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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

'PEACE WITH TORIES' SPEECH

MAKE SCANLON RETRACT!

By our political correspondent
THE TRADE union leaders' retreat before the Tory offensive is becoming a rout. Engineers' president Hugh Scanlon, the biggest 'left talker' in the TUC leadership, is now proposing openly an accommodation with the Tory corporate state.

Scanlon wants the trade union movement

- To accept the Common Market.
- To accept the principles of the Industrial Relations Act.
- To accept the principle of state control of wages.

His speech to a Parliamentary Press Gallery lunch outlining these proposals amounts to a stab in the back to all sections of workers fighting to defend their wage-bargaining rights.

His recent 'left' words about a defeat for the gasworkers and the hospital workers being 'the end of trade unionism as we know it' can cover up right-wing preparations.

For nothing could be more calculated to damage the hospital fight than Scanlon's overtures to the Tory government.

The hospital workers' civil servants, teachers, miners, car workers, dockers, and other workers seeking wages are all fighting the government.

But the Tories' whole strategy is based on forcing Britain's economy to dance to the monopolists' tune inside the Common Market while putting trade unions under the police control of the National Industrial Relations Court and the pay laws.

This is the strategy which has given the Tories their arrogant determination to crush the hospital workers. This is the strategy to which Hugh Scanlon's compromise speech provides powerful assistance.

He said: 'I hope we shall be going into Europe.'

FOOD prices are rocketing on the High Street to pay for Tory industrialists' entry to the EEC where they hope to make better profits.

He said: 'We [the TUC leaders] offered the government to limit wages at a fixed level.'

THIS is the starting out point of corporatism, which in turn is the road to fascism, or 'national socialism'.

He said: 'Two amendments to the Industrial Relations Act could offer a way forward for co-operation with the Tory government.'

NEITHER amendment will make the slightest difference to the Act's powers and

central purpose: to fine and imprison trade unionists if they go too far in challenging the rule of the bosses.

The key to a successful struggle against wage cutting and the other effects of the economic crisis is clarity about the central role of the Tory government.

The biggest 'left-talker' has now sown confusion right in the middle of the fight.

Dockers, Ford workers and the gasworkers have already been divided and demoralized by their vacillating leaders.

The hospital workers are being worn down by the indecisiveness of their own leaders and the deliberate delays by the TUC in mobilizing aid.

But where does the Communist Party stand on these questions? Do the Stalinists still stick by their support to Hugh Scanlon?

The Stalinists have set themselves firmly against encouraging any moves towards a General Strike and a political confrontation with the Heath government.

This is why they are trying in the most determined way to limit the strike movement to one-day stoppages and other protest gestures.

All branches and district committees of the engineering union should demand that Scanlon withdraws his proposals.

The only way forward now for the trade union and labour movement is to make a clear break with reformism in all its forms and to build the revolutionary party.



Happy in Tory company . . . engineers' president Hugh Scanlon with Home Secretary Robert Carr

Heath welcomes Scanlon concession

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Leeds electricians arrested on picket line

TWO BUILDING workers were arrested in Leeds yesterday after an incident at the Albion House site in the city centre.

The men were part of a four-strong picket who attempted to talk to an electrician entering the site.

The man was accompanied by police and the managing director of his firm, Shaw Dale Ltd.

Police moved the picket 20 yards up the road and then came down the street to move them again.

After one building

worker protested two arrests were made.

This is the second time men have been arrested on the Albion site.

They will all appear on two charges of obstruction before Leeds magistrates on April 13.

The dispute began soon after last year's

national building workers' strike.

The strikers, all electricians, refused to cross picket lines and lost wages. Now they are demanding back payment from the firm.

The issue is to be raised on building sites in the north with a view to solidarity action.

'No' to Ford offer

LEADERS of the 15 Ford unions yesterday confirmed the National Joint Negotiating Committee's rejection of the company's £2.40 pay offer and endorsed

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WHAT WE THINK

The hand of Roy Jenkins

THE DECISION of the Labour Party National Executive Committee to merely offer speakers to individual unions 'if requested' on May 1 is a sign of the increasing strength of the right wing in the Party leadership.

Even this inadequate gesture was not unanimous. The Labour leadership split 17-6, with three former Cabinet Ministers—James Callaghan, Denis Healey and Shirley Williams—among the minority who wanted to have nothing whatever to do with the TUC's day of protest.

The right wing opposed the May 1 strike on the grounds that it is 'political' and that the unions should keep out of politics. Mr Callaghan, in particular, argued that the Labour Party should never be associated with strikes as this would lose votes.

This voice was the voice of Callaghan, but the hand was the hand of the Jenkinsite right wing, which mustered 69 pro-Tory votes, 20 abstentions and 20 more sympathizers when it voted with Heath's government on the Common Market. This treacherous group wants to break the links between the Labour Party and the unions. It aims to split the Labour Party from its working-class base.

The one-day strike on May 1—inadequate as it is—is a gesture of opposition to the Tories' anti-working class, corporatist-style legislation. The Labour Party right wing, however, is in full sympathy with these Tory measures.

Jenkins and his supporters are paving the way for coalition and for the destruction of the Labour Party. They would open the door for a corporatist dictatorship which would penetrate every corner of life.

Dick Taverne is only the front-runner for this tendency. But for the action of the Lincoln Constituency Labour Party in rejecting him, he would still be nestling inside the Parliamentary Labour Party with his co-thinkers. His recent attack on the hospital ancillary workers was an open expression of the views of every PLP right winger.

Only a struggle to unite the industrial and political wings of the labour movement in a General Strike to force the Tories to resign and place in office a Labour government pledged to socialist policies, can defeat the right wing.

Such an action, far from losing votes, would rally millions of workers and large sections of the middle class against the Tories who are destroying their living standards and basic rights.

It is the time-wasting and collaboration of the Labour and trade union leaders which demoralizes Labour supporters and drives the middle class into the arms of the apparently strong and determined Tories.

The trade union leaders limit workers to isolated struggles and one-day protests, insist that these struggles are non-political and make frequent treks to Downing Street to offer their co-operation to Heath.

The Labour Party leaders declare their opposition to political strikes, turn their backs on the working class and co-operate with the Tories in parliament.

The fight against the Tory government is inseparable from the fight to remove these leaders in the Labour Party and the unions.

All those, like the Communist Party and the revisionist groups, who try to obstruct the development of a political struggle to force the Tory government to resign and who oppose the building of a revolutionary leadership, are confusing and holding back the working class and preparing for defeat.

The right wing must be removed. Intensify the campaign to force the union leaders to call an indefinite General Strike to create the conditions for making the Tories resign.

All Labour Party members and trade unionists must demand a special conference of the Labour Party to plan the defeat of the government and to thrash out socialist policies.

Those leaders and MPs who refuse to pledge themselves to such policies must be driven out and replaced by people who will.

'Defensive force' fools nobody

Japan's nuclear war threat

BY JOHN SPENCER OUR FOREIGN EDITOR

THE JAPANESE government is preparing for a third world war fought with atomic weapons and plans to build up its own nuclear armoury. Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka confirmed what has long been suspected when he announced in Tokyo last week that Japan might acquire 'defensive' nuclear weapons.

The term 'defensive' in Tanaka's statement will fool nobody.

Japan is formally barred under its post-war constitution from rearming. Yet a substantial army has been built up since 1950 with American assistance under the guise of a 'self-defence force'.

This army is 250,000 strong and is to acquire the most advanced weapons under a grandiose expansion programme in the coming period.

HIROSHIMA

There is great popular hostility to nuclear weapons in Japan where the United States wiped Hiroshima and Nagasaki off the map with A-bombs in 1945.

But the big monopoly companies which rule Japan are eager to regain the colonies and sources of raw materials which they lost in World War II.

They are driven by the intensity of the economic crisis and by ruthless pressure from the US which is squeezing them out of the markets they have dominated in the past.

The big monopolies have their eye, above all, on the

ACCORDING to the 'New Scientist', Japan could build up a 'credible nuclear force' within a short time once the political decision is taken.

The country has eight nuclear power stations in operation, and plans to have 23 by 1976, making it the second largest nuclear power in the world after the United States.

A chemical processing plant to separate the uranium and plutonium from spent reactor fuels is under construction at Tokai and building of a uranium enrichment plant is planned.

'The country will then be among the few self-sufficient in nuclear technology,' the 'New Scientist' says. 'In 1970, Japan became the fourth space power by orbiting a satellite and is well advanced in all aspects of missile technology, including guidance systems.'

In other words, Tanaka has only to say the word and the monopolies can begin turning out nuclear weapons complete with rockets to deliver them on target.

mineral resources and labour force of the Chinese People's Republic and Soviet Asia.

Earlier this year a top Tokyo government commit-

tee produced a detailed report setting out the amount of men and weapons the 'self-defence' forces would need to wage war with China and the USSR.

Last year's military budget envisaged spending twice as much on the armed forces in the coming five years as in the last five—some £5,800m.

MISSILES

Japan already has a wide range of sophisticated weapons, among them US Phantom aircraft and advanced anti-aircraft missiles and its forces are no less strong than any other medium power.

Last October the Self-Defence Agency stated for the first time that Japan could launch counter-attacks against foreign guided missile bases with Nike and Hawk missile installations.

The development of a nuclear striking force has been under discussion sec-

retly for some time. In April last year the Sato government was accused of holding secret nuclear talks with Washington.

Yanosuke Narasaki, a Socialist Party MP, produced in parliament a telegram from the Pentagon to the American Naval Forces in Japan.

It spoke of deploying a joint US-Japanese naval nuclear unit as a means to block nuclear threat from a third country.

The message cited particularly the strengthening of China's nuclear arsenal and the build-up of the Soviet Pacific fleet.

The Chinese government recently resumed diplomatic relations with Japan after a lapse of over 30 years. Chinese Stalinists proclaimed the need for a new relationship based on peaceful co-existence.

However the Japanese monopolies and their Pentagon backers have other ideas and are rapidly putting them into effect.

Immigrant Renault workers turn down CP's compromise deal

RENAULT is to lay off 7,000 workers because of a continued strike by 400 low-paid immigrant workers in the body-pressing shop. The workers, on strike at the giant Billancourt plant since March 21, turned down a compromise deal negotiated on their demands by the Confédération Générale de Travail.

The Communist Party paper 'L'Humanité' cried victory on Wednesday after the afternoon shift had apparently been persuaded to accept the deal. This only granted part of what the men had been demanding and included pay for only two of the days lost through the strike.

Most of the men, who are mainly immigrant workers, later rejected the package, demanding the full claim together with pay for the days lost through the strike.

The CGT was forced to return to the negotiating table under threat of seeing the movement get out of hand.

The strike affects about 400 workers on the R-4 and R-6 lines, but workers in other departments have held one-hour sympathy strikes and a series of meetings of support during working hours.

The CGT has made strenuous efforts to limit the strike and bring it to an end. The management has brought in strong-arm gangs to intimidate workers.

On Monday 50 foremen and officers made several attempts to get the line moving, but workers sat down on the machinery and refused to budge despite the armed guards brought in by the management.

The workers' refusal to

accept the latest offer is a blow to the Stalinist-dominated CGT's policy of class peace.

Renault is reckoned as one of its major strongholds but its hold is being challenged by rank-and-file militants.

If the strikers win their demands, Renault will have to make similar concessions to several hundred other workers of the same grade in its plants.

Its cars have remained competitive in recent years only through intensive methods and speed-up of French and immigrant workers.

This policy has been tacitly accepted by the CGT, but is now being opposed by the workers themselves.

Chapple sits at No 10 table with Numeiry

PRESIDENT Numeiry of the Sudan has been fêted extravagantly since his arrival here last Sunday.

He has lunched with the queen at Buckingham Palace, he has been given a grand tour of the military college at Sandhurst and, on Wednesday, the London Corporation threw a banquet for him at Mansion House.

Numeiry, the man responsible for butchering the

Troops leave US agents behind

THE LAST planeload of United States command troops left Saigon yesterday at the end of a decade of direct American involvement in South Vietnam.

The American forces have gone, but US advisers, 'experts', undercover men and agents remain. They will be attempting to prop up the Saigon dictatorship against the National Liberation Front.

In exchange for its prisoners of war, the American army has left Vietnam. But Laos and Cambodia continues to bear

the full brunt of US air power.

The continued bombing of Cambodia is the product of serious American concern about the deteriorating situation of their puppet Lon Nol.

Even Sirik Matak, Lon Nol's former right-hand man, has no confidence in the regime's survival. He is now under house arrest in Phnom Penh.

The liberation armies are only a few miles from the capital and Lon Nol's regime is maintained only by the US Air Force. This has led to hostile questions in Washington.

Troops do Zulus' work

SOUTH AFRICAN troops have been sent to an aluminium plant at Richard's Bay, Natal, to maintain pro-

duction. The company appealed for help after 700 African strikers had turned down a wage offer and defied an order to return to work.

Zulu chief Gatsha Buthelezi protested at the move. 'Now South Africa is showing her teeth again', he said. 'If this is not oppression, then I do not know what oppression is.'

The African workers in the plant earn about £7 a week against upwards of £50 for white workers. They have turned down an increase of a little over £1.

The troops 100 national servicemen, will maintain production, an army spokesman said.

● We will examine British interests in South Africa again tomorrow.

£10 claim halts Ford plant again

PRODUCTION at the Ford car complex in Dagenham, Essex, came to a standstill yesterday after more guerrilla strike action in support of the £10 wage claim.

Over 5,000 day-shift workers in the body and assembly plants were laid off because of a strike by maintenance electricians on Wednesday. There is a strong possibility that the disruption will continue today because men are annoyed that Ford only warned them of the lay-off at the last minute.

The wave of industrial unrest connected with the £10 claim is reaching a peak at Dagenham.

The situation will be discussed at the Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee today in London. There the unions will give some indication of the action, if any, they are prepared to take over the claim which has been outlawed by the company because of the government pay laws.

Ford is prepared to discuss improved fringe benefits and a relaxation of penalty clauses concerned with lay-off pay. An increase in pensions is also a possibility.

The unions are claiming a £10 increase, an extra week's holiday and a 35-hour week.

Come on brothers, there's no harm in talking



Day of protest meetings planned by civil servants

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT



CPSA general secretary Bill Kendall.

THE CIVIL and Public Services Association, the most militant of the civil servants' unions, is calling on all its 200,000 members to hold protest meetings in working hours today followed by mass walk-outs. The union is to settle the next stage of the campaign against the pay laws at an executive meeting next Tuesday.

The CPSA leaders have denied Press rumours that they are calling off industrial action; that they are broke; and that they are going to take their case to the corporatist Pay Board in order to end the fight their members have put up.

They say that their initial campaign of selective strikes went on for a fortnight as planned. Funds are available for further strikes if necessary. Many voices on the executive have already called for further industrial action.

The executive meeting will discuss this in this light of the Phase Two legislation outlawing strikes which will come into force on Sunday.

Some CPSA leaders are already saying the strikes should go on despite the law.

The CPSA is still waiting for some real support from the TUC. After several meetings, they still have nothing more tangible than a circular to all unions asking them not to cross picket lines and give whatever other support they can.

Bill Kendall, secretary, said he was disappointed with the way the TUC was carrying out the decision of the TUC special Congress calling for the General Council to co-ordinate action in support of those unions in struggle against the Tory pay laws.

'It is particularly galling because our union was one of the few to submit an emergency motion to that Congress, but we withdrew it in favour of the transport workers' engineers' motion calling for co-ordinated action. Where is the action?'

INVITATIONS have now gone out from the TUC to all affiliated unions asking them if they would like to participate in the national day of stoppage and protest on May 1.

This half-hearted call for a one-day General Strike is in great danger of being abused because of the cringing way in which the TUC is settling about its task.

Right-wing electricians' leader Frank Chapple immediately announced his intention to speak determinedly against the proposal when his own executive meets to discuss it.

Mr Len Lever, president said: 'The TUC could organize supporting industrial action.'

'It could help us with finance.'

'It could instruct unions not to cross picket lines.'

'It could have co-ordinated all the unions currently taking strike action against the government's policies.'

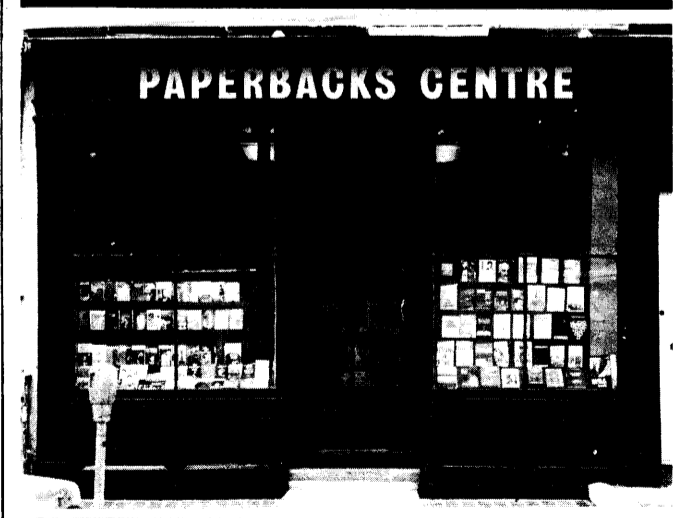
'In short, it could have taken over the role of the public sector conference that we had to organize ourselves. But it hasn't done anything of the sort.'

The civil servants are victims of the deliberate tactics of the TUC leaders to delay things as much as they can so that the anti-Tory fight is finally demoralized and worn out by pointless protest struggles.

That way, the General Strike to force a political showdown with the government can be avoided, the TUC hopes.

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New trial over cocktail recipe?

NEW prosecutions are being prepared against the black community political group Black Liberation Front in connection with an issue of their newspaper 'Grass Roots'.

Police claim it published recipes for making Molotov cocktails and a people's hand grenade.

One of the group's leaders, Tony Soares, is currently in custody

awaiting sentence after a month-long Old Bailey trial found him guilty of attempting to incite readers to make bombs and commit arson.

The BLF has never been associated with or accused of any acts of terrorism. No evidence of preparations for terrorism was offered at the trial.

● A full report on the Soares affair appears in tomorrow's Workers Press.

Army boasts arrests

A TOTAL of 933 people have been arrested in Northern Ireland since the army moved into Catholic strongholds in Belfast and Derry. Over 400 have been arrested this year and 40 charged in the past week alone. The army says March has been one of its most successful months—151 people have been charged with terrorist-type offences.

London hospitals to stop for a day

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

authority employees to back the day of action.

London Trades Councils are supporting the strike and a NUPE spokesman said yesterday they expected other trade unions to follow their lead.

On Thursday afternoon there will be a mass march from Tower Hill to St Thomas' Hospital followed by a lobby of parliament.

The mass meeting will be addressed by NUPE general secretary Mr Alan Fisher, T&GWU leader Jack Jones and Labour MPs.

ANCILLARY workers at all London hospitals will stage a one-day total stoppage next Thursday.

Up to 250 hospitals will be affected and nearly 40,000 workers will stay away. The National Union of Public Employees has also called on their 50,000 local

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.

According to Sid Cresswell, engineers' union divisional organizer, the unions did not resist the mass redundancies at BSA in 1971, 'because we were told to do so would affect the future of the company'.

This is a damning admission, which augurs badly for the struggle against unemployment in the group today.

Cresswell goes on: 'It now seems that the sacrifice made at that time has been in vain.'

The fact is that it was always wrong, unprincipled and unforgivable to accept that workers should pay with their livelihoods for the crisis of BSA.

Yet this was the posture the union leaders placed their members in from the outset.

At the time of the Vision Enterprises bid for BSA, in July 1971, management delayed the threatened redundancies for 8½ per cent of the total labour force.

Union leaders agreed to 3,500 workers being put on short time, to increases in mobility of labour and to the surrender of an annual productivity bonus that was to be paid in 1972.

It has since been learnt that the management was not after any kind of compromise. The retreat of the union leaders only paved the way for further redundancies.

For BSA August 1971 was a month of panic, which highlighted the depth of the crisis into which the company has fallen; there were share transactions, the selling-off of subsidiaries and a rush to raise solid cash.

BSA announced that it was to sell its share stake in Alfred Herbert (one of the five big, machine-tool makers in Britain), which amounted to 17 per cent of Herbert's equity. This was a desperate bid to realize approximately £1m in solid cash.

Had the investment been thought profitable by the BSA board, then it would have retained its shares. But Herbert's was in trouble. It had already had large redundancies early in 1971 with the prospects, according to the annual report, also in July, of some more.

Herbert's figures showed that machine-tool orders for the first five months of 1971 were worth only £56.8m, which was a drop of 40 per cent on the same period in 1970.

On August 26 250 workers—members of the white-collar unions ASTMS and TASS—staged a one-day token strike in protest against lack of co-operation from Herbert's management, which had persistently rejected union suggestions of short-time and work-sharing to prevent redundancies.

BSA could not afford to take any chances over Herbert's, especially since the only other definite hope, Dr MacDonald, had by this time withdrawn his bid.

The fight for solid cash was therefore forced to continue as it was realized that the estimated peak financing requirement, before the selling season for motor cycles arrived in 1972, was to be £15m.

A rescue attempt was made

involving Barclay's Bank, which was to make available £10m. However, BSA was to bridge the gap with £5m solid cash.

The first stage of a series of asset realizations was for BSA to dispose of its shareholding in the Sealed Motor Construction for £2.1m (the theoretical value was £2.25m).

BSA was not entitled to sell these shares until March 1972.

As the money was needed so badly, BSA had to firstly waive entitlement to 400,002 SMC shares. It received only 99,998 of the 500,000 extra shares it was originally to receive in March. Theoretically, it also lost £700,000 dividend it was to get in March.

Instead of the theoretical value of £2.25m, therefore, BSA was left with £1.6m to sell at a sizeable discount. These shares were disposed of at 131p each, when the current market value was 149p. The net proceeds for the first stage was £2.1m, with a forfeit of 30 per cent on the theoretical value. This left £3m to go.

At the same time, union officials of five unions representing 4,500 workers were planning a 'work-in' against redundancies.

But immediately they decided to compromise and hold back the work-in until a government inquiry was set up by the Tories.

Tory Trade Minister, Sir John Eden, met these officials in London on October 22, but after listening to their claims that the productive and marketing capacity of Small Heath was solid, he remained noncommittal over their request for a government inquiry. 'The problem is short-term finance', said Bob Wright of the engineers, meaning that BSA was scrapping just for £5m.

PLIGHT REALIZED

The fact that the government realized the plight of BSA and did not offer the extra £5m shows that it saw the company as non-profitable and was prepared to see it go down the drain.

Some 3,000 workers were threatened with the sack, and at that time just less than 1,000 had received their notices and were sending them back via their shop stewards.

A work-in was planned to start in November.

But, due to the betrayals of the officials, the work-in was defeated and the 3,000 redundancies at Small Heath had taken effect by the end of 1971.

However with £3m to go the new chairman, Lord Shawcross, believed that this amount could be obtained through the sale of most if not all of the metal-components division.

With an estimated £4.25m going into future rationalization costs, in order to maintain production, the BSA directors announced that the benefits of reorganization would be apparent in 1972, especially in the group's motor-cycle division.

This would be maintained 'with co-operation of all concerned, particularly the trade unions,' said Shawcross.

As one worker who has been with BSA for ten years says today: 'We have learnt

BSA: AT THE END OF THE LINE?



Lord Shawcross — In January 1972 BSA production was shifted over to Triumph machines.

to live with crises, but we have all been working flat out to get the company back on its feet.'

However Shawcross has been unable to predict BSA's 1972 financial position because of the reorganization, but claims the motor-cycle is 'still capable of making a substantial contribution to group profits'.

In the early months of 1972 BSA had taken steps that could only bring adverse effects to its future position.

In January 1972 it stopped production of the BSA motor cycle and thus halved motor-cycle capacity to around 40,000 vehicles a year. The excuse for this step was the concentration on the production of Triumph machines at the Meriden, Coventry, factory because it was more economical.

BSA was not in a position to take advantage of an upswing in world demand and could not afford to miss any short-term benefits.

As it was the size of the American market could not be assessed at that stage, because of the situation on the California coast, where, for the first time, Teamsters seemed likely to link up with longshoremen in a strike.

US stocks may not have been enough to ride through the strike and the big selling period (March-May) was crucial to BSA's position. There was also the 10 per cent surcharge on American imports to be considered.

Recent legislation on British motor-cyclists had also attacked the BSA home market, which left the company just hanging for a strong gust of wind, and the likelihood that it would follow the route of other motor-cycle companies

such as Ariel, Matchless and Velocette.

The question remaining is whether or not recent developments are the final gust of wind?

At the last annual meeting, held in December, Shawcross said that BSA lacked the capital for a retooling vital for the production of new models.

Similarly, like the last application made to the government, the new application for approximately £6m was rejected at the end of last year. Apparently a 'leak' of this information caused a rush of insider dealing to take place at the Stock Exchange.

Within three hours BSA's shares had dropped from 19p each to 4½p, which meant an immediate loss of £2.5m on the firm's stock market value, with only £800,000 left. By contrast, in 1968 BSA had been capitalized at £40m, with each share selling for 237½p.

DENIED LEAK

By lunchtime Shawcross had to step in and close all transactions.

The Department of Trade and Industry denied that there had been a 'leak' of the secret

negotiations which had been going on with BSA. An inquiry is now going on into the share crash.

Recent accounts show that BSA has an overdraft of £6.3m with Barclay's, and its main assets are in stocks of motor-cycles whose market value under conditions of trade war cannot be calculated.

The big selling period in the US is starting now, but BSA's production is well behind schedule.

If BSA was to miss the boat in the US, as it did two years ago, the effect would be disastrous. The company's cash position is very weak.

BSA's interim statement, which is due this April, is expected to announce a further loss, and there are still problems in management, finance, marketing and design.

The trade unions inside BSA are going to have to face either mass redundancies or complete closure. It is on the right to work that the fight will have to begin; to force the Tory government to resign and to return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. To maintain jobs in BSA or any other industry, this is the only way forward.

THE AMERICAN 'SUPERBIKE' MARKET

	1970	1971	1972
Honda 750	22,000	34,000	44,000
Yamaha 650/750	3,000	9,000	20,000
Harley-Davidson 1000	n.a.	11,000	15,000
Harley-Davidson 1250	n.a.	9,000	13,000
Triumph 650	14,000	14,000	12,500
Kawasaki 750	—	—	8,500
Norton Commando	4,000	4,500	6,500
Suzuki 750	—	—	6,000
BSA 650/750	6,000	4,000	4,500
BMW 750	1,000	3,000	3,500
Moto-Guzzi 750/850	1,300	2,000	2,200
Triumph 750	1,000	900	1,800
BSA 750	1,000	600	400

The 'Daily Express' frequently bills Chapman Pincher as the man who brings you tomorrow's news today.

He is also one of the most faithful admirers of the Persian system of absolute monarchy, as regular 'Express' readers will know.

His support for the Shah's regime is rivalled only by his keen desire for the return of capital punishment.

Last Friday he wrote: 'Those who doubt the effectiveness of capital punishment in deterring bomb outrages should look at its results in Persia.'

'Terrorist attacks there have almost ceased since the Shah announced that those who use military methods for political ends automatically put themselves under military law.'

'The military court penalty for planting a bomb in Persia is death by shooting, whether the bomb kills anyone or not.'

This little item is misleading to say the least. Pincher brings forward no evidence to show that 'terrorist attacks' have decreased.

In fact, since the Shah's firing squads are still shooting alleged terrorists at the rate of at least 50 a year, it would seem to indicate that capital punishment has not deterred the regime's courageous opponents.

Since the military trials are conducted more often than not behind closed doors, and the most elementary rules of evidence do not apply, it is hard to tell whether the accused are really guilty.

This is not in any case the concern of the court, which has the primary purpose of punishing the Shah's political opponents.

Knighted

Mr Pincher's case is rendered even less convincing when it is borne in mind that for at least the last 20 years the Iranian military has been trying civilian opponents of the regime and sentencing them to death after barbarous tortures.

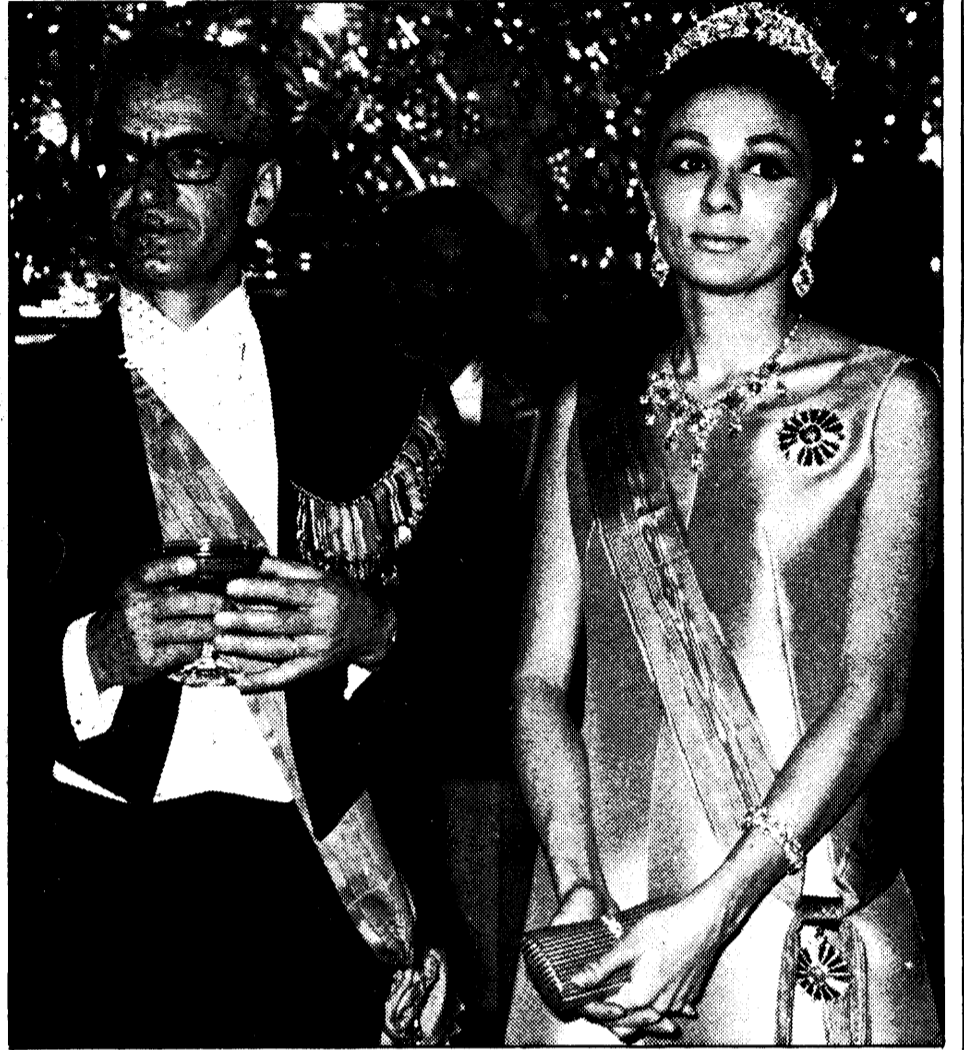
Pincher is not, unfortunately, the sole admirer of the savage dictatorship in Iran. Others who share his views include the British government and HM the Queen.

The Queen recently knighted a United Kingdom citizen who lives in Tehran by the name of Shapoor Reporter.

This man was knighted for 'services to British interests in Iran'. He is consultant to several large British firms.

The indefatigable Pincher tells us that Reporter was 'so discreet he will not say what they are. But it is my guess he was involved in securing the crucial Persian orders for Concorde airliners, naval ves-

MY FRIEND THE SHAH BY CHAPMAN PINCHER



Left: An opponent of the Shah's regime faces the firing squad. Right: The Shah and Empress Farah.

sels, hovercraft, missiles and other defence equipment'.

This 'defence equipment' is being ordered by the Shah to turn his already huge army into the most powerful fighting force in the area.

The Shah wants to dominate the oil supplies of the Persian Gulf where he has already grabbed territory from the surrounding Arab states.

His aggressive territorial ambitions are backed to the hilt by the Tory government, which sees him as the guarantor of British imperialist interests.

Sir Shapoor Reporter's role in this military build-up is fully in the family tradition. The Iranian workers and peasants have plenty to thank the Reporter family for.

Sir Shapoor's father was Oriental Counsellor at the British Legation in Tehran.

According to Pincher the British commander there, General Ironside, was ordered to depose the reigning Shah and 'assist in finding a new

ruler who would more truly represent Persia's national aspirations'.

In other words, someone who would be a faithful representative of the British imperialists' interests in Persia—a puppet ruler, to put it crudely.

Ironside turned to Reporter seeking a nomination for the post.

He told the General, Pincher related, that he knew of 'only one man with the integrity, resolve and mental capacity to take on the job—Reza Khan, Persian officer in the Cossack brigade'.

Reza Khan, in fact, was a sergeant, not an officer, and practically illiterate. His sole positive qualification was an unenviable reputation as a vicious martinet.

Ironside took an immediate liking to him. Before many months were over the former Cossack sergeant was on the throne as founder of the Pahlavi dynasty.

Pincher claims he was 'a progressive monarch'.

But his son really wins most of Pincher's praise. The ruling Shah 'happens to have a quite outstanding flair for leadership', and as a result Persia 'is progressing socially and industrially at an unprecedented rate'.

Both the Shah and his sidekick Reporter are convinced that 'the rapidly expanding Anglo-Iranian partnership' is 'one of the most encouraging developments in international politics'.

Long service

Reporter's previous efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Labour government of Harold Wilson awarded him an OBE in 1969, but his services to British imperialism stretch much further into the past.

'During the war he was a psychological warfare expert with the British in India,' Pincher writes. Then for a time he served the US im-

perialists as well, no doubt helping to prepare the 1953 coup that overthrew the Mossadeq government?

At any rate Pincher writes: 'In the Persian oil crisis in the early 1950s, when Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized Britain's oil interests there and diplomatic relations were severed, he served as political adviser to the US Embassy in Tehran!'

'Since then he has developed into one of those extraordinary international figures who moves at the highest levels but for personal preference manages to keep out of the limelight.'

With that record Reporter not only has every reason for keeping 'out of the limelight' he also has a strong incentive to support the most repressive possible regime in Persia.

It's the only way the Shah and his intolerable dictatorship can stay in office.

LONDON'S NEW SLUM SCHOOLS

Many new schools will rapidly deteriorate into slums as a result of Tory education policy, Inner London Education Authority leader Mr Ashley Bramall has said.

Local authorities are waiting with baited breath to see whether the government will raise the cost limits on school building this year.

The cost limits within which any individual school can be built are laid down by the Department of Education and Science and for the past three years at least they have been adjusted in April.

In 1970 the Tories increased

them by 10 per cent, a year later by 13 per cent and in April 1972 by 15 per cent.

A spokesman for the Department of Education and Science confirmed that the cost limits were once again under review.

But a spokesman declined to say when an announcement would be made or indeed if there would be one this year.

The Association of Municipal Corporations is demanding a massive 30 per cent rise this year.

This, it says, is the only margin capable of allowing them to keep abreast of escalating building costs which some experts say have gone up by as much as 50 per cent

since the Tories came to power.

The Association has recently conducted a survey into the effects of Tory education estimates on school building.

This showed that the gross area per school place had fallen by 2 sq. ft. since 1969.

It also showed cost limits persistently trailing price rises.

Using 1964 as the base year, actual costs in 1970 were 126 compared with 119 for DES cost limits. By 1972 actual costs were 171 compared with the DES estimate of 156.

AMC spokesman Mr R. Berry said: 'Either we just won't be able to continue building or we will have to break the law and build below standards.'

The DES proscribes minimum standards for school-building relating mainly to floor space and window areas.

Mr Bramall said: 'We are getting to the stage where the primary schools we build are

so cut to the bone that teachers are saying, "We would rather soldier on in the 19th century three deckers than work in Mrs Thatcher's future slums".'

He added that ILEA was being forced to build primary schools without adequate space for children, necessary room for teachers and cupboard and utility space.

Skimping on new schools has produced a long list of deficiencies.

Noise insulation is sometimes inferior, the quality of wall facings are reduced, wall clocks are left out, television outlets slashed, sinks in wet areas too few and the number of doors slashed.

The Inner London Teachers' Association has strong views about the so-called new slums local authorities are being forced to build.

General secretary Mr Bob Richardson said: 'The trouble is, schools are being built to a price not a standard.'

'Some of the new schools

tend to look tatty before you start and it does not encourage children to look after them.

'The children get blamed for damage to materials not used to heavy usage'.

Mr Richardson said circulation space and teaching areas were being cut to a minimum with the result that teachers are finding their jobs increasingly hard.

One possible consequence of skimping on new schools could be the sort of fire disaster which recently hit a French school.

The authorities have been accused of penny-pinching and using inferior materials in the school's construction.

An ILEA spokesman told me that skimping will very soon hit secondary schools as well.

As a graphic illustration, he told me that if Pimlico School, opened in 1971, were rebuilt today, the hall, the stage, the swimming pool and two gymnasiums would have to be axed.



THE FISHERMEN'S REVOLT

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

John Clark is fishing the icy seas off Iceland. His mate, Alex McLellan, is locked in a Lancashire jail. But they will both be thinking of Fleetwood and the mass meeting next Friday.

Friday is the deadline given to the Fleetwood Vessel Owners' Association by the port's 880 trawlermen. If the bosses don't cough-up and pay their employees a 'substantial increase' as well as improve job security by de-casualizing their hiring policy, Fleetwood may face the first trawlermen's strike in its history.

Chances of avoiding a show-down seem poor. John Hulmes, the Transport and General Workers' Union organizer in Fleetwood, has met the employers.

'There has been very little progress on anything,' he said. 'The employers are not willing to give any money and say they can't under the govern-

ment's anti-inflation policy anyway. We will meet on Friday and it will be up to the men to decide what action to take.'

If the strike comes off it will be about trawlermen like John and Alex.

John has just recovered from eight stitches in the head and two in the nose when a chain of a stern trawler smashed into his face off Iceland. His father was killed on the trawlers and he has a better than 50 per cent chance of being maimed if he stays in the industry.

Trawling is the most dangerous industry in Britain. The risk of death is 40 times greater than in mining and 100 times greater than in manufacturing.

Alex is suffering from another condition. He was fined £100 in court after an incident with a dock official.

The owners promptly 'spragged' him. This means they banned him from getting a job on a Fleetwood boat. John found it impossible to raise money for the fine, so he went to prison.

This kind of disciplinary

action is quite open and arbitrary in Fleetwood. The owners have a Disciplinary Committee which has the power to suspend fishermen from any ship of the Vessel Owners' Association.

The trawlermen get 72 hours' shore leave in every three weeks. If a man decides he wants a little more time at home, he must sign off and go onto the dole. If he simply fails to turn up for the ship, he gets 'spragged'.

'If you miss a ship once the committee "spraggs" you for 14 days,' John Clark told me just before he joined the 'Maretta' for Iceland. 'If you miss a ship three times, you're "spragged" for life.'

Richard Ward, president of the Fleetwood Vessel Owners' Association, justifies the committee this way:

'It is not fair to the average fisherman who keeps to the rules that he should be hamstrung by the activities of a few and the committee is protecting the interests of the majority by taking action against the minority.'

But the average fishermen of Fleetwood all hate the

committee. They point out that the 'rules' are the owners' rules.

Another, more subtle, method of demoralizing the trawlermen is the 'silent walkabout'.

This is the blacklist of the sea. If the employers decide a man is a 'trouble-maker' or perhaps too keen on his rights, for some inexplicable reason, he can't find work in the port. He gets the 'walkabout' trudging from ship to ship after a job.

These are some of the more extraordinary conditions attached to trawling. But by any standards the rewards are poor.

The average pay for 'deckies', the bottom rung of the trawling hierarchy, is £27.50 by the owners' estimates.

These earnings are made up of a basic-rate and 'poundage'—extra earnings which vary with the size of the catch.

The hours worked to earn this modest wage are incredibly long. The owners estimate the working week at 64 hours, but the crews say the figure is more like 100 hours.

A man works up to 15 hours a day (or night). He is guaranteed six hours rest. But when a bumper catch is being hauled over the side or the nets are in danger, it's 'all hands' and

the precious few hours' sleep are lost.

Life at sea becomes one grinding routine. Cut off from normal social life, their wives and girlfriends, the men yearn for their few hours' leave. When they return to Fleetwood they rush home to their loved ones or get 'legless' in the quayside pubs and clubs which have very liberal closing hours.

The men who control the fleets are shadowy figures. The ultimate owners may never have set foot in the fishing ports.

The chain of command starts with the trawler.

The 'Wyre Victory', Alex McLellan's old ship, is owned by Wyre Trawlers Ltd of Fleetwood. The ship is serviced by Jas Robertsons and Sons Ltd (Fleetwood).

One of the major wet-fish merchants in Fleetwood is H. Field and Son.

Wyre Trawlers and Jas Robertsons are owned by British United Trawlers Ltd (Hull). British United Trawlers and H. Field and Son are part of Associated Fisheries Ltd.

Between them, these inter-related companies manage to increase the price of fish 99.4 per cent between dockside and shop. Fresh cod fillets on the dock cost 18p per lb (December

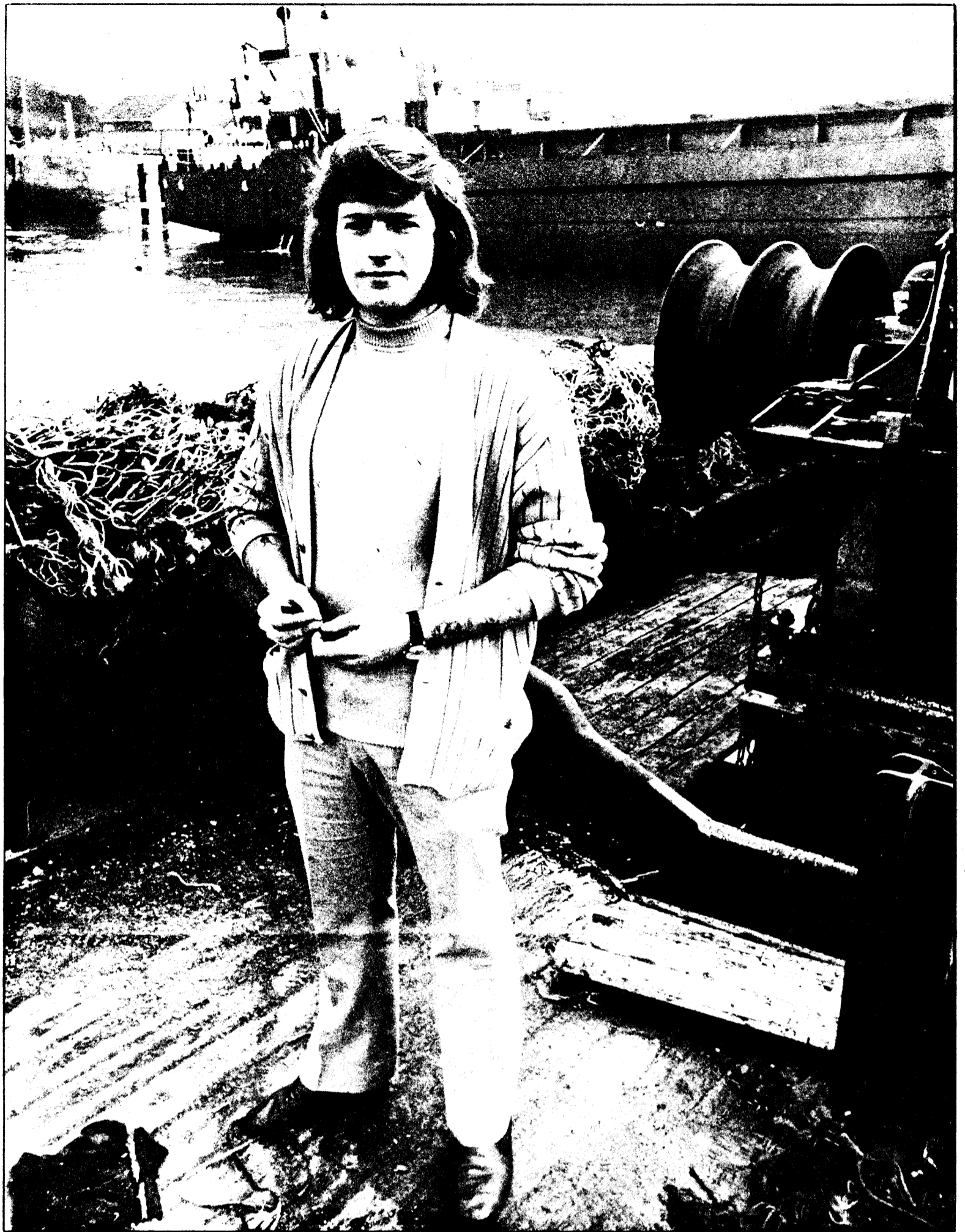
Above dock a bumper catch of fish is being hauled over the side of a Fleetwood trawler.

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Above left: Gutting fish at the docks. Earnings are made up of a basic rate and 'poundage'—which varies with the size of the catch. Above right: John Clarke, a Fleetwood deckie. Right: A trawler cabin.



1972). They retail at 35.9p a lb.

At the last annual meeting in 1971 the chairman of Associated Fisheries had this to say:

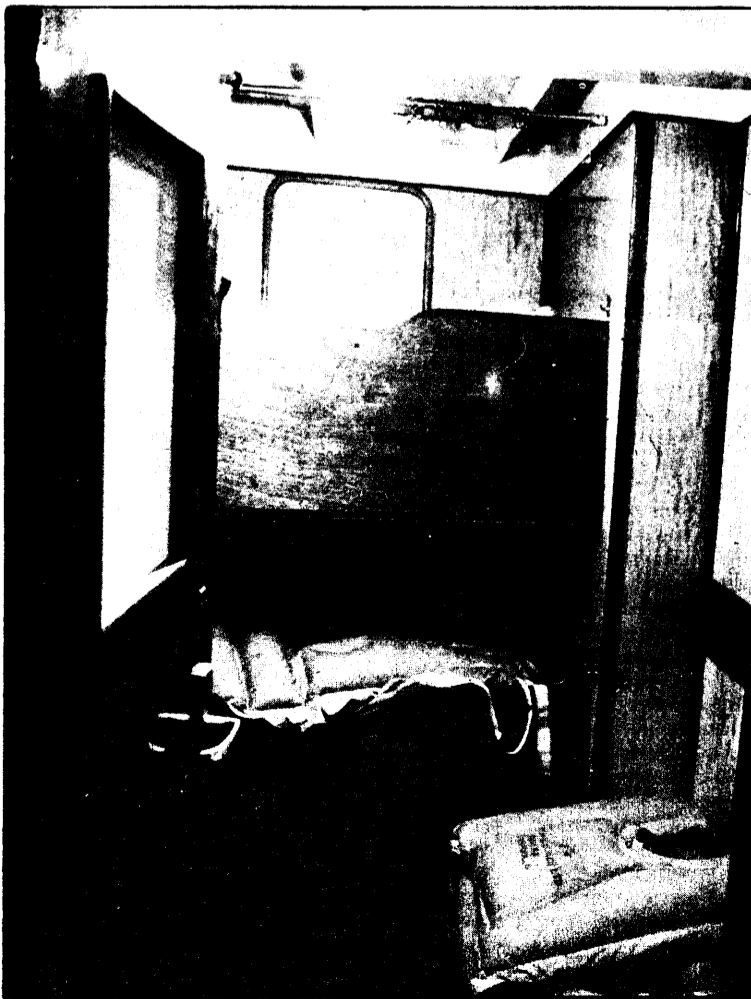
'Previous chairman's statements have stated that the group must earn considerably higher profits in the future... I must stress that at the moment the overall outcome remains dominated by the profitability of our fleets.'

Profits at Fleetwood are considerable. In 1962 the 40 ship on the Iceland run earned £1.8m. In 1972 29 ships brought in £3.8m worth of fish.

The battle against exploitation at sea will start on Friday. If the Fleetwood men decide on strike action it will be only a beginning, though an important one.

True justice will only come when the trawler bosses are expropriated and the industry run by the fishermen.

Then the trips to Iceland and the danger they bring will be for the benefit of the whole working class and not for the profit of the few.



'THE CONDITIONS WE HAVE TO PUT UP WITH FOR THIS KIND OF MONEY'

John Clark (19) is a Fleetwood 'deckie'. He has been on the trawlers for three and a half years. His father was a fisherman, killed at Stornoway, and his stepfather is still on the trawlers.

The work is sometimes terrible. Too bad to describe to those who haven't been out. We do it for the money—there is nothing else in Fleetwood. But sometimes it's OK when you get a good crew and a decent skipper. You can have a good laugh.

The money really depends on the catch. We get over 60p for every £100 of fish landed. The last trip we cleared £10,000, which is a good catch and I cleared £37 with the poundage. But it's not often like this.

You have to remember the conditions we have to put up with for this kind of money. Last time out, for example, we were off the east coast of Iceland. We had a storm that lasted for two days then two days of blinding snow. You have to work through all this.

When it freezes, the ice goes half way up the mast and it gets onto the rails. It gets thicker and thicker and weighs the boat down. If there is not going to be a thaw, we have to go out and chip it off. This is the real hard work. But the ships look really beautiful covered in the ice. Some time I would like to take a picture of them like that.

We work about 15 hours a day. But if the skipper declares an emergency, you all have to work—say your trawl got twisted up or something.

The conditions have been bad for too long at sea, especially with the 'walkabout' and 'spragging'. This is all wrong. If they don't give us what we want on April 6, we should come out—I want to come out anyway.

About 75 per cent are in the union, but this is improving now because there is a fight ahead and we are in for more money. We will have to stick together to win through.



Poverty and terror in Indonesia

INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DESTROYED BY MAOISM

BY JACK GALE. PART THREE

In 1965, the Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI) had a membership of over 3 million and was the largest Communist Party in an Asian capitalist country. Mass organizations under its control had a combined membership of well over 10 million.

Dominated by the Stalinist theory of peaceful co-existence, the PKI—under the close direction of Peking—restricted its mass forces to support for the Bonapartist regime of President Achmad Sukarno.

Sukarno represented the native bourgeoisie, balancing between imperialism and the semi-colonial masses. He leaned on the PKI on the one hand and reactionary military leaders, such as Suharto, on the other.

Instead of leading the oppressed masses into a struggle for power against both internal reaction and world imperialism, Maoist theories meant that the PKI virtually dissolved itself into Sukarno's alliance (NASAKOM), which

had always sought diplomatic support from Moscow and Peking.

This opened the door to bloody counter-revolution. When the right wing struck in 1965, the coalition of bourgeois nationalism and Stalinism fell apart.

Even before that, under Sukarno's rule, some PKI committees in the regions had been outlawed and their leaders arrested.

Yet right up to the actual counter-revolution the PKI was advocating a 'Fifth Force' of armed peasants and workers to fight Malaysia side by side with the army, navy, air force and police.

The army-Sukarno-PKI alliance was destroyed by the September 30 coup. (The movement has always been known as the 'September 30 Movement', although the actual events took place on October 1, 1965.)

Led by Lieutenant-Colonel Untung, a member of the President's Palace Guard, a group of middle-ranking officers seized six top-ranking generals and executed them at the Halim airfield, just outside Jakarta.

The Untung group brought the PKI chairman, D. N. Aidit,



Former Indonesian president, Achmad Sukarno. Above: A PKI Committee member is escorted by military police to be tried before a tribunal in Jakarta just after the 1965 coup.

and other political leaders to their Halim base 'for their personal safety'.

On October 2—shortly before it was banned—the PKI daily 'Harian Rakjat' published an editorial expressing the Party's official view that the Untung coup was 'an internal affair of the army'.

The right-wing army leadership, however, chose to regard Untung as the chosen instrument of the PKI. Claiming that the entire Communist and left-wing movement was implicated,

they not only crushed the Untung group, but launched a murderous attack on the left throughout Indonesia.

Over 500,000 people were murdered and 250,000 arrested. Over 55,000 remain in jail and only about 300 have ever been brought to trial. President Sukarno remained as a figurehead for the new regime until March, 1966, when he was forced to sign over his powers to Suharto.

Every left-wing organization was made illegal and in early

1967 a new wave of arrests was launched against PKI members who were working to revive the Party. Attempts were then made to establish a new PKI base in Blitar, East Java, in 1968. This, too, was bloodily repressed.

This unprecedented bloodbath did not, however, prevent the Kremlin Stalinists from reopening friendly relations with the CIA-backed Suharto regime after a 'decent' interval.

Diplomatic and trading relations were resumed in 1970. The Soviet Union provided generous economic assistance to the butcher's regime—including building a new steel plant in Jakarta and a super-phosphate factory at Tjilatjap in central Java.

In 1970 Suharto's foreign minister, Adam Malik, was guest of honour at a banquet in Moscow given by the deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Mr Vladimir Novikov.

In 1971, the Soviet Union resumed the sale, on 'easy' terms, of spare parts for ships and planes to the Indonesian armed forces.

This was one week after the leader of the PKI youth movement, Pemuda Rakjat, had been sentenced to death in a military court for attempting to reform the Indonesian Communist Party.

These weapons were used in counter-guerrilla warfare in Java.

In June 1971, Foreign Minister Malik was again fêted—this time in Belgrade, where he had talks with President Tito and the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Mirko Tepavac.

In July 1971, after the victory of the ruling Sekbar Golbar party in Suharto's rigged elections, its chairman, Sokowati, was congratulated by the Soviet Ambassador in Jakarta, Mr Volkov.

Volkov declared Suharno's rather predictable 'election' success to be 'a victory for democracy and for the people of Indonesia'. He invited Sokowati to visit the Soviet Union for talks. A similar invitation was extended to the regime's Minister for Social Affairs, Mintaredja.

The total domination of Indonesian industry by first American and then Japanese capitalism has been discussed in an earlier article. But European big business is anxious to get in on the act. On a visit to Paris in November last year, Suharto urged European businessmen:

'It would be profitable for you businessmen, who are always looking out for new outlets wherever you can find them, to take interests in the potential of Indonesia.'

Suharto is also optimistic about establishing friendly relations with China—and he has good grounds considering he was in full agreement with Mao Tse-tung on supporting the butcher Yahya Khan against the people of Bangla Desh.

In a speech on the anniversary of Indonesia's independence from Holland, Suharto said he was anxious to open friendly relations with China, and to reopen the embassies which were closed in 1967.

'We want to open friendly relations and co-operate with all countries,' he said, 'irrespective of political and social systems.'

No one should be surprised at the willingness of world Stalinism to enter into the closest relations with the regime which physically destroyed hundreds of thousands of communists. The responsibility for the Suharto counter-revolution rests squarely on Stalinism, in particular on the Peking Maoists.

Only the construction of the revolutionary International—the International Committee of the Fourth International—can bring about the defeat of world imperialism, its puppet regimes and its international ally, world Stalinism.

WHITE LIBERALISM WON'T STOP VORSTER

In February this year, the South African government resorted to more sweeping administrative action against student leaders than it has ever done before.

Leading members of the executive of two organizations representing between them the majority of students in the country were banned and placed under house arrest. The organizations concerned were the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) and the black South African Students Organization (SASO).

Additional restrictions were placed on the non-African student leaders (i.e. Indians and Coloureds). They are not allowed to enter any African township nor enter a factory, publishing or printing house.

SASO has been in existence for only three years and became prominent in 1972 when its President, Abraham Tiro, publicly criticized the system of Bantu education, and the separate tribal colleges which blacks have been obliged to attend since they were excluded from other universities.

Tiro was immediately expelled from one of these so-called 'ethnic university colleges' at Turfloop in the northern Transvaal. This led to a student boycott and wholesale dismissals. While the government-appointed college authorities sifted the dismissed students for re-entry, students at all-white universities demonstrated in sympathy.

These demonstrations — mainly at the universities of Capetown and Witwatersrand — led to brutal police baton charges, but resistance continued.

NUSAS was formed in 1924, claimed to represent all students regardless of colour and was led for the first ten

years by liberal English and Afrikaans-speaking whites.

It included all the major university institutions — with the exception of Fort Hare, then the only higher education institution for blacks.

In the 1930s, however, there was an intensification of far-right nationalism among Afrikaners. They accused NUSAS of being 'un-national' and condemned it for supporting refugees from Nazi Germany. By 1937 the last Afrikaans student group (at Stellenbosch University) had left NUSAS.

The Afrikaners then formed their own student body, the Afrikaanse Nasionale Studentebond (ANS). One of the leaders of ANS was Dr P. J. Meyer, now head of the South African Broadcasting Corporation and, until recently the chairman of the secret Afrikaner society, the Broederbond.

The ANS allied itself closely with the Herenigde Nasionale Party (HNP) of Dr Malan, who became South African Prime Minister in 1948, and with

organizations even farther to the right.

One of these was the Ossewa Brandwag, a Brandwag, a paramilitary pro-Nazi organization to which the present Prime Minister, Balthazar Vorster, belonged.

The ANS President declared in 1940, after hearing a speech praising Hitler and 'Mein Kampf' by Dr D. J. Vorster (the present Prime Minister's brother, who is now a prominent official of the Dutch Reformed Church):

'The holy fanaticism of the ANS will soon rule the university. We are proud of being called Nazis. It shows that we stand alone, and Mr Vorster has shown us where to draw our inspiration and the methods by which we can obtain power.' ('Cape Argus' September 16, 1940.)

The Afrikaans-speaking university students never returned to NUSAS. They are now organized in the 'Afrikaanse Studentebond' which, though it has ostensibly abandoned Nazism, enthusiastically supports apartheid.

Black students entered NUSAS in 1945 and stayed within it until the late 1960s, when segregation was imposed on it by law. NUSAS opposed apartheid in education. In 1951 it resisted the segregation of medical training and it campaigned against the introduction of special 'Bantu' education in schools.

It launched a lengthy campaign to resist the exclusion of Africans, Indians and Coloureds from the universities, but failed to prevent the government passing legislation to exclude all except whites from universities and setting up tribal colleges. Even one or two Afrikaans universities expressed disquiet at these laws.

Because of its liberal stand, NUSAS came under continual government harassment. From 1955 on, its leaders had their passports withdrawn, their telephones tapped and their meetings put under Special Branch surveillance. Some of them have been banned and detained under the 90 and 180-Day provisions.

The union's mail has been

intercepted and its headquarters raided. Individual leaders have been subjected to physical attacks by the far-right, ranging from slashing of car tyres to bomb explosions.

Politically, however, NUSAS has never gone beyond expressing its adherence to the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights. Indeed, one of the factors behind the formation of a separate student union for blacks, which plays into the hands of the racialists by dividing the students, was disgust at the ineffectual liberalism and paternalism of NUSAS.

Neither white liberalism nor black separatism will overthrow the racist Vorster regime. This requires a revolutionary party based on the working class, affiliated to the International Committee of the Fourth International.

Below: At the university of Witwatersrand students demonstrate against the bans on leaders of the student organizations, NUSAS and SASO, imposed by the Vorster regime.



WORKERS NOTEBOOK

SOLID GOLD

A sidelight to the economic crisis. One of the features of the past three months has been the accelerating price of gold. This may not concern you or me too much, but all those dinky couples who are thinking of a spring wedding are getting distinctly worried.

As the bullion price continues its dramatic rise, so does the cost of wedding rings and other jewellery.

Because of the high price on the open market, most British jewellers have stopped buying. They are hoping for a fall in the price. Some hope!

Ronald Collingwood, joint managing director of Britain's biggest jewellers, H. Samuel, explains that his company has been forced to halt gold purchases.

If the present trend continues then either the companies will have to pay the higher prices or there will effectively be a shortage which would force the price of jewellery through the roof anyway.

'I can see gold rings, bracelets and other jewellery having to go up by as much as 25 per cent later this year because of the cost of our raw materials,' he said.

He suggests that what will

happen is that young couples will turn to cheaper, thinner rings—9ct instead of 18ct or 22ct.

Among those rushing to buy solid gold rings are not just engaged couples, however. Workers Press has been told that some of the biggest clients at present include bookmakers, diplomats, real estate spivs.

They are anticipating a collapse on the stock markets and are anxious to 'chase gold instead of paper currency'.

AMERICA

It's being sick time. A new LP has just come out called 'America—why I love her'. The performers on this nauseating album are John Wayne and Robert Mitchum.

CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE

A Sunday schoolteacher has been sacked because she loves a man once labelled the 'fascist rector'.

'People can say or think what they please. It makes no difference to us,' says 56-year-old widow Mrs Lynette Barnes who runs the Sunday school in the Berkshire town of Purley, near Reading.

Her groom is the Rev George Nicholson (77), former rector of Burghfield in Berkshire, and a one-time member of the National Front.

He has been a controversial figure in his parish for his unorthodox religious teachings. Nicholson has—

● Repeatedly called for the repatriation of coloured immigrants.

● Attacked Jews in a pamphlet called 'Synagogue of Satan'.

● Led a ten-year campaign in support of apartheid.

One occasion his bishop reported him to the Race Relations Board.

Mrs Barnes was sacked from her job when she announced her wedding to Nicholson, who is divorced from his first wife.

The rector of Purley explained the dismissal in a letter to parents which said: 'Mrs Barnes has been asked to relinquish the leadership of the Sunday school because of her association with a man many of whose views I would not wish to see infiltrating to the children.'

Mrs Barnes replied: 'It is ridiculous of the rector to suggest that I will be indoctrinated by George.'

And Nicholson added: 'There has been a little trouble in the parish over my divorce, but I don't think this has influenced the rector. I believe it is purely because he disagrees with my views on Christianity.'

HIS LORDSHIP

'The rich man in his castle, The poor man at his gate, God made them high and lowly,

And ordered their estate.' We don't know if the words of the old hymn are inscribed on the ancestral home of the

Marquis of Hertford, but they ought to be.

When 26-year-old Neville Figgitt worked on his Lordship's 8,000 acre Warwickshire estate, Ragley Hall, as a maintenance man he was paid the basic minimum wage—£16.20 for a 42-hour week.

Then, last November, Mr Figgitt was told he was suffering from multiple sclerosis. Two months later he was sacked at 24 hours' notice—and paid no money in lieu.

But that wasn't all. Mr

Figgitt—who had worked on the estate since he left school—was living in a tied cottage. So his lordship began charging him £5.30 per week rent.

But who says there's no justice for the poor? Neville Figgitt went to an Industrial Tribunal. And he got compensation. All £76 of it!

Lord Hertford told the Tribunal: 'If there had been no social security benefits available I would have felt a moral obligation to keep him on.'

POLITICAL PROFILES

By LEON TROTSKY
Paperback. £1.00 Illustrated



Sharp pen-portraits of leading figures of the Second International in Russia and Europe, for the first time published in an English edition. The translations were first commissioned by the Young Socialists' paper 'Keep Left' Their enormous success has led to the completion of the translation of the whole book, which is the first part of Volume 8 of Leon Trotsky's 'Works' published in the Soviet Union in 1926. It provides the most vivid picture available of the historic figures of the Second International, their strengths and weaknesses, written by an observer who was also a participant in the daily struggle of the European and Russian working class.

Now available from New Park Publications
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Shotton team returns from Czech steel trip

MEMBERS of the Shotton Action Committee returned this week from their trip to inspect steel-works in Czechoslovakia.

Dillwyn Hopkins, a member of the party, told Workers Press that the team had inspected the new tandem open hearth system works at Ostravia.

This is very similar to that used at Shotton which is threatened with closure by the 'rationalization' plans of the Tory government.

Mr Hopkins said: 'The productivity will not be as high as the BSC basic oxygen smelter (BOS) method, but it will be much cheaper.'

'There are three furnaces working in Ostravia now. They expected 1.9 million tons production in the first full year of operation but in fact got 2.4 million tons. It is working so well they

will be putting in a fourth furnace soon.

'Another important thing is that it is not near a deep water port. The nearest port is 600 miles away in Yugoslavia. The ore comes from India and Brazil.

'The life of a tandem furnace is 30 years. At Ostravia, 24,000 work at the plant.

'The total cost for three furnaces would be £4m and £4m for stricter dust clearing. Three tandem would take up the space of six open hearth furnaces.

'We would only have about 13,000 working on them here, the same as at present.

'There are 24,000 workers at Ostravia because the Czechs don't believe in unemployment. Two or three men do the work of one. Here, unfortunately, we believe the opposite.'

Mr Hopkins' wife, June, is chairman of the women's

section of the Flint Campaign Committee. She said:

'I know it's down in black and white, but it's unbelievable that they're going to close Shotton down. It's been here so long.

'Last week my little girl came home from school. The teacher had done a random test. Out of 32 children in the class, 28 had fathers who work in steel.

'A member of our committee who works in Courtauld's is helping us. He is concerned that if Shotton goes, there will be two or three men after his job.

'Before we know it, we are going to be like the highlands.

'I've got two sons. One wants to be a teacher, but there'll be no one to teach. The other wants to go into computers—but where?

'I've always brought the children up to respect policemen.

'But when we marched

to the Houses of Parliament in London one of them went for my son at Lambeth Bridge because he was carrying a banner.

'I thought: "You're not going to have him". They snatched the drummer and dragged him along the ground. It was an eye-opener.'

A conference of all closure-threatened works will be held at Connah's Quay, near Shotton, on April 13.

This will be followed on April 28 by the biggest single rally ever staged in North Wales.

Bands will be at the head of the three columns of marchers from Flint, Buckley and Northrop.

'It will be directed against the BSC and the Tory government,' says Mr Hopkins.

'The emphasis will be on the youth—where are they going to work when the place closes down?'

No fighting lead in engineers' agenda

TRADE UNIONISTS seeking a lead in the fight against the Tory government will be sadly disappointed by the agenda for the engineers' union national conference in ten days' time.

About the furthest any divisional committee is prepared to go in the resolutions tabled for discussion is an instruction that the executive 'lead a struggle in the TUC for united action to defeat this government'.

None of the major problems facing the working class can be solved except 'by the forced resignation of this Tory government', says another motion from the same division, Kent. A Labour government pledged to socialist policies is needed.

This resolution continues by instructing the executive 'not to compromise, but to fight to halt the disastrous retreats made by the TUC'.

In the main, however, the resolutions tabled sound as if the divisions concerned would like to just ignore the existence of the Tories altogether.

There is little which really challenges the retreat of the TUC General Council—and, more particularly, of engineers' president Hugh Scanlon himself.

This is certainly true of motions from divisions where the Communist Party has influence.

The line from north London, for instance, stamping ground of Stalinists Sid Haraway and Arthur Gibbard, is simply that 'every effort must be made by organized labour, the TUC and the people as a whole to remove them [the Tories] from office as quickly as is humanly possible'.

Other divisions want the executive to just 'disregard any norm or ceiling in any wages negotiations' (south London), and to give 'full and immediate' official backing to 'any members involved in dispute due to the government interference' (Manchester).

GENERAL STRIKE?

But there is no trace in the agenda of the calls to the TUC for General Strike action mustered by some divisions in previous years, although finally ditched by the Stalinists.

Emergency motions will therefore be essential if the conference is to make any move to stop the TUC's headlong retreat before the Tory corporatists—a retreat signalled so plainly by Scanlon on Wednesday—and meet its responsibilities to the working class.

Scanlon, who last August tied his members to a two-year pay deal in settlement of their 1971 claim, has now issued what amounts to a challenge to existing union policy on almost every front, from the Industrial Relations Act through to the Common Market.

No doubt one powerful factor in his decision to make this challenge was the knowledge that he

BY DAVID MAUDE
OUR LABOUR
CORRESPONDENT

faces little or no criticism on the wages front at his own conference.

Although no new national claim may be submitted before August 25 this year, the conference agenda contains resolutions demanding increases of up to £15 on basic rates for skilled workers, and a five-hour cut in the working week.

The call for a £10 increase is widely supported (by south London, the north east, the Wirral and west Cheshire, the east of Scotland and east Midlands).

Every engineer knows that it is ridiculous to suggest rises of this order can be won except in the most bitter struggle with the employers and the Tory government, and that any serious preparation for such a struggle must mean learning the lessons of last year's disastrous plant-by-plant industrial action policy.

Yet it is left to the right-wing South Wales and north Yorkshire divisions of the union to raise the slightest criticism of the plant-by-plant policy and the final settlement—and their criticism is directed towards ending national struggle for wages all together!

This year's conference of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, to be held in Torquay, faces the most crucial

decisions in the union's history.

However much divisional committees might want to ignore the Tory government, they cannot. The £61,000 in fines and costs exacted from the union under the Tories' Industrial Relations Act are sufficient proof of that.

And if Scanlon is suggesting that amendments to the Industrial Relations Act might pave the way for industrial peace, this is certainly not the mood of his members.

Motion after motion on the conference agenda congratulates the executive on its stand against the Act and calls for the fight to be continued until it is repealed.

'NO CAPITULATION'

Typical is the motion from the North Lancashire and Cumberland division which states: 'This national committee notes the attacks which have been made against the trade union movement under the guise of the Industrial Relations Act and is resolved that there will be no capitulation whatsoever by the AUEW whilst the Act remains on the statute book.'

Other resolutions demand not only repeal of the Act, but also the repayment, with interest, of any fines imposed by the court on trade unions.

Only three or four right-wing motions propose that in future the union should defend itself when attacked in the NIRC.

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.

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,
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Cerca de la estación de metro de Holborn.
Entrada 10p
TODOS AL MITIN

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

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.

Talks today on disputed Hull wharf

TALKS will be held in Hull today over the long-running and bitter dispute at the Bankside Wharf where unregistered labour is being used. Earlier this month the 2,000 Hull dockers took the day off to picket the wharf to stop unregistered men unloading timber.

The meeting with the dockers' leaders was requested by Mr J. H. Barchard, managing director of W. S. Barchard and Sons, timber merchants of West Docks Street.

Mr Barchard said: 'It is an exploratory gesture and I am going in with an open mind.'

'Until we meet each other we do not know if anything can be done. The question of employing registered dock workers at the wharf is not on my mind, but I am ready to discuss anything.'

Last year the National Dock Labour Board ruled that work at the wharf should be done by registered dock workers.

But a subsequent hearing by an Industrial Tribunal at Leeds decided that the company could use only its own regular employees at the wharf to discharge cargoes for its own use to be processed at the wharf.

The hearing of an appeal by the board against the tribunal's decision is still pending.

Grading dispute at Massey's

TWENTY-TWO machining method engineers are on official strike at Massey Ferguson's plant in Banner Lane, Coventry, over upgrading.

In December 1970 the firm reorganized and closed down the production engineering department.

A representative of the strikers told Workers Press: 'The duties of these production engineers was then added to our duties. But they were earning £4 to £5 more than us.'

'We therefore put in a claim for upgrading which actually

only amounts to £1.80 a week. We should have asked for more. We thought we were being reasonable. The firm agreed regarding the extra job content, but refused the money.'

The claim has been through procedure twice. On March 9, the company threatened a lock-out if sanctions were not lifted. 'We resumed normal working and then gave them seven days' notice of an official strike. We came out on March 19.'

All other members of TASS (the technical and supervisory section of the AUEW) in the two Massey Ferguson plants are banning overtime.

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!
North London
SATURDAY MARCH 31
Assemble: 2pm Civic Centre, Wood Green
March through Wood Green
Lambeth
SATURDAY MARCH 31
Assemble 2 pm Ramsden Road (near Balham Tube)
March through Tooting Broadway to a meeting at 4 pm at the Franciscan Road School, near Tooting Broadway.

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We could stay out 'indefinitely'

say St Mary's hospital strikers



Henry Burton

STRIKING ancillary workers at St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London, said yesterday that they could stay out 'indefinitely'.

'It would be pointless to go back now after two weeks,' National Union of Public Employees' shop steward Mr Henry Burton told me.

He claimed a mass meeting of the 300 strikers at lunchtime today could vote to stay out until they won their £4 claim.

BY IAN YEATS

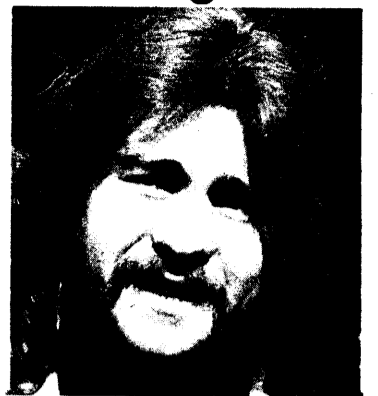
Picket Mr Joe Rouco added: 'It would be better if we had more support from other hospitals. We seem to be all by ourselves.'

Although up to 100 hospitals are affected by the work-to-rule, St Mary's is the only one brought to near standstill by strike action.

Commenting on the all-London one day strike next week (see page 3), Mr Burton said: 'The union should call everyone out for a week not a day.'

'They have not given us nearly enough support. The unions have decided they run us, but we pay their salaries so it should be the other way round.'

'The heads of the unions should be elected every year like branch secretaries.'



Joe Rouco

Building Societies aim for 10p.c. rate

BY JACK GALE

INTEREST repayment rates on house mortgages are soaring astronomically and will soon be over 10 per cent. The Provincial Building Society, the seventh largest in Britain, has announced that it is breaking away from the recommended investment interest rate.

Two weeks ago the Building Societies Association recommended a 6.3-per-cent investment rate, but the Provincial will now offer 6.75 per cent to investors, grossing up to 9.4 per cent.

This move follows the decisions of the Leek and Westbourne (the eighth largest society) and the Alliance (the sixth largest) to offer investors 6.5 per cent.

Other smaller societies have also announced that they will be increasing their investment rates above the norm.

So far none of the major societies involved in this breakaway have said what their mortgage interest rates will be.

However, they are certain to be more than the 9.5 per cent, which was thought to be the upper limit which the Association could recommend when it meets on April 13.

Last week one of the smaller, specialist societies indicated that its mortgage rates would vary between 9.5 per cent and more than 10.5 per cent in some cases.

● The Provincial Building Society last year had total assets of £397,823,000, an increase of £77,683,000 over the previous year.

Its liquid funds were £76,563,000 — an increase of £11,231,000 over the previous year. And its reserves were £16,761,000 — an increase of £2,141,000.

● The Leek and Westbourne had assets total-

ing £349,123,000 — an increase of £49,985,000 over the previous year.

It had liquid funds of £82,094,000 — an increase of £8,272,000. And it had reserves of £15,246 — a rise of £1,681,000.

● The Alliance Society had total assets of £458,051,000 which was £80,715,000 up on the previous year. Liquid funds were £98,979,000 — a rise of £22,112,000. And reserves were £13,851,000 — an improvement of £2,318,000.

● The largest building society of all is the Halifax. This giant had total assets last year of £2,398,008,000, an enormous rise of £402,347,000 on the previous year.

Its liquid funds were £425,946,000 — an increase over the previous year of £76,039,000.

Its reserves were £72,793,000 — a rise of £13,658.

While shareholders in these millionaire companies wax fat, millions of working-class and middle-class people are constantly burdened with rising prices, rising rents and rising mortgages.

The Labour Party must be made to pledge that, on its return to office, it will immediately stop this gross profiteering at the expense of basic needs. All of these firms should be nationalized without compensation, along with the land, the building industry and the building supply firms.

Coventry, Rugby and Nuneaton link-up Factory delegations back one-day hospital strike

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ALL HOSPITAL ancillary workers in Coventry, Rugby and Nuneaton are on a 24-hour strike today.

They will hold a march and demonstration in Coventry this afternoon against the government's state pay laws.

Coventry Trades Council and the local district committees of the Transport and General Workers' Union, AUEW and TASS have asked all trade unionists to support this demonstration.

Delegations from Rolls-Royce factories, Chrysler's, the Massey-Ferguson TASS strikers (see page 11) and miners from Coventry colliery have signified their in-

tention of marching with hospital workers.

HOSPITAL workers in Aberdeen reacted angrily yesterday to a decision by their co-ordinating committees to call off their strike.

Bill Fowler, an executive committee member of the local Confederation of Health Service Employees branch said that the unions represented on the co-ordinating committee were 'taking the Tory line'.

'The workers are very angry. No one has been consulted and no meetings have been held to discuss this decision. I believe it would have never been

accepted by the membership,' he said.

'The co-ordinating committee is toeing the Tory line.'

'We need leaders who will fight Heath right down to a General Strike. The present leadership is ready to see us driven back to the slave labour conditions of the Victorian days.'

The Aberdeen strike action began on February 28.

Ancillary workers in five hospitals were called out for three-day periods.

A HUNDRED ancillary workers at York's main accident hospital, the

County, went on strike yesterday afternoon. They stopped work at 3 p.m. and will not go back until midnight on Saturday.

ONE union leader representing the hospital workers says that the ancillary workers' industrial action would not defeat the government's policy.

Mr Frank Lynch, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, says in his union's journal:

'I do not think the policy of the present government can be breached by the action of the ancillary staff. The government is being strangled by the rigidity of its own policy behind which it is no longer entrenched, but imprisoned.'

BSA-type rescue at Briant Colour?

TWO MEMBERS of the Labour Shadow Cabinet yesterday saw Industrial Development Minister Mr Christopher Chataway in an attempt to stave off a legal showdown at the Briant Colour Printing on the Old Kent Road.

Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn and Mr Bob Mellish, MP for Bermondsey, were apparently hoping to get the government to intervene with money as they did at BSA.

Benn said before the meeting: 'We shall discuss with him [Chataway] the possi-

bility of government help to save the works.'

The firm's liquidator recently initiated further High Court moves to gain possession of the south London plant.

Mr Bill Freeman, chairman of the joint chapels committee which has been running the sit-in, has been summoned to appear in the High Court on April 4 with all the company's books, papers and documents.

But Mr Freeman has said that neither he nor the books would be going.

UPW accepts Phase Two pay

LEADERS of 320,000 Post Office workers are seeking to follow gas union chiefs into accepting Phase Two of the Tory pay laws.

Late yesterday afternoon Union of Post Office Workers' secretary Tom Jackson was at Post Office headquarters, where he was believed to be putting the final touches to a deal yielding maximum increases of £2 from next Monday.

The almost-completed deal, which is said to conform in

every respect to Phase Two, falls far short of the claim, supported by six unions, for a £5.50 increase across the board.

This would be the biggest success the union leaders have yet handed the Tories in their attempts to impose state regulation of wages.

But it would be certain to arouse widespread anger among the unions' rank and file.

Lofthouse miner 'drowned'

THE WAKEFIELD coroner yesterday adjourned an inquest into the death of Lofthouse miner Charles Cotton, who would have been 50 the day after the pit disaster.

Mr Philip Gill adjourned the hearing to a date to be fixed because 'steps were being taken to recover the bodies of six other miners still missing.'

Dr Lionel Rose said that Mr Cotton had no serious injury and it was evident he drowned in very muddy water.

'Everything is compatible to him dying in the inrush of water,' he added.

The inquest was told that Mr Cotton's body was recovered 80 yards from safety in the pit tunnel.

His son, Terence, was on the same night shift but escaped.

MARCH FUND £1,408.52 - ONLY 2 DAYS LEFT

ANOTHER great post yesterday of £261.92 brought our figure up to £1,408.52—but don't stop now. We still have £341.48 to collect by Saturday to complete our target. Keep it up. We're almost there.

Workers Press is needed more than ever to provide a revolutionary leadership to thousands of workers everywhere.

The trade union leaders continue to avoid a showdown with the Tory government. They do everything they can to avoid a fight against the Tory pay laws.

But all the amendments in the world by Scanlon, or any other union leader, to the anti-union laws, cannot avoid the fact that thousands of trade unionists everywhere are being forced to fight this government to

defend their standard of living.

So keep our paper out in front. Make sure you raise the final £341.48 over the next two days. Don't leave a stone unturned. Rush every donation immediately to:

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