decided that no materials will be issued in future to outside contractors working on Gas Board contracts if non-union labour is involved.

Busmen out

BUSMEN in several provincial cities staged one-day strikes yesterday as part of the con-

Secret diplomacy behind Luna-15 crash on the Moon?

Russia's series of successful soft-landers'.

The possibility that the flight was deliberately aborted for political reasons is a feasible one.

The space programmes in both the United States and the Soviet Union are closely tied up with military research and strategy and the Stalinist policy of 'peaceful co-existence' with imperialism is undoubtedly reflected increasingly in schemes for 'scientific collaboration'.

From the beginning of the 1960s particularly, some co-operation in space research has been carried out, although the USSR has declined to place any Soviet equipment in US rockets.

Through the agency of the United Nations, not only was the banning of nuclear tests in the atmosphere agreed, but also, in 1967, an agreement was signed to keep nuclear weapons out of space.

Thus, under the guise of 'keeping space pure', a further step was taken in the direction of the international policing of the working class, which has emerged clearly during the Middle-East crisis.

In these diplomatic manoeuvres, the role of both astronauts and cosmonauts has been essential.

The 'good-will' missions in both directions have been preparation for further collaboration against the revolution.

REWARDED

The US spacemen, in particular, have been well-rewarded with highly-paid posts either in America's space agency or with space contractors.

Despite wrangles on United Nations committees over questions such as payment for damage in the event of space collisions, the General Assembly has noted a 'certain rapprochement of views' during 1969.

This was the year of Apollo-11 and Luna-15.

Only three days before the Soviet craft was launched from the Baikonur cosmodrome, the Apollo-8 commander Colonel Frank Borman ended his Soviet tour.

Luna-15 completed the first stage of its journey successfully and went into orbit round the moon soon after Apollo-11 set off.

Borman—probably one of the most influential NASA men in Washington and on first name terms with President Nixon—made a per-



Frank Borman, ex-US spaceman and NASA envoy, seen in surplice preaching a sermon, has spoken of 'co-operation' with Soviet scientists before the Luna-15 launch.

Moscow censors British CP's Mid-East report

IN THEIR anxiety to display complete neutrality in the Jordan civil war, the Soviet bureaucracy has begun to censor the statements issued on the Middle East crisis by the British Communist Party.

Stage

FROM PAGE ONE

cussed at a delegate conference of their union, the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees, at Brighton today.

So far the union has com-

When the Soviet news agency 'Tass' reported on the statement adopted by the Political Committee of the British Stalinists on Wednesday last, it only referred to two of its demands — that there must be no US, British or Israeli intervention, and that the Jordanians must settle their own affairs.

Omitted

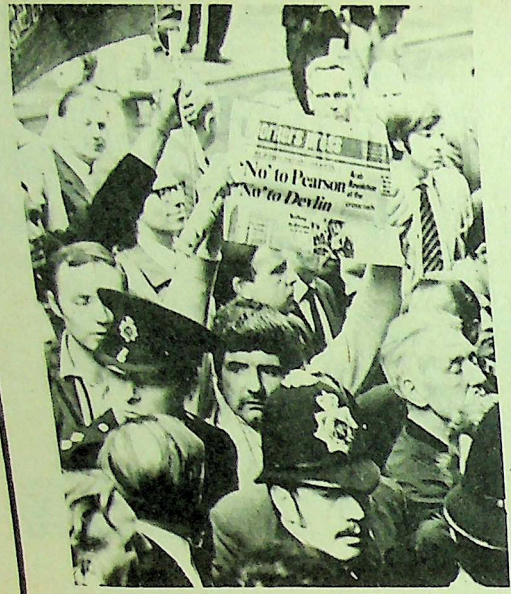
The third demand, which called for an end to the attack on the guerrillas, was om-

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LATE NEWS

END BAN CALL

Leaders of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades have called for a return to normal working in the London wholesale dispute which has disrupted distribution of national newspapers.

It remains to be seen whether the men will decide to accept the recommendation when they meet in the early hours of this morning. 1,700 delivery drivers have been working to rule for a week demanding pay rises of 40-45 per cent.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.
Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

This is the first time for years. Pit-head meetings will be taking place throughout the coalfield as the ballot—October 12—draws near.

The response throughout the coalfield is magnificent. S Wales executive member G. Rees, of Ferndale Colliery, told Workers Press: 'We realize we are fighting both the NCB and the government in this. If the NCB is not paying, then the government has to give the money. And they have made their plans very clear in attacking wages of public sector workers.'

'This is not what I would call nationalization. We are holding meetings at all the pits to urge the miners to vote for strike action. In fact, it was our delegation at the national conference which proposed the strike call.'

Miners see this action as their last chance of improving their wages before the Tory government brings forward its repressive laws.

The big question in the coalfields in the light of the 1969 strike is: will the leadership fight, or will they retreat? The miners are approaching the strike proposal with some caution for this reason. Mr Rees (Ferndale) and Mr R. Saint of Coedely both told Workers Press they would wait to see the wording of the ballot paper before they commit themselves to further action.

Mr Saint said: 'We don't know if the executive will fight. We know they didn't last time, and we will know better this time when we see the ballot. We don't know whether they'll ask for a straight vote for or against the strike or whether they'll word it to mean something else and avoid the struggle.'

Under the union constitution, a strike proposal must get a two-thirds majority in a ballot before the strike can be official.

Attempts to change this rule in the past have not succeeded. But Mr Rees told Workers Press that if the ballot gave 60 per cent in favour of strike action the miners will strike.

In the eyes of militants in the coalfields, the present procedure for calling a national strike can only give the Tories encouragement in the anti-union plans.

'We can be used as a test case,' one miner said. 'They can turn round to other workers and say: "see what you get when you go through proper procedure".'

'But we know that a strike ballot is one of the hardest things to achieve, and is also undemocratic. Even with 60 per cent in favour of a strike, the union officials can still turn round and say they have to abide by the decision.'

But the miners' delegates do not favour scattered unofficial strikes before the ballot.

S Wales miners seen at a previous Porthcawl conference.

Guerrillas

● FROM PAGE ONE

General Moshe Dayan, commenting on the situation in Jordan on Thursday, declared his support for Hussein and hoped he would defeat the guerrillas. There would be no need for a direct Israeli intervention, he added, unless his government felt directly threatened.

PAYMASTER

This was not just Dayan's policy, but that of Nixon—their paymaster. The Palestinians are butchered by Hussein's Royalist fanatics while the imperialists sanctimoniously bemoan the 'tragic' plight of the Jordanians.

Hussein was trained (at Sandhurst!) and armed by British imperialism—'Labour' as well as Tory—to do just this job.

The 'warrior king' hero of Fleet St is stained with the blood of thousands of murdered Palestinians; slain to defend the profit-hungry interests of the giant oil monopolies.

We are both deeply moved and politically inspired by the selfless dedication of the Palestinian guerrillas to the revolutionary cause.

In the face of the most ferocious bombardments and savage killings, mutilations and tortures by Hussein's Bedouins, they have destroyed for all time the canard that the Arab people cannot fight imperialism.

The struggle of the Palestinians, which, despite the cocksure claims of Hussein and his Fleet St admirers, is far from crushed, has confirmed the absolutely counter-revolutionary nature and role of world Stalinism, and the abject impotence of the Arab bourgeois and middle-class leaders.

Once the most radical guerrilla leaders made a stand, broke from 'their own' ruling class and turned their backs on the Stalinist preachers of 'peaceful co-existence', a mighty mass movement unleashed itself in Jordan—the like of which the Middle East has never before seen.

CONQUEST

This, more than any single military victory or defeat, is the great conquest and achievement of the Palestinian guerrillas.

The whole international workers movement owes them an enormous debt, and in this period of growing crisis for the British ruling class, we must ensure this debt is repaid—with interest.

- Stop the imperialist intervention!
- Down with counter-revolutionary Stalinism!
- Down with the Hashemite butchers!
- Long live the Arab Revolution!

Heath's gauntlet

● FROM PAGE ONE

When asked about the prospect of a general strike, Mr Feather said:

'We shall wait and see what the legislation is—meanwhile we will be telling the government what we are doing (!); things they ought to know and what they ought to be doing to help both ourselves and the Confederation of British Industry to get these procedures streamlined to a much greater degree than they are.'

It is against this background of indecision, vacillation, compromise and retreat that the Labour Party Conference meets.

Delegates must resist every attempt by the 'lefts' like Heffer and Stan Orme and the 'Tribune'-ites, aided by the revisionist 'Militant' group, to turn the Conference into an histrionic farce adorned with shining platitudes about 'socialism' and 'workers' control'.

These would only obscure the vital questions of unemployment, anti-union laws and the struggle to get rid of the Tories.

Wilson's most vociferous critics will be the most strenuous defenders of the trade union 'lefts' who are conducting a sham battle with the Tories on wages in order to cover up their retreat on productivity bargaining, unemployment and rationalization.

Left-wing delegates who want to know the causes of Labour's defeat in the last election; to fight Wilson; to know the reason why, for instance, Labour's share of the electorate has

three-week strike. The decision was taken after the men heard a report of the strike meeting of 3,000 Birmingham gas workers which narrowly decided to end their strike—for a £20 minimum wage—to allow further negotiations.

Coventry men shouted 'Let down by the union again'. They held the full-time General and Municipal Workers' Union officials responsible for the Birmingham decision. The meeting decided that no materials will be issued in future to outside contractors working on Gas Board contracts if non-union labour is involved.

Busmen out

BUSMEN in several provincial cities staged one-day strikes yesterday as part of the continuing campaign in support of their national claim for a £20 basic wage.

In Leeds big traffic jams built up as extra cars were added to the morning rush hour.

United Nations committee over questions such as payment for damage in the event of space collisions, the General Assembly has noted a 'certain rapprochement of views' during 1969.

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Luna-15 completed the first stage of its journey successfully and went into orbit round the moon soon after Apollo-11 set off.

Borman—probably one of the most influential NASA men in Washington and on first name terms with President Nixon—made a personal telephone call to Academician Mstislav Keldysh, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Said Borman later: 'I'm very pleased with this Russian response. I hope it's indicative of a more fruitful type of co-operation in future.'

DETAILS

According to the reports, Keldysh gave details of Luna-15's orbit and that was that.

If this was indeed the total content of the conversation—and unconnected with Borman's Moscow discussions—why the surprise? Luna-15 then crashed into the Sea of Crises.

The collaboration continues at an increasing pace.

This year has seen the approach of an agreement 'demilitarizing' the sea-bed and in June, Neil Armstrong—first man on the moon and now Director of NASA's Aeronautical Research—was engaged in talks in Moscow.

At the same time ten American reactor specialists spent a fortnight visiting Soviet facilities, including the large fast breeder reactor in the Moscow area.

The political and economic developments are proceeding hand in hand.

Stalinist collaboration with imperialism in the suppression of revolution everywhere means further economic and scientific deals are forthcoming.

● The launching of China's first satellite and the possibility that the first Chinese intercontinental ballistic missile will be fired into the Indian Ocean to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the revolution on October 1 challenges not only the US-Soviet hegemony in nuclear destruction, but the ability of this unholy alliance to carry out its counter-revolutionary work with impunity.

Middle East Report

IN THEIR anxiety to display complete neutrality in the Jordan civil war, the Soviet bureaucracy has begun to censor the statements issued on the Middle East crisis by the British Communist Party.

Stage

● FROM PAGE ONE

cussed at a delegate conference of their union, the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees, at Brighton today.

So far the union has completely refused to support its members.

The Coliseum men now have average earnings of £40 for a 80-hour week. Though the new deal offers a reduction in hours worked to 60 through the introduction of a shift system, this will mean loss of earnings and speed-up.

'We voted as a body several times against the deal, but the union ignored this and signed,' said Roger Dade, a lighting technician.

'In protest we withdrew our labour last Friday; the following day we found a notice on the stage door informing us that we were dismissed unless we accepted the new terms.'

'We welcome the shorter hours, but can't accept the £35 17s 6d for 60 hours.'

When the Soviet news agency 'Tass' reported on the statement adopted by the Political Committee of the British Stalinists on Wednesday last, it only referred to two of its demands—that there must be no US, British or Israeli intervention, and that the Jordanians must settle their own affairs.

Omitted

The third demand, which called for an end to the attack on the guerrillas, was omitted.

It was also left out of a Moscow Home Service report on the same statement.

Even the mealy-mouthed criticisms of Hussein now being published in the Stalinist 'Morning Star'—hypocritical as they are belated—are too much for the Kremlin.

The Soviet bureaucracy is hell-bent on betraying the Palestinians to Zionism and imperialism, and if this means suppressing the comments of their 'comrades' in Britain, then it will be done.

Confirm?

Silence by CP secretary, John Gollan and 'Morning Star' editor George Matthews on this question would only confirm what we know already—that their protests were purely for the record.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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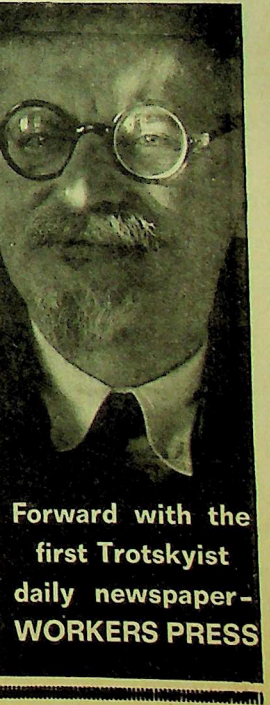
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