

## Employers in conference hear plan

# A WITCH-HUNT AGAINST BUILDERS

From Stephen Johns

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The discussion was based on a confidential report naming militants and their organizations prepared by the Tory-backed Economic League. An Economic League representative is travelling to the Dutch city to deliver the dossier—'Subversion in the building industry'.

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The conference is organized by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

Representatives of the giant contractors like Wimpey's, McAlpine's, Cubitt's and Laing's will be present as well as delegates for the thousands of small firms in the industry.

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The hawks are the smaller contractors who rely largely on 'lump' labour to survive.

'Lump' workers are men who scorn the union—technically 'self-employed', they represent a threat to workers in the industry because they operate in sub-standard conditions and are a potential blackleg force.

The National Federation's new president Bill Paton, a small builder from Ayr.

Scotland, recently defended the lump in an interview:

'Labour-only ['lump'] is within the working rules and self employment is attractive to a very large number of hard-working craftsmen full of initiative.'

Paton also attacked 'violence and intimidation' in the industry.

The campaign to destroy militancy within the industry is very much part of the general offensive launched by the ruling class and Tory government against all trade unions and their members who stand up for their rights.

It cannot be answered by building workers alone, but only by the whole trade union movement mobilized to bring down the Tories.

This is the way to turn the witch-hunt against the witch-hunters.

## £100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

WE'RE keeping the pressure up. Yesterday's post pulled in £173.44, which brings our total to £48,427.59.

Can we reach £50,000 by next Monday (June 11)? It's going to be a hard struggle, but we are sure it can be done.

Sunderland £10; Southwark £27; Lancaster £9.20;

Todmorden £10.25; Southampton £4; Bristol £11.50; Willesden £15; London SLL members' meeting £74.49; Equity members £12.

Post all donations to:  
Party Building Fund  
186a Clapham High Street  
London SW4 7UG

## SITE STOPS TO DEFEND STEWARD

ALL 90 DIRECTLY-employed building workers at the MacInerney site in Seven Sisters' Road, north London, have been on strike since last Thursday over the sacking of shop stewards.

Three weeks ago the site was visited by men from the World's End Site, which Cubitt's have abandoned. A works' committee was set up, which had its first meeting last Wednesday.

At a site meeting last Thursday a convenor was elected and it was decided to enforce 100 per cent trade unionism at the site.

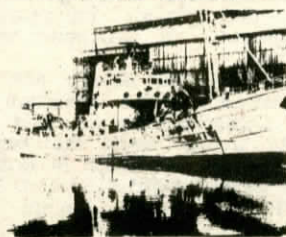
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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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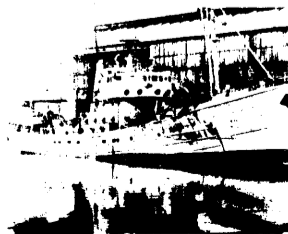
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# A whiff of 'Watergate' in the Elysee?

PRESIDENT Georges Pompidou, whose health has become a subject of major speculation in France, has cancelled his participation at all receptions outside the Elysee presidential palace until further notice.

Informed sources said the 61-year-old president will not attend four receptions scheduled in the coming weeks. In the past few days Paris newspapers have called for an official statement on Pompidou's health.

Presidential spokesmen have gone no further than to announce that Pompidou has suffered from influenza this winter.

But there have been persistent unofficial reports that he is receiving cortisone and cobalt ray treatment.

Pompidou has visibly put on weight lately and has shown occasional difficulty in walking.

The agitation over his health has come to a head less than a fortnight after he had announced his determination to prevent at all costs the return of 'the regime of parties'.

This hint of a move to-

wards full-blown personal dictatorship has met with less than total approval, even among his coalition partners, led by Giscard d'Estaing, the Finance Minister.

There is also a whiff of financial scandal in the air.

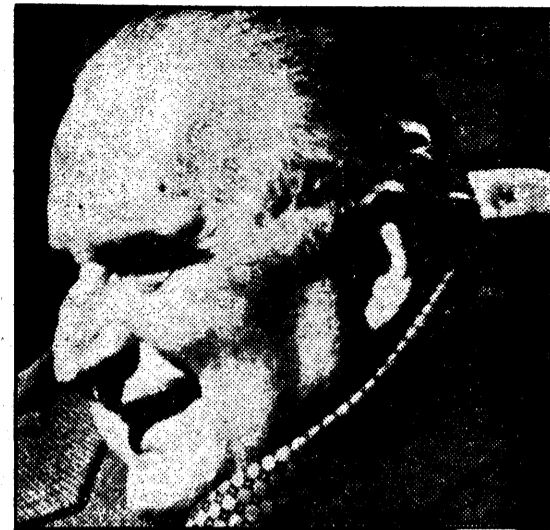
In a lengthy lead story under the headline 'Could a Watergate happen in France?', the Paris newspaper 'Le Monde' asks what would happen if such a scandal came to light.

The article refers to the 'hypothetical' receipt through the post of a financial document personally implicating the president or the premier.

'Let us suppose,' it says, 'that the person in question, using perfectly legal means, had paid not a penny in tax the previous year.'

This obscure hypothesis is developed at length and in detail.

Whether or not this has any direct significance the fact that the paper leads on the question of a French Watergate at a time of presidential crisis demonstrates considerable unease in ruling circles.



## President defies Watergate prosecutor

# Nixon clamp on evidence

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT NIXON has refused to provide White House 'logs' recording details of his conversations with close advisers to the Watergate special chief prosecutor Archibald Cox.



PROSECUTOR COX

The refusal has drawn a sharp protest from Cox, who said he expected to see the logs and pointed out that he had only taken the prosecutor's job on condition he would be given access to everything.

Nixon's refusal follows the testimony of John Dean III, his former counsel, who said he had talked at least 35 times with the President about the Watergate cover-up.

The White House 'log' contains records of all these conversations. Refusal to provide Cox with the records seriously compromises Nixon's previous assertion that the special prosecutor would have full powers to investigate.

It indicates plainly that Nixon has much to hide and is straining the limits of 'executive privilege' to try and keep the bloodhounds out of his parlour.

Within Cox's team of prosecutors there are deep divisions. He has made it known that Assistant Attorney-General Henry Petersen, his predecessor in charge of Watergate investigation, will himself be investigated.

Cox has already been rebuffed by the Senate Watergate committee of inquiry, headed by Senator Sam Ervin. He had formally requested the Ervin committee to suspend hearings for three months to avoid impairing his case.

Ervin replied that the Justice Department had already had nearly a full year to bring the guilty men to justice and it was now up to the Senate to play its role.

FIRST WITNESS in the reopened inquiry yesterday was Mrs Sally Harmony, who was secretary to convicted Watergate burglar Gordon Liddy when he was legal counsel to the President's re-election committee.

The committee is considering speeding up its investigations by bringing forward the testimony of some of the more important witnesses and leaving the small fry until later.

The latest sensational revelations in the Watergate affair concern Republican plans to establish a call-girl ring to pry secrets out of leading Democratic politicians.

## Nixon's friends

THE TORRENT of Watergate has become so profuse that you may have overlooked a minor, but nevertheless influential Nixon follower, C. Arnholt Smith.

Smith is a long-time Republican contributor and owner of the San Diego Padres, a major league baseball team.

But it is Smith's banking activities which have suddenly come to light. The Securities and Exchange Commission have accused Smith of looting the assets of the Westgate California Corporation, of which he was chairman.

The charges are that Smith violated Federal Securities Laws in a complex series of allegedly fraudulent transactions. The SEC

says Smith created false profits for Westgate, including the publishing of false and misleading statements.

According to the SEC it led to the inclusion of \$17.5m of bogus profits between 1969 and 1972. Behind this camouflage of phoney accounts, Smith and other directors converted Westgate cash for their own use.

A suit has been filed in the US District Court, San Diego, bringing a temporary injunction against Smith as well as the appointment of a receiver for his financial conglomerate.

The 74-year-old financier is described as 'one of President Nixon's oldest friends and political backers'.

In the presidential election last year Smith contributed \$50,000 towards Nixon's re-election.

## Comecon to consider Common Market ties

PRIME MINISTERS of most of the nine countries in Comecon, the East European economic and trading bloc, met in Prague yesterday for a summit due to mark a new stage of economic development.

The talks are thought likely to deal largely with technical questions, but one major item on the agenda will concern the development of closer relations with the Common Market.

Main task of the meeting, which is due to end on Friday,

is to lay down future guidelines for the group's two-year-old programme of economic integration.

Czechoslovak deputy premier Frantisek Hamouz, chairman of the Comecon executive, said the talks would 'mark the beginning of a new stage in economic development'.

Hamouz said detente in Europe had set two tasks before Comecon: speeding up its own integration and extending economic co-operation with other European countries.

## Allende halts copper exports

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

CHILE HAS suspended shipments of copper, its main export commodity, as a result of strikes at two of the main mines in the country. The Popular Unity coalition headed by President Salvador Allende called off exports—destined mainly for Britain and West Germany—at least for the month of June.

In the Andean mining town of Rancagua, population 130,000, hundreds of troops and paramilitary police were on the streets as strikers burned barricades in the pre-dawn darkness.

The strikers at the nearby El Teniente mine walked out seven weeks ago for a pay rise. They clashed with police shortly after the strike began and the area was declared an emergency zone under military control.

In northern Chile, at least half the workers at the giant Chuquicamata mine, employing 10,000 men, are on strike in sympathy with the El Teniente workers. Chuquicamata is the world's largest opencast copper mine.

The strike at El Teniente has led to one death—a striker shot last week by a military escort to a column of workers' buses who failed to obey an order to halt, police said.

His funeral was attended by 7,000 people who then clashed with police and troops, hurling dynamite, firing guns, lighting fires and blowing up the offices of several pro-government parties. Eighty-six people were jailed and two policemen were taken to hospital.

At the root of the dispute lies a claim by the strikers—7,000 of a work force of 12,000—that they were cheated of a pay rise. Late last year the government granted all wage-earners in Chile a rise of nearly 100 per cent to match the rocketing cost of living.

But the El Teniente management discounted from this a 41 per cent rise the men had been given under a local agreement providing monthly cost-of-living increases. The strikers insist this money must be included in their pay.



ALLENDE . . . Attacking copper miners.

## Farmworkers' shorter week—in 1974

FARMWORKERS in England and Wales were yesterday awarded a two-hour cut in their working week—from 42 to 40 hours—by the Agricultural Wages Board.

But the shorter hours will not come into effect until January 1974, 12 months from the date of their last pay award which gave them a wage of only £19.50 a week.

And even that miserable award was held up until April 1 by the Tory government's state pay laws.

Now the 40-hour week will operate on any five days between Monday and Saturday, and not from Monday to Friday, as the farmworkers wanted.

Mr John Davies, chairman of the National Farmers' Union Employment Committee, which had opposed the claim, said the

award would be taken into account in future pay negotiations.

Farmworkers' Union President Mr Bert Hazell said that no claim had been drawn up, but there was still an instruction from the union conference to demand £25 a week.

The union would present that claim, he said, 'when the time comes'.

# Tories defreeze frozen food prices

**INCREASES** in the price of frozen foods, chocolate, sweets and cake mixes have been agreed by the Price Commission.

The price of Quick Frozen Foods manufactured by Birds Eye and Smethurst Foods will go up by an average of 6.08 per cent.

The manufacturers say the increases are due to the higher

cost of meat, fish and vegetables.

Sugar and chocolate confectionary made by Callard and Bowser will go up on average by 8.7 per cent and packaged cakes made by McVities and Cadbury Cakes will rise by 4.84 per cent.

'Appletree', an apple desert mix made by Cadbury Schweppes will rise by 7.9 per cent.

All the price changes are effective on dates ranging

from June 11 to July 4.

The Commission also gave the go-ahead to International Printers to charge 7.5 per cent more for contractual printing, binding, litho plate-making and process block making.

Johnson and Nephew (Steel) have been granted an immediate 1.1 per cent increase in the prices of wire and wire products.

And BOC Transhield will raise their warehousing and

distribution charges at once by 7.5 per cent.

A 4.52-per-cent rise in the price of transport and related services provided by SPD will mean a 7.67 per cent increase to customers who have not had price changes in the past nine months.

GKN Forgings and their subsidiaries will raise the price of their products by 5.19 per cent. They blame the cost of Common Market raw materials.

FOR INFORMATION

## LETTER SENT TO CP

Monday June 4, 1973

Dear Comrade,  
In view of the considerable interest in the political differences between the Socialist Labour League and the Communist Party, the London Area Committee of the Socialist Labour League invites a representative of the Communist Party to debate:

'That the policies of the British Communist Party are derived from the policies of Stalinism'.

Awaiting your reply,  
Yours fraternally,  
Sheila Torrance,  
London Area  
Secretary of the  
Socialist Labour  
League.

## An industrial reporter looks at the latest 'AUEW Journal'

HUGH SCANLON, engineers' president, is already preparing his 'left' cover with which to face his own union members over next week's government - TUC talks on Phase Three.

The AUEW national committee passed a resolution in April instructing the executive, including Scanlon, to press the TUC not to participate in any discussions with the government on any form of wage freeze.

Scanlon will be enthusiastically taking part in just such discussions a week today at Downing Street.

Although Scanlon partly covered himself at the National Committee by getting the mover's agreement that the motion did not preclude him from taking part in any Downing Street talks, he is still feeling acutely the pressure on him from the branches who want the talks to be broken off.

In the latest editorial in his union journal, Scanlon tries more 'left' words to allay fears of a sell-out.

'We have made it quite clear that any improvement in relations between the TUC and the government must include the non-operation of the Industrial Relations Act.'

But what use is this assurance when Scanlon has not retracted one word of his statement to the Parliamentary Press Gallery lunch in March? He said then: 'Two amendments to the Industrial Relations Act could offer a way forward for co-operation with the Tory government.'

The two amendments were for a return of tax concessions and an end to private prosecutions in the National Industrial Relations Court. But the essence of the state control of the unions would remain.

Scanlon goes on: 'If at the end of it all we are unable to reach a settlement, then we cannot have the same sort of fiasco we had under [Phase Two] . . . Congress must be prepared in the event of failure or rejection to determine what action must be taken by the movement.'

'On the basis of the above [action on rents, prices, pensions, the lower paid, etc.] we are prepared to go ahead and seek agreement, but if such agreement proves impossible then the whole movement must face up to the consequences.'

But Scanlon made exactly the same sort of speeches before and during the previous talks with the government prior to the abolition of free collective bargaining by the pay laws.

He made similar speeches about the importance of not letting the gasworkers or the hospital workers go down to defeat because of the crippling blow it would deal to the whole anti-Phase Two pay struggles.

But in the end, nothing whatever was done to ensure the government's defeat by industrial action, not even when the March 5 Special Congress gave a specific mandate to the TUC to carry out exactly such a campaign. And chief among the non-implementers of that Congress decision was Hugh Scanlon.

The refusal of the TUC's Finance and General Purposes Committee — on which Scanlon sits — to back the hospital workers' struggle led to them abandoning their struggles.

The consequences of this betrayal have led to further collaboration with Phase Two — four unions representing the hospital workers have taken their case to the Tories' Pay Board.

# Scanlon prepares to cover collaboration



**ALAN FISHER**, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, describes the hospital unions' approach to the Pay Board on Monday as 'constructive realism'.

After meeting Derek Robinson, deputy board chairman, he said the unions had seen him 'in the genuine belief that the board is capable of making recommendations to the government that will solve some of the problems left by the strike'.

Both Fisher and Charles Donnet, national officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, recoiled from the Union of Post Office Workers' description of its attitude in deciding to go to the board — 'armed neutrality'.

From a later comment of Fisher ('We are taking the government at its word and testing their sincerity'), it can be assumed that it is the suggestion that they are in any way 'armed' that they were objecting to. Both men claimed to believe the corporatist board was really 'independent'.

Monday's meeting with Robinson was not the first time union leaders representing some large groups of workers have been in to see the board, Fisher and his colleagues were told. But they were not told the names of their predecessors.

It will not be the last time Fisher, Donnet and the other members of Monday's delegation (Peter Evans, Transport and General Workers' Union, and David Williams of the Confederation of Health Service Employees) go in. A meeting is to be arranged before mid-September, when Robinson is due to report to the government, on



the question of low pay throughout the public service.

After Monday's meeting, Fisher warned that if the government ignored what he anticipated the Pay Board might tell it on these issues, they could assume major political and social importance.

'We had our strike', the NUPE secretary said. 'Now we've turned to the negotiating table. But if the government don't listen to the Pay Board, they're heading for serious industrial trouble.'

## Fisher justifies his trip to the Pay Board

## UPW branch hits at general secretary

THE COVENTRY Amalgamated Postal Branch of the Union of Post Office Workers has condemned general secretary Tom Jackson for his witch-hunting outburst at the recent UPW conference.

'His insinuations that the Communist Party, Socialist Labour League and International Socialists were plotting to subvert the union and that these groups had nothing to give the union,' it says 'are absolutely false and entirely without evidence.'

'We believe that trade unionists have a fundamental democratic right to engage in political

discussion and campaigns, whether those politics be Labour, Communist or Trotskyist.

'We demand the general secretary publicly retracts his statement and that he dissociates himself from the lurid story in the "London Evening News" of a plot to take over the union.'

'Failing that, we demand the members of the executive council publicly speak out in defence of democratic rights.'

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# TRANSFORMING THE SOC INTO A REVOLUTIONARY

## THE DISCUSSION GOES ON

### 'Joining the League—that's only the start'

Margaret Alcock (25), a housewife from Shirley, Surrey, who has two children aged seven and four, recently joined the Socialist Labour League together with her husband Steve. She says:

I used to discuss politics with my father. We talked about the Tory government and how bad it was even to live on the wages that were being brought in. The Tories ruin your life for you. They are just a government for people who are out to make money for themselves. They are not for us at all.

We talked about how the Labour government had been no better and something else was needed. So I decided to go one step further and I started to go to some Socialist Labour League classes.

I soon realized that the Workers Press was, and still is, the only paper to print the truth about the fights of the working class.

In March I went to Wembley to see the Pageant of History which was organized by the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists. This showed how the working-class struggled to build trade unions and how they were shot by the army while trying to fight for their rights.

If they could fight then for what they believed in, and win, so can we.

I realized something had to be done. It wasn't enough to sit at home and think about it.

The working class is strong enough to fight. It was the strength of the working class that got those dockers out of prison last year.

Then there was the miners' strike in 1972. There was tremendous support for them in the working class. Everybody knew they deserved the money. Again the strength of the working-class frightened the government and they gave way. But they only gave them a little bit, just enough to keep them quiet.

The working class can't do everything on their own. They have to have leadership.

The Labour Party isn't for the working class. They never vote for any socialist policies at all.

They let the Tory government do exactly what it likes. The Labour MPs just sit back. They are getting their money for nothing. They are not particularly bothered what the working class thinks of them. We are never going to change them.

The Socialist Labour League says we should return a Labour government committed to socialist policies. We should, but we've got to have someone else. We've got to be in a position to say that if they don't carry out socialist policies



we can remove them and put other people in.

The only way anything is going to be gained for the working class is by nationalizing the industries. Otherwise we'll just get stamped further and further into the ground.

I've started to do door-to-door selling of Workers Press and sometimes it's a bit disheartening. People say: 'One's just as bad as the other and what good will you do?'

But you still keep going, you can't give up.

People are disillusioned because the Labour Party hasn't done anything for the working class.

They go out to work but they can't get wage rises and the Labour Party doesn't support them.

The only way to change this is to build the revolutionary party that will go in and fight for the working class. Workers will respond as long as they can see something being done.

The trade union leaders don't give them that lead. They are not interested in working-class conditions. They live off the working class but don't lead a fight. They haven't got any principles.

It's not going to be easy to develop the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. The job will be to convince workers that something



Margaret Alcock. Above: The working class is strong enough to fight. It was the strength of the working class that got those dockers out of prison last year.

is being done. For so long they've seen their rights taken away. The first thing is to convince them that it's going to work, that it's not just another thing to get their support and then drop them.

I agree with all the basic things that I've heard about the Socialist Labour League and I'm sure that people are looking for another leadership.

Once the revolutionary party starts and people get to know about it, there'll be big support.

I can see a General Strike developing as things get worse. Neither side is just going to give up.

The capitalists have got too much to lose to just say 'All right, we'll step down, you can have it'.

There won't be a peaceful transition to socialism. I don't believe that for a minute.

Once the working class has gone that far, they're not going to back down either. The working class are the stronger of the two. They are not going to be driven back to bread and water.

They are stronger than they were in 1926. That's where the revolutionary party has to step in. It has to take over. They've got to be able to lead the working class through.

That's what was missing in 1926 when the union leaders let them down. We've got to

# SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE Y PARTY



At the Pageant of History, Emple Pool, Wembley last March: In the past workers 'could fight for what they believed in and win, so can we.'

make sure that doesn't happen this time.

People have got to start sticking up for their rights now.

There are lots of people who think like me. That is, there are a lot of people thinking like I was 18 months ago. I was thinking then that something had to be done, but I didn't know what.

I didn't know then that the Socialist Labour League existed. There must be thousands of people like that. The job of the Socialist Labour League is to get out and bring all these people together.

Then you've got to educate them. You can't just leave them in the position they are in.

My job, as a new member of the Socialist Labour League, is to go and find others. New members have got to go out and push the Workers Press and do all the other things that they stand for.

They've got to find out more about Marxism. Nobody has learned it all.

I've got to educate myself. I've got to understand things so I can go to other people to win them to the revolutionary party.

You can't just sit back and say 'I've joined, and that's it'. That's only the start.

## 'Unite the working class in a political fight'

John Tomlinson is a Hull engineer who has a background of some reading of Marxism. Now he has decided to take an active role in building the revolutionary party.

My father was a railwayman and I grew up in a solid working-class background. At 15 I went to sea and what I saw in places like South Africa and the Portuguese colonies made me understand what the nature of society was and the need for a radical change.

But it was not until I became active that I really began to understand the possibility of changing it.

I had read some Marx and understood it, but the main problem was that I could not see the possibility of the working class going forward.

I suppose before I came to the SLL, I was a reformist. But the past few years have convinced me that reformism is a hopeless policy. We have

seen all the reforms that have been passed being taken away by the ruling class and the Tories. There can be no solution until we get rid of the ruling class.

We have had this spelt out as clearly as it could be with this latest government. On every issue they are driving the working class down—the Industrial Relations Court, the pay laws and so on. But, as the SLL says, we have to ask why they are doing this and it is because of the crisis of the capitalist system.

I had always been interested in parties and some kind of political activities, but I never knew how to channel my energies. The Communist Party never really appealed to me—I found it difficult to see the difference between them and the reformists—they did not seem to have the same view of the communists who led the Russian Revolution anyway.

I think many workers are beginning to consider similar issues, though the process is not always apparent. I think a lot of people are frightened of changing the system. They are scared of political struggle because they think they might get hurt or their living standards might suffer.

The first thing to learn is that we can't tackle these

things as individuals but as a class—to unite the working class in a political fight, that is the main aim.

It is difficult for people to see this because they are confused by the nature of the crisis.

People fail to see that the crisis is international and the main impact on the British working class comes, in fact, from abroad from countries like America, Japan and their relationships with Britain.

I think the first thing that we must do in changing this situation is to make them understand history—the history of Marxism—show how this developed through people like Lenin and Trotsky and their struggles for socialism.

There is also the question of the working class itself—the history of their own rights and the history of the crisis of the capitalist system. This kind of information gives people an understanding of their position today and what kind of things face them.

But it is a very very slow process, as I said. But I think as the standard of living of the working class gets driven down, people will have no choice but to come forward.

They will have to answer the questions posed to them by the working class—but answer them in action, political action.

The situation therefore hangs on the question of leadership. On this aspect I think the SLL has been very good. It is not afraid, for example, of exposing people, so-called lefts like Scanlon—my leader. I used to have a lot of faith in this man but we see he has gone back on several key issues, particularly collaboration with the Tories.

There are a couple of things I would like to query. As far as the programme and policy of the SLL is concerned I am in entire agreement. But what happens after we achieve power? Take, for example, a man on £35 or £40 a week. These people ask me: 'What happens to my standard of living' and I don't really have an answer.

To my mind we have a good industrial basis for socialism in this country. We will not need a lot of the things we have now, like cars, or so many cars. So I think these things can be cancelled out and production can be used to provide other more vital things.

I think the SLL faces a very important period. I think it needs to go forward as it is going forward now—campaigning politically in the working class for a new leadership. Struggling with workers in a day-to-day sense and spreading the word.

**THE DECKIES**

**THE SKIPPERS**



# COD WAR: THE TRAWLERSMEN SPEAK

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

The cod war is more than headlines in Hessele Road, Hull. This is the back-street community by Britain's largest fish dock where the deep-sea trawlers set out to fish around Iceland and beyond to the Arctic circle.

The remote freezing oceans of the world are home to Hull's 1,800 deep-sea fishermen for two-thirds of their working lives. Whether they sail for the fish monopolies in modern freezer ships or in the oldest most decrepit side trawlers, the men risk death and serious injury, exposure and total exhaustion at places like the Barent Sea, Bear Island and

the North Cape.

These are the men who bear the brunt of the cod war—the deckies and the skippers who labour 18 hours a day for three weeks to drag the catch down from the sea. The fish mean profit for firms like British United Trawlers which owns every third boat sailing in the distant water fleet. But for the men cod fishing is a life of unremitting toil for low wages in appalling conditions.

The owners urge them into battle in semi-military style. 'There is clearly only one answer,' says the 'Trawling Times', their mouthpiece. 'We get stuck in and we carry on fishing.'

The men behind the trawl-

ing companies of course fight the battle from warm offices. The trawler men fight it on deck.

Yet the issue has superficially united the Hessele Road. The trawlermen and their families declare it their right to continue to fish the Icelandic cod.

But things were not always so amicable. Three years ago a strike of trawlermen split Hull's fishing community into two hostile camps. The men wanted money and union recognition. The owners were determined to preserve what they call the 'individualism' of the industry.

They foraged inland to recruit hands to crew ships.

One bunch of scabs was ambushed by angry trawlermen. The owner—Michael Burton of Newingtons trawlers—turned and called the strikers 'gutter rats'.

The bitterness still rankles. 'They treat us like dirt,' said one staunch unionist. 'But now they want us to fight their war.'

Such anger is born from the conditions the deckies have to endure. In trawling you stand 17 times more chance of dying than in work on land. In every year since 1952 more people have been killed on trawlers than down coalmines.

Then there are the disasters. In 1968 Hull fishermen were stunned by a triple tragedy

when three boats went down in the northern seas with a loss of 60 lives.

Skipper Phil Gay of the 'Ross Cleveland' gave some indication of the horror of death at sea when his trawler keeled over in an Icelandic hurricane.

'I am going over,' he radioed. 'We are laying over. Give my love and the crew's love to their wives and families.' Those were the last words he spoke. There were no survivors.

The owners (Ross Foods, now Imperial Tobacco) said it was appalling. An inquiry found that some Icelandic trawlers set sail without radios.

For these risks the basic pay is £19.10 a week. This usually

goes to the wives. Then men live on 'poundage'—66p for every 100 lb of fish. They work seven days a week for the trip which averages three weeks to 45 days. They have an agreed 18-hour working day. In between trips the men get three days at home to rest.

The men in the middle are the skippers. They drive the crew in the most vicious rat race yet invented by capitalism.

A skipper's money depends entirely on the catch. After the fish is sold and the expenses of the voyage paid off they get 10 per cent. Some skippers earn well over £10,000 a year. But some can walk home from the fish-dock with-

out even their bus fare. Two

bad trips and they are on the danger list—there are two men with skipper's tickets for every skipper with a boat in Hull.

These are the people who fight the cod war. They face the 200,000 Icelanders who lay claim to the sea around their island. The country depends entirely on fish. Iceland is a barren volcanic place with hardly any natural resources. It needs imports to survive and for imports it has got to export and 80 per cent of Iceland's exports are fish.

The Icelandic people want control of a natural resource on which their existence depends. If the waters within the 50-mile limit are open to a free-for-all, they say the cod

Trevor Scott lives at Masset Street in the centre of Hull's trawling community. He has been at sea 15 years and fished through the last cod war from 1958 to 1961 when Iceland extended her limit from four to 12 miles.

'So far I think the skippers have been very patient about the whole controversy. It's very disheartening to lose your catch and your gear after hours of hard fishing. I was out there in the last cod war in the "James Barry". We were going in the 12-mile limit and the "Thor" [one of the three Icelandic gunboats] saw us. We were just hauling our gear in—but it was too late. She cut across us and we lost the lot.

'It went on for a couple of hours. The Icelander called up other ships and they fired on us—five shots over us or in front of the ship. But it's dangerous just to cut your warps [cables that connect the trawl net to the ship]. You could get your head caved in or your back broken when the warps go.

'Where we fish and how we fish is up to the gaffers and the skippers. There used to be a craze for Bear Island, but it's died down now—it takes too long to get out there and back, there's not enough fishing time on the trip. Close to the North Cape of Iceland the weather is a danger. I was out there in the storms when three boats went down.

'You can see the Icelanders have a point. The fish should be conserved. But they used to have a lot of herring and they fished the lot out. But I have noticed it slackening off a bit—you hear the old blokes talking about the shipfuls of fish they used to sell, it's not as plentiful as that now.

'There is a lot more pressure to catch fish. When I started, the quality of the fish and its size was a big factor. Now they are bringing out everything that they get from the ocean.

'But we are not the main offenders. We may get out there in a group of three or four and set up a "fish shop". You try to keep it fairly quiet if you are catching good fish. Some skippers are OK, when they leave an area they let the rest know.

'The biggest dangers are from the big freezers. If they move in, an area can be barren in a matter of hours. They just sweep the lot up. I have been fishing Iceland, just a little fish shop and within two or three hours you can't move for ships. The Russians especially fish in packs of 200 or 300 at a time with a mother ship. When they come they take everything.

'I think it's a shame that the trawler men—the ordinary deckies—should have to put up with all the danger and the hazards of the sea and have to risk being shot at.

'We deserve far more than we get. I am in the union and I would like to see it 100 per cent. I was in the last strike which was very bitter. We should have more money, not just because of the cod war, but because of the conditions generally. It's us that are fighting the war, not the owners. They are sitting in the office. Even coalminers get better pay and conditions than us.

'The war does not frighten me. It's very serious, of course, but we sometimes have a good laugh about the predicament we are in.

'It's strange, I don't know much about politics but I will be out there in a few days in the middle of it all. I just want to fish and sail with a good skipper who goes out for the fish.'

Skippers are the linchpin of the employers' regime at fish ports like Hull. They are the men who drive the crew in sometimes impossible conditions to keep on fishing.

All the skippers' earnings come from the catch. The successful skippers are feted in the Press. They become local heroes, get the 'Silver Cod' from the owners and attract trawlermen who want their own meagre share of the bumper catch.

But the skippers are also on the treadmill. The owners don't like poor catches and take few excuses. For every skipper there are two other men waiting to take his place. The so-called 'individuality' of the industry revolves around the desperate scramble to feed the owners' greed for fish at almost any price.

Harry is an 'East Iceland' man and the skipper of a side trawler—the older boats who cast their net from the side of the ship and not the stern like the bigger, more powerful freezer trawlers. He began in 1945 on 10s a week and £2 risk money. Now he is at the top of his profession.

'The 50-mile limit would be the end of the side trawlers. Even in Iceland the first fish is anything up to 16 to 17 days old when you put into port. There is just not the return on the longer journeys.

'The Icelandics say this issue is one of conservation. But I don't believe them. Why have they got over 30 boats on order? They just want to replace our fleet with their own. The waters will be fished as intensively as before.

'It will come to the point when we are all out of work and our only chance will be to go and sail for the Icelandics. People say "Get a shore job". But we only know the sea. If we went ashore it would be a job of the lowest grade.

'I'm not against conservation. I would like to see an International Inspection ship to examine English and Icelandic nets for the mesh size. I would also like to see a ban on all boats over 70 feet within the 12-mile limit.

'This would be a meaningful safeguard to the fish. Because I firmly believe there are enough stocks for us and the Icelandics if the regulations are adhered to. I should know. I have been fishing these waters for decades.

'There is also the question of the spawning grounds. These should be strictly closed for two months—the south-west between February and March, and Langaness and the north-east from July to August. Why don't the Icelandics agree to this?

'We skippers are right in the middle. We are pawns in a big political game. The pressure is on us to catch fish. You can be out days in bad weather struggling for the fish, only to see some gunboat cut your warps. The whole catch is gone, your gear is gone and you can do nothing—it makes you really mad.

'When you are an Englishman, you are proud to be an Englishman. But in Iceland you are in a huddle, like frightened rats. It's humiliating and shameful.

'My father died at Narvik. There was a plaque that said he died fighting for freedom and against oppression. But what has this meant for me? What is this sacrifice worth if we can't make our living?

'Out there you are on your own. You have no friends, only rivals. I come home here—everyone calls me by my first name. But they may say other things when I'm not here because I am a skipper.'

Above: A conventional side trawler, the Apollo, docked at Hull. Trevor Scott, a Hull deckie says: 'The biggest dangers are from the big freezers. If they move in an area can be barren in hours.'

and haddock will be fished to oblivion like the herring before them (admittedly mainly by Icelandic vessels).

This series examines the true facts behind the cod war and answers the question who is right?

First we present the view of the Hull trawlermen and the skippers. Tomorrow we trace the history of the war and investigate why British vessels fish the Icelandic seas.

# TROTSKYISM AND STALINISM



Since May-June 1968, the Soviet Stalinists have been haunted by the spectre of revolution in western Europe and the growth of Trotskyism in the advanced countries in the west. Fearful of losing their parasitic privileges at home and their control of the labour movement abroad, the Soviet bureaucracy has begun a campaign to once again discredit and distort the principles and history of Trotsky's struggle for the regeneration of the USSR and the world-wide revolution of the working class. The Institute of Marxism-Leninism of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1972 published 'Against Trotskyism', a compendium of documents, articles, extracts, speeches and resolutions aimed at discrediting Trotskyism and distorting completely the truth about the relations between Lenin and Trotsky. In this series of articles MICHAEL BANDA replies to this book.

## PART FIFTEEN

The Institute of Marxism-Leninism has claimed though it doesn't mention it in 'Against Trotskyism', that Trotsky refused on the grounds of his own illness to defend Lenin's position on the 'National Question' at the Party's Central Committee and the 12th Congress.

This indicates that they acknowledge Lenin's trust in Trotsky to fight Stalin during the last days of his political life (outlined in Moshe Lewin's book 'Lenin's Last Struggle' [Faber and Faber] which we quoted yesterday). In fact, however, the Institute confirms that a letter from

Fotieva (Lenin's secretary) to Kamenev exists which refers to the 'pact' between Lenin and Trotsky, showing that the latter had accepted Lenin's brief.

It was in March 1923, also, that Lenin dictated his last articles, 'Better Fewer But Better' and 'On the Workers and Peasants Inspection'. Both these were slashing attacks on Stalin in particular as the chief representative of the bureaucracy.

Lenin was, in the words of one of his secretaries, preparing 'a bomb' against Stalin. He never finished his preparations, which were undoubtedly aimed at putting an abrupt end to Stalin's career as general secretary and politically exposing his unprincipled manoeuvres.

On March 10 1923, Lenin suffered another stroke which deprived him of the power of

speech. His political life was at an end. What emerges with absolute clarity from the documents and letters now available confirms to the hilt Trotsky's version of these events in 'The Stalin School of Falsification'.

For many decades these documents were suppressed by the very Institute which now publishes this book. Circulation of Lenin's testament or of his last articles became a serious offence and the entire period was rewritten in Soviet history books to obscure the differences and paint Stalin as 'Lenin's faithful pupil'.

It was not until Khrushchev's secret speech to the 20th congress of the CPSU in 1956, a speech which did not long remain secret, that the existence of these damning documents was admitted.

Now the Institute for Marxism-Leninism is belatedly trying to re-enter them in the archives, to enable the falsifiers at the Institute to regurgitate all the lies about Trotsky and Trotskyism.

The final chapters of this book consist of resolutions denouncing Trotskyism passed from 1923 to 1927 by various Stalinist Party organizations and trade union and factory bodies.

It is difficult to imagine who is going to be impressed by reading the opinions of the presidium of the CC of the Agricultural and Forestry

Workers' trade union in their letter to the Metalworkers' CC in support and approval of the letter of the presidium of the Metalworkers CC to the leaders of the 'New Opposition' — which is solemnly reproduced here.

Knowing that the same bodies which unanimously condemned Trotskyism in 1927 passed resolutions equally unanimously ten years later calling for the wholesale massacres of Stalin's opponents, these documents lack any semblance of credibility.

They are presumably included on the principle that if you throw enough mud, some of it must stick, though the documents are all based on the myth of Trotskyism created quite consciously by Stalin, Zinoviev and Kamenev with the sole purpose of blackening Trotsky's name and preparing the ground for the Stalinization of the Bolshevik Party.

The book goes no further than 1929 when, the editors inform us, Trotsky's expulsion from the USSR 'thus finally smashed the Trotsky opposition ideologically and organizationally'.

If Trotskyism was smashed 'ideologically and organizationally' in 1929, how is it that in the next sentence they can tell their readers:

'However, under various guises, Trotskyite ideology continues to harm the liberation movement?'

Members of the Opposition on their way to exile in 1928. Seated left to right: L. Serebriakov, K. Radek, Trotsky, M. Boguslavsky, E. Preobrazhensky; standing: C. Rakovsky, Y. Drobnis, A. Beloborodov, Seznovsky.

Like all bureaucrats the editors of this book have learned nothing from history, which demonstrates that objective truth is stronger than all their carefully fabricated lies.

Whatever their wishes, the Institute of Marxism-Leninism cannot turn the clock back to the 'Stalin era' they so much loved. Their crisis forces them to attack Trotskyism by every means possible.

That is their particular service to imperialism in its hour of crisis. But the lies and slanders this volume is intended to sustain have already been discredited even by the liars themselves.

The British pupils of the Moscow lie-machine, among them the Communist Party's Mrs Betty Reid and Monty Johnstone, have already tried and failed to revive the slander campaign of the 1930s against the Trotskyist movement.

The book 'Against Trotskyism' demonstrates how much international Stalinism fears and hates the growth of revolutionary consciousness in the working class and the development of the revolutionary alternative leadership.





Left: Czech cameraman, Miroslav Ondricek with director, Lindsay Anderson (right). Anderson's work, brilliant as it is, is made in an atmosphere of suffocating self-indulgence.

There is something canny about the selection of these episodes. For instance, in one of his early jobs, Mick Travis visits a Yorkshire town in his capacity as a coffee salesman. He meets the owner of a large shire hotel who invites him into the back for some 'entertainment'.

They enter a darkened room where blue films are being shown. The proprietor then does the introductions: Travis meets the editor of the local paper, the local taxation inspector, the head of CID. The hotelier is himself the mayor.

There is one shot of a short, piglike individual, who bears an astonishing resemblance to a very well-known leading figure in the Labour Party. He has two near-naked women on his knees.

The episode is a stinging attack on certain politico-business collectives in the north.

There is another remarkably prescient chapter in Travis' exploits. He gets involved as personal assistant to Sir James, a leading City gent whose giant consortium has huge contacts in Africa. Shades of Lonrho.

He falls into the hands of the church, the secret service, the medical profession, the prison service and the dogooders. Each experience is a crushing indictment of the system of capitalism. In that sense, the film has much to commend it.

But at the point when he could have delivered an almighty, telling blow to the ethos of capitalism, Anderson abandons the intellectual and artistic foray of the previous two and a half hours (yes, the film is slightly over-long).

His *tour de force* collapses into a rave-in.

So it was with Anderson's last film, 'If'. After an insightful look at the horrors of public school education, Anderson ended with McDowall blasting everybody down with a machine-gun. It was fantasy and it was nihilist.

In 'O Lucky Man' Travis decides not to rebel against the system. In other words, you can't beat the system—it's best just to join in and do your own thing.

Let's just indulge ourselves while we can, said the lyrics of the Alan Price song.

The film epitomizes the radicalism of these artistic cliques.

They might be able to formally and brilliantly describe the utter decadence and corruption of the ruling system.

But they can't say or do anything beyond that. At this point they do the only thing possible—they capitulate to the very thing they claim to despise.

# MR ANDERSON AND FRIENDS

## 'O LUCKY MAN' FILM REVIEW BY ALEX MITCHELL

There is in existence a secret society called the Lindsay Anderson managerie. Nobody knows where it is or how to join.

Its membership is kept confidential, but one can draw up a rough who's who of members. There is Mr Anderson himself of Royal Court fame, Malcolm McDowall, Anthony Page, Rachel Roberts, Arthur Lowe, Dandy Nichols (Mrs Alf Garnett), Sir Ralph Richardson, playwright David

Storey, producer Michael Medwin and perhaps a score more.

There is a common characteristic of the membership—they are all immensely-talented people.

Anderson is one of the most skilled directors—on film and in the theatre—in Britain today.

But his work, as brilliant as it is, is made in an atmosphere of suffocating self-indulgence. It is as if Anderson and his coterie are out to impress each other. So it is with the mutual admiration society's latest piece of artistry 'O Lucky Man'.

In this production, Anderson himself takes part as Anderson and the film ends

with a streamer and balloons party in which all the actors—as themselves—participate.

Sitting in a cinema packed with Anderson devotees from the London Film School, one could hear them saying to each other: 'Look, there's Jasper,' etc., as they recognized their friends.

It was such a miserable, obscure and introspective ending to a film of considerable genius.

McDowall plays a young, blue-eyed youth who is childishly innocent about the ways of capitalism. The film tracks his odyssey from one catastrophic and rapacious event to the next.

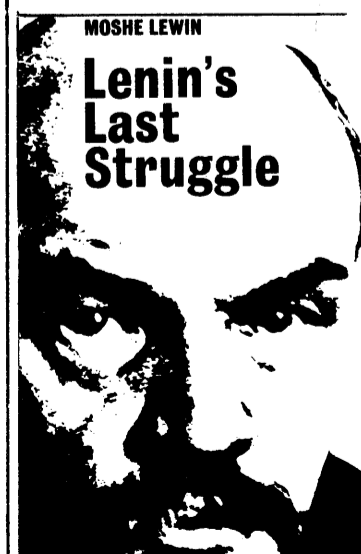
Each episode is linked together by the splendid use of

the voice and music of Alan Price who, incidentally, played so enthusiastically at the SLL Pageant at the Empire Pool, Wembley, in March.



Alan Price.

## INDISPENSABLE READING!



A study of the critical period of the consolidation of the Soviet state. The book examines Lenin's irreconcilable struggle against the growing threat of bureaucracy led by Stalin, and Lenin's collaboration with Trotsky in this task. Despite certain weaknesses the book is a powerful corroboration of Trotsky's defence of Soviet democracy and his criticisms of the oppressive policies of Stalin against the national minorities. Indispensable reading for all socialists.

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## WORKERS NOTEBOOK

### PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

What was Earl Jellicoe's last public performance? We have uncovered this useless piece of information. He opened 'The World of the Vikings' exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, on the evening of Wednesday May 23.

At this point Jellicoe, the Lord Privy Seal, had seen Heath and handed in his resignation. But this information still wasn't public. He performed the opening ceremony in the presence of the Swedish and Danish ambassadors whose countries had helped in preparing the Viking exhibits.

Ursula Stuart Mason, the museum's Press officer, told us about this momentous occasion: 'Earl Jellicoe was absolutely marvellous. He congratulated us for having the vision to present the exhibition. He said it was "a real scoop". This can be taken either way. Lady Jellicoe was with him. It was marvellous of her to stand by him.'

### ROYAL STABLE

Discussing the royal engagement on television the other night, a BBC announcer said: 'Like other young married couples, Princess Anne and her husband will have difficulties finding somewhere to live.'

This wretched arrogance would have fallen like a lead balloon into tens of thousands of council flats and near-slum tenements where young couples are herded into cramped and often unhealthy conditions.

Who says they are going to

have difficulties! Immediately the wedding is held, Princess Anne's salary goes up from £15,000 a year to £35,000. They can probably stagger along on that. The Queen is also giving her only daughter 'a substantial dowry'—believed to be a reference to art treasures, jewellery and a large sum of cash.

And when it comes to the folding stuff, the Phillips family is no slouch. The family seat is The Mount House, a 16th century farmhouse in Wiltshire. Major Phillips, Mark's father, is a director of three companies, the most famous being T. Wall and Son, the sausage makers. From Wall's he gets an annual salary of about £10,000. And that's not for stuffing sausages.

With these sort of connections it is just possible that the couple can find some small castle or quiet country mansion in which they can start the long, hard haul of married life.

**TODAY'S TV**

**BBC 1**

9.38 Schools. 12.30 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Barnaby. 1.45 Made in Britain. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Derby day grandstand. 3.35 1973 Derby stakes. 3.50 European amateur boxing championships. 4.05 News from Katowice where England meet Poland in World Cup qualifying match. 4.10 Magic roundabout. 4.15 Jackanory. 4.30 Boss cat. 4.55 Nationwide. 5.15 World Cup grandstand. Poland v England.  
**7.25 THE 1973 DERBY.**  
**7.30 SON OF THE BRIDE.** Mother Rocks the Boat. New series with Terry Scott.  
**8.00 SUTHERLAND'S LAW.** A Cry for Help. New series with Iain Cuthbertson, Maeve Alexander, Don McKillop.  
**8.50 ROBBIE.** In search of . . . the Perfect Pint. Fyfe Robertson.  
**9.00 NEWS.** Weather.  
**9.25 SPORTSNIGHT.** Poland v England. The Derby. Steacey v Arthur in the British welter-weight title contest.  
**10.00 CONSERVATIVE P A R T Y POLITICAL BROADCAST.**  
**10.10 THE DIRTIEST SOLDIER IN THE WORLD.** Adapted from 'The General Danced at Dawn' by George MacDonald Fraser.  
**10.40 MIDWEEK.** The Transistor Samurai. Vincent Hanna looks at the life of Japanese tycoon Akio Morita.  
**11.25 LATE NIGHT NEWS.**  
**11.30 LOOKING TO EUROPE.** Promises, promises . . .  
**11.55 Weather.**

**ITV**

9.30 Schools. 10.35 Yoga (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Cuddles and Co. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Crown court. 1.30 Derby day racing. 2.00. 2.35. 3.35. 4.10 Epsom. 2.15. 2.50. 3.55 Racing from Ripon. 4.20 Sooty show. 4.50 Kids from 47A. 5.20 University challenge. 5.50 News.  
**6.00 TODAY.** **6.35 CROSSROADS.**  
**7.00 DIANA COUPLAND—THIS IS YOUR LIFE.**  
**7.30 CORONATION STREET.**  
**8.00 . . . AND MOTHER MAKES THREE.** The Eve of the Day.  
**8.30 THE BEST OF FATHER, DEAR FATHER.** A Case for Inspector Glover.  
**9.00 SPECIAL BRANCH.** Threat.  
**10.00 CONSERVATIVE P A R T Y POLITICAL BROADCAST.**  
**10.10 NEWS AT TEN.**  
**10.45 THEATRE: 'Feet Together, Hands to the Sides.'** By Tom Clarke. With Brenda Bruce.  
**11.15 FILM: 'The Black Torment.'** John Turner, Heather Sears. Thriller.  
**12.50 CLERGY AT LARGE.**

Producer Michael Mills with Moray Watson as the Company Sergeant Major and John Standing as Lt MacNeill during the filming of tonight's comedy 'The Dirtiest Soldier in the World' on BBC 1.



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**REGIONAL TV**

**CHANNEL:** 9.30-11.55 London. 12.55 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 10.00 Life in France. 10.10 London. 11.15 Angling. 11.45 Epilogue. News, weather.  
**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.12 News. 11.45 Epilogue.  
**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 7.00 London. 10.45 Young men at Westminster. 11.15 London. 11.45 News. 11.55 Odd couple. 12.20 Weather. Guideline.  
**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Cuckoo in the nest. 7.00 Pro-tectors. 7.30 London. 11.45 Cinema. 12.15 Weather.  
**HTV Cymru/Wales** as above except: 4.20 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.  
**HTV West** as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.  
**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 7.00 Anna and the king. 7.30 London. 8.30 Adventurer. 9.00 London. 11.15 Spyforce. 12.10 Your music at night.

**BBC 2**

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.  
**7.05 HOMES AND THE HOMELESS.** Losers.  
**7.30 NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.  
**7.35 LOOK, STRANGER.** Jack's-Eye View.  
**8.00 MAN ALIVE.** All Right, We'll Do It Ourselves. Stepney.  
**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 5.20 University challenge. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.30 Our kid. 9.00 London. 10.45 Citizens' rights. 11.15 London. 11.45 Baron. Weather.  
**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.45 Romper room. 2.55 London. 4.20 News. 4.22 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Viewfinder. 6.35 London. 7.00 Adventurer. 7.30 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 10.45 Splendour falls. 11.15 London. 11.45 You and your golf.  
**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 7.00 Pro-tectors. 7.30 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 11.15 Adam 12. 11.45 You and your golf. 12.15 Shut up, I'm crying. 12.45 Weather.  
**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Handful of songs. 12.05 London. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. What's on?

**8.50 FILM: 'Yoland and the Thief.'** Fred Astaire, Lucille Bremer. A con man tries to swindle a young heiress out of her fortune.  
**10.00 CONSERVATIVE P A R T Y POLITICAL BROADCAST.**  
**10.10 FILM** continued.  
**10.45 EDITION.**  
**11.15 NEWS EXTRA.** Weather.  
 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Police surgeon. 7.30 London. 8.30 Here we go again. 9.00 London. 10.40 Chicago teddy bears. 11.10 London. 11.40 The evil touch.  
**TYNE TEES:** 9.25 Northern saints. 9.30 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.40 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Mr and Mrs. 7.30 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 11.15 News. 11.30 Hawaii five-o. 12.25 Lectern.  
**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.40 Odd couple. 11.10 London. 11.40 Late call. 11.45 Blue light.  
**GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.45 News. 2.50 London. 5.15 Wildlife theatre. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson at teatime. 6.35 London. 7.00 Lucy show. 7.30 London. 10.45 Odd couple. 11.15 London. 11.45 Scales of justice. 12.15 Meditation.

**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS**

**SLOUGH: Wednesday June 6, 8 p.m.** Community Centre, Farnham Road.  
**HACKNEY: Wednesday June 6, 8 p.m.** Parlour Room, Central Hall, Mare Street. 'Unite in action to defend basic rights'.  
**SLOUGH: Wednesday June 6, 8 p.m.** Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'The economic crisis and the rising cost of living.'  
**WEMBLEY: Wednesday June 6, 8 p.m.** Copland School, High Road. 'Build the revolutionary party'.  
**WOOLWICH: Wednesday June 6, 8 p.m.** 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road, S.E.18. 'TUC and Stalinists—supporters of corporatism'.  
**LEEDS: Thursday June 7, 7.30 p.m.** Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. 'Forward to ATUA Conference and the fight to defend democratic rights'.  
**KINGSTON: Thursday June 7, 8 p.m.** 'The Norbiton Hotel', Clifton Road, Kingston.  
**FULHAM: Thursday June 7, 8 p.m.** 'The Swan', Fulham Broadway. 'Force the Tories to resign'.  
**HOLLOWAY: Thursday June 7, 8 p.m.** Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'Force the Tories to resign. Return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.  
**HEMEL HEMPSTEAD: Monday June 11 (please note date change), 8 p.m.** Adeyfield Hall, Queen's Square. 'Build the revolutionary party'.  
**EAST LONDON: Monday June 11, 8 p.m.** Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, E.3. 'Forward to the revolutionary party'.  
**WALTON-ON-THAMES: Tuesday June 12, 8 p.m.** The Kiwi, New Zealand Ave., Walton. 'Building the Revolutionary Party'.  
**BERMONDSEY: Tuesday June 12, 8 p.m.** 'Havelock Arms', Balacava Street. 'Forward to the revolutionary party'.  
**CAMDEN: Tuesday June 12, 8 p.m.** 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Trade unions and the revolutionary party'.  
**PADDINGTON: Tuesday June 12, 8 p.m.** 'Prince of Wales', Harrow Road, corner of Western Road. 'Force the Tories to resign. Return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.  
**TOOTING: Tuesday June 12, 8 p.m.** Tooting Baths, Tooting Broadway. 'Force the Tories to resign. Return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.  
**LEAMINGTON: Tuesday, June 12, 7.30 p.m.** The Commonwealth Club, Church Street. 'The Tory government and the trade unions'.  
**HARROW: Tuesday June 12, 8 p.m.** Co-op Hall (Small Hall), Masons Avenue, Wealdstone. 'Forward to ATUA conference'.  
**WANDSWORTH: Tuesday June 12, 8 p.m.** 'Foresters', All Farthing Lane. 'Force the Tories to resign. Return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.  
**SLOUGH: Wednesday June 13, 8 p.m.** Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'Force the Tories to resign'.  
**SOUTHALL: Wednesday June 13, 8 p.m.** Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. 'Force the Tories to resign. Return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.  
**WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday June 13, 8 p.m.** 'Crooked Billet', North Circular Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'.  
**HULL (Special meeting of engineers' section): Wednesday, June 13, 8 p.m.** 'The Windmill Hotel', Witham.  
**SHEFFIELD: Thursday June 14, 7.30 p.m.** 'The Hallamshire', West Street. 'End talks with the Tories'.  
**LUTON: Thursday June 14, 8 p.m.** Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'.  
**BASILDON: Thursday June 14, 8 p.m.** Barnstaple Community Centre. 'Make the Tories resign. Force a Labour government to carry out socialist policies'.  
**CROYDON: Thursday June 14, 8 p.m.** Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Force the Tories to resign'.  
**FELTHAM: Thursday June 14, 8 p.m.** 'Three Horse Shoes', High Street. 'Labour to power, pledged to socialist policies of nationalization of land and property'.  
**WILLESDEN: Thursday June 14, 8 p.m.** Brent Labour and Trades Hall, High Road, N.W.10. 'Force the Tory government to resign'.  
**ACTON: Monday June 18, 8 p.m.** 'Six Bells', High Street, W.3. 'Build the revolutionary party. Defend democratic rights'.  
**CRAWLEY: Monday June 18, 8 p.m.** Council for Social Services Hall, 19 Station Road. 'Force the Tories to resign. A Labour government must nationalize major industries'.  
**BATTERSEA: Tuesday June 19, 8 p.m.** 'Nag's Head', Wandsworth Road. 'Force the Tories to resign. Return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.  
**BRITTON: Tuesday June 19, 8 p.m.** Training Centre, Control Room. 'Force the Tories to resign. Return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.  
**DAGENHAM: Tuesday June 19, 8 p.m.** Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Force the Tories to resign. A Labour government must nationalize major industries'.  
**GOOLE: Thursday, June 21, 8 p.m.** The Station Hotel. 'The Revolutionary Party and the Fight against the Tories'.

**I would like information about**

**THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE**

Fill in the form below and send to **NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.**

Name .....

Address .....

# Defence fund for builders

LAMBETH Trades Council, London, has voted unanimously to set up a defence fund to assist 24 building workers who are being brought before the courts following last year's builders' strike.

The trades council letter to trade union branches declares:

Twenty-four building workers are on trial charged with conspiracy to cause an affray, damaging property and intimidation.

The charges, under the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875, relate to their activities on a union building site.

The trial is a savage new attack on basic democratic rights fought for by generations of trade unionists.

It has been set in motion following a series of anti-picket statements by Tory Ministers and the release of a dossier on the building strike by the National Federation of Building Employers.

The charges against the Shrewsbury 24 carry the possibility of long periods of imprisonment. These men need financial assistance to conduct their defence in this vital case and to assist their families.

Lambeth Trades Council has opened a 'Shrewsbury 24 Defence Fund' and calls on all union branches, shop stewards' committees and individual trade unionists to give as generously as possible.

Donations should be sent to The Shrewsbury 24 Defence Fund, 3 Cavendish Mansions, Hazelbourne Road, SW12.



A march in Shrewsbury when the builders were in court

## Tilbury ships halted by fork lift pay dispute

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

SEVERAL BERTHS at Tilbury docks were at a standstill yesterday because of a dispute involving forklift truck drivers.

Two giant berths which handle newsprint for many of Britain's newspapers were among those involved. Six ships were affected.

The dispute—over contingency payments—began on Monday

when forklift truck drivers of two of the four major stevedoring firms at Tilbury walked out.

A spokesman for one of the firms said all its other dock workers were being held on standby ready to resume work the moment the dispute ended. But he had no idea when that would be.

## Aide choice upsets civil service union

GORDON CAMPBELL, Cabinet Minister in charge of Scottish affairs, is to be questioned in parliament about the appointment of a political aide.

Campbell has hired Miss Anne Max-Muller (25) as his political adviser at the Scottish Office.

Before this, she was a secretary to her father, a solicitor.

Campbell is not the first minister in Heath's Cabinet to appoint a political aide. Peter Walker at the Department of Trade and Industry and Anthony Barber at the Treasury all have aides paid for by the Tory Central Office.

Campbell says that he pays Miss Max-Muller's salary out of his own pocket.

She doubles as secretary to Norman Fowler, the Tory MP for Nottingham south, who was formerly 'home affairs correspondent' for 'The Times'.

Mr William Hamilton, MP, has criticized her job as liaison officer with the Press. 'The Minister has good cause to be concerned about his image,' he



Campbell... Defended Polwarth

said. 'He is the worst Scottish Secretary I have ever known.'

Last week Campbell was also involved in the scandal over Lord Polwarth's appointment as 'Lord Oil' in charge of the North Sea bonanza.

Polwarth is Campbell's No. 2 at the Scottish Office. When news broke that Polwarth held a financial interest in the North Sea oilfields, Campbell stoutly defended him in the Commons.

He refused Labour demands that Polwarth should sell his

shares or quit the job as oil supremo.

He said that Polwarth was the 'ideal man' for the job. Last Thursday, however, Polwarth was forced to sell his own shares in oil trusts, although he has retained an indirect interest through trusts held by members of his family.

Miss Max-Muller's appointment has raised angry criticism from the civil service unions.

William McCall, general secretary of the Civil Servants Union, said her new job appeared to have been done without consultation.

'I shall be making some pretty strong representations,' he added.

The unions are particularly indignant about the Tories' political appointments in Whitehall because it is changing the traditional so-called 'neutrality' of the civil service. Since Heath came to power, he has worked towards making more overtly political appointments to top posts in Whitehall.

Under the Tory system, political aides from the Tory Party who are on the Minister's personal staff wield enormous power and can determine policy.

## End collaboration—branch

FULHAM, London, branch of the AUEW has condemned the trade union leaders' collaboration with the Tory government. In a resolution passed overwhelmingly, the branch declared:

'There is no justification for any trade union leader to go to Downing Street or elsewhere for

any further negotiations with this Tory government.

'This branch calls on the Executive Council of the AUEW to demand that the TUC break off all talks with the Tories and mobilize a campaign to bring this government down.'

● See Scanlon prepares cover for collaboration, p. 3.

## SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

### Barnsley

Given by Gerry Healy  
National Secretary  
of the  
Socialist Labour League

Sunday June 17

The materialist conception of History

Sunday June 24

Dialectical Materialism—a Marxist theory of knowledge

Sunday July 1

Theory and Practise of Marxism

Sunday July 8

Role of the Revolutionary Party

at

The Red Lion  
Worsborough  
Near Barnsley

7.30 p.m.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

### Merthyr Tydfil

Given by Gerry Healy  
national secretary  
of the  
Socialist Labour League

Wednesday June 6

7.30 p.m.

Questions and Answers on  
Marxism, Philosophy  
Economics and History

St David's Church Hall  
Church Street, Merthyr

NEWSDESK

01-720 2000

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

## Aero engine production could be hit by nickel black

AERO-ENGINE production at Rolls-Royce could be seriously affected within a few days by a call from the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs for its members to black the products of a Herefordshire nickel firm.

The firm, Henry Wiggin Ltd, is trying to force a no-strike agreement on its workers, and

ASTMS members at the factory have been on strike for 14 weeks in opposition.

A subsidiary of International Nickel, which is Canadian-owned, but heavily US-financed, Wiggin's are refusing to allow union members the right to strike if

they do not agree with management decisions to move them from one job to another.

Now ASTMS, after threatening blacking action for some weeks, has called on its members nationally to black all Wiggin products. The company supplies key components not only to Rolls, but to British-Leyland, Lucas and a large number of motor-industry firms.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETING

### Central London

'Closures of Theatres and Film Studios'

SUNDAY JUNE 10  
7.15 p.m.

London Film School,  
corner Langley and Shelton St  
(opp Covent Garden tube)

Speaker: Yvonne Richards

Lambeth Council of Action

Sunday June 10 3 p.m.

Clapham Baths  
Clapham Manor Street, SW4

'Break off Phase Three talks.  
No Collaboration with Heath.'

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETING

BLACKBURN

'The Peel Hotel'  
(Town Centre)

Thursday June 14 8 p.m.

'Build the Revolutionary Party'

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETING

### Wythenshawe

Wednesday June 6,  
8 p.m.

'The Cock O' Th' North'  
Portway, Wythenshawe,  
Manchester

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## Black on COI films continues

# Film and TV men stand firm

BY ROYSTON BULL

THE FILM AND television technicians union ACTT reached agreement with the BBC union ABS yesterday to continue their joint blacking of all government and Central Office of Information advertising material.

On Monday the Industrial Relations Court issued an injunction ordering ACTT to stop its action.

ACTT general secretary Alan Sapper met Victor Feather who offered TUC support, reportedly, and initiated conciliation moves with Douglas Smith, the Department of Employment's chief officer.

Pressure is mounting against ACTT from all sides to end the black. A move to 'reluctantly lift' the blacking on processing COI and government material won right wing and Stalinist support on the executive.

But eventually the argument prevailed, after support from Sapper, that as in any strike, the COI could not be driven back from their plan to make the film division redundant without stopping a far wider area of film production.

Laboratory technicians, whose employment is mainly affected by the ban on showing govern-



Sapper . . . Opposed Phase Three talks.

ment commercials, are themselves in dispute over a pay claim.

They have decisively rejected a Phase Two £1 plus 4 per cent offer and condemned their employers for 'bringing politics into pay negotiations'.

Sapper has repeated his charge that the government is behind the television companies' court action. The government is trying to persuade the unions that

Heath's offer to amend the Industrial Relations Act by banning private prosecutions in the NIRC is worth the TUC's agreement to a Phase Three wage control deal.

ACTT's was one of only three voices raised against continuing the Downing Street Phase Three talks when the TUC General Council last met.

The suspicion is that by hitting ACTT hard through the NIRC, the ruling class hopes to persuade the union and all on the left, to see more value in a government-TUC deal.

Several people in and around the NIRC hearing went out of their way to deny this story.

The dispute is not an easy issue for the right wing in ACTT to climb down over. The destruction of 18 permanent jobs in the COI film division and the hiving off of the newsreel production to outside contractors would add still further to the damaging casualization of the industry.

And the union is already committed to a policy which is the complete answer to the right-wing's fears that blacking govern-

ment films will jeopardize jobs in the laboratories; namely, to nationalize the whole industry, without compensation and under workers' control. This is also TUC policy.

As well as revealing the television companies' fear of the advertising-black weapon, the court case showed

● The government-COI is extremely sensitive to questions about why the Melville report recommended hiving off in the first place.

● What were the comparative costings which convinced them the film division work could be done more cheaply and efficiently outside.

● What was the real situation as to unemployment and casualization in the industry.

The ACTT has voted unanimously to ignore the court's order and continue the blacking until the COI produces the figures proving their work can be done better by contractors without using sweated labour or inferior conditions of work.

£1,750 JUNE  
FUND REACHES  
£64.47

WE ARE now at our sixth day and nearing the end of the first week for our June Fund. We are beginning to slip behind, so let's have an extra effort before the end of this week and pull our figure right up.

There has never been such a political situation as this. The crisis continues to rage throughout the United States, over the Watergate affair and in Britain with scandals splitting this Tory government from top to bottom.

While the trade union and Labour leaders remain the obedient servants of the Tories they, in fact, remain the mainstay of this government in power.

Use Workers Press to build an alternative revolutionary leadership. Action by the working class today must force the Tories to resign. So, put all your support behind our paper. Don't let a day go by without raising something for our fund. Post all donations immediately to:

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

### BRIEFLY - BRIEFLY

POST OFFICE engineers in conference at Blackpool yesterday decided after a private session to endorse a £2.98 a week pay claim for their main technicians' grade. The claim, which is now before the Pay Board, is in line with the government's £1-a-week plus 4 per cent limit to which has been added a 70p a week productivity payment. The increase, which is expected to be approved by the Board, is to date from July 1 and will affect all the 125,000 union members.

COAL BOARD expert yesterday told the public inquiry into the Lofthouse colliery disaster that he would not have signed a plan to develop a pit face if he had known there was danger. Senior surveyor Mr Eric Radcliffe was answering questions at the inquiry into the fate of seven miners who died when water broke through the South 9B face on March 21.

# Another \$ devaluation soon?

BY JOHN SPENCER

A THIRD devaluation of the dollar loomed larger yesterday as the US currency slumped to a new record low against most European currencies.

Though the dollar later came off the floor against the franc, mark and Swiss franc, it was clear that the capitalists have completely lost confidence in it.

On the London bullion market their frantic scramble for gold drove the price of the precious metal up to \$130 an ounce in early trading.

The morning fixing price of \$127 an ounce was up \$3.25 on Monday's closing price—a net gain of \$9.75 since the close of trading last Friday.

London bankers said European foreign exchange markets were chaotic at the start of business as holders of dollars unloaded them as fast as they could, switching into other currencies and gold.

The main demand was for the mark and the Swiss franc. There is now general scepticism about the ability of the scandal-racked Nixon administration to deal with inflation.

Each new set of revelations about Watergate precipitates a further round of crises on the money markets and brings nearer the next dollar devaluation.

The 'free market' gold price is over three times the 'official' price, in actual fact the price at which the United States Treasury refuses to sell gold.

The fall in the dollar's parity against sterling and European currencies represents a substantial real devaluation, though it had never been formally acknowledged.

Since February the dollar has fallen by nearly 7 per cent against the jointly floating European currencies.

From a level of about \$2.50 to the pound at the beginning of May the dollar parity has slumped to over \$2.58 to the pound.

The Tory government is currently boasting that exports to Europe have gone up, but they are silent about exports to America, which are certain to

have been hit by the currency upheavals.

British exports to the United States are an extremely important slice of the total exports, though they amount to only about two-fifths of the amount exported to the Common Market partners.

This explains the heavy buying of dollars by the Bank of England revealed in last month's foreign exchange reserves.

## 'Sabotage' denial by Chrysler

CHRYSLER strikers in Coventry reacted angrily yesterday against a company bid to split their strike in support of 650 car-body workers, who are claiming payment for a one-and-a-half hour lay-off last week.

Pickets at the gates of the Chrysler car plant at Ryton described as 'pure fantasy' suggestions that they had deliberately produced large numbers of sub-standard car bodies because they were angry at being recalled for work.

They pointed out that there had been no investigation into the cause of any faulty workmanship.

These suggestions, which followed the issuing of a letter to the 4,500 strikers by the plant manager, appeared to have rebounded on the company.

By midday a company spokesman, clearly worried that any prospect of a settlement had been put in jeopardy, issued a

statement disowning an accusation of 'sabotage' implied in yesterday's 'Daily Express'.

'To use that word is an utter fabrication of the truth and distortion of the situation', the spokesman said.

In his letter plant manager James Cayton claimed that some laid-off workers were upset at being recalled for work two days before the spring holiday after the settlement of a dispute at another plant.

## Leyland plants slow down

THE SPEED-UP drive at British-Leyland brought the number of workers on strike or laid off at its Midlands car plants yesterday to almost 16,000.

At Cowley, Oxford, where 12,000 are laid off, talks between union officials, senior shop stewards and management will not resume until tomorrow.

Thus the 80 plant attendants who are on strike, because of Leyland's refusal to promise upgrading when the pay laws allow,

are virtually certain to stay out at least until their meeting on Friday.

At Swindon 650 press operators, who are on strike against attempts to put in work-study men and raise production targets, again kept production of Allegro body panels halted.

Allegro production at Longbridge, Birmingham, has again been halted by the strike. 2,100 workers are laid off at Longbridge and about 900 at Swindon itself.

He wrote: 'A number of men were disgruntled at being recalled because, had the lay-off continued for the balance of the week, their earnings would have been approximately the same as they would be working the remainder of the week.'

'As a result, during the morning and early afternoon, the level of acceptable car bodies was as low as one-third of the scheduled production.'

After repeated stoppages for repairs to faulty bodies, he added, the body track had been closed down one-and-a-half hours before the end of the day shift on May 24.

Chrysler refused to meet the demand of shop stewards for payment for the last 90 minutes, but when they heard this 650 body workers refused to return to their jobs. Later the rest of the factory walked out in sympathy.

All Trades Unions Alliance Conference: To discuss defence of democratic rights

# BELLE VUE

TUC must break off all talks on Phase 3  
Make the Tory government resign!  
Transform the Socialist Labour League into the Revolutionary Party!

Kings Hall: Belle Vue Zoo Park: Manchester—Sunday July 1: 3 p.m.—9 p.m.

Special showing of the Pageant film 'THE ROAD TO WORKERS POWER' and songs and scenes from history

Tickets £1: Available from R. Smith, 60 Wellington Street West, Salford 7, Manchester.