

DOCKS—THE NEXT STEP

OUR FIGHT IS STILL ON SAY NATIONAL STEWARDS

BY G. HEALY

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But the Industrial Relations Act and the Tory government still remain intact. What is even more important the representatives of the ruling class are acutely conscious of the very real dangers now confronting them.

They realize that much more than the Industrial Relations Act and the government is at stake—indeed it is the future of capitalism in Britain.

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crisis, but one which contains unmistakable symptoms of dual power.

We live in a period of great danger which cannot last indefinitely. Every ounce of counter-revolutionary effort which a desperate ruling class is capable of will be mobilized now to hit back as brutally as possible against the working class.

Those who ignore this very real danger should re-read the history of similar situations in the past, especially the period of the provisional government in Russia 1917, and the 1919 experiences of the Triple Alliance.

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'As Gallacher, leader of the Clyde movement said later—when it was too late, of course—"We were carrying on a strike when we should have been making a revolution".' (See "Gentlemen" said the PM "Are you ready to take over". Workers Press, May 4, 1971.)

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It is they who persuaded the dockers to take the road which led to the open register and Chobham Farm.

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Perhaps the greatest gain is that the vast majority of dockers are becoming rapidly aware of the dangers they face.

This is why the Socialist Labour League stresses over and over again that the central task is mobilize the industrial strength of the working class to make this government resign, replace it with a Labour government which will be forced by the strength of the working class to nationalize all the major industries—including docks and transport—without compensation under workers' control.

The Communist Party,

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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Vicky Turner (r), one of the three dockers that stewards feel are still threatened with legal action, reading telegrams of support during last Friday's giant picket of the Chobham Farm container depot.



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what we think

LABOUR'S 'FUNNY MAN'

HAROLD WILSON'S weekend 'attack' on Tory industrial policy is the kind of sick joke the labour movement can do without.

Only the present Labour Party leader—the most dedicated opportunist in politics—could reduce the great struggles facing workers to the level of a bad music-hall farce.

His series of smug jibes revealed an appalling dereliction of the duty to lead the labour movement in a battle to bring down the Tories.

Wilson managed to bring Gilbert and Sullivan and Shakespeare into his diatribe. Apparently the Tory government is a big joke.

But we doubt if the dockers are laughing. They are facing immediate arrest and jail for defending their jobs. And the same could go for any worker who dares defend his basic rights.

Wilson's buffoonery is of course nothing new. It is the small change of reformist politics that workers have come to despise.

This childish flamboyance is primarily designed to hide the truth. But facts are more powerful than slap-stick.

Three times Labour MPs have abstained or entered the government lobby over the Common Market and kept the Tories in power. But Wilson—who is ever keen to launch the most malicious attacks on militants—has done nothing to expel these traitors.

If he hates the Tories so much, why does he tolerate men in his own Party who keep them in power?

Like all 'great Labour statesmen' he has his handy kit of docks platitudes about what a great 'human' problem containerization has caused.

But it was Wilson and his government who started it! They set Lord Devlin loose on the docks to work out his blueprint for modernization and redundancies. And it was Wilson's pals in the trade union bureaucracy who forced it on the reluctant dockers.

In one of the candid moments of his speech, he warned that Tory policy was a 'charter for militants' and was destroying the 'authority' of those pals.

This is Wilson's greatest fear. Like all students of abysmal compromise, he knows the working class is beginning to gain a political independence from his brand of reformism.

But the time for joking is over. Trade unionists should tell Wilson to start fighting to bring down the Tories... or quit.

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revisionist groups and reformists all oppose this policy just as they allowed the Devlin plan to be introduced in the late 1960s.

We repeat, the present discussion between Jones and the dock employers can only produce another version of Devlin.

There is no solution short of making this government resign.

In a period like the present, where danger is great, panic is useless. The great task is to train a revolutionary Marxist leadership within the trade unions.

There never was a more favourable time for this all-important task to be undertaken than now.

The life-and-death nature of the economic crisis facing British capitalism is forcing thousands of the most advanced trade unionists to break from reformist class-collaborationist methods of thinking.

Certainly, the political gap between the working class and the Socialist Labour League is qualitatively wide and we are not frightened to acknowledge this.

Indeed the two are opposites, caught up in a situation of great movement between the class forces.

Here it is not the fixed appearance of the opposites, but the class movement which cradles them that is decisive.

For it is this movement which creates the possibilities for the opposites to be transformed into one another through the building of the revolutionary party, as the leadership of the working class.

Conscious intervention by the party based upon the revolutionary requirements of power can quickly transform the subjective difficulties into the objective revolutionary possibilities.

This is the qualitative political task embodied in the training of cadres within the trade unions.

The present crisis of the capitalist system will not blow over. Even if the working class should be pushed back by the treachery of their leaders here and there, the time has come for the revolutionary Marxists to step up the serious task of building the party.

The decision of the 14th annual conference of the Socialist Labour League to transform the League into a party later this year is extremely timely in view of last week's events on the docks.

£4,000 rise for Marsh

£4,000-a-year salary rises are expected to be announced this week for top civil servants, judges, chairmen of nationalized industries and senior ranks of the armed services.

Among those who will benefit from the proposed increases—expected to be around 18 per cent—are Sir John Donaldson, President of the National Industrial Relations Court, British Rail chairman Richard Marsh and Lord Widgery, who inquired into Bloody Sunday.

The rises are recommended by a committee chaired by former Tory Education Minister Lord Boyle. An announcement of the committee's findings is expected on Friday.

Acting almost like Nixon's emissary Podgorny puts 'peace squeeze' on Hanoi

By JOHN SPENCER

SOVIET president Nikolai Podgorny broke the news blackout which had surrounded his two-day visit to North Vietnam when he told reporters at Calcutta that the Paris peace talks would soon be resumed.

The Soviet and North Vietnamese press had kept a strict embargo on news about the trip, giving rise to speculation about disagreements between the two sides. Podgorny said he had been very satisfied with his visit: 'Everything went as I wanted,' he said.

The Paris peace talks were broken off by the American and South Vietnamese negotiators last month.

Three days ago US president Nixon said he would only return to the conference table when the other side showed a willingness to negotiate seriously.

Added weight was given to the rumours of disagreements in Hanoi by a report from Victor Louis, 'Evening News' correspondent in Moscow, who is generally regarded as a mouthpiece for sections of the Kremlin bureaucracy.

He reported that the aim of the Soviet president's trip was to stop hostilities on all fronts

to allow the start of new peace negotiations.

Louis said Soviet observers believed a cease-fire could lead to a referendum or new elections in South Vietnam.

'There is ample indication in Moscow that President Nixon during his recent visit persuaded the Russians that he meant business when he said that he wanted to stop American involvement in Vietnam,' said Louis.

He went on: 'There is suspicion in Moscow that after Hanoi's failure to undermine the Russian-American meeting in Moscow by its new campaign in the South, the North Vietnamese will try to neutralize President Podgorny's visit.'

Certainly the United States did nothing to interfere with the Podgorny visit. Virtually all bombing north of the 20th parallel in North Vietnam was halted soon after the Soviet leader arrived in Hanoi.

At the same time the southern province of North Vietnam has been subjected to further savage air attacks. Planes flew over 300 sorties against targets North of the demilitarized zone over the weekend.

Podgorny's efforts to arrange a cease-fire and a peace con-

ference are certain to meet with resistance from the Hanoi leaders. But the Kremlin no doubt hopes that the US blockade of North Vietnamese ports and the consequent reduction of military supplies will weaken their will to continue the war.

China is still refusing to allow Soviet supply ships to enter its ports, adding a further dimension to the squeeze being applied to the Vietnamese.

The intimations of Kremlin treachery in Vietnam are extremely ominous. It was under just this type of diplomatic pressure that the Geneva conference of 1954 was foisted on the Viet-Minh and the country partitioned.

The North Vietnamese, according to Cambodian liberation front leader Prince Sihanouk, are bitterly opposed to a new Geneva-type conference. The Chinese government is also thought to oppose such a conference.

US professor John King Fairbank, who met premier Chou En-lai at the weekend, said the Chinese leader had told him he 'bitterly regretted' signing the 1954 Geneva accords.

Nixon's aide Henry Kissinger is due in Peking today for five days of secret talks with the Chinese leaders.

FOREIGN NEWS

Coalition moves show right swing

THE PROLONGED wrangle over the shape of Italy's coalition government seems certain to result in a marked swing to the right.

The country has been without a majority government since January and it is now more than a month since the General Election which was supposed to resolve the crisis.

Christian-Democrat premier-designate Giulio Andreotti appealed on Saturday to the right-wing Republican Party to co-operate in 'robust action for economic and psychological recovery'.

In a letter to Republican

leader Ugo La Malfa he said the present time was one of 'economic emergency and terroristic dangers'.

All parties, he said, should be guided by the desire for 'a life free from either political or criminal snares'.

The Republicans agreed to take part in a three-party coalition with the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats.

Andreotti is eager to exclude the Socialist Party left flank of previous coalitions and bring in Republicans who have been out of office for more than ten years.

The more liberal Christian Democrats feel this will drive the Socialists towards closer unity with the Communist Party.

THE CP newspaper 'Paese Sera' has described Friday's police raid of Milan university and arrest of 1,000 students as 'a clear pre-ordained provocation'.

The police chief who organized the raid ordered the removal of red flags from the university windows: 'This is not a political headquarters but a university, and red flags have no right to be there,' he said.

At least 45 people were injured in the fighting which broke out when students refused to haul down the flags.

The right wing is now calling for the expulsion of the students' movement leaders from the university.

Sudan-Soviet relations: 'great, glorious'

BRITISH and other imperialist efforts to impede Soviet economic co-operation with the butcher regime of anti-communist General Numeiry in the Sudan have angered the Kremlin.

A Moscow Radio broadcast in Arabic denounced the 'Economic Quarterly Review' for 'spreading doubts' about the 'fruitful economic and trade relations between the Sudan and the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union'.

The commentary said: 'In its

analysis of the economic and trade development in Sudan over many years, the magazine tries carefully to avoid talking about Sudanese-Soviet co-operation whose record has been great and glorious...'

The 'Review' had apparently expressed doubts about the Soviet capacity to meet obligations to the Sudan involving the building of grain depots, delivery of tractors, electrical appliances, building material and other 'essential commodities'.

The Radio commentary, pointing out the favourable character of the agreements from Numeiry's point of view, indignantly refuted any suggestion that the agreements will not be carried out to the letter.

It does not mention the brutal suppression of the July coup last year, when Numeiry executed the leaders of the Communist Party and the trade unions and smashed the workers' basic organizations.



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IS AND COUNCILS OF ACTION

A LETTER

'We have noted with interest your organization's conversion to the idea of Councils of Action, in particular the statement of your Political Committee (Workers Press No. 770, May 20, 1972).

'While we cannot subscribe to several of your PC's formulations we find ourselves generally in agreement with your objectives in this issue.

'We assume that the approaches made to a couple of our branches, by your members, to form "Councils of Action" have the sanction of your National Office.

'We find this move an encouraging one, and so that we may maximize our joint effectiveness and clarify any programmatic agreement there may be, we suggest, a meeting between nominees of our two organizations at a mutually convenient date.

Yours fraternally,
Jim Higgins
National Secretary, IS



Above: Jim Higgins, National Secretary, International Socialists

A REPLY

Since the election of the Tory government in June 1970 Workers Press and the Socialist Labour League has tirelessly campaigned for the united strength of the labour and trade union movement to be mobilized to create the conditions which would require this government to resign.

In the fight against the Industrial Relations Bill, from the autumn of 1970 onwards, we warned that the Bill would become law, and would be used unless the Tories were made to resign.

This policy was rejected by an amalgam of the International Socialists and the the Stalinists who in turn declared for 'Kill the Bill non co-operation' with the terms of the Bill and its Court when it became law.

Every trade unionist can now see that such a demand was nothing more than a left cover for the TUC to go ahead and permit the government to pass the Bill.

By isolating the working class from the necessity for a political fight against the Bill, it prevented a real struggle against the government.

Today the policy of 'non co-operation' is revealed as a trap which allows the Court to inflict one legal blow after another against the trade union movement, which was completely unprepared for the implications of the Court.

The IS and the Stalinist Liaison Committee For the Defence of the Trade Unions, by retreating from the political challenge to make the government resign, have in fact aided the right wing in politically disarming the working class in the face of the Tory offensive.

To popularize its middle-of-the-road policy of 'non co-operation' with the Act, the IS called for 'Setting up Councils of Action in every locality made up of delegates from unions and work places to agitate among the rank and file for support for industrial action against the Tories.' ('Socialist Worker', November 14, 1970.)

The next issue of 'Socialist Worker', November 21, 1970, spells out what the 'industrial



Above: G. Healy, National Secretary, Socialist Labour League

action' was supposed to achieve.

'The Tories would be forced to rethink if a significant number of trade union leaders were to declare now that, in the event of the legislation coming into force, they would:

'1. Announce their refusal to register with the Registrar for the unions or assist in the work of the Industrial Court.

'2. State that they would refuse to pay any fines imposed under the new laws or accept any cooling-off periods or strike ballots.

'3. Refuse to accept any legally-binding contracts.

'4. Tell their members that all disputes would be immediately declared official to stop rank-and-file members or shop stewards being penalized.'

The purpose of the IS 'Councils of Action' call was clearly to put pressure on the Tory government in the reformist belief that it could be forced to change its mind over the operation of the Act.

The idea that the SLL has been 'converted' to this kind of 'Council of Action' is just factional nonsense.

On May 31 we re-affirmed our position as follows:

'There are two major requirements if the Councils of Action are to be successful.

'1. They must mobilize the trade unions, shop stewards' committees, Labour Parties, Trades Councils, unemployed workers and all political

organizations of the labour movement. This must include the Socialist Labour League, Communist Party and International Socialism, etc.

'2. The aim of the Councils of Action must be to defend the trade unions and democratic rights of the working class by taking the lead in the campaign to make the Tory government resign and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

'The Socialist Labour League will fight resolutely for such a policy within the Councils of Action.

'Without the widest mobilization of the working class to make the Tory government resign, the Councils of Action would be ineffective. They must be Councils of Action and not councils of protest.'

The IS request for discussion 'between nominees' is surely directed to the wrong quarters.

On Saturday June 10 the IS collaborated with the Stalinist Liaison Committee and voted for its policy.

In the important presidential election within the Electrical and Plumbing Trade Union the IS support the Stalinist-sponsored candidate and oppose Jim Dormer, who is a member of the SLL.

Why doesn't the IS go the whole hog and join the Stalinists?

G. Healy,
National Secretary, SLL



HEFFERISM REARS ITS HEAD

Students of Labour's self-styled left in parliament are advised to watch the Liverpool 'Daily Post' tomorrow.

With the Denning appeal-court judgement less than a week old, they could find a former anti-parliamentarian passing another milestone in his reformist progress.

All the pointers to such an event were there in last Tuesday's 'Post' column by the MP for Liverpool's Walton constituency, Eric Heffer.

And the MP had a revealing run-in on television that evening with the Hull dockers' leader Walter Cunningham.

BBC-TV's 'Nationwide' programme found Heffer burbling on about how Denning had vindicated the unions' position on the Industrial Relations Act. But Cunningham correctly pointed out that the judgement in fact made it easier to go for shop stewards. The following day . . .

WHAM!
But it's doubtful whether our parliamentary friend will learn anything. Even Sir John Donaldson would find this man's reformist faith hard to crack.

Heffer has come a long way since, as a member of the syndicalist Socialist Workers' Federation in the early 1950s, he opposed bitterly all forms of co-operation with governments and participation in parliament.

When workers demand to know what, if anything, the left are doing in the House these days, the MP is fond of referring to his militant past

in the SWF and the building trade. A standard ploy is to try and accuse the questioner of never having seen the inside of a factory in his life.

But last Tuesday saw Heffer apparently welcoming the Tories' seeming abandonment of their opposition to a statutory incomes policy . . . and going on to offer that if prices were moderated wage claims might be too.

Nothing could be farther away from the mood of the working class today than this.

'The signs are', Heffer wrote, 'that the government are abandoning their rejection of a statutory incomes policy.'

'They may well be eating their words again soon. I recognize that word-eating is an occupational hazard of leading political figures, but with this government it is becoming too much of a habit.'

He then develops the argument that workers' wage increases are not the main enemy in the fight against inflation.

This implies, of course, that it is possible for capitalist government to combat inflation in another way. If only Eric were in charge perhaps he could prove Marx wrong.

But he concluded with an even more amazing statement about the Tory promises of price-control.

'If the unions see real action by the government', he wrote, 'then they too obviously can moderate their claims.'

In other words, it is not even necessary to return a Labour government. A dash of Hefferism is all Heath needs to wrap the unions round his little finger.

ANOTHER UCS ON WEAR SIDE?

BY DAVID MAUDE

Government approval for the Court Line takeover of Doxford and Sunderland's Wearside shipbuilding company is expected to pave the way for a major rationalization of the industry on the river.

Fears of more redundancies have already been aroused in the jobless blackspot by the companies' courtship.

JOB FEARS

John Young, managing director of the £17m shipping line, went out of his way earlier this week to allay these fears. The company, in fact, would be looking to provide more jobs on the river, he said.

And Court's £8m bid for Doxford's was welcomed by the district secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Henry Wilkinson, as a chance for much-needed capital to be injected into shipbuilding.

'It could be the beginning of a new era on Wearside', the AUEW official said.

Both men's optimism may prove a little short-lived, however.

The Court Line's stated plans for the Wear appear to be geared heavily towards a major expansion of the North Sea oil industry. And big question marks are now hung over such expansion by the worsening economic situation.

The Department of Trade and Industry's decision not to refer the deal to the Monopolies Commission virtually guarantees huge government hand-outs to develop Doxford's antiquated facilities.

Young's announcement of plans to provide additional jobs in the area will, of course, serve only to enhance the amounts available.

When the bid documents

sent out on Tuesday are formally accepted, Court Line, which is amongst the biggest 500 firms in Britain ranked by turnover, says it will start detailed feasibility studies for the building of a new covered shipyard at the present Greenwell dry-dock.

The purpose of this is said to be the building of small ships specially for North Sea oil supply.

At Doxford's Pallion shipyard, which launched its last ship on Monday, Court's have suggested building barges and drilling platforms for the oil business.

This highly-speculative adventure in the North Sea is already soaking up vast sums of capital. And as has been seen at UCS Clydebank, some very sharp financial interests indeed have seen the possibility of making a pile out of government enthusiasm for the venture.

BLIND FAITH

Court Line clearly needs the kind of boost an influx of government money would give it.

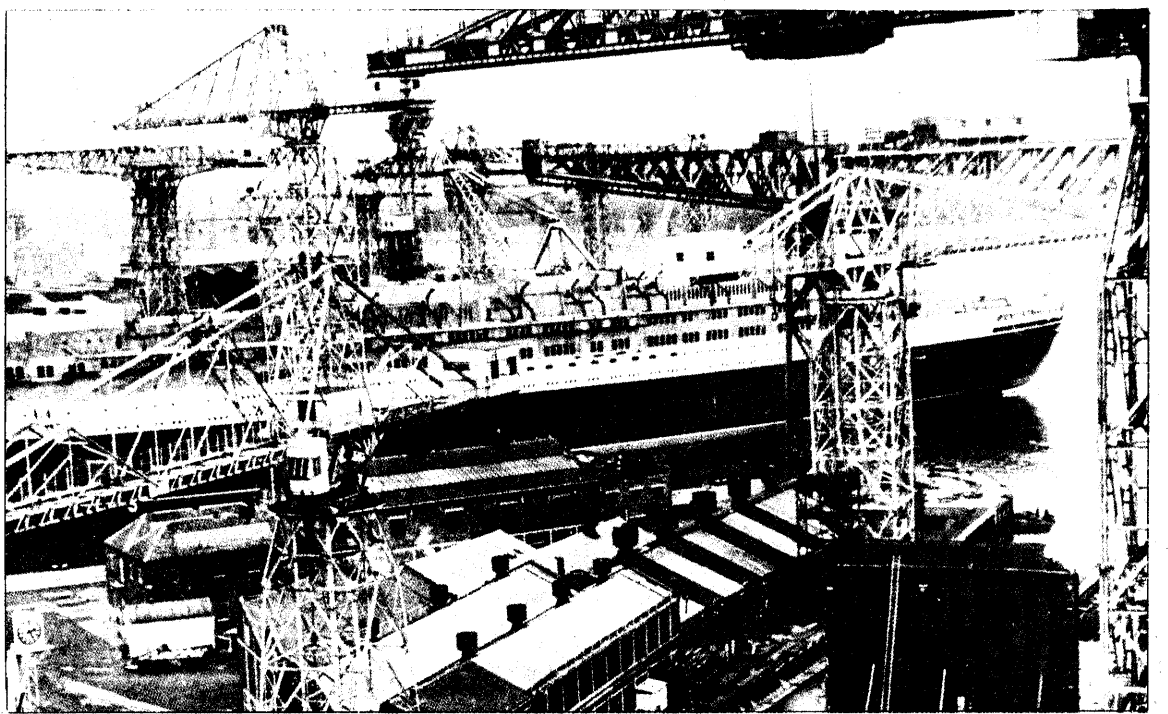
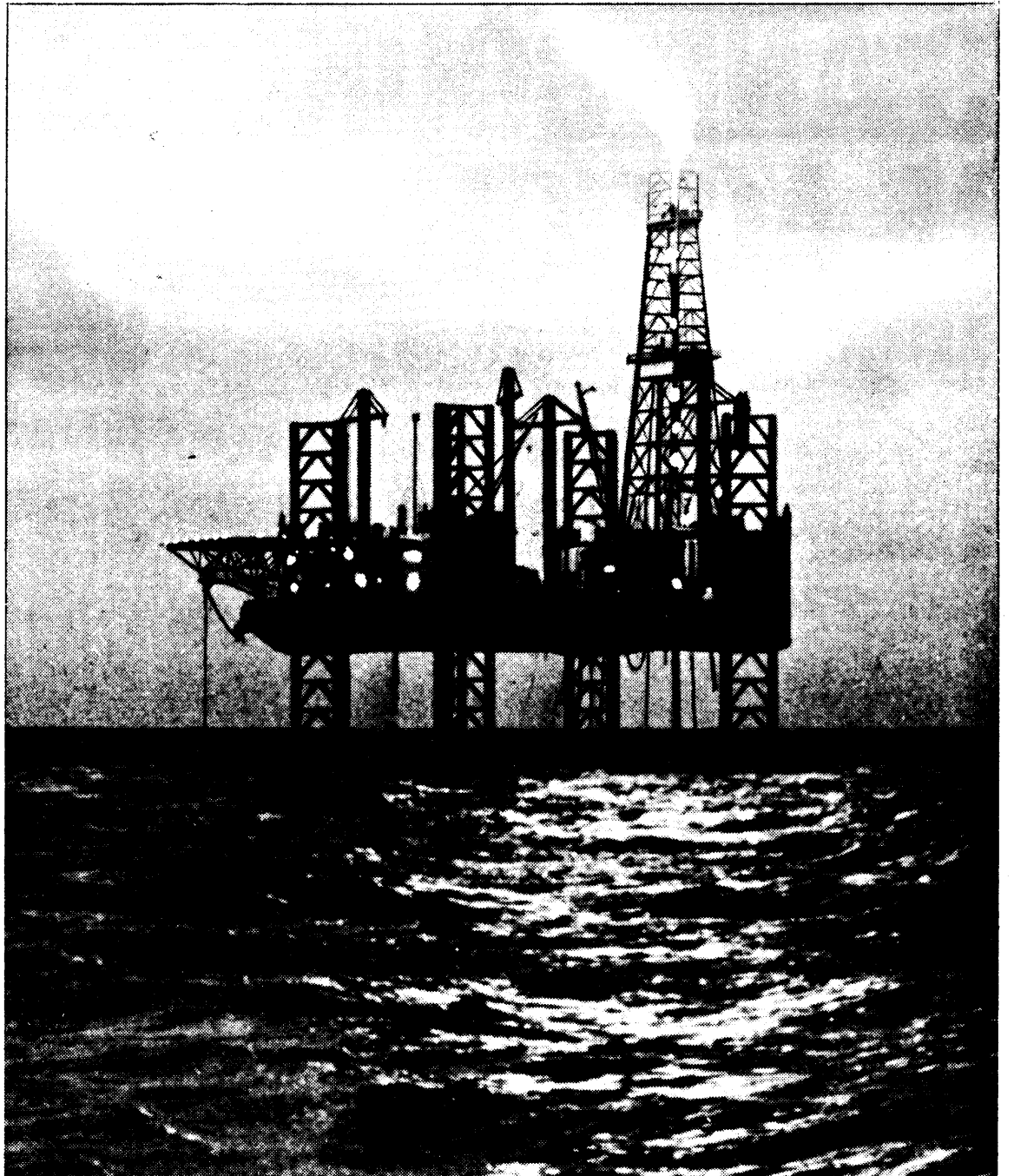
Although its latest net profits were more than double those for the previous year, its rate of profit was down from 18.1 per cent to 15.6.

This is the company's concern—not the creation of a new era as Wilkinson suggests. For a union official to lead his members into blind faith in management promises of 1,000 more jobs is folly.

In the marketing company A&P Appledore, Court Line has close links with the other Wearside shipbuilders Austin and Pickersgill.

Shipbuilding circles foresee that its takeover of Doxford's could lead to a single shipbuilding group on the Wear. The same trends, however, might produce another UCS.

Top: drilling for North Sea oil. Right: Govan yard at UCS



LORD COOPER: MAN OF THE PAST

Neither Fleet Street—nor any other section of the press, for that matter—took much notice of Lord Cooper's fraternal address on behalf of the TUC to the Canadian Labour Congress.

An extract printed in the June edition of his union's journal, however, provides an interesting sidelight on both prostration of reformism in front of the capitalist offensive—and its narrow-minded insularity.

Said the General and Municipal Workers' Union secretary: 'I do not believe that legislation can contribute to any improvement in industrial relations or help us in collective bargaining.

'But equally, I believe with

changes so radical in the environment in which the trade unions now operate, it is necessary on a voluntary basis for trade unions and employers and government to reach understandings about what is reasonably possible.'

What kind of understanding he thought was reasonably possible with a Tory government on the legal rampage in Britain, the retiring G&MWU leader did not say.

But surely he realized he was talking to people who saw their own Liberal administration—less than two years ago—mobilize thousands of troops in a nationwide state of emergency after just a slight whiff of 'urban guerrilla' activity.

Headed pathetically 'Participation—not legislation', Cooper's speech is in the language of a forgotten age.





KIM IL SUNG EMBRACES THE BUTCHER OF SUDAN

Kim Il-sung, the North Korean Stalinist leader, has expressed fulsome support for the Sudan's President Jafaar Numeiry and specifically condemned the Sudanese communists executed last July.

A Sudanese delegation led by Ahmad Babiker Isa, the secretary-general of Numeiry's council of ministers, last month visited North Korea for celebrations marking the third anniversary of Numeiry's seizure of power.

According to Khartoum Radio, reporting the results of Isa's visit, the delegation was received by Kim Il-sung who

told them 'he regarded President Numeiry as a true brother and a leader who exerted genuine efforts to build a progressive society'.

The Radio added that the Korean leader had 'condemned the unsuccessful July plot'—a reference to the left-wing revolt against Numeiry which was crushed with British and Libyan assistance.

Following the defeat of this so-called 'plot', the leader of the Sudan CP, the head of the trade union movement and a number of other prominent communists were summarily shot. Thousands of other militants are in jails and concentration camps.

These are the 'genuine efforts to build a progressive society' undertaken by Kim Il-sung's 'true brother'.

JAPANESE SEAMEN STAY ON STRIKE

Japanese seamen are now in the second month of their national strike for higher wages and there is no prospect of a settlement in sight.

The strike has seriously hit Japanese shipping firms as well as the country's export industry, which is desperately trying to break into the European market.

As a result of the stoppage, more than 1,000 ocean-going and coastal vessels have been tied up in 52 ports across the country, while other ships have been forced to anchor off ports because of lack of berths.

More than 15,000 cars, huge volumes of steel, fertilizer, television sets and other export goods are stranded on quaysides across the country, in addition to imported oil and other domestic cargoes. The Transport Ministry complains that the strike has cost over £13m in direct losses to the shipowners alone.

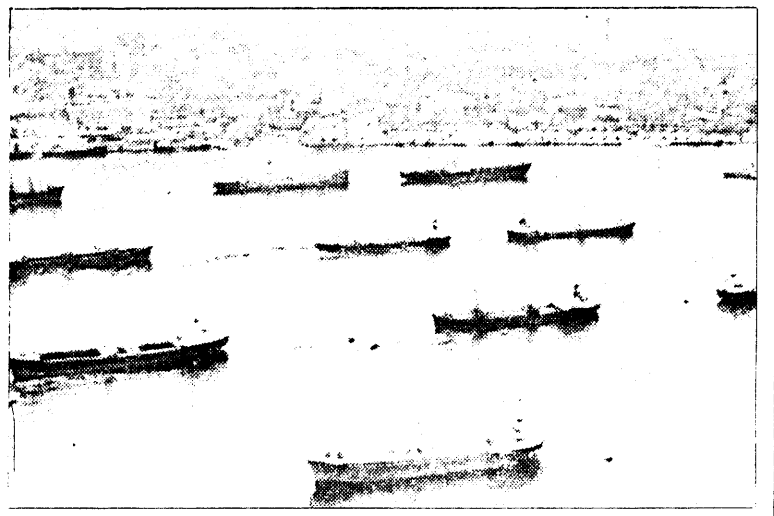
The 160,000-member union, made up of five ocean-going and inland seamen groups, has been demanding a substantial rise in wages and benefits. These include a 25 per cent rise for ocean-going and a 28 per cent rise for inland seamen. It is also demanding three times the present compensation for members mutilated or killed in accidents at sea.

A shipowners' leader Rokuro Inonye said: 'We are not in a position to accept the union's demand because we have been adversely affected by the worldwide recession.'

To concede the rises asked for would 'further weaken the competitive power of Japanese shipping in the international market,' he said.

The seamen, however, have no intention of going back without their demands and are prepared to stay out indefinitely, recession or no recession.

Japanese ships lying idle in Tokyo harbour due to the two month old strike.



CZECH CRACK-DOWN ON CRIME

Czechoslovak authorities are to step up the fight against black-marketeering and other rackets which plague the West Bohemian region.

The crack-down will include the better guarding of factories and tighter security regulations in shops, stores and workshops. Stocks will be checked more regularly. All this is part of a plan intended to 'limit crime and protect public order'.

The swelling crime wave in Czechoslovakia not only cost the economy dearly, but it included 18 murders, 773 cases of bodily harm and 88 attacks on officials, mostly policemen. More severe penalties are being planned for pilfering.

FASCISTS AT THE STALINIST TABLE

Every day it becomes more difficult for the leadership of the Spanish Communist Party to explain its European policies and the policies of the Soviet bureaucracy to Spain.

In the latest issue of the party press, Manuel Azcarate defends the call for a European Security Conference as the only road to peace and democracy in Europe.

The call for such a conference from Moscow has not gone unheeded by Franco who is only too willing to discuss with the Stalinist bureaucracy how the working-class in Europe can be crushed.

Azcarate states that no one should be deceived by this enthusiastic response from Franco, Lopez Bravo and company: 'Consequently, beginning with the interest of Spain, it is no way acceptable for Franco's government to participate in the forthcoming conference.'

The Spanish Communist Party knows that the Soviet Union has made it clear that the presence of both fascist Greece and Spain at the Security Conference is desirable.

Although Azcarate does not mention the Stalinist bureaucracies in his article, he launches an implicit attack on their collaboration with the fascists.

'The conference of Karlovy-Vary of European Communist Parties (1967) declared: "The struggle for a peaceful Europe is linked to a real struggle for national independence and democracy, against the reactionary fascist dictatorships of Spain, Portugal and Greece ..."

'The present situation emphasizes the close link between security and the struggle against fascism. We can see today a growth of fascist tendencies and groups. The regimes of Greece, Spain and Portugal serve as a base for this resurgence of fascist activities. A consistent attitude in support of collective security in Europe must include the condemnation of the fascist regimes in Spain, Greece and Portugal.'

Azcarate aims his article at extracting a condemnation of Franco from an Assembly of Public Opinion on European Security to be held in Brussels later this month.

Whatever this gathering of Stalinists, Liberals and Christians decides is sure to have no influence whatsoever on the counter-revolutionary alliance between Stalinism and European capitalism.

The article, however, is indicative of the deepening crisis in the Spanish Communist Party. Having depicted Spanish fascism as some isolated historical anachronism, he is forced to make the admission that there is a resurgence of fascism in Europe. His demand for a condem-



Top: General Franco. Above: foreign minister, Lopez Bravo.

nation of fascism is a belated and weary response to the anger in the Party ranks at Stalinist diplomacy in Madrid.

If the dangers are so great, and, in fact, they are much greater than Azcarate allows, why does not he and the Carrillo leadership make a principled condemnation of this secret diplomacy behind the backs of the working class rather than excusing it on the grounds of economic necessity?

Why does it still foster the illusion that there is a future for bourgeois democracy in Europe which can only be guaranteed by a security pact of capitalist and 'socialist' countries?

The acquittal of Angela Davis has created the most reactionary illusions about the ruling class and its 'justice'. These are just three illustrations of the dangerous nonsense being propagated by the Communist Party and the revisionists.

'Her acquittal is a tribute to her own courage and fortitude, to the skill of her lawyers, to the good sense of the jury, and to the world-wide mass campaign which countered the witch-hunting, McCarthyite atmosphere created by the racists around the case.'—'Morning Star', June 5.

'The release of Angela Davis by a California court this week is a victory for black people in the struggle against racism. But her acquittal does not mean the end of the struggle. Many black prisoners are still in jail, terrorized and brutalized by racist warders. For the great mass of black people life goes on as before, with unemployment or inferior jobs, bad housing, police intimidation, racist violence and oppression.'—'Socialist Worker' June 10.

'Millions saw her fate as their own. To blacks, women, prisoners and radicals she was the victim of the same racist oppression, sexist discrimination, and illegal harassment they face daily. This victory shows the inspiring power of mass protest. It will renew our confidence to continue the fight for a more humane America.'—'The Militant', weekly newspaper of the revisionist Socialist Workers Party in America.

In this article Alex Mitchell examines the meaning of the trial and her acquittal.

THE MEANING OF THE ANGELA DAVIS TRIAL

Angela Davis was framed by the practitioners of American 'justice' and she was acquitted because they couldn't make it stick.

Despite a barrage of circumstantial evidence, innuendo and guilt by association, the prosecution could not produce one tangible fact to demonstrate that she was a kidnapper or a murderer.

The jury had only to find 'reasonable doubt' of her innocence—and they did so unhesitatingly.

The greatest danger to Angela Davis's acquittal was Angela Davis herself, her legal team and her Communist Party supporters.

During the trial the defence attorneys made appeal after appeal for the need to acquit Angela in order to prove the fairness of the American judiciary system.

Angela's chief attorney, Leo Branton, Junior, said in his final address to the jury that the prosecution was 'a sorry stain on the history of justice in this country'. He called on the jury: 'You have an opportunity to be part of history' and acquit her.

Miss Davis and her Communist Party colleagues also deliberately kept any mention of politics out of the trial.

The apolitical conduct of her defence has now produced the most treacherous spectacle of all: the CP and the revisionists are propagating the dangerous myth that concessions can be won from the capitalist state by mass protest.

It is interesting to note that this line finds an echo in the capitalist press itself. The Tory 'Daily Mail' produced an editorial praising the impartiality of American courts.

The 'Mail's' remarks were almost indistinguishable from Miss Davis's own. After the verdict she embraced the jurors one by one and described them as 'part of the people—people we have to organize and allow to mature to the point we can talk about a real revolutionary change in this country'.

The struggle, she said, will be for every black, every Chicano, every Puerto Rican, every person of colour since, for them, 'justice is always a struggle'.

One of the best ways of demonstrating the abysmal nature of her defence is to quote from Branton's closing speech to the jury in some detail.



The 'San Jose Mercury' described the speech like this: 'The flamboyant Branton combined biting mockery and sarcasm with powerful appeals to both logic and emotion in a sustained, highly-charged final defence argument against the prosecution's case.'

In its report, the 'San Francisco Chronicle' said: 'Branton's presentation consumed a few minutes less than two hours.'

'But in that time he packed history, humour, tears, scorn, derision and poetry . . .'

The reporter went on: 'The high point of Branton's performance was his reading in the San Jose courtroom of Miss Davis's love diary, written in her Marin County jail cell to San Quentin inmate George Jackson and found in his cell after his violent death last August. What he actually read were excerpts from the "love diary" fashioned into a moving free verse poem composed, Branton later disclosed, by Dalton Trumbo, noted Hollywood screenwriter and author of such books as "Johnny Got His Gun".'

With a Hollywood script Branton—who once passionately

wanted to be an actor—threw himself into the act. He even used props. Nearing the end of his submission he produced a huge drawing of a chain with a series of links which he said represented the 'chain of circumstantial evidence' against his client.

With a flourish he ripped away a covering to reveal a cartoon of Miss Davis manacled and chained.

'If the prosecution has its way, that's how Miss Davis will end up,' he declared.

A few minutes later he tore away another panel, revealing the young woman standing free—the chains broken and at her feet.

'That is where the chains should be,' he cried, 'broken and destroyed because there is no evidence to convict my client.'

He dismissed the testimony of a number of the state's key witnesses as 'zilch'.

Miss Davis, he told the jury, would have had to be 'an idiotic fool', 'utterly stupid' and a 'boob' to have taken part as the state claimed in the 'criminal caper' she was charged with.

'You've got to believe this woman is indeed a fool—this brilliant college professor,' he said sarcastically.

As the 'Chronicle' reporter observed: 'For the most part Branton's thesis was that no woman, as intellectual, as brilliantly educated, skilful and as sophisticated could have become so much of a fool as to participate in so shoddy and transparent a conspiracy.'

Branton appealed: 'No matter what we say about Angela Davis, no matter what we might think of Angela Davis, we can agree she is no fool. This woman is a college professor, trained at the finest universities in this country and in Europe. You heard her opening statement. You have heard her writings. If you find her guilty, you have got to believe she is a fool.'

He concluded his speech by saying: 'When you write the final chapter, you will say you were chosen, you served and you considered and you brought back the only verdict possible in this case—not guilty! I'm sure you will.'

Branton swept back to the defence table, kissed Miss Davis and sat down.

The aftermath of the trial is

also immensely revealing of the almost unreal attitudes of the Communist Party, black radical and middle-class milieu which identified itself with the Angela Davis trial. When the verdict was announced the crowd inside and outside the court broke into the song: 'Woke up this mornin' with my mind set on freedom, Woke up this mornin' with my mind set on freedom, Hallelujah, hallelujah.'

There were chants of 'Power to the people'.

When the court was silenced, Branton rose and told Judge Arnason: 'The job your honour has done in conducting this trial is an extreme credit to the judiciary.' He then thanked the jury 'for the way it responded'.

Outside the court Branton praised the prosecutor's 'bulldog quality' in presenting the state's case but described it as 'extremely weak'. He added that the case 'was not a frame-up in the traditional sense'.

In the meantime her supporters were promised 'many more sweet victories for the people'.

That night—Monday, June 5—a celebration was staged at

San Jose's Safari Room night club. Manager Ron McGowan cut the price of champagne which was consumed by the case by the 600 guests. A woman turned up with a huge bowl of watermelon, cantaloupe and grape salad because 'Angela said she wanted some fruit salad'.

Five of the jurors attended the festivities and one of them danced with Branton. The Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, described as Angela's 'spiritual adviser', led several rounds of musical handclapping set to the words, 'Angela has been set free'.

One of Miss Davis's oldest political mentors added his comments to the morning newspapers, which also showed the huge dangers in the situation. Professor Herbert Marcuse said: 'Although I never believed Angela was guilty, it still came as a wonderful surprise.'

'Given the political pressures, it speaks very much for judge and jury that they returned the verdict.'

It can be seen, therefore, that the verdict has been adopted by a number of ten-

dencies to substantiate their 'theories' that mass pressure can win concessions from capitalism.

Her acquittal proves conclusively that what was involved was precisely a frame-up in the traditional sense of the term. The US government, through the FBI and the Attorney-General, with the aid of Republican governor Ronald Reagan of California, sought to connect Angela Davis with events they knew full well she had nothing to do with.

Her release today—serves to assist the ruling class. It is almost a parallel of what William Whitelaw, the Tory Ulster Secretary, is doing in Northern Ireland.

He is releasing internees who go into the republican communities to preach 'peace' and thus serve the reactionary aims of the Tories at Westminster and the Unionists.

Miss Davis's acquittal comes on the scene creating the most treacherous illusions about the American ruling class. But behind the celebrations for 'justice', the ruling class is in fact engaged in one of its most horrific onslaughts on the workers and peasants of Vietnam.

Angela's victory is the victory of the world working class. The lesson of this victory is to prepare now against new conspiracies, new attacks.

This preparation demands above all a repudiation of the anti-working class approach of Angela Davis's defence committee who consciously acted to disarm the working class before what they will face, keeping the political meaning of the trial out of the trial itself.

George Jackson, before he was gunned down by warders at San Quentin, understood the meaning of such a class fight. He wrote: 'The objective of all our activity is in the end the creation of the people's army—not an acquittal here and there.'



Top: Angela Davis after acquittal. Above: Leo Branton, chief defence attorney.



Left: Pyotr Yakir and friend in Siberia. Top: Solzhenitsyn. Above: Major-General Grigorenko. Below: Nixon.



THE CAPITALIST PRESS AND THE KGB

BY TOM KEMP

Since the end of last year the Soviet political police (KGB) have intensified their campaign against dissidents of all kinds.

Many who have committed no indictable offence are held in psychiatric wards, others who are too prominent to be dealt with in this way are subject to continuous harassment.

Their movements are closely watched and careful note is kept of the visitors they receive. Their telephones are tapped 24 hours a day.

Some of the intellectual critics have recently been threatened with deportation to a labour camp or imprisonment in a psychiatric ward if they do not leave the country. Several have actually emigrated as a result of such pressure.

The Nobel - prizewinning novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn stated in an interview with Moscow correspondent Robert Kaser that on some occasions both approaches to the courtyard leading to his apartment are watched by carloads of KGB men. Any visitors he receives are followed and one was beaten up.

The same treatment is meted out to the historian Pyotr Yakir whose father, Ionas Yakir, an outstanding Red Army general, was arrested and shot by Stalin in 1937. Pyotr himself spent 14 years in labour camps and emerged

with a burning hatred of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

Major - General Grigorenko, who became the leading spokesman of the communist opposition, was reduced to the rank of private in 1964 and later incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital. Condemned to a living death for his courageous fight for Leninist principles, his spirit remains unbroken.

These and many other fighters form the core of a movement of opposition to the bureaucracy which has found its own way to the political revolution, the need to overthrow the bureaucracy in order to defend the gains of the October Revolution.

The articles, documents and letters produced by this opposition and circulated in 'samizdat' form — copied by hand or typewritten — were extensively reproduced in Workers Press in 1969. At this time few journals were interested in this material and the interest has not grown very much since.

Recently the capitalist press has given the Soviet opposition fuller treatment. Solzhenitsyn has become an internationally-known figure and so, to a lesser extent, have others. The 'Survey of Current Events', one of the 'samizdat' publications, has been reprinted in volumn form and Amnesty International now brings out an English translation. The right-wing 'Sunday

Telegraph' recently ran a four-part survey of the opposition.

Most space was accorded to Jews wishing to leave for Israel and those sections of the opposition which are nationalist, liberal or religious in inspiration. Undoubtedly a pro-capitalist wing of the opposition does exist. Certain intellectuals are only too happy to find an individual solution by leaving the Soviet Union.

The idea that there is a more deeply-rooted and powerful movement, hated most of all by the bureaucracy, which turns for its inspiration to Marxism-Leninism, is also unwelcome to the capitalist media.

There is also another aspect to the growing interest of the capitalist media in the Soviet opposition. The KGB is happy to see the dissidents presented as anti-Soviet and compromised by the praise which they receive in hostile organs. They can then be described as agents of imperialism and isolated the more easily from the growing currents of criticism and discontent in the working class and among students and intellectuals.

Such a motive obviously lies behind the greater readiness with which Jews are permitted to emigrate and some dissidents are actually pressurized into doing so. It is then easy to depict the whole opposition as being in league with the imperialists and only being interested in personal

objectives.

The information which is now being published in the capitalist press about the Soviet opposition comes as no surprise to the KGB. It may even assist western journalists to make the contacts and obtain the copy which they require all the better to compromise the oppositionists concerned.

It is now very much more difficult than it was in Stalin's day for the bureaucracy to order mass arrests and for people simply to disappear without any questions being asked. There are now unofficial bodies, like the Committee on Human Rights, founded by Academician Sakharov, which strive to give maximum publicity to every case where rights are abused.

If the oppositionists can be shown in a circumstantial way, through the publicity accorded them in the foreign press, to be in league with enemies of the Soviet state, it becomes that much easier to deal with them.

The establishment of closer relations with the United States through President Nixon's visit, and the possibility that this will be followed by a European security conference, makes the position of the opposition not less but more precarious. And this applies particularly to the revolutionary communists who represent as such a menace to the bourgeoisie in the West as to the bureaucracy.

The way may be being prepared for a clamp down on the opposition and the capitalist press, which has suddenly embraced the opposition may, wittingly or not, have lent itself to a provocation.

At the same time, the support of the bureaucracy for similar measures of oppression against the revolutionary Marxists in the capitalist countries is assured in advance. One has only to recall the manner in which the Soviet police collaborated with the Gestapo during the period of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, to the extent of handing over German communists to Hitler's hangers-on.

That organ of ultra-conservatism, 'The Sunday Telegraph', had the audacity to inform its readers a week or so ago that the KGB has become more decent in its behaviour.

'A new generation of intelligent and sophisticated officers,' it writes, 'is at least making a start with a gentler approach to the suppression of opposition.'

We can be sure that the reactionaries in this country will quietly applaud the sophisticated officers of the KGB as they go about the job of arresting and torturing revolutionaries like their sophisticated counterparts in Ulster. And there is plenty of evidence that they are already well prepared to carry out the same job here.

NEW LINE ON NIXON

The British Communist Party is making desperate efforts to hide its confusion and disarray over the recent Nixon-Brezhnev talks in Moscow and the subsequent turn in Soviet foreign policy.

The problem facing the British Stalinists is to disguise as best they can the openly counter-revolutionary alignment between the Kremlin and the White House.

In the light of the open endorsement of Nixon's re-election by Moscow Radio last week this task is becoming increasingly difficult.

Only a few weeks ago they were describing the US President in the most unflattering terms.

Yet their leaders in the Kremlin have now decided to back Nixon for the US presidency in the light of what they describe as the US ruling circles' 'becoming increasingly aware of the realities of the world today'.

Nixon's 'realism', in the eyes of the Kremlin, lies in his willingness to enter into agreements on arms limitation, trade and collective security with the Kremlin.

It manifests itself, of course, alongside the most blood-thirsty preparations to kill and maim the workers and peasants of Vietnam and to crush any section of the international working class which dares to raise its hand against its exploiters.

Nothing could better demonstrate the cynicism of the Soviet bureaucracy and the conscious character of its role as an agency of counter-revolution.

The British Stalinist newspaper 'Morning Star' has made no criticism of any kind at the Soviet decision to go ahead with the summit meeting following Nixon's brutal escalation of the Vietnam war.

When Nixon imposed the blockade of the North Vietnamese ports, the Communist Party stated that 'unless Nixon is halted in his tracks he will take still further desperate measures'.

Yet the Kremlin leaders, far from 'halting' Nixon in or out of his tracks, invited him to make tracks . . . to Moscow as planned.

Had the Kremlin leaders bothered to read their 'Morning Star' for May 10 they would have discovered that they were about to hold talks with 'a cornered criminal', a man practising 'piracy on a massive scale . . . in flagrant defiance of international law'.

They might also have discovered that their forthcoming guest had just taken action 'aimed at other socialist countries as well as Vietnam', action which represented 'a grave danger to world peace'.

They would also have discovered that 'any moves' they cared to take 'to counter Nixon's aggression and continue their aid to Vietnam'



The Nixon-Brezhnev talks in Moscow: Collective security

would be 'completely justified'.

Perhaps the 'Star' is not high priority on the Brezhnev breakfast table, because he and his fellow-bureaucrats chose to demonstrate their solidarity with the Vietnamese by inviting the 'pirate' over for secret talks.

The flexible spines of the British Stalinists were contorted another notch or two as they hastily dropped their call for moves from the 'socialist countries' and concentrated on denouncing . . . Edward Heath's support for the blockade.

Now Moscow Radio has demanded even more contortions from the British CP: its commentator Valentin Zorin has endorsed the 'historic' Moscow agreements as a 'credit' to the Republican Party and made it clear that

the Soviet Union will have no objection if Nixon is re-elected.

He said: 'The positive trends in the activities of Washington's ruling circles are irreversible, they do not depend on the outcome of the election campaign and on whether the Republican leader will stay in the White House or whether a nominee of the Democrats will replace him.'

In other words, Nixon is entirely acceptable to Moscow as the next US President.

Only a few weeks ago, the 'Morning Star' was republishing without criticism Angela Davis' descriptions of the US government as 'fascist'. What have they to say now that the Soviet leaders have given their blessing to another term in the White House for the 'fascist' and 'pirate' Nixon?

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

DID YOU KNOW?

The 'Daily Telegraph' masonic correspondent, reportedly one of the most underworked correspondents in Fleet Street, writes:

'Lord Harris, Grand Master, was installed for the 19th successive year as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons at the Quarterly Communications at Freemasons' Hall. He re-appointed the Earl of Stradbroke as Deputy Grand Master.

'The Grand Master invested Dr R. L. Brown and Brig E. W. C. Flavell as Grand Wardens, Dr G. L. C. Colenso-Jones as President of the General Board, Lt Col M. G. Edwardes as Grand Secretary, Mr H. D. Still as Grand Director of Ceremonies and Mr Arthur Craddock as Assistant Grand Secretary.'

We await the next nail-biting story from the intrepid correspondent.

COMFORTABLE OVERCROWDING

Ah! That cry of over-population brings them all rushing—but sometimes not in the right direction.

Such was the bad luck of barrister peer Lord Hacking who in April made his maiden speech in the lords and urged the government to elaborate a policy on the 'over-population problem'.

The debate in which he spoke came through with the awe-inspiring suggestion that the world average number of children per family should not exceed 2.2.

Unfortunately for the noble lord, his wife Rosemary has just produced their third child—a son named Daniel Robert.

Lady Hacking, speaking from their comfortable home in Berkhamstead said: 'One of my husband's main concerns is overcrowding. Fortunately, we have enough room for three children.'

Readers can breathe easily once more.

NO DELUSIONS

Reza Pahlevi is a modest man. At least he doesn't seem to suffer from the usual delusions of public men about their own popularity.

Pahlevi—otherwise known as the Shah of Iran—addressed the International Labour Conference on Wednesday at Geneva's Palais des Nations.

And the normally fairly free-and-easy Palais, which is a security nightmare with 40 entrances giving into wooded grounds, started to look like a bank vault on a busy Friday.

The conference hall was tightly screened off from the rest of the building. Admission was by invitation only. Hordes of Swiss plain-clothes police and UN guards were 'invited' to fill many of the 700 public seats.



The Shah of Iran

For some of the journalists present, the proceedings recalled an incident during US President Nixon's journey back from Moscow to Washington recently.

One group of American pressmen were driving away from Pahlevi's dinner for Nixon in a press pool car when, rounding a sharp corner, the glove compartment came open—revealing a tape recorder busily taking down everything they said.

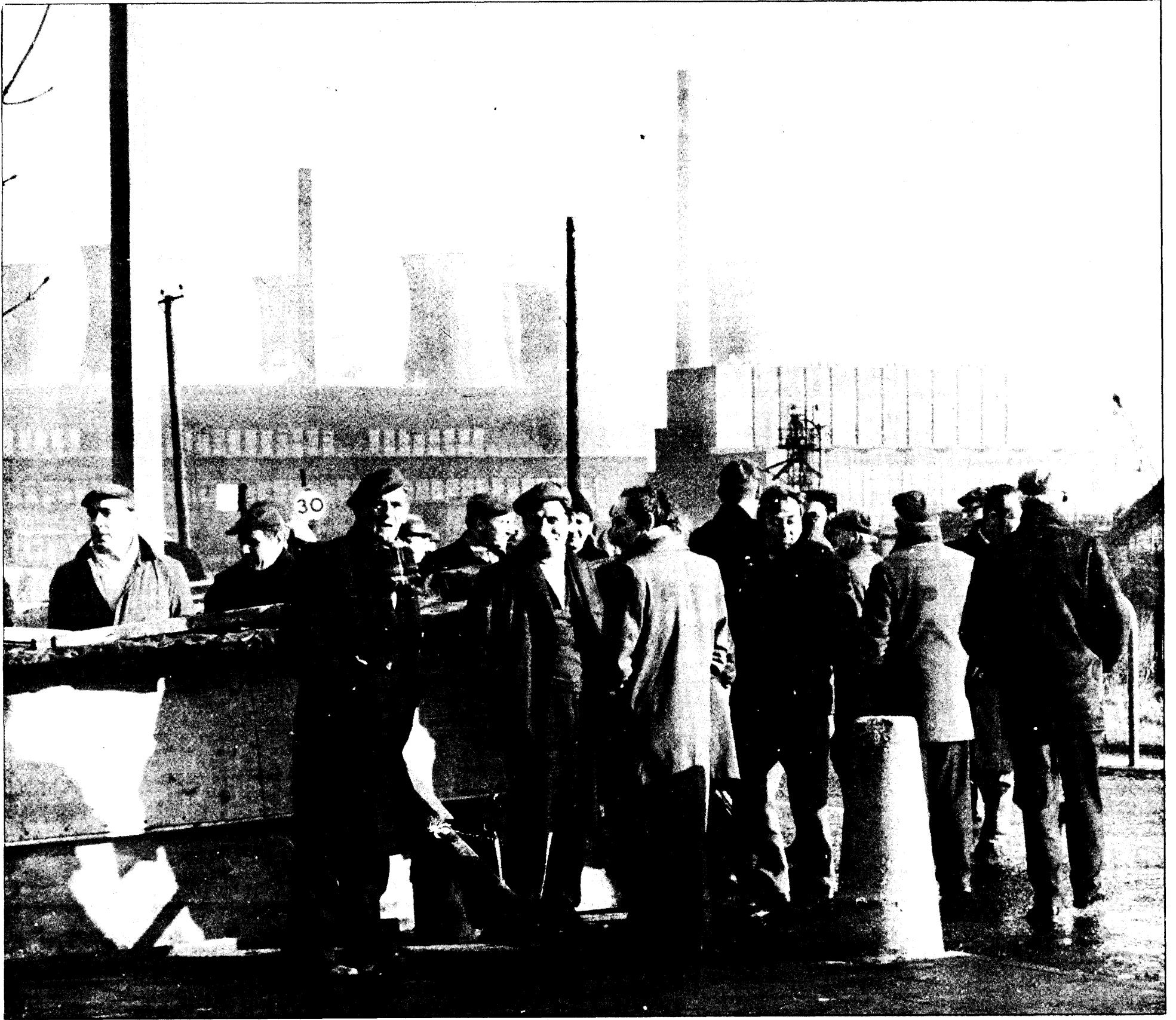
Since the beginning of the year at least 25 of the Shah's political opponents have been executed. His air force, however, gets supplies from Nixon's friends in Moscow.

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Recently the paper of the Yorkshire high-Tory establishment, 'The Yorkshire Evening Post', published a hysterical, inaccurate and vindictive witch-hunt on the Socialist Labour League.

The main aim of the article was to separate miners from politics. The 'Yorkshire Post' has always hated the working-class movement and its sudden attack on the forces trying to build a revolutionary party is inspired by fear.

Industrial reporter Graham Wiles gave a characterization of the SLL as an organization specifically designed to foment strikes. Below we print our reply to the vicious witch-hunters.

MINERS, THE PRESS AND THE SLL

Mineworkers in Yorkshire have got a new defender, in the shape of the 'Yorkshire Evening Post' and its industrial correspondent, a Graham Wiles. Wiles wants to defend the miners from the Socialist Labour League.

Knowing that the 'Yorkshire Evening Post' is owned by the Yorkshire Conservative Asso-

ciation, miners will be surprised and sceptical, to say the least. And they will be right! With the 'Post' for a friend, who needs enemies?

Wiles' article is headed 'Schools for Agitators' (Tuesday June 6). It will be recognized by all miners as typical Tory witch-hunting.

Wiles tries to build up a picture of the Socialist Labour League as a secretive society organizing meetings where agitators are trained 'to prevent disputes, which could be set-

led by negotiation, from reaching the negotiation stage'.

How about the recent miners' strike, Mr Wiles? Are you going to prove, perhaps in a future article, that the miners could have got their wage increase by negotiating without striking?

And will you give evidence, while you are at it, that SLL 'trainees' caused the dispute? We look forward to your reply.

According to Wiles, the SLL trains young men to 'manipulate mass meetings' and 'win the confidence of other men'. Of the many hundreds of mass meetings which were held during the strike, which ones, Mr Wiles, reached their conclusions because of 'manipulation'?

Having pinpointed SLL Central Committee member Cliff Slaughter as 'one of the chief training officers' in this fair-land of his imagination, Wiles then says:

'During the miners' strike this year, Mr Slaughter, writing in his own name in the Trotskyist Workers Press, etc 'In his own name,' indeed! These Trotskyists are not just secretive, they're open about it!

Smarting so much from the hammering they received at the hands of the miners in January and February, these Tories would seem to have lost even the capacity for elementary logic. Unless of course, it is just their congenital inability to credit their working-class readers with the ability to think.

However, Wiles raises one interesting question, and we would like his own answer to it. He says: 'One man who has secretly infiltrated one of the

training "schools"—as part of his full-time work in tracking down agitators ' (our emphasis)

Mr Wiles would you mind telling us **who** employs this man full-time? Can you answer those miners who are now asking, in their union branches, just who gets paid for spying on their members and gives the information to Mr Wiles?

Or perhaps this 'special investigator' is just another product of Mr Wiles' over-excited imagination.

At any rate, the man, if he exists, is certainly making some remarkable discoveries. He is quoted as saying: 'I know almost for certain that the 1970 strike in Yorkshire was organized 50 to 60 per cent by three Trotskyists.'

One suspects that Mr Wiles was too modest to reveal **himself** as the intrepid explorer who came up with this exotic piece of knowledge, and so he invented his full-time spy.

The article from Workers Press which Wiles quotes stated the policy of the SLL throughout the strike: to mobilize the whole labour movement behind the miners and so make the Tory government resign, paving the way for the return of a Labour government which would legislate workers' control as part of a socialist programme.

Are there any miners who do not agree with this policy? Did not miners learn just this lesson in the course of the strike? Is it not a fact that Wiles knows that the SLL and its supporters fought **publicly** for this line in mass meetings and with the Workers Press on the streets, every day?

Pickets during the national miners' strike earlier this year.

There was no secretiveness and no conspiracy, and if the 'Yorkshire Evening Post' Tories want to hatch one out now it is because they want to play their part in preparing for repressions by the Tory government.

In doing this, they are not averse to falsifying and fabricating evidence. Referring to the 1970 strike they say that the Trotskyists in Doncaster 'had their headquarters in a terraced house from which they distributed inflammatory leaflets exhorting the miners to become "soldiers in the class war" and the "struggle for workers' freedom".'

The quotation marks are pure fraud. These are not quotations from any SLL publication and there was no Doncaster terraced-house HQ. We challenge Wiles to publish the leaflets in his paper.

These are the methods of the Tories against the Socialist Labour League today, just as yesterday they used these methods against the miners during their strike.

When Leeds postmen were on strike in 1971 and marched through the town, they turned in hate on the 'Yorkshire Post' building, condemning its slanders against the postal workers. That is the feeling of every Yorkshire trade unionist who has seen his struggles vilified by the Yorkshire Evening Post.

All Wiles has 'exposed' is the Yorkshire Tories' fear and hatred of the miners, and their dread of alternative leadership in the mines.

TV

BBC 1

9.20 Trumpton. 9.30, 2.05 Schools. 1.00 Box-Office Christ. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45 News, weather. 4.00 Boomph with Becker. 4.40 Magic Roundabout. 4.45 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Penelope Pitstop. 5.44 Adventures of Parsley. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.
6.20 ENTERTAINING WITH KERR.
6.45 A QUESTION OF SPORT. Quiz with sporting personalities.
7.10 Z CARS.
8.00 PANORAMA.
9.00 NEWS, Weather.
9.20 DOOMWATCH. Say Knife, Fat Man.
10.10 THE SPINNERS.
10.40 24 HOURS.
11.15 ATHLETE.
11.40 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University.

7.30 NEWSROOM, weather.
8.00 HIGH CHAPARRAL. The Last Hundred Miles.
8.50 HIS LORDSHIP ENTERTAINS. Comedy starring Barker.
9.20 HORIZON. The Fierce People—the Yanomamo Indians.
10.05 NEWS, Weather.
10.10 THIRTY-MINUTE THEATRE. 'Bermondsey'. By John Mortimer.
10.45 GOLF. 1972 United States Open Championship, highlights.
11.35 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

12.40 Freud on Food. 1.05 Time to Remember. 1.30 Enchanted House. 1.45 Skippy. 2.15 Cartoon Time. 2.22 My World. 2.33 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'The Secret of My Success'. 4.40 Yak. 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.
8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.
8.30 ALCOCK AND GANDER. Comedy.
9.00 MAN AT THE TOP. The Knacker's Yard.
10.00 NEWS.
10.30 FILM: 'TASTE OF FEAR'. Susan Strasberg, Ronald Lewis. Crippled heiress is scared to the point of hysteria when she visits her father in the South of France.
12.00 IDEAS IN PRINT.

Regional TV

CHANNEL: 2.20 Schools. 2.45 Film: 'The Spy Killer'. 4.05 Once upon a time. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Yoga. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. What's on where? 6.15 Pursuers. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.03 Marcus Welby. 11.55 Visage de France. 12.10 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sports desk. 10.59 News, weather. 11.55 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 2.20 My world. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Good cook. 3.20 Bugs Bunny. 3.30 Lucy. 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 News. 11.10 Marcus Welby. 12.05 Weather. Epilogue.



Rosemary Leach and Edward Fox are in the last of John Mortimer's six half-hour plays tonight on BBC 2. This one is called 'Bermondsey'.

HTV: 2.10 Sara and Hoppity. 2.22 My World. 2.33 Enchanted house. 2.45 Backfire. 3.45 Women. 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: 'Dr Blood's Coffin'. 12.10 Scotland yard mysteries. 12.40 Weather.

HTV Wales as above except: 1.25 Awdur A'r Mis. 4.15 Cantamil. 6.01 Y Dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.22 This is the West This Week.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15 Cantamil. 6.01 Y Dydd.

ATV MIDLANDS: 2.22 My world. 3.10 Good afternoon. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Nanny. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Randall and Hopkirk. Weather.

ULSTER: 2.22 My world. 4.00 Let's face it. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Funny face. 6.35 Cartoon time. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Film: 'The Mountain Road'.

YORKSHIRE: 2.32 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'That Midnight Kiss'. 4.35 News. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.25 Under these roofs. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Yesterdays. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 2.20 Schools. 2.30 Dr Gannon. 3.30 Towards the year 2000. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.15 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'Fiend Without a Face'.

TYNE TEES: 12.25 Mr Piper.

12.50 Transatlantic race. 1.20 Edgar Wallace. 2.20 Schools. 2.30 Cook book. 3.00 Matinee. 4.35 News. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 HR Pufnstuf. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 Under these roofs. 6.45 London. 10.30 Times four. 11.00 Saint. 11.55 News. 12.10 Come in world.

GRAMPIAN: 2.22 My world. 3.38 News, weather. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Lucy. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Dr Simon Locke. 6.35 Cartoon time. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Saint. 11.55 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 2.22-2.33 Schools. 2.38-3.18 Class of 72. 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 Late call. 11.05 Marty Feldman.

Town's biggest employer sacks 525

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WITH THE proposal by Ransome Hoffman & Pollard Ltd to sack 525 of their 3,000 employees at the Newark ball bearing factory, this Nottinghamshire town (total pop. 24,000) has taken a body blow from capitalism's crisis.

It is ironical to think that in the birth pangs of the capitalist system, Cromwell's Ironsides had to blast a hole in the walls of the royalist stronghold of Newark castle—one wall of which is still standing.

Newark-on-Trent is one of several small East Midlands towns that seem to depend entirely on one big factory. There is an estimated working population of 19,759 in the whole Newark area, and with nearly 3,000 workers, RHP is by far the largest employer in the town.

Under the Labour government's Industrial Reorganization Corporation, Ransome and Marles' precision-bearing company was merged with other British-owned bearing concerns to form RHP.

When I asked one Ransome worker why he thought the redundancies had come, he pointed bitterly to the new RHP sign on the factory and made no comment.

The causes of the catastrophe go deeper than this. While Nixon's measures of August 15, 1971, have laid the basis for a vicious trade war, foreign manufacturers, who started modernizing and rationalizing their plant long before RHP, have moved in on their markets.

This is reflected in the group's interim figures for the six months up to March 31 this year.

Pre-tax profits for the period are down from £1.3m to £857,000 on a marginally reduced turnover.

RHP stated that home sales were low in that period with particularly depressed conditions in the machine tool, agricultural machinery, heavy commercial vehicle and general engineering sectors.

In other words RHP, who produce goods for consumption by other manufacturers, have been hit because those other manufacturers have no confidence in their ability to sell their products over the next few years.

This makes nonsense of RHP's pious hopes that 'we are in a position to take full advantage of the improved business prospects we look for in our next financial year'.

What then about the 525 sacked Newark men, many of them specialists in various aspects of making bearings? (This is apart from a further 530 at Annfield Plain, Co. Durham and 320 at Chelmsford, Essex.)

At the last published count there were precisely 71 unfilled vacancies on the books at the local Department of Employment. As 31 of these were for women, that left 40 jobs to be shared among the 525 sacked workers, if they possessed the appropriate skills.

In fact, with 890 unemployed men and women on the books last month, the rate of unemployment in Newark was already well above the national 4.5 per cent average. If we take the figure for men alone this gives us a phenomenal 5.7 per cent.

The historical town centre of Newark is still filled with the peaceful bustle of a medieval market town. Goods change hands still on the market square and money flows into the tills. But behind the picturesque façade a decisive change has been registered.

Stewart Brown (20), a turner in RHP's toolroom, who served his apprenticeship with the firm, explained what it is like to have the threat of redundancies over your head. Stewart lives in the North Notts mining village of Ollerton.

'There was no warning. On May 6 they were advertising in the 'Newark Advertiser' for more workers.

'As Ransome and Marles, we manufactured aero-bearings, angle-bearing, plain-bearings—everything. If there was short work in one type we could drop back to another.

'After the amalgamation we only produced plain-bearings.



The Ransome Hoffman and Pollard plant in Newark, Notts.



Stewart Brown: No warning

This is what the Japanese make. They are working at a loss to undercut us.'

AUEW convener at RHP Newark and trades council treasurer Ron Marshall gives a blow-by-blow account of the developments up to the present.

'On May 19, without any prior consultation, the company announced there would be 1,500 redundancies between the three factories.

'This is the second major redundancy in the two years since the merger. We immediately told the company we couldn't accept it.

'We called a shop stewards'

meeting and won support for a policy of complete resistance—if necessary occupying the factory for a work-in if the company went ahead with their plans.

'We feel particularly upset because we had just completed long negotiations for a new Measured-Day Work pay structure and throughout the discussions the company had not even hinted the position on orders was as serious as they say it is now.

'Having obtained the support of the shop stewards I called a meeting of the whole factory. Support for our policy was overwhelming.' (In fact 2,000 voted against redundancies and one voted to accept.)

'Management was told either to accept work-sharing or we would take other measures.

'Initially they wanted redundancies immediately, even saying they would pay people in lieu of notice to get them off the premises.

'But when they saw the feeling they back-pedalled.

'Last Monday the company met a deputation of one executive council member from each of the unions concerned. We took a coachload down and held a

poster parade outside the company offices in Jermyn Street. It caused quite a stir.

'A joint statement from the meeting said that the company welcomed the approach of the unions to form a joint delegation to see Trade Secretary John Davies to seek support for the bearing industry, and would therefore hold the redundancies back until the end of June.

Our policy of work-sharing was pressed vigorously at the meeting, but the company would not agree.

'We have been instructed by the union executives not to obstruct a policy of voluntary redundancies, although we don't agree with it.

'At the moment we have just started to discuss the possibility of three-shift working to maximize the number of jobs, but there has been no agreement yet.

'The position now is a bit of a stalemate. They won't get 500 volunteers for redundancy. It's up to us and Annfield Plain to shoulder the fight.

'We held a joint meeting with Annfield Plain and some of the staff from Chelmsford a week last Saturday. We agreed that as soon as further joint action was required it would be taken.'

Special Branch agent admits infiltrating arms group 'Frame-up' case dropped: Home Office to hold inquiry

HOME Secretary Reginald Maudling has authorized a full-scale inquiry into the Saor Eire arms trial which ended abruptly at the Old Bailey a week ago.

All the charges against the five accused were dropped when the prosecutor suddenly announced on the fourth day that he was not pressing the state's case. They were freed after spending seven months in custody.

Last Thursday Workers Press described the case in some detail in an exclusive article in which we raised questions as to the real identity of a Mr Parker and a Mr Lee.

Neither men were charged, although the defence alleged they were implicated in the arms plot. Now 'The Sunday Times' Insight team has revealed that Parker is a Special Branch agent. In an interview with Insight, Parker gave 'a detailed account of how he had been instructed by Special Branch detectives to infiltrate a group of Irishmen suspected of running guns to the IRA.

'Parker told us how a detective, using the false name of Dave Lee, accompanied him when he first made contact with the group.'

The five were arrested on November 17 last at premises in Wick Road, Hackney, amid a barrage of publicity. The day they appeared in court the London 'Evening Standard' carried a screaming headline: 'London hunt for IRA terror guns' and their appearance in court was headlined: 'Arms charge, gun guard for five.'

When the prosecution called off its case, Clinton Davis, Simons and Company, defence lawyers, issued a statement alleging their clients had been framed by Special Branch.

When Special Branch officers gave evidence in the trial they repeatedly refused to answer questions about Parker and Lee

BY ALEX MITCHELL

because, they said, 'it would prejudice the security of the state'.

Yesterday's Insight article says that John Parker, a man in his forties who lives in the Essex countryside, has been working for the Special Branch here and abroad for the past 20 years. He also told Insight he had been in jail.

The announcement of the 'top-line' inquiry was brief. It said: 'The Commissioner of Police with the approval of the Home Secretary has arranged for the investi-

igation of the circumstances so far as Metropolitan officers are concerned, which led to discontinuance of a prosecution at the Central Criminal Court on June 12.'

As is customary in all investigations into the police it will be carried out by other police. The two men chosen for the inquiry are Mr W. Kelsall, deputy chief constable of Cheshire and Detective Chief Superintendent C. G. Horan, Manchester and Salford.

London busmen strike over new schedules



Pickets out early in the morning at Thornton Heath bus garage

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

BUSMEN at Thornton Heath garage, South London, are on strike over new work-schedules which in some cases could mean a nine-hour increase in their working day.

The strike, which started on Saturday morning, made the road from Streatham to West Croydon a 'dead road'. Services from

Croydon to Mitcham, Mitcham to Purley and Purley to Westminster were also hit.

Busmen at Brixton, Streatham, South Croydon, Elmer's End and Bromley garages have refused to overrun Thornton Heath's area.

Volunteers from among the 300 striking drivers and conductors picketed the garage both on Saturday and yesterday morning.

Johnny Creates, chairman of the Transport and General Workers' Union branch at the garage, said:

'These new schedules mean working compulsory overtime and the working schedules now are longer than they were when there were trams running from this garage 21 years ago.'

The strike is the first at the garage since 1958.

The busmen refused a last-ditch attempt by London Transport on Friday afternoon to get the new schedules worked pending possible revision this morning. A mass meeting this evening will consider any new proposals management has to offer.

Labour ranks rebel against pro-Market MPs

THE LABOUR Party rank-and-file is beginning to hit back against those MPs who voted with the Tories on the Common Market.

Bradford West's executive committee has voted to dismiss its prospective parliamentary candidate, Edward Lyons, for his vote with the government.

Lyons is at present MP for Bradford East. But that constituency will disappear at the next election. The vote for his dismissal was carried by six votes to five.

Dick Taverne, another one of the 69 who voted with the Tories last October, will tonight face a demand from his constituency party in Lincoln that he 'retires' at the next election.

On Saturday the 69 were described as 'a bunch of elitist mercenaries' by Ralph Wadsworth, Lincoln Labour Party vice-chairman.

He was moving a resolution at the Labour Party East Midlands regional conference in Derby. It regretted the inability of the parliamentary party to censure the 69 MPs.

It also condemned those Labour MPs for showing 'contempt for the people and the party the claim to represent'. The motion asked the regional council to see all the MPs in the area voted with the Labour Party on every occasion in parliament.

The censure motion was carried 192 votes to 153, despite appeals from Midlands' MPs for its rejection.

Lincoln local executive is confident of a large majority against Taverne, who has represented the constituency since 1962.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Socialist Labour League Public Meeting
DON'T LET THE DOCKERS FIGHT ALONE
DEFEND BASIC DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS
MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN

SUNDAY JULY 2, 7 p.m.

Acton Town Hall,
Acton High Street, W3.

Speakers will include G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary), S. HANNIGAN (London YS Secretary), Corin Redgrave.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

CROYDON: Monday June 19 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

SOUTHAMPTON: Tuesday June 20, 7.30 p.m. Buffet room, Town Hall, Eastleigh. Build Councils of Action!

NORTH KENT: Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford. 'Why a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.

COVENTRY: Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. Woodend Community Association Building, Hillmorton Road.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe

Ave, Barking. 'Fight the Tory rents policy'.

SOUTH LONDON: Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

SHEFFIELD: Wednesday June 21, 7.30 p.m. 'New White Lion', Wicker. 'Build Councils of Action'.

SWANSEA: Wednesday June 21, 7.30 p.m. 'Bellevue Hotel', Nelson Street. 'The dockers' strike'.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Road (near White Hart Lane).

'Building the revolutionary party'.

LUTON: Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Lea Rd. 'Stalinism'.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Stn.). 'Stalinism'.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday June 27, 8 p.m. 'Aberfeldy', Aberfeldy Street, E.14 (nr Blackwall Tunnel) 'Build Councils of Action'.

SOUTHALL: Thursday June 29, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Bridge Rd. 'Force the Tories to resign'.

Briefly...

A VOLUNTARY agency shop has been agreed in principle at the Neasden, London, offices of the Oxford University Press after a request by the white-collar union ASTMS. These shops conform to Section 11 of the Industrial Relations Act, but are arrived at by agreement between union and management rather than by application to the National Industrial Relations Court.

Similar deals have already been made between the Co-op and the shopworkers' union USDAW.

STANTON and Staveley workers are considering plans for a big march through Ilkeston, Derbyshire, in protest against the closure of the British Steel Corporation plant there. They also hope to go to London for a march on 10 Downing Street. The 1,500 men at the Stanton furnaces and coke plants face redundancy over the next two years as a result of the closure of the ironmaking plants announced last Wednesday. 'We are not going down without a fight,' Mr R. Dunbar, blast-furnacemen's lodge secretary told Workers Press.

MONDAY CLUB'S 'mid-term report on the Tory economic record' expresses 'grave disappointment' about the recent Industry Bill and the rise in the number of civil servants. The government has broken election promises and is fast losing the confidence of 'many loyal Conservatives'.

HALF of the single women in Britain caring for elderly parents and invalid relatives did not get the government's Attendance Allowance on their first application, although they appeared to qualify for it, says a survey published yesterday by the National Council of the Single Woman and her Dependents.

STUDENT teachers find it increasingly difficult to find openings for teaching practice. The National Union of Teachers feels the Department of Education and Science should launch an inquiry to find out the best way of tackling the new problem of 'overcrowded schools'.

WEATHER

SOUTH WALES, south-west and central southern England and the Channel Islands will start bright but become cloudy with rain later.

All other areas will have showers and some sunny intervals. These showers will be most frequent and heavy in the north and west with only brief bright or sunny intervals.

Eastern and south-eastern areas will have occasional showers and more frequent sunny intervals. Temperatures generally below normal.

Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Changeable with rain at times in most places. Temperatures a little below normal.

JUNE FUND REACHES £453.78

ALL OUR efforts must be turned towards making the Tory government resign. Following the struggle with the miners, then the railwaymen and now the dockers, it is clear the government cannot tackle the working class head-on. It can and must be defeated.

Workers Press is vital in preparing a leadership for this decisive struggle. There is not a moment to waste.

Help us therefore with a major effort for our June Fund. Our total at the moment stands at £453.78 with only 12 days left to the end of the month. We need everything you can raise. Collect as much as possible and post to:

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

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