

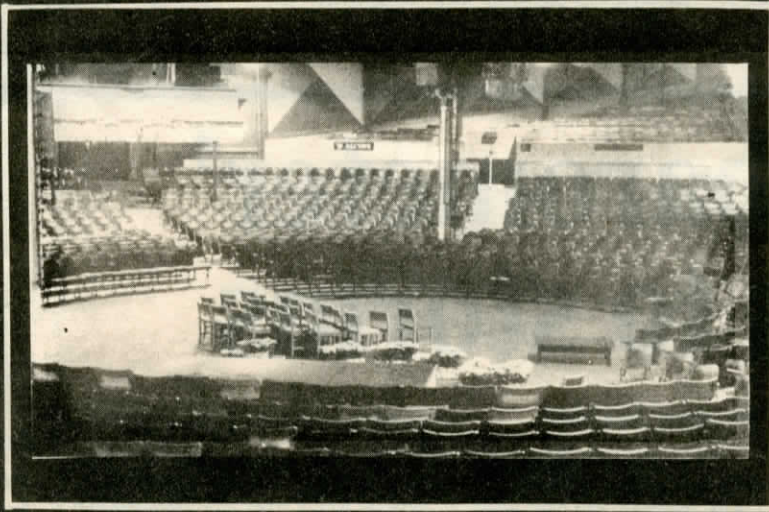
WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY MAY 14, 1973 ● No. 1071 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Preparations to launch Revolutionary Party

MASS RALLY BELLE VUE MANCHESTER JULY 1st



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This follows on the very successful ATUA conference of 2,200 workers at Birmingham on October 22, 1972, which launched the campaign.

The founding conference of the Party will be held in London at the end of October 1973. The basis of the draft perspectives and programme for the Party, which

are currently being discussed in the pages of the Workers Press, was the ATUA National Committee's statement adopted at Birmingham last year.

In a statement adopted yesterday by the ATUA in preparation for the July 1 conference, the National Committee declared:

“The further turn in the grave economic crisis caused by the political and economic effects of the Nixon scandal will have a profound influence on the inflationary boom in Britain and the policies of the Tory and Labour leaders.

The Tories have laid plans for a corporate state, but the sharpening class struggle resulting from the intensification of the crisis

will more and more disrupt these plans and expose Phase Three of the state pay laws.

It is this massive class basis for the launching of struggle which forms the Revolutionary Party.

Therefore it is vitally urgent that these new developments, which greatly assist the launching of the Revolutionary Party, should be discussed by the largest possible number of delegates and visitors to the July 1 conference.

Arrangements are in hand to provide appropriate facilities for such a discussion at the Belle Vue, Manchester, one of the largest assembly halls in the north of England. Invitations to delegations will be going

out next week.

The ATUA calls upon all those workers, who want to end the state pay laws and restore free negotiations for wages between trade unions and employers, to join the demand for breaking off all talks with the government on Phase Three.

The fight for the defence of basic democratic rights is now inseparable from the struggle to build the Revolutionary Party.

We believe that the July 1 rally can be an important landmark in the struggle to unite the working class on the basis of socialist policies to create the necessary industrial and political conditions for forcing the Tory government to resign.

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND DANGER AHEAD

DESPITE the tremendous work and sacrifice of our readers and members of the Socialist Labour League, it seems almost impossible for us to complete the first £50,000 by May 31. Up to last Friday our Fund reached £21,784.95.

Only three Socialist Labour League branches have responded so far this weekend: Reading £5; Artists branch £10; YSSS comrades £41—in all £56, which brings our total to £21,840.95.

We have 17 days to collect £28,159.05.

This is surely the biggest test we have ever faced with any of our funds.

And this is no ordinary fund. Building the revolutionary party is now the most important and decisive political task confronting the working class. The discussion which has just begun in the Workers Press on pages 4 and 5 emphasizes this point over and over again.

So let us get into the fight. We must make our target. We can make our target if you, our readers, decide to pitch in.

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This could take several weeks and would only mean exchanging him for the almost equally compromised Spiro Agnew.

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NEWS DESK

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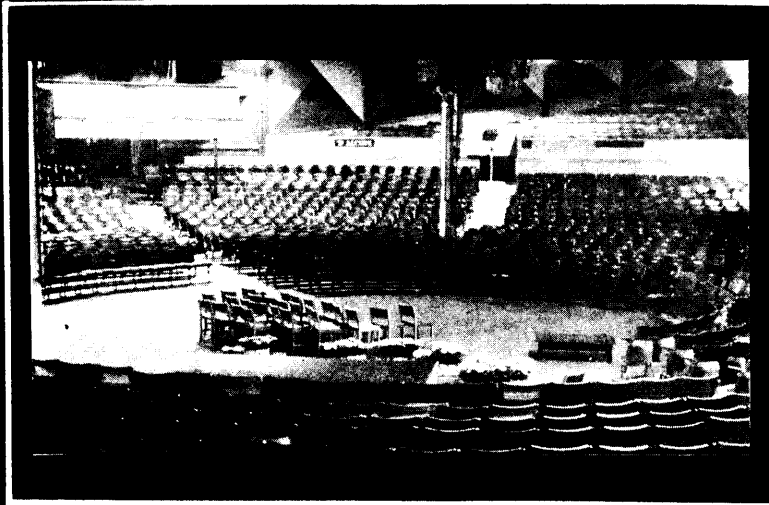
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NEWS DESK

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Basic rights INSIDE the unions

THE PROSCRIPTION of the International Socialist group by the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (APEX, formerly CAWU) conference on Saturday is a sinister blow at the democratic rights of trade unionists and a step in the direction of the corporate state.

The IS group was banned ostensibly because the APEX executive committee had received complaints that IS literature was being distributed to members of the Bristol branch and that, subsequently, IS formed a number of 'action groups'.

If the banning of the IS is wrong, the speech of APEX general secretary Roy Grantham in defence of this action is absolutely preposterous and must be condemned by every British trade unionist. Said Grantham:

'Each member of the union is entitled to his or her point of view and is entitled to fight for it in a democratic fashion, but it must be fought for within the rules of the union and not by factions, cliques or outside bodies.

'We have been tolerant up to now because we thought that the people concerned were mainly young and misguided.'

This is nothing more than a crude bureaucratic attempt to impose thought control on APEX and suppress or drive out every political tendency and dissentient opinion except that which represents the reactionary, anti-communist, pro-Common Market faction of Grantham and president Dennis Howell, MP. Despite our differences with this reactionary duo, we would defend their factional right if any group or government tried to deprive them of it. Similarly we defend the IS right to exist as a political faction unconditionally.

'Freedom,' as Rosa Luxemburg—another 'factionalist'—once stated, 'is freedom only for those who think differently.'

But this is not Grantham's point of view. He is in favour of factions apparently if they are organized by 'young and misguided' people, but certainly not by serious political groups.

This, of course, is an insult to the intelligence of APEX members and a mockery of trade union democracy. Why doesn't Grantham include mental defectives as well in this category?

Workers Press does not defend minority rights out of some abstract love of democracy and justice, but because we recognize that the defence of union democracy is inseparable from the struggle to defend the unions from the attacks of the capitalist state—and more important—from the attempts to integrate them into the structure of the state.

Grantham's reactionary statement is but a belated confirmation of the absolute correctness of Trotsky's warning in 1940:

'Monopoly capitalism is less and less willing to reconcile itself to the independence of trade unions. It demands of the reformist bureaucracy and the labour aristocracy who pick the crumbs from its banquet table, that they become transformed into its political police before the eyes of the working class.'

This is the essence of the APEX

decision. The IS, therefore, are the victims not of any episodic witch-hunt. They are casualties in the campaign of the Tory government and the TUC to introduce the new style corporatism, to strengthen government and right-wing union collaboration at the expense of working-class living standards and basic rights.

It strengthens immeasurably the necessity for the campaign of the Socialist Labour League, IS and the International Marxist Group to defend basic rights and indict the refusal of the Communist Party to support it.

But the APEX decision is also a warning: It is a BAD decision. It is a WRONG decision. It is a DANGEROUS decision.

All trade unionists who value their basic rights should combine in the broadest possible faction to reverse it and throw out this reactionary, anti-socialist leadership. Every blow for union democracy is a blow against the secret talks and the corporate state measures of the Tories.

Gold 'barometer' points to storms

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE RAPIDLY rising price of gold is the most important and significant indication of the depth of the economic crisis and false Tory talk about boom. The price on the London market last week jumped \$6.60 to close at \$96.95 an ounce.

In the continental bullion markets the price was even higher than in London. Gold bars were being traded in Paris on Friday afternoon at the record high level of \$99.13 an ounce.

'The \$100 mark looks easily within reach,' one dealer said. Not only did the price rise steeply in Paris, there was also a sharp increase in demand. 24.1m francs-worth of the metal was traded on Friday compared with 15.1m on Thursday.

The gold price is the real barometer of the depth of the crisis.

As the Nixon scandal moves towards its climax in the United States, holders of paper money fear that whether the President goes or stays, the economic consequences are going to be truly disastrous for them.

This explains the reluctance of the capitalist media to publicize the flight from paper money which is now reaching panic proportions. The 'Sunday Tele-

graph' commented discreetly yesterday, however:

'... The activity [on the gold markets] points simply to the nervousness which holders of currencies feel about the dollar and other paper money following two dollar devaluations. Another crisis could, once again, be round the corner.'

'Talks about monetary reform are still going on, but nothing concrete has yet emerged from the Group of 20. The reformists are still talking blithely of basing reform on an expansion of special

drawing rights and demonetizing gold.

'Yet the performance of the gold market—which could very shortly move over the \$100 taking gold shares merrily along with it—is making reforms based solely on paper money with little regard for gold increasingly difficult to take seriously.'

The same could be said with even more force about the talk of sustained expansion from the Tory government.

Heath has no more chance of maintaining the inflationary boom than Nixon has of putting Watergate back under the carpet.

Iranian students protest Shah's military moves

OVER 100 Iranian students and Arab and British sympathizers marched through central London to the Iranian embassy on Saturday in protest against the Shah's military intervention in the Gulf state of Dhofar.

The march was the culmination of a week of protest organized by the Confederation of Iranian Students in Great Britain. Many of the demonstrators wore masks to prevent identification by Iranian agents who kept the march under surveillance and photographed the marchers.

In an interview published in Paris yesterday the Shah told the magazine 'Le Point' he had bought modern arms so that he can be truly independent and 'never have to pick up the telephone to call Mr Nixon for help'.

He justified his decision to buy Phantom jet fighter-bombers from the United States on the grounds that though each of them cost as much as a hospital, 'if I build hospitals without having the means to defend them, maybe a day will come when there will be no more hospitals, only ruins.'

Referring to the Arabian Gulf, the Shah said he had let all the great powers know that they need not worry. He said he would take care of the security in this part of the world and that all commercial shipping could move freely.

Just how the Shah intends to go about this self-imposed task is demonstrated by a communiqué from the Kurdistan Democratic Party announcing the murder by his assassins of Kadir Wirdy, a member of the party's central committee.

The communiqué says that in an attack on the party's local organization in Baneh, several other party members were wounded and a large number of people rounded up by the secret police, Savak.



ASTMS will still attend NIRC

BY DAVID MAUDE
IN EASTBOURNE

THE ASSOCIATION of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs rejected at the weekend any form of co-operation with wage-restraint policies, whether voluntary or imposed by governments.

Delegates to the ASTMS conference in Eastbourne, however, threw out a move to stop the union's executive appearing before the National Industrial Relations Court or other bodies governed by the Industrial Relations Act.

On wage restraint, ASTMS leaders claim to have beaten the Tory pay laws in several areas of the country.

In his keynote speech on Saturday Association president Ian Mikardo MP pledged that they would go on doing so.

They would continue playing it tough with Phase Two of the pay laws, he said.

And they would not be satisfied with the 5-per-cent ceiling it had been suggested Heath wanted to impose for Phase Three.

The successful composite motion on this issue, carried on Saturday, reaffirmed opposition to wage restraints.

It went on: 'Wage restraints, such as "prices and incomes" policies, regardless of the government seeking to introduce them, are not accepted as a solution to the economic problems or inequalities of our society.'

The executive was instructed 'to completely reject any form of co-operation with such policies and to campaign vigorously for enhanced salaries.'

But yesterday morning, again by a large majority, the 800 delegates threw out a composite motion saying that appearance by unions before the NIRC was 'inconsistent with the remainder of TUC policy and undermined effective opposition of the movement to the Act'.

Clive Jenkins, ASTMS general secretary, attacked the double-talk of some sections of the trade union movement, such as the engineering unions. He claimed that while talking against the NIRC and refusing to appear before it, in practice its decisions were implemented.

In a debate on the TUC's secret talks with the Tories, Jenkins said he would be bound by no agreement reached in discussions of this nature.

Delegates supported a motion deploring 'such anti-working-class manoeuvres'. They directed the union executive to campaign vigorously in the TUC for policies based on rejection of the corporate state and the redistribution of wealth under workers' control.

But they defeated an amendment calling on the TUC 'to mobilize the whole trade union movement to get rid of this government and its policies, and to install a Labour government committed to genuinely socialist policies'.

Nuneaton jobs fight

STERLING METALS, the Nuneaton factory which produces castings for the motor and engineering industries, has sacked 25 fettleers for striking.

The men, who walked out on Tuesday last week on a piece-work dispute, were told they would be sacked unless they returned by Friday.

A spokesman for the men told Workers Press: 'We just could not accept this ultimatum.'

Nuneaton central branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has carried unanimously a resolution calling on the trades council to mobilize maximum support for the sacked fettleers if they are not reinstated.

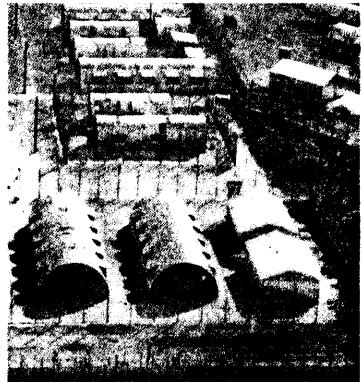
CONCENTRATION CAMP CONDITIONS GET WORSE

Hundreds of political prisoners in the Long Kesh concentration camp, Northern Ireland, say they have been denied any visits from relatives since March 14.

Prior to this, they were allowed one half-hour visit each week, which, due to harassment at the camp, cost their visitors almost a full day.

The internees are refusing to submit to degrading search procedures which include the removal of clothing.

This is the third time since the concentration camp was opened in September 1971, that the visits have been disrupted in the interests of 'security'.



On the first occasion the Camp Commandant demanded that all internees remove their footwear and any other clothing he deemed necessary before they would be allowed visits. In the face of strong protest inside and outside the camp, he backed down and 'normal' procedures were resumed.

On the second occasion, visitors were forced to undergo similar humiliation. Visits once again stopped. After five weeks of sustained pressure, the camp authorities again agreed to allow visits under conditions acceptable to internees and their relatives.

Now, once again, the internees have been denied visits under reasonable conditions.

As the political prisoners alone are unable to alleviate the conditions under which they are kept, they are seeking help to guarantee their basic rights.

BEATING AFTER COURT FARCE

Margaret Shannon (18) of Monagh Drive, Turf Lodge Estate, Belfast, was arrested by British soldiers at her home at 3 a.m. on March 6 under section 11 of the Special Powers Act.

She was removed to Armagh prison on March 8 and brought under heavy armed guard to Long Kesh concentration camp on April 25 to appear before the British Tribunal.

She was placed near the curtain behind which evidence is given by faceless informers against those dragged before what they have denounced as a 'kangaroo legal farce'.

Miss Shannon pulled the curtain aside and saw a person in British army uniform whom she immediately recognized as a Capt Ball. She shouted at him: 'I know you.'

Miss Shannon claims that she was immediately set upon by several warders and brutally beaten until she lost consciousness. As a result of the beating she suffered severe shock and a serious neck injury.

Post Office union leaders have wound up a two-year battle by their 30,000 telephonist members against the introduction of push-button telephone equipment.

The equipment—known as keysenders—could eventually kill the job of one operator in every ten.

But despite widespread opposition in the exchanges and the Post Office's failure to offer any money as yet, the Union of Post Office Workers has agreed that keysenders can be introduced forthwith.

The union claims that at this stage there will be no change in the cost of connecting calls and consequently no reduction in staff.

Kim McKinlay, one of the UPW's assistant secretaries for telecommunications, opposed calls at a special conference in February for the introduction of keysenders to be held up pending a 2-per cent pay increase.

It was difficult to get money out of the new equipment, she said. 'Staff savings'—the polite UPW word for loss of jobs—could be brought about only with union agreement.

Yet in a printed special report to the conference the executive printed the text of a letter, sent in November last year, in which the Post Office says that 300 telephonists and 32 supervisors' jobs could be cut out by keysenders.

A further 178 supervisors' jobs could be 'saved', the letter goes on, as a result of revised supervision and training arrangements consequent on the introduction of keysenders.

Later in the conference last February Tom Jackson, UPW general secretary, made clear that the executive was quite prepared to give its agreement to these job-cuts in return for extra money for the remaining telephonists.

The Post Office, however, has refused because of the Tory pay laws to consider a union claim for lead-in payments of 1 per cent.

Notwithstanding this Jackson and McKinlay have given the go-ahead for keysenders' introduction.

The formula on which they have done so demonstrates the absolute subservience of the union leadership to the state pay control policy.

At a meeting with the Post Office on March 27, says the current issue of 'UPW Telecoms News', 'it was... concluded that the question of productivity pay aspects of keysenders would need to be left until the government's intentions for stage three of its counter-inflation programme are known later this year'.

Here the Tory myth that the government is engaged in fighting 'inflation', rather than in a blatant and ruthless onslaught

PUSH-BUTTON PHONE SYSTEM MAY KILL OPERATORS' JOBS



UPW general secretary, Tom Jackson, who gave the executive's agreement for job cuts.

on the wages and conditions of the working class, is pumped out uncritically to union members alongside proposals for attacking their jobs.

Moves to introduce keysenders were first made by the Post Office towards the end of 1970.

The union leadership asked a special conference in December 1971 to allow introduction from January 1, 1972, but delegates insisted on seeing proposals for a cash increase first.

Then, in May 1972, the newly-appointed industrial relations director of the Post Office, Kenneth Young, watched anxiously as telephonist delegates to a further special conference again threw out McKinlay's advice to allow

immediate introduction.

At this stage the Post Office was offering an estimated global sum of £200,000 for introduction of the new equipment. One delegate calculated this meant only about 7p a week.

After throwing out their leaders' advice, the delegates went on to demand that any productivity agreement concluded over keysenders must maintain existing staff levels.

But the opponents of keysenders left the UPW executive a vital loophole to continue talks with the Post Office, and McKinlay was able to come back last February with a claim that all the conditions set by delegates had been met.

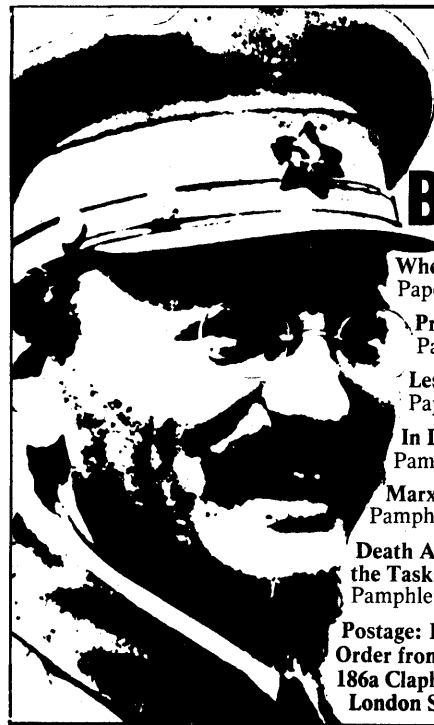
At the conference tele-

phonists with experience of pilot keysender schemes gave the lie to executive claims that every one who had tried them loved them.

One young woman delegate declared that if improvements were not made in the equipment the Post Office would have to set up its exchanges in mental institutions—because that's where all the operators would be.

She was promptly banned by union branch officials from speaking to the Press on the subject.

It was also claimed that the amount of money telephonists would receive from introduction had gone down to 5½p. Now even that pittance seems to have disappeared down the Tory drain.



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Demand for improvements in hospital service

Local anger has been aroused by cut-backs in the service provided at Altrincham General Hospital, Cheshire.

The out-patients and casualty department have been shutting down at 5 p.m. since April 2 and not opening at all at weekends. Other cuts include the closing of the children's ward.

A reporter from the 'Altrincham Guardian' recently did a 'dummy run' to see what happened to an accident victim who was sufficiently hurt to need treatment, but not serious enough to qualify for the ambulance service, and who did not have a private car.

He turned up at the casualty department at 7.50 p.m. and set off to the nearest accident and emergency department at Wythenshawe hospital.

At Altrincham bus station he discovered that the last direct bus to Wythenshawe hospital had left at 7.20 p.m.

Incredibly, there was a bus to the hospital at 8.30 but it was not licensed to take people out to the hospital—only to bring them back. This bus leaves empty every weekday night. No injured person would be allowed on it.

The only available route involved two buses, a ten-minute wait and a walk across open ground. The minimum time possible for the journey by public transport is one hour 12 minutes.

The north Cheshire Hospital Action Committee has called a public meeting for tomorrow to demand improvements in hospital and transport services.

TRANSFORMING THE SOC INTO A REVOLUTIONARY

Extract from the policy resolution adopted unanimously by 2,200 delegates and visitors at the All Trades Unions Alliance conference, Birmingham, on October 22, 1972.

Fellow trade unionists, comrades and friends we address you with this urgent call to action:

In its place must be elected a Labour government which is pledged by the mass action of the working class to implement socialist policies.

We say 'pledged' to socialist policies knowing that the present leaders of the Labour movement have no intention of introducing such policies. Indeed, in the last analysis some of them will be prepared to join a coalition government with the Tories to head off the working class.

But if the working class is strong enough to force the Tories out, it is strong enough to deal with the traitors in its own midst. This can only be achieved by exposing them in the fight for an alternative socialist policy.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League calls upon the working class to support the following policies to unite the working class against the Tories and the present Wilson-Feather leadership of the labour movement:

Here is the policy which the next Labour government must be forced to carry out.

1) A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act, Housing Finance Act, Immigration Acts, Fair Trading Act and all wage control. After the repeal of all Tory anti-working class measures, there must be legislation to implement the Charter of Basic Rights, along the following lines.

2) The right to work! Capitalism demands mass unemployment. The right to a job must be guaranteed. This can only be done by breaking the grip of capitalist ownership on the economy. Employed and unemployed must unite to insist on a Labour government nationalizing the main industries and banks, under workers' control and without compensation.

THE TORY government is relentlessly pursuing its plan for a confrontation with the working class. Each day new sections of workers are forced to become criminals — under Tory law — to defend their standard of living against government-inspired soaring cost of living.

Large sections of these workers openly acknowledge that the only answer to their fight to maintain a decent standard of living is a General Strike. That is, the creation of the industrial and political conditions which will force the government to resign.

3) The democratic right to strike and to organize in trade unions. Only the organized working class can lead mankind out of the historical crisis. Every right and every gain won by the working class, every democratic right in Britain, has been won because of the organized strength of the unions and the strike weapon.

A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act. This fight must begin now by forcing the TUC to break off all relations with the government and mobilize the working class to destroy state control of wages.

4) The right to defend rights won in the past and change the system. All the changes in legal procedures made by the Tory government must be repealed. All secret police and MI5 organizations must be disbanded and fully exposed. The secrets of the Tory administration in this sphere must be published. All rights to assembly, free speech and the Press must be guaranteed.

The struggle must begin now. No closures, no sackings, must be the policy of the trade unions. Occupation of factories threatened with closure,

as part of the fight to bring down the Tories.

5) The right to a higher standard of living. It is not the living standards of trade unionists, but the profit system, which causes the crisis. The first step must be to expropriate all the great fortunes of the rich, close down the Stock Exchange, place a state control over all movements of capital in and out of the country.

Nationalization of the basic industries and of all large companies, banks, building and insurance societies will provide the resources for a unified plan to improve the living standards of the whole people. Workers' control of these, as well as the present nationalized industries, will run them in the interests of the workers and consumers.

Again, the fight must begin now. State control of wages must be answered by the most widespread fight for wage increases to meet price rises and improve standards. This means a fight to remove the Tory government and change the union leadership.

6) The right to health and welfare benefits. Every Tory gov-

ernment cut in welfare benefits, in the health service and in all public spending must be revoked. On the basis of nationalization, a crash programme of expansion of services to the unemployed, the low-paid, the sick and the aged must be undertaken as an absolute priority. The working class and the Labour government must take immediate and absolute responsibility for these victims of the capitalist system.

7) The right to decent housing. Decent housing is not a luxury; it is a necessity. People have the basic right to decent accommodation at rents they can afford. Nationalization of the handful of building monopolies and building societies will provide the basis for a massive programme of new house building. The disgraceful problem of the homeless in the cities must be immediately solved by census and taking-over of all unoccupied property.

8) The international responsibilities of the working class. The working class is international. We fight for the unrestricted right of any worker of any nationality to move freely through the world.

Withdraw the troops from Ireland. Unite the Irish and British working class to throw out the Lynch and Heath governments.

Unite in the struggle for the Socialist United States of Europe, the only alternative to the Common Market plans for dictatorship.

Withdraw all British troops from abroad and disband the present standing army.

Sign treaties with all ex-colonial countries for programmes of equal trade and mutual assistance.

Break from NATO and all imperialist alliances.

For the carrying out of such policies the SLL fights for the setting up of Councils of Action to lead the struggle against the Tory government in every area. These Councils unite trade unionists, tenants, unemployed, all political parties and tendencies of the working class (Labour Party, Communist Party, SLL, IS, IMG, etc.) to fight against the main enemy, the Tory government.

The SLL calls upon every socialist and class-conscious worker to consider this programme and manifesto very carefully, and to decide now to take up their inescapable responsibilities. The building of the revolutionary party is the burning question now, not in some remote future. The SLL is determined to carry through its transformation into a revolutionary party.

JOIN the Socialist Labour League and help transform it into a revolutionary party.
Central Committee
Socialist Labour League

THE DISCUSSION GOES ON

I think the TUC's in with Heath'

Alfred Russell (40) is an Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' shop steward at Gestetner's Tottenham plant:

I'm right against the Tories. The prices of things as they are now are terrible. Working-class people won't be able to run a car soon or have any kind of luxury.

You go to work all week and you get no pleasure out of it. You work all your life and you get nothing. That's what the Tories want.

Another year and we will all be as good as slaves. You can't take your wife to the pictures or go on a holiday because it costs a fortune.

The cost of living has gone up terrifically. It's hit us a terrible lot. We're in urgent need of a pay rise now.

The Tories have done nothing for the working class, but our leadership has been very weak. I think they should call a General Strike. Let's get things sorted out now.

I think the TUC's in with Heath. They side together. On May Day they didn't even ask people to come out.

It's not the working class who are afraid, it's the leadership. They're not powerful enough for workers to follow.

Wilson's just let the Tories get away with it. He hasn't done a thing to stop them.

I think we need to build a new leadership urgently. We're falling behind all the time.

The Socialist Labour League is something I can believe in. You can't trust these other parties. They promise us this that and the other every year, but we've got nothing yet.

The League would probably give the strong leadership workers need.

I've always been in a union, but I've never been in a political party. If you work, you want to get something. We're getting nothing. It's only the governors who get something.



The TUC march on May Day. 'They didn't even ask people to come out.'

COUNCILIST LABOUR LEAGUE BY PARTY

'Behind the gaffer sits the Tories'

Dennis Stroude lives in Ordsall, one of the most broken-down areas of Manchester trapped between the main road to Eccles and the docks. His house has been condemned for decades. Across the rubble of his back yard he watches the army of builders at work on the new council flats. Dennis is on the council housing list. Once he wanted to get out of his slum. Now he wonders whether he can afford it. Prices under the Tories already eat up his wages earned at a dock-side cold storage firm. All his money goes on the necessities to keep his wife and four children decently fed and clothed.

☪ This is the first time I have really actively fought for socialism, though I've been a socialist all my life—I was Labour through my old man.

I met the League through the Workers Press. I thought it was an excellent paper that told the truth, but the big breakthrough was the Pageant in London on March 11. I suppose I was always aware of what basic rights meant, but the Pageant really brought out just how they were achieved—the generation before us had to struggle for everything we have got today. How people suffered for us.

It's difficult at work to get this over to people how seriously our rights have been attacked and taken from us. Many men are happy with a few bob and a pint or two. We have to go out to them and say they won't have that for long, that the pint is based on the unions and their power and it's a power that's being worn away. We have to say this is not the 19th century but 1973.

I put the apathy in the working class down to leadership. People often agree with you about what you say, but they just can't see a way out. They see no real alternative. We have to say we are the alternative, that we are the people who will finish the Pageant off and secure rights for everyone by getting rid of capitalism.

I think people will respond because they have no choice. Look at me. I have four kids. I live in a slum. I have tried to get out of it but I can't.

I work 50 hours a week and I consider myself fortunate—50 hours are just enough to keep me going. All the blokes I work with are in the same boat. Some run cars because their families have grown up. But the car cost them £10 a week to run and pay off at the same. Soon they won't be able to pay for the car, it will have to go and then they will begin to realize just how far things have gone.

The only way out for me is a council house. But I can't get one of them and even if I could I would have to cut down even more to afford the rent. Some people say it's my fault, I shouldn't have so many kids. But I like kids, it's my right, as a human being to have



A scene from the finale of the Pageant of Working Class History at Empire Pool, Wembley, March 11, 1973. 'I suppose I was always aware of what rights meant, but the Pageant really brought out just how they were achieved.'

kids, I would like to have 44 if I could.

The decision to do something about this by joining the League is really a culmination of events. I first started work on £11.50 a week. After a series of rises that we fought for we are on £27. Now that's a big rise, but I'm no better off. It's all gone. It's a vicious circle.

The rise in the cost of living is frightening. You just have to work more and more hours to live. You can't break out of the circle by reforms or getting more money—it needs a fundamental change. It's the only way.

No one will alter this view now. I have read the Press, the pamphlets and the literature of the League and some Lenin and Trotsky and this has simply confirmed the things I was half realizing. This is what I was looking for. The job now is to go out and make people realize this.

I talk to men at work. Most don't see it. A few listen and still fewer you can turn and this is worth it because you are developing the movement.

This is a hard struggle, of course. One of the first things I have learned is that this will take time. When I first joined the League I thought it would be bingo—everyone I talked to would see it the same way. But of course people develop different ways, it's a struggle.

A lot of people of course cry 'communist' when you are trying to convert them. So you have to explain that there is a difference between Stalinism and Communism; that the Stalinists tried to stop communism spreading outside the Soviet Union because they believed in the building of socialism in one country, which is not possible. We have to explain that the working class is international, that the struggle is international, that working men all over the world find unity in their struggle with the same system—me here in this place and the fighters in Vietnam or the workers in America.

The other vital thing is the reading of theory. For the first time I am beginning to do this reading. It has amazed me. You suddenly realize that men

like Lenin and Trotsky were dealing with the very same problems and situations the working class face today.

There is a passage in Lenin's 'Left-Wing Communism, an Infantile Disorder' which I am reading now that is very important.

He is describing a pre-revolutionary period. He says that now it is time for the revolutionary movement not to hold back and participate in the movement of the working class wherever it appears. But put out an honest call to the working class to consider where their future lies. This is most important for the League now. We can't be held back by worries about 'going wrong'.

There is another amazing passage in the programme of the Fourth International by Trotsky which describes the rise of fascism and how every struggle by the working class on rights becomes a political struggle.

At first I thought he must have been writing about today but then when I looked at the date it was 1935—it really opened my eyes, because this

is the situation today.

You are not dealing with the gaffer any more, because behind the gaffer sits the Tories. Every strike is a political issue, wages are a political issue, prices are a political issue. This is a fundamental development on which the movement should rest. But you only realize the importance of it by reading things like the Programme.

What we can say about this development is that this is the basic condition for revolution. People can't tolerate the situation as it is and there is no way out through more reforms, the system is in such crisis.

You have just got to get back to basics. Everything that is produced is produced by the working class. The capitalist depends on the workers for all his value and profit. So if things are getting tight for the capitalist, he is going to rob the working man to pay for the crisis. This is at the bottom of all the developments today.

This is why we can't co-exist with capitalism and remain as men with rights. That is the issue. ☪

ISRAEL AFTER 25 YEARS: 'A NATION WHICH OPPRESSES OTHERS ALSO FORGES ITS OWN CHAINS'

BY CHARLES PARKINS

Twenty-five years ago today the state of Israel was proclaimed. The event was marked a week ago by a massive display of military strength on the streets of the disputed city of Jerusalem.

Watched from the reviewing stand by 75-year-old premier Golda Meir, there was an impressive military parade with American-supplied tanks in prominence, while overhead an air force fly-past was led by a US-manufactured Phantom fighter-bomber and included also Skyhawks and Sikorski troop-carrying helicopters.

But for many people, the 25th anniversary of the state of Israel will not be an occasion for celebrations. For some 2 million Palestinians, the creation of the Zionist state has meant that they are denied any rights to the country in which they were born. Over a million of them are refugees. Israel's so-called 'freedom' is the Palestinians' oppression.

Under Israeli laws the Arab villagers of Ikrit and Berem were ordered to leave their homes, which were demolished by the authorities in 1952. Today, over 20 years later the farmers are still demanding the right to return and once again farm their lands.

The Berem Village Committee has declared:

'Since we were exiled, we have not ceased to demand to return to our village and our land. We have met with growing understanding and support of Israeli public opinion.

'To this very day, only six families have formally agreed to receive compensation for their property in Berem, while still maintaining their rights in the village. There are 250 families from Berem who wish to return and live in the village. Half of the village lands are still unused and could be worked by us.

'We are willing to live in friendship and as good neighbours with the kibbutz and the moshav that work part of our lands.'

On December 31, the Israeli authorities renewed the military order which keeps Ikrit and Berem closed to their former inhabitants. The struggle of the villagers continues.

While large numbers of Arabs like those of Ikrit and Berem are denied the right to return to their homes, some Arabs are denied the right to leave! The Israeli authorities frequently issue orders to confine particular individuals to their villages for political reasons.

Such was the case a few years ago of Halil Toameh, a student at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who had joined Jewish left wingers in the Israeli Socialist Organization. (More commonly known as the 'Matzpen' group, from the name of their paper.)

He was jailed under charges taken from the British Emergency Regulations, dating back to the Mandate period, which the Israeli government still maintains. After release, he was confined to his home village. A number of Arab members of the Communist Party and the Young Communist League (YCL) have been treated in the same way.

This sort of restriction is all part of the great Israeli democracy about which so many Labour MPs have been so full of praise!

Hundreds of Arab political prisoners are today held in Israeli jails. A number of cases of torture are known to have taken place.

On March 5 this year, the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights published a report on the case of Ata Khalil Kimri, a 17-year-old boy being held since early last year. Kimri, who comes from east Jerusalem, was arrested and accused of belonging to an organization of high-school pupils, for which he was sentenced to one and a half years in prison.

The secret police decided while he was in prison last December that Kimri should be treated as a suspect in another 'crime', committed in 1971, for which nobody had been caught. This was the removal of the Israeli flag from a pole above the roof of the police station in the village of Beth-Hanina, near Jerusalem, by a group of schoolboys, who had hoisted the Palestinian flag in its place!

Ata Khalil Kimri was therefore transferred from Damun prison to Jalame (Yagur), where he was beaten. Then he was moved to Ramallah, where he was tortured. His hands were tied behind his back, and he was hung up by them for some hours. Then he was stripped naked and beaten about the genitals. After this, cold water was thrown over him and he was left lying on the floor (this was in the middle of winter).

Other torture sessions came; including forced injections in his penis, which caused him to faint from pain. When he woke, he was beaten up again, and kicked in the testicles.

At another session he was beaten on the feet and hands with sticks.

His torturers demanded that he sign a 'confession', admit-



Kfar Yona Prison, near Tel Aviv, where 312 Arabs were detained in 1969. Above: Arabs detained by Israeli troops during curfew in July 1969. Above right: Torture victim.

ting to murder, killing a soldier, and possession of weapons. (Not that any weapons had been found in his possession.) Eventually he broke and agreed to sign, but when he appeared before a military court at Lydda on January 21, he retracted the confession, and demanded that his chief interrogator, who had used the nickname 'Abu Hani', be brought to give testimony at the court.

The authorities refused, claiming that there was 'no such person', but the name 'Abu Hani' is also referred to in other prisoners' accounts. In fact, an Israeli police sergeant, Rahamin Levi, stationed at Ramallah, had blurted out that he had seen 'Abu Hani' in the room when Kimri signed his 'confession',

but later withdrew this 'admission'.

The Palestinian and Israeli Arabs in Israel's jails have been joined within the last two years by a number of Jewish political prisoners. Giora Neumann (18), who refused to serve in the Israeli occupation forces, was brought to trial.

He explained that his refusal to serve was not on the grounds of pacifism, but because he objected to serving in an army of oppression. Neumann told the paper 'Matzpen':

'For the last four years, Israel has maintained its occupation of Arab territories. Israel does not only seize properties belonging to Arab inhabitants, but Arab citizens are also subjected to a rule of terror through application of special military laws. Israel

acts as a terrorist authority and this is nothing strange to the character and logic of Israel. As for myself, I reject all forms of occupation, even that called "liberal" by Israel. That's why I refuse to serve with an army consecrating such policy. Occupation and oppression are against my principles and conscience.'

On March 26, two members of the 'Red Front' movement in Israel, Daoud Turki and Ehud Adiv, were sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment on 'treason' charges. The 'Red Front', led by Adiv, who is an ex-paratrooper, and Dan Vered, a schoolteacher, was a left-wing political movement aiming to organize Jewish and Arab workers in solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle, and to work for the downfall of Zionism.

The Israeli authorities, assisted by the Zionist Press and by the bourgeois Press of the world, have tried to hide the political significance of the trial, and to pretend that it was an 'espionage ring'.

But Habib Kahwaji, with whom the group had been in contact, was not a Syrian 'spy-master', but a Palestinian political exile, maintaining contact with Arab groups inside Israel which had been driven underground by the authorities, and seeking to develop an 'Arab-Jewish Alliance' to wage the political struggle inside Israel.

There has been evidence that to help procure a basis for trials such as this one, the Israeli intelligence and security





service, Shin Bet, has been making use of *agents provocateur* to infiltrate left-wing groups and advocate adventurist or illegal tactics, as well as gathering names and information, so that arrests could be made.

In one case, a man was going around in left-wing circles complaining of 'too much talk', and saying it was time to 'take up the gun'. Subsequently, his friends were arrested—but he is still free.

There have also been reports of beatings and torture inflicted on the 'Red Front' prisoners. Mrs Felicia Langer, lawyer for one of them, Shauki Khatib, said after interviewing him at Yagur prison that her client had been beaten, threatened with castration and given electric shocks.

Besides Ehud Adiv, Dan Vered (who received ten years), and Rami Livneh, and the other 'Red Front' members, there is another group of Israeli Jews who will be 'celebrating' their country's 25th year of 'independence' in prison as a result of their political activities. They are five members of Siach, another left-wing movement, part of an original number of 80 arrested for taking part in a demonstration at the village of Akraheh last November.

Siach (Smol Chadash—'New Left') is a fairly moderate movement, mainly composed of students and kibbutzniks, which has not really broken from Zionism ideologically, but rejects the participation of the 'left' Mapam party in coalition

politics, and seeks to oppose the repressive policies of the Israeli government.

Last November, Siach members decided to hold a demonstration at the village of Akraheh, in protest at the Israeli authorities' treatment of the Arab villages. Shortly after the Six-Day War of 1967, the authorities had sealed off 5,000 dunams of land belonging to this village as a military training area. As time went by, and the land remained unused, the villagers began to replant it.

In the late spring of last year, Israeli planes were sent over to spray the fields with chemicals and destroy the crops. There was a public outcry over this as the news spread of what had been done. But the Zionists proceeded to set up a kibbutz, Nahal Gitit, on part of the confiscated land. This prompted the Siach demonstration.

The demonstrators distributed a leaflet in Arabic, which read:

TO THE INHABITANTS OF AKRABEH! GREETINGS!

We the undersigned are a group of Israeli leftists. It was with anger and shock that we received the news of the illegal acts the authorities committed in your village. Believe us—such acts, of which you are the victims, cause us deep sorrow and shame.

We consider ourselves loyal to the cause of our people and our state, but we firmly refuse to allow that the interests of the state of Israel and of the

Jewish people be founded on confiscation, spraying fields or expropriation of land belonging to Arab citizens for the erection of new settlements.

Dear brethren and neighbours, we want you to know that there are, in Israeli society, social and political forces which hope for the welfare and progress of both our people and yours, and are firmly opposed to the deeds of the authorities in spraying your fields, confiscating your land, and erecting a new settlement on it. We regard such actions as steps which can injure us as much as you, as they prevent and postpone the coming of peace we hope for, and as we recognize your right to this country and your right to live in it as a people, according to your own conscience and without interference.

We share your pain and sorrow, and we wish to hold protest meetings in order to express these sentiments.

We hope that these meetings will be a true expression of the feelings of every man of conscience in this country.

Accept our fraternal greetings!

I have given the text of this Siach leaflet in full, not because of any particular merit it possesses, but as an indication of its pacific character. It is hardly the stuff of revolution! In fact, in general, while making their protests, these 'men of conscience' around Siach have bent over backwards to appease Zionist 'public opinion', and not step too far out of line. This did not

prevent the Israeli authorities from arresting them, however, and making the above leaflet the grounds for a charge of 'incitement'.

On March 11, Col Victor Chazan, head of the military tribunal of the Military Administration of Nablus, handed down the sentence on the five Siach members—Aryeh Arnon and Eitan Michaeli, students from Jerusalem; Yossi Coten and Yitzhak Leer, students from Tel Aviv; and Yuval Golan, member of kibbutz Gan Shmuel; six months each, plus six months suspended sentence for a two-year period.

Siach supporters might like to believe that the interests of the state of Israel are not founded on confiscation, spraying of crops and expropriation of land for new settlements. The Israeli government knows better!

So do the Palestinian Arabs.

In March 1969, Moshe Dayan was asked by students at the Haifa Technion about the expropriation of Arab lands for Zionist settlement after the Six-Day War. Dayan, in one of his blunt soldier-settler moods, replied that it had always gone on: 'There is not a single Jewish village in this country that has not been built on the site of an Arab village. The village of Nahalal took the place of the Arab village of Mahloul . . . Gifat took the place of Jifta . . . —and Dayan went on to cite more.

Zionist propaganda has created the myth that Pales-

tine was just an empty land of desert and swamp till the settlers came. But on February 15 this year, Dr Israel Shahak, of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, released a special report showing that since 1948, the Israelis had destroyed some 385 Arab villages in the area of the state of Israel.

In the Jaffa area, for instance, 23 villages were destroyed. Another 20 were destroyed in the Haifa district and 28 around Lydda. Since the 1967 war, the process has been carried into the occupied territories.

It is a process of conquest. Contrary to their propaganda slogan, the Zionists came to a land full of people and created a people without a land.

It is on this conquest that the state was founded and it is this which has given it its character; making necessary the oppression, and the military occupation and the jailings—first of Arabs and now also of Jews who oppose the policies of aggression.

'A nation which oppresses others also forges its own chains.'

It is this foundation on conquest and oppression which also necessitates the big show of hardware on the streets of Jerusalem—expensive both in cash and in the political tribute extracted by American imperialism from its Israeli allies.

In common with the Palestinian masses and the Arab and Jewish prisoners in Israeli jails, we will not be celebrating the 25 years of the state of Israel.

SHOPWORKERS TAKE ACTION

A series by Bernard Franks
Part Twelve

The Tory pay limits for Phase Two of their permanent wage control system certainly mean an attack on the standard of living for every worker.

Consider the pay allowed under the £1 plus 4 per cent rule to workers on the following wages:

Present wage	£1+4%
£15	£1.60
£20	£1.80
£25	£2.00
£30	£2.20
£35	£2.40
£40	£2.60

The Tory claim that the poorly paid come off better because they get more in terms of percentages is rubbish. Workers do not pay for goods in percentages, but in cash.

Less money in the pay packet means less goods bought. Food prices have actually increased twice as fast after the implementing of the price 'freeze' than before it.

Still to come are council rent increases, rate rises stemming from the new property valuations, the Value Added Tax increases and the new rises due for eggs, butter, cheese, milk, meat and sugar.

In these circumstances the above wage increases constitute a savage wage-cut in real terms.

Without question, the last Labour government made an immense contribution towards the current Tory measures. Its policies included the period of severe restraint; the 'nil norm' for wages; the Prices and Incomes Board's attack on pay and employment; the productivity deals for speeding-up and 'rationalizing' work and eliminating thousands of jobs; a high unemployment level — pushed beyond the 600,000 mark; and the notorious 'In Place of Strife' document which laid down many of the systems that the Tories were later to incorporate directly into the Industrial Relations Act.

For just one example of Labour Party policy which affected shopworkers: In March 1967, a miserable increase in the basic minimum wage for workers in the retail drapery, outfitting and footwear was cut down by the Prices and Incomes Board.

Unprincipled opposition

Its report stated: 'We think that the proposed increases of 15s for men and 12s 6d for women are too high.' The Board allowed instead 12s for men and 10s for women, warning the organizations concerned to 'prevent the increase spreading throughout the trade'.

Still existing entirely uncondemned in the Labour Party leadership are those who wholeheartedly support the Common Market. Equally acceptable, apparently, are men who oppose entry on a completely unprincipled basis, from the same platforms also used by the fascists.

In this category the leaders of the Communist Party may

be included. They know nothing of working-class internationalism and instead base their opposition on the narrowest nationalist lines of defending British sovereignty and the 'British way of life'.

Some of the 'Morning Star's' Common Market cartoons would not have been out of place in the most extreme right-wing papers.

Today, the Labour Party and TUC leaders entirely condone the new Tory measures.

'Labour Weekly', the official newspaper of the Labour Party, commented on Phase Two:

'In some respects the Heath freeze goes farther than the Labour freeze and period of severe restraint. But this is because tougher action is needed. Inflation has been faster and price rises higher than in any period of the Labour government. The illness was worse so the cure must be stronger.'

Harold Wilson stated: 'We are prepared to ensure that the government gets its Bill through in reasonable time.' Victor Feather, head of the TUC, thought the Phase Two measures were 'slack on prices' but said that the unions would 'not be looking for trouble'. He is now preparing to go ahead to discuss Phase Three.

A spokesman for the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers criticized the fines saying: 'The only way they can make policies like this work is by getting the co-operation of trade unions. They will not do it by threatening, fining and sending them to prison.' ('Labour Weekly' January, 1973.)

Numerous union officials are already falling over themselves to offer yet more productivity from workers if more money is allowed.

What workers have left to sell after the previous round of productivity deals—elimination of tea breaks, speed-up of work and jobs destroyed—is not revealed.

Certainly, the Tories are preparing a new round of exploitation, but are not planning to pay anything for it.

Workers in retail trade continue to defend their rights and conditions. Like the 35 employees of John Banners' department store in West London, owned by Whiteleys—who occupied the store against the management's threats to close down and sack them—and like the 170 Mail Order and Bookshop staff of the London Stationary Office (Government Bookshop) who struck for three weeks against changes in their wages agreement.

Meanwhile, the list of men and women of all industries determined to resist any cut in their standard of living is growing daily.

Millions are demanding action to defend their basic rights, to defeat the Heath government and bring about total repeal of all the vicious anti-Labour laws.

In the past, union leaders have always made strenuous efforts to avoid important sections of workers taking industrial action at the same time so as to avoid anything that smacks of a General Strike. Now, however, the Tories' attempt to stem the flood of pay demands has brought millions of workers into direct conflict with the state all at the same time.

Far from seeking to mobi-



Shopworkers from Sainsbury's march through London in 1970 against proposed redundancies.

lize this great force to defeat the Tories, the union leaders continue to seek further collaboration with the government which can only bring the unions themselves closer to state control.

Action by workers can only be completely successful when the labour movement is purged entirely of the Labour traitors.

A Labour government pledged to socialist policies must be elected.

Those policies must include nationalization without compensation of all banks and all major industries, including the great wholesale and retail groups who control everything

we eat, wear and use.

Production and distribution solely for profit must be replaced by production and distribution for need completely under the control of the workers themselves.

Stranglehold of the banks

Such action would additionally free the small trader from the stranglehold of the banks and controlling wholesalers. At the same time the Co-operative Societies would be free

to develop into a truly socialist system of distribution.

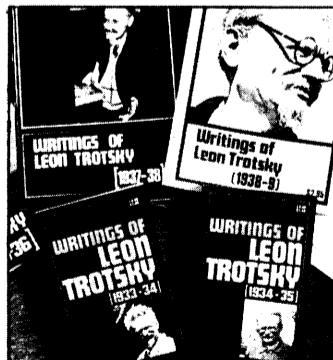
History shows that the working class in Britain is eminently capable of gathering the great strength required to contest capitalism's right to rule.

But history also shows irrefutably that without a tried and tested revolutionary leadership such tasks cannot be accomplished.

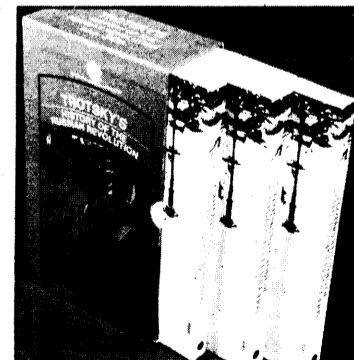
The construction of the revolutionary party of the working class is the primary task of all workers faced with the developing situation in which they now find themselves.

CONCLUDED

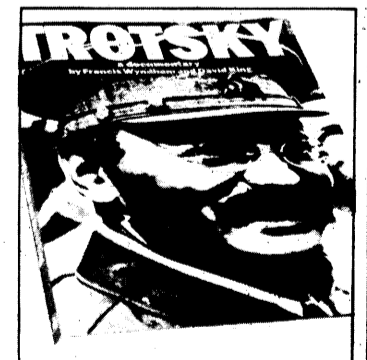
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BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

'THE SEARCH FOR THE NILE': Episode 6 Conquest and Death. Produced by Christopher Ralling. Directed by Richard Marquand. BBC 1.

'ON THE BUSES': Gardening Time. Director/producer Bryan Izzard. LWT.

'OUR KID': The Turn of the Worm. Director/producer Ian Davidson. Yorkshire.

'SEVEN OF ONE': I'll Fly you for a Quid. Producers James Gilbert and Sydney Lotterby. BBC 2.

'White men excel all others in goodness and wisdom', observed Henry Stanley, one-time American newspaper reporter, in an exchange with the King of Uganda. 'The Arabs bring you cloth and wire and beads and take you for slaves; we can make cloth and wire and beads — and cure sickness — and we will do away with slavery.'

It was assertions of this kind which heralded the blooming of the finest flowers of British imperialism and colonialism in the 19th century. It was men like Stanley, waving the flag of pious Christian zeal, which Livingstone had let fall on his death in 1873, who embodied rapacious obsession with the African interior and all it had to offer. And it was this imperialism which carried in its womb the seeds of crisis today, both here and in every part of modern Africa.

In 'The Search for the Nile' (last episode, Monday, May 7, BBC 1, 9.30), the BBC has seen fit to present its own portentous version of the British on the trail in Africa in the 19th century.

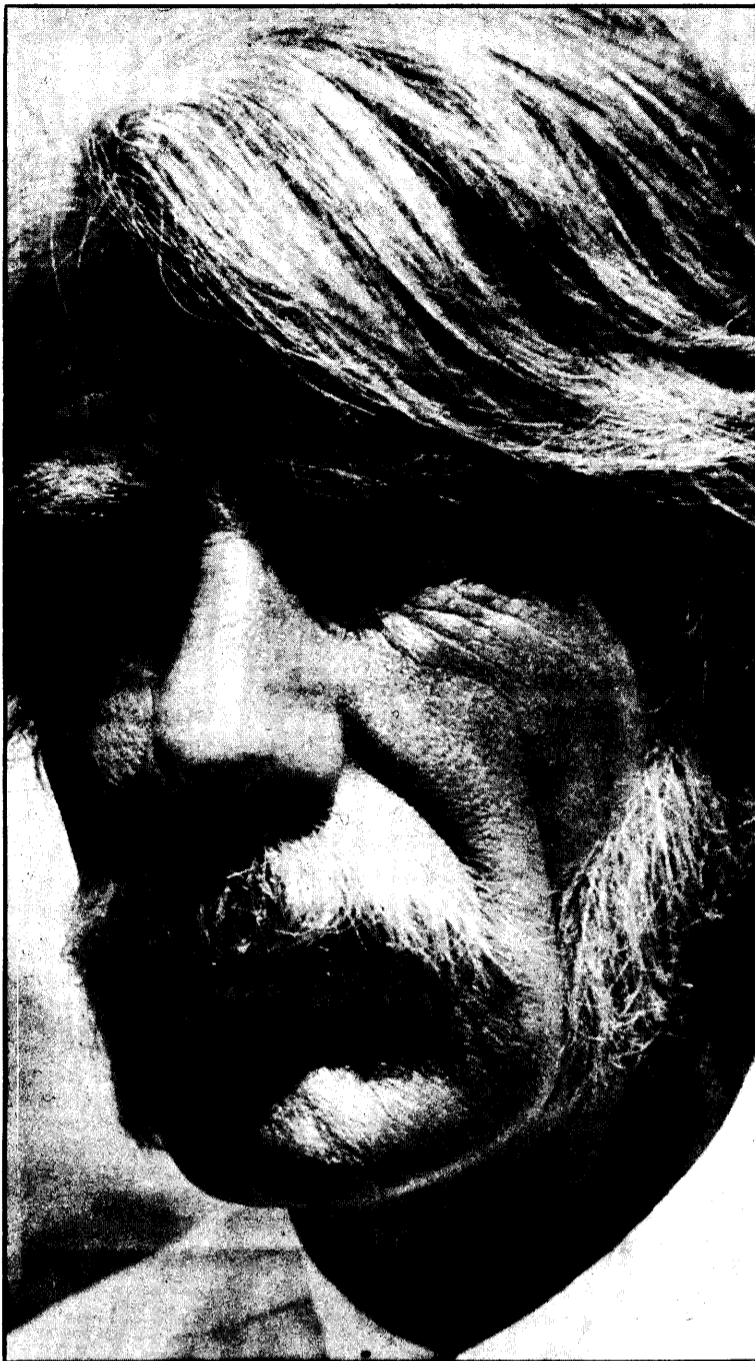
The last of this six-part drama documentary had, in common with the other episodes, the same one-sided view of events, the same golden tones of James Mason to add a touch of distinction as narrator. Along with some attractive filming on location, it tended to cover the same ground both physically and ideologically throughout.

It had about it the quality of sodden obsequiousness that hangs heavy about programmes on the daily doings of the royal family.

Only here we had Richard Burton and his dreary wife, Isobel, Henry Stanley, David Livingstone, Stanley Baker and John Hanning Speke all being given the human touch.

At various points in the tale we saw our heroes in their more intimate moments: at breakfast, in the bath or

BBC ON THE 19TH CENTURY TRAIL INTO AFRICA



Michael Gough who has some convincing moments as Dr Livingstone in the BBC series, 'The Search for the Nile'.

supping tea, even confessing to rare weaknesses ('It is DOUBT that I fear most', said Livingstone one sunny evening in darkest Africa).

But mostly we had to endure their heroism—persistent coverage of the treks against all odds, disease, savages, heat, flies and the rest; particularly the savages. Stanley knocked off scores of blacks in his determination to show them 'justly but firmly' who was Master.

Now and then we returned to London to the august meetings of the Royal Geo-

graphical Society and others who were in fanatical conflict over the burning question of the day: where was the source of the Nile?

And in this final episode there were frequent resorts to the desolate Burton and his wife as they pined away their days, scorned by society but nevertheless able to keep body and soul together, on their estate in Trieste where Burton was posted and spent his days writing copious diaries, anthropological notes and erotic stories and verse, which his misguided wife

burned to the last word after his death lest they should sully his name.

Michael Gough and Kenneth Haigh (despite the latter's unfortunate false beards) were the only members of the cast who managed to look anything but ludicrous and even had some convincing moments.

Mumbo-jumbo much of this stuff may be, but it is tricked out and dressed up as history—and as an authentic account at that.

This sort of idealism—tales of past glory in all forms—are recurring with frequency on our screens.

In presenting history as the hero's adventure, one man's trek to change the world, no mention is of course made of either the context in which he existed, nor of the currents and forces which both produced such men. Nor is there mention of what the implications of these events were and are.

Stanley, Livingstone, Burton, Speke and all the others like them came as the first trickle of the flood tide of European and American capitalists who poured into Africa, greedy for the resources, material and human, which such a vast land offered.

The latter part of the 19th century was the neatest carve up of Africa by the Europeans that could have been wished for by any democratic capitalist.

No mess, no noise, not much blood. Or so it was presented by the capitalists to their fellow capitalists.

They came under the flags of freedom, democracy, the abolition of slavery and the brotherhood of man—and every nuance of false morality that could be mustered.

The oldest capitalist nation pulled out every stop to glamour and sanctify its nefarious activities across the globe in the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s.

Of those hallowed names Speke was an ambitious militarist; Stanley, a firstborn son of pragmatism and the newest capital in the world; Livingstone, a well-meaning religious maniac, Burton, a mad egotist with literary pretensions.

But their significance lay not in their individual quirks and foibles but in their expression of that juggernaut, British 19th century capitalism, which not content with the wealth produced its own

repressed and exploited millions at home, travelled to the farthest corners of the globe in order to do the same with millions more.

WORKING CLASS IN COMEDY

Comedy is flourishing on television these days.

On Sunday nights there is the rare treat of three programmes in three series.

'On The Buses' takes the prize for the crudest, worst written and worst acted by a head start.

It takes place largely in a bus depot and the humour is heavily cockney, or the television conception of cockney, with lots of jokes about bikinis and lavatories and dialogue like 'Did you enjoy your dinner?'

'Yes, thank you—I could eat it for once.'

'Our Kid' is a pretty close runner-up, with two moronic Brummy brothers and the girlfriend trying to sort out who doesn't go to work.

The Ronnie Barker show ('Seven Of One' 8.15 p.m.) is on BBC-2, just in case the distinction isn't apparent, and is sharper, slicker, more articulate and just as objectionable.

This week showed Barker as a Welshman in a small community and as his dad who dies in bed, clutching the winning racing slip in his hand—so that the thing has to be wrested from his coffin by son and grandson, who are beset, as is the whole community, with gambling.

All three of these programmes have in common one thing: total contempt for the working class.

In varying degrees the comedy (if it can be dignified by such a title) is all drawn from playing on the imbecility of the working class in one part of the country or another.

All those taking part speak and act like morons—and the more moronic, the louder the laughs.

They are laced with anti-union jokes, reactionary and cynical in content.

Nothing could spell out more clearly than do these programmes that those now in control of television have consciously and deliberately chosen to act as the agents of reaction and repression for the most right-wing government of our era.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

US UNIONS

A Birmingham law lecturer stumbled like a babe in the woods into the US industrial relations scene recently—and was horrified by what he found.

Attending a conference of labour lawyers organized by the Detroit Bar Association, he was told by one delegate: 'If the employer had enough money I could guarantee to keep the union out for five years.'

The lecturer, Norman Selwyn, was moved to write about his experiences in the 'Birmingham Post' last week.

'I confess I was puzzled,' he wrote of his reaction to the US legal eagle's remark. "Why would you want to do that?" I asked. "Because that is the way we do things over here", he replied. "Don't you?" My negative reply puzzled him even more.'

To further Selwyn's educa-

tion, he was told the story of a big US union whose staff decided to organize a union to look after their interests. 'The trade union,' he wrote, 'fought its own employees with a fervour and viciousness which would have done credit to any business organization.'

RATES RISES

Small shopkeepers continue to be hit by rising rates. Two traders in Walkden, near Manchester, have complained to the Chamber of Trade that their rates payments have gone up 200 per cent in actual cash as a result of revaluation.

Early reports of the effects of revaluation had led to expectations of rate increases of between 35 and 45 per cent. But now reports are being received of much higher increases.

Local chambers of trade are compiling overall pictures of the effects of revaluation. The secretary of one of them, Mr Bernard Tennant of Bolton, says he expects to receive a 'massive' number of appeals against the new assessments.

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



THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL

NEW EDITION

The First Five Years of the Communist International
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Price: £1.50. 421 pages. Available from:
New Park Publications
186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG
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CARAVAN EXPLOITATION

People who take their holidays in caravans are demanding better conditions and rights. The newly-formed Holiday Caravan Action Club, led by Mr Arthur Parnell of Sheffield, wants to outlaw—among other things—eviction without redress and excessive site costs and rents.

One abuse Mr Parnell is fighting is 'key-money'. One site owner, he says, demands £20 key money when a caravan simply changes hands. It can cost £100 merely to site a caravan, then another £100 a year in rent.

The Action Club also complains of unfair sales practices. One caravan owner was

told to get off the site unless he bought a new van from the site owners, who were also caravan manufacturers. Other site owners are caravan salesmen who will not let anyone on the site without buying one of their vans.

The new organization also wants an end to cramped and muddy conditions. Some caravans, it says, are only eight feet apart, and many sites are not drained. Caravans should be at least 20 feet apart, claims Mr Parnell.

Yet another complaint is that many sites have poor fire precautions and that about two sites out of three have no electricity.

The Holiday Caravan Action Club wants electricity, adequate water, hard roads, showers, baths and washing and drying facilities on all sites.

Col Clifford Bennett, general secretary of the National Federation of Site Operators, which has nearly 2,000 members, says that 'a lot of rogue sites' give the whole industry a bad name.

'CASUAL' DOCKERS THE THIN END OF THE WEDGE

Shipowners and employers believe they have been handed a tactical advantage by dockers' shop stewards. And they are grabbing at it with both hands.

The advantage, they think, lies in the stewards' agreement to recruitment of 'casual', supplementary dockers by a firm associated with the big Ocean Transport and Trading group.

Supplementary dockers can be fired at a week's notice by either their immediate employer or the Dock Labour Board.

Permanent dockers, who can only be sacked for serious misconduct, and then only if their union agrees, fear 'casuals' will be used to undermine their solidarity and enforce speed-up.

The official policy of the docks trade group of the Transport and General Workers' Union is to oppose the growth of the supplementary register, which, when the Liverpool recruitment is completed, will contain more than 7 per cent of the docks labour force nationally.

But Tory Ministers are firmly committed to encouraging it—and shipowners are already moving in to demand the speed-

up they think can now be enforced on the docks.

Speaking to the annual meeting of the Liverpool Steam Ship Owners' Association last week, retiring chairman G. C. Beazley described the labour shortage situation in the port as 'ludicrous'.

There had been a much greater response than anticipated to the special severance terms recommended by the Jones-Aldington committee last year and as a result ship after ship was left lying idle in the port. Owners had no alternative but to take their ships away from the port.

The answer, Beazley claimed, was either recruitment to the supplementary register or an increase in the number of permanent dockers.

The union had been strongly opposed to supplementaries, but might now be ready to accept them under certain guarantees, Beazley understood.

The government 'naturally' frowned on an increase in permanent register since it had just spent £31m on severance.

Then Beazley let the cat out of the bag.

'One answer,' he said, 'is of course greater productivity with the labour we've got'.

He went on: 'One thing that appalls me is the misconceived idea of letting ships scheduled for Liverpool be routed elsewhere to reduce the volume of traffic moving through the port in order to bring the cargo flow more into line with the labour capacity to deal with it. This would mean financial suicide.'

'Because of delays in the turnaround of ships and berth congestion, several conferences have during the past two months imposed surcharges of up to 15 per cent on ships coming to Liverpool; this naturally weakens the competitive position of the port.'

'The docks company has recently merged three stevedoring companies with their own cargo handling division, which has caused dislocation of labour to some extent. But there is absolutely no excuse whatever for the appalling tonnage figures which greet our

freight departments each morning.'

'Bad time-keeping, idle time and restrictive practices all contribute to this. But it is no use hounding the docks company with destructive criticism. Good management and dynamic leadership is what is required.'

In an editorial comment, the 'Journal of Commerce' spelt out the kind of 'management' and 'leadership' that can now be expected from the port employers in response to this call.

There was too much 'fiddling and twiddling', the paper said in typically skinhead fashion.

Tougher discipline was needed.

Claiming that the 'welt', a system dating from wartime under which dockers relieve the workload on themselves, had reappeared, the paper called for 'an end to this system of feather-bedding'.

It went on: 'If tougher discipline is needed to ensure that dockers do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay—then management must get tough.'

'This is not something that can be done by trade unions; and enforcement of discipline is not the responsibility of shop stewards. It is a management responsibility.'

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce, also last week, Chamber president R. W. Johnson called on employers throughout industry in the area to follow a similar get-tough policy.

If the problems of the docks could be solved, many of the area's other problems would disappear, he said.

The Chamber firmly believed labour relations on the docks influenced other industries on Merseyside.

In other words, employers throughout the area are taking the acceptance of supplementaries by the docks stewards as a signal for all-out war on wages and conditions throughout industry.

The stewards' retreat before Tory intransigence has been taken as a green light. Clearly there are big dangers ahead.



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PICKET LIFTED BY POOLS STRIKERS

Strikers for union recognition at Empire Pools in Blackpool are awaiting management's response to a 'good-will' gesture.

They have withdrawn pickets from the premises for a month, starting last Monday, in a bid to get talks going with management.

Mayor of Blackpool, Raymond Jacobs, has offered the use of the mayoral parlour for management-union talks.

The strike began when the management withdrew recognition of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, which it conceded in the presence of a Department of Employment conciliation officer some months earlier.

More than 80 strikers, many of them women, began picketing the premises and attempted to draw part-time and weekend workers into their fight.

The firm countered by giving strike-breakers double bonus, free meals and transport to and from work.

Backing for the strikers came from USDAW itself, which gave official support and started paying strike benefit, and from many other sections of the working class, including Littlewood's and Vernon's pools workers from Liverpool.

The dispute itself is over recognition.

But the trade unionists at Empire Pools want to improve their wages and conditions,

which compare unfavourably with other pools firms.

At Empire the rate for a young worker of 21 before the strike was £12.80 for a 40-hour week. Weekday overtime rates were time and a quarter, rising to time and a half on Sundays. Sick pay was non-existent, and two weeks holiday a year was granted only after 12 months' service.

A trade union organized pools clerk, aged 19, gets £18.80 at Littlewood's for 36½ hours a week. Overtime is paid at time and a half, while for Sunday work double time is paid.

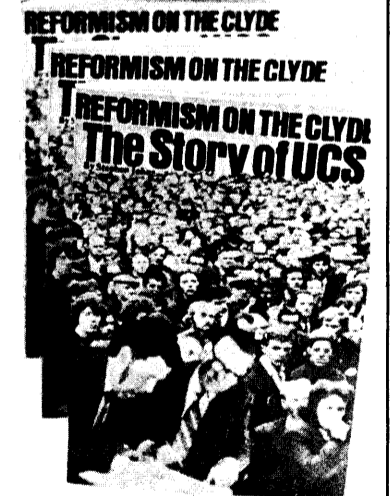
At the USDAW delegate meeting in Blackpool, a week last Saturday, there were calls for trade unionists to stop using the town as a conference centre because of the dispute. Delegates also joined the picket line.

But the union's north-west divisional officer, Jack Gardner, has now accepted the mayor's offer of a venue for talks and written to the management.

Although many of the strikers have been forced to leave the firm and look for other jobs, there are still at least 40 involved and drawing strike pay.

Union officers are stressing that despite the withdrawal of pickets the dispute remains very much on. Jack Gardner says that the picket has only been withdrawn for a month and will be put back on if the management fails to respond satisfactorily to the workers' demands.

LESSONS 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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TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.38-11.55 Schools. 12.15 Dechrau canu dechrau canmol. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 Pets and vets. 2.05 Schools. 3.10 Expedition North America. 3.35 Holiday 73. 4.00 Huckleberry Hound. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.05 Champion for the King. 5.40 Hector's house. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 **NATIONWIDE.**
6.50 **TOP OF THE FORM.**
7.15 **Z CARS.** Routine.
8.00 **PANORAMA.** The plight of Britain's handicapped.
9.00 **NEWS.** Weather.
9.25 **PLAY FOR TODAY: 'Steps Back'.** By David Halliwell. With David Hill and Harriet Harper.
10.15 **DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS.**
10.50 **MILO O'SHEA** in 'The Travelling Woman'.
11.20 **NEWS.** 11.25 **MAN IN HIS PLACE.**
11.50 **Weather.**

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.
7.05 **PARENTS AND CHILDREN.**
7.30 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.
8.00 **HIGH CHAPARRAL.** Once on a Day in Spring.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 World War I (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Scribble. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Schools. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Doing things. 3.25 Public eye. 4.25 Clapperboard. 4.50 The tomorrow people. 5.20 Thirty minutes worth. 5.50 News.

6.00 **TODAY.**
6.45 **DAVID NIXON SHOW.** Guests Ken Goodwin, Stromboli and Sylvia, Johnny Hart.
7.30 **CORONATION STREET.**
8.00 **BLESS THIS HOUSE.** Entente Not So Cordiale.
8.30 **WORLD IN ACTION.**
9.00 **PLAY: 'The Man in the Wood'.** With David Hedison, Isabel Dean, Mark Dignam, Jennifer Hilary.
10.00 **NEWS AT TEN.**
10.30 **WILD, WILD WEST.** The Night of the Bottomless Pit.
11.30 **ART OF THE CRAFT.**
12.00 **WORLD WAR I.**
12.25 **THANKLESS TASK.**

8.50 **FACE THE MUSIC.**
9.25 **FRANCIS HOWARD.**
11.05 **NEWS.** Weather.
10.10 **PHILPOTT FILE.** The Sporting Life. Part 1: The Hunter.
11.30 **OPEN DOOR.**

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.00 Schools. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Survival. 6.45 London. 10.30 Stanley Baxter. 11.03 Motor racing history. 11.23 Protectors. 11.50 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sports. 6.35 Date with Danton. 11.03 Happiness business. 11.50 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Schools. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 S is for ski-ing. 11.00 San Francisco. 11.55 News. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Epilogue.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Evil of Frankenstein'. 12.20 Weather. **HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 2.30-3.00 Hamdden. 6.01-6.22 Y dydd. 8.30-9.00 Yr wythnos. **HTV West as above except:** 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Gardening. 11.00 Film: 'The Wild One'. 12.25 Big question.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Romantic v classic art. 11.00 Man in a suitcase. 12.00 Epilogue. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Please don't eat the daisies. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.40 Film: 'The Shakedown'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.45 London. 10.30 Emmerdale farm. 11.25 Outsider. 12.20 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Yoga. 2.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'Ivy'.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 4.25 Superman. 4.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoons. 6.45 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 You pay your money. 11.05 O'Hara.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.00 Ed Allen. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Strictly Scottish. 6.40 London. 10.30 Romantic v classical art. 11.00 University challenge. 11.30 Odd couple. 12.00 Meditation.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

Merthyr Tydfil

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

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 International, Communist Manifesto.

Students fight the Tories

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE YOUNG Socialists Student Societies held their second national conference in London at the weekend.

After a five-hour debate on the main resolution, there was still a queue of speakers. The resolution stated, in part:

The Stalinist leadership of the National Union of Students (NUS) have done their utmost to keep the fight for grants away from the struggle to bring down the Tory government.

As students face huge increases in rents, prices and cost of books, the vital issue has been to campaign for an immediate cash supplementary grant. This has been opposed by the NUS leadership.

Instead they launched a protest action on grants to head off the militant feeling amongst students and deflect the fight from the direction of the Tory government.

Only the leadership given by the Young Socialists has provided a way forward for students. Our campaign for supplementary grants has already won enormous support.

The demonstration of 2,000 Hampshire students on the issue of supplementary grants and a



campaign to remove this Tory government won a lot of support from the trade union movement in the local area and laid the basis for a Council of Action.

We are confident that everywhere amongst students, there is great determination to fight back against all the attacks of the Tories.

This is why we will no longer

allow the betrayals of the Stalinist leadership of the NUS to go unanswered. At the NUS conference at Exeter, we stood a slate of YSSS candidates as a direct challenge to this treacherous leadership.

This is just the beginning of a campaign to build a revolutionary leadership throughout the student movement. We must build a

YSSS secretary Brian Prangle giving the main report to Saturday's conference.

leadership which will stand firm in the struggle for student autonomy, in the fight against the government's White Paper, and in the campaign for cash supplementary grants.

In every college and university throughout the country we must establish branches of the YSSS as part of the campaign to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party.

Everywhere we must lay the basis for a Marxist leadership in the universities not, as the revisionists maintain, just by joining with workers on picket lines, but by taking up the struggle for Marxist theory in the bourgeoisie's own territory.

In this way we will recruit the most serious layers of students and intellectuals into the revolutionary party, where they will strengthen the struggle to construct a Marxist leadership in the working class.

In the discussion Brian Prangle, YSSS secretary, said they had made a public declaration of war against those who would capitulate to the Tory government and those who thought that just by shouting loud enough at them, the Tories would give in.

Prangle said the democratic right to a decent higher education now under attack by the Tories, could only be defended in the common struggle to defend all the basic democratic rights of the working class now under attack.

This could only be done by a campaign to bring down the Tory government.

The May 21 NUS ultimatum to the Tories would be ignored, and Prangle warned that the June 8 NUS special conference would be used to try and wind down the grants campaign. It must be bombarded with resolutions and a lobby.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

MEETINGS

CRAWLEY: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Council for Social Service Hall, Station Road. 'Stalinism and the Struggle to defend democratic rights'.

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'.

CAMDEN: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Force the TUC to break off talks with the Tories'.

PADDINGTON: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. Prince of Wales, cnr Harrow Road/Great Western Road. 'The trades unions and the Tory government'.

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'.

DUNDEE: Thursday, May 17, 7.30 p.m. YMCA, Constitution Road.

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'.

LANCASTER: Thursday May 17, 7.30 p.m. Trades Hall, Fenton Street (near GPO). 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'.

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

ACTON: Monday May 21, 8 p.m. 'Six Bells', High Street, W3. 'Force the TUC to break off talks with the Tories'.

LEWISHAM: Monday May 21, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'.

BATTERSEA: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. 'Nags Head', cnr Wandsworth Road/North Street. 'The economic crisis and the rising cost of living'.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'The inflationary crisis and the rising cost of living'.

TOTTENHAM: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', High Road, nr White Hart Lane.

HACKNEY: Wednesday May 23, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, Mare Street. 'Build the Revolutionary Party'.

ABINGDON: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. Above New Top Taxis, Ock Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'.

LUTON: Thursday May 24, 8 p.m. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Road. 'Force the TUC to break off talks with the Tories'.

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**MAY FUND
NOW £348.48
A LONG
WAY YET**

WE ARE almost at half way through the month, but still a long way from raising half our £1,750 target.

Of course we realize that you, dear readers, are trying to raise two Funds this month and that it is a tough struggle. But we feel that in this political situation, an extra effort is really needed.

The Watergate affair has produced an unprecedented crisis within the United States. The scandal has created panic on the money markets so that now gold stands at nearly \$100 an ounce and on Wall Street there is heavy spending.

A major crisis such as this must shake the world. And in this political situation, only Workers Press is prepared. Right from the start we have been able to explain the consequences of this event.

Our paper therefore is vital today. More than ever we must prepare workers for the struggles ahead. So please dig deep into your pockets. Try and raise extra amounts to keep our May Fund riding high. We know you can do it. Post all your donations immediately to:

Workers Press
May Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG.

All Trades Unions
Alliance Meeting

What next after the
miners' ballot?

The fight against the
Tory government

CASTLEFORD

Thursday May 17, 8 p.m.
Sagar Street Rooms

Speaker: G. Healy (SLL
national secretary)

RIGHT-WING DOMINATES CONGRESS OF EUROPE

**Feather boost for
corporatist Europe**

BY IAN YEATS

'I AM glad to be here,' TUC general secretary Mr Victor Feather told the Congress of Europe at London's Guildhall at the weekend. Seated on either side were right-wing MP Mr Duncan Sandys—son-in-law of Congress co-founder Sir Winston Churchill, and Labour right-winger Mr Roy Jenkins.



FEATHER . . . Sowing seeds of European corporatism

In the corporatist-style audience were delegates from the right-wing European Movement, right-wing MPs like Monday Club member Mr Julian Amery, Liberal Mr Peter Hain, Stalinist Giorgio Amendola, a member of the Italian Communist Party central committee, and representatives from fascist Spain.

Feather concluded: 'I wish your conference well. I look forward to your conclusions. I hope we will sow a seed or two which will bear fruit in years to come.'

PREVIOUS TUC STATEMENT

He went on: 'And I give you this assurance, that we in the trade unions share your purposes so long as they are built on social equity and progress, so long as your Europe is outward looking and free.'

But on January 1 a TUC statement on Britain's entry into the Common Market said:

'The safeguards which the TUC have called for have not been obtained. It is against this background that the TUC has declared its opposition to entry which is, moreover, taking place without the assent of the electorate.'

So who gave Feather a mandate to appear at the Guildhall? For that matter, who gave him a mandate to accept the presidency of the European TUC?

The Common Market is a counter-revolutionary conspiracy aimed at uniting and strengthening the European bourgeoisie against the working class.

Feather knows that no government in Europe is bringing about 'social equity and progress'. On the contrary social democracy is breaking up and the capitalists are preparing for a showdown with the working class.

Not only did he appear at the Guildhall in the company of some of the most reactionary political forces in the Common Market, but he also called for social democracy to link hands with them in a new 'big Europe'.

Relations between nations, said Feather, were similar to those between trade unions and employers. Problems could be solved through 'traditional methods of compromise, conciliation and agreement'.

He went on: 'Those few western European governments who by their actions deny our purposes, transgress our common ethic, should pay particular attention to our discussions, for they have much to learn from them. If they do not learn, trade unionists will reject their association with us.'

'Those who have power and authority, or even influence, within the structure of society on both sides of the line which divides us need the illumination and the inspiration which comes out of such discussions. And



HEATH . . . Mutual interests

their peoples need freedom to speak and act as reason and conscience demand.'

Shortly after Feather ended his plea for a new big family of Europe, Tory leader Edward Heath warned that the Common Market was a vehicle for serving the mutual interests of its members.

In the new language of trade war, he added that Britain's entry must inevitably involve a redefinition of relationships between western Europe, North America and Japan.

**Welsh TUC
set up**

TWO HUNDRED Welsh trade union representatives meeting in Aberystwyth, mid-Wales, at the weekend reaffirmed a decision taken in February to set up a Welsh Congress of Trade Unions despite original opposition from the British TUC.

It will come into operation on January 1, 1974, with head-quarter offices in Cardiff.

Mr George Wright, regional secretary-designate of the T&GWU, who has been appointed secretary *pro tem*, said:

'Providing we can now secure agreement on minor points with other trade union bodies in Wales, we can say that we have created the most effective, co-ordinating trade union machine in the history of Wales.'

'We intend to exercise a great measure of vigilance and to agitate to prevent any further damage to the Welsh economy.'

He told the conference it was not the intention to act as separatists to the British TUC.

'It is a nation and a country with a separate culture, separate language and separate problems,' he said.

The longest debate at the three-hour conference was on the name of the Congress. A request had been made by the British TUC not to use the name Congress.

An amendment to call the movement 'Wales TUC' was defeated.

**Belfast yard workers 'determined
as ever'**

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS
IN BELFAST

'But we are determined to hold out for our just rewards.'

When asked about the political implications of the demands which management says are in direct conflict with the Tories' Phase Two pay policy, Mr Scott said people could put whatever interpretation they liked on their actions.

So far McGarvey has failed to back his Belfast members and has demanded a return to work.

The dispute is now threatening the finishing trades and general workers in the yard.

Lay-offs of these sections have so far been avoided by a special working committee which is trying to prevent total closure.

A shutdown of Harland & Wolff would be a major crisis for Belfast and for the Protestant working class, whose relative prosperity depends on the yard.

So far the government has taken a tough line refusing to intervene in the dispute.

Chancellor Anthony Barber

has turned down a further demand from the boilermakers for parity with English steel trades workers who earn between £6 and £8 a week more than men at Harland & Wolff.

Anger has also been raised over a decision by the Belfast Social Security office not to pay the sacked men unemployment benefit. They have accepted management's claim that the men were dismissed for industrial misconduct.

This has led to an outcry from politicians like the Rev Ian Paisley who depend on Protestant working-class votes.

But so far the Loyalist Association of Workers, which has a strong following in the yards has refused to comment directly on the dispute.

**Fife coalface worked at extreme
safety limit**

RECOVERY operations were still going ahead yesterday for the bodies of the last two of the five miners killed in the Seafield colliery, Kirkcaldy, East Fife.

Five men died and four more were injured when part of the coal face roof collapsed last Thursday.

The 1 in 1.5 gradient of the coalface at Seafield is one of the steepest coal faces in Britain and is the National Coal Board's extreme safety limit for working with mechanical equipment.

Traditionally most of Britain's coal has been mined from flat-bed or slightly inclined seams. But as these seams have been worked out, 'gradient' mining

has become increasingly important, particularly at Seafield, Scotland's largest pit.

One of the main safety problems in gradient mining is the extreme difficulty of standing upright on a steeply inclined slope.

A mining engineer told the 'Observer': 'Your body is under stress of gravity the whole time. Miners working a flatbed seam don't have this energy problem.'

'With the gradient mining, there is always the possibility of an error of judgement in handling machinery . . .

'The other main safety pro-

blem is the danger that if there is a fall, rock will slide down along the coalface on to other men working there.'

The Dysart Main D22 section of the colliery, 1,600 ft below the Firth of Forth was only opened three weeks ago.

At the time of the accident a team of 22 miners was operating two mechanical shearers—one at each end of the 550 ft-long face. The accident occurred when a 195 ft stretch of roof collapsed, crushing some miners and trapping others beneath buckled roof supports.

Row over Mersey 'casuals'

A MEETING of 2,000 Liverpool dockers ended in uproar yesterday after stewards declared a motion accepting the introduction of 500 supplementary dockers into the port had been carried. Supporters of the Communist Party and others tried to frighten dockers into believing that if the supplementaries were not taken on, the whole port could close within 16 months.