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# the country

BY MICHAEL BANDA

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**£1,250 Fund rises to £618.90**

ANOTHER good post. £139 makes our total now £618.90. It looks like being a record amount for January.

Workers Press alone speaks out firmly on the side of the miners. It is the only paper to expose the union leadership and to warn the miners of their treachery.

From your magnificent response to the Fund, we can see we have your fullest support. Our task now is to press ahead. Expand the sales of Workers Press wherever possible and let's make January's Fund our best effort so far. Collect as much as you can this weekend and post to:

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January Appeal Fund,  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London, SW4 7UG

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These allegations have been vehemently denied by the local executive who have reaffirmed their decision to allow supplies to go to hospitals, schools and pensioners.

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And at the meeting between representatives from the National Union of Mine-workers, the National Union of Seamen, the British Electricity Generating Board and the British Transport Docks Board, dockers made it clear they would block all future coal imports.

Mr Tom Jones, Welsh regional secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union to which the dockers

belong said afterwards, 'There is a conscious understanding among the dockers that the miners are fighting their battle.'

'The T&GWU has given no instructions to the men. We are keeping out of it because the new Industrial Relations Act makes it very difficult for us to tell them what to do.'

At yesterday's 7 a.m. mass meeting of dockers, miners' leaders warned they would be next in line in the wages fight if the Tories defeat the coal strike.

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Encouraged by the political retreat of Jones and Scanlon (and now the power workers' leaders), the Tories are not only standing firm against the NUM but are using every

device to confuse, intimidate and isolate the miners.

This is clearly evident from yesterday's 'Daily Mail' in an article headed: 'Pit pickets' violence worries Maudling'. The paper reports: 'The Home Secretary, Mr Reginald Maudling, is concerned about the danger of violence caused by obstruction. Reports on the picket situation will be studied with a view to special advice being issued to police on how to handle it.'

The Tories are determined to drag out the strike and starve the miners back to work or, worse still, split their ranks. They are being aided in this reactionary exercise by the TUC, the 'left' union leaders, the Stalinists and the 'Tribune' centrists who talk glibly about 'defeating the Tories' whilst opposing a generalized struggle to replace the Tory government with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Once again we say that militancy and solidarity alone cannot win this strike. Without a political programme tying the wages struggle to the question of governmental power and workers' control, this militancy will be turned into its opposite and will open the door to defeat and retreat.

To win the strike is to create the political condition for the resignation of the Tories. That is the most vital issue of the strike.

## Carr courts open

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The future, said Davies, was 'very impositive'. McGarvey reported yesterday morning to Davies on discussions with three American companies who are claimed to be interested in projects at Clydebank.

They are Breaksea Tankships Inc, described as 'only a paper corporation' and formed a month ago, Marathon Manufacturing, which is interested in buying offshore oil-rigs, and Santa Fe International, also considering the purchase of offshore rigs 'on a short-term basis'.

The optimism about Breaksea being generated in the capitalist and Communist Party press was dashed yesterday when the company's president, Ken Arkwright, made his position absolutely clear.

Indicating that taking over Clydebank was of no major importance, Arkwright went on: 'These men can make more on the dole in a socialist society than they can at UCS.'

'UCS is after all the most undesirable yard in the world—it is about 1912 standards, and we would have to tear it down and completely rebuild it with six slips for the new ships.'

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One experienced boilermaker told me that 75 per cent of the steelwork in the yard had already been completed. 'There is the usual talk of a big payoff', he added.

The men had hoped that Scotstoun would get one of the three Irish Shipping contracts confirmed in December, but yesterday the liquidator scotched the idea.

A spokesman said that Irish Shipping had confirmed the contract on the understanding that Govan Shipbuilders would complete the vessel, but there was no guarantee yet that Scotstoun would be included in the firm's plan to build ships at UCS Govan and Linthouse.

Meanwhile redundancies, voluntary and involuntary, already total over 1,200. Of the 900 sacked men there are reports that only 263 are sticking with the work-in.

## Police terror in Rhodesia

ARMED POLICE with tracker dogs are patrolling the streets of the Rhodesian asbestos-mining town of Shabani after shooting dead one African worker and wounding nine others.

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The miners went on strike in the town—200 miles from Salisbury, the capital—after 12 of their number had been sacked.

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The Shabani mine is owned by a subsidiary of Turner and Newall, the big asbestos and plastics firm with headquarters in Manchester.

The shooting is the latest of a series of incidents in various parts of the country as angry Africans reacted to the deal between the Smith regime and the Tory government which will ensure continued white-minority rule.

A statement put out by the Rhodesian government blames the violence on nationalist and political agitators and says that it is determined to maintain law and order.

## Labour may walk out over rents

ALL 300 Labour-controlled local councils throughout the country are being urged to refuse to co-operate with the Tory government's plans to raise council rents on April 1.

In an eight-point plan, the Labour Party says that councils should not be expected to do the government's 'dirty work' and calls for councilors to oppose the Tories' Housing Finance Bill in every way possible. The Bill, say the party would have 'a devastating impact on rents for nearly 7 million families'.

The 50p increase 'suggested' by the government should not be imposed and in Labour-controlled councils rent books should be amended to indicate what is the rent set by the local council and what is the rent set by the Tory government, the plan suggests.

It also calls for Labour councilors in Conservative-controlled councils to consider walking out of chambers in protest when the rent rises are voted.

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WIDE support has come in from trades councils for the Young Socialists' 'Right-to-Work' marches and campaign.

and given a donation to the fund for the marchers.

Students at Leeds university are also supporting the campaign.

The National Union of Students president of Leeds university union has agreed to open up the union building for a reception and accommodation for the unemployed marchers.

## YOUNG SOCIALISTS

# Right to work campaign begins

We will be marching from GLASGOW FEBRUARY 5 LIVERPOOL FEBRUARY 19 SWANSEA FEBRUARY 19 To a mass rally at EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY on MARCH 12

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Please complete above form and post to: Clive Norris, national secretary Right-to-Work campaign 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4. Or phone 01-622 7029.

## What we think

THE MINERS' strike will only be won in an all-out struggle to mobilize the whole working-class movement to force the Tory government to resign. Only preparation for such a struggle, which will replace the Tories with a Labour government to legislate the miners' demands and bring in workers' control and the ending of compensation, is serious preparation to match those of the Tory enemy. The miners themselves are determined to fight it out, and they are receiving solidarity action from workers in transport and at power stations. But the trade union leadership stands aside. The TUC refused to call together the unions for co-ordinated action. Everybody knows the danger from right-wing leaders like Gormley in the National Union of Mineworkers and Feather at the TUC. But what about the Communist Party, which has the leadership in the Kent, S Wales and Scottish coalfields? What about the 'lefts' like Scanlon and Jones, whom they support? These three were the only areas last week where the NCB received co-operation on safety work. This is by no means the most important indication of the

real policy of the Stalinists, however. Yesterday the Communist Party's 'Morning Star' carried a full-page feature called 'The Miners' Case'—written by one of their members, Jack Dunn, president of the Kent area NUM. It was the CP's case. Dunn concluded: 'With solidarity and unity, we can make this a short and successful strike which will win the miners' immediate demands. 'We can also strike a blow against the Tory government which will speed the day when it is defeated and replaced by a government which will take the side of the workers and not the millionaires.' This is a policy directed AGAINST the interests of the miners. Dunn chooses his words very carefully. He stresses 'immediate demands', because he knows that workers' control and the ending of compensation are necessary if the miners are to get any gains they can keep. And he knows that to get this means a political mobilization of the miners. This frightens Dunn out of his wits; he is completely committed to the Stalinist policy of alliances within the union bureaucracy, which excludes building a Marxist political leadership in the unions.

## Learn lessons of 1926

To delude miners into thinking they can have a quick victory purely on the wages issue is treachery. The future of the government's economic policy—driven on by the crisis of their system—is at stake. And this means the future of the government itself. Dunn deliberately waters this down to saying that a miners' victory would 'speed the day' when the Tories are defeated. It SOUNDS like anti-Toryism, but it in fact gives a picture of the miners' strike as just another strike among many others. Dunn simply does not mention the betrayal of the TUC. He does not mention the retreat of Scanlon and the engineers' leaders by dropping their national claim last week. He does not take up the refusal of Jack Jones to unequivocally instruct his members to 'black' coal. He knows that the growing movement to make the miners' strike the spearhead of a unified struggle of the working class to get the Tories out implies an exposure of these union leaders and their replacement by a revolutionary leadership. This is the explanation of Dunn's failure to raise even once the question of workers' control or to link his demand with the struggle of engineering

workers and others against unemployment. Nationalization under workers' control and without compensation is the demand which unites the struggles of all workers—in nationalized as well as privately-owned industries. The position of the Stalinists is nakedly exposed if we refer back to the General Strike of 1926. Let us quote from a leaflet issued on May 5, second day of the strike: 'Therefore let the workers answer the bosses' challenge with a challenge of their own: "nationalization of the mines without compensation for the coal-owners, under workers' control through pit committees!'. The third essential slogan of the General Strike must be: "resignation of the forger [Tory] government—formation of a Labour government!'. The CP had above all failed to build an independent party of Marxists, able to give leadership through to the end of the fight to remove the capitalist government. The construction of such a leadership today, through the Socialist Labour League and Workers Press, fighting on the policies we have outlined here, is the most important question facing the miners and the whole working class.

Now with nationalization already won 25 years ago, the Stalinists resort to 'immediate demands' and 'speeding the day'. This is how far the CP has degenerated. They use the 'Morning Star' as nothing but a 'left' cover for the treacherous union and Labour leaders. But the lessons of 1926 went deeper. Then the CP was only at the very beginning of its descent into Stalinism. Still making correct general policy statements, it had begun to accommodate to the trade union bureaucracy. It deceived the working class into thinking that 'lefts' on the TUC General Council could be relied on to fight for socialist policies and stop a sell-out. What actually happened was that these 'lefts' caved in with the right-wing leaders. The CP had above all failed to build an independent party of Marxists, able to give leadership through to the end of the fight to remove the capitalist government. The construction of such a leadership today, through the Socialist Labour League and Workers Press, fighting on the policies we have outlined here, is the most important question facing the miners and the whole working class.

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

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## Harassing

The government links at least one incident with the African National Council, a body set up recently to fight the proposed settlement.

The ANC charges the regime with harassing and arresting Africans just because they supported its aims and with illegally preventing the holding of meetings in tribal-tribe areas.

Not one of about 200 applications it had made to hold meetings to discuss the Anglo-Rhodesian terms had been allowed. Yet according to the deal, before and during the test of applicability 'normal political activities' will be permitted provided they are peaceful and democratic.

According to Sidney Nyamwenda of the ANC, one township manager to whom he had applied for permission to hold a meeting 'chased me from his office like a dog.'

A period of relative calm, which has lasted for about nine years based on the arrest and imprisonment of African leaders, has come to a sudden end as the Pearce Commission

## Labour may walk out over rents

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The Trades Council has pledged support and given a donation to the fighting fund. Also pledging support and finance is Ealing Trades Council.

In Yorkshire, the Todmorton Trades Council has passed a motion of support

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'Therefore let the workers answer the bosses' challenge with a challenge of their own: "nationalization of the mines without compensation for the coal-owners, under workers' control through pit committees!'

The Communist Party? What reason did they give for this policy? ... the Communist Party warns the workers against the attempt being made to limit the struggle to its previous character of self-defence against the capitalist offensive.'

Now with nationalization already won 25 years ago, the Stalinists resort to 'immediate demands' and 'speeding the day'. This is how far the CP has degenerated.

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# IRELAND: BACKGROUND PART FIVE

JACK GALE continues the history of class struggle in Ireland.

'A HOME Rule Bill for Ireland is under consideration . . . the British Conservatives, led by that Black Hundred. . . Carson, have raised a frightful howl against Irish autonomy. . . Carson has threatened rebellion, and has organized armed Black Hundred gangs for this purpose. . . Of course, if the Liberals appealed to the people of Britain, to the proletariat, Carson's Black Hundred gangs would melt away immediately and disappear. But . . . the Liberals in Britain are also lackeys of the money bags, capable only of cringing to the Carsons.'—Lenin: 'The British Liberals in Ireland', March 1914.

A WELL known Orange Order toast runs:

'To the glorious, pious and immortal memory of King William the Third, who saved us from rogues and roguery, slaves and slavery, knaves and knavery, popes and popery, from brass money and wooden shoes; and whoever denies this toast may be slammed, crammed and jammed into the muzzle of the great gun of Athlone, and the gun fired into the pope's belly, and the pope into the devil's belly, and the devil into hell, and the door locked and the key in an Orangeman's pocket.'

This story, that the Protestant forces saved the Protestant poor from the Catholics, and that the Protestant ruling class is the friend of the Protestant working class, is a load of lies from beginning to end.

Protestant landlords and bosses have always joined enthusiastically with Catholic exploiters against workers and peasants of all religions.

Ulster originated during the reign of James I, when the English government settled Ireland with planters from Scotland and England for which purpose they confiscated 2 million acres.

But it was a Puritan parliament which raised and financed an army for the Catholic Charles I to subdue the Irish—on condition that a further 2.5 million acres be confiscated. And the conquest of 1688 by William of Orange was in no sense a religious crusade against Catholicism. William was a military adventurer whose invasion of Ireland was financed by the League of Augsburg. The League of Augsburg.

### Finance

The leaders of this league were both Protestant and Catholic. They included the Emperor of Germany, the King of Spain, William of Orange—and the pope.

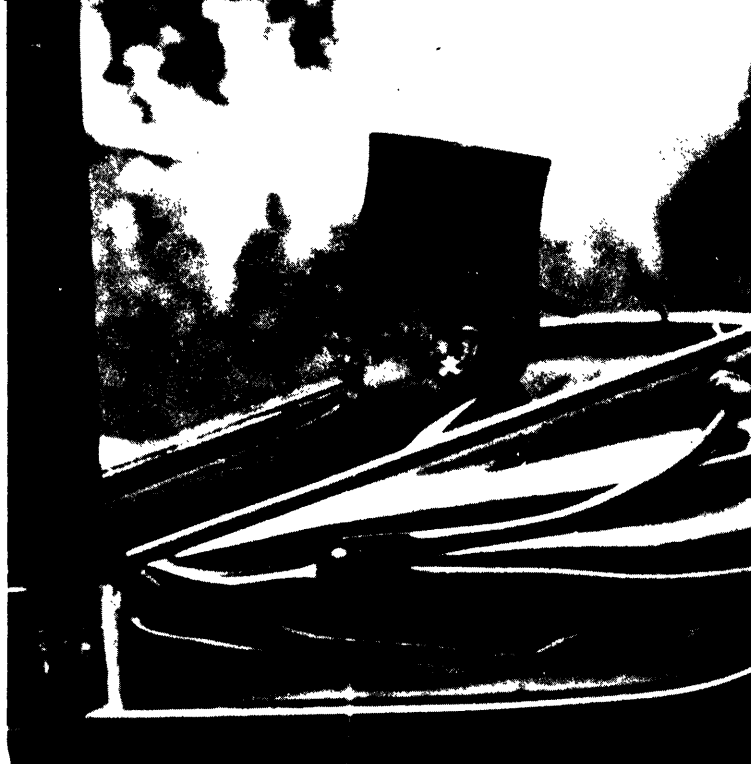
William's victory at the Battle of the Boyne was financed in part by donations from the papacy. And the first religious event to mark the event was a papal Te Deum conducted in Rome.

As always, Jesus came a very poor second to material greed, as far as the pope was concerned.

In fact, the Orange Order itself, when it was founded in 1793, was originally an organization of the poor, concerned to protect their smallholdings. The big landlords hesitated for some time, before deciding to take it over, and they were pushed into this decision only by fear of Wolfe Tone's 'United Irishmen' and the militant peasant organization, 'The Defenders'.

There is ample evidence to substantiate this. A prominent

1. A. Bryant, 'The Age of Elegance'.



John Redmond, Irish nationalist leader.

Protestant and magistrate—Thomas Knox of Dunganannon—wrote: 'As for the Orangemen, we have a rather difficult card to play; they must not be entirely discouraged—on the contrary, we must in a certain degree uphold them, for with all their licentiousness, on them we must rely for the preservation of our lives and properties, should critical times occur.'

And the magistrate's namesake, a military commander General Knox, reported to his superiors:

'I have arranged . . . to increase the animosity between Orangemen and the United Irish. Upon that animosity depends the safety of the centre counties of the North. Were the Orangemen disarmed or put down, or were they coalesced with the other party, the whole of Ulster would be as bad as Antrim and Down.'

It was this which transformed the Orange Order from its plebeian origins into a government agency. By 1797 the head of the English forces in Ireland—General Lake—was himself a member of the Orange Order and reviewed parades as the landed gentry and government agents assiduously established new lodges.

The revolutionary side always sought to overcome religious differences. Wolfe Tone strove to recruit both Catholics and Protestants into the United Irishmen; Engels notes in one of his letters that in its early days (1865-1867), the Fenian banner was green and orange to symbolize the brotherhood of the

2. See Liam de Paor 'Divided Ulster'.

## The rise of the Orangemen

There is evidence that the Protestant bosses like a Catholic population of about 35 per cent. Certainly this was the proportion in Belfast towards the end of the 19th century and it was the proportion achieved by the Ulster Unionists when they drew the boundaries of Ulster after Home Rule.

As the movement for repeal of the 1801 Act of Union grew throughout Ireland, the Orangemen moved into alliance with the Tory Party, under the slogan 'Croppies Lie Down'. (Croppies were the Catholic peasantry, but the term came to mean all Catholic workers as well as peasants.)

This alliance was necessary because Ulster has never been as safe for Unionism as the Tories liked to make out. For instance, in the election which followed the defeat of Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, Ulster returned 16 MPs in favour of Home Rule compared with 17 against it. At the time of Carson's rebellion (see later) there were 17 Ulster Home Rule MPs against 16 Unionists.

In these circumstances, the Tories relied on the Orangemen, but without too much confidence. As Lord Randolph Churchill wrote:

'I decided some time ago that if the G.O.M. (Gladstone) went for Home Rule, the Orange card would be the one to play. Please God, it may turn out the ace of Trumps and not the two.'

Speaking in Belfast, Churchill declared—years before Carson's rebellion—that if Home Rule were passed 'there will not be wanting those of position and influence in England who are willing to cast their lot with you, whatever it may be, and who will share your fortune and your fate.'

### Threatened

These blunt declarations of Churchill and the subsequent actions of Carson, Bonar Law and other prominent Tories prove that 'loyalty' and 'patriotism', like other Tory catchwords, are purely for working-class and middle-class consumption. They have no significance for the ruling class when their real interests are threatened.

(Another example of upper class hypocrisy at the time was the way Parnell was hounded to his death by Tories, Liberals, Catholic clergy and other assorted moralizers because of his serious relationship with Mrs O'Shea. At that time Randolph Churchill's wife, Winston Churchill's mother, was well known throughout 'society' for her friendly attitude to gentlemen; Lord Randolph himself died of syphilis, and another prominent member of the Tory nobility, the Earl of Aylesford, was known as 'Sporting Joe' partly because he spent most of his life at the races but also because he turned a blind eye to his wife's 'sport' with the Prince of Wales.)

In 1911, when the Liberals passed the Home Rule Bill (see previous article), the Tory leader was Bonar Law, a man who had close family relations with Ulster. The leader of the Ulster Unionist group at Westminster was a man who had built his political career (and gained a knighthood) by goading Irish workers—Sir Edward Carson.

Carson was very clear what to do: 'We must be prepared . . .

- See A. T. Q. Stewart, 'The Ulster Crisis'.
- Winston S. Churchill, 'Lord Randolph Churchill' Vol. 2, p. 59.
- Engels to Wilhelm Liebknecht, February 29, 1888.
- Connolly 'Re-Conquest of Ireland' pp. 233-234.
- A. T. Q. Stewart, 'The Ulster Crisis' p. 22.

the morning Home Rule passes to become responsible for the government of the Protestant province of Ulster.'

The following year, Bonar Law declared: 'I can imagine no length of resistance to which Ulster can go in which I should not be prepared to support them.'

On September 27, 1912, at a mass rally in Belfast, Carson presented a document known as the Covenant, to be signed by all Unionists. This Covenant read:

'Being convinced in our consciences that Home Rule would be disastrous to the material well-being of Ulster as well as the whole of Ireland, subversive of our civil and religious freedom, destructive of our citizenship and perilous to the unity of the Empire, we, whose names are underwritten, men of Ulster, loyal subjects of His Gracious Majesty King George the Fifth, humbly relying on the God whom our fathers in days of stress and trial confidently trusted, do hereby pledge ourselves in solemn Covenant throughout this time of threatened calamity to stand by one another in defending for ourselves and our children our cherished position of equal citizenship in the United Kingdom, and

son, who a few years earlier had led the storming and looting of Peking.

Nor was Richardson an isolated example. Carson was not bluffing when he claimed to have 'pledges and promises from some of the greatest generals in the army who have given their word that, when the time comes, if it is necessary, they will come over and help to keep the old flag flying.'

The weakness of the Liberal government, which cravenly offered to exclude part or even all of Ulster from the Home Rule Bill, merely encouraged the Tories. In November, 1913, Bonar Law visited Dublin and openly called upon army officers not to obey orders if instructed to enforce a Home Rule Bill.

In Britain the Tories organized the British League for the Support of Ulster and the Union which raised money, arms, and volunteers for the Ulster Volunteer Force. Prominent reactionaries subscribed heavily; Waldorf Astor and Rudyard Kipling gave £30,000 each and Lord Rothschild, Lord Iveagh and the Duke of Bedford £10,000 each.

Large numbers of officers resigned their commissions in the British army and joined the UVF. But they retained close



Above: Carson, 'that Black Hundred'. Below: Carson reviews members of the Ulster Volunteer Force.

links with officers who stayed behind (and who, presumably, were going to fight them), mainly through the agency of one Major-General Sir Henry Wilson—who happened to be the British Director of Military Operations. Wilson passed every detail of the British Cabinet's plans to Carson.

### Weakness

By now—1913—Asquith was pleading with Carson to accept a compromise whereby some of the northern counties could opt out of the settlement for six years, but Carson—well aware, from the inside, of the Cabinet's weakness—contemptuously kicked him aside.

He knew he had little to fear. When the Cabinet finally began half-hearted troop movements in Ulster, it informed all army officers resident in Ireland that they could, if they wished, simply 'disappear' during the operation without prejudice to their careers, if they cared to

return after it was all over! This, of course, just encouraged the others. All over the British army, officers refused to serve. The biggest single mutiny was at the Curragh in County Kildare where no fewer than 58 officers, of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, including its commander, Brigadier-General Hubert Gough, declared that they would not move against Carson.

The Liberal government cancelled the operation. More than that—not only was no action taken against the Curragh rebels, but they each received a written undertaking that they would not be called upon again to act against any opposition to Home Rule. Needless to say, during the Great ('Patriotic') War of 1914-1918, any private soldier who refused to carry out the orders of such officers was immediately shot.

Indeed, such was the government's 'patriotism' that Carson's withdrawal from the ranks of the British Tories—was able to import arms from Germany right up to the eve of the war. When the nationalist side tried it, soldiers and police were immediately moved in against them. Finally, Home Rule became

law on September 18, 1914—accompanied by a Bill to suspend its operation until the end of the war with Germany which had begun a month earlier.

During the war Carson's UVF fought with the British as a separate Ulster regiment. The Irish nationalist leader, Redmond, vying for supremacy in the 'patriotism' stakes, offered his force—the Irish Volunteers, on the same terms. His troops were accepted and his terms rejected.

(The British government was anxious for Irish troops. In the South they campaigned for volunteers to defend 'gallant, little' Catholic Belgium.)

By the end of the war, Redmond was dead and his movement had lost its influence in Ireland, largely because of its support for the war. Redmond stood in the tradition of Grattan, O'Connell and Parnell as a representative of the Catholic middle class seeking to establish a position for itself within the colonial system.

The Easter Rising of 1916 (see next article) had been brutally crushed, and the emerging Sinn Fein was nationalist but just as afraid of the unions and the workers, as the bosses and the British government.

Since he did not need the Irish vote, why did Lloyd George—one of the least principled of the unprincipled breed of Liberal politicians proceed with Home Rule?

For two reasons. At one stage the war was going badly for Britain and so the government committed itself to Home Rule in return for conscription in Ireland. And secondly, the Easter Rising of 1916, following the great British strike of 1913, added to the unrest in British army and in British industry—raised the spectre of the Russian Revolution in the United Kingdom. This was more frightening even than the Ulster Unionists.

Carson was pressurized, against his wishes, to accept the exclusion of the six northern counties, and with that concession to Unionism, Lloyd George introduced a Home Rule Bill in February 1920.

### CONTINUED MONDAY

The next article will deal with the Irish working class in the Dublin strike of 1913 and the Easter Rising of 1916.

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## TV SATURDAY PROGRAMMES

### BBC 2

9.35 Open University. 2.00 Film: 'Say One for Me'. Musical starring Bing Crosby, Debbie Reynolds, Robert Wagner. 3.55 Play Away: for children.

7.30 NEWS, SPORT, Weather.

7.45 RUGBY SPECIAL: The International Championship 1971-1972. England v Wales, Scotland v France.

8.30 THE PHILIP POT FILE: 'One Man's Meat', part 2.

9.20 GERMALIN, part 3.

10.05 WAYS OF SEEING with John Berger.

10.35 FILM NIGHT.

11.00 DAVID GATES IN CONCERT.

11.35 NEWS, Weather.

11.40 MIDNIGHT MOVIE: 'Intent to Kill'. Richard Todd, Betsy Drake, Herbert Lom.

### ITV

10.55 Road Report. 11.00 Sesame Street. 12.00 Grasshopper Island. 12.15 Joe 90. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport: 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 from Warwick; 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 from Catterick; 3.10 Showjumping; 3.50 Results, scores, news; 3.54 Wrestling; 4.45 Results. 5.10 UFO. 5.05 News.

6.05 WHO DO YOU DO?  
6.35 FILM: 'LORD JIM'. Peter O'Toole, James Mason, Curt Jurgens.

9.30 NEWS.  
9.40 HAWAII FIVE-O.  
10.40 AQUARIUS: 'The Great Waltz' and 'Gnome Sweet Gnome'.  
11.40 ALL OUR YESTERDAYS.  
12.10 WORK FOR THE UNEMPLOYABLE.

### BBC 1

10.00 Wie bitte? 10.30 Zarabanda. 11.40 Weather. 11.45 Double Deckers. 12.10 Dastardly and Muttley. 12.30 Grandstand: 12.55, 1.25, 2.00 Racing from Ascot; 1.10 World Heavyweight Championship—Preview; 2.20 International Rugby Union—England v Wales and report on Scotland v France; 4.35 Final Score. 5.00 Whacko! 5.30 News. 5.45 Disney Parade. 5.50 Dr Who.

6.15 IT'S CLIFF RICHARD with guest Dandy Nichols.

7.00 DIXON OF DOCK GREEN. Jack Warner in 'Findings Keepings'.

7.45 FILM: 'THE INTRUDERS'. Don Murray, Edmond O'Brien, John Saxon, Anne Francis. Western.

9.20 DICK EMERY SHOW.

9.50 NEWS, weather.

10.10 MATCH OF THE DAY. FA Cup Third Round.

11.00 BRADEN'S WEEK.

11.35 Weather.

All Regions as BBC-1 except:

Wales: 5.00-5.20 Disc a dawn. 11.37 Weather.

Scotland: 12.45-5.10 Grandstand. Rugby Union; Scotland v France. 5.40-5.45 Sports results, news. 11.00-11.35 Song dancing. 11.37 News, weather.

England: 11.37 Weather.

Mainly Magnus. 11.10-11.45 Come dancing. 11.45 Scottish news, weather.

N Ireland: 12.45-5.10 Grandstand. Rugby Union; Scotland v France. 5.40-5.45 Sports results, news. 11.00-11.35 Song dancing. 11.37 News, weather.

### REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport. 5.05 News. 5.10 London. 6.30 Sale of the century. 7.00 Film: 'The Wild North'. 8.28 Weather. 8.30 Cade's country. 9.30 News. 9.40 Ray Ruskay show. 10.40 Jason King. 11.40 Skating. 12.00 Weather.

ULSTER: 12.10 Grasshopper Island. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport. 5.05 News. 5.10 Dick Van Dyke. 5.40 Sportscast. 6.05 Who do you do? 6.35 Film: 'They Rode West'. 8.00 O'Hara. 9.00 Odd couple. 9.30 News. 9.40 Marty Feldman. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.40 It takes a thief.

HARLECH: 11.25 HR Puffnut. 11.50 Captain Scarlet. 12.15 Seaspray. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport. 5.05 News. 5.10 Randall and Hopkirk. 6.00 Who do you do? 6.30 Sale of the century. 7.00 Film: 'Foot Race'. 8.30 The champions. 9.30 London. 11.40 Skating. 12.15 Weather.

HTV West as above.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 6.30-7.00 Gwal I Mewn.

ATV MIDLANDS: 12.10 Horoscope. 12.15 Joe 90. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport. 5.05 News. 5.10 It takes a thief. 6.05 Who do you do? 6.30 Sale of the century. 7.00 Film: 'Not a Good Stranger'. 9.30 News. 9.40 Hawaii five-o. 10.40 Marty Feldman. 11.40 Skating. 12.10 Who knows? Weather.

SCOTTISH: 11.45 Skating. 12.20 HR Puffnut. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport. 5.05 News. 5.10 O'Hara. 6.05 Doctor at Large. 6.35 Smith family. 7.00 Film: 'Law and Order'. 8.30 Benny Hill. 9.30 News. 9.40 Marcus Welby MD. 10.35 Sportscast. 11.05 Late call. 11.10 Randall and Hopkirk.

GRANADA: 11.55 Garden indoors. 12.20 Rooster-Robin Hood. 12.45

NEWS. 12.50 World of Sport. 5.05 News. 5.10 Primus. 5.35 Avengers. 6.30 Fern Street gang. 7.00 World of King. 7.55 Men of Action: 'The Victors'. Part 1. 8.30 News. 9.40 Film: 'Conan'. 10.50 Who do you do? 11.20 Mysteries of Edgar Wallace.

TYNE TEES: 11.20 Yesterdays. 11.50 Bugaloos. 12.15 Skating. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport. 5.05 News. 5.10 UFO. 5.00 Bonanza. 7.00 Doctor at Large. 7.30 Who do you do? 8.00 Action 90. 9.30 London. 10.40 Challenge. 11.35 Skating. 12.05 Bless this house.

YORKSHIRE: 11.20 All our yesterdays. 11.50 Bugaloos. 12.15 Skating. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport. 5.05 News. 5.10 Randall and Hopkirk. 6.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. 7.00 The Conquians. 7.30 Who do you do? 8.00 Action 90. 9.30 News. 9.40 Hawaii five-o. 10.40 Marty Feldman. 11.35 Skating. 12.05 Cinema. 12.35 Weather.

GRAMPIAN: 11.50 The Bugaloos. 12.15 Drive-in. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of Sport. 5.05 News. 5.10 Dr Simon Locke. 6.35 Film: 'Somewhere in the night'. 8.30 O'Hara. 9.30 News. 9.40 Cad's country. 10.35 Dr Simon Locke. 11.05 Scotland's new 11.10 Aquarius. 12.10 Weather. 'The discoverers'.

SOUTHERN: 11.15 All our yesterdays. 11.45 Thunderbirds. 12.42 Weather. Part 1. 5.20 News. 5.40 World of Sport. 5.10 Randall and Hopkirk. 6.05 Who do you do? 6.30 Sale of the century. 7.00 Film: 'The Spy with a Cold Nose'. 8.30 Theatre of Stars: 'The Island'. 9.30 News. 9.40 Cad's country. 10.35 Dr Simon Locke. 11.05 Scotland's new 11.10 Aquarius. 12.10 Weather. 'The discoverers'.

WESTWARD: As Channel except 11.35 Gus Honeyburn. 11.40 Rupert Bear. 11.50 Bugaloos. 12.15 Drive-in. 12.00 Faith for life.

# The latest gimmick by Castro

A NEW FOCUS report by Reuters reporter Charles Lambelin

HAVANA, Cuba — Cuba's Castroite leaders striving to increase production and productivity have proclaimed 1972 'The Year of the Socialist Emulation'.

Every year since the revolution — which had its 13th anniversary on January 2 — the Cubans have given a name to the year which is used on every official act and document.

Last year was the Year of Productivity, 1970 the Year of the Ten Million (tons of sugar), 1969 the Year of the Scientific Effort, and 1968 the Year of the Heroic Guerrilla.

An official announcement proclaiming the title for 1972 said the name was chosen to underline the fundamental role that emulation must have in economic, political, social and cultural tasks.

The term emulation, as used in socialist countries, describes the system under which all citizens are expected to match the best results achieved in industry and other forms of public activity.

Observers here noted that the authorities were trying to develop in Cuba a collective conscience spurred on by example to replace the drive for individual enrichment of capitalist societies.

They have organized a complex system of competition with the best workers being proclaimed 'millionaires' or 'labour heroes' and awarded with flags and diplomas.

The year of Socialist Emulation is seen as carrying on the work of 1971 which was a year of reorganization and consolidation in Cuba.

In its efforts to increase productivity the authorities employed both the carrot and the stick. A new anti-vagrancy law adopted last year made it compulsory for all men to work and laid down punishment for those who did not and for workers who were absent from their jobs without justification.

Labour norms were also established in many centres. These measures resulted in 100,000 men, formerly described as 'workshy', becoming available for the labour force.

The carrot was incentives given to the best workers in the form of permits to buy a few consumer goods, including refrigerators, television sets, transistor radios, watches and steam cookers.

At the same time prices of consumer commodities were increased and charges were made for facilities — including workers' canteens and working clothes — previously provided free of charge.

With a few more consumer goods to buy and prices increasing, working has become not only a revolutionary duty and an obligation by law, but an economic necessity.

This policy seems to have had positive results on industrial production during the past year with many centres reporting that their yearly plans were fulfilled for the first time in three years.

However, the same cannot be said for agriculture. The 1971 tobacco harvest, affected by a severe drought, was very low and this year's sugar harvest is expected to be mediocre.

Deliveries of fresh fruit and vegetables in towns remain intermittent and unsatisfactory.

Although the standard of living of the Cubans has not improved much, the Castro leadership have become conscious of the need to improve it if they want more production and productivity.



NATIONALIZATION of the coal industry a quarter of a century ago was a great step forward for the entire working class movement. Yet today control of the industry still remains out of the hands of the workers. Instead, the National Coal Board, the governing body, has become an instrument for Tory attacks on wages and conditions in the mines. Staff reporter PHILIP WADE compiles this biography of the management of the NCB at Hobart House.



# Who's who at the Coal Board



**Derek Ezra, 52**  
Salary: £20,000  
Chairman of NCB and Associated Heat Services Ltd. Director of British Fuel Co. and J. H. Sankey & Son Ltd.



**William Vincent Sheppard, 62.** Salary: £16,000 plus expenses. Deputy Chairman NCB. Held various positions in Bolsover Company's pits.



**George Clifford Sheppard, 56.** Salary: between £10,000-£15,000. Industrial relations expert and ex-NUM executive member.



**John Brass, 63**  
Salary £10,000-£15,000  
Held managerial posts at Grimethorpe, Wharnclyffe Silkstone Colliery, Manchester Collieries and the Stanton Ironworks.



**Leslie Grainger, 54.** Salary: £10,000-£15,000. NCB member for science. Held positions in the steel giant Richard Thomas and Baldwins.



**David Morris Clement, 61.** Salary £10,000-£15,000. An accountant with big business experience, including some at ICI.



**Norman Siddall, 54.** Salary: £10,000-£15,000. Previous manager of Bestwood Colliery, Notts.



**Jack Wellings, 54.** An NCB part-timer on salary of £1,000. Former Chairman and managing director of the George Cohen 600 Group.

By the time Lord Robens, the former Alf Robens, came to replace Sir James Bowman in 1960 there were no longer any miners on the national board.

Today the picture is no different, undoubtedly worse. The eight full-time and three part-time board members are made up of top management men and directors of big business.

To all intents and purposes this group of men run the mines in the spirit of capitalism as evidenced by their ruthless closures of pits, throwing thousands of miners out of work.

Who are these men who preside over the nation's mines and the livelihood of nearly 300,000 miners?

Chairman since July 1971 is Derek Ezra (52). Salary: £20,000, an increase of 33 per cent in 20 months.

He is one of the new breed of high-powered management men who have worked their way up through the coal board. Ezra joined the NCB in 1947, straight from the army with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

For almost 20 years he remained in the background, concentrating on marketing and sales. Finally he reached the top. In 1960 he was appointed director-general of marketing.

From there, success came even quicker. In 1965 he

joined the board and was appointed deputy-chairman in 1967. The only question then was — when would Robens retire?

When he did, the obvious choice for the chairman's job was Ezra. His long climb was over.

Every top position has its rewards in addition to the salary. Ezra's is no exception. He is chairman of Associated Heat Services Ltd and a director of the British Fuel Company and J. H. Sankey & Son Ltd.

All three firms are partly-owned by the NCB and trade jointly with the board in the handling and distribution of solid fuel.

A sure sign that Ezra had arrived and was accepted by the leading elements of British capitalism was his recent appointment as chairman of the Europe steering committee of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). The former head of the CBI was John Davies, now Heath's right-hand man in the Tory Cabinet.

The deputy chairman of the coal board is Mr William Vincent Sheppard (62). He succeeded Ezra in July 1971. Salary: £16,000 plus expenses, 25 per cent up since April 1970.

In this man you see the spectre of the old coal owners still haunting miners.

For 16 years between the wars he held various positions

in the Bolsover Company's pits.

A mining engineer by training, Sheppard joined the coal board soon after nationalization. He undoubtedly took charge of introducing the new machinery into the pits and running down the work force. He joined the board in 1967.

For the other six full-time members of the board it is not possible to obtain precise salary figures — such is the degree of public control! Apparently they are fixed by negotiation. What we do know is that their salaries range from £10,000 to £15,000 which is certainly above the bread-line.

The key man in charge of industrial relations is a renegade from the trade union movement, Mr George Clifford Sheppard (56). He was a member of the national executive of the NUM for eight years, representing the staff side.

A trained accountant and management expert, Sheppard left the NUM and joined the coal board full-time on January 1, 1969.

At a recent press conference he said that the refusal of the NUM to ballot the final offer meant that miners were unfairly tested on their loyalty to the leadership.

The board member for science, Mr Leslie Grainger (54), came straight from the technical division of steel giant, Richard Thomas and Baldwins. He joined the coal board in 1966 and was re-appointed for a further five years from March 1971.

Another man who managed mines for the hated private owners in the 1930s is Mr John Brass (63). He held posts at Grimethorpe, Wharnclyffe Silkstone Colliery, Manchester Collieries and the Stanton Ironworks.

Working his way up through various positions as area manager, Brass was finally appointed to the board on July 5, 1971.

A man with considerable business interests is Mr Wilfred Miron, CBE, TD, JP. He is 59 and a qualified solicitor who worked with Shipley Collieries between the wars.

Demobilized with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, Miron joined the coal board in 1946 as legal adviser in the East Midlands. In July 1971 he was appointed to the board as a full-time member.

Miron is chairman of the Midlands Brick Company and Whittlesea Central Brick Co Ltd and trustee of the Nottingham Trustee Savings Bank.

Norman Siddall (54) stayed on after nationalization at Bestwood Colliery, Notts, where he had been manager before and during the war.

Having done his work for the old owners he obviously found it easy to carry on with the publicly-owned industry. Siddall became director-general of production in 1967 and joined the national board in 1971.

The last member of the national board full-time is Mr David Morris Clement (61), an accountant who has many years of experience with big business, including ICI.

Clement also joined soon after nationalization. His patience was rewarded with an appointment to the board on January 1, 1969. He got the CBE in June 1971.

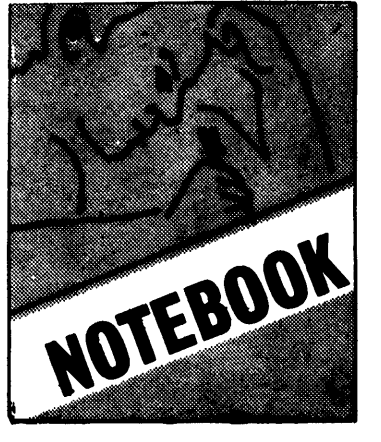
There are three part-time members, all on £1,000 a year. A former chairman and managing director of the massive George Cohen 600 Group, Mr Jack Wellings (54), got his part-time position in July last year.

Another appointee from the trade union movement is Mr Jack Peel. He is general secretary of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers. (His union has agreed to register under the Industrial Relations Act).

Peel joined the board in January 1969.

Finally, there is the eminent representative from the best in British management, Mr Henry Marsh (58). He is director-general of the British Institute of Personnel Management, not known for its sympathy to the working class. Marsh was also appointed in January 1969.

It is estimated that this tiny group of managers, technocrats, accountants, businessmen and trade union bureaucrats take no less than £100,000 in coal board wages each year.



### Scoop

CRISIS in the editor's office of one of our great national newspapers.

Reporter approaches editor with article he's just written.

On reading it editor says: 'But I've just read this in the Workers Press. We're not following up articles in the Workers Press.

'We've got to go out and get our own stories.'

### The Parkhurst brigade

THERE'S a shortage of screws in the internment camps in Ulster.

So where do you think the Home Office went for the men of the right stamin and calibre? To Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight.

Parkhurst is notorious in the penal system for the toughness of the screws.

They are quick to use their riot sticks—remember the way they put down the so-called riot in the prison in November 1969? Several men were carted off to hospital with serious injuries.

### Educating Digby

DIGBY JACKS, Communist Party member and president of the National Union of Students, commented on the December 8 student protests against government proposals for the financing of student unions:

'December 8 was an unqualified success. We have demonstrated to the government not just by words, logic and memoranda but by our actions that Britain's students want a radical government that their consultative document contains.'

Jacks was speaking at the NUS universities' conference last week in Southampton. A more sober note was struck there, however, by deputy president, John Randall.

'We must overcome the apathy that at present exists within some universities', Randall said, 'an apathy verging on conservatism, which was displayed at its most frightening in the poor response to the December 8 day of action when proportionately more students from the technical colleges and polytechnics took to the streets than did university students.'

On continuing the campaign against the Tory government, Jacks commented:

'The first phase of the campaign is over. The time has come to reconsider our policy and strategy.'

'It is now clear that while the NUS position remains the same, the government might be prepared to drop parts of the consultative document.'

In his opening words, Randall said:

'In the months ahead we face a period of unparalleled difficulty. . . . The reality of our situation is that we are involved not just in a fight over union autonomy but in a protracted struggle against virtually every manifestation of this government's educational policy.'

And he concluded: 'If we do not fight on the issue of James [the government's forthcoming report on teacher training] we will have proved only that a registrar would be unnecessary in the government's own terms — all they would have to do would be to issue a new consultative document every autumn to prevent the student body from concerning itself with any other issue.'

A bit more of this point and counterpoint and even the sleepiest list-makers would begin to see that someone was out of line. Diggers, old chap, Johnny's trying to tell you something!

## BBC 1

9.00 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 9.30 Wie Bitte? 10.00 Zarabanda. 11.00 Seeing and Believing. 11.30 Boomp with Becker. 11.45 Play Tennis. 12.10 Steam Horse: Iron Road. 12.35 Interaction. 1.00 Cross's Pont. 1.25 Farm Forum. 2.00 Canoe. 2.25 Made in Britain. 2.34 News Headlines. 2.35 Dog Watch. 3.00 Ken Dodd. 3.10 Basil Brush. 3.40 Film: 'The Walls of Jericho'. 5.20 The Moonstone, part 1. 6.05 News, weather. 6.15 MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE asks: Why? 6.50 DAVID DIMBLEBY takes a new look at Oxfam. 6.55 SONGS OF PRAISE. 7.25 ENGBERT with The Young Generation and The Goodies. 8.10 FILM: 'The Servant'. Dirk Bogarde, Sarah Miles, Wendy Craig, James Fox. 10.00 NEWS, weather. 10.10 WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP: Joe Frazier v Terry Daniels. 10.40 OMNIBUS. Film biography of John Clare. 11.40 AD LIB. 12.10 Weather.

## SUNDAY PROGRAMMES

### BBC 2

9.35 Open University. 7.00 NEWS REVIEW, weather. 7.25 THE WORLD ABOUT US: 'The Jolly-Rodgered Sea'. 8.15 MUSIC ON 2: Shirley Verrett sings arias, talks to Bernard Levin. 9.45 TELEVISION DOCTOR: Pain. 10.00 THE BLACK AND WHITE MINSTREL SHOW. 10.45 GERMINAL, part 4. 11.30 NEWS SUMMARY, Weather. 11.35 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

All Regions as BBC-1 except: Wales: 1.20-1.25 Interval. 2.35-3.00 Owen MD, part 1. 3.40-4.05 Owen MD, part 2. 4.05-4.30 Rugby Union: England v Wales. 4.50-5.20 Canu'r Bobol. 12.12 Weather. Scotland: 1.00-1.25 Canoe, part 2. 1.50-2.20 Who are the Scots? ITV

10.35 Jobs in the House and Garden. 11.00 Parish Community. 12.05 Cover to Cover. 12.30 Holidays Abroad. 12.55 Out of Town. 1.15 Stingray. 1.45 University Challenge. 2.15 The Big Match. 3.15 Film: 'Where There's a Will'. 4.45 Golden Shot. 5.35 Intruder. 6.05 NEWS. 6.15 A PLAY FOR SUNDAY: 'Old Newsome'. 7.00 STARS ON SUNDAY. 7.25 PLEASE SIR! 7.55 FILM: 'THE SILENCERS'. Dean Martin, Stella Stevens. 9.50 POLICE 5. 10.00 NEWS. 10.15 A MAN ABOUT A DOG. 11.15 THE FROST PROGRAMME. 12.05 VENETIAN CHURCHES IN PERIL.

## REGIONAL ITV

TYNE TEES: 11.00 Family worship. 12.05 Cover to cover. 1.53 Weather. 1.55 Farming news. 2.00 Country visit. 2.05 Where the Jobs are. 2.10 Shoot. 2.35 Film: 'Confession'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Sandowners'. 9.55 Mr McGoon. 10.00 London. 12.05 Prayer before birth.

CHANNEL: 11.00 Family worship. 12.05 Cover to cover. 1.53 Weather. 1.55 Farming news. 2.00 The big match. 3.00 Film: 'Five Golden Hours'. 4.35 Fate with Danton. 4.45 London. 6.05 National news, Channel news. 6.15 Play for Sunday. 6.59 Weather. 7.00 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Chase'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Epilogue, weather.

HARLECH: 11.00 Morning service. 12.05 London. 12.55 Jobs in the house and garden. 1.45 University challenge. 2.15 Soccer. 2.15 Film: 'Don't Ever Leave Me'. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Guadalcanal Diary'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 12.05 Weather.

HTV West above.

HTV Wales as above except: 12.05 Dan Sylew. 12.40 Cr. Wast. 12.55 Codi Testun.

HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales plus: 5.35-6.05 Codi Testun.

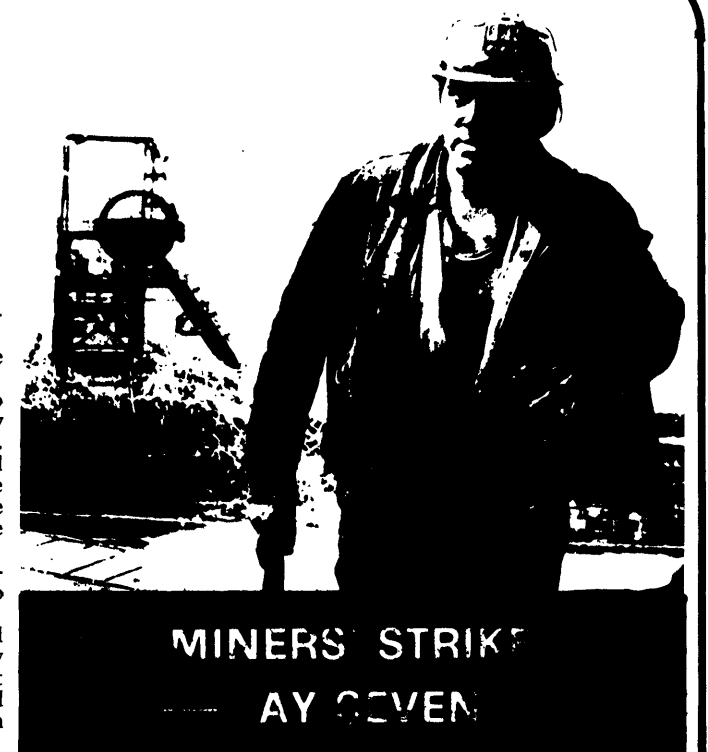
ULSTER: 12.05 London. 12.55 Jobs in the house and garden. 1.45 University challenge. 2.15 Soccer. 2.15 Film: 'Don't Ever Leave Me'. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Guadalcanal Diary'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 12.05 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 Parish community. 12.05 London. 12.55 Jobs in the house and garden. 1.45 University challenge. 2.15 Soccer. 2.15 Film: 'Don't Ever Leave Me'. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Guadalcanal Diary'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 12.05 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 10.35 London. 12.00 Weather. 12.05 Farm progress. 12.30 Holidays abroad. 12.55 Cover to cover. 1.20 One ham's family. 1.30 Stingray. 2.00 The Big Match. 3.00 Film: 'Ambush'. 4.35 Southern news. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'To Hell and Back'. 9.50 Cartoon. 10.00 London. 12.05 Weather. 'The discoverers'.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 12.30 Holidays abroad. 12.55 House and garden. 1.35 Farm and country news. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather.

# Closure talk will only strengthen us



Yorkshire miners march with a message. Their leaders are less determined

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

THE day Monckton-hall colliery was nationalized the miners ran up a flag on the pit top saying 'The mines belong to the people'. That was 25 years ago. Today five miles away in the little Midlothian village of Loanhead, the men remember the day with a bitter smile. Behind the bitterness lie statistics that tell their own tale. Scotland had 187 pits in 1947, in 1960 there were 133 and now there are 34. On vesting day the coalfield employed 81,000 men. Ten years later there were 72,000, now there are 30,000. For men like Donald MacKenzie—40 years down the pit and one of the 1,700 who work underground at Moncktonhall—nationalization has been one long essay in disillusionment.

for a pay rise. Scottish power station delegates went to yesterday's London conference feeling particular affinity with the miners after their years of savage cuts in manning and a steep increase in productivity. Duncan Foggo, a 25-year-old electrician, is a member of the Moncktonhall strike liaison committee for his craft. He says that the only way to build a fighting unit would be for workers like the engineers to strike over their pay claim. 'The miners can't bring the government down on their own, but the truth is that every worker in this country

wants to bring them down.' He looks further into the future—'Nationalization did nothing for the miners, power workers or steel workers.' 'Most of the men know this. We had a meeting last Sunday and the old bogey of pit closures was raised. One boy got up and said if they threaten this, then we'll take over the mines like they have done on the Clyde. 'He was well received, so I think the more the NCB talk about closure, the more it will strengthen the miners, because it makes them face up to reality.' Another Moncktonhall man, Jack Blackhurst, agreed the

fight is against the government. 'A year ago we had the postmen's strike,' he said. 'They were forced to go back to work because they got the support of no one. The working class can't afford to let that happen to the miners, because the whole country is looking at us—the bosses and the unions. 'With solid action this government could be brought to its knees in eight weeks. I think the supplies will really begin to dry up by then. Then the Tories might be forced to come forward with a better offer, but I'm not counting on anything.'

## YORKSHIRE

### Coke is stopped despite press

BY PHILIP WADE

GRIMETHORPE miners near Barnsley have become the objects of an enormous witch-hunt by the local Tory press and television companies.

Their action on picket lines against scab lorry drivers has been distorted by reporters and film edited to show a one-sided picture.

Then their anger boiled over; cameramen were chased away by angry pickets at the pit gates and reporters were refused statements.

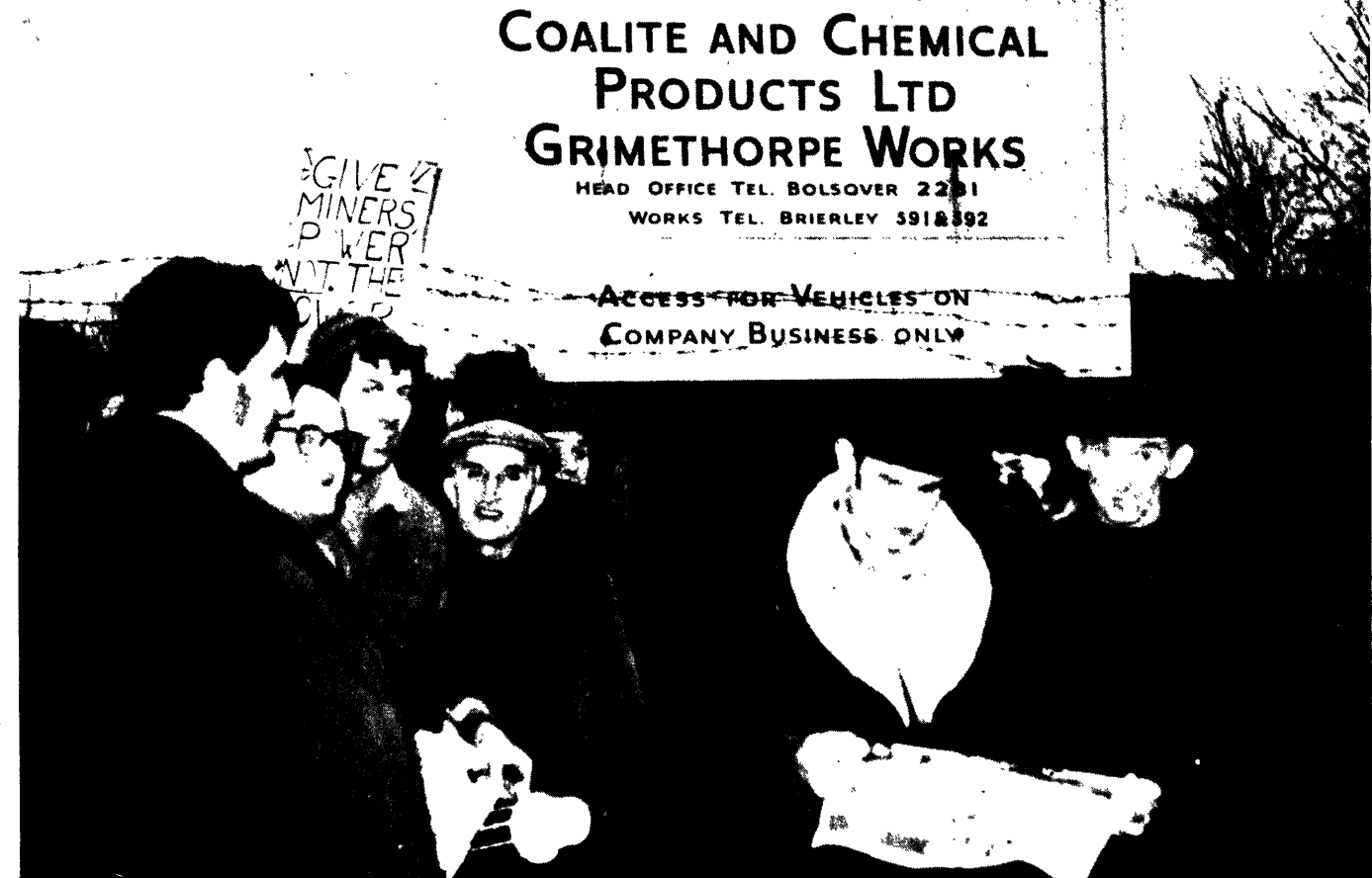
### VENTED SPLEEN

On Tuesday, pickets prevented several lorries driven by non-union members working for local firms from entering the pit to pick up coke. The next day the 'Yorkshire Post' vented its spleen on the pickets in an editorial which gave an indication of what the Tories have in store for the miners and any other workers that choose to fight the government for a decent wage.

After calling for the presence of more policemen, the Tory hacks warned that 'public impatience will grow with the miners—not with the NCB—if pickets seem to exist largely to inconvenience the public.' 'We chased the reporters and cameramen away on Wednesday because they've blown the whole thing up out of proportion.'

### 'KNOCKED DOWN'

'We'd no intentions of violence,' said picket Philip Butterworth. 'But the lorries were turning into the pit at 40 mph—deliberately trying to maim people. 'As a result one fellow got knocked down and injured his leg.' 'Cameramen only show you what they want you to see.'



Pickets out at Grimethorpe

'For example, they never showed us talking reasonably to union drivers who then turned round and went off. They picked out the bits which showed us as violent men,' said apprentice Neville Guy. The Grimethorpe miners have learnt a bitter lesson about the role of the capitalist press. Despite the attacks on them they fought through and no coke is leaving the pit now.

### LIFE BLACKING

And the four firms who sent in scabs have been blacked for life, according to the pickets.

FERRYBRIDGE power station complex near Castleford, Yorkshire, has stockpiled 700,000 tons of coal for the miners' strike, claims station superintendent L. T. Giles. The £75m station produces 2,000MW of electricity a day and is a key element in the national grid. It supplies the surrounding N Yorkshire area.

'We use 21,000 tons of coal a day for our four generators. 'Most of it comes direct by rail from the pits within a ten-mile radius. Some also comes by barge on the adjacent Aire canal,' said Mr Giles. But he confessed he had

had no supplies since the strike began and the pits ground to a halt.

Mr Giles, however, insisted they had enough coal for seven weeks. That worked out at 700,000 tons.

Could we take a photograph of such an impressive sight? 'No,' came the firm reply. 'I'm here at the gate to see no unauthorized person gets on my site. And these police will assist me.'

White-collar workers leaving the power station were unsure about the coal stocks. But one said they were 'over in the woods', pointing to some trees in the distance. 'I don't believe it at all. It's all propaganda,' Glasshoughton underground worker Raymond Hammill told Workers Press. 'We've cut our production by 40 per cent since the overtime ban began in November,' he said.

### HIGH RATE

Only 500 manual workers are employed at Ferrybridge, such is the high rate of productivity per man.

These workers—members of five different unions—will now be asked to move the alleged stockpile into the station proper to power the generators.

### Italian coalition breaks up

SERIOUS differences over policy to deal with the deep slump gripping the Italian economy are behind the present government crisis there, which may force Prime Minister Emilio Colombo to resign.

The small but important Republican Party, which is not part of the government but votes for it, has made it clear that it will go into opposition unless a tough line is taken to deal with the slump. It wants a shelving of costly reforms and tougher measures against the trade unions and wages.

It fears that if energetic measures are not taken the main gainers will be the neo-fascists of the Italian Social Movement, which made big gains in last year's local elections.

The other coalition partners do not want to be committed to a policy which will lose them electoral support but they are faced with the break-up of the centre-left coalition if the Republican Party quits.

A summit meeting of party leaders proposed by the Social Democrats, postponed because of flu, may not after all take place as no new grounds for agreement have emerged.

## Stalinists pine for de Gaulle

GEORGES MARCHAIS, leading spokesman of the French Communist Party, has attacked the Pompidou government for abandoning what he calls 'the positive aspects of the policy of General de Gaulle'.

Marchais was taking part in a broadcast in the course of which he accused the government of returning to NATO and accepting American leadership in a way harmful to 'the interests and independence of France'. The Marchais line is no doubt inspired by Moscow, which wants France to remain an independent force and to join in the call for a European Security Conference.

It was support for de Gaulle's foreign policy which accounted for the Communist Party's attitude in May, 1968, when it opposed the student movement and sought to confine the General Strike to narrow trade union demands.

The late president's hostility towards American domination of Europe, his break with NATO and his policy of rapprochement with E Europe, the Soviet Union and China was greatly appreciated by the French Stalinists.

These policies also made de Gaulle a favourite both of Moscow and Peking. At his funeral probably the largest wreath of all came from the Chinese.

That Marchais should now court de Gaulle's policy favourably with that of Pompidou is significant.

He appeals to those who look back to the days when de Gaulle was alive with nostalgia. It is intended to win away support from Pompidou by claiming that his foreign policy is a betrayal of true Gaullism.

## I assume some compromise deal

ARTHUR SCARGILL has been pit delegate at Woolley, near Barnsley, for the past eight years.

For the last two years he has been a member of the Yorkshire area executive of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Here he talks to Workers Press staff reporter Philip Wade.

Q: IS THERE not a danger that the leadership of the NUM will sell out this claim as they did in the 1969 and 1970 strikes?

A: I THINK there should be no settlement unless it is made by the rank and file at branch meetings. The only way the democracy and credibility of the NUM can be retained is for the men to be the decisive factor. There must be no ballot of individual members. If there's going to be a compromise offer it must be put to the rank and file. I actually drew up the claim in the first place—if anything it's a bit under-priced.

Q: WHAT would happen if the executive proceeded to a ballot?

A: THE UNION branches must insist that the assurance given by Joe Gormley in November that a delegate conference would be called to vote on a settlement be honoured. Otherwise the 13-8 right-wing majority on the executive will prevail. And that is undemocratic because the eight represent the majority of miners. If an attempt is made to sell out, the miners will continue the action they're now taking.

Q: SHOULD miners organize regular meetings of all the liaison committees in an area to co-ordinate the fight as they did in Scotland on Thursday?

A: I'VE BEEN campaigning since the beginning of the strike for the area executive to do its job. It's a scandal there has been no organized picketing, no providing of transport and so on. People like myself are out on the picket lines and have done a public meeting every night. But I disagree with the idea of liaison committees meeting together. We've got a rank and file organization in the area executive. I will fight for it to issue strike bulletins, giving all the information that we have.

Q: WHAT ABOUT regular, say weekly, mass meetings of the men at each pit?

A: I AM absolutely in favour of mass meetings, though not necessarily at each pit. I would prefer mass meetings of all miners in a panel, say at a local cinema. A chap in town has offered us his bingo hall. I'll be pressing to accept it and hold say a weekly meeting to keep the lads informed about the politics of the issue.

Q: WHAT SORT of solidarity action would you like to see taken by other workers in support of the miners?

A: I'D LIKE to see the TUC do the same as the Tory government and call all its members out on strike and defeat the Tory government. We have a heaven-sent opportunity for doing that. This is a struggle not against the NCB but against the Tory government.

Q: SO YOU would regard the miners' strike as a political strike with the government standing with and behind the Coal Board and its 7 per cent offer?

A: THE attitude of the Tory government made it a political issue and it's no use people in this union trying to duck the issue.

Q: WHAT DO you think of the TUC's position to date in relation to the miners? Are they not doing the same as they did to the postmen, cutting off any effective support?

A: I THINK the TUC ought to come out with a public declaration. But that wouldn't be enough. The only way is for the TUC to call out its members, especially as the Tories have called their men out, like the police, to take us on.

Q: BUT WHAT has the TUC done so far and

doesn't it amount to little or nothing?

A: I DON'T expect the TUC because of its history to move automatically to support the miners. We'll have to approach the rank and file of other unions to give support and there's evidence it will be forthcoming.

Q: DO YOU think Hugh Scanlon and the AUEW leadership have weakened the miners' fight by abandoning their national wage claim as 'hopeless'?

A: I'M NOT in Hugh Scanlon's position and wouldn't presume to be able to make an honest assessment. Engineers are well equipped to meet and resolve the problems in their industry. It might be that Scanlon's right—I wouldn't like to say.

Q: FINALLY, would you say the miners or any other workers can win their wage claims without making the Tories resign?

A: THIS IS where I disagree with the Workers Press. I think it's possible to win the wages claim without defeating the Tory government. But if they don't concede and the TUC uses its strength to support the miners, the Tories could be defeated. I don't think the Tories are so stupid as to risk a General Strike in the present confrontation. I'll assume someone will put forward a compromise deal to split the miners. I think a settlement can be achieved which is acceptable to the rank and file and in their interests.

Q: UNDER THE full claim for £5, £8 and £9? A: IF THE membership of my pit indicated they wanted to settle at a certain figure below the full amount, I would feel bound to accept their decision.



Arthur Scargill

## LATE NEWS

NEWS DESK  
01-720 2000  
CIRCULATION  
01-822 7029

A TROUGH of low pressure over SW England will move slowly N and E and a SE airstream will cover most other parts.

Eastern districts of England will be mainly dry but rather cloudy. Eastern districts of Scotland will be cloudy with a little rain or drizzle. SE England, Midlands, N England, SW Scotland and N Ireland will be cloudy with some rain at times.

SW and central southern England and Wales will be mostly cloudy with showers or longer outbreaks of rain. NW Scotland will be mainly dry with sunny intervals. It will become colder in the

## WEATHER

east but elsewhere temperatures will remain near or above normal. Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Generally cloudy with rain at times and some snow on northern mountains, but sunny intervals developing chiefly in the S and W later. Temperatures generally near normal in the S and W but a little below normal in the NE.

A MASS meeting of Lucas Industrial Equipment strikers yesterday unanimously reiterated the three demands for which they came out nine weeks ago. They will meet again next Friday, after negotiations at national level. The three points are: upholding of mutual agreement on piecework prices; payment of average earnings until a price is mutually agreed; when a worker refuses to work on the management's offer of value, the company will not take disciplinary action.

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## Fraud case does Maudling 'tremendous harm'

BY ALEX MITCHELL

A LAWYER for Home Secretary Reginald Maudling has asked a New York state court to have Maudling's name dropped as a defendant in a civil case involving an alleged \$10m property fund fraud.

Maudling's lawyer, Harold Medina, filed an affidavit on behalf of his client and told the court that 'the mere pendency of this action is doing him [Maudling] tremendous harm in Great Britain'. Similar affidavits of general denial were also filed at the same time by Lord Brentford, a former Tory minister, and

in losses and \$20m in punitive damages. Medina told the court that the US Federal Court had no jurisdiction over Maudling because he is not a US citizen.

He said Maudling had little involvement with the company's activities in New York. Maudling's only trip to New York during the time he was president of the company was a social visit, Medina added. Federal Judge Edmund Palmieri scheduled a second hearing for February 3 on the plea to remove Maudling, Lord Brentford and Joynson-Hicks from the suit.

He said he would rule on the plea after the February 3 hearing. Maudling was the company's first president. The company has now ceased operations, and investors are suing for \$10m

workers press

### READERS' MEETINGS

Meet Editorial Board speakers. Discuss your ideas for the expanded paper

<b>LEEDS</b> Sunday January 16 3 p.m.	<b>GLASGOW</b> Monday January 17 7.30 pm Room 1 Partickburgh Lessor Hall (Nr Merikland St Tube Stn.) Speaker: Stephen Johns
<b>Community Centre Quarry Hill Flats Leeds 1 Speaker: Stephen Johns</b>	<b>S LONDON</b> Wednesday January 26 8 p.m. Lower Hall Brixton Town Hall Brixton SW2
<b>SHEFFIELD</b> Sunday January 16 7.30 p.m.	<b>YS Premises Western Works, Portobello Speaker: Stephen Johns</b>

### ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Make the Tory government resign! Clapham Manor St, SW4. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.

Return a Labour government pledged to restore full employment and repeal all laws against the unions!

**DONCASTER:** Sunday January 16, 7 p.m. Woodlands Hotel, Doncaster. 'The miners strike—what next?'

**COVENTRY:** Sunday January 16, 11 a.m. Golden Eagle, Keresley, Coventry. 'The miners' strike and the fight against the Tories.'

**READING:** Monday January 17, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Club, Minster St. 'The Right to Work.'

**SW LONDON:** Tuesday January 18, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham.

**W LONDON:** Wednesday January 19, 8 p.m. The Greyhound, Becklow Rd, Acton W12.

**CORBRY:** Wednesday January 19, 8 p.m. Civic Centre. 'The Right-to-Work' campaign.

**CROYDON:** Thursday January 20, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Cqombe Rd, E Croydon. Support the miners.

**SE LONDON:** Thursday January 27, 8 p.m. Room 2, Deptford Engineers' Club, opp New Cross Stn. 'The Right-to-Work' campaign.'

Socialist Labour League

### Special courses of lectures

In line with decision of ATUA November 6 conference to build revolutionary party

Lecture Room 1  
Digbeth Hall, Digbeth  
BIRMINGHAM, 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY JANUARY 18**  
Essential Marxism

**TUESDAY JANUARY 25**  
Economics and Politics

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 1**  
Historical Materialism today

Mid-Hall  
Woodside Hall, St George's Cross  
GLASGOW, 3 p.m.

**SUNDAY JANUARY 23**  
Essential Marxism

**SUNDAY JANUARY 30**  
Economics and Politics

given by  
G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)