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INSTITUTION

Workers Press

The daily paper
that leads the
fight against the
Tory government

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

What
do we
think
There are
none so
blind as
those who
will not see

ALAN JOHNSON'S interview with transport union secretary Jack Jones, published in the 'Evening Standard' of March 11, is an interesting example of the dilemma of left-reformist ideology in a period of acute economic crisis and political tension. Until recently both Jones and Hugh Scanlon, AUEW president, were of the opinion that nothing could prevent the enactment of the anti-union Bill and that it could be nullified.

But the economic crisis and the Tory measures of retrenchment, combined with the upsurge of working-class militancy, demonstrated in a series of long, drawn-out strikes and fierce opposition to union bureaucrats, has forced these leaders to reconsider their tactics — but not their strategy—in relation to the Bill.

This is reflected in Mr Jones' expressed belief that the struggle against the Bill must commence before the Bill becomes law and against the TUC General Council right wing. He told Johnson: 'We are against registration of the unions, which we see as the central feature of the Bill in the sense that it would bring under state control the unions' rule-books.'

Registration, as we pointed out, is the first step to the corporate control and surrender of the basic right to independent trade unions in Britain. Mr Jones then went on to say that if his viewpoint was carried, he would expect the General Council to lead the movement 'in some combined form of industrial action'.

When pressed, he remarked this 'should take the form of one-day token stoppages, in the main, on a voluntary basis'. From here on all the weakness, myopia and muddle-headedness of bureaucratic-reformist thought takes over.

Mr Jones grasps at left-reformist straws: 'We think there needs to be this type of combined action to impress the government and the employers too. I think we can have a decisive influence on the government.' There are two dangerous fallacies in this argument. The first is that 'voluntary action' is an unwarranted concession to the witch-hunting capitalist press who are trying to drive a wedge between union leaderships and backward workers who are opposed to a political struggle by the unions.

Second, and more important, is that employers and government have long passed the stage where they might be, even marginally, impressed by one-day or two-day stoppages. At the same time Mr Jones has no hesitation in welcoming the talks between Heath and Feather, in the incredible hope that Heath could be made to understand the need for relations with the unions. Was it a misunderstanding then that Feather returned empty-handed from the talks with Heath?

Can the capitalists and union leaders prevent a 'collapse'? Only for those who believe, as Mr Jones does, that capitalism exists for the satisfaction of human needs and not for the accumulation of profit. What seems an abnormal anomaly — unemployment — to Mr Jones is a perfectly normal condition of the capitalist system. Unemployment will continue to grow because the vast potentialities of large-scale industry, compounded by the anarchy of capitalist production, have come into conflict with the narrow limits of consumption. Capitalist accumulation does not mean the continuous and uninterrupted growth of demand for labour power in conformity with the growth of production. As Marx pointed out it means

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BY CLIFF SLAUGHTER

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BY JOHN SPENCER

'ULTRA-LEFTS' really took on the role of the 'ultra right', Communist Party industrial organizer Bert Ramelson told London School of Economics students yesterday. He revived this Stalinist slander to attack the Socialist Labour League's demand for the TUC to call a General Strike and defeat the Tory government. He said the League had never been able to get any response to its demands in the working class.

By contrast, the Communist Party's policy was to 'reflect what was possible' in the movement, he said. **Tory voters** There were ten million trade unionists, but at least a third of them must have voted Tory. So it was wrong to call for a General Strike to force the government to resign. What was needed was 'national industrial action... of general strike dimensions' to force the Tories to withdraw the Industrial Relations Bill.

This might create a political crisis and lead to the Tories' resignation, but 'I do not believe we are in a revolutionary situation', Ramelson said. **Gymnastics** Ramelson is forced to undertake verbal gymnastics precisely because of the very widespread response inside the trade unions to the demand for a General Strike against the Tories. Reviewing the operations of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions, Ramelson said the present position of the engineering and transport unions was 'due entirely to the work of the Committee. It is no secret they take guidance from the CP'. He added that the December 8 and January 12 strikes had accustomed workers to the idea of industrial action against the Bill. Now that the TUC special Congress looks likely to pass resolutions demanding national strike action, the Communist Party was in a

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TUC chief Victor Feather's demand for 5 per cent economic growth was dismissed on Thursday by Heath: first wage demands must be drastically reduced.

These demands, said Heath, were 'causing employers to slim their labour force'.

All the 'cups of tea at 5 p.m. and tots of whisky at 6 p.m.' consumed at 10 Downing St cannot obscure the decisive change which this Tory government is spelling out.

They will use the recession to hasten mass unemployment and destroy living standards, planning to then build up their profits on the backs of a broken and demoralized working class.

Prices

Speaking on the same day in the House of Commons, Heath said:

'Where industry is unable to get sufficient profitability to maintain jobs or get investment, then it is entitled to try and get it through its prices.'

When Feather pleads with these ruthless representatives of big business, instead of organizing to fight them, he is providing them with invaluable assistance.

TUC General Council policy exposes the workers to enormous dangers.

The Post Office strike defeat was the biggest warning sign. This Tory government is entirely different from the old days of Macmillan.

Every wage demand and every strike now immediately raises these political questions. The Ford workers are in battle against the Tory government and the employing class just as were the postmen, and just as the railmen will be. When Mr Moss Evans of the T&GWU says that he hopes to persuade Mr Henry Ford to meet the Ford workers' demand, he is playing the Feather game.

Interests

Ford is to meet Heath on Monday, before going on to Germany.

When Ford goes to see Heath it will be to discuss their common interest in keeping wages down and destroying the unions' fighting capacity.

The trade union bureaucrats, reformists to their very bones, are whistling in the dark.

They will not and dare not draw the conclusions, before the whole working class, from the post strike and from Heath's dismissal of Feather. They are throwing dust in the eyes of the working class at a time when the whole future of that class is at stake. UPW secretary Tom Jackson's pathetic hopes that the Civil Service pay award fore-shadows bigger increases for his members only reflects the same highly dangerous illusions in the nature of this Tory government.

The purpose of defeating the postmen was not in order to step up their wages.

The only result out of

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Sit-in by UPW telegraphists

WORKERS at London's main overseas telegram office sat in on their jobs and refused to work yesterday against management's alleged attempts to victimize strikers and change working arrangements. More than 98 per cent of Ectra House's 1,200 workers — including some who blacklegged during the seven-week postal strike — took part. Union officials Alan Tuffin and Tony Clark joined com-

mittee members of the three UPW branches at Ectra House for talks with management. The Post Office has stopped all overtime and deducted the workers' leave entitlement for the last seven weeks. They are also closing branch office counters for overseas telegram acceptances and shutting down the general inquiry office at Ectra House. These measures are leaving

a large amount of work uncovered, but the management apparently has no intention of covering it. In addition to these re-organizations, the workers are being further victimized by a complete block on Ministry of Social Security benefits. The strikers envisage a long struggle against these management attempts to take advantage of the defeat of the national strike.

Fight Rolls' sackings with strike

East Kilbride decision



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Rail offer now 9 p.c.

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The management was understood to have told them that it was prepared to marginally improve the offer to 9 per cent, if unions agreed among themselves how the increase should be distributed.

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'We are not on strike with the company, but they are on strike with us,' he said.

SHOP FLOOR workers at Rolls-Royce, E Kilbride, voted yesterday to fight redundancies at the Scottish plant by strike action.

This is the first sign of militant action by Rolls-Royce workers in Britain, who until now have appeared to passively accept the first wave of sackings announced by the Official Receiver on Monday.

At an 8 a.m. mass meeting the 1,500 E Kilbride hourly-paid workers voted to withdraw their labour at the end of their shift at 4.27 yesterday afternoon if the company continued its compulsory sackings.

Dole

Over 120 E Kilbride shop floor workers have been told they will lose their jobs in the latest cut-back and a further 385 staff workers also face the dole at the plant.

Other Scottish plants at Hillington and Blythrye have voted against the recommendation by shop stewards for strike action against the redundancies.

E Kilbride works' committee member, David Watson, who attended a meeting of Rolls-Royce stewards in London yesterday, told me that the E Kilbride men would not accept compulsory sackings.

Compulsion

'We don't mind the company giving me the option of voluntary redundancy, but we are against any compulsion,' he said.

The unions claim that with volunteers offering to become redundant they have brought the figure of 127 redundancies down to 40.

Alistair McCulloch, shop steward and convenor at E Kilbride, said: 'If we see during the day that there is any chance of these 40 being given the jobs of others who want to leave, the strike will not take place.' Late yesterday afternoon talks between management and unions were taking place in the factory.

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They are there to prevent the working class from securing even the most basic of democratic rights.

In this situation they must expect casualties among their forces — no army of occupation can expect otherwise.

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He continued: 'The army will not hesitate to fire when shot at or attacked by petrol bombers, but they will not be indiscriminate in their firing.'

Is there then to be one law for the army and another for the working class?

Mr Ian Paisley also took part in the debate.

He said that some sections of the N Irish community disliked the Scottish Regiments.

'They seem to think that all Scottish soldiers are Rangers supporters,' he said.

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The British army now has a force of 8,200 in N Ireland supplemented by over 4,000 troops in the Ulster Defence Regiment.

The deaths on Wednesday night could herald the beginning of a wave of repression against workers in N Ireland.

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Whether this is possible or not, every single trade unionist must do his or her best to win support for such a policy. Few sections of the labour movement have worked harder than the members of the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists along these lines over the past few months.

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asks Sarah Hannigan

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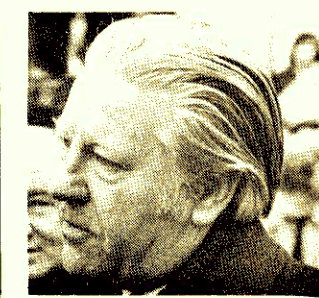
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Man in the hot seat

Lord Delacourt-Smith



(Post Office engineers' secretary)

IN TODAY'S workers press

NEXT MAN in the Post Office hot seat will be Lord Delacourt-Smith. Within days he will be leading his members in the Post Office Engineering Union in a pay claim which is above the 8 per cent offered to the postmen.

IN an exclusive interview on page two, the general secretary of the POEU explains why he is hopeful that the engineer's claim will not end in a bitter strike like the one the postal workers have just been through.

Lord Delacourt-Smith is also in Labour's team in the House of Lords which will oppose the Industrial Relations Bill and he comments on the merits and demerits of a General Strike against the Tory government.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

March 18
LOBBY AND DEMONSTRATION

Force the TUC to call a General Strike to make the Tory Government Resign!

Lobby the TUC meeting—Fairfield Halls, Croydon, 9 a.m.

Demonstration—Assemble 2 p.m. outside Fairfield Halls, Croydon.

March—2.30 p.m. through Croydon.

Meeting—3 p.m. Top Rank Suite, London Rd, Croydon.

Speakers from the All Trades Unions Alliance.

LIVERPOOL TRADES COUNCIL LOBBY

of Special Trades Union Congress at Croydon

Special train: Tickets £2 return

MASS PROCESSION AND DEMONSTRATION

Thursday March 18

ASSEMBLE: Islington Square 10.30 a.m.

Join the demonstration Kill the Bill

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Man in the hot seat

Lord Delacourt-Smith



(Post Office engineers' secretary) IN TODAY'S workers press

NEXT MAN in the Post Office hot seat will be Lord Delacourt-Smith. Within days he will be leading his members in the Post Office Engineering Union in a pay claim which is above the 5 per cent offered to the postmen.

IN an exclusive interview on page two, the general secretary of the POEU explains why he is hopeful that the engineer's claim will not end in a bitter strike like the one the postal workers have just been through.

Lord Delacourt-Smith is also in Labour's team in the House of Lords which will oppose the Industrial Relations Bill and he comments on the merits and demerits of a General Strike against the Tory government.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

March 18

LOBBY AND DEMONSTRATION

Force the TUC to call a General Strike to make the Tory Government Resign!

Lobby the TUC meeting—Fairfield Halls, Croydon, 9 a.m.

Demonstration—Assemble 2 p.m. outside Fairfield Halls, Croydon.

March—2.30 p.m. through Croydon.

Meeting—3 p.m. Top Rank Suite, London Rd, Croydon.

Speakers from the All Trades Unions Alliance.

LIVERPOOL TRADES COUNCIL LOBBY

of Special Trades Union Congress at Croydon

Special train: Tickets £2 return

MASS PROCESSION AND DEMONSTRATION

Thursday March 18

ASSEMBLE: Islington Square 10.30 a.m.

Join the demonstration Kill the Bill

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Right-wing gunman sentenced

IMPORTANT questions are raised by the trial of male nurse Ekehard Weil in W Berlin this week.

Ekehard was sentenced to six years imprisonment after being accused of shooting a Soviet soldier guarding the Russian war memorial in the city last November.

First, within days of his arrest, Weil succeeded in escaping from a police escort down a subway entrance.

It was only due to his own stupidity that he was caught again.

The incident caused a political rumpus in the city, and forced its Social Democratic Mayor to say some strong words about police negligence.

But like the police in W Germany, the W Berlin force is notorious for its right-wing extremist views.

Weil is an unashamed neo-Nazi. He told the court he did not actually fire the two shots which hit and wounded sentry Ivan Ivanovich Tscherbak, but bought the rifle which did the shooting.

The actual shooting, he said, was carried out by an ultra-right group called the 'European Liberation Front'.

It was, he added, 'a necessary deed as it demonstrated in what a position Germany and especially Berlin is in. Soviet imperialism has no business in Germany', he told the court.

Weil's statement is revealing on several counts.

It shows how anti-communist, and obviously fascist-inspired groups, are able to involve confused, backward youth in their activities by exploiting the division of Germany by imperialism and Stalinism at the end of the last war.

Slogan

The Trotskyist movement has always insisted that the division of Germany was a reactionary measure, which, far from undermining the basis of fascism, could give it a new lease of life by nourishing German nationalism.

And this, of course, is precisely what is happening. The leaders of these movements are not really concerned with German unity—that is a slogan they use to whip up support.

Nationalism is used to establish a basis for fascism in the middle class, among small farmers, the police, civil servants and the like, just as Hitler used it in his struggle for power.

Then the propaganda was turned against the Versailles treaty, which robbed Germany of one-fifth of its territory and parcelled its colonies out among the victorious imperialist powers.

Today it is the Soviet occupation of E Germany and the US,

British and French bases in the West.

That is why it is so important for socialists to cut the ground from under the feet of these fascist demagogues by demanding the unification of Germany.

This will only be achieved by revolutionary working-class action all the time defending the gains made in E Germany after the war when the old landowners and industrialists who backed Hitler were expropriated and the economy established on a nationalized basis.

If the Red Army were only there to defend these gains, their presence would be accepted by the E German working class.

But its role came out into the open in June 1953, when the workers of E Berlin, and then all E Germany, rose in revolt against their Stalinist rulers.

One of their main demands was for the unification of all Germany, and an end to the regimes of Adenauer in the West and Ulbricht in the East.

The Red Army, after several days of Kremlin hesitation, moved in to ruthlessly crush the uprising.

Banners

The leaders of imperialism watched with folded arms, secretly approving the Stalinists for checking the movement before it spread to W Germany.

While Germany remains divided, groups like the 'European Liberation Front' will thrive.

Significantly the group uses the phrase 'Soviet imperialism'—a term also bandied about by anti-communist groups in this country—only like 'International Socialism', for one, they claim to be Marxist.

This organization took to the streets in August 1968, after the Kremlin invasion of Czechoslovakia, with banners denouncing what it called 'Soviet imperialism', which blended well with Maoist posters against 'Soviet Nazism'.

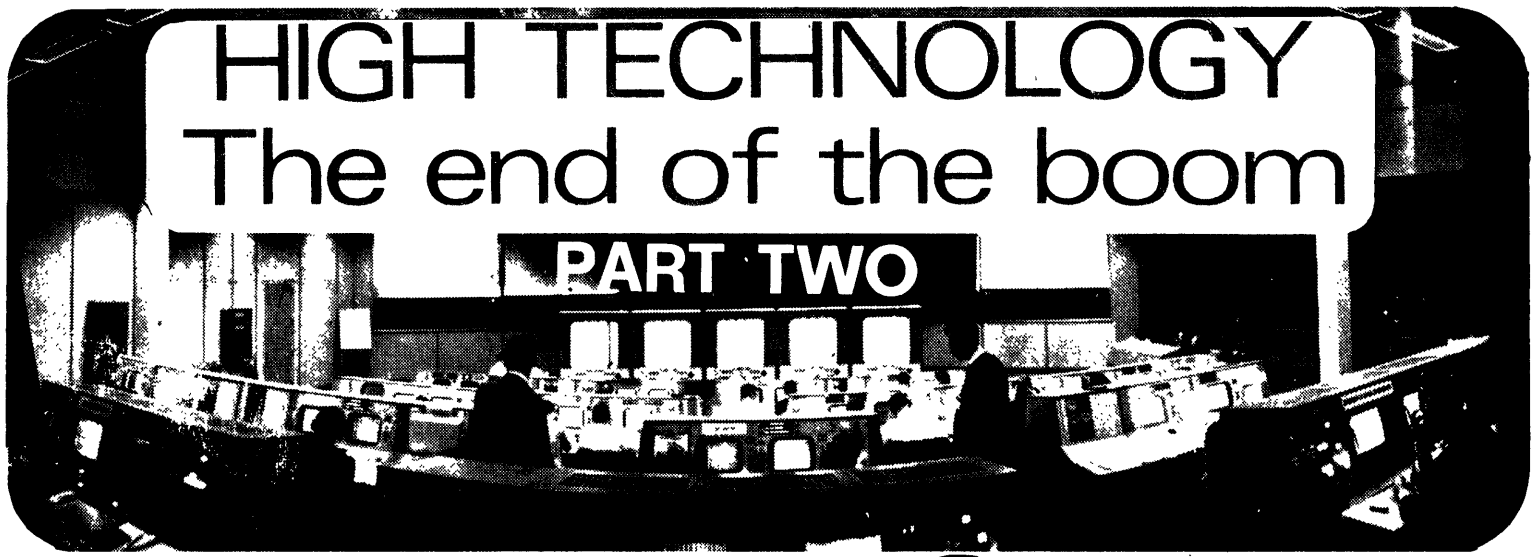
Tories, and there were several on such demonstrations, would not be in the least embarrassed by such company. Neither are right-wing emigré groups from E Europe, who also employ similar terminology.

The Soviet Union is not an imperialist country. Imperialism can only develop in the monopoly stage of capitalism and demands the private, capitalist ownership of the main means of production—industry, land, transport, the banks etc.

None of these conditions exists in either E Europe or the Soviet Union.

Stalinist bureaucratic repression, which requires in moments of crisis the direct intervention of Soviet troops, is not imperialism. It reflects the pressure of imperialism on the economically more backward states of E Europe.

To identify one with the other is not only theoretically wrong. It disarms the working class in its struggle against both.



Computer firms face ruin

by John Crawford

ON MARCH 3, Systems International (UK) died, aged under one year. It had been formed to set up a chain of European computer service bureaux, using the experience gained in the field of management information systems by its parent company—Rolls-Royce.

Rolls had borrowed £300,000 from SI, which will never be repaid. But even before the Rolls collapse, the computer subsidiary was already facing trouble, along with the rest of the industry.

As the economic crisis comes out in the open, the effect is felt most sharply in those industries born in the technological explosion of the post-war boom. Computers are the very symbol of those years.

Blight

From the late 1940s, writers were prophesying the complete transformation of life by machines which would perform automatically all the tedious tasks of modern industry. Now, the multi-million dollar computer mushroom faces a commercial blight.

Not that the prophets were talking nonsense. Machines which could electronically manipulate information—suitably coded into impulses—were indeed capable of all kinds of applications.

But their full realization demands the socialist planning of industry.

The electronic digital computer—initially built to carry out the calculations for the Atomic bomb—was once only thought of as a very high-speed calculator.

Then, as the first machines came on the market in the early 1950s its organizing and decision-making possibilities began to become clear.

As the number, capacity and speed of computers grew, they were used to prepare payrolls, control chemical plants, make optimum allocations of company resources, guide space ships, aim nuclear missiles.

The world computer population shot up from under 3,000 in 1958 to 14,000 in 1963. Today, it stands at over 100,000.

Transistors replaced valves in the late 1950s and integrated micro-circuits replaced transistors eight to ten years later.

While a fast machine, in 1955, could be expected to carry out 100,000 instructions per second, its descendant of 1971 might perform anything up to 10 million.

As speed has gone up, the cost of doing a particular job has come down.

In 1955, a dollar of computer time would cover 100,000 instructions; today, it would give you 100 million.

Nor was it just a matter of better equipment—'hardware' in the trade.

A large part of the expansion of the industry has been taken up with providing 'software'—programmes of instructions which make the computer itself carry out the tedious job of translating into its own language the original wishes of the user.

But the computer was born under capitalism. Its development was undertaken for profit and war, not to lighten the burden of human labour. Now selling over £5,000m of goods and services a year, the industry was moulded by the conditions of the boom.

One US expert said of the 1960s: 'All you had to do was go to Wall St, shout "computer services", and they'd bury you in money.'

Computers were, above all, an American development. Seventy per cent of the world's machines are in the US, and about the same proportion are manufactured by one firm, International Business Machines.

For, despite the image of the individual whizz-kid designer or programmer, it was ultimately vast expenditure on research and development which decided the conquest of the rocketing international computer market.

No one but IBM could have survived its two major disasters—the flop of the 'third generation' machine STRETCH ten years ago, and the mistaken decision not to wait for monolithic integrated circuits in the 360 series, first brought out a few years later.

No other firm could have gone it alone with its own language, FORTRAN—and forced other firms to stay in line.

Even the other five surviving US firms—Moneywell, National Cash, Univac, Control Data and RCA—can hardly keep up.

Honeywell now comprises the computer interests of General Electric, which recently got out of the game.

All these firms must maintain European and other international subsidiaries and associations to survive.

Sales

Outside the US, only ICL, formed by merging nearly all the former British computer firms, has anything like the resources needed, even without the recession.

But while IBM annual sales are \$7,500m and Honeywell \$860m, ICL manages only \$314m.

Research and development expenditure shows the relationship of forces: IBM spends \$500m, Honeywell \$119m, ICL \$36m.

No wonder then that ICL is widely talked of as the next Rolls-Royce. Like Rolls, it used to have a considerable government patronage.

But, the Tories announced a few weeks ago, the 'buy British'

policy is to be dropped by Civil Service and local authorities.

The impact of recession on the boom-time industry par excellence was signalled by the sharp drop in IBM profits in January last year. In two days, IBM stock fell by \$5m. The 1970 sales of this giant went on to show a 22 per cent drop on 1969.

Control Data actually recorded a loss on its computer operations, and like other firms, began to lay off computer staff. Over a thousand software firms are reported to have gone out of business in the US during 1970.

Shrinking

In an effort to win a bigger share of the now shrinking market, National Cash announced price cuts of up to 20 per cent in December. Cuts in US aerospace production and in military orders had already hit the computer firms.

Now the recession in many other industries makes life a nightmare for the whole industry.

Last week, we mentioned the dangers of reduced orders from the chemical industry.

Added to this must be the crisis of the world's airlines. Plans for massive computer schemes for reservation systems have now been shelved.

Last year the effect in Britain was slightly offset by the software boom caused by decimalization, but this is now finished.

The one hope for ICL in this climate is its link-up with CDC and Compagnie Internationale pour l'Informatique. But this is unlikely to save the British firm from bankruptcy—except by ending its independent existence in a complete merger.

Meanwhile, the expected 'fourth generation' of computers using large-scale integrated circuits and laser memory units, is postponed indefinitely.

Such quite feasible technical developments are blocked by the exploitation of science for private profit.

CONTINUED

Title picture: Computer consoles at Houston's manned spacecraft centre. Below: Computers used to trace criminals (left), and to monitor surgery.



SATURDAY TV

BBC 1

9.35 a.m. Square two. 10.00-10.30 Si dice cosi. 12.00 Weather. 12.05 p.m. Banana splits. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 Football preview. 1.10 Fight of the week. 1.30 Boxing. Preview of British Heavyweight title fight. Henry Cooper v Joe Bugner. 1.40 Racing preview. 1.50 Motor racing. South African Grand Prix. 2.15 International gymnastics. 2.25 Rugby Union. Wales v Ireland. 4.50 Results service. 5.15 Dr Who. 5.40 News and weather. 5.50 Mary Tyler Moore show. 6.15 IT'S CLIFF RICHARD. 6.50 MAGIC OF WALT DISNEY. 'Fathers are People'. 7.00 FILM: 'WARLOCK'. Henry Fonda, Richard Widmark, Anthony Quinn, Dorothy Malone. Western. 9.00 IMPERIAL PALACE. By Arnold Bennett. 'Arrivals'. 9.45 NEWS and weather. 10.00 MATCH OF THE DAY. 11.00 BRADEN'S WEEK. 11.35 Weather.

BBC 2

3.00-4.35 p.m. FILM: 'TEN TALL MEN'. Burt Lancaster. 7.00 WESTMINSTER. 7.20 NEWS, SPORT and weather. 7.30 RUGBY SPECIAL. 1871-1971. RFU Centenary Year series. The International Championship—Wales v Ireland. 8.05 'THE GRAND TOUR'. Tobias Smollett's route and written account of the journey. 9.00 'IS ROSKILL RIGHT?' The siting of London's third airport. 10.30 JUDE THE OBSCURE. 'Christminster Again'. 11.15 NEWS on 2 and weather. 11.20 FILM: 'THE LIST OF ADRIAN MESSENGER'. With George C. Scott, Dana Wynter, Clive Brook, Herbert Marshall, Gladys Cooper. A vast fortune awaits a criminal if he can eliminate 11 people.

ITV

11.00 a.m. RAC road report. 11.05 Thunderbirds. 11.55 Golden shot. 12.45 p.m. News. 12.50 World of sport. 12.55 On the ball. 1.20 They're off! 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Ayr. 1.45, 2.15, 2.50 Racing from Sandown. 3.10 International Sports special. England v W Germany. 3.55 Results, score, news. 4.00 Wrestling from Peterborough. 4.55 Results service. 5.10 Survival. 5.40 News. 5.45 Gunsmoke. 'Lobo'. 6.45 FILM: 'THE KEY'. William Holden, Sophia Loren, Trevor Howard. Tugboat skippers engaged in rescue work in the U-boat infested waters of the western Approaches. 9.00 DICKIE HENDERSON SHOW. Harry Secombe, Lionel Blair, Frank Gorshin. 10.00 NEWS. 10.15 SEVEN MEN. 'Quentin Crisp'. 10.45 THE BARON. 'The High Terrace'. 11.40 GUIDE LINES. 'A Just Society?'.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as BBC 1 except: Scotland: 5.00 and 10.00 Sportstree. 10.30 Monty Python. 11.37 News. weather. Midlands: E Anglia, North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland, SW, South, West: 11.37 Weather. Wales: 11.40 Cadi ha. 5.50 Disc a dawn. 11.37 Weather.

REGIONAL ITV

SOUTHERN: 12.15 Weather. 12.18 All our yesterdays. 12.45 London. 5.15 UFO. 6.10 News. 6.15 Golden shot. 7.05 Please Sir. 7.35 Film: 'The Saboteur'. 10.00 London. 10.10 Dickie Henderson. 11.10 News. 11.20 Untouchables. 12.05 Weather. It's all yours. YORKSHIRE: 11.30 Tennis. 11.55 Cartoon. 12.15 All our yesterdays. 12.45 London. 5.15 Gunsmoke. 6.20 Film: 'At Sword's Point'. 7.55 Cartoons. 8.00 Dickie Henderson. 9.00 Mannix. 10.00 London. 10.10 Film: 'Dracula'. Bela Lugosi. 11.30 Conceptions of murder. 12.00 Weather.

HARLECH: 11.55 Lone Ranger. 12.15 Joe 90. 12.45 London. 5.10 Arnie. 5.40 Sky's the limit. 6.10 Arnie. 6.15 Please Sir. 6.55 Avengers. 7.40 Film: 'Zarak'. Victor Mature, Michael Wilding, Anita Ekberg. 9.00 Dickie Henderson. 10.00 London. 10.10 Cinema. 10.40 Name of the game. 12.05 Love, American style. 12.35 Weather. HTV (Cymru/Wales) as above except 6.45 Y miscoded.

WESTWARD: 12.15 All our yesterdays. 12.45 London. 5.15 Gunsmoke. 6.10 News. 6.15 Please Sir. 6.45 Film: 'Mister Moses'. Robert Mitchum, Carroll Baker. 9.00 Dickie Henderson. 10.00 London. 10.10 Edgar Wallace. 11.10 Seven men. 11.35 Faith for life. 11.40 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.25 A to zoo. 11.50 Sea Hawk. 12.15 Supercar. 12.45 London. 5.15 Bonanza. 6.10 News. 6.20 Film: 'At Sword's Point'. Cornel Wilde, Maureen O'Hara. 7.55 Cartoons. 8.00 Dickie Henderson. 9.00 Champions. 10.00 London. 10.10 Film: 'Hound of the Baskervilles'. Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee.

TYNNE TEES: 12.15 Captain Scarlet. 12.45 London. 5.10 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 6.10 News. 6.15 Leslie Lowher. 7.15 Film: 'Let's Great To Be Young'. John Mills, Cecil Parker. 9.00 Avengers. 10.00 London. 10.10 Name of the game. 11.30 Challenge. 12.15 Greatest of these.

BORDER: 11.50 All our yesterdays. 12.20 Phoenix five. 12.45 London. 5.10 Shari Lewis. 5.40 London. 5.55 Dorita y Pepe. 6.05 Sports. 6.10 Big Valley. 7.05 Film: 'Run Silent, Run Deep'. Clark Gable, Burt Lancaster. 9.00 Dickie Henderson. 10.00 London. 10.10 Tom Jones. 11.10 Cowboy in Africa.

ATV MIDLANDS: 12.10 Horoscope. 12.15 Joe 90. 12.45 London. 5.15 UFO. 6.10 News. 6.15 Sky's the limit. 6.45 Film: 'Barefoot Contessa'. 9.00 Dickie Henderson. 10.00 London. 10.10 Mannix. 11.10 Melodies. 11.50 Speaking.

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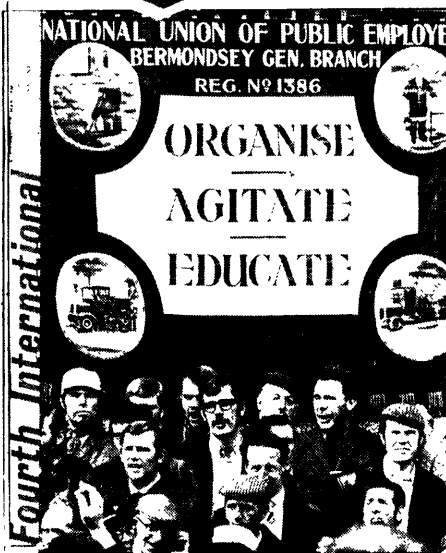
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J. WHAT do you think of the action of the Union of Post Office Workers' national executive in calling for an end to their strike in favour of a court of inquiry and what do you think are the implications of this for your own claim?

D. I THINK that the course the UPW executive took was the best one for all their members in the situation that had developed. We cannot, of course, say until the court has reported what the effects of the UPW strike have been.

Our position is that last autumn we told the Post Office that we were convinced that when our current agreement expired on July 1 this year there would be justification for a substantial increase.

Since then we have had exchanges with the Post Office directed to ascertaining on what facts the negotiations on the claim should be based. We have been discussing with the Post Office what changes have taken place in the engineering and electrical fields. We have also been discussing with them the results of measures we have taken to increase productivity.

In the current month we shall get down to negotiations with the Post Office and discuss what conclusion can be drawn from these facts.

After the UPW strike one can see that there will have to be some very hard bargaining with the Post Office on our claim.

J. WILL YOU be prepared to lead your members in a strike similar to the one UPW members have just been through?

D. THERE ARE two points I ought to make in relation to this. First we as a union have not been averse to arbitration. We have made extensive and regular use of arbitration procedure for a good many years.

The second point is that while under our union rules the executive council has the power to call on the members to take industrial action, we did discuss at our annual conference some years ago just what types of industrial action the membership were prepared to contemplate.

The executive of that day put a report before the conference in which they drew the distinction between industrial action of a specified duration—that is duration specified in advance—which would be primarily undertaken as a demonstration, to show the feelings of our members, as against what we described as coercive industrial action; that is to say industrial action undertaken with no time limit and designed in itself to produce a change in the attitude of the employer.

The general feeling was that we should expect the union to rely on demonstrative industrial action and not normally embark on coercive industrial action.

J. ARE YOU saying here that after what we have seen happen to the UPW you will only strike for a certain length of time to show the feeling of your members and not to stay out until you win your claim?

D. I THINK it would be very risky to try and forecast how our negotiations will develop. All I can do at this point is to indicate the kind of action which our union has traditionally taken.

In the course of negotiations one has to review the situation as it develops and take into account the attitude of the employers and the attitudes of your own membership as reflected by the members of the executive committee.

I don't think we can judge yet what the effect of the UPW strike has been. Naturally at the moment people are drawing rather depressing conclusions and the Post Office and the government are congratulating themselves on a great victory.

But in a few weeks time things might look rather different. For example, in my view, the final outcome of the action of the power workers has been rather different from what it was judged to have been when the Wilberforce court of inquiry was first agreed, if this is not too Delphic an utterance.

J. A THING that concerned many UPW men during their strike was that there was considerable working done by strike breakers at exchanges where your members were at work.

Don't you think this kind of action weakened the UPW men and, therefore, weakened your chances of winning your claim?

D. YOU HAVE to remember first of all that we are two quite separate unions. What we did in the case of the UPW strike was first of all to remain in close contact with the UPW throughout the dispute and respond in the best way we could to the requests they made to us.

We also gave them financial help—£10,000 from our own general fund—and, of course, our members made substantial contributions of their own.

At the same time we made it quite clear that our members must do no work that would otherwise have been done by UPW men and not to involve themselves in the consequences of work done by strike-breakers. All this involved considerable vigilance and solidarity by our members.

There were those who believed that the Post Office Engineering Union should have engaged in all-out strike action. But it is a little difficult to see how this can be justified.

It is one thing to do everything to maintain the effectiveness of

Strikes to defeat Tories 'Profound mistake'

Stephen Johns talks to Lord Delacourt-Smith, General Secretary of the Post Office Engineers Union



Post Office union chief Tom Jackson greets Lord Delacourt-Smith at the February 21 TUC rally in London.

a strike by a sister organization, but another to call upon your own members and ask them to involve themselves in industrial action of indefinite duration—again without a strike fund—in a situation where it is not their own pay claim that is at stake.

J. BUT WASN'T your own pay claim at stake. One of your members, at a rally, said to me, 'If the UPW lose their claim we stand no chance of winning our own'. You are separate unions, but you work for the same employers responsible to the same Tory government. If the UPW are held to 8 per cent or less surely you stand no chance of winning more than 8 per cent?

D. OF COURSE there is a relationship between the success of one union and all other unions, especially if unions are associated with a common employer as we and the UPW are. But one still has to judge the situation at any one time. I will be better able to answer this question when we have had our discussions with the Post Office and also seen the final result of the court of settlement into the UPW dispute.

J. IS THERE a figure on your claim?

D. WE ARE seeking a substantial increase.

J. OVER 8 per cent?

D. I WOULD say it will be over 8 per cent.

J. WHAT is your attitude to the speech made by Hugh Scanlon, leader of the engineers, when he said recently at Eastbourne that the Tory government wanted to smash the postal workers as part of an overall strategy to pick off one section of the working class at a time and hold down standards of living?

D. THE UPW, right throughout, sought to treat the strike as a dispute with their employer the Post Office. In so far as the government got involved and the strike became political, this was not by any desire of the UPW leadership.

On the other hand it is clear that much more could have been done by the government to produce a speedier and more easily agreed outcome of this dispute.

The Secretary of State for Employment, Robert Carr, could have set up a court of inquiry early on in the dispute, but he didn't choose to do so.

I don't think there is any doubt that there was a desire by the government to see the dispute prolonged to a point where the resources of the UPW would become exhausted.

I think the government has made it abundantly clear that it is concentrating on the public sector in an attempt to de-escalate

claims. This means that it is trying to ensure that public sector awards are settled at figures lower than the previous settlement.

This is clearly an unreasonable and profoundly unjust approach. Despite all this we are going ahead to secure a fair settlement for our own members on the merits of the claim we are putting forward.

J. SO YOU agree with Scanlon's point that the government are trying to deal with workers a section at a time in order to depress living standards.

D. WELL, this is what they themselves have said in so many words.

J. IN THE light of this don't you think that it was a mistake not to draw your members out on strike. If this is the government position is it right that trade unions should sit back and let it happen, especially if they work in the same field?

D. IF THIS is the line you take where in fact do you stop? Are you really saying that in any particular dispute the interests of all workers in all industries are involved and therefore they should themselves get involved.

This wouldn't be a view that I could agree with. I think we have to see how things develop in the next few weeks. Don't let us jump to conclusions about the results of the UPW effort.

There cannot be any doubt that the fact 200,000 people went on strike for so long had an effect. So don't let's draw conclusions from a dispute that has not yet reached its conclusion.

J. WHAT is your attitude to the TUC's recommended campaign against the Industrial Relations Bill and particularly its rejection of industrial action?

D. WE HAVE not considered the TUC proposals as a union, but my own view is that the TUC General Council is right in its recommendations.

One of the most important things in my view is to influence public opinion against the Industrial Relations Bill, to explain to the public that the Bill will not produce the benefits they have been led to believe it will produce.

It is also important for the whole of the trade union movement to develop closer contacts with its political arm, particularly the Labour Party.

J. THERE HAS been a lot of talking and protest, even a one-day national strike, but this has left the Tories totally unmoved.

Do you think there ought to be a prolonged General Strike to defeat the Bill, force the government to resign and re-elect a Labour administration to repair the

damage done by the Tories and legislate a socialist programme?

D. I THINK we have got to be very careful about this, people in this country believe, and I think they are right, that the country should be governed by the party that has been elected through the ballot box.

But I also think that in a democratic country governments should not try to force legislation down the throats of one section of the community—as they are now trying with the trade unions.

By influencing public opinion and by seeking to make clear how unsatisfactory this Bill is I think we may make some progress.

No doubt the government will insist on bringing in some Bill—bearing the title Industrial Relations Bill—onto the statute book. But it is still possible to get important amendments to the Bill and also to make so clear to the public the injustice of the Bill that it will be less effective if it is passed than if people thought it was quite reasonable.

Amendments to Bills are secured in all sorts of ways. Governments often produce amendments of their own when they are satisfied that a strong enough case has been made out by public opinion on a particular point. Often it is a government's own back-benchers who start to say an amendment on some point would be reasonable.

Very many Bills have been changed and even withdrawn in the past because of the views of Members of Parliament who have responded to public opinion.

But I cannot remember one important piece of legislation that has been changed or withdrawn as a result of industrial action.

The government are a pig headed lot. But if the papers are any guide they have already had to think again about their attitude to the closed shop. I can't see how they can get out of the very difficult situation they are in over the closed shop without making some very substantial amendments to the Bill.

J. ARE YOU saying that mere amendments of the Bill would be a victory?

D. I WOULD not regard it as a complete victory but if the Bill went through with important amendments I would regard it with some satisfaction.

But the Bill, as a whole, is completely on the wrong lines. The most charitable thing you can say about it is that it is a tremendous irrelevance.

Most of all I think that public opinion should be aroused to understand what a harmful piece of legislation it is.

If this kind of situation is produced, the government will be far less able to use the powers the Bill may give them if it reaches the statute book.

It is always a mistake to think that with a piece of legislation like this the battle is over when it reaches the statute book.

But if there is the overthrow of a government by industrial action is a profoundly mistaken course of action to take. My own belief is that the present government is trying to exploit the unpopularity of the trade union movement and the failure of many trade unionists to appreciate the significance of the government's actions.

They may as a result of this be able to win some quick easy victories, but I am quite sure they will produce an industrial back-lash that will work ultimately to defeat them.

Old guard elbowed aside

Khrushchev remembers

A review by Robert Black

PART THREE

IN THE PERIOD of world counter-revolution that followed Lenin's death in 1924, Stalin's supporters elbowed the founders of Bolshevism aside in their rude scramble for power.

Khrushchev, like so many of his ilk, sensed that Stalin was the man to back. In return for his patronage, they gave him total support against all his political opponents — real and imaginary.

Khrushchev claims he was 'recruited' to Stalin's inner circle by Alliluyeva, Stalin's second wife (she is known to have either been killed by Stalin or to have committed suicide

after a bitter argument about Stalin's brutal collectivization policy).

In fact, his first patron was Lazar Kaganovich, Stalin's henchman in the Ukraine.

But as one of Khrushchev's main aims in the book is to blame many of Stalin's crimes — and his own failure to oppose them — on Kaganovich's brutal rule, he has very little to say about this side of his early career.

There is no shortage of material to back up Khrushchev's case, and he makes good use of it. For example:

'His behaviour disgusted me, and it disgusted others, too. He was nothing but a lackey. All Stalin had to do was scratch Kaganovich behind the ears to send him snarling at the Party. "Kaganovich used to throw back his chair, bring himself up to his full height, and bellow: "Comrades! It's time for us to tell the people the truth. Everyone in the Party keeps

talking about Lenin and Leninism.

"We've got to be honest with ourselves. Lenin died in 1924. How many years did he work in the Party? What was accomplished under him? Compare it with what has been accomplished under Stalin.

"The time has come to replace the slogan 'Long Live Leninism' with the slogan 'Long Live Stalinism'."

The downgrading of Lenin which took place after his death was reflected in Stalin's vicious campaign against his widow, Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya, and against the time sided with the Left Opposition (its Zinoviev-Kamenev 'Old Bolshevik' wing) in the struggle against Stalin.

Khrushchev revealed in his 'secret speech' how Lenin broke off all relations with Stalin after he had humiliated Lenin's wife over the telephone.

Here, we learn of other examples of what Lenin called Stalin's 'rudeness, spite and disloyalty' towards the Party and its leaders:

"Stalin had very little respect for Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya and Maria Ilichna [Lenin's sister]. "He used to say that he didn't

think either of these women was making a positive contribution to the Party's struggle for victory." (In so far as Stalin identified himself with 'the Party', this was undoubtedly true.)

Khrushchev then reveals that Krupskaya supported Bukharin after he broke with Stalin in collectivization of the peasantry. She made a speech defending Bukharin and Rykov at the Bauman District Party Conference in 1930. As a result, she came under attack from most of the delegates at the conference; and afterwards, without any publicity, the word went out to Party cells to give her a working over.

Khrushchev was nevertheless able to reconcile his support for Stalin with this brutal treatment of one of the Party's most devoted comrades. And as he readily admits:

"It was a bitter thing for me to watch her at these sessions of the Bauman District Conference when everyone started coming out against her.

"I remember her as a broken old woman. People avoided her like the plague. On Stalin's instructions, she was kept under close surveillance because she had strayed from the Party line."

● PAGE FOUR COL. 7



Lenin with his wife Krupskaya

SUNDAY

BBC 1

9.00-9.30 a.m. Nai zindagi-naya jeevan. 9.35 Small builder. 10.00-10.30 Si dice costi. 11.00-11.30 Seeing and believing. 11.35 Art and technology. 12.00 Road sense. 12.25-12.55 p.m. Selling game. 1.25-1.50 Farming. 1.55 Education programme. 2.20 Made in Britain. 2.29 News. 2.30 Sights and sounds of Britain. 3.00 Golden silents. 3.25 Tom and Jerry. 3.35 Film: 'By the Light of the Silvery Moon'. Doris Day. Gordon MacRae. 5.10 Walt Disney's wonderful world of colour. 'The Ranger of Brownstone'. 6.00 NEWS and weather. 6.10 A CHANCE TO MEET. Cardinal John Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster. 6.25 SONGS OF PRAISE. 7.25 PAUL TEMPLE. 'Requiem for a Don'. 8.15 FILM: 'WILD RIVER'. Montgomery Clift, Lee Remick, Jo Van Fleet. Story of the setting up of the Tennessee Valley Authority. 10.00 NEWS and weather. 10.10 OMNIBUS. 'A World of Its Own'. Prison life as seen through the paintings, poetry, music and thoughts of men inside. 10.55 TALKBACK. 11.25 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except: Midlands, E Anglia, North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmor. Wales: 1.25 Farming in Wales. 2.30

ITV

10.35 a.m. Communicators. 11.00 Church service. 12.10 p.m. On reflection. Barbara Castle on Annie Besant. 12.35 Play better tennis. 1.00 Cartoon time. 1.15 All our yesterdays. 1.45 Survival. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Film: 'Jason and the Argonauts'. Todd Armstrong, Nancy Kovack. Jason searches for the Golden Fleece. 5.05 Sky's the limit. 5.35 Catweazle. 6.05 NEWS. 6.15 SEVEN DAYS. 7.00 STARS ON SUNDAY. 7.25 DOCTOR AT LARGE. 'You Make Me Feel So Young'. 7.55 FILM: 'ATTACK!' Jack Palance, Eddie Albert, Lee Marvin, Richard Jaeckel. War film set in Belgium. 9.50 POLICE FIVE. 10.00 NEWS. 10.15 PLAY: 'THE HOTEL IN AMSTERDAM'. Paul Scofield, Jill Bennett, Michael Craig, Isabel Dean. Television adaptation of John Osborne's play about six friends who take refuge in a hotel in Amsterdam. 11.45 MELODIES LINGER ON. 'Overtures and Beginners Please'. 12.30 p.m. TIME OF MY LIFE.

Doctors. 3.15 Rugby. 4.10 Swin y glec. 4.35 Tom and Jerry. 4.45 Young scientist. Scotland: 10.30 Service. 1.25 Farm forum. 2.30 Caring for people. 6.10 Jesus and the circle. 6.40

Clay in creation. 6.45 Songs of praise. 10.10 Scope. 10.45 All-rounder. 11.27 News, weather. Ireland: 1.25 Farming. 2.30 Portrait of a musician. 11.27 News, weather.

BBC 2

10.35 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Open University. 7.00 NEWS REVIEW and weather. 7.25 ROWAN AND MARTIN'S LAUGH-IN. 8.15 THE WORLD ABOUT US. 'The Way of a River'. Portrait of the Test. 9.05 MUSIC ON 2. Paul Tortelier (cello) and Eric Heidsieck (Piano) play Bach, Beethoven and Debussy. 10.00 'THE WINDRIDERS'. An aerial ballet performed by gliders, seagulls and kites to music. 10.10 THE EXPERT. 'Smithereens'. 11.00 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 11.05 FILM NIGHT.

REGIONAL ITV

SOUTHERN: 11.00 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00 Tennis. 1.30 Farming. 2.00 Sara and Hoppy. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'South Sea Woman'. 4.45 Hogan's heroes. 5.25 News. 5.35 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Pot Carriers'. Ronald Fraser. 9.30 More we are together. 10.00 London. 12.25 Weather. It's all yours. WESTWARD: 11.00 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00-1.25 Tennis. 2.00 Farm. 2.15 Man from Uncle. 3.10 Soccer. 4.05 Cartoons. 4.35 Danton. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Boys Night

Golden shot. 5.35 London. 7.55 Film: 'Rhapsody'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Tom Jones. ATY MIDLANDS: 11.00 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00 Tennis. 1.25 Stars. 1.30 Mr Piper. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Love in Pawn'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Forest rangers. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Tender Trap'. Frank Sinatra. Doris Day. 10.00 London. 11.15 Avengers. ULSTER: 12.10 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00 Tennis. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Love in Pawn'. 4.15 Wally Whyton. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 London. 7.55 Film: 'Sunrise at Campobello'. 10.00 London. 12.30 Weather. YORKSHIRE: 11.00 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00 Tennis. 1.55 Calendar. 2.20 Soccer. 3.15 Film: 'The Perfect Woman'. Patricia Roc, Stanley Holloway. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Bedford Incident'. Richard Widmark, Sidney Poitier, James MacArthur. 10.00 London. 12.30 Weather. GRANADA: 11.00-12.00 London. 12.10 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00 Tennis. 1.25 All our yesterdays. 1.55 Rocket Robin Hood. 2.20 Film: 'The Ladykillers'. Alec Guinness, Cecil Parker. 3.45 Football. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 London. 7.55 Film: 'Edward My Son'. Spencer Tracy. DEBORAH KERR. 9.50 Cartoon. 10.00 London. TYNE TEES: 11.00 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00 Tennis. 1.25 All our yesterdays. 1.55 Farming. 2.20 Shoot. 3.15 Cowboy in Africa. 4.15 Bird's eye view. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Strange Cargo'. Clark Gable, Joan Crawford. 10.00 London. 12.30 Epilogue. BORDER: 11.00 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00-1.25 Tennis. 1.45 Farming. 2.15 Diary. 2.20 Single boy. 2.50 Saint. 3.45 Football. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Battle of the Villa Fiorita'. Maureen O'Hara, Rosanno Brazzi, Richard Todd, Phyllis Calvert. 10.00 London. 12.30 Epilogue. SCOTTISH: 12.10 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00 Tennis. 1.45 All our yesterdays. 2.15 Seaway. 3.15 Film: 'Girls at Sea'. Guy Rolfe, Ronald Shiner, Michael Horden, Mary Steere. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Bedford Incident'. Sidney Poitier, Richard Widmark. 10.00 London. 12.30 Late call. GRAMPIAN: 12.10 London. 12.35 Communicators. 1.00-1.25 Tennis. 1.45 All our yesterdays. 2.15 Farm. 2.45 Granny. 3.10 Film: 'The Valiant'. John Mills, Ettore Manni, Robert Shaw. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 London. 7.55 Film: 'Pimpernel Smith'. Leslie Howard. 10.00 London.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Lessons of the postmen's strike.

BIRMINGHAM: Sunday March 14 7 p.m. Digbeth Civic Hall. Lecture Room 1.

LIVERPOOL: Sunday March 14, 7.30 p.m. Mitre Hotel, Dale St.

NUNEATON: Monday March 15, 7.30 p.m. Camp Hill Working Men's Club, Camp Hill Estate.

READING: Tuesday March 16, 7.30 p.m. Trades and Labour Club, Swansea.

SWANSEA: Wednesday March 17, 7.30 p.m. Swansea Working Men's Club, Alexander Road.

NEWCASTLE: Thursday, March 18, 7.30 p.m. Connaught Hall, Blacket Street.

LUTON: Friday, March 19, 8 p.m. AEU House, Dunstable Road.

GLASGOW: Sunday March 21, 7.30 p.m. Woodside Hall, St George's Cross.

ACTON: Monday March 22, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Rd, W3.

CROYDON: Thursday March 25, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd.

SW LONDON: Wednesday March 17, 8 p.m. Unitarian Church Hall, Effra Rd, SW2. (Opposite Lambeth Town Hall). Speaker: G Healy (national secretary of SLI).

WEATHER

OVER Scotland and N Ireland there will be showers and sunny intervals, although it will be mainly dry in E Scotland. Over N England and N Wales it will be mainly dry with sunny intervals. S Wales, the Midlands and E England will be cloudy with a little rain at first, but it will become dry with sunny periods later. S England will be mainly cloudy with a little rain in places. Temperatures will be near normal.

Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Some rain in S England at first, otherwise showers and sunny intervals. Becoming colder.

Steel sackings sign of slump

CLOSURES announced by the British Steel Corporation are the surest sign of the headlong course towards economic slump. Five plants are to close, making 2,600 men redundant. They join 600 already sacked in the past fortnight.

From our industrial correspondent

So serious are the losses

in the steel industry that these announcements are certain to be followed by at least another 5,000 sackings in the next few weeks. Other plants will be shut down.

The whole investment programme of the industry is now in jeopardy, and the much-publicised venture to build a new plant costing £1,000m will now be abandoned.

For several weeks 25,000 workers in the special steel plants have been on short time.

These latest developments are caused by a rapid decline in orders from manufacturers.

Prospects

In other words, they indicate exactly the real business prospects in the manufacturing industry.

Once a basic industry like steel is hit, chances of controlling the tendency to slump, even if that were the government's policy, are nil.

Faced with this fall in demand, the steel industry is also caught in the grip of the other basic facts of the world economic crisis.

Inflation has increased costs at the rate of £100m a year. And yet the real need of the industry is to re-equip with a big investment programme, in order to meet intensified international competition, especially from Japan.

Steel manufacturers all over the world—even in Japan—are faced with 'inadequate' profit returns on their capital.

The 15 per cent steel price increases which the government is now expected to grant will barely meet the increased cost of existing investment, and cannot bring any expansion.

None so blind

FROM PAGE ONE

the reverse: the growth of a reserve industrial army.

In order to restore their sharply declining profit rates, which fell from 14.5 per cent of the total domestic income in 1964 to 10.1 per cent in 1970, the monopolists and the government have now decided to break the unions.

No amount of one-day stoppages by the Canutes of the trade unions can turn this counter-revolutionary tide. To say so is to disarm the working class and facilitate the attacks of the Tories.

We urge all trade unionists—and in particular TSGWU members—to demand of their leaders that the TUC document not only be rejected, but that March 18 be the signal for the calling of a definite General Strike to make the Tories resign.

Russian Revolution, this was a simple undertaking. Stalin's whispering campaign in fact had as its main target not Krupskaya, but Lenin, as Khrushchev now readily admits: 'He wasn't just indulging in frivolous gossip, either. He wanted to influence us psychologically, to undermine our limitless love for Lenin, and to increase his own stature as the uncontested leader and great thinker of our era. Khrushchev was one of the most fanatical advocates of the Stalin 'cult' while the 'great thinker' lived.' To this end he cautiously but deliberately sprinkled into the consciousness of those around him the ideas that privately he wasn't of the same opinion about Lenin that he professed publicly... (It is in this context that Khrushchev relates his story about Kaganovich.)

But did Stalin's anti-Lenin campaign prevent Khrushchev from joining the onslaught on Lenin's old comrades? On the contrary!

Close watch on Mrs Gandhi's promises

LITTLE JUBILATION was emanating from the Congress Party camp following Mrs Indira Gandhi's landslide victory in the Indian General Election.

BY ROBERT BLACK

As counting of votes ran into the third day yesterday, Congress had won 284 of the 381 results declared compared with the last 521-member parliament.

Workers and peasants deserted the right-wing Swatantra and Jan Sangh parties in their millions.

For the first time they voted for Congress, which campaigned on a programme of social justice and tough measures against the rich.

But Mrs Gandhi must

and the provision of minimum social services.

But she stressed that nothing could be done overnight.

Commentators in India do not expect any sweeping reforms from Mrs Gandhi's new government.

The only measures taken by her previous administration were the nationalization of major Indian banks and a crash programme to relieve unemployment, which has so far proved totally ineffective.

There are 13 million unemployed today and the figure is growing.

India's undernourished, poorly clad, badly housed and disease-racked millions will watch Mrs Gandhi's first moves very closely.

Promises

Drawn into political action by Mrs Gandhi's demagogic campaign against the extreme right, they will not be fobbed off by promises of a few tinkering reforms.

Despite its massive majority, the new Congress government will be a regime of crisis.

The deepening world economic crisis will exert enormous pressures on the semi-colonial world and cuts the ground from under capitalist reforms of the type proposed by Mrs Gandhi.

'Progressive' Mrs Gandhi told reporters after her victory was certain that her massive vote was for the progressive policies of the Congress Party.

As elated crowds danced their way to her New Delhi house, she said the size of the mandate had increased her Party's responsibilities and made it even more urgent to tackle the country's problems.

These she listed as unemployment, rising prices

'To be able to sit with the Politbureau [this was in 1934, just after Khrushchev had been 'elected' to the leading party body], to be able to work side by side with the leaders of the Party, and to be close with Stalin—this seemed like the crowning opportunity of my career.'

'For years I had devoted with all my soul to the Central Committee and to Stalin. Ever since first coming to Moscow... I had admired Stalin for his clearness of mind and the conciseness of his formulations. My admiration for him continued to grow. I was spellbound by the patience and sympathy for others that he showed at Politbureau meetings in the middle 1930s.'

And as Khrushchev sat in spellbound admiration at the feet of Stalin, this man of 'patience and sympathy' was already preparing the murder of Lenin's closest comrades.

Continued.

Rolls supplier closes down

ABOUT 650 workers at a South Wales factory supplying Rolls-Royce, where engineers have been on a week-long strike, are to lose their jobs.

Teddington Aircraft Controls Company in Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, announced yesterday that it was closing down the factory because it had 'serious doubts as to whether it could continue to operate' in present conditions.

300 engineers struck work last week over a £3 pay claim which prompted the management to issue a warning saying that industrial action would only hasten the closure.

Toy jobs wiped out

NEARLY A thousand workers at the Mettoy Toy Company were sacked yesterday and given two weeks pay in lieu of notice.

Nine hundred of the workers sacked were employed at Mettoy's Stanley Road factory in Northampton. The company has announced a programme of rationalization and consolidation to ensure profitability.

Resist claims—CBI chief

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIALISTS were yesterday urged to continue opposition to high wage demands by Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry Mr W. Campbell Adamson.

Speaking to the NE Development Council in Durham, he said he hoped every management and every employer would oppose high settlements when negotiating wage demands.

If they did not, they would find that by settling high they would again find themselves in difficulties in a very short time.

'We would be far worse off by doing this than if we stood up to unreasonable demands.'

He said that by adopting present policies against excessive demands there was a levelling out of wage settlements.

If the stage was reached where the dust was settling on the Industrial Relations Bill, management and unions would get down to serious talks to work out reasonable policies.

'Possibly we may this year get to the stage where both sides can talk sensibly,' he said.

Pakistan talks on crisis

A CLOAK of official secrecy surrounded Pakistan President Yahya Khan's movements yesterday, as he prepared for his trip to E Pakistan for crisis talks with Bengali nationalist leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Mujib's Awami League is now in effective control of Pakistan's E wing. Reports from Karachi suggest Khan will offer to legalize the Sheikh's 'de facto' rule to avoid a complete rupture between E and W Pakistan.

W Pakistan Awami League leader Mohammad Khurshid has flown to Dacca ahead of Khan to prepare the ground for the talks, meeting Mujib in the E Pakistan capital late Thursday night.

Mujib is using the mass movement for Bengali independence to strengthen his bargaining position with the Khan regime.

He has agreed to attend the first session of the Pakistan National Assembly on March 25 if Khan ends martial law in E Pakistan.

Strike

FROM PAGE ONE

position to call for national industrial action.

'The real success of December 8 was that Robin Day could ask Heath on television whether he would stand up to a General Strike,' Ramelson added.

On the Post Office strike he said UPW general secretary Tom Jackson and chairman Maurice Styles had made 'an error of judgement' in calling it off.

But he tied himself in knots again when he tried to explain away Styles' statement that the strike was non-political.

A suspect alliance

BY JOHN SPENCER

EVEN WITH two former cabinet ministers on the platform, the Trade Union Campaign Against the Common Market attracted only 50 people to its meeting in London on Thursday night.

The campaign is part of a highly-suspect alliance which stretches from the Stalinists of the Communist Party through right-wing Labourites to the extreme right of the Tory Party.

On Sunday, it will be taking part in a Trafalgar Square rally at which speakers will include Tory MPs Sir Gerald Nabarro and Richard Body, together with Air Vice-Marshal Don Bennett, speaking alongside Michael McGahey, Stalinist president of the National Union of Mineworkers and Ernie Roberts, assistant general secretary of the engineers' union (AUEW).

Peter Shore MP, a former Wilson whiz-kid, said on Thursday he had changed his mind about the Common Market in 1970 when he realized that entry would be 'an appalling bargain'.

In particular, he said, it would have a bad effect on the balance of payments and 'our national prosperity'.

'THREAT'

Douglas Jay, once Wilson's President of the Board of Trade, also said the Market was a threat to 'national sovereignty'.

Stalinist speakers at Thursday's meeting used extremely chauvinistic and anti-working-class arguments against EEC entry.

Mrs Mary Abrook, from the Cities of London and Westminster Trades Council, said she was concerned about the unlimited entry of workers from the continent.

'The Immigration Bill says that Commonwealth immigrants are alien to our way of life.'

'But Common Market entry would allow unlimited immigration of people coming from areas where the wages are lower.'

She added that the dominant partner in the Common Market was W Germany.

'We fear that what they couldn't achieve by two world wars they could well be trying to achieve through the Common Market.'

The Stalinists raised the demand that instead of Common Market entry there should be an all-European security conference, a proposal, they said, which had already been welcomed by 24 European governments (including W Germany, Spain and Greece).

They want to use this campaign to get closer to sections of the British employing class who oppose the Market for their own reactionary reasons.

That is why McGahey is prepared to speak alongside Sir Gerald Nabarro.

Against this anti-working-class alliance we raise the perspective of uniting the revolutionary struggles of workers all over Europe in a fight for a Socialist United States of Europe based on the overthrow of capitalism in the West and the political revolution against bureaucracy in the East.

Bukovsky appeals for jailed opposition

SOVIET writer Vladimir Bukovsky has sent a letter to western psychiatrists asking them to take up the cases of oppositionists imprisoned in Soviet mental institutions.

A prominent opponent of the bureaucracy, Bukovsky himself was declared 'insane' after his arrest in 1963 for possessing a copy of 'The New Class' by the Yugoslav writer Milovan Djilas.

He spent the next year and a half in a Leningrad 'mental home'.

Barbaric

In his letter, he refers to other oppositionists who are now undergoing the same barbaric treatment: Pyotr Grigorenko, Ilya Rips, Natalya Gorbanevskaya, Valeria Novodvorskaya, Ivan Yakhimovich, Vladimir Gershuni, Victor Fainberg, Victor Borisov—all, says Bukovsky, 'well known for their initiatives in defence of civil rights in the Soviet Union'.

This, in the eyes of the Kremlin, is adequate proof of insanity.

Together with his letter, Bukovsky has forwarded 150 pages of documents on the cases. He says:

Discuss

'I will be very grateful to you if you can study this matter and express your opinion on it... I will be very happy if you can interest your colleagues in this matter and if you consider it possible to place it on the agenda for discussion by the next international congress of psychiatrists.'

Bukovsky's appeal, even though directed to psychiatrists, is in fact, a challenge to the entire working-class movement.

Grigorenko and his comrades must be released at once.

PRIME MINISTER Suleyman Demirel's Turkish government resigned yesterday, following an ultimatum from the armed forces.

The resignation came little more than four hours after the country's military chiefs threatened to take over the government if a new cabinet able to meet the country's demands was not formed.

The government of Premier Suleyman Demirel has been unable to quell student unrest and hold back a series of industrial strikes.

Rebuff

FROM PAGE ONE

Feather's talks with Heath was to obscure the real need and to delay the preparation to defeat the Tory enemy.

But Heath did get something from the discussion. According to the right-wing Tory 'Daily Telegraph':

'An important outcome of last night's meeting between Cabinet Ministers and trade union leaders at 10 Downing St, was that Mr Heath firmly established a line of communication with the TUC.'

With the TUC Special Conference against the anti-union laws due on March 18, with unions representing millions committed to vote for industrial action against the Tories, Thursday's joint communiqué says both sides 'looked forward to a continuing exchange of views'.

This was agreed after Heath had told Feather in no uncertain terms that government priorities are to cut wages and encourage unemployment.

As the mass movement to defeat the Tories mounts, the TUC leaders are desperate to preserve every possibility of collaborating with the government in preventing that mass movement from succeeding.

The Feather-Heath talks and the postmen's defeat are complete confirmation of the correctness of the decision of the February 14 Rally at Alexandra Palace, to build the revolutionary party in Britain now by transforming the Socialist Labour League into a mass party.

The aim must be: General Strike called by the TUC, beginning from May Day, on Monday, May 3, with the aim of making the Tories resign and bringing in a Labour government pledged to throwing out the anti-union laws, restoring all cuts, and legislating the Charter of Basic Rights.

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The government of Premier Suleyman Demirel has been unable to quell student unrest and hold back a series of industrial strikes.

Police shoot Puerto Rican students

SAN JUAN police killed three and injured 50 when they fired on students at the University of Puerto Rico demonstrating on Thursday night against US rule of the island.

Police moved in after clashes broke out on the campus between right- and left-wing students.

Deadlock in French air lock-out

THE FRENCH airline dispute entered its fourth week yesterday without any sign of a break in the deadlock.

The country's three main airlines—Air France, UTA and Air Inter—declared a lock-out after pilots staged a three-day strike in support of demands for higher pay.

All attempts at a compromise have failed, with pilots turning down the latest management offer by a 72 per cent vote on Thursday night.

The proposals—which have not been made public—were turned down after two days' discussion by unions representing the pilots, navigators and radio operators.

Their decision means that the three companies' 160 airliners remain on the ground, at a cost of about £750,000 a day.

The airlines estimate they have lost around £16m in revenues since the dispute began.

The managements have stated, however, that they would rather close down indefinitely than concede the pilots' wage demand, which, they claim, would drive them to bankruptcy.

Class tensions

The drawn-out and bitterly fought nature of the dispute reflects a general sharpening of class tensions in France as the Pompidou government (which owns Air France and Air-Inter) moves further to the right.

Some 1,000 uniformed French airline pilots and crewmen staged a silent demonstration at Orly Airport yesterday in protest against the continued shutdown of France's three main airlines.

Khrushchev remembers

From page three

In the upper ranks of the Party leadership, the baiting of Lenin's widow was quite unbridled, as Khrushchev reveals: 'Stalin used to tell his inner circle that there was some doubt as to whether Nadezhda Konstantinovna was really Lenin's widow at all, and that if the situation continued much longer of her backing Stalin's opponents in the Party we would begin to express our doubts in public. 'He said, if necessary, we would declare that another woman was Lenin's widow, and he named a solid and respected Party member.'

And Stalin was perfectly capable of such a move. For a man who re-wrote Bolshevik Party history 'proving' that its founders were in league with imperialism from the first days of the

SCARBOROUGH 1971

April 3 & 4



Young Socialists 11th Annual conference

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Coaches leaving from all areas. Cost is approximately £4, including bed and breakfast, fare, conference and the dance on Saturday evening.
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