

Orpington: the anti-Tory swing

A WARNING SIGN

Middle Class Rejects Gaitskell

By Our Political Correspondent

EDITORIAL

The Fascist Threat in France

THE brutal murder of women and children in the marketplace of the Casbah in Algiers is but another damning indictment of imperialism.

It is not French imperialism alone which is responsible for such criminal actions against the colonial people. It is world imperialism, and this means the Tory government.

They are already arranging for French paratroopers, one of the most reactionary military regiments, to train in Britain.

The OAS thugs are in no way different from the Belgian butchers of Patrice Lumumba.

What is happening in Algeria today is of serious concern to the international working class.

The ultras of Algeria have the same mentality as those who are now swinging more to the right inside the Tory Party. They are working for a fascist dictatorship in France as the only solution to the problem of Algeria. Behind them stands a motley crew of generals and right-wing politicians.

De Gaulle cannot and will not defeat the OAS. This task can only be carried out by the French working class in alliance with their Algerian brothers.

The Communist Party of France supports de Gaulle; the working class is therefore, being guided to defeat once more. It was the policy of the Communist Party in the fatal June days of 1958 to support the Pflimlin government which ushered in the dictatorship of General de Gaulle.

The Communist Party voted with that government full confidence in General Salan, then military commander of Algeria—the same Salan who now heads the fascist forces.

Support for de Gaulle today will lead to nothing but defeat. What is needed above all is a continuation of the great efforts responsible for the massive demonstration at the funeral of the victims murdered by the police a few weeks ago.

The French working class must act—and it is our duty to see that it receives the full support of the British Labour movement.



THE Orpington by-election result is a grave warning to Labour. The victory of the Liberal candidate, Mr. Eric Lubbock, is the outcome of a most serious crisis amongst Conservative supporters. Over 8,000 electors, many of whom have staunchly voted Tory in the past, switched their votes to the Liberal. They changed their vote not because they have the slightest belief in the future of the Liberal Party, but because they feel that the government is not moving decisively enough against the Labour movement.

Byrne Charges ETU Members

THE right-wing executive council of the Electrical Trades Union have ordered the President and 11 members of the Croydon and district No. 25 area committee to appear before them to answer charges of discrediting the union.

The electricians formed a deputation to ETU headquarters some weeks ago and demanded an interview with the general secretary, John Thomas Byrne.

They wanted to know why the executive had sacked the acting Assistant General Secretary, Robert McLennan; why head office considered it necessary to send an executive member to their area committee to explain the EC's policy; and why Byrne and company had shelved the rules decided by conference last November.

'EXPLAIN'

The area committee members have been told to present themselves before the executive in three batches on Saturday and Sunday to explain their actions.

Other ETU branches have protested against this high-handed attitude by the High Court - imposed right-wing leadership.

Brighton ETU branch has demanded that witnesses be allowed to attend the special meeting.

The action instigated by the President of the London Press branch of the ETU which seeks to restrain the EC from balloting the members on whether or not it can hold a special rules conference began its hearing in the High Court on Friday.

The vote represents a class polarization inside the camp of the right. Whilst it is true that the Labour Party holds the support of the working class, and that this has even slightly increased, as can be seen from the Lincoln by-election, Gaitskell's policy, nevertheless, provides no real attraction for the middle class.

These people are now swinging around in a way which could make them allies of an ultra-right or even a fascist movement.

DISCONTENT

As the 'Daily Telegraph' of Friday, March 16, said: 'This is not a revival but, if anything, a new birth; the birth of a strange, vague, general but fundamental discontent.' Here is the soil in which fascist propaganda takes root.

The Labour vote is not a Gaitskell vote but an anti-Tory vote. The middle class in constituencies like Orpington are deeply concerned about high taxation, increased transport charges and a host of other problems which the Tory Party and right-wing Labour ignore.

MUDDLED

The middle class in these areas are confused and muddled about real issues and see no difference between the Tory Party and the Labour Party.

Under these circumstances, they can be violently anti-trade union and, indeed, many of them are.

The Orpington result proves conclusively that Labour has lost the middle-class voters and retained its support amongst the working class only because of their devotion to the anti-Tory fight.

The Tory Party is in a crisis because a large section of its supporters are turning

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Socialists and Students Picket US Embassy

By REG PERRY

TRADE unionists, young socialists and colonial students joined the picket outside the American Embassy last Saturday which was organized by the London Area Committee of the Socialist Labour League.

Beginning at 10 a.m., the picket continued until 4 p.m. and drew a great deal of attention from the many Americans visiting the Embassy.

Leaflets which were handed out called on the labour organizations in Britain to organize committees to collect money for medical supplies and food now badly needed in Cuba.

Response to the appeal for the formation of committees has been widespread.

Enquiries have come in from places as far apart as Scotland and Bognor Regis, and from many parts of London.

At a meeting of London University students at the London School of Economics last week, a resolution was carried unanimously to organize support for Cuban relief schemes.

ROAD TO RUIN

This, of course, Mr. Gaitskell will never do. And at the moment when bold leadership is required from the left, the members of parliament in the Victory for Socialism group are deciding to co-operate more closely with Gaitskell.

This is the road to ruin for Labour. Nothing but demoralization and frustration, as happened in the French Socialist Party, can result from such policies.

International Action for CUBA

THE International Committee of the Fourth International has appealed to all Trotskyists throughout the world to come to the aid of the Cuban revolution.

In a letter to the International Secretariat (Pablo group), the International Committee stresses that 'the American blockade of Cuba has created serious difficulties for the Revolution in that country'. The letter goes on to state that 'as both the International Committee and the International Secretariat stand for the unconditional defence of that Revolution, this seems to be an opportunity where a joint effort on behalf of our Committees can initiate a Food for Cuba Campaign which should prove of great assistance'.

The International Secretariat is to discuss this matter at its meeting in April.

De Gaulle's Gamble

by Tom Kemp

DE GAULLE announced the agreement with the Algerian nationalists as a realistic step taken in the national interests of France. By this he meant—as the terms of the agreement make clear—that French capitalism needed to bring the war to an end and that, in the circumstances, it must be considered fortunate that it has safeguarded its vital interests so well.

Not a word was said about the causes of the struggle, or the factors which led him to change his own policy.

These are bygones: the task now is to seize the opportunity presented to continue the economic exploitation of Algerian labour and natural wealth, with the goodwill of the FLN assured.

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For international capitalism, as well as for France, the end of the war was imperative.

The spectacle of a people in arms fighting against oppression has been too much like an incitement to other peoples in the African continent.

Not only did all capitalist states have an interest in an Algerian settlement—and they

may have enforced it through the United Nations if de Gaulle had not taken steps in that direction—but the Fifth Republic itself was threatened by the continuance of the war.

It was threatened in two ways, and neither of those threats has been entirely removed by the cease-fire.

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Firstly, there was the possibility of a line-up between the Algerian people and the French working class which would have threatened the very existence of capitalist rule.

The blocking of this development by the continued preference of the leaders of



De Gaulle: allies on the far Right?

the working class organizations for their 'own' bourgeoisie has been the great tragedy of this seven-year struggle.

It has meant that the sacrifices of the Algerian people have been partly in vain and that the Fifth Republic was able to reach a settlement favourable to capitalism.

Secondly, there is the opposition to de Gaulle from the European population in Algeria, as well as part of the officer corps, which offers a military-fascist alternative and will certainly oppose, as effectively as it is able, the settlement which has now been made.

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Spreading chaos in Algeria could not only make the settlement unworkable, it could also create a wider field of action for the OAS in France and enable it to make a bid for power.

By emphasising the second of these threats and supporting de Gaulle, whatever the verbal reservations, the Communist Party has kept the working class as passive spectators of the Algerian tragedy.

Its position has been shared by the socialist and trade union leaders. The French 'left' has again manifested its desperate fear of a political intervention involving the mobilization of the masses.

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The danger of fascism has not been lessened by this policy of 'the lesser evil'. Workers have been confused by the contradictions in this policy and have been held back when they have wanted to fight.

De Gaulle is hoping that the working class leaders will maintain their present policy and will be able to keep their

followers in check. He may need the working class against the OAS to enable his policy in Algeria to be carried through.

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At the same time, in the interests of French capital, his government stands behind the bosses in their drive to gear industry—through speed-up, breaking down traditional workshop practices, concentration, etc.—to withstand increased competition in the Common Market.

But it must be stressed that while de Gaulle takes necessary defensive measures against Salan and the OAS, that body, or the people behind it, are potential allies should the gamble in Algeria or with the working class in France fail.

The gambles which are now being made depend upon the complicity of the leadership of the working class movement in France and of the national movement in Algeria.

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The interests of the Social Democratic and Stalinist bureaucracy, as well as those of the petty bourgeois apparatus of the FLN, are best served by an accommodation with imperialism.

No doubt these men now hope that they are moving into calmer waters; a return to a routine of negotiation and pressures or, for the FLN, the assimilation of the concessions made to them at Evian.

In a future which is no less obscure because of the cease-fire, and where the possibilities of speculation are endless, only one thing seems certain.

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The stabilisation of the Fifth Republic, and of the new Algerian Republic to be associated with it, hinges upon a series of conditions which are unlikely to be realised.

Neither the French working class, nor the peasants and workers of Algeria, are likely to accept for long, or passively, a situation which offers no perspective but further sacrifices on their part.

The opportunities for new leaderships are greater than ever.

A E U Acts in Roberts Case

AT its meeting last week, the executive of the Amalgamated Engineering Union decided to write to the Labour Party asking why Ernie Roberts had been taken off the 'A' list of union sponsored parliamentary candidates.

Roberts, who is AEU Assistant Secretary, had been declared ineligible for Labour Party candidature on the recommendation of the Organization Subcommittee.

Although George Brown, the Subcommittee's chairman had alleged that the AEU had been 'consulted', in fact no reasons have yet been presented for the decision, either to Roberts or

VFS: Death of an Ailing Body

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

'REYNOLDS News' and 'The Times' have obligingly revealed that Victory for Socialism, an organisation sponsored by 20 left Labour MPs, is about to fold up.

This has not been exactly the best kept secret of the year, since it has been known for some time that these MPs are seriously considering a political surrender to Gaitskell now that a general election will certainly take place within the next year or two.

The group itself was formed in 1943, at a time when there was much dissatisfaction in the Labour Party over the war-time collaboration with the Tories.

It continued a rather sickly existence until the Brighton Labour Party conference of 1957. It was at this conference that the late Aneurin Bevan emerged as an all-out supporter of Mr. Gaitskell's H-bomb policy.

INEFFECTIVE DEFECTIVE

Michael Foot, then editor of 'Tribune', and a number of left MPs considered that the reason for Bevan's defection arose because there had been no effective left group of MPs in Parliament since the days of the old Keep Left movement in 1949.

They started looking around for an organization and concluded that a political take-over bid should be made for VFS.

Unfortunately, this meant removing the existing leadership and replacing it with more 'dynamic' figures, like Sydney Silverman and Ian Mikardo.

A meeting was held in the House of Commons and packed out by the supporters of those who wanted to take over. They won the vote and a revamped VFS emerged.

With a flourish of trumpets, the new group organized public meetings in London early in 1958. At that point Transport House intervened and called a halt to the left romantics, who quickly beat a retreat and stopped the movement towards organization in the constituency Labour parties.

Hundreds of enthusiastic left wingers had their hopes dashed by this initial capitulation.

There matters stood until the Scarborough conference of 1960, when the great movement against the H-bomb defeated the right wing.

At public meetings during that conference, Ian Mikardo and others stressed the fact that the purpose of Victory for Socialism was not to challenge the leadership.

The failure of Victory for Socialism is one more example of the inability of the left centrists in the Labour Party to replace the right wing. To all intents and purposes, their policies are similar.

TIFFS AND TURNABOUTS

Here and there they can quarrel, over the H-bomb, for instance, but when the time comes for decisive action against the right, they invariably beat a shameful retreat.

Now the sponsors want to cover their retreat with allegations that the Trotskyists are responsible.

On March 19, 'The Times' quoted a VFS leader as saying that over the past year they 'have seen a danger that the group may be captured by Trotskyists'.

This is nonsense. At the 1961 conference of VFS, the rank and file was so outraged by the inaction of the leadership that they defeated the platform on a number of questions, such as the lifting of the ban on the Socialist Labour League.

What the leadership saw was a danger that this new resurgence of activity might well bring them



One Foot behind the leader.

into serious conflict with the Gaitskell leadership. So they have decided to close the organization down.

Needless to say, this decision has not been discussed in the ranks. Such self-professed democrats conveniently forget about democracy when it comes to arranging these conspiracies.

Left wingers who have supported Victory for Socialism are now called upon to make an assessment of the type of leaders who have so shamefully abused their confidence by surrendering to Gaitskell.

JUST FOR THE THE KICKS

The right-wing machine kicks them around wherever it wishes. They lack a socialist programme to fight the right. So they are ultimately faced with capitulation.

If the left wing is to emerge, as it can in the next few years, as a powerful factor in the Labour Party, then it must have a leadership which bases its policy on the struggle of the trade unions and relates this struggle to the fight against the right wing inside the Labour Party.

Only those who accept Marxism as a guide can organise such a fight. The rank and file of the Labour Party has had enough of the fake lefts and their paper organizations like Victory for Socialism.

The time has now come for a real leadership which will not give in to Gaitskell.

Another blow against American Imperialism

FACED with an overwhelming vote in support of the exiled Juan Peron, Argentina's President Frondizi acted in the only way open to a good democrat in the circumstances: he called in the Army.

In ten provinces, including Buenos Aires, Peronists were elected as Governor, and obtained majorities in Congress.

On Tuesday, two days after the elections, the President agreed to demands from the Army and put these provinces under military rule.

Frondizi is now preparing a decree which will legalise the Peronists. Sunday's elections were the first in which they were able to stand since 1955, when the army overthrew the Peron regime.

The vote is a blow to the US-dominated Organization of American States. Peron, balancing between sections of the Argentine capitalists and the trades union movement, was a thorn in the side of the State Department.

Since his ejection from power, he has lived in Franco Spain.

His supporters still retain a big following among trade unionists, and the Argentine Trade Union Confederation has threatened a general strike against the army's reversal of the election results.

Central Africa: Tories Will Check Welensky

NO one need waste either sympathy or anger over the antics of that ageing political pugilist, Sir Roy Welensky. He has been allowed to croak belligerently like a bull frog in a segregated pool. He has done his best to defend the cause of white supremacy in Central Africa. But his masters no longer need him and he must either change his tune or keep quiet.

Macmillan has given Home Secretary Butler a slice of the Colonial cake—the Federation—in order to keep a benign, but firm, check on the activities of the champion of the white settlers.

The Central African Federation, consisting of the territories of Northern and Southern Rhodesia, together with Nyasaland, was established in 1950



Butler: put the old boxer down for the count.

to make sure that part of Africa remained a profitable field for imperialist investments.

These investments were devoted mainly to the mining of the copper and the other minerals of that rich area. All the politics of the area can be explained in terms of mining.

There are two basic requirements: first, supplies of cheap labour must be maintained. This is what makes Rhodesian mining shares so profitable.

Second, stable government must be maintained so that the profits can be paid to the shareholders.

REAL RULERS

This is particularly important now, since after many years of low yields the shares are now beginning to show larger dividends. Unless political stability is maintained these will be lost.

The British South Africa Company and the other mining companies are the real rulers of Central Africa. The company was founded in 1889 and until 1924 was directly responsible for the administration of much of the territory.

Today this company has an

ROYAL GAFFE

'After proving himself a consummate goodwill ambassador during the first month of a seven-week trade-drumming tour of South America, Britain's Prince Philip stumbled into a veritable gaffe-and-a-half at Paraguay's Government House. "It's a pleasant change," off-handed His Royal Highness to President Alfredo Stroessner, "to be in a country which isn't ruled by its people."'

—'Time', 23.3.62

authorised capital of £14½ million. It made a profit last year of nearly £8 million. Its board of directors includes bankers, ex-colonial governors and one eminent academic economist Lord Robins.

These are the people who rule Central Africa.

They supported the policy of white supremacy for many years, until it became clear that the policy was doomed. The privileged miners of Northern Rhodesia and the farmers who own vast estates in South-

by James Baker

ern Rhodesia have been useful local tools.

But this was before the rise of mass movements of African peasants and workers. Now the mining interests see the need to control this movement. They cannot do it themselves, nor can their white stooges.

They realise that they must bring some of the African petty bourgeoisie into positions of local responsibility.

Having ruled through white puppets for 50 years, they are convinced of their ability to bring a few black puppets into the arena and to continue to rule for another 50 years.

An important stage in the imperialists' relations with Central Africa has just been reached. In 1960 the Monckton Commissioners reported that if the Federation were to break up, not only would markets contract and opportunities for employment diminish, but the credit worthiness which has made these advances possible would disappear' (Monckton Report, 1960, p. 28).

DISTRUST

They expressed the conviction that the economic advantages of the Federation were so great that in time it should be possible to allay African distrust.

They recommend a number of measures which they believe would help to establish 'partnership and mutual confidence'.

These recommendations have formed the basis of the Tory government's policy in Central Africa. They have succeeded in obtaining the agreement of the Europeans and the Africans in Northern Rhodesia to a revised constitution.

Hastings Banda has come to power in Nyasaland and has demonstrated impressive qualities of what they call 'statesmanship'.

So far they have been able to make use of Welensky, too. His intransigence has enabled the imperialists to pose as the friends of the Africans.

The London correspondent of the 'Rhodesia Herald' wrote on February 27, 'Northern Rhodesian Africans naturally look with suspicion on any constitution to which Sir Roy gives approval. And conversely his present anger with Britain is tending to put the Africans into a mood of acceptance.'

But Welensky has been getting delusions of grandeur. He sees himself cast in the role of a great statesman.

Macmillan has appointed Butler to point out to Welensky where he really belongs—below the stairs.

The 'Home and Colonial' minister has no other task to perform. This is not evidence, as Mr. Kaunda may think, of further 'liberalisation' by the imperialists.

NO DANGER

But the dangers of civil war in Central Africa are not great.

Neither is there any danger of the African populations acquiring a decent standard of life, or of the main industries being nationalised. There will be no danger of these things until the African workers and peasants can get rid of their Kaundas and their Bandas, together with all the other 'Uncle Toms'.

The peasants and workers of Central Africa have demonstrated their willingness to fight over and over again. If they had a leadership worthy of them they could proceed to the transformation of their society.

Greek Workers Prepare for Action

Second of two articles by G. DEMETRIADES

A NUMBER of urgent problems must be solved before the Greek workers are ready for the approaching showdown with the ruling class.

Throughout the 'free' world, wherever there exists a militant workers' movement, the capitalists will try to deprive it of an effective leadership.

This certainly applies to Greece, where the first attempt has been to buy off the leadership through bribery and the offers of 'positions'.

This has been achieved, for example, in the powerful Engineers' Union, where every constitutional rule has been broken, elections rigged and a 'puppet' executive installed.

The union's constitution calls for an annual conference at which the EC must give a full account of their actions to the membership, followed by elections for a new executive.

The present leadership has not called a conference for a number of years, and rules without recourse to the rank and file.

Frame-Up

Where the possibilities of installing stooges is remote, due to more democratic constitutions which enable the membership to keep greater control, the government resorts to arrests and frame-up trials of militants.

Manolis Glezos and other members of the seamen's union leadership, for example, were accused of spying and are still in prison.

The installing of right-wing stooges and the wave of arrests have made the chances of united action by all the unions extremely difficult. Such action would naturally threaten the position of the right-wing leaders as well as of the government. Such 'leaders' are there-

fore bound to undermine any attempt at unity.

On the other hand, the Stalinist answer to the problem of leadership is wholly negative.

True, the CP members in the unions are among the first to expose and attack the bankruptcy of the right wing. But they have failed time after time to provide an effective alternative leadership.

They will always fail, for the nature of their party prevents them from trying to examine with honesty their actions and correct their past mistakes.

The Stalinists fear 'excessive' working class militancy. They try to divert it into 'safe' channels, putting forward slogans for 'parliamentary action'.

The fight for the 'democratic rights of the people, for a democratic government and world peace' means that the fight for socialism must be suspended.

Own Ranks

The leadership will not be found among the Stalinists. The Greek working class must look in its own ranks for the Marxist leadership that will help it to achieve its unity.

The first step should be the setting up of strike committees in each section of the labour movement waging a strike or preparing for one.

They will be able to coordinate and plan their struggles and turn them into effective weapons against the government and its working class laws. At the same time they will be able to foil any attempt by the right wing to betray the struggle.

Such militant committees can become permanent once their effectiveness is proved. Through them union control will gradually pass into the hands of the workers.

Once this control is established and the deadweight of the old leadership is cast aside, the Greek working class will be ready to devote all its energy to the preparations for the final struggle.

More Than Advice

The British working class can and must offer much more than mere advice to their Greek brothers.

They can facilitate the latter's bitter struggle by campaigning against the reign of terror in Greece, by organizing mass demonstrations for the freedom of the jailed trade union militants and by exposing the role of Western imperialism in that country.

But the most effective help they can give will be in the stepping up of their fight against British capitalism and its government at home, without the help of which the Greek ruling class could not survive.

The victory of the British working class at home will spell victory for the working classes of Greece and the other colonial and semi-colonial countries of the world.

City Slants by colin chance

The winner

£80 million richer in two months: that is the reward given to Courtauld's shareholders for—just being Courtauld's shareholders!

Whether they decided to accept ICI's offer of four ordinary ICI shares for five Courtauld's, or to retain their shares in Courtauld's, they have seen the value of their holdings shot up by 60 per cent.

When battle was joined between the two giants, the Courtauld's directors were obliged to expose the real worth of the company's assets in an attempt to persuade shareholders not to part with their shares. Profits forecast for the immediate future showed vast increases; by 1965 total group profits of £28 million were estimated.

But not only were attractive profit forecasts made. Shareholders were promised a 2½ per cent special tax free distribution in each of the years 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64, that is a tax free distribution of £2 million yearly.

These capital distributions could only arise out of a revaluation of assets. In other words past balance sheets of the company do not disclose the huge reserves that have been built up over the years, particularly those arising from investments in associated companies such as British Nylon Spinners and the Italian Snia Viscosa.

You can be quite certain, however, that Selwyn Lloyd does not intend to tax this type of profit in his proposed capital gains tax. Those 30 public companies who own 40 per cent of all public company assets probably have similar undisclosed assets. But they have not been faced with a take-over bid.

As it turned out, ICI succeeded in obtaining 38.5 per cent of Courtauld's shares at a cost of £75 million. Can it be said that ICI have been defeated in its efforts to take over Courtauld's?

Mr. Paul Chambers, the ICI chairman, has said that he does not regard the holding in Courtauld's merely as "non-voting" stock, but the voting power would only be used 'in the cause of the

effective and efficient operation of the Courtauld's business'.

ICI are now the biggest single shareholder in Courtauld's. Without a doubt, they will secure representation on the Board of Courtauld's, and will bring all their influence to bear to promote policies favourable to themselves.

Courtauld's compete against ICI in the man-made fibres industry. ICI are manufacturers of the raw materials used in that industry. It is inconceivable that pressure will not be brought to bear arising out of the new relationship.

90 per cent of Courtauld's would have cost £250 million. Why bother to spend that if a smaller holding will bring similar results? Mr. Randolph Churchill, at the ICI shareholders' meeting, said, 'If at first you don't succeed try, try again.' But it's my guess that they don't need to.

ICI are now in a monopolistic position in the man-made fibre industry.

They are most certainly ripe for the biggest take-over bid of them all—nationalization. Labour should include this demand in its election policy.

Industrial Newsletter

'Irresponsible Strikers' Says Moffat

By BOB SHAW

LAST week-end the executive of the Scottish miners went into action—to smash strikes. Said Alex Moffat, President of the Scottish Area of the NUM, at a special delegate meeting held to discuss the strikes, 'these irresponsible elements must be crushed'.

The 'irresponsible elements' were 5,000 miners from 12 pits who had stopped work when they heard the Coal Board decision that the Glenochil and Rothes pits were to close in a matter of weeks.

At a meeting in Alloa on Friday, March 16, 1,000 miners passed a resolution, with one against, calling on the delegate meeting to 'support the continuation of the stoppage'.

Speaker after speaker demanded that the Scottish Executive and the Delegate Conference 'get out and lead us'.

Donald Burns, the delegate of the Glenochil pit, spoke about the stay-down strike by two young miners, Davie Carruthers and Mathew Patterson.

While the two men lay 900 feet down at Glenochil, in their fourth day of the stay-down protest against the closure, union officials were touring Fifeshire and other parts of Scotland to break the strike.

The local union official was instructed to 'get those men up at all costs'.

At the meeting of the Rothes miners, John McArthur, NUM Area Secretary told reporters that the union policy was to take any action 'short of strike action'.

He thought that a period of redundancy was inevitable, but that the government should provide the £6 million necessary for further development.

The kind of 'action' which the three union officials at the meeting were prepared to sponsor can be shown from the proposals adopted.

- A call to Lord Robens to make a joint approach to the

Scottish Secretary of State with the Scottish TUC.

- A call for the convening of an all Fife conference with the Fife County Council.
- A telegram to the Queen asking for her help to intervene.
- A petition to the Queen asking for the halting of the pit closures.
- A call to the Scottish people to oppose pit closures.

It is around this type of programme that the leaders of the Scottish miners are demanding a complete acceptance of union discipline.

At the special delegate meeting a vote was demanded by the union leadership for or against union policy. No amendment was allowed.

Four delegates had the courage to cast their vote against this kind of blank cheque.

Their motion for strike action was put only after the leadership had forced through their own policy. It received 6 votes.

The right wing can well pat on the back Moffat and the other members of the Communist Party who 'lead' the Scottish area.

The men whom Moffat attacks in the interest of industrial peace as 'irresponsibles' are the backbone of the rank-and-file leadership.

Many of them are members of the same party as Moffat; some are openly at war with the Communist Party over the fight in the coalfield.

What the Scottish miners want is a programme for struggle and not meaningless requests to royalty. They want leadership in fighting for a united movement and not snivelling to the right wing on the National Executive of the NUM.

They will get that leadership by building it themselves.

—ADVERTISEMENT—

One-Day School

Saturday, March 31

Langley Labour Club,
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School opens 10.30 a.m.

Admission free

Speaker: FRANK GIRLING

Morning session:
*Trade Unions Today—A
Crisis of Leadership*

Afternoon session:
*Racialism and the
Working Class*

Sponsoring the school are: NUM (Bradford); NUR (Ardwick No. 1); AUBTW (Middleton)

A E U Chiefs Hound B L S P Men

By A LONDON ENGINEER

THE executive council of the Amalgamated Engineering Union is to carry through its witch-hunt against the stewards at British Light Steel Pressings who led an unofficial strike against redundancy four months ago. Eight stewards who failed to reply to a letter from the executive demanding to know why they defied instructions to return to work are to be deprived of the right to hold any office in the union, including shop steward, for two years.

The stewards concerned are Sister Lake and Brothers Miles, Kelly, Perkins, Eustace, Hooper, Morrison and Davis.

One of them, Sister Lake, was not even on strike but was in fact on the sick list before and during the strike and was paid benefit by BLSP the whole time.

The majority of those victimized have been without work for five to six months and have had a really tough time. First victimized by the Rootes management and now victimized by their own union 'leaders', these stewards must receive the maximum support from the membership of the AEU.

In each district, every branch and shop stewards' committee must be mobilized against this attack. Resolutions of protest must pour in to the executive council.

It is quite inadequate for the North London District Committee merely to 'call upon the EC to reconsider its decision'.

Carron threatened at the very beginning of the dispute to expel the 600 AEU members on strike, but the protests from the

ranks were too powerful for him. Some 800 resolutions condemning the executive were sent in.

Carron is hoping that memories are short and the tremendous response generated by the three-month strike at BLSP had died down. It is necessary, therefore, to revitalize that support and isolate the right-wing leadership on this question.

At British Light Steel Pressings itself, there is still no shop stewards' committee to represent the workers. Union organization has been well and truly smashed.

Many of the stewards now in the factory are drawn from the small element who scabbed several weeks before the strike was called off.

Some 16 members of the supervisory staff have now been sacked by Rootes as redundant. Many of them went round to strikers' houses to entice individuals back and break the strike.

They have served their purpose for Rootes and have now been paid off.

INDUSTRIAL ROUND-UP

By ALAN WEST Our Labour Correspondent

THE general council of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers has turned down a request for an immediate strike ballot among its 60,000 members in the gas industry.

Instead the union's council and executive approved the plans of Fred Hayday, their chief negotiator in the gas industry.

He suggested that the union should seek an interview with the Minister of Power where they could express their 'bitter resentment' at the government's intervention in the wage negotiations.

The union will then hold new talks with the employers in an effort to get an improved pay offer.

The Minister of Power advised the employers that the government would take a serious view of any departure from the 2-2½ per cent 'pay pause' offers.

The unions turned down an offer of 2d. an hour; they asked for 2½d., with an extra 1½d. in September to bring gas workers into line with electricity and water workers.

The call for a strike ballot came from the Birmingham district committee of the NUGMW. 8,000 West Midland gas workers have also passed a resolution calling for a strike ballot in the event of further talks between union and employers breaking down.

Mr. Hayday told the general council and the executive that they should not rush into considering industrial action, as they had until

September to get a settlement of all their claims.

The national average wage for gas workers is less than £9 10s. a week.

NO GUIDANCE ON ENGINEERS' BALLOT

The NUGMW's general secretary, Jack Cooper, announced on Tuesday that his executive would make no recommendation to their 180,000 members in the shipbuilding and engineering industry on how they should vote in the strike ballot being organized by the Confederation unions.

This right-wing controlled union has opposed strike action all along in favour of further negotiations with the employers for a pay increase and a shorter working week.

Mr. Cooper said, however, that they would follow the decision of the Confederation executive and conduct a ballot of their members, but without suggestions or recommendations on which way to vote.

The TGWU, CEU and the Boilermakers' executives have proposed to their members that they vote in favour of a national strike.

TEA BREAK VICTORY AT FORDS

WORKERS at the Dagenham factory of Fords are to have their ten-minute tea break restored, the management announced this week.

This is a victory for the 45,000 workers who fought against the new five-minute break which was

Dunlop Strike

Newsletter Correspondent

OVER 3,000 Dunlop factory workers at a mass meeting in Birmingham on Tuesday voted unanimously to come out on unofficial strike. This was in opposition to an announcement by the industry's national joint industrial council of a wages structure giving £1 a week increase to a small number of the lowest paid workers, but nothing to the production workers.

Union officials speaking against strike action were greeted with jeers and catcalls.

Brother Harold Smith, district organizer of the NUGMW was told at the close of the meeting by shop stewards, 'You'd better face it, the executive of the union has grown so far away from the shop floor that all the officials can do is to quote rules and regulations for the benefit of the company.'

One steward said, 'This strike decision means that we are going to by-pass the union officials and talk straight from the shop floor to the employers.'

Brother P. Phillips, shop steward, said, 'The whole industry is tied up with rigmarole and red tape. This strike decision shows the contempt of the workers of Fort Dunlop for the NJIC which operates in such a way that the only people who benefit are the company.'

'Involved in this dispute is a claim for night allowance, negotiations for which have been dragging on for two years. We are hoping workers at the other rubber companies at Liverpool, Manchester, Wolverhampton and London will come out with us.

introduced as part of the effort to rule out the benefits of the new 40-hour week.

Although union leaders accepted the cut, workers and shop stewards bitterly opposed it.

Shop floor solidarity has forced the management to back down. Five-minute tea breaks stretched to half-an-hour on most days as workers queued for their individual cups and politely offered pound notes and silver as payment.

Workers will now have a ten-minute break in the morning and a trolley service in the afternoon.

POSTMEN CALL FOR ACTION

POST office workers, highly dissatisfied with the slow rate of progress being made in the negotiations on their pay claim, are pressing for action against the GPO.

The work-to-rule campaign by the UPW was called off on February 1 in order that talks could begin with the employers.

Discussions have gone on for several weeks but a settlement has not been reached. Ron Smith, UPW general secretary, met the deputy director of the GPO on Monday but no further progress was made.

The union's largest branch, Manchester, has sent a resolution to the executive calling for a 24-hour strike to protest at the slow progress of the negotiations.

Mr. Smith said that if no reply or the date for a reply was received by Thursday from the GPO, his executive would consider the call for strike action.

PUBLIC MEETING Glasgow

Christian Institute,
70 Bothwell Street,

Saturday, March 24, 7 p.m.

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Newsletter, 186a Clapham High
Street, London, S.W.4.

7s. for 12 issues, or £1 8s. per year

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Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper
Published by The Newsletter,
186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4
Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), r.o.
180 Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4