

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY APRIL 14, 1972 ● No. 739 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## T&GWU STILL FACED WITH £5,000 TO PAY

# TUC RETREATS ON ANTI-UNION FINE

BY ALEX MITCHELL

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How is it that Jones, the chief administrator of Britain's largest union, didn't know that the Industrial Relations Act was empowered to fine unions and imprison individual members?

After all, the batteries of lawyers and researchers at Transport House have had more than 12 months to examine the Act word by word.

Now Jones is to ask TUC general secretary Victor Feather what to do. But does Feather know anything more than Jones?

What will the luminaries of the TUC's general council be able to advise? How much do they know about the Act?

When the Act came into force six weeks ago, other major unions, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, issued a circular to all members advising them to 'ignore' the Act. Authorized by AUEW general secretary Jim Conway, the document stated:

'Wherever possible we must encourage employers to ignore the Act and treat the whole thing as one large party political irrelevancy. Best advice—know about the Act, but ignore it and continue to operate trade union activities as before.'

It is in the language of this circular that we see the treacherous politics of reformism. 'Ignore' the Act, 'operate as before'—when the Act represents a body of law, capitalist law, legislated in both houses of parliament by the Tory government to smash trade union organization and pick off militants.

Didn't Feather, Jones and Scanlon know the true meaning of the Act?

Of course they did. But because they are utterly unwilling to fight the Tory government, they allowed the Tories to inch the Act onto the statute books throughout the whole of last year.

Now the Act is law, the open collaboration by the trade union leaders commences. Three examples:

- Alex Kitson, T&GWU executive officer and one time candidate for the general secretaryship of the Labour Party, has secretly visited the offices of the Commission on Industrial Relations to hold talks with the director of industrial relations, Alan Scoular.
- Clive Jenkins of ASTMS is co-operating with the CIR and Sir John Donaldson's National Industrial Court into the union recognition row at the Newcastle engineering firm, C. A. Parsons.
- The Bakers' Union has agreed an

agency shop with the bakery employers, thus permitting the possibility of non-unionists to operate in the industry.

The informal collaboration is occurring on a much broader scale. On May 17 at the Café Royal in Regent St, Hugh Scanlon and Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, will discuss the Act at a business seminar along with Professor John Wood of the CIR and Eddie Robertson, director of research at the Engineering Employers' Federation.

The one-day seminar costs £25 a head. The fee to Scanlon and Fisher is not revealed. (Full report on this conference will appear in tomorrow's Workers Press.)

We have no confidence whatsoever in the present trade union leadership to fight the Act. The alarm must be sounded throughout the trade union movement warning of a dangerous retreat before the Act.

The 'Financial Times' said yesterday: 'On balance it seems likely that the TUC general council will recommend that the T&GWU should pay the £5,000 fine and will claim that this does not upset the union's overall policy of non-cooperation with the Act in general and the NIRC in particular.'

The union leaders may well also decide that unions should not in the future fall foul of Sir John Donaldson, the NIRC president, and be held in contempt just because they are upholding TUC policy.

If, for example, the T&GWU had attended the legal action, the course of the case may well have been different.

With this treacherous shift of policy on the cards, what are the dangers for rank-and-file members?

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'The shop stewards in our major ports are now following a course in the container haulage blacking issue which will bring them into direct conflict with the law of this country. The outcome is certain—defiance of the courts can only lead to fines and imprisonment for those who for too long have felt that they can act outside of the law.'

The meaning is clear. If militants, the best of the trade unionists, attempt to defend their jobs, they will be taken to court.

If workers protest about speed-up, they'll be taken off too.

In plain words, shop stewards have no protection at all now the anti-union law is activated. While they are being picked off by the courts, the right wing will be strengthening its hold in the unions.

Only by building the All Trades Unions Alliance with workers from all trade unions can the present leadership be stopped from staging a retreat; only in the ATUA are socialist policies for the working class fought for within the trade unions.

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'Wherever shift workers are not at work prior to 4 p.m. other workers must be prepared to undertake work which the absent shift workers would have undertaken.'

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AROUND THE WORLD

# Big victories claim by N Vietnamese



**THE HIGH Command of the S Vietnamese National Liberation Front has ordered its troops to dash forward and win total victory, the Giap-hong press agency reported yesterday.**

'Our armed forces and people are recording big victories on all battlefields,' the agency said.

Morale of the Saigon troops was sagging seriously and many big units of the S Vietnamese army were surrendering or refusing to fight, it added.

BY OUR FOREIGN DESK

N Vietnamese units, spear-headed by captured US tanks, yesterday stormed the town of An Loc, capital of Binh Long province only 56 miles from Saigon.

It was the first time the town itself had come under attack although it has been besieged for more than a week by up to 5,000 N Vietnamese and NLF troops.

After an urgent call for help by the town's defenders, waves of American jets dive-bombed the N Vietnamese tanks and helicopter gunships strafed the invading troops.

By midday, however, half the city was reported in N Vietnamese hands and a military spokesman in Saigon said 'the outlook there is very bad'.

An Loc is cut off completely from Saigon, and a huge government relief column was despatched several days ago to break the siege.

However, the column is pinned down on Highway 13 at a distance of 11 miles from An Loc and is making no headway.

Reuters' correspondent Jose Katigbak reported yesterday the relief column had moved only five miles in the last 36 hours.

He wrote: 'By midday today, the [S Vietnamese] tanks had not moved an inch from where I saw them yesterday.'

'The only movement they seemed to execute was to deploy themselves in new positions every time a mortar or rocket shell landed nearby.'

The S Vietnamese found it impossible to reinforce their garrison in An Loc by helicopter because of the intense anti-aircraft fire around the town.

Lt-Gen Nguyen Van Minh, commander of the S Vietnamese forces around Saigon, said yesterday the aim of the N Vietnamese offensive was to hold Binh Long province.

To gain control of the entire province they had only to capture Chou Thanh, 20 miles farther S, he said.

On another front, in the central highlands, there was fierce fighting at Firebase Charlie, not far from Kontum city.

Da Nang, the giant coastal airbase, also came under rocket and mortar attack, in which one spy plane with sensitive electronic equipment was destroyed and three others badly damaged. Ten GIs were wounded.

## PERON TO RETURN FOR POLL?

THE REQUEST by exiled President Juan Peron to be allowed to stand in the next general elections in Argentina deepens the crisis of Gen Lanusse's military regime.

Peron's request, forwarded by the Argentine ambassador in Madrid, Rojas Silveyra, ends years of prevarication by Peron as to whether he wanted to return or not.

Now 76, he was deposed in 1955 and expelled from the army for 'demagoguery and inciting the burning of the national flag and churches'.

The only man who can lift the ban on Peron and return his passport is President Lanusse, who was himself jailed for four years by the Peron regime.

On Wednesday, Jorge Gianola, the secretary general of the Peronista Justicialista Party, said Peron's request had taken him by surprise.

Last week the way was opened for Peron when a remaining charge of treason and a warrant for his arrest was lifted by the Argentine courts.

The Argentine employers badly need to use Peron's influence over the trade unions to disorient the present wave of strikes and militancy.

## Court forces El Al strikers back

AN UNOFFICIAL strike by maintenance workers of the Israeli national airline El Al, and a walk-out in sympathy by mechanics, clerks, ground hostesses and drivers, ended yesterday in the face of stiff government sanctions.

The strike, for more pay, was the most serious in the history of Israeli labour relations.

The workers were ordered back after three days on strike by a Labour Relations Court.

Fines, increasing hourly, were imposed by the court on the grounds that refusal to obey the back-to-work order was contempt of court. The strikers are now back at work but conducting a go-slow.

W GERMAN chancellor Willy Brandt faced renewed opposition to ratification of his treaties with the Soviet Union and Poland following a meeting with Christian Democrat leader Rayner Barzel early yesterday.

The two men failed to reach agreement on ratification of the 20-month-old treaties and Barzel said afterwards his critical attitude to the pacts had hardened.

## LIBYAN REGIME BANS STRIKES

THE RIGHT-WING Arab nationalist government of Col Muammar Gaddafi in Libya has decreed a total ban on strikes, both in industry and in the universities.

Breach of the decree, published earlier this week, carries a heavy fine of up to 200 dinars or an indefinite period of imprisonment 'without prejudice to a heavier penalty'.

Articles two and three of the decree state categorically: 'To leave work or refrain from doing it or to abandon any duty for the purpose of obstructing the functioning of the administrative, social or educational utilities or other utilities and services which fulfil a public need is prohibited.

'To stop studies, or to hold a sit-down strike in educational institutions for the purpose of



Gaddafi clamps down in factory and campus.

obstructing its functions or to achieve any other aim is not permitted.

'It is not permitted to resort to strikes in any form to solve disputes concerning any specific demand or aim. Such disputes are solved by cordial consultation without diminishing the jurisdiction of the judiciary.'

The law establishes a rigid system of direction of labour, under which workers can be

drafted into particular industries and their wages fixed by the government.

There are also provisions to encourage 'voluntary work in public projects dictated by the revolutionary march and the public interest'.

Libya is part of the Arab Federation with Egypt and Syria. Gaddafi's latest measure underlines the corporatist character of his military regime.

## Anti-Allende rally in Santiago

ON THE eve of the third United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Santiago, Chile, 250,000 supporters of the Chilean right staged a massive demonstration and rally against the Popular Front government of Salvador Allende.

Senate President, Christian Democrat Patricio Alwyn, called for a plebiscite on government policies and for the overthrow of Allende: 'Thousands of Chileans who never carried arms are thinking it necessary now.'

Former President Eduardo Frei made an unexpected appearance. He was given an enthusiastic reception.

The size of the rally and the arrogance of the speakers marked the advanced stage of the gathering of the forces of counter-revolution in Chile. They are the fruits of Allende's policy of appeasing the middle class by following the Chilean peaceful road to socialism.

## 'Guerrilla' Bill splits Ceylon coalition

JUNIOR Education Minister B. Y. Tudawe has been suspended from Ceylon's Communist Party central committee amid persistent indications that the Party may split from the United Front coalition government.

A CP spokesman said Tudawe had been suspended for flouting a party directive by voting with the government over the Criminal Justice Commissions Bill last week.

The Bill, passed by a two-thirds majority after only 12 hours discussion, was sharply attacked during the parliamentary debate by CP leader Dr S. A. Wickremasinghe as an attack on the fundamental rights of citizens — particularly the working class.

The measure provides for commissions of Supreme Court judges to try young left-wingers arrested after the abortive uprising 12 months ago.

The commissions will sit in secret and the defendants will effectively be presumed guilty

unless they can prove their innocence.

One of the CP's six MPs abstained on the Bill and two others were not present in the House at the time of the vote.

Housing Minister Peter Keuneman, the only CP member in the cabinet, was in Singapore.

The Stalinist MPs have been instructed to ignore requests for an explanation of their abstentions from the government Chief

Whip. The Party's opposition to the Bill places the coalition's future in doubt.

The two other coalition partners, the SLFP of Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and the renegade Trotskyists of the LSSP, both favoured the Bill.

If a split occurs, it is believed Tudawe will stay in the government, together with Keuneman, who approved the Bill in its cabinet stages.

## 54 Italian lefts charged in Genoa

JUDICIAL authorities in Genoa, Italy, have opened a case against 54 members of various Maoist and anarchist groups under article 304 of the Penal Code.

This deals with criminal activities against the integrity of the state or the government and with acts of insurrection.

The charges follow police raids on the offices of the four groups—'Red Star', 'Communist Struggle', 'Workers' Power', and 'Continual Struggle'.

Sources said the charges which carry penalties of up to six years imprisonment arose out of investigations into a left-wing

street demonstration held in Genoa last month without police authorization.

The case is part of a growing legal onslaught against the left during the run-up to the May 7 General Election.

By contrast, in Pistoia, eight police and about ten civilians were injured and 25 arrested in night-long street battles after police attacked left-wing demonstrators at an MSI fascist meeting.

Anti-fascists were heckling former NATO Admiral Gino Birindelli, the MSI's candidate in Naples.

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## Govan's savage anti-union plans

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS  
IN GLASGOW

WITH THE formal launching of Govan Shipbuilders only days away, the big question on the upper Clyde is what kind of wages and conditions will the new Tory-inspired company operate.

Agreements on an employment charter and working conditions have already been signed by union officials.

UCS shop stewards have refused to add their own signatures because of the delay over a decision that will settle the fate of the Clydebank yard.

This, however, should not be taken as a sign that they do not agree with the terms of the deal.

They have taken part in two months of amicable discussions with Govan management. They now only await the government's decision whether to give cash backing to Marathon Manufacturing—the Texan oil rig company bidding for Clydebank.

Exactly what kind of deal has been signed by the two sides is a closely-guarded secret. But a document recently issued by Govan Shipbuilders indicates the direction they wish to travel.

It is a blueprint for wage-cutting, speed-up and redundancies on the upper Clyde.

In it they propose a wage freeze until January 1973. A modification of bonus schemes that lead to 'unreasonable' escalation of earnings, and a ban on unofficial strikes.

Other demands are for shift-working and full flexibility of labour.

In particular they want to end the situation where one section of workers negotiate their own claims—a practice which has encouraged 'leap-frogging' rises in wages.

Instead Govan want to negotiate wage increases with all the yard labour force at one time.

The generally ruthless tone of their proposals is indicated by this extract which deals with the current 'work in'.

They say: 'A clear statement in writing by the unions of their desire to co-operate with the new company will be most helpful, and in this connection it is taken for granted that the "work-in" will cease when the new company starts to trade.'

'It should not be assumed that the men currently "working in" will be automatically re-employed, and shop stewards will require to revert to the situation where they were work-people first and shop stewards second.'

How far the unions and the shop stewards have agreed to this savage plan remains to be seen.

# Manchester stewards urge Scanlon to national action

FROM PHILIP WADE IN MANCHESTER

**HUGH SCANLON**, president of the AUEW, met shop stewards involved in the 23 sit-ins, lock-outs, overtime bans and strikes in the greater Manchester area at the union's Salford HQ last night.

It is believed that some stewards pressed him to lead the union in national action over the pay, hours and holiday claim.

At the same time it was thought that Martin Jukes, Engineering Employers' Federation director-general, was still in the Manchester area discussing the situation with local employers.

Shop stewards representing 1,000 workers at the Bredbury steel works, Stockport, now in the fourth week of their sit-in, have met other stewards in the GKN combine in Birmingham.

They were promised full support by the Birmingham stewards, who will be putting recommendations to their members this week.

The rolling mill at Bredbury steel works, not involved in the sit-in, is said to be running out of work and could shut down by the end of the week. The men there are members of BISAFTA, the steel men's union.

There are now 23 sit-ins, three lock-outs and two strikes involving over 22,000 engineering workers in the greater Manchester area.

The latest sit-in began in Stockport on Wednesday when 120 workers at Viking Engineering joined battle with the employers' federation.

The sit-in was sparked off on Tuesday when an electrician and former steward was suspended for a week for refusing to do work he normally doesn't do. His fellow electricians walked out with him.

By Wednesday the 120 workers at the plant decided to sit-in instead of going on strike.

'They thought from past working practices that we'd all walk out. But this time we played them at their own game,' AUEW convenor Kevin Horner told me.

The Viking workers have their own claim for a £6-a-week rise. So far they've been offered £3, but nothing on hours and only one day's extra holiday—from 1973.

Said Kevin: 'Now that Stockport and the Manchester area has shown a lead it's time for others to follow. We've also shown the way forward for the union.'

'Now that we have acted I would personally like to see the national leaders come forward and take up the claim.'

**HOSPITAL** patients are not getting the care they need, and babies are being born damaged because of a shortage of skilled staff, a group of consultants declared in London.

The consultants, senior members of the Regional Hospitals' Consultants and Specialists Association, called a press conference to express their concern about what they called a 'crisis' situation.



Engineers behind the railings in Greater Manchester's 23rd sit-in

## New push to MDW and jobs cuts

'GREATER effectiveness' in implementing new, Measured-Day Work-type pay systems is the main purpose of joint working parties between managements and shop stewards, says the Engineering Employers' Federation.

It is its 1971-1972 report just out, the EEF discusses the large number of inquiries for assistance on such systems during the year.

Most came from member companies with long-standing piecework arrangements which 'were causing serious wages drift and inflating labour costs'.

What is implied here, of course, is that the effect of any new scheme must be to cut labour forces and hold down wage increases.

The EEF goes on to set

out the problems of ensuring this:

'Lack of valid work standards, inadequacies in planning, poor control of production and stocks, ill-trained supervision and weakness in industrial engineering are factors which have been found to hamper many companies in making a change,' the report says.

'A major problem has been to convince companies that these inadequacies need to be improved before changes covering wages and conditions can be successfully implemented.'

What is needed is time. To help companies get it, the EEF has been advising companies to first draft enabling agreements which would provide a first step towards implementing the necessary changes.

The report goes on: 'These agreements have embodied clauses covering co-operation from the

workforce in establishing a joint working party to provide a basis for frank and open discussion on all aspects which will lead to greater effectiveness.

'They include an undertaking that the company will make the necessary changes to the wages structure based on establishing valid work standards by use of appropriate techniques and by determining the current and potential levels of performance.'

When union officials and shop stewards participate in joint working parties with the management of EEF firms, therefore, they are thus being cynically used to help solve the employers' problems.

The only outcome of such assistance will be wage-cutting, speed-up and the destruction of more and more jobs. We are grateful to the EEF for the warning.

## Bonus walk-out at CAV

AUTO workers at CAV's factory in Sudbury, Suffolk, walked out on Monday claiming that the management had broken a bonus agreement.

Sudbury, which makes diesel equipment, was the first plant in Britain to be fitted with the tele-control production monitoring system and is very highly automated.

The other Lucas/CAV factories are now considering 'blacking' Sudbury work.

## Crosland joins fight for deputy

ANTHONY CROSLAND announced yesterday he will run for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party. Other contenders are Michael Foot and Edward Short.

# Detective jumps bail for holiday with girl

**A SCOTLAND Yard detective who has jumped bail may have gone 'for a short holiday' with his girlfriend.**

The policeman, Det Sgt John Alexander Symonds, failed to answer seven charges of corruption at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday.

Mr Justice Caulfield later issued a warrant for his arrest.

The charges were brought against Symonds following an investigation into police corruption by 'The Times'.

Two other senior detectives have already been given jail sentences of up to six years following the investigation.

Yesterday a woman told the press that her daughter, Miss Barbara Freeman, had packed

three suitcases and left the London area with Symonds.

Miss Freeman's widowed mother said the couple had told her six weeks ago they were going on a short holiday and she had not seen or heard of them since.

'They didn't mention where they were going,' said Mrs Doris Freeman at her home in N Norbury.

Symonds met Miss Freeman at a nightclub in the Croydon area three years ago where she worked as a barmaid.

● A Hull policeman has been jailed for three years for a series of burglaries and arson offences.

John Charles Dains (26) pleaded guilty to seven offences—four of burglary, two of arson and one of committing damage.

He asked for 30 other offences to be considered including 23

burglaries, five arson and two of theft. The fires Dains started caused damage of more than £13,000 and he stole property valued at £487.

The prosecution said Dains committed the offences while on his beat.

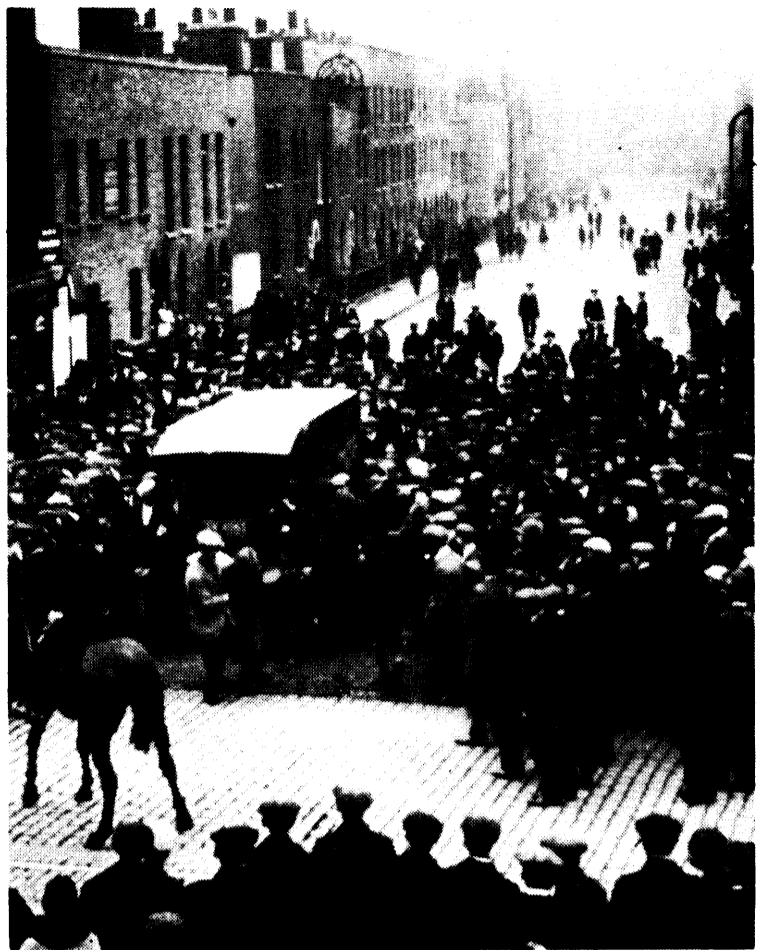
Dains' defence lawyer, Mr R. H. Hutchinson, said: 'It is impossible to point to any motive. Whether he wanted to bring himself to the attention of superior officers by reporting cases, it is difficult to say.'

# 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.



1926 General Strike: 'I believe the union leaders are afraid'

'Chuck the whole lot out,' said Frank Tomany, 42, when he heard the news that Roy Jenkins had resigned from the Shadow Cabinet.

Mr Tomany is a member of the AUEW and a turner at a Slough engineering factory.

Pointing to the section in the Manifesto on Labour traitors he said: 'It has always been my opinion that we have allowed a big section of Tories to infiltrate the Labour Party.

'In the past when some move was made by the left they were immediately disciplined and some of the blokes who are resigning now were the ones doing all the shouting. But whatever they did they were never disciplined.

'It just could not go on like that. But I hope people take the resignations as they ought to be taken and not as they put it over on the telly.

'It is time we threw all these right wingers out and got men who are going to be real socialists. It is absolutely essential to purge the Labour Party of these men and I think it will strengthen the party, not weaken it.'

What does he think of the Tories?

Said Frank: 'It is the most reactionary government I have seen in my lifetime. We have had mild Tory governments since the war but Heath has been blatantly anti-working class and got away with it.

'There has been no opposition from the trade unions.

'Look at the dustmen, the postmen and the power workers. There was almost an abdication by the leaders of the other big unions during these strikes.

'It took three major disasters before the unions got involved at all. In my branch we were passing resolutions early last year deploring the complacency of the TUC and asking them to take action before another big union went to the wall—the miners.

'The leadership of the unions should have immediately risen up during the miners' strike. My branch called for an all-out strike by the engineers in support of our brothers.

'I believe the trade union leaders are afraid of what happened in 1926 when they called a General Strike and it only lasted nine days.

'But today the situation is absolutely different. There were 3½ million in the trade unions then whereas today we have got 10 million.

'Men are more aware of a call today. Look what happened when Feather called a march against the Industrial Relations Act. It was one of the biggest ever.

'Feather should have taken notice of that because people have never turned out in those numbers before. If he had called for something stronger he would have got it because people are beginning to see what is happening to them and to say "we have got to do something about this".'

'What the unions are up against now are political ques-

tions, it is not a matter of talking about wages and things like that.

'The Tories have aligned themselves with the big capitalists in Europe so that they can take on the trade union movement. They have got to smash the unions politically to reverse the trend in wages, make business more profitable and encourage investment.

'Look at Scarborough and all those elderly people living in hotels at about £9 a day. They are living off investments but now these are shrinking and they are faced with cuts. This Tory government was put in to protect people like this.

'I think the Common Market is the last big stand of capitalism, joining together in the W against Russia in the E.

'That big sit-in of the car workers in France a few years back really frightened them.

'There is a real possibility now no matter how you look at it that the slump will get out of hand. The American dollar policies have had a fantastic effect in Europe and especially Japan.

'Businessmen have got to follow the trend of capitalism or go to the wall and we must build a new leadership to meet them.

'When the Labour Party was in power last they were defending capitalism in their own way. They were not operating the Labour manifesto and nationalization and everything was dropped.

'Wilson was the prisoner of the gnomes of Zurich. Whenever he went to them for money they said you must cut this and that. We called for an all-out strike against the prices and incomes policy and we had a massive demonstration in London.

'People are continually saying to me that we need a new leadership. They say what is the point of voting. Both parties are the same.

'I think we have got to get the Labour Party in power and then have more control of it. If we put it in as a socialist party it has got to act as a socialist party with nationalization, workers' control and an end to compensation. They have made enough out of that in the past.

'The Tories have got to be stopped. In their election manifesto they put it across that they were going to govern in the interests of the people but they have not. They have governed in the interests of business. One of the first things they did was to relieve Corporation Tax.

'Look at this new fair rents Bill. I could be paying £9 a week instead of £4.50 for my council house once that gets going.

'And the Industrial Relations Act has taken away all our basic rights. I don't think anyone imagined that in Britain there would be knocks on a trade unionist's door in the middle of the night to get him into court.

'They want to destroy the unions with the Industrial Relations Act. And this Night Assemblies Bill is not aimed at pop festivals, it is aimed at the working class. It could stop all these night sit-ins.'



The Night Assemblies Bill could stop all night sit-ins; such as these in Manchester (above)

# STALINIST CHEERED GENERAL WHO HUNG STRIKERS

Part one of a three part series by John Spencer on Stalinism and the Numeiry regime in Sudan, and the events surrounding the July coup last year which led to the murder of the leaders of the Sudanese Communist Party.

General Jaafar Numeiry's counter-revolutionary Sudanese dictatorship came to power in May 1969, overthrowing the ruling Umma Party and installing a Revolutionary Command Council with seven Communist Party members.

The officer corps representatives who had carried out the May coup could not have done so without the backing of the largest CP in the Arab world with more than 1 million members and supporters.

## OFFENCE

Yet the regime's first edict made it a capital offence to go on strike! From the very beginning, therefore, the character of Numeiry's regime was anti-working class.

General Numeiry welcomed 'all nationalist socialist elements', but added that they would only be accepted if they gave up 'the rule of parties and accepted the philosophy of the revolution'.

It was not long before the threat to the CP implicit in these sinister words was translated into deeds.

Six months after the May coup, Numeiry sacked premier Abu Bakr Awadallah and took over the prime minister's job himself in response to clamour from right-wing Moslem fanatics for a curb on the communists.

Workers Press warned: 'The military leaders are sharpening their knives for a blood-bath of workers and communists' (October 31, 1969).

This was not how the Kremlin viewed the matter however. A fortnight after Numeiry moved into the premiership, Moscow announced that a top-level Soviet delegation would shortly be visiting the Sudan.

The same uncritical note was maintained throughout the following months by the British Communist Party and its publications.

In the 'Morning Star' for October 27, 1970, top British Stalinist Idris Cox published an article headed 'This government backs the trade unions'. He was referring to his visit to the Sudan with a delegation of Labour MPs.

The article claimed that 'the present trend [under Numeiry] is overwhelmingly in favour of a strong and independent CP'.

On November 18, 1970, just 50 days after Cox's puff for the Numeiry government had appeared in the 'Star', Numeiry arrested CP secretary-general Abdel Khaleb Mahgoub, sacked 13 officers suspected of communist sympathies and dismissed three CP members from the Command Council.

Less than month later the Sudanese government's Defence Minister, Major-General Khalid Hassan Abbas, was in Moscow for top-level talks with the Soviet leaders.

Following these talks, on New Year's Day 1971, Moscow Radio broadcast a fulsome tribute to the Numeiry leadership:

'The subsequent behaviour of the new leadership [i.e. since the 1969 coup] has confirmed the progressive line of the revolutionary regime.'

The Soviet Stalinists particularly welcomed 'recent reports . . . about the nationalizing of foreign banks and insurance companies . . . as well as reports that indicate the workers are taking part personally in preparing the new labour legislation'.

They 'forgot' to mention the death penalty for strikers!

By February, 1971, the regime's leader had made his plans unmistakably clear in terms which left no room for doubt:

'From now on anyone who claims to be a communist or belongs to a Communist Party in the Sudan will be crushed. It is your duty to destroy them.'

Numeiry specifically attacked the CP for 'interfering in trade union work'. (Four months previously, Cox had assured 'Morning Star' readers: 'It was not until the revolution of May 25, 1969, that they [the Sudanese unions] secured full freedom to organize'.)



He slammed those CP members who had had the courage to protest against Mahgoub's imprisonment: 'They still believe that the survival of so-and-so and the imprisonment of so-and-so . . . spells the downfall of the revolution . . .'

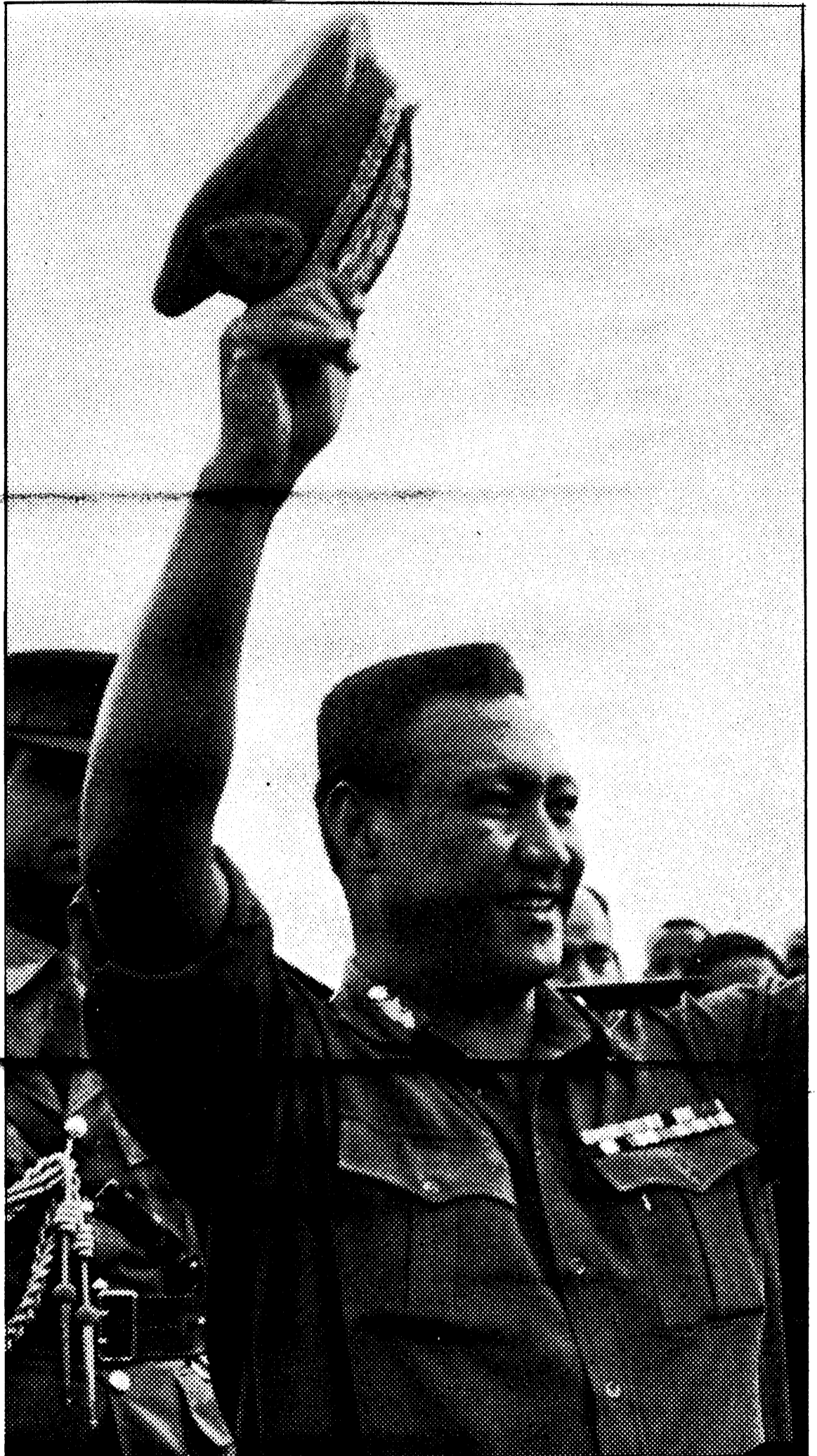
Some Sudanese 'communists' obviously agreed with Numeiry on this point . . . they were still in Numeiry's cabinet while their general secretary languished in jail!

(As we shall see, it was this section of the CP leadership and not the imprisoned Mahgoub who enjoyed Kremlin backing.)

This collaborationist section, among them J. U. Garang, Numeiry's Southern Affairs Minister, received a few words of reassurance in the Revolutionary Command Council statement the next day:

' . . . the revolution appreciates the role of communists who have been supporting the revolution with understanding and who have been acting to consolidate it at government and popular levels since its inception.'

As members of Numeiry's cabinet these people must presumably have approved the jail-



Above: Numeiry, who collaborated with the Kremlin leaders while he jailed Sudanese Communists. Left: Gollan

ing of Mahgoub and the sacking of CP sympathizers in the armed forces.

It was not enough to save them from a similar fate later that year . . .

The following months were marked by continuous purges of CP members from the civil service and arrests of prominent Party members.

By the time Numeiry flew to Moscow for further talks with the Kremlin leaders in mid-April, more than 80 communists had been rounded up and at least 60 sacked from government ministries.

## INTERNAL

Numeiry was at pains to assure the Kremlin leaders that the persecution of their comrades was a 'purely internal' matter and need not affect relations.

With this formula, Numeiry would have found no difficulty in reassuring these bureaucrats, who maintain excellent relations with many regimes whose 'internal' policy is violently anti-communist.

While these secret discussions were in progress, the British Stalinists were registering vague unease about the future of the Sudan CP.

The previous November secretary John Gollan, without

wishing to interfere in Sudan's 'internal affairs', had registered a mild protest against Mahgoub's jailing.

Numeiry contemptuously ignored it. In April, 1971, the British CP periodical 'Marxism Today' published an article from ~~John Gollan which admitted~~

'The Revolutionary Command Council appears to want the experience and skill and dedication of the communists at its disposal, but it resists the Communist Party.'

This weasel formula allowed Shaw to avoid the awkward problem of what to say about the divisions in the Sudan CP, with four members in the cabinet and its leader in jail.

She put the problem down to 'weaknesses' in Numeiry's programme and the pressure of 'some circles in Egypt'.

Numeiry's basic political line, however, was endorsed: 'The Sudanese communists recognize that at this stage of development there is a part for national, progressive capitalists to play in development.'

'Unfortunately [sic] the particular capitalist cabinet minister referred to is a member of the most reactionary Umma Party.'

The British CP's main objection was that Numeiry had chosen the wrong capitalists for his cabinet!

By contrast with the British

CP's mealy-mouthed formulas, Numeiry's statements on his return from Moscow were clearly battle orders for the Sudanese anti-communists.

He spoke at Kormuk, S of the Blue Nile province, and denounced the Sudan CP as 'saboteurs'. All organizations must drive the communists out of their ranks, he said.

The speech was made within days of his Moscow visit. But Moscow's E European satellites were not in the least put out. They went out of their way to receive his Foreign Minister Faruq Abu Isa on a 'goodwill' tour of Bulgaria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia early the following month.

He discussed with the Stalinist leaders his plan to take Sudan into the Arab Federation alongside Egypt, Syria and Libya—a plan opposed by the Sudan CP leaders.

With the Bulgarians, he registered 'complete unity' on 'several urgent international problems', while in Hungary 'the viewpoint of the two governments on international questions was identical'.

Clearly, Numeiry and Isa were seeking the Stalinists' approval for their reactionary Federation plans . . . and got it!

The stage was being set for the July bloodbath in the Sudan.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



# SACKINGS AT OMES FAULKNERS CASE HISTORY OF REFORMISM

By Ian Yeats. Part 2.

The day after Frank Tomany was elected AUEW convenor at Omes Faulkners, Colnbrook factory in Buckinghamshire, the entire shop stewards' committee were summoned to meet the district committee. Having just been elected convenor Mr Tomany was entitled to suppose the shop stewards would back him in a fight against redundancies. And since most of the 439 workers at the plant belonged to the AUEW also felt he could rely on the DC's support. At the shop stewards' meeting on March 8—before they went to the DC—Tomany claims Communist Party opposition to him began to take shape.

'I thought we should have a joint policy for fighting the redundancies ready to put to the DC, but ex CP convenor Derek Howes would not hear of it. He argued we should all be free to say what we liked. I went to the meeting with the DC without notes or anything, but the CP members all had prepared statements and they followed the line that I was frustrating management at every turn by creating difficulties. They said Omes Faulkners were a decent management and that I was obstructing them at every turn when they were doing their best to keep the factory open. It was at the DC meeting that Mr Tomany claims the CP opened up a second line of

attack designed to stifle any fight against the redundancies: 'The CP members declared that my obstructive behaviour had created bitterness and split the factory so that there was no hope of getting the men to back a fight, even if we called for one. I think the CP were trying to discredit me and build up to getting my card withdrawn. But fortunately, the full district committee were there and when I put the record straight they voted to oppose the redundancies and discuss work-sharing and the possibility of a four-day week with management. I was on the district committee between 1967 and 1969 and I was approached to join the CP, but I said I was there to represent the shop floor.

'I did not join and after two years I came off. I got sick of it. The CP members would all vote the same way whatever happened. 'At the factory the CP members of the shop stewards' committee have done nothing but try to take the heat out of every situation. 'Their tactic has been to give minimum leadership and constantly stress the danger of the whole factory closing if we fought against almost anything management did. 'The CP has constantly fought against me but I was only doing my job and defending workers.

## RECORD

'It was my record of standing up to management that set the CP gunning for me. Now that I have been sacked there is nobody left in the factory to lead a fight. It is completely CP dominated. Ex-CP convenor Derek Howes told me in his view it was a question either of accepting that reorganization in Mr Tomany's maintenance department was absolutely necessary to keep the works running, or face the possibility of seeing it shut down completely. He said: 'We've got to maintain a factory with workers in it able to earn a decent standard

of living as opposed to shutting the place down. 'If any firm is trying to cut back to make profits and not in financial difficulties, we as unions are going to fight. 'But in this situation we had to consider whether it was worth 450 workers losing their jobs for the sake of a bit of reorganization. I drew Mr Howes' attention to the fact that engineers in other parts of the country were occupying their factories as a lever against the employers. He commented: 'I don't think we could have called for an occupation here because we couldn't have carried on production. All the materials have to be brought in from outside. Even if we were in the factory, they could have just stopped paying us. We didn't believe it would have been an effective answer. Commenting on his replacement as convenor by Mr Tomany, Mr Howes said: 'The shop stewards voted me out of the leadership and actually I was quite relieved to be out. In a situation like that you can imagine some difficult decisions might have to be made. Did Mr Howes feel management had victimized their convenor? 'They put the whole machine section of the maintenance department on the list, not just him personally. Later I put the question to CP district committee secretary George Currell. Commenting on Mr Tomany's claim that he had been victimized, Mr Currell said:

'That is a point of view, but whether one can prove it is a different matter. 'Nobody gets any joy out of this situation. They have axed the whole maintenance department. This is indeed what happened. On March 24, 66 men were sacked, 15 out of the 62-strong maintenance department, including the entire machine section where Mr Tomany worked. The object was to sectionalize maintenance by attaching squads to individual departments and thereby do away with the cost of a separate department as well as speeding up repairs. Major assembly and repair work would now be sent out to another factory—mainly to the largely non-union Gay's of Hampton. On Monday March 13 the fight to save 66 jobs had not yet been lost. On March 10 management rejected the joint shop stewards' and DC committee's proposal for work-sharing and a four-day week. This was reported to the shop stewards and CP district secretary Currell on March 13. According to the minutes of that meeting, Mr Currell took the management's own view, contrary to the March 8 decision of the full DC, that short-time working was not 'practical' for AUEW members. In line with the DC's March 8 resolution to oppose all redundancies ETU steward Sam Roe proposed that if management went ahead and created redundancies, all labour would

be withdrawn—the resolution was seconded by A. Mullen, but never voted on. Instead the meeting merely voted to pursue negotiations with management. **FRIGHTENED** Said Mr Tomany: 'The stewards decided not to vote because they had been frightened by the CP members' insistence that a fight would mean closing the factory. 'We already had the joint shop stewards' DC resolution opposing all redundancies, but the DC did nothing themselves to implement it. The works meeting which followed heard the full list of 66 redundancies. Mr Tomany was asked to read it out and no other shop steward spoke. Publishing the list to the men had an immediate effect. It damped down the fighting spirit of all those not on it. Although ex-CP convenor Howes denies it, Mr Tomany alleges that instructing him to read out the list was a deliberate manoeuvre to weaken him when he subsequently called for support. They asked me to read it out and there was nothing I could do', he told me. The maintenance department later met separately and four resolutions were taken. Twenty

men voted for a sit-down strike, two for short-time, seven for a work to rule and nine abstained. The CP emphasizes that only 20 in the maintenance shop voted for the sit down, but Mr Tomany claims a fourth resolution—denied by Derek Howes—was taken, proposed by J. Saunders. The gist of this was that since 46 of the 55 men present at the meeting had expressed some sort of dissatisfaction over the redundancies and no agreement between them looked like being reached they should all stop work. The motion was carried. Next day, following the tradition of the maintenance shop in acting alone, Mr Tomany led the 62 men in the shop on a sit-down strike against the redundancies. Immediately a resolution proposed by A. Mullen endorsing the sit-in and recommending no one did maintenance work was passed by the shop stewards' committee. ETU steward Sam Roe told me: 'Previously when we had gone on strike the stewards had let other men do our work, so I asked if they really meant it when they said they would not allow it this time. The stewards said they did, but a CP member stressed that they could not physically stop any man doing maintenance work. On Wednesday only half the 62 men were allowed into the factory—the others were locked out. Eventually the entire department struck outside the works. By Thursday morning they were all back at work, the fight

and shop stewards negotiating the best terms they could for the redundancies. While the maintenance men were on strike, the shop stewards' committee passed a resolution proposed by Howes alleging that opposition to the maintenance men's strike from the shop floor was so great that there could be no question of solidarity action. Without support the strikers were forced back to work. Asked why the DC did not back the strike, Mr Currell told me: 'The maintenance department were isolated when they came out on strike. They took the action on their own and the other departments did not respond. It was a tricky and difficult situation. If you take an action like that, you are taking a gamble and on the basis of what we had we could not let them stay isolated and get knocked off.' Mr Tomany claims AUEW district organizer Mr William McCloughlin was kept informed of developments at Omes Faulkners. But a spokesman at his office said: 'Mr McCloughlin has been ill and away from the office. He had no idea there was any trouble at the factory.'

## GAMBLE

Left: ETU steward Sam Roe. Centre: Ex-CP convenor, Derek Howes. Right: Frank Tomany. The fear of Mr Tomany and of many other trade unionists at the factory is that with the maintenance department dismantled and its tradition of militancy abruptly ended, a blow has been struck at trade unionism from which it will be hard work recovering. Said Mr Tomany: 'I think it is a real tragedy that a group of working-class men have been abandoned. Some of my lads have already said they feel like tearing up their union cards. 'But the union is not to blame. It was the policies of the CP members of the two committees which are to blame. 'Workers have to be led. They won't take any action unless they get direct leadership. But this was never given. 'The CP did everything possible to weaken the workers. It was stressed that there had been marches and demonstrations against redundancies at another local factory, Modern Wheel Drive, but that all their efforts had been in vain. 'Their line was that we had a "good management" and that we should not be too hard on them.' The management has now sacked 66 men, and is sending other work outside to a non-union firm. A severe blow has been struck at trade unionism in a factory once claimed to be the best organized in SE England.

# HOW PERON BUILT HIS STRANGLEHOLD

## Part 3 on Argentina by our Foreign Correspondent

The Great Depression meant that the Argentine ruling class could no longer rule in the old way. Legal trade unions and political parties of the left could be slightly tolerated during the free trade boom, but they must come to an end with the boom.

The military uprising on September 6, 1930, was aimed at putting an end to these traces of bourgeois democracy. As General Uriburu declared: 'Parliament no longer exists . . . it is only a source of corruption.'

Juan Peron, the son of a 'criollo' (native Argentine) farmer, had entered military school at the age of 15. By 1930 he had reached the rank of officer of the Estado Mayor (General Staff of Armed Forces). As such, he was of high enough rank to participate in the organization of the coup.

But he was critical of the lack of appeal to the majority of officers and lack of policy to win popular support for the coup.

He learned from this experience and the lessons were embodied in the formation of a secret lodge in the Argentinian army, the Grupo Obra de Unificacion del Ejercito (GOU — the group for unifying the army). Formed by Peron and three other Colonels it provided a pro-Axis alternative leadership in the army as the Conservative government and old leaders began to support the Allies in 1943.

Peron had spent two years in Mussolini's Italy and liked what he saw. He was also convinced that an Axis victory was inevitable and that Argentinian capital should remain pro-Axis.

His role then was to prepare the establishment of a corporate state, based on the destruction of the workers' independent organizations.

He did not only professed an anti-communist love for Franco and Mussolini, but also for the Spanish Bonapartist ruler Primo de Rivera. One of his leading advisers, Figueroa, had been a member of the latter's labour department. Peron's programme aimed at more industrialization, the creation of a rural middle-class and the expansion of a true 'anti-imperialist' Argentina.

Although his policy of apparent appeasement of the masses frightened some employers, there is no doubt that he was resting on the trade union bureaucracy, the military and sections of industrialists to prepare the iron exploitation of workers deprived of any form of independent organization. Although he did not complete the 'revolution', there are those who want him to return today . . .

The GOU was organized in secret cells. Its principles reflected an over-riding fear of communism and the power of the working class as an independent organized force:

'It is one thing to be a politician and another to understand politics in order to protect the army against the serious evil which politics can cause. This is the modern duty of the soldier. That way communism could have been avoided in Russia and the civil war in Spain. In reality, in both generals and officers as they do here shut their eyes and repeat: "I'm not getting involved in politics" before the red danger which was to devour them.'

On June 4, 1943, President Castillo was overthrown in a coup and eventually President Ramirez was installed. General Farrell of the GOU was Minister of War with Peron as his chief secretary.

The formal coup leaders had no programme and Peron gradually manoeuvred into a position to take over the state. His first move was to give Farrell the Presidency and to occupy himself with the Ministry of Labour.

From there he effected a series of social reforms and wage

increases to gain the support of the masses. Eva, his mistress and then wife, joined in these good works on behalf of the 'descamisados' or 'shirtless ones' as they called the masses.

Every opportunity was used to build up the image of Peron the friend of the working classes. At the time of the San Juan earthquake in 1944, Peron turned the Ministry of Labour into a centre for collecting money for the victims and Eva and Juan were ever to be seen visiting the scenes of the disaster.

By July 1944 Peron was able to add the vice-Presidency to his positions in the Ministries of War and Labour and Presidency over the Ministry for the development of the post-war economy.

He could now disband the GOU — which had become critical both of his power-seeking and the publicity activities of Eva — to concentrate his activity on winning the masses for his national revolution and preventing the social revolution.

Any businessman worried by apparent concessions to the working-class was assured by Peron time and again of his belief in capitalism. In a speech at the Bolsa de Comercio in Buenos Aires in 1944, he reiterated the need to prevent the spread of communism:

'Three months after the revolution, we who were closely watching the working class, saw the first threat coming in the form of a revolutionary general strike. . . . What is the first problem which must preoccupy the Argentine Republic? A social cataclysm.'

He went on to explain that ~~the end of the world war would bring social unrest, impoverishment and the growing influence of communism. To prepare for this, it was necessary to incorporate the trade unions into the state which would be the instrument of social harmony — 'a rational organization of unions in accordance with state directives', joint committees of employers and workers and policy of welfare paternalism from the employers.~~

No attack on capital was envisaged: 'The defence of the interests of businessmen, of industrialists, of merchants, is the defence of the state itself.'

While carrying out an extensive social programme, Peron led the drive to unionize sections of workers not previously organized, with campaigns amongst packing-house workers and sugar plantation peons.

This activity won him the support of trade union leaders who, as we have seen, had shown themselves only too eager to cooperate with the capitalist state and did not like the idea of the new proletariat coming under CP influence like the building workers.

They did not lift a finger in defence of those unions suppressed by Peron. The regime closed down CGT2 on the grounds that it was 'communist dominated'.

The Argentine CP itself was unable to challenge Peron, although it had organized the building workers—a step which could have led to its organizing other sections of workers.

The Party under the leadership of Arturo Dodovilo, who had had several years leave of absence organizing the Stalinist counter-revolution in Spain, entered the anti-Peron Democratic Union which embraced everyone from the radicals to the Conservative Party and sugar plantation baron Patron Costas. In this way the Stalinists carried out faithfully the anti-fascist policy of the Popular Front.

As a result of these activities, Peron turned much of the trade union movement into his political machine. He had the CGT behind him, and such leaders as Cipriano Reyes, leader of the meat-packers, Juan Bramuglia, legal adviser of the railway-workers' Union Ferroviaria, and Angel Borlenghi and José

Argana, of the Commercial Employees' Federation, engaged in discussions with the military on the course of the 'Argentine nation'.

October 1945 was decisive for Peron.

On the 9th he was overthrown by military officers opposed to his growing power, only to be brought back to Buenos Aires from his imprisonment on Martin Garcia island after the CGT had mobilized mass demonstrations to support him.

The CGT and other union leaders then proceeded to set up a British-model Labour Party to provide the necessary backing for Peron in the 1946 elections.

The party guaranteed a minimum wage, the expansion of industry and the favouring of small landowners — the creation of an agricultural middle class.

In four months, the party became the most important in the country, defeating the candidate of the Union Democratica at the elections.

At the party congress in January 1946, union leader and party President Luis Gay was able to declare: 'We are not against the free development of private activities. We want the most extraordinary development of national industry . . . we must develop the idea that capital has a social function.'

In February Spruille Braden of the US State Department published a Blue Book on Peron's relations with the Third Reich. This was an election plum for Peron, able to pose as the anti-American imperialist and to taunt the 'left':

'The communist and social parties are serving the interests of capital. Who votes for the programme of the communists and the oligarchy votes for Braden.'

The other development of October 1945 was the passing on to the statute books of Peron's Industrial Relations Act — the Law for Professional Associations.

Until this Act, unions in Argentina had been legally independent of the state with a status akin to that of charities.

Under Peron's law trade unions had to be recognized by the state to bargain with employers. They would be recognized and given 'personeria gremial' (union status) 'provided their laws were not contrary to the morality, laws and fundamental institutions of the nation'.

Peron used this law to destroy those unions which opposed him. In this way he destroyed amongst others the shoemakers' union (Sindicato Obrero de la Industria del Calzado—SOIC).

SOIC had been the dominant union in the industry since its establishment in 1917 and for many years previous to the 1943 Revolution, had negotiated contracts with the employers' organization in the trade. However, when it applied for personeria gremial from the Secretariat of Labour, it was refused.

Soon afterwards the rival 'Union de Obreros de Calzado' (the shoeworkers' union) was founded. It was led by elements expelled from SOIC. This new group was immediately given state recognition, though it had practically no members at the time.

When SOIC issued a proposal for a new collective agreement in March 1946, it was notified by the Secretariat it was not qualified to lead the negotiations. The employers had to deal with the new Peronista union. Although SOIC kept going for some time, it was eventually driven underground and its leaders into exile.

Wage negotiations themselves became concentrated in the government's Labour department where the 'comision paritaria' or joint worker-employer councils would work out their deals. In turn, the CGT was given the power to intervene in unions to oust elected officials and put their own agents in charge of the union. In some cases they



Juan Peron, Argentine president until 1955

even intervened in non-CGT unions.

The union leaders who backed the Peronista Labour Party were also backing this incorporation of the trade unions into the state. Many of them were to be the first victims.

Three months after his election, Peron closed down the Labour Party and set up his own National Party of Revolution. Between 1946 and 1951 there was a purge of nearly all those union leaders who had helped install Peron.

One of the first victims was Cipriano Reyes, leader of the packing house workers, vice-President of the Partido Laborista. After being elected deputy, he opposed Peron's formation of a Party of the National Revolution. He fought Peron for two years while in Congress. After his term of office was finished, Reyes was put in jail where he remained until the overthrow of Peron almost seven years later.

Peron was only able to lead the masses into a Bonapartist state because no leadership was developed which could give leadership to that revolutionary potential which Peron and the generals felt so acutely.

The Popular Frontism of Argentine Stalinism led to a crisis which was compounded by Moscow's change of line in relation to Peron. In 1944 a Soviet statement declared that Peron and his fellow generals were the agents of Hitlerism and that 'Argentina is the country where the German fascists are trying to establish themselves most firmly'.

By April 1945 Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov was prepared to bargain Argentina's entry into the United Nations for Polish entry, though he did warn that Peron's switch to a pro-Allies policy after the defeat of European fascism was insincere!

In June 1946, 'Pravda' published the Soviet government's decision 'to establish full-scale diplomatic consular and commercial relations with the Argentine Republic'. In other words, peaceful co-existence with a thoroughly anti-communist regime.

Peron was able to parade this blessing around Argentina while he continued his purge of communist and militant trades unionists. Codovila's training in the art of Stalinist manoeuvres was unable to prevent the CP from splitting into two.

The CP had its supporters of Peron and supporters of Popular Frontism with the landowners.

The self-styled 'Trotskyist' group around the centrist paper 'Octubre' recommended a full-blooded unity with the 'Peronistas'. According to the 'theoricians' of this tendency, Peron was going to carry through the bourgeois-democratic revolution in Argentina: his establishment of a customs union with Chile and his five-year plan were, for them, steps which 'will sweep the

feudal trash from the path of the working class and force imperialism to retreat . . .'

This adaptation to Peron's influence on the working class, to the most servile of trade union bureaucracies, was tantamount to complicity in the construction of a corporate state.

These ideas have been given a fairly wide audience in Argentina through the works of one Abelardo Ramos who has written on everything from 'Counter-revolution and revolution in Argentina' to a 'History of Stalinism in Argentina'.

Ramos combines a lifeless, formal repetition of the history of the rise of the Stalinist bureaucracy and the Moscow Trials with the crudest nationalism: Argentine Stalinism and social democracy have been based on immigrant workers and praise of foreign capital investment; Peronism reflects the growth of a real Argentine working class and the possibility of the real emancipation of the nation from imperialism.

From this thesis flows the need to build an anti-imperialist united front, which takes into account the differences between the landed oligarchy and the pro-industrialist capitalists and military. In short, workers should support the progressive military who, through 'contradictions of development', were forced to be anti-imperialist.

The group around Moreno, which had initially supported the Fourth International and opposed liquidation into the Peronist movement, finally entered his anti-imperialist front. An apologist for Moreno has recently criticized the early 'sectarian' position and claimed that 'from 1952, having decided that the main enemy was no longer English imperialism, but Yankee imperialism, we considered ourselves a 'de facto' party of the anti-Yankee front of Peronism'.

The development from this was entry into Peron's organization after Peron had been ousted from the Presidency, a scandalous caricature of the Trotskyist 'entry' tactic: 'Our innovation was that for the first time a Marxist group entered a bourgeois party.'

The 'Liberating Revolution' which removed Peron from the scene gave way to a succession of military regimes. They have been confronted with the influence of 'Peronism' in the working class and have attempted either to adapt it or compromise with it.

The truth is that 'Peronism' was the softening up process for the destruction of the Argentine working class as a class, and this difficult task has to be carried through with a working class which has grown in size with the rush of investment in the 1960s.

This is the task facing General Lanusse.

CONTINUED TOMORROW.





Among academic experts on Latin America in the United States, James Petras is one of the very few to adopt a Marxist-type position. This makes him highly critical of US imperialist penetration and of those of his colleagues who in one way or another assist it.

It also makes him favourable to revolutionary action in Latin America.

In a field where the literature is now increasing at a faster rate than ever before, this volume stands out as a most useful and penetrating introduction.

The first three essays examine the relationship between social classes and politics. Petras emphasizes the small size of the industrial working class compared with the large number of artisans and service workers and the huge 'subproletariat' of unemployed and semi-employed people who scratch a living on the fringes of society and live in unbelievable poverty.

He brings out the fact that far from being the most revolutionary section of Latin American society, these urban masses are relatively conservative politically and that many have an essentially petty-bourgeois outlook.

Despite what some 'leftists' have argued, political leadership in Latin America, as elsewhere, devolves upon the industrial workers despite its relatively small size. In fact, this class has already acquired a considerable capital of political experience. What it lacks is leadership.

The middle class is also shown to be in the main a conservative social force, providing the mass backing—together often with sections of the 'sub-proletariat'—for reactionary regimes.

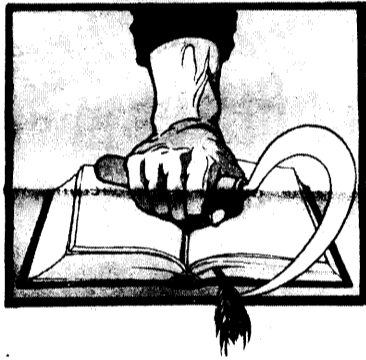
Middle-class politicians have worked within the established order and have been unwilling to support agrarian reform or to challenge the ruling oligarchies. Many have co-operated with US-backed military coups.

As Petras points out, the middle class has been unable to promote economic growth and industrialization and is now in a profound crisis. As he puts it: 'Only the interests and outlook of the working class coincide with the interests of democracy, economic development, and national independence, i.e. . . . freedom from US imperialism.'

Having brought out the revolutionary role and tasks of the working class which has, in the underdeveloped countries, to carry through the tasks of the bourgeois revolution. Petras is unable to take this part of his analysis much further.

His case studies of Chile, Venezuela and Peru are interesting but inconclusive. They do,

## BOOK REVIEW



'POLITICS AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN LATIN AMERICA.' By James Petras. Monthly Review Press. Price £2.90.

## USEFUL LOOK AT LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

however, show the bankruptcy of the Communist Party line in Latin America. This has effectively held back the working class from revolutionary leadership wherever it has been able.

Petras says the CP's strategy is based on two unsound premises (1) that there is a conflict between the urban bourgeoisie and the landowners, (2) 'that the major conflicts are between national capitalists and imperialists, not between workers on the one hand and native and foreign capitalists on the other'. They therefore conciliate with the middle-class political leaders and oppose revolutionary action.

As he points out in another essay, the CPs have 'entered a crisis phase, attempting to relate to the US-Soviet detente while confronting a new revolutionary challenge . . . they have produced no new analysis or strategy relevant to the socio-political changes which have occurred in Latin America in recent years'.

In a number of countries it has entered popular fronts under middle-class hegemony. Meanwhile, Soviet aid and trade have assisted reactionary regimes which have made the CPs illegal.

One of the main weaknesses of the Petras approach is that

it accepts Cuba as a successful revolution of the type which he would like to see throughout Latin America. He believes that 'Castro and the Cubans are building socialism . . . (by) the use of moral incentives'.

He fails to produce a thorough analysis of the character of the Cuban revolution and the nature of Castro's regime.

The Stalinists' opportunism has driven many of the young revolutionaries into the guerrilla movements. Petras sees these movements as 'going beyond the pragmatic-empirical level of basing revolutionary strategy on armed struggle alone'.

His mention of Latin American Trotskyism is brief. The Trotskyist groups are, he claims, 'quite small, isolated and fragmented'. But he concedes that 'the Trotskyist critique of the communist strategy of collaboration with the "national bourgeoisie" and of the conception of revolution in stages' has been significant. After all, he adopts it himself.

A further analysis of the situation in Bolivia and of the Peruvian peasant movement led by Hugo Blanco would have been useful here.

About half the book is taken up with an examination of American imperialist penetration and military intervention in Latin America. His view, at the time of writing in 1969, was that 'the United States has seized the political initiative in Latin America'.

He goes on to claim that 'the new equilibrium reasserting US hegemony in the hemisphere is presently only slightly threatened by the emergence of a new revolutionary left. However, if the new revolutionary groups are able to detonate mass insurgency, which presently does not exist, the new equilibrium in Latin America may be undermined'.

What is missing from this is the need to consciously build new revolutionary parties in Latin America based on Marxism as sections of the Fourth International. Petras is really left with the hope of some spontaneous revolution, though he does recognize, in his sharp and well-founded critique of Régis Debray, the need for party organization, leadership and theory.

The vagueness of Petras' conclusions no doubt arise from the ambiguity in his own position. An American university professor whose research has been financed by the Ford Foundation, he nonetheless feels that American imperialism must be defeated and that this can only be done through revolution in Latin America. But as far as can be judged from these essays, he remains a commentator.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## Magnificent

## GB

The mysterious blonde seen recently cavorting with Prince Charles, the future monarch, is named Miss Russell. Her father is the British ambassador to Spain.

She lives in a magnificent house in Chester Square—just down the road from Reginald Maudling and Duncan Sandys.

One columnist said this week she had 'many friends who are journalists'.

Postal workers may recall that during their bitter strike the Earl of Lichfield organized a delivery service. Miss Russell was his partner.

'The Times' spends acres of type each year telling us all to rally round and support Great Britain. We must rebuild our great nation to its former greatness. England expects every man to do his duty etc.

Surprised, therefore, to see the will of former proprietor of 'The Times', Lord Astor. He left an estate valued at almost £500,000.

However, none of this wealth will be taxed. Before he retired, Astor took himself off to Cannes to avoid paying tax on the £500,000, plus the £16m left him by his father, father.



## Vision

You want a bigger 'slice of the cake' in terms of pay, shorter hours, more holidays and better pensions?

Of course you do! Then why not listen to the advice of Ray Gunter, who recently resigned as Labour MP for Southwark.

Gunter should know all the answers because he served as Minister of Labour under the Wilson government (a post he once described as 'a bed of nails').

Now he writes for a curious periodical called the quarterly journal of the Industrial Co-Partnership Association.

In its latest issue, he says: 'I think the time has come for

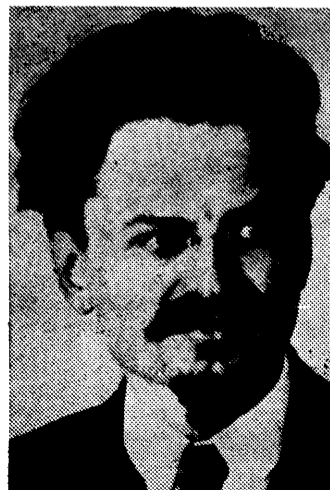
trade union leaders in this country to lengthen their vision, and instead of being engrossed with the immediate problems of pay, to look at what the future holds for our children.'

They should say they would remove restrictive practices—anything that retarded the efficient use of labour.

'They would do well now to seek to educate their members so that we can keep the great machines rolling, even on a Saturday and a Sunday, on a voluntary basis if needs be, so that in the end the productivity of the nation reached a level where we can compete freely and on good terms in the competitive world.'

Gunter hath spoken. But will there be any takers?

## BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY:  
Germany 1931/1932  
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½  
Where is Britain Going?  
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# Glad Jenkins quit—says Midland worker

TRADE UNIONISTS in Birmingham have generally welcomed the departure of their MP, Roy Jenkins, from the deputy leadership of the Labour Party.

Jenkins, who holds the Stechford division, Birmingham, has left the shadow cabinet so that he can more freely vote with the Tories on the Common Market legislation.

The Midlands is a hotbed of right-wing Labourites who support the Market. Other Marketeers are Roy Hattersley—who Wilson has just made shadow Defence Minister—and Denis Howell, former Minister for Sport in Wilson's government.

Con Cronin, an AUEW shop steward at British-Leyland's Transmissions Division, Washwood Heath, and a constituent of Roy Jenkins said:

'I'm definitely not in favour of the Common Market. It's just a capitalist set up. Jenkins has always plugged it. Now it's come to the crunch he's had to put his cards on the table and come out with it.

'When he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, at the time of Labour's Prices and Incomes Act, he openly said that if anyone went over the wages "norm", he'd find ways and means of getting it back off them. He was obviously referring to car workers.

'Before he was a cabinet minister, he used to associate himself with disputes and give the impression he was on our side.

'Only reason he gets elected is because it's a very strong Labour ward. People don't vote for him. They are voting for Labour generally.

'I don't see what's undemocratic about a referendum. The other countries are holding one.

'Gerry Healy [SLL national secretary] was right in what he said at the Empire Pool Rally [March 12] that Jenkins is making a bid for the leadership.

'He ought to be expelled from the Labour Party. I wouldn't say he was a Tory. He should join the Liberal Party, because that's basically what he is.

'Jenkins has caused a damaging split. I could go right back to the early 1960s—he was flogging the Common Market then.'

Sean Ross is 15 years old and unemployed. His brother Toni was one of the Young Socialist Right-to-Work marchers. He said:

'Jenkins is my MP. Things are getting really cock-eyed now. You can't tell the Labour leaders from the Tories.'

## Leyland plants out in Coventry

A STRIKE at British-Leyland's Triumph components plant at Radford, near Coventry, yesterday hit the firm's car-assembly plant in the city.

The 70 men involved in the strike had given the management until Wednesday to make an improved offer on a pay claim for an extra £2.50 a week. But talks broke down when the firm said it would only discuss the claim provided it was linked to a productivity agreement. Late on Wednesday afternoon, the men, who work on axle assembly, walked out.

One hundred and twenty inspectors are on strike at the Alvis company, Coventry, over a pay dispute.

John Evans, one of the inspectors, told Workers Press that unrest has been brewing for 18 months. Last year Alvis, a British-Leyland firm, imposed a new pay structure on the workers which involved job evaluation, time study and a form of Measured-Day Work payment.

John Evans said: 'Our claim had already been right through procedure to York as far back as spring 1971. When we saw the job-evaluation gradings put forward by the management there was immediate total disagreement by the men.'

## Troops mooted as Eire power strike bites

INDUSTRY in the Republic of Ireland came to a standstill yesterday on the second day of a power workers' strike.

An estimated 95 per cent of industry closed down and almost 250,000 workers were sent home.

The emergency power available was used to maintain services to hospitals and other essential services.

The power shutdown follows an unofficial strike by 600 men in the country's 28 power stations who want a £3-a-week wage increase.

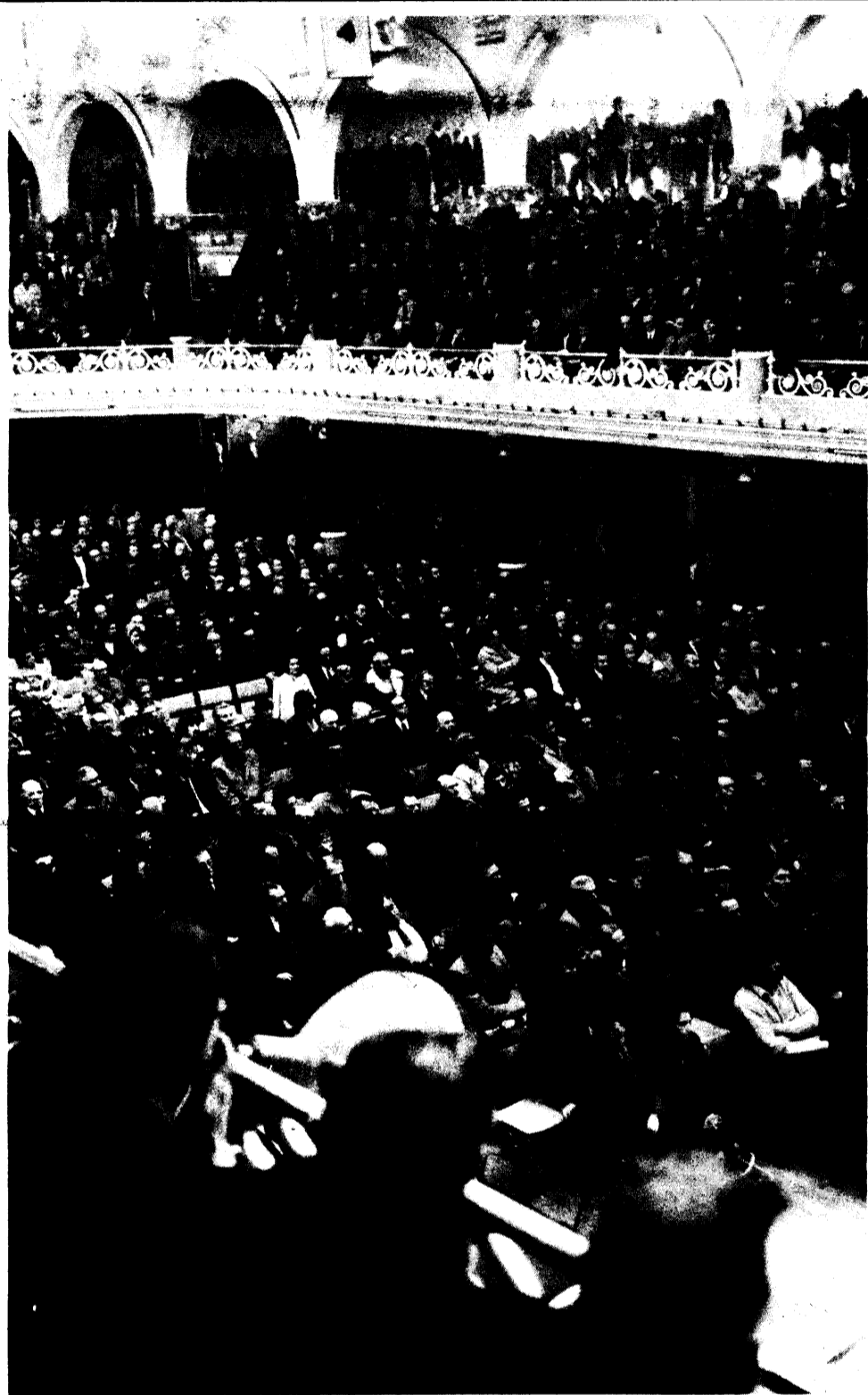
Pickets are operating outside most stations with the support of other trade unionists.

Yesterday the Eire premier, Jack Lynch, met representatives of the employers and other govern-

ment ministers to discuss the critical situation.

A deputy of the right-wing Fine Gael party has called on Lynch to use troops to man the crippled power stations.

Tom Fitzpatrick said that in view of the danger to life and health, the government had an obligation to bring the strike to an end—'no matter how it was done'.



BAC workers at their giant strike meeting in Preston on Wednesday

## 'No strings' BAC men march

STRIKERS from three British Aircraft Corporation factories in Lancashire will march through Preston today supported by other local trade unionists.

The men have been out for ten weeks bringing production to a halt at the military aircraft plants.

The strikers this week voted overwhelmingly to reject company attempts to force acceptance of new

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

work-measurement and other productivity techniques on them.

Less than a dozen of the 3,500 strikers—from the factories at Preston, Samesbury and Warton—wanted to accept BAC's latest offer.

The strike is over a claim for a 12½-per-cent, 'no strings' pay increase

and a £20 minimum wage for men.

A speaker at the mass meeting said the productivity clauses in management's offer would put the work force 'in a strait-jacket'.

Preston AUEW convenor, David Creighton-Smith, said the deal would lead to fixed wage rates and the abolition of the factory average.

## Open schools to 'latch-key' kids

AT LEAST 1 million 'latch-key kids' are left to fend for themselves during school holidays, the magazine 'Where' says in an article today.

The number of children with working mothers has 'rocketed' in recent years.

Author of the article, Kevin McGrath, says serious consideration should be given to leaving schools open all the year to look after schoolchildren.

McGrath says that at present schools become 'forbidden territory' when holidays arrive.

His article, although well-researched on the social problem of 'latch-key kids', offers the most spurious of 'solutions'.

He makes no attempt to understand the definite economic reasons why women are forced to leave their children.

## BEA sack threat makes us stronger—pilots

THE WORK-to-rule by British European Airways pilots will continue despite management threats of dismissal, the British Airline Pilots' Association said yesterday.

BALPA spokesman Gordon Hurley said the pilots were 'extremely angry' about the threat.

He explained: 'I had several telephone calls last night from angry pilots, who absolutely refute the claim that the work-to-rule could erode the safety margins.'

'This sort of thing can only serve to strengthen the resolve of the membership. We have made it quite clear to BEA that unless they can offer conditions or a renewed pay offer, there is absolutely no point in re-opening talks.'

BEA's pilots are demanding a pay rise to give 300 senior captains a minimum of £9,100 a year to bring them into line with the salary earned by their BOAC colleagues.

They have rejected a BEA offer of increases of £17 a week, which would give £8,763 a year.

The dispute also concerns conditions of service.

### ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

WITNEY: Friday April 14, 8 pm. Town Hall.

STOCKPORT Monday April 17, 8 pm. 'Manchester Arms', Wellington Rd South. The Engineers' pay claim.

OXFORD: Sunday April 16, 8 pm. 'Cape of Good Hope'.

E LONDON: Tuesday April 18, 8 pm. 'The Aberfeldy', Aberfeldy St, Blackwall Tunnel, Poplar. YS conference and the fight against the Industrial Relations Act.

BANBURY: Wednesday April 19, 8 pm. 'The White Hart'.

## Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

### Castleford digs in heels against rise

THE RENT revolt has spread to Castleford, Yorkshire. Local councillors have decided to defy the Tory government's orders to put up council house rents by £1 from October.

Labour councillor Fred Pennington, vice chairman of

Castleford's housing committee, said: 'The time comes when you get so frustrated and disgusted with something you have to dig your heels in and make a protest.'

Neighbouring councils are waiting until the Bill becomes law before deciding what action to take.

At Knottingley, councillors are opposed to the Tory rent increases, and there is opposition to the Bill on Normanton Urban Council and Pontefract borough council.

Only last November the Castleford council decided to reduce rents by 25p to take

financial stress off the working-class community.

The £1 increase being demanded by the government is another stage of the Tories' campaign to drive down the standard of living of the working class in preparation for entry into the Common Market.

# Daytona men joined for picket



Trade unionists from other Birmingham factories were welcomed onto the year-old Daytona picket lines yesterday

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

SACKED engineering union members from Daytona Engineering, Birmingham, were joined on picket outside the factory yesterday by about 100 workers from Joseph Lucas, C. H. Pugh, Pressed Steel-Fisher and other factories in the area.

Seven of the original 18 who struck 15 months ago for union rights are still on strike and picket the factory every day.

A nationwide black is supposed to be operating against the firm, but some of the strikers are critical of the way the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is fighting the case. The AUEW's Birmingham E district committee has called for mass picketing each Thursday morning.

'This should have been done in the early days,' said one of the Daytona men.

'If we had a real mass demonstration we could stop the lot. As it is blacklegs and customers and suchlike are continuously getting through.'

'We are pleased to see we've got this now, at last,' said another of the men.

'I think the union has done what it could. There have been times when it seemed we were getting somewhere, but then it falls off again.'

Shop steward Dale Brierley was more forthright in his comments.

'The treatment we are getting is diabolical,' he said.

'I shall be down the district committee against next week to see what they will do now. If we don't get somewhere soon we might as well pack it in.'

The Birmingham E district committee organizes over 50,000 engineers in some of the biggest factories in the country. Daytona Engineering, which employs about 25 people, occupies premises on the Kingsbury Rd which are little bigger than the AUEW office in the city centre.

## Trafford Park occupation

EIGHT HUNDRED workers occupied the Frederick Smith factory on the Trafford Park industrial estate, Manchester, late yesterday.

There was a report that the management of the Sharston plant at Cheadle Hulme had locked out the small work force.

Two weeks ago the company received a court order to evict workers from the building.

# TV

## BBC 1

9.45 Andy Pandy. 10.00 Champion the Wonder Horse. 10.25 Parsley. 10.30 Canoe. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 12.55 Canu'r Bobol. 1.30 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 1.45 News, weather. 2.00 Racing from Newbury; The Badminton Horse Trials. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Screen Test. 5.20 Hope and Keen's Crazy Bus. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 News, weather. 6.00 MAGAZINE. Your regular local programme. 6.20 GEORGE BEST. 9: Distribution for Goalkeepers.

6.30 THE VIRGINIAN. Woman of Stone. 7.40 THE LIVER BIRDS. 8.10 THE BROTHERS. 6: Turning Point. 9.00 NEWS, Weather. 9.20 THE AMERICAN WEST OF JOHN FORD. His long career recalled by some of the stars of his most famous films. 10.10 COME DANCING. Home Counties South v Wales. 10.45 24 HOURS. 11.15 THE MARX BROTHERS: 'MONKEY BUSINESS'.

## ITV

1.10 Bugs Bunny. 1.30 Black Man's Burden. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 This Week. 3.45 Drive-in. 4.15 Clapperboard. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Land of Giants. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.30 F TROOP. 7.00 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT. 7.30 HIS AND HERS.

8.00 THE FBI. Counter-stroke. 9.00 SPYDER'S WEB. Rev Counter. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 THE SUN TELEVISION AWARDS. 11.30 ALEXANDER THE GREAT-EST. 12.00 ON REFLECTION. 12.25 THE LAW IS YOURS.

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 6.05 Open University. 6.35 Crime and the Criminal. 7.05 Open University. 7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather. 8.00 MONEY PROGRAMME. 9.00 GARDENERS' WORLD. 9.20 REVIEW. The Triangles of Yantra. Inside Anthony Burgess.

10.10 CLOCHERLE. 9: The Glorious Triumph of Bartelemy Piechut. 10.40 NEWS, Weather. 10.45 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP. Group of women talk about their lives and work as fish packers on the Hull dockside.



A scene from director John Ford's 1924 film 'Iron Horse'. On BBC 1 tonight at 9.20 Ford's career is recalled by some of the performers who have worked with him in his quest to create and glamour one of the most brutal areas of capitalist development during the last century.

CHANNEL: 3.05 Pursuit of excellence. 4.05 Zingalong. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Dick Van Dyke. 4.50 Land of giants. 5.50 News. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 I spy. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.25 News, weather.

4.55 Bottom of the sea. 5.50 News. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'Siege of the Saxons'. 9.00 London. 11.30 Press call. 12.00 His and hers. 12.30 Weather. HTV West as above except: 6.18 Report West.

GRANADA: 2.30 Marcus Welby. 3.30 Yoga. 3.55 Camera. 4.10 News. Peyton place. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.50 Land of the giants. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.20 Kick off. 6.35 Mysterious island. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.30 Shirley's world.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sport. 11.25 News, weather. 11.29 Faith for life.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15 Cantamil. 6.01 Y Dydd. 11.30 Hundred years after.

TYNE TEES: 12.30 Mr Piper. 1.00 Time to remember. 1.30 Corwin. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 Kate. 4.00 Sound of the settlers. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 Flaxton boys. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 His and hers. 8.00 Dr Gannon. 9.00 London. 11.30 Film: 'Echo of Evil'. 12.25 Scales of justice. 12.55 News. 1.10 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 2.05 Katie Stewart. 2.50 Good afternoon. 3.00 Kate. 3.55 Cartoon. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.40 Out of town. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Saint. 8.25 Weekend. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.30 Film: 'The Man in the Back Seat'. 12.35 News. 12.45 Weather. Tower hill.

ATV MIDLANDS: 2.05 Sort of disease. 2.45 Mr Piper. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Stars. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 His and hers. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 Shirley's world. 9.00 London. 11.30 Film: 'The Mad Magician'.

SCOTTISH: 3.30 Kiri. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 News. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Strange report. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 10.30 In camera. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'Look Back in Anger'.

ANGLIA: 2.30 London. 3.15 Survival. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Voyage. 5.50 News. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.30 Film: 'Noose for a Lady'.

ULSTER: 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Thunderbirds. 5.50 News. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.30 Spectrum.

GRAMPIAN: 3.38 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Smith family. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Flaxton boys. 5.20 Ivanhoe. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.35 It takes a thief. 8.25 Melody inn. 9.00 London. 11.40 Journey to the unknown. 12.35 Epilogue.

HTV: 12.50 Seaspray. 1.15 Phoenix. 1.40 Trade winds to Tahiti. 2.30 Young fashion. 3.20 Grasshopper island. 3.35 Enchanted house. 3.50 Women. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads.

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## Concorde crashes £900m barrier

THE COST of developing Concorde may now top £900m compared to an estimated £100m when the project was launched 12 years ago.

The financial position is likely to be reviewed today when Trade and Industry Secretary John Davies, Aerospace Minister Michael Heseltine and French Minister of Transport M. Jean Chamant meet at the British Aircraft Corporation factory at Filton, Bristol.

So far production of ten aircraft and materials for six more have been authorized. World airlines have placed options for 74 Concorde.

# RAIL PAY: DEADLOCK AFTER MEETING MINISTER

BY IAN YEATS

**THERE WAS no sign of a break in the rail pay talks deadlock last night after an afternoon of talks with Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan.**

NUR chief Sir Sidney Greene said that although arbitration had been suggested to them, they were in no position to accept it.

Macmillan left to consult with rail board chiefs at their Marylebone headquarters.

After the meeting, ASLEF

secretary Ray Buckton commented: 'The gap between us is not wide, not as wide as it would be if we got what we wanted.'

'But the money does seem to be there to pay us the extra we're asking for.'

Earlier the miners' executive passed a unanimous resolution pledging to give the railwaymen 'any help they asked for.'

President Joe Gormley said: 'The help we got from the trade union movement brought our dispute to an end sooner rather than later.'

'If the whole movement rallies round the railwaymen the same could happen now.'

Gormley said it was now up

to the rail unions to say how other unions could help.

Also yesterday the Tory cabinet's emergency committee met to discuss whether they could apply a 60-day cooling-off period to the threatened national work-to-rule on the railways under the terms of the Industrial Relations Act.

The eleventh-hour talks between leaders of the three rail unions and Macmillan, the new Employment Secretary, were held at the Department's St James's Square headquarters yesterday.

Meanwhile the unofficial work-to-rule already under way by loco drivers on the S and E regions was intensified.

But the drivers' leaders, Ray Buckton of the Associated

Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, told his London Transport underground members not to take part in the unofficial action while negotiations were continuing.

Before entering the talks with Macmillan Buckton said: 'I am hopeful this meeting with the Minister will allow us to be able to negotiate this matter to a successful conclusion so that we do not have to enforce the threatened action on Monday.'

In the House of Commons yesterday Prime Minister Edward Heath, said the board's offer was 'very generous.'

The three rail unions—ASLEF, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association—are due to start an official national work-to-rule on April 16 unless British Rail steps up its offer. The unions are demanding a 16-per cent pay rise.

## MARINA BODY MEN WALK OUT OXFORD PLANT

CARWORKERS at British-Leyland's Austin-Morris body plant at Cowley, Oxford, walked out at 11.30 a.m. yesterday after management suspended them for the fourth time this week.

The men — 1,200 workers on the factory's Maxi and Marina production lines — clocked on as usual, but made clear to management that work restrictions they have been operating for the last month would continue.

After section meetings, the men later decided to go home. The same procedure is expected to be followed today unless Leyland decides on a complete lock-out.

A total of 2,350 workers on the two lines' day and night shifts are involved in the battle for a pay increase of £10 a week, guaranteed earnings during shut-outs and other improvements in line with the engineering union's national pay claim.

They have turned down an offer of £2.20 on days and £5 on nights. Stewards say this is not an answer to their claim and breaches their February 1971 agreement with the company.

The national engineering claim is also the issue at Leyland's nearby BMC Service division, where an all-out strike is threatened if the company fails to come up with a satisfactory offer.

A strike for the full claim was due to start on April 5. But this was postponed when the company asked for further discussions. Now stewards feel they have waited long enough.

## £1,250 APRIL FUND REACHES £294.54

WE are almost half way through the month with our Fund total now at £294.54. We are once again relying on you, our readers, for another great effort to raise our target.

More and more engineers and car-workers are occupying factories and challenging the employers and the Tories. Workers Press is decisive in reaching out to these forces in struggle. The urgent issue is to mobilize the working class everywhere to force this government to resign.

Let's therefore drive ahead immediately. All our efforts must go into this month's Fund. Go all out today. Raise as much as you can and post all donations to:

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

# Revisionist students won't fight Tories

LEADERS of the National Union of Students yesterday defeated a bid to commit the union to strikes, sit-ins and demonstrations in support of student union autonomy.

Delegates from Southampton and Aston (Birmingham) universities wanted a programme of no collaboration with vice-chancellors and principals, the involvement of school-student unions and the lobbying of trade unions for support.

But the conference accepted the executive's soft-line policy for national and local 'days of action'.

The defeat followed the equivocation of revisionist students on calls for the removal of the Tory government in the campaign against its attack on union financing.

Members of the International Socialists and International Marxist Group opposed a Southampton amendment stating that students should link their campaign on Tory educational policy to other campaigns to force the Tory government to resign.

They did this on the basis that it was the 'state' and not the Tory government that was the enemy.

A speaker from the so-called Liaison Committee for the Defence of Student Unions, John McGill from Kent University, told the conference:

'I oppose this amendment because it indicates that the defeat of the Tory government will mean the defeat of capitalism.'

Then, after having opposed the central issue of the amendment, McGill went on to call on delegates to support the Southampton amendment.

Having consciously and consistently refused throughout the conference to call for a fight against the government, the Liaison Committee is now attempting to provide itself with a left cover of opposition to the executive.

In the past three days, the revisionist-dominated Liaison Committee has failed lamentably to provide the left alternative to the executive it pledged itself to be.

As the delegate from Edinburgh pointed out:

'The Liaison Committee has singularly failed at a grass roots level to offer any sustained campaign on a clear line on union autonomy.'

There have been continuous

criticisms of an executive sell out in the autonomy campaign.

National secretary Mike Terry agreed that a number of criticisms have been made of this executive.

President Digby Jacks, however, made it clear that he did not hold with any criticism:

'The arguments that have been out against this executive have been vacuous and non-political. They are nothing more than empty rhetoric.'

## Human block on River Don machines

PLANS to prevent the movement of machinery from the British Steel Corporation's River Don, Sheffield, works are to be put to a mass meeting today.

If agreed, workers will surround machines whenever personnel from Firth Brown Ltd, the private-enterprise company which is taking over the BSC's drop-forge operations, try to shift any.

Steelworkers' shop stewards hope in this way to force the BSC's hand on their demands for smelting-shop facilities to be continued at River Don.

They also want improvements in the corporation's pay offer for a new system of three-shift working.

A second proposal to be put to today's meeting is that the 'work-on' of a small number of workers made redundant by the BSC should be ended in a fortnight.

## Biggest bomb campaign since Ulster direct rule

ONE of the biggest bombing campaigns since the announcement of direct rule was mounted in Ulster yesterday.

In Castledearg, Co Tyrone, a car bomb wrecked shops in the town centre injuring two policemen.

Windows were blown out over a radius of 50 yards and clothes and other goods littered the street.

Two electricity pylons were blown up near Crissmaglen, Co Armagh, and a hijacked milk van believed to be loaded with a bomb blocked the main road.

A woman died and her husband was wounded after an explosion in Ballymoney, Co Antrim.

Dozens of anonymous warnings of bombs were telephoned to shops and offices throughout the Province.

In Belfast whole blocks of buildings were emptied and the city centre was crowded with evacuated workers who were immediately threatened with a wave of car bomb scares.

Fourteen buses at the city bus station off Royal Avenue, the main shopping street, were damaged by an explosion. No one was hurt.

In Newry four gunmen shot a security guard in the knee before bombing the local council offices. Two other bombs were reached by bomb disposal experts before they exploded.

ROYAL GROUP dockers in London yesterday gave unanimous support to the Liverpool dockers who are 'blacking' container lorries operated by three haulage firms.

Shop stewards in London told 1,000 Royal group men that because of the fight to prevent surplus dockers being returned to the unattached pool, they were not prepared to have unregistered labour handling cargoes.

Leading Stevedores' Union steward Bernie Steers said a closer watch would be kept on cargoes in London.

## LATE NEWS

NEWS DESK  
01-720 2000  
CIRCULATION  
01-622 7029

IT WILL be cloudy with a little rain at first over E. Anglia and S. England, but otherwise much of Wales and England, except the NW, will have a dry day with sunny periods.

N, W and central Scotland, N Ireland and NW England will have occasional showers and sunny intervals. E Scotland will be mainly dry.

It will be rather warm in central and S England and also in E Scotland. Elsewhere temperatures will be about normal.

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Some rain at times. Mainly becoming rather warm in the S and W.

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.

WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO WORK

MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!