

What we think 'The Times' and Brian Behan

LEADING the Tory lynch mob against the power men has been 'The Times'. Every conceivable reactionary measure has been invoked in its letters column. This intimidation campaign has been supplemented not only by physical attacks on and abuse of the power workers, but also, and more deviously, by the Labour leaders' predictable refusal to support the power workers.

Yet even this was not enough for 'The Times' campaign to break the strike. Something was missing which neither committed Tories nor bankrupt Labourites like Lord George-Brown and Jim Callaghan could make up for.

It finally got it in the form of a letter from Mr. Brian Behan, ex-Stalinist, ex-Trotskyist, ex-syndicalist, ex-anti-intellectual and now a rather ageing student at Sussex University.

Mr Behan's letter is, predictably, given great prominence in 'The Times', because it puts forward a 'solution' to the present crisis which can only be called one name—corporatism.

In the past, Mr Behan has been known to attack the trade unions and parliament and the Socialist Labour League viciously. Now this trend finds its consummation in a demand for the virtual abolition of parties, in an outright attack against the Communist Party, a shameless defence of Toryism and the replacement of parliament by the system of referendums.

In short a plebiscitary dictatorship. 'Strikes', writes Behan, 'are the most logical outcome of a free-for-all society'.

What is even more intolerable for him is the existence of the CP even in its reformist-Stalinist form. 'Add to this the mischievous antics of the Communist Party and we get a disturbing situation [sic].'

To Behan, the Tory Party is preferable to Stalinism. 'Many workers forget that if the Communist Party were in power then the measures of Comrade Heath would seem like rampant radicalism.'

It is very clear, is it not? The political crimes of the Stalinist bureaucracy, resting on progressive social foundations, are of greater magnitude than the criminal policies of counter-revolutionary imperialism whose foundations are completely rotten and whose superstructure is crumbling!

No need for hospital power cuts—union official Tory anti-strike plot exposed

HOSPITALS need never have been cut off in the power dispute, a leading union representative said in London yesterday.

Chapple's 'act of faith'

BY A POLITICAL REPORTER

UNION LEADERS called off the power industry work-to-rule yesterday 'as an act of faith to the nation'.

Despite their opposition to government's insistence that terms of reference for the Court of Inquiry into their £5 16s claim should include consideration of the national economy, chief union negotiator Frank Chapple said that the unions were not prepared to be 'dictated to over two or three words'.

They later 'reluctantly' agreed to the words. Members in the power stations would be told to start normal working forthwith and the unions said that they expected normal working throughout the country by yesterday evening.

Chances of a wage settlement any more than shillings above the existing £2 offer by the Electricity Council must now be very remote. In a statement issued after their three-hour meeting at the Electricity Council's headquarters yesterday, the unions said that they had unanimously agreed to withdraw the work-to-rule and overtime ban.

Carr later told the House of Commons that the inquiry would also take into account the industry's productivity record. Some 25,000 jobs



Heath arriving for yesterday's lunch meeting.

Ted Ward, secretary of the No 1 district joint industrial council for supply, gave the lie to the Tory press campaign against power workers when he accused management of 'completely frustrating' distribution workers' efforts to ensure that power supplies to hospitals and old people's homes continued.

The black-out, he said, need never have been operated on the 'absolutely ridiculous' rota basis imposed by the management.

The workers had no control at all over the black-outs, which were entirely the responsibility of management. Before the work-to-rule began, shop stewards had lists of people with artificial kidney machines 'and the men would do all in their power to ensure that these were dealt with in the case of an emergency'.

The clear implication is that management has deliberately chosen not to operate a selective system of cuts, so that the blame for their actions can be thrown on the power workers.

National press and television statements blaming the power workers were 'inaccurate and lying', Ted Ward said. 'I strongly hold the opinion that the national press have been more responsible for black-outs than distribution workers—the load the press needs has created situations of black-out.'

And the press—like last weekend's 'Sunday Express'—are using the power to print the most nauseating attacks on electricity workers. The 'Express' printed a Cummings cartoon showing a man labelled 'electricity union' laying a wreath on the grave of 'the sick, the old—who died of cold and blacked-out hospitals—they died to give the electricity men a rise'.

Scottish teachers make big pay claim

BIG wage increases, which would give the lowest-paid teacher a £370-a-year rise, are being demanded by the Scottish Schoolmasters' Association.

The association says that the index of wage rates has increased by 4.6 per cent in the last six months, justifying an increase in their claim—originally 20 per cent. They propose that they should claim £1,350-£2,050 for non-graduates in primary schools—the lowest of the grades.

Closer Bulgarian Greek ties

THE Bulgarian news agency BTA reports the visit to Sofia last week of Konstantin Tranos, an official from the Greek Foreign Ministry. BTA paid tribute to 'the favourable state of Bulgarian-Greek relations', which the talks stressed, showed 'possibilities for still greater development'.

The talks also covered 'all-Balkan co-operation and European security'. The anti-communist military regime in Athens has obviously been allotted a key role in both projects by the Stalinist bureaucracy.

Heath claims stand was supported

TORY Prime Minister Edward Heath claimed yesterday that he had had many hundreds of letters, telegrams and telephone messages over the last few days supporting the government's stand against the power workers.

He told Surrey Tories dining in London that those who had written to him had clearly understood the importance of this dispute for the community as a whole and he thanked 'the general public for the spirit which they have shown' during the work-to-rule.

It had 'overwhelmingly' supported the Cabinet's attitude.

SOVIET UNION'S latest Venus probe is scheduled to rendezvous today with Earth's nearest planetary neighbour after a four-month journey across more than 25 million miles of space.

As the revived Soviet moon vehicle, Lunokhod 1, continues to explore the lunar surface, Venus-7 will attempt to soft-land on the scorchingly hot Venusian surface like its predecessors Venus-5 and 6.

£16 million in the red

BRITAIN had a deficit of £16 million in trade with the rest of the world last month compared with a revised October surplus of £41 million.

But the Trade Department claimed the trend of trade was still obscured by the effects of the July docks strike.

Hysteria

This foul campaign is being used to whip up middle-class hysteria against the workers.

But, as Ward pointed out, it is not frightening them: 'The abuse of supply workers in what they consider to be a just claim has the same effect on them as a red rag to a bull.'

Statements by premier Heath and Chancellor Barber on the use of troops, no surrender, and blackmail were not only provocative, but indicated government interference, politically, in the negotiating machinery.

They had led to a greater solidarity amongst the men, Ward said.

This is the best possible answer to Heath's claim yesterday that the public 'overwhelmingly' backs the government against the power workers.

All Heath has is the support of sections of the middle-class who are victims of the Big Lie being spread by the Tory newspapers.

Thinking workers will know that the struggle against the Tories urgently needs their support.



Mr Ted Ward, secretary of the No. 1 district of the joint industrial council giving details of the power cuts at a press conference yesterday.

Feather praises capitulation

TRADES Union Congress general secretary Victor Feather was full of praise yesterday for the capitulation of the power workers' leaders in calling off their members' work-to-rule.

He congratulated them for making this conciliatory gesture, after being 'quite adamant' last Thursday. Speaking to a conference of non-manual workers' unions in London, he explained: 'What they would not do on Thursday they said they would do yesterday.'

The question now is, does Feather—whose offer of a 12-month pay standstill has already been rebuffed by the Tories—propose further Chapple-style 'conciliation' over the Industrial Relations Bill?

Cambodia: Fierce fighting

CAMBODIAN Liberation Forces, who now hold the capital Phnom Penh in a ring of steel, are continuing their offensive against Lon Nol's American and Czech-backed army.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

There was fierce hand-to-hand fighting for the third successive day yesterday in the village of Prey Totung, just 38 miles from Lon Nol's presidential palace.

Road blocked

Another attack, launched eight days ago against Peam Chikang, a Mekong Riverbank village even nearer the capital, appears to have been successful.

Lon Nol's troops have had

no contact with the village for more than a week.

The Prey Totung battle is blocking the road to the provincial capital of Kompong Cham, which has been under pressure for some months.

Lon Nol's puppet regime is under severe military pressure, despite massive aid from the United States, and the Soviet Union's continued recognition.

The Czech Stalinists are reported to be still supplying arms to this government, which is using them against communists.

FANCY THAT!

'ANY story going around about Mr Onassis being anti-union is completely unfounded on the evidence we have found this morning.'

Boilermakers' president Daniel McGarvey told pressmen after a sumptuous night at Claridges at the shipping magnate's expense.

The night out—complete with smoked salmon and champagne—cost Onassis an estimated £200.

SUPPORT

Council workers won a substantial wage rise by a sustained fight which attracted the support of so-called 'public opinion'.

The same is true of the Pilkington workers, who have won widespread support in the labour movement against far more daunting odds because they refused to abandon principles and bow to the Tory enemy.

The Tories know that the only way the power workers can be driven back is through the craven capitulation of their top leaders.

But they are determined to bring the last ounce of class-collaboration out of them.

This is not an index of Tory strength, but an indication of their tremendous weakness.

All workers must rally to the support of the power workers' just claim, as an essential part of the campaign to defeat the Tory anti-union plans and their efforts to rouse middle-class people and sections of workers against the power men.

Airports work-to-rule will 'snowball'

AIRLINE-staffs' leaders were confident yesterday that most airport operations would grind to a halt within a week as a result of their pay work-to-rule.

First effects of the action were difficult to assess at London's Heathrow airport yesterday because of power-cut precautions and fog.

A representative of the cabin crews' union—the British Airline Stewards' and Stewardesses' Association—forecast at the airport that the dispute would 'snowball all along the line'.

Demand

Unions representing all 60,000 airport workers have rejected an offer of a 4½ per cent increase from January 1 and are demanding a 7 per cent cost-of-living rise plus further amounts 'as an improvement in general living standards'.

VW sales up

SALES of Volkswagen cars in Britain have increased by 60 per cent on last year, the company announced yesterday. The firm's dealer network had sold a record 40,121 cars, including 26,633 'beetles', by the end of last week.

£1,250 Dec. Appeal Fund stands at £317 4s 4d

WE MUST step up the fight for the December fund.

We still need to raise £932 15s 8d by December 31. The electricity supply workers, in spite of their reformist leadership, are determined not to be defeated.

The Tory government, supported by a nationwide campaign in the papers and on TV, are still unable to drive back the working class. The Workers Press must mobilize trade unionists everywhere. This is the time to build up the campaign to force this government to resign. Don't delay. Post all your donations immediately to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

Batchelor's strike may be extended

MOVES may be made today to extend the six-week-old reinstatement strike at Batchelor's Sheffield food factory.

Officials of the three unions involved—Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers, Electrical and Plumbing Trades and Sheet Metalworkers—met in Sheffield yesterday to discuss what one strike committee member described to Workers Press as 'the possibility of the culmination of the dispute'.

About 150 maintenance workers are demanding the reinstatement of Terry Devey, their sacked convenor and AEF district committee member.

Some 700 production workers are laid off by the dispute. Reporting to a weekend meeting of shop stewards in the city, AEF district organizer George Caborn said that the Unilever-Bird's Eye food combine—of which Batchelor's is a part—had 'made up their mind Devey won't be back'.

An attempt is expected, following yesterday's meeting, to bring out all Bird's Eye factories in support of the Batchelor's strikers.

Grimsby Bird's Eye is already out. Donations and messages of support for the strike committee may be sent to: E. Burleigh, 188 Lymington Road, Sheffield 6.

All Trades Unions Alliance Second Annual Conference

THE CHARTER OF BASIC RIGHTS

The right to a job, to strike and organize, to retain gains made, to fair prices, to welfare benefits and to decent housing.

Defend and maintain these rights in a fight to force the Tories to resign.

BIRMINGHAM Sat. December 19 Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth 10.30. am

For delegates' or visitors' credentials send 5s to Alan Wilkins, ATUA secretary, 53 The Hiron, Styvechale, Coventry.

THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

What we think
'The Times'
and
Brian Behan

LEADING the Tory lynch mob against the power men has been 'The Times'. Every conceivable reactionary measure has been invoked in its letters column. This intimidation campaign has been supplemented not only by physical attacks on and abuse of the power workers, but also, and more deviously, by the Labour leaders' predictable refusal to support the power workers.

Yet even this was not enough for 'The Times' campaign to break the strike. Something was missing which neither committed Tories nor bankrupt Labourites like Lord George-Brown and Jim Callaghan could make up for.

It finally got it in the form of a letter from Mr Brian Behan, ex-Stalinist, ex-Trotskyist, ex-syndicalist, ex-anti-intellectual and now a rather ageing student at Sussex University. Mr Behan's letter is, predictably, given great prominence in 'The Times', because it puts forward a 'solution' to the present crisis which can only be called one name—corporatism.

In the past, Mr Behan has been known to attack the trade unions and parliament and the Socialist Labour League viciously. Now this trend finds its consummation in a demand for the virtual abolition of parties, in an outright attack against the Communist Party, a shameless defence of Toryism and the replacement of parliament by the system of referendums.

In short a plebiscitary dictatorship.

'Strikes', writes Behan, 'are the most logical outcome of a free-for-all society.'

What is even more intolerable for him is the existence of the CP even in its reformist-Stalinist form.

'Add to this the mischievous antics of the Communist Party and we get a disturbing situation [sic].'

To Behan, the Tory Party is preferable to Stalinism. 'Many workers forget that if the Communist Party were in power then the measures of Comrade Heath would seem like rampant radicalism.'

It is very clear, is it not? The political crimes of the Stalinist bureaucracy, resting on progressive social foundations, are of greater magnitude than the criminal policies of counter-revolutionary imperialism whose foundations are completely rotten and whose superstructure is crumbling!

Not accidentally Mr Behan remains silent on Tory policy in Ulster—and the entire bloody record of Toryism in the colonies and the trade unions in Britain.

'The Times' and the Tories will do give whole-hearted support to Mr Behan. This, after all, has been their mode of discrediting communism for decades: to use the crimes of Stalinism to obscure the progressive conquests of the October Revolution.

Nobody should confuse the counter-revolutionary anti-communism of the lumpen proletariat and the petty bourgeois, which Behan typifies, with the theory of revolutionary Marxism which is expressed in the Socialist Labour League programme and policy.

The correctness of the struggle against Behan's anti-Trotskyism and his expulsion from the SLI in April 1960 is completely vindicated by what he now advocates.

The only alternative to a strong state, writes Mr Behan, is 'the development of a social conscience'. The corollary to Mr Behan's argument of a 'social con-

No need for hospital power cuts—union official Tory anti-strike plot exposed

HOSPITALS need never have been cut off in the power dispute, a leading union representative said in London yesterday.

Chapple's 'act of faith'

BY A POLITICAL REPORTER

UNION LEADERS called off the power industry work-to-rule yesterday 'as an act of faith to the nation'.

Despite their opposition to government's insistence that terms of reference for the Court of Inquiry into the £5 16s claim should include consideration of the national economy, chief union negotiator Frank Chapple said that the unions were not prepared to be 'doctrinaire over two or three words'.

They later 'reluctantly' agreed to the words. Members in the power stations would be told to start normal working forthwith and the unions said that they expected normal working throughout the country by yesterday evening.

Chances of a wage settlement any more than shillings above the existing £2 offer by the Electricity Council must now be very remote.

Carr later told the House of Commons that the inquiry would also take into account the industry's productivity record. Some 25,000 jobs

• PAGE FOUR COL. 9

Scottish teachers make big pay claim

BIG wage increases, which would give the lowest-paid teacher a £370-a-year rise, are being demanded by the Scottish Schoolmasters' Association.

The association says that the index of wage rates has increased by 4.6 per cent in the last six months, justifying an increase in their claim—originally 20 per cent.

They propose that they should claim £1,350-£2,050 for non-graduates in primary schools—the lowest of the grades.

Closer Bulgarian Greek ties

THE Bulgarian news agency BTA reports the visit to Sofia last week of Konstantin Tranos, an official from the Greek Foreign Ministry.

BTA paid tribute to 'the favourable state of Bulgarian-Greek relations', which the talks stressed, showed 'possibilities for still greater development'.

The talks also covered 'all-Balkan co-operation and European security'. The anti-communist military regime in Athens has obviously been allotted a key role in both projects by the Stalinist bureaucracy.



Heath arriving for yesterday's lunch meeting.

Heath claims stand was supported

TORY Prime Minister Edward Heath claimed yesterday that he had had many hundreds of letters, telegrams and telephone messages over the last few days supporting the government's stand against the power workers.

He told Surrey Tories dining in London that those who had written to him had clearly understood the importance of this dispute for the community as a whole and he thanked 'the general public for the spirit which they have shown' during the work-to-rule.

It had 'overwhelmingly' supported the Cabinet's attitude.

SOVIET UNION'S latest Venus probe is scheduled to rendezvous today with Earth's nearest planetary neighbour after a four-month journey across more than 25 million miles of space.

As the revived Soviet moon vehicle, Lunokhod 1, continues to explore the lunar surface, Venus-7 will attempt to soft-land on the scorchingly hot Venusian surface like its predecessors Venus-5 and 6.

£16 million in the red

BRITAIN had a deficit of £16 million in trade with the rest of the world last month compared with a revised October surplus of £41 million.

But the Trade Department claimed the trend of trade was still obscured by the effects of the July docks strike.

Ted Ward, secretary of the No 1 district joint industrial council for supply, gave the lie to the Tory press campaign against power workers when he accused management of 'completely frustrating' distribution workers' efforts to ensure that power supplies to hospitals and old people's homes continued.

The black-out, he said, need never have been operated on the 'absolutely ridiculous' rota basis imposed by the management.

The workers had no control at all over the black-outs, which were entirely the responsibility of management.

Before the work-to-rule began, shop stewards had lists of people with artificial kidney machines and the men would do all in their power to ensure that these were dealt with in the case of an emergency.

The clear implication is that management has deliberately chosen not to operate a selective system of cuts, so that the blame for their actions can be thrown on the power workers.

National press and television statements blaming the power workers were 'false and lying', Ted Ward said.

'I strongly hold the opinion that the national press have been more responsible for black-outs than distribution workers—the load the press needs has created situations of black-out.'

And the press-like last weekend's 'Sunday Express'—are using the power to print the most nauseating attacks on electricity workers. The 'Express' printed a Cummings cartoon showing a man labelled 'electricity union' laying a wreath on the grave of 'the sick, the old—who died of cold and blacked-out hospitals—they died to give the electricity men a rise'.

Hysteria

This foul campaign is being used to whip up middle-class hysteria against the workers.

But, as Ward pointed out, it is not frightening them: 'The abuse of supply workers in what they consider to be a just claim has the same effect on them as a red rag to a bull.'

Statements by premier Heath and Chancellor Barber on the use of troops, no surrender, and blackmail were not only provocative, but indicated government interference, politically, in the negotiating machinery.

They had led to a greater solidarity amongst the men, Ward said.

This is the best possible answer to Heath's claim yesterday that the public 'overwhelmingly' backs the government against the power workers.

All Heath has is the support of sections of the middle-class who are victims of the Big Lie being spread by the Tory newspapers.

'Thinking workers will know that the struggle against the Tories urgently needs their support.'



Mr Ted Ward, secretary of the No. 1 district of the joint industrial council giving details of the power cuts at a press conference yesterday.

Feather praises capitulation

TRADES Union Congress general secretary Victor Feather was full of praise yesterday for the capitulation of the power workers' leaders in calling off their members' work-to-rule.

He congratulated them for making this conciliatory gesture, after being 'quite adamant' last Thursday.

Speaking to a conference of non-manual workers' unions in London, he explained: 'What they would do on Thursday they said they would do yesterday.'

The question now is, does Feather—whose offer of a 12-month pay standstill has already been rebuffed by the Tories—propose further Chapple-style 'conciliation' over the Industrial Relations Bill?

Cambodia: Fierce fighting

CAMBODIAN Liberation Forces, who now hold the capital Phnom Penh in a ring of steel, are continuing their offensive against Lon Nol's American and Czech-backed army.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

There was fierce hand-to-hand fighting for the third successive day yesterday in the village of Prey Totung, just 38 miles from Lon Nol's presidential palace.

Road blocked

Another attack, launched eight days ago against Peam Chikang, a Mekong Riverbank village even nearer the capital, appears to have been successful.

Lon Nol's troops have had

Airports work-to-rule will 'snowball'

AIRLINE-staffs' leaders were confident yesterday that most airport operations would grind to a halt within a week as a result of their pay work-to-rule.

First effects of the action were difficult to assess at London's Heathrow airport yesterday because of power-cut precautions and fog.

A representative of the cabin crews' union—the British Airline Stewards' and Stewardesses' Association—forecast at the airport that the dispute would 'snowball all along the line'.

Demand

Unions representing all 60,000 airport workers have rejected an offer of a 44-per cent increase from January 1 and are demanding a 7-per cent cost-of-living rise plus further amounts 'as an improvement in general living standards'.

VW sales up

SALES of Volkswagen cars in Britain have increased by 60 per cent on last year, the company announced yesterday.

The firm's dealer network had sold a record 40,121 cars, including 26,633 'beetles', by the end of last week.

Class-war logic Power chiefs retreat—Tories advance

TORY GOVERNMENT insistence that the 'national interest' must be taken into account in a power industry Court of Inquiry underlines their determination to press home the advantage union leaders have given them.

The unions' proposal to end the work-to-rule and overtime ban in return for an inquiry court was a major retreat.

The suggestion came not, as might have been thought, from the right-wing Electrical Trades Union leaders, but from the Engineering Union's Bob Wright.

The Tory position, taken after hurried Whitehall consultations between Edward Heath, Robert Carr and other Cabinet Ministers, is a clear indication that the more the union leaders retreat the more demanding and arrogant the Tory government becomes.

After one of the most virulent and sustained press and TV campaigns ever mounted against any section of workers in Britain, the Tories evidently feel strong enough to insist that the power men resume work on their terms.

Trade and Industry supremo John Davies said at the week-end:

There is little give at all on our side. Quite correct: all the 'give' is on the union side. The opportunist union leaders are more frightened by their members' powerful response to the work-to-rule call than by the prospect of defeat.

Not a single union chief has welcomed the 'Evening Standard' printworkers' action against the witch-hunt when they took action over the now notorious Jak cartoon.

These union leaders adhere to the fallacy that if you don't fight the Tories, they won't fight you—and get a slap in the face from the government for their pains.

The lesson of all the major disputes under the Tory government—the docks, Pilkingtons, the council workers, GKN-Sankey and the miners—is that each retreat strengthens the Tories and every battle that is successfully fought through has the reverse effect.

SUPPORT

Council workers won a substantial wage rise by a sustained fight which attracted the support of so-called 'public opinion'.

The same is true of the Pilkington workers, who have won widespread support in the labour movement against far more daunting odds because they refused to abandon principles and bow to the Tory enemy.

The Tories know that the only way the power workers can be driven back is through the craven capitulation of their shop leaders.

But they are determined to bring the last ounce of class-collaboration out of them. This is not an index of Tory strength, but an indication of their tremendous weakness.

All workers must rally to the support of the power workers' just claim, as an essential part of the campaign to defeat the Tory anti-union plans and their efforts to rouse middle-class people and sections of workers against the power men.

FANCY THAT!

ANY story going around about Mr Onassis being anti-union is completely unfounded on the evidence we have found this morning.

Boilermakers' president Daniel McGarvey told pressmen after a sumptuous night at Claridges at the shipping magnate's expense.

The night out—complete with smoked salmon and champagne—cost Onassis an estimated £200.

Batchelor's strike may be extended

MOVES may be made today to extend the six-week-old reinstatement strike at Batchelor's Sheffield food factory.

Officials of the three unions involved—Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers, Electrical and Plumbing Trades and Sheet Metalworkers—met in Sheffield yesterday to discuss what one strike committee member described to Workers Press as 'the possibility of the culmination of the dispute'.

About 150 maintenance workers are demanding the reinstatement of Terry Devey, their sacked convenor and AEF district committee member.

Some 700 production workers are laid off by the dispute. Reporting to a weekend meeting of shop stewards in the city, AEF district organizer George Caborn said that the Unilever-Bird's Eye food combine—of which Batchelor's is a part—had 'made up their mind Devey won't be back'.

An attempt is expected, following yesterday's meeting, to bring out all Bird's Eye factories in support of the Batchelor's strikers.

Grimsby Bird's Eye is already out. Donations and messages of support for the strike committee may be sent to:

E. Burrell, 188 Lymington Road, Sheffield 6.

All Trades Unions Alliance Second Annual Conference

Discuss
THE CHARTER OF BASIC RIGHTS

The right to a job, to strike and organize, to retain gains made, to fair prices, to welfare benefits and to decent housing.

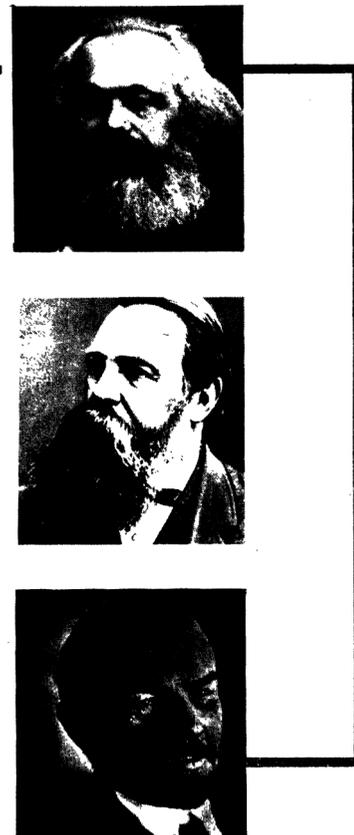
Defend and maintain these rights in a fight to force the Tories to resign.

BIRMINGHAM Sat. December 19
Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth 10.30 am

For delegates' or visitors' credentials send 5s to Alan Wilkins, ATUA secretary, 53 The Hiron, Styvechale, Coventry.

BY PETER JEFFRIES

MARX ENGELS LENIN AND



Leaders of the Communist Party shortly after its foundation in 1920.



THE BRITISH working class is now preparing for the most decisive period of struggle in its long history.

The great depth of the crisis facing world and British capitalism means that the employing class can only hope to cling onto power by preparing the most ruthless struggle against the working class.

This will involve an attempt to break up the organizations which it has built up over decades of struggle.

But this crisis, which has developed particularly since the election of the Tory government cannot be resolved within the framework of capitalism.

The struggle against unemployment, speed-up and redundancies and defence of the unions all demand the preparation by the working class to take power.

Great economic changes, changes in the relationship of the classes, always prepare for great changes in thinking. Faced with completely new problems the English working class will increasingly be forced to make a gigantic leap forward in consciousness and go into battle armed with its history.

But, although driven into bitter struggles, many sections of the workers will enter the fight still clinging as a last resort to many of their old conceptions and forms of organization.

And the role of the reformists, Stalinists and revisionists is to try and see that the working class remains burdened with these historically redundant forms of thinking.

Stages

There is nothing automatic about this development in consciousness. It will have to be fought for tenaciously by the revolutionary party at each stage.

While requiring great determination and sacrifice, this struggle will also demand great patience. For there can be no leaping over stages in the development of the working-class consciousness.

The first stage of this new turn is a great wages offensive. But while this is the form, the implications of this fight are profoundly political: not only do they involve a direct confrontation with a Tory government now committed to a showdown with the unions and the working class, but the very existence of the unions as independent organs of working-class struggle.

It is for these reasons that the revolutionary movement is now posed with a great theoretical challenge and responsibility. For what is at issue is not merely whether Trotskyism will be able to attract big support from the youth and older layers in the working class—the period since May-June 1968 in France has shown a growing interest in Marxism.

Britain will be no exception. The growth of the Workers Press is an indication of this.

The essential Marxist task is not just winning of support for its programme in the working class, but the training of cadres in theory.

This involves an implacable struggle against the limitations of

the working class, against its forms of thinking, a struggle which must bring out the real content and historical implications of the present crisis.

The organic connection between present struggles of class history must be established amongst the most advanced and class-conscious section of workers.

The study of history has to be forged into a weapon to

with brands of 'honest' English Marxism which could combine the worst features of petty-bourgeois dilettantism with trade union opportunism.

Seeking to tailor Marxism to opportunism, to cut out its revolutionary content and its internationalism they have looked to William Morris and John McClean as the 'true' English Marxists.

We have to start from an

crack many of the theoretical and practical questions that now demand solution.

And understanding of the continual fight for Marxism must be instilled into the present generation of workers.

For it is from this history that the Socialist Labour League derives its theory, strategy and tactics.

Capitalism can be overthrown only if the revolutionary movement can bring the lessons of the historical fight for Marxism in Britain to bear, in a real living way, on the tasks which it and

entirely different theoretical standpoint. There is no 'national' Marxism; it is a science which seeks to draw out the lessons of all the gains, victories and defeats of the international working class and put these at the disposal of the working class in each country.

All those who start from some conception of a Marxism 'peculiar' to the conditions of any one country inevitably end up by adapting to the prevailing, bourgeois ideas in that country.

So the struggle for Marxism, in Britain right from the 1840s, has been centred on the struggle

only to the extent that it was able to fight successfully against the opportunism and syndicalism that tended to predominate in the English working class.

In a negative sense Lenin's warnings were absolutely confirmed.

Stalinism took hold of the British Party perhaps more easily than it did any other Communist Party in the 1920s because the 'theory' and practice of a privileged bureaucracy in the Soviet Union found a ready response to the opportunism which infected many of the cadres, like Gallagher, Murphy and Bell who

boilermakers, carpenters, building trade workers.

Limited though this movement was compared with the size and scope of Chartism, Marx recognized its importance and turned his full attention towards it.

The bulk of his supporters on the General Council of the First International (established in 1864) came from these forces.

Marxists have never made a fetish of the 'backwardness' of the English working class. They have always tried to understand it as the product of definite historical forces, which has always been a relative and not an absolute barrier to the development of Marxism.

Again this is a vital lesson for the present struggle. The revolutionary party is now called on to intervene in all workers struggles, however limited they may seem from a formal point of view.

Patience

If the working class is merely looked at in a formal way, and there is not a relentless struggle to extract all the theoretical lessons from every development, however small, then there can be no development of Marxism.

Because both Marx and Engels recognized the great power of the trade union movement in the English working class they were prepared to struggle with great patience and with complete determination against the opportunist elements among the leaders of the skilled workers who were beginning to unionize in the 1850s.

This not only played a vital part in the struggle against the Anarchists in the First International, but it also prepared for the great struggles which the working class was to wage against these same opportunist leaders with the growth of unskilled trade unionism in the 1880s.

So the fight of Marx and Engels against the conservatism of the English trade union leaders in the 1860s was a theoretical anticipation of the fight of the working class of the 1880s in which Engels was able to play a decisive role.

In the early stages of a movement, the interest in its theory is inevitably confined to relatively small numbers. But it is precisely in such periods that the struggle to develop and enrich Marxism, no matter how difficult, no matter amongst how few workers, that the vital theoretical base is laid for the expansion of the movement during the upturn of the class struggle which brings hundreds of thousands and later millions onto the political arena for the first time.

It is only in this theoretical sense that we can speak about the movement's continuity, which is not primarily an organizational question.

If it is conceived as such, then it readily leads to the conclusion that the continuity has been decisively broken on several



A queue of unemployed outside a Labour Exchange in the 1920s.

the working class face.

The task of tracing this continuity—from the time of Marx's and Engel's struggles in the British working class from the 1840s onwards—involves a break from the insularity which has long dominated the English working class.

But this fight for Marxism, reflecting the international struggle of the working class, is not a national question.

This theoretical conception has profound practical significance at a period when the preparation for the English revolution fuses ever more closely with the European revolution.

Middle-class revisionists have always declared Marxism — or, more strictly, Bolshevism — as something quite 'alien' and 'out of character' with the English working class.

What unites all revisionists—Pabloites of the International Marxist Group, the 'state capitalist' International Socialism group as well as the New Left—is their hatred and fear of the Leninist Party.

They have sought to replace it

against opportunism, against all those in the working class and middle class who wanted to base themselves on the most privileged and conservative layers.

And the same internationalist struggle was certainly at the centre of the preparations for the Russian Revolution.

Lenin and his followers were able to defeat Menshevism (opportunism) in their own movement only because they sought to establish its international nature and its connection with the development of the imperialist stage of capitalism.

It was because they recognized and understood Menshevism as an international tendency that the Bolsheviks overcame it in struggle; all those, including Kautsky, who did not start from this position ended up either by joining this tendency or cravenly adapting to it.

The struggle against opportunism has gone along with a constant struggle against 'practicalism' and a general aversion to theory and ideas.

Marxism can only be developed in the continual fight against the narrowness and parochialism which has dominated large sections of the British working class.

Lenin warned that the Communist Party of Great Britain—formed in 1920—would develop

came together to establish the British Communist Party.

But if Marx, Engels and Lenin were acutely aware of the weaknesses and limitations of the British working class, they were certainly equally well aware of its great strength and potential power.

None of the leading Marxists stood aside from even the slightest and most limited development in the working class.

After the defeat of Chartism in 1848, for example, Marx and Engels sought to understand the real lessons of this movement, its achievements and its limitations.

Reaction

Those like Ernest Jones and George Julian Harney, who had come nearest to grasping the revolutionary nature of Chartism, were unable to survive the period of reaction which inevitably followed the movement's collapse.

It was only the insistence upon a fight for theory in the difficult years of reaction following 1848 that prepared the way for a renewal and expansion of the revolutionary movement once the class struggle began to revive towards the end of the 1850s.

This revival, coinciding with the opening of the mid-Victorian boom, took the form of a struggle for trade unionism amongst the most highly-skilled sections of workers — engineers,

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.

Name _____
Address _____

ADVANCE NOTICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1971. 11 a.m.

ALEXANDRA PALACE Wood Green London, N22
Young Socialists and All Trades Unions Alliance
GREAT NATIONAL RALLY AGAINST TORYISM

BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

tv

BBC 1
12.55-1.25 p.m. News and weather. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Animal magic. 5.20 Perils of Penelope Pitstop. 5.40 Seeing stars. 5.44 Magic Christmasabout. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. London.
6.45 QUIZ BALL.
7.05 Z CARS. 'Playing For Keep's. Part two.
7.30 THE LAUGH PARADE. 'The Bulldog Breed'. With Norman Wisdom. Ian Hunter, David Lodge, Edward Chapman and Robert Urquhart.
9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.
9.20 'A COCKNEY IN JAPAN.' George Whyman went to Japan as a judo pilgrim 15 years ago.
10.10 MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS.
10.40 24 HOURS.
11.15 A JEW LOOKS AT CHRISTMAS.
11.20 Weather.

BBC 2
11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.
6.30 p.m. TEST CRICKET FROM AUSTRALIA. Australia v England.
7.05 PROSPECTUS.
7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.
8.00 FLOODIT RUGBY LEAGUE. BBC 2 Trophy, the final. Leeds or Hull KR v Wigan or Leigh or St Helens.
8.50 WHEELBASE.
9.20 MENACE. 'The Elimination'. With Derek Godfrey and Colin Gordon.
10.35 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
10.40 THE CODEBREAKERS. 'Message to Moscow—Saturday evening, 7, January 1961'.
11.10 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV
2.50 p.m. Journey of a lifetime. 3.05 Sacred dance. 3.15 The Barrow Poets' Christmas Party. 4.17 Hatty town. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Junior showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.

6.02 TODAY.
6.25 THE GHOST AND MR SMUIR.
6.55 TUESDAY FILM. 'A Pair of Briefs'. Two barristers working for the same firm are at daggers drawn.
8.30 NEVER MIND TH' EQUALITY, FEEL THE WIDTH.
9.00 SEVEN PLUS SEVEN.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 PLAYHOUSE. 'THE DAY THEY BURIED CLEAVER'. The Stables Theatre Company. A policeman is accused of bribery and corruption.
11.30 PEOPLE TO PEOPLE. 'Time Off In Germany'. From W Germany.
12.00 midnight THREE SCORE AND MORE.

REGIONAL BBC
All regions as above except:
Midlands. E. Anglia. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today. Look East, weather. 10.10-10.40 Contact (Midlands only). 11.22 News, weather. North. NW, NE, Cumberland and Look North, weather. 10.10-10.40 West. The wall game. (NE only).
Wales. 5.20-5.44 Teletext. 6.00 Wales today. weather. Nationwide. 6.45-7.05 Heddidi. 10.10-10.40 This World of Wales. 11.22 Weather. 12.15 News, weather. 12.10 Gazette. Scotland. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland.

Nationwide. 10.10 She shall have music. 10.40 Bon comraidh. 11.15-11.40 Scottish viewpoint. News. N Ireland. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Scene around six, weather. 10.10-10.40 In question. 11.15-11.35 Viewpoint. News, weather.
SW, South, West. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Points West. South today. Spotlight SW, weather. 10.10 The enthusiasts. (South only). 10.35-10.40 What Price. (South only). 11.22 News, weather.

REGIONAL ITV
CHANNEL. 4.40 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 Survival. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Look-around. 6.35 Crossroads. 6.00 Movie: 'Coby'. With Leslie Caron. 8.30 London. 11.30 Aquarius. 12.10 Gazette. 12.15 News, weather. A sports writer

News. 4.00 Gus Honeybun show. 6.00 Diary. 12.15 Faith for life. 12.20 Weather.

SOUTHERN. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Rookie bear. 6.50 Suspense and intrigue. 'Right Cross'. With June Allyson. Dick Powell and Ricardo Montalban. A sports writer

takes an interest in boxer's career. 8.30 London. 11.30 News. 11.40 Farm progress. 12.05 Weather. Action 70. HARLECH. 3.15-4.15 Barrow Poets' Christmas Party. 4.18 Women today. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Bonanza. 8.00 Mr and Mrs. 8.30 London. 11.30 People to people. 12 midnight. Weather. HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.16-4.18. 6.01-6.35 Report. HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 as above except: 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. HTV (Gwynedd/Wales) black and white service as above except: 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 6.00-10.00 Dan sylv.

ANGLIA. 3.15 Barrow Poets' Christmas Party. 4.30 News. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. Police call. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'No Kidding'. With Leslie Phillips. A family decide to turn their house into a holiday home for rich children. 8.30 London. 11.30 Conceptions of murder. 11.58 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS. 3.49 Horoscope. 3.55 Omen today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 West. 4.50 Flaxton boys. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Son of a Gun'. With Russ Tamblyn and Patsy Keron Moore. Two men pursue an infamously outlawed for very different reasons. 8.30 London. 11.30 Music room. Weather. ULSTER. 7.00 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 MTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 8.30 London. 11.30 White line.

YORKSHIRE. 3.15 Barrow Poets' Christmas Party. 4.15 Wind in the willows. 4.30 Matinee. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Nanny and the professor. 'The Over-the-Hill Gang'. With Walter Brennan, Pat O'Brien, Chill Willis and Edgar Buchanan. An aged quartet of ex-Texas Rangers try to clean up a town. 8.30 London. 11.30 All our yesterdays. 12 midnight. Weather.

GRANADA. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.01 Six-one. 6.15 A man called Sheridanoh. 6.45 Film: 'Rhubarb'. With Ray Milland and Jan Sterling. A millionaire leaves his entire fortune to his ginger cat. 8.30 London. 11.30 Four just men.

TYNE TEES. 4.10 News. 4.15 Mad Christmas Party. 4.15 Wind in the willows. 4.30 Matinee. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.25 Where the jobs are. 6.30 Film: 'That Certain Feeling'. With Bob Hope and Eva Marie Saint. A famous cartoonist becomes too involved in self-publicity for his own good. 8.30 London. 11.30 News. 11.45 How many times.

SCOTTISH. 3.40 Dateline. 3.50 Horoscope. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Film: 'Give My Regards to Broadway'. With Dan Dailey, Charles Winninger, Nancy Guild, Charlie Ruggles and Fanny Brantner. 8.30 London. 11.30 Late call.

GRAMPIAN. 3.49 News. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.25 Wally Whyton style. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Row's Thomson reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Western: 'The Outriders'. With Joel McCrea, Arlene Dahl, Barry Sullivan and James Whitmore. Three Southerners escape from a Union stockade during the Civil War. 8.30 London.



Charles Shaughnessy (ROBERT MITCHUM) looks on as Father Collins (TREVOR HOWARD) talks to Rosy (SARAH MILES).



Michael (JOHN MILLS) throws confetti. Below: The marriage. Rosy (SARAH MILES) and Charles Shaughnessy (ROBERT MITCHUM).



FILMS

BY BRIAN MOORE

LEAN TIMES

DAVID LEAN, the film director, you might say is the highest expression of commercial film-making. His output includes 'Bridge on the River Kwai', 'Lawrence of Arabia', 'Doctor Zhivago' and now 'Ryan's Daughter', showing at the Empire, Leicester Square.

His last three films, as the current extensive publicity informs us, have won an 'incredible 20 Academy Awards'. Zhivago has earned at this stage £30 million.

In an industry which has created more myths out of the simple appropriation of cash than any other, Lean is almost a myth in himself.

In the words of the trade 'he can write his own ticket', or, more simply, because his films have grossed so much money and he is subsequently so much in demand, the financiers allow him a 'freedom' that few other film-makers have and production money for one project that would be sufficient to finance at least 12 other medium-sized budget films.

It is interesting therefore to see how this 'freedom' expresses itself in his work.

Spectre

To recognize commercial freedom is to understand the knife edge that it rests on, for again in the words of the trade, 'you are only as good as your last picture', which means that 'freedom' is always haunted by the spectre of commercial failure.

If the last picture dies at the box office, the next one is harder to finance. Some people don't work for years afterwards.

Orson Welles, for example, after the 'failure' of the 'Magnificent Ambersons', could not set up a picture for several years.

This is the inescapable contradiction that all film-makers work under, however 'free' they are. In fact the 'freer' they are the sharper is the contradiction and the more the spectre hangs over them. They are prisoners of their own 'freedom'.

Lean's first giant commercial success was 'Bridge over the River Kwai', followed after an interval of several years by 'Lawrence of Arabia'. In this last film Robert Bolt wrote the screenplay and Lean has

RYAN'S DAUGHTER directed

worked with him on every picture since. How has this collaboration developed and has the work progressed?

In 'Lawrence' the script drew heavily on the Seven Pillars of Wisdom, T. E. Lawrence's own account of the Arab struggle for independence.

It is the highly subjective view of a man who remained an enigmatic and contradictory representative of the British ruling class.

Deepen

The film itself tried to deepen an understanding of the man, but could offer little more than a crude psycho-analytical approach to the subject.

It focused on the sado-masochistic aspects of his character, seeing the historical conflict he was involved in as something little more than a kind of backdrop, or expression of his own neurosis.

It is true that references were made to the kind of carve-up of Arabia perpetrated by the British, but attention of the film was elsewhere.

I am not saying that the film was wrong to centre on Lawrence, or that the man's inner neurotic tensions are not of importance. But in distorting the historical conflict they distorted also the man.

Lawrence was therefore cast in the 'heroic' mould and the style of the film reflected that interpretation. Hence the long, shimmering entrances on horseback, the magnificent panorama of the desert, the almost mystical meditations of Lawrence when deliberating over battle, the choice of music, in a word the 'epic' treatment of the subject.

But having opted for this interpretation however, there was no real disjunction between style and content. The film had its internal completeness though a distorted one. Three films later we see in

'Ryan's Daughter' Lean and Bolt clanking their chains of freedom; the box office has to exert a pressure on the requirements of the 'epic' style. David Lean has got to make a 'David Lean' film, which now predominates over the requirements of the content itself.

By this I mean that Bolt has written an original script which has as its theme the restlessness of a young woman who is trying to find something more out of life, something in it that will correspond to her fantasies of it, and inappropriately subordinated to the epic style. We have here a story struggling to get out of the tyranny of the epic form.

Rather than an intimate exploration of the girl's inner life, her longings, her sense of oppression, her changes in mood, her despair, all this is treated in a broad sweep.

The camera shows us panoramic spectacular views of the countryside, the sea, a brooding sky, which are just crude and obvious images reflecting her inner conflict, and primarily are introduced for the visual content itself.

In every sense the content

is subordinated to style. For example the local policeman—the film is set in a small West Coast Irish village just after the Easter uprising, though that, like the mountains, is merely another backdrop—is established as a definite character in the community, one who fraternizes with the English soldiers, and one who has the contempt of the unemployed villagers.

Indifference

Yet when he is shot by a rebel commandant from Dublin and his body thrown down a mine, no one, not the army, nor the villagers ever mention or are aware of his disappearance.

Obviously a whole sequence was cut out of the film and lies on some editor's floor. But the point is that this demonstrates an absolute and unforgivable indifference to content.

Why? Because the style predominates. Better a long view of the sea than the exigencies of story.

Again locations are chosen not for their appropriateness but for their visual effect.

by DAVID LEAN



DESPITE a ban on cigarette advertising on US television in the new year, the tobacco industry remains confident that any drop in sales will only be temporary.

With the lessons from several European countries to lean on, the tobacco magnates can afford to remain cheerful, despite the legislation which has been passed in response to the increasing evidence of the smoking-cancer link.

Cigarette packets must carry warnings of the danger to health of smoking and various heart and cancer societies use television advertising to portray its grim potentialities.

Yet the industry is buoyant and this year has reversed a downward trend in cigarette consumption.

NO WEED KILLER

The new legislation will certainly not be popular with the TV networks. The tobacco industry allocated \$225 million (£93 million) for TV this year—about three-quarters of its total advertising budget.

As a result of the ban, tobacco companies are expected to divert most of this money to other media, while some plan to cut their advertising costs.

However, TV commercials for pipe tobacco and cigars will still be permitted and there will undoubtedly be increased spending on these.

Fears have also been expressed that evasion of the ban may take place by the simple method of giving new lines of pipe tobacco or cigars the names of popular brands of cigarettes.

Evasion

This has worked very well in Britain for the makers of the 'Embassy' brands, a fact which will not have escaped the attention of their US counterparts.

The US surgeon-general's report on the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer was published in 1964.

In Britain, TV advertising was banned in 1965 and yet sales have increased by 2.7 per cent per year since then.

In Italy, Switzerland and France even bigger increases have been recorded.

So the US weed merchants are optimistic. They know that whatever gestures the Administration may make, there is no likelihood of a complete ban on advertising.

With the massive financial resources at their disposal, they are therefore in a position

to completely swamp any poorly-financed and half-hearted attempts that are made to counter their flood of propaganda.

Next year they hope to surpass their 1967 record sales of 528 million cigarettes—an average of 24 packets of 20 per person per week!

THE POVERTY OF QUEBEC

WHILE THE world is subjected to interminable reports of the sufferings of diplomat James Cross and his family, the conditions of Quebec workers which gave rise to the much-publicised activities of the French separatists are quietly but firmly swept to one side.

Large-scale unemployment is compounded with deteriorating living standards and worsening health conditions.

A recent report, prepared by a Royal Commission for the Quebec Health Ministry, shows that the province's workers are less healthy and can expect to have shorter lives than other Canadians.

The infant mortality rate is also higher in the province than in other parts of Canada or Europe—25 deaths per 1,000.

The report blames pollution and inadequate hospital facilities for the high incidence of some illnesses.

Lung diseases are most common in the industrialized city of Montreal, and the report admits that low incomes and poor housing are 'factors'.

Quebec also has a high incidence of tuberculosis, cancer and heart disease.

One of the most striking statistics in the 570-page report is that the death from TB in the province is more than double that of neighbouring Ontario, nearly six per thousand.

The rural areas of Quebec turn out to be more unhealthy than urban ones, due to lack of up-to-date medical equipment and poorly-planned patient facilities.

The report has run into some criticism because not all the figures are completely up to date, but it has given rise to demands for a major overhaul of many health services.

Premier Trudeau's reply has been to ban the FLQ and to give notice to Quebec workers how capitalism intends to deal with their struggle for the most elementary rights.

behind THE NEWS

Breakthrough in genetics

THE CURING of inherited disease through genetic engineering was the subject matter of a recent Washington conference.

The conference was the first in a planned series to gain as much knowledge and provide as many safeguards as possible before the advent of the practice of genetic medicine, which may become a practical alternative to human transplant surgery.

Inherent in the achievement of genetic control disease is the ability to manipulate genes and to eliminate the development of diseases which can lead to serious organ failure. Such diseases affect one quarter of the human race.

The conference's six 'workshops' attempted to define more sharply the number of genetic diseases (1,500 have been identified), the extent of

their prevalence in world populations, the current rate of knowledge about the diseases, and what can be done under existing programmes to improve research and treatment.

Dr Arthur G. Steinberg, conference co-chairman and Professor of Human Genetics at Case Western University in Ohio, said that the scientific community agreed that the world is at the dawn of practical breakthroughs in this area because of the great basic research performed in the past decade in elucidating the genetic code, and more recently isolating individual genes and synthesizing a gene artificially.

Lay leaders and scientists alike, he said, 'will devote their attention to the anticipation of possible problems stemming from the application of research and development in genetic medicine'.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

£13 for 12 months (312 issues)
£6 10s for six months (156 issues)
£3 5s for three months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:

£1 for three months (24 issues)
£4 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required MONDAY THURSDAY
(Please tick) TUESDAY FRIDAY
WEDNESDAY SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for months.

Name

Address

Amount enclosed £ s d

New Park Publications
186a Clapham High St,
SW4.

Last date for orders
December 24.

BOOKS FOR XMAS

YOU MUST NOT MISS OUR SPECIAL OFFER

Revolutionary Silhouettes
by Lunacharsky
(hard cover)
£1 10s

THREE VITAL BOOKS

All for £2 plus 3s postage

THE AGE OF PERMANENT REVOLUTION: A TROTSKY ANTHOLOGY
by Leon Trotsky
9s 6d

STALINISM IN BRITAIN
ANALYSIS
BY ROBERT BLACK
Stalinism in Britain
by Robert Black
(soft cover)
£1 2s 6d

Please send me your special Xmas book offer. Enclosed please find cheque for

Name

Address

Make ATUA conference counter offensive against Tory laws

WITH FOUR days to go to the Birmingham conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance called to discuss and amend the Alliance's Draft Charter of Basic Rights, the Tory government has come out for open war on the working class.

The government's attitude to the power workers' dispute shows that Heath and his Cabinet want to abolish all compromise and force a complete surrender from the union leaders.

Today the power workers are under fire—virtually abandoned to the mercy of the press and Robert Carr, architect of the anti-union laws—tomorrow it may be the engineers, the dockers or any other group of workers.

Can there be any greater illustration of the need for a big and successful conference on December 19 at Birmingham?

Springboard

The ATUA wants Birmingham to be a springboard for the counter-offensive against this reactionary government. On the basis of the Charter of Rights they hope to develop a mass movement in all unions to fight against Tory attacks on workers' gains and standards and force the government to resign.

So we appeal to all trade unionists who want to join in this fight to keep the discussion on the Charter going and send delegates and visitors to the Charter conference.

Four engineers

Today we publish the views of four engineers who are rank-and-file leaders in their industries. From the Midlands, the North and the South of England they all add their own opinions to the need for a great campaign to defend the rights of the working class.

Dealing with 'wildcats'

MR Kenneth Corley, chairman and managing director of Joseph Lucas (Industries), Ltd, told shareholders at the annual meeting that it was 'upsetting and grieving' to find Lucas affected by strikes involving only a handful of their 80,000 workers, acting against the advice of their unions.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Discuss the proposed draft of the Charter of Basic Rights

SOUTHALL: Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Bridge Rd.

SW LONDON: Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Prince's Head, Falcon Rd, Clapham Junction.

ABERDEEN: Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Music Hall.

CROYDON: Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Plough and Harrow, Thornton Heath Road.

LEEDS: Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Trades Council Club, Upper Fountainside St.

E. LONDON: Wednesday, December 16, 8 p.m. Festival Inn, Christ St Market, E14.

FINSBURY PARK: Wednesday, December 16, 8 p.m. Sir George Robey pub, opposite Astoria.

SE LONDON: Thursday, December 17, 8 p.m. Artichoke pub, Church St, Camberwell Green.

LATE NEWS

DOWN-UNDER POST BAN An overtime ban by mail sorters in support of a wage claim is expected to disrupt Christmas mail within Australia and overseas postings.

The Federal Executive of the Amalgamated Postal Workers Union yesterday endorsed the overtime ban at sorting offices in New South Wales. Meetings are to be held in all other states to decide whether to extend the action.



PAUL COPPER is a young toolroom worker at Coventry's Carr Bodies plant.

A member of the Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers, he told Workers Press:

I agree with all the Charter's clauses, but particularly the one demanding that wages and pensions are tied to prices.

At present, workers buy necessities at grossly inflated prices—allowing the capitalists and the employers to reap huge profits. Until this is stopped, the gap between the workers and the parasites that exploit them will continue to increase.

It is therefore vital that every union leader is forced to sign agreements with management that link wages to prices—similar to the agreements that unions win in the United States.

This must be backed by legislation passed by a Labour government.

The biggest struggle for the Charter will be to convince all sections of workers to realize that there is a big fight ahead, because unfortunately apathy still lingers on in areas where men have won wage increases in the past.

Many workers I talk to take an 'I'm all right Jack'

attitude and some think that because their wives voted Tory the new measures against the working class will not affect them.

But I have hopes that, as the number of unemployed grows—and under this government it certainly will—and redundancy becomes a feature in every area, that all the working class will wake up and help defeat this Tory Party for all.

LARRY CONNOLLY is a senior night-shift steward at the Lucas dynamo and starter plant in Birmingham. The stewards' committee of which he is a member was one of the first organizations to call on the TUC to organize a General Strike to defeat the Tory anti-union laws.

I agree with every point raised by the Charter, particularly the demands to kick out all productivity deals.

It has been proved by the big Leyland redundancies that productivity 'strings' only mean one thing—redundancy, because they make one man do two men's jobs. I agree also that all firms that cannot guarantee employment to all their workers should be nationalized.

The demands of racialism are also important. Coming from the Midlands and being an active trade unionist, I have always opposed and campaigned against Powell's attempts to split up the working class.

The Industrial Relations Bill that the Tories are trying to pass is, of course, the biggest attack they are launching on the workers. If they take away our democratic right to strike and organize, then we have

ENDORSEMENT for the Charter also comes from British Aircraft Corporation shop steward Charles Bixley. A representative of AEF members at BAC's Weybridge plant, he says:

AS FAR as I'm concerned, you can't go against what I say in the Charter. I think that the working man must have something to show for his labour—it shouldn't always go back to the governor.

I live in a council house which is 50 years old and my basic wage is £24 a week. I have to pay £7 a week for rent, and they're going to put it up again shortly.

It's a fact that people who live in council houses pay more than people who buy their own house. My house has been paid for time and again, and the council don't bother much about keeping them repaired either.

I've spent no end of money to make it look something and all you get from them is a couple of pots of paint and some emulsion every two years.

I think that we must fight for decent housing and fair rents and not what the Tories call 'fair' either.

The Tories are always telling us how easy it is to live on our money, but really they haven't any idea how we live.

As far as education goes, my parents tried to better me and I try to better my children. But it seems to me that money talks. How can we do anything to keep our kids decently turned out, with blazers and school

uniforms, especially with prices going up left, right and centre?

I go out shopping with my wife—think more blokes should, you can see things going up in the shops every day.

I think myself that the Tories pre-fabricate the truth; they come out with the same old thing every time: 'What could we do in the short time we've been in', and then put prices up again.

The 6d tax cut will make no difference to us, and it will be outweighed by the cuts in milk and fare increases anyway.

The only way a man has of fighting back is through his union and anti-union laws are even going to stop that.

If we are going to stop this Bill the TUC needs to be shaken up a bit. If they don't do something soon, my Bill will go through and then it will be too late.

On the question of nationalization, I don't see why the governor should get all the profit and then, when the firm goes bust, get money back in compensation after the firm is nationalized. My own view is that we should have shares in the profits of these big companies—but even then we can't afford to buy shares.

I think the Tories should be thrown out at the first possible opportunity.

GARY PAYNE, who is AEF convenor at the Powder Couplings plant in Leeds, had this to say:

I THINK this Charter of Basic Rights is very comprehensive. As a trade unionist I am used to people putting forward ideas concerned with everyday working life, but this Charter is concerned with every aspect of life. It is concerned with the fact that workers enjoy a good standard of living as a human right.

There has been a running debate in my own factory over the past few weeks over the extent to which we should be grateful to the management for allowing us to hold down a job and participate in negotiating a better deal for ourselves.

For this we don't have to be grateful to the management, but to the militancy of great men over the past 150 years.

The right to hold down a job and to have some say in the way things are organized is a right which at all costs must be defended.

I feel particularly strongly on the questions of education and housing. Every child has a right to an education equal to that of any other child and every individual and family has a right to good housing the rent of which is based on the cost of living.

Now is the time for every trade unionist to stand up and be counted on the question of the Tory anti-union legislation, for here is a basic attack on every worker's established rights.

Furthermore if we act in a sufficiently adamant manner there is an opportunity to kick the Tories with one stone: defeat the Tory anti-union legislation; and bring down the Tory government, to be replaced by a truly socialist form of government.

I think the only answer to the Tory evil is a General Strike. But I think the TUC, by its inactivity over the December 8 issue, has shown itself unable to cope with a call from its members.

As I see it, if the TUC is to show itself as the real interpreter of the wishes of the working class, it must mobilize and call a General Strike.

For both Dayan and Hussein the number one enemy is the Palestine liberation movement, held back since the September civil war only by the cowardice and collaboration of leaders such as Yassir Arafat.

Toned down While Dayan and his fellow Zionists are now eager to tone down their more belligerent declarations, his New York speech makes it clear that Israeli policy remains as Dayan described it after the six-day war: 'We are appropriating the lands in which they [the

Behan

FROM PAGE ONE

science' is an extremely sinister and reactionary one. A 'social conscience' can only be expressed by an individual who epitomizes such a conscience and abolishes the institutions of Mr Behan's 'free-for-all society'.

Whether you call him 'Der Fuehrer' or 'Il Duce' is immaterial—he will represent the naked dictatorship of capital.

In order to develop this socialized use in Britain, which is supposed to be above classes, Mr Behan urges the introduction of referendums on all major industrial and political questions.

'Referendums', he writes 'have on the whole a progressive history'. For example, de Gaulle used it in France to halt the Algerian war and block the right.

Yet the Algerian war referendum was framed in such a manner that those who voted 'yes' automatically voted for an increase in the powers of the president!

The extension of this retrograde principle and its generalized use in Britain would mean the end of all working-class parties and the reduction of parliament to a rubber stamp for plebiscitary decisions.

Why does Mr Behan draw the line on de Gaulle? What about Hitler? Didn't he too base his policies, such as the annexation of the Saar, on plebiscites?

Those who advocate referendums today will have to advocate concentration camps tomorrow.

Mr Behan is not a fascist but the logic of his argument must lead ultimately to dictatorship in Britain.

Pompidou talks of economic fears

FRENCH President Georges Pompidou warned yesterday against the trend towards protectionism and trade restrictions in the United States.

His speech, made at a Paris ceremony marking the tenth anniversary of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) also questioned the role of the dollar as a world reserve currency.

'Was the present role of the dollar compatible with a permanent deficit in the US balance of payments?' he asked pointedly.

DEFICIT

(The US deficit now stands at a colossal \$7,145 million.) The problem of inflation had to be tackled, he went on. But 'how to reconcile the obligation of an active employment policy with the battle against inflation'.

And flowing from this: 'How to resist the renewed temptation of protectionism, which would first divide, then oppose and finally would lead each of us to an economic slowdown.'

DANGERS

Pompidou, stressing the great dangers that face the capitalist classes of both W Europe and America, warned that it would be 'vain for political leaders and economic planners to rely on a day-to-day policy for the major economic problems that faced them'.

He emphasized that it would be 'disastrous to wait for a

Air Force pilots used in strike

INDIAN Air Force pilots were called in yesterday to man commercial services, affected by a pilots' strike. Many of the pilots of the state-owned Indian Airlines have refused to fly Avro HS-748 aircraft, alleging that they are not up to international safety standards.

Technical and other personnel staged a 24-hour token strike yesterday in support of the men.

Basque trial sit-in sealed off by police

POLICE have sealed all roads leading to the Montserrat Abbey near Barcelona, where about 300 Catalan artists and intellectuals are holding a sit-in against the 16 Basque nationalists' trial in Burgos.

The demonstrators, who include the world-famous artist Juan Miró, started their sit-in on Saturday night, and will not leave the Abbey until the military court announces its verdict.

Judgement is expected any hour now, with six of the accused facing possible death sentences for their alleged part in the death of a Franco police chief in 1968.

Two of the prisoners are Basque Catholic priests; the Pope is more concerned with the fate of the W German consul in Spain, Eugen Beihl, taken as a hostage by Basque nationalists two weeks ago.

Steadfast Despite appeals by Basque Catholics to condemn the trial, the Pope has steadfastly refused to do so. On Sunday, he instead appealed to the nationalists to release Beihl as an act of Christmas goodwill!

The Pope's blatant pro-Franco stand must be educating many Basque Catholics on the role of the hierarchy in Spanish politics.

In the few hours that are left to us, we must mobilize the maximum working-class solidarity with the Burgos 16. This is the only force that can stay the executioners' bullets.



Hussein and Dayan still guerrillas' main enemies

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan flies to Bonn today to meet W German Chancellor Willy Brandt at the end of three days of talks in Paris with President Pompidou and his Ministers.

In the course of the visit the Hashemite monarch also paid homage at the grave of General de Gaulle. The call formed part of his three-week tour of imperialist capitals in search of a workable formula to betray and destroy the Palestinian liberation movement.

US President Nixon will be the key figure in such a conspiracy. As he bade farewell to Hussein last week he turned to welcome Israeli General Moshe Dayan, now busily posing as an 'moderate'.

'Decent man' Dayan, addressing over 200 leaders of US Zionism at a New York dinner on Saturday night, referred to Hussein as 'a decent man... one of the most decent men among any of the Arab leaders'.

But he ridiculed Hussein's suggestion peace would be possible if Israeli forces leave the West Bank of the Jordan.

'Just three months ago, in his own capital, that King couldn't intervene and secure law and order in the Hotel Intercontinental, 200 yards from his own palace. Could he do anything about the hijacked aeroplanes?'

For both Dayan and Hussein the number one enemy is the Palestine liberation movement, held back since the September civil war only by the cowardice and collaboration of leaders such as Yassir Arafat.

Toned down While Dayan and his fellow Zionists are now eager to tone down their more belligerent declarations, his New York speech makes it clear that Israeli policy remains as Dayan described it after the six-day war: 'We are appropriating the lands in which they [the

Chapple

FROM PAGE ONE

have been sold by the union leaders in the last three years alone.

As a contemptuous sop to the union chiefs, the government is understood to have substituted the phrase 'national economy' in the Court's pronouncement for an earlier formulation about the need to combat inflation.

Economy 'It is felt that these words show the continuation of the government's intervention in this dispute in the pursuit of a reactionary and repressive economic policy', said the unions' statement.

'We have not got justice,' commented Chapple, 'but we want to give the nation a fair shake.'

'We are not going to argue about words for doctrinaire reasons, which is the position of the government', he added.

After their meeting at the Electricity Council, Chapple led a four-man union delegation to the Department of Employment where they met Employment Secretary Robert Carr to finalize arrangements for the Court of Inquiry.

Speaking in the commons, shadow Minister Mrs Castle welcomed the 'statesmanship' of the unions in calling off the work-to-rule and 'the wisdom of the government in setting up this Court of Inquiry.'

No state cars for Chile

SALVADOR ALLENDE, Popular Unity President of Chile, has announced that the Chilean motor industry is to be reorganized into three 'mixed' corporations manufacturing low-cost vehicles.

The decision, which represents a retreat from the intention to nationalize foreign-owned industries, followed talks in Santiago between Allende and Masataka Okuma, a senior executive of Nissan, the Japanese motor combine.

WEATHER

AFTER early morning mist or fog patches E and S England will have variable amounts of cloud but will be dry.

N and W England will be rather cloudy at times, but mainly dry. Wales, Scotland and N Ireland will start rather cloudy with a few showers, but brighter weather will start from the west.

Temperatures will be mostly near normal everywhere. Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: Mainly dry in most places with fog and frost at night. Rather cold.

Commission concedes 6pc

WAGE increases of 6 per cent were granted yesterday to four million workers by the Australian Arbitration Commission. It was the largest-ever award conceded by the Commission in its 14-year history.

ORDER YOUR POSTERS TODAY!

DEFEAT THE TORY ANTI-UNION LAWS!

2s per poster
30s for 20
£3 5s for 50

Send your orders to:
Socialist Labour League
186a Clapham High Street
London, SW4.

Make union leaders fight for Jan. 12 General Strike

A DEMAND that union leaders fight the proposed Tory anti-union legislation has come from engineers in Mitcham, S London.

The resolution, which calls on the Trades Union Congress to make January 12 the start of a General Strike to bring down the Tory government, now goes forward to Merton Trades Council, the Amalgamated Engineers' and Foundryworkers' Croydon district committee and the union's executive council.

It reads: 'This Mitcham 58 ME branch views with grave concern the action of leaders of the trade union movement in the face of Tory attacks on the trade unions and the working class.'

Whilst workers demonstrate their determination to fight the Tories on December 8, the trade union leadership almost to a man refused to back this working-class hatred of the

Tories—and AEF president Hugh Scanlon is reported as saying that as far as he is concerned 'the Bill is already law'.

The branch recognizes that the Tory government needs to attack the working class, but needs first to smash the trade union movement, and this is the only purpose of their anti-union legislation.

We therefore demand that under no circumstances do the trade union leadership capitulate, but fight this legislation. We demand that this legislation does not become law under any circumstances.

This branch therefore calls upon the Merton Trades Council, the Croydon district committee and the executive council of the AEF to demand that the TUC General Council makes January 12, 1971, not merely another day of protest, but the start of a General Strike to bring down the Tory government together with their anti-working-class policies.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 186b Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.