

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● SATURDAY JUNE 10, 1972 ● No. 788 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

DEVALUATION DRAWS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

THE RAPIDLY deteriorating economic crisis in Britain—so amply spelled out in a series of authoritative reports this week—has been aggravated by the strength and determination of the working class.

But the working class solidarity which smashed the Tory 'norm' in the miners' strike will have to be steered a hundredfold to withstand the next stage of the Tory onslaught.

Driven by the deep-going nature of their economic crisis, the Tories will be compelled to embark on more desperate attacks on the working class.

Unemployment will soar, food prices will rise to levels which millions of families simply won't be able to afford and the trade unions leaders will be brought even closer into the state machinery to discipline their members.

As this grave situation unfolds, the question of revolutionary leadership in the working class becomes of life-and-death significance.

That is why the Socialist Labour League is engaged in the historic task of building a revolutionary party which will fight reformism, revisionism and centrism in the labour and trade union movement.

The Tories stand today at the economic crossroads their economic landscape a veritable minefield.

A chorus of voices—the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, the Bank of England, the Confederation of British Industry and 'The Times'—have enjoined this week in setting out the Tories' plight.

'The Times' points to the sharp drop in Britain's international competitiveness since 1970 and concludes that any return to full employment is 'unlikely'.

● The Bank of England's quarterly bulletin says that the Chancellor Barber's reflationary manoeuvres have totally failed to restore business confidence, investment or output.

● The National Institute for

Economic and Social Research on Wednesday forecast high unemployment, rocketing prices and a balance-of-payments crisis later in the year.

● The CBI statement two days ago made clear that there was little chance of the so-called prices pledge being extended after the end of July, its date of expiry. In desperation director-general Campbell Adamson called for further collaboration with the TUC to hold down wages.

● Three of the Big Four banks—National Westminster, Midland and Lloyds, yesterday increased loan interest rates by a half per cent, a move which clearly indicates that the money-supply is being tightened.

It is 'The Times', however, which comes forward in a major editorial to grapple with the ruling class's problems.

The paper calls on the government to show 'great courage' and devalue the pound.

Such a drastic step will, however, only intensify the problems of capitalism internationally. Other countries would follow suit and the trade war would be hotted up on a new scale.

In any case devaluation today would occur under vastly different conditions from the Labour devaluation in 1967.

For one thing 1967 was the tailend of the post-war boom. Today world capitalism is in the throes of a recession.

On top of this, the August 15 measures of Nixon—ending dollar convertibility—have thrown the world monetary system into a state of virtual anarchy.

Thus Britain would be attempting a major reorganization of its currency without the safety net of the Bretton Woods agreement.

The first tactic of the Tories in the coming period will be to draw the trade union leaders into intenser levels of collaboration.

Of his own volition Victor Feather of the TUC yesterday went to see Employment Secretary, Maurice Macmillan.

Meanwhile Jack Jones of the Transport and General workers' Union was sitting down with Lord Aldington, chairman of the Port of London Authority and ex-deputy chairman of the Tory Party, to discuss ways of averting the national docks strike in six days' time.

David Watt, political editor of the 'Financial Times', had this cynical comment to make yes-

NEARER

terday about the twisting and turning of the trade union leaders: 'Appearance can be extremely misleading here, as we have seen in the last few weeks.'

'Sir Sidney Greene, normally regarded as a pillar of the moderate union establishment, is now alleged to be attacking the whole system; while Mr Jack Jones, supposedly the archetype of dangerous radicalism, is working

hand in glove with Mr Macmillan (who is very glad of his assistance, thank you very much) trying to prevent a docks strike.'

With the capitalist press openly mocking the cowardice of the trade union leaders, it becomes the urgent task of the working class to prepare for the Tory offensive.

A major step can be taken by building Councils of Action up

DRAMATIC move in rail dispute yesterday afternoon, when three rail union general secretaries went to British Rail headquarters, Marylebone, London. Richard Marsh, Railways Board chairman, there to see them.

and down the country. The Councils will compromise all sections of the labour and trade union movement; they will become the battle ground for the resistance of the working class and the fight to elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

**Support the railwaymen!
Force the Tories out!**

Students in embassy protest



ABOUT 100 anti-apartheid demonstrators chanted in protest outside the South African embassy in London yesterday after their deputation was turned away by an embassy security officer.

National Union of Students president Digby

Jacks, who took part in the demonstration, said afterwards that it was 'quite unprecedented treatment by an embassy in London'.

The embassy official refused to accept letters from academics, colleges and political groups protesting about apartheid in South Africa.

IMPORTANT FEATURE SERIES

Cliff Slaughter today continues his important series of articles with 'International Marxist Group (IMG) writes off the working class'

MONDAY: Centrism and the crisis of reformism

TUESDAY: The political independence of the working class

Make sure you follow each day's instalment of this theoretical series.

Tito's prices rise

THE cost of living in Yugoslavia increased by 15.9 per cent in May this year compared with the same month last year. Since December 1971 the increase was 6 per cent, according to figures issued by the Federal Institute of Statisticians.

This means, according to reporters in Belgrade, that the ceiling on the cost of living set by the Federal Assembly at the beginning of the year has already been reached.

The rise for the whole of 1972 was to have been only 6 per cent.

The biggest rises were in postal, transport and telephone charges. The rapid inflation is partly a result of the government's attempts to make the dinar a convertible currency.

PAPERBACKS CENTRE
28 Charlotte St
London W1

BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS



NOW OPEN
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
9 a.m.—6 p.m.
Thurs 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● SATURDAY JUNE 10, 1972 ● No. 788 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

DEVALUATION DRAWS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

THE RAPIDLY deteriorating economic crisis in Britain—so amply spelled out in a series of authoritative reports this week—has been aggravated by the strength and determination of the working class.

But the working class solidarity which smashed the Tory 'norm' in the miners' strike will have to be steered a hundredfold to withstand the next stage of the Tory onslaught.

Driven by the deep-going nature of their economic crisis, the Tories will be compelled to embark on more desperate attacks on the working class.

Unemployment will soar, food prices will rise to levels which millions of families simply won't be able to afford and the trade unions leaders will be brought even closer into the state machinery to discipline their members.

As this grave situation unfolds, the question of revolutionary leadership in the working class becomes of life-and-death significance.

That is why the Socialist Labour League is engaged in the historic task of building a revolutionary party which will fight reformism, revisionism and centrism in the labour and trade union movement.

The Tories stand today at the economic crossroads their economic landscape a veritable minefield.

A chorus of voices—the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, the Bank of England, the Confederation of British Industry and 'The Times'—have enjoined this week in setting out the Tories' plight.

'The Times' points to the sharp drop in Britain's international competitiveness since 1970 and concludes that any return to full employment is 'unlikely'.

● The Bank of England's quarterly bulletin says that the Chancellor Barber's reflationary manoeuvres have totally failed to restore business confidence, investment or output.

● The National Institute for

Economic and Social Research on Wednesday forecast high unemployment, rocketing prices and a balance-of-payments crisis later in the year.

● The CBI statement two days ago made clear that there was little chance of the so-called prices pledge being extended after the end of July, its date of expiry. In desperation director-general Campbell Adamson called for further collaboration with the TUC to hold down wages.

● Three of the Big Four banks—National Westminster, Midland and Lloyds, yesterday increased loan interest rates by a half per cent, a move which clearly indicates that the money-supply is being tightened.

It is 'The Times', however, which comes forward in a major editorial to grapple with the ruling class's problems.

The paper calls on the government to show 'great courage' and devalue the pound.

Such a drastic step will, however, only intensify the problems of capitalism internationally. Other countries would follow suit and the trade war would be hotted up on a new scale.

In any case devaluation today would occur under vastly different conditions from the Labour devaluation in 1967.

For one thing 1967 was the tailend of the post-war boom. Today world capitalism is in the throes of a recession.

On top of this, the August 15 measures of Nixon—ending dollar convertibility—have thrown the world monetary system into a state of virtual anarchy.

Thus Britain would be attempting a major reorganization of its currency without the safety net of the Bretton Woods agreement.

The first tactic of the Tories in the coming period will be to draw the trade union leaders into intenser levels of collaboration.

Of his own volition Victor Feather of the TUC yesterday went to see Employment Secretary, Maurice Macmillan.

Meanwhile Jack Jones of the Transport and General workers' Union was sitting down with Lord Aldington, chairman of the Port of London Authority and ex-deputy chairman of the Tory Party, to discuss ways of averting the national docks strike in six days' time.

David Watt, political editor of the 'Financial Times', had this cynical comment to make yes-

NEARER

terday about the twisting and turning of the trade union leaders: 'Appearance can be extremely misleading here, as we have seen in the last few weeks.'

'Sir Sidney Greene, normally regarded as a pillar of the moderate union establishment, is now alleged to be attacking the whole system; while Mr Jack Jones, supposedly the archetype of dangerous radicalism, is working

hand in glove with Mr Macmillan (who is very glad of his assistance, thank you very much) trying to prevent a docks strike.'

With the capitalist press openly mocking the cowardice of the trade union leaders, it becomes the urgent task of the working class to prepare for the Tory offensive.

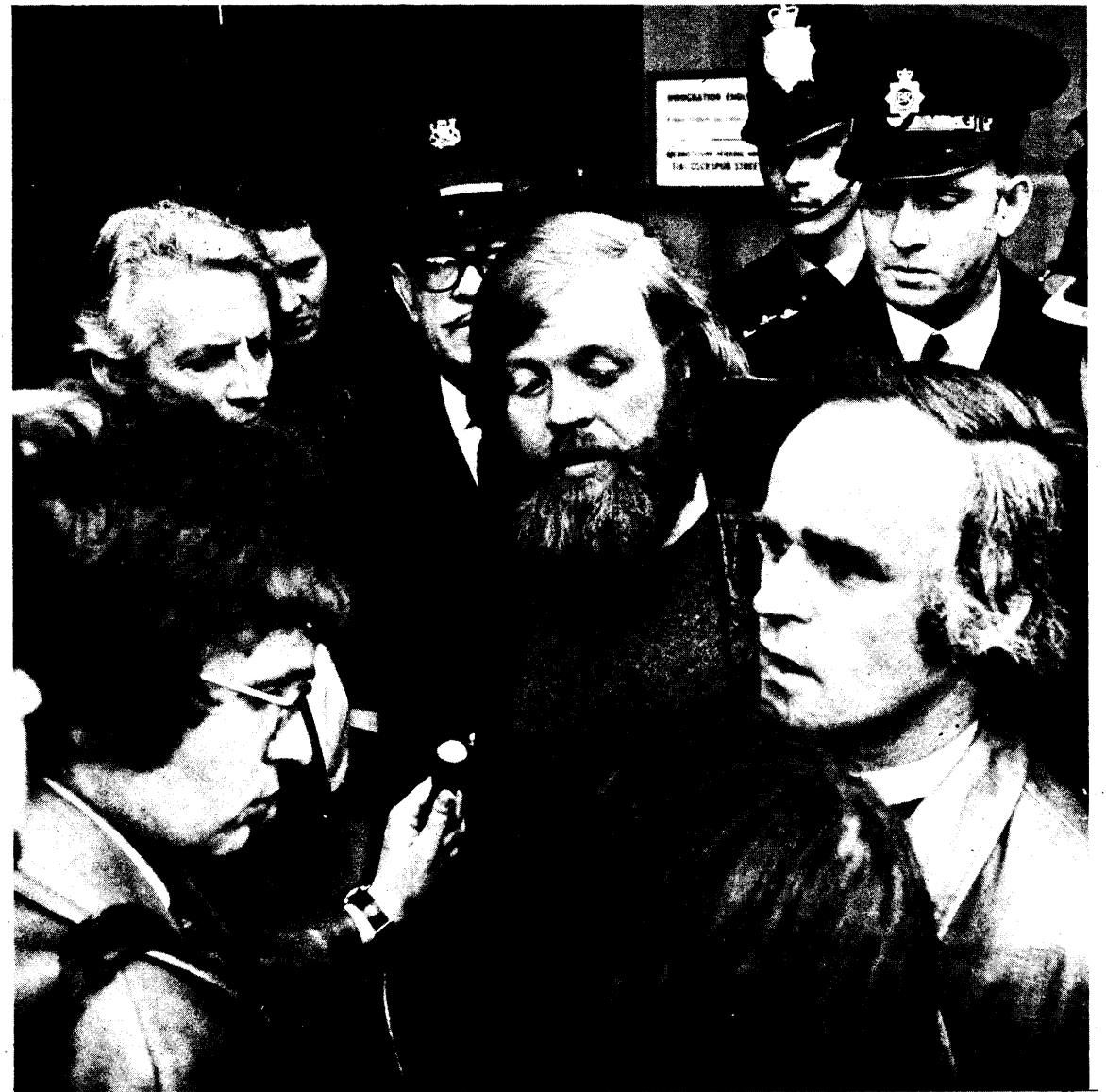
A major step can be taken by building Councils of Action up

DRAMATIC move in rail dispute yesterday afternoon, when three rail union general secretaries went to British Rail headquarters, Marylebone, London. Richard Marsh, Railways Board chairman, there to see them.

and down the country. The Councils will compromise all sections of the labour and trade union movement; they will become the battle ground for the resistance of the working class and the fight to elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

**Support the railwaymen!
Force the Tories out!**

Students in embassy protest



ABOUT 100 anti-apartheid demonstrators chanted in protest outside the South African embassy in London yesterday after their deputation was turned away by an embassy security officer.

National Union of Students president Digby

Jacks, who took part in the demonstration, said afterwards that it was 'quite unprecedented treatment by an embassy in London'.

The embassy official refused to accept letters from academics, colleges and political groups protesting about apartheid in South Africa.

IMPORTANT FEATURE SERIES

Cliff Slaughter today continues his important series of articles with 'International Marxist Group (IMG) writes off the working class'

MONDAY: Centrism and the crisis of reformism

TUESDAY: The political independence of the working class

Make sure you follow each day's instalment of this theoretical series.

Tito's prices rise

THE cost of living in Yugoslavia increased by 15.9 per cent in May this year compared with the same month last year. Since December 1971 the increase was 6 per cent, according to figures issued by the Federal Institute of Stalinists.

This means, according to reporters in Belgrade, that the ceiling on the cost of living set by the Federal Assembly at the beginning of the year has already been reached.

The rise for the whole of 1972 was to have been only 6 per cent.

The biggest rises were in postal, transport and telephone charges. The rapid inflation is partly a result of the government's attempts to make the dinar a convertible currency.

PAPERBACKS CENTRE
28 Charlotte St
London W1

BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS

NOW OPEN
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
9 a.m.—6 p.m.
Thurs 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Nixon visit shouldn't have been allowed says Sihanouk

BY JOHN SPENCER

SHARP differences between the Soviet government and the liberation movements in Indo-China have been revealed in Peking by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian National Liberation Front.

The Prince has attacked the Soviet decision to allow Nixon's visit to Moscow to go ahead despite the bombardment of North Vietnam and the blockade of its ports.

He told a French correspondent recently that Nixon should never have been allowed to visit Moscow.

And in an interview with Harrison E. Salisbury, of the 'New York Times', Sihanouk slammed Soviet proposals for a new Geneva conference.

'Such a meeting,' he said, 'would only provide the entrée [interval] for the third Indo-China war.'

He said it would result in the partition of Laos into eastern and western sections, and Cambodia into a Phnom Penh region for the government of dictator Lon Nol 'with the rest of the country in our hands'.

It would also, he said, produce three Vietnams—North Vietnam and two southern sections, one for Saigon and one for the National Liberation Front.

He said a Geneva-type conference had been proposed by the Soviet Union along with Britain and France, but that he, North Vietnam, the NLF and the Pathet Lao were opposed to such a meeting.

His remarks are a blow for the British Communist Party, which supports the idea of a new Geneva conference, organized on similar lines to the 1954 conference which partitioned Vietnam and opened the way for US domination of the South.

In another interview, with Richard Dudman of the 'St Louis Post-Dispatch', Sihanouk said the Chinese had not opened their ports to Soviet supplies



Sihanouk

ships diverted by the US blockade because they did not want the USSR to see their coastal defences.

As he himself admitted, Sihanouk was speaking as a 'good friend of China'.

He made no open criticism of Nixon's visit to Peking earlier this year, when the US president refused his request for a meeting.

He has good reasons for hostility to the Soviet leaders, however; the Kremlin still maintains diplomatic relations with the Lon Nol puppet regime and has yet to recognize Sihanouk's government, which controls most of Cambodia.

US bombs could kill millions

A NORTH Vietnamese official in Paris yesterday said American planes and ships were conducting a near-systematic campaign against North Vietnam's dams and dykes.

The dykes were 'extremely important for the everyday peaceful life of our country,' said Nguyen Thanh Le, spokesman for Hanoi's delegation at the Paris peace talks.

'The attacks are weakening the capacity of resistance of these hydraulic works and all is being done by our government and our people to consolidate them.'

'If president Nixon continues these attacks he will have to bear the consequences.'

North Vietnam has repeatedly warned that the US is bombing the dykes to create the conditions for massive flooding during the monsoon season which has now begun. Flooding of the Red River Delta as a result of the bombardment could cost millions of lives.

Money split may stop market

By A Foreign Reporter

IMPENDING entry of Britain into the Common Market has awakened latent antagonism between France and her 'partners' which had been pushed into the background since the demise of General de Gaulle.

There is now a serious possibility that the summit meeting planned for early October will not take place.

President Pompidou dropped a bombshell last week when he threatened to cancel the meeting. The French Deputy Foreign Minister followed it up by saying that the Common Market was not irreversible.

These statements represent a warning by France that she is not prepared to see the policy of the Market dictated by Britain, Germany or the United States.

The enlargement of the Common Market requires the working out of a policy on the international monetary and trade crisis.

There are deep disagreements between member countries on what this policy should be. The French government wants closer monetary and economic union to do battle with the dollar.

The biggest opposition to such a line comes from West Germany, which both wants to avoid an economic war with the United States and to prevent French domination of the Market.

Pompidou also wants the pro-

summit

posed European political secretariat to be located in Paris, fearing that if it goes to Brussels as other members wish, it will become an instrument to oppose French influence.

A meeting between Pompidou and Brandt is scheduled for July 3 and 4.

Unless an agreement is reached then on monetary and economic union, the summit may very well be postponed, thus aggravating the crisis.

Police move to isolate disaster mine strikers

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

MINERS at Wankie No 3 colliery adjacent to the disaster pit where more than 400 miners were killed in an explosion are still on strike despite the drafting in of big police reinforcements.

They are standing by the Kamadama shaft of the No 2 pit, where operations to recover the bodies of 426 miners who died in the disaster are in progress.

One miner said: 'We had a

WHAT WE THINK

RAILMEN MUST REMAIN ALERT

THE RAILWAYMEN gave their leaders an overwhelming mandate to resume the struggle for their full pay claim in the ballot imposed under the Industrial Relations Act. Instead of going forward resolutely to take on the Tory government, however, the union chiefs have been looking around desperately for a compromise. Having failed to find one they have been forced to impose a ban on overtime and rest-day working from midnight next Tuesday.

The leadership has already settled for a much more modest claim than was first submitted. The work-to-rule actions previously taken fell short of achieving full shut-down. And now Sir Sidney Greene and his friends plead fear of the Act to declare a still milder form of action.

Greene, secretary of the railwaymen's union, and Ray Buckton of the locomotive came out of the joint union meeting on Thursday saying that the claim is still 'negotiable'. Railwaymen, who have already gone into action twice for their claim, will not agree. Victor Feather, of the TUC, instead of calling for the solidarity of other workers with the railwaymen, is running true to form. Yesterday, at his own request, he met Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan—no doubt to offer some kind of mediation in the dispute.

This is just what the government is looking for. Now that it has exhausted the powers given by the Act its next step must be to impose a state of emergency. Railwaymen will not win out if they allow press reports of hesitations and divisions in the Tory ranks to deter them from pressing ahead with their action and rejecting any compromise settlement of the kind for which the leaders are angling.

The attitude taken by British Rail chairman Richard Marsh has the clear endorsement of the Tory government and there can be no doubt that a state of emergency will be swiftly declared when the work sanctions become operative. The Tory strategy has been to isolate the railwaymen from other sections of the working class in order to impose a settlement. It needs to do this to force down wages in preparation for entry into the Common Market. The working class must be alerted to the grave dangers from the Tory government and the retreats of the trade union leaders. The railwaymen need the support of all sections of workers. Only in this way can the strength of the entire class be mobilized to make the Tory government resign. The railwaymen's struggle gives added point to the call for Councils of Action to decide on a policy to fight the Tories.

Trade may collapse, says US negotiator

A WARNING that the world trade system could collapse if trade discrimination continued was made by Nixon's No. 2 trade negotiator, William Pearce, in a speech before the International Trade Club of Chicago.

Hitting out at the preparation for trade war by the Common Market, he said: 'Our most profound concern centres on the vast network of preferential trading arrangements being created by the European Community.'

He said that discriminatory trade practices were reinforcing protectionist feeling in the United States.

The speech follows a similar warning by the chief US trade negotiator William Eberle.

West German poll possible

CHANCELLOR Willy Brandt may be forced to hold an election before the end of this year in West Germany.

It is thought that he will ask for a vote of confidence after the summer recess, when the Olympic Games will also be over.

The Brandt coalition holds the same number of seats in the Bundestag as the Christian-Democratic opposition. The federal budget failed to obtain approval and has been referred back to a committee for cuts to be made.

Heath backs all-Europe conference

SUPPORT for the calling of a European security conference was clear in Edward Heath's luncheon speech in Copenhagen yesterday.

He said that the signature of the four-power protocol on Berlin 'opens the way for the next move on the proposed conference on European security and co-operation, and thus marks a significant step in the development of East-West relations in Europe'.

Heath called on the West European countries to go to the conference with a united and fully prepared negotiating position and be 'ready to search long and hard for solutions to the problems the conference will present'.

The NATO countries have already suggested that talks should begin at ambassadorial level this year.

The Communist Party can now look to the Tories for support of their campaign for the European security conference, the next move on the road to 'peaceful co-existence'.

Such a conference will make the Soviet bureaucracy still more ready to accept the European Common Market as part of the deal. Gollan and Co may soon find themselves making yet another alteration of course.

ENGINEERS IN NORTH-WEST PEACE MOVES

BY STEPHEN JOHNS in Manchester

TALKS aimed at settling one of Manchester's remaining sit-in strikes were being held yesterday.

Divisional organizer of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, John Tocher, met management at Hawker-Siddeley's Woodford plant, where 1,000 workers have been occupying for eight weeks in support of demands for more pay and better conditions.

The occupation at Hawkers is one of seven in the Manchester area. The only other big firm involved is GEC Diesels at Newton-le-Willows.

A settlement at Woodford, where convenor Bill Anten is a member of the AUEW national committee, is thought unlikely.

Management have offered pay increases amounting to £2.25 plus two days' extra holidays, but the union says this is not enough.

Hawker-Siddeley workers at the firm's Chadderton plant have already accepted a £2 pay offer after a sit-in strike.

Of the remaining disputes, the most bitter is at Viking Engineering, Stockport. There management are sticking firm over a decision to sack the convenor.

John Tocher said yesterday that Viking were using the district-wide pay claim initiated on March 27 to attack the unions.

'This firm is very hostile to us,' he said.

'This is the second convenor they have sacked.'

The Manchester action, which involved 28 sit-ins at its peak, should be a major talking-point at the AUEW national conference next week and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' national conference a week later. But as our industrial correspondent points out below, the conference agenda only palely reflects this.

In Birmingham, unions are planning a campaign similar to the Manchester action, but are unlikely to demand the key concession of a shorter working week.

● Turn to page eight. What happened to the engineers in 1957.



'Nay, nay lad, plant by plant!'

Union agenda skates over biggest problems

BY DAVID MAUDE our industrial correspondent

FEW SIGNS of the crisis gripping the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are visible on the agenda for next week's conference of its four sections in Hastings.

Wages policy—probably a major preoccupation among the amalgam's 1.4 million members at the moment—is mentioned only in a minor resolution from its Constructional Section.

This says that in negotiating locally the AUEW should not relinquish its right to go for increases nationally as well. What is worrying the rank and file, however, is the substantial failure of both avenues of approach.

Only this week AUEW president Hugh Scanlon had to stomp the Midlands in an attempt to save face for his and his executive's disastrous policy of fighting the national claim—drawn up 14 months ago—plant by plant.

At the centre of this year's conference, which is only the second involving engineering, foundry, technical, and constructional sections together, will be the issue of the Industrial Relations Act.

Both the technical and engineering sections have already been challenged in the National Industrial Relations Court, and both have decided not to attend.

The £55,000 fines imposed on the Transport and General Workers' Union are clearly very much in the executive's mind, however. A long executive resolution calls for the setting up of a TUC joint fund to meet penalties imposed on any union.

Also proposed by the executive is the establishment of machinery to allow any union whose operations are paralysed by the seizure of its funds to continue operating.

The AUEW executive will also ask conference to demand a pledge from all unions not to co-operate in industrial tribunals or 'other government-sponsored bodies connected with the Act'.

Whether this means the NIRC is not clear, but what is clear is that nowhere on the agenda is a call for concrete action to force the Tory government which set the court up to resign.



Hugh Scanlon

The closest anyone comes is the technical and supervisory section TASS, which 'reaffirms its determination to bring about its downfall' in a tired sort of way.

And the North-East division of the engineering section wants the executive to use all means at its disposal to campaign for the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Ford workers back eight-week occupation



Sit-in strikers at Wingrove and Rogerson the Kirkby industrial estate

By our own reporter

DESPITE harassment from the Ford management a big collection has been taken up for the workers sitting in at the Wingrove and Rogers factory, Kirkby.

Management has recently been reluctant to allow collections to be held throughout the Halewood plant to help other workers in struggle.

So the 'docks system' was introduced. Collectors stand outside the gates and take up a collection among workers as they are leaving work.

But when the Wingrove and Rogers men turned up outside the transmission plant gate this week, security men told them to move away. The Ford officials said the area was a private roadway and they called the police.

Yesterday morning, another confrontation occurred as men left the night shift.

Transmission-plant convenor John Meikle intervened, however, and pointed out that the collectors were not causing an obstruction.

After some discussion the collectors were allowed to stay and a big collection was made.

The Wingrove and Rogers plant has now been occupied for eight weeks.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETING

Support the dockers and railwaymen. Build Councils of Action

WILLESDEN: Monday June 12, 8 p.m. St Michael's Hall, cnr Hillside and Knatchbull Rds, NW10.

COVENTRY: Tuesday June 13, 7.30 p.m. 'The Queen', Primrose Hill St.

SOUTHAMPTON: Tuesday June 13, 7.30 p.m. Chantry Hall, St Mary's St.

BOOKS



- LEON TROTSKY: Germany 1931/1932 Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87
- Where Is Britain Going? Paperback 37p
- Revolution Betrayed Paperback 62p—cloth £1.05
- Problems of the Chinese Revolution Paperback £1.12—cloth £1.87
- Permanent Revolution: Results and Prospects Paperback 75p
- In Defence of Marxism Paperback 75p
- Lessons of October Paperback 60p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from: NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG.

Part four of a six part series on revisionism by Cliff Slaughter, Central Committee member of the Socialist Labour League.

INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP (IMG) WRITES OFF THE WORKING CLASS

Middle-class politics in the working-class movement are always characterized by irresponsible zigzags in policy, by light-minded dismissal of the past conquests and experiences of the working class and by contempt for theory. The IMG exemplifies these traits in every respect.

Robin Blackburn wrote in the 'Red Mole', before the 1970 election, that since the Labourites and the Tories had identical pro-imperialist policies on questions such as Vietnam, IMG supporters should go into Labour meetings and break them up, thus treating the General Election purely as a field for sensational propaganda actions by the tiny group in the IMG.

The International Socialists concluded in the editorial of their magazine 'International Socialism' that to refuse to vote Labour would be 'a mistake, but only a small one!'

RETURN TO REACTIONARY TORY GOVERNMENT

What a spectacle for a group claiming to represent some sort of alternative leadership in the working-class movement! At a General Election about to return the most reactionary Tory government, with its sails set for Bonapartist dictatorship, it shrugs off the disastrous and irresponsible abstentionism of the IMG and of many of its own members with the cynical 'only a small mistake'!

We find an instructive guide to the real thinking behind the IMG's recent development if we go back even further, to their conclusions after the 'student revolt' and 'Vietnam Solidarity Campaign' confrontations in 1968.

The IMG group then drew the conclusions that a new revolutionary leadership could be recruited from the largely student elements engaging in these actions and not from the working class.

When they looked at the Labour Party and the unions, they could see only the apparatus and not the working class. Their talk about a new revolutionary vanguard was, as we explained at the time, essentially a writing off of the working class as the revolutionary forces for socialism.

The IMG's journal 'International' for February 1969 carried an editorial entitled 'The Labour Party After Four Years of Wilsonism'.

It described the decline of constituency Labour Parties and even estimated that the number of active Labour Party members was fewer than those participating in the October

1968 Vietnam demonstration!

It continued:

'If Wilson leads the Party into electoral disaster which accelerates the present process of decay without provoking a real fight from the left to reinvigorate the labour movement, the working class will have suffered a major defeat which could lead to the dominance of reaction for a whole period.' (My emphasis, CS.)

Here is the clue to the real thinking behind the surface militancy and 'leftism' of the IMG!

In February 1969 they saw a Tory electoral victory as 'a major defeat for the working class', leading to 'the dominance of reaction for a whole period'. In June 1970 the working class was told that it made no difference whom they voted for!

This kind of politics, if it were to gain any credence in the working-class movement, would be dangerous in the extreme, and a revolutionary party can be built only on the basis of the most determined struggle against it.

For the IMG the working class is never an independent force in which revolutionary Marxist leadership must be built. The working class is written off.

The betrayals of Wilson and the electoral victory of the Tories are considered on the one hand to be equivalent to a major defeat for the working class, and on the other to be meaningless.

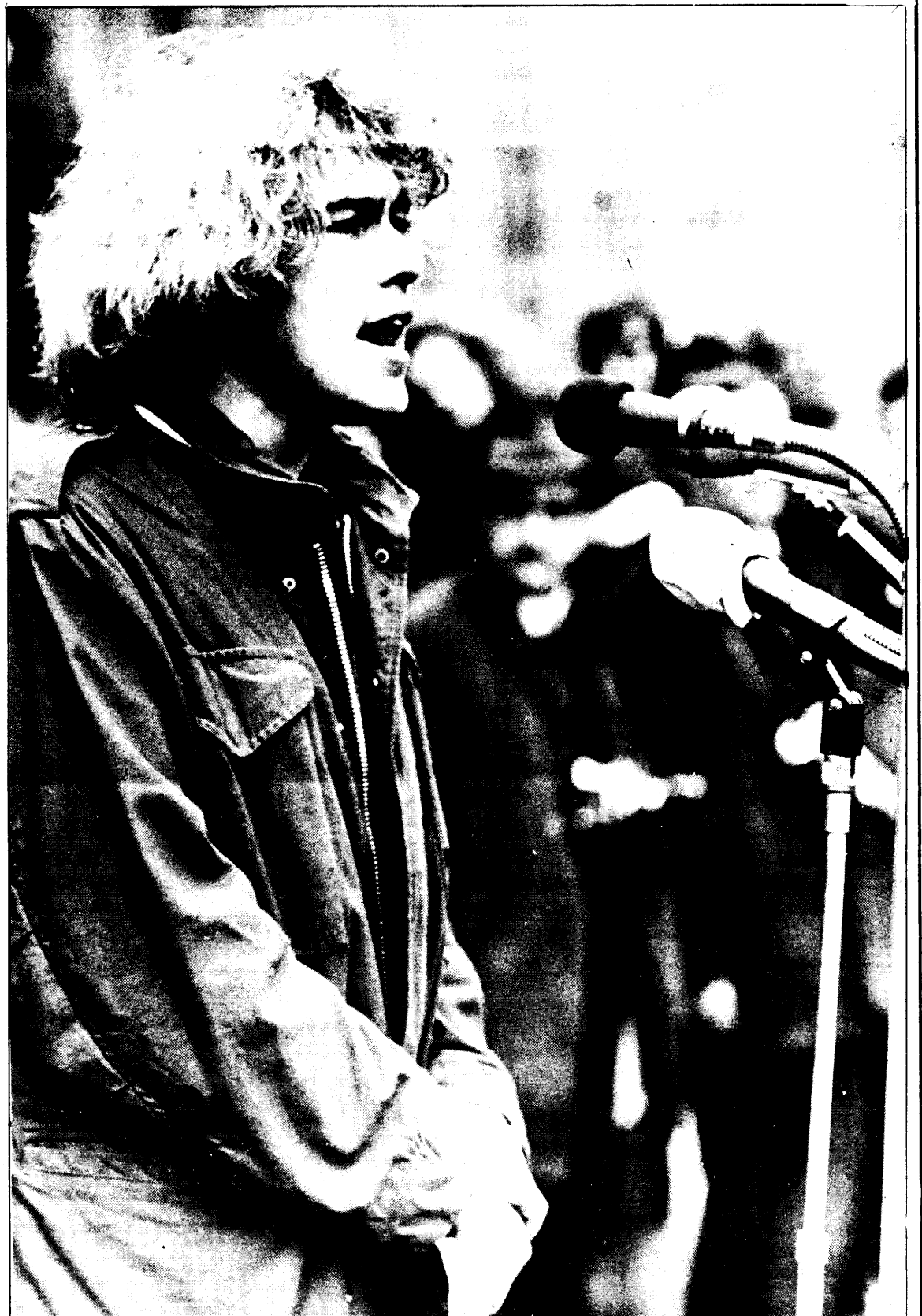
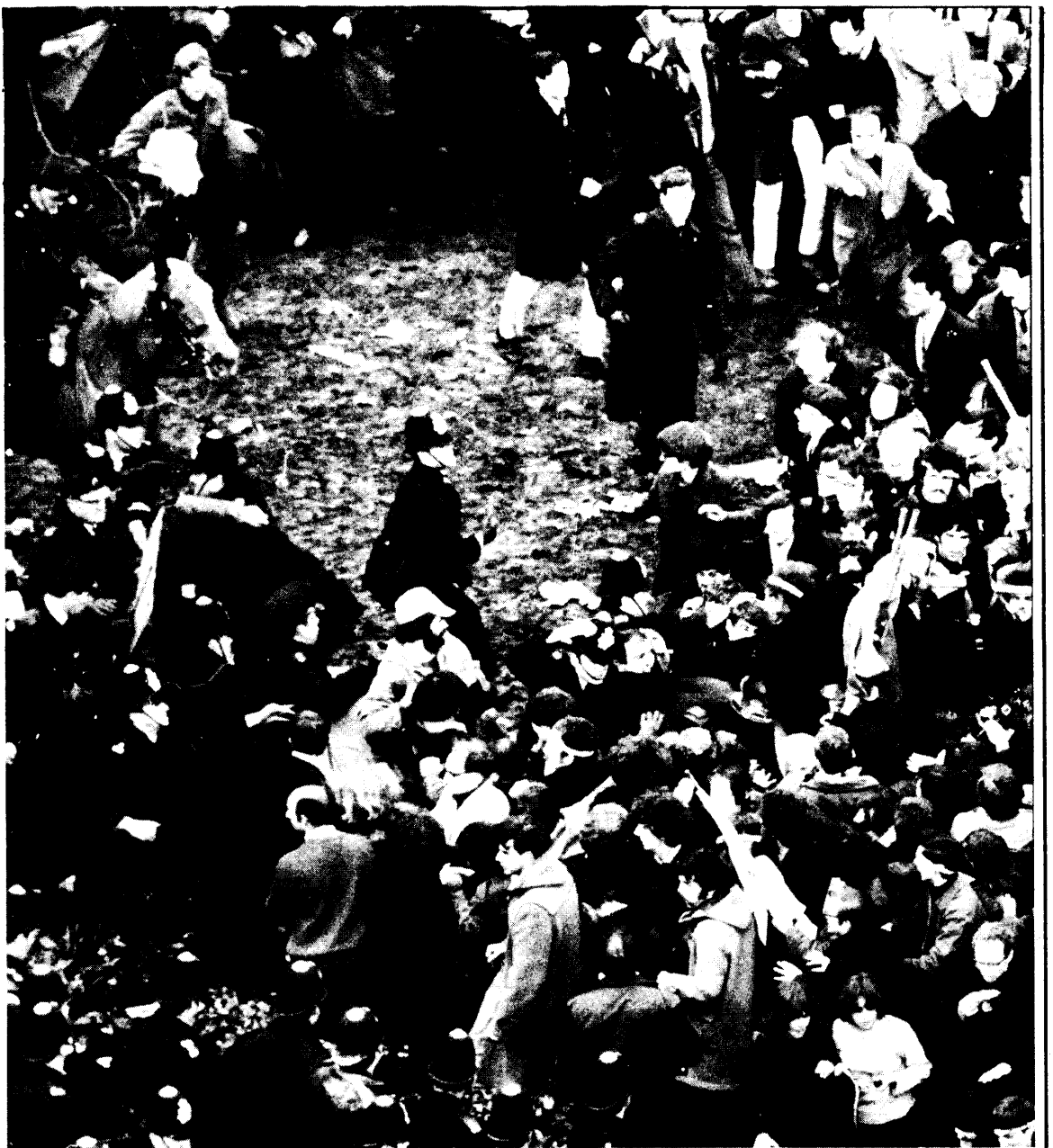
There is here not a shred of confidence that the working class will resist, and can and must be mobilized to defeat the Tories, overcome the consequences of Wilson's betrayals, and force the question of socialist policies to a head with the Labour leadership.

We shall see in our final two articles next Monday and Tuesday that this process of writing off the working class, which began with the subordination to bureaucracy in 1953, has now been consciously completed by the IMG.

CONTINUED MONDAY



No confidence in workers ability to resist Wilson (above).



Top: Vietnam Solidarity Campaign 'confrontation' of 1968—the IMG concluded that student elements could form a revolutionary leadership. Above: Robin Blackburn—suggested breaking up Labour Party meetings.

BLACK COPS FOR THE GHETTOS

Black control of the police in the ghetto areas is the latest campaign of the Socialist Workers' Party in the United States.

SWP is in political solidarity with the International Marxist Group in Britain.

The latest demand is in line with the call for a separate black party put forward in the SWP's presidential election manifesto.

The call for black police in the ghettos came originally from the reactionary sect of Black Moslems, who are violently anti-communist and stand for the complete separation of black and white workers.

According to 'The Militant', the SWP's weekly paper, the demand is also backed by 'various community organizations, several black democratic politicians, and the Nation of Islam (Black Moslems)'.

These people staged a 5,000-strong rally in New York's Harlem ghetto which was 'hailed' by the SWP's local congressional candidate, B. R. Washington.

The rally followed an attack by more than 100 police and plainclothes men against Muhammad's Temple No. 7 in Harlem on April 14.

According to 'The Militants', '... the police supposedly responded to a call about an officer in distress on the second floor of the Temple. They first burst into the building and then surrounded it, brandishing automatic weapons and shot-guns.'

'Scores of children attending the Moslem school were present. Moslem leaders say some of the officers pointed their guns directly at the heads of some of the students.'

Two Moslems, Louis 17X E. Dupree and Bobby 9X Hope were arrested for throwing out the first group of police to enter the mosque. Police fired 'warning shots' into the mosque entrance and one officer later died.

The call which originally brought out the police turned out to be a false alarm, and, says 'The Militant', 'The Moslems are demanding an apology from [Police Commissioner Patrick] Murphy and Mayor John Lindsay for the assault, the dropping of all charges against the arrested Moslems and the removal of white police from the black community and their replacement by black officers under black commanders.'

Not surprisingly, these demands have the backing of all the nationalists and separatists in Harlem, including, according to 'The Militant', 'an

organization of black policemen known as "The Guardians".'

Black control of the Harlem police would obviously suit them down to the ground! Other backers proudly listed in the revisionist paper include two black nationalist newspapers, the Black Panther Party, Harlem congressmen Charles Rangel, State Senators Waldaba Stewart and Sidney von Luther and 'many community organizations and churches'.

'The Militant's' report of the Harlem rally opens with a description of the enthusiasm which greeted a speech from Louis Farrakhan, a Protestant Minister.

Even the Libyan government of Muammar Gaddafi is behind the Moslems' demand. It appears that Libya's deputy foreign minister confronted the US consul in Tripoli with a protest over the mosque attack.

The SWP candidate issued a statement specifically endorsing the call for black police in the ghettos. He said:

'The Moslem defence campaign and demands should be supported by the entire spectrum of political opinion in Harlem [!].'

'To cement this support we must build a black united front [sic] committed to mobilizing and organizing the community in behalf of the demands.'

'It is only by demonstrating our power, as we have begun to do in this rally, that we can compel the withdrawal of the white police and their replacement by black officers acceptable to us. We must have community control!'

The statement reveals the total bankruptcy of the SWP revisionists, who have thrown out of the window all the teachings of Marxism on the state and class struggle.

The capitalist state machine (defined by Lenin as bodies of armed men) exists for the purpose of protecting private property and maintaining the subjection of the working class.

Black or white, that is the policeman's job.

No communist can talk of '... officers acceptable to us'. To line up with religious reactionaries, Democratic shysters and organizations of black 'pigs' for so-called 'community control' of the police is to delude black workers into thinking there is some separate road for them.

This is also the essence of the SWP's demand for a separate black party, reflected here in the call for a 'black united front'.

Such a demand means launching the SWP even deeper into the middle-class swamp where it is now firmly embedded.



Above: publicity posters for candidates in the Lebanese parliamentary elections

HOW THE CHURCHES RUN LEBANON

The Lebanese parliament, a rubber stamp for imperialist exploitation of the Lebanese masses, maintains deep religious divisions through its constitution.

According to a law decreed by Emir Bachir III in 1821, and which still stands, the various religious sects must be represented in government as long as 'general welfare of the state'.

RELIGIOUS

Under the present form of the law, the president of the

Lebanon must be a Maronite (Christian), the Prime Minister a Sunite (Moslem), the president of the parliament a Shi'as (Moslem) and the vice-president a Greek Orthodox.

Since 1943 the number of deputies in parliament has changed, but not the proportion of religious sects represented. Parliament is now composed of 30 Maronites 20 Sunites, 11 Greek Orthodox, 19 Shi'as, six Druses, four Armenian Orthodox, one Armenian Catholic, one Protestant and one who represents the minorities.

These variegated sects have then been able to find consistent agreement on the need to maintain the *status quo*. This is hardly surprising. Fifty per cent of the deputies

are landowners and the rest come from the ranks of big business and the legal profession.

RIVALRY

Although the parliamentary debate is dominated by rivalry between sects, the system carries on. As one Lebanese newspaper recently stated:

'For the past 25 years, or better still, the past 50 years what has changed in the Lebanon? The political picture is the same. There is a sort of fatalism in the air that inexorably brings in the same men, the same figures—or their sons or cousins—to the same posts.'

TROUBLE FOR NIXON

Even the best efforts of the KGB were not enough to ensure a trouble-free stay for President Nixon during his recent visit to Moscow.

When he and Mrs Nixon visited the Moscow ballet, where the bemedalled bureaucrats ape the old aristocracy, he was forcibly reminded of the Vietnam war.

As the ballet was ending, the wife of an Italian Communist Party member shouted: 'Get out of Vietnam!'

The Soviet police quickly

hustled her out of the theatre. The same police scuffled with workers along the route of Nixon's motorcade from the airport to the Kremlin.

As the police hustled him away from the route, one worker remonstrated angrily with them:

'Why all this fuss about Nixon? For Vietnam he should be hanged at the corner lamp-post and you try to put everyone in order.'

To try and prepare the way for the visit, the Soviet CP leaders held a concentrated propaganda campaign in favour of 'peaceful co-existence'.

Workers at many of the meetings, however, demanded to know why the Soviet leadership was 'helping Nixon to win the election'.

DAVENTRY SHUTDOWN: A SIGN OF THE TIMES

BY PHILIP WADE

The announcement on Monday that the most advanced machine tool company in Britain, Herbert-Ingersoll of Daventry, had finally collapsed, came as no surprise to the 338 workers left in the plant. For the Anglo-American venture had not made a profit since it began trading in 1968. In fact it had accumulated losses of over £4m.

Throughout the last 18 months Herbert-Ingersoll sacked 215 workers as the company floundered in deeper financial difficulties.

Yet in January 1968 the firm opened with 600 workers. They were skilled workers recruited from all over England, some of them coming from as far away as Sunderland on the North East coast.

Four years and five months later the parent companies, Europe's largest toolmakers, Alfred Herbert of Coventry and the Ingersoll Milling Machine Co of Illinois, announced they had had enough.

The now-common figure of the receiver-manager, in this case Kenneth Cork of Barclays Bank was called in. The bank had a vested interest because they were the debenture holders of a £3.7m loan to Herbert-Ingersoll.

Most importantly, however, the company's collapse indicates the severity of the crisis facing British capitalism. Under the impact of the world economic recession it proved unable to sustain an industry vitally necessary to its future.

If British capitalism was to have any chance of meeting competitors in the international trade war it would need to have retooled on the most advanced basis.

Herbert-Ingersoll's aim was to produce special purpose machine tools and advanced metal working systems like those made in the United States.

It aimed at customers in the motor, commercial-vehicle and electrical-engineering industries. Apart from one order from Chrysler's, for the Avenger project, it virtually failed.

Last year new orders were worth £2. But £1.9m of these were for export. British capitalism just didn't want to know.

Herbert-Ingersoll was launched in the middle of the deepest recession the machine-tool industry had known since the war.

As British capitalism shelved one investment plan after another because of the recession the first thing to go were machine-tool orders.

By 1968 the slump began to

hit the machine-tool industry. Today the industry, which employs 55,000 workers, is running at just 60 per cent capacity.

Last year new orders were 40 per cent down on 1970 in the £200m industry. Export orders were down 19 per cent.

Throughout the 1960s, efforts had been made to change the whole outdated structure of the industry. Today there are still 200 firms producing machine tools, a drop of 150 on 1961.

Alfred Herbert, Europe's largest toolmaking concern, was severely hit. In the trading year of October 1971 it sustained a loss of over £4m.

It purged its workforce ruthlessly. The number of sites went from 15 to 11 and in 14 months they sacked 3,190 workers, one quarter of its labour force.

Chairman Sir Richard Young described bankruptcy reports as 'moonshine'. Sir Richard lives in a luxurious manor house in Stratford-upon-Avon and is a director of Rugby Portland Cement and the Commonwealth Finance Development Corporation.

For the company, Herbert-Ingersoll was an attempt to drag the ailing company into the 20th century, to compete on the world market.

DESPERATE FOR SUCCESS

Herbert-Ingersoll was first conceived in 1966 as the Labour government began desperate attempts to make British capitalism work. The machine-tool industry was vital. Yet it had an antiquated structure rooted in the 19th century.

If British manufacturers wanted advanced tools they sought them abroad. In fact about 30 per cent of all machine-tool deliveries were from overseas manufacturers.

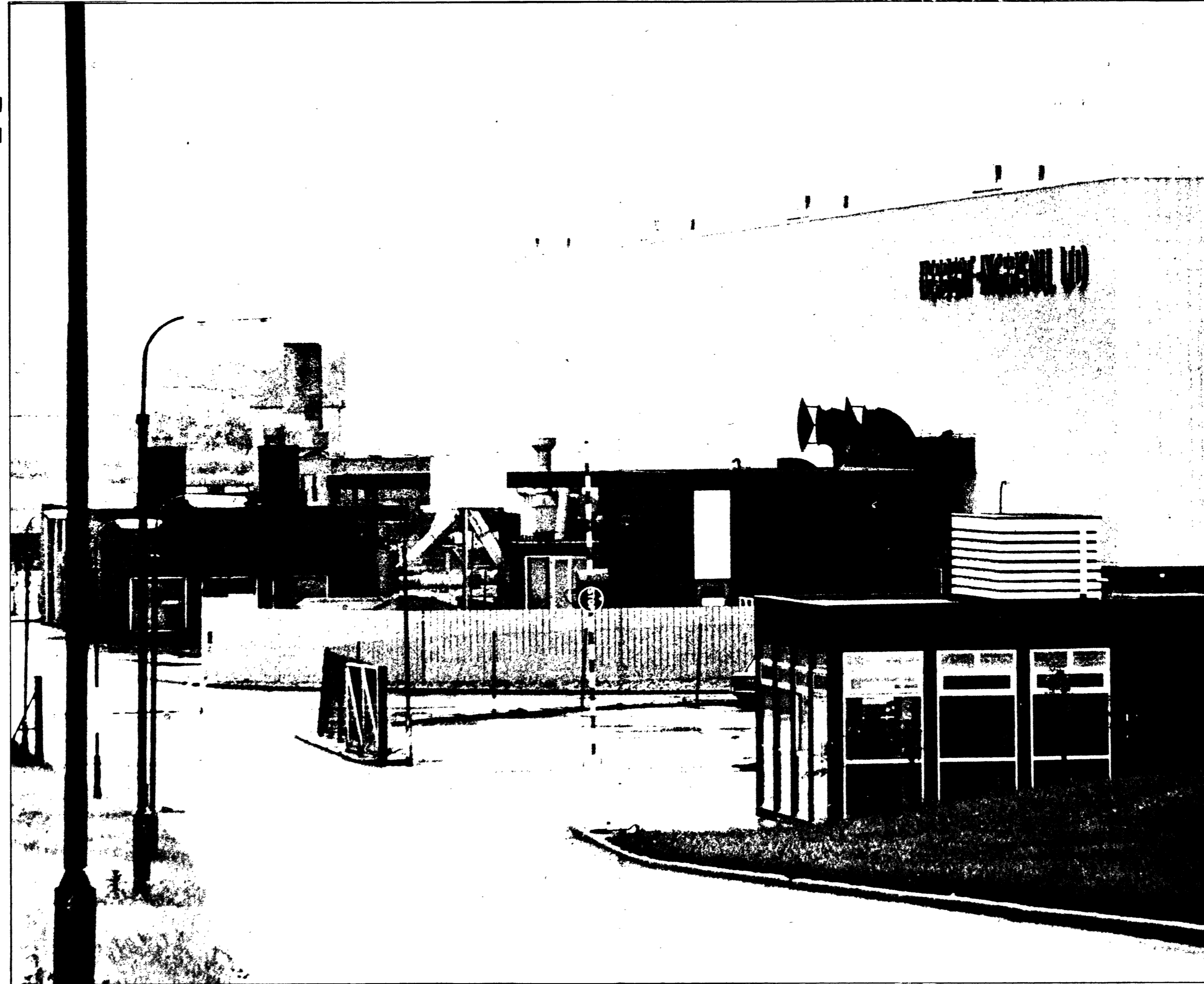
The Labourites were desperate to ensure the success of the company. And with the co-operation of Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' officials they helped impose the most draconian conditions of employment.

It would be fair to say that the AUEW sold its whole rule-book, representing conditions won in years and years of struggle to try and appease the employers.

As convenor Len Rudkin put it to me outside the factory gate on Wednesday: 'We had complete mobility of labour.'

'In the end you had skilled engineers running round the plant sweeping up. Others in fact painted some of the factory.'

'The company said they would keep the original labour



force, paying us overtime when there was a lot of work on and always guaranteeing us a 40-hour week when work was slack.'

Clocking in was abolished and everybody was made a member of the staff on a salaried basis. The AUEW obtained the right to represent all the workers in the plant.

As J. H. Spurr, managing director in October 1969, put it: 'Herbert-Ingersoll has committed itself to a new approach in human relationships.'

'We have abolished clocking-in and out, all our people are on salaried conditions of holidays and pay, one restaurant is used by all of us.'

In the end, other Daventry workers used to say they wouldn't work at the factory if asked because the pace was so killing.

Shop stewards and convenor were virtually powerless. The convenor himself, according to Rugby district secretary of the AUEW, Jim Hunter, could only visit other sections during official breaks.

It is little surprise, therefore that in four-and-a-half years there was not a single strike at Herbert-Ingersoll.

That is why the firm esti-



Above: the Herbert-Ingersoll factory in Daventry. Far left: Jim Hunter, AUEW Rugby district secretary. Top left: Len Rudkin, convenor at Herbert-Ingersoll. Below left: Herbert-Ingersoll worker, Jim Milburn.

ated that it could produce £5m worth of goods in its £34m factory with just 600 workers.

Against a background of general slump in British industry and stagnant capital investment, Herbert-Ingersoll lost just over £2m in its first trading year on sales of only £2.3m. This was put down to starting-up and learning costs.

But in the 1969-1970 period losses were £1.23m on sales of £3.3m. The Labour government then stepped in with a loan of £1m through its now defunct Industrial Reorganization Corporation. The IRC took a 13 per cent shareholding as a result.

Then last year the firm lost a further £800,000 on sales of £5m. With the Alfred-Herbert group as a whole losing £4m as well the final straw came when the Tories refused more aid after lengthy discussions at ministerial level earlier this year.

The scene was then set up for the announcement by di-

rectors that the receiver had been called in.

The business failed financially because 'the volume of business available in the United Kingdom has been consistently disappointing and the total workload has not been sufficient to enable the company to trade at a profit,' they said.

FAILURE ALL ROUND

What did the workers think when they heard the news. Said Len Rudkin: 'Although we've been anticipating it since the last redundancies were announced (120 in October 1971) it still came as a shock. We were shocked to the core when the very first men were sacked in February last year.'

'It was like having someone in hospital who you know is dying. Nevertheless, when the letter comes through the door it still hits you.'

'Here we are in a position where two big companies like these can simply sit down and decide to finish something like

this. Yet I'm sure they won't lose a crust over it.'

'Yet the most amazing thing is that Herbert-Ingersoll were trying to provide for a real need by British industry.'

'Industry is not being modernized at all. Nearly all our orders went abroad to countries like Japan, Brazil and Australia. It's been failure all round.'

'One government after another has had nothing but stop-go.'

'When reflation did come people went out and bought televisions and the like but it didn't help the manufacturing industry.'

Len Rudkin readily agreed that all the promises of security given in exchange really for mobility of labour and so on had come to nothing in the end.

'Now Barclays Bank step in. Their problem is not what is going to happen to the 350 men but how to get back the £3.7m owing them by the company.'

'The answer? I think it needs a change of the people who we've got in control of finance in this country. It can't be left to big business who can't even afford to pay their shareholders now.'

'That's talking like a Communist now!' said Len who then admitted to be taken back by his own conclusions. 'If state control is the answer then that's it. No job's safe at the moment.'

What of Daventry, the small town in Northamptonshire about 20 miles south-east of Coventry and the engineering industry?

For it was the attractions of the town that started the rush of industry there in the 1960s, bringing with it thousands of workers from different parts of Britain.

It was in 1961 that the Minister of Housing decided that the planned expansion of the town should be accelerated to try and ease the growing pressure on the Birmingham conurbation.

As a result the town's population has doubled to 12,000 in just a few years. Under the plan 1,400 new municipal houses have been built, and 400 private houses have been completed. More are being built—will they be let?

New housing together with the central location of Daventry brought companies like Ford of Britain and Green Shield Stamps to the town.

For Herbert-Ingersoll worker Jim Milburn, though, the promised land has turned a little sour as he is faced with the dole queue yet again.

'I once worked at Rolls-Royce in Sunderland. That firm was in such a dodgy position that I jumped at the chance of giving the family a little more security.'

'This kind of thing shatters you completely. We have settled down here and my two children are at school. To go back to the North-East would be unthinkable.'

'There are no jobs up there for skilled men and not many here either. Seventy of the men who have left here are now working in Green Shields. And I know one man who is a security officer on a gate somewhere else.'

'What the financiers seem to be doing with this company is playing one big shuffle game with us as the pawns.'

'My horizon,' said Jim, 'used to be no further than you can see at the top of that road. Now we're all being forced to look at the more general, political questions.'

'I'm pretty sure as far as this place is concerned—that it is no use sitting in a trap eating cheese waiting for it to spring down on you. A sit-in? There's nothing definite about anything like that yet.'

AUEW district secretary Jim Hunter is now facing his third round of Daventry sackings in engineering.

Three years ago 140 went at Rex Arnold, the steel-based furniture frame company. Then last year Daventry Engineering sacked 150 men—one quarter of its labour force.

'Daventry's image is becoming a little tarnished, he said. There are still jobs about but it's no use my skilled members who came from up and down the country to work at Herbert-Ingersoll taking a job at Green Shield.'

'What seems to be happening these days is that everyone is saying it's no good investing in people.'

'Instead you have to put your money into things like property and land if you want to make a profit,' he told me in his Rugby office.

'This leads me as a socialist to say that places like Herbert-Ingersoll should be nationalized—and I'm not particularly a nationalization man. If it is impossible to run these industries with private capital then the state should take them over.'

GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO HELP

This week the receiver met management and union officials for preliminary talks on the situation at Herbert-Ingersoll.

Receiver Cork told the union side that he had every intention of trying to sell the company as a going concern and that he was making requests for government assistance.

Yet the government has already refused once this year to come to the company's aid. Could it be that the government let the company collapse with the intention perhaps of returning on a fresh basis—only to tear the heart out of the firm?

It was left to Transport and General Workers' Union convenor Jim Humphreys, from Ford's, to issue the following warning: 'Whoever buys it—there will still be further redundancies.'

'That's always been the case with things like this.'

'The prospects for those out of work in Daventry now are not very good. The recruiting that went on at Ford's is virtually at an end now. And there are engineering jobs in Coventry or Northampton.'

'I think if the men at Herbert-Ingersoll decided to fight any sackings they'd get support in Daventry,' added Jim.

When the Liverpool-London Young Socialists Right-to-Work march reached Daventry earlier this year it received overwhelming support from the Trades Council, the Labour Party and trade union branches.

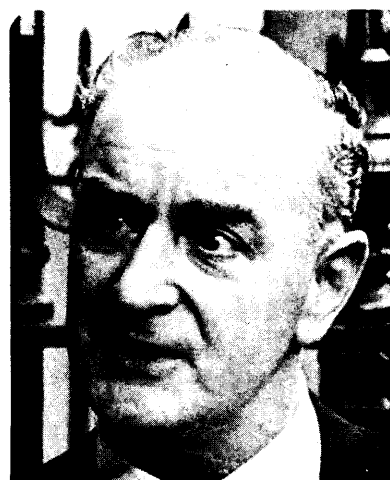
The significance of that campaign was that it posed the fight for jobs as a political fight against the Tory government, the men responsible for the creation of 1 million unemployed.

The Young Socialists said the only way to defend the right to work was through a mobilization of the working class to force the Tories to resign.

The meaning of that campaign now takes on a life-and-death significance in Daventry. Already one trade union branch has passed a motion calling for the setting up of a Council of Action to organize the fight back against the Tories.

That call has to be made a reality and the Council must fight for the resignation of the Tories and the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies including the nationalization of the basic industries under workers' control and without compensation.

That is the only way forward for Herbert-Ingersoll workers in defence of their right to work.



In the pay struggles of 1957 engineers were limited to restricted action which led to isolation and defeat. Today, with the AUEW's abandonment of the national claim, engineers face the same dangers. Left: Manchester sit-ins, one such isolated struggle. Top: Scanlon who abandoned the claim. Above: Birch who thinks it the best move ever. Below: Carron who sold out in 1957.



HOW THE CP HELD BACK THE ENGINEERS IN 1957

Engineers' leader Hugh Scanlon this week toured the Midlands in what many of his union members saw as a desperate bid to save face over the disastrous results of his executive's pay policies.

The trip on the eve of next week's conference, in Hastings, of all four sections of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, where the substantial failure of the union's strategy of fighting for its national claim on a plant-by-plant basis is likely to provoke bitter comment.

When full-time officers of the AUEW engineers' section met three weeks ago, one of the officials from the Manchester district, Bernard Panter, attacked the executive for making no effort even to arm the membership with propaganda for the struggle. A Communist Party member, Panter was then himself attacked by Maoist executive member Reg Birch for taking the failings of himself and

other officers out on the leadership.

The Maoists' line is that the decision to abandon the pay fight at national level is one of the best moves ever made by the union.

Birch told the AUEW engineers-section conference at Eastbourne in April that it was the first time the membership had been given the freedom to fight in this way. In fact, it is not. The executive's policy today is merely a variation on the treacherous theme it played the last time engineers were involved in major struggle—in 1957.

On March 23, 1957, 20,000 heavy - engineering workers struck in the start of a 'snowball' action for 'a substantial wage increase'.

They were followed on March 30 by 20,000 in the Greater London area. By April 6, more than a million workers organized in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions were out behind the pay demand drawn up almost a year before.

Everything was set for a bitter struggle.

On the eve of the strike, Transport Minister Harold Watkinson, a former chairman of the machine-tool employers, tried to whip up middle-class chauvinism against the strike by declaring that 'the real winners . . . will be shipbuilders in Japan, Germany and elsewhere'.

The employers and the Tory government continued to insist that vital export markets were being lost, the economy was being shattered and that the stability of prices and wages would be disrupted. Police clashed on several occasions with demonstrations organized in support of the strike.

On April 11, 1957, Hugh Scanlon, then Manchester divisional organizer for the Amalgamated Engineering Union, headed at that time by right-winger William Carron, came under fire for calling out Lancashire Steel's Irlam factory.

The factory's welfare officer, Labour MP Jack Jones, accused him of being 'a known communist, a disrupter all his life'. Some sections of the press seized on the incident, to

which an element of the spectacular was imparted by the sudden demise of Jones' wife while watching a TV confrontation between Scanlon and her husband.

Jones' description, however, was sadly inaccurate; Scanlon had turned in his CP card some two years before, and many Manchester engineering workers remain critical of his role in that dispute.

What is more, the policies of the CP itself were no danger to Jones and his employers. In fact they represented a necessary division of labour with the right-wing Carron clique dominating the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The CP uncritically backed the strategy of restricted action, thus maintaining the divisions between shipyard workers and engineering workers, and between engineers in one area and another.

It refused to organize independently of CSEU 'lefts' like Ted Hill, leader of the boiler-makers' and Frank Cousins of the Transport and General Workers' Union. And it con-

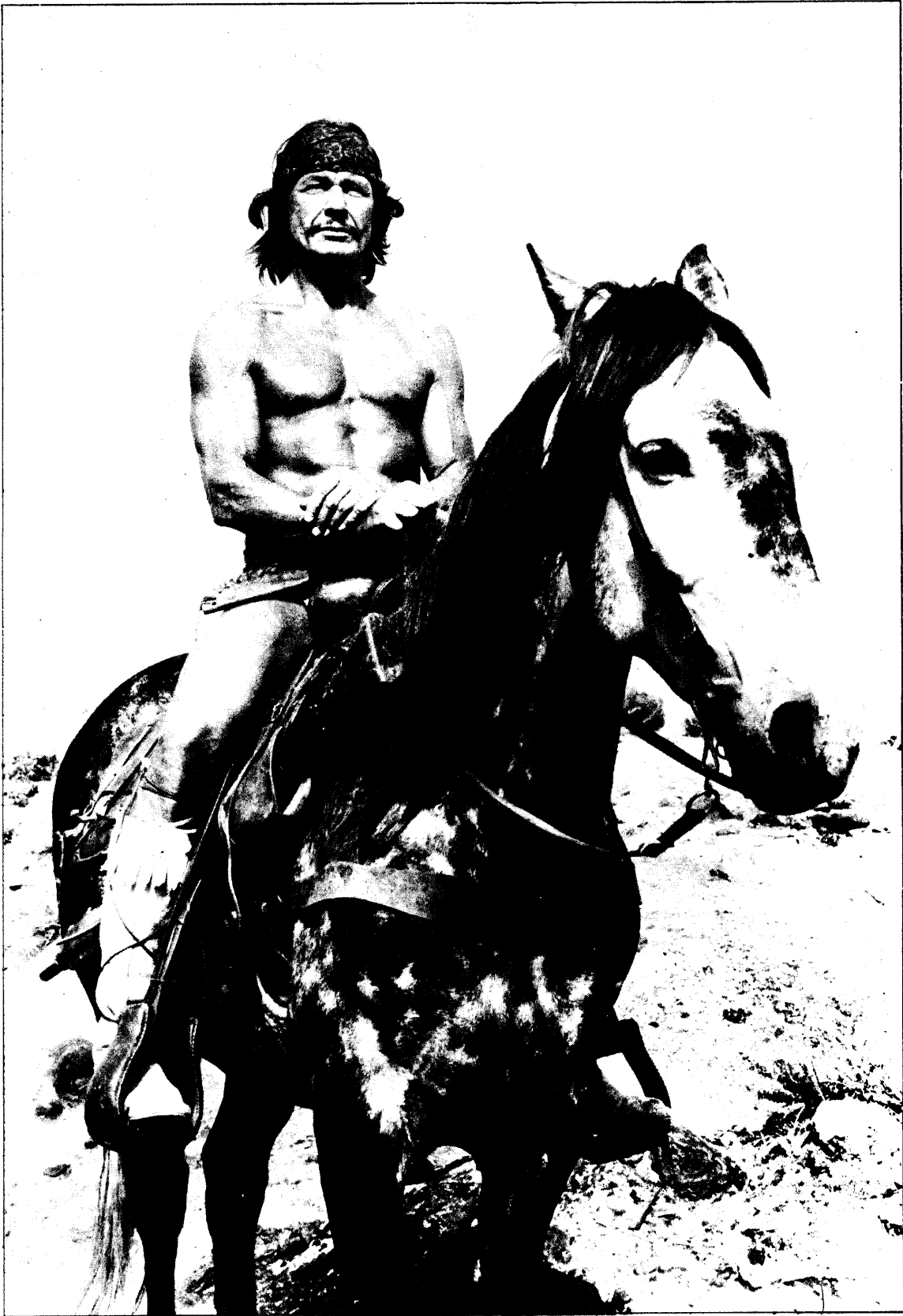
sistently avoided raising the demand for the removal of the Tory government.

Later in April, when the shipyard workers had been out for less than three weeks, the Carron clique sent their members back to work for a miserly increase of 57½p a week.

At the same time, they agreed with the employers to freeze wages for a year and to help crack down on so-called restrictive practices. Even some right-wingers were amazed—in some cases declaring the settlement an open betrayal.

By the end of May, engineers in Salford and a number of other areas were complaining of a ruthless enforcement of clocking-on times. Had the CSEU fought to the end, they said, far more than 57½p could have been won—and without any strings.

Much greater dangers face engineering workers today, which is precisely why Scanlon and Birch want engineering workers to forget what happened the last time union leaders divided their members' strength in a major struggle.



A BOX OFFICE WINNER

BY PHILIP WADE

'Chato's Land' is very much a film of its time. It is enormously violent—at least 13 people are killed—and it comes down in the film's own way, on the side of the Indian against the white man.

The film's producer and director is British, 36-year-old Michael Winner. Winner will readily admit he never sets out to make a masterpiece but rather a film that will sell.

In that sense he tends to pour scorn on those in the industry who complain the profit system deters the talented film-maker. Winner, however, accepts this system. He is happy in making average films well and making money when they sell.

Like so many westerns these days, the film is centred around the developments that take place within the scope of an extended chase for a fugitive who has supposed to have broken the law, at least in the eyes of the majority.

Winner has used all the techniques incorporated in recent western 'chases', including the often psychedelic mixture of colour and the slow, panning shots with the telephoto lens.

The opening scene is pure Paul Newman, played with a dumbness that is almost a send-up of itself.

The half-breed Apache Chato (Charles Bronson) is drinking in a saloon when the sheriff walks in and tells the Indian it is a white man's saloon. As Chato carries on drinking the sheriff pulls his gun and prepares to shoot him in the back.

Chato happens to be the fastest half-breed in the West and shoots the sheriff dead before anyone can move.

The chase is on and it soon becomes an excuse for all sorts of Indian-haters, mostly small farmers, to forget what happened in the saloon—that it was a fair fight—to hunt him down.

With the sheriff gone, it falls upon a former officer in the Confederate army to lead the fight.

All he can remember is losing to the North because they had more men. Presumably one Indian wouldn't be too much trouble.

In a short time he has rounded the best Indian-haters he can find who vow to catch Chato and burn him. Two Scottish farmers go along because they don't want to offend their neighbours by refusing.

Chato is not by nature a violent man. And for the early part of the film the director is at pains to contrast him with his pursuers who are driven forward by nothing but intense hatred for Indians in general.

Chato's aim is simply to tire

Charles Bronson in 'Chato's Land'

them out and confuse them until they return home. To this end he actually leaves signs for them to follow while at the same time shooting their horses and destroying their water supply.

But he reckons without the skill of the ex-army officer who, thinking strategically ahead, senses Chato's intentions. And, of course, there remains the intense paranoid hatred for the man they never see.

Chato eventually thinks they've given up and reaches his home in the mountains where his wife, child and servant await him.

Constantly the pursuers are driven forward, often against the majority's wishes, by the most brutal among them. Eventually they rape Chato's wife and kill his servant.

From this time they are hunted and stalked by the Indian who kills those who don't kill each other in arguments over whether to return home.

The idea behind the film is interesting enough. The contrast between the rabble driven by hatred and the passive Indian (who hardly says a word throughout) keeps the interest alive.

Yet the development of this conflict is never fully developed. No doubt this would have taken it above the normal, mass film product which Winner specializes in.

Yet the climax is honest enough. There are no scenes where the poor old Indian gets it again, despite having right on his side. If you like a little better-than-average, exciting western, it is worth seeing this film.

RULING CLASS JAPES

BY IAN YEATS

The frightening thing about 'The Ruling Class' is that Saturday's trooping of the colour proves that they are all alive and well.

Director Peter Medak clearly knows this, but his fun-poking film and particularly its conclusion underestimates the importance of it.

His mistake is on the one hand to separate surface appearances from the historical role of the class as the masters of capital and on the other to ignore the changes it has undergone.

Seen through Liberal eyes its members are arrogant, corrupt, eccentric, parasitic and nostalgic for the time when

The only way to give the life of his class meaning is to put teeth into it and he becomes the spokesman for all those who are desperate to arrest its decay.

He is feted by the Tory ladies of the hunt when he descends upon them to make a hang 'em and flog 'em speech of maniacal intensity.

He sets about the elimination of all signs of decadence, beginning symbolically with his own house.

He stabs his aunt who tried to seduce him and who has already had an affair with his psychiatrist and murders the gold-digging petty bourgeois wife the family foisted on him when they thought he would have to be shut away for life but needed an heir first.

The butler who is discovered to be a Maoist gets the blame for the first and we are not told who pays for the second. Perhaps he does because now he has a son to carry on the line.

All this is done in moments when he imagines himself to be Jack the Ripper—a significant choice by Medak since the whore killer is also rumoured to have been a nobleman dis-



Carolyn Seymour as Jack's bride-to-be in 'The Ruling Class'

'England was a jewel set in a silver sea'.

All of this is true. But it does not make them irrelevant as a social force.

The idea that they are allows Medak to make a great deal of often very funny mileage at their expense.

His principal instrument is the family butler (Arthur Lowe) whose satirical tongue is loosened after old Lord Gurney (Harry Andrews) hangs himself by mistake in a sensual orgy and bequeaths him £30,000.

The noble Lord's son and heir, Jack, is a schizophrenic who believes he is God and the immediate family difficulty is how to restore to him sufficient sanity to permit him to manage the estate and take up the class banner where his father dropped it.

In line with Medak's concept of the class as museum pieces, Jack (Peter O'Toole) shrinks from acting out the subterfuge that what he and his class did meant something.

But in rejecting the role he was born to, he faces the terrifying prospect of social extinction.

So he seeks refuge in the belief that he is God—a figure whose powers are only one step removed from those of the ruling class and who is a good deal more secure.

He is not the God godfearing people know. He is a hippie God, a mystic, a tripping divinity to whom all the world is love and roses.

When this flower child is dragged back from the rarefied heights of extreme idealism to reality through confrontation with another 'God', love and roses turn into their direct opposite—black reaction.

gusted with the decadence around him.

In other words, if Gurney could not be God, then he would have to be what he was and defend what he was against all and everything that sought to undermine it.

His maniacal speech to the House of Lords, where he calls down fire and brimstone for all those responsible for tarnishing England's image, is greeted by wild cheering from the Lords and declarations of 'at last he is one of us'.

The gap between Gurney's 'madness' and their 'sanity' has been closed. They all agree on what has to be done.

While Gurney speaks Medak shows us the Lords both as reality and as cobweb draped skeletons.

What Gurney and the Lords stand for its certainly as backward and barbaric as the skeletons suggested, but it is by no means as dead.

Colonels are not all blimps and Lords are not all eccentric, goutish old fools. They are the owners and defenders of capital and they will fight to preserve themselves and their positions.

The ruling class can afford to lose an empire—that is only a form of rule. But they cannot forfeit the monopoly of wealth which is their life-blood.

Medak's mistake is to ignore the fact that the ruling class is the capitalist class. It is their system. They are not only part of it. They are its mainspring.

The logical development of Gurney is not lonely madness performing empty rituals in crumbling castles but the 'new world' of fascism where rulers are rulers and the ruled are ruled.

The building workers' pay fight

Union chiefs may issue selective strike call

BUILDING trade unions representing 400,000 workers are on the point of launching official industrial action in support of their claim for £30 for a 35-hour week and three weeks' holiday.

Negotiations, which have dragged on for a year now, have made virtually no progress. A special sub-committee of the wages negotiating committee of the National Joint Council is now trying to break the deadlock.

The trade union side of the NJC has given the employers until June 26 to come forward with substantial improvements in their offer.

On this date the trade unions will consider procedure exhausted under the NJC constitution and have declared their intentions of going forward with industrial action.

National and regional action

set up with the task of selecting the firms to be hit and co-ordinating the activities of the unions involved.

The unions involved in the negotiations have been led by the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT), which represents about 262,000 building workers.

Others involved have included the Transport and General Workers' Union, representing about 100,000 workers, the General and Municipal Workers' Union and FTATU, the furniture trades union.

They have between them 12 seats on the NJC, the same as the building employers.

Throughout the protracted negotiations, the employers have really treated the unions with



Building workers lobbying union-employer pay talks in February

contempt, cancelling at short, and sometimes non-existent notice, NJC meetings.

They have attempted to take advantage not only of the weak leadership in the building unions but also the phenomenally high unemployment rate among building workers.

Almost 180,000 workers are out of a job in the industry, about one in six of the total labour force.

The employers have been able to use unemployment to intensify their attacks on trade unionism on building sites. At the moment no more than 35 per cent of the industry is organized by trade unions.

The trend can be seen by the decline in membership of UCATT, the union recently formed by a merger of the woodworkers', and the painters' and decorators' unions.

In December 1970, membership stood at 283,764. The most recent figure we have is over 20,000 lower at 262,610.

More and more employers are encouraging the practice of working on the lump to keep wages down and break up union organization.

Almost 300,000 men in the industry now work as self-employed and without insurance cards, earning about £8 for a 10-hour day.

So when the pay claim went in, the wages and conditions in the industry made the organized workers some of the lowest paid in any industry.

Under the present three-year agreement craftsmen were only on a basic rate of £20 for a 40-hour week. The Labourers' basic was a meagre £18.50.

A recent Department of Employment survey of earnings in industry said that in April 1971, building workers were 16th in the wages table.

The claim for a £30, 35-hour week and three weeks' holiday was first registered with the NJC in June 1971 after months of preparation on the union side.

It wasn't until October, though, that anything was heard. Then the employers told the unions they would like to adjourn the meeting to enable them to make a written reply to the claim.

It didn't take long for the unions to receive a letter rejecting out of hand the unions' claim.

The employers then used the excuse of the reorganization of the NJC to delay another meeting with the unions. Eventually the first real negotiating meeting took place on February 8 of this year.

The employers came up with the insulting offer of just £1.40 for craftsmen and £1.20 for labourers. It was rejected by the unions.

The next scheduled meeting for early in March was arrogantly cancelled unilaterally by the employers and it was not until March 16 that the two sides met again at the NJC.

They increased the offer to £2.00 for craftsmen and £1.60 for labourers.

They also wanted to introduce a guarantee weekly minimum wage to give craftsmen another £2.00 and labourers £1.50p—but only if they didn't earn that much in bonuses. The unions rejected the deal.

On April 12 the employers snubbed the unions yet again by cancelling another scheduled meeting.

The first UCATT officials heard about it was when the T&GWU phoned them up. The meeting eventually took place on April 25 when the employers repeated their March 16 offer.

On May 4 the employers tried another tack by offering a 19-month agreement which would

have lasted until December 1973.

By that time craftsmen would only have been on £24 and labourers £20. Rejection again. The employers said it was their 'final offer'.

On May 18 the unions met and decided to press ahead with exhausting procedure before organizing industrial action.

Deadlock was recorded at the subsequent NJC meeting on May 21 and a special sub-committee was set up to try and come up with a solution. The unions gave it until June 26.

The union leadership is not prepared to launch an all-out strike for the claim. Instead preparations are being made for as yet unspecified industrial action on a series of selected strikes up and down the country.

Shell pipefitters stay out for guarantees

PIPEFITTERS and boiler-makers at Shell's huge refinery in Stanlow, Ellesmere Port, remain on strike following a phased return to work by the riggers and mechanical fitters on Wednesday.

The whole work force at Fluor, a sub-contracting firm on the site, struck two weeks ago and were subsequently all dismissed. Their pickets were harassed by police throughout the strike.

The riggers' return to work followed the reinstatement of three sacked men.

Michael Standon, the pipefitters' shop steward, said his men would only return subject to guarantees from management that they will recruit no more fitters until all the issues had been resolved.

One of the causes of the dispute is the refusal by management to recruit union members who have been out of work for long periods.

He said that failing this the site shop stewards had pledged support—probably in the form of another mass picket—starting next week.

Fighting the Tories Rent Bill

attacked by new councillor

A COUNCILLOR in West London has bitterly attacked his Labour group for putting up no fight against the Tory council and allowing the 'fair rents' Bill to pass on the nod.

In the elections last year in Kensington and Chelsea—for as long as anyone can remember a Tory stronghold—the swing to the left increased Labour's representation from five to 24.

'Labour has failed very, very badly. There may as well not have been 24 Labour councillors during the last 12 months, for their effectiveness has been quite negligible,' said Cllr Ian Flintoff.

In an interview with the 'Kensington News', he condemned the right wing for virtually collaborating with the Tory council.

'Labour could have been more coherently progressive,' said 34-year-old Cllr Flintoff, who works at the Labour Party's Transport House headquarters.

On the 'fair rents' Bill and the lack of fight of the Labour opposition he had this to say: 'The housing thing in the past 12 months has not improved at all.'

'And, for example, I would have walked out of the council chamber when the Tories proposed the Housing Finance Bill. I asked the group to walk out but they refused.'

In a damning indictment of the right-wing's contempt for the workers they represent. Flintoff

'Labour failure'

added: 'Mainly, I should get back to the fact that our 24 members are a failure, if we're really honest with ourselves.'

'Because, in my opinion, our group isn't socialist. Half the bloody devils are Tories.'

He accused the group of failing to raise any issues on the council, apart from school milk.

'Many of the councillors', he added, 'didn't want to be elected in the first place. Most of those standing never thought they had a chance of winning.'

'The nice thing about being a socialist is that you can shame the Tories. We should be able to shame them and we're not. Say on milk, and free travel for pensioners and things like that, I would have walked out.'

'But of course the Labour group don't because they're chicken. They'd rather have sherry in the mayor's parlour.'

'If we walked out it would be the biggest thing that ever happened in Kensington.'

'At the moment it's like a tennis match. The Tories are serving the ball and we're sending it back. We should be serving.'

Cllr Flintoff has been fighting successfully for the preparation by the Labour group of its manifesto for the 1974 elections.

He insists, however, that there will have to be new faces in the party. 'I'd like to see new people and in fact I think the party will want to see new people.'

He said he had made his feelings public before it was too late to do anything about it.

Subscribe! workers press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)
£10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)
£5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:
£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)
£6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required	MONDAY	THURSDAY
(Please tick)	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for months.

Amount enclosed £

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.10 London. 5.10 Train now standing. 5.40 London. 9.00 Film: 'Night Walker'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 Gus Honeybun. 12.10 Rupert Bear. 12.20 Lone Ranger. 12.45 Lidsville. 11.25 Faith for life. 11.30 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 11.40 All our yesterdays. 12.10 Thunderbirds. 1.07 Weather. 1.10 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.45 London. 9.00 Film: 'Nightmare'. 10.30 London. 11.25 News. 11.55 Strange report. 12.30 Weather. Insight to the artist.

HARLECH: 10.50 Tennis. 11.15 Pippi Longstocking. 11.40 Sesame street. 12.40 Farming diary. 1.10 London. 5.10 Sale of the century. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Husbands, Wives and Killers'. 10.20 If it moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Prisoner. 12.20 Weather. **HTV Cymru/Wales** as above except: 5.10-5.40 Siona sian.

ATV MIDLANDS: 12.35 Horoscope. 12.40 Captain Scarlet. 1.10 London. 9.00 Film: 'Scandal Sheet'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Dick Van Dyke. 11.50 Who knows? Weather.

ULSTER: 12.55 Enchanted house. 1.10 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Summer results. 9.05 Film: 'The Invasion of the Body Snatchers'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Theatre.

YORKSHIRE: 11.25 All our yesterdays. 11.50 Make a wish. 12.15 Skippy. 12.40 Lidsville. 1.10 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'McMillan and Wife'. 10.25 If it moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Danger man. 12.20 Weather.

GRANADA: 12.15 Woobinda. 12.40 Secret service. 1.10 London. 5.10 Guns of Will Sonnett. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Pit of Darkness'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Danger man.

TYNE TEES: 11.25 All our yesterdays. 11.50 Bush boy. 12.15 Arthur. 12.40 Lidsville. 1.10 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'McMillan and Wife'. 10.25 If it moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Strange report. 12.20 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 12.05 Beagan gaidhlig. 12.20 Clapperboard. 12.40 Tom Grattan's war. 1.10 London. 5.10 Road runner. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Turn the Key Softly'. 10.30 London. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 On the house.

GRAMPIAN: 12.40 Yoga. 1.10 5.10 Rovers. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'McMillan and Wife'. 10.20 If it moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Strange report.

BBC 1

10.00-10.30 Wie bitte? 11.20 Weather. 11.25 Cricket. England v Australia. 1.30 Grandstand. 1.40, 2.10, 2.35 Racing from Haydock Park. 1.50 Fight of the week. Joe Bugner v Doug Kirk. 2.20, 3.15, 4.10 Cricket. 2.50, 3.35, 4.10 International athletics. 3.15 World bowls championships. 4.50 Final score. 5.05 Basil Brush. 5.35 News. 5.50 Dr Who.

6.15 **WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY.** The Owl That Didn't Give a Hoot.

7.00 **FILM: 'OPERATION AMSTERDAM.'** Peter Finch, Eva Bartok, Tony Britton, Alexander Knox. Daring mission is planned to rescue industrial diamonds from the Nazis.

8.40 **THE BLACK AND WHITE MINSTREL SHOW.**

9.25 **A MAN CALLED IRONSIDE.** Check, Mate: and Murder.

10.15 **NEWS** and weather.

10.30 **PARKINSON.**

11.30 **ALL IN THE FAMILY.** Sammy's Visit.

12.00 **Weather.**

BBC 2

9.05-1.00 Open University. 2.40 Tutankhamun's Egypt. 3.00 Film: 'The Black Tent'. Anthony Steel, Donald Sinden. 1942 and a British officer lives among the Bedouins. 4.30 Cricket. England v Australia.

6.35 **MAN ALIVE.** Aberdeen—The New Texas?

7.35 **WESTMINSTER.**

7.50 **NEWS, SPORT** and weather.

8.00 **MOTHER THAMES, OBE.**

8.40 **VENICE — THE MOST SERENE REPUBLIC.**

9.25 **SOUNDS FOR SATURDAY.** Jonie Mitchell.

10.10 **PETS AND VETS.**

10.30 **THE GOLDEN BOWL.** End Game.

11.15 **NEWS ON 2** and weather.

11.25 **FILM NIGHT.**

12.00 **FILM: 'RIDE LONESOME.'** Randolph Scott, Karen Steele. Western about a man searching for his wife's murderer.

SATURDAY TV

Italian tournament. 4.15 Wrestling. 5.00 Results service. 5.10 Train now standing. 5.40 News. 5.45 Sale of the century.

6.15 **2 G'S AND THE POP PEOPLE.** Dougie Squires' Second Generation, Lulu, Jimmy Young with guest Bee Gees.

7.00 **NEW SCOTLAND YARD.** Fire in a Honey Pot.

8.00 **SATURDAY VARIETY** The Bachelors.

9.00 **FILM: 'DONOVAN'S BRAIN.'** Lew Ayres, Nancy Davis. A doctor devotes his life to keeping animal tissue alive after death.

10.30 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

10.40 **OPEN NIGHT.** Mike Scott.

11.30 **PORTUGAL — DREAM OF EMPIRE.** Out of the Limbo.

12.25 **ONLY ONE EARTH.**

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.00 London. 12.05-12.30 Music in the round. 1.58 Weather. 2.00 Avengers. 2.55 Film: 'On the Town'. 4.35 Date with Danton. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'Crack in the Mirror'. 9.30 Cinema. 10.00 London. 11.15 Edgar Wallace. 12.05 Epilogue. Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.30 London. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.20 Sound of... The Settlers. 1.35 Farm and country news. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 11.00 London. 12.00 Weather. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55 Farm progress. 1.25 Training the family dog. 1.45 Stingray. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'The Love War'. 4.35 News. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Mountain Road'. 9.50 Bugs Bunny. 10.00 London. 11.15 Songs for your delight. 11.45 Short story. 12.15 Weather. Insight to the artist.

HARLECH: 11.00 London. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55-1.25 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.45 London. 3.15 Film: 'Battle Taxi'. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'Girl in the Headlines'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 11.15 Avengers. 12.15 Weather. **HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales** as above except: 12.05 Dan Sylw. 12.40 O'r wasg. 12.55 Lusern.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 London. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55-1.22 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.40 Horoscope. 1.45 London. 2.15 Sports. 3.15 Film: 'Blind Spot'. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'East of Eden'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Spyforce. Weather.

ULSTER: 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.45 London. 3.15 Film: 'Santa Fe'. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'Tender Trap'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Saint.

YORKSHIRE: 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 London. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 Beloved enemy. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Farming outlook. 1.55 Calendar Sunday. 2.20 World snooker. 3.15 Film: 'Green Fingers'. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'Confidential Agent'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Division 4. 12.15 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00-12.00 London. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.50 Farmhouse kit-



Sinead Cusack in J. M. Synge's 'Playboy of the Western World', BBC 1 Sunday.

chen. 1.20 All our yesterdays. 1.50 Mad movies. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'The Diamond Wizard'. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'Sergeant Rutledge'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Man in a suitcase.

TYNE TEES: 10.20 Farming outlook. 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 London. 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 Beloved enemy. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 Farming outlook. 2.15 Where the jobs are. 2.20 Snooker. 3.15 Film: 'The Astonished Heart'. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'Behold A Pale Horse'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Randall and Hopkirk. 12.10 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55-1.22 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.25 All our yesterdays. 1.55 Out of town. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Sailor of the King'. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'Any Wednesday'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 Randall and Hopkirk.

GRAMPIAN: 12.05 Music in the round. 12.30 London. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.20 All our yesterdays. 1.50 Farm progress. 2.20 Randall and Hopkirk. 3.15 Film: 'Cash On Demand'. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'Victim Five'. 9.30 Odd couple. 10.00 London. 11.15 His and hers. 11.45 Job look.

BBC 2

9.05-1.30 Open University. 1.50 Cricket. Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire.

7.00 **NEWS REVIEW** and weather.

7.25 **THE WORLD ABOUT US.** Chimpanzee!

8.15 **FILM: 'THE ART OF LOVE.'** James Garner, Dick Van Dyke, Elke

BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30-10.00 Wie bitte? 11.00 Seeing and believing. 11.30 Boomph with Becker. 11.45 Mistress of Hardwick. 12.10 Bellamy on botany. 12.35 Profit by control. 1.00 Farming. 1.25 Hammer it home. 1.50 World bowls championship. 2.20 Made in Britain. 2.29 News. 2.30 Going for a song. 3.00 Laurel and Hardy. 3.35 Shari Lewis show. 3.45 Film: 'The Reluctant Widow'. Jean Kent, Guy Rolfe. Love, death and treason during the Napoleonic wars. 5.10 British Empire.

6.05 **NEWS** and weather.

6.15 **THE ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY.**

6.50 **SONGS OF PRAISE.**

7.25 **SACHA'S IN TOWN.** Sacha Distel with Daliah Lavi, Olivia Newton-John, Vicky Leandros.

8.15 **PLAY: 'THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD.'** By J. M. Synge. John Hurt, Sinead Cusack.

9.55 **NEWS** and weather.

10.10 **OMNIBUS.** Born Black, Born British.

10.55 **KENNETH HARRIS INTERVIEWS** Sir Kenneth Keith.

11.40 **Weather.**

Sommer, Angie Dickinson, Ethel Merman. Comedy.

9.50 **TUTANKHAMUN'S EGYPT.** War and Trade: Egypt's Place in the Ancient World.

10.10 **THE LOTUS EATERS.**

11.00 **NEWS ON 2** and weather.

11.05 **NIGHT CLUB.** Shirley Bassey.

ITV

10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 Morning service. 12.05 Farmhouse kitchen. 12.30 Something to sing about. 12.55 Out of town. 1.15 Stingray. 1.45 University challenge. 2.15 Sportsworld 72. 3.15 Jason King. 4.10 Catweazle. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Follyfoot.

6.05 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

6.15 **NO SMALL CHANGE.**

6.35 **THERE I GO.**

7.00 **STARS ON SUNDAY.**

7.25 **DOCTOR IN CHARGE.** Mum's the Word.

7.55 **FILM: 'ANY WEDNESDAY.'** Jane Fonda, Jason Robards, Dean Jones. A millionaire visits his mistress every Wednesday in New York.

SUNDAY

9.50 **POLICE 5.**

10.00 **NEWS AT TEN.**

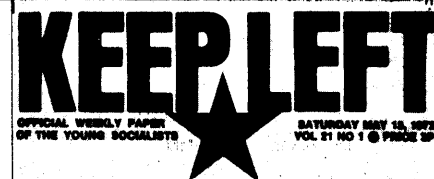
10.15 **PLAY: 'IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.'** Suzanne Neve, John Carlisle.

11.15 **MUSIC IN THE ROUND.** Anatomy of Folk.

11.45 **SHORT STORY.** 'Bloch's Play'.

12.15 **ONLY ONE EARTH.**

NOW WEEKLY



The eight-page youth paper which leads the fight against the Tory government, for the right to work, in factories, schools and on the dole queues.

Plenty of news, views and features at 3p a copy. Order your regular copy now. Yearly subscription £2.86. Send to Keep Left, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

Please send me 'Keep Left' for one year

I enclose £2.86

Name

Address

I would like information about

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4 7UG.

Name

Address

FERMENT IN ACTORS' EQUITY

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

THE FERMENT within Equity, the actors' and actresses' union with 92 per cent of its membership unemployed, reaches its climax tomorrow with the annual conference at the Victoria Palace.

The right wing in the union, led by Marius Goring, is desperately trying to stem the tide of opposition by actors to the Tory government and its policies of unemployment and laws against the rights of unions.

The theatrical companies are taking advantage of the massive unemployment in Equity to prepare a series of wage-cuts. The BBC has already initiated enormous cuts in appearance fees.

In all this the union leadership has remained completely impotent.

No fight has been put up against unemployment or wage-cutting. And the council from the beginning decided to capitulate to the Tory government and register the union under the Industrial Relations Act.

Under the impact of Tory-led onslaught on their living standards and rights, the membership has struck back against the council.

In the end a referendum on registration — the result was announced last week—only produced a majority of 888 in favour of registering. Over 1,200 voted against.

The nature of the motions down for tomorrow's meeting indicate sharply the content of the struggle within the union.

Goring is moving two motions. The first 'deplores the recent intrusion of party politics into the non-political association of Equity' and then proposed two rule-amendments.

The first adds to Equity's objects: '... and to maintain its complete freedom of artistic, ideological and political expression by the association itself remaining strictly non-sectarian, impartial and non-political in its activities on behalf of the membership'.

Then Goring proposes to give the president sweeping powers by making it his duty to '... uphold the constitution and

maintain the objects of the association.'

Combined with this is resolution 15, which is an attempt to prevent the democratic right to call special general meetings. Two of these have been held in the last year—both on the question of fighting the Industrial Relations Act.

If his resolution is passed, the chances of organizing another such meeting will be very slim. For Goring's resolution states: 'The president shall have the power to veto the calling of such a special general meeting if, in his opinion, the motion is frivolous, vexatious, unnecessary or is a matter properly for consideration at the next AGM.'

Goring's resolution—if passed—would lead to the installation of an all-powerful overlord who would have the right to tread on any attempt by the membership to express its opinions.

If the membership wants to oppose the veto it can summon its own special general meeting under the resolution.

The movers of any resolution at such a meeting would, however, have to 'undertake to bear the whole of the cost incurred in the calling of it'. This could mean expenses of anything up to £2,000. And they would have to deposit £500 with the treasurer before anything else.

The opponents of Goring and the right wing—who successfully mobilized 1,250 against registration—will take their fight into tomorrow's vital conference.

A resolution moved on behalf of 55 members calls for the meeting to 'reaffirm its total opposition to the Industrial Relations Act, recognizing, however, that a simple policy of non-co-operation with the Act, by itself, is completely inadequate as a defence against a government that has shown itself determined to use the law as a means of destroying the trade union movement.'

'We therefore call on the council of Equity to demand of the TUC that they carry out their responsibility to organize the entire trade union movement in a campaign to defeat the Act in its entirety.'

In addition to leading the fight to defend the basic trade union rights, another resolution takes up the question of jobs, which Goring does not mention.

With only 8 per cent of the membership in work, the movers recognize that the fight for full employment is essentially a political fight.

They state: 'This AGM de-



The men who want to register: Equity secretary Gerald Crossdell (speaking); Ernest Clark (with pipe), last year's president

clares that every worker in the entertainments industry has the right to work.

'In view of the totally unacceptable level of unemployment, and the continued contraction of even such employment as we have through closures of theatres and studios, we resolve in accordance with present TUC policy on the film industry, adopted at the Blackpool conference, that the only

solution to this crisis is the nationalization of the entire entertainments industry under workers' control without compensation to its former owners.'

It is clear from these motions that the membership is not prepared to tolerate the destruction of their union's democratic rights—including the right to work—by the Tory government or the Tories within the union leadership.

ELECTIONS to the Equity council have just been completed, returning for the year 1972-1973:

Marius Goring, Ernest Clark, Peggy Ashcroft, Michael Denison, Kenneth More, Richard Briers, Kenneth McClellan, Hugh Manning, Andre Morell, Frederick Jaeger, Peter Honri, Milton Johns, Clive Morton, Trevor Baxter, Michael Boothe, Donald Sinden, Margaret Rawlings, Corin Redgrave, Howard Goorney, Andre Van Gysegem, Nigel Patrick, Peter Bennett, Paul Eddington, Robert Fleming, Richard Warner, Raymond Francis, Michael Horden, Leslie Phillips, Richard Attenborough, Barbara Lott, Charles Farreil, David Blair, Terry Edwards, Richard Morris, Paul Janssen, Jerry Carroll, Don Paulin, Roger Hunt, Roderick Bowen, David Ayliff, Rita Grant, Serge Ganjou, Terry Hart, Liza Martin, Karin Karina.

Fresh pay trouble for British Rail

BRITISH RAIL faces more pay claim trouble from the 50,000 engineers in its workshops in different parts of Britain.

Leaders of the NUR and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions met yesterday to discuss what action to take as a protest against the delay in settling their pay claim.

Discussions on their demands for a substantial increase have been delayed by the current rail dispute.

Now the engineers feel that

it is time their own claims should be considered.

RAILWAY workers in Wimbledon, South London, have called overwhelmingly on their leadership to declare a national stoppage until their wage claim is settled.

Members of the Wimbledon National Union of Railwaymen's branch passed a resolution calling on the union's executive 'to call a national stoppage of NUR members until the wage claim is settled, and to demand the recall of the TUC to call a General Strike to force the Tory government to resign'.

Union chiefs talk about docks talks

BY PHILIP WADE

TRANSPORT and General Workers' Union leaders are making every possible effort to try and avert next Friday's scheduled dock strike.

Yesterday manoeuvres between employers and union leaders continued at a meeting of the newly-created body, the joint authoritative committee.

Yesterday the committee announced its terms of reference. These were to examine the problems of the ports industry with particular reference to the extension of the loading and unloading of containers in port areas by dock labour.

It would also consider the provision of more warehousing, cold storage and distribution points within port areas. The committee also undertook to examine the temporary unattached register with a view to reducing it substantially.

The committee was set up and given two weeks to look into and report on job prospects on the docks. Chief figures in the

negotiations are Jack Jones of the T&GWU and Lord Aldington, chairman of the Port of London Authority and former deputy chairman of the Tory Party.

T&GWU docks secretary Tim O'Leary gave an indication on Thursday night what might satisfy his national docks committee before they advised the delegates to call off the strike.

Speaking after a four-hour meeting with employers at the National Joint Council for the docks he told reporters that all that he wanted from the Jones-Aldington committee was 'a statement of intent'.

It is possible that yesterday's statement from the committee will satisfy O'Leary.

Meanwhile the NJC only stands adjourned, and it is more than probable it will meet again early next week. Another meeting of the joint authoritative committee will take place on Monday.

Despite the manoeuvres of the union leadership, and even if they get their 'statement of intent', the only body that can call off the strike is the union's delegate meeting.

Big rent rises plan in London

THE Tory controlled Greater London Council plans to inflict massive rent increases on its 200,000 tenants in the next two or three years.

It announced yesterday that in line with the 'fair rents' Bill, rents would rise by at least 33 per cent by 1975.

Tenants will already have to pay another £1-a-week increase from this October as the Tory Council waste no time in carrying out the Housing Finance Bill being pushed through by their friends in Westminster.

The council has admitted that GLC rents have risen by at least 70 per cent since 1967. At that time the council—anticipating the 'fair rents' Bill—said increases of up to 100 per cent would be necessary.

This would bring the rents in council flats in line with those in private sector, research showed.

A spokesman yesterday said there was a need for even bigger increases than anticipated.

'Fair rents in the private sector have also increased and it now appears that on average a further increase of about one third after October 1972 will be needed to reach fair rents. The increase will be more in some cases and less in others,' he said.

The general range of rents in two or three years time was expected to be in the region of £4 to £9.70. But many tenants are paying this rent now because as the statement conveniently omitted to mention, council tenants also pay rates. Many rates were increased by 60p and more in April.

JUNE FUND STANDS AT £158.77

DURING the weekend ahead, we must make an extra big effort for our June fund. Our total stands at £158.77, leaving us still some way to go.

However much the union leaders retreat, this Tory government is determined not to give the working class an inch. Workers Press must remain in the forefront of this struggle.

We need therefore all your support to raise our target of £1,750 this month. So let's have a special effort over this weekend. Collect as much as you can and post immediately to:

Workers Press
June Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG

LATE NEWS

WEATHER

A DEPRESSION over East Anglia will move slowly East. Eastern areas of Britain will be generally cloudy with showers or more prolonged outbreaks of rain.

Western areas of Britain, except North-West Scotland, will be rather cloudy with some sunny periods but also showers, heavy in places.

North-West Scotland will have showers with some sunny spells. It will be generally cool.

Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Some rain or showers at times. Sunny periods. Cool.

NEWS DESK
01-720 2000
CIRCULATION
01-622 7029

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.
Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.