

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • WEDNESDAY MAY 9, 1973 • No 1067 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## 'JOYOUS ACQUIESCENCE'

# FEATHER

# BOOSTS

# CORPORATE STATE

By Royston Bull

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'When people talk of the corporate state, they often think of Mussolini. But I don't need to remind anybody that Mussolini banned trade unions as one of the first things he did. That is exactly the opposite of a genuine negotiation between a democratic trade union movement and a democratic government.'

Here, Feather simply reveals the usual contempt of trade union

bureaucrats for the lessons of history.

It is precisely the tendency towards absorption of the trade unions into the capitalist state structure that always precedes the establishment of a fully-fledged corporate state. It was so in Italy, and in Germany during the Weimar Republic.

The closer the collaboration between the trade unions and the capitalist state, the greater the degree to which the working class is disarmed—and the easier it is for the ruling class to make its preparations for the corporate state as a dictatorship.

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workers' standard of living and curtailing basic democratic rights are accepted, the trade unions quickly become the civil servants for the capitalist system and begin to police their own members in wage restraint and other things.

For Feather to talk about the democratic procedures of a trade union movement which has already been stripped in law of its most important rights, the right to free collective bargaining and the right to organize, unrestricted by police and courts, is in fact to enunciate the principle of the German Labour Front under fascism.

Feather continued: 'We have much to gain on behalf of the working people of this country in terms of our involvement in running the economy, including taxation and pensions and all the rest of it, if we can engage in these sort of commitments with the government.'

This is a grave illusion. The more the state draws powers into itself, including the co-operation of the trade unions, in a period of rapidly-increasing monopolization of the economy, the more the monopolists take the power into their own hands. The capi-

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Victor Feather speaking at yesterday's conference with John Partridge, vice-president of the CBI (centre) and Frank Figures, chairman of the Pay Board.

## £100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

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J. Ridler sent £30 and UCATT Skelmersdale sent £5 with a most welcome letter from the branch:

The above branch takes pleasure in forwarding to you £5 donation for your special fund.

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ciation of the principled and truthful opposition of Workers Press to the Tory government, anti-working class legislation and the policy of betrayal being pursued by the present leadership of the TUC.

The total is now £11,400.83.

Post all donations to:  
Party Building Fund  
186a Clapham High St.  
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# Jack Gale examines the so-called 'Militant' group

ONE OF the most opportunist groups in the Labour Party is a group which claims to be 'Trotskyist', but which in practice sets out consciously to provide a 'left' cover for the right wing. This is the self-styled 'Militant' group, led by Mr Ted Grant.

In the 1940s Grant was the 'theoretical' leader of Mr Jock Haston's Revolutionary Communist Party. When Haston deserted Trotskyism in 1950, and later joined the Labour Party, Grant—who at the time was a member of the Political Committee of the Trotskyist movement—refused to vote for his expulsion.

Haston subsequently became a right-hand man for Les Cannon, late president of the electricians' union.

In the early 1950s, Grant drifted further to the right. This culminated with his joining hands with the right wing and voting for the expulsion from the Labour Party of Bill Hunter, a Central Committee member of the Socialist Labour League.

By this act, Grant made a public break from Trotskyism to satisfy the right wing of the North Islington Labour Party.

The April 1973 issue of 'Militant' carries an article by Grant which purports to deal with the General Strike of 1926, but which is, in fact, a white-washing of the Communist Party and the 'lefts' and an attack on the Socialist Labour League.

Grant assures his readers that the attacks of the capitalists on working-class standards will be resisted and that therefore 'the possibility' of a General Strike still exists.

He says this does not require what he calls 'the crude and hysterical mud-slinging of the ultra-left sects which infect the movement', but instead 'a friendly but implacable criticism' of the 'left' leaders in the unions and the Labour Party.

According to Grant, this means 'a skilful criticism of the woolliness, the vagueness and inconsistency of the lefts and their failure to present the issues in sharp and clear class lines'.

This woolliness, etc. is caused, Grant says, by the fact that the 'lefts' 'do not see' that the Tory attacks flow from the objective position of British capitalism. The Communist Party cannot correct this because it has ceased to be Marxist.

## Philistine

Grant's article is a reactionary centrist mish-mash from start to finish.

The real lessons of 1926 can only be grasped through a study of two important works by Leon Trotsky — 'Where is Britain Going?' and 'Problems of the British Revolution'.

The Philistine Grant nowhere refers to these books—because to do so would expose his opportunist role within the Labour Party.

First of all, to say merely that the possibility of a General Strike still exists because of the development of objective conditions is to disarm the working class.

A General Strike will not just 'happen'. It will occur because the development of the objective situation leads to the conditions under which one side or the other decides to create such a strike.

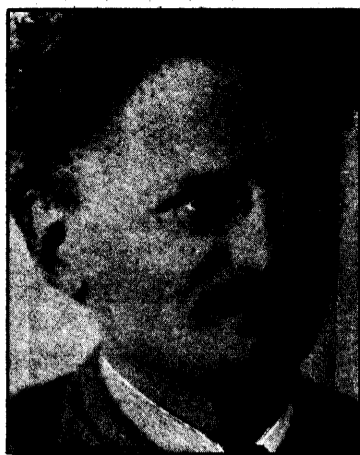
But if a General Strike occurs on Tory terms, under circumstances chosen by them, the working class will be in grave danger of being defeated.

Only a working class prepared organizationally and politically, launching such a struggle on terms favourable to itself, can be successful. But the events since the Trades Union Congress last September have shown that the union leaders will not make such preparations.

Objective developments left to themselves contain serious dangers for the working class. Only a conscious struggle against the opportunist leaders of the labour movement and those who protect them can create the conditions for working-class victory.

Trotsky had very harsh words for those who spoke of objective developments in the way that Grant does:

'It would be the utmost disgrace to brush aside the struggle against opportunism in the top leadership by alluding to the



**'Centrism is incapable of an independent policy. Centrism cannot be the leading party in the working class'—Leon Trotsky**

# Centrist treachery in 1973



Grant's article on the 1926 General Strike is a white-washing job of the Stalinists' role. The possibility of a similar strike today can be pursued by 'friendly' criticism of the 'lefts' in the Labour and trade union movement, Grant says—conveniently forgetting the same 'lefts' sold out the 1926 struggle.

found revolutionary processes taking place in the working class . . . It has always been centrism which has cloaked and continued to cloak the sins of opportunism with solemn references to the objective tendencies of development . . . Expressed in this alleged revolutionary objectivism is merely an effort to shirk revolutionary tasks by shifting them on to the shoulders of the so-called historical process.'

There is no lack of objective developments.

The Watergate scandal in the United States, the accelerating trade war, ferocious inflation, soaring prices. The danger is not that a revolutionary situation might not develop, but that the building of the revolutionary party might lag behind it.

The central question, therefore, is the construction of the revolutionary party. Without that, General Strikes and even revolutions can lead only to the most terrible defeats, as they did in the British 1926 strike and in the German revolutions of 1918-1919 and 1923.

What is the precondition for the construction of such a party in Britain? Trotsky spelled it out:

'The ideological and organizational formation of a genuinely revolutionary party on the basis of the movement of the masses

is conceivable only under the conditions of a perpetual, systematic, inflexible, untiring and irreconcilable unmasking of the quasi-left leaders of every hue, of their confusion, of their compromises and of their reticence.'

The 'lefts' are not to be 'criticized' but **unmasked**. And Trotsky here uses many adjectives—but 'friendly' is not one of them!

What is involved here are two fundamentally opposed attitudes to the 'lefts'. To Grant, they are people who merely 'do not see' and who can be corrected by 'friendly' criticism.

## Centrism

But in 1926 the 'lefts' handed over control of the strike to the right wing who betrayed it. In Germany, with an armed proletarian revolution behind them, they handed over power to Ebert and Scheidemann who called in the generals to murder the revolution.

What place was there then for 'friendly' but implacable criticism?

Where Grant sees misguided people, Trotsky saw a bureaucratic social stratum which at critical times capitulates to the ruling class and brings defeat and

untold suffering to the working class:

'The left muddleheads are incapable of power; but if through the turn of events it fell into their hands they would hasten to pass it over to their elder brothers on the right. They would do the same in the state as they are doing in the party.'

And again: 'Centrism is incapable of an independent policy. Centrism cannot be the leading party in the working class. The essential thing about centrism is that it does not make a decision to decide except where events seize it firmly by the throat.'

At a 'Militant' meeting during a conference of the Labour Party Young Socialists, Grant declared: 'The election of Scanlon, Jones and Daly was an enormous step forward for the working class because it reflects a change in the working class.'

Of course, the election of lefts against rights to union positions is a limited gain and does reflect a change in the working class.

But the anti-Trotskyist Grant sees things always in his one-sided opportunist way.

The working class seeks a change from Toryism and the right wing. It turns, in the first instance, to the 'lefts'. In that sense, the 'lefts' reflect a movement in the class.

But they fight to hold that movement back. Scanlon and Jones have done all in their power to prevent a struggle to bring down the Tory government. They have conducted secret talks with Heath behind the backs of their own members.

Explaining this role of the lefts in relation to the working class, Trotsky said that they 'convert its as yet vaguely defined but profound and stubborn aspiration to free itself from Baldwin and MacDonald into left phrases of opposition which do not place any obligation upon them. They convert the political feebleness of the awakening masses into an ideological mish-mash. They represent the expression of a shift but also its brake.' (Emphasis added.)

It is their function—as it is that of Grant and all the centrists—to transmit the will and the ideas of the bourgeoisie into the ranks of the working class. Nowhere is this more so than in Britain, with its long tradition of 'liberal' politics, parliamentarism, compromise, national 'pride' and so on.

In conflict with the right wing, the lefts have always proved the weaker. This is not a matter of personalities but, as Trotsky explains: '... the weakness of the lefts arises from their disorder and their disorder from their ideological formlessness.' (Emphasis added.)

## Capitulate

Even with a strong movement behind them, and even when they have a majority (as they did in the Labour Party H-bomb row in 1960) the 'lefts' invariably capitulate to the right.

Trotsky explains why this is so. The rights win, he says, because 'a party cannot confine itself to isolated left campaigns but is compelled to have an overall system of policy. The lefts have no such system, nor by their very nature can they. But the rights do; with them stands tradition, experience and routine and, most important, with them stands bourgeois society as a whole which slips them ready-made solutions'.

Today the right and left come together. Jones and Scanlon join with Feather and Chapple in isolating workers' struggles and in capitulating to the corporatist plans of the Tory government.

This inflicts setbacks on the working class, for which the centrists blame the class itself.

It is, in fact, a crisis of leadership. All-political shades in the Labour leadership today fear working-class action, not because they 'don't see' the acute nature of the crisis, but because they do. Class action today means that every problem of the labour movement, as Trotsky said of 1926, must be faced 'at point-blank range'.

It is this confrontation which Grant seeks to avoid in 1973 and which he glosses over in 1926. He says of the Communist Party, for example, that in 1926 'not only the rank and file, but also the leadership were endeavouring to create a revolutionary party'.

This is deliberate deception.

Between Red Friday in 1925 and the outbreak of the strike in 1926, the Communist Party—under the influence of Stalin—changed from warning the working class of the limits of even 'left' trade unionism to uncritical acceptance of Stalin's slogan 'All Power to the General Council'.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

# CYCLE FACTORY IS 'NEAR STRIKE' OVER MAY DAY WOMEN

WORKERS at Raleigh's Nottingham cycle factory are near certain to strike if two women who worked on May Day continue to defy their union.

Mrs Betty Holbourne (42) and Mrs Dorothy Harrison (50) have defied all requests either to accept a fine from their union, the National Society of Metal Mechanics, or to hand over their £4 May Day pay to charity.

Mr P. Jarvis in the cartoon

knock down section is also refusing to co-operate with the union.

Workers in the 50-strong service department have already withheld their labour for three days after returning on May 2 to find that the two women had ignored the union's strike call.

Yesterday union and company representatives at the 6,000-strong factory were meeting the women to see if they would change their minds.

Union district secretary Mr Jack Hallam said: 'What these two women are doing is completely wrong.'

'When people join the union they make a statement agreeing to the rules. Our executive has the authority to call a strike and they called a one-day strike on May Day. All my members knew about this.'

'If you join an organization you have to stand by the rules. If you don't like them, there are procedures for changing them.'

'In my opinion those people who failed to come out on May Day want all the benefits from the union and none of the disadvantages.'

'One of the women recently got £100 compensation which she would never have done without the union and both had rises higher than the men as a result of our campaign on equal pay.'

'We are faced with a situation where we have done all we can. There is nothing more we can do. If they don't reach agreement with us, we are heading for a blow up.'

Mr Hallam added: 'The company has brought this on its own head. The factory should have been closed on May Day as we suggested.'

## Civil Servants step up the pay fight

COMMENT BY DAVID MAUDE

FRESH EVIDENCE of the way TUC cowardice provides the Tories with weapons to attack the working class emerged yesterday.

Both the 'Daily Mirror' and the 'Daily Express' led their front pages with news that the civil servants' union, the Civil and Public Services Association, may refuse to pay out pension and social security increases from October 1 until its own pay demands are settled.

'Civil servants ban bonus for needy', whined the 'Mirror'. 'Pensioners at ransom', screamed the 'Express'.

In proposing this action, which was carried by 356 votes to 348, Merseyside delegate Bill Callard made clear that the civil servants have been forced into taking it.

He said of preparatory work for implementing the increases on October 1:

'If this work is allowed to go ahead there will be nothing left to fight with if we do not get a favourable decision from the Pay Board to our current pay research unit claim.'

The fact is that the civil servants have been forced into this action and to go to the Pay Board by the refusal of the TUC to back their first-ever industrial action over pay.

When their leaders asked the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee, including 'lefts' Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones, for 'co-ordinated action' in their support, they were turned away empty-handed.

The committee used the failure of some right-wing civil service union leaders to call their members out to renege on the promise of the March 5 special Congress that there would be 'co-ordinated action' in support of unions who asked for help in fighting the Tory pay laws.

Now the Tories, whose laws originally provoked the civil servants' action, have been handed another propaganda weapon to whip up the middle class against the unions.

To say this in no way implies any criticism of the CPSA conference decision. Every trade unionist will back the civil servants' pay fight to the hilt.

But the headlines spell out the fact that the TUC leaders, who refuse workers aid but rush to clandestine meetings with the arch-enemy of the working class, Heath, are now a positive danger to the labour movement.

They must be removed and replaced by those who will fight.

● See letter p.10.

### £1,750 MAY FUND NOW AT £178.28

WE ARE still a long way from our £1,750 target and although we are only at the start of the month, we know we cannot let any chances go by. On top of our monthly target we are determined to complete the first £50,000 stage of our Party Development Fund. We know it is going to be a tough fight.

But we also know that on every occasion you, dear readers, have won through magnificently. We have completed every Fund and in some cases even raised over the top.

Only our paper demands that the talks between the TUC and the Tories be broken off. Phase Three means even greater attacks against the working class.

So help us in every way you can this month. Give a bit extra if you can afford it. Make sure we raise both our funds by the end of May. Post every donation immediately to:

Workers Press  
May Appeal Fund  
186a Clapham High St,  
London SW4 7UG

## Docks fight against 'casuals' in trouble

THE DECISION of the Transport and General Workers' Union docks trade group to fight the increasing use of 'casual', supplementary labour in the industry has already run into trouble.

Shop stewards at Liverpool, one of the key ports backing the recent decision, have accepted the recruitment of up to 250 'supplementaries' by a firm connected with the powerful Ocean Transport and Trading group.

The firm, Liverpool Maritime Terminals, had yesterday still not decided exactly how many men it will seek clearance to recruit. But it is expected the final figure will be between 150 and 200.

When LMT take on these men, it will bring the ratio of supplementaries to permanent-registered dockers nationally to just over 7 per cent.

This is a serious threat to dockers' hard-won job security and solidarity, and a big lever for speed-up, since 'supplemen-

#### OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

taries', unlike their permanent colleagues, can be fired at a week's notice.

The Liverpool stewards say, in defence of their decision to accept supplementaries, that they were caught between two fires: the increasing loss of trade from the port because of labour shortage and the refusal of the Tory government to allow recruitment of permanents.

And they have pledged to make sure that the jobs of those men taken onto the supplementary register will soon be made permanent.

They will face powerful opposition here, however.

Maurice Macmillan, Secretary of State for Employment, John Peyton, Minister for Transport Industries, and the influential Liverpool Steam Ship Owners' Association have all come down heavily in favour of this new growth of 'casualism', and against any increase in the permanent register.



Heffer . . . saw stewards.

In fact, it has now emerged, that Eric Heffer, 'left' MP for Walton, attended the crucial meeting of the stewards' executive before the decision to accept supplementaries at LMT was taken.

He told the meeting that he had seen Peyton, and that his line remained the same as in a speech on March 28 which 'greatly welcomed' the increased use of the supplementary register.

Heffer's attendance at the meeting has given rise to a strong suspicion on the docks that some leading stewards were already committed to accepting supplementaries, since they knew the alternative was a fight with the declared policy of the Tory government.

## Three charged with IRA membership

THREE MEN from Northern Ireland arrested during border security checks around Dundalk at the weekend appeared before the Dublin Special Criminal Court yesterday charged with membership of the IRA.

They were James Savage, of John Martin Gardens, Newry, Henry Fagan of High Street, Newry, and Michael Brannigan,

of Tulloyvallen, Newtown Hamilton.

They were refused bail and remanded in custody until May 22 when a trial date will be fixed.

Earlier, three men who were refused bail on Monday on a charge of possessing five tons of explosives, were allowed bail of £3,000 each.

### Europolice in conference

POLICE chiefs from Belgium, France, Holland, Scotland Yard and forces in southern England met at Eastbourne yesterday to discuss drug smuggling and 'other matters of common interest'.

After entry into the EEC, police chiefs thought it more than ever necessary to establish good communications and methods of exchanging police intelligence.

Representatives of Interpol were also attending the conference to help to improve liaison and distribution of intelligence reports. The conference ends today.

Young Socialists Students Society

## CONFERENCE

Supplementary cash grants now!  
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# ON CAR WORKERS' CLAIM

## LETTER

DEAR EDITOR,  
As a Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward at Vauxhall and having attended three joint meetings of shop stewards to discuss pay and conditions, I feel it is of the utmost importance to stress the attitude of the members of the Joint Negotiating Committee, and the convenors of the T&GWU, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union.

I myself spoke at two of the meetings against the pay offer because it was in line with Tory policy and because acceptance would help to commit every other worker in the country to the corporate Pay Board.

All workers face the most vicious class laws as the government fights to save its capitalist system. In Vauxhall's case the convenors have at no time done anything or even spoken out against the Pay Board.

Neither have they led their men along with other car workers — the country's highest exporters — against the government to force it out of office.

Even more despicable was the ballot conducted by the Luton district committee of the T&GWU. Its main feature was to take the offer as it stood, disguised by the wording — £2.40 across the board and no additional conditions.

This, in effect, meant accepting three shifts, productivity, losing 20p a week to pay for holidays at Christmas, and other strings.

At the recent Coventry joint shop stewards' meeting, a resolution was passed proposing mass meetings at all



Car worker at Fords. Acceptance of the pay offer in line with Tory policy helps to commit every other worker in the country to the corporate Pay Board.

three Vauxhall plants to determine the men's attitude on the Tory legislation.

By holding this unofficial ballot, the T&GWU tried to commit their members to a totally unacceptable pay offer.

We must never forget that the original demands by the unions were for parity with the Midlands car workers, a 35-hour week and an extra week's holiday.

The Tories banned these demands under their pay laws. The lengths to which the capitalist class war has driven British capitalism to, in a final attempt to save the philosophy of profit, is now being experienced by the working class.

As science advances, the

workers are supposed to earn more and work less with machinery to do the graft. But the opposite is true.

Machines are tended by less and less manpower. Men are condemned to early retirement, the dole queues lengthen, living standards drop and redundancy increases.

By dint of time-study, the last drop of sweat is extracted from men, which makes productivity deals favourable only to the employer.

Because of the world monetary crisis, the impending collapse of capitalism, the working class is being made to pay the bill by being forced to work harder, take pay cuts

and be swallowed up in the corporatism of Heath and company.

The need for leadership in the unions and the need to form a revolutionary party has never been more urgent.

This means a fight against the Stalinists in the unions. The Stalinist leadership at Ford's must be forced to join up with all car workers and other sections of workers.

We need a General Strike against the Tories, and the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies and the repeal of all anti-working class laws.

Vauxhall shop steward,  
Luton.  
(Name and address supplied)

## 'OIL BOOM' TERRITORY HIT BY ITS FIRST SIZEABLE DISPUTE

The first sizeable industrial dispute in the industries surrounding the North Sea 'oil boom' took place at Nigg in Easter Ross recently.

Five hundred men walked out at Highland Fabricators after the management had locked out two shop stewards who took time off to attend a Press conference.

The conference followed the men's action in sending telegrams to Prime Minister Heath, Labour leader Wilson, and local Tory MP Hamish Gray to complain about the management at the rig-building yard, owned by the Texan company Brown and Root.

### Police called

Bitter scenes took place on the picket line during the three-day dispute when a car tried to force its way through. Police reinforcements were called but the car was persuaded to retreat.

Boilermakers' convenor, Bill Lindsay, said that the management was trying to undermine the unions at the yard. 'They refuse to acknowledge the shop stewards and reject any meeting with them.'

A settlement was reached after an intervention by boilermakers' official, Communist Party supporter, Jim McArtney. He said: 'We have thrashed out a lot of outstanding difficulties and have gone a long way to eradicating the things which have been causing the problems.'

### Prize slogan

McArtney is a leading light on the North Sea Oil Action Committee, the Stalinist reformist-led protest group which bases itself on the conception that North Sea oil can solve the economic problems of the North East.

It has recently adopted the slogan—for which it awarded a prize of £25—'British Oil for Britons.'

Highland Fabricators' engineering manager, Charles Reynolds, claimed that the problem was one of communications. In fact it is almost certainly the first indication of what could become a major fiasco, shattering any illusions in a peaceful road to Scottish prosperity via the 'oil boom'.

### Welders

Highland Fabricators was one of several firms which have gained massive government concessions on the ground of providing employment locally. They had taken on 641 local men to train as welders.

Last September they began work for BP on an 18,000-ton, 400 foot-high, oil rig 'jacket'. It was to cost £10m and be ready to go to sea in August.

Informants at Highland Fabricators and its British junior partner, Wimpey, say the rig is a disaster, needing 95 per cent of the welds to be re-done to make it seaworthy. The company now says it is impossible to train local labour to an adequate standard, given the stress which the rigs have to withstand.

## LESSONS OF UCS

REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE

REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE

REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE  
The Story of UCS



'Reformism on the Clyde' the first exposure of Communist Party tactics at the UCS work-in. It shows how a powerful challenge to the Tories degenerated into a reformist protest. It examines the records of the men who led the struggle, James Reid, James Airlie and Sammy Barr.

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## ROCHDALE'S COMMITTEE

A recent article in 'New Society' reveals some interesting details about the Rochdale magistrates' bench. The effective choice of new members of the bench is made by a Magistrates' Advisory Committee.

The identity of those who form this committee is officially a secret. However, 'New Society' revealed that the members of the Rochdale

Advisory Committee are: Norman Woolfenden (69), a Liberal, a Rotarian and a mason, who has been a magistrate for 23 years; Albert Golland (65), a Conservative, a Rotarian and a mason, a magistrate for 21 years; and Derrick Walker (56), leader of the Labour Group and a magistrate for ten years.

This committee is virtually self-perpetuating as it nominates a successor for any member retiring.

'New Society' quotes the Central Office of Information booklet on desirable composition of benches and shows how far Rochdale complies. The booklet suggests:

(1) that there should be a proportion of younger mem-

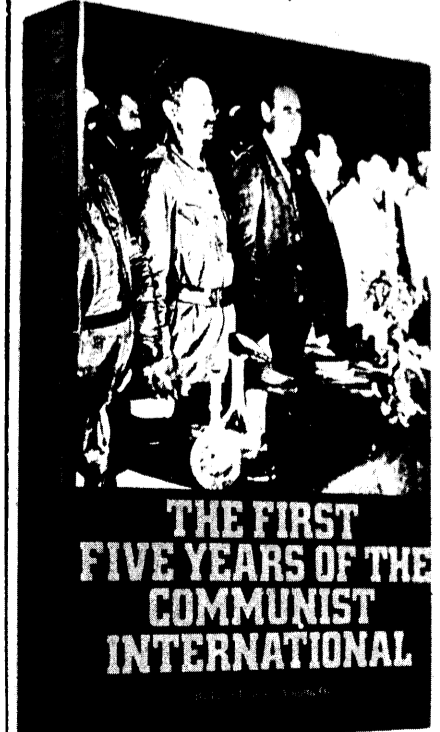
bers, in their 30s and 40s. (2) that the bench should be 'broadly representative of all sections of the community which it has to serve'.

The Rochdale bench has only one member under 45. The average age of the 43 members is 54 and 20 of them are 55 or over.

As for being 'representative', Rochdale has only one employed manual worker on the bench, not a single Roman Catholic and no one from the town's 6,000-strong Pakistani community.

Some sections of the Rochdale community, however, are extremely well represented. Twenty-one JPs (49 per cent) are members of Rotary or its associated Inner Wheel.

A new English edition of the 'First Five Years of the Communist International' incorporating hitherto unpublished material from Volume XIII of Trotsky's 'Works'



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## A BASTION AGAINST REVOLUTION IN MIDDLE EAST

Imperialist strategy in the Middle East sees Israel as a key link in the chain of reactionary states which keep the oil magnates' profits safe.

The Israeli military chiefs have repeatedly demonstrated their willingness and capacity to carry out counter-revolution beyond the boundaries of the Zionist state.

Their attacks on Palestinians in Lebanon and their encouragement of the reactionary King Hussein in Jordan have endeared the Zionists to the powers who fear revolution in the Middle East.

The imperialists see them as a bridgehead between the two alliances NATO and CENTO.

### LINK TOGETHER

In this connection the informed daily 'Haaretz' commented: 'The Israeli forces are actually part of the NATO structure in the Mediterranean, despite the absence of formal treaties between Israel and the latter organization'.

The plan to link together the two organizations through one or another reactionary mid-East state having joint membership is not new.

Fourteen years ago the main candidate for this task was Iran.

The then Secretary-General of CENTO reported that 'the main thing is to establish a link between CENTO and NATO'.

These plans did not mature at the time, but they have lately been taken out of file and dusted off.

According to 'Al Anwar' of Beirut, citing well-informed diplomatic sources, NATO has decided to include Iran in membership.

This decision has been taken after a careful examination of the situation in the middle east, especially in the Arab Gulf.

Here the imperialists are worried about the mounting national movement in Dhofar and the other Gulf States.

### ENERGY CRISIS

Concerned about the so-called energy crisis hitting the United States, Washington wants at all costs to ensure the free flow of oil from the Gulf at the lowest price.

This was the main purpose of the tour of the Arab Gulf undertaken last year by US secretary of state William Rogers.

The Turkish paper 'Taswir' commented in October after the visit that 'the US has become sufficiently convinced of the need for joining Iran to NATO'.

To implement the imperialist strategy in the area, Iran has seized islands in the Arab Gulf, building up a strategic base on the island of Massira which dominates the narrow Gulf entrance.

Further south the imperialist powers are building air bases, equipped with nuclear bombs and extensive naval facilities at the islands of Mauritius and Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

The Shah of Iran is spending over \$2,000m to buy arms from Europe and the US.

He aims to dominate the Gulf and keep the reactionary oil sheikhs in power as his vassals.

Iran and Israel already have military links: Israeli troops are training the enlarged Iranian army in secret bases close to the Pakistan border.

As allies in NATO they would form a bastion to protect imperialist interests in the Middle East.

BY JOHN SPENCER

The American Central Intelligence Agency is still active in Vietnam assisting the Saigon government in bringing larger areas of the country under its control.

A large army of 'civilian advisers' has been recruited for service in South Vietnam to maintain the American presence.

Stories of violations of the ceasefire agreement by North Vietnam are fabricated and fed to the foreign press.

In order to understand the situation in Vietnam today it is instructive to look back at the role which the CIA played in the past in preparing the way for massive intervention by the forces of American imperialism.

The CIA has been active in Vietnam since the defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. In June of that year Colonel Edward G. Lansdale arrived in Saigon as Assistant Air Attache, the cover for his CIA activities.

According to the 'Pentagon Papers' one of his first tasks was to organize a rumour campaign in the North about 'a Chinese Communist regiment in Tonkin taking reprisals against a Vietminh village whose girls the Chinese had raped'.

Soldiers were trained, dressed in civilian clothes and sent out to spread the rumour. They all deserted to the Vietminh.

In September 1954, after the Geneva Agreement which brought the war with the French to an end, CIA men tried to blow up the largest printing works in Hanoi. Rumours were also spread to panic North Vietnamese people into taking refuge in the South.

CIA men did succeed in contaminating the oil supply of the Hanoi bus service before the victorious Vietminh troops marched into the city.

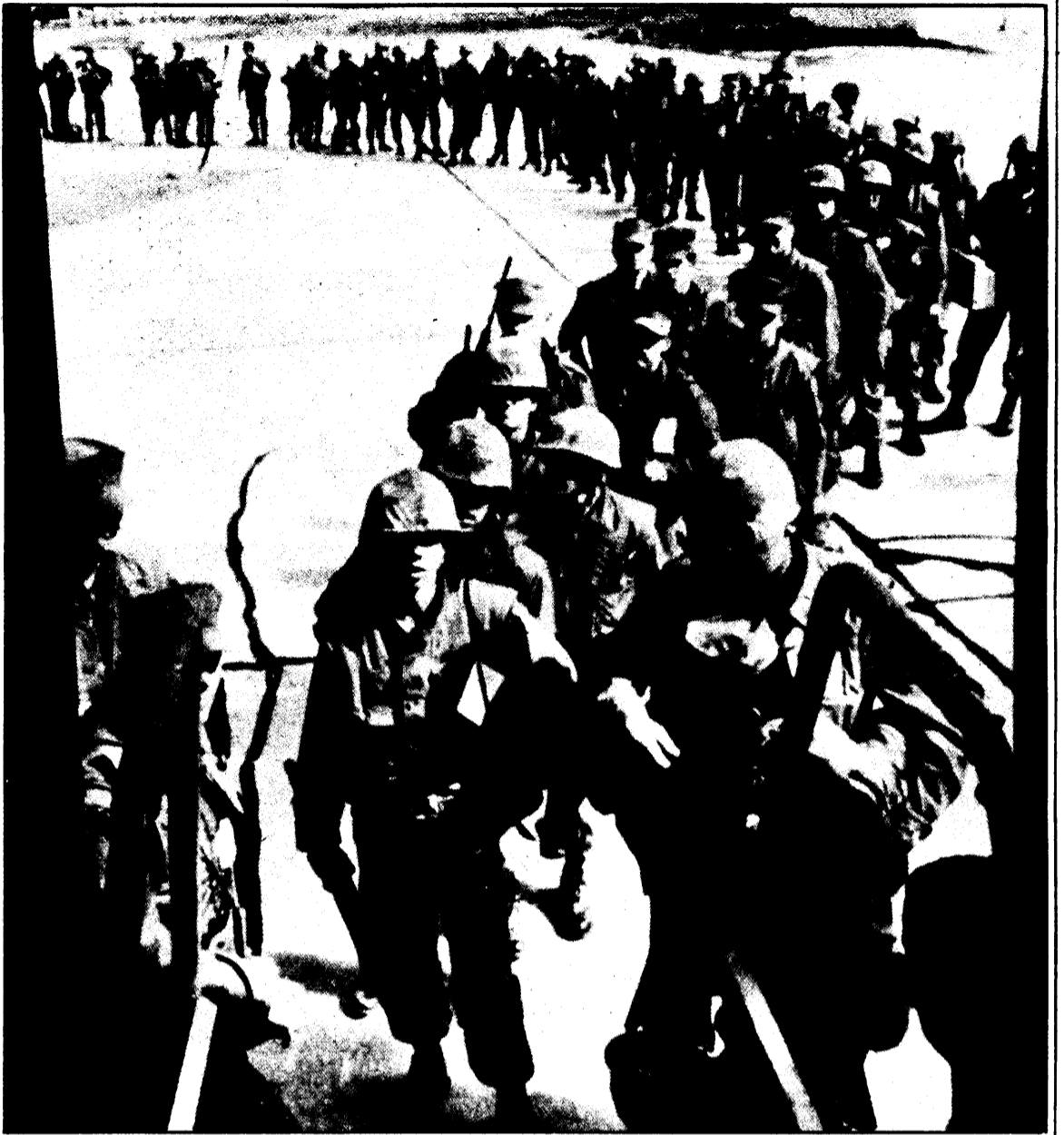
The first steps were taken for a long-term sabotage of the railway system, which required co-operation with a special CIA technical team in Japan. It also wrote detailed notes of potential targets for paramilitary operations.

The CIA undertook the training of groups in guerrilla warfare in a secret camp in the Philippines. It had friendly support and co-operation from representatives of the US press in Vietnam.

In the first months after the Geneva Agreement the CIA smuggled in large quantities of arms and equipment. Some went to agents in the North, the rest was hidden in South Vietnam for future use.

When the guerrillas and

# CIA STILL IN VIETNAM



US troops leaving Vietnam last year—but the 'advisers' remain behind to train men for Thieu.

agents sent to the Philippines had finished their training they were flown back to Vietnam by the US air force. They were slipped ashore in Haiphong before the Vietminh took over in May 1955.

The report printed in the 'Pentagon Papers' says:

'It had taken a tremendous amount of hard work to beat the Geneva deadline, to locate, select, exfiltrate, train, infiltrate, equip the men . . . and have them in place ready for actions required against the enemy. It would be a hard task to do openly, but this had to be kept secret from the Vietminh, the International Control Commission with its suspicious French, Poles and Indians and even friendly Vietnamese.'

The methods employed by the CIA to win a foothold for the US in Vietnam after the defeat of the French throw a flood of light on American tactics since the ceasefire.

In December 1972, columnist Jack Anderson exposed Pentagon plans for maintaining a paramilitary force in Vietnam after the withdrawal of American troops. According to the ceasefire agreement bases were to be completely dismantled and both sides were to begin talks.

Instead, a host of so-called civilian advisers arrived or remained in Vietnam nominally employed by US corporations such as International Telephone and Telegraph—whose relations with the CIA in Chile and Argentina are notorious—Sperry-Rand, Leard Siegler and others.

They have been recruited through the US army and, although out of uniform, are still on the Pentagon's payroll. Most of them have already been at least a year in Vietnam. They receive 25 per cent more than they were getting before, plus a right to a job with the firms they allegedly

serve at a later date.

The regime of Nguyen Van Thieu continues to throw South Vietnam wide open to American penetration through the corporations with which the 'advisers' are linked.

In the meantime they mostly work on military projects having nothing to do with the reconstruction of the country after the ravages of war. If need arises they are available for combat duties.

The 'advisers' work in areas close to those controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government. If captured they would claim to be civilians.

American imperialism does not intend to relinquish its positions in Indo-China although it has been forced for the present to abandon its pretensions of outright military conquest. The CIA implantation, which dates back to 1954, is an indication of its long-term intentions.



## THE CENSOR-FASCIST STYLE

The final blow of the fascist censorship has fallen against the Spanish newspaper 'Madrid'.

The paper was considered too outspoken in its criticisms of the Franco regime and it was summarily closed down by the censor on November 25 1971.

The debts mounted up and eventually 'Madrid's' proprietor was forced to sell the paper's offices and print-shop.

The photograph (left) shows the spectacular and symbolic end of 'Madrid' as property speculators began the demolition of the paper's offices.



# PARTICIPATION IS A STAB IN THE BACK

BY ROYSTON BULL

Jack Jones' philosophy of achieving some eternal harmony with the employers through 'participation' is so contradicted by the enormous sharpening of class struggle taking place all around him.

The working class is facing the most colossal onslaught on its democratic rights and its living standards that it has experienced since the dark days of the 1930s depression. Jones' propaganda on behalf of co-partnership in such a situation can only disarm the working class.

The transport workers' biennial conference this summer at Brighton will see the biggest ever challenge to these dangerous illusions which Jones is

putting forward on behalf of his members.

The challenge covers the T&GWU's policies on the National Industrial Relations Court, the state control of wages and many key sectional issues.

But one of the most fundamental disagreements between Jones and the new forces which are coming forward in the movement will be on the question of industrial democracy.

Jones himself has a motion down in the name of the executive council. It reads:

'That this conference welcomes the steps taken by the union to extend the participation by members in the control of their wages and conditions and of industry in general.

'Conference further declares that the growth of the size of industrial undertakings, both national and multinational,

makes this policy even more urgent and calls for its intensification.

'Conference reaffirms its support for the extension of industrial democracy, through effective and democratic trades union organization.

'In this direction conference would welcome workers' representation on management and supervisory boards and other decision-making bodies, based on the shop steward system and on a basis of 50 per cent or more involvement; provided (a) that these representatives are able to retain their trade union functions and remain responsible to the members they represent and the trade union movement; and (b) the foregoing approach is at the express wish of the membership directly concerned.'

Many of the points raised here are answered in the very next motion, number 200,

from a London transport drivers' branch. It reads:

'That this conference maintains that there is sufficient experience and expertise within the union to train shop stewards without the help and assistance of major industrial enterprises, and feels that the concept of worker-directors under a capitalist system is a blind alley which will in no way give workers more control over their destinies.

'There can be no true control in industry by the working class except under a socialist system where the means of production and the profit ensuing therefrom are owned by the people as a whole; therefore, any other concept in our ranks can only be a diversion from the main struggle.

'The worker-director experiment initiated by the Labour government with qualified success in the British

Steel Corporation has not prevented the government from closing many steel-works and causing large-scale redundancies.

'Conference feels that the worker-director experiment and the so-called "Bevin plan" for getting on better should be rejected and that in future our leadership should consult the membership before committing them to any such association with big business interests.'

Jones' motion, and the whole approach of the proponents of 'workers control', completely ignores the actual situation confronting the working class. It is Utopian dreaming which not only diverts from the main struggle, but spreads totally false ideas about how the workers' struggle can be conducted.

## LEADERSHIP

The working class is faced with laws restricting their pay increases in a situation where their traditional methods of struggle of a wages fight behind remote union leaders who eventually get a compromise settlement are virtually powerless.

Workers have to find new ways to fight . . . and they have to find them behind a new leadership. The old re-









formist leaderships are still determined to reach compromise deals with the employers and the government. In the period of capitalist crisis, this can only mean deals which drag down the working class in step with the decline of British capitalism.

With every struggle for wages now a political struggle against the Tory government, which has abolished free collective bargaining, the working class must learn how to fight political battles directly. To win them, it must fight under the revolutionary leadership of Marxists who understand how to prepare for the struggle for power. Only the social revolution can carry out the policies to end the crisis.

This perspective can only derive from an analysis of the objective situation in which the working class finds itself.

Calling on workers to ask in this period for an extension of 'industrial democracy' completely misses all of the issues that are directly concerning the working class.

It merely urges workers on to dust down some reformist hobby horse like 'workers control' and ride it around the labour movement conference halls.

Of course the real point about these reformist cam-

paigns and the calls for more militancy for its own sake is that Jones and company have absolutely no desire to really challenge the capitalist system for its power. The idea of the working class standing up and deciding that it will have nothing more to do with the capitalist system and will end it, appalls them.

In his famous pamphlet on participation, Jones states: 'Working people are practical people, and they can be drawn into the tasks of management, and into a new interest in the success of industry, only on a practical basis.'

Jones, of course, is talking about himself when he talks about being drawn into management and the success of industry.

He continues: 'But they are not going to achieve this if we ignore the growing feeling that the nature of work in industry is repetitious, so soul-destroying, and in many cases so very unpleasant, that it is something that has to be escaped from as often as possible and as soon as possible.'

This is a clear example of Jones having a Utopian dream on the one hand about how industry could be run, and on the other hand coming up against the harsh reality of workers' relationship to their jobs in practice.

His completely static understanding of the political situation is nowhere better illustrated than where he talks about an apparently endless period of negotiating confrontation between the two sides in industry.

He goes on to say: 'Given, of course, that we do not have restricting new laws forced upon us, I think we may well be at the crest of our strike problem.' This was uttered in November 1970.

It betrays an abysmal ignorance about the new escalation of the class struggle that became inevitable following the election of the Tory government in June 1970 in a period of deepening economic crisis.

## DREAMER

Jones may not have been able to predict the arrival of the state pay laws to back up the Industrial Relations Act, but what could he possibly have been thinking of in suggesting that Britain had reached the 'crest' of its strike problem? Is it, once again, wishful thinking by a Utopian dreamer about how nice things would be if there were no strikes? It is hardly the way to lead the fight on behalf of the working class.

The next comment reveals

his present attitudes.

'The truth is that the whole concept of what managerial prerogatives are is something that has to change. If management today seeks to act on attitudes of the past, it will produce not acquiescence, but conflict.'

Jones just cannot wait to 'acquiesce'.

For him now, the reality of the class struggle is completely hidden by a mess of confused ideas:

'It has always seemed to me to be absurd that one could mutually agree in the end on divisive issues such as wages, but only consult and not have an agreement on a whole range of matters which we were supposed not to be in conflict about.'

As though it was just a question of someone having a good idea at the right time and every problem then being solved. People have had good ideas about reforming society along ideal lines since the first Utopian socialists 150 years ago. The objective development of the class struggle has totally ignored every one of them, from Robert Owen down to Jack Jones.

'Units of industry should eventually be seen as a series of self-government communities, within which working people increasingly assume

Jack Jones (left) with Tory Home Secretary, Robert Carr and (above) with leader of the Port employers, Lord Aldington. By such collaboration with the employers, Jones leads his union members into the trap of corporatism.

the role of policy-making and controlling, and that means the fullest participation in the unions.'

Such day-dreaming is dangerous in a period when the Tory government is preparing for the biggest class confrontations in history in order to deal with capitalism's deepest-ever crisis.

By these tactics, Jones is leading his union members right into the trap of corporatism. That is what has been put on the agenda by the Tories. Nothing less than corporate state controls over the trade unions will enable them to steer through the economic crisis and emerge the other side with their capitalist system still intact.

Nothing is more threatening to the working class in the present period than Jones' 'analysis' about industrial democracy and participation.

Transport workers must reject reformist illusions and demand that their union gets back into the fight against the Tory government and the capitalist class.



## PLIGHT OF THE BACK-STREET SHOP

A series by Bernard Franks  
Part eight

Many family shopkeepers are turning to membership of the so-called voluntary groups (VGs) as some form of combination against the power of the multiples. This involves linking to a wholesale service which can buy in bulk from manufacturers or create its own brands.

The main VGs are Spar-Vivo, VG Service and Mace Marketing Services. In fact, the VGs often demand strict control of products, brands, sales promotion, equipment in the shop and even layout. There is little left to feel 'independent' about. Today, 15,000 family shops are in VGs in Britain.

The Spar-Vivo Group, an international company based in Holland, operates in west Europe with 300 wholesalers and 54,000 retailers throughout the Common Market. The second largest undertaking of its kind in the world, it has almost 10 per cent of the market in every EEC country except Britain, where it has 4,000 shops.

Another innovation of the wholesalers is the cash-and-carry warehouse, a kind of cut-price supermarket for retailers. Members take a trolley round and choose their goods, pay cash at the checkout and provide their own transport. The average amount spent is £38 a visit.

Shopkeepers are nervous that these stores may sell direct to the public. One estimate puts the number of users who are not entitled to be there at 10 per cent and it is clear that many cash-and-carry owners are quite happy to let them degenerate into discount stores.

There is much exaggeration in the talk about the conflict between the manufacturers and the retail chains. Often, in any case, these are the same firm, or joint subsidiaries of a third group, or linked in some way by agreement.

The suppliers much prefer the huge turnover of the supermarkets and the ease of supplying large stores which have back unloading bays for container lorries, to the problems of small batch off-loading to small shops in narrow streets.

Family shopkeepers are now especially worried by the onset of Value Added Tax, which came into force on April 1. This new imposition seeks to throw an even greater burden of tax on the working class while using the shopkeeper as a tax collector.

For the multiples this will be no great strain, with their computers and comprehensive accounting systems. For many back-street shops it will be the end of the road.

All traders with more than £5,000 turnover a year are required by law to register and apply a 10 per cent tax (actual range 7½ per cent to 12½ per cent) to a mass of goods and services.

All taxable goods supplied to the shopkeeper will include

an input tax. He, in turn, must slap on an output tax to his customers. The difference between the two is what he must work out and pay to the Customs and Excise Office. To compute this he must preserve for up to three years all incoming orders, invoices, delivery notes, correspondence, balance sheets and invoices to 'taxable' persons.

Also he must record daily gross takings, goods applied to personal use and goods supplied under hire purchase and credit sale. All this paper work has to be available for the visiting Customs and Excise officers.

Anyone who should register and fails to do so can be summoned before the courts,

but in any case may be bankrupted because:

(1) they will not be able to claim back any purchase tax on the stocks they held on April 1.

(2) they will not be able to claim back the tax paid to their suppliers, but they will be liable to pay to the Customs and Excise the full 10 per cent on all their sales from April 1 onwards.

The 1.5 million business people operating the system are referred to as 'taxable persons' in the official literature. Presumably, the customer who is having to fork out the extra cash, is then a 'non-taxable' person.

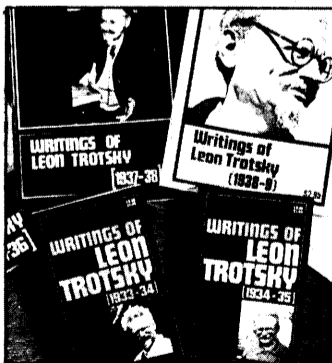
Unless the measures are defeated there can be nothing final about the rate of tax or

the products it is applied to. The screw can be tightened and the range of products so far excluded can also be taxed.

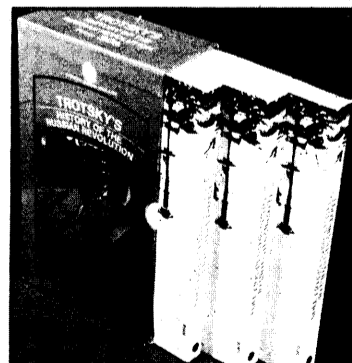
A member of the Tax Committee of the London Chamber of Commerce forecast last year top rates of 20-25 per cent and commented: 'The eventual harmonization of taxes within the EEC will inevitably lead to food being included.'

The enemies of the family shopkeeper today are the powerful, all-monopolizing manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and banks, who seek through the capitalist state laws, institutions and the Tories to destroy the standard of living and rights of the working class and the small trader.

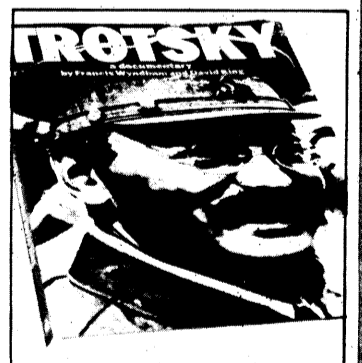
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BY DAVID MAUDE

Peter Niesewand, the recently released journalist from Rhodesia, told reporters: 'I was lucky. I am white and my case was publicized. Others are black and no one knows what is happening to them.'

Niesewand said that some of the prisoners in the same jail as himself had been there for more than 13 years without trial.

Some of these prisoners had been issued with detention orders after they had already served sentences for political offences, but the majority, some of whom have been in detention for more than ten years, have never been tried.

Detention is ordered by the Minister of Law and Order and Justice in 'the interests of the public'. The detained person can then be held indefinitely under the Emergency Powers or the Law and Order (Maintenance) Acts.

The detainees are mainly distributed between the Salisbury Remand, Gwelo and Wha Wha prisons, and Gonakudzingwa Detention Camp.

At Salisbury Remand Prison Raymond Chiwashira has been in detention for seven years; Moton Malianga, Robert Mugabe and Edgar Tekere for nine years and Morris Nyan-gumbo for 13 years.

Salisbury is a security prison where inmates are closely confined in small cells and a small prison yard.

The political prisoners there recently wrote to the Minister of Justice demanding an improvement in their conditions.

They complained about bad food, inadequate clothing, bedding and cell equipment, degrading regulations regarding visits (visitors can only see the detainees in the presence of prison guards, and through a glass partition) and severe censorship of mail, newspapers and reading material.

Nine long-term detainees in Gwelo Prison were recently joined by a further 12 who were transferred from Salisbury.

These prisoners also have complained about worsening conditions, including arbitrary punishments by the prison authorities.

As a result of their complaints, they were all sentenced to 25 days solitary confinement with reduced diet. A further 90 days was imposed during which they may not receive or send letters, receive visitors or study.

The Gwelo political prisoners include eight men who were detained last year after already completing a sentence for a political offence.

These are: Jairo Chadoka, Charles Chawanda, Robert Onias Masunda, C. M. Mutema, Shame Zvikaramba, Linos Mukaro, Stephen Zvinaveshe and Langton Kufa Banda.

# 'I WAS LUCKY... AND WHITE'



Peter Niesewand, recently released from Rhodesian jail, speaks of the countless political prisoners who remain behind.

Walter S. Mbambo completed a sentence for a political offence in 1971 but has been detained in Gwelo ever since.

Other Gwelo prisoners and the length of time they have already been detained without trial are:

Kenneth Chisango, one year; Edward Bhebe, three years; Elias P. Moyo, Moses Thusi and Grey Matsikasimbe, four years; T. G. Mwanjiri, seven years; Elisha Chigudu, Fred Dube and Simon Marembo, eight years; James Chatagwe and Clark Mpofo, nine years.

The political prisoners at Wha Wha jail belong to the group that were served with detention orders last September on release from Khami prison where they had served sentences for political offences of up to ten years.

They include: Wisdom Chimanga, Reuben Chikwanda, Watson Chiota, G. Majiri, John Makwasha, Garikayi Mandhiza, Shepherd Maringe, Emmanuel Masango,

Obed Mbirimi, Andrew Muchenje, Shadreck Rambanepasi, Garikayi Virukai and Caphas Musakasa.

Detainees at Gonakudzingwa are confined to fenced camps which are situated on the Mozambique - Rhodesia border, in the heart of a forest.

Thirty-five political prisoners have recently been transferred from Gwelo.

Prisoners here include Joshua Nkomo, leader of ZAPU, who has been detained for 11 years, and Daniel Madzimbamuto, now entering his fourteenth year of detention.

A 70-year-old man, Ernest Chilimumhadzi, has been detained here for the past three years.

Many of the detainees at Gonakudzingwa had hoped for release at the time of the Pearce Commission, especially in view of the promise that during its visit 'normal political activities' would be allowed; but the Pearce Commission came and went, and

the prisoners are still there.

Other Gonakudzingwa political prisoners, and the length of time they have so far been detained without trial, are:

Neviel Moyo, one year; Prince Gumede, three years; Meshack Makhena, John Agrippa Ndlovu, Edward Tshuma and Raphael Ndlovu, four years; Sikelela Ndlovu, five years; Sunday Chivamba, Stephen Kanhema and N. J. C. Mukanganga, six years; Charles Gibbs Dhlamini, Ephraim Dhlamini, Jack Golo, Clement Muchachi, Cephas Sibande, Peter Njini Sibande, Raymond Zharare and Solomon Chagadama, seven years; B. M. Gumbo, George Marange, Miles Mashayanombe, Canaan Moyo, Elijah Moyo, Major Mpofo, Joseph Msika and Amos M'songelwa, eight years.

M. C. Kadhene, K. B. Kayende, Reginald Mabachi, Norman Mabena, Thomas Manyika, Amos Mkwanzani, W. T. Mukarati, Willie Musarurwa, Joel Ndlovu, Enos Nkala, Lazarus Nkala and

Abel Siwela, nine years.

Aleck Tshabangu, 10 years; Welshman Mabhena and Mischeck Velaphi, 11 years.

Z. Kanyasa has repeatedly had his detention renewed, the last time three years ago, and George Kawenda is at Gonakudzingwa after completing a sentence for a political offence last year.

Detention orders continue to be widely served.

In February this year Killian Bhebhe, Sylvester Bogoni, Charlton Mngsebetshe, Arthur Chadzingwa, Gabriel Chigwida and Peter Katsande — all officials of the African National Council — received detention orders.

In addition to the detainees, there is an unknown number of persons in Rhodesia who are restricted to specified areas—usually within a three-mile radius.

A socialist government in Britain would immediately arm the Rhodesian Africans to enable them to overthrow the brutally repressive Smith regime.

## WORKERS NOTEBOOK

### INDIAN PROFIT

Desperately searching for new 'angles' with which to sell the stream of often tenth-rate films pouring out of Hollywood, the major production companies think they have found a winner.

The occupation of the town of Wounded Knee by militant American Indians, and Marlon Brando's refusal of the Oscar Award because of the insulting and racist way in which Indians are usually portrayed on film, have given them an idea.

After a meeting with the Screen Actors' Guild, which was asking for Indians, as well as Mexican-Americans and

Asians, to be shown with greater dignity, it was announced that the producers would be looking into the possibility of exploring other aspects of Indian life. 'We should show a race of people with problems, with wives and children,' they said.

They added that they were looking for ways of making this into 'a sellable commodity'.

Look out for a series of Indian 'Love Stories', Indian 'Sounders' and Indian 'West Side Stories'.

The tribes are about to be massacred again—all in the interests of profit.

### VISITOR

The great saga of the QE 2 continues... the ship has now docked at Haifa and, as we predicted, the docking arrangements for it have resulted in disruption of grain ship unloading. The resulting cost of this will far outweigh

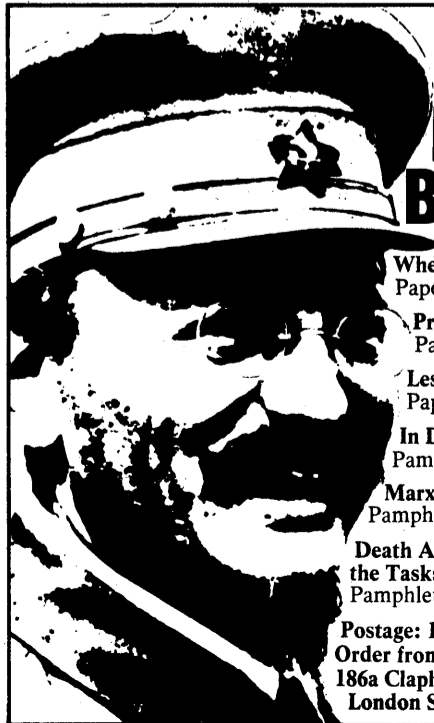
any benefits to the Israeli economy from the tourists.

It will no doubt be remembered by many Israeli workers that when dockers in Israel went on strike last year they were labelled 'Al Fatah' agents by Golda Meir's government.

They will wait to see what is said now about the authorities responsible for the disruption at Haifa harbour!

Meanwhile the fantastic—and highly expensive—security arrangements on the QE 2 came to nought last week, in the face of a determined intruder. Fortunately, the man who penetrated the highly guarded vessel was not a Black September guerrilla armed with explosives, but a young Israeli who had joined up with the crew on a night out in Haifa, and came on board with them afterwards for a party.

There is to be an inquiry to find out how the unauthorized visitor managed to get on board!



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### BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.30 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Barnaby. 1.45 Made in Britain. 2.00 Television top of the form. 2.25 Chester races. 4.00 Peter. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Boss cat. 5.15 Expedition Sahara. 5.40 Hector's house. 5.45 News. Weather.

#### 6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 ASK THE FAMILY.

7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD.

7.30 GORDON PETERS SHOW. The Visitor.

8.00 COLDITZ. Bribery and Corruption.

8.50 SIX FROM COLDITZ. Interview with Dominic Bruce who escaped from Colditz in a crate.

9.00 NEWS. Weather.

9.25 SPORTSNIGHT. International gymnastics. Russian gymnastic exhibition.

10.00 CONSERVATIVE PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST.

10.10 SPORTSNIGHT. Soccer action.

11.00 MIDWEEK. 11.45 NEWS. 11.50 Weather.

### ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.35 Yoga (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Cuddles and co. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Scotch corner. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.55 Looks familiar. 3.25 Hine. 4.20 Sooty show. 4.50 Jensen code. 5.20 University challenge. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 SHUT THAT DOOR!

8.30 THE BEST OF FATHER, DEAR FATHER. Proposed and Seconded.

9.00 SPECIAL BRANCH. Red Herring.

10.00 CONSERVATIVE PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST.

10.10 NEWS. 10.45 BOXING.

11.45 DOLLY. 12.15 NIGHT GALLERY.

12.50 IDEAS IN PRINT.

### TODAY'S TV

#### BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

7.05 HOMES AND THE HOMELESS. How many houses can we produce a year?

7.30 NEWS. Weather.

7.35 LOOK, STRANGER. Artist in a Changing City.

8.00 MAN ALIVE. George Plimpton at the Wheel. The American jack of all trades enters the Mexican 1,000 in a dune buggy.

8.50 FILM: 'Kismet'. Howard Keel, Dolores Grant, Ann Blyth, Vic Damone. Musical about a beggar poet in old Baghdad.

10.00 CONSERVATIVE PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST.

10.10 KISMET continued.

10.50 EDITION. 11.15 NEWS. Weather.



Robert Wagner as Fit-Lt Phil Carrington tries to persuade German private Heller (Keith Buckley) to turn his back at the right moment during an escape attempt from 'Colditz'. This is the second showing for six of the episodes from the BBC series.

#### REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.55 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Gourmet. 2.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 10.00 Life in France. 10.10 London. 12.10 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 10.00 London. 12.10 News. 12.13 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Diary by day. 7.00 London. 12.10 News. 12.20 Weather. Epilogue.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 2.55 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Cuckoo in the nest. 7.00 London. 12.10 European journey. 12.40 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.20-4.55 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.45 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.30 Jobs around the house. 3.00 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 12.15 You and your golf. 12.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Songs. 12.05 London. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00

News. What's on? 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Yours faithfully. 9.30 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.40 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 11.45 News. 11.55 Streets of San Francisco. 12.40 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 Short story. 8.30 London. 12.15 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 12.05 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.52 News. 2.50 London. 5.15 Wildlife theatre. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson. 6.35 London. 12.10 Meditation.

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# CPSA motions 'disappeared' before conference

DEAR EDITOR,

The agenda for the annual conference of the Civil and Public Services Association contains no motions from the Central London Area Branch of the CPSA. Though posted with other matter received well before the deadline, this branch's list of motions has mysteriously disappeared.

By amazing coincidence, this branch was the only one to offer a motion calling for a political fight with the Tories:

'Conference instructs the National Executive to call upon the TUC to organize nation-wide industrial action to force the

### LETTER

resignation of the present government.'

The Central London membership is typical of urban branches, but untypical in that someone raised the question of a General Strike.

The main objective of proposing the motion was not to get it to conference, where the

bureaucracy would easily guillotine it, but to get it printed on the agenda which can be seen by the whole membership at mandatory meetings before conference.

Members are well to the left of their delegates, and the delegates are left of the NEC. The NEC dreads discussion of the General Strike strategy among ordinary members.

G. B., London, W.1.  
(Name and address supplied.)

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

HULL: Wednesday May 9, 8 p.m. (Please note date change). Windmill Hotel, Witham. 'After May Day—What next?'

HACKNEY: Wednesday May 9, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, Mare Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

HOLLOWAY: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

KINGSTON: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Norbiton Hotel, Clifton Road. 'Forward from May Day—to remove the Tories.'

WILLESDEN: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Brent Labour and Trades Hall, Willesden High Road, NW10. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

DARLASTON: Thursday May 10, 7 p.m. 'The Nag's Head'. 'Fight the State Pay Laws and Measured-Day Work.'

LEEDS: Thursday May 10, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. 'Building the revolutionary party.'

EAST LONDON: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, E3.

WANDSWORTH: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Kings Arms, High Street, SW18.

WATFORD: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall, near Watford Junction Station. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

TOOTING: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. Tooting Baths, Tooting Broadway, SW17. 'Build the Revolutionary Party.'

SLOUGH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

SOUTHALL: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday

May 16, 8 p.m. 'The Crooked Billet', North Circular Road. 'Force the Tories to resign.'

WEMBLEY: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Copland School, High Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

WOOLWICH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. The Castle, Powis Street, SE18. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

SWANSEA: Thursday May 17, 7.30 p.m. YMCA. 'Defend workers' basic rights. General Strike to Force the Tories to resign.'

BASILDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Barnstaple Community Centre. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

CROYDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

FELTHAM: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes', Feltham High Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'



# Darlaston workers have doubts over return Conflicting views on Rubery Owen wage deal

BY WORKERS PRESS  
CORRESPONDENT

**THE FIVE-week-long Rubery Owen strike at Darlaston, Staffordshire, is over, with conflicting views of the return-to-work agreement.**

Mr Doug Peach, Transport and General Workers' Union convenor, claims it is 'a complete victory' and Mr Fred Griffiths, Wolverhampton district secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, says: 'It achieves everything we set out to do.'

But this view is not shared by all Rubery Owen workers. A T&GWU shop steward told Workers Press: 'It was a victory when we all came out on April 2, but it is not now, after five weeks of strike action.'

'What we have won is a breathing space until October. The firm wanted to implement high base rate on April 2. Now it seems they will have to wait until October 1.'

The settlement terms are that that Rubery Owen will pay wage increases ranging from 50p for trainees to £4 a week for indirect workers, subject to approval being granted for the increases by the Tory government's Pay Board.

In return, the unions have agreed to start immediate negotiations to devise a new wage structure. These discussions should be completed by October 1973.

The strike started on April 2 because Rubery Owen had informed workers that those who clocked in for work that day would be paid on a revised wages structure. This meant that about 700 pieceworkers would be transferred from traditional piecework to the company's high base rate wages structure (i.e. Measured-Day Work).

This involved a wage reduction of between £2 and £13 a week.

The question of a general wage rise was a secondary issue, although negotiations had been going on since the previous October, and management had linked the general wage demand with the transition to high base rate.

As Doug Peach told Workers Press on April 17:

'I'm out on strike because the management said, "from April 2 you're on that [new wage structure]."

And Harry Littlehales, T&GWU Wolverhampton organizer had said: 'No one in his right mind would accept a substantial reduction in his earnings.'

But the first turn against the principles of the strike came on Friday, April 27, when the national officials were called in, only hours after 1,400 workers had voted unanimously to continue the strike into its fifth week.

Moss Evans (T&GWU) and Bob Wright (AUEW) met the management for seven hours of talks in Birmingham's luxurious Albany Hotel.



The Rubery Owen workers vote to end their five-week strike.

Afterwards Brian Mathers, T&GWU regional secretary, announced: 'The management has agreed to separate the claim for an immediate pay increase from its long-term policy of reforming the pay system on a high base rate. That's what the unions have been pressing for all along.' (Emphasis added.)

On the basis of this separation, Evans and Wright recommended a return to work, and in return for the promise of a £4 rise for lower paid workers and £1 for higher paid, they committed the unions to immediate discussions on the new wages structure.

When local officials met the management the following Monday, it appears that the talks broke down because management wanted a definite commitment to high base rate, although cash was put forward as the official explanation.

Mr Fred Straw, director of production services, said on Tuesday May 1, after a mass meeting had voted unanimously to continue the strike:

'We agreed in principle last week to a union proposition. When we came to identify de-

tails, this would have put us beyond the government's limit of £1 plus 4 per cent.'

But the company was clearly prepared for a showdown to reach its main objective of laying a foundation for the long-term pay structure.

It seems that certain words may have disappeared from the proposed agreement at about this time.

A T&GWU steward told Workers Press that the Birmingham agreement meant that no transfers from piecework would take place without the agreement of departmental stewards. That condition disappeared in the fifth week of the strike.

Then, according to the 'Birmingham Evening Mail' (May 3): 'The union claimed [that] Owen's only course is to make an offer outside the government limit and fight the case . . . at the Pay Board.'

The 'Birmingham Post' on May 5 quoted Fred Griffiths as saying that if the Pay Board ordered a reduction of the award, the unions had agreed to pro rata decreases of the graded pay increases!

But how did the officials get the termination of this solid strike?

At the meeting that ended the strike, Doug Peach said: 'This is going to be a wage structure that we can be proud of. You don't want to come out here every 12 months. We are going to negotiate whilst you keep working. I'd never sell you pig in a poke.'

The Communist Party's 'Morning Star', having failed to notice the strike for five weeks, reported on May 3 that it was over 'how wage rises, within the government norm, should be distributed'.

And the revisionist 'Socialist Worker', in its issue sold at the May 4 mass meeting, said: 'It looked as though an important victory had been won for organized trade unionism in the West Midlands.'

What will determine the next round of the Rubery Owen fight in October is whether a new leadership can be built.

Rubery Owen workers want to fight wage-cuts. But they need the Tory government out so that all attacks on their living standards can be halted.

## Storm over Benn's 'nationalization' call

**THE THREAT** by Anthony Wedgwood Benn that a Labour government would nationalize Rolls-Royce Motors without compensation has produced screams of rage from all quarters.

Company chairman Mr Ian Fraser fulminated: 'Rolls-Royce Motors never has been and never will be in public ownership.'

Tory Trade and Industry Secretary Mr Peter Walker called on Benn to withdraw yesterday and claimed his remarks would be 'deeply resented by the creditors and shareholders of Rolls-Royce, for whose benefit the flotation has been arranged'.

Walker called on Labour leader Harold Wilson to 'make a statement disowning Mr Benn for his mischievous comments'.

Rothschilds, the merchant bankers handling the sale of Rolls-Royce Motors on behalf of the receiver, said the firm had always been in private ownership and 'most people concerned, including the workers and the union, seem very pleased that is the situation which is to continue'.

Right-wing Labour MPs are calling for a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet, of which Benn is a member, and the matter is also likely to be raised at a Parliamentary Labour Party meeting as 'an action damaging to MPs' constituency interests'.

Benn's statement is in line with Labour Party policy, specifically with a resolution passed at the 1971 Labour Party conference.

It also conforms to Clause 4 of the Party's constitution, which calls for nationalization.

His call is correct, but it should not be confined to industries which have been 'hived off' (though Benn was mistaken in thinking that Rolls-Royce Motors was one of these).

Before workers place much confidence in Benn's words, however, he ought to explain why the last Labour government, in which he was Minister of Technology, never touched the car industry nor any other section of big business.

All Trades Unions Alliance

## DOCKERS' MEETING

LIVERPOOL

No supplementary registers.  
Defend the dock labour scheme!  
Force the Tories to resign!

A Labour government must nationalize the docks and transport industries under workers' control

SUNDAY MAY 13, 7.30 p.m.

Mona Hotel  
James Street  
(near tube station)

All Trades Unions Alliance Public Meetings

## What next after the miners' ballot? The fight against the Tory government

CASTLEFORD: Thursday  
May 17, 8 p.m. Sagar St  
Rooms.

Speaker: G. Healy (National  
Secretary SLL).

BARNESLEY: Thursday May  
10, 8 p.m. Red Lion Hotel,  
Worsborough, near  
Barnesley. (Please note  
change of venue.)  
Speaker: Cliff Slaughter  
(SLL Central Committee).

SOCIALIST LABOUR  
LEAGUE LECTURES

### Merthyr Tydfil

Given by Gerry Healy,  
National Secretary  
of the  
Socialist Labour League

Wednesday May 9

The materialist conception of  
History

Wednesday May 16

Dialectical Materialism—  
a Marxist theory of  
knowledge

Wednesday May 23

Theory and Practice of  
Marxism

Wednesday May 30

Role of the revolutionary party  
at

St David's Church Hall,  
Church Street, Merthyr  
7.30 p.m.

### Jarrow

Given by Cliff Slaughter  
SLL Central  
Committee member

Civic Hall, Jarrow  
7.30 p.m.

Mondays May 14 and 21

The Socialist Revolution in  
Britain:

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 Inter-  
national, Communist Manifesto.

### All Trades Unions

#### Alliance meetings

#### TEACHERS' MEETING

The way forward  
after the NUT conference

Thursday, May 24, 7.30 p.m.

Conway Small Hall,  
Red Lion Square,  
Holborn (admission 10p)

#### HOSPITAL WORKERS' MEETING

Hospital workers and the  
fight against the  
Tory government

Tuesday May 29, 7.30 p.m.

Norfolk Room  
Caxton Hall,  
Caxton Street,  
London SW1 (admission 10p)

#### BUILDING WORKERS' MEETING

TUC must break off talks  
with Tories!  
Build revolutionary party!

Wednesday, May 30,  
7.30 p.m.

Tudor Room  
Caxton Hall,  
Caxton Street,  
London SW1 (admission 10p)

#### POSTAL WORKERS' MEETING

Break off secret talks with  
the Tories!  
Force the Tories to resign!

Sunday, June 3, 10.30 a.m.

Conway Small Hall,  
Red Lion Square,  
Holborn (admission 10p)

Registered as a newspaper at the  
Post Office. Published by Workers  
Press, 186a Clapham High Street,  
London, SW4 7UG. Printed by  
Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham  
High Street, London, SW4 7UG.  
Newsdesk: 01-720 2000. Circulation:  
01-622 7029.

# NOW IT'S BRAZEN 'TRICKY DICKY'

ELLIOT RICHARDSON, President Nixon's nominee for the vacant post of Attorney-General, has at last promised to appoint an independent investigator into the Watergate affair. The only snag is that Richardson won't name his investigator until the Senate has confirmed his own nomination to the Attorney-General's post. And once he is confirmed in the job, Richard-

son is answerable only to the President. Richardson's own partiality is considerable: he is one of the few Republicans around Nixon who have not so far been touched directly by the Watergate scandal. Until he takes office as Attorney-General he remains Defence Secretary in Nixon's cabinet. Richardson made his announcement in the wake

of a White House statement flatly denying that Nixon had anything to do with the Watergate bugging, knew nothing about it and had no part in the subsequent attempt to cover it up. This statement was no doubt aimed at countering evidence brought forward by John Dean, the White House counsel who was sacked out of hand eight days ago.

Dean told 'Newsweek' that the President had direct responsibility for the cover-up job following the Watergate burglary. There can be few people left who believe that Nixon did not know about the whole scandal from the start. His lame excuses to explain his 'ignorance' have served only to increase suspicion. Nor has his credibility

been enhanced by the blanket claim that 'executive privilege' covered all statements and communications between himself and any of his staff, which could not therefore be used in court. Dean has alluded to a 'mysterious box of papers in a strongroom which may even implicate Nixon in the bugging plot directly. While the revelations continue to emerge, the US

government is partially paralysed with a vacuum around the President filled only by General Haig, the new chief of staff. However, Nixon's latest move makes it plain that he intends if he possibly can to brazen out the Watergate scandal and rely on the great powers vested in him by the constitution to try and escape the consequences of his involvement.

## Second Lebanese premier resigns

LEBANESE Prime Minister Amin Al-Hafez resigned early yesterday after his government declared a state of emergency as fighting continued between troops and Palestinian commandos.

The resignation came amid threats from neighbouring Syria that its armed forces might intervene to protect the guerrillas from further Lebanese attacks. The Syrian government accused the Lebanon of wanting to destroy the Palestinian fighters.

BY JOHN SPENCER

Dr Hafez resigned a few hours after a government communiqué announced a state of emergency with the army taking control of internal security.

An army spokesman said later that a state of siege—a more intensive form of a state of emergency—had been imposed giving sweeping powers to the military.

Yesterday there were renewed efforts to mediate a settlement between the Lebanese authorities and the commandos.

Dr Hassan Sabry Al-Kholy, personal representative of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat, called at the presidential palace in Beirut to see President Suleiman Franjeh.

Previous attempts at mediation to bring about a ceasefire have failed: each agreement has lasted only a brief period. Both sides say a mysterious 'third force' is firing on them to keep the conflict on the boil.

The possibility that Israeli agents are trying to inflame the battle and disrupt any attempts at a ceasefire cannot be discounted. The fighting in the Lebanon is a direct result of Israeli pressure for the annihilation of the guerrilla leadership.

Israeli commandos landed without resistance in Beirut just over three weeks ago. They murdered three leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization and escaped without meeting any serious opposition.

The Lebanese government responded to the Beirut attack by

stepping up its military preparations for action against the Palestinians. It sent tanks and planes against the refugee camps to applause from the Zionist Press over the border.

Ranged against the Palestinians are the bulk of the Maronite Christians and many of the wealthy Lebanese businessmen, both Christian and Moslem. The extreme right-wing Phalangist Party is armed and very hostile to the Palestinians.

They are demanding that administration of the refugee camps be handed over to the government and taken out of the hands of guerrilla organizations. Despite very heavy casualties caused by aerial bombardment of the crowded camps the Palestinians have refused to give way.

Driven out of Jordan, tightly controlled in Syria and Egypt, the guerrilla organizations have nowhere to go and are fighting with desperate heroism to hold on to their positions.

They have the support of the organized workers of Lebanon, who turned out in their thousands to mourn the victims of the Israeli raids and pledge vengeance on the murderers.

The government crisis in Beirut underlines the weakness of the Lebanese bourgeoisie and the growing power of the army.

This represents the most conservative sections of society and has repeatedly made clear that it would rather fight the Palestinian commandos than the Israeli forces.

## FEATHER BOOST FOR THE CORPORATE STATE

FROM PAGE 1

talist state in Britain, today, is the state of the monopolists and bankers.

'This sort of agreement, entailing a joint control and a joint commitment is far better than something which is imposed,' Feather added.

The National Industrial Relations Court, the state pay laws, the increasing harassment of pickets by the police, and the growing number of police raids on leftist elements, all give the lie to that.

From 'reluctant acquiescence', Feather seems to be moving towards 'joyful acquiescence'.

'For trade unionists to re-channel some of their bargaining power into TUC negotiations with government takes some time to become acceptable in the face of government policy which for two years was based on disengagement,' Feather admitted.

Then, announcing in advance of today's Economic Committee meeting that the TUC will accept

Heath's formal invitation to talks on Phase Three—knowing of course that Jones, Scanlon, and the rest have already attended secret talks—Feather added:

'There are strong divergences of views and opinions [about a Phase Three deal] but that is part of the democratic procedures, part of the trade union movement.'

This completely ignores the fact that the corporatist laws on pay and industrial relations have already begun to whittle away precisely these democratic rights which are the heart of the modern trade union movement.

Feather said what a good thing it would be for the government to get the agreement of the TUC to a set of proposals. Then he added:

'It is wrong to talk about a crisis, or of overcoming crises. We are not in any crisis situation.'

The attempt to disarm the working class is complete. The bandwagon towards the corporate state moves on.

## Grants sit-in at Poly

OVER 100 students occupied the north-east London Polytechnic administrative block at Barking yesterday in support of their campaign for higher grants.

The National Union of Students has given the Department of Education and Science until May 21 to make up its mind

about their demand for an end to discretionary awards; for more grants for married women students; and for an immediate increase of £65 on all grants.

The students at Barking told Workers Press that they also wanted a cost-of-living index to be applied to their grants, in line with rapidly rising prices.

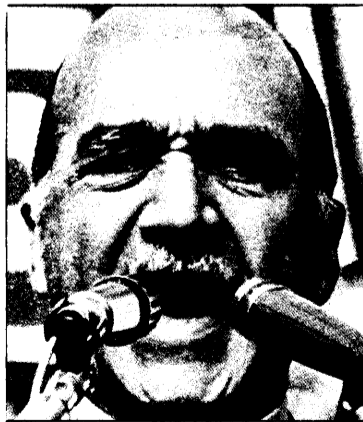


## Fascist's warning of strength

GIORGIO ALMIRANTE, head of the Italian fascist party, has warned that if his party is legally dissolved it will only emerge more powerful and in a different form.

A special commission is due to rule on May 17 whether his parliamentary immunity should be lifted so he can face charges of reforming the banned fascist party of Benito Mussolini.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of 12 years' jail and, if proved, would involve the dissolution of the Italian Social Movement (MSI) which gained nearly 3 million votes at last year's elections.



MSI chief Almirante.

The MSI has been implicated in the death of a policeman killed by right-wing thugs in Milan and in the later burning of a fascist dissident's house killing two of his sons.

The MSI chief told the Press he would be the first to vote for lifting of his parliamentary immunity. But he added 'our adversaries are joking when they talk of dissolving our party'.

Such a step would be undemocratic and 'my friends would form another party with the same views under another name, and it would only be reinforced'. This forecast is undoubtedly correct.

Almirante is simply enunciating the historical lesson demonstrated in the 1920s by Adolf Hitler, who was imprisoned for his part in a coup attempt in 1923 only to re-emerge from the

Weimar regime's comfortable jail with improved prospects of eventually gaining power.

The Stalinists of the Communist Party have been in the forefront of the demand for Almirante to be tried.

They continually foster illusions in the ability of bourgeois democracy to 'fight' fascism, ignoring the lessons of history and playing into the MSI's hands.

## Unions avoid Ford clash

UNION leaders showed no anxiety yesterday to call an official pay strike of their Ford members, as recommended by union negotiators.

The executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers broke up yesterday morning without having discussed the issue.

Ken Baker, the General and Municipal Workers' Union officer responsible for Ford's, was asked by his executive to have 'further consultation' with union members in the company and report back. There is still an estimated

two-to-one majority among the 52,000 Ford workers around the country against accepting the company's £2.40, government-controlled pay offer.

Hostility in the factories forced the union chiefs to proceed somewhat carefully in efforts to avoid a confrontation, but yesterday's moves indicate clearly that this is what they are doing.

Support for such efforts can be expected from a leading group of Ford convenors, whose spokesman, Communist Party member Sid Harraway, said on Monday: 'No one wants a showdown.'

## Bonus defeat for NUPE

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' leaders were told yesterday to embark on no new incentive bonus schemes, except where the bonus is for giving a better service, and to honour existing schemes only where they suit union members.

This decision was carried by a three-to-two majority against the executive of the National Union of Public Employees.

meeting in conference at Eastbourne. Supporters of the successful motion argued that bonus schemes increased unemployment, caused divisions among union members and were of real benefit only to the employers. After a long debate, the executive was instructed to 'revert to a policy of pressing for maximum increases in basic rates without regard to bonus schemes'.