

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1972 ● No. 689 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## TORIES PLAY FOR TIME?

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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The Tories are faced with a world economic crisis of enormous magnitude. The balance of trade figures once more have swung into the red: should they give way to the miners' demands, their international position would speedily deteriorate.

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It is no longer a question of what goes on in the mind of this or that minister or trade union leader, or what they would like to do. In today's situation, the subjective factor becomes subordinate to the objective conflict of class forces.

Working-class militancy has risen so rapidly, the government now has its back to the wall.

Every Tory and employer knows that the only conceivable excuse for a government retreat would be in order to prepare to fight the engineers—next on the pay agenda.

But if the Tories do play for time, they will only be postponing the showdown with the working class . . . and the country's 3 million engineers are a vastly different proposition to the 280,000 miners.

The working class is faced with the truly historic task of ending the capitalist system. But it has to fight on two fronts:

● **FIRST**, make this Tory government resign.

● **BUT second**, with a Labour government elected in its place, weed out the Tory traitors in the Labour ranks.

This can best be carried out in the struggle to force the Labour leadership to adopt socialist policies under conditions in which they are exposed for their inability to do so.

In short, there are no economic answers, such as wage increases, to end the present crisis. The rate of inflation is rising so savagely that any wage concessions made to the miners would be entirely eroded within six months.

The working class is today confronted by the question of power. Its immediate task, therefore, is to make the Tories resign.

**INSIDE TODAY:** Foreign news 2; Right-to-Work diary 3; Manifesto discussion 5; Miners' discussion 10; TV programmes 11.

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In Scotland, however, power workers defied a union ban on today's unofficial strike against their leaders' pay settlement.

Ron Brown, spokesman for the powermen on the E coast, said of the officials' discipline threat: 'This will be regarded, I am sure, by many members as an act of intimidation. But worse still, I think it will appear that they have supported the management and the Tories in making this statement.'



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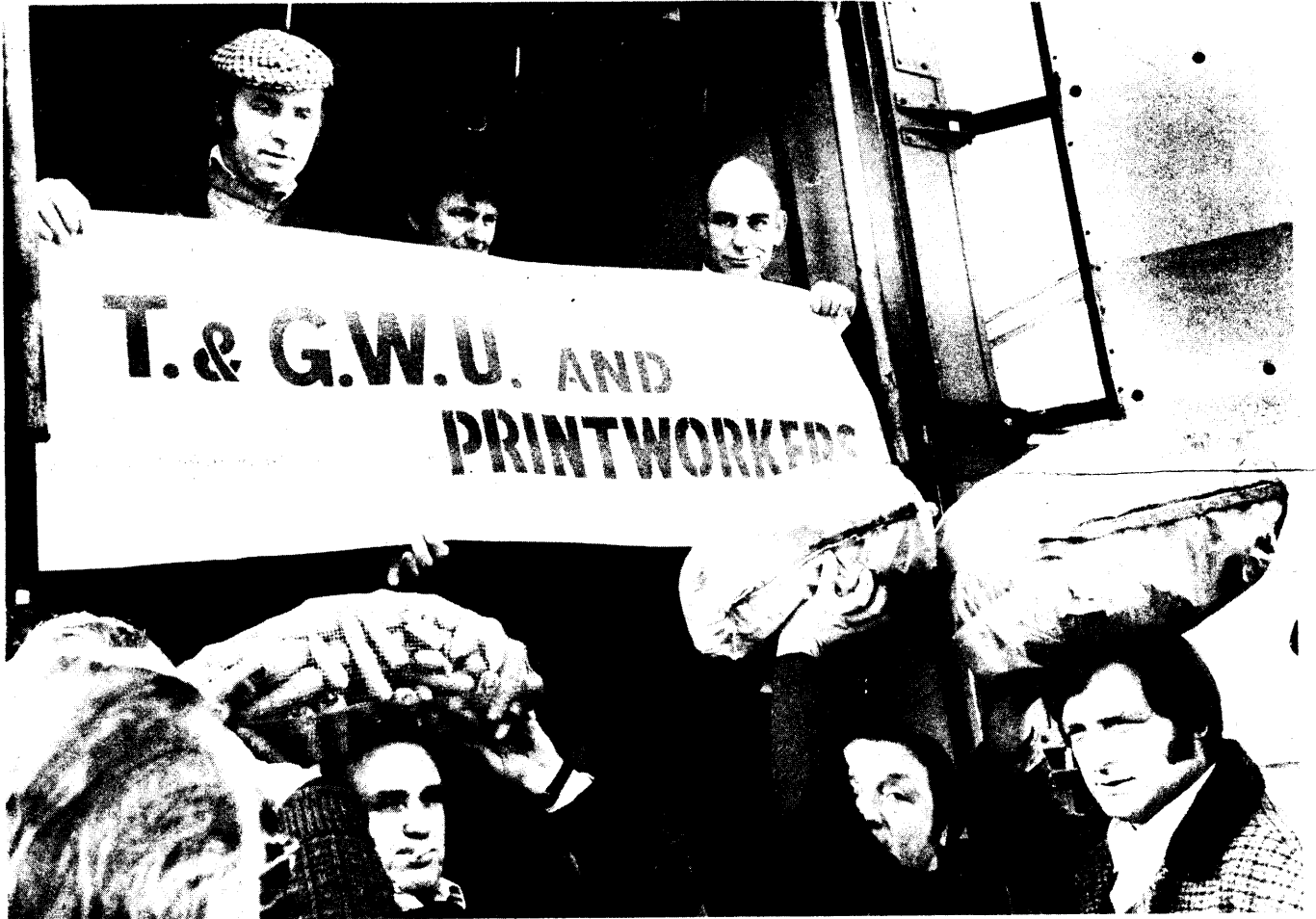
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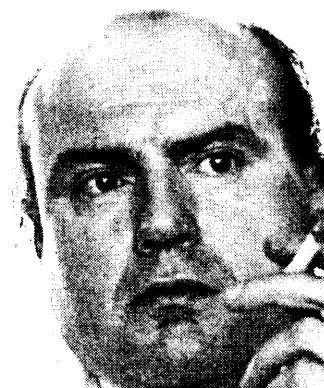
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# Kremlin justifies Sudan murders

BY JOHN SPENCER

**HARDLINE Czech Stalinist leader Vasil Bilak has attacked the Sudanese Communist Party and its executed leader Abdel Khaled Mahgoub for their opposition to the murderous Numeiry dictatorship.**

Made in a speech to the Czech Central Committee on October 21 last year, Bilak's attack reveals the real attitude of the Kremlin leaders to the massacres of communists in the Sudan last July.

It also explains why the international Stalinist movement, including the British Communist Party, have dropped their campaign against the persecution of Sudanese communists.

Bilak is a creature of the Kremlin who has risen to prominence in the past four years by a ruthless purge of all opposition to the Warsaw Pact occupation of Czechoslovakia.

The Paris newspaper 'Le Monde' this week

published extracts from his speech, dealing with the state of relations between the Czech CP and 'fraternal' parties.

Bilak began by trying to justify the indecent haste with which the Czech and other Stalinist governments resumed relations with Numeiry following the trial and execution of the Sudan CP leaders.

He said revulsion against the killings was a 'noble reaction', but based on a misunderstanding. 'It would not have been wise for us to abandon our hard-won positions in the Sudan or elsewhere.

'We would only have been playing the game of imperialism, which would be delighted to see us lose the possibility of influencing events by breaking our contacts with the just struggle of progressive forces.'

By 'progressive forces', Bilak makes clear, he means Numeiry and his reactionary clique of army officers.

## 'Sectarian'

The Sudan CP general secretary comes in for particular attack: 'The group around Mahgoub... were moving towards sectarian positions.' They had wrongly dared to criticize 'Numeiry's democratic revolutionary regime of progressive officers', Bilak said. Numeiry had, after all, 'overthrown a government representing the feudalists and the big bourgeoisie'.

Bilak makes it clear that the Sudanese Communist Party was split on this question—undoubtedly at Moscow's instigation—a section of the Party's Central Committee had

opposed Mahgoub's line and favoured total co-operation with Numeiry.

The other cause of the split was Mahgoub's opposition to the projected federation of the Sudan with Egypt and Libya. This was 'a negative attitude' according to Bilak and 'played the game of the pro-Americans'.

The depth of the divisions inside the Sudanese CP is shown by Bilak's claim that 'neither we nor the other fraternal parties' were informed about Mahgoub's preparations to overthrow Numeiry.

## 'Putsch'

Evidently Abdel Khaled Mahgoub feared he would be betrayed to Numeiry if the Kremlin discovered his plans. He preferred to take a chance on what Bilak described as a badly-prepared putsch without the support either of the army or the masses, rather than appeal for support from Moscow and Prague.

Stalinist policy in the Middle East is counter-revolutionary through and through. For the sake of 'contacts' with the Arab bourgeoisie, the Soviet and E European Stalinists are willing to stand by and watch while their bourgeois friends murder and torture communist leaders, outlaw the trade unions and crush all independent organizations of the working class.

Bilak's speech will come as an acute embarrassment for the British Stalinists, who claim to oppose the butchery in the Sudan. What have they to say about the Kremlin's continuing policy of total support for Numeiry and Bilak's condemnation of the dead Sudanese CP leader?

# SUPPORT ADDS UP

AN ENCOURAGING feature of the Glasgow march so far has been the ungrudging help provided by organizations—additional to those who had notified us of support before the march began.

These include the Transport and General Workers' Union District Committee in Dumfries, shop stewards and workers from Massey Fergusons, Kilmarnock, and the Barrony miners from Ayrshire.

From Aberdeen comes news that the University Students' Representative Council voted to support the march and to authorize a payment of £35 to the Marxist Society to help the campaign.

Also in Aberdeen University, lecturers in the History and Sociology departments have donated £11.50.

The Michelin site, Dundee, has sent £3.

The Pilkington Rank-and-File committee, St Helens, support the march and shop stewards at Plessey's Hilton Rd factory, Sunderland, are taking a collection among the 1,500 workers there.

Merseyside docks shop stewards are supporting the marches and are donating £50.

Vauxhall shop stewards' committee at Ellesmere Port have voted support and financial help.

St Helens G&MWU No. 132 branch at Rocla Pipes is supporting the campaign and is giving £9.09 to the fund.

The shop stewards committee at United Glass Bottles, Deptford, SE London, has voted to support the campaign. Workers on the 'D' shift have collected £4.40 to back the marchers.

£10 has been received from the Refractory Service site, St Helens, and donations are promised from building workers at Pilkington Bros new factory there. The Liverpool Teaching Hospital site shop stewards' committee has sent £15 and £20 has come in from the Inland Revenue site, Bootle.

The stream of support continues unabated. Winsford USDAW branch is to donate and take a collection at the Texo factory and Glasgow North EETU/PTU has supported the campaign.

Witney and District Labour Party has also declared its support and Lutterworth Labour Party will provide meals for the marchers.

Individual donations include £5 from Southall, Middlesex, MP Sid Bidwell and £2 from Bruce Douglas Mann, MP for N Kensington.

Students everywhere are seeing the importance of joining with workers in the fight against unemployment.

Students and technical staff at Aberdeen University have sent £10 and the Students' Representative Council of the University of Strathclyde support the march.

Leeds University Students' Union building will be available for accommodation and students at Leeds Polytechnic are organizing collections and other fund-raising functions.

Sheffield Polytechnic students have sent £10 and promised to help in every possible way.

Swindon Technical College Students' Union is holding a collection and sending a contingent to meet the marchers from S Wales. Southampton University Students' Union Club has given £25 and St Catherine's College, Oxford, is holding a collection, sending a delegation to Wembley and providing a meal for S Wales marchers.

Students at the Dacorum College, Hemel Hempstead, are hoping to be able to use their premises for the marchers and Aston, Birmingham, University Students' Guild Executive is publicising and collecting for the march.

N Paddington College of Education is sending £10 and a delegation and support also comes from N London College of Further Education. The London Film School is to organize a fund-raising effort.

Garnett College in London has sent £6 and Kent University, Canterbury, £22, with more to come. Norwood Technical College is sponsoring one marcher and sending a deputation of students to meet the march.

# ITALIAN NEO-FASCISTS 'BOMBED OWN HEADQUARTERS'

THE ITALIAN neo-fascist MSI organized a bombing raid against its own headquarters last October, in order to put the blame on left-wing groups. The MSI also held summer training camps for terrorists in Umbria and near Lake Como.

This was revealed at the weekend by 18-year-old Angelo Angeli, a former MSI member. He was also in an action group called Squadra Azione Mussolini which was alleged to have bombed the Milan office of the communist newspaper and a monument to World War II Italian partisans last week.

Last month, Milan's chief magistrate ordered the first post-war investigation into fascist activity. The Italian constitution forbids the reformation of a fascist party.

Eighty-seven people were arrested in Milan at the weekend, and 75 weapons, including 12 sub-machine guns, were impounded.

MEANWHILE, medium and small Italian engineering firms have formed a joint organization—Federmeccanici—to combat 'a deteriorating labour situation'. It has joined the employers' confederation Confindustria.

'Engineering and metalworking firms are no longer in a position to support the state of tension and often of violence which has gone on without respite since September, 1969,' declared Federmeccanici president Emilio Mazzoleni.

The employers are particularly concerned at the seven-month-old dispute over a new work agreement at the state-owned Alfa-Romeo firm. The management claims that the workers' demands would total nearly twice last year's net profits.

Carabinieri entered Alfa-Romeo's strike-bound Arese works in Milan early yesterday and began to load new vehicles onto trucks—only to discover that bolts had been loosened on the railway track leading from the works!

The employers are also worried about strikes at Fiat and its subsidiary OM Pirelli and the SA subsidiary of the Zanussi domestic appliance group.

ITALY'S three main trade union federations have agreed to dissolve themselves in September and form a new united trade union organization by February 1973.

The Federations involved are: the Confederazione Generale Italia Del Lavoro (CGIL) with 3.4 million members; the Confederazione Italiana Dei Sindacati Lavoratori (CISL) with 2.4 million members; and the Unione Italiana Del Lavoro (UIL) with 1.5 million members.

The CGIL has a communist majority and a socialist minority; the CISL is mainly Christian Democrat (Catholic); and the UIL is divided between Social Democrats, Socialists and Republicans.

(There is also a smaller confederation, CISNAL—Confederazione Italiana Dei Sindacati Nazionali Dei Lavoratori—but this has neo-fascist affiliations and is ostracized by the others.)

This unity could, of course, immensely strengthen the Italian working class, but it is likely that the CGIL Stalinists will make many concessions to the right wing.

One condition of fusion could be the severing of links with political organizations. The Stalinists would probably accept Bruno Storti, Christian Democrat secretary-general of CISL, as secretary of the new confederation.

## ASSISTED PASSAGE— TO THE DOLE QUEUE

UNEMPLOYMENT in Australia rose at the end of January to its second highest level since the end of World War II. Yet the Australian government is still advertising for immigrants, promising 'you can be better off in Australia'.

Federal Minister for Labour and National Service Philip Lynch says 120,233, or 8 per cent, of the country's 5.6 million-strong

# ICI CURBED IN AMERICA

ICI'S EFFORTS to make headway in the American explosives industry have been partially blocked by the US government.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced yesterday that it had provisionally accepted a Consent Order requiring ICI to sell off the explosives and aerospace divisions of Atlas Chemical Industries.

ICI is further barred from acquiring any interest in a US explosives business for ten years, without prior FTC approval.

Also cited is ICI's wholly-owned subsidiary ICI-America Inc.

ICI acquired Atlas last year for about \$163m (£62m). The FTC says this violated US law because it limited competition in the American commercial explosives industry.

Atlas had sales of \$155m (£58m) in 1970 and assets of about \$139m (£53m). Its commercial explosives sales were over \$30m (£11.5m), about 15 per cent of the \$200m (£77m) per year industry.

## TYRE CLOSURE CLASHES

TWENTY-SIX policemen were injured in breaking up a demonstration against the closure of a Michelin tyre factory in Vitoria, N Spain, at the weekend. Seven workers were detained. Michelin closed the factory following two weeks of intermittent strikes by the 3,500 tyre workers demanding more pay and a new agreement.

Reports say several hundred workers tried to demonstrate in the town square on Saturday and workers from other factories tried to join them. When they refused to disperse, police wielding batons waded in and cleared the square.

workforce are on the dole. This is only slightly below the record level of 131,396 in January 1962.

Lynch claimed the figure was 'in line with seasonal expectations'. Yesterday's 'Daily Express' carried a full-page advertisement for immigrants. It says: 'Australians work hard. The country's expanding economy needs more skills—and rewards them well.'

### YOUNG SOCIALISTS NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-WORK CAMPAIGN

**RALLIES to launch SWANSEA and LIVERPOOL marches THIS SATURDAY FEB 19 St Georges Hall opp. Lime St Stn Liverpool 3 p.m.**

#### Speakers:

Gerry Caughey (Pilkington rank-and-file committee)  
Bill Measures (Pilkington rank-and-file committee)  
Larry Cavanagh (T&GWU dock steward)  
Bernard Bradley (Ford's convenor)  
Jack Spriggs (Convenor Fisher Bendix)  
Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee)  
Christine Smith (YS leader of Liverpool march)

### YMCA

**SWANSEA 3 p.m. SLL, YS and trade union speakers**

Liverpool march arrives in **ST HELENS** for a rally on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20** Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**see our documentary play 'THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION'** Directed by Corin Redgrave Written by Tom Kempinski followed by a meeting

#### Speakers:

Gerry Caughey, Christine Smith and Gerry Healy, (National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League)

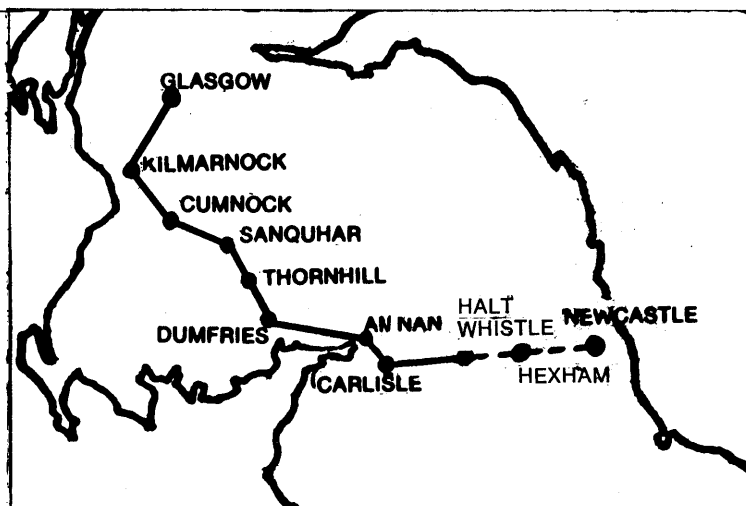
Glasgow march arrives in **NEWCASTLE** **Wednesday February 16.** Greet the marchers at a meeting at 8 p.m. Connaught Hall, Blackett St. SLL and trade union speakers.

Right-to-Work

# DIARY

By Stephen Johns

WE DEMAND  
THE  
RIGHT  
TO  
WORK



## WORKERS HAVE TO DEAL WITH TORIES AND THEIR LABOUR FRIENDS

DAY SEVEN—Carlisle

A BLISTERING attack on the leaders of the Carlisle Labour Party won cheers from the people of this town on Sunday night.

The speaker was Gerry Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League. He flayed the party bureaucrats for refusing the Right-to-Work marchers a bed and laid down this challenge:

'As secretary of the Socialist Labour League, I ask you to present your credentials in the fight against unemployment and see if they match the unparalleled record of the Young Socialists'.

Comrade Healy, who brought the League's greetings to the marchers, warned that the officers and MPs in the Labour Party's northern headquarters would an-

swer for the lies and distortions they have spread to break up the march.

'This behaviour by the leadership of the Labour Party means one thing,' he said.

'The British working class have two tasks to carry out. They must get the Tory government out and they have to get the friends of the Tory Party within the labour movement out as well.

'If they don't deal with the Wilsonian enemy within the ranks, there will be treachery ahead.'

If there were any bureaucrats in the audience at Carlisle city hall, they kept a strict silence and well they might, as the ovation from the crowd of marchers, city workers and miners was a damning rebuke to their anti-working-class attitude.

Earlier Comrade Healy had warned the miners that the government could well be preparing for a General Strike. He reminded the audience that the

Baldwin Tory government had bought time for one year in 1925 by instituting an inquiry into the issue of the coal subsidy, meanwhile, building up stocks to meet the threat of a 1926 national stoppage.

'Watch Heath now. He could be buying time with the so-called Wilberforce inquiry and relying on the TUC to run like their ancestors did in 1926, thus leaving the miners in the lurch.'

He challenged the Labourites who criticize Marxists because they were 'anti-constitutionalists'.

'If there is a constitution, it must at least be based on truth and consent. This government is now ruling on an illegal mandate on almost every issue of its policy. It is important that we do not confuse this issue.

'The government is illegal, therefore the labour movement has the right to use every political and industrial weapon in its possession to force the Tories to call a General Election.'



Gordon Brown (nearest camera) and Kevin Weastell get ready for the Newcastle welcome

## BIG WELCOME ASSURED IN NEWCASTLE

THE Right-to-Work marchers are assured of a big welcome when they reach Newcastle tomorrow evening to begin their journey through the NE.

There are plans to bring the marchers through the factory area to the W of the city just as workers leave for home.

The Newcastle Right-to-Work committee has been completing preparations to greet the marchers in a city where 19 men chase every vacancy.

Factories, labour exchanges and housing estates have been leafleted about the meeting arranged for the marchers in the Connaught Hall tomorrow night.

A jumble sale was held last Saturday to raise cash for the march, and factory-gate collections have been held this week.

Workers Press spoke to some members of Newcastle Young Socialists who have been active in recruiting more marchers to join them in the 300-mile journey to London.

Gordon Brown (21) has been on the dole seven months. He comes from Stanley, near Newcastle, where a new labour exchange is being built. A new police station is going up beside it.

He was sacked from his last job in a brickworks because he refused to do two men's work when asked by the foremen.

'When you go for a job now there's 40 or so blokes looking for the same opening, so there's not much chance of getting one. I get £6.76 on the dole and out of that I have to pay £4 board and lodgings.

'This is the first time I've been involved in politics, but the YS has proved to me that it is the only organization that does what it says it will do.'

Kevin Weastell has been on the dole for nine months and he is still only 17. 'It's an awful feeling having nothing to do,' he told me as he was sorting out tickets and leaflets for Wednesday's meeting.

'But it's no use sitting around and doing nothing about it and the YS has come out and given a lead at the right time.

'I'm looking forward to the marchers coming into Newcastle and we're planning a big welcome for them,' said Kevin.

● TOMORROW—Pages 6 & 7. More Newcastle Right-to-Work preparations.



THE TRIAL OF CHARLES I FROM SUNDAY'S PRODUCTION

## PLAY PROVIDES MARCHERS WITH OWN SONG

THE CLIMAX of our day of rest in Carlisle was the play directed by Corin Redgrave. I have just been talking with some of the marchers and it clearly made a profound impression.

It's also given us our marching anthem. We have recorded the song 'Demand the Right to Work' and it will be sung in every town between here and London.

For its first mass performance you'll have to go to Longannet power station in Fifeshire tomorrow.

The miners who saw tonight's performance have taken copies and will try to get the pic-

ket of 3,000 singing it. Corin Redgrave said the play by Tom Kempinski, which he has directed — about the events leading up to the execution of Charles I — was to set the record straight and show that there was an English revolution.

'We are taught in school that the English way is inevitably slow and gradual. Of course this is a myth. The events of 1640 were dramatic, bloody and fundamental.

'The English bourgeoisie were forced to grasp the power. They needed to develop industry and in turn the modern working class.'

In the performance, the parallel between these crucial years of the 17th century and the class confrontation today is never lost. The work opens with two extracts from the 'thoughts' of Ted Heath — his promise that he would 'perform' to profoundly alter the course of British History, and his remarkable 'civil war' speech at the United Nations in 1970.

With this kind of introduction and framework, the rise of the British capitalist class is portrayed in a truly living way.

The play ends with the burghers firmly in power and gloating over a future of unlimited

expansion. But as they sing their victory hymn, their arms spread out and they begin to crush one another—a hint that all the hopes of permanent rule, were unfounded and that society always has contradictions ultimately more powerful than individual aspirations.

I urged the actors to show their work at our March 12 rally at the Empire Pool, Wembley, in London, and miner John Hampson agrees. He's bringing a team down from Ayrshire to the London rally on the strength of it:

'I could have watched it for another hour; it was great, really great,' he told me.



# WORKERS RIGHTS

BY BERNARD FRANKS

Introducing a Six Part Series by Bernard Franks on Workers Rights and the Dole.

Millions of people in Britain are forced to exist at no more than subsistence level.

They are the low-paid workers, the majority of pensioners, a multitude of sick and disabled, all unemployed workers, most unsupported women with children, every worker on strike and a mass of defeated, demoralized human derelicts, useless for profit-making labour, and therefore entirely expendable as far as the owners of the means of production are concerned.

The Supplementary Benefits system, which replaces the previous National Assistance, is said to ensure a reasonable standard of living for anyone unable to earn an income or live on their pension, sick or unemployed benefit — a sort of financial safety net. In fact, it is little more than a last-ditch relief, a modern version of the Poor Law.

Over 2.7 million people, or one in 20 of the population, draw some form of this payment at the present time in order to survive.

A large number of people, however, who are entitled to payments do not draw them, and many that do are not getting their full allowances—a majority of applicants are receiving 10 to 20 per cent less than their entitlement, according to one organization.

Another 30,000 households have their payments deliberately held down by the so-called 'wage-stop' deductions. Many more bring in from work less than the benefit rates anyway. One Cambridge researcher, A. B. Atkinson, estimated in 1969 that up to 5 million people, 9 per cent of the population, had incomes below the Supplementary Benefits scale i.e. 'below the level which the government considers to be the National minimum'.

The fact that thousands of workers do not register when unemployed — including many married women who don't bother because they are not eligible for unemployment benefit — also means that the official figures for unemployment are always well below the real situation.

For those entitled to claim, the reasons for their reluctance to do so are not hard to find. Some of them are:

## STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH BENEFITS

Many possible applicants are reluctant to claim from a scheme which still carries reminders of the Relief and Workhouse systems that formed the basis of Assistance during most of the 19th and first 48 years of the 20th centuries.

## LACK OF INFORMATION

Workers have to try and fathom out their entitlement and put in a claim.

## THE MEANS TEST

An odious prying into the affairs of the poor with the object not of improving their situation, but of ensuring that no more than a subsistence income is attained.

## FORM FILLING

A mass of forms and general red tape are associated with different allowances.



Top: Crowded Labour Exchange during the 1930s. Below: Brixton's Employment Exchange in the 1970s.

## IMPLICATION OF FRAUD

The existence of secret codes of operation controlling the working of the Social Security system (the A and AX Codes) and a squad of special investigators to secretly probe for fraud, puts all applicants under an atmosphere of suspicion.

## DISCRETIONARY POWERS

The local officials have wide powers of deciding whether or

not money should be paid to a family, and how much it should be. The applicant is not able to claim an amount as of right, but must wait on the official's personal decision of what is due.

It would be wrong, though, to lay blame entirely on local officials. The decisions to make massive cuts in social services have come from the Tory government with its determination to bolster up British capitalism in the period of economic crisis and decay. Chancellor of the Exchequer, Barber, listed on October

27, 1970, how millions of pounds would be 'saved' over the coming five-year period by cuts in public spending, in other words by battering down on the unemployed, the pensioner and the entire working class. The increasing 'difficulties' at local level stem from this policy.

As long as capitalism exists, the working class, as one part of its struggle, will have to wage a non-stop battle to defend and extend hard-won social and welfare rights against continuous encroachment.

Starting tomorrow, 'Workers Press' will carry a six-part series by BERNARD FRANKS detailing the benefits due to the unemployed, the worker involved in a trade dispute, and the pensioner. He will also discuss some of the 1,001 situations which enable the authorities to stop or reduce the amount paid.

CONTINUED  
WORKERS' RIGHTS  
A NEW 6-PART SERIES BY  
BERNARD FRANKS

# BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

## DISCUSSION ON THE ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE DRAFT MANIFESTO

On November 6 last year a national conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance decided to adopt a draft manifesto to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. Since the conference a country-wide discussion has been initiated in League branches, in the ATUA, in the Young Socialists and among Workers Press supporters. Until the Right-to-Work rally at Empire Pool, Wembley on March 12, we intend to carry a full page each day devoted to your comments on the Draft Manifesto. We have received more than 100 contributions to this vital discussion. Now we want at least another 100.

Workers and their families, youth, students and the unemployed are all invited to join in this discussion. If you haven't got a copy of the Draft Manifesto write to Workers Press or contact your local ATUA branch.

**EUGENE DUGGAN**  
EEPTU member, BSA,  
Birmingham

Much as I'd like to agree that this is an illegal government, I've got reservations about it because the Labour government had no mandate for half-a-million unemployed either. But there's no doubt it's a fraudulent government.

It was the Labour government which prepared the way for the Tories to attack basic rights with such measures as 'In Place of Strife'.

We should not believe the Tories' claims that they will apply laws against the unions reasonably. Previous Labour governments brought in small moves like the Health Service and comprehensive schools—a creeping form of socialism.

But the Tories will attempt to use clauses in the Treaty of Rome to stop state medicine and resurrect private medicine on the principle that social services should be harmonized.

In the boom period British employers thought they could do better out of the Common Market but they are now forced, out of necessity, to enter. I don't think the capitalists consciously prepare to impose fascism but they will have to respond to circumstances.

The Tories' claim that the Common Market will solve unemployment is sheer nonsense—look at the unemployment growing in Germany, one of the most efficient countries.

The last time there was a slump, world trade was cut by two thirds and trade was carried out by barter between governments.

I think that there will be

another recession with vast unemployment and a big growth of nationalism. In such a situation the capitalists would have to develop nationalism and start pushing corporatism—strikes would be unpatriotic and hysteria would be whipped up against them.

If a Labour government came back and carried out the old patching-up job it would be a disaster and open the way for a much more right-wing government than this one, perhaps led by Powell.

The only possible way the working class can have a promising future is through a Labour government with socialist policies because the alternative is the road to depression.

When I hear from Feather and company that the Tories should solve unemployment, they don't seem to have any appreciation of history and who they're talking to.

The present leaders talk as if they could run the system better than the capitalists. They must know that capitalism cannot fulfil their demands. They don't want to sound too revolutionary because it might upset the apple cart—they want to do things in a nice gentlemanly fashion, so as not to upset anybody.

It's the economic facts of life

that are going to be the great disturbers and these characters are not going to be able to stop them.

I go along with what the SLL says, that the labour movement should put every pressure on the Tories to resign. How can they tolerate a million unemployed, weakening the working class? During the period of the last Labour government some national papers called for a period of austerity which Wilson obligingly provided.

Then they screamed about a crisis level of unemployment existing in the country. Today we have more than double that number unemployed. There's not half the air of crisis in the papers.

What really nailed the Labour leaders for me was George Brown's statement about the My Lai massacre—'stop weeping and get on with the war'. You never got statements like that even from the Tories.

I had the feeling in the past that the SLL was a bit too strong for me, a bit near the knuckle, a bit too truthful. Sometimes it seems to put me out on a limb—but when I look around for somebody else I can't find anybody. There's nothing left in the leadership of the Labour Party to admire.

**DAVID McJIMPSEY**  
ASWP member  
London, N4

For me the most important point to emerge from the Draft Manifesto is the necessity for a Marxist leadership in the Labour movement.

The leadership today has been won over to the capitalist system by 25 years of economic boom.

Therefore when the system is thrown into crisis they do not, or refuse to, understand the reasons for the Tories' attacks on the working class. They confine themselves to pleading for such things as a 'reflation of the economy' not knowing that the very existence of the ruling class depends on their puppets in the government and that no amount of pleading or protest will steer them from their reactionary policies.

Therefore we must fight for a leadership that understands the capitalist system and which will make a principled fight to end it. In other words a leadership trained in Marxist theory.

That is why I believe the building of a revolutionary party is essential.

As the Manifesto says, the party will use the Workers Press to expose the present leadership for what it is—a prop for the capitalist system.

There is one point in the Manifesto I would like to be elaborated upon and that is the counter-revolutionary role of the Communist Party bureaucrats, for I feel there is a great deal of confusion among the CP rank and file.

I would also like greater emphasis put upon the fact that if the reactionary policies of the ruling class go unchallenged humanity's fate will be catastrophic.

The launching of the revolutionary party will herald a new period in the history of the British working class, a period in which the shadow boxing is over and the working class are coming out fighting.

**FORD WORKER**  
Halewood, transmission section

The Manifesto has my full support in its defence of the basic rights of the working class.

I agree we need a revolutionary party, so long as the leadership is answerable to the people and can be replaced if necessary.

I think Measured-Day Work has got to go because under it they get more and more work from people and in this way keep the work force down.

The unions must begin a campaign to kick out MDW. This would help stop the dole queues getting longer and longer.



Workers from Ford's Halewood plant during the ten week long national strike of Ford workers in February and March last year



# THE MAN WHO CROSSED THE RUBICON

It was an exasperated and rather nervous Hugh Scanlon who rose at a London hotel last July to throw in the sponge in the fight against Tory anti-union legislation.

'It's too late now', he told an audience including Employment Secretary Robert Carr. 'We've crossed the Rubicon.' Just over a month later, the hated Industrial Relations Act became law.

For all his exasperation and nervousness last summer, the former Metro-Vickers apprentice who is now president of Britain's second largest union in fact crossed this particular Rubicon some time before. Let us look at what he was doing in February 1971 and what he is doing now.

Towards the end of last week Scanlon's Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers agreed with the other unions in the industry a series of guidelines for plant-level bargaining to replace their national pay claim.

In a move first mooted in informal talks between Scanlon and leaders of the giant Transport and General Workers' Union, the claim was abandoned on the eve of the miners' strike.

The AUEW chief's reasons for supporting this move were best outlined at his engineering-section national committee in April last year, when he fought calls for a straight, all-round pay increase by pointing out that the then anti-union Bill would be law before battle was joined.

His argument then was that the union should do what it could to raise minimum rates at national level, but concentrate its main fire on pushing up earnings locally — almost exactly present policy.

He correctly charged at the committee that the engineering employers were seeking to provoke a breakdown in their talks with the unions about a new disputes procedure.

Yet Scanlon prevaricated when it came to the AUEW response to the Act, by placing heavy emphasis in his opening statement to the committee on the dangers of non-registration.

On February 4 last year, by contrast, Scanlon had told a special conference of all four sections of the union that the honeymoon with the Tories was decisively over.

'We are faced with a capitalist government in the most vicious sense of the word', he said.

Delegates representing the union's 1.5 million members decisively carried his call for a series of one-day strikes aimed at defeating the Bill. The meeting went on to pledge full backing for the Ford strike which was then in progress.

But it is his role at Ford's — not his action in calling out his members on anti-Bill token strikes on March 8 and 15 — that now must clearly be remembered by AUEW militants.

At the TUC's own anti-Bill rally on February 21 he said that the March 18 special TUC must be seen as the start of a campaign... it must ensure the return of a Labour government determined to the principles of socialism.

Soon after, however, the striking Post Office workers leaders caved in to the Tories after being betrayed by the TUC. History will not record

that Scanlon very enthusiastically combated that betrayal.

Scanlon argued strongly at the TUC itself for industrial action such as his own members were at that moment engaged in. Its purpose? To defeat the legislation, and to bring about the defeat of the government itself if this is necessary.

Strong words. But the vote outlawed industrial action against the Bill. And within hours both Scanlon and T&GWU secretary Jack Jones had declared not for their striking members, but for the right wing; they would abide by the decision.

The two men were soon to demonstrate the extent of their conversation.

At Ford's, they agreed a secret ballot settlement after covert talks with Ford of Europe head Stanley Gillen. Thousands of angry Ford workers boycotted the poll, muttering angrily against a sell-out to the Bill before it was law.

And in May, as Lord Cooper of the General and Municipal Workers was preparing to lead the TUC right wing behind the Tory law, Scanlon remained as silent as Jones.

During the summer, the engineers' leader played a key role in wheeling and dealing with the Tories around their so-called reflation programme.

On July 2 he took the opportunity of a speaking engagement with Employment Secretary Robert Carr to do a bit of sounding-out on behalf of the TUC, which is where we came in.

Five days later he accompanied Feather to a meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

It was from that meeting that the Confederation of British Industry announced its phoney 5-per-cent price freeze. An informal undertaking to moderate wage claims was almost certainly the secret *quid pro quo* from the union side. And it was not long before Scanlon had his opportunity to deliver the goods.

As we have seen, however, Scanlon, like his fellow-unionists, was under constant pressure from his rank and file as well as from the Tories. Crossing the Rubicon was not all smooth going.

In September, the TUC was forced to carry Scanlon's motion instructing unions not to register under the Act after a speech in which he warned 'a single scratch could lead to gangrene'. The AUEW remains an unregistered union, and for all its efforts to avoid implementing the resolution it cannot completely abandon it.

Scanlon's practice today, however, is, in reality, a long way from his boast to reporters early last month that his union's advice on the anti-union law was 'Know the Act, then ignore it'.

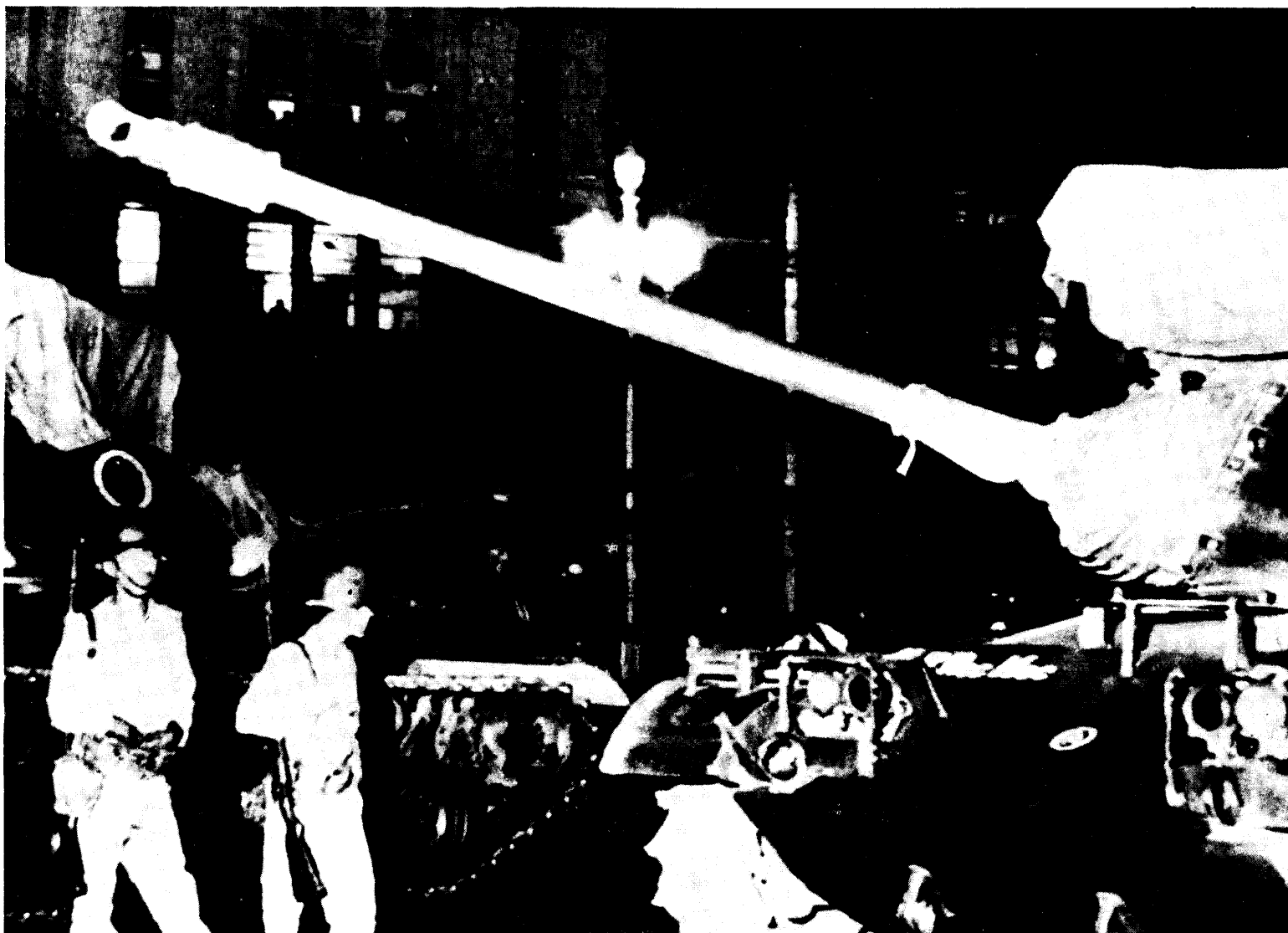
Despite a complete refusal by the engineering employers to consider increasing their £1.50 reply to the union claim, the union president refused to say in mid-December what form of action might take place. But he did pledge that neither the economic climate nor the lack of government sympathy would deter the unions.

In conversation with reporters later, however, EEF director-general Martin Jukes let slip the significant pointer that Scanlon had said 'Well, we'll just have to try and get it at plant level'.

This policy — now in operation — means acceptance of the Act.



Hugh Scanlon: top, angry Kraft engineers from Liverpool demand his backing. Centre, sharing a joke with Employment Secretary, Robert Carr. Above: 'We've got a problem here, Vic'—on the UCS platform with TUC secretary Vic Feather.



## BRAZIL: THE U.S. OF LATIN AMERICA

Brazil has become the hub for US corporations operating in Latin America. This now familiar point was made by Francisco Pinto, member of the Chamber of Deputies, 'tolerated' opposition in a country run by a military clique.

He went on to say that while Brazil would become a big exporter to other Latin American countries, the main benefits would go to parent companies in the US.

'Brazil is becoming the big imperialist country of Latin America', he declared, 'without enjoying the benefits of imperialism, while it reaps a heavy burden of unpopularity'.

As representative of a section of the Brazilian bourgeoisie, Pinto obviously has big doubts about Brazil's role as cast by the US.

The United Nations Economic Commission has made a similar point about Brazil's intermediary position between US imperialism and the rest of the area. American branch plants in Brazil are exporting advanced industrial goods to other Latin American countries, while Brazilian firms are confined to traditional lines and light industry.

Thus the benefits of Brazil's 'economic miracle' are pocketed by US imperialist corporations while the local bourgeoisie has to be content with the leftovers. Advanced industries are under

foreign control, as is the case with electronics and motor vehicles. A handful of big foreign subsidiaries account for over half the production in these fields.

Foreign firms in Brazil are able to take advantage of low wages and proximity to the market to dominate Latin America. (They are planning to sell more widely in Africa and other less-developed areas.)

In Latin America they take advantage of the Latin American Free Trade Association, which is similar to the Common Market.

Amongst fields in which these firms are interested is armaments. A Brazilian plane with American engines is already being assembled. Next step will be a helicopter plant operating with Bell patents to sell its products on the Latin American market.

The take-over of Brazilian industry by the multi-nationals has proceeded apace since the overthrow of Goulart's government in 1964 and the installation of military rule. Many small firms have gone out of business or been absorbed.

The army favours formation of

huge conglomerates from among 'national' firms, claiming that this will enable them to take advantage of economies of large-scale production. Bank mergers and concentrations have also been favoured.

The lop-sided development of the Brazilian economy and its subordination to foreign and particularly American imperialism accumulates social tensions. Whole areas of the country like the North Eastern provinces are in the grip of growing poverty.

One-third of the wealth is concentrated in the mushrooming city of San Paolo, which also swarms with poverty-stricken peasants and workers, unable to exist any longer in the provinces.

Constructional projects in the Amazon basin recruit labour virtually on a slave basis.

Scenes from the 1964 coup which overthrew the government of Jao Goulart and installed military rule in Brazil. Above: tanks and troops stationed outside the War ministry. Below: troops take up positions in the streets of Rio de Janeiro.



## DISPUTED ISLANDS

The Kurilias islands, which are in an ownership dispute between Japan and the Soviet Union, are coveted chiefly for their fisheries.

Lying between the Japanese island of Hokkaido and the Siberian peninsula of Kamchatka, they have a severe climate and are sparsely populated.

The Southern Kurilias, settled by the Japanese in the 17th century, also possess important mineral resources as well as timber reserves.

At the Yalta Conference of February, 1945, Stalin secured a promise of these islands in return for the Soviet Union's participation in the final stages of the war against Japan. The Soviet Union was also to receive the southern half of the Sakhalin island which had been seized by Japan after her defeat of Tsarist Russia in the 1905 war.

After the Second World War the southern Kurilias and Sakhalin were incorporated into the Soviet Union. This was accepted by the Japanese when they capi-



Japan's Sato

tulated in 1945 and was confirmed by the peace treaty signed with Western powers in 1951.

As the Japanese have not yet signed a peace treaty with the Soviet Union and have not reconciled themselves to the loss of these territories, they now wish to re-open the question as the pre-condition for signing such a treaty.

In 1969 the Sato government launched a chauvinistic campaign for restitution of the lost territories, which has a good deal of public support. Peking also backs the Japanese claim.

## COMPUTER LINKS

Main European computer firms will join American competitors in exhibiting machines at the big annual fair of the French Communist Party daily paper 'L'Humanité', to be held in September.

Last year IBM, Burroughs and Honeywell-Bull had stands. This year they will be joined by Philips, CII, and Logabex who make computers and business machines, as well as software firms and manufacturers of machine tools and audio-visual aids.

The fair, which began as a popular working class event drawing hundreds of thousands for a day out to raise money for the paper, is on its way to becoming a shop window for some of the biggest multinational firms.

It is a piece of class collaboration which will pay off well. Rentals will cost the firms about £70 per square metre and the main fair is only a one-day event.

Total rentals are expected to reach nearly £120,000. This big money is needed to meet the deficit on 'L'Humanité', which militants are becoming increasingly reluctant to sell, and to meet costs of the new luxury palace which the party has had built as its headquarters.

Big capitalist exhibitors, who know they have nothing to fear from Marchais and his supporters, are out to win orders both from Communist-controlled municipalities in France and in the Soviet Union and East European countries. A few weeks ago they exhibited their wares in Leningrad and IBM made a big sale.





IT MUST be said that Peter Watkins' new film 'Punishment Park' makes one central point: any struggle against capitalism is hopeless and destined to inevitable failure. The whole situation is futile and one of despair and more despair.

In the end, the forces of order must win out. They are all-powerful. They have the firepower, the communications media, the politicians, the middle-class, the journalists etc. etc., to back them up. Opposition will be snuffed out in a brutal fashion. Ahead lie days of darkness.

Watkins first became known to the public as a film maker in 1965 when the BBC, for whom he was working, banned any showing of his 'War Game'. The BBC claimed the film was too horrific in its dealing with the ravages of nuclear war and anyone watching it would be frightened to death.

More than that, however, the authorities objected to the political points made. Watkins showed, for example, how the good old British bobby turned from traffic director to assassin as he executed civilians during the pandemonium that followed the dropping of the bomb.

The film eventually got shown, though not on the BBC. 'War Game' was based on the nightmare of all-out nuclear war. The masses became pawns as the big powers moved towards a showdown.

Permeating the film was the sense of inevitability about the process. War was on the way and the people would pay the price, as usual. That was seven years ago and was one of Watkins' first major attempts to deal with serious political questions.

But 1972 seems to leave him where he was in his own political development when you look at 'Punishment Park'. In those seven years he has made no real development in his own political outlook. The message is the same: futility, despair, inevitability of defeat.

President Nixon has declared a state of national emergency using his powers under an Act of 1950. Detention centres are introduced and police are given wide powers to apprehend anyone who, it is considered, will probably sabotage national security.

'Punishment Park' is an area of California set aside for the police and the national guard to train themselves in urban

## FILM REVIEW

# WATKINS: PARK OF DESPAIR

BY PHILIP WADE

counter-insurgency. Those arrested under the repression are brought there for 'trial' by tribunal.

Those caught in the web consist of different elements from the US peace and protest movement—Black Panthers, pacifists, protest singers, students, Women's Lib and so on.

Of course they have no chance. The tribunal is made up of an American woman representing the silent majority, an FBI agent, a manufacturing executive, a journalist, a sociologist, and a southern Senator. The final member of the tribunal we shall come back to shortly.

In the fashion of the Chicago conspiracy trial, the defendants are at various times denied the right to speak, gagged and finally removed from court. The defence lawyer talks to the wall. The verdict: either long prison sentences or 'Punishment Park' for three days: all choose the latter.

Fifty miles away, across the desert in an American flag. If you can reach that without being stopped by security forces you are a free man. Of course, no one actually makes it. They are either gunned down or arrested. The whole thing was a game for the police and troops—one they always win.

The film closes with another set of defendants choosing, without knowing the consequences, 'Punishment Park' to prison.

The content of Watkins' new film is shallow and turgid. The declaration of a national state of emergency with sweeping powers of arrest, detention centres and eventual execution would not happen simply in response to the development of a big protest movement among the middle class.

As the American bourgeoisie showed at Kent State university and in Chicago, they can deal adequately with an ill-organized section of society which has no real power.

No. It is a false picture. A situation in which the bourgeoisie develops the apparatus of an open police state could only arise when the major forces in society, the working class and the bourgeoisie, are moving towards a major conflict.

But Watkins considers everything from the point of view of what is happening now. Taking impressions and glimpses of the situation you can only see authority, the state and its all-powerful machinery.

At no time can the working class be ascribed an independent role. In fact Watkins goes so far as to include them as villains to the piece. That is why, returning once more to the tribunal, we find its final member to be a shop steward from the local car factory.

That is not to say you couldn't find such workers. But Watkins strives in the film to make him entirely representative, in a fixed, all-time way, of the US working class.

The situation leaves the worker untouched when precisely the opposite process is taking place in America today. The crisis of US imperialism has come home from Vietnam. The dollar is devalued and Nixon has opened up a policy of trade war coupled with wage-cutting, more unemployment and speed-up.

That is why we find yesterday's New York 'hardhat' construction workers suddenly turning on Mayor Lindsay in violent demonstrations demanding the right to work and a full programme of public expenditure in the city.

Even Watkins' direction cannot save the film. We learn about what is going on through the voice of a TV commentator who is with a crew making a documentary of 'Punishment Park'.

But because there is no development within the film, save for some pacifists who say it probably means violence will have to be used, the cutting from one scene to another, the background of radio news about the bombing of N Vietnam, the direction becomes meaningless.

In the end it drags. The old arguments are repeated over and over again in front of the tribunal. No amount of cutting can prevent that.

Watkins told a reporter the other day that he felt himself and his films being crushed. Unless he makes a decisive break from his subjectivism and pessimism he will undoubtedly fall victim to such a fate.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## CONTRACT

Pirelli, Italy's giant rubber manufacturing concern, has signed a £3,333,000 contract to supply machinery for production of rubber accessories for the Soviet Union's automobile industry.

The contract was signed with the Soviet enterprise *Techmashimport*, Pirelli announced.

The machinery supplied will complete production lines for automobile rubber accessories at the Soviet Union's Balakovo plant, which supplies parts for Fiat cars made under license at Togliattigrad.

The original machinery for the Balakovo accessories plant was supplied by Pirelli under a £21,333,000 contract signed in 1968.

This Pirelli statement has some interesting background.

Pirelli has just completed a merger with Dunlop. A director of Dunlop until he was made Home Secretary was Reginald Maudling.

Pirelli part-financed Mussolini's fascist march on Rome which swept *El Duce* to power.

## PONIES

The Ceylon government has given permission to the Ceylon Turf Club to hold pony races, thus ending a horse-racing ban which has existed since 1964.

This follows another recent decision to allow bookmakers to operate.

Bookmakers' offices have sprung up all over the island and bets are being accepted on races run overseas, including England and India.

Will the 'Morning Star' start running the Colombo form guide?

## BAILING OUT

'Guardian' journalist, John O'Callaghan (37), has resigned in protest against the paper's policy on Ulster.

His resignation apparently follows a decision by the editorial management not to let him cover Irish affairs.

In his resignation letter Mr O'Callaghan said:

☛ Sunday's Derry shootings brought together the grave doubts I had had for some time about the 'Guardian's' policy on Ireland. During the days since I have become

oppressed with the feeling that a critical vigilance by at least part of the British press over the behaviour of the troops might have caused second thoughts by Army commanders about embarking on adventures like the one in Derry. By tradition the 'Guardian' should have been in the forefront in scrutinizing the Army performance. Armies are effectively outside the law — a newspaper's business is to provide any civilian population subject to military rule with a shield. This is a function the 'Guardian' ought naturally to have performed — without needing in any way to condone IRA guerrillas.

Instead the paper has come more and more to see the crisis in terms of victory and defeat and has insisted that the IRA must be defeated. Very little thought seems to have been given to the price of such a victory—which has been that the Catholic population is now the IRA, and that it is permanently alienated from the British connection, and is ungovernable. Even with this price paid the IRA is very far from defeat.

O'Callaghan went on to describe how he made a personal visit to Ulster to see for himself how the British army was acting.

He concluded:

☛ Whether a vigorously hostile segment of the press or television would have mitigated the effects of Army policy cannot be proved. But with sentiments like 'vigorous and tough interrogation must go on' from the 'Guardian' leader after Compton, and Brian Faulkner praising its sagacity, military leaders could feel that with even the 'Guardian' behind them there was the widest possible latitude for their activities. For a liberal there was only one way — out.

If the liberals are bailing out of the 'Guardian', what about the so-called 'revolutionaries'?

What about, for example, John Palmer of the International Socialists?

Far from quitting the capitalist media Palmer has recently taken to writing on — wait for it — the economy.

Workers Press frequently mocked the economics writing of Anthony Harris, but with Palmer now entering the field we can only say—with Miscellany, hasn't the 'Guardian' got enough joke columns?

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Two Welsh miners say what they think of the article 'Miners and the Tory government', written by Wheldale, Yorkshire, miner and Socialist Labour League member Brian Lavery, which first appeared on Monday January 24 in the Workers Press.



Clerical staff picketed by miners. 'We're fighting a battle for their wages too,' says Ray Sayce.

## THERE'S NO FORCE CAN STOP UNITED WORKERS

'I AGREE with 95 per cent of what Brian Lavery says in his article', Ogilvie lodge secretary Evan Jones told me.

'Recession has always been behind the Tories' policies. I would say Brian is facing the facts.

'I think the NUM national leaders have been a bit lax. They should have told the TUC "This is not a battle of the miners alone".'

'Unless the TUC takes the necessary steps to unite the trade

IAN YEATS talks to Ogilvie lodge, S Wales, secretary EVAN JONES.

union movement, the miners will fight this battle alone. The NUM should tell the other unions: "We're in the forefront. It's your duty to come to our aid".

'I think there's a failure on the part of the leadership to bring home to Feather the reality of the need for a General Strike.

'I don't understand them. They've had the lead from the

membership in no uncertain terms.

'Arthur Horner once said that if the working class stood together there's not a force on earth that can stop them. I believe that's what's needed today.

'Capitalism must be destroyed if we're to get a socialist state. It's impossible to operate a mixed economy within capitalism.

'A government isn't socialist unless it nationalizes all industry and puts it under workers' control.

'If Labour gets back to power and doesn't implement socialist policies, they've failed. What we want are people prepared to carry out the policies of the rank and file.'

Commenting on the Right-to-Work marches, Mr Jones said: 'It is an intelligent step to take this move to try to bring about a more guaranteed future for workers. In the past all they've had is booms and slumps.

'It goes to prove the enthusiasm in people's minds for the working class defending its right to work and its right to a decent standard of living.

'The amazing thing is that while unemployment has gone up and wages down, stocks and shares have gone up with the gold reserves. The greater the unemployment, the higher they've gone. Workers' control is the only answer.

'The Tories have always been known to be prepared to use any weapon against the working class. But the miners are prepared to see the industry go before they'll return to work for a pittance of a wage.

'When Baldwin asked the TUC in 1926 "Who runs the country?", there's an answer to that—the majority. What we've got at the moment is the minority—the capitalists filling the pockets of the rich at the expense of the working class.

'They talk about the pits not being profitable, but they are. Labour should stop all compensation. The coal owners had their compensation years ago.'

## IT'S SOLIDARITY WE NEED

'THIS strike is a test case against the Tories and it's a test for all the unions', said Ray Sayce, COSA representative at Marine colliery, Ebbw Vale.

'It's ridiculous', he said. 'They've given Post Office executives 14 per cent and the Leyland car workers have refused rises of £7 or £8. Yet they won't give an increase to miners taking home £14 a week to keep a wife and family.'

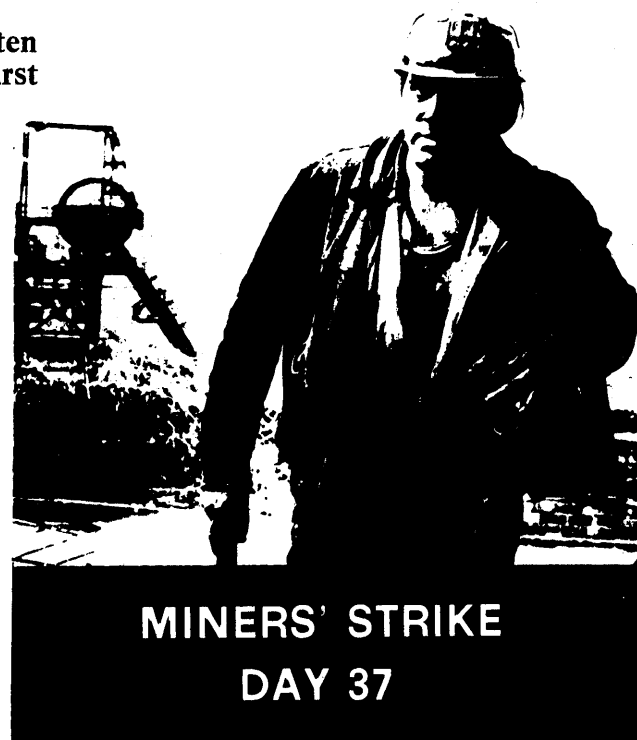
COSA supports the miners because it is a constituent of the NUM and both sections will get the same rise.

'Seeing the adamant position of the Tories I think it's time Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon said they will come out in support of the miners.

'It puzzles me why the TUC and the Labour Party have kept quiet in this strike. It's all very well talking about support, but they've done nothing to bring any of their boys out and that's what we want now.'

Mr Sayce added: 'And why don't Gormley and Daly get on to the CAWU [clerical union] and NACODS [overmen, deputies and shotfirers]. If we can't get solidarity in our own industry, it's a poor show.'

'Whatever we get, the CAWU will have. We're fighting a battle for their wages. This is why there's such a bitter feeling against clerical staff.'



## GREATEST ASSETS TO SOCIALISM

I AM a miner at Shirebrook colliery [Nottinghamshire] but do not really want to give my views on the dispute. The solidarity gives all our views.

What I would like to say is why condemn Heath, Carr and Maudling so much. These men are the greatest asset to socialism since the 1920s and 1930s.

Let's just have a quick glance at the past 18 months.

**Common Market:** Britain the back door to Europe for the American dollar.

**Unemployment:** One million and climbing. Great stuff!

**Rhodesia:** If Pearce can come

### LETTER

home with a yes vote then Douglas Home can be congratulated on restarting the British Empire.

**Ireland:** Civil War.

**Edward Heath** (Prime Minister) (Rt Hon). His ability when crisis faces him to turn his back and go sailing. Winston Churchill was only an amateur in comparison and he had full Conservative training.

Geo Willmot, Shirebrook, Notts.

CHARLIE CRAWFORD (21), works as a ripper at Ollerton colliery, Notts, and earns a basic wage of £30 a week.

'I am single and I can manage' he says, 'but a day-wage man gets £18 basic. If he's a married man with kids, it's impossible. And a basic wage of £18 can mean a man taking home £11.50 and that's ludicrous.

'I'm for sticking out. I'll go to the full extent.

'The first word in the Workers Press is "Solidarity", went on Charlie. 'That means everybody: PLA men and day-wage men; COSA and NACODS [the clerical staff and overmen's and deputies' unions]. We must all stand together.

'We've stopped most of the coal going into the power stations, except by rail. Now, we must stop the ash-wagons collecting the ash from the power stations. That'll hold them 1½ hours every morning.'

## BASIC DAY—WAGE IS A SCANDAL

### ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Make the Tory government resign!

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

**SOUTHALL:** Tuesday February 15, 8 p.m. Indian Workers Association, 18 Featherstone Rd 'Victory to the miners'.

**W LONDON:** Tuesday February 15, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Rd, off York Way, Kings Cross. 'Support miners and Ulster workers.'

**SW LONDON:** Tuesday February 15, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4. 'Support miners and Ulster workers.'

**ACTON:** Wednesday February

16, 8 p.m. 'Mechanics Arms', Churchfield Rd, W3. 'Support miners and Ulster workers.'

**LUTON:** Thursday February 17, 8 p.m. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Rd. World economic crisis.

**SE LONDON:** Thursday February 17, 8 p.m. Room 2, Deptford Engineers' Club (opp New Cross Stn). 'Support miners and Ulster workers.'

**N LONDON:** Thursday February 17, 8 p.m. Town Hall, Edmonton. Reformism and trade unions.

**DAGENHAM:** Wednesday February 23, 8 p.m. Room 11, East Ham Town Hall. 'Labour must force a General Election.'

**WILLESDEN:** Monday February 28, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW 10. 'Labour must force a General Election.'

Socialist Labour League  
Special lecture  
Common Hall, Hackin's Hay  
(off Dale St)

LIVERPOOL, 8 p.m.

Tuesday February 15

given by  
C. Slaughter (SLL Central Committee)



# WORKING-CLASS SOLDIERS SUPPORT IRA

**TWO BRITISH soldiers who deserted to the Irish Republic said they did so because 'we came face to face with working-class people like ourselves who are fighting for their rights'.**

They told a Dublin press conference they both joined the army three years ago because they saw little hope for them in civilian life. The army, they said, was 'a way out'.

The two deserters are Private Colin Demet (19) and Private Michael Hawkins (21), both from Manchester.

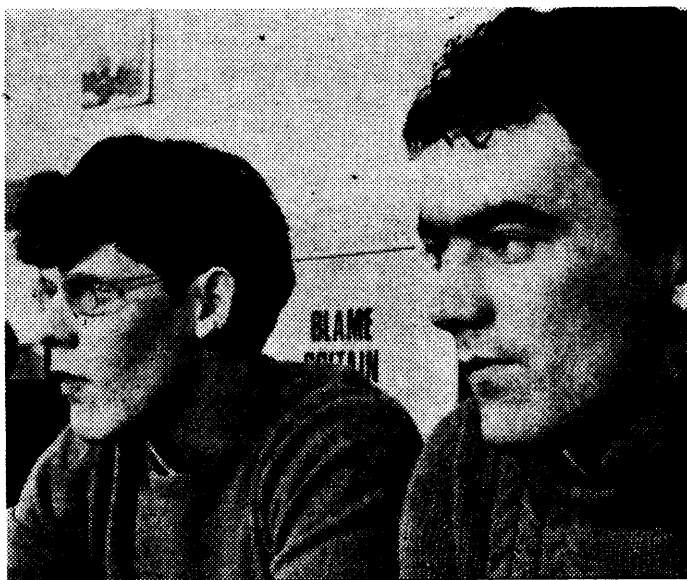
## Fed up

They went to a house in the Ardoyne, Belfast, late last week and surrendered to the Official wing of the IRA.

After arriving clandestinely in Dublin, they issued a joint statement saying:

'We deserted because we were fed up with the army and what it was doing in N Ireland. We were sick and tired of the officers treating us like dirt. We think that most other soldiers agree with the IRA and would like to stop what they have to do, but the officers aren't interested in what happens to ordinary working-class soldiers.'

Demet told reporters that there was a feeling in the army that troops could be ordered to fire on the striking miners in Britain or any other group that threatened the political establishment.



Colin Demet (L.) and Michael Hawkins speaking at a press conference

In Coleraine, Ulster, yesterday the Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Widgery, began his inquiry into the Londonderry massacre of 13 civilians.

He flew in a service aircraft and was escorted to the town hall by police and armed troops.

Coleraine, 30 miles from Londonderry, was chosen as the headquarters of the one-man inquiry because of its large Protestant community. Stormont apparently believes the strong Protestantism makes it a 'safe area'.

## Stupidity

IN Londonderry the Derry command of the Official IRA issued a statement denying responsibility for two big factory explosions at the weekend.

'The Official IRA condemns in the strongest possible terms those responsible for the explosion at the Tootal shirt factory in Springtown Estate.

'By their crass stupidity and mindless militancy those who carried out this act have thrown more than 100 working-class people on the dole queues.'

# UNION MEETING LED TO REFINERY SACKINGS

BY IAN YEATS

**SIXTY MEN have been sacked from the BP refinery at Llandarcy, near Port Talbot, S Wales, for holding a union meeting on company premises.**

The sackings coincide with a new tough line pursued by the 51-per-cent state-owned company since Christmas, when they brought in a special industrial trouble-shooter to curb unrest over working agreements and conditions at the plant.

One of the sacked men, Alan Jones told me: 'The trouble we have had has been justified. There has been a lot wrong with the agreements and safety regulations which are mainly American-style.

'But the management told us at Christmas they were taking a harder line on the site and importing a trouble-shooter from contract work in Cyprus.'

Mr Jones said: 'Dismissing us is an attempt to clear the site and bring in new faces. They are trying to use the area's high unemployment as a threat. We are the most militant union at the refinery and if they could break us, the field would be wide open.'

He added: 'The TUC never took up the battle against the Industrial Relations Act which condones this type of management and now we are paying the price.'

About 150 men have answered BP's advert for staff, but the dismissed construction engineers—all members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers—have been picketing the site for the past month. Said Mr Jones: 'No one has crossed our picket lines and taken a job, even though there is 51 per cent unemployment around here. We have been 100 per cent successful.'

The trouble started back in January when, despite management denials of redundancy rumours, 11 men were sacked, including two who, because of their seniority, should not have been on the list.

Shop stewards called a meeting in the site drying room to discuss the sackings, although management had warned beforehand that the meeting would not be allowed on company premises.

Mr Jones said: 'We maintained our rights to hold the meeting on the site and it was in full swing when management burst through the doors and said if we did not leave we would all be dismissed. 'Next day they sent everybody their cards and P45s.'

BP has refused to send the dispute to arbitration and after talks with AUEW officials they agreed to remove one of the two senior workers from the redundancy list and re-employ all the men—provided they forfeited all seniority rights and severance pay and began again from scratch.

A meeting of 20 shop stewards representing 200 men at the refinery agreed to back the sacked engineers with a work-to-rule and unsuccessfully tried to pressurize BP to get rid of their trouble-shooter.

## BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.55 Hen Allorau. 1.30 Andy Pandy. 1.45 News, weather. 2.05 Schools. 3.45 Rosla and After. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Vision On. 5.20 Motor Mouse. 5.44 Sir Prance-lot. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. Your Region tonight.  
6.45 QUIZ BALL. Soccer stars in quiz.  
7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD.  
7.30 FILM: 'THE HELLFIRE CLUB'. Keith Michell, Adrienne Corri. Adventure centred on notorious secret society.  
9.00 NEWS, weather.  
9.20 THE BRITISH EMPIRE. Part 6. Raj.  
10.15 FILM 72.  
10.45 24 HOURS.  
11.20 VIEWPOINT.

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University. 6.35 Handling Materials. 7.30 NEWSROOM, weather.  
8.00 MAN ALIVE. Mission to Yenan the chance that was lost?  
9.00 COLLECTOR'S WORLD.  
9.20 THE SPACE BETWEEN WORDS. Communications in the family. With therapist Dr. Aaron Esterson.  
10.40 NEWS, weather.  
10.45 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST.

## ITV

10.20 Schools. 2.35 Time to Remember. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Tea Break. 3.45 Matinee. 4.10 Simon Locke. 4.40 Once Upon a Time. 4.55 Sooty. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.  
6.40 CROSSROADS.  
7.05 FILM: 'THE SILENT GUN'. Lloyd Bridges, John Beck. Gun-fighter with a conscience.  
8.30 WHICKER'S ORIENT. The Boat People of Hong Kong.  
9.00 LOVE STORY. You Don't Know Me—But...  
10.00 NEWS.  
10.30 ROMANY JONES.  
11.00 THE BEST OF THE COMEDY MACHINE. Marty Feldman with Orson Welles and Spike Milligan.  
11.30 DRIVE-IN.  
12.00 PEOPLE WITH A PURPOSE.

## REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 10.20 Schools. 4.00 Lottery. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Dr Simon Locke. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'They Met in Bombay'. 8.30 London. 11.25 Gazette. 11.30 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.55 News. 11.58 Faith for life. 12.03 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Tea break. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.23 Cartoon. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Doctor at large. 7.00 Film: 'Bandit of Zhobe'. 8.30 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Odd couple. 11.40 Farm progress. 12.10 Weather.

HTV WALES: 10.20 Schools. 3.50 British museum. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Y Dydd. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Doctor at large. 7.05 Film: 'Law and Order'. 8.30 London. 12.00 Weather.

HTV Wales and the West as above except: 6.01-6.18 Report West.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 10.30 Dan Sylw. 11.15-11.30 O'r Wass.

HTV West as above except: 6.01-6.35 Report West.

ANGLIA: 3.40 Newsroom. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Tea break. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Young Lawyers'. 8.30 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Room 222. 4.40 Once upon a

time. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Family Secret'. 8.30 London. 11.30 Who knows?

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 Schools. 2.34 Unit 2. 3.00 Pied Piper. 3.05 Matinee. 3.35 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30 Dr Simon Locke. 7.00 Film: 'The Naked Spur'. 8.30 London. 11.30 Communicators. 11.55 Weather.

GRANADA: 10.18 Schools. 3.40 All our yesterdays. 4.05 News. Bird's eye view. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.25 Peyton place. 7.00 Film: 'The Pirates of Blood River'. 8.30 London. 11.30 Living writers.

TYNE TEES: 10.20 Schools. 2.33 Unit 2. 3.05 Pied Piper. 3.10 Play with a purpose. 3.35 News. 3.45 Taste and style. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Dr Simon Locke. 6.55 Film: 'The Plainsman'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Snooker. 11.45 News. 12.00 Being yourself.

SCOTTISH: 10.20 Schools. 3.30 Foo Foo. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Hogan's heroes. 6.50 Film: 'The Feminine Touch'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Report. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 British museum.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Schools. 3.38 News. 3.40 Nanny. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Royal clansmen. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Greengage Summer'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Making of Milk Wood. 11.30 Living and growing. 12.00 Epilogue.

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Name .....

Address .....

## DESIGNERS STEP UP PICKET

PICKETING at Multiplex Designs, Sidcup, in Kent, has been stepped up this week—the sixth week of a dispute there.

The design department at the firm went on strike when one of their colleagues was sacked for attempting to organize a union.

Their union, the Technical and Supervisory Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, has already made the strike official and the men are receiving strike pay.

Terry Cullinan, one of the striking designers, told Workers Press that support for the pickets had come from other

nearby factories including C. A. Parsons, Sovex and J. & E. Halls.

He said: 'The support we have received from other trade unionists is truly magnificent. By helping us on the picket lines they have shown what the unity of the working class really means.'

Mr Cullinan said it was hoped to stage a picket involving 200 men during this week.

The next stage of the campaign was to get work at Multiplex 'blacked' by the trade union movement. He said attempts would also be made to force the government to withdraw contracts from the company.

# TV



# LEYLAND DEAL CAUSES ANXIETY

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

UNION leaders are close to signing an agreement with British-Leyland which could threaten the strength of shop stewards' organization throughout the engineering industry.

Even senior stewards have not yet been given copies of the 24-page draft document prepared by Leyland labour-relations director Pat Lowry.

With just over a week to go before the deal is due to be concluded, some of the terms that are known are causing great anxiety in the combine.

The agreement is supposed to be a single-company disputes procedure to replace the 50-year-old York Memorandum, which is now scrapped. But both sides see it as a pacesetter for a much wider arrangement.

Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, discussed the Lowry proposals with a small group of senior stewards in York last week. Yesterday's 'Morning Star' reported that they were 'well pleased'.

That is just not the case. Workers at a number of plants have already been warned that the deal could cut the number of stewards, give the company partial control over their electoral constituencies and lead to the establishment of compulsory works committees.

# FLYING PICKETS 'READY ANY TIME'



FROM Its base at West Ham Labour Party offices in East London a flying squad of pickets from the Kent coalfield keeps a sharp eye on all coal movements. 'We are ready to go anywhere where coal movements are reported, and if any of our pickets need reinforcements they call us in,' says Betteshanger colliery mechanic George Perry. 'The reception we've had from the local people, especially the dockers, has been absolutely fantastic.'

# TORIES LOCK-OUT THOUSANDS

HUNDREDS of thousands of workers were laid off yesterday as the Tories' power clamp-down caused industrial lock-out.

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Worst hit was the Midlands car industry with 31,000 car production workers laid off by midday in Birmingham and Coventry. At least 10,000 workers in the Austin-Morris group of British-Leyland were sent home.

Nine Lucas plants closed making 13,000 workers idle. 3,500 men were laid off at the Coventry Jaguar plant, 2,500 at Triumph and 2,000 workers from Rover factories.

In Scotland many factories were almost shut down and many others were on reduced production. At UCS, 2,400 men at the Govan yard were laid-off. Babcock and Wilcox boiler-makers at Renfrew have announced that their 4,000 workers will be idle for an indefinite period; 7,000 at Burroughs Machines at Cumbernauld are on a two-day week.

Chrysler, Scotland, has laid-off 1,000 of its 6,500 workers; Scottish Aviation has closed its Prestwick firm, making 1,800 men idle and production was at a standstill at General Motors near Motherwell, Lanarkshire, where 900 are laid-off.

Scottish secretary of the Confederation of British Industry Hamish Grant has announced that the cost in jobs by the end of the week would be more than

a million. Thousands would lose their jobs altogether, he said.

The crisis in Scotland will be worse today as power workers stage a 24-hour strike in solidarity with the miners and in protest against the recent 7½ per cent settlement of their pay claim.

Officials of the engineers' and electricians' unions yesterday attempted to halt the unofficial action by threatening to discipline any of their members who took part in it.

On Merseyside, 3,000 workers at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port have been laid-off as a 50 per cent production cut-back comes into operation. At Halewood, Liverpool, 10,000 Ford workers will have no work on Thursday and Friday and no maintenance work will be done on Saturday and Sunday.

Hawker-Siddeley Aviation production chiefs were meeting yesterday to decide how many of their 6,800 men will have to be laid-off. In Manchester, 2,000 of the 4,000 GEC-AEI workers are idle at the start of a 'day-on, day-off' rota.

In the W Riding of Yorkshire,

thousands were laid-off in the steel, textile and chemical industries. Montague Burton's closed its Leeds factory, laying-off 8,000 clothing workers.

In Wales, a CBI spokesman estimated that most of the 348,000 workers in manufacturing industries, out of a working population of 934,000, would be laid off at some stage this week.

At Swansea, 770 men at the Ford factory were idle yesterday. The British Steel Corporation's S Wales steel works are operating at reduced production.

In Swindon, Wiltshire, Vickers have started a two-day week and stopped night-shift working. At least one of the Plessey company's seven factories will close.

In the SW most of the manual workers at Westland Aircraft, Yeovil, Somerset will stay home until Wednesday and are likely to be laid off again on Friday.

Work at Ford's Southampton plant was halted yesterday and it will be closed again today. At the Ford tractor plant in Basildon, Essex, men will only work three shifts this week and there will be no night working.

# TRAINING SHOULD BE JOINT AFFAIR SAYS TUC

THE TUC told the government yesterday that their proposed National Training Agency should be merged into a central manpower board responsible for tracing labour needs, training and placement. The new Board would be a partnership between the trade unions, the government and employers.

Director-General of the Confederation of British Industries Mr W. O. Campbell Adamson told a one-day conference of the British Association for Commercial and Industrial Education that after the setting up of the proposed NPA, the government and the employers would need very considerable help from the trade unions in removing 'those practices which make it difficult to employ people after they have been trained or retrained'.

Head of the TUC's organization department Ken Graham said that the TUC's proposal would lead to a Board with

overall financial and policy control for training and employment facilities.

And he added: 'It should also be responsible for the forward planning of relief works.'

But he warned conference that training must not become isolated from other components of the manpower problem 'chief of which is unemployment'.

'Training must be accompanied by measures to end unemployment', he stressed.

Adding fuel to the emerging Tory plan for a national labour agency, President of the National Institute of Adult Education Sir Peter Venables told conference that education for life and technical training must be brought together. He looked forward to the setting up of industrial workshops within educational establishments.

He added: 'If people are going to be re-trained and moved about the economic scene like pieces of property, they must be given adequate opportunities to work.'

# FIFE PICKET-LINE CLASH 12 ARRESTS

OVER A dozen men were arrested yesterday when 2,000 pickets clashed with a 400-strong police cordon at Longannet power station, Fife. Miners were attempting to stop personnel going into the station.

Pickets were allowed to stop each vehicle and each person as they arrived. The majority of personnel decided not to enter, but others did.

Scottish miners' president Michael McGahey, who was on the picket, said afterwards that the union would be making an official complaint to the chief constables of Edinburgh and Fife about the provocative police conduct.

He added the miners were now determined to bring Longannet station to a halt, particularly 'because of the underhand tactics of the South of Scotland Electricity Board in bringing in oil in foreign ships from the continent'.

OVER 100 miners picketed Dunball wharf, near Bridgwater, Somerset, yesterday as a German ship with 800 tons of coal on board docked.

Bricks were hurled at the windscreen of a lorry leaving the port with coal as 130 police battled to keep the wharf entrance free.

Pickets from N Somerset, S Wales and Sunderland greeted drivers with shouts of 'scab' and 'blackleg' as they drove away with coal bound for the Midlands.

The miners were later called off as NUM representatives, the wharf owners and the coal-importing company reached an agreement that three ships now on their way to Dunball will be allowed to unload their coal. It will be kept on the dockside until the strike is settled.

One picket was taken to hospital with a sprained ankle after he slipped on the mud and fell against a lorry.

**FEBRUARY £1,250 FUND RISES TO £476.01**

YOU HAVE now begun to leap ahead. The rapid growth of February's Fund reflects the determination within the working class to fight the Tories.

The more this government hits out with emergency measures, the more hundreds of thousands of workers are joining the struggle to force them to resign.

Workers Press is more vital than ever today. It must speak out to trade unionists everywhere and prepare them for this fight. Back us up all the way. Keep pushing ahead with February's Fund—and let's try and make it a record figure this month. Post all donations immediately to:

Workers Press  
February Appeal Fund,  
186a Clapham High St,  
London, SW4 7UG.

## LATE NEWS WEATHER

NEWS DESK  
01-720 2000

CIRCULATION  
01-622 7029

PAY TALKS affecting 380,000 teachers adjourned in London until March 2 yesterday after management refused to increase its present 6-per-cent offer. The teachers are demanding a 13.7 per cent increase.

CLOUDY WEATHER with rain over S Wales and SW England will spread NE across the remainder of England and Wales into N Ireland and S Scotland during the day.

Brighter weather, but with showers, will reach N Ireland, Wales, W and S England from the W during the afternoon and evening.

Central and N Scotland will have showers, but also bright or sunny periods.

There will be frost locally with some fog patches in E districts at first, but temperatures will rise to near normal in most parts of the British Isles.

Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: Rather cold with frequent wintry showers at first, particularly in the N and E. Sunny periods in many places later.

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UNITE WITH THE MINERS TO FIGHT FOR BASIC RIGHT THEIR RIGHT YOUR RIGHT  
To a job, to organize, welfare, housing and all the gains made by the working class  
READ THE CHARTER  
Free from  
186a Clapham High St,  
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## THE CHARTER OF BASIC RIGHTS

THIS CHARTER of Basic Rights was supported by 4,500 people at the 'Make the Tory government resign' rally at Alexandra Palace, London, N22 on February 14, 1972.  
It was first adopted by the 2nd Annual Conference of the All Trades Union in Birmingham on December 19, 1970.  
We believe that the end of the Tory government is one of striking and taking away all the basic rights of the working class over the past 200 years. Such a government must not be allowed to remain in office another four years. It must be made to resign and a Labour government returned pledged to implement this Charter. This is the only way to prevent the working class being driven back to the conditions of the 1930s.  
The rally at Alexandra Palace on February 14 took the decision to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. This party will defend the basic rights and conquests of the working class by building a revolutionary leadership within the labour and trade union movement.  
This Charter is our basic document. We ask you to read it and if you support it and are willing to help us build the party in any way, fill in the form on page four.

Make the Tory government resign!  
Defeat the anti-labour laws!  
Fight for the Charter of Basic Rights!

The case for a General Election

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE  
POCKET LIBRARY No. 1,  
64 pages, illustrated. Price 10p.