

UNION CHIEFS STALLING ON ANY ACTION

TUC ACCEPTS

TORY

DICTATES

BY ROYSTON BULL

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Feather and the hospital workers' leaders knew in advance that they were wasting their time in asking Heath for a public inquiry into ancillary staffs' claim. John Cousins, Transport and General Workers' Union, said afterwards: 'I don't know why we came.'

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Feather also knows that the only way now to avoid severe and increasing cuts in the working class standard of living is to get this government out of office.

Transport union chief Jack Jones and Feather have set themselves firmly against any such course of political action.

Hence the need to get the strike movement exhausted and called off as quickly as is decently possible.

Their tactics are, on the one hand, to ignore Cabinet Ministers' naked threats to crush trade union resistance to the Tory economic demands.

By pretending not to notice these arrogant pronouncements, they hope the working class will ignore them too.

Continuing the pointless discussions with the government is an important smokescreen for hindering the trade union movement from understanding what their political objective must become—to break off all talks with the Tories and the employers and mobilize the General Strike to force the government's resignation.

On the other hand, Jones and Feather have to pretend to give TUC leadership to workers' struggles against state wage controls, as demanded by the March 5 special Congress, while all the time aiming to spin things out and prevent the fight from becoming a decisive one.

The TUC leaders have been stalling ever since bargaining for wages was made illegal by government decree last November.

● They delayed calling the special Congress until March 5 on the pretext of further negotiations with the government, which, of course, produced nothing.

● They tried to prevent that Congress taking any decisions but were overruled.

STRIKE BLOCKED

● They blocked moves for a General Strike by the Jones-Scanlon motion for one-day of protest and stoppage.

● They put off calling even that feeble protest until May 1.

● They have delayed for four weeks taking any industrial

action in support of the hospital workers and other groups which they were instructed to coordinate by Congress.

● They are continuing to pursue this tactic by calling for yet another special Finance and General Purposes Committee

meeting next week to discuss what to do.

This procrastination is nothing but a deliberate fraud on the working class.

Since the March 5 decision, the TUC leaders have met at full meetings of the Economic

Committee, the Finance and General Purposes Committee twice, and the General Council.

All that has been produced is the circular to trades councils asking for demonstrations in support of the hospital workers, an abortive visit to Heath, and a letter to unions asking them not to cross picket lines.

CHALLENGE

The TUC leaders want the trade union movement to accept defeat, have their wages decided for them by the Tory government and crawl cap in hand to the corporatist Pay Board to see if any extra crumbs can be offered.

The working class must not be misled. Any worthwhile future depends on taking up the challenge of the Tory government and fighting to defend basic rights.

TUC accepts South African invitation

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Despite its claims to be multi-racial, TUCSA has several times voted to exclude black members and has none today. The TUC in Britain is supposed to have broken off relations with all-white unions, but retains its links with TUCSA.

TUCSA is technically not 'all-white' because it has Indian and 'coloured' (mixed race) members. The TUC says its delegation to South Africa will 'promote the development of bodies representative of the views of African workers and acting on their behalf on matters of wages and employment'.

MARCH FUND NEEDS £603.40 IN 3 DAYS

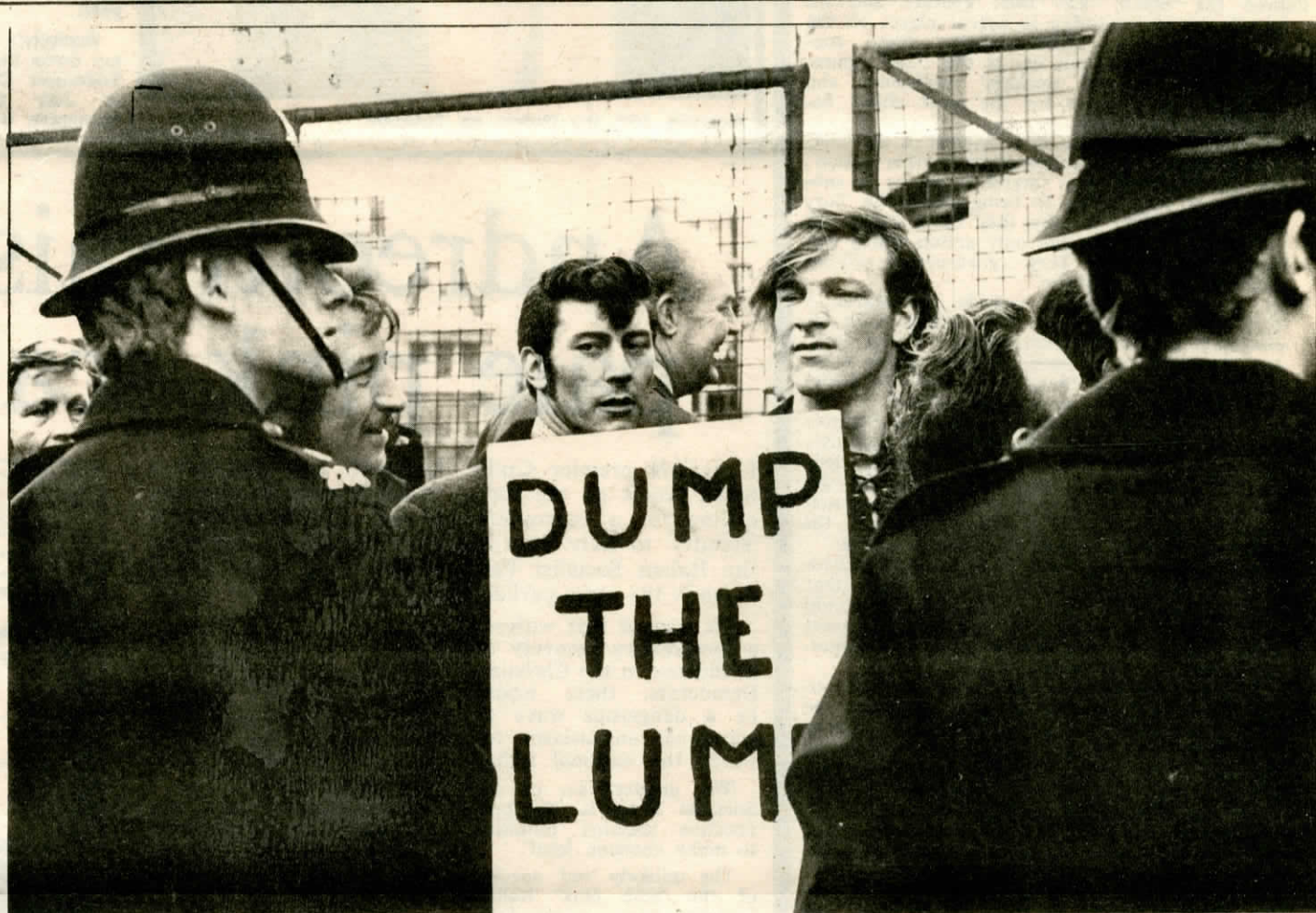
IT WAS a great post yesterday of £212.46 bringing our total up to £1,146.60. But don't sit back now—we have £603.40 still to collect in only three more days. Keep up the pace and we know you will do it.

More than ever the trade union leadership plays completely into the hands of the Tories.

Workers Press must be used to build a revolutionary leadership to defend the basic rights of the working class. The centre of this is the struggle to transform the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party.

So we can't waste any time in the campaign to complete our March Fund. Rush all last-minute donations immediately to:

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Lump demo outside Commons

Hundreds of building workers demonstrated outside parliament yesterday to mark the introduction of Eric Heffer's Private Members' Bill to outlaw the lump, labour-only sub-contracting in the building and construction industry. An estimated 300,000 men avoid union membership and evade tax payments by this means, and employers get cut-price labour.

St Thomas' strikers claim alternative labour is paid more—p.3

workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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WHAT WE THINK

More lies from the Stalinists

WHENEVER the Stalinists see the opportunity to lie against Trotskyists, they seize it with both hands. In yesterday's 'Morning Star' editorial they said:

'To argue against it [the TUC's one-day strike call for May 1], as some on the right and the ultra-left do, on the ground that by itself a one-day strike would not change government policy, is to justify inaction—however "revolutionary" some of the phrases used may sound.'

By 'ultra-left', they mean, of course, the Socialist Labour League. But it is a deliberate lie to say that we have 'argued against' the May Day strike and 'justified inaction'. On the contrary, we have called on all trade unionists to support the strike—but we have warned that it is totally inadequate.

Reporting the TUC's special Congress of March 5, we said it 'proposed no action which is capable of defeating the Tory government and its corporatist state pay laws. The resolution for "one day of national protest" carried by the Congress is too little, too late. It will not have the slightest impact on the Tory government.'

The one-day strike call was a 'left' cover, erected by the Stalinists and their friends, to permit the Congress to accept Victor Feather's right-wing policy document. The May 1 strike will be a similar 'left' cover for the TUC leaders' total capitulation to Heath's corporatist plans.

The action will take place under circumstances in which the gas men have been sold out, the hospital ancillary workers left to fight on their own, and the miners will have balloted on strike action in isolation from the rest of the working class.

Behind the 'Star's' 'left' talk, Feather and his friends are manoeuvring to accept places on the Tories' state pay boards. Under these conditions May 1 will not be, as the 'Star' claims, a demonstration of workers' confidence and strength, but a cover for the most abject betrayal.

Neither the Stalinists nor their friends in the TUC intend May 1 to be followed by 'further action'. On the contrary they intend it to be a substitute for real action to bring down the Tory government. That is why they have stubbornly resisted the calls for the only action which can bring down the Tory government—all-out indefinite General Strike.

That was the call raised outside the March 5 TUC by 1,500 lobbyists. This lobby, with its persistent chants of 'General Strike! Tories Out!' was played down by both the Fleet Street Press and the 'Morning Star'. The Stalinist paper reported only calls for 'a strong stand'.

The so-called Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, which is led by the Stalinists and supported by the revisionist groups, deliberately refused to mobilize any forces for the March 5 lobby, which was almost entirely organized by the All Trades Unions Alliance, the industrial arm of the Socialist Labour League.

The Stalinists not only 'justified inaction', but deliberately resorted to inaction. They knew that to bring out their supporters on that day would have exposed them to the calls for a General Strike to which they would have no answer. They therefore kept them away.

The Liaison Committee has persistently refused to fight for a General Strike to bring down the Tory government. Inside the TUC the Stalinists and their 'left' friends prop up the General Council, while outside the Liaison Committee seeks to head off into safe channels the growing dissatisfaction with the TUC leaders.

In September, the Stalinists voted with the right wing for continued discussions between the TUC leaders and Tory premier Edward Heath.

That is why the Liaison Committee's conference this weekend will be an even bigger fraud than the TUC's March 5 Congress.

There is only one way to defeat Heath's corporatist plans. That is to compel the union leaders to call an all-out, indefinite General Strike to create the political and industrial conditions for forcing the Tory government to resign.

The Communist Party is the representative in Britain of the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy in the Soviet Union. Acting on the Stalinist theory of peaceful co-existence and the parliamentary road to socialism, it seeks to sell out and defeat the revolutionary aspirations of the oppressed masses everywhere.

Its support for a one-day strike, therefore, is not in order to prepare for a real fight against the Tories, but a conscious step to assist the right-wing and 'left' trade union leaders who want to dissipate the strength of the working class in isolated, piecemeal actions and futile one-day protest strikes, as they did during their fake campaign against the Industrial Relations Bill.

With the TUC leaders intensifying their collaboration with the Tories' corporatist plans, May 1 will not only be the biggest inadequacy, but the biggest betrayal yet in the fight against Heath's government.

Socialist Labour League members will, of course, support the strike. But they will fight harder than ever to put an end to protests and win support for real General Strike action to defeat the Tory government and its allies in the workers' ranks.

Communique demonstrates Ministers' impotence

Pious money wishes in Washington

THE MEETING of the Group of 20 Finance Ministers and officials in Washington earlier this week failed to produce a single positive proposal for the 'reform' of the system.

The meeting's final communique is nothing more than a collection of pious wishes which simply confirms the impotence and helplessness of the capitalists faced with the collapse of their monetary system.

'USEFUL'

The Finance Ministers said they would prefer to see a system of fixed but adjustable parities, but that the current floating exchange rates 'could provide a useful technique in certain circumstances'.

They looked forward to the achievement of a system which would (naturally) 'encourage the growth of world trade, employment and economic development and support the domestic efforts of monetary authorities throughout the world to counteract inflation'.

DEFICIT

They also wished for: a better adjustment process for countries' balance of payments surpluses and deficits; better international liquidity management based on the 'paper gold' issued by the IMF; an 'intensive study' of capital movements; less use of trade controls for balance of payments purposes.

This list of platitudes was released the same day as

the United States announced a substantial rise in its trade deficit which rose to \$476m in February compared with \$303m in the previous month.

MOCKERY

Though US exports increased even faster, the Commerce Department in Washington said.

The US is now pushing ahead with the Trade Bill, which is a prime example of the use of trade controls for balance-of-payments purposes.

Talk of an increased role for special drawing rights is a mockery while the price of the metal itself continues the upward trend.

The gold price is around the \$90 an ounce mark and bullion dealers are confidently predicting it will soon top the \$100 level.

This situation is throwing an intolerable strain on the world economy and signs that a crash is imminent are multiplying daily.

The Hong Kong stock exchange index collapsed this month from over 1,700 to 1,200, shaking the financial pundits and casting doubt on the security of British capital in the Far East.

NAKED

'The Times', commenting on the position of the giant financial conglomerate Slater Walker, warned:

'The risk . . . is in SW's heavy commitments overseas and particularly in the Far East where a more naked form of capitalism permits massive profits—and potentially massive losses.'



Numeiry with the Queen on Tuesday.

Numeiry's next stop

PRESIDENT Numeiry of the Sudan will be visiting Stalinist Rumania shortly after he finishes his official visit to Britain.

On his four-day visit to Bucharest he will discuss important economic issues and development projects within the framework of an agreement concluded last year.

Numeiry's firing squads cut down the leaders of the Sudanese Communist Party in July 1971, but the Rumanian Stalinists are not

letting the massacre stand in their way.

They have already agreed to lend the rightist, anti-Palestinian regime £25m for development. And they will be discussing other loans with the Sudan President.

The Sudanese want Rumanian aid for a £100m river transport scheme, oil exploration plans, and industrialization of the timber, mining, tanning cement and textile industries.

They will also be discussing a joint scheme to fatten cattle for export.

Andreotti raises pale pink scare

ITALIAN premier Giulio Andreotti has launched a harsh attack on the Italian Social-Democrats who are calling for a centre-left coalition to bring political 'stability' to Italy. In a speech in Rome, he described the Italian Socialist Party as the 'only party which defends the extra-parliamentary left'.

He warned that without a 'progressive recovery of confidence in the Christian Democrats, there would be a dangerous wave of emotional enthusiasm towards the national right'.

The greatest sin of the Socialist Party is 'the provocative socialist initiative to make abortion legal'.

The unlikely 'red' spectre of the 'pale pink' Italian Socialist Party, which fully collaborates with the institutions of the EEC, is raised by Andreotti, to divert attention from the deep political crisis in Italy.

FASCISTS

For over a week, the fascist movement in the southern town of Reggio Calabria has organized strikes and demonstrations.

On Monday, 'Ciccio' Franco, a fascist deputy and exponent of the corporatist union, Cisial, called on the Reggio citizens to take the solution of unemployment and poverty into their own hands.

A mass meeting of 4,000 applauded the spokesman of the National Right, and leader of Reggio Action Committee and proceeded to establish barricades in the streets.

IN ROME, the scandal of the bugging devices reached a new stage with the pub-

lication of an article in 'Il Manifesto' claiming that a former Finance Minister, Luigi Preti, was responsible for bugging the editorial offices of the Socialist Party newspaper, 'Avanti'.

Functionaries at the Ministry of the Interior have also been accused of buying up large supplies of bugging devices.

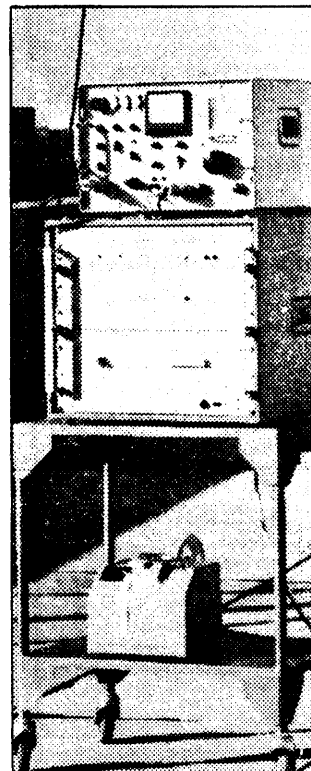
The Ministry is doing its best to protect the private detectives who are being held on spy charges and gloss over the involvement of the National Right in these spying operations.

Private detective Tom Ponzi is receiving medical attention in the San Carlo di Arona clinic for problems caused by his 'weak' heart.

In Milan 12 employees of the telephone series service have been arrested. Also on trial will be Walter Benefiorti, an ex-police chief.

Andreotti's claim that he is for a 'democratic' path against these activities of the right, looked extremely thin when a few hours after his speech, he was embracing Hector Campora, the Peronist president-elect in Argentina and idol of the Italian fascist movement.

The Italian CP has weakened the working class very dangerously in the face of this conspiracy.



Rome authorities have mounted a radar system on the roof of the Palace of Justice that can identify bugging devices within a radius of a mile. This showy exercise cost tens of millions of lire.

The engineering workers have been divided by the decision of their leaders in the state sector to accept the employers' offer and leave private sector workers to fight it out alone.

The token fight outlined is at least 30 hours' strike between April 1 and 21.

Zulu strikers demand more pay

SOME 500 African workers at a giant aluminium plant at Richard's Bay on South Africa's east coast have defied a management ultimatum to end their three-day strike or face dismissal.

Management at the plant said that the Zulu workers would be instantly dismissed if they failed to report for work and accept a £1.20 a week increase.

By mid-morning yesterday none of the strikers had appeared nor had there been any dismissals.

White scabs are manning the plant.

The strikers are insisting that Barney Dladla, Minister for Community Affairs in the Kwazulu 'homeland' government, be brought into the dispute.

He has mediated in other Zulu strikes in recent weeks.

Safety ignored at pit

THE INQUIRY into the Wankie mining disaster in Rhodesia which killed over 400 miners last June has severely criticized the colliery management and the government inspectors.

Methane gas in the mine had become ignited and had caused a coal dust explosion.

There had been other contraventions of safety measures by the mine management.

St Thomas strikers' jobs offered at higher pay



STRIKING electricians at the St Thomas' Hospital site in south London, who are demanding £1 an hour, believe that alternative labour is being paid £1.15 an hour in a bid to break their industrial action.

Their information comes from men who left the site after being run across the picket line in two special, police-type heavy coaches owned by main contractors Laing's.

According to these men, some of whom had been attracted from as far away as Liverpool by the promise of high earnings, electricians working on the site have been guaranteed up to 45 hours' overtime. This would mean pay of £100 a week.

One factor helping the electricians' employers, Phoenix Ltd, in their search for other labour is the attitude of the electricians' union leadership, which has refused official backing.

But judging from the numbers of men in the coaches which break the picket, the employers are nevertheless having only very limited success in their search.

Some of the 16 to 25 who go in each day are apparently managers.

A national picket of the St Thomas' Hospital site has been called for April 6 at 7.30 a.m.

Home Secretary to see Tory 'lynch mob'

ROBERT CARR, the Home Secretary, will meet a deputation of Tory MPs sponsoring a 'Bring Back the Rope' campaign next Tuesday.

The backbench Tories will be pressing Carr to allow the reintroduction of a Bill in favour of capital punishment. Forty Tories have formed a committee to plan a campaign to have the rope brought back.

Mr Carol Mather, MP for Esher, who presided at the first meeting on Tuesday, said there was 'a concern at the rising tide of violence, the increase in murder and manslaughter killings and the sharp rise in crimes involving the use of firearms'.

Mather added: 'The deputation intends to point out to the Home Secretary that law and order is a government responsibility and that legislative action should be taken by him and his Cabinet colleagues and that if this is not possible, time should be given for a Private Member's Bill.'

This reactionary move by backbench Tories is tied up with the rapidly worsening economic situation.

The Tories want all the legal paraphernalia to attack the working class in the most brutal way.

They need not only an increase in the size of

'Emergency' gallows kept

the standing army and the arming of the police, but also sweeping judicial powers.

Above all, this means that the gallows must be brought into use again.

It is a known fact that when the free vote in parliament ended capital punishment in 1969, all gallows were destroyed. All except one.

Workers Press has been told that there is one dismantled, but preserved set of gallows at Pentonville.

They were kept for 'any emergency', a prison officer was told.

The Home Office has refused to comment.



CARR... Pressed for new hanging Bill

State pay sit-in

ABOUT 380 workers at the Deloro Stellite factory in Swindon, Wilts, today enter the sixth day of their sit-in. The men clock in at 8 a.m. each day and leave at 5 o'clock, but they do no work. They are protesting against the management's handling of their pay review.

The manual workers, who make small tools and surgical equipment, were originally offered the £1 plus 4 per cent state pay limit. Later there were some small concessions given on other increments.

But what angered the work force was the fact that foremen were offered £2.64, which was above the Phase Two ceiling. They immediately began their industrial action to get the same increase as foremen.

Make everybody work harder says CBI chief

THE HEAD of Britain's most powerful employers' organization yesterday called on firms to exact dramatic increases in individual productivity from every single worker.

His call came 48 hours after publication of the government's White Paper on the operation of its Phase Two state pay controls.

This puts direct economic pressure on employers to force up their rate of exploitation.

BLAME

In a speech to the Foreign Press Association, Michael Clapham, president of the Confederation of British Industry, attempted to pin the blame for inflation squarely on the working class.

But he did so in a way which reveals that the employers' main worry is that their traditional weapons against wages militancy—cuts in real living standards and the creation of a pool of jobless—are just not working.

Said the CBI president: 'It has been an inflation led by wages and salaries at a time when the classical economic rules say that it should not have occurred: namely at a time when the economy has been stagnant and unemployment has been high.'

CAPACITY

Clapham claimed that the fact there was some spare capacity in the economy meant that the Tories had perhaps a year to solve the inflationary problem.

'After that', he told his lunchtime audience, 'I am inclined to think that imports will start flowing in at a dangerous rate to supply demand for which we lack the capacity unless—and it is a big unless—we can raise dramatically the level of output per man.'

The real 'English disease'

BY DAVID MAUDE
OUR LABOUR
CORRESPONDENT

over the last 20 years had been a low level of productivity compared with competitors in the rest of Europe, North America and Japan.

British industry had less capital at the disposal of each man employed than its main competitors.

Unless this was put right 'we risk becoming the peasants of the western world'.

Clapham, who beside his CBI post holds the chairmanship of chemical giant ICI, was at some pains to explain the historical difficulties of British capitalism.

He attacked those aspects of the Tories' Phase Two code which limited profits.

'Sloppy thinking about the role of profits, as we see from the White Paper on the operation of Stage Two of the counter-inflation policy, infects Conservative as well as Labour governments.'

LOGIC

Such thinking he described, in the most ominous and reactionary terms, as 'a cultural defeat, a weakness in national logic'.

The CBI president went on to hope that Phase Three of the pay laws would be voluntary, and that employers and employed could work together under it.

'No doubt most of his journalistic audience will interpret this as a conciliatory gesture, and this is the impression they will try to foist on the workers' movement.'

In fact the opposite is the case—which again demonstrates the treacherous nature of the TUC's collaboration policies.

HOME buyers will be paying at least 10 per cent on their mortgages as building societies leap-frog each other in a bid to attract funds. Mr Ian Russell, a director of Anthony Gibbs (Mortgage Services) Ltd has predicted. Leap-frogging was already evident with major societies, such as the Leek and Westbourne, raising their interest to investors rate to 6.5 per cent.

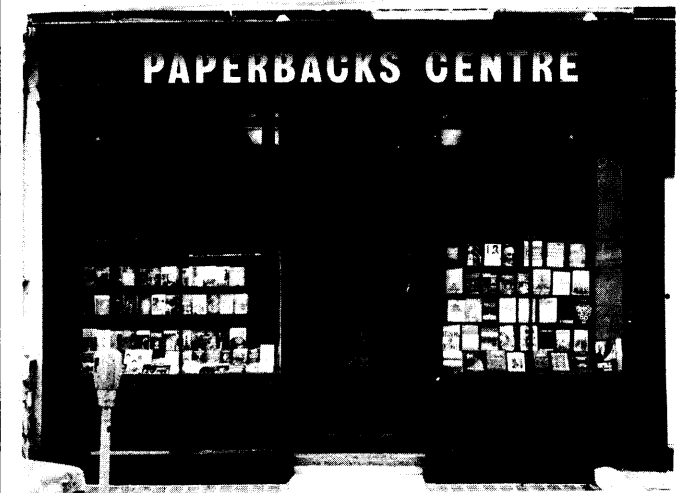


The CBI's Michael Clapham

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For the third time in four years BSA workers face possible mass redundancy. This time, however, the jobs of all 6,000 remaining workers are at stake. The £25m motorcycle and engineering group—heavily run down since its heyday in the 1950s—threatens to founder altogether on the twin rocks of Japanese competition and US protectionism. The government has launched a half-hearted bid to save the company. But the £4.8m with which the Tories have undertaken to finance a merger with Norton Villiers, under Manganese Bronze chairman Dennis Poore, can only temporarily stave off the crisis. And Manganese Bronze in any event has already indicated that either way redundancies are inevitable. At BSA the real villain of the piece is capitalism—British capitalism in its most outmoded, parasite form. Here Andrew Lawrence examines the background to the jobs threat and explains why defence of the right to work at BSA is inseparable from the fight to force the Tory government out of office.

'The Minister has made it clear that any assistance given would be to secure a healthy industry in Britain rather than to maintain any particular level of employment.' This statement from Manganese Bronze, owners of the company with which BSA is to merge, makes clear that the very last thing the merger is designed to do is save jobs.

In capitalist terms, of course, an industry is 'healthy' so long as it makes profit.

BSA, which lost £8.2m in the financial year 1970-1971 and £3.3m in 1971-1972, does not qualify. The 'particular level of employment' to be maintained after this year's losses—already predicted by chairman Lord Shawcross to be 'very substantial'—is anybody's guess.

No doubt major surgery will be attempted by Manganese Bronze.

Whether the patient, the sick man of the motor-cycle industry, will survive is questionable. An answer to the question can only be attempted if we look at the situation in which the British industry finds itself today.

The industry faces overwhelming competition from its Japanese rivals who have modern plants, the strongest dealer network in the key American market and what the 'Financial Times' calls a 'disciplined' labour force.

By contrast the plant, equipment, model range and marketing resources of the British industry have all been allowed to run down since its hey-day in the early 1950s.

After BSA's disastrous 1970-1971 losses, its top management was drastically changed. Lord Shawcross, a former Labour Attorney-General, was drafted in as chairman.

The following year turnover declined from £27m to £22m while exports fell from £20m to £1m and the position has deteriorated markedly since then.

Last autumn, when the company should have been manufacturing at peak levels to meet American demand this spring, BSA failed to meet its production targets of Triumph motor-cycles.

'There have been problems in the production of the new range of Triumphs', Shawcross announced. 'For this, on behalf of management, I must accept responsibility.'

Further heavy losses were incurred as a result of the decline in the dollar's value against sterling.

The British market is small and BSA has only a tiny share of the European market.

This makes the company totally dependent on the American market. But it is precisely in the US that it is most vulnerable to competition from the Japanese Honda and Yamaha.

Between 1970 and 1972, BSA sales declined significantly in the American market, especially in the 'super-bike' category, at a time when demand was expanding.

Meanwhile Honda 750cc

sales doubled from 22,000 to 44,000. Yamaha 650/750cc sales shot up from 3,000 to 20,000.

Norton Villiers, which had been resurrected from the bankrupt Associated Motorcycles by Manganese Bronze Holdings, did slightly better than BSA, but the firm admits that it was riding the wave set off by enthusiasm for Japanese bikes.

Now the British motorcycle firms are to be merged into Norton Villiers Triumph but the British industry still lacks the resources to keep up with technical innovations, such as rotary engines and multiple cylinders, now being rapidly developed by the Japanese.

It is not those responsible for BSA's appalling performance who will be made to pay for its crisis, however, but the BSA workers themselves.

Already, over the last four years, almost 4,000 have lost their jobs—more than 500 in 1969 and 3,000 plus following the big losses of 1971. The story behind these sackings is one of capitalist price anarchy, trade war and straight, ordinary mismanagement.

The 1969 job cuts, which occurred in August, formed part of an attempt to rationalize production because of an expected drop in sales on the key American market.

In fact BSA's market forecasts proved disastrously wrong.

Instead of shrinking, American demand expanded. BSA's American dealers ran short of supply and because of the rationalization the company lost ground.

TEETHING TROUBLES

Meanwhile the home market was also being swamped by cheap, low-powered Japanese machines—forcing the diversion of more and more resources into a bid to claw back in the United States and Canada.

BSA exported 85 to 90 per cent of its total production to the States with the intention of taking up the slack from the home market.

It even brought out a new 32-model range (50cc-750cc) which was aimed specifically at this new market. However trading results failed to match technical achievements.

As soon as production of these new machines started there were teething problems, transportation troubles and a series of component-supplier strikes.

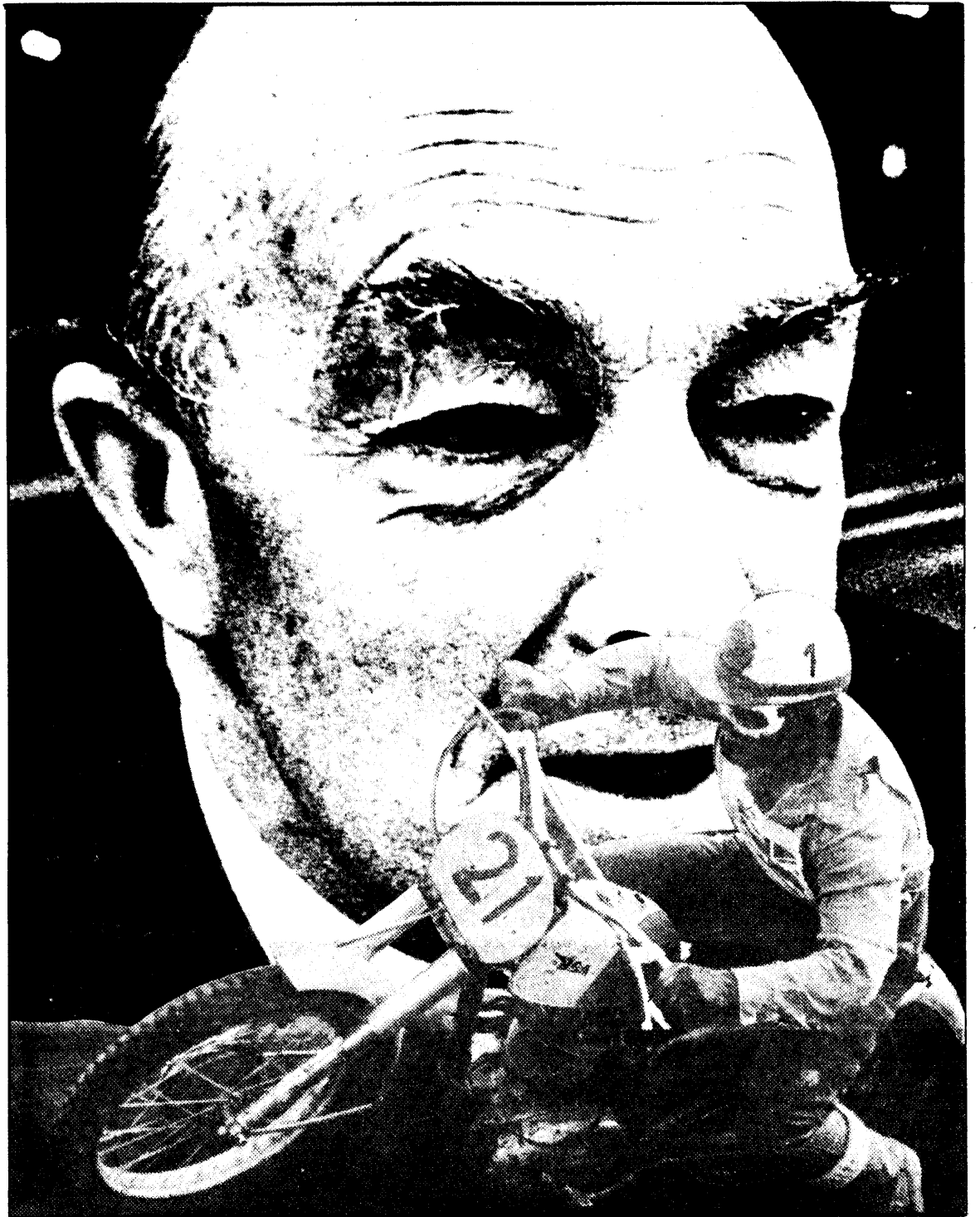
This produced a cut-back on the number of machines being exported and a delay in production schedules.

By May of 1971 it was announced that a loss was expected in the financial year ending July. The City accountants, Cooper Brothers, were asked to make an urgent appraisal of the situation.

At this time production figures were running at record levels—some 50 per cent higher than ever before.

Yet the BSA directors were caught in the contradictions of their own system. Their position worsened with an announcement that selling prices must rise because of increases in the cost of materials, components and production. This

TRADE WAR HITS BSA JOBS



Lord Shawcross—was drafted in as chairman, after the huge losses of 1970-1971.

on July 13, 1971, when Dr Daniel MacDonald (multi-millionaire controller of Bermuda-based investment company, Vision Enterprises) offered 55p per ordinary share for a stake of 50 to 60 per cent in BSA. This would have been a partial takeover with a controlling position.

MacDonald's offer would have cost between £4.5m and £5.5m.

It would have been a cheap buy. BSA is capitalized at an issued £9.3m, of which £6-£7m alone is placed on land, buildings and the total assets on shares valued at 140p per share in the middle of 1970.

The then BSA chairman, Eric Turner, received this bid, but decision was taken to defer until August 1971, when the auditors' report on their financial position was expected. This was accepted by MacDonald, whose offer was conditional and depended on satisfaction with this report.

Apparently MacDonald already owned approximately 300,000 BSA shares, which had been acquired within the two to three weeks, after the May statement of coming losses, for prices around 40p.

Despite MacDonald's bid, however, it was announced that 850 of the 7,000 workforce at the Small Heath and Meriden factories would be made redundant. Those affected were to be 400 shop-floor workers and 450 staff.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

would clearly play havoc with their attempt to regain markets.

The directors tried to soften the blow by also announcing a 10 per cent reduction in their own wages and the ending of production of the Aerial Three.

Thousands of pounds had been spent in launching this model. Now it was being discarded as a costly mistake.

'Orders from all over the world have been very much in excess of production; this is why the situation is so frustrating', commented one of the directors, a Mr Deverall.

The directors did, however, see a trace of hope in the expected heavy demand for BSA and Triumph machines in 1972, and in the continued high production rate.

But few people were really fooled by this false optimism and £5m was lost on the total value of BSA shares on the London stock exchange. The price of shares slumped from 71p to 42½p before crawling back up to 51p.

In June 1971 demand for BSA and Triumph motor cycles did in fact far exceed the supply. The company tried to reshape production methods in an attempt to cope.

There was also a major reshuffle of BSA/Triumph marketing organization in America.

Peter Thornton, the man who joined BSA Inc in 1969 and merged the parent company and its independent subsidiaries into a single, nationwide organization, was re-

placed as president by Denis McCormack, who was also to be the chief executive officer of BSA Inc of the USA and subsidiaries.

In the July financial report it was estimated that BSA's provisions and losses totalled £8.53m before tax. Compared to the previous financial year's profit of £2,224,332 this was seen as a death-blow.

The group trading loss was £2,778,366, with £1,503,531 for exceptional items, the total deficit was £4,281,897.

In addition to this there was £4,250,000 for provisions, such as reorganization to the motor cycle division, estimated future costs of factory and production rationalization, plus the consequential losses of the disposal of stock and plant no longer required and, finally, redundancy.

Immediately there was a massive economy drive.

SHARES BOOSTED

There was yet another reshuffle of positions in management and an increase in prices to counter losses in the motor cycle division. For the second time in two years a warning of redundancies was given out at Birmingham and Coventry factories.

At the same time £1m worth of shares changed hands which was no encouragement to potentially redundant workers. Then came rumours of a takeover and a possible bidder. Share prices were boosted

CLASS WAR IN TURKEY



Turkish tanks—part of the armoury of the generals' regime directed at destroying all opposition.

Turkey's martial-law regime is carrying out a veritable campaign of extermination against the left-wing opposition. Hundreds of people have been arrested and tortured and trials have been going on for months.

In many cases gendarme units have hunted down and killed suspect members of opposition groups. Others, like two secondary school teachers in Dordyol, are beaten up by fascist commandos who operate with impunity.

Even when political suspects are not arrested their houses are searched and books confiscated. The military have set themselves up as censors and have ordered many books to be pulped.

The Istanbul Martial Law Command military prosecutor on January 28 ordered 137 books to be destroyed including all the works of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

Included in the list was C. Wright Mill's 'Listen Yankee' about Cuba, a book of articles by Maurice Dobb, Paul Sweezy and others called 'From Feudalism to Capitalism' and a book called 'Maxim Gorky Explains'.

The martial law government strikes with particular venom at students, teachers and intellectuals but opposition is spreading among workers and peasants.

Despite police oppression there have been a number of hard-fought strikes which have received little notice outside Turkey.

A strike in the Demir-Dokum factory in Istanbul lasted for 99 days and won concessions from the employers. Coalminers have fought a long strike in the Cavuslu collieries, Uzunkopra, for a wage increase.

Textile workers, leather workers and others have been on strike since the beginning of the year.

Peasants in Guclu, a village in Akseki-Antalya, killed a big money-lender, Huseyin Cobanoglu, who had exacted high rates of interest from them while they starved, and confiscated their lands. Gendarmerie units had to be called in on January 23 to 'pacify' the village.

The torture of political prisoners in Turkey has meanwhile become an international scandal. The army's reply to these allegations was conveyed in the Order of the First Army martial law command of February 4. It ran as follows:

'Allegations that torture is being used on detainees and prisoners who are either on trial or are awaiting trial, are continually being advanced.

'It is known that these allegations are put forward in order to put pressure on the judges and other officials with a view to influencing the martial law courts' decisions. Because of this, the publication of any news about torture is being banned.'

In February the independent woman senator Fatma Ismen, wrote to prime minister Ferit Melen about torture used on women detainees at the Yildirim No. 3 Military Detention Centre. She submitted a statement signed by 18 lawyers which ran as follows:

'Some women detainees were taken away by officials supposedly to the military prosecutor for questioning, but their eyes were blindfolded and they were taken instead to MIT (Turkish Secret Service).

'There the women detainees were subject to the tortures of beating up, bastinado, beating with truncheons and electric shock; they were then taken back to the detention centre.

'Gulay Ozdes was taken to the MIT centre in Istanbul... and several torture techniques were used against her.

The statement continued by describing what had happened to some women hunger-strikers:

'During the first days of the hunger strike, Thursday December 14, 1972 and the following Friday and Saturday, the women detainees were beaten up several times by the soldiers with truncheons.

'At the same time the detainees had their cell windows painted over, closed and nailed, thus stopping any proper ventilation, and their heating was cut off. Visiting was forbidden.

The statement gave the names of 18 women who had been tortured.

In a Press statement on behalf of the martial law tribunal for Ankara issued on January 24, Lieutenant-Colonel Orban Izgu said that it had dealt with 1,189 out of 8,590

cases brought before it.

Heavy sentences have been meted out for political activities. For example, professors and lecturers from the Faculty of Law of Ankara University received sentences of four years to six years three months for 'anarchist activities'.

Sentences of five years were

imposed in December on ten students who had led a sit-in at the Middle East Technical University. At the trial of the teachers' union 59 people were sentenced to prison, some for more than ten years.

In January, Akolulkadir Bolurcu was sent to prison for four years for an article offen-

sive to the regime.

A number of death sentences have been passed on members of the Turkish Peoples' Liberation Army, an urban guerrilla group and sentences of 20 years were demanded for the leaders of the Revolutionary Worker-Peasant Party on trial in Ankara.

DEFEND RUCHELL MAGEE!

BY JACK GALE

Ruchell Magee is now fighting for his life in a San Francisco courthouse against charges of murder and kidnapping.

Magee has not hit many headlines. Most of the middle-class liberals who fell over themselves to join the campaign to defend Angela Davis in 1971 and 1972 probably don't even know who he is. And certainly the Stalinists, both in the United States and in Britain, are wishing they had never heard of him.

For Ruchell Magee was Angela Davis's co-defendant when she was charged with complicity in the attempted escape of three black prisoners from Marin Courthouse in August 1970. Three black militants and Superior Court Judge Harold Haley were shot dead.

Angela was charged with having bought the weapons for the rescue attempt. The Stalinists organized her defence—she is a member of the American Communist Party—and appointed a liberal defence team to represent her.

The argument was that she was innocent, and that she was, in the words of chief

attorney Leo Branton, 'a warm, articulate human being and she has love and compassion, yes for George Jackson, but also for all humanity.'

It was, of course, the duty of all revolutionaries to defend Angela Davis against that bourgeois legal frame-up.

The Socialist Labour League, like the Workers' League in the United States, did that. But we also defended, and we still do, the heroic fighter Ruchell Magee.

This is in stark contrast to the Communist Party, both in the States and here, who have sought to ignore Magee completely. For Magee, a self-taught worker, is alleged to have been caught with a gun in his hand and is accused of killing the judge.

There is nothing in that to appeal to the liberal conscience.

Yet Magee's defence has been a principled one throughout—unlike the 'humanitarian' special pleading put in for Angela Davis by the Stalinists.

Magee defends his right to fight his way out of jail on the grounds that he cannot gain justice from the American courts. The rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, he says, do not apply to the poor and to minorities.

He repeatedly insists that the transcript of his 1963 conviction for kidnapping and robbery was fraudulent.

For one thing his motion to dismiss his lawyer, who had pleaded him guilty against his will, does not appear in the transcript. Yet it was this transcript which was used when his appeal against conviction was rejected in 1965.

Now Magee is pouring out the details of his fight for justice in open court.

He has told how he was hospitalized after being beaten by police who were attempting to force a false confession out of him.

He has told how his attempts to obtain a record of the court's proceedings and to petition for a writ of *habeas corpus* led to his being placed in solitary confinement in San Quentin.

Despite all this, or rather because of it, the US Communist Party's Western Coast paper, the 'Peoples' World', has refused to side with him.

The reason is clear. Magee is a continual embarrassment to the Stalinists.

His presence during the preliminary hearings of the Davis case, when he was chained to a chair which was bolted to the floor, and when another chain was placed

round his neck to stop him making political speeches, was a constant reminder that the Stalinist attempts to avoid the political implications of the trial were hypocritical and reactionary.

This was made worse by Magee's openly expressed contempt and distrust of all lawyers, not least those provided by the Communist Party.

Thus, it was with enormous relief that the Stalinists greeted the separation of the Davis case from the Magee case in August 1971.

This meant that the Stalinists and their revisionist allies could concentrate on their liberal appeals for Angela without raising the question of freeing all the victims of class oppression in the United States.

In particular they could leave Magee to his fate, which they have sought to do ever since, and avoid the political core of the trial—the oppression by American capitalism of black militants and revolutionaries as part of its oppression of the entire working class.

Angela Davis was acquitted in June 1972.

That certainly did not mean, as the Stalinists and revisionists claimed, that mass pressure could change the course of bourgeois justice.

If that were so, why did these people not use the same methods to free Magee?

The truth is that the acquittal of Angela Davis coincided with Nixon's diplomatic

manoeuvres with the bureaucrats in Moscow and Peking. These bureaucracies have no interest in the freeing of Magee.

The Stalinists and revisionists must be made to answer: Why was Magee dropped after Davis was acquitted?

Davis was feted by the Stalinists not only in the United States, but in the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia (she refused an appeal to speak up on behalf of political prisoners there) and East Germany. She was even welcomed in fascist Spain.

But while the Stalinist functionaries have draped Davis with flowers, nowhere have they demanded the release of Magee.

In Britain, the Angela Davis Defence Committee, composed of Stalinists, liberals and revisionists, reconstituted itself into the Angela Davis Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners.

But its flurry of Press conferences, rallies and international gatherings on behalf of Davis is in sharp contrast to its inactivity on behalf of Magee.

It is a basic revolutionary duty to defend all class war prisoners.

Trotskyists everywhere will demand the freeing of Ruchell Magee. But also, they will not cease to expose the cowardly and unprincipled silence of the Stalinists and their friends as this courageous fighter defies the might of the US legal system.



CHARTER OF THE COWBOY PORTS

BY ROYSTON BULL
Cargo traffic through Britain's smaller docks and wharves, which are outside the main ports covered by the National Dock Labour Scheme, has almost doubled in the last seven years.

The growth of these unregistered ports has been a bitter bone of contention for registered dockers during the recent labour run-down at the main ports like London, Liverpool and Hull. Their anger boiled over during last year's national docks strike when some of these non-scheme docks carried on working and acted as a strike-breaking force against the registered dockers. But the principal obstacle to the dockers during the strike was not this at all. It was their own union bureaucracy led by Jack Jones. Dockers were led back to

work to accept the run-down in jobs by their own union, which had ostensibly set out to halt the slide. The vehicles used were promises of something emerging from the Jones-Aldington committee of inquiry and the National Ports Council longer-term look at the non-scheme ports, which has just been published. Lord Aldington is chairman of the Port of London Authority, former vice-chairman of the Tory Party and close friend of Edward Heath, wealthy banker and profit-conscious industrialist. By jacking up the compensation payments to more than £4,000 in some cases for dockers willing to leave the industry altogether, Jones-Aldington was able, at the second attempt, to get the national docks strike called off. Jones offered the men large lump sums to quit the ports and in that way solved the menacing problem of the temporarily unattached register.

But the £4,000 can quickly evaporate in this period of uncontrollable inflation. On top of this, the dockers who left have exchanged at least a modicum of job security offered by the Dock Labour Scheme for what? The other part of the deal which got the docks delegates to vote to go back, despite the opposition from the dockers' mass meetings, was the promise of action over the non-scheme ports by way of an instant report.

PIECEMEAL FIGHT

Nearly eight months later, the report has come out. It confirms everything the dockers were saying about cut-priced labour and casual employment undermining their main port conditions. But now that all the anger has subsided, and thousands of dockers have been conned

into leaving the industry, what chance is there of doing something about it at this late stage? There was never any policy worth pursuing on the docks other than the wholesale expropriation and nationalization of the ports and associated industries without a penny compensation. The same is true of all other industries. The point being that whatever piecemeal fights are put up, there is little future for the working class in the steady deterioration of the capitalist economic system other than falling living standards and diminishing job opportunities. To raise the demand for the nationalization of the port transport industry under workers' control without compensation is to raise the demand for a political showdown with the Tory government. The Tories act as the direct representative of all the capitalist interests which adversely affect dockers' lives, such as



Lord Aldington, chairman of the Port of London Authority. Above left: Dockers celebrate the rejection of the Jones-Aldington report on July 27, 1972. Later Jones and the Stalinists buried the fight for job security in return for higher compensation payments—and thus the report was accepted. Above right: Picketing at the unregistered Neap House Wharf.

'cowboy' wharves, container depots, casual labour, unattached register, non-scheme ports, etc. All of these phenomena exist because the Tory government, and the Labour government before it, chose to allow them to exist under the free market economy. Jack Jones chose to persuade his members to play the capitalist game and sell their asset—their job security—to the highest bidder. This was the Jones-Alding-

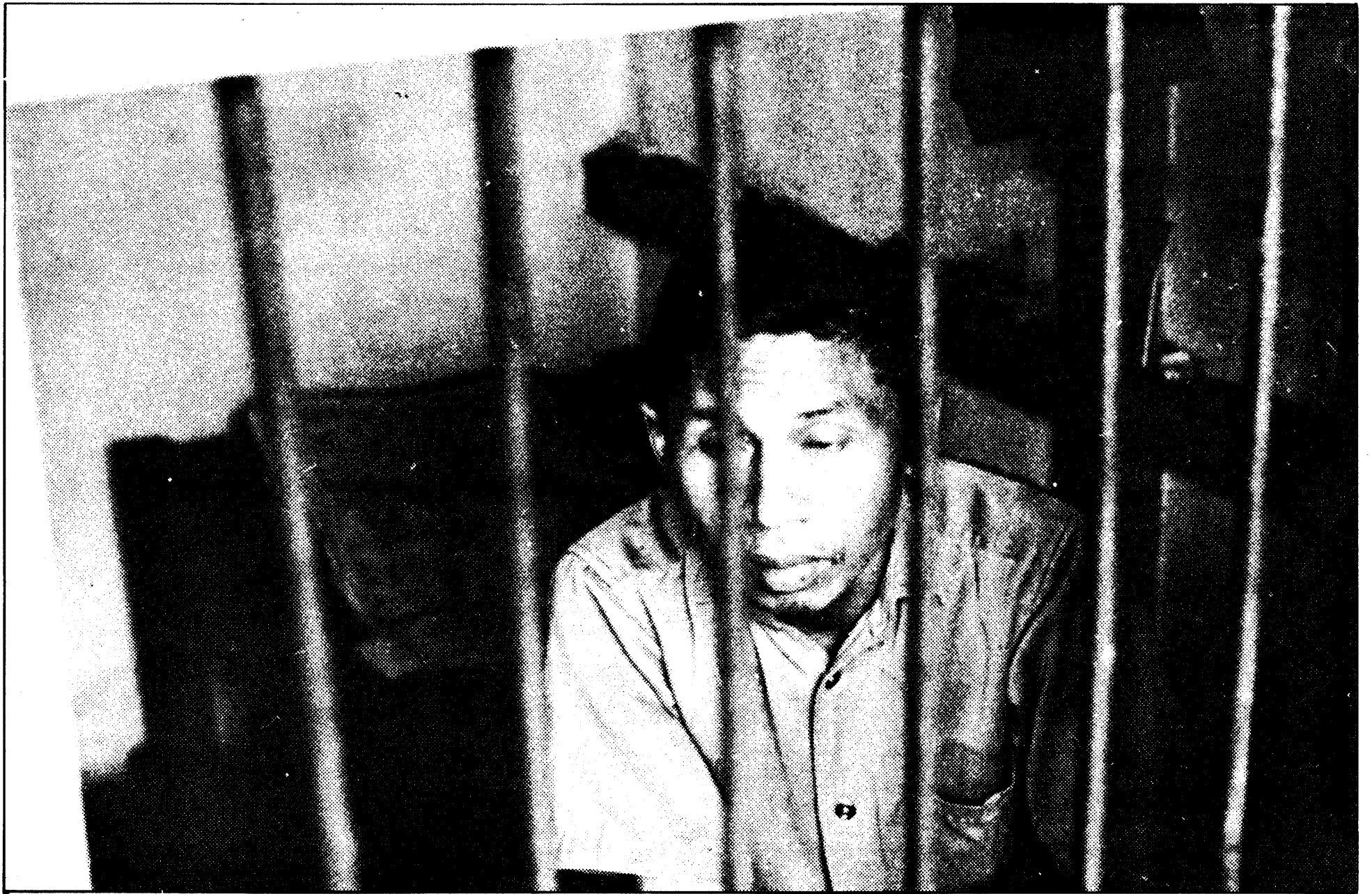
ton committee, backed by £25m public funds. So Jones turned dockers into asset strippers—their own assets. And he scooped a nasty political situation off his plate relatively quickly and cheaply with little more fuss than a glass of water poured over his head. 'Relatively' cheaply, because many of his members still question his role during that docks crisis. But although the dockers live to fight another day, there is no doubting that an opportunity has been lost. The exact moment when the fight to put an end to the anarchy of capitalist production can begin to reach a climax can never be predicted. But the crisis over the dockers' security of employment last summer was as good an issue as any. The failure to turn that fight into something was entirely the failure of political leadership by Jones and his Communist Party supporters among the dock stewards. They made no attempt at all to make the fight a political one. They deliberately left the fight at the level of just another wages or money issue. The Stalinists were happy to bury the political principle of job security in a nationalized industry when they saw the men could be persuaded to go

for a cash pay-off. Now the report on the non-scheme ports comes out with some unpleasant reminders for the Stalinists of just what they sold out on last summer. ● Unregistered port traffic is still growing fast at the same time as the number of registered dockers is still falling. ● Nearly 15 per cent of employment in non-scheme ports is completely casual labour. ● In the five main non-scheme ports, there are still pay rates and conditions below the standards of the registered docks, despite all the claims to the contrary. ● In dock work being undertaken by manufacturing firms on their own account at private wharves, the rates of pay are in accordance with general pay rates in that particular industry, not in accordance with dockers' rates of pay. ● Timber handling is being more and more removed from traditional dock work and going to specialized wharves with non-docker rates of pay. ● The amount of casual labour in the non-scheme ports is unjustifiable. ● Many non-scheme ports provide wages comparable to registered dock work only as a result of significantly longer hours against the background in many cases of lower basic rates and less favourable holiday and sick pay and pension arrangements'.

● 'In respect of labour costs, these non-scheme undertakings cannot fail to enjoy a cost advantage over scheme ports.' ● 'There is a strong case for conformity by the non-scheme ports and wharves with those terms and conditions of employment which are nationally agreed for dockworkers.' ● 'Amenities in some non-scheme undertakings do not yet seem to be up to a satisfactory standard.' ● 'Existing legislation in respect of health and welfare at non-scheme ports is in some respects inadequate.' ● 'Non-scheme undertakings provide inferior training and welfare arrangements to registered ports.' ● 'Some non-scheme ports have unsatisfactory pension provisions. And this is merely what is admitted by the employer-dominated National Ports Council. The NPC can find no answer to other charges: that while the major ports have to provide a full range of services, the non-statutory wharves are able to cream off the specialist traffic; that if there was just one employer of labour over a wide area such as a major river estuary, it would help cushion the effects of redundancy; that the only way to avoid

wasteful competition which depresses prices and port finances is to control all new development. **EMPLOYERS' STRATEGY** The Council accept that 'at the psychological level, it is one thing for dock workers to accept that six conventional berths will be replaced by one new roll-on/roll-off berth employing a tenth of the men employed on the conventional berths. However, the employers are, after all, commercially-minded men and therefore must come down in the end on the side of private enterprise. They want the scheme and non-scheme ports both to continue and to compete with each other. 'It is neither wise nor practicable to seek to prevent the changes that market forces and customer demands will bring about. 'But at the same time, the Council have sought to recognize the social problems that these changes may produce and to consider the proper limits of planning, both as regards manpower and new future physical development, that are commensurate with the country's needs.' That is the capitalists' reason for not wanting to nationalize the port transport industry. What are Jack Jones' and the Stalinists? It is official union policy of the T&GWU as well as of the national ports shop stewards' committee. Why are they not carrying it out? But they offer no solution to the problems involved. Even this employers' document almost manages to convince itself of something Jones and the Stalinists fight shy of: the need to nationalize the port transport industry. 'The Council are impressed with the need to find a solution if at all possible to such problems in the development of a national ports strategy.

They therefore intend urgently to examine in consultation with the British Ports Association how best such a strategy can be evolved and what measures of control either as above outlined or a different character would be practical and desirable in the evolution of such a strategy.'



Indonesian political prisoner in West Kalimantan—suffering far exceeds the bounds of human endurance.

Poverty and terror in Indonesia

SUHARTO'S CONCENTRATION CAMPS

BY JACK GALE. PART TWO

There are more than 55,000 untried political prisoners in Indonesia, most of whom have been in jail since the abortive Untung coup of September, 1965.

Large numbers of these have had no charges whatever laid against them. And they include people who were children of 11 and 13 years of age when they were arrested and who have been prisoners for seven years.

One 11-year-old boy was too young to survive alone when his parents were arrested, so he accompanied his mother to prison. When she died he was sent to join his father at the Nusakambangan prison in Central Java.

When his father also died, the boy was transferred to the Buru concentration camp where he is now held as a 'B' prisoner, the category reserved for 'committed Marxists and traitors'.

Almost all the prisoners are held because of some alleged involvement with the 'September 30 Movement' which staged the unsuccessful coup in 1965.

A presidential instruction, No 09/KOGAM/1966, signed on President Sukarno's behalf by Gen Suharto and issued in May 1966, defines three levels of 'involvement':

'Clearly involved directly in the September 30 Movement.' Those who:

1. Planned, helped to plan

or knew about the plan for this counter-revolutionary movement but did not report to the competent authorities;

2. Being conscious of its objectives, undertook activities in the implementation of this counter-revolutionary movement.

'Clearly involved indirectly in the September 30 Movement.' Those who, after knowing of the counter-revolutionary movement:

1. Displayed an attitude, whether in deed or words, of approval for this counter-revolutionary movement;

2. Consciously displayed an attitude, whether in deed or words, of opposing endeavours/movements for the suppression of September 30 Movement.

'There are indications of, or it can reasonably be thought that there was, direct or indirect involvement in the September 30 Movement.' Those who:

1. Were members of the former, outlawed PKI or of the executives of mass organizations of like ideology/under the aegis of/under the protection of/the said former party PKI, together with their activists;

2. Were ordinary members of former, outlawed mass organizations of like ideology/under the aegis of/under the protection of/the former party PKI, and those who, according to existing antecedents, were involved in the "Madiun Affair" who, after the occurrence of the said counter-revolutionary movement, did not categorically oppose it in

accordance with reasonable conditions and abilities.'

*This incident occurred in September 1948. It was a major clash between the PKI and the army.

The Suharto regime is continuing the oppressive techniques of the former Dutch colonial administration—only on a larger scale.

For example, a former Dutch governor-general banished for life 1,106 Indonesian revolutionaries to Upper Digul (West Irian).

This region was hardly habitable because of swamps, forests and rampant malaria. No charges were ever laid against the prisoners and they were never brought to trial.

In 1969 the Suharto clique set up a similar concentration camp on Buru island. In November 1971, foreign correspondents were taken on a conducted tour of Buru and shown some specially-prepared prison camps.

However they were not shown the real prison, which is situated deep in the swampy grounds near the Wai Apu river. Here the mental and physical liquidation of the prisoners is systematically pursued.

Malaria rages, spread by huge mosquitos, and medicines are practically nonexistent.

The prisoners are forced to grow their own food, but exist on near starvation level because most of the produce is sold and the money pocketed by the prison administration.

As under the Dutch, no charges have been laid and the prisoners have not been tried. As attorney-general Sugih Arto said in September 1971:

'Then there are the "B" prisoners. We know for certain they are traitors, that they are ideologically conscious, but there is not enough evidence to bring them before a court.'

Sugih Arto also admitted: 'Local commanders have the power to arrest and interrogate any person under suspicion of being a threat to national security. These people can be held for an unlimited period of time.'

This did not prevent an International Red Cross Com-

mission which visited Buru from holding a Press conference in which they spoke of the project in terms of the greatest admiration.

Buru, they said, reminded them more of a common agricultural society than a camp for prisoners. They found no traces of dejection or tenseness on 'the prisoners' cheerful faces'.

But a group of journalists who visited the island a few months later—perhaps more enterprising and less regimented than the Red Cross team—expressed deep concern at the physical condition of the prisoners, many of whom, they said, were 'desperate'.

All reports from these journalists were banned in Indonesia. A 'Newsweek' issue was allowed to circulate only after its Buru report had been blacked out.

A letter, dated January 4, 1972, and written by one of the 800 political prisoners held in East Kalimantan, also gives the lie to the Red Cross whitewash:

'Here in East Kalimantan, 800 political prisoners, including myself, have been held under detention since October 1965 in connection with what is generally called the September 30 PKI Movement, without any prospect of being released.

'We all have suffered from extensive interrogation and investigation, far exceeding the bounds of humane treatment. We have been beaten which more than once led to the hospitalization of the victim. Heavy tyres have been tied round our necks. We have been stripped naked and our testicles have been punched. We have been thrown into the sea and pushed into self-dug pits covered at the bottom with glass splinters. We have been given electric shocks and cigarettes have been used to burn us. I could go on like this but this piece of paper would not be large enough to describe all the hardships we have suffered.

'There are some among us who have been shot through the mouth. The authorities have forced us to confess to things that are not true though we have already told them everything of importance in

connection with our cases.

'We have been forced to work on the construction of government buildings for meagre remuneration. Often we have to work as 'volunteers' and receive nothing at all. The officers use us as servants to wash dishes and clothes and to clean out the toilets.

If you care to earn Rp 75 (7½p) a day, you can work day and night on the reconstruction of the Balikpapan airport.

There are hundreds of other odd jobs we have to do for the officers, far too many to mention them all. Because we have been imprisoned for such a long time already and no one seems to do anything about our release, many of our families have broken up. Many wives have decided to get a divorce, and more often than not the children of prisoners have to leave school for financial reasons.

Many of my friends have died: sometimes death surprises us while we are chopping wood in the forest. There are female prisoners here too, some of whom were pregnant when they arrived. Their children have been born and raised in captivity.

'These are just a few of the problems I should like to stress. It is nothing more than a broad outline.'

Forced labour by political prisoners is widespread throughout Indonesia and is a source of corruption and profit. For instance the forced labour project on Java is owned by a company of which the military area commander and his family hold the majority of shares.

Here underfed, diseaseridden prisoners are forced to carry out heavy manual work for up to 13 hours per day. Their pay is Rp 15—less than 1½p per day.

The major responsibility for the victory of Suharto and the enormous misery and slaughter which he has brought to Indonesia lies on the Communist Parties of Indonesia and China.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



'THEY'RE ALL COONS' SAYS LEEDS POLICEMAN

TV Review

Black citizens of Leeds might have been interested on Saturday to see an old acquaintance of theirs, white Liberal Maureen Baker, trying to demonstrate that clashes with the local police force were all due to 'misunderstandings'.

Relations between black workers and the police are not of the best in Leeds and they weren't improved some

time ago when the dead body of the Nigerian David Oluwale was discovered in the River Aire. Two Leeds policemen were subsequently jailed in connection with his death.

But this didn't stop Mrs Baker spreading sweetness and light on David Dimbleby's BBC 2 programme 'Some of My Best Friends'.

Mrs Baker has launched a so-called 'Leeds Scheme'. This consists of telling a group of black people that the police aren't too bad, and aren't they a bit 'over-sensitive'?

Then Mrs Baker skips across to tell a group of policemen that black people aren't too bad and aren't they a bit 'too crude'?

The third stage consists of bringing the two groups together, under the 'expert guidance' of Mrs Baker, so that they can hold hands and love each other. This sickening charade was performed on television on Saturday.

Unfortunately, the effect was ruined—despite the presence of two selected genial, smiling police sergeants

('We're only human like everyone else')—by an outspoken police constable who had clearly missed the point of the whole exercise.

Mrs Baker had finally succeeded in getting one young West Indian to say 'There's good and bad everywhere'. Your lovable, friendly sergeant had promptly responded with his prepared statement: 'Yes, and we're sorry if sometimes we are a bit hasty and we get misunderstood. We try never to give offence.'

Then up spoke the young cop: 'That's right, that's why I never call a coon, a coon.'

Mrs Baker was aghast and—for once—silenced. Her sergeants hastened to try to piece the ruins together. 'I'm sure' said one, 'the young policeman didn't mean to give offence. That is just a general term he's picked up some-

Above: London police clash with black youth. Inset: Kitching and Ellerker, two Leeds policemen jailed in connection with David Oluwale's (inset right) death.

where.'

But 'the young policeman' had strong views.

He wasn't going to be silenced, and he proceeded to trample on the wreckage of Mrs Baker's programme. 'It's a term I picked up in Leeds,' he insisted. 'I never knew what a coon was till I transferred to the Leeds police force. It's what everyone calls them in the station. It's a term that means blacks. Blacks are coons.'

Readers may remember that Mrs Baker joined with the International Marxist Group in an attack on the Socialist Labour League which Stephen Johns replied to on December 2 and 5, 1972.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

OFF DUTY

We've seen stiff upper lip statements from the Foreign Office. Even the Home Office isn't averse to putting the odd one out. But how's this from the Blackpool police.

Chief Constable Mr Stan Parr said that no court proceedings are to be taken against Superintendent John Cameron, head of Blackpool sub-division of Lancashire County Police, following an incident in a Blackpool store.

Parr said: 'Following his visit to a town centre store on February 3 the file on the

incident was referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. On his advice, court proceedings will not be instituted. The superintendent is still off duty under medical care.'

CASTRATION

Evangelist Billy Graham wants to bring back the death penalty and have rapists castrated. The man of God said: 'I think when a person is found guilty of rape he should be castrated—that would stop him pretty quick.'

Graham was speaking in South Africa where he has had one of the most enthusiastic receptions of his career.

REGRETTABLE

If you're caught stealing from the docks you can be certain to receive a very stiff fine. It's all part of the 'law and order' in dockland. Not so, however,

if you happen to be in the 'law and order' brigade yourself.

Seven British soldiers who stole from Belfast docks they were guarding each received three-month jail sentences, suspended for a year.

Magistrate Mr John Petrie told them: 'It is extremely regrettable that people whose function was to maintain law and order should themselves break the law.'

Mr Petrie told the accused, all from the First Queen's Regiment, that he took into account the fact they had been under considerable strain during service in Northern Ireland.

He added: 'I also accept in mitigation that in recent weeks, two of your comrades were killed and ten others injured.'

The seven admitted stealing between them clothes, confectionery and other goods worth £300 from Belfast docks last January.

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

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- Lessons of October Paperback 60p
- In Defence of the October Revolution Pamphlet 15p
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BBC 1

9.42-11.45 Schools. 12.25 Disc a dawn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Trumpton. 1.45 High street. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Racing from Aintree. 4.30 Magic roundabout. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 John Craven's newsround. 5.20 Brady kids. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.45 TOP OF THE POPS.
7.15 Z CARS. Domestic.
8.00 SOME MOTHERS DO 'AVE 'EM.
8.30 THE BURKE SPECIAL. James Burke.
9.00 NEWS. Weather.
9.25 MENACE. 'Pick Up'. With Bryan Marshall, June Barry, Dilys Laye.
10.40 MIDWEEK. 11.25 NEWS.
11.30 TAKE ANOTHER LOOK. Beyond the Eye.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 4.05-4.30 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

6.40 TAKE ANOTHER LOOK. The Beginning of Life.
7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.
7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.
7.35 THEIR WORLD. The Riddle of the Rook.
8.00 EUROPA. 8.30 BEL-AMI.
9.15 TIMES REMEMBERED. Sir Neville Cardus.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 VAT (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Hickory House. 12.25 Witches brew. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Jokers wild. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Secret Mendips. 3.25 Hine. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Barkleys. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.30 CROSSROADS.
6.55 FILM: 'TORPEDO RUN'. Glenn Ford, Ernest Borgnine. World War II story.
8.30 THIS WEEK.
9.00 BENNY HILL SHOW.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 A EUROPEAN JOURNEY. From the Baltic to the Adriatic.
11.00 CHILDREN TO CHILDREN. From Italy — Giovanna, Robertino and Many Others.
11.30 SCOTLAND YARD MYSTERIES. Night Plane to Amsterdam.
12.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.
12.15 THE DO-GOODERS.

9.25 HORIZON. The Making of a Natural History Film. SFTA Award Best Factual Programme for 1972.

10.15 RICHIE HAVENS. In concert.
10.50 BYPASS. By David Rudkin.
11.20 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.
11.50 REAL TIME. Barry Hines, author of this week's Play for Today 'Speech Day', discusses it with teachers and pupils from Ecclesfield Comprehensive School.

TODAY'S TV

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.55 Jackson five. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Maverick. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Hard Man'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Towards the year 2000. 11.02 Scales of justice. 11.35 European journey. 12.00 News. weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 Report. 10.59 News. 12.00 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Film: 'All My Darling Daughters'. 8.00 Shut that door. 8.30 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Guideline. 11.15 Film: 'That Woman Opposite'. 12.40 Weather.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.05 Film: 'Terror in the Sky'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Pages from memory. 11.30 Spyforce. 12.30 Weather.

HTV/Cymru Wales as above except: 4.25-4.35 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 4.50-5.20 Rovers. 6.00-6.18 Y dddd. 11.30-12.25 Warhol. 12.25 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Sport West.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Katie Stewart. 3.00



Barry Hines, author of 'Kes' and this week's Play for Today, 'Speech Day' discusses it with pupils and staff of Ecclesfield Comprehensive School, near Sheffield, where he was once a pupil, on BBC 2's 'Real Time' at 11.50 tonight.

London. 4.25 News. 4.30 Land of the giants. 5.20 Cartoons. 5.35 Wind in the willows. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'If Tomorrow Comes'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Bygones. 11.05 European Journey. 11.35 Baron. 12.30 Living word.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Julia. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Cosa Nostra'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Anglia. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.31 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00

London. 3.25 Women. 3.55 Harriet. 4.23 News. 4.25 Primus. 4.55 Phoenix five. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Five Steps to Anger'. 8.30 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Avengers.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.30 Jobs around the house. 3.00 London. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 Dave Cash. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Where Danger Lives'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Sport. 11.35 Theatre. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 House of treasures. 12.05 London. 5.15 Partidge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Film: 'This Island Earth'. 8.30 London. 11.00 What the papers say. 11.20 In search of Dracula.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 Memorable meals. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Place in the country. 3.00 London. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 Stingray. 5.20 F troop. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Twenty Million Miles to Earth'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 European journey. 11.35 News. 11.50 Monty Nash. 12.20 Greatest fights. 12.35 News.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Beverly hillbillies. 7.00 Cimarron strip. 8.30 London. 11.00 Angling. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Edgar Wallace.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women. 3.55 Harriet. 4.25 Skippy. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Rhino'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Richard Kratzmann. 11.30 Frighteners. 12.00 Meditation.

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Rent strike turns into occupation at polytechnic

MORE than 200 students are occupying the administrative block at Wolverhampton Polytechnic in support of the campaign for higher grants. This developed out of a rent strike at the Brinsford Lodge Hall of Residence, where students have to pay £7.25 a week for food and accommodation at a former army camp.

The amount allowed in their grants for accommodation is only £6.50 a week and they claim the accommodation is poor.

There are fire risks, inadequate heating and mediocre food. There is no full-time nurse, although the hall is six miles from the town centre.

The students are withholding all rent payments, although, following a meeting addressed by NUS president Dick Jacks, they agreed to pay rent of £6.50 a week.

The occupation was sparked by the refusal of the polytechnic's governing council to even consider this offer as a negotiating position, their threat to close the hall permanently and take legal action to recover back rent.

A number of local Labour councillors are on the governing council and the local education authority is Labour controlled.

John Spence, the president of the polytechnic's students' union, told Workers Press that the anomaly between the element provided in grants for accommodation and what students actually have to pay was clearly a government attempt to transfer the cost of education onto the students themselves.

'We have to make the point that this is not just related to education, but is Tory policy generally,' he said.

'In the health service as well, the government is encouraging private schemes and refusing ancillary workers and nurses adequate pay increases.'

Machine-tool £8.5m losses

BRITAIN'S biggest machine tool manufacturers, Alfred Herbert, have plunged deeper into the red with record two year losses of £8.5m.

The group's results, covering a period of 12 months, show a pre-tax loss of £4.5m compared with £4m in the previous year. These figures do not show the £1.3m cost caused by the group's redundancy and closure programme.

No dividend has been declared, but chairman Sir Richard Young says there is hope for the future. Orders for the first four months of the current year have increased 19 per cent.

The machine-tool sector has been suffering from the slump in investment and competition from Japan. As a basic sector of the economy it is most sensitive to fluctuations in the level of economic activity.

Irish home loans up to 10 p.c.

THREE OF the Irish Republic's largest building societies are to increase their mortgage rate from 9 to 10 per cent. They are the Educational, the First National and the Irish Civil Service.

The increase follows a similar recent move by the Irish Permanent, the largest building society in the Republic. The four control 97 per cent of the Republic's building societies' assets.

The increase will apply immediately to new house loans, but its application to existing mortgages will vary according to the society involved.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

CROYDON: Thursday March 29, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road.

FULHAM: Thursday March 29, 8 p.m. 'The Swan', Fulham Broadway.

LINCOLN: Thursday, March 29, 8 p.m. Albion Hotel, St Mary Street.

BASILDON: Sunday April 1, 5.30 p.m. Barnstaple Community Centre. 'Build Councils of Action. Make the Tory government resign'.

ACTON: Monday April 2, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3. 'TUC must call a General Strike'.

BRIXTON: Tuesday April 3, 8 p.m. Brixton Training Centre, Control Room. 'Victory to the Hospital Workers. Make the Tories Resign'.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday April 3, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking. 'Victory to the Hospital Workers. Make the Tories Resign'.

PADDINGTON: Tuesday April 3, 8 p.m. 'Prince of Wales', cnr. Harrow Road/Gt Western Road, W9. 'Victory to the Hospital Workers. Make the Tories Resign'.

TOTTENHAM: Tuesday April 3, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, Tottenham High Road, nr. White Hart Lane. 'TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

WEMBLEY: Wednesday April 4, 8 p.m. Copland School, High Street. 'Tory "Law and Order"—Preparation for dictatorship'.

LEEDS: Thursday April 5, 8 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. 'The Fight Against the Pay Laws'.

LEWISHAM: Monday April 9, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road (opp. New Cross Tube). 'Build Councils of Action. Force the Tories to Resign'.

WANDSWORTH: Monday April 9, 8 p.m. 'Kings Arms', High Street, SW18. 'TUC must call a General Strike'.

WATFORD: Monday April 9, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall, Watford Road, nr Watford Station. 'The fight against Stalinism'.

CAMDEN: Tuesday April 10, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings X. 'The TUC must call a General Strike'.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday April 10, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'The TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

HARROW: Tuesday April 10, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Harrow & Wealdstone. 'The TUC must call a General Strike'.

HACKNEY: Wednesday April 11, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, opp. Town Hall, Mare Street. 'The TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

BERMONDSEY: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. 'Havelock Arms', Balacava Street, off Southwark Park Road. 'Build Councils of Action. Make the Tories Resign'.

CROYDON: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. 'The fight against Stalinism'.

FULHAM: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. 'The Swan', Fulham Broadway. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party'.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party'.

KINGSTON: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. 'The Castle', cnr Fairfield Road/Fairfield West. 'The TUC must call a General Strike'.

WILLESDEN: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, High Road, NW10. 'Tory "Law and Order"—Preparation for dictatorship'.

EAST LONDON: Monday April 16, 8 p.m. Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, E3. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party'.

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Stop similar pit tragedies - official Yorks miners want Lofthouse inquiry

MINERS' leaders have demanded a public inquiry into the Lofthouse colliery disaster in which seven men were killed. Speaking yesterday from the National Union of Mineworkers' headquarters in Barnsley, Yorkshire secretary Arthur Scargill said they wanted 'binding recommendations' to stop a similar disaster happening elsewhere in Britain.

The Yorkshire area executive has unanimously called for a public inquiry into the circumstances of the disaster.

A statement said: 'We feel that it is of vital importance that all the events leading up to and surrounding the inrush of water should be fully investigated. To this end our national officials are sending in Mr Keith Saunders, the national mining engineer, to consult with our own engineer and to investigate and report back to the national executive committee.'

'It is essential that arising from this tragic incident that there should be no possibility of an accident of a similar nature in the near future.'

In London miners' president Joe Gormley said that a practical man with some knowledge of mines should head the inquiry rather than a judge.

The Minister for Trade and Industry, Peter Walker, can ask for a public inquiry, a special report from the Chief Inspector of Mines, or leave it to the inspector to report the incident in his annual report.

A government announcement on the disaster is expected shortly.

Women launch Shotton fight

LEADERS of the Deeside Women's Steel Campaign feel large redundancy payments are creating apathy towards the fight to save the 6,500 jobs at the Shotton steelworks.

In an appeal for greater support, the women said in a statement:

'Redundancy pay is not a pay packet—it is the end of the pay packet—and for some the end of their working lives.'

The statement was issued after the inaugural meeting of 100 local housewives who want to join with their menfolk in fighting the closure.



Campaigning against the Shotton closure.

In their Press release they asked: 'What must we do to make ourselves heard? What must we do to overcome the apathy which is so apparent?'

'Does the end of steel-making at Shotton mean so little that we can sit back

and let it happen without even a whimper of protest?'

'We think not. But where is the support? We have growing support in Flint, Holywell and Rhyl, but where is the support in Deeside?'

'We are not trouble-

causers or women with nothing better to do with our time, but busy wives and mothers anxious about our husbands and children.'

The women have organized a series of outdoor market days to collect money and raise the closure issue among local housewives.

● Meanwhile British Steel Corporation announced this week that the coatings department at Shotton steelworks produced an all-time record of nearly 10,000 tons of coated steel, coil and sheet, last week.

The total production of zinc coated steel—steel strips coated with zinc and used in the motor industry and for making household appliances—passed the 500-ton mark for the first time.

The crews of the zinc coil line broke all their production records with 2,895 tons on a line designed to produce only 2,500 tons.

The coatings department is one of those which will not be affected by plans to run down the works.

Tories plan more spying on jobless

SPYING on people's private lives by government agencies is to be intensified. The Tory government has rejected a recommendation from its own committee of inquiry into Social Security benefits that the practice should be restricted.

The Fisher Committee's report says that questioning neighbours in order to discover 'concealed cohabitation' should only be used as 'a last resort'. 'Positive official encouragement' to members of the public to spy on their neighbours should not be given, although anonymous letters informing of 'abuses' should still be acted upon, says the committee.

It also recommends that government investigators should not be known in the district and observation should be employed in such a manner that the investigation would not be known to neighbours.

All these recommendations have been rejected. Tory Ministers say that such limitations would obstruct inquiries. Instead, the Department of Health and Social Security announced yesterday that 'intensive drives are to be conducted in selected localities as soon as more staff can be employed in investigation work'.

'Undisclosed habitation' or 'concealed habitation' is one of the main obsessions of Social Security officers. Already considerable checks are made on women living alone and drawing benefits. Social Security code AX (fraud) states:

'To ascertain whether an alleged desertion is genuine usually requires discreet inquiries in the neighbourhood and if these are inconclusive, keeping observation on the woman's home. This is generally a matter for special investigation.'

Special Investigators (SIs) spy three successive days, morning and evening, to see who enters and leaves. If a man is seen to enter or leave, the woman is questioned about it. The instructions for SIs say that if suspicion remains after questioning, then:

'On the morning of the third day follow the man to his place of employment. There tactfully

check his name and address with his employer.'

After this, the SI may approach the employer for permission to interview the man and get him to sign any statement made. SI instructions state: 'Make every effort to get the man to sign a written statement

BY JACK GALE

which, if it incriminates the woman, may be used when she is interviewed.'

The SIs are also empowered to approach not only neighbours but landlords. No one willing to inform on a neighbour need be

worried since the SIs instructions specifically says: 'The claimant should not be told the source of information which gave rise to the suspicion against him.'

Action against a claimant can be taken before inquiries commence. The AX code states:

'There will be cases where, before evidence to establish fraud can be obtained, it is clear from information available that the claimant is either not entitled to benefit or is entitled to lesser benefit. The benefit adjustment should be made without delay.'

And the Supplementary Benefits Commission has invented its own standards of 'proof'. Section 2041 of the AX code states: 'It must be understood that there is a distinction between (a) information about which a decision about entitlement to supplementary benefit can be made and (b) evidence to prove a criminal offence in court.'

These codes, which the Tories intend to make even more oppressive, existed throughout the period of the Labour governments of 1964-1970. The head of the Supplementary Benefits Commission is a Labour peer, Lord Collison, formerly head of the Agricultural Workers' Union.

Toughness before fairness in Criminal Code says Release

ATUA
Central London branch
Censorship, the media and the Tory government.
Chairman: Royston Bull
Speakers: Stuart Hood, David Maude and other speakers from Fleet Street and ITV to be announced.
London Film School, Langley St., Covent Garden.
Sunday April 1, 7 p.m.

SLL LECTURE SERIES
The revolutionary party and the history of the British working class
Merthyr Tydfil
Caedraw School Merthyr Tydfil 7 p.m.
Fridays March 30, April 6 and 13
Lectures given by Peter Jeffries

SLL LECTURE SERIES
The Socialist Revolution in Britain
Middleton (nr Manchester)
Langley Community Centre Middleton 4 p.m.
Sundays: April 1 and 8
Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee)
The Socialist Revolution in Britain:

North London Council of Action
Don't Let Hospital Workers, Teachers, Railwaymen, Gasmen, Fight Alone!
Force the TUC to call a General Strike!
Make the Tory Government Resign!
DEMONSTRATE!
SATURDAY MARCH 31
Assemble: 2pm Civic Centre, Wood Green
March through Wood Green

MITIN
All Trades Unions Alliance
Por la victoria de los obreros de los hospitales.
Por la defensa de los derechos básicos.
Por la derrota del gobierno conservador.
MARTES, 3 DE ABRIL
A LAS 7.30 DE LA TARDE
En el Small Hall, Conway Hall,
Red Lion Square, W.C.2.
Cerca de la estación de metro de Holborn.
Entrada 10p
TODOS AL MITIN

The Unions and the working class in Britain.
The Revolutionary Past of the British working class—and its future.
The Transformation of the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.
READING
Trotsky, Where is Britain Going? Problems of the British Revolution.
Perspectives for Transforming the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.
Marxist Analysis of the Crisis.

2. The roots of capitalist crisis: Marxism and the contradictions of capitalism. Britain and the world crisis.
3. The state and revolution. Reformism and revolution in Britain. The fight for democratic rights today means preparing for working-class power.
Basic reading:
Perspectives for transforming the SLL into a revolutionary party.
Marxist Analysis of the Crisis. Problems of the British Revolution (Trotsky).
Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International, Communist Manifesto.

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'Heavy' squad swoops on hospital pickets

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

SPECIAL squads of police have been breaking up picket lines outside hospitals in the north-west. Strikers at Salford and Manchester have been told that 'new laws' allow only four people on picket lines.

The police campaign against the strike began on Monday when drivers at Hope Hospital, Salford, launched a dawn picket to stop laundry bags getting through the hospital gates.

Driver Ken Shaw told Workers Press that they were attacked by a squad of police soon after 6.15 a.m.

The heavy mob suddenly swooped. An inspector, two sergeants, four constables and four "specials" in cars suddenly appeared. They told us that only four could picket—two at each side of the gate.

The inspector said: "If I say four I want four". When Heath can turn the police on peaceful

hospital workers he must go," said Mr Shaw.

Yesterday it was the turn of Ladywell Hospital, Eccles near Manchester. Police told strikers there that the regulation under Phase Two of the government anti-inflation policy allowed only four pickets on the gate.

Shop steward Bernard Fenton said: "They told us our picket was illegal—at the very most we had a ten strong force. We have been out three weeks here and we are staying out."

The police action is part of Tory plans to deprive workers of the right to picket. There is in fact no 'new law' to restrict pickets to four, though this is one of the measures that Home Secretary Robert Carr is expected to announce when he unveils changes in the law regarding picketing. The police appear to be anticipating events.

Secretary of the Manchester and Salford hospital group, John Duckworth, has threatened pickets in the local Press.

"I will take any action necessary including calling in the police to maintain patients feeding. I don't care if there are ten unions on picket duty outside they will not be allowed to do it," he said.

BRIEFLY • BRIEFLY

THE WEST of Scotland wants about 20,000 of London's civil servants and in return claims to offer a better, cheaper life. Civil service chiefs, Scottish politicians and businessmen heard about the demand at a Press conference in London yesterday, spearheading a campaign for the dispersal of civil service jobs to the West of Scotland. The campaign is being led by the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Mr William Gray, who said afterwards: "We have a case for some 20,000 civil servants to come to the West of Scotland" and "in terms of social justice this is an absolute necessity".

WILLIAM MOREY (29), a carpenter, of Fernhead Road, Paddington, convicted yesterday of conspiring to rob banks and of taking part in a £2,297 armed robbery at an Acton Bank, was ordered at the Old Bailey yesterday to undergo hospital treatment for a mental disorder. His detention will be for an indefinite period. The Common Serjeant, Judge Mervyn Griffith-Jones, told him: "You are fortunate in having so many people who are prepared to help you. I hope you will come to terms with life as a reasonable member of the community."

TURKISH President, Cevdet Sunay, whose term of office ended yesterday, was still without a successor as tension between the army and civilian politicians mounted. Army chiefs have been trying to impose their nominee, General Faruk Gurler, since balloting began on March 13, but parliament has denied him an adequate majority. They have made it plain that the new president must be acceptable to them.

No co-operation for state air merger.

AIRPORT workers at Heathrow, London, yesterday declared that they would not co-operate with any stage of the BEA-BOAC state airlines merger until the British Airways Board gives a guarantee on security of employment.

At a 10,000-strong mass meeting at the airport, shop stewards spoke of fears that redundancies

would follow the merger now in progress.

A figure of £5m was mentioned in connection with re-deployment plans, re-training and voluntary redundancy, the meeting was told.

But there were other indications that up to 16,000 of the

50,000 now employed by the airlines could become surplus.

Fred Gore, Heathrow electricians' steward, claimed that from the board right down to local panel level, management was refusing to give the assurance workers wanted.

He drew attention to the fact that the group's personnel director for British Airways was Howard Phelps, a former assistant to Lord Robens at the National Coal Board.



Heathrow workers vote for no co-operation with the BEA-BOAC merger.

Scanlon suggests amending anti-union law

A HINT that the trade unions were prepared to see amendment to the Industrial Relations Act was made yesterday by leader of the engineers Hugh Scanlon.

Speaking at a lunch in the House of Parliament Scanlon talked about the possibility of amendments to the Act.

"What immediately springs to mind is the desire by all sections

of the community to stop the way-out person, whether an employer or a discontented trade union member, from using the courts to make a quick buck or get his own back upon the trade union movement which he might think has done him a disservice.

"If somehow, in some way, we could have overcome that I believe it would have been profitable," he said.

This is the line followed by the right-wing in the TUC and general secretary Victor Feather.

Scanlon, often described as a 'left' in the trade union movement, appears to be a new convert.

But his union remains pledged to outright and principled opposition to the anti-union laws.

He added there has never been any desire

on the part of the trade union movement to usurp the authority of parliament.

"I don't see that a challenge to a particular law can in any way be construed as a challenge to the fundamental rights of government to govern," he added.

Scanlon was speaking at a luncheon at the House of Commons given by the Parliamentary Press Gallery.



Some of the pensioners who attended yesterday's rally.

It's a scrag ends and Smarties world

JACK JONES, 'left' general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, yesterday called for 'a new look at the attack on poverty'.

Speaking at a national rally of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners' Associations, Jones asked how the government could justify giving pensioners £1 a week extra—lower even than the pay norm—and delaying this until the autumn.

"It is a sign of the times in modern Britain" Jones said, "that while pensioners cannot afford scrag ends, there will be tax cuts on Smarties, and that while VAT will cut the cost of a new fur coat, pensioners are having to rely on jumble sales to get their clothes."

The TUC is supposed to be 'campaigning' for basic pensions of £10 for a single person and £16 for a married couple. But Jones gave no indication of how this campaign was to be carried forward.

The T&GWU leader urged pensioners to join the TUC's May 1 pay and prices protest, but he had no policy for bringing down the Tory government and replacing it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies, which would include a living pension.

**13th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
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