

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • THURSDAY JUNE 29, 1972 • No. 804 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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MOBILIZE THE WORKING CLASS

LET'S CALL THE TORIES' BLUFF

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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The bankers reply by stressing that all the main currencies will be floating in a short period of time. In other words, nothing has been solved.

Meanwhile, the enormous volume of credit upon which world trade is based is left suspended in mid-air without a single currency being able to replace the dollar to sustain the movement of world trade.

Financial crashes reminiscent of 1929 overshadow many of the banking and trade institutions intimately connected with credit transactions.

The historical parallel for the action of the government is the autumn of 1931, when the newly-elected Tory-MacDonald coalition, the National Government, went off the gold standard and allowed the pound to float.

This was followed by a growth in mass unemployment and years of starvation and poverty for millions of working-class families.

Heath appeals to the right-wing trade union leaders for help in formulating a wage-freezing policy when even the most stupid Tory is aware that the time has long since passed for such a measure to be successful, even if Feather were to agree.

At the same time the Tories call for lower wage settlements, when every one knows that they have been doing this for the past two years, while the trade unions have been forced to press ahead with wage claims which, in the miners' and railwaymen's cases were entirely successful.

Heath can make as many appeals as he likes, but with the cost of living going up and up, the working class has no intention of abandoning the wage

There is only one way that can be realised from all this empty speech-making and that is the government is heading for a General Election in the near future.

The strength of the working

class has forced the Tories back to the wall. If it were not for the cowardice of the Labour and trade union leaders, backed up by the revisionists and Stalinists, the Tories could be forced to resign immediately.

We are living virtually in a period of dual power . . . and here lies the great danger.

The Labour leaders have nothing but the old bag of reformist policies to contest a General Election. The 'Tribune'-ite fake policies are utterly incapable of challenging Wilson.

As the economic crisis deteriorates and the Tories make for a General Election at a time of their own choosing, the labour movement is being led to disaster.

A Labour government which

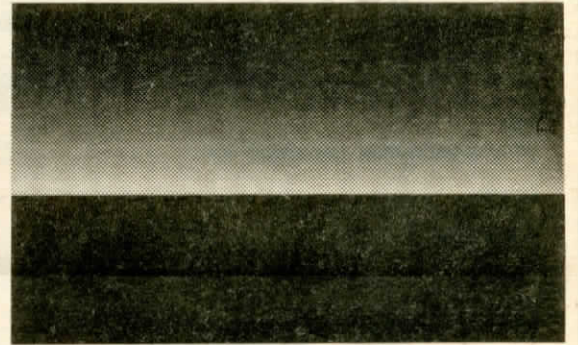
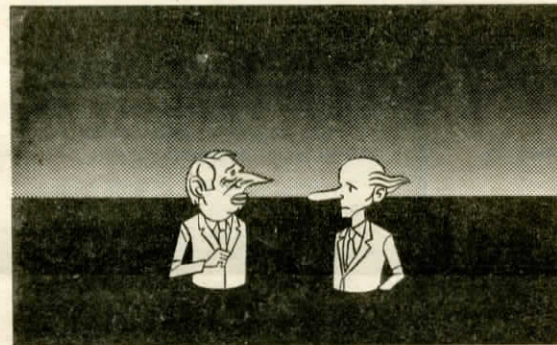
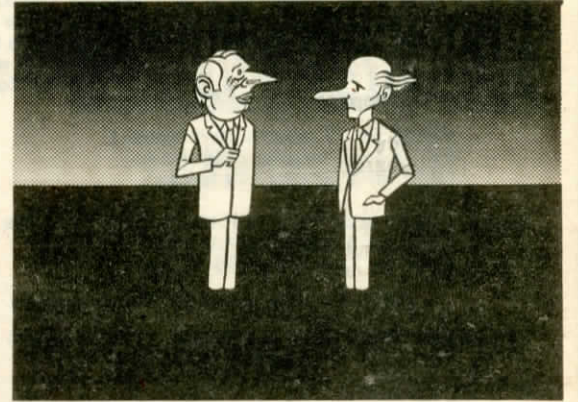
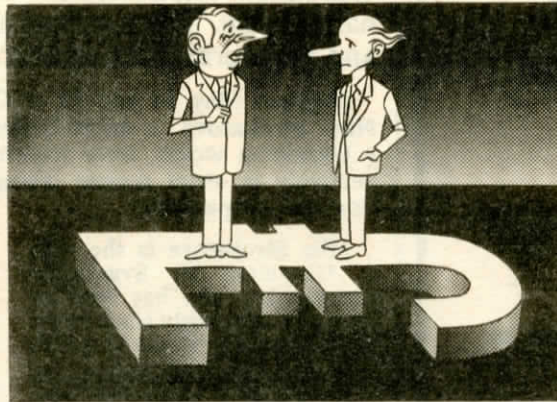
replaces the Tories without a socialist policy would be thrown into a major crisis in a matter of days after taking office.

The campaign waged by the Socialist Labour League to force the Tory government to resign is inseparable from the campaign for a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

In both cases the strength of the working class is decisive. If the working class is strong enough to force the Tories to resign, then it will be strong enough to force a Labour government to carry out socialist policies.

What is vital to both operations is revolutionary leadership.

The campaign which is about to enter its final stage to transform the SLL into a revolutionary party will be a more decisive factor in the next period.



SLL PUBLIC MEETING—SUNDAY

DEFEND THE DOCKERS' RIGHT TO WORK
DEFEND BASIC DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS
DEFEND THE VIETNAMESE REVOLUTION
MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN

SUNDAY JULY 2 7 p.m.

Acton Town Hall

Acton High Street, W.3.

Speakers:

G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

SARAH HANNIGAN (London YS secretary)

CLIFF SLAUGHTER (SLL Central Committee)

CORIN REDGRAVE

LARRY CAVANAGH (Liverpool docks steward)

ONLY TWO DAYS TO GO

JUNE FUND REACHES £1,339.16

THERE'S £410.84 to raise in two days and you'll do it. The fight is on and your support is flowing in.

Our readers at M. O. Valves, Hammersmith, collected £2 and a meeting of London readers collected £80.49. A grand total of £166.49 arrived yesterday from readers all over the country. Let's keep pushing it up. We only have until Friday to raise our target.

It is almost within our grasp.

We know you will make a last-minute effort and complete our Fund in time. We appeal to everyone of you, make a collection at work, raise amounts from other readers in your area — collect as much as you possibly can. Rush all these donations immediately to:

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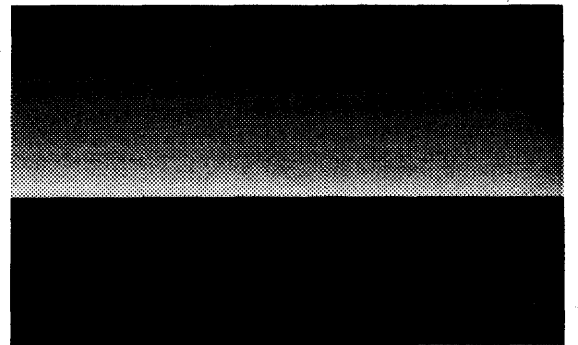
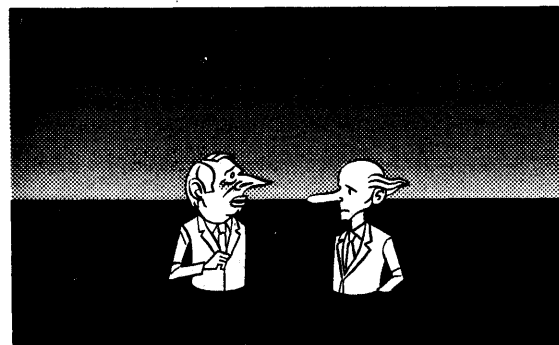
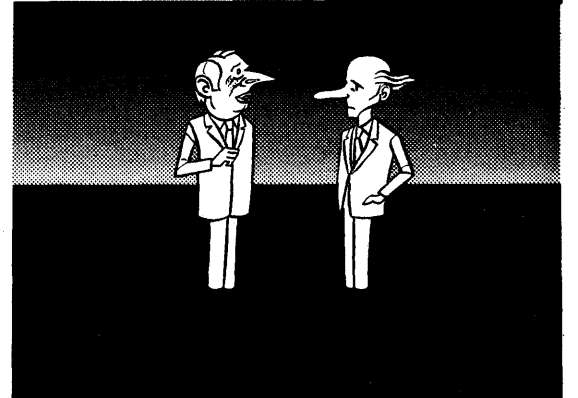
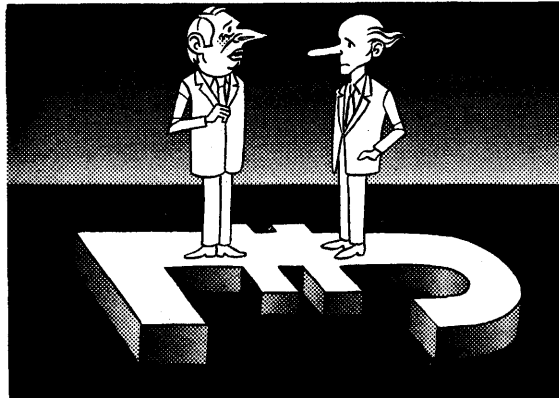
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Pentagon Papers reveal more back-door manoeuvres Kosygin was Washington's

Hanoi go-between

NEW INSTALMENTS of the 'Pentagon Papers', published yesterday by the 'New York Times' once more underline the Soviet leaders' complicity in the Americans' war in Vietnam.

The 'Times' won a major court case last year when the US government tried to stop its publication of the papers, a secret top-level review of the war up to 1968.

The paper has only recently acquired the four volumes of diplomatic intriguing which continued between the Kremlin and Washington throughout the Johnson administration.

These latest extracts reveal that from 1967 onwards Russia became increasingly anxious to act as intermediary between Washington and Hanoi.

An important turn in their attitude seems to have taken place during Kosygin's 1967 official visit to London. The



Kosygin

Wilson government was certainly involved, being reported as 'delighted' at the Soviet leader's new 'active role'.

'Kosygin may not have understood the full import of the proposals he was transmitting' says the Report. . . he may also

have been quite willing to subordinate DRV (North Vietnamese) interests to the Soviet desire to avoid further escalation.'

While these revelations were being made, the US House of Representatives refused to put any limits on the bombing of the North Vietnamese dykes.

In the wake of Hanoi's allegations that Nixon had been carrying out a systematic bombing, the House defeated Abernethy's amendment prohibiting the use of funds for bombing them.

Sweden's ambassador to Hanoi said yesterday that all industry in the city had been put out of action by days of concentrated US bombing.

In a renewed offensive, North Vietnamese troops and tanks attacked lines north west of Hue yesterday morning. Heavy fighting was also reported in the An Loc area.

North Vietnamese troops have also built up pressure to the west of Hue, hitting government

positions with an estimated 2,000 rounds of mortar and rocket fire yesterday.

Meanwhile in South Vietnam, President Thieu yesterday signed a bill giving him emergency powers and declared that it was valid immediately.

The Senate chairman had earlier refused to open a session to deal with the Bill. He said two prominent opponents of the measures had been forcibly kept away by security guards, raising fears that their absence would tip the scales in a close vote.

One of the missing senators, Nguyen Vah Chuc, told reporters that the Bill's passage was 'invalid' and said he would demand a fresh debate.

Five thousand South Vietnamese paratroops and marines began an assault on North Vietnamese occupied Quang Tri province yesterday and Saigon forces are reported to have opened a counter-offensive north of Hue across the My Chanh line.

Martial law in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA'S army yesterday took control of Buenos Aires as the four-day-old wave of anti-government rioting in major cities reached the capital. Demonstrators seized cars to build barricades.

The student-led riots are in retaliation for the death last Saturday of a 20-year-old student hit on the head by a police tear-gas grenade.

Troops have also seized control of several other major cities in the interior.

Barricades went up and petrol bombs were thrown in the city of La Plata, 35 miles from Buenos Aires and on Tuesday general strikes were staged in Tucuman and Cordoba.

The current upheavals follow nearly a week of riots in the western city of Mendoza last April and must be seen in the context of growing discontent with the government's economic policies and rocketing prices.

The Mendoza riots were sparked when police attacked demonstrators protesting against steep electricity price rises.

In Cordoba violence flared when police broke up gatherings of students supporting public service workers striking for more pay.

President General Alejandro Lanusse has warned army leaders that the mounting social unrest may mean the postponement of his announced plan to hold general elections and return the country to civilian rule.

On Tuesday ex-President Juan Peron was given the go-ahead by the Argentine supreme court to run in the elections as a presidential candidate. Peron leads the Justicialist Party.

Yesterday was the anniversary of the 1955 coup which brought the army to power and toppled Peron. Military commanders were saying they would not allow further anti-government demonstrations to take place.

US miners' leader is jailed

US United Mineworkers president W. A. (Tony) Boyle (70) has been sentenced to five years' jail and fined \$130,000 on charges of conspiracy and illegally diverting union funds to political campaigns.

The sentence follows an FBI investigation after 20,000 miners in the Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio coalfields struck in protest against the killing of Joseph Yablonski.

Yablonski rivalled Boyle for the leadership of the union and drew support from large numbers of miners who despised the corrupt right-wing Boyle leadership and particularly its complicity with the large coal-owners.

Evidence suggests that Yablonski was murdered by killers hired by the UMW leadership. He had charged Boyle with ballot-rigging and corrupt practices.

Briefly...

ITALY yesterday faced a 60-hour strike by airline pilots in a bid to force a resumption of talks on a new collective work contract. The strike began just as a three day newspaper strike ended.

EAST and West Germany yesterday began the third round of talks for a general treaty to 'normalize' bilateral relations.

AROUND THE WORLD

Irishmen to testify

FOUR Irishmen, two British subjects and two Americans, lost their battle yesterday to avoid testifying before a Federal Grand Jury investigating the smuggling of guns from Texas to Ulster.

Prosecutions could arise from evidence given to the Grand Jury and under an extradition treaty concluded between the US and Britain a fortnight ago two of the men could be deported to face trial.

Biggest bureaucratic clamp since Stalin

Reports from the Soviet suggest that the Stalinist bureaucracy has launched a wave of arrests and trials against political dissidents. A Soviet historian Pyotr Yakir was detained in his Moscow apartment and is expected to be charged with anti-Soviet activity.

This week police have rounded up dozens of Ukrainian intellectuals who, they say, are guilty of nationalism. These arrests are only tip of a widespread and long-term drive against dissidents.

Between May 14 and 19 at Odessa on the Black Sea, Miss Nina Strokotova, a micro-biologist and Mr Oleksa Riznykiv, a Ukrainian writer, were sentenced to four and five years respectively in strict regime labour camps for 'anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda'.

Miss Strokotova is the wife of Ukrainian Mr Svyatoslav Karavansky, who has been in prison continuously since 1944. He is due for release in 1979.

In March Mr Yuri Shukhevych was arrested in connection with the Strokotova case. He was jailed in 1948 and released four year ago.

Two weeks ago Mr Yuri Melnik, an astro-physicist was sentenced to three years in a strict labour camp for anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.

In Saratov in the middle Volga, steps have been taken against a score of people accused of unauthorized literary activity.

Six of them have been charged with reproducing and circulating certain works by Alexander Solzhenitsyn and other writers.

In Sverdlovsk Mr Anatoly Reshetnik, a lecturer in dialectical materialism, has been sentenced to two years in an ordinary regime camp for criticizing the Party committee at his technical college and more important the methods used to teach Marxism.

Back in November seven people were sent to camps from Sverdlovsk and another trial is imminent.

Jewish engineer Mr Vladimir Markman is due to be tried for anti-Soviet activities and in Moscow leading biologist Mr Ilya Glezer is also about to be brought into court.

Observers say the clamp down is unprecedented in scale since the Stalin purges.

Coming in the wake of working class unrest at home and in East Europe, it is a certain indication of the deepening crisis of the Stalinist bureaucracy.



Pyotr Yakir: Arrested

THE FRENCH Communist Party has reached agreement with the Socialist Party on a joint programme for a Popular Front government. The Stalinist move is a deliberate and treacherous attempt to shackle the French working class to purely reformist perspectives.

The deal with Mitterrand's Socialist Party has been achieved by a series of major CP concessions. They have renounced their demand that France should leave the Atlantic alliance and give up its independent nuclear deterrent.

Their nationalization programme has been brought into line with the Socialists and will not extend beyond banks and finance houses. And they accepted that the Common Market is 'here to stay', but should be turned from the 'Europe of big business' into a 'Europe of the workers'.

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Dundee-Glasgow RIGHT-TO- WORK DIARY

From **STEPHEN
JOHNS IN
SCOTLAND**

COWDENBEATH TUESDAY

COWDENBEATH is one of the two big working-class centres in Fife and predictably we have had selfless support from the local people.

First mention to the strikers at GEC Elliott's plant in the town. They have been in dispute for four weeks, but immediately they heard of the march, they gave us their enthusiastic backing and invited the marchers to share their morning tea with them tomorrow.

A delegation from the action committee that runs the strike came out in the rain to welcome the weary marchers into town.

In the morning over 50 Elliott strikers marched with us out of Cowdenbeath and gave the youth tea and biscuits to send them on their way.

The Elliott strike is part of the engineers' pay claim and it is viewed by both union and management in the area as a test case in Fife. The GEC-AEI combine has sent some of its top so-called trouble-shooters up to Cowdenbeath and they have been publicly gloating before the strikers of the kind of settlement that the electronics monopoly has won in Manchester.

Most workers I talked to at their strike headquarters in the local miners' welfare hall, condemned the way the union leadership abandoned the national claim. This, after all, is still a big mining area and the whole of the working class was inspired with the way the recent pit strike was fought.

To many Elliott men it seems inexplicable why Hugh Scanlon and his executive could not have fought out the battle at national level while the miners were also out in dispute.

One of them Peter Duff, told me that unemployment, particularly among youth, was very severe in the area.

'It's very bad at present for school-leavers. They are finding it near impossible to get places. None of the firms are recruiting. One example stands as an illustration — recently it worked out that there are as many as 50 unemployed youth on the dole for even low-grade jobs like labouring,' he said.

As we move through Fife an industrial pattern begins to emerge. It begins with the massive pit closures which began 15 years ago. Take Cowdenbeath. The area around the town supported as many as a dozen mines—all these have been closed. The newcomers are firms like AEI, Elliotts and other light industrial concerns.

But now even these companies are beginning to cut back.

The Marconi-Elliott factory in Cowdenbeath, for example, is about to close throwing 100 on the dole, and at Glenrothes, another Elliott factory was never opened after a last-minute decision to produce in Spain.

Apart from this the new firms are primarily interested in female labour. Says Peter: 'In my day it used to be young boys who were used as cheap labour — now it's the women and girls whose husbands are perhaps on the dole.'



Youth on the first of the YS regional Right-to-Work marches—following five national marches earlier this year—are welcomed to Cowdenbeath by AUEW member Peter Duff.

Striking engineers welcome marchers

This is the pattern all over East Fife. There are not half enough job opportunities for men to replace the massive bleeding of manpower caused by the pit-closure programme — instead the firms are cashing in on the big reserve pool of female labour.

This makes it difficult to organize militant trade unions in the localities as Pat Gemmell, a Labour county councillor for Fife found out. Pat gave us a personal donation of food and marched with us out of Glenrothes.

He has been on the dole and blacklisted for 13 months in the town.

He worked for an American firm called Sandusky but the management squeezed him out when he tried to organize a

workers and trade unionists to come to the meetings we hold.

We have a very large hall and the run of several smaller rooms plus kitchen. We passed Seafield pit one of the biggest in Scotland on the way to Cowdenbeath and the miners there promised us financial support.

A final word about the political progress of the march. Compared with the national Right-to-Work marches there is significant increase by the marchers in the political work carried out in the towns we visit.

This is not only reflected in collections and paper sales, which have been excellent, but also in the way the youth campaigned for other young

workers and trade unionists to come to the meetings we hold.

One boy from Renfrew told me that his interest in politics had started with the Young Socialists, not directly because of propaganda, but because he was impressed by the national Right-to-Work march, the YS Scarborough conference and the determination of the movement.

It is this kind of political continuity and desire to fight — based on the principle of revolutionary politics — that guarantee the success of the marches and the growth of the movement. Because it is these attributes that attract the ordinary working-class youth who want to fight.



On the road from Glenrothes to Cowdenbeath

union. Since then all local employers have given him the cold shoulder.

'These are the problems that go with high male unemployment,' he told me as we marched in the rain.

'The male rate is about 8 per cent and the youth have very little chance of a decent job. In these conditions organizing a good trade union base is very difficult.'

He described himself 'very much' on the left of the Labour Party: 'I believe I should work in the party to commit it to socialist policies. These kind of marches are part of this fight. Next time I would like to see a huge march say from Cowdenbeath to Edinburgh—bring coaches of youth from all over Scotland and block up the highway.'

Today's march was the longest so far — 17 miles in a steady downpour. But tonight

Coventry Jaguar men out against MDW plan

BY AN INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE 2,000 Jaguar workers on strike in Coventry for a substantial rise in piecework earnings came out because the company refused to consider making an offer unless it was tied to its new day-work pay structure.

This is basically a Measured-Day Work scheme which the management intends to introduce into the factory.

At present these pieceworkers who make the luxury Jaguars that their employers cruise around in are paid between £1.05 and £1.10 an hour.

In a statement to the press, Mick Richards, National Union of Vehicle Builders' convenor, said: 'We hope that this will not be a long strike. We have a very good record of industrial relations, but we have no alternative.'

Mr Richards claimed that other sections in the factory had received wage settlements of £4 to £4.50 a week, but nothing was given to the main bulk of the pieceworkers.

Full out

One picket told Workers Press: 'We are working full out at this very moment on piecework for these earnings. This has been brewing for a long time. Heaven knows what it would be like inside there if they ever got Measured-Day Work in.'

Most of the strikers are members of the Transport and General Workers' Union and the NUVB.

A move to begin to halt acceptance of MDW schemes by convenors and shop stewards was undertaken at a recent meeting of the AUEW Coventry district committee when the following resolution was passed:

'The district committee instructs all convenors and shop stewards not to negotiate productivity deals and/or agreements under any circumstances, and to oppose any moves towards Measured-Day Work with all possible vigour, in accordance with the national policy of our union.'

Since Jaguar cars is part of the British-Leyland complex which is busily trying to force agreement on their MDW pay structure in all Coventry factories, this decision by the district committee can have repercussions on the course of the Jaguar strike.



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THE PAY FIGHT IN THE LUCAS COMBINE



Shop stewards' leaders at the CAV Acton engineering factory in West London may try to avoid a fight on their unions' national pay claim.

But if they do, militants say, they will only force a flood of sectional pay struggles on the part of workers hit by rising prices, rents and fares.

Stewards from all over London will meet at Central Halls, Westminster, during working hours next Monday to discuss next steps in prosecuting the national claim in the area.

One man who is unlikely to be there is John Paxman, right-wing engineers' union convenor at CAV Acton and a leading exponent of going it alone.

Go it alone in some areas of industry might be taken as an expression of red-necked individualism. But not at CAV Acton. There it is the exact opposite to the class-conscious ruthlessness of the company itself.

Part of the giant Joseph Lucas combine based in Birmingham, CAV Acton is a low-volume, multi-product factory specializing in components for motor spares, diesel and electrical equipment and pumps, starters and alternators for the commercial vehicle industry.

Under the lash of sharpening international competition, Lucas has of late stepped up its drive to push up productivity. The approach of Bri-

tish entry into the Common Market has also led to heavy investment in Spain and Italy.

In February, the company announced that it was to acquire a £3m stake in the Carello car lighting, filter and wiper-blade company of Turin.

The declared aim of the deal—giving Lucas a 40 per cent stake of the Italians' equity with an option on a further 20 per cent over the next five years—to build up the dominant lamp organization in Europe.

It will also increase Lucas' ability to shift production out of Britain in case of industrial trouble and ship in components to its customers from its European associates. (It already has a link-up with Ducellier of France.)

Tickling over

Alongside these moves have gone changes in the British organization itself.

Until recently, CAV Acton had 75 per cent of the world market for diesel pumps, injectors and other components.

But now much of this production has been moved to sister factories in Kent, Suffolk and Merseyside. The Acton plant retains only a husk.

The newer factories were located in areas of relatively high unemployment where wage rates could be kept lower than in the highly-

organized London engineering belt.

This leaves Acton's switch-gear division just about ticking over, its world-service spares section viable but with a greatly reduced backlog of orders and the production of starter motors and alternators with an uncertain future.

It is feared by some workers at Acton that a new factory at Gillingham in Kent will take some of their electrical work.

This, then, is the background to the claim stewards have submitted at CAV Acton in line with the policy of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

For two years running, the stewards have concluded site deals which gave the company a 12-month wage freeze. The last one, which runs out today, worked out at £2 a week less than that won by Lucas workers in Birmingham.

This time the claim is for a £6-a-week general increase, a five-hour cut in the working week, extra holidays plus progress towards equal pay for women workers.

In reply, management has now offered £3 to skilled workers on fixed levels of earnings plus £2 to everyone else in return for a further 12-month freeze.

£2 would be taken off what is known as the lieu rate (consisting of extras on top of the time rate) and placed on the time rate itself. Only over-

time workers would benefit from this, however.

Guaranteed fall-back pay would consist of the new time rate plus 50p, and would be payable over a period of two weeks in the case of 'national stoppages', which the company has not yet defined.

New proposals

On holidays, the company has offered one day this year paid at average earnings and an additional day next year.

The company has offered nothing in reply to the claim for a 35-hour week, claiming that this is a subject for national negotiations, or on progress towards equal pay. (Women workers at CAV already get 90 per cent of the male rate).

A previous offer was £3 over 18 months (£1.50 payable on July 3, 75 p in January 1973 and a further 75p next July), plus one extra day's holiday. Again nothing was forthcoming on hours or equal pay.

Many left-wing stewards are convinced that the difference between these two offers would have been enough to swing an acceptance recommendation from some of their leaders.

But when the new proposals were reported to the joint shop stewards' committee on Tuesday they were already aware that Lucas workers in Birmingham had been offered

1970 claim: workers from CAV Acton in July, 1970 decided for strike action if their pay demands were not met.

£4.25 for skilled workers, £3.75 for semi-skilled and £3.25 for unskilled.

This second contrast brought unanimous rejection of the offer by the committee and an instruction to Paxman and his fellow-convenor John Coughlan, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, to fight for the full claim.

Two weeks' notice of industrial action was given.

An increasing number of stewards believe that this struggle can only be won on a combine-wide basis led by a functioning combine stewards' committee.

But Paxman and Coughlan, have temporarily blocked moves in this direction.

Meanwhile they and the shop stewards' executive are now firmly on the hook as far as the wage claim itself is concerned.

A strike would explode all the existing friendly relations with management into which many stewards are sucked through the network of Joint Production Consultative Committees which operate on the site.

If a strike does not take place, the more militant sections are certain to take action individually.

As one worker commented: 'We can't accept any more cut-price wage deals!'

THE DOCKS FIGHT DOWN UNDER

AUSTRALIAN LETTER

The date May 31 is a day for every Australian worker to remember, for nothing is going to be the same since its passing.

It was on this date that the Minister of Industry and National Service, Phillip Lynch, has his amendments to the Conciliation and Arbitration Act passed through parliament.

It was also the day that the government intervened in a new agreement between waterside workers and employers which gave the worker a 35-hour week.

The government has now said 'no' to the 35 hours and at the moment is waiting for their claim to go before an industrial court.

This is an unprecedented move and a crystal clear sign that those engaged in the desperate drive for profit are not going to let a little thing like an agreement between one section of the bourgeoisie and the working class step in their way.

The move is also a vindication of the warning to wharves by the Australian Socialist Labour League that the days of negotiating 'deals' with the employers are over.

The Conciliation and Arbitration Act is a way of controlling workers through a series of industrial courts and judges. These can call compulsory conferences and returns to work during disputes, and ratify agreements between unions and industries.

It is in the latter sphere that the Liberal Party/Country Party coalition intervened, using a new amendment which stipulates that the government can intervene in the 'national' interest.

Although the 35-hour week has been granted to other Australian workers in the past, conditions have now vastly changed for world capitalism.

This is a fact which is ignored by the reformist and Stalinist leaders on the Australian waterfront. General Secretary of the Waterside Workers' Federation, Charlie Fitzgibbon, expressed surprise at the government's move, because other unions have obtained the concession in the past.

Fitzgibbon, a Labour Party member, has been one of the vitriolic critics of the Socialist Labour League for their call to wharves to reject the recent package deal because of a no-strike clause contained in it. He and the Stalinists on the waterfront claimed that the bad things in the contract were outweighed by the good, like the 35-hour week.

A full bench of the Arbitration Commission is to meet to consider the 35-hour week aspect of the waterside agreement. And although it is still not certain that the government will succeed in stopping the claim, if the wharves do

get it the government will do all in its power to quarantine the agreement on the waterfront.

The government move shows that one section of the ruling class is not going to be allowed to break ranks at this stage and weaken the whole fighting formation that is being developed.

Its action was foreshadowed by Lynch in his second reading speech on the amendments in the House of Representatives when he said that the government cannot merely be an interested 'bystander' in agreements and disputes.

'Employers and unions simply cannot be permitted to resolve their differences without regard to the effect on those groups who are not themselves directly involved,' he said.

Disagreed on tactics

Lynch went on to say that although government 'intervention' would be unwelcome, it would be necessary.

He claimed that such action will be taken for 'community' and 'national' interests.

This, of course, is going to fool no worker. When the government intervenes on the industrial scene it does so for capital, not for labour.

The move against the wharves agreement should not be interpreted as the government falling out with those it represents. Both they and waterside employers are fighting on the same side. The disagreement between them is one of tactics—of when and how to take on the working class.

Wharves are in the forefront of working-class fighters. The AEWL was prepared to take them on, but not just yet. Now the strong right wing which is developing in the government has decided that this is the time.

The 35-hour week issue is political dynamite.

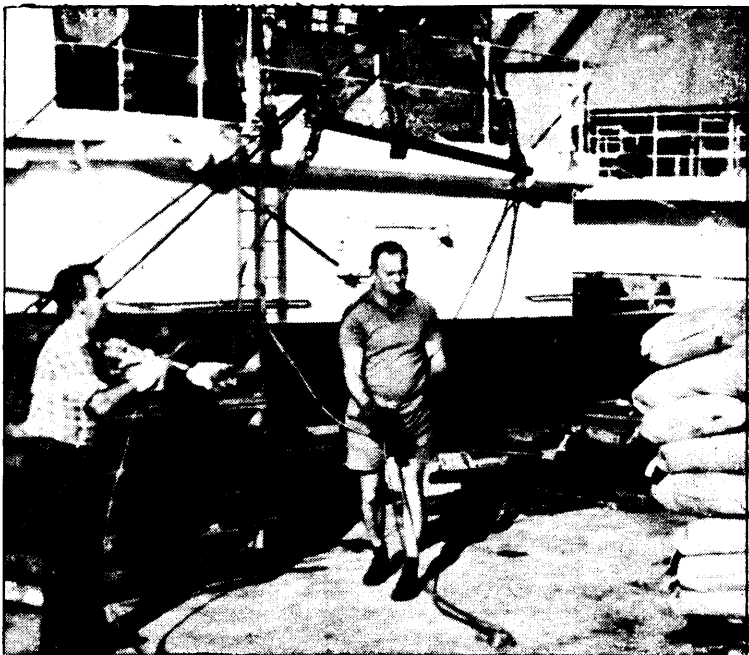
Both government and large sections of the employers have drawn a line. The line is the 35-hour week, and they are determined that no more workers are going to cross it.

Metal workers, storemen and packers, power workers, and all others who have declared their intentions of fighting for a 35-hour week are now at the head of the battle.

Their demand is a crucial one at this period of growing unemployment and falling profit. It is a positive demand for a sharing of work when there is less work available. It is a demand that calls for a share in the savings made through increased productivity, as on the wharves.

But for employers to agree to work-sharing and benefit-sharing would mean that the benefits they have gained from their created high unemployment would be lost. This is obviously not what they want.

Every worker in Australia



Top: Bob Hawke, secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions with the Liberal (Tory) Industrial Minister, Phillip Lynch. Centre: Charlie Fitzgibbon—wharves' secretary. Above: wharves

must now take up the demand for a 35-hour week—but with no strings attached.

Those workers who believed that a 35-hour week on the waterfront was the thin end of the wedge for workers in other industries are now being faced with a determined government which is not only pledged to prevent a flow-on but is also hell bent on taking the gain back.

The 35-hour week was the bait on the hook in the waterside agreement. Now the government hopes to take away the bait and leave only the hook.

Strike action taken

A 35-hour week is official policy for the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

But workers must watch their so-called leaders. For whatever they mouth, they will not take up this fight to the full.

Within the last few days the 35-hour week demand has spread to the oil industry, building, and the power workers, with strike action being taken to back up the demand.

Bob Hawke, ACTU secretary, has shown that whether the 35-hour week is official

policy or not, it does not mean that those workers who fight for it are going to receive ACTU support.

Hawke said he supports a 35-hour week in certain industries, among which he named the waterfront and the power industry. 'But there is no question of a general 35-hour week campaign,' he said.

The 'left' Hawke is rapidly growing into his role in this period of a lion-tamer for the bosses. Last week he ordered the end to a national strike of railwaymen, sending them back to work at a time when the rank and file were demonstrating a grim determination to improve their standard of living. There is no reason to think he will play anything other than the same role in the fight for a 35-hour week.

Under existing conditions the 35-hour week is a demand of revolutionary proportions. The existing leadership of the Australian working class is not a revolutionary leadership. It will back down from a head-on collision with the employers on every issue.

For the working class to maintain, let alone expand its living standards, it is going to have to replace its present leadership with one of revolutionary commitment. For those who stand at the head at present are incapable of fighting for workers in the coming period.

MOUNTING KREMLIN CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRINK

A new campaign against alcoholism has been launched by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in a decree printed in all the major newspapers.

All party organizations are solemnly called upon 'to wage a decisive and steadfast struggle against drunkenness and alcoholism and to elaborate specific measures for launching widespread mass political and cultural educative work in collectives and among the population at their places of residence, for intensifying anti-alcohol propaganda and for raising the effectiveness of public and administrative influence on people abusing alcohol.'

Heavy drinking, besides being a legacy of Russia's backward peasant past, is a refuge from the problems of everyday life exacerbated by the rule of the bureaucracy. Despite the doubling of the price of vodka, the Russian tipplers' traditional favourite, the outlets for its sale have multiplied and a good deal of home distilling goes on.

The leadership itself is scarcely known for its temperate habits and liquor flows freely at Kremlin festivities, as foreign guests testify. But increasing concern is being expressed about the effects of alcoholism on production as well as on the statistics of crime, road accidents and divorce.

A typical complaint is one that on a train going to a place called Tseliograd the buffet car had unlimited supplies of wine and vodka but no food. A woman passenger described a nightmare journey interrupted by drunken brawls and swearing. The police were called in to try to restore order at stations along the route.

At one factory in the Urals, 30 per cent of the workers are taken to the police sobering-up station at least once a year. In general any occasion, be it happy or sad, is the excuse for downing a few vodkas and convivial scenes often ending in brawls and 'hooliganism'.

Another problem is that establishments selling alcohol have to meet their plan targets and how can they do that if the sale of spirits is made more difficult?

A favourite remedy is to punish the drunk. Suggestions are being made that workers dismissed for alcoholism should be more severely treated and that drunks should have to pay for hospital treatment, if necessary by taking the cost out of their wage packet.

Unable to remove the causes of drunkenness which, like the survival of religion, lie in the contradictions of Soviet society, the bureaucracy tries to deal with the symptoms. The latest decrees call for a more vigorous propaganda campaign and more entertainment and sports facilities.

BOMBS, BULLETS, GAS, POISON, NAPALM AND NOW- MAN-MADE FLOODS

BY IAN YEATS

The United States is adopting a policy of near genocide in its bid to force the North Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front to negotiate what must amount to a surrender in Indo-China.

On June 24, US command pulled out the last 600 American troops from close to the Hué front line.

And on June 26, seven fighter-bomber squadrons and 4,000 US troops were pulled out of Da Nang airbase and airlifted to Thailand.

In the week beginning June 10, US troop strength was cut by 6,110 and further 5,000 will be shipped home by July 1 to bring the total of American troops in Vietnam down to 49,000.

These facts conceal the presence of more American warships in Vietnamese waters than at any previous time, manned by 42,000 US naval personnel and maintaining a constant shore barrage squadrons operating from these offshore bases to today flying more missions than at any time since 1967 dropping 2,500 tons of bombs a day on enemy positions.

While the lines of US troops flow home to placate American voters, the Nixon administration is not only maintaining but actually stepping up the air war.

And a whole new arsenal of 'automated' weapons has been called into use to wage a war long lost on the ground.

The Americans of course, know what military minds acknowledged as long ago as World War II—namely that aerial bombardments, especially from above cloud level, inflict minimal losses on the enemy.

Now they are going in for something infinitely more deadly—the total destruction of the environment in which the Vietnamese people live.

Last week's bombing raids were directed at factories, bridges, roads, and military installations.

For the past three months and more they have also been directed at the crucial Red River dykes.

The Red River flows five or six metres above the Plain of Tonkin and 4,000 kilometres of dykes—regularly maintained—protect the lives of the 15 million people who live behind them.

Breaching these dykes could lead to a disaster comparable only with a nuclear bombard-

ment, according to French professor Yves Lacoste.

French sources claim that during April, May and June, US planes dropped over 600 bombs on or near the dykes.

Many of the bomb craters have been found not in the alluvial plain immediately behind and below—threatening to seriously disrupt the water table.

This deliberate disruption of the water table and weakening of the dykes comes on the eve of the flood season due to start in the next few weeks.

But the Nixon administration is loathe to leave anything to chance.

Last week 'The Guardian's' science correspondent Anthony Tuckwell disclosed that circumstantial evidence was mounting suggesting that the US command has begun 'seeding' clouds to induce extra severe rainfall.

Abnormal rains in the Red River area could aggravate the normal flood situation to the proportions of a cataclysmic disaster.

The heavy cloud season is now well advanced in Vietnam and it is near certain that the weapon first devised for agricultural purposes and latterly to disperse hurricanes is being used as a crucial weapon against North Vietnam and NLF.

Rain-making techniques are dependent on the presence of cumulus cloud which Indo-China has in abundance for eight months of the year.

Under 'Pop-Eye' cloud-seeding has already been used by the US in Laos to 'reduce' trafficability along infiltration routes.

Since the North Vietnamese and NLF began their offensive in April the US appears to have decided to 'reduce' everything they have at the diplomatic initiative of Peking and Moscow aimed at halting supplies of arms and munitions.

Mr Tran Dang Khoa said: 'The US bandits have had the all-out efforts to blow the dykes systems and irrigation works of North Vietnam trying to create floods in order to ruin agriculture.'

He said the dykes served no military purpose, but were vital to people's lives.

Mr Khoa said the bombing of the dykes was an 'unparalleled war crime—a crime of genocide, biocide and

ecocide perpetrated at the same time.

He stressed that the Red River delta, with as many as 600 people per square kilometre, was North Vietnam's economic, political and cultural centre.

Almost any aircraft can carry out seeding operations with toxic bombs of flares and the device is undetectable.

Weather modification has the potential for causing large-scale and quite possibly uncontrollable and unpredictable destruction.

Professor Matthew Meselson in the American Science journal.

Vietnam is a largely subsistence level agricultural area whose soil and crops are the lifeblood of the economy.

Clouding the pattern of the weather in addition to toxic and chemical weapons could wipe them out.

Professor Olaf Palme of Sweden told the recent UN conference on the environment at Stockholm.

The heavy destruction brought about by indiscriminate bombing, by large scale use of bulldozers and herbicides is an outrage, at times described as genocide.

Since 1967 US spraying of herbicides has destroyed areas of coastal mangrove forests—the prime source of Vietnam's cheong, the Nipa palm, used for thatching, as well as a variety of other cash crops.

Water supplies have contaminated, leading to deformed wildlife, and human births, and crops such as rice, lack of fruit, rubber and domestic stock have all been killed on a large scale.

Huge areas of dense forest have been transformed into green deserts of Imperata grass and bamboo.

Just to make sure destruction of forests and food is complete five companies (with 30 18-ton bulldozers) with two more being formed scrape bare hundreds of acres a day, halting them into a worthless desert.

Disrupter bombs have been used to flatten hundreds of acres of crops and forest and 97 per cent of Vietnam is virtually a free fire zone for US bombs.

Since 1965 the explosive equivalent of 450 Hiroshimas has been dropped on Vietnam, says the latest issue of the 'New Scientist'.

The US has not abandoned Vietnam. There is to be no easy victory for the Vietnamese. These facts show that the Nixon administration is as hell-bent as ever on winning the war—even if it means wiping out an entire people.



First part of a statement by the Workers Vanguard (Trotskyist) of Greece, the Greek section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

THE BOLIVIAN REVOLUTION AND THE DEVIATIONS OF THE POR

The victory of the counter-revolution has been established. 'Law and order' reigns in Bolivia. A victory or a defeat of the working class clearly has international significance on the relation of forces in the social, political, and economic spheres.

Our criticism, translated and reprinted from the illegal theoretical organ of the Workers' Vanguard of Greece 'Proletario', is of value only to the extent that it will assist comrades to understand the future process of historical development. And, more important, in so far as it influences the perspectives of the building of the revolutionary party and the victory of the proletarian revolution in our country.

As in our country, the temporary defeat of the Bolivian working class enables local and foreign reformists to acquire new bases.

The immeasurable value of Marxism as a weapon of social and historical orientation is more than indispensable. It is a matter of life and death for all humanity. It demands a daily determined theoretical struggle for dialectical materialism in philosophy and in methodology in all aspects of the class struggle, leading to the most urgent task of today—the building of the revolutionary Trotskyist Party of Greece.

We have struggled and we shall continue to struggle against all 'new' roads to revolution, against the various 'popular' fronts with the fake anti-dictatorship bourgeoisie, against those who castrate the class anti-dictatorial struggle with mere anti-dictator and anti-imperialist attitudes ('first the junta must go and then we'll see').

We are opposed to the enemies of the construction of a Trotskyist youth movement and those who want the youth to have theories different from the party and worship 'the spontaneous revolutionary consciousness'. And most of all we fight against those who reject the struggle for the Transitional Programme under the influence of the day-to-day struggle, based on the theory of Marxism as a weapon against the various bourgeois influences which are transmitted by the bureaucracy and the revisionists into the workers' movement.

The bitter lesson of Bolivia gives us the courage and the will to struggle against all betrayals, deviations and errors of our own Stalinists and centrists.

In the final analysis, every error of estimation and tac-

tics is paid for dearly by ourselves, through arrests, torture and incarceration in the medieval prisons of the hated capitalist military dictatorship. The critique that follows will, we believe, provoke discussion in the International Committee of the Fourth International and, we hope, among the members and cadres of the POR and French Organisation Communiste Internationaliste.

The deviations of the POR

The revolutionary developments in Bolivia and the part played in them by the Trotskyists of the POR who found themselves in the front line of the class struggle have justifiably attracted the attention of the revolutionary vanguard.

A discussion has been opened up in the ranks of the International Committee. We participate in this discussion convinced that the building of the Fourth International and its parties is not possible without a full discussion of, and an ideological struggle over, the great events which occur in the arena of international revolution.

First, we feel duty bound to pay homage to those of the working class and those Trotskyists who fell on the battleground of the class struggle. However, apart from this supreme duty, we must face up to the problems arising from the class struggle in Bolivia. On these our lines have divided. The Bolivian question was in fact the culmination of a long series of differences within the IC. The last straw!

We find in the line of the POR deviations of the Pabloite type—particularly in their turning away from the Soviet experience of the October revolution, and on the question of a 'new' line, that of the 'Popular Assembly'.

The Bolivian problem has acquired an international significance also from the viewpoint put forward by the leaders of the French organization of the IC—i.e. that a 'Popular Assembly' of a 'Soviet type' can become the instrument of the taking of power by the proletariat on a world scale. We firmly believe that this tendency is characterized by a deviation from Soviet principles. The question of Soviets today is the touchstone for all those tendencies which, in the name of 'realism' and 'modernized' Marxism, in reality abandon the basic principles of the Soviet dictatorship of the proletariat.

But what was the root cause of this deviation? The key lies in Lenin's famous axiom, 'Without revolutionary theory, there can be no revolutionary movement.'

The struggle for theory has been at the centre of our struggle against the Pabloites



Top: Lora of the Bolivian POR (second from left) with Charles Berg (left) and Pierre Lambert (speaking) of the OCI. Above: Barrientos, the forerunner of Torres. He adopted a fake anti-imperialist position to divert the feelings of the masses.

and the state capitalists. The struggle for an understanding of dialectic materialism as a theory of knowledge has been at the centre of the divisions in the IC. But once again those who fought for such an understanding have been vindicated. It is our contention that the explanation of the POR's betrayal is found in their pragmatic adaptation to circumstances and their neglect and contempt for Marxist theory.

The bourgeois, counter-revolutionary nature of the Torres dictatorship



Torres

Torres masqueraded as a representative of the 'left'. Assisted by the right-wing trade unionist Lechin, with his influence in the unions of the COB (Bolivian Workers' Centre) he was able to create considerable illusions in the masses.

Having suffered a long period of dictatorship, particularly under General Barrientos, the rebellious masses were deceived by the fake-left phraseology of Torres and

Lechin. Proceeding from deeper motives, they took over the streets from the first moment of the Torres coup.

There is a precedent in the case of Castro. Starting from a bourgeois-democratic movement, he was forced to present himself demagogically to the workers and peasants as a 'communist' and to tolerate the growth of the workers' movement. Castro's example has inspired a whole series of military and political career-

The Pabloite theory of the genuine communism of Castro, and their hero-worship of the Algerian leadership, as well as that of other Bonapartist regimes such as Nasser, Nkrumah, etc., naturally reinforced the illusions of the workers in the 'leftism' of various dictatorships in many colonial and semi-colonial countries. The release of Regis Debray, an associate of Che Guevara, was conceived as a smokescreen to delude the masses who were seeking their own freedom.

In reality, Torres was flesh from the same body as the militarist leadership which held power on behalf of the financial oligarchy and American imperialism. His only motive in opposing the rise of bourgeois political parties was to monopolize the crushing of the labour movement himself.

Torres' coup took place in a period of the sharpening of the cyclical crisis of capitalism. Major financial crises, the fall of the buying power or wages, the growth of unemployment to terrifying heights and social upheavals are the order of the day.

In order to face the criti-

cal social conditions weighing down on the Bolivian masses and to overcome the crisis at their expense, Torres combined demagoguery with violence. He turned to his patrons, the Inter-American Bank and the World Bank and received \$50m loans to finance the construction of an oil pipeline between Bolivia and Argentina in order to alleviate the serious unemployment problem and forestall an uprising of the masses.

The American CIA was as much behind the Torres coup as it is with all military *pronunciamientos* in Latin America. This did not prevent Torres demagogically adopting a fake anti-imperialist position. Barrientos did the same. So did all manner of fake lefts, fake democrats, fake socialists, from Chiang Kai-shek, Castro, Ben Bella, Boumedienne, Nasser, Gaddafi, Bandaranaike, Aref and others, in order to divert the anti-imperialist feelings of the masses from the channel of socialism, with the aid of many kinds of opportunist organizations.

However, all the tendencies of the 'Popular Assembly' organized an 'anti-imperialist front' without, apparently including Torres as one of their targets.

Although US policy towards Torres was one of ambiguity and manoeuvres, certain circles in Washington were already beginning to accuse him of being 'soft on communism' and began to conspire with the *gorilismo*. What frightened them was the growth of the movement and of the Trotskyist factor.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



NUS BAULKs FIGHT AGAINST FRANCO

No policy through which British students can assist the struggle against the fascist dictatorship in Spain was forthcoming from the National Union of Students' conference for solidarity with Spanish students last week in London.

The platform speakers contented themselves with general denunciations of Spanish fascism and made no attempt to link them with the struggle against the Tories in Britain.

Mike Terry, for the NUS executive, told the 100-strong audience that 'solidarity action is tied up with our situation in Britain. We only have to look and see the beginnings of fascist tendencies in our country to see that by informing people you can increase their determination to extend their rights.'

Ian Burchall of the International Socialism group, speaking as a member of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions, described the repressions in Spanish universities and equated these fascist attacks with what was going on not only in South Africa and Greece, but also Yugoslavia.

The Stalinists did not challenge this 'state capitalist' position.

'Carlos', a speaker from the illegal Spanish Workers Commissions, pointed out the co-ordination achieved between workers, students and professional people fighting Franco. Like the fourth platform speaker, 'Roberto', a Spanish student, 'Carlos' confined himself almost entirely to a description of trade union problems.

The discussion was largely monopolized by representatives of the Labour Party's so-called Young Socialists who claimed to be speaking in solidarity, with the reformist UGT of Spain.

These speakers included well-known members of the

revisionist 'Militant' group.

They correctly criticized the Workers' Commissions for their 'freedom pact' with the bourgeois apparatus of Franco. They also attacked them for working within the official fascist sindicatos.

Another speaker was Roger Lyons, national officer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, who referred to the sit-in of the Merseyside Fisher-Bendix workers against removal of their work to Spain.

None of these revisionists mentioned the growing collaboration of the East European Stalinists with Franco, epitomized by the scab coal from Poland which broke the recent Austrian miners' strike.

Yet 'Carlos' told me the Workers' Commissions had recently sent a delegation to

Warsaw to protest against the strike-breaking shipments. He claimed the delegation had been given an official guarantee that the scabs would not be represented.

The conference again showed the revisionists shamelessly avoiding the basic political questions in order to get closer to the Stalinists who dominate the NUS leadership.

This goes as much for their international policy as for British questions.

As a Young Socialist speaker pointed out in the discussion, the only real solidarity with the struggle against Franco is the fight to bring down the Tory government in Britain.

Top: General Franco. Below: NUS President and Communist Party member, Digby Jacks



WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Colour question

A white South African school-girl whose skin turned dark after an operation may come to London for treatment to save her from being thought 'non-white'.

The girl is Jane-Anne Pepler (17), whose skin changed from fair to very dark after an operation to counteract a sudden increase in weight. She has been receiving radio-therapy for the past three weeks, but her doctor says there has been no visible improvement.

A London specialist is reported to have offered to help and to have said the case is 'not unusual'.

The girl's mother, Anna Snymn said: 'It is heart-breaking to see Jane-Anne being spurned by people who think she is coloured. It is particularly embarrassing for us because we are a purely Afrikaans family and strong Nationalists. We believe in white supremacy.'—Reuter

Christian killers

James Fox of 'The Sunday Times' Colour Magazine has just returned from Vietnam with a number of very grisly anecdotes.

He was talking to air force pilot John MacFarlane, a member of the 'Cobra' wing which has been carrying out saturation strafing raids on the workers and peasants of Vietnam. (It's called 'Vietnamization'.)

MacFarlane revealed that when he finished his tour of duty he wanted to become a Lutheran missionary in New Guinea, just off Australia.

Was there any conflict between his religion and his gunship driving? Fox asked.

No, said MacFarlane. 'Oh, you oughta been here with Father Dodge,' he went on. 'He always used to say, the

faster you get 'em the quicker their souls get to heaven.

'I feel I'm killing to spare souls. I think the USA is going in the right direction.'

Praise be to God, Jimmy Reid and Jack Dash....

Justice

Is this a case for the dynamic Official Solicitor Norman Turner? Lambert Jacobs (38), public house manager of Bethnal Green, East London, was acquitted at the Old Bailey this week of dishonestly handling a police truncheon knowing it to be stolen.

The prosecution decided not to proceed on the handling charge and Jacobs was discharged. Mr Justice O'Connor directed that a verdict of not guilty be entered.

Just by the way, Mr Jacobs has spent the last nine months in custody—the police persistently refusing bail.

Switch on Provos

BBC reporters were slightly taken aback last week when they were suddenly allowed to interview members of the Provisional IRA.

Throughout the week the corporation chiefs batted not an eyelid as various Provisionals came on the magic screen to put their point of view.

Last Friday night Seamus Twomey, the Provisionals' leader in Belfast, told millions of viewers that the ceasefire would be made effective: 'When we say there will be a truce, we mean there will be a truce.'

The decision to suddenly allow Twomey and others on the screen was the clearest indication that a deal had been struck with the Tory government. For almost a year the BBC has been operating a straight ban on interviews with IRA members. The lifting of this ban shows that the Tories are confident that they have the IRA leaders where they want them.

BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY :
Germany 1931/1932
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½
Where Is Britain Going ?
Paperback 37½p
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Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

Crammed into 'open plan' estates like Woodrow Valley

Redditch new town tenants begin to organize

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

'REDDITCH—the town in the heart of the country. Rents from £3.50.' Many Birmingham workers, unable to find decent housing in the vast West Midlands conurbation are lured out to Redditch by these siren calls.

Originally a tiny industrial town, a development corporation was set up in 1964 to plan for a population of 90,000. Most of this was to be Birmingham overspill.

It will be one of the first towns based on the principles of the Buchanan report, providing 'better houses with better amenities'—central heating, open-plan design, traffic-free pedestrian areas, and so on.

Yet there is now a retreat back to Birmingham and empty houses stand together in groups of two or three.

Many workers are unable to find jobs in Redditch. Others don't want them because any redundancies would be on the 'last-in, first-out' basis.

Like so many 'new towns' Redditch provides little for the teenager. There are only occasional dances and a request to hold a private discotheque was recently turned down.

Any youth found in the town centre after midnight are often swooped upon by police who want to know what they're doing there.

overcrowded

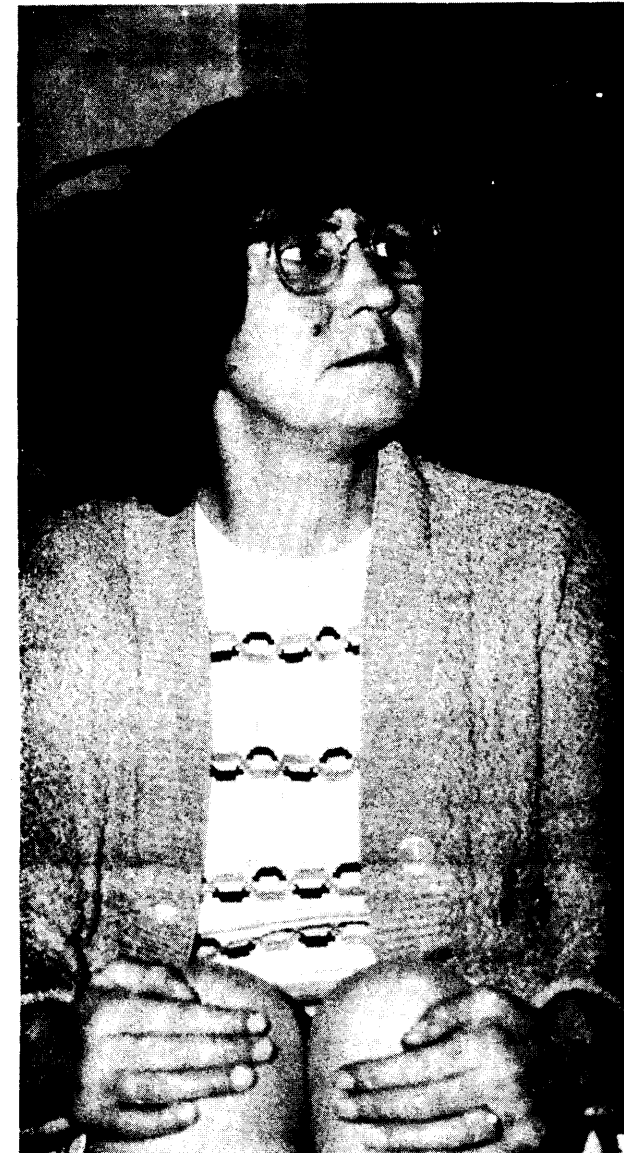
Spaciously planned in some areas, the estates are grossly overcrowded in others. Row upon row of terraced houses, some three-storeyed and with scarcely a window to be seen on one face, squeeze into the Woodrow Valley.

In addition, the bus service is infrequent, erratic and expensive. And a visit to the doctor requires appointments in advance, adding to the misery of Redditch workers.

The biggest struggle tenants have above all else, however, is over rents which are high and frequently increased.

A typical three-bedroom house on Greenlands now costs £8.11 weekly, inclusive of rates, following a recent increase of 7p. Some four-bedroom houses cost more than £9.

The much-publicized rebate scheme, intended to



Mrs Ivy Jones, leading the move for a tenants' organization: It's a means-test rent Bill

pacify tenants, will not last much longer in its present form. With the Housing Finance Bill an unemployed worker or one who is on a low wage could find the tenancy transferred to his wife or any member of the household whose income exceeds his own. The rebate will be reduced or lost.

One reason for high rents is said to be the cost of repairs and maintenance.



The so-called 'open plan' new town crams house upon house into places like Woodrow Valley

Present rents will be revised and increased further in July when the government's 'fair rents' Bill is expected to become law. Assurances by Corporation officials that this rent will then remain stable for the next three years are treated with a large pinch of salt by most tenants.

Everyone knows that rates will continue to rise anyway. The present typical cost rent for Development Corporation houses is £12.30, inclusive of rates — the difference between this and the 'fair rent' being graciously met by a government subsidy (taken out of your taxes anyway).

But it is Tory policy that 'fair' rents should eventually rise to cost rent levels. Tenants are now beginning to organize against rent increases.

There are moves by ordinary tenants, independent of the official residents' associations, such as the one on Lodge Park, which is run mainly by private house owners.

In the local elections many Tory councillors were thrown out and Labour failed to take control by only one seat.

means test

A recent meeting called by Mrs Ivy Jones of Woodrow Estate was attended by 300 angry tenants. Now all the Development Corporation estates are being canvassed for a mass meeting tomorrow at the Leys High School to organize a move to refuse to pay any more rent increases. Delegations from union branches are being invited to attend.

Mrs Jones told Workers Press that she remembered the days of the means test and is determined they will never return. As far as she is concerned it is a means test rent Bill which the

government is pushing through.

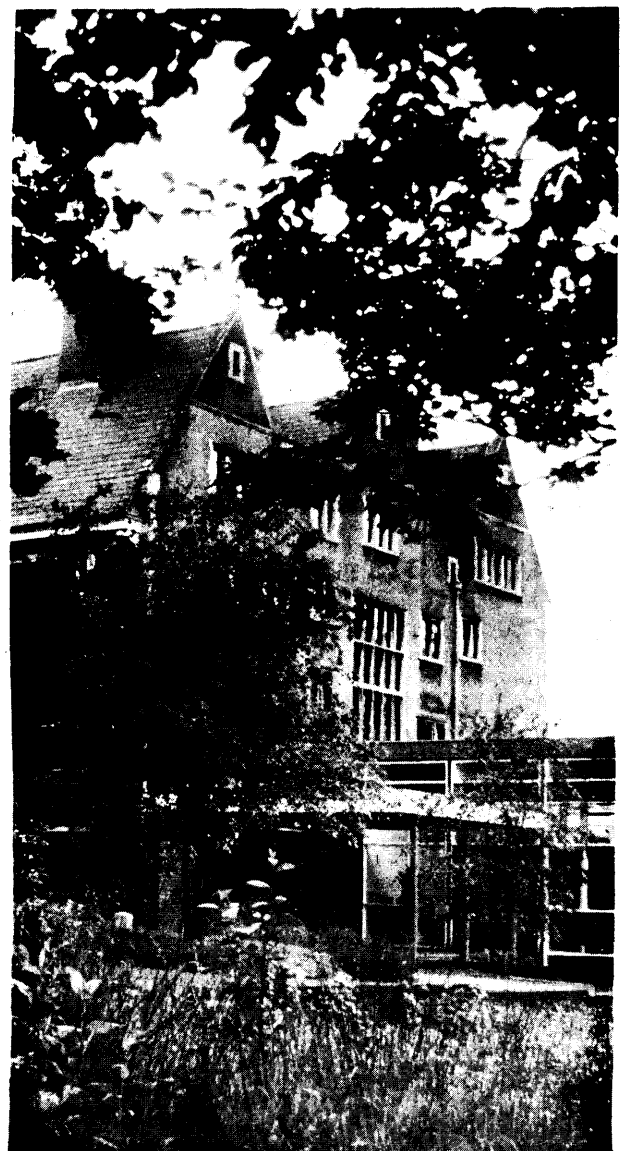
It is becoming increasingly obvious that the building of well-designed new towns is another good idea which has foundered on the rock of capitalism.

New town tenants are in head-on conflict with the Tory government. It is the government and not the local council which is their landlord.

One tenant interviewed by Workers Press, a shop

steward from Austin's Longbridge factory, is haunted by the fear that Redditch may become a ghost town, a rural prison camp, with workers unable to afford anything but the rent.

The steward — now involved in a rents battle — is also in favour of building Councils of Action to drive out the Tories now, together with their 'fair rents' Bill and the Industrial Relations Act.



The Development Corporation headquarters in wooded ground

TV

BBC 1

9.20-9.35 Along the river. 11.18-11.38 Schools. 12.55-1.25 Hen allorau. 1.30 Joe. 1.53 Wimbledon 1972. 4.50 Magic roundabout. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Boss cat. 5.44 Parsley. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 YOUR REGION TONIGHT.

6.15 WIMBLEDON 1972.

7.25 TOP OF THE POPS.

8.00 THE GOODIES.

8.30 THE BURKE SPECIAL. James Burke.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 ELIZABETH R. Horrible Conspiracies.

10.50 24 HOURS.

11.35 WINDOWS ON THE BRAIN. The Model Maker. With Professor Richard Gregory.

12.00 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 4.30 Wimbledon 1972.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 GREAT PARKS OF THE WORLD. Nairobi, East Africa.

8.30 THE VISITORS.

9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK: KEITH MITCHELL.

10.10 MATCH OF THE DAY. From Wimbledon.

10.50 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

10.55 FILM: 'PANDORA'S BOX'. Second of three films by German director Georg W. Pabst.

ITV

11.00 Sunbeam Electric Scottish open golf championship. 12.15 Women today. 12.40 Common Market cookbook. 1.05 Bellbird. 1.20 Sunbeam golf. 2.05 Castle haven. 2.30 Good afternoon! 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Joker's wild. 3.45 Marcus Welby MD. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Secret squirrel. 5.20 How. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.30 CROSSROADS.

6.55 FILM: 'NOT WITH MY WIFE YOU DON'T'. Tony Curtis, Virna Lisi, George C. Scott. Hollywood comedy.

9.00 NEAREST AND DEAREST. Workers' Playtime.

9.30 THIS WEEK.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 CINEMA. Richard Rodgers.

11.00 SUNBEAM GOLF.

11.30 SOMETHING TO SAY.

12.30 BEHIND THE SCENES. Film director Ken Loach talks to Guy Thomas.

Regional TV

CHANNEL: 11.00-3.55 London. 4.05 Nuts and bones. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Funny face. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Crowded Sky'. 9.00 London. 10.32 Maverick. 11.20 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 Report. 11.25 News, weather. 12.20 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 11.00 London. 3.00 Golf. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Send for Dithers. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Richard the lion-hearted. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Dr Simon Locke. 7.15 Film: 'Ride A Crooked Trail'. 9.00 London. 11.30 News. 11.40 Marcus Welby MD. 12.30 Weather, Epilogue.

HARLECH: 1.30 Arthur. 1.55 Out of town. 2.15 Golf. 3.20 Com-



Film director Ken Loach tells how it is 'Behind the Scenes' on ITV (London only) tonight at 12.30.

mon Market cookbook. 3.45 Dr Simon Locke. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Joe 90. 5.20 London. 6.02 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.10 Film: 'Marines Let's Go!' 9.00 London. 10.30 A drop in the ocean. 11.00 London. 11.30 Saint.

HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Sport West.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15-4.30 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.

ANGLIA: 11.00 London. 2.30 London. 3.00 Golf. 4.10 News. 4.15 Jimmy Stewart. 5.40 Paulus. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Cross-

roads. 7.00 Sale. 7.30 Film: 'Harem Holiday'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Healthy by nature. 11.05 Cinema. 11.40 Golf.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.00 Golf. 3.10 Good afternoon. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Women today. 4.10 Family affair. 4.35 Rupert bear. 4.50 Pretenders. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Film: 'Top of the World'. 9.00 London.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 4.10 Gourmet. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Partners. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Shirley's world. 7.30 Film: 'Belles on Their Toes'. 9.00 London. 11.30 What's it all about?

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 London. 3.00 Golf. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 London. 4.55 Bugs Bunny. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 It takes a thief. 7.20 Film: 'Murder Most Foul'. 9.00 London. 11.30 Scales of justice. 12.05 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 2.30 Saint. 3.25 All our yesterdays. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 London. 4.55 Make a wish. 5.15 London. 6.00 News. Police file. 6.25 I dream of Jeannie. 7.00 London. 7.30 Film: 'Columbo'. 8.50 Sylvester. 9.00 London. 11.30 On the line.

TYNE TEES: 11.00-1.00 London. 2.32 London. 3.00 Golf. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 London. 4.55 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Popeye. 7.10 Film: 'Zarak'. 9.00 London. 11.30 Police call. 11.35 Short story. 12.05 News. 12.20 Epilogue.

BORDER: 1.30 Golf. 3.40 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Out of town. 4.35 Enchanted house. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 New world. 7.15 Film: 'Gunfighters of Casa Grande'. 9.00 London. 11.30 Pursuers. 12.00 News.

SCOTTISH: 11.00 London. 3.30 Once upon a time. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Fireball XL5. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 A place of her own. 7.00 Film: 'Kings Go Forth'. 9.00 London. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Beagan gaidhlig.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 3.32 News. 3.35 Job look. 3.40 Women today. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Rumble jumble. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Folk afore us. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Survival. 7.30 Film: 'Stop the World I Want to Get Off'. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 11.30 Viewfinder. 12.00 Epilogue.

Women bring whisky combine to a standstill

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN GLASGOW

IF YOU have any illusions about the apathy of women workers you should get the next train to Glasgow and stand outside the Slater Rodger whisky bottling plant early one morning.

This is the latest flashpoint of a running battle between the whisky workers and Scotland's biggest manufacturer Distillers Ltd.

The big picket at Slater Rodger, 90-per-cent female, has been confronted by the police for three mornings in a row.

Girls claim they have been thrown to the ground in the crush caused when the scabs sneak in to work.

But every dawn they keep on turning up. Their aim is to make Slater Rodger the sixth Distillers plant to close.

Attempts

Despite desperate attempts by a handful of scabs to dodge into work across a dangerous main railwayline, production in the plant is almost at a standstill.

In the front line are girls like Cathy, Sandra and Mary. The Black and White whisky plant at Shotts, near Glasgow, where they work was closed early in the two-week strike. Now they are helping out at Slaters.

Sandra, whose husband has been on strike for six weeks at Singer sewing machine Clydebank, bottles the whisky. Her two friends label and cap the bottles further down the line.

'The pay is OK for women,' says Sandra. 'But the work is hard. You're on the go all day and the management control the speed of the line. It wears you out.'

Her remark about pay must be qualified. Women's wages are low everywhere—especially in Scotland. So the £15 take-home the girls earn is only 'good' compared with the meagre norm.

In fact Distillers, in common with all the big whisky houses, derive enormous profit from their army of female labour — often fresh from school.

The strikers say the steep climb in the cost of living and the gains won by workers like the miners and the railwaymen are the main reasons for such unprecedented militancy.

'They say women are not militant. Well they ought to

come up to Shotts. Our militancy shut that place quick enough says Cathy. 'The union official told me Distillers got £54m profit last year. We make it and we want a bit of it back.'

Apart from Shotts and Glasgow, the strike has stopped Distillers' plants in Kilmarnock, Leith and Edinburgh. The latest move is a bid to cut off Distillers' exports by getting them blacked on the docks.

Behind the pay issue is a serious threat of redundancies. Normally, in every 12-month contract, the unions insist and get a clause giving security of employment.

But one 'string' on the firm's latest £3.20 offer is that management should have the right to fire when they like. Unmistakably this means that redundancies are on the way this year. The workers say they will not end the dispute until they have won back their old right.

George Haggarty, a shop steward from one of the Edinburgh plants, explained:

'The firm is opening a new £10m plant at Leven, Fife. We fear this will incorporate much of the work done in the smaller places. We are sure that the firm want redundancies. This is why they want to get rid of the

clause,' he said.

'There will be no settlement of this dispute until we get this security. With the increase in the cost of living and the way this Tory government is developing, no worker can afford to give up gains like these.'

Despite the strike's solidarity the General and Municipal Workers' Union has steadfastly refused to back the strike.

Its Scottish officer George Robertson has attacked the Transport and General Workers' Union in the local press for encouraging the strike before 'consulting' the G&M.

'Municipal'

The 'Municipal' as it is known on the picket line, has held a ballot of members and got a two-to-one majority against strike action.

The firm has responded with obvious glee to this split.

Robertson's quotes to the press have been circulated by management to the strikers as propaganda.

When the Washington Street plant of Slater Rodger was closed in Glasgow, G&MWU members were transferred to Seaward Street. This sight caused emotions to boil over among the normally peaceful women strikers.

Negotiations have been opened by the union, but the strike promises to go on for some time yet. The workers are adamant about the redundancy clause and the firm is equally determined to keep its hands free to swing the jobs axe when it feels it is necessary.

'They can't treat us like cattle,' said one bitter girl on the picket line after police escorted some operatives into a plant.

The roar of 'Aye' from the teenagers and housewives round about fairly summed up the mood of determination.

Giant profits made by Distillers

Distillers' labour force is made up mainly of women—particularly young girls from school who want quick money.

Many leave after two or three years to get married or to other jobs.

Mrs Mary Mackie, a shop steward at Distillers' St Leonard's plant in Edinburgh says this makes the job of organizing unions more difficult. 'I am not against school-leavers getting jobs, but it's hard to get a militant attitude because of the turnover,' she said.

Distillers' returns have steadily risen for a decade. In 1962 profit before tax and depreciation was £32m; in 1965 it was £44m and last year it was a cool £54m. Profit AFTER tax AND depreciation in 1971 was a handsome £33m—DOUBLE the level a decade ago.

The yield per share has steadily increased. Last year it was 7.25 per cent and £23m was

paid out in dividends to shareholders. The share holding by the 18-man board of directors netted each one an average £88,000 last year. This is on top of their salaries.

You could have bought a Distillers share for 99p in 1970 and sold it for 180p last year—a profit of almost 100 per cent.

This huge octopus of a company controls 160 companies in 18 different countries. It owns some of the most popular names in the hard liquor field including, Johnny Walker, Haig, Black and White, Dewars and Crawford's whiskies; Booths and Gordons gins; Cossack vodka and Pimms.

It owns United Glass which it bought for £14,683,000 in 1969. It shares Bakelite Xylonite with Union Carbide and the Indisan Yeast Co. It sold its chemical interests (apart from carbon dioxide manufacture) to BP for £9m worth of BP shares and £25m cash.

London talks on Swindon dispute

BY DAVID MAUDE

BRITISH RAIL management at Swindon workshops yesterday refused to pay five charge hands for the period of their suspension in a dispute on the movement of repaired work and components to outside depots.

Management took this position in talks with leading shop stewards at the 3,000-strong works yesterday morning.

The talks followed the sit-in strike starting last Thursday afternoon, by 450 men in two departments. The strikers were back to normal working yesterday pending the outcome of the negotiations.

Yesterday afternoon in London, national and local unions from two unions—the engineers and the electricians—accompanied by their convenors held talks with British Rail Engineering Limited.

The talks were believed to concern two issues:

- The 'black' on the movement of work; and

- Local management's refusal to recognize a shop steward for allegedly calling an unofficial meeting over a previous dispute.

British Rail has just announced the names of 630 men it intends to make redundant in December. Union officials fear a further 300 jobs will be threatened in January as part of BREL's plan to phase out locomotive work at Swindon altogether.

Management is fighting hard to keep these issues separate.

Scuffles on London builders' picket

SCUFFLES between police and a mass picket of building workers broke out at the London Weekend New Television Centre when electricians and a few others tried to cross the picket line.

The site is one of the six in London on official strike for the building workers national claim of £35 for a 35-hour week. Over 250 workers from several London

sites presented a formidable obstacle for the few electricians who were prepared to toe the EPTU's official line and cross the picket line. Police lines broke twice before electricians shop steward Eddie

Denman intervened and called out all his men in support of the building workers, pending consultations with the official leadership. The workers who had gone in were clapped as they walked out of the gate.



National action call

LEEDS building workers have decided to press for a national stoppage if any of their members are threatened or victimized by the employers. This was decided unanimously by a mass meeting of 300 building trades workers at Leeds Trades Hall on Tuesday night.

There are three sites on strike in Leeds in support of the national pay claim—Laing's in Boar Lane, Wimpey's, Albion Street, and Mowlem's at the Merrion Centre.

Arthur Dale—a Communist Party member—proposed solidarity action and called on miners, clothing workers and workers in ancillary industries to give support.

In particular he appealed to workers at Yorkshire Imperial Metals who supply copper pipes to the various Leeds sites.

There was pressure from the

floor of the meeting to extend the strike immediately.

After the unanimous vote to continue the strike, many non-union men joined their respective unions.

- Earlier this week 6,000 Merseyside building workers unanimously passed a resolution at the Pierhead affirming full determination to fight for the union's claim.

Many workers were disgusted with the selected strike policy. They demanded all-out strike action.

Container firm takes dockers

LIVERPOOL dock shop stewards yesterday lifted the blacking of vehicles owned by Bishop's Wharf Ltd following an agreement that the stuffing and stripping of containers would be done by registered dock workers.

The Warrington-based container transport firm had been blacked for several months by the joint dock and haulage shop stewards committee.

Jimmy Symes, leader of the port stewards' committee said: 'I am pleased they have signed the agreement. The blacking is now lifted and if they send any vehicles to the docks they will be taken care of.'

Containers of two other firms, Heaton's of St Helens and Craddock's, a Wolverhampton company with a Bootle depot, remain blacked.

The two companies, together with Panalpina Services Ltd and Panalpina Northern Ltd of Bradford, are appealing to the House of Lords against the Court of Appeal decision absolving the Transport and General Workers' Union from responsibility for the actions of its dock stewards in imposing the black.

Meanwhile in London, a company planning to open a container depot next month is applying to take on registered dockers.

The depot on the Blackwell Trading Estate, Poplar, will be

operated by Always (Universal) who have already been granted registration by the London Dock Labour Board and have applied to the Port of London Authority for a stevedoring licence.

It is understood that only four

SHOP STEWARDS representing Liverpool dock workers yesterday passed a resolution calling on all registered dock workers to withdraw their labour from midnight July 25.

They are demanding that shop stewards from each port sit on high powered negotiating committees discussing the jobs situation and that a national stewards' delegation meet the Transport and General Workers' Union executive council immediately in order that they can put their case. The resolution will be put to the national docks stewards meeting on Saturday.

dockers would be employed at the start handling about 20 containers a week.

If trade builds up as the com-

Repressive changes in law

THE TORY government is to introduce legislation which will destroy hard-won rights of the individual who comes in conflict with the law.

This follows the decision by Home Secretary Reginald Maudling to accept the report of the Criminal Law Revision Committee.

The committee, which comprises High Court judges and Director of Public Prosecutions Sir Norman Skelhorn, has recommended a number of viciously repressive changes in the present law.

Among its conclusions are:

- Ending of the police caution.
- Restriction on the accused's right to stay silent during his trial.
- Wives may be called to give evidence against husbands.
- Former conduct and convictions of the accused can be heard in court.

The right-wing Monday Club and the Tory press yesterday welcomed the moves. The 'Daily Telegraph' editorial said that the changes in the law would 'do something to improve the situation'.

In the face of this Tory attack on civil liberties, the most revealing reaction is that of the cringing reformists.

Mrs Shirley Williams, Shadow Home Secretary, issued a statement saying she 'welcomed steps that would enable the courts to deal effectively with the hardened professional criminal'.

But some aspects of the proposed changes she found 'disturbing'.

Mrs Williams, a devoted Jenkinsite, voted with the Tories on the Common Market last October.

The Law Society put out an equally anaemic statement.

The Tories can only be stopped from stripping the rights of the working class if they are removed from office. The next Labour government must be pledged to repeal all legislation, like the Industrial Relations Act, which attacks basic democratic rights.

pany wants it the number could rise to just ten. To start with the firm will only pack containers. They will leave the depot by road.

Picketing is still in force at F. J. Robertson's depot in Millwall. London dockers outside the gates since Monday have cut the container traffic by half.

A spokesman for the firm said yesterday that the pickets had given no indication of how many jobs the dockers were claiming as their own.

WORKERS at Keeton's Engineering factory Sheffield, temporarily resumed work yesterday—after an eight-day round-the-clock occupation—to discuss ten-point peace formula over jobs. Convener George Bullivant said: 'We are firm on this. We are accepting no more redundancies. We've lost 140 men over the last year. The main points are there must be work-sharing and no redundancies and any deployment of labour must be under the control of the shop stewards. This agreement will not be legally binding.'

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

The currency crisis and the working class

CROYDON: Monday July 3, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday July 4, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Tuesday July 4, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday July 6, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers

Arms, Tottenham High Rd, (nr White Hart Lane).

LUTON: Thursday July 6, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Lea Road.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday July 6, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Stn).

ACTON: Monday July 10, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Rd.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday July 11, 8 p.m. 'Aberfeldy', Aberfeldy Street, E.14. (nr Blackwall Tunnel).

PRESTON: Thursday June 29, 8 p.m. Railway and Commercial Hotel (near railway station), Butler Street.

DAVENTRY: Thursday, June 29, 8 p.m. Social Club, New Street, 'Build Councils of Action'.

LEICESTER: Thursday June 29, 8 p.m. 'The Rocket', New Parks Estate. 'Fight the Tories' 'fair rent' Bill

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

WANDSWORTH: Thursday June 29, 8 p.m. Balham Baths, Elmfield Road, Balham. 'Build Councils of Action'.

NOTTINGHAM: Thursday June 29, 7.30 p.m. 'The Lion', Clumber Street. 'Build Councils of Action. Force the Tories Out.'

EASTLEIGH: Tuesday July 4, 7.30 p.m. The buffet room, Town Hall.

LEICESTER: Wednesday July 5, 8 p.m. Queen's Hotel, Rutland St. 'Build Councils of Action'.

LATE NEWS WEATHER

SEVEN Republican prisoners on remand in military custody at Curragh Dublin, went on hunger strike yesterday demanding political prisoner status. Some of the men, who are waiting to be tried before the no-jury Special Criminal Court, are from Northern Ireland.

SEVENTY-two prisoners began a sit-down at Maidstone Jail, Kent, yesterday for 'unspecified reasons'.

MORE THAN 100 laboratory workers at CAV's Acton plant yesterday staged a sit-in following a visit by executives of major European engineering companies. Their section had been 'spring-cleaned' by management for the occasion.

AFTER a few early morning mist patches inland, most districts will have sunny periods and scattered showers. Over Northern Ireland, Wales and South-West England the showers will become light and infrequent later in the day.

In South-East England and parts of East Anglia and central-southern England it will become cloudy during the evening and there may be rain in places.

It will be rather cool generally.

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Some rain or showers at times, but also sunny periods. Temperatures near normal.

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

Socialist Labour League Public Meetings

SWINDON
Friday June 30, 8 p.m.
'The Locomotive'
Farringdon Road.
Make the Tory government resign

OXFORD
Wednesday July 5, 8 p.m.
Council Chamber
Oxford Town Hall
Speaker: G. Healy (SLL national secretary)