

# Workers Press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● TUESDAY APRIL 11, 1972 ● No. 736 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## MERSEY DOCKERS ACT

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BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

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Meanwhile in London, Attorney-General Sir Peter Rawlinson stepped with both feet into the row when he told the House of Commons that the NIRC was 'the law of the land, and a court of the land'. It was the duty of everyone to obey its orders as they would those of any other court of the land, he said.

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They were carrying out the decision of a mass meeting on Sunday, which voted unanimously to continue the black on Heaton's, Bishop's Wharf Ltd of Warrington and Craddock's, a Midlands firm with a base in

Bootle. It was also agreed the port would stop if union members are further penalized for maintaining the black.

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At the root of the dispute is dockers' fear of mass redundancy and attacks on wages as a result of the increasing use of cargo-containers.

A joint committee of dockers and road-transport workers began

seeking road-haulage firms' agreement to two conditions: the packing and unpacking of containers should be dockers' work, and drivers should be paid no less than £21-£24 a week basic. Heaton's refused to sign and were blacked.

On March 23, the NIRC granted Heaton's a temporary order telling the T&GWU to stop the black on the grounds it was on the face of it an 'unfair industrial practice' under the Act.

The £5,000 fine was imposed for contempt of court when the blacking continued and the T&GWU refused to give evidence.

Tomorrow the NIRC will make a final decision on whether the blacking is 'unfair' under the Act. If it decided this is the case and the blacking continues, the union could face an unlimited fine.

It is also the last day tomorrow on which the union can appear to show why it should not have to pay the fine.

If it neither appears nor pays, a March 29 order of the NIRC comes into force. This states that in three weeks' time the bailiffs will move in on all the T&GWU's assets — both 'protected' and unprotected — and exact the £5,000.

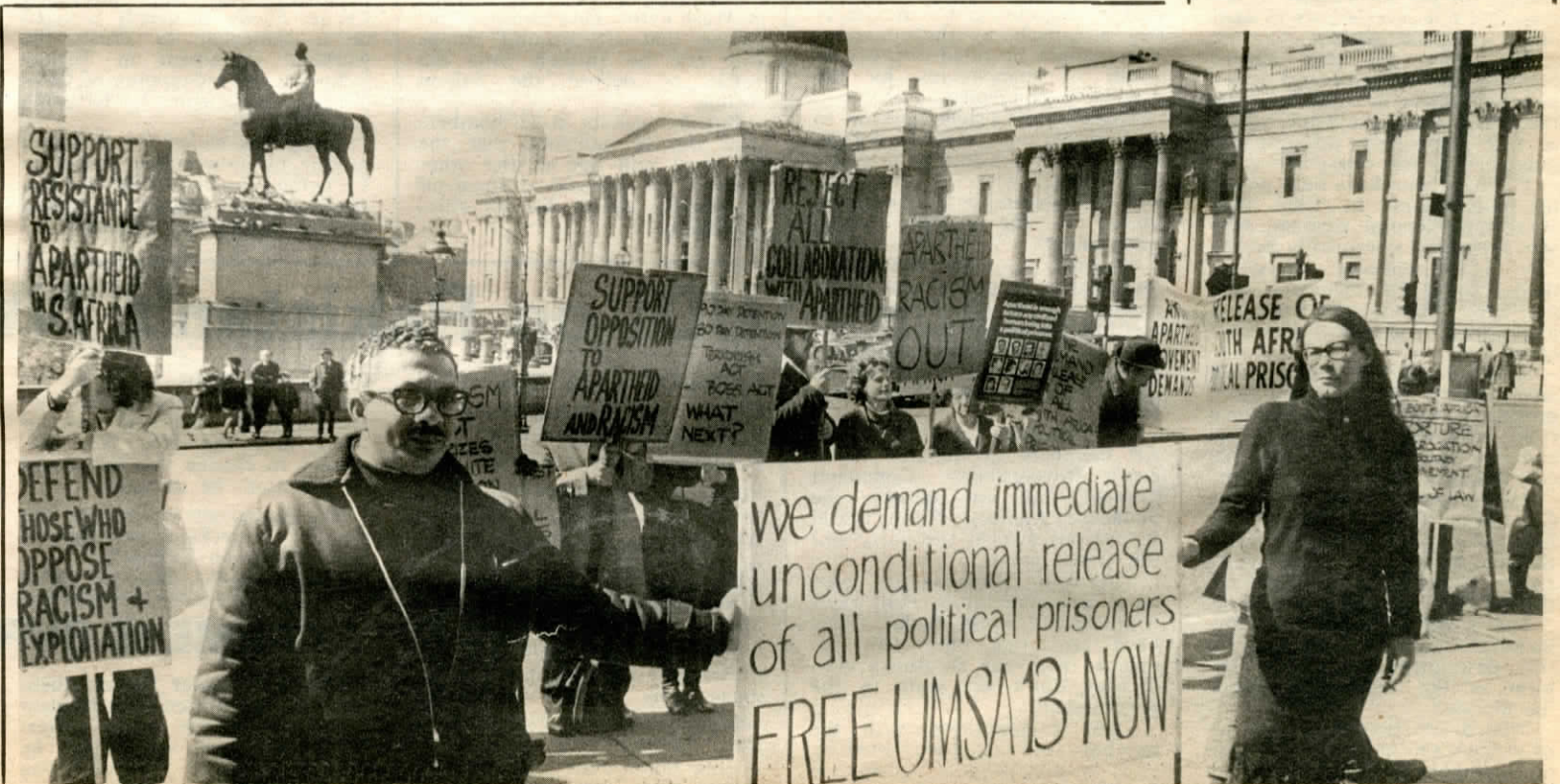
## LONDON DEMO OVER S AFRICAN DETAINEES

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Sentences ranged from five to eight years for 'crimes' which amounted to no more than raising funds and providing hospitality.

All the convicted belong to the Unity Movement of S Africa.

A leaflet distributed by the Anti-Apartheid Movement said that early last year some 200 people were rounded up by Vorster's police in an attempt to smash the movement.



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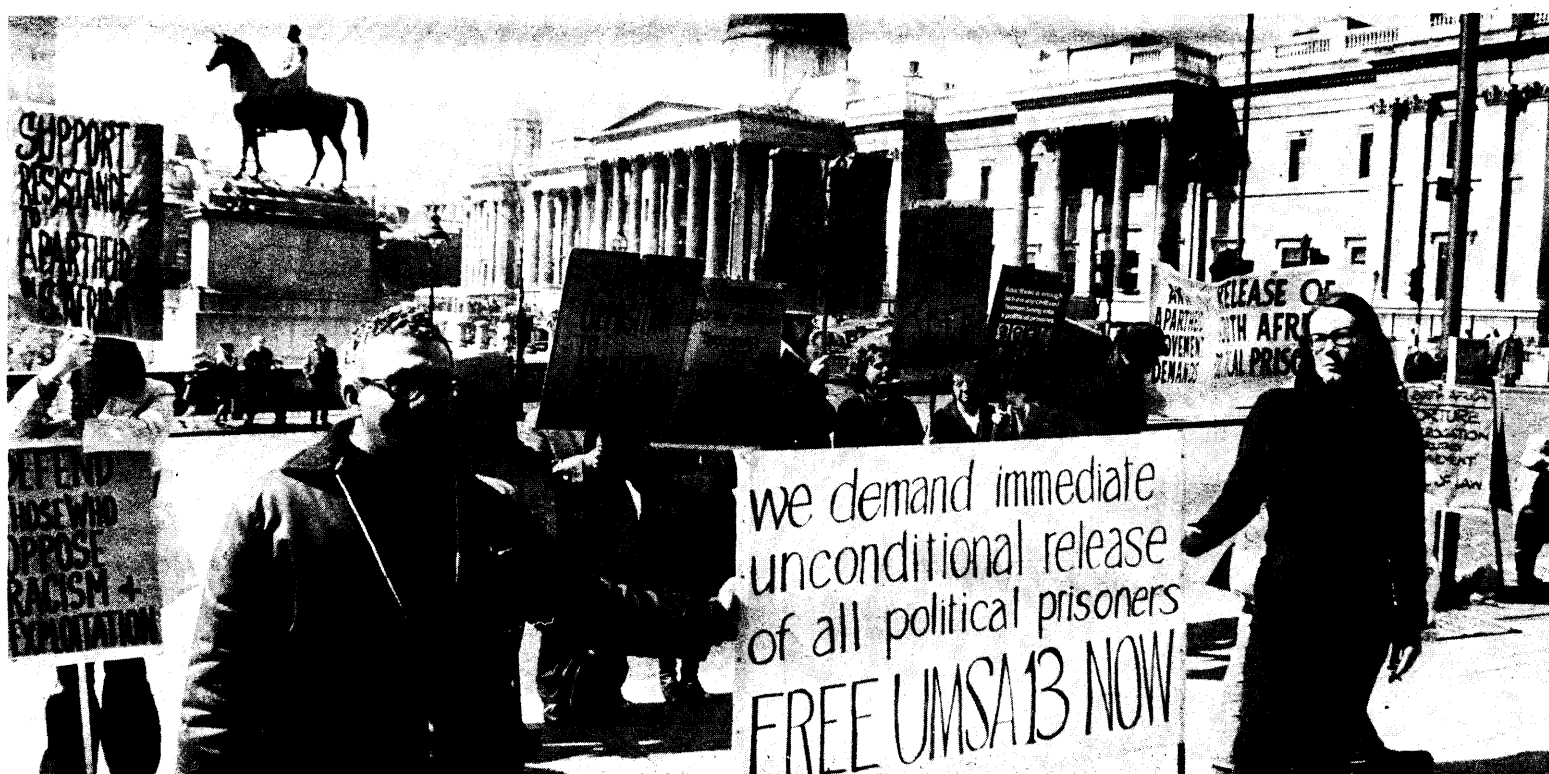
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## ARGENTINA: TORTURE GENERAL SHOT DOWN

ARGENTINE General Juan Carlos Sanchez, commander of the second army corps based in Rosario, was assassinated yesterday, the government news agency Telam reported.

Telam said General Sanchez, who was in charge of anti-guerrilla activities in the Rosario area, was mown down by machine-gun fire.

Sanchez' main task was to track down the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP), an urban guerrilla force led by Pabloite revisionists, which is currently holding Fiat executive Oberdan Sallustro.

The ERP had frequently accused Sanchez of responsibility for torturing captured ERP members.

## RIGHT-WING ARMS

PRESIDENT Nixon has signed a Bill authorizing the five-year loan of ten destroyers and six submarines to Spain, Turkey, Greece, S Korea and Italy.

Spain, which will receive five destroyers and two submarines, and Italy, which will receive two submarines, will provide the funds to operate their ships, the Florida White House said at the weekend.

Greece, which will receive two destroyers, will be given money for crew training. Turkey, with a destroyer and two submarines, and S Korea, with two destroyers, will receive US military assistance funds. Some \$32m was provided in the Bill.

# CP PREPARES ANOTHER SUDAN IN IRAQ

THE 15-YEAR friendship and co-operation treaty signed in Iraq at the weekend by Soviet premier Alexei Kosygin is the latest fruit of the Kremlin's treacherous Middle-East policy.

The pact, similar to agreements with Egypt and India, gives the Soviet Union an outlet to the Persian Gulf, where the port of Umm-Qasr will be put at the disposal of Soviet warships.

It provides for co-ordination in the political field through regular consultations and for strengthening the two sides' defence capability. Neither side may join an alliance or take part in acts which are hostile to the other.

The treaty states that 'there shall develop comprehensive co-operation between the two countries and peoples in the political, economic, scientific, cultural and other fields on a basis of respect for the sovereignty of the state and non-interference in each others' internal affairs'.

The price for this accord between the Kremlin and Iraq's Ba'athist rulers is to be paid by the Iraq Communist Party, which is now completely subordinated politically to the ruling party.

The Ba'athists have held power for nine years. In 1963 they overthrew General Kassem, who was supported uncritically by the CP. In the ensuing repression, thousands of CP members were murdered, others tortured and imprisoned, and the Party outlawed.

Some of the CP leaders have only recently been released from prison to take part in a national front with their Ba'athist jailers and the leaders of the pro-Moscow Kurdish Democratic Party.

Their former comrades of the Communist Party of Iraq (Revolutionary Group) who split with the pro-Moscow CP five years ago to demand the overthrow of the Ba'athists are still in jail.

The bourgeois character of the Ba'athist Party is evident from this description by a commentator in the French newspaper 'Le Monde':

'The Ba'ath [Party] is made up of various elements: military men of conservative and religious views: small capitalists won over

# Ground and air success for North in Vietnam

BY FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

N VIETNAM yesterday claimed more successes in the air while in the S the Vietnamese National Liberation Front said 3,500 Saigon government troops had been killed, wounded or captured in heavy fighting near the capital.

Radio Hanoi, monitored in Hong Kong, said two US Navy jets were shot down during a raid on Vinh Linh, the largest city in the southern part of N Vietnam.

This brings the N Vietnamese anti-aircraft brigades' total score of downed US aircraft to 3,467, including three of the giant B-52 bombers which the US admitted yesterday were bombing the N.

Yesterday, N Vietnam also reported heavily damaging four US warships which were shelling coastal areas of Quang Binh province.

Several US officers and advisers are among the 1,000 prisoners in the hands of N Vietnamese forces advancing down the strategic Highway 13 from the Cambodian border towards Saigon.

The fall of Loc Ninh, a rubber plantation town along the Highway, heavily defended by S Vietnamese troops, has been confirmed by both sides.

President Nguyen van Thieu's personal guard was on its way to relieve Loc Ninh before the town fell.

In the fighting below the demilitarized zone, the S Vietnamese produced two obsolete Soviet tanks which they claimed to have captured in a tank battle outside Quang Tri.

On the strength of this slander evidence, the S Vietnamese commander boasted: 'We have beaten General Giap. Nobody else, least of all the puppet-masters in Washington, takes this extravagant claim seriously.'

The N Vietnamese forces are working their way southwards towards the ancient capital of Hue, while in the central highlands, Kontum, another key city, is threatened.

President Nixon's spokesmen in Washington have repeated his pledge that US ground troops will not be thrown into the battle to defend the Saigon regime.

But his use of B-52 bombers over the N indicates that the US must pull out all the other stops at its disposal to stave off a crushing defeat for its allies in Saigon.

by the idea of Arab unity, but opposed to any over-radical socialism: intellectuals supporting a "Ba'athist humanism" which has only too often been discredited by police measures which have little in common with the ideal...

Other elements include: 'Ideologists of Marxist theories, aiming at a socialist society which will take account of specific Arab conditions'.

It is difficult, 'Le Monde' says, 'to see how this last category can co-exist with elements inspired by national-socialist ideas, who have often been described as fascists.'

The dangers of the CP's national front with a party whose members range from so-called 'Arab Marxists' to outright fascists is obvious. The Stalinist leaders of the pro-Moscow wing delude their followers into accepting the front by raising the spectre of a right-wing coup.

'Le Monde' quotes a CP central committee to the effect that a 'putsch' by the conservatives cannot be ruled out, not to speak of manoeuvres by the petroleum companies.

The Stalinist leader goes on to explain that 'only a national front will make it possible to mobilize the masses, who, in this way, will feel themselves to be represented in the centre of the government'.

Wedded to the theory of 'peaceful co-existence' and under pressure from the Kremlin to co-operate with the Ba'athists, the Iraqi Stalinists have obliterated the most important lesson of the bloody events in the Sudan last July.

The presence of four Sudan CP members in dictator Numeiry's Revolutionary Command Council did not inhabit the Sudanese military from brutal repressions against the party and the trade unions.

The Iraqi Stalinists are even more accommodating than their counterparts in the Sudan. They have said that they will co-operate with the Ba'athists even if they don't get seats in the government.

Their collaboration with the butchers of the Iraqi working class is preparing a Sudan-style bloodbath in Iraq.

# SWP calls for a 'Black Party'

BY JOHN SPENCER

AN openly racist campaign for a 'Black Party' in the United States is being waged by the Pabloite revisionists of the Socialist Workers Party, who are in political solidarity with the International Marxist Group in Britain.

SWP presidential candidate Andrew Pulley spoke in favour of such a party at the recent Black Political Convention in Gary, Indiana.

His speech makes it abundantly clear the SWP has abandoned completely the struggle to break the working class from the two big business parties by raising the demand for a Labour Party based on the trade unions.

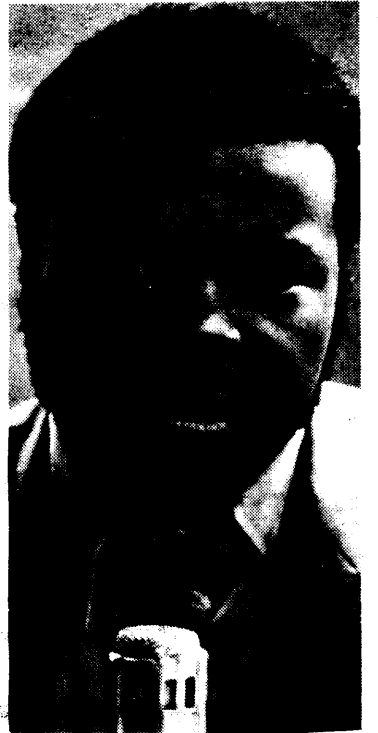
He accepts the division of the working class along racist lines.

He told the Convention that: 'Over the past few years, black students, black GIs, black workers and now black prisoners have organized themselves independently and taken action to redress their grievances.'

'It is time to generalize from these struggles and establish an independent black community [i.e. for black capitalists as well as black workers], that is, a Black Party.'

The Convention, he said, should declare its opposition to both the Republican and Democratic Parties and '... develop a strategy for organizing the masses of our people [sic] into struggles for black control of the black community'.

It is a bourgeois demand which has nothing in common with the interests of the working class, black or white. It is raised by the SWP right at the time when the organized workers are moving into major political battles with the Nixon government which clearly pose the



Presidential candidate Andrew Pulley

urgent question of building a Labour Party to express the political independence of all sections of workers.

The SWP's policy, because it cuts straight across the unity of the working class, deludes the black workers into believing they can achieve emancipation alongside the black employers.

## Podgorny visits Turkish guerrilla killers

SOVIET President Nikolai Podgorny arrives in Ankara, capital of the Turkish military state today for a seven-day state visit.

One major objective of his visit is a mutual pact of non-aggression between the two countries. His host, president Cevdet Sunay, is deeply engaged in a campaign to crush the workers' movement in Turkey following the kidnapping of three NATO technicians by left-wing guerrillas.

Sunay has called for a period of rule by government decree to strengthen law and order and has asked political parties to suspend extra-parliamentary activities.

The President urged that the decree powers should be granted to Prime Minister Nihat Erim's government to combat 'continuing anarchy, violence and sabotage'.

Dr Erim has said the country was face to face with an international communist plot 'which wants to bring Turkey down on its knees'.

Talks by political parties on President Sunay's proposals are expected to continue while the Soviet leader is in Turkey.

The President's proposal has been rejected by all four major Turkish parties — the Justice Party, Peoples Republican Party, the Democratic Party and the National Confidence Party.

## UDI on Pakistan's NW frontier

PATHAN leader Khan Wali Khan, who proclaimed a breakaway government in Pakistan's NW Frontier Province at the weekend, held talks with President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in Rawalpindi yesterday.

With the Khan was Maulana Mufti Mahmoud, whom he named as chief minister in his unilateral declaration to a mass rally in the provincial capital Peshawar. Mufti heads the left-of-centre Jamiat e Ulema Islam Party (JUI). Wali Khan said at the weekend

that all decisions taken in the province must be with the consent of his National Awami Party and the JUI. No conspiracy to change this fact could be tolerated, he declared.

His announcement marked the failure of weekend negotiations with Bhutto in Peshawar.

The divisions between Wali

Khan and Bhutto apparently centre on the latter's plan to extend martial law until mid-August.

Wali Khan's weekend declaration appears to be a negotiating manoeuvre, but it must encourage the long-standing Pathan separatist movement in the NW Frontier province.

## KARUME IS BURIED

ZANZIBAR leader Sheikh Abeid Karume was buried in a Moslem ceremony on the island yesterday close to the spot where he was assassinated by right-wing emigrants on Friday evening.

Exiled Zanzibarians who support the deposed Sultan have claimed responsibility for the killing. Karume's assassins were themselves shot in gun battles over the weekend.

# Crucial issues before AUEW National Committee

AN INTERVIEW BY STEPHEN JOHNS

## Extend NW pay battle to all areas—call

IN SIX DAYS' time one of the most powerful bodies in the British trade union movement will meet to decide future strategy against the employers.

This is the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' National Committee — a lay body comprised of delegates from all the important engineering areas of the country.

But this year's committee will be one with a difference. It is likely to take place in the midst of the battle now raging between Britain's toughest bosses in the Engineering Employers' Federation and the AUEW.

The focus of attention will be Manchester, where over 20,000 workers are locked-out or are occupying their factories in support of a pay claim which has national importance.

The burning issue before the National Committee will be what action can it take to ensure the

fight for higher wages, a 35-hour week, longer holidays, can be won throughout the industry. In particular a question that will be asked is, how can the union's Manchester membership be supported by the committee?

One man who will lay down a challenge is Bill Anten—one of the two delegates from the Manchester area and the convenor of Hawker Siddeley's aviation plant at Woodford, near Stockport.

On Thursday evening Bill Anten led his 1,000 members in the first occupation in the firm's history.

In an interview at the Stockport AUEW headquarters, he told me that the Manchester delegates would be tabling an emergency resolution.

'We will be seeking full support for the battle in our division from the National Committee. We will be seeking a recommendation for the whole country to get themselves involved to the same degree as Manchester,' he told me.

Did this mean the Manchester delegates would be asking the National Committee to call for national strike action?

Mr Anten says no.

Firstly, he argues a national strike

could only be called after a ballot of the membership.

'We have had the case when the National Committee instructed the Executive to call a national strike without a ballot, when they felt that time did not allow for one.

'But this interpretation of rules was challenged by some members in court. They got a ruling which said that there should have been time for a ballot. So I think the union would be forced to have one.'

Secondly, he argues the whole method of national negotiations has proved 'abortive' in the past.

'You can go back to the negotiations of 1958. Since that date we had a total of £2 added to the basic rate. The best alternative to this is the kind of action initiated in Manchester. I don't agree with the plant-by-plant method of fighting,\* allowing each steward to put in a claim at his own plant.

'This is a long, drawn-out process and the claim will tend to be dissipated.

'We will ask National Committee to recommend to each other district

\* This is the type of action now recommended by the National Committee.

in the country to put in their own claim using the tested tactics of the Manchester area.

'The shop stewards should be given the go-ahead to take action like we have done. I don't think there is anything wrong in shop stewards getting together in any one district and putting forward a district claim. We will be asking the National Committee to initiate this kind of action.

To Bill Anten this is the best way of getting country-wide action on the claim.

'The employers are determined to hold out in this area of Manchester. They have made it quite plain that it is not only a matter of the money involved, but that this district claim is a disguised national claim. Well we make no apologies. This is the national claim and now it must be taken up elsewhere.'

What then about the Sheffield situation, where an area has retreated from the brink of district action to accepting the executive edict for plant-by-plant battles?

'I don't know what Sheffield should have done. I believe there was once a proposal for district action, but this seems now to have been lost. I don't know what the national executive's role was there, but I do know that I have no complaints over their action in Manchester—they have endorsed our action to the full.'

OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT  
DAVID MAUDE COMMENTS

## Manchester 'alternative' a retreat

BILL ANTEN'S interview with Workers Press raises many of the key issues facing next week's AUEW National Committee.

Twenty thousand workers in the union's Manchester division are now engaged in sit-in strikes in support of the national pay claim drawn up by the committee 12 months ago.

As we reported last Friday a resolution tabled by the division for discussion next week calls for national action in support of the claim. But it now seems likely from Mr Anten's remarks that this could be withdrawn or composited out of existence.

His central argument against an all-out fight for national action at the committee is that the union could face intervention from the courts if it calls a strike without balloting the membership.

This stems from the union's experience in the autumn of 1968, when such a strike call was challenged under rule. The rule says the committee can call a strike when 'in their opinion time would not allow the members to be balloted'. In 1968 the court claimed there was time.

With the Industrial Relations Act now law and the National Industrial Relations Court very much in action, there is little doubt which way the judiciary would rule on a similar issue today.

If this is to be made the main consideration of the committee, however, is this not exactly the same kind of retreat before the Tory government as was carried out in abandoning the national claim in the first place?

If that retreat was correct, why is Mr Anten's own factory now sitting in?

Mr Anten's second-line argument is that national negotiations have in any case proved abortive since 1958, adding only £2 to the basic rate in that time.

But this is the result of a series of disastrous package deals, concluded first by the right-wing leadership under the late Lord Carron and then by the 'left' leadership under the present AUEW president Hugh Scanlon in 1968. Since 1958 there has not been national action involving the union membership.

The argument is then brought forward that what is currently happening in Manchester is the 'best alternative', and that other areas should be recommended to take similar action.

The vital difference between this and national strike action, of course, is that only the most tightly-organized, most powerful factories in the most tightly-organized, most powerful areas will come out. The vast majority of engineering workers will be left prey to the threats of unemployment and the Industrial Relations Act.

If such a course does become the policy of the Manchester division next week, let us be quite clear that this will be a retreat. And this time it will be a retreat led, organized and fought for by many serious members of the Communist Party. This must not be allowed to happen.



## No 'Battery' meeting until new offer is made

'THIS STRIKE is now indefinite' was the message from a mass meeting of Birmingham Battery workers yesterday.

The men voted unanimously on a proposition from works convenor Les Tisdell not to meet again until the company comes forward with an offer.

Until now the 300 men have been meeting regularly to review the position, but the company has yet to make any firm offer in reply to a demand for a £6 rise, a 35-hour week and improved holidays.

The men now expect the AUEW national executive, due to meet in London tonight, to make the four-week-old strike official.

'It has now come down to a trial of strength', said branch president Alf Fellows. 'The firm opened up the Thursday after the holidays, thinking a few men would go crawling back. But none did.'

'When this is made official, I

think the firm will come forward with some kind of an offer.'

● In tomorrow's Workers Press we carry a special interview with Kieran Quinn, a fitter's mate, and one of the men the 'Battery' is trying to defeat.

## Agency shop at the Co-op now

STRONG backing for the Tories' Industrial Relations Act has come from a branch of the Co-operative movement.

The Co-op bank has concluded an agency shop agreement—available only to unions registered under the Act—with the National Union of Bank Employees.

NUBE, which has 1,300 members in the Co-op bank, has also negotiated agency shops with the Yorkshire and the Trustee

Savings banks. All these deals are in defiance of TUC policy.

Meanwhile the Co-op Union has received an application from the Bakers' Union for an agency shop in CWS retail bakeries.

The fate of this application, which would also involve the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, hangs on whether or not the USDAW conference decides to register or not under the Act.

But the bakers have already

made agency-shop arrangements with employers in the Federation of Bakers. At their own conference in June, the union's leaders will argue strongly for remaining on the Tory register in order to continue these arrangements.

Under the Act, an agency-shop deal means that workers either have to be members of the registered union concerned, pay a fee to it in lieu of membership or donate the money to an agreed charity.

## BOOKS



Moscow Trials Anthology  
Paperback, 62½p  
MAX SHACHTMAN:  
Behind The Moscow Trial  
Paperback 75p  
ROBERT BLACK:  
Stalinism In Britain  
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2  
LEON TROTSKY:  
Death Agony of Capitalism  
(The Transitional Programme)  
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186a Clapham High Street,  
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# BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Have you read the Draft Manifesto adopted by the All Trades Unions Alliance at the national conference at Birmingham last November? Have you expressed your views on the document in a letter to the Workers Press?

The Manifesto calls for the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. This historic and vital task must be fully discussed and understood throughout the workers' movement: trade unionists, their families, students, the unemployed and people in the professions are invited to express their views on the Manifesto.

If you want a copy of the Draft Manifesto write to the Workers Press or contact your local ATUA branch. Today we present further correspondence in the Manifesto discussion.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

## National Conference

November 6, 1971 10 a.m.  
Digbeth Hall, Digbeth Birmingham

## DRAFT MANIFESTO

### TOM McBRIDE

A member of the N London district council of the National Union of Railwaymen, he works at Paddington station.

We need a party. We need an organization to make people more conscious of the whole political situation that exists today.

The only body I know of which is consistently explaining these things and exposing the present Labour and trade union leaders is the Socialist Labour League.

I'm against the Common Market right through the whole issue.

In this, I think, I'm in line with the position of the whole trade union movement and the executive of the Labour Party even, who've come out against British entry won't do the working class any good at all.

The Common Market is just another profit-making scheme for the capitalist class. But it's also a move in the direction of all the capitalist forces in Europe coming together to block and combat any moves that are made by organized workers as a whole.

This will become much more obvious to the trade union movement as time passes.

We've been gradually prepared for entry throughout this Tory government's reign. You can see that in the way prices have shot up.

You've only got to go to France, Belgium or Holland to see what the cost of living will be in the Market; frankly, I don't know how they manage there.

When we're talking about opposing the Common Market, however, we must remember what the Labour leaders themselves did when they were in.

Neither Wilson nor any of his pals is against entry on principle. They just say they're opposed to the terms negotiated by Rippon. But if they'd been in power they'd be in like a shot.

Then you've got Jenkins and the 69 renegades.

We're supposed to live in a democracy, these people are always telling us. And one accepts that in the trade union movement. I've often been in a minority on the N London district council, but I've accepted the majority view and abided by that democratic decision.

But how can I, in the rank and file, believe in democracy in the Labour movement when the likes of Jenkins in the highest levels are ignoring it and flouting it?

I believe that these people should be either expelled, or their constituency parties should decide whether they believe these people are suitable candidates, after what they did last October 28.

At the same time, how can the working man be expected to believe in democracy when Heath



decides to go into Europe without any mandate at all from the people of this country?

It's well known that this has been Heath's pet subject for years. If he's got the choice to make, he'll go for entry every time. But this is completely against the feeling of the majority.

The people must have their say.

We should have some form of referendum. But when I say referendum, what I'm really talking about is something that raises all the issues of a General Election.

Unemployment would be really gross if we went in—it would be back to the 1930s with a vengeance.

Compared with many of the

other countries in the Common Market, the type of machinery in Britain is relatively antiquated. They're not competitive. They'll be swamped with goods from abroad.

They'll drive all the small firms bust and leave the big monopolies—the only ones who will benefit—with a clear field.

Then they'll really use unemployment, if we allow them to go in. They'll force workers to be really mobile in the search for work. They won't be worried about me as a skilled person or where I'm from.

And then they'll find the solution to these occupations.

You can see it now, in all the adverts: the army's a great life, and all that. These people will be taken up and used against

their own kind.

When we're faced with all these threats, we've got to be completely socialist and internationalist in our outlook. Quite regardless of the differences between us we've got to be united if we're to stand up to the capitalist class.

The miners have shown the way to the working class.

If their leaders had stuck out, I think they would have won their full whack and really shaken the Tory government. Maybe it wouldn't have brought them down—Heath's word is law in the Tory party—but another week and he'd have had to pay up or go to the country.

The engineers' leaders and my own union, however, have shown marked reluctance to follow up

on this. And now you can already see the government and the employers starting to implement the Industrial Relations Act.

You've got places in my own district where it's becoming difficult to recruit because of the Act; and as yet we're only in the first stages.

Now you've got this £5,000 fine on the Transport and General Workers' Union.

In my opinion a special TUC should be recalled in this new situation, and the proposition of action to force a General Election debated.

The SLL has got to get more into the trade union movement and make its voice heard. It must make itself a force to be reckoned with.

# SOVIET BID FOR FRIENDS IN ASIA

BY JOHN SPENCER

The Soviet Union is mounting a veritable diplomatic blitzkrieg in Asia which has risen to a crescendo since US President Nixon's visit to China.

The Kremlin is pressing for the convening of an Asian collective security conference to formalize 'peaceful co-existence' throughout the continent.

Its actions are motivated largely by fear of an alliance between China and the United States, and it is actively trying to win the various states in the region to its own sphere of influence.

## SINISTER

The other and even more sinister motive behind the Soviet bureaucracy's plan is the fear of revolution in Asia. Though the USSR supported India in the war to liberate Bangla Desh, it is determined to shore up the shaky Awami League regime headed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman against the revolutionary threat from his own workers and peasants.

Similarly, though it has supplied a certain amount of military aid to N Vietnam, the Soviet bureaucracy has been accused by Prince Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian National Liberation Front, of starving the liberation forces of arms so as to prolong the war.

The Soviet government recognizes the US puppet regime of Lon Nol in Cambodia and its ambassador is accredited to the beleaguered puppet capital of Phnom Penh.

The world crisis and the mounting revolutionary movement in Asia has deepened the divisions between the counter-revolutionary Stalinist bureaucracies in Peking and Moscow.

The Sino-Soviet divisions came out most pointedly over the Indo-Pakistan war last December. The war revealed India firmly within the Soviet diplomatic sphere, largely through a mutual hostility to China, which backed Pakistan.

The victory of the Indian troops and the establishment of the new state of Bangla Desh was an important gain for the Kremlin, which supplied the Indian army during the war.

But it was a two-edged victory. While it cemented the Kremlin's alliance with Mrs Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Mujib, it unleashed forces beyond the control of all three.

Mujib's first port of call as head of state outside India was Moscow. He was followed by the new Pakistan president Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, to whom the Soviet Stalinists suggested the idea of an Asian security pact and offered their services for a reconciliation with India and Bangla Desh.

Two weeks ago, premier Alexei Kosygin received the prime minister of Afghanistan, the buffer state between the USSR and Pakistan. He, too, was no doubt given details of the Soviet 'security' proposals.

At the other end of the conti-

ment, the USSR is equally eager to achieve good relations with Japan, Asia's most powerful capitalist country.

To appease the growing appetite for markets and raw materials of the Japanese monopolists, the USSR has agreed to allow them controlled access to the rich mineral resources of Siberia.

The most recent such deal opens up the oilfield close to the Chinese border to Japanese penetration. Big Japanese consortia are also seeking metal ores and other sources of cheap industrial requirements.

Both the USSR and China have petitioned the Japanese government with a view to getting agreement on Asian 'security'.

The Soviet proposal was first advanced in May 1969 by Leonid Brezhnev, the CPSU secretary. Brezhnev raised the proposal again at the Soviet trades union congress in Moscow last month, and it was also mentioned when the Soviet ambassador to Thailand spoke at a conference in Bangkok recently.

For their part, the Chinese have returned to the idea, first put forward 12 years ago, of a non-aggression treaty between Japan and China, based on the so-called 'five principles of peaceful co-existence'.

Japanese premier Sato has tried to balance between his country's two big neighbours, favouring neither the USSR nor China, but encouraging both.

The reactionary character of these plans for Asian security is best illustrated by the Soviet government's relations with the anti-communist military dictatorships in Asia.

## HONOURS

In March, Madame Marcos, wife of the anti-communist Philippines president, was received in Moscow with the honours due to a head of state. She will be followed in June by the dictator of Thailand, General Prapass, who will be making the inaugural flight of a new air service linking the two countries.

Further S, the Soviet ambassador to the regime in Indonesia, where the Communist Party was systematically annihilated seven years ago, has been touring the neighbouring anti-communist governments of Singapore and Malaysia.

Both Thailand and Malaysia are combating guerrilla uprisings led by 'Maoist' movements. The Indonesian premier has welcomed the Soviet presence in Asia, while his government continues to denounce the Communist Party of Indonesia, and keeps thousands of its militants in 'devil's island' style prisons and camps.

It is with reactionary regimes such as these that the Soviet Union proposes to establish its 'collective security' arrangements.

But, as in Vietnam, and Bangla Desh, the plans of the bureaucracy, like the schemes of the imperialists, come up against the revolutionary determination of the Asian workers and peasants to rid themselves of imperialism and its puppets for all time.



Brezhnev



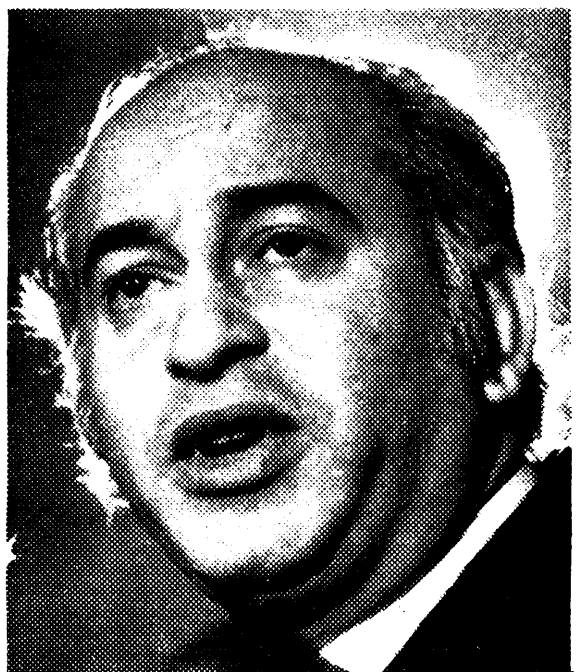
Kosygin



Sihanouk



Sato



Bhutto

# DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

In preparation for the Fourth Congress of the International Committee of the Fourth International, the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League are publishing the four main documents of the International Committee covering the split with the French Organisation Communiste Internationaliste.



## DOCUMENT 4 Statement by the International Committee of the Fourth International (Majority) March 1, 1972 (CONTINUED)

Hollow international parades are of no use to us. Revolutionists do not flirt with centrists at conferences but carry on tireless day-to-day work against them in their own countries, and they participate in their own revolutionary international conferences, where they do not blow soap-bubbles but discuss and decide the questions of the class struggle. (April 24, 1935.)

In conditions where the contradiction between the needs and demands of the masses and the reformist and Stalinist bureaucracy becomes extremely acute, then the first consideration is the theoretical preparation of the cadre against all adaptation to spontaneity.

At every vital stage of his struggle against Stalinism, Trotsky returned to the essential theoretical preparation of the youth. After explaining the lessons of the anti-Trotskyist campaign of the Stalinists, and outlining the tasks of the opposition, Trotsky concluded: 'Today the theoretical education of the younger generation is our supreme task.' (Feb. 7, 1930). Five years later, in the midst of many discussions about the united front and the relations between the centrists and the building of the Fourth International, Trotsky wrote:

'The task at present is to prepare the cadres of Leninist youth, to raise them to the level of the tasks of our epoch. In this sphere, the requirements are special theoretical clarity, ideological honesty and an irreconcilability to opportunism and to diplomacy.'

'The conservative centrist apparatuses inherited from the past must be prevented from checking the revolutionary development of the proletarian vanguard; that is the task!' (April 24, 1935.)

At Essen we had a clash between this conception on the one hand, and a conception of playing down theoretical preparation and ideological independence of the revolutionary vanguard for the sake of alliances with the remnant of international centrism on the other. Essen was the extreme limit of the attempt of the Socialist Labour League and the ILP majority to fight this centrist tendency within the same international organization. Again Trotsky's words are perfectly apposite:

'The Bolsheviks have no reason for uniting with the centrists.

of Lenin and Trotsky. The fact that they went unheeded is a sure indication of the weight of hostile class pressures behind the line of the OCI leadership. Trotsky, writing and speaking at the time of the Third and Fourth Congresses of the Communist International, (often specifically about the French Communist Party) devoted many thousands of words to the question of the united front, but never once went beyond describing it and advocating its use as a tactic. (First Five Years of the Comintern, Vol. II). Nor was this tactic applicable in all cases or at all stages in the development of the revolutionary movement.

'In cases where the Communist Party still remains an organization of an insignificant minority, the question of its conduct on the mass-struggle front does not assume decisive practical and organizational significance. In such conditions, most actions remain under the leadership of the old organizations which by reason of their powerful traditions continue to play the decisive role. Similarly, the problem of the united front does not arise in countries where . . . the CP is the sole leading organization of the toiling masses.'

### Lessons of history

We cannot simply take phrases from the history of the communist movement about the necessity for the united front, and transplant them as timeless truths into the present. It is always a question of understanding definite and necessary stages in the development of the revolutionary party in relation to the development of the working class and its needs. This is what Lenin explained in the discussion on tactics at the Third Comintern Congress (1921):

'The first stage in our struggle was to create a genuine communist party, so that we could know with whom we were talking, and in whom we could have complete confidence. At the first and second congresses we said: "Out with the centrists!" . . . But now we have to go a bit further. The second stage, after we have created the party, must be to learn how to prepare the revolution. In many countries we have not even begun to learn how to win the leadership.'

The sections of the Inter-



Above right: Trotsky speaking at the fourth congress of the Third International in 1922. Above: Lenin at the 1921 congress.

national Committee are not, of course, at the same stage of development as the parties of the Comintern. These sections, as part of the Fourth International, have had their own specific evolution, with their own specific stages, in the fight against Stalinism and revisionism, in objective conditions different from those of the years after World War I.

But we can certainly say that these sections have defended Trotskyism and have developed as revolutionary parties, and will continue to do so, only on the basis that the building of independent revolutionary parties is the central task of our whole epoch. These parties must indubitably work out the way to use the united front tactic in each country.

But the OCI is making the united front a principle to which

the independence of the vanguard and the development of Marxist theory are subordinated. Under today's conditions this is equivalent to a new and more sophisticated form of the liquidationism which has been the main content of revisionism in the Fourth International.

The history of the struggle for the Fourth International is strewn with warnings against these dangers which exist in the united front tactic, and for good reason. Representative are the following extracts from Trotsky's writings in Germany in 1931-1932, writings in which he deals fully with the question of the united front, and indeed where the main emphasis was on the necessity of the united front. His warnings therefore carry special weight:

'That a workers' party is compelled to carry out the policy of the united front—that is not to be gainsaid. But the policy of the united front has its dangers. Only an experienced and a tested revolutionary party can carry out this policy successfully. In any case, the policy of the united front cannot serve as a programme for a revolutionary party. And in the meantime, the entire activity of the SAP is now being built on it. As a result, the policy of the united front is being carried over into the party itself, that is, it serves to smear over the contradictions between the various tendencies. And that is precisely the fundamental function of centrism.'

'To reduce the whole policy of the proletariat to agreements with the reformist organizations or, still worse, to the abstract slogan of "unity", is something that only spineless centrists of the stripe of the Socialist Workers Party (SAP) can do. For the Marxists, the united front policy is merely one of the methods in the course of the class struggle. Under certain conditions this method becomes completely useless; it would be absurd to want to conclude an agreement with the reformists for the socialist revolution. But there are conditions under which the rejection of the united front may ruin the revolutionary party for many decades to come . . .'

There could be no clearer warning to the OCI: . . . the policy of the united front cannot serve as a programme for a revolutionary party . . . the en-



serious action, even if, we repeat, its point of departure is a partial demand, leads to the posing of the fundamental question of power, each organization is obliged to formulate and to present to the workers the governmental solution which corresponds to the interests of the workers. The will of the working masses and the youth to win satisfaction of their demands and hopes cannot be doubted, but in order that this will can be realized, an immediate objective is necessary: replace the Pompidou-Chaban-Delemas government with another government. A government which would respond positively to the aspirations of the masses, because it would rest for support on the mobilization of the workers in struggle against the employers and the state.

'The working class expects clear answers from its organizations, the conquest of governmental power cannot consist only of a change of ministerial personnel. It is not general phrases against the monopolies, but only through a political and organic break with the French capitalists and all their bourgeois parties that an orientation can be made in deeds and not just words towards a change of government. We shall not tire of saying this over and over again, of repeating it afresh, certain of expressing the will of the working masses.'

'It is necessary to define clearly the political content and

form of the government corresponding to the aspirations of the workers, because it is this government, leaning on the masses in struggle against the employers and the state, which will decide what measures to take. If it is not said clearly: "not one capitalist minister, not a single representative of the bourgeois parties will sit alongside us in the government," then we would be accepting class-collaboration, and nothing would be done to advance along the road struggle against the high cost of living and unemployment, for the true satisfaction of demands.'

'The only politically responsible thing to do is to say to the leaders of the mass organizations who claim to speak for the interests of the workers: "To accept the presence of representatives of the bourgeoisie in the government, even in limited number, is to reject any prospect of making any inroads into property rights in the major means of production, to open the door wide for runaway deterioration of living and working conditions, to leave untouched the police state constructed by Marcellin to defend the interests of capital."

'It is only on this basis that the government of united workers' organizations, for which the workers are ready to fight, can meet the needs of the workers and the youth. The necessity of the common struggle

for the workers' government flows from the decisions taken by the government, the consequences of which will be to reinforce the general offensive of capitalism against the working class. The workers' government is an economic necessity because the struggle of the working class to defend itself against exploitation has become a political struggle for its demands.'

'It is necessary to drive out, and with the utmost speed, the bourgeois government and the bourgeois ministers. The unity of all workers wanting to fight capitalism, of the organizations which bring them together and of the leaders who speak in their name, must impose on the workers' government. For this objective, it is necessary to combine and unite in a powerful united front of workers' organizations, which must undertake to carry out a real struggle against the bourgeois government. Socialism is not in some distant and obscure future; the will to fight for the workers' government represents today the immediate step to be realized, for the lessons which great masses are assimilating more and more consists in this: if the power of capital is not overturned, exploitation cannot be abolished.' (Informations Ouvrières, January 5-12, 1972.)

These are questions which French Trotskyists cannot avoid. Is the policy of united front

sufficient for the building of the revolutionary party? The history of the Fourth International gives an unequivocal No! What is the content of the united front? It must not be simply a matter of expressing generally the aspirations of the masses for unity, but must state firmly the area of united front agreement in relation to the programme of the revolutionary party, which expresses the revolutionary interests of the working class.

The OCI advances no such programme, and confines itself to the general slogan of a workers' government formed by the existing workers' organizations. Without such a programme the door is opened for the social democrats and Stalinists to arrive at a false 'united front' which is nothing more than reformist treachery. Again this is not a new question in the history of our movement. Trotsky wrote in the summer of 1934, in France:

'We criticized Naville for not concretizing the revolutionary content of the united front, thus permitting the two bureaucracies to seize upon this slogan without great risk.'

With this distortion of the tactic of the united front, the OCI goes over to the essence of the revisionism which has for 20 years attacked the Fourth International. The difference here is not one of emphasis but of principle. Trotsky, writing on the ILP in 1933, condemned

' . . . a united front made not for one single practical action but for collaboration in general . . . There cannot be the slightest doubt about where Trotskyists place their essential concentration. Every day of the history of our movement, especially in the fight against Pabloite revisionism, has reinforced Trotsky's warning:

'The policy of a united front with reformists is obligatory, but it is of necessity limited to partial tasks. There can be no thought of making the socialist revolution in a united front with reformist organizations. The principal task of a revolutionary party consists in freezing the working class from the influence of reformism.' (September 1933.)

'The government of united workers' organizations' in which the OCI wants to participate is clearly a government of the bourgeois state. Revisionism opens the door to reformism.'

If this point has had to be explained at length, it is because the consequences of error on this score are truly enormous. For the sake of a practical 'alliance' with Lora of the Bolivian POR, the OCI leaders 're-constructing' the Fourth International in Latin America after their own prescriptions chose to forget even their own criticisms of the POR's capitulation to Stalinism in 1970. They adopted a position on the Bolivian revolution which totally liquidates the independence of the working class and the revolutionary van-

guard, not merely into the trade union bureaucracy and the Stalinist apparatus, but into the bourgeois nationalism of Torres.

All the demagogic talk from the OCI about the 'universal republic of Soviets', with the Bolivian Popular Assembly as its first manifestation, all the talk about the permanent revolution, is disguise for the awful reality that the working class was placed under the domination of bourgeoisie. Because of this the counter-revolution was able to isolate and repress the working class without the Popular Assembly being able to carry out any real mobilization of the masses.

Lora and the Assembly supported the Torres regime, they did not prepare for its overthrow in any way; and finally, with the counter-revolution at the gates, the POR itself appealed for the arming of the masses . . . by Torres!

There could be no more fitting end to this reply. Lora's party took to its logical and practical conclusion the opportunistic opposition to theory entailed in the positions of the OCI. It is time to draw all the lessons of this experience, in line with those of the Belgian General Strike, of the Ceylon coalition and of Algeria. With such policies and programmes, a split in the International Committee of the Fourth International was shown to be absolutely necessary and inevitable.

# BIRTH OF AMERICA'S BIGGEST UNION

BY JACK GALE

In the 1920s, workers in the mass production industries in the United States—industries such as steel, cars, rubber, textiles, oil and chemicals—were totally unorganized.

They had no protection against the sack, speed-up, long hours (ten to 12 hours a day) and low wages. If they struck work they faced violence from police, gangsters and professional strikebreakers.

Then, in October, 1929, the American stock market collapsed. In the next four years, production dropped by 48.7 per cent. In three years, America's national income slumped from \$81 billion to \$39 billion. By March, 1933, unemployment estimates ranged from 13.3 million to 17.9 million.

In 1931 wages averaged one half of what they had been in 1925.

Wages were being cut throughout the land. In a single year (1930-1931) wages in the manufacturing industries were reduced by an average of 9.4 per cent. Miners' wages were reduced by anything from nine to 16 per cent. Nevertheless, the so-called militant miners' leader—John L. Lewis—advocated a no-strike pledge and acceptance of the cuts.

## Union membership decline

Union membership declined drastically. The United Mine Workers had had 400,000 members in 1920. By 1931 it had 60,000.

The leaders of the American Federation of Labour were restricted to a narrow craft-union consciousness. They refused to recruit the unorganized in the mass production industries and they had no way of defending even their own members.

By 1931 the membership of AFL unions was declining by 7,000 a week. The leaders sought to alleviate the situation by offering a no-strike pledge to the employers.

It was in this situation that Franklin D. Roosevelt became US President in March 1933.

He gained a totally undeserved reputation as a 'friend of labour', mainly through the praise lavished on him by conservative trade union bureaucrats and Communist Party Stalinists. His policies, however, were entirely designed to rescue capitalism.

His first emergency measures included a moratorium on bank withdrawals. This saved the big banks and depositors at the expense of the smaller fry. Big corporations were rescued while workers and the lower middle class were unable to get at what small savings they had.

Roosevelt's much-heralded system of 'public works'—the so-called Works Progressive Administration—employed relatively few workers at low wages. The scheme declined between elections and miraculously revived as voting time drew near.

FDR's other 'reform' was the famous Section 7a of the National Industrial Recovery Act (NRA). This affirmed workers' rights to organize, bargain collectively and pick union representatives free from employer interference. Roosevelt was, in fact, hostile to 7a but agreed to it in order to placate the union leaders who could deliver the union votes.

NRA's real aim was to suspend the 'anti-trust laws' in return for voluntary agreements on wages, hours and competition. These 'codes', as they were called, operated against the workers by giving the employers

wide powers to fix wages.

The car industry code contained a 'merit clause', which in practice meant an open shop and discrimination against trade unionists under the guise of 'individual merit'. Company unions flourished in practically every industry under NRA.

Far from being a 'reform', it ushered in five years of the most violent onslaughts ever experienced by US labour. Many workers were killed on picket lines and thousands were wounded. Those arrested numbered thousands.

Yet the AFL leaders remained timid, conservative and conciliatory to the government and the employers. They were assisted by the Stalinists who, in 1933, were applying the sectarian 'Third Period' tactic.

Militant workers under Stalinist influence were pulled out of the mass unions—condemned as 'socialist fascists'—and wasted their energies in abortive attempts to form 'revolutionary' unions.

But the next step forward came precisely from these workers in the mass organizations, despite their leaders' conservatism. The working-class upsurge which swept Hoover out and Roosevelt in also produced the 1934 strike-wave.

The unions began to pick up strength. In 1933, the United Mine Workers recruited 300,000 in two months. The International Ladies Garment Workers' Union pulled in 150,000.

Then came three of the most important struggles ever seen—the Toledo Electric Auto-Lite strike, the Minneapolis Truck Drivers' strikes and the San Francisco general strikes.

The Auto-Lite workers struck in February 1934, and stayed out, despite the AFL leadership.<sup>1</sup> In defiance of a court injunction, 10,000 workers and unemployed manned the picket lines and fought pitched battles with fists, rocks and iron bars against police, scabs and National Guardsmen.

A week later, 40,000 workers and unemployed demonstrated through Toledo. The company capitulated, granted considerable wage increases and recognized the union.

Minneapolis was a notorious open-shop town run by the employers' organization, the 'Citizens' Alliance'. Here, the union of coalyard workers, organized within Local 574 of the AFL's International Brotherhood of Teamsters, closed the coalyards in February 1934 and won recognition of the union, in defiance of an instruction from its national president—Daniel Tobin—not to strike.

## Flight of the entire police force

The Minneapolis struggle was led throughout by the Trotskyists,<sup>2</sup> and a second strike was called when the employers' refused to deal with the union. Police reinforcements were called in, 2,200 special deputies sworn in and armed strike-breakers recruited.

On May 21 and 22 a two-day battle raged through the Minneapolis streets and ended in the flight of the entire police force and deputies. This fight was named by the strikers 'The Battle of Deputies Run'.

Three days after this, the bosses capitulated again. (This did not prevent the Stalinists from issuing a leaflet condemning the strike leaders as 'bosses' agents!)

Again the employers went back on their pledges and a third strike began in July. This time Governor Olsen declared martial law. Two workers were killed in



John L. Lewis, Mineworkers' President, later founding President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations

a police ambush and over 100 others—including the leaders of Local 574—were jailed. 40,000 people demonstrated at the funerals of the murdered men and a similar crowd marched in protest at the arrests.

For the third and final time the employers gave in, and Minneapolis was unionized.

Overlapping the Minneapolis strikes was the San Francisco general strike involving 125,000 workers. This began with 10,000 W coast members of the AFL's International Longshoremen's Association.<sup>3</sup> Again police, thugs and anti-strike vigilantes were used. ILA President Joseph Ryan and AFL President William Green sought unsuccessfully to stop the struggle.

After 11 weeks, the union bureaucrats managed to end the strike with a compromise settlement, but within a year the main demand—union control over hiring halls—had been won up and down the W coast.

These massive struggles indicated that the working class was fighting back, not by defending narrow craft privilege, but by using its mass class strength.

Where the AFL leaders retained the reins in their hands, workers' conditions were driven down and the unions weakened. Company unions mushroomed in the car industry and AFL membership dropped from 100,000 to 20,000.

The AFL's Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers—forced to accept company unions and repeated wage cuts—declined in membership from 100,000 to 5,300.

In the rubber industry a similar retreat occurred when AFL leaders prevented a strike of 30,000 rubber workers in Akron.

In the textile industry 400,000 members of the AFL's United Textile Workers struck work. The bulk of these were in the deep S, where wages were as low as \$3 to \$4 a week. The AFL leaders called the strike off on the basis of Roosevelt's promise to 'survey' the industry's problems.

Subsequently employers black-listed more than 15,000 United Textile members.

It was clear that the AFL leaders' narrow craft outlook, conservatism and class collaboration could not protect workers, particularly in the mass production industries.

The final impulse towards the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) came from car-workers at the Toledo Chevrolet

(General Motors) transmission plant. Voting to join the AFL union, they struck for recognition in April, 1935.

Within a week 35,000 Chevrolet workers were out in Cleveland, Norwood, Cincinnati and Atlanta, Georgia. A compromise settlement was forced on the strikers, with the aid of the AFL leaders, particularly President William Green and his personal representative Francis Dillon.

Nevertheless, by March 1935, pressure from the federal auto locals forced the AFL Executive Committee to agree to the establishment of an auto workers' international union.

Toledo militants launched a campaign for 'an international union organized on industrial lines with full jurisdiction over all who work in or around automobile or automobile parts plants'. They demanded that union dues be kept as low as possible. (The AFL maintained high union dues in order to exclude the unskilled, lower-paid workers) and that the union's officers should receive pay on a par with the wages of its members.

The convention was held and the union launched, though Green and Dillon dominated the convention bureaucratically and imposed their rule on the new union.

The following month, the rubber workers also formed an industrial union and the more conservative AFL leaders began to get restless.

Teamsters' President Daniel Tobin expressed the hatred and fear which these leaders felt for the workers now forcing their way into the unions. He described them as 'rubbish, riff-raff and good-for-nothings'.

'We do not want them,' he declared, 'unless we are forced to enrol them. We do not want the men today if they are going on strike tomorrow.'

Other AFL leaders, however, wanted the industrial unions, not because they were any less conservative than Tobin, but because they could see the new movement would be more dangerous if they did not control it.

Their point of view was expressed at the AFL 1935 convention by Charles P. Howard, President of the International Typographical Union:

'The workers of this country are going to organize and if they are not permitted to organize under the banner of the American Federation of Labour they are going to organize under some other leadership . . . it

would be far more serious for our government and for the American Federation of Labour than if we can organize them and bring them under the leadership of this organization.'

However, the Convention refused by 18,000 votes to 10,000 to undertake the organization of the unorganized.

But the tension generated by the question was expressed in an incident involving Mineworkers' President John L. Lewis and Carpenters' President William ('Big Bill') Hutcheson. Lewis laid out Hutcheson with a hefty punch on the jaw in the middle of the Convention!

## The organizing of workers

A minority of union leaders, headed by Lewis, met after the Convention and constituted themselves as the Committee for Industrial Organization—with the aim of organizing workers in the mass production and unorganized industries.

Unions involved in this included the United Mine Workers, the International Typographical Union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, the Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' Union, the Textile Workers, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers, and the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

The CIO remained with the AFL until 1938. In November 1936, the AFL began to suspend unions associated with the Committee. In addition to most of the unions mentioned above, organizations suspended included the Auto Workers, the Rubber Workers and the Glass Workers' unions.

The suspended unions held a constitutional convention in October 1938 where the name Congress of Industrial Organizations was adopted. John L. Lewis was its founding president.

The CIO had arrived.

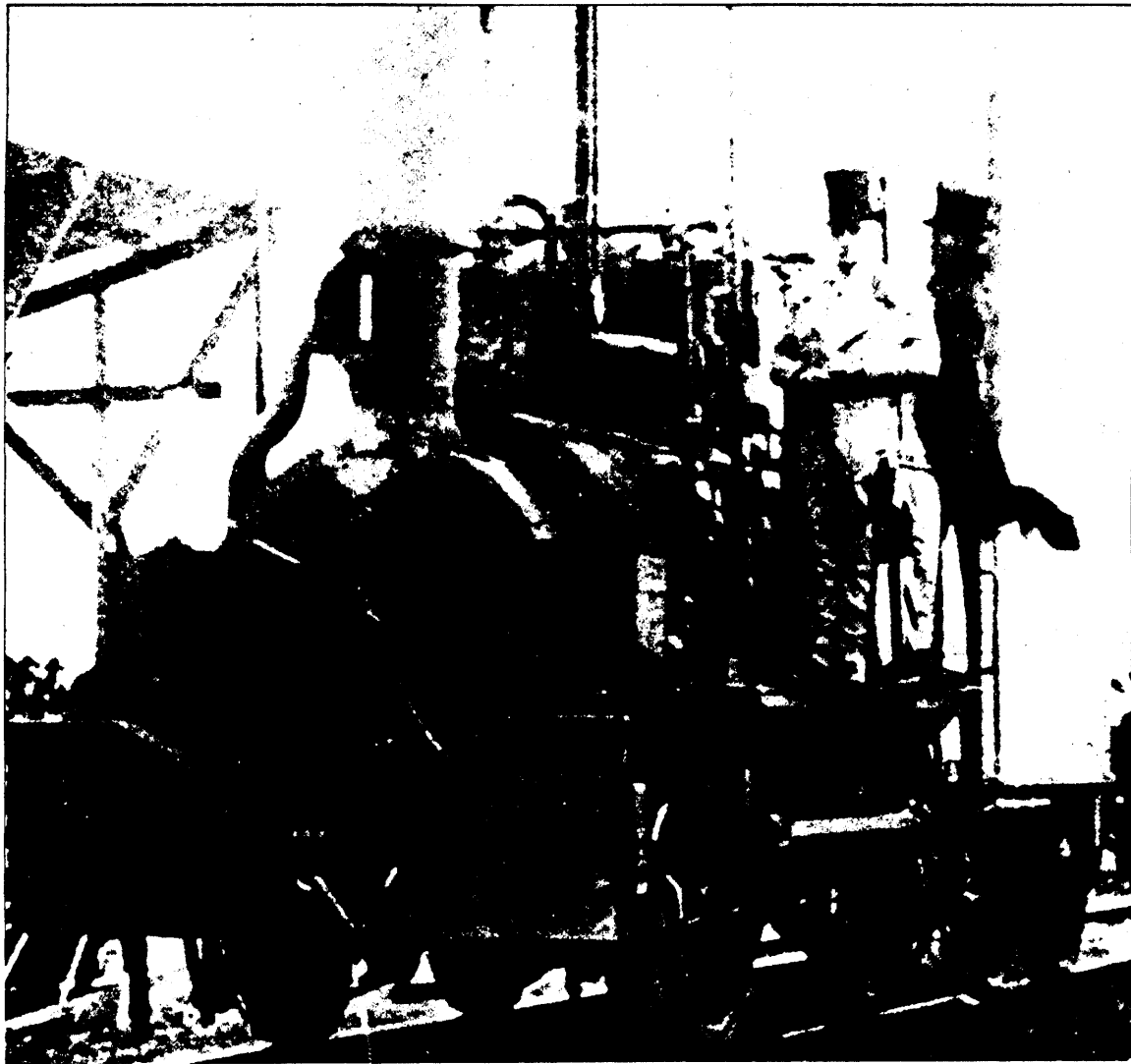
<sup>1</sup> For a full description of the Auto-Lite strike, see Louis F. Budenz 'Challenge to the New Deal'.

<sup>2</sup> For a full account of the Minneapolis strikes, see James P. Cannon 'History of American Trotskyism'.

<sup>3</sup> For a full account see Frederick J. Lang 'Maritime: A History and Programme'.

<sup>4</sup> Art Preis 'Labour's Giant Step', p. 41.





# BIG ON PICTURES SHORT ON ANALYSIS

Review by Tom Kemp

The touchstone of any account of the Industrial Revolution is how well it shows the process to have been a necessary outcome of the previous development of capitalism and the carrying through of the bourgeois revolution in the 17th century.

Non-Marxist treatments of this transformation try to explain it in different terms.

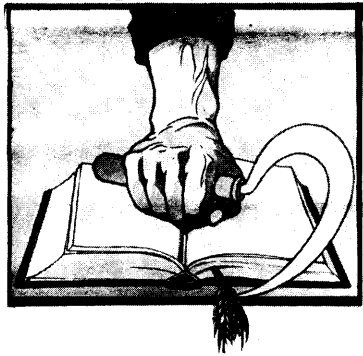
In this book we find the stress laid on the surface appearances of economic change. As Dawson puts it: 'The rate of growth and the enormous scale of production are the essential features of the Industrial Revolution.'

Much of the book is thus an expansion of this point in text and in illustrations.

Dawson provides a competent and concise summary of what is now the orthodox academic view of this period. What has to be explained, however, is why, at this time, capital accumulation, if it were not to come to a stop, had to find expression in the unprecedented development of the productivity of social labour through the application of new techniques.

This can only be done by considering the primitive accumulation of capital which occupied a lengthy preparatory period during which a landless proletariat was created and the conditions provided for the

## BOOK REVIEW



'THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION'. By Keith Dawson. Panorama of History Series. Pan Books. 40p.

emergence of an industrial bourgeoisie.

For Dawson 'it is refreshing to be able to say that above all the Industrial Revolution rested on the vision, the daring and the inventiveness of individual human beings'. This is to see it from the standpoint of the capitalists. It makes it as smooth and orderly as the pictures in this book.

It would be truer to say that the Industrial Revolution rested on the expropriation of the English peasantry and the ruthless exploitation of the working class which slaved in the mines and factories to enable the industrial capitalists to enrich themselves.

No writer dealing with the Industrial Revolution can altogether avoid dealing with its seamy side—the grim housing conditions in the early industrial towns, the child labour, the poverty and low wages. All these receive a mention in the closing pages of Dawson's account.

But he passes them off rather easily: 'The economic advances were bound to bring radical changes to the structure of society, but no one was able to anticipate what these changes might be and plan accordingly.'

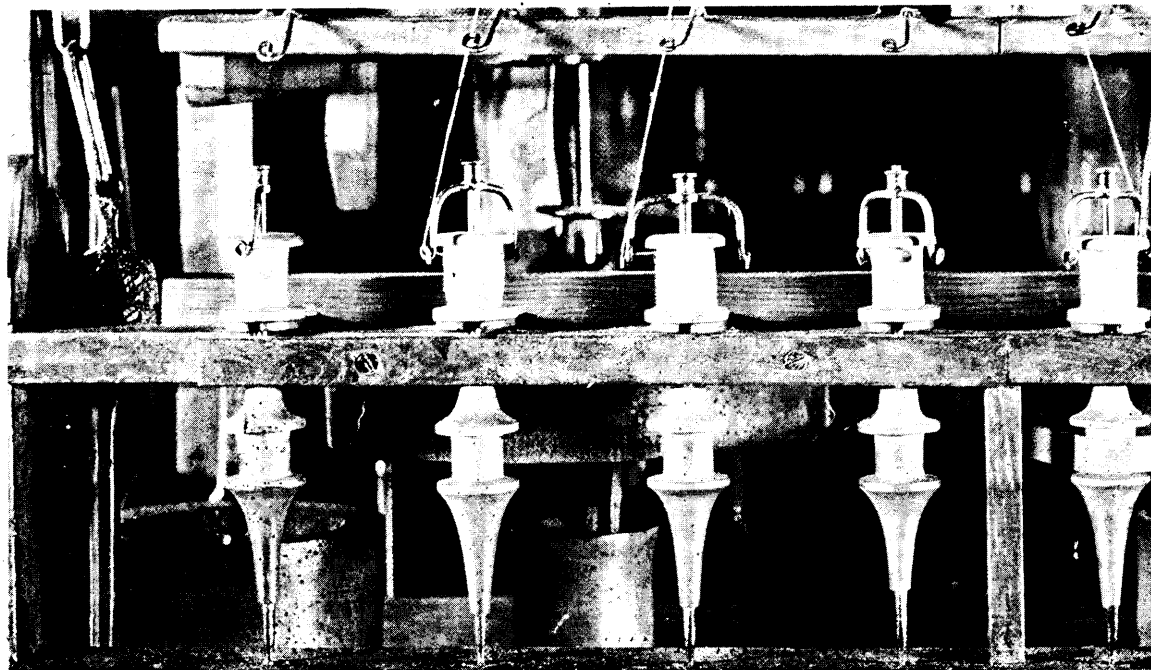
At the end Dawson manages to mention Marx and Engels who, he claims, 'predicted that the first proletarian revolution would be made in England'.

'It was avoided,' he continues, 'by a combination of good luck, rapidly-increasing prosperity, and intelligent and pragmatic government.'

The luck, if luck it was, was all to the advantage of the possessing classes.

A reader who wants to know how academic historians see the Industrial Revolution will find that this book will save them reading other bigger tomes and he gets some good illustrations thrown in. If he wants to understand what the Industrial Revolution was really about he will have to go back to Marx's 'Capital' Volume One.

Illustrations from the book. Above: George Stephenson's Rocket. Below: Spinning Jenny.



# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## NEW LIFE

The history of two leaflets: A saga in two parts.

**Act I: The LSE a week ago.** Walking through the august corridors of learning I was handed a leaflet which announced on its cover: 'MINERS' STRIKE: Communist interpretation.'

A rank-and-file document, I thought. On opening it I was delighted to see that Workers Press was liberally mentioned. Recognition, at last?

The leaflet quoted our front-page article which declared: 'The main lesson of the miners' strike is that industrial action by itself is not enough.'

'This must be mobilized under the leadership of Marxism. Time is now very much of the essence. The government of Heath has lost a battle, but not the war. Next time they and their class must be defeated for good.'

But the next page of the leaflet revealed that the publishers were not reprinting our material out of respect for its political inciseness. The authors of the leaflet revealed they belonged to 'a Christian mission engaged in a ministry of helping those already enslaved by communism'.

It went on: 'We see, therefore, that our nation is facing a grave crisis in which Godless revolutionary forces are aiming at nothing less than the overthrow of the government and the establishment of a revolutionary dictatorship.'

Have we anything to fear from these Bible-bashers? The leaflet explains: 'We are commanded by our Lord to love our enemies. However, our love for God and for our fellow man demands also that we expose the deeds and intentions of evil men.'

'St Paul says: "Take no part in unfruitful works of darkness but instead expose them".'

The leaflet ended with this inscription: 'If you can use more of these leaflets please write to us for them'—Christian Mission to the Communist World, at a Kent address.

**Act II: Speakers Corner, Hyde Park.**

A frantic looking girl is standing at the entrance to the park pushing leaflets into everybody's hands. I take one. It tells me in a bold (mauve-coloured) headline: 'NEW LIFE FOR YOU'.

But there's no 'new life' that I could find, only the words to an awful poem. The first three verses—that was all

I could manage—said:  
'I trudged the streets of London town,  
I wandered round and round and round.

A hashish pedlar came to me,  
He said his weed would set me free.

'And I was reeling in a daze,  
I saw no light through all the haze.

You told me Christ was crucified  
And rose again; I said you lied.

'I went into a public bar  
Where men were talking of class war.

I joined a rebel Marxist band  
And spread their hatred through the land.'

This rubbish carried the footnote urging me to 'repent and believe the gospel.'

What intrigued me, however, was the appeal to write to:

'Tony Pearce.' And what is his address? Why the same one in Kent, of course.

Mr Pearce is certainly turning out some literature.

One is flagrantly anti-communist (and says so) while the other pretends to be solely religious.

## STAR



David Frost

CIVILIZATION has at last spread to the far-flung corners of the globe—and Australia and New Zealand.

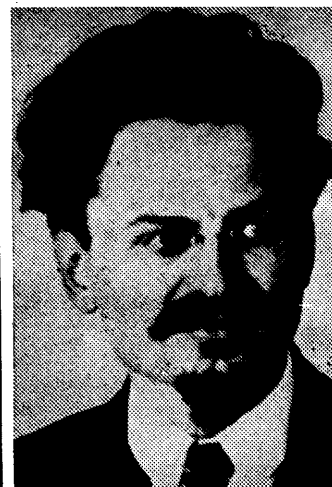
David Frost has just announced he will star in a cabaret show in Sydney and Auckland. It will be called 'An Evening with David Frost'.

What a way to spend an evening!

## SHOT

AMERICA the Beautiful. News item from Reuter's: 'A black detective with 19 years on the force and eight departmental commendations was shot and killed today by a white traffic patrolman who apparently thought he was a criminal.'

# BOOKS



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**NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS**  
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London SW4 7UG.

# Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

## No illusions in Labour's 'opposition'

BY PHILIP WADE

LEWISHAM Labour Party in S London has had to re-think its attitude to the Housing Finance Bill under mass pressure from tenants in the area.

The council, which is Labour controlled, had already voted to implement the terms of the Bill if it became law. Fifteen Labour councillors voted against.

But last week a meeting of the Labour group decided to reverse this decision while tenants from several associations lobbied outside. The whole question will come before the council again on April 26.

Chairman of the New Evelyn Tenants' Association is John Bays. This new estate in Deptford is entirely constructed in prefabricated concrete slabs. For his three-bedroom maisonette, Mr Bays is already paying £7.32 following a recent rates increase.

'Come October and it could be £8.32 and next year £9.32. That's diabolical.

'The one aim of this Bill is to increase rents as high and as often as possible. The whole concept of housing as a social service is being knocked.

'The Tories keep boasting about the rebates you can get. But you'll still have to pay an increase no matters. The only way you will benefit is if you have eight children and earn about £15 a week.



John Bays outside his Deptford home

'In any case the idea of a means test is a liberty. It's wrong to have to be in a position to apply for one,' said Mr Bays, who has been unemployed since last October.

'We're more or less stuck here in this concrete jungle and now they're saying to the ordinary tenant: "Your rent's going up—and if you don't like it you can get out."

'And we have no redress about the increases. Once the new rent's fixed, that's that—there's no appeal.'

Mr Bays was sceptical about the lack of a clear lead from the Labour Party locally and nationally on the 'fair rents' Bill.

'When we sent three coachloads up to the House of Commons lobby it was 10 p.m. before we saw our MP. He told us that what we needed was a petition.

'Many of the Labour councillors talk big when they're in opposition. But when the ball is in their court they're not so hot.

'For example, last year's chairman of the housing committee always proclaimed Labour would never sanction rent increases if they got control of the council. Yet he was one of the first to vote for the

implementation of the Bill when it came before the council.

'In politics today, representatives seem to do what they want and not what the people elected them to do. We don't vote for the individual, we vote for what the party stands for.

'If Labour councils do decide to refuse to implement the Bill it will be no good us sitting back—we've got to keep pressurizing them to make them keep their word.

'We certainly won't be able to defeat the Bill on the basis of individual associations. We need a massive, national action, one that is sort of continuous. But I don't think the Tories will drop the Bill.

'I suppose the only alternative is a change of government. The Housing Finance Bill could bring the Tories down. If tenants support the councillors, the government couldn't make it work.

'We would need 100 per cent support from the trade unions. The next few months will be crucial. It is not going to be something we'll accept without fighting.

'Housing has to revert to being a social service. I think one way that

The Tory government has introduced to parliament the Housing Finance Bill which will double council rents. The hated Bill will destroy the right to decent housing at reasonable rents for millions of working-class families. Like unemployment, the Industrial Relations Act and the rising food price bonanza, the Bill forms part of deliberate Tory policy to drive down the standard of living of the working class.

### UNDER THE BILL:

- EVERY local authority and new town corporation has to charge a 'fair rent' for the first time. Rents will be geared to market value—what an estate agent thinks a property is worth.
- AVERAGE RENTS will double on government's own estimate. In London rents of £3.50 (plus rates) will rise to over £7 (plus rates).
- RENTS FIXED by committee of property men and lawyers. No appeal. They have the right to inspect council houses. Penalty for obstructing them: £50 fine.
- LOCAL AUTHORITIES are obliged to begin raising rents on October 1, with a compulsory increase of £1 this year and 75p next year.
- COUNCILS REFUSING to raise rents and operate the Act can be deprived of all housing powers. These will be assumed by government Housing Commission. Refusal by councillors to supply Commissioner with information could mean fines of up to £400.
- MEANS TESTS will be imposed on tenants wanting rent rebates. Assessment will be made on gross income of the highest earner in the family. Changes in earnings must be notified every six months.
- HOUSING REVENUE accounts will move into surplus and half of this will be taken by the government. In three or four years tenants will be paying an extra £500 million in rents.
- PRIVATE TENANTS—1.3 million of them—living in controlled properties: Decontrol begins from next January and their rents will be raised to 'fair' levels.
- DISCUSSION on the Bill was cut short by the Tories on March 29. It has now finished its committee stage in the House of Commons. Three more days are left for the report and third reading stages before it goes to the House of Lords.

a Labour government could solve this is cut all councils' repayments to the financiers. It should clear the slate clean—wipe out all the debts to the moneylenders, all the interest charges.

'And a law should be passed restricting the moneylenders from charging such huge interest rates,' said Mr Bays.

## Phenomenal rise in house prices — 30 p.c. a year!

HOUSE prices are now rising at the phenomenal rate of 30 per cent a year, said the Nationwide Building Society yesterday.

Last year prices rose by 20 per cent. But already in the first three months of 1972 there has been an average increase of 7 per cent.

The biggest increase was for older properties which went up by 8 per cent. New houses rose 7½ per cent in price and modern dwellings 6 per cent.

The average prices of new property mortgaged with the society exceeded £5,000 while in London the figure shot above £10,000 for the first time.

The rapid inflation in house prices has been gathering pace over the last 18 months. In the first half of 1971 the rate was about 4 per cent. In the second half it had increased to 6 per cent.

The society blames land prices

for the increase in house prices.

In London and the S they estimate one-third of the selling price is accounted for by land prices.

While people are being forced to pay £10,000 and over for a new house, the Society's chief general manager, Mr Leonard Williams, doesn't think they are being priced out of the market.

'Young people were generally able to save the necessary deposit, and initial mortgage repayments could often be made out of the joint incomes of husband and wife,' he said.

With young couples perhaps paying over their entire income for a house, land and property speculators have never had it so good. And this is before the passing of the Housing Finance Bill.

If that goes through, prices will be further inflated as more and more tenants are driven out of council housing into the private housing market.

## Lancaster sit-in: Police papers with the DPP

A REPORT naming nine students has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions following a student sit-in at Lancaster university. The leader of the students' union is among those on the list.

It is believed that charges following a police investigation may include 'conspiracy to commit a trespass'.

Chairman of the Students' Representative Council, Mike Murray, who is among those named in the report, says that the SRC is consulting a lawyer from the National Council for Civil Liberties for advice.

The sit-in arose as a result of moves by the university authorities to dismiss a left-wing lecturer Dr David Craig. This followed a strike involving the majority of students in the university. They were complaining about:

THE AFFAIRS in the English Department.

THE REFUSAL to grant permanent tenure to two of the teaching staff—

they were both given notice.

THE PLACING of another lecturer on a 'probationary year' on the grounds that he did not yet have the 'right attitude'.

It was also widely believed that David Craig, a Communist Party member, had been the victim of political discrimination in the department, and that the moves against the other staff were part of the same pattern.

The strike, organized by meetings in each department, brought out 20 of the university's 24 departments.

During the strike, the students organized 'alternative seminars', involving a critical discussion of their subjects.

But a proposal to declare a 'free university' was rejected by the students on the grounds that it would be a diversion from the struggle.

On Wednesday, March 22, reacting to the strike, the university vice-Chancellor Charles F. Carter, announced that Dr Craig was to face charges of 'disruptive activities'.

He would be brought before a university

tribunal which would decide on his dismissal.

The following day, a mass meeting of about 1,000 students voted to stage a 24-hour occupation of the University administration building and the computer centre.

Last week, university secretary Stephen Jeffereys said proceedings would be instituted before a university tribunal against 'students identified as having taken a significant part in the occupation of the administration and computer buildings on March 23 and March 24'.

They could face expulsion. Others might also face a court action instead.

Dr Craig has now been suspended on full pay until his case is decided.

A motion for his dismissal will be discussed by the University Council on May 2. It is understood he will probably be legally represented at the meeting.

The University Council is a body on which various outside interests, as well as the university authorities are represented.

Some 90 teaching staff at the University have signed a letter

expressing their 'disquiet' at the authorities' handling of recent affairs.

They have sent this to the Pro-Chancellor, who presides over the University Council.

This post was formerly held by the 18th Earl of Derby, a prominent Lancashire Tory, but he resigned last year.

His successor is Lord Greenwood of Rossendale—the former Labour MP Anthony Greenwood.

He was at one time prominent in such activities as the CND, and the Movement for Colonial Freedom, but he went on to become Colonial Secretary in the Wilson government.

It may be interesting to watch his role in this university dispute.

In the meantime, building alterations are taking place in University House, the administration building.

Strong, heavy doors are being fitted at various points, and a steel gate is being installed on the main stairs leading to the administrative offices.

The students are due to hold another mass meeting at the beginning of next term.

### Accident change

LORD POLWORTH has stepped down as chairman of General Accident, Britain's biggest motor insurance group, after being made Minister of State at the Scottish Office in last week's cabinet re-shuffle. At the Perth headquarters the directors elected deputy-chairman Mr I. H. Stuart Black to take Lord Polworth's place.

### Non-strikers register

BRITAIN'S newest teachers' organization, the non-striking Professional Association of Teachers, has provisionally registered under the Industrial Relations Act. The 3,500-strong Professional Association of Teachers was founded after the teachers' strikes of 1970 and is against militant action.

# JUST OFF THE PRESS - ORDER NOW

## TWO PAMPHLETS AND A MAGAZINE

'Fourth International' is the journal of international Marxism published by the International Committee of the Fourth International. 25p (post 3½p)  
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# TV

## BBC 1

9.45 The Herbs. 10.00 Champion the Wonder Horse. 10.25 Parsley. 10.30 Canoe. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 11.45 State Visit of the Queen of the Netherlands. 12.55 Fo a Fe. 1.30 Along the River. 1.45 News, weather. 2.20 State Visit. 3.20 Good Sailing. 3.50 The Countryman. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Animal Magic. 5.20 Craven's News Round. 5.25 It's the Wolf. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 News, weather.  
**6.00 NATIONWIDE.**  
 6.45 **TELEVISION TOP OF THE FORM.** Welshpool v Llanelli.  
**7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD.**  
**7.30 HOLLYWOOD PREMIERE: 'STRANGER ON THE RUN.'** Henry Fonda, Anne Baxter. Down-and-out drifter arrives in tough railroad town to help the sister of a friend.  
**9.00 NEWS, weather.**  
**9.20 A PLACE OF YOUR OWN.** Documentary on building societies.

10.10 **FILM 72.**  
 10.40 **24 HOURS.**  
 11.15 **THE BITTER SANDS.** Patrick Garland reads from 'The Desert Fathers'.

## ITV

12.35 Habatales. 12.50 Time to Remember. 1.15 House and Garden. 1.45 Racing from Newmarket. 2.15 Houseparty. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 2.55 Racing. 3.45 Danger Man. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Junior Showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.  
**6.00 TODAY.**  
**6.30 CROSSROADS.**  
**6.55 DES.** Des O'Connor with Johnny Vyvan.  
**7.25 FILM: 'LAST OF THE COMANCHES.'** Broderick Crawford, Barbara Hale, Lloyd Bridges. Western.  
**9.00 A PLACE IN THE SUN.** Andromeda or Else.  
**10.00 NEWS.**  
**10.30 ARTHUR C. CLARKE.** Documentary.  
**11.25 DRIVE IN.**  
**11.55 THE LAW IS YOURS.**

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University. 6.35 Computers in Business. 7.05 Open University. 7.30 **NEWSROOM, Weather.**  
**8.00 INTERNATIONAL GOLF.** The 1972 United States Masters Tournament.  
**8.50 WHEELBASE.**  
**9.20 THE PRICE OF LOVE.** By Arnold Bennett. £1,000 dis-

appears from Mrs. Maldon's house the night her two 'nephews' come to dinner.  
**10.40 THE QUEEN'S GALLERY.** At Buckingham Palace.  
**11.15 NEWS, Weather.**  
**11.20 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST.** Vinegar Joe, Jonathan Kelly.



Vinegar Joe try the 'Old Grey Whistle Test' on BBC 2 tonight

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 1.45 Racing. 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: 'The Golden Hawk'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.25 Drive in. 11.50 Gazette. 11.55 News, weather.  
**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.50 News. 11.54 Faith for life.  
**SOUTHERN:** 2.05 Katie Stewart. 2.30 London. 3.45 Cartoon. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Pingwings. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Sale of the century. 7.00 Film: 'Veils of Baghdad'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.25 News. 11.35 Farm progress. 12.05 Weather. Tower hill.  
**HTV:** 1.20 Phoenix. 1.45 Racing. 3.50 Junkin. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Film: 'Escape from Fort Bravo'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.30 Drive in. 12.00 Weather.  
**HTV West as above except:** 6.01 Report West.  
**HTV Wales as above except:** 4.15 Miri Mawr. 6.01 Y Dydd.  
**HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales**

plus: 10.30 Dan Sylw. 11.15 O'r Wasg.

**ANGLIA:** 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Houseparty. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.45 Racing. 3.45 Women. 4.10 News. 4.15 Mr Piper. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'McMillan and Wife'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.30 Drive in.  
**ATV MIDLANDS:** 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Stars. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Simon Locke. 4.40 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Belle Star'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.30 Who knows?  
**ULSTER:** 1.45 Racing. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Daws explores. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Reunion in France'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.25 White line.  
**YORKSHIRE:** 1.00 Rovers. 1.25 Glassbreaker. 1.30 Grasshopper island. 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Cartoon. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.55 Racing. 3.40 Scales of justice. 4.10 Calendar. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'The Red Tomahawk'. 8.30 Des. 9.00

London. 11.25 Spy force. 12.00 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 1.45 Racing. 3.55 Camera. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.25 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 Film: 'Tarzan Triumphs'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.25 Monty Nash.

**TYNE TEES:** 12.45 Mr Piper. 1.15 Bird's eye view. 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Help the disabled. 2.30 Taste and style. 2.55 Racing. 3.40 Room 222. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'The Red Tomahawk'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.25 No small change. 11.55 News. 12.10 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 1.45 Racing. 3.30 Foo Foo. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'The Tartars'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.25 Late call. 11.30 Drive in.

**GRAMPIAN:** 1.45 Racing. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Nanny. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Royal clansmen. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Loves of Carmen'. 8.30 Des. 9.00 London. 11.25 Drive in. 11.55 Epilogue.

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# SIT-IN MOVES TO OXFORD

**TWO THOUSAND** car-workers yesterday staged a sit-in strike at British-Leyland's Cowley, Oxford, body plant after management attempted to lock them out.

The lock-out attempt was made at 10 a.m. yesterday morning when the men refused to call off a work-to-rule and overtime ban they are operating over a pay dispute.

All 2,000 refused to go home

## 2,000 Marina men stop at Pressed Steel Fisher

and sat in.

Workers on bodies for the Marina and Maxi cars, the men are fighting for the national engineering pay claim in conjunction with increases of £10 a week under their annual review.

A 1,500-strong mass meeting yesterday afternoon voted overwhelmingly to reject the com-

pany's latest offer of £2.20 for day-shift workers and £10.73 for those on nights. They decided to hold another meeting today with night-shift workers in attendance.

Leyland laid off 2,850 workers on Marina and Maxi lines at the nearby car-assembly plant because of this dispute.

The men in the body factory, formerly Pressed-Steel Fisher, were warned last week that unless they lifted restrictions the company would take action.

David Buckle, Oxford district secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday the sit-in decision had been unanimous:

'The company have turned off the power and we are trying to get it restored,' he said. 'We are ready, willing and able to work.'

In a company letter last week the men were threatened that Leyland would go out of business if their claim was conceded.

## Marsh gives rail pay reply

BRITISH RAIL chairman Richard Marsh will today tell union leaders whether he and his board are going to meet their pay demands . . . or risk an all-out confrontation.

Yesterday the board spent two-and-a-half hours mulling over the unions' demand that it increase by £8.5m the £30.8m it has so far said it has available for wage increases.

The executive of at least one of the three unions involved—the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen—seems certain to call some form of industrial action if there is no improvement in the present offer.

Already militant ASLEF members in the S are acting unofficially in support of their original 16-per-cent claim.

After consolidation of bonus earnings into their basic rate, the Board's present offer would give them only 9 per cent.

Their action, which hit commuter services on British Rail's S and E regions, involves a work-to-rule, overtime ban, withdrawal of co-operation and double manning of trains not fitted with guard's van periscopes.

### MP sentenced

FRANK McMANUS, unity MP at Westminster for Fermanagh and South Tyrone was yesterday given a six-month suspended sentence and fined £50 when he pleaded guilty to taking part in an illegal anti-internment march in Armagh in January.

An Armagh court heard from his solicitor, Frank O'Neill, that McManus had not been involved with organizing the march. He had simply participated together with a large crowd of other people.

There was no public disorder resulting from the march, which was organized by the local civil rights council, he claimed.

# Battle for positions in students' union

FROM SARAH HANNIGAN IN BIRMINGHAM

**THE ELECTION** battle for National Union of Students' executive positions opened yesterday—on the first evening of the union's Birmingham conference.

And the national press and right wing and 'moderate' union executives throughout the country have sprung to the defence of Communist Party NUS president Digby Jacks.

The Liaison Committee for the Defence of Student Unions' attempt to challenge the CP-right-wing amalgam on the NUS executive has been billed as a 'Trotskyist' attempt at take-over.

The press is hoping that if their eight-member slate for top executive positions is defeated, they can then announce that 'Trotskyism' has been routed. Dominated by the so-called International Socialists and their supporters, the LCDSU was formed last November at the NUS Margate conference.

Workers Press and representatives of the Young Socialists Students' Societies, however, have consistently pointed out that the LCDSU 'left' talk against the Stalinists offers no real alternative for students who seriously want to fight the Tory government.

None of the eight LCDSU

candidates has proposed that the fight to defend student-union finances should be linked to a struggle to bring the Tory government down. They suggest an extended and more 'militant' protest campaign.

The Stalinists have already lined up the support of a new so-called 'moderate' group—the Edinburgh Movement—consisting of 15 student union presidents and local union executives.

This group says it is trying to organize a 'more co-ordinated' position to the minority who want to use the NUS for the purpose of the Communist Party and the International Socialists. Significantly, however, it claims it will seek votes for at least two of the CP executive members—president Jacks and Geoff Staniforth.

It appears the CP is the 'lesser of two evils'. Certainly neither Jacks nor Staniforth is a threat to the right wing. That is why all delegates should vote for the Liaison Committee candidates.

### Cory take-over

THE TAKEOVER battle for William Cory, the shipping and transport giant, reached a new joint offer from two rival bidders.

Jessel Securities, the financial empire headed by millionaire Oliver Jessel, has agreed to sell assets worth £8.5m to another bidder, Court Line, if the bid goes through. And Court Line has agreed to drop its £45m bid for Cory.

### BEA 'still normal'

BRITISH European Airways claimed they were still operating normally yesterday despite the pilots' pay dispute work-to-rule, now in its second week.

The British Airline Pilots' Association has planned to step up its industrial action next Saturday. The pilots and BEA management are still deadlocked over the claim for parity with BOAC pilots.

### Panda pilferer

A POLICE constable who committed burglaries while on Panda-car duty was sentenced to two-and-a-half years' imprisonment at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday.

Terence Sherrard (29), of Coychurch, Bridgend, had pleaded guilty to five charges of burglary. He also admitted possessing articles connected with house-breaking as well as causing damage to property. All the offences were committed on premises on Bridgend industrial estate.

### Bentley's pay: No action

ENGINEERING workers from the Bentley group of textile companies met 4,500-strong in Leicester yesterday to discuss next steps in their pay fight.

The demands made on the company by shop stewards are based on the engineering unions' national pay claim. But although workers came from Loughborough, Colville, Nottingham, Bromley and Leicester to yesterday afternoon's meeting no decision on action was made.

### Sackings 'frozen'

BRITISH RAIL has extended until April 30 the 'freezing' of all redundancy notices. The deadline had been set at last Thursday, April 6, to allow a redundancy agreement to be settled. The railway unions asked for an extension because the pay talks had kept negotiators from both sides tied up.

Talks on redundancy are designed to ease the lot of those affected under British Rail's plans to phase out 20,000 jobs in the next four years.

## £1,250 APRIL FUND REACHES £222.43

THIS MONTH we are determined to raise a record amount for our Appeal Fund. As the Industrial Relations Act looms over every struggle, the urgent issue remains to force this government to resign. Hundreds of trade unionists everywhere are becoming more involved each day in this fight.

Workers Press is decisive today in developing a revolutionary leadership to lead this battle. We urge all our readers to make therefore a great effort this month for our Fund. Our expenses are constantly going up and we need everything you can raise. So press ahead immediately. Post all your donations to:

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

### LATE NEWS

NEWS DESK  
01-720 2000  
CIRCULATION  
01-622 7029

SCOTLAND and N Ireland will have showers or longer periods of rain with some bright intervals. The showers will be locally heavy with hail and thunder.

England and Wales will have showers and sunny periods. The showers will be squally and locally heavy, especially in W districts.

Temperatures will be near or slightly below the seasonal average in the S, but it will be rather cold in the N.

Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: Sunny intervals and showers followed by a period of more continuous rain. Temperatures near normal in the S, but rather cold at first in the N.

### TOMORROW

An assessment of the Young Socialists' 12th annual conference held in Scarborough last weekend. Plus the full text of the YS Right-to-Work marchers' letter to the UCS co-ordinating committee explaining why the youth were returning a £100 cheque donated to the YS campaign.

Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists

## MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION

Sunday May 7

ASSEMBLE: 1.30 p.m. The Embankment, Charing Cross

MARCH: via Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly, Regent Street, Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road, Euston Road

MEETING: 4 p.m. St Pancras Town Hall.

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