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By David Maude

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This can only mean the building of the Fourth International.

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Leading trade unionists from many areas marched in step with young workers and students.

The enormous potential of the Workers' Press was expressed in the marchers' determination and in the magnificent collection at the meeting which followed the demonstration.

Watching Labour Party conference delegates stood outside their sea-front hotels to watch the march pass.

But most saw nothing to celebrate. Outside the Rank Centre, venue of the conference, newsmen advertising 'The People: Labour's Future by George Brown' emphasized

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We heartily congratulate all those comrades connected with the fight to bring out the Workers' Press and particularly the editorial staff and technical workers for the high standard of production of the paper.

We pledge ourselves to fight every day to expand the circulation and to raise the fighting funds necessary to maintain it.

We will exert every effort to report and write for the paper, and to build the movement which will achieve the aims of the paper—the power of the working class and socialism.

Forward with the Workers' Press.'

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

'Unemployment and the lessons of GEC-English Electric'

LIVERPOOL
Sunday, October 19
7.30 p.m.

Museum Lecture Hall
William Brown Street
Speaker: C. Slaughter
Central Committee
Socialist Labour League

New era

'Keep Left' editor Aileen Jennings, leading Oxford trade unionist Alan Thornett, of the All Trades Unions Alliance and Frank Willis, Young Socialist prospective parliamentary candidate at Swindon, also spoke.

More troops as Ulster tension rises

From our own correspondent

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As the first plane-load of troops arrived in Ulster, a bus was set alight in the Ulsterbus depot after a petrol bomb was thrown at Smithfield bus station.

In York Street, a few yards away, firemen were called to the large Co-operative stores after two petrol bombs had been thrown into the shop.

Earlier, troops in the Falls Road area fired canisters of CS gas to disperse a crowd of about 50 young workers who had ignored orders to disperse.

The crowd threw stones at the soldiers but dispersed after the canisters were fired. Freeland's call for reinforcements underlines the continuing crisis in Ulster—a crisis which will not be solved by 600 or 6,000 more troops.

Irish workers should be warned: fresh repressions are on the way. The campaign must be stepped up for the immediate withdrawal of British troops.

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The return of the Novotny 'old guard' poses tremendous dangers for the Soviet bureaucracy however.

All those compromised by Party or government office under the regime which framed and executed scores of leading Party members are the last people to choose as the basis of a popular new regime.

The formation of such a government would undoubtedly trigger off far bigger struggles than anything yet seen in Czechoslovakia.

But the Kremlin has no choice. The liberals have been used up. They are either too discredited, or too weak to be

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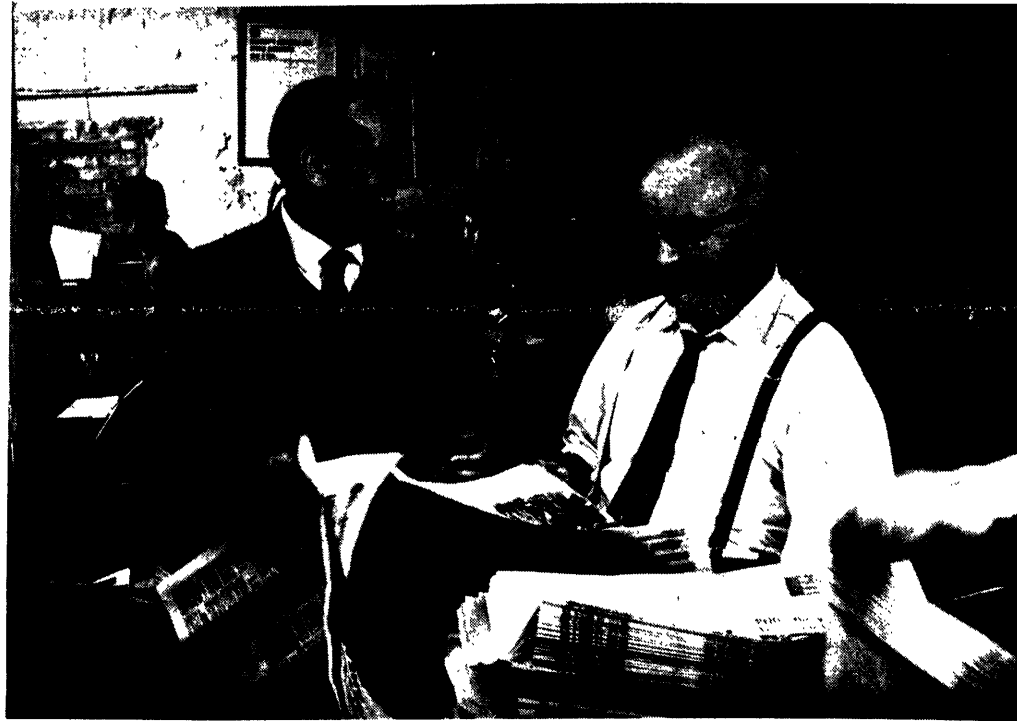
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Political Correspondent

Brandt or Kiesinger will face a vastly more powerful and confident working class which acts not only through votes, but in a growing wages movement.

Pre-election attempts to contain this upsurge were defeated.

Thousands of young workers and trade unionists drove the ultra-right National Democratic Party (NPD) off the streets in city after city.

Treachery

The Social Democrats' failure to win an absolute majority is not at all a defeat for the working class.

They can expect only treachery and betrayal from the Brandt leadership, which has removed even the word socialism from its election propaganda.

The NPD failed to reach the 5 per cent share required to win Bundestag representation, but it should not be dismissed.

Von Thadden will only win mass support from the middle class and the monopolies if, once more, the Social Democrats and the trade union leaders succeed in betraying the workers' decisive struggles.

German Trotskyists must ensure that this does not happen.

Forces

The re-awakened German workers' wages struggles will be directed not only against the employers, but against the union and SPD bureaucracy.

The forces for the revolutionary party will be found and trained in the trade unions and amongst the youth.

The hatred shown by young workers for the NPD proves that the German working class has at last recovered from the horrors of the Third Reich.

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Watching

Labour Party conference delegates stood outside their sea-front hotels to watch the march pass.

But most saw nothing to celebrate.

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Expelled

Five years ago, as banners stressed, Wilson and the Labour leadership expelled

Ernie Roberts 'impressed'

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the Young Socialists for their devotion to socialist principles.

This same devotion has now produced a daily paper which spells the decline of Wilson's anti-working-class leadership and of all the traitors to the working class.

Use the paper to build the party

'WE say to our enemies: we have only just started to implement the revolutionary decision of Lenin and Trotsky in the early 1920s', Socialist Labour League national secretary Gerry Healy told a capacity audience at the Workers' Press rally in Brighton's West Pier on Sunday.

'We have only just begun. We are going to tear down the capitalist system shred for shred. We are now going to use this paper to build the mass revolutionary party. We are out to establish the independence of the working class from its class enemies.'

'We start the paper with a challenge to Toryism. We say to Enoch Powell, leave your hiding-place in the selected Tory meeting-houses and come out to Hyde Park. We're all waiting for Mr Powell to come out into the open, like Adolf von Thadden.'

Appeal

Comrade Healy appealed for a campaign throughout the length of the country to build the Socialist Labour League.

All efforts must be concentrated around the paper, he said. 'Workers' Press will take up and champion all the causes of the working class.' Chaired by SLL central committee member Cliff Slaughter, the meeting represented all the main spheres of work of the Trotskyist movement.

New era

'Keep Left' editor Aileen Jennings, leading Oxford trade unionist Alan Thornett, of the All Trades Unions Alliance and Frank Willis, Young Socialist prospective parliamentary candidate at Swindon, also spoke.

Editor Mike Banda stressed the international implications of the Workers' Press:

'We couldn't think of a more felicitous send-off for the paper than the enormous wave of struggles, of strikes in Europe.'

The Workers' Press is not just an expression of the national working class. It is an expression of a new era in the working-class movement of the world.

'We are internationalists because we do not think you are going to get socialism in Britain without studying the history of the defeats and victories of the world working class.'

'Go forward from this meeting to fight as never before to establish this paper and carry its message to every corner of the world.'

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400,000 rents will treble

THE LABOUR PARTY, with Tory and Liberal support, has now passed the 1969 Housing Act, which allows the rents of 400,000 houses in England and Wales to be de-controlled. A similar Act applies to Scotland.

Twenty years ago, in 1949, Labour introduced a Housing Act to improve property. This gave landlords the right to secure grants for improvements followed by an increase in rents.

Ten years later the Labour Party had this to say in its pamphlet 'Home of the Future. A Socialist Policy for Housing' (6th impression) 1959.

"Since 1920, it has been possible for landlords improving their property to increase the rent by a fixed percentage of the actual cost of the improvement. Under the Housing Acts of 1949 and 1954 they have been able to secure grants towards the cost of such improvement work, and since 1954, they have been able to increase rents by 8 per cent per annum of their share of the money spent on improvements compared with only 6 per cent under the 1949 Act. 'Some improvement work has been undertaken under both the above provisions, but, compared with the size of the task, private landlords are only papering up the cracks.

"Thus, attempts which have been made to encourage landlords to carry out repairs and improvements by granting them financial assistance have failed. The time has now come when more positive action must be taken."

Labour's answer in 1959 and now

At that time Labour demanded that all rent-controlled houses should be acquired and improved by the local authorities. Only owner-occupied houses, non-profit-making housing associations and houses of landlords who could prove hardship or had strong family reasons were excluded. Today its policy is higher

Tories would have liked to do, but did not dare. These are the bankrupt arguments of the Labour Party in direct contradiction to its past policies:

"I am prepared to accept provisions for rent increases in spite of the anxiety of many of my hon. friends, partly because I am deeply concerned to get improvements carried out.

"Unless one uses what one might call the bribe of these provisions I do not see how this objective can be achieved."

So said Arthur Blenkinsop MP, for the Labour Party replying to the debate at the fourth sitting of the Standing Committee on the Housing Bill, March 4, 1969. The investment companies gave an immediate reply.

Here is just one example of how landlords on the 'breadline' fare: London City and West End Properties estimated that the value of its properties would rise by £100,000 as a result of the Act.

How will the 1969 Rent Act work?

There are two types of grant the landlord can get.

Discretionary grants: These are awarded for improving the property to certain standards 'having regard to its age, character and locality'.

The money may be granted for eliminating damp, repairing the roof, rewiring, etc. The landlord gets half of his costs up to £1,000, or £1,200 if the purpose is to convert a house of three or more storeys. The half of the costs he has to find can be borrowed from the council at current interest rates.

Internal decorative repair is specifically excluded by the Act. Even if the paint or wallpaper is peeling off the rooms, this does not count.

Standard grant

Prior to the Act it was a maximum of £155. Now it is £200, made up as seen in the table at the bottom of the page.

As in the case of the discretionary grant, the landlord gets his grant subject to his paying half the cost (i.e. if the installation costs £400, he gets £200 and the other £200 can be borrowed from the council).

Before the Act, a ventilated food cupboard was an essential amenity. This is out now on the specious ground that refrigerators make a larder unnecessary.

How many slum dwellers have the power laid on—or the cash—for a fridge? These statistics are not available.

The sale of improved properties

Earlier Acts laid down that no house could be sold for three years if a grant had been made.

This clause goes. Property investment companies can now get grants for improving and converting houses and then sell at an inflated price as soon as they like.

How rents will be decontrolled

It is believed that there are now 200,000 controlled houses with the necessary amenities. Many of these houses have been kept in good repair by the tenants.

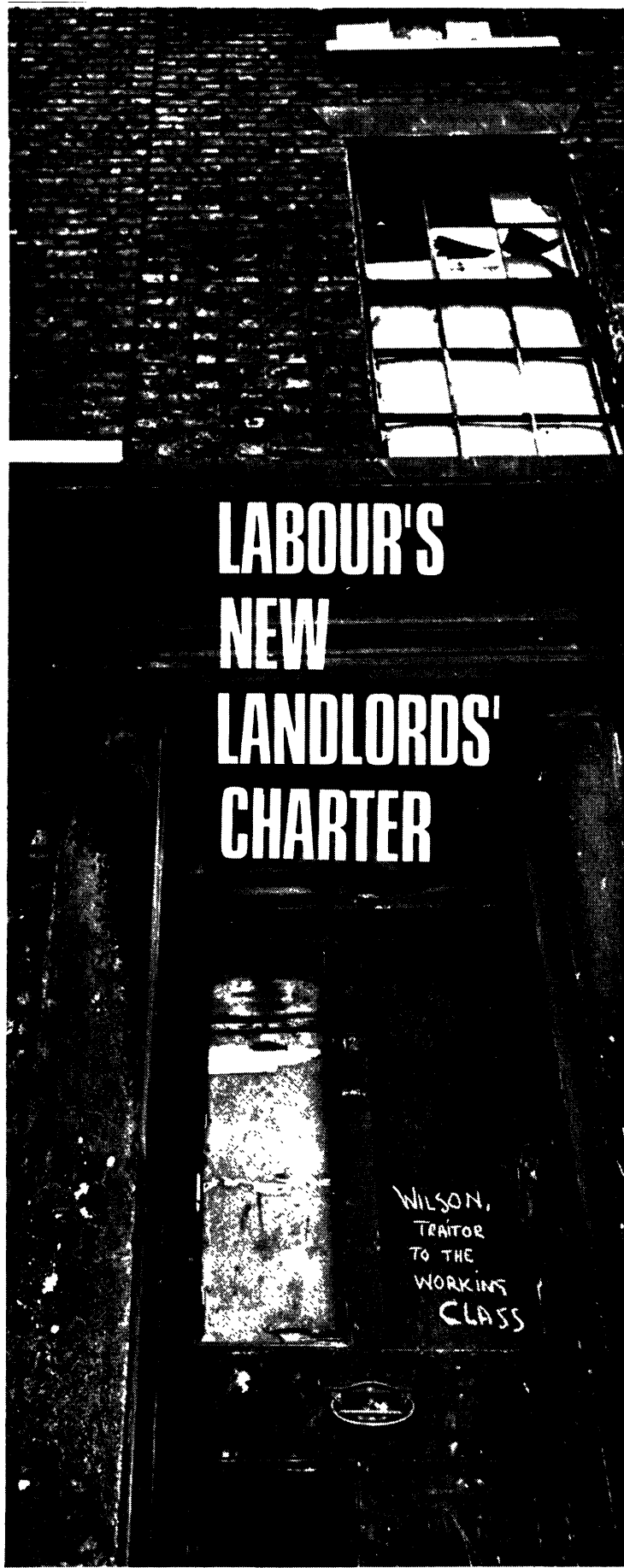
In tens of thousands of cases, tenants have themselves provided one or more of the amenities.

These houses, together with 200,000 which may be improved in the next two years, pass out of control. (About 100,000 standard and discretionary grants are granted each year.)

A dwelling can pass out of rent control even if it lacks the amenities, provided the landlord can satisfy the council that work is to be done to provide them, or that it is too expensive to install them.

Decontrol procedure

The landlord applies for a qualification certificate which certifies that the dwelling had the necessary amenities or will have.



LABOUR'S NEW LANDLORDS' CHARTER

WILSON, TRAITOR TO THE WORKING CLASS

In the latter case he must forward plans and specifications showing what work is to be done.

Before granting the certificate, the local authority must send a copy of the application to the tenant and must notify him that he can appeal within 28 days from the service of the notice.

He can appeal to the authority that 'the dwelling does not satisfy the qualifying conditions' (Housing Act, 1969, Section 45).

If the local authority is satisfied that the dwelling

can be as little as seven days. If the tenant does not appeal, the rent officer registers the rent (except in the unlikely event that he thinks the new rent is too high).

If representations are made, or if the rent officer reduces the rent, a meeting is arranged where landlord and tenant may be represented by a counsel or solicitor (we can guess how many tenants can afford to pay for legal assistance).

The rent officer then decides the rent and notifies landlord and tenant, who have 28 days to appeal to a rent assessment

Many tenants can afford ten times the rents they are paying today and many landlords are living on the breadline because of rents they are receiving.

Hugh Rossi, Tory MP for Hornsey, speaking at a sitting of the Committee considering the Housing Bill (March 27, 1969).

does, they issue the landlord with the certificate.

Even if the dwelling does not have the amenities, the authority can issue the certificate if it is satisfied the work will be done.

Even worse: 'If it is not practicable at reasonable expense (my emphasis DF) to provide the dwelling with all the standard amenities' after the 'works specified in the application have been carried out', a qualification certificate can still be granted.

There is no definition of 'reasonable expense'.

The landlord then applies to the local authority rents officer, who is empowered to issue a 'fair rent' certificate, specifying the rent which the landlord thinks is a fair rent under the 'new' tenancy—an ex-controlled tenancy is then called a 'regulated tenancy'.

Notification of tenant and right of appeal

The rent officer notifies the tenant who can make representations in writing against the new rent in a given time set by the rent officer. This

TABLE OF STANDARD AMENITIES

	£
1. A fixed bath or shower ...	30
2. Hot and cold water supply for item 1 ...	45
3. Wash hand basin ...	10
4. Hot and cold water supply for item 3 ...	20
5. Sink ...	15
6. Hot and cold water supply for sink ...	30
7. A water closet ...	50
TOTAL ...	200

RATEABLE VALUE	FIRST INCREASE	
	Greater London	Elsewhere
£90 or more	January 1, 1971	—
£60 or more	—	January 1, 1971
£60-£90	July 1, 1971	—
£40-£60	—	July 1, 1971
Less than £60	January 2, 1972	—
Less than £40	—	January 1, 1972

ister may specify an earlier date for the increases and he can change these in any areas.

Under pressure from the Tories and landlords, the Labour government can once more respond to the plight of the landlords on the 'breadline'. In any case, the Tories made it crystal clear when debating the Act that, while they welcomed the legislation, they considered the delay in granting rent increases to be iniquitous.

They even wanted the landlord to grant himself a qualification certificate. "... we ought to be able to trust the landlord, or his agent, to certify that the conditions apply," said James Allason, Tory MP for Hemel Hempstead in the Standing Committee on the Housing Bill on March 13, 1969.

Neither did Enoch Powell speak for himself alone when he boasted of earlier Tory achievements:

"I could remind the House that I played a major part in the enactment in 1956-1957 of the only comprehensive attempt to raise rents generally towards the market level. ... I have denounced the two great evils of housing, rent control and subsidy." (Hansard, February 10, 1969.)

If the Tories return, it is certain that rent increases will come earlier than the dates given in the Act.

The role of Labour's 'left'

Frank Allaun MP has written many letters and articles for the press against the Housing Act. But what sort of fight did he conduct in the House of Commons?

Instead of an open stand against the Act and its accompanying rent increases, and a fight for socialist answers to the housing problem, he and his 'left' colleagues have attempted to appease the right wing, to persuade them to cushion the effects on the tenants, or to frighten them that the Act will mean 'political suicide' because workers will not vote for them.

But the government did not respond to this type of reasoning. Why should they?

They are far more responsive to pressure from employers and landlords, as the history of social democracy internationally has shown on innumerable occasions.

So Allaun and his two 'left' allies, Silverman and Dunnett, on the Standing Committee dealing with the Housing Bill proposed their own amendment. This also allowed landlords a steep increase in rents.

The only comment we need make is that of Allaun's wife,



With an eye on the next election, the Labour government has decided that the rent increases should not come at once, or all in one go.

in their present rents?" I said "That is what we are proposing". She said "Then you want shooting".

Allaun thought his amendment would lead to lower rent increases and this was his justification.

Had this amendment been carried it is doubtful in any case that the rent increases would have been less. But the whole approach is wrong and opportunistic.

In fact Housing Minister Anthony Greenwood, together with the Tories, used Allaun's amendment against him to prove he had no principled objection to rent increases. (See Standing Committee debates March-April.)

Will the Housing Act lead to improved housing?

There is no evidence that more liberal grants or higher rents encourage the landlord to prevent old property from deteriorating—in the last year five owner-occupiers improved their properties to every two private landlords.

The new Act will not help housing, but it will help the property owners. They can carry out the minimum of work and in some cases, where 'amenities' are already installed, they can get swingeing rent increases without spending a penny.

We need add nothing to Labour's past arguments to realize the new Act will never get near solving the problem of slum and semi-slum property, let alone the basic housing problem.

The 'Home of the Future' pamphlet said in 1959 (page 12):

"The majority of private landlords have obviously neglected their responsibilities. They are interested in the property as an investment and, as such, expect to get an income from it. The fewer repairs carried out, the larger their net income. No wonder many tenants have given up in despair, and not only pay their rent but also do their own redecorations. Increases in rent for private landlords did not solve this problem of repairs during the inter-war years. In 1954 the Tory government tried the same formula again, but this attempt has also failed. It is clear that a quite different method of solving this problem must be evolved."

The 'quite different method' ten years later is—an even 'better' Tory Housing Act!

Such a programme can only be imposed by a powerful movement of tenants and workers, as the history of the labour movement shows. A fight for Marxist leadership and socialist policies is necessary for the mobilization of such a movement.

The tenants' struggles now developing, especially as they begin to turn to the unions and the factories, can play a big part in building up such a mobilization.

The issue need not be confused by talk about the difficulties of the small landlord.

He has the option of selling his property in a market which has boomed to the extent of 6 to 10 per cent per year for a generation.

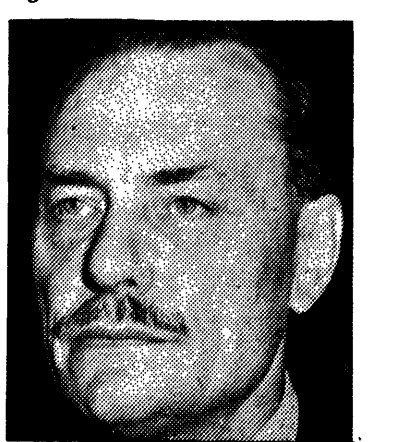
There must be a determination to allow no rent increases whether the landlord be big or small. The question is a political one of organizing the mass of tenants in a fight against the landlords and the government.

This is a vital issue for the Socialist Labour League.

Many workers can be led in a struggle which can not only defeat the landlords, but bring home the need for the all-round struggle for socialist policies.

It must be emphasized once again that the power of the working class in the unions and the factories must be brought into action against the landlords and the government for rent struggles to be successful.

That is the new prospect for victory in the tenants' fight, which is developing alongside the mounting struggle against unemployment, speed-up, wage-cutting and anti-union legislation.



Enoch Powell: "I could remind the House that I played a major part in the enactment in the 1956-1957 of the only comprehensive attempt to raise rents generally towards the market level. ... I have denounced the two evils of housing, rent control and subsidy."

YOUR WAGES IN DANGER

Why the employers intend to replace piece-work with Measured-Day Work.

By Alan Thornett

PRICE 3d.

Published by All Trades Unions Alliance, 21 Strawberry Path, Oxford.



Labour's new Housing Act designed to help the property owners cannot solve the slum and semi-slum conditions that predominate throughout Britain.



Anthony Greenwood, Housing Minister in Wilson's government during the crucial period of massive cut-backs in spending on housing.

grants to landlords from public funds and much higher rents in direct contradiction to Labour's arguments in the past and promises not to decontrol rents.

Free-for-all for landlords

This 1969 Rent Act opens the door to a free-for-all for landlords. There are about 1½ million privately-owned, rent-controlled, unfit dwellings. Of these over a million are scheduled for demolition in slum clearance schemes and the owners compensated.

Of the remainder (about 400,000), half will qualify for a free hand-out from public funds to assist the owners in making them 'fit' to live in.

For providing minimum amenities (i.e. hot and cold water, a bath, sink and indoor toilet), the landlord can receive 50 per cent of the cost from public funds and increased rents—trebled or even quadrupled—in perpetuity.

The owners of the other 200,000 dwellings do not have to go to this trouble. It is believed these dwellings have these amenities already—in many cases installed by the tenants.

These owners may demand their rent increases without spending a penny.

Flight from Socialism

In its feverish flight to the right, Labour does what the

Can the timetable of increases be pushed forward?

By a simple order the Min-

FOREIGN NEWS

THE STRIKE movement which began in Italy at the end of 1968 continues unabated. Now a new factor emerges: the unity of North and South.

Italy proves that a trade surplus is no solution to capitalism's crisis. The favourable Italian export showing has been based largely on very low wages and a pool of nearly two million unemployed.

Large-scale investment in the rural and more politically conservative south certainly provided quick returns in an area where the working class is traditionally poorly organized.

But the most recent strike wave began in the South, in Sicily (scene of the recent shooting of two striking farm labourers) and in towns such as Battipaglia, where over 50 per cent of the population is out of work.

Now another southern town, Taranto, has taken action against the appalling living and working conditions that are the lot of millions of Italian workers and peasants.

Modern plants

Taranto is a steel town, where vast sums have been poured into some of the most modern plant in Europe.

In attempting to overcome the South's backwardness, the Italian ruling class only triggers off even deeper crises. Thousands of previously politically conservative and unorganized peasants are now drawn into class battles which reach across an entire continent.

More traditional centres of

Strike wave grows in Italy

By Robert Black

The economic crisis has driven deep wedges between many of the partners of previous government coalitions. The parties themselves are racked with deep internal splits and disputes.

The main ruling party, the Christian Democrats, has no fewer than six factions, torn between a turn towards a regime of open oppression and a continuation of the past policy of coalition with the reformist parties.

The new working-class offensive has struck tremendous blows at the social democrats. Pietro Nenni's 'left' Italian Socialist Party unified five years ago with the ultra-right

social democrats under Saragat, thus healing the breach created by Saragat in the early 'Cold War' years.

The centrist rump of Nenni's party regrouped to form the Party of Socialist Workers' Unity (PSIUP) and moved towards a closer alliance with the Communist Party.

Nenni and Saragat came together on the basis of an agreement to enter a coalition with the 'left' Christian Democrats, the so-called 'centre-left' solution.

When that combination is forced to act on behalf of Italian capitalism against millions of workers, the mass support for the reformists threatens to dwindle away.

A new split has now broken up the unity in the reformists' ranks.

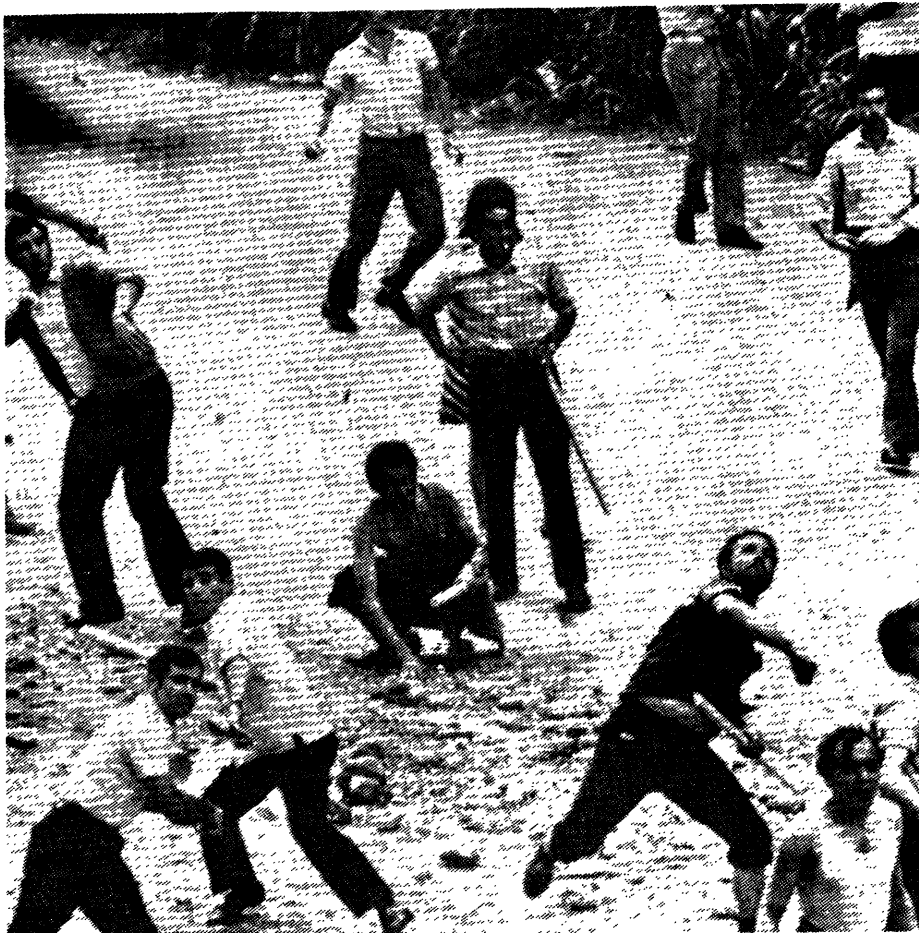
Once again, a centrist-inclined group has broken off from Nenni's Party under pressure from its trade union rank and file, combined, no doubt, with its leaders' desire to preserve their parliamentary careers.

This utter bankruptcy within the Italian social democracy has turned the coalitionist sections of the ruling class away from the Nennis and the Saragats towards the Communist Party leadership.

This Party states openly that it fights not for socialism, but for a programme of what it terms 'structural reforms' which boil down to the modernizing of Italian capitalism.

Terrified of the militancy breaking out in every major industrial area and southern village, the ultra-reformist Communist Party leaders are now trying to outbid the social democrats for posts in a coalition cabinet.

Seeking a change in the 'centre-left' tactic which had always favoured the social democrats to the exclusion of the Stalinists, CP leader Dino Pellicio recently boosted the Christian Democrat Aldo Moro



Workers using every available missile against the police in strike battles earlier this year.

As an advocate of the new-style Stalinist-Catholic coalition.

'Aldo Moro, the man who has always fostered the centre-left, has now come out in opposition, and in an effort to meet to some extent, the realities of the new political and economic situation. . . .

The Stalinists are playing a dangerous game.

We must never forget Greece, where the Stalinists staked everything on a coalition with the liberal capitalists of the Centre Party, on an electoral victory which would rout the extreme right wing.

These manoeuvres between the Stalinists and the liberals provided the perfect cover for the colonels to prepare and execute their coup.

Military take-over

And in Greece, too, this took place after two whole years of bitter strikes, massive demonstrations and permanent government crisis.

Italy has twice been swept by rumours of a similar military take-over: in the summer of 1964 and now today.

The Stalinist line of seeking coalitions with 'liberal' ruling class section to answer the threat from the extreme right is the most certain guarantee that reaction will win.

Only a leadership that harnesses the immense resurgence of working-class militancy to the struggle for power can mount a successful challenge to the Italian ultra-right.

The bankruptcy of the centrist PSIUP and the antics of the self-styled 'Maoists' prove that only a party based on an international programme of struggle against Stalinism and imperialism will prove equal to revolutionary tasks in Italy.

The construction of the Italian section of the International Committee of the Fourth International is now an urgent and practical task.

TELEVISION REVIEW

L.W.T.: PROFIT VERSUS PROGRAMMES

By Frank Cartwright

LAST Thursday a petition signed by over 800 workers in commercial television was handed to the Independent Television Authority (ITA).

It spoke of 'the severe crisis' in the industry and went on: 'The fight to secure profits against falling income is being urged at the expense of good programmes. Television is not a commodity but a public service . . .'

During the recent upheavals at London Weekend Television (LWT) the real conflict between profit and programmes has been sharply revealed. Many workers in the industry have been forced to see this fundamental capitalist contradiction which is at the heart of the situation.

Cameramen, sound engineers, editors, painters, designers, electricians—the whole gamut of trades needed to get television on the air—are suddenly faced with the dangerous situation in which they exist.

Many of these workers have lived for years under all sorts of liberal and middle-class illusions.

Impression

Seeing themselves as different from other workers, as free to exercise their special skills and getting a good price for doing it, they have been isolated from any real understanding of their place in capitalist production.

With strong, heavily bureaucratized unions like the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT), the Electrical Trades Union and the National Association of Theatrical and Kine Employees, they have sold their labour under the impression that economism could answer all their problems.

Now they know that it cannot. Fuller understanding is necessary to make sense of the current 'severe crisis'.

At this point there is a tendency to fall back on making demands to the public body responsible, the Independent Television Authority (ITA).

It will soon be obvious to all that this outfit will do nothing because it is part of a state totally tied to capitalism. Its previous chairman was Lord Hill, now appointed by the Labour government as chairman of the BBC Board of Governors.

He was responsible for the present allocation of contracts to the bankers, insurance men and industrialists who sit on the boards of the commercial television companies.

The present chairman is Lord Aylestone and the director-general is Sir Robert Fraser, neither of whom are likely to rock any capitalist boats.

Petitions

The illusions are not shed all at once though; appeals are made, petitions sent. The assertion that 'television is not a commodity but a public service' only repeats the current mythology of the system.

Television is a commodity, like any other. It is produced by the labour of the workers in the industry who create enormous surplus value by the practise of their skills under contracts.

These workers do not own or control the means of production and they have nothing to sell but their labour.

During a period of inflation, bought at enormous cost, they may get comparatively good wages. Now that capitalism is entering its greatest crisis ever they are quickly realizing that the answer does not lie in narrow trade union consciousness nor in dreams of 'creative freedom'.

There are many tendencies like the so-called Free Communications Group which urge reform under a barrage of left talk. But with redundancy looming television workers must quickly realize that reformism leads to defeat.

Recommendation

As long ago as 1960 the Report of the Committee on Broadcasting, the Pilkington Committee, recommended that:

'The following major changes should be made in the constitution and organization of independent television:

(i) The Authority to plan programming.

(ii) The Authority to sell advertising time.

(iii) Programme companies to produce and sell to the Authority programme items for inclusion in the programme planned by the Authority.

(iv) The Authority, after making provision for reserves, to pay any surplus revenue to the Exchequer.'

It is now 1969. None of these reforms were implemented. However, the 1964 Act did contain a crucial section, clause 11 (4). After the major changes at LWT the ITA could certainly invoke it—if they wanted.

The clause reads:

'Every contract shall contain all such provisions as the Authority think necessary or expedient to ensure that if any change affecting the nature or the characteristics of the body corporate, or any change in the persons having control of the contract, which if it had occurred before would have induced the Authority to refrain from entering into the contract, the Authority may determine the contract.'

Does any worker in the industry seriously believe that the ITA will use this statutory power? No, capitalism will not really reform itself because it cannot. Philanthropy plus 3 per cent is a thing of the past. Good programmes and good profits are mutually exclusive.

Offering

And just in case anyone looks to the BBC for solutions, where the values of the system are persistently spread, they should take a glance at the Corporation's autumn schedules which begin this week.

The prize offering is a new 13-part serial made by the team who produced 'The Forsyte Saga', a serial called 'The First Churchills'.

As the front cover of the 'Radio Times' describes it, 'A Background of Wickedness. Political Machination. Meteoric Rise to Wealth and Glory. Religious Controversy. A Touching Tale of True Love'.

Programmes To Note

Tuesday, September 30:
BBC 1—9.10 p.m., Gandhi;
11.25 p.m., Labour Party Conference Report
ITV—9.30 a.m. and noon
Brighton Report; 10.30 p.m., Gandhi

Wednesday, October 1:
BBC 1—10.30 p.m., Labour Party Conference Report
ITV—9.30 a.m. and noon
Brighton Report
Radio 4—9.15 p.m., Gandhi

Thursday, October 2:
BBC 1—10.30 p.m., Labour Party Conference Report
ITV—9.30 a.m. and noon
Brighton Report

Friday, October 3:
BBC 1—10.30 p.m., Labour Party Conference Report
ITV—9.30 a.m. and noon
Brighton Report



Turin earlier this year was the scene of worker-police battles. Here a blazing car-barricade is approached warily by police. The effect of these class battles is being felt throughout Italy.

Pompidou speaks for monopoly capitalism

By Tom Kemp

THE long-standing weaknesses in the French economy and a call to all sections and classes to co-operate to overcome them formed the central theme of President Pompidou's press conference on September 22.



Class-conscious workers (like these immigrant workers at Renault) will not be deceived by Pompidou's attempt to appear more sophisticated than his predecessor.

Unlike de Gaulle whose ignorance of and contempt for economic questions was well-known, his successor was obliged to make them the central part of his most important declaration since he was elected.

Despite the press conference form this was a carefully stage-managed affair and Pompidou had come well briefed with facts and figures.

With the railway strike hardly settled, other strikes breaking out daily, and growing discontent throughout the working class, the setting for it was one of tension and anxiety about the future.

References to insurrection and civil war and what the government would do in the case of a further blow-up like that of May 1968, show how the fear of sparking off another explosion of the same sort dominates government policy.

While pointing to the growth in income and production in the past 20 years, Pompidou emphasized all the time what was still necessary

to bring French capitalism up to the standards of technology and business efficiency achieved by its rivals.

In doing so, of course, he admitted that the 11 years of Gaullist rule had not achieved what many of its supporters had hoped or had even assumed had been done until the May-June 1968 events.

He referred to the existence of a multitude of small-scale inefficient units in production and in distribution. While calling attention to the growth in agricultural productivity and production with a smaller labour force, he underlined the still excessive size and inefficiencies of the agrarian sector.

The existence of a large number of small businesses, small shopkeepers and artisans and peasants who together make up a sizeable part of the electorate, means that Pompidou had to tread very warily.

From the whole tone of his speech it was obvious that his approach to these representatives of the old-style, petty capitalism was hypocritical. The government would do something for them (what, was not clear). It hoped that they would join together in

larger and more efficient groupings.

His real solicitude, however, was extended to the big corporations, the representatives of large-scale, monopoly capitalism, the basis of his own political position.

In calling for increased productivity and effort, in warning against strikes and demands for higher wages, in calling for increased savings and investment, it was this modern sector of French capitalism which was clearly intended to benefit.

He called for increased profits, not, as he put it, as a matter of individual enrichment, but in order to provide a pool from which funds could be drawn for the expansion and modernization of French industry.

He did not say, of course, that such investment would automatically increase the wealth of the shareholders at the expense of the working class from whose unpaid surplus labour the profits would be derived.

Instead, talk about participation, drawing the worker more closely into the enterprise and the community and profit-sharing was intended

to pull wool over workers' eyes.

The most spectacular of these proposals, of course, was that to distribute shares in the nationalized Renault enterprise to workers and employees.

Pompidou, at least in matters economic, tries to show more sophistication than his predecessor.

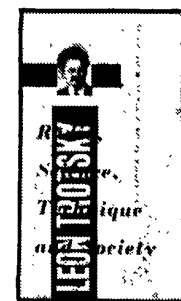
Class-conscious workers will not be deceived by this repetition in demagogic form of a policy designed to assist the big monopolies. In coming weeks they will go forward with their demands regardless.

In fact, behind the smooth talk and the 'reasonableness' of his propositions, Pompidou's assessment of the present position and problems of French capitalism was a confession of failure.

In the first place it could be asked why, after 11 years of the Fifth Republic, none of the fundamental problems had been tackled and France's relative position on the world market had shown no improvement.

Why was it now necessary to reveal all these shortcomings as though they had only been discovered yesterday?

Radio, Science, Technique and Society
By Leon Trotsky



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