

WORKERS PRESS

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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Italy's coalition due to swing rightwards

ITALY'S new coalition government is now almost certain to be far to the right of the so-called 'centre-left' coalition which collapsed at the beginning of this year.

Against a background of growing unemployment and rampant inflation, the new premier-designate Giulio Andreotti is now under considerable pressure from his own Christian Democrat Party to form a far more right-wing administration.

The pre-election coalition was essentially an alliance between the Christian Democrats and the Socialist Party. In one form or another it had ruled for the ten years before falling apart in January this year and precipitating a General Election.

Now summoned by President Giovanni Leone to form a new coalition, Andreotti is under pressure from his own party to exclude the Socialists and bring in the right-wing Republican Party as his main coalition partner.

The Socialist Party has refused to take part in any cabinet with the Republicans, who have been calling for stringent anti-working class measures, including harsh laws against strikes.

Andreotti's alternative is to form a temporary minority administration based solely on



Almirante: Waiting in the wings

Christian Democrat support and hope to hold out until the autumn.

Such a government would be completely unacceptable to Italian big business, which is clamouring for stronger government to take on the working class.

The formation of a Christian-Democrat-Republican coalition would be a considerable concession to the fascist MSI, which increased its parliamentary representation from 30 to 56 seats in the election.

MSI leader Giorgio Almirante, a former aide of fascist dictator Mussolini, has already declared his readiness to 'take over

the state' if parliament cannot throw up a government capable of dealing with the working class.

The fascists are waiting in the wings while the parliamentary system staggers from crisis to crisis. They recognize what the Communist Party leaders refuse to see: that the Italian crisis will be settled on the streets and not in the ministerial ante-chambers.

Almirante's latest remarks only emphasize the criminal betrayal that the CP leaders are carrying through by making the working class an ancillary of their reformist parliamentary plans.

WHAT WE THINK

REVISIONIST BOOST FOR STALINIST FRAUD

IN HIS 'Sunday Times' colour supplement review of the event of May-June 1968, Anthony Terry shows how precariously close to civil war French society was in the summer of that historic year.

'What de Gaulle did envisage was calling a state of national emergency on the lines of the Free French Liberation of France from the Germans. This would have created a system of "civic action organization" with the local prefects appointed as "Commissioners of the Republic" and entrusted with "administering the territory, re-establishing republican legality and satisfying the needs of the population".'

'Their real job would have been to help de Gaulle, with the French Army marching in from Germany, to regain control of the country.'

Terry's revelations on this point are extremely pertinent to what is developing in Britain and Ulster.

It reveals with stunning clarity what every revisionist tries to ignore or minimize:

1. That the danger of civil war lurks beneath the surface of every major political and economic crisis in Western Europe.
2. That its counter-revolutionary strategy integrates as a component part the class-collaborationist Stalinist and Social-Democratic bureaucracy.
3. That Stalinism and revisionism, by systematically ignoring the question of creating dual power, effectively betrayed the French workers to de Gaulle.

Not only in France but in Britain too this trend is present.

One expression of it is a long editorial in this week's 'Socialist Worker'—paper of the revisionist International Socialists.

Its policy of 'critical capitulation' to the bureaucracy is nakedly revealed in the words of its editor: 'This means sharp criticism of all those leaders who are giving up the struggle, including the "lefts". Indeed, especially the "lefts".'

The 'lefts', contrary to what the IS apologists state, are not 'giving up the struggle'.

They are in fact betraying the struggle and are waging a

consistent struggle through the union machinery against all those who want to fight the Act and the NIRC.

Workers Press says categorically, that they must be removed, not 'sharply criticized'. Criticism has never prevented betrayal.

'A real fight inside the unions,' says the 'Socialist Worker', 'means breaking with illusions in the "left" leaders.'

This is an evasion. The first condition for breaking with the 'lefts' is an uncompromising struggle against Stalinist politics of class collaboration and peaceful co-existence. This the political parasites of the IS 'state capitalist' group are organically incapable of doing.

As France in 1968 so conclusively but negatively proved, the most important task today is the political preparation of the working class through the struggle for the resignation of the Tories, the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies and the organization of Councils of Action to meet the Tory offensive and prepare a General Strike.

But Councils of Action remain meaningless symbols of protest if they are detached from such a perspective of power and political struggle. If this happens they will quickly become transformed into appendages of the bureaucracy and a centrist diversion. This is precisely what the state-capitalist 'Socialist Worker' advocates.

In its ten-point programme it nowhere mentions the necessity for forcing the Tories to resign nor, for that matter, does it even mention the economic crisis or the measures needed to meet it. Capitalism without the Industrial Relations Act and the NIRC is IS policy.

That is why the IS equates Councils of Action with the Stalinist 'Local Liaison Committees' and refuses to call for the building of an alternative to reformism and Stalinism.

And that is why we denounce this wretched group for what it is: a reformist diversion and a left cover for bureaucracy and Stalinism.

AROUND THE WORLD

Bhutto faces unrest at home

AS HE prepares for his summit meeting with India's Mrs Indira Gandhi, Pakistan president Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is facing sharp conflicts with his own working class.

The rapid growth of unemployment and the inflation resulting from the country's defeat in the December war with India and the loss of Bangla Desh has hit the working class particularly hard.

Government appeals to tighten their belts have only fuelled workers' anger as they watch factories close and prices rise.

Last Thursday and Friday police opened fire on striking textile workers in Karachi. Un-

official reports put the death toll at 14.

At the weekend angry workers sacked and burnt the Karachi offices of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in protest against the shootings.

Bhutto, who returned on Saturday from a tour of Middle East and

African countries aimed at drumming up support prior to his summit meeting, blamed the shootings on 'agitators' who wanted to weaken Pakistan.

But, he added: 'We are in the midst of a crusade for a new Pakistan. We will not permit anyone to stand

in our way.'

Bhutto is also in trouble over the language question in the Karachi area. There is a growing demand for Sindhi and not Urdu to be the region's official language. The majority of people in Sind province are Sindhi-speaking.

Desperate bombing by US

NORTH Vietnam is now suffering the heaviest bombardment it has ever received in the whole course of the war.

More than 280 fighter-bomber raids were made inside North Vietnam on Saturday. The US command claimed four bridges, 20 barges, 24 trucks

and several supply positions damaged or destroyed.

The US also claimed destruction of a major hydro-electric plant serving the Hanoi area, at Lang Chi on the Song Chay river.

As in many of the other recent attacks, the US planes used 'smart' (electronically-

guided) bombs to carry out the attack.

The scale of the bombardment is an index of the US command's mounting desperation as the liberation forces press forward in the south.

B-52 bombers at the weekend struck closer to Saigon than ever before.

Farcical fall-out in Stockholm

THE international conference on the human environment taking place at Stockholm is as much a charade as the conference on underdevelopment held in Santiago, Chile, earlier this year.

At the most it can only propose some palliatives to deal with the most blatant cases of the plunder of the planet's resources and the pollution of man's environment. It can do nothing to remove the basic causes: the relentless search for profit inseparable from capitalism.

Politicians and experts are going through the formalities of lengthy and tedious debates on such subjects as the use of DDT, whale-fishing and the disposal of industrial effluents. Decisions taken will bind no one and will only be observed if they are in the interests of the governments concerned.

China is taking advantage of its new-found respectability to attend the conference, but the Soviet Union and the East European countries are absent on the grounds that East Germany was not invited. On the other hand, Rumania has turned up.

A good deal of the debate in the past week has turned on the methods of warfare used by the United States in Vietnam, especially defoliation with toxic chemicals and indiscriminate bombing likely to permanently change the environment.

Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme particularly angered the Americans with his attack on 'ecological warfare', though he did not mention the US by name.

While the Chinese were happy to climb onto this particular bandwagon, their own record is not entirely unblemished—they continue to test nuclear weapons in the atmosphere. France, which is preparing for a new test pro-

gramme in the South Pacific, has been attacked by a number of countries which have no nuclear weapons of their own and may be in danger from fall-out from the tests.

Indignation over these tests helps to divert attention from the causes of the pollution problem if it does nothing else. Peru has tabled a draft motion calling for the end of all nuclear tests.

When it was amended to call on all United Nations members to 'pursue vigorously all efforts to bring about general and complete disarmament, including nuclear weapons', this proved too much for the Americans, as well as for the British and Australian delegations which had supported the original draft.

They said that such a resolution was beyond the competence of the conference. The US delegation, replying to Chinese attacks, said that it would oppose any move to have the

conference take up the subject of Indo-China.

Best keep it to DDT and the protection of wildlife, and not take into account the destruction of the environment and people now being carried out with ultra-modern technical means by the richest country in the world in one of the planet's poorest areas.

The row about what the Americans call 'the introduction of politics' into the conference shows the artificiality of the whole proceedings.

The Americans will take no more notice of a resolution referring to 'ecological warfare' than the French or Chinese will to one calling for an end to nuclear tests. In any case, many of the delegations who would vote for such resolutions have no intention of taking any action on them.

All the time, the plundering of the resources of the earth by the big corporations, whose in-

dustrial activities at the same time ruin and pollute the environment, is being left out or glossed over.

Some lesser issues, such as pollution by tankers and new techniques of pest control avoiding the use of DDT, are being taken up instead.

But since DDT is relatively cheap and the new methods of pest control are not, this issue has brought out the division between the underdeveloped and the advanced countries latent in such conferences.

The bigger issue of the pillage of the natural resources of the former by the international monopolies goes virtually unmentioned.

The only other subject to generate any passion so far has been the 'save the whale' campaign organized by militant environmentalist groups operating privately on the fringes of the conference.



THE MAN TO MANAGE TORY LAND PORTFOLIO

BY ALEX MITCHELL

The key property adviser to the Tory government will be Mr John Cuckney, a dynamic merchant banker and, until recently, chairman of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

On September 1 he will take over a newly-created job at the Department of Environment as 'chief executive of the property services agency'. The appointment was announced by Edward Heath himself.

Heath told the Commons the new agency would be engaged in 'property management services, building construction and maintenance and the appropriate supplies'.

He added: 'Government property management will be concentrated as far as practicable so as to ensure that land and buildings are put to best use. The defence lands organization of the Ministry of Defence will be incorporated in the agency.'

EFFICIENT

In his speech Heath paid tribute to a man whose 'valuable studies' had led to the formation of the property agency—Mr T. A. W. Sainsbury. Sainsbury is, of course, one of the Sainsburys and is heir to the multi-million pound fortune of the family's chain of supermarkets.

The annual report released last week reveals that the privately-owned group increased its profits by more than 30 per cent last year to £8.2m.

This year the company plans to raise profits even further by closing 11 counter shops

and opening 50 new supermarkets.

Like Sainsbury, Cuckney is one of Heath's private businessmen brought into Whitehall to make things more 'efficient'.

There should be no illusions about the importance of Cuckney's appointment: he is now in charge of the government's vast property portfolio which includes square miles of property up and down the country.

Who is Cuckney and how does he qualify for such a position?

Aged 46, he was educated at Shrewsbury and St Andrew's University. He became a staff captain in Royal Northumberland Fusiliers during the war and then joined the War Office. What he did at the War Office between 1949 and 1957 is not made clear in his biographical details.

On leaving the civil service, Cuckney quickly found his feet in the City of London. By 1964 he was made a director with Lazard Brothers and Company, the extremely vigorous banking house.

Just over two years ago he resigned unexpectedly from the board; it was said at the time he was the first person in the bank's history to do such a thing.

But Cuckney had decided to strike out on his own. With the financial backing of Mr Davoud Alliance, the Persian-born textile magnate, who put together the Spirella Group, Cuckney bought the rundown Anglo-Eastern Bank.

The first year the bank suffered a £22,000 loss, but in the next 12 months he has managed to turn this inauspicious start into a pre-tax profit of £170,000.

His attention to banking has been interrupted on two occa-

sions by calls from the Tory government.

First of all he was summoned to Liverpool to restore the bankrupt Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. A number of old-stagers left the board after a rather torrid board battle.

FIRST-EVER

He left the board in February pleading that he wished to 'devote more time to his merchant banking interests'.

But this has been interrupted now by his call to run the first-ever government property agency.

His immediate worry is strengthen his private bank while he's away in Whitehall. The man taking over the chief executive's job will be Sir Clive Bossom, Tory MP for Leominster, who is the son of the late Lord Bossom.

Bossom will combine his banking with being parliamentary private secretary to the Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas Home.

He was a former member of the Tory Party's army sub-committee and secretary of the Anglo-German parliamentary group. He has been a member of Lloyds since 1949 and his clubs are the Carlton and MCC.

The only other board member at Anglo-Eastern is Mr B. P. Lanyi, former Director of the National Bank of Hungary. Cuckney will not feel uneasy in his new job—which carries a salary of £14,000. His boss will be Environment Minister Peter Walker, who, until joining the Cabinet, was a partner in the finance house of Slater Walker Securities. In the City they were friends.

HIDDEN HISTORY OF AMERY FAMILY

The 'Sunday Times' Colour Magazine has recently been publishing a series of features on 'Hidden History'.

The idea was a good one. Teams of writers were asked to revisit different points of history and discover the real facts about certain people and certain events.

One of the lesser displayed items which appeared concerned the life of John Amery.

The author of the article, George Rosie, said that Amery became a Nazi sympathizer because he firmly believed 'that world Jewry and the Soviets were working together to overthrow western civilization'.

He was invited to Berlin, whence he arrived in October 1942. He broadcast over Goebbels' radio station and then went back to service with the pro-Nazi collaborators in France. One of the wilder schemes he tried was to tour PoW camps asking British prisoners to join the British Legion of St George.

Anyone who volunteered would be immediately released. The scheme never achieved any great support—at its peak there were allegedly 30 pro-Nazis. In 1943 the Legion was renamed the British Free

Corps. Rosie reveals their uniforms were German field grey with an armshield of the British flag, a collar patch of three lions or three leopards, and a cufflink embossed 'Britische Freikorps'.

When the allies landed in 1944 the BFC was switched to the Russian front.

As the German army collapsed Amery escaped and was picked up by partisans outside Milan. He was returned to London along with a number of other pro-Nazis to face courts martial and military tribunals.

Found guilty he was hanged for treason at Wandsworth prison on December 19, 1945.

The 'Sunday Times' Hidden History does reveal that Amery was the eldest son of Leo Amery, Churchill's Minister for India.

But, strangely, it doesn't reveal that John Amery's brother is Julian Amery, right-wing Tory in the Heath government.

The younger Amery is Minister of Housing and currently piloting the hated 'fair rents' Bill through parliament. He also owns a block of flats in South London which tenants recently described as being in a slum-like condition.

Below: Julian Amery



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

CENTRISM AND THE CRISIS OF REFORMISM

Trotskyism was born and has developed in the most bitter struggle against bureaucracy. The Fourth International and the Socialist Labour League have always come under the bitterest attacks from revisionists who want to subordinate the Trotskyist movement and the working class to the Stalinist and reformist bureaucracy.

The International Marxist Group was born out of this tendency hostile to the Fourth International.

At no time can these centrists grasp politics from the standpoint of the basic struggle between the two principal forces, the working class and the capitalist class. For them, everything is determined by the relations between tendencies within the ruling class and within the bureaucracy.

Thus they have been taken completely unawares by the development of the political situation since the miners' strike, in which the National Industrial Relations Court has worked as the instrument for preparing the transition to Bonapartist rule.

On the contrary, the IMG says:

'The sections of the ruling class looking for a deal with the trade union bureaucracy [after the miners' strike] have been immensely strengthened.' (Perspectives Document, adopted by IMG National Committee, 1972.) From this the IMG 'leaders' conclude that the strategy of the capitalist class will be to avoid a clash with the working class and to impose an 'incomes policy'.

This, they think, may be operated through either a Tory or a Labour government. Therefore the working class must **above all** pursue the wages struggle and not be misled into preference for a Labour government!

This is the thinking behind the standpoint of the IMG when it opposes the SLL demand for a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

A document recently published by the IMG's Reading and N Hants branch claims to be an analysis of the 'degeneration of the SLL' and is entitled 'The Road to Reformism'. The 'degeneration' it seems, is exemplified above all in our demand to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government with socialist policies! We find in this document the following:

'But most important of all, we reject the SLL's social-democratic revisionist concept that the overthrow of **Toryism** means the same thing as the socialist revolution' [which, of course the SLL has certainly never said]. 'For it implies that the capitalist system will be

overthrown when a Labour government is returned to Westminster.

'This is one of the central differences between the IMG and the SLL. The SLL (like Harold Wilson) always talks nowadays of **Toryism** as the enemy—as if all problems can be solved by getting the Tories out—whilst we insist on developing against **capitalism** itself.' (Emphasis in original.)

Here is centrist 'left' talk, which always **obstructs** the development of mass revolutionary struggle instead of guiding it forward, in its most craven form!

'We are not for a struggle against the Tory government, because we insist on developing a struggle against **capitalism** itself.'

REVOLUTIONARY GUISE

In the guise of talking more 'revolutionary' than anyone else, the IMG provides a justification for avoiding the demand for mobilization of the working class against the political representatives of the main enemy.

For years these revisionists have accused the SLL of concentrating too much on attacking the reformist and centrist tendencies within the labour movement. Instead, they told us, everything should be directed against the main enemy.

But now that the working class is actually drawn into mass struggle for its basic rights against the capitalist Tory government, they are concerned only to prevent that political experience at all costs.

What could be more typical of the middle-class radical phrasemonger who really opposes **action** by the working class, than this left posing, this 'revolutionary' strutting and swaggering—we are not for defeating the Tory government, we are fighting **capitalism!**

It means no more and no less than that the working class should content itself with fighting the individual aspects of capitalism which affect it in a particular factory, trade or locality, and should **not** fight the capitalist class in the way that Marxism has always conceived of the struggle for socialism.

Lenin poses it as follows: 'Only an objective consideration of the **sum total of the relations between absolutely all the classes** in a given society, and consequently a consideration of the **objective stage of development reached by that society** and of the **relations between it and other societies**, can serve as a basis for the correct tactics of an advanced class.' (Lenin, 'Karl Marx'.)

In Britain, the working class took a step in 1906, welcomed by Lenin, to form their own parliamentary party to represent trade union interests. This Labour Party is not



Lenin welcomed the British working class's forming of a parliamentary party to represent trade union interests. Top: members of the first parliamentary Labour Party with their wives. Above: Tariq Ali who wrote the immortal words, 'Marxism maintains that consciousness determines history'

simply a bourgeois imposition on the working class. It expressed a profound development towards political independence of the working class, and it has been necessary for the ruling class to devote gigantic resources to the corruption of its leaders.

This corruption has had dire consequences for the working class, but it will not throw away its three quarters of a century of experience of these betrayals and of its aspirations to power on the basis of a series of impressions such as those which motivate the IMG petty bourgeois.

For the working class to move from the Labour Party is a **dialectical** change, proceeding on the basis of definite internal contradictions

within reformism, and not a process of individuals reflecting on the need for a change; that is the petty bourgeois impressionist's idea of how history changes (as Tariq Ali's immortal words put it in his recent book: 'Marxism [?!] maintains that consciousness determines history'!)

VERDICT OF HISTORY

The working class will fight capitalism, i.e., fight the Tory government and its attacks, with every weapon at its disposal, and in the first place the Labour Party and the trade unions. It will **transcend** the Labour Party, not throw it aside with a shrug of the

shoulders—'put that down to experience', so to speak.

Not at all! As the working class tests out every bit of its resources, it will deal **very thoroughly** with the reformist traitors and all who help them. The working class will put into effect the verdict of history on these men, in real struggles.

In the course of testing them out and defeating them, and only in the course of that, will the new revolutionary leadership of Trotskyists establish itself at the front of the working class in struggle.

Our task is consciously to conduct to its conclusion the struggle of opposites within the working class.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

PACIFIC MORE FRENCH TESTS

Each summer Polynesia sees a new round of atmospheric nuclear tests by the French government. Preparations for the 1972 series are already well under way.

The tests, in which H-bombs are exploded over Mururoa atoll in a quiet corner of the Pacific, are being prepared with the utmost secrecy.

But reports of stepped-up activity from Hao, where the test team has its advance base, and from the military airport at Papeete, leave little doubt that the first explosion is imminent.

The cruiser 'De Grasse', on which the test command has its headquarters, has already left Papeete on Tahiti for 'an unknown destination'.

'Orange', another ship carrying part of the command and fall-out decontamination equipment, is reported to be on the verge of leaving the port.

In an attempt to stop the tests, the Australian and New Zealand trade unions have ordered a boycott of goods on their way to Tahiti.

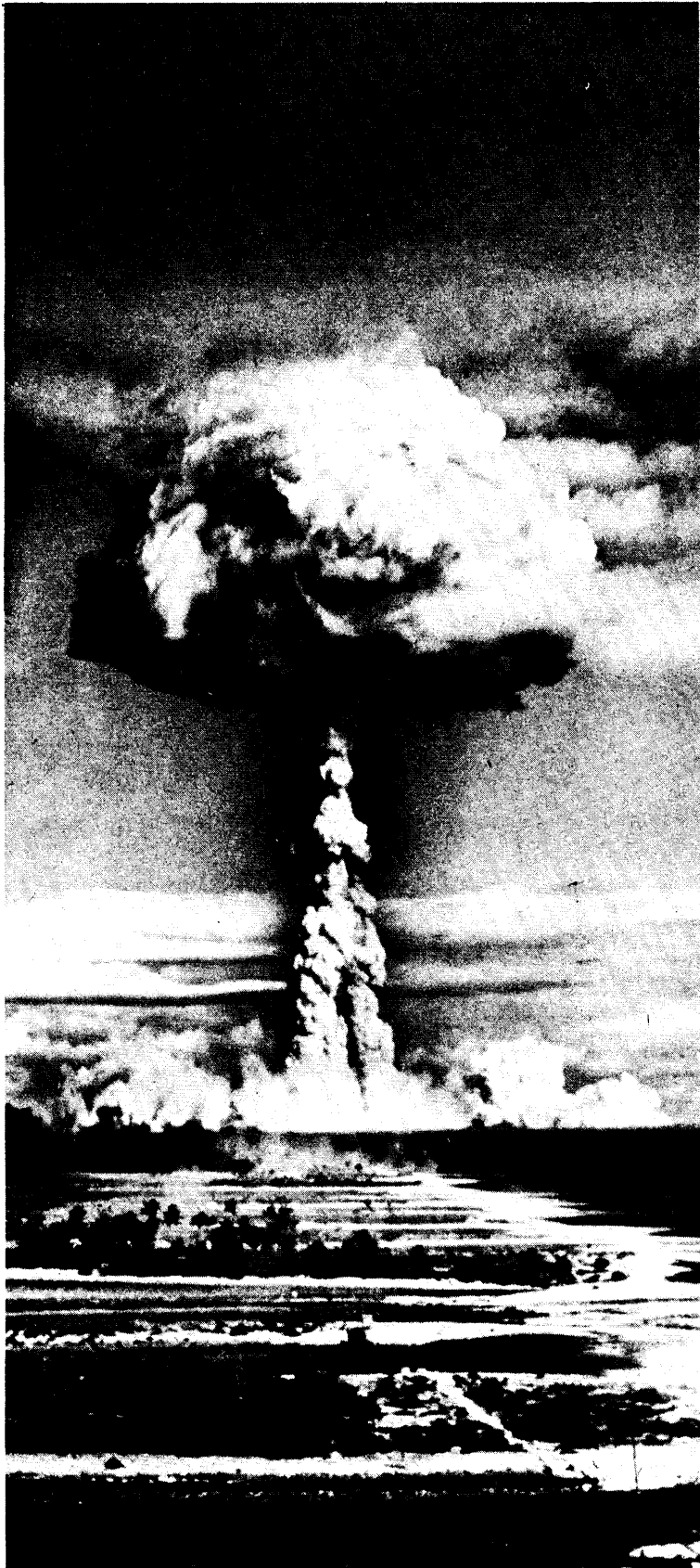
The last consignment of fresh meat from New Zealand arrived in Tahiti earlier last week. And the New Zealand dockers have refused to load fruit and vegetables bound for the French Pacific island.

The government is now trying to get supplies from the United States.

But a boycott of French aeroplanes ordered by the Australian unions from June 1 is still apparently only partial.

The New Zealand unions may agree to call off the boycott if the French authorities agree to a temporary suspension of the tests.

The New Zealand government has asked the union chiefs to consider this course



The French atomic test at Mururoa atoll in the Pacific

and made its own protest to the French authorities.

The French authorities are very sensitive about the tests and determined to put the lid on the protests if they can. Last week, they arrested Canadian author Ben Metcalf in the centre of Paris and hustled him across the border into Italy after subjecting him to several hours of questioning in a police station.

Metcalf was in Paris to deli-

ver a Canadian petition against the tests.

The tests are a particular source of concern to neighbouring islanders, particularly on Pitcairn Island, who are in the path of fall-out from the bombs. Despite their fears, however, the islanders have not so far protested against the testing because they fear it might lead to the stopping of shipping links with the rest of the world.

GOLD DIGGERS RUB THEIR HANDS

BY JOHN SPENCER

Last week's gold price increases may be bad news for the majority of the world's capitalists. But one group at least are rubbing their hands.

They are the mine-owners of South Africa, who have long suffered under an artificially low price for their commodity and are now hoping to make up for lost time.

Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa is the world's biggest gold producer. It announced in its recent annual report that a gold prospecting programme had begun to test possible extensions of its Witwatersrand goldfield.

It is here that the bulk of the world's gold is mined. The exploration programme is described as 'fairly large', though the company refused to give further details.

There is even talk of opening the Crown Mine in Johannesburg, which closed last year because it was considered uneconomic to continue production at existing prices.

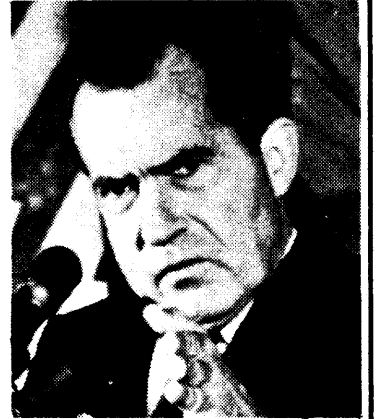
The mine still has substantial reserves of low-grade ore. At its peak it employed 30,000 workers and produced gold value at over £500m.

RESERVOIR

The South African goldfields have one great advantage over their competitors in the United States and Canada—a vast reservoir of cheap contract labour severely disciplined by the apartheid regime.

Despite this and the richness of the South African reserves, the production was on the decline before President Nixon ended convertibility between the dollar and gold in August last year.

Since then, Consolidated Fields—the big British-owned



Nixon: since he ended convertibility the gold price has soared

mining company—has predicted that the price will rise to \$85 an ounce by 1980.

In the light of the price increase on world markets last week, this figure seems extremely conservative.

PEGGED

Until 1968, the price of gold was pegged rigidly at \$35 an ounce by the US government. With dwindling reserves and a growing balance of payments deficit, the US was finally forced in that year to end the sale of gold for privately-owned dollars, setting up the rickety two-tier system with 'free' and 'official' markets which endured just over three years.

There is nothing to stop the price rising now that the US Treasury no longer guarantees the gold content of the dollar and the mining interests are rubbing their hands.

The gold situation also affects the Soviet Union, which is the world's second largest gold producer. The Russians are believed to have pressed Nixon at the recent Moscow talks for a higher 'official' gold price to ease their trade relations with the capitalist world.

MEAT MEN HIT BY FOREIGN CONTROL

A recent report published by the School of Economics in Montevideo in Uruguay has revealed the control which foreign monopolies established over the main exports of Uruguay in the mid-1960s.

These firms are some of the most vociferous supporters of President Bordaberry's campaign against the Uruguayan trade union movement.

The meat market is a clear example of the activity of foreign monopolies.

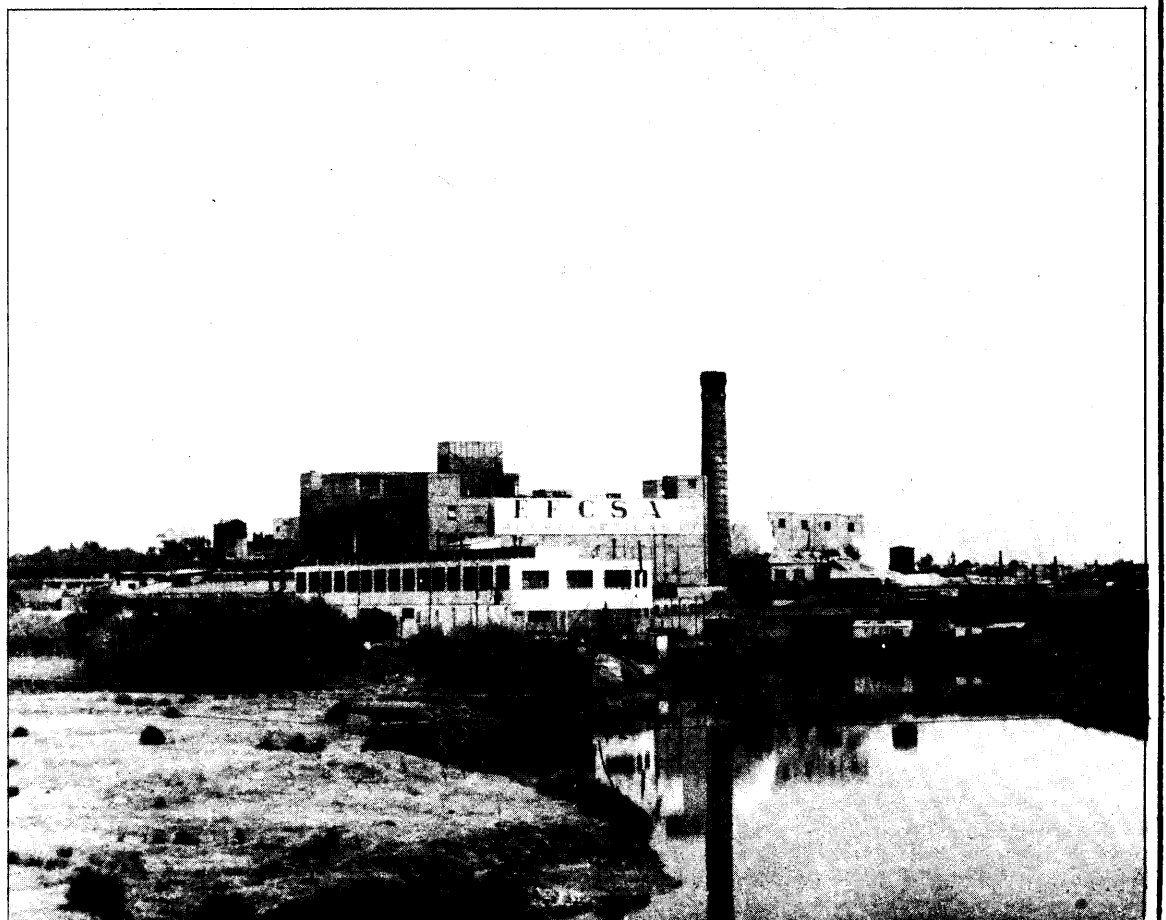
The market is divided up between seven foreign companies ranging from the Anglo-Meat Packers, jointly owned by the Lancashire Investment Company and the Union Inter-

national Company Ltd, which have a chain of meat shops in London, to the Greek-owned Comargen Meat Packers which owns a chain of meat shops in Greece.

Even the EFCSA company which was formed as a so-called workers' co-operative in 1958 receives aid from the American Deltic International for the purchase of cattle and the payment of wages and taxes.

These companies, which have made large profits by selling Uruguayan products to themselves at low prices are threatened by the militancy of the working class and the world recession. That is the reason for Bordaberry's state repression of trade unions.

Right: a plant of the EFCSA company in Uruguay





BACK TO THE POORHOUSE

BY SARAH HANNIGAN

The century-old tenement of Chaucer House in Tabard Street, South-East London, will finally be closed at the end of this year.

Chaucer is a 'half-way' house owned by the Labour-controlled Southwark borough for housing the area's homeless families until they 'qualify' for permanent housing.

Conditions in the block defy description. Children from Chaucer House—denied the right to play in the local park because of victimization—are forced to amuse themselves among the 'dirt and broken

glass in the court yard.

Over the past year, three young children in the block died of bronchial troubles, brought on by the damp and coal, say the tenants.

Many of the other children show signs of acute distress and despair. Some are continually ill.

Milkmen, coalmen and local newspaper shops categorically refuse to deliver supplies. Families who give an address in Chaucer House are refused hire-purchase arrangements at local furniture stores—they are considered 'bad debtors'.

Three months ago, the 115 families living in the block, driven to despair and frustration by the conditions they

were forced to live in, staged a dramatic protest.

A car was overturned and rammed in behind giant rubbish tins forming a barricade across the entrance to the flats. Flames leapt 20 ft into the air from piles of burning rubbish. The tenants prevented council-employed workers from entering the flats and council officials were booted.

Soon afterwards tenants' representatives were told by Southwark's housing manager that the council had decided no more families would be rehoused in the block after April 1—and that it would be closed by the end of 1972.

Families living in the block were to be rehoused—but only

they were told, 'with proper regard for the council's other housing commitments'.

Some families have now been moved to new accommodation but 80 are still condemned to do further 'time' in the block. Many of the Chaucer House families see their stay there as a sentence which has to be served before they can again begin to live like human beings.

'The stigma attached to a prisoner in a jail is not as bad as the stigma attached to living here', says tenants' association chairman John Riches.

But some of the families who have moved out of Chaucer to escape the stigma of homelessness have found



Above left: John Riches, Chaucer House Tenants' Association chairman with his family. Above: Brian Clint, Tenants' vice-chairman and family. Left: the protest fire.

themselves re-housed in conditions which are little better than those they left behind—some say they are worse.

Vice-chairman of the Chaucer House Tenants' Association, Brian Clint, has now spent eight months in the block with his wife and three-year-old daughter. He told us:

'They are moving people out, but some are being offered terrible conditions. They are giving them short-life 'patch and repair' property—property which has already been closed down for up to five years and which is due to be demolished. They are supposed to spend at least £250 repairing it and doing it up but what happens in effect is that they put new paper on the walls and leave everything else.'

Pattie Bourke has been

offered just such accommodation for herself and her baby. She has spent almost six months in Chaucer and has now been offered a flat in Tower Bridge Road, which she says is only half the size of her present one and which will cost her up to £1 a week more.

'They told me that I could either take it or leave it,' Pattie told me. 'But if I leave it then they say I will have to stay here until Chaucer House closes and then I will have to take what is offered me in a rush.'

Other ex-Chaucer House residents however have found that just to get away from the place—even only a few hundred yards—has already given them the possibility of living rather than existing.

Daisy Harvey, her husband and daughter and her mother had moved from Chaucer House—after two-and-a-half years in the block—just four weeks before I spoke to her.

For those two-and-a-half years her husband Dick had been unable to get a job. Yet since they moved he has been working steadily in the Post Office. Daisy has also noticed a change in her teenage daughter.

'Before she never used to want to go to school and she was always missing days and taking time off.'

'Now', says Daisy, 'she goes regularly and she is enjoying it. She is taking an interest in her lessons like she never did before.'

For the 80 families still condemned to live in Chaucer House the future is still undecided.

Brian Clint spends all his spare time trying to organize tenants throughout London who are living in half-way house ghettos.

For him the experience of Chaucer House is something that cannot be erased until all such blocks are finally closed.

THE KILLINGS AT LYDDA AIRPORT

DAVID MERCER WRITES

Dear Editor,
I hope you can find space to allow one reader, at least, to express the disgust and dismay with which he read certain statements in John Spencer's Friday, June 2 article on the massacre at Lydda airport in Tel Aviv.

Quoting Mrs Golda Meir's statement on the attack ('Those who could not face us on the battlefield are great heroes when it comes to planting explosives on planes, hitting passengers, blowing up planes in the air'), John Spencer goes on: 'This is a baseless slander on the heroism of the three young Japanese who proved that like their Arab guerrilla comrades they are willing to give their lives in the struggle against Zionist oppression.'

If to gun down and grenade civilian passengers in a civilian airport is heroism, all I can say is that Spencer's values are pathologically twisted. Nor does he redeem his sick remarks by going on limply to criticize 'indiscriminate, individual and isolated terror' as a 'policy' on the part of the PFLP.

A political analysis and examination of context is one thing. The nauseating puerility of describing those three Japanese as heroes is indefensible. They were not simply willing to give their lives—they were tragically and misguidedly willing to go out and murder. And how cynical to compound this mindless infantilism of Spencer's by accompanying the article with a photograph of the pathetic, bloodstained scene of the crime!

The case against Mrs Meir, General Dayan and the Israeli government merits careful presentation. The language which uses phrases like 'Zionist oppression' and 'These crimes of the Zionists' has an old and chillingly familiar ring. Remember? It has been the language of Stalinists for decades!

Sincerely,
David Mercer.

JOHN SPENCER REPLIES

No communist can fail to recognize the dedication and courage—however misguided—of the three young Japanese terrorists.

They came 6,000 miles to fight for the cause of the Palestinian people. They faced

almost certain death on their suicidal mission. That their heroism was squandered in a senseless and bloody adventure is a condemnation of the leadership which sent them to Lydda.

These leaders, as I pointed out in my article, epitomize the political bankruptcy of the Arab middle class.

They have abandoned any perspective of winning the Israeli workers in favour of a grisly tit-for-tat competition with General Dayan. Young militants are drawn into a series of senseless terrorist actions at the expense of innocent people. This does not alter the prime responsibility for the desperate action at Lydda, which lies squarely with the Zionist leaders.

Not content with driving the Palestinians off their lands and annexing their territories they heap humiliation and taunts on the heads of these oppressed people.

David Mercer apparently considers this oppression to be an invention of the Stalinists. He caps his references to my mental state by equating our attacks on Zionist oppression with the cynical and false statements of the Stalinists.

Yet he must know that Trotskyism has fought consistently and uncompromisingly against the anti-Semitism of the Stalinist bureaucracy which hides behind denunciations of Zionism. The fact that the Stalinists attack Zionism for their own purposes does not alter the reality of the oppression suffered by the Palestinians.

What is more, Stalinist attacks against Zionism are an alibi for their monstrous policy of political support for the murderous regimes of Sadat, Numeiry and the Iraqi Ba'athists. This has never been our policy.

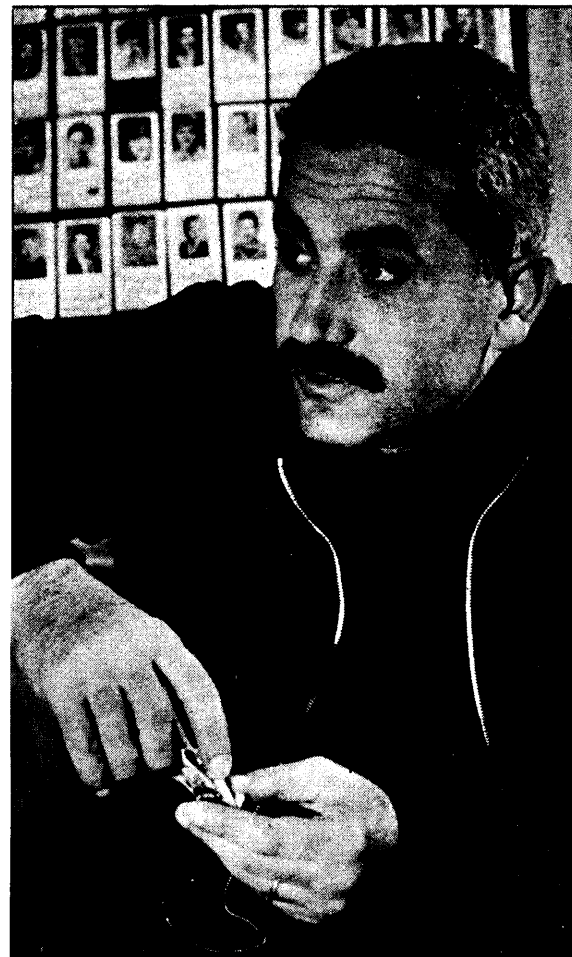
Perhaps David Mercer has a more genteel term to describe the blowing up of villages, the internment and torture of militants and the hounding of refugees. We are not told, for despite his call for 'careful presentation' of the case against Mrs Meir, General Dayan and the Israeli government, he nowhere tells us whether he supports or opposes the Palestinian struggle.

Yet this is the crux of the matter.

The Palestinian commandos are at war with Zionist imperialism and it is not for us to read them moral lectures or to join the campaign of denunciation being waged by Nixon, Sato and Dayan.

We stand for the military defeat of the state of Israel, which is an excrescence foisted by imperialism on the workers and peasants of the Middle East.

We are hostile to terrorism precisely because it strengthens



Top: Israeli prime minister, Golda Meir. Above: Dayan. Above right: Habash, Palestinian guerrilla leader

the grip of Zionism over the Arab and Jewish workers alike and because it strengthens the domination of bourgeois ideology over the Arab national movement.

However, as Trotsky told the preliminary commission of inquiry into the Moscow Trials: 'It is altogether inadmissible to place the terror of a dictatorship against an opposition on the same plane with the terror of an opposition against a dictatorship.'

He added: 'Isolated terrorist explosions are inevitable when political oppression transgresses certain boundaries. Such acts almost always have a symptomatic character. But politics that sanctify terror, raising it into a system—that is a different thing. "Terrorist work," I wrote in 1909, "in its very essence demands such a concentration of energy upon 'the supreme moment', such an over-estimation of personal heroism and lastly such

a hermetically concealed conspiracy as . . . excludes completely any agitational and organizational activity among the masses . . .'

The PFLP's terror is indiscriminate and takes place in complete isolation from the masses. It runs completely contrary to the education of cadres and the construction of a genuinely revolutionary movement. It is exactly what Meir and Dayan want and that is why we oppose it.

TITO BECOMES A GOOD GUY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS



Marshal Tito's visit to Moscow for talks with the Kremlin leaders is the most obvious sign of a growing rapprochement between Belgrade and the Soviet Stalinists.

Tito (right) was even awarded the Order of Lenin to mark his 80th birthday—a step which would have been unthinkable at most periods over the past 20 years.

Gone are the days when James Klugmann of the British Communist Party could state: 'Under the rule of the Titoites, Yugoslavia has returned to capitalism, but not to capitalist democracy. Yugoslavia today is a semi-colonial country ruled over by a reactionary caste operating a police state of a fascist type...'

In those days, Stalin's subservient Cominform described Tito as having 'passed from democracy and socialism to bourgeois democracy, then... from bourgeois nationalism to fascism and direct betrayal of the national interests of Yugoslavia'.

Tito's bureaucracy is now favoured as a valued collaborator in the plans of the Kremlin. Last September, Leonid Brezhnev paid a visit to Belgrade officially described as 'friendly' and paved the way for Tito's trip to Moscow.

Stalin was unable to tolerate the slightest independence on the part of the Yugoslav communists, whose successful overthrow of capitalism had taken place against his will.

His break with Tito in 1949 and the subsequent campaign of slander in which the British CP joined so enthusiastically was an essential part of his preparations for the crushing of any independent developments within the other East European workers' states.

But Yugoslavia proved far tougher than Stalin had bargained for, and his successor Nikita Khrushchev was forced to make a pilgrimage of repentance to Belgrade and turn off the campaign of lies by the foreign communist parties.

Relations between Belgrade and Moscow have been chequered ever since, but the two bureaucracies are now driven into each others' arms by the development of the class struggle and the mounting crisis in Europe.

Tito's 'independent' policy was based on a break with Stalin, but not with Stalinism. He was able to keep his distance from the Kremlin by balancing adroitly between the Soviet bloc and western capitalism.



This policy was one thing during the boom—quite another in a period of developing slump and monetary crisis. In his attempts to encourage the inflow of foreign capital for investment, Tito has been forced to breach the monopoly of foreign trade and control of the currency.

This has intensified the rivalries between the various Yugoslav nationalities, bringing the country close to civil war. He is now left with little option but to court the Kremlin's assistance to bail out Yugoslavia's shaky economy and stave off the danger of violent convulsions.

This is well understood by the Soviet leaders, who may well have had their own fingers in the pie, encouraging the agitation of certain nationalist groups in order to bring Tito to heel.

This also explains the coolness of relations between Moscow and Belgrade after the Czech events of August 1968, when for a period the Yugoslavs prepared actively to resist invasion from the Warsaw Pact countries, while the latter held provocative manoeuvres on the Yugoslav border.

These rivalries appear to

have been shelved—at least for the time being—as both parties appreciate the value of good relations. For the Kremlin, Tito is valuable as a front-man in the preparations for the forthcoming European security conference, while Tito desperately requires economic assistance from the USSR.

Yugoslavia welcomed the Bonn-Moscow and Bonn-Warsaw treaties which opened the door to the Soviet leaders' cherished ambition of security talks with NATO and the other European countries.

It has also come down in favour of a European security conference—which has become the overriding immediate objective of Soviet foreign policy in Europe.

The rapprochement is directed against the working class, which has nothing to gain from a conference between the powers-that-be in Europe and everything to lose. The purpose of this conference, fought for with redoubled energy by the Stalinists, since May-June 1968 in France and the August invasion of Czechoslovakia, is to arrive at agreement with imperialism to police the continent against the threat of revolution.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

RECREATION

The Industrial Society is one of the most intriguing outfits on the industrial relations scene. It sponsors a large number of seminars at which employers and trade union leaders sup and wine while discussing how they can work together for the common good.

The discussions are always staged at some eminently respectable and plush joint like the Connaught Rooms. The meal and the chat usually costs about £10.

The society emerged during the pre-Industrial Relations Bill period as a champion of 'informed debate' about the intentions of the Tory government.

When the Bill became law, the society began a new series of lectures—this time on how the Act works.

The Society has just announced it has raised £120,000 to pay for the conversion of a building in the enormously expensive Carlton House Terrace.

The target for this conversion is £200,000, enough to house several families.

Who is coming forward with all the money? Surprise, surprise, to discover that among the big donors are the Transport and General Workers' Union, the General and Municipal Workers' Union and the National Union of Public Employees.

Seems odd that the T&GWU, which squealed so loudly about the £55,000 fines imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court, has money to hand over to the Industrial Society.

Among those on the appeal committee are:

Eric O. Faulkner (Lloyds Bank), Sir Norman Kipping (Pilkington Bros), Sir Maurice Laing (John Laing Construction), Sir Ian Lyle (Tate and Lyle), Lord Mancroft (Cunard Line), Lord Robens (Vickers) and Victor Feather (TUC).

Companies which have made substantial donations to the appeal include Alliance Building Society, Trebor Sharps, Sun Life Assurance, BBA Group, Multitone, Shell, GEC, Abbey National Building Society, Ford, Lead Industries, IBM, British Oxygen, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, Valor Group, Pearl Assurance,

Royal Insurance, Commercial Union, Guardian Royal Exchange, Decca, Bank of England, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, National Westminster Bank, Barclays Bank, Marks and Spencer, Pilkington, Whitbread, Legal and General, Imperial Tobacco and Watney.

Other organizations which have made major gifts include McKinseys (management consultants), Corporation of Lloyds, Department of Employment, Post Office, Gas Council, Electricity Council and the National Coal Board.

As the trade union leaders are supporting this scheme so lavishly, are we to conclude that the completed building is to be a recreation place for workers and their families?

Not at all. It will be known as Runge House in memory of someone called Sir Peter Runge (was he a shop steward, do you know?) and it will be used by the Industrial Society as a conference and administrative centre. For trade union leaders and the bosses, of course.

SPACEMEN

When Pioneer 10 set off for outer space, the American space boys attached a plaque to the outside. It depicts a drawing of a naked man and woman.

It was done as a genuine scientific effort to communicate with anyone who might find the spacecraft in the far reaches of the solar system. Whoever got hold of the craft could get an idea what we look like.

So far, so good. Except that the reproduction of the plaque in a number of American newspapers has caused something of a fuss.

For instance, the Chicago 'Sun-Time' published the drawing in an early edition—with the man's testicles obliterated. Then, in the later editions, all traces of the male genitals had disappeared.

The 'Philadelphia Inquirer' was even more fearless. The drawing it carried showed the man with no genitals and the women with no nipples.

One of the papers' editors said: 'What they're ready to accept in outer space, they're not ready to accept in Philadelphia.'

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NOISE HAZARD IN INDUSTRY

An alarming statistic from the knitwear workers' union has pinpointed yet another casualty of capitalism's drive for profit: workers' hearing.

The union—the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers—has recently published a pamphlet giving the results of an investigation of occupational deafness amongst workers operating noisy knitting machines.

It says that almost two-thirds of those tested were found to have some degree of hearing impairment due to noise exposure.

Only 23 of the 87 workers tested, at two knitwear firms, had normal hearing. Nine workers were left out of the figures because they had previous hearing disorders.

The pamphlet comes hard on the heels of a Department of Employment code of practice on industrial noise, which says the levels workers are exposed to should be reduced.

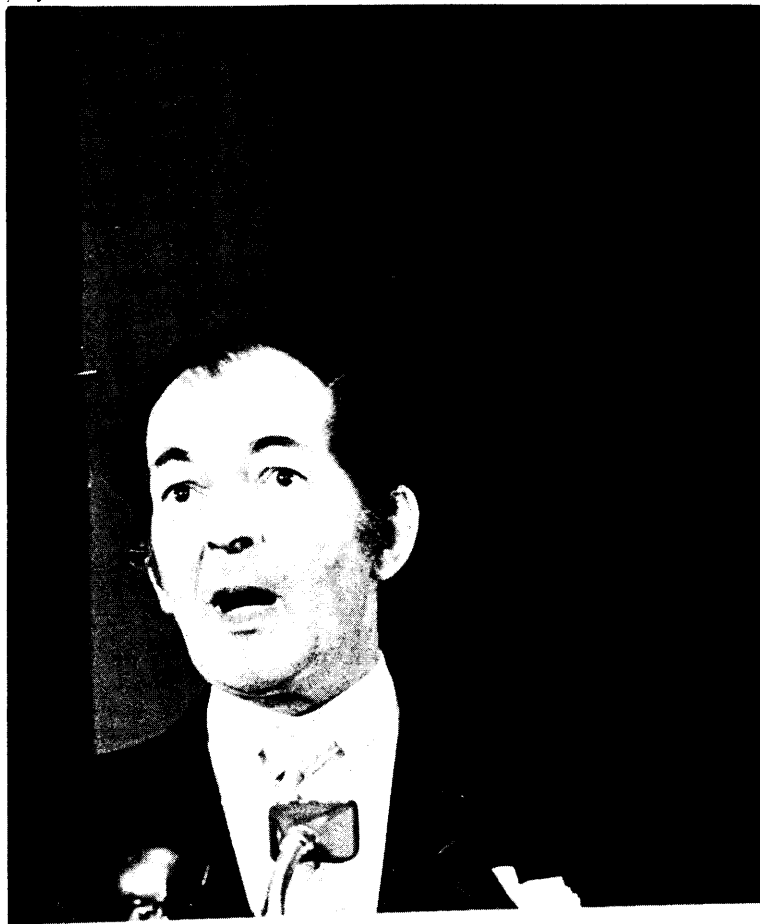
Chief panacea in both the NUHKW and D of E studies is ear muffs, but the real crux of the matter is clearly whether employers are willing to cut into their profits to take the more expensive precautions which are really required.

And it is obvious from the outset that they will be unlikely to fork out even the 57½p the D of E is asking for its pamphlet without a fight.

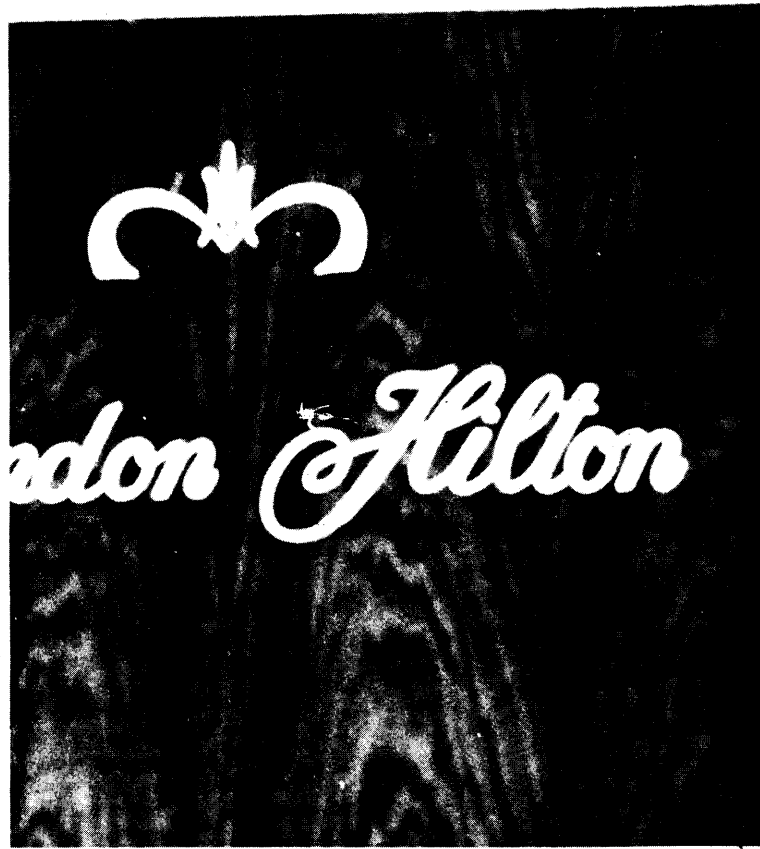
The D of E's own attitude to the problem, by the way, is well characterized by the level of noise it thinks is acceptable.

Workers should have to suffer no more than eight hours exposure a day to continuous noise of 90 decibels. That is the level produced by an unsilenced drill being used on road work at a distance of 20 feet.

Maurice Macmillan should try it.



Maurice Macmillan



QUESTIONS ABOUT ORANGE LODGE DEAL

Engineers in the East of Scotland want an answer to-night why their union headquarters has been sold to the right-wing Orange Order.

The Edinburgh district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers was asked at its meeting last week to investigate the transaction.

It certainly needs some investigation.

The AUEW is moving out of its premises at 1 Blenheim Place, Edinburgh, into a new office block in September. When last valued, the Blenheim Place premises were expected to fetch £8,000. The Loyal Orange Institution of Scotland, however, appears to have bought them for £4,500.

John Keddie, AUEW East of Scotland district secretary, claims that the premises are only rented by the union.

'We were not involved in the negotiations for their sale,' he told the 'Leith Gazette' last week.

But James McLean, district secretary of the Orange Institution, tells a different story.

Although rejecting the £8,000 valuation figure, he said that the union were the sellers. He told the 'Gazette': 'The AEU sold to the highest bidder and that was us.'

One possible explanation is that the premises are owned by the union's social committee. The committee is presumably still a body of the union, giving the AUEW's London headquarters as its address.

Confirmation of McLean's account comes from the city's rate-valuation roll.

This shows the occupier of 1 Blenheim Place as the AUEW. It also records the proprietor of the premises as the local AUEW secretary.

It might be argued here that a junior in the AUEW office filled out the valuation roll wrongly, but the City Assessor's office scrupulously counter-check entries.

Since many local trade unionists regard the Orangeists' aims as diametrically opposed to the unity of the labour movement, the called-for investigation is likely to produce some explosive answers.

Or as a spokesman for the 500-strong Pilton AUEW branch, which meets tonight, said: 'This will be a bombshell.'

The issue is particularly volatile since more and more branches are using Blenheim Place for meetings despite the move of offices. They will thus be providing a steady source of income for the Orangemen.

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Early-English Materialism

Left's 'Imperialism'

Lukacs

Ulster

Bangla Desh



TORIES ATTACK THE UNEMPLOYED

The Social Security Swindle



Giant miners' rally demands recall TUC

OVER 35,000 South Wales miners at their annual gala on Saturday voted by acclaim for the recall of the TUC and the removal of the Tory government and its replacement by a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

The march through Cardiff to the 'Victory Gala' was the biggest seen in Cardiff for many years. The combativity and determination of the rank-and-file was spiced, however, by engineers' leader Hugh Scanlon.

The Industrial Relations Act, he said, was a grave threat to the unions and that he was concerned at the TUC's apparent reversal of its policy of non-co-operation.

This retreat he compared with what he described as the 'magnificent' campaign by the TUC and the Parliamentary Labour Party to prevent the Bill becoming law.

But all Scanlon would commit himself to was that the 'AUEW will continue to back their members in struggle whatever the consequences'.

Then he made clear, beyond all doubt, that he would not lead a fight against the Act when he declared:

'It is our view that we should still continue to act as though the Industrial Relations Act is not in existence.'

For Scanlon's information the Act is in existence and that is one of the reasons, as he has

But Scanlon spikes ranks' militancy

admitted, why he refused to mobilize the entire AUEW membership in a fight for the national engineering pay claim.

He then revealed the nature of the talks now taking place between union and Labour leaders about the attitude of the next Labour government on industrial relations.

'We have received a promise,' Scanlon said, 'that the next Labour government will repeal the Industrial Relations Act. But it must be replaced by some other legislation, if only to protect the trade unions' rights.'

While he could not reveal the detailed proposals being worked out, they would be the basis for complete co-operation between the unions and the next Labour government.

Dai Francis, general secretary of the South Wales NUM, told Workers Press that the size of the gala was a sign of the fighting spirit of the rank and file.

The Tories did not use the Industrial Relations Act against the miners, he added, because they would have been brought down if they had.

Cliff True, chairman of Fernhill Lodge, condemned the retreat of the TUC before the Act.

'It shows,' he said, 'that it is not enough to have "left" leaders in the unions. The whole leadership must be changed from top to bottom.'



A section of one of the largest South Wales miners' rallies seen for a number of years

Drivers take dockers to court

SHOP STEWARDS representing London container depot workers will today apply to the National Industrial Relations Court for an order against two dock shop stewards and two dockers.

The 63 depot men—all members of the Transport and General Workers' Union commercial section—work at the Chobham Farm depot of the London (East) ICD cargo-handling company. They load and unload containers.

They want the NIRC to order an end to picketing by dockers outside the depot which, they say, has severely cut container traffic.

Two stewards, Mr Tony Churchman and Mr William Cartwright, are also seeking an

end to the dockers' blacklist of haulage firms which use the depot, and are claiming compensation for loss of overtime.

Their action names Mr Bernie Steer, secretary of the national docks shop stewards' committee, its chairman, Mr Vic Turner, and two dockers, Mr M Foley and Mr Alan Williams.

The Chobham Farm men have formed themselves into a manual staff association for the NIRC proceedings.

Dockers have claimed that the work done at Chobham Farm should be carried out by registered dock labour.

Last week the London Dock Labour Board said it had received an application from the T&GWU seeking an order that

the work be declared dock work.

Two board members are investigating the question. Mr Tom Wallis, chairman of Chobham Farm, is a member of the board.

On Friday half the depot's workforce were laid off by management who indicated the remainder would go at the end of this week.

Judgement is expected tomorrow from Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, in the Appeal Court case over the blacking of containers.

The T&GWU is appealing against NIRC findings of contempt, with fines of £55,000, and also findings of unfair industrial practice in the Liverpool and Hull blacking cases.

TV

BBC 1

9.20 - 9.35 Trumpton. 9.38 Schools. 11.50 Cricket. England v Australia. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05 Schools. 3.10 Cricket. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Magic roundabout. 4.45 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Penelope Pitstop. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK. 6.20 ENTERTAINING WITH KERR. Laberspiessl Zuri-Hegel. 6.45 A QUESTION OF SPORT. England v Australia. 7.10 Z CARS. Access. 8.00 PANORAMA. 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 DOOMWATCH. High Mountain. 10.10 THE SPINNERS. With Shari Lewis. 10.40 24 HOURS. 11.15 ATHLETE. Hurdles. 11.40 WEATHER.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 4.30 Cricket. England v Australia. 6.35-7.00 OPEN UNIVERSITY. 7.05 LET'S GET GOING. 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 BEST OF HIGH CHAPARRAL. Shadows on the Land. 8.50 HIS LORDSHIP ENTERTAINS. 9.20 HORIZON. Sorry I

ITV

10.20-12.00 Schools. 1.10 Time to remember (London only). 1.40 Schools. 2.33 Good afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Film: 'Operation Bullshine'. Donald Sinden, Barabara Murray, Ronald Shiner. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Lassie. 5.20 Pardon my genie. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.20 CROSSROADS. 6.40 THE DAVID NIXON SHOW. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. WORLD IN ACTION. 8.00 ALCOCK AND GANDER. With Beryl Reid. 9.00 MAN AT THE TOP. A Very Desirable Property. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 THRILLER: 'NEVER MENTION MURDER'. Maxine Audley, Dudley Foster. A surgeon plots nasty revenge on his wife. 11.30 WILLS OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT. 12.15 DEAR LORD . . .

opened My Mouth. 10.10 THEATRE: 'KNIGHTS-BRIDGE'. Googie Withers, Donald Churchill, Angela Scoular. 10.35 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.40 CRICKET. England v Australia. 11.10 LATE NIGHT LINE UP. Ecology: So Far, So Good.



John Paul as Dr Spencer Quist is joined by Elizabeth Weaver and Moultrie Kelsall in tonight's 'Doomwatch' episode on BBC 1 at 9.20

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20 London. 2.30-3.55 Tennis. 4.05 Once upon a time. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Yoga. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.15 Pursuers. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Tennis. 11.43 Visage de France. 11.58 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sports desk. 11.43 News. 11.47 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 10.20 London. 2.30 Tennis. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Heckle and Jeckle. 4.25 Junkin. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Afloat. 11.00 Tennis. 11.45 News. 11.55 Weather. Seven signs of hope.

HARLECH: 10.20 London. 2.33 Tennis. 3.45 Women only. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.25 Superman. 4.50 Shari's show. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'Man in the Back Seat'. 11.30 London. 12.15 Weather.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 London. 2.33 Tennis. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Nanny and the professor. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.40 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Tennis. Weather.

ULSTER: 10.20 London. 2.33 Tennis. 4.00 Let's face it. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Clapperboards. 5.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Funny face. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Avengers. 11.30 London.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 London. 3.00 Tennis. 4.35 News. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.25 Calendar special. 6.45 London. 10.30 Hawaii five-o. 11.30 London. 12.15 All our yesterdays. 12.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 2.30 Calling Dr Gannon. 3.30 Yoga. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.15 London. 6.00 Newsday.

6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein'.

TYNE TEES: 11.00 London. 2.30 Common Market cook book. 3.00 Tennis. 4.35 News. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 HR Pufnstuf. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 Boys who put the kibosh on the Kaiser. 6.40 London. 10.30 Times four. 11.00 One step beyond. 11.30 London. 12.15 News. 12.30 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 10.15 Class of 72. 11.00 London. 2.33 Tennis. 3.30 Nuts and bones. 3.45 Dr Simon Locke. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Tennis. 11.45 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 2.33 Tennis. 3.41 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Lucy show. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Dr Simon Locke. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Tennis. 11.45 Epilogue.



Ronald Shiner joins 'Operation Bullshine' on London ITV at 3.15

Union chiefs to trim rail claim?

FEARS that leaders of the three rail unions may be planning a further watering-down of their members' pay demands grew at the weekend.

As rank-and-file union members anxiously awaited the outcome of today's last-ditch meeting with the British Railways Board, union chiefs made it known that they might accept a halfway-house formula.

They have already cut their claim from 16 per cent—25 per cent in the case of the locomotives—to 12½ per cent.

Now the argument is over backdating, with the Board insisting on a June 1 implementation date and the unions on May 1. The difference is about £3.7m.

The unions' suggested alternative is a lump-sum compensation payment. At today's talks, the biggest of the three, the National Union of Railwaymen, would probably accept if the Board offered a lump sum equivalent to an implementation date of 'better than May 15'. It is thought the figure the union's leaders have in mind is £1.8m.

Such a settlement would fly in the face of the magnificent ballot vote in which 76 per cent of all the railmen in Britain voted to fight the Tory government for the full claim.

● Ford workers at Dagenham organized in the 1/667 Transport and General Workers' Union branch—have called for their executive committee 'to offer to assistance that the railwaymen ask for locally or nationally'. They want the recall of the TUC in order to assist the railmen's struggle.

JUNE FUND NOW £178.77

WE MUST redouble our efforts for the June Fund. With a target of £1,750 to raise this month, we must get on with the fight immediately. In spite of the union leaders' cringing attitude, trade unionists everywhere are determined to fight it out with the Tory government.

Workers Press is decisive in providing industrial and political leadership. We urge you, dear reader, to make a special effort for this month's Fund. We are at the start of our holiday period so we need as much as you can raise. Don't leave it too late. Collect donations everywhere and post them to:

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

LATE NEWS WEATHER

EQUITY (see this page)
The Equity council launched a vehement attack on Goring's move. Their spokesman, Dudley Jones, said his resolution was 'unnecessary, inaccurate and vindictive'.

He said it was a panic measure bordering on the hysterical. Jones' speech was interrupted by angry supporters of the resolution who demanded to know whether he was speaking for the council.

An earlier amendment to allow the union to take whatever political action is considered necessary was defeated. Instead delegates passed a resolution which reaffirmed the union's right to intervene in political matters, but outlawed any party political bias.

West End £30 strike threat



Equity members voting on a resolution at their conference yesterday

BRITISH actors and actresses will gear themselves for strike action if their claim for a £30 minimum wage in West End theatres is rejected.

This call for a full mobilization of the union was passed by a large majority at the Actors Equity annual general meeting in London yesterday.

Moving an amendment for strike action if talks with theatre management broke down, Michael Cronin said that the employers had been encouraged to resist the pay demand because of Equity's decision to register under the Industrial Relations Act.

He said action committees should be set up to organize the strike which should be one which would not allow management to keep theatres open or import entertainment from abroad.

Peter Plouviez, replying for the Equity Council, said that he did not think the council would oppose the amendment 'because in my view it falls in the grandmother eggsucking category'.

He told the 600 delegates, who met in London's Victoria Palace Theatre, that the council was quite able to meet the threat of a rejection of the claim.

A demand that Equity adopt the policy of the TUC for the nationalization of the film industry without compensation under workers' control was lost by a two-to-one majority.

Proposing the demand, Romy Baskerville warned that the industrial and economic situation in Britain jeopardized the entire existence of the film industry.

'Money will only be allocated to serve those operations which

MANY PARTS will have showers which may be prolonged and locally heavy but some sunny periods are also expected.

Although rather cool generally it will be a little warmer than of late.

Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Continuing rather cool and unsettled with showers, prolonged at times, and also some sunny intervals.

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BY STEPHEN JOHNS

promise high profit. One of those now is property and hence we see that Shepperton Studio has recently been taken over by Barclay Securities, a property company.'

Marius Goring, a leader of the Equity right wing, made a bid at yesterday's conference to make the union a non-political organization. He was voted down.

He told Workers Press: 'I am moving this resolution because we have been bedevilled over the last year with a series of political discussions asking the union to take action over issues like Northern Ireland and Bangla Desh.'

The question of unemployment, he said, was 'not in the least bit' a political issue. 'We are not a political union like other unions in the TUC.'

—He said the aim of the move was to give the Equity Council the right to rule explicit political issues out of order.

A second resolution from Goring sought to deprive Equity members of the automatic right to call special meetings of the union. He said this was simply to prevent 'a waste of time and money' within the union.

No Labour stand on rents

NO STAND against the Tory 'fair rents' Bill was taken by a meeting of almost 300 Labour councillors in Sheffield on Saturday.

Called by the Sheffield city Labour council—which has made no public statements about its intentions—the meeting decided to give no assistance in the

implementation of the Bill. This worthless formula—carried by 280 votes to one, with some abstentions—commits the 91 Labour councils represented to nothing.

Tenants from all over the North are meeting in Sheffield next Sunday to organize the fight against 'fair rents'.

Liaison conference evades fight against Tories

BY DAVID MAUDE

APPROXIMATELY 1,000 delegates met in London on Saturday to discuss the latest, vaguest declaration of the Stalinist-dominated Liaison Committee for Defence of Trade Unions.

No resolutions were allowed. The platform also blocked attempts to move amendments. After four hours' carefully-controlled discussion, the Communist Party-led committee won blanket support for its proposals.

The declaration called without much enthusiasm for the recall of the TUC, but its main concern was 'to make . . . in-operative' the Industrial Relations Act 'until such time as it is repealed'.

Solidarity—including industrial action—was pledged with trade unionists penalized under the Act.

The formula 'including industrial action' was repeated throughout the document. Nowhere, however, did it include a call for any form of action to force the Tory authors of the Act out of office.

Claimed the declaration: 'If this government is convinced that the trade unions are determined to take industrial action on a national scale . . . they will be compelled to retreat.'

It called for a national day of industrial action, either on the date of a recalled TUC or during its regular meeting in September.

In a lengthy contribution, Eddie Marsden, construction section secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering



Eddie Marsden: Attacked TUC retreat

Workers, told delegates that capitalism was now clearly in serious difficulties on a world scale.

Class attitudes were rapidly becoming much sharper on a number of fronts.

'Capitalism can today only advance at the expense of the working class,' he said. 'Conversely, workers can only advance at the expense of capitalism.'

'This is the real background of the Industrial Relations Act—it has nothing to do with industrial relations.'

Marsden attacked the retreat of the TUC General Council before the Act, warning that some of their recent decisions harboured further retreats if they were not stopped.

TUC leaders had said the Act was irrelevant, he reminded delegates. Now in three short months the National Industrial Relations Court could be seen to be acting quite nakedly as a weapon of the government.

However, he claimed, the whole operation was based on 'the biggest bluff ever'. The Tories were relying on the TUC right wing to retreat all along the line. This could be stopped.

LAW & PRESS FREEDOM

From p. 1

Let's suppose that in the future the Employment Secretary wakes up one morning and decides that unions fighting a wage claim are creating a 'national emergency'. He goes to the Court and seeks a ballot.

While the application is being heard, neither the press nor parliament can write or comment about the Minister's personal actions. If they do, they can be fined or jailed for contempt. This is Donaldson's position. It is also Denning's.

The Labour Party was made rudely aware of this situation during the rail dispute when various MPs tried to raise questions in the House.

There was a more ludicrous example of the Court's legal powers a few days ago. The Eton and Slough Labour Party was told by the Commission on Industrial Relations (CIR) that a resolution it had passed criticising the NIRC was in contempt of court.

All these decrees, judgements and veiled threats add up to one thing—the creation of a political climate in which the Tories are intimidating the press.

The last vestiges of 'freedom of the press' are to be stripped away as the government moves in the direction of Bonapartist rule.

The Act and its creature, the NIRC, can only be demolished if the government is forced out of office and the incoming Labour government is pledged to socialist policies and the repeal of the Act.

implementation of the Bill. This worthless formula—carried by 280 votes to one, with some abstentions—commits the 91 Labour councils represented to nothing.

Tenants from all over the North are meeting in Sheffield next Sunday to organize the fight against 'fair rents'.

Marsden's speech annoyed some delegates as being too analytical. 'It was like a weekend school', complained one CP official of the AUEW technicians' section.

Bernard Steer, secretary of the national port shop stewards' committee, said it was a tragedy the union leaders had decided to break down at the first sign of a confrontation with the NIRC.

Praising the example of Hull stewards' chairman Walter Cunningham in refusing to attend the court, he said dockers seemed to be getting used to receiving orders.

Four London men, including himself, faced an action in the court today (see p. 11), Steer reported. 'But if they want us they can come and get us at the picket line, because that's where we'll be, strengthening our picket.'

James Reid—the UCS shop stewards' spokesman, expected to be the main speaker—was kept away by a sudden bout of gastro-enteritis.

It was left to Liaison Committee chairman Kevin Halpin to explain why resolutions could not be taken. The committee had wanted the declaration to be 'as broad as possible', he said. If resolutions were allowed, delegates would have to have sought voting mandates from the organizations that had sent them.

Members of the revisionist International Socialism group told delegates they were 'not interested in the past', but wanted to discuss future organization committees at local level.

No criticism was made by IS of the line of the declaration. Halpin was able to end the conference with a statement that there had been no opposition.