

MAUDLING— THE FACE OF TORYISM



Dangerous docks split taken to Tilbury

BY OUR OWN
REPORTERS

Lorry drivers yesterday picketed Tilbury and London's Royal docks in a bid to stop the dockers' 'blacking' campaign against haulage and container firms.

The move added a new knot to the tangle of conflicting interests which union officials and Communist Party stewards have allowed to develop around the dockers' fight for jobs.

There are fears that the drivers' picketing action could spread today.

A meeting of Transport and General Workers' Union drivers' stewards in London has been called tonight 'to determine what steps we will take to safeguard our livelihood and that of other members of our union'.

The sequence of events leading to the pickets started late on Tuesday night, when Tilbury dockers refused to handle a Hay's Transport lorry because of its connections with blacked storage depots at Dagenham.

Hay's Transport is a subsidiary of the £27m Proprietors of Hay's Wharf group.

Dockers have been picketing Dagenham Cold Storage and UK Cold Storage, both Hay's subsidiaries, because they say the company is employing men who are not registered dockers to pack containers.

As a result, more than 100 of the 180 workers at Dagenham Cold Storage are to be laid off on Friday because Ford Motor have transferred a key contract to the Midlands. Ten men at UK Cold Storage have also been given notice to leave on Friday.

So yesterday morning, about 30 drivers, worried about the

TURN TO p. 12

THE EXIT of Reginald Maudling, the deputy prime minister and Home Secretary, reveals once again for millions of workers the true face of Toryism.

His departure from the Cabinet, coinciding with the arrival of the Fraud squad to investigate the Poulson affair reinforces the case that the conditions are here to make the government resign.

After just over two years in office Heath and his crowd of merchant bankers, real estate tycoons and unit trust specialists, have entirely lost any mandate to govern.

DESPITE election promises to cut prices 'at a stroke', the cost of living is soaring daily.

DESPITE election promises to pay decent wages, the Tories have launched the most vicious attack on the working class and the trade unions through their Industrial Relations Act and its court. Indeed, today seven London dockers face contempt proceedings in the NIRC which could result in their being jailed.

DESPITE an election promise to seek the consent of the electorate before going into the Common Market, Heath had railroaded Britain into this jungle of monopolists.

DESPITE an election promise of better housing, the Tories have brought forward a Bill which will double council rents while families wanting to purchase homes are faced with the greed of the gazumpers.

On top of this infamous history, the Tories have deliberately increased unemployment to 1 million as part of their 'shake-out' in industry.

The sum total of these policies is that millions of working-class families have had their lives callously impoverished: husbands and teenagers forced onto the dole queue, housewives made to cut back on family foodstuffs, the educational, medical and dental services crippled by lack of state funds and thrown into the jaws of the private sector, thus preventing families from getting proper teaching and social services.

Have the Tories carried these policies through without opposition? No. Emphatically no. On innumerable occasions the working class has shown its determination to fight this government. At last year's TUC the membership voted overwhelmingly to oppose the Industrial Relations Act; the Labour Party rank and file voted overwhelmingly to fight against entry into Europe; the recent council elections gave a landslide victory of more than 1,000 seats to the Labour Party.

In the miners' strike, the railwaymen's ballot and now on the docks, the opposition to the Tories is as determined as ever.

Then how is it, you may ask, that the Tories are able to remain in office?

To explain this it is necessary to understand that a form of coalition politics is being practised between the Tories and the Labour Party and TUC leaderships.

Afraid of the growing militancy of their own members, Wilson and Feather are—without any mandate whatsoever—engaging

BY THE EDITOR

in flagrant collaboration with the government.

Some examples:

● When the House of Commons passed the Third Reading of the Common Market Bill last week it was again the votes (abstentions, to be more precise) of Labour MPs which gave Heath his majority. Throughout the months of debate on the Bill the Labourites in the Jenkins camp consistently provided Heath with the votes he needed for his Market legislation—and to remain in office!

● As the Tories have stepped up their military terror in Ulster, Wilson and his shadow cabinet have faithfully been there to give their blessing. They approved of internment and the concentration camps, they created no fuss over Bloody Sunday or torture and only two days ago Wilson again stepped in as the Tories' broker to stage talks with the Provisional IRA at a secret London hideaway.

● Now on the question of Maudling's

resignation the Labourites extend sympathy to the Tories' leading proponent of law and order (Maudling favours hanging). After Heath's announcement in the Commons, it was James Callaghan who was so appalled by the news that he asked Heath if it was really necessary!

Just as Wilson and the Labour Party came to the rescue of Macmillan in 1963 over Profumo, today they do everything to deodorize the Poulson affair.

● Just as enthusiastic about helping the government is Victor Feather. Since the miners' strike he has paddled down to No. 10 Downing Street and the CBI on more occasions than one can count. On Tuesday he and AUEW president Hugh Scanlon were the leading lights in rounds of talks with the Tory leader and heads of the CBI, the 'TUC' of big business.

The predominant feature of the Tories' crisis is the economic crisis. They can only resolve that by attacks on the working class and the trade union movement.

With this huge threat in the air, all efforts must be directed to the task of getting the Tories out. Implicit in this fight is to clear the reformist traitors out of the working-class movement itself.



workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY JULY 20, 1972 ● No 822 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

MAUDLING— THE FACE OF TORYISM



Dangerous docks split taken to Tilbury

BY OUR OWN
REPORTERS

Lorry drivers yesterday picketed Tilbury and London's Royal docks in a bid to stop the dockers' 'blacking' campaign against haulage and container firms.

The move added a new knot to the tangle of conflicting interests which union officials and Communist Party stewards have allowed to develop around the dockers' fight for jobs.

There are fears that the drivers' picketing action could spread today.

A meeting of Transport and General Workers' Union drivers' stewards in London has been called tonight 'to determine what steps we will take to safeguard our livelihood and that of other members of our union'.

The sequence of events leading to the pickets started late on Tuesday night, when Tilbury dockers refused to handle a Hay's Transport lorry because of its connections with blacked storage depots at Dagenham.

Hay's Transport is a subsidiary of the £27m Proprietors of Hay's Wharf group.

Dockers have been picketing Dagenham Cold Storage and UK Cold Storage, both Hay's subsidiaries, because they say the company is employing men who are not registered dockers to pack containers.

As a result, more than 100 of the 180 workers at Dagenham Cold Storage are to be laid off on Friday because Ford Motor have transferred a key contract to the Midlands. Ten men at UK Cold Storage have also been given notice to leave on Friday.

So yesterday morning, about 30 drivers, worried about the

TURN TO p. 12

THE EXIT of Reginald Maudling, the deputy prime minister and Home Secretary, reveals once again for millions of workers the true face of Toryism.

His departure from the Cabinet, coinciding with the arrival of the Fraud squad to investigate the Poulson affair reinforces the case that the conditions are here to make the government resign.

After just over two years in office Heath and his crowd of merchant bankers, real estate tycoons and unit trust specialists, have entirely lost any mandate to govern.

DESPITE election promises to cut prices 'at a stroke', the cost of living is soaring daily.

DESPITE election promises to pay decent wages, the Tories have launched the most vicious attack on the working class and the trade unions through their Industrial Relations Act and its court. Indeed, today seven London dockers face contempt proceedings in the NIRC which could result in their being jailed.

DESPITE an election promise to seek the consent of the electorate before going into the Common Market, Heath had railroaded Britain into this jungle of monopolists.

DESPITE an election promise of better housing, the Tories have brought forward a Bill which will double council rents while families wanting to purchase homes are faced with the greed of the gazumpers.

On top of this infamous history, the Tories have deliberately increased unemployment to 1 million as part of their 'shake-out' in industry.

The sum total of these policies is that millions of working-class families have had their lives callously impoverished: husbands and teenagers forced onto the dole queue, housewives made to cut back on family foodstuffs, the educational, medical and dental services crippled by lack of state funds and thrown into the jaws of the private sector, thus preventing families from getting proper teaching and social services.

Have the Tories carried these policies through without opposition? No. Emphatically no. On innumerable occasions the working class has shown its determination to fight this government. At last year's TUC the membership voted overwhelmingly to oppose the Industrial Relations Act; the Labour Party rank and file voted overwhelmingly to fight against entry into Europe; the recent council elections gave a landslide victory of more than 1,000 seats to the Labour Party.

In the miners' strike, the railwaymen's ballot and now on the docks, the opposition to the Tories is as determined as ever.

Then how is it, you may ask, that the Tories are able to remain in office?

To explain this it is necessary to understand that a form of coalition politics is being practised between the Tories and the Labour Party and TUC leaderships.

Afraid of the growing militancy of their own members, Wilson and Feather are—without any mandate whatsoever—engaging

BY THE EDITOR

in flagrant collaboration with the government.

Some examples:

● When the House of Commons passed the Third Reading of the Common Market Bill last week it was again the votes (abstentions, to be more precise) of Labour MPs which gave Heath his majority. Throughout the months of debate on the Bill the Labourites in the Jenkins camp consistently provided Heath with the votes he needed for his Market legislation—and to remain in office!

● As the Tories have stepped up their military terror in Ulster, Wilson and his shadow cabinet have faithfully been there to give their blessing. They approved of internment and the concentration camps, they created no fuss over Bloody Sunday or torture and only two days ago Wilson again stepped in as the Tories' broker to stage talks with the Provisional IRA at a secret London hideaway.

● Now on the question of Maudling's

resignation the Labourites extend sympathy to the Tories' leading proponent of law and order (Maudling favours hanging). After Heath's announcement in the Commons, it was James Callaghan who was so appalled by the news that he asked Heath if it was really necessary!

Just as Wilson and the Labour Party came to the rescue of Macmillan in 1963 over Profumo, today they do everything to deodorize the Poulson affair.

● Just as enthusiastic about helping the government is Victor Feather. Since the miners' strike he has paddled down to No. 10 Downing Street and the CBI on more occasions than one can count. On Tuesday he and AUEW president Hugh Scanlon were the leading lights in rounds of talks with the Tory leader and heads of the CBI, the 'TUC' of big business.

The predominant feature of the Tories' crisis is the economic crisis. They can only resolve that by attacks on the working class and the trade union movement.

With this huge threat in the air, all efforts must be directed to the task of getting the Tories out. Implicit in this fight is to clear the reformist traitors out of the working-class movement itself.



Meany breaks with McGovern

GEORGE MEANY, president of the AFL-CIO, was expected to urge his executive yesterday not to endorse Senator George McGovern, Democratic candidate in the November presidential election.

With over 10 million members, the AFL-CIO is by far the most powerful United States trade union organization. At the recent Democratic convention in Miami, Meany came out strongly against McGovern, who has a record of opposition to the trade unions.

The division between McGovern and the trade union chiefs has already been demonstrated by the Teamsters' Union executive decision to endorse Nixon for another term as president.

Traditionally, the union bureaucracy in the US has supported the Democratic Party and the break-up of this relationship poses forcibly the question of building an independent Labour Party based on the trade unions.

Meany, an extreme right-winger, has fought all his life against any such development.

But there is growing pressure from below for a break with both big business parties.

McGovern has tried to win back union support for his campaign by picking labour lawyer Thomas Eagleton as his running-mate. He has also written to 150 trade union presidents proposing talks 'about our common interests and . . . any differences we may have'.

Mitterand's brother promoted

THE FRENCH government yesterday named General Jacques Mitterand, brother of Socialist Party leader Francois Mitterand, to the second highest post in France's air force.

General Mitterand (54), was appointed Inspector-General of the Air Force. He previously headed France's nuclear strike force, whose development his brother has pledged to freeze under the terms of the Socialist Party's government pact with the Communist Party.

JAPANESE premier Kakuei Tanaka indicated yesterday that Japan's relations with Formosa remain the chief problem to be solved before the establishment of diplomatic relations with China. In his first formal press conference since his election as premier on July 5, Tanaka avoided clear-cut statements on China. There had been speculation that he might announce a plan to visit Peking for diplomatic talks, following a reported invitation from Chinese premier Chou En-lai earlier this week.

CORRECTION

IN THE centre pages of yesterday's Workers Press we correctly reported that a Mr Peter Walker, Tory councillor on Bradford council, was northern area manager of one of Mr John Poulson's companies. Inadvertently, however, a photograph appeared on the same page of Mr Peter Walker, the Environment Secretary, with a caption stating that he was the 'Mr Peter Walker' on Poulson's board. This, of course, is incorrect.



WHO, ME ?

Hollow hope for cash reform

BY PETER JEFFRIES

DESPITE THE bland communiqué issued from the Group of Ten Finance Ministers' meeting which ended in London on Tuesday, in reality nothing was either solved or decided.

The meeting had been called so that Europe's finance ministers could discuss proposals for the 'reform' of the international money system. It had been hoped that some concrete proposals could be put to the Common Market summit which was originally scheduled for October.

But as the Lancaster House conference was winding up, there was considerable speculation that the summit will not take place. The political crisis which now grips nearly every European government—including West Germany, Italy, Holland, France and Britain—now makes the working out of a joint policy against the Americans virtually impossible.

The big question that remained unresolved was the role of gold in any 'reformed' system. When Anthony Barber, the conference chairman, asked if there were any views on the subject, he was met with a complete and embarrassed silence.

Gold remains the basis of capitalism's money system whatever the 'experts' continue to say. It was for this reason that the discussion about the role of Special Drawing Rights in a new system were also abortive.

The idea is that the International Monetary Fund should enlarge the issue of SDRs, which could then be used to soak up the vast pool of footloose dollars in Europe. But there could be no agreement about the relationship of SDRs to gold or the rate at which they should exchange against gold.

In fact there can be no 'reform' of the 1944 Bretton Woods arrangements. When Nixon broke the dollar-gold link on August 15 last year, Bretton Woods was dead for all time. The 'stabilization' of the world money system now means the forcible destruction of value on an enormous scale which takes the form of the excess dollar holdings throughout Europe.

Every minister knows the source of the European money crisis. It consists of the \$40,000m in the Eurodollar market. These are the result of vast American capital exports and previous balance of payments deficits.

Everyone also knows that these dollars are now enormously overvalued as against gold. While the 'official' gold price established by the Americans, is \$38 an ounce, its 'free' market price stands at over \$65.

In these conditions, speculation against the dollar must continue, with the Dutch and West Germans in particular forced to increase their dollar holding if they are to maintain the present value of the guildler and mark.

In other words, the Americans are determined to force a dollar devaluation against Europe which would give them great advantage in the developing trade war, as well as force up the price of all imports into the rich US market on which every large Common Market country relies for survival.

Nobody therefore, will take seriously Barber's end-of-conference statement that the Group of Ten ministers were determined to hold existing rates, whatever the speculators did.

The hollowness of this declaration was revealed in the statement of ex-West German Economics and Finance Minister Karl Schiller who said on Tuesday that a few weeks ago 'France appeared to be ready to accept a joint floating of all European currencies'.

The very best they can hope for is a short period until the autumn before they are driven to 'float' their currency.

The Europeans have been left in considerable disarray. Only the most desperate and reactionary policies by the Common Market leaders can give them even a temporary hope for survival against America.

FOREIGN NEWS

First 3 sentenced in Prague

THREE Czechoslovak liberals were given sentences yesterday ranging up to 28 months' imprisonment on charges of subversion, an official courtroom source said in Prague.

Mr Vondra, a former employee of Czechoslovak Radio, was sentenced to 28 months in jail, Dr Krisanovsky, a sociologist and former professor at the Prague Communist Party School, was given a suspended sentence of 18 months, and Mr Belda, a historian, was given a suspended sentence of 12 months.

The trial was the first to finish of a series of three which began at the Prague city courts on Monday. Ten other supporters of the Liberal former Communist Party leader Alexandr Dubcek were still being tried in two separate groups.

The sources could give no other details of the identities of the convicted men. The trial which has just ended has not been mentioned in the official Czechoslovak press, and western reporters were not allowed into the courtroom.

Fierce resistance at Quang Tri

NORTH Vietnamese units in deep bunkers impervious to bomb attacks are fiercely resisting the attempts of Saigon troops to take the Quang Tri citadel.

The offensive against the city has now been going on since May 1, involving at least 20,000 of the south's best troops and continuous US bombing.

Saigon claims that a North Vietnamese counter-attack was beaten back on Tuesday after a day of heavy fighting.

Hue, 30 miles to the south, was hit by North Vietnamese artillery.

Further south, Hanoi claimed, liberation forces had killed or captured 20,000 enemy troops in the last 100 days' fighting around Highway 13.

The sustained offensive is having a crippling effect on South Vietnam's economy which has only been kept going for the past ten years by American handouts and military spending.

There was a mushroom growth of every

kind of business and speculation and an appearance of prosperity which was belied by the real state of the economy.

Since the offensive began there has been a sharp recession. Trade is paralysed and many firms have collapsed.

Corruption and banditry are rife. One South Vietnamese economist has said: 'We are witnessing something similar to what was seen in the army of Chiang Kai-shek in the last stages of the Chinese revolution.' An

ominous remark.

With the Saigon regime facing collapse, Hanoi is confident.

'The general situation of the Vietnamese war of resistance is better than ever before', claims a recent broadcast.

'But we have to overcome many challenges and obstacles before attaining final victory.'

The Americans should give a positive response to peace proposals, the broadcast said, by scrapping Vietnamization and quitting the country.

Sakharov attacks bureaucracy

A LEADING representative of the 'liberal' opposition in the Soviet Union, the physicist, Andrei Sakharov, sent a letter to Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev last month calling for sweeping reforms.

He attacks what he calls 'our bureaucratic system, with its totalitarian state interference in people's lives' and says that 'Soviet society is infected with apathy, hypocrisy, narrow-minded egoism and

hidden cruelty.

'The majority of the representatives of its upper layer—the Party-State apparatus of government and the most successful sections of the intelligentsia—are hanging on tightly to their visible and secret privileges and are profoundly indifferent to breaches of civil rights, the interests of progress or the security and future of mankind.'

He denounces drunkenness—about which the bureaucracy has become increasingly con-

cerned of late—as a sign of moral degradation.

He calls for an end to political persecution and the continued confinement of oppositionists like General Grigorenko, Gershuni, Fainberg, Borisov and others in psychiatric hospitals.

He claims that 40 per cent of the national income goes on military expenditure while medical and educational services are in a 'pitiful state'.

They suffer from what

he calls 'the hierarchical class structure of our society with its system of privileges'.

Sakharov, whose position as a leading scientist who helped develop the hydrogen bomb gives him a certain immunity, no doubt represents an important section of the Soviet intelligentsia.

Cut off from the working class, it fears their incursion onto the scene, but realizes that the rule of the bureaucracy is preparing the way for revolution.

Some of the pickets at the John Laing, Gloucester Road, hotel site stick posters up on the hoardings. London strikers meet this afternoon to hear a report from their action committee. Many are likely to demand national action

THE BUILDERS' BATTLE

As pay talks open in London

LONDON BUILDING workers yesterday voiced bitter criticism of the selective strike strategy. At the same time union leaders and national building employers were discussing the wage claim.

After four weeks of strike action for the national claim of £30 for a 35-hour week, only 15,000 building workers have been called out on 220 sites all over Britain.

That means that the vast majority of the industry's 300,000 organized trade unionists are still on site completing construction work for firms like Laing while fellow workers on other Laing sites are on strike.

As yet there has been no contact between unions and employers since the strike began. But yesterday the wages question was on the agenda for discussion at the quarterly meeting of the building national joint council.

It was thought that the opportunity would be taken to make some moves towards a settlement, although on what terms was not clear.

No more sites were called out in London this week. And those men on the 18 sites already out in the capital are concerned about the position.

They feel that if a decision is taken today by the action committee not to call more London sites out next week, it will lead to bitter disappointment and anger.

The leadership of the Union of Construction and Allied Trades Technicians (UCATT) and the T&GWU—fully supported by the Communist Party and its building workers 'Charter' group—say the unions are not in a strong enough position to call everyone out. Such a move would lead to disaster, they say.



John Fleming, picket at the John Laing Gloucester Road hotel site

But while the union leaderships and the Stalinists show no confidence in the rank and file and only concentrate on supposed weaknesses, the men on the picket lines feel that the strike has reached a crucial stage and that all-out action is urgently needed.

'At the moment we don't know how anything is going,' John Fleming, a picket at the John Laing hotel site in Gloucester Road, told me yesterday.



Leicester men began strike a week early

BUILDING workers on Leicester's large Taylor Woodrow Haymarket site have now been on strike for over a week in support of the builders' national pay claim.

The men, who were due to come out on Monday, started their strike almost a week early because management tried to move labour from the Nottingham Victoria Station site—where the men have been on strike—to Leicester, under the mobility of labour scheme.

Anger mounted on the picket line on Tuesday as a privately-owned lorry carrying bricks crossed the picket line and was unloaded by seven or eight staff members, including clerks.

The men fear that once the bricks are on the site, sub-contract brickies will be invited by management to continue building the £34m complex, due to open in November this year.

Site convenor Brian Walker felt that by affecting the super profits of the property dealers building workers would soon be in the same line of fire as the dockers.

'Selective strikes' action slammed

'We should all be out on every job and not let anyone inside any gate until the strike is won.

'I am for a total stoppage. It is not the affording part of it we have to worry about. The men themselves will have to put up with it.

'These building employers are the worst type to deal with. Nothing will be done if you don't put your guts into this fight. There's definitely more feeling now for a total stoppage.'

Mr Fleming said that the building unions were poorly organized in comparison to the engineers, railwaymen, miners and dockers.

'This can only be changed with good solid leadership—when there are men up there who are not afraid to stand up and speak out to the men. At the moment they are too timid,' he told me.

'Our demand is a reasonable one for the times we're living in, where the Tories want to treat us like serfs.'

Strike committee member Ossie Kelly said the strike was a crucial one, even though it had come ten years too late in his opinion.

'We have to call every man out and not give up the fight. For if we do the employers will never talk to us again.'

At the McAlpine hotel site down the road from Laing's hotel, the pickets were again overwhelmingly in favour of a national strike.

'We can't afford to lose this one,' one said. 'It would be far better if the whole lot were off on every site. Men have left this site and taken jobs elsewhere which is laughable.'

The same picket answered in the best way union leaders' claims that a national strike was impossible because of poor organization.

'We have closed down jobs where there are hardly any trade union men at all,' he told me. 'The union should have prepared the strike 12 months ago and called everyone out.'

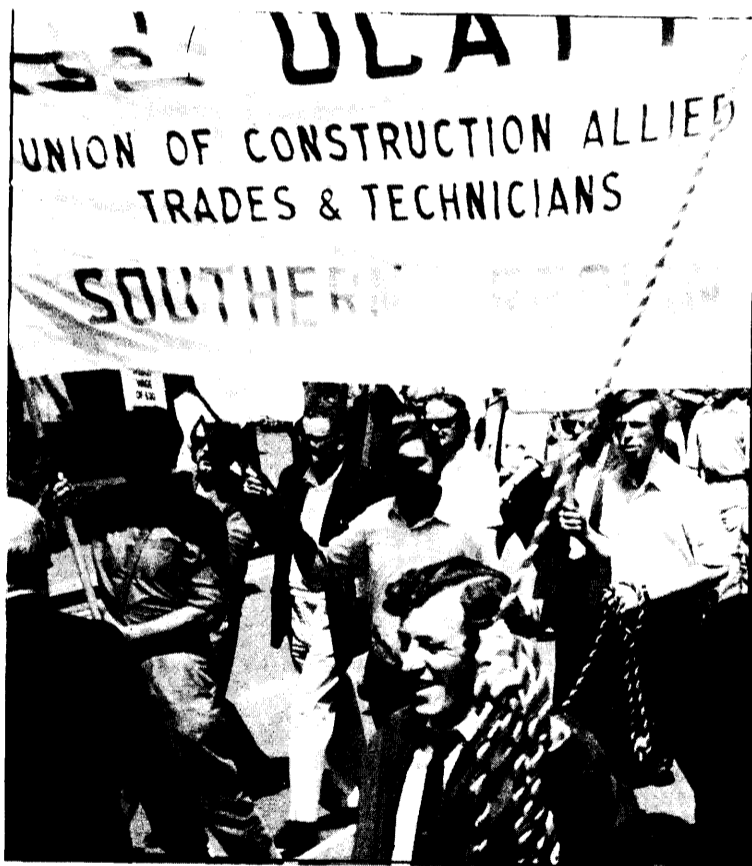
When London strikers meet this afternoon to hear a report from the action committee I was told that many would raise the demand for a national strike.

IN EASTLEIGH, Hampshire, building workers picketing the new Ford assembly plant have angrily denounced claims made in Southampton by Robert Whittington, a local magistrate and chairman of the wages and conditions committee of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers.

He said: 'The great majority of building trade workers would be happy to accept the offer that has been made.' He also said that if the claim was met in full the average price of a house would go up by £700.

The UCATT and T&GWU pickets at the Tarmac site hit back at Whittington. A UCATT steward told Workers Press that not only did the union men support the strike, but so did many non-unionists, many applying to join the unions.

There is obvious feeling for a national stoppage among building workers in the southern region. This was made clear by UCATT regional secretary Gerry Woolven who said last week that the attitude of men was a national strike should be called to win the claim if necessary.



Southampton building workers on a recent demonstration in support of their demands



PAPERBACKS CENTRE

28 Charlotte St
London W1



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

BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS

NOW MORE PRODUCTIVITY IN PITS

BY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT, DAVID MAUDE

In little more than a month's time, according to the terms of the Wilberforce report published in February, miners' union leaders are supposed to agree with the National Coal Board a new productivity deal for the industry.

There was no sign of frenzied activity towards such a deal as staff at the National Union of Mineworkers' headquarters sweltered in unaccustomed sunshine and all too familiar exhaust fumes from Euston Road, London, this week.

The NUM has drafted proposals for discussion by the pits unions' negotiating team and this discussion is expected to take place soon. 'Apart from that there's nothing moving', a perspiring spokesman said.

No sudden developments were expected, either, by the NCB, whose public-relations department described the subject as 'under continuing review'.

But if the Wilberforce timetable is to be kept to, talks of one kind or another are certain to take place between the unions and the board before mid-August.

And a statement from the board last weekend, that the NUM's new pay claim would increase its wage bill by 70 per cent, was clearly made with some propaganda purpose in mind. The most likely aim would seem to be to establish the need for rapid productivity concessions from the miners.

Lord Wilberforce and his inquiry team wanted a productivity scheme which would provide for miners' pay to 'reflect increases in productivity'.

While avoiding the 'disadvantages' (read horrors) of the old individual piecework system in the pits and being agreed nationally the scheme 'could be based on increases in productivity nationally or by individual pits or by a combination of the two'.

Since the early hours of February 19, 1972 when the miners' leaders accepted the Wilberforce findings after a dramatic Downing Street confrontation with Tory premier Heath preparations have been going ahead for the forthcoming deal.

A joint working-party was set up in March between the pits unions and the National Coal Board.

It is in this forum that the now-completed NUM proposals, if approved by negotiators for the other, much smaller unions in the industry, are most likely to be discussed.

With output soaring but demand falling off, productivity was a subject very much in delegates' minds at the NUM conference earlier this month.

The 'flexible' pay policy

decided there (the description is NUM general secretary Lawrence Daly's) further smoothed the path towards a September productivity deal. Broadly speaking, the conference decisions mean:

- The NUM national executive will set its sights on new minimum wages of £30 on the surface, £32 underground and £40 on the surface (rises of £5.50-£7 a week). These figures are desirable targets rather than firm demands. In the event of an 'unsatisfactory' offer the executive will consult the members with a view to taking various forms of industrial action.

- Included in the negotiations will be a claim for a so-called 'threshold' agreement, to take account of rises in the cost of living.

- The executive has also been charged with ensuring that union members benefit from increases in productivity.

- Further instructions to the executive are that it submit an immediate claim for a 7½-hour cut in the working week underground, with appropriate reductions in surface workers' hours, and seek improved shift pay and service increments.

NUM secretary Daly told the conference that he and the executive had strong reservations about the call for a threshold agreement.

In pay terms alone the union's demand is for rises of 30 per cent, and it is doubtful if the militants who proposed the resolution envisage a threshold clause reducing this percentage. The rank and file will certainly interpret it as a claim for something extra on top (the NCB says the whole package could cost £350m).

Daly and his executive, however, apparently had no similar reservations about the productivity aspect of their conference's decisions.

This is disturbing, since Britain's miners have paid a particularly high price in terms of jobs for the prodigious increase in individual productivity in their industry. It would be a bitter pill indeed if the NUM leaders were allowed to follow up the miners' recent pay achievements by participating in further job-cuts.

Leadership's post-war policies

Since coal was nationalized in 1947 the labour force in the pits has dropped from 703,000 to something over 280,000.

Output per manshift (OMS) has meanwhile risen from 21.5 cwt to 46.5 cwt. The number of collieries has fallen from 958 to under 290. Over the ten years to October 1970 the miner fell from third to 12th rank in the national pay league.

The NUM's own evidence to



Lawrence Daly, NUM general secretary, Joe Gormley, president and Sid Scofield, Yorkshire area president NUM, examine the results of the miners' ballot which accepted the Wilberforce proposals in February this year.

the Wilberforce inquiry itself provided a powerful indictment of its leadership's post-war policies.

OMS at the coal-face, it said, has been rising at an average pace of 5 per cent a year since 1962—far faster than the productivity increase in manufacturing industry.

This rate of increase had been even faster in recent years. From 1967-1968 to 1970-1971, OMS on newly-mechanized faces rose by an average of 6 per cent a year.

Proceeds to the NCB from selling the coal thus produced had also increased, the NUM evidence went on.

In 1967-1968 proceeds per ton were £4.93, in 1970-1971 £5.84. For each manshift on mechanized faces over the same period proceeds increased by 41 per cent (overall the rise was 35 per cent).

The union further estimated that on the basis of coal-price increases at the end of the 1970-1971 financial year and further probable increases in 1971-1972 the overall increase in proceeds per manshift over the last four years works out 55-60 per cent.

Miners' real earnings over this same four-year period had actually fallen by 5 per cent, however. This decline had hit the faceworker particularly hard.

The union's evidence on productivity also made one further, possibly even more telling point.

In the financial year 1970-1971, it said, 'coal mining claimed the lives of 92 miners and 598 others received serious reportable injuries'. The number of new cases of disease, excluding the dust-disease pneumoconiosis, totalled 3,153. Pneumoconiosis claimed 773 new victims.

The union drew attention to a comment on this last, horrible killer from HM Chief Inspector of Mines and Quarries, in his report for 1969 and 1970:

'... there is little comfort to be drawn from the figures of recent years and it is apparent that widespread mechanization has slowed down the decline in pneumoconiosis.

'Dust-suppression measures have not kept pace with production techniques and if the risk of an increase in the prevalence of pneumoconiosis is to be reduced in years to come a determined effort is now necessary to restore the balance in favour of dust suppression.'

This, then, is just part of the price the NUM itself says its members have paid for rising productivity in the pits.

Wilberforce by and large had to accept these arguments in granting the miners increases of £4.50-£6, but there was a hefty sting in the tail of his lordship's report.

The Wilberforce philosophy

It was only by even more improvements in productivity that further increases in real wages could be obtained, he and his colleagues said. The trend of rising OMS would need to continue.

In accepting Wilberforce the NUM executive accepted this philosophy.

According to its report to conference, the executive, while committed since 1964 to getting rid of individual piecework, has 'always been alive to the prospect of some incentive scheme which would have national application'.

How this fits in with Lawrence Daly's claim, during his coal-industry report, that the union was showing the way to the rest of the trade union movement in introducing 'a truly just and socialist wages policy' is not clear.

But Joe Gormley, the NUM's right-wing president, was outspoken about the position of the still-powerful right wing on the 27-man executive.

There was some 'repair work' to be done in the industry, he said. Supplies of coal had to be as far as possible guaranteed to the customer. Ways had to be found to increase productivity from the very expensive and technically-advanced machines

which had been installed in the pits.

Echoing Wilberforce, Gormley added, a scheme had to be devised which would provide periodic bonuses as productivity rose.

The meat of the NUM president's main speech to the conference dealt with how miners could be brought in line with the production requirements of the NCB and its big capitalist customers.

Many workers in the industry were already involved in double, triple and even multiple shift working, he said.

It was inevitable that the Coal Board would want to extend such practices to get the maximum benefit from mechanization. 'We must find ways of encouraging the men to accept this fact.'

As one who experienced a lot of shift work during his years as an active miner, Gormley said, he knew the effect on a man's system of working afternoons, nights and alternating shift-patterns.

But this knowledge did not prevent him unblushingly presenting a plan for encouraging men to accept precisely this unhealthy and anti-social way of life. This was that miners recognized as double-shift workers should get a negotiated percentage above the ordinary basic rate, with those recognized as triple and multiple shift men getting higher percentages.

'These and many other ideas... could be utilized to increase the real value of wages instead of having to rely on an annual confrontation,' he said.

It was with policies almost exactly the same as these that the right wing-Stalinist axis of former NUM president Sir Sidney Ford and ex-secretary Will Paynter, who left the Communist Party for the Commission on Industrial Relations, held back the miners' struggle against pit closures.

Today new voices speak similar words. Miners cannot afford to let them have the same results.

KEEPING FRENCH TV ON GAULLIST PATH

BY JOHN SPENCER

President Pompidou and his new premier Pierre Messmer have just 'resolved' the scandal which blew up two months ago in the state-run radio and television service.

In place of Pierre de Leusse, the former president of the TV and radio chain, ORTF, and director-general Jean-Jacques de Bressin, they have put their own nominee, Arthur Conte.

The new man becomes president-director-general, filling the posts left vacant by his two predecessors.

They resigned on May 13 after the press had revealed ORTF staff were taking bribes from manufacturers to display their products on television programmes.

The ORTF has long been little more than a propaganda agency for Gaullism. Opposition politicians protest bitterly that its political coverage is completely one-sided.

During the May-June General Strike of 1968 the ORTF was occupied by the police after its staff had joined the strike. One popular street poster said: 'The ORTF brings the police into your front room.'

After the return to work the service was heavily purged—practically all the producers and other staff who had anything to do with the strike were replaced by servile Gaullists.

This accounts for the abysmal quality of the present service, which is far more trivial even than the BBC or ITV.

It also explains the extensive corruption which was revealed by the inquest into the press allegations.

With their new appointee, Pompidou and Messmer have made sure the viewers and listeners will get the mixture as before—with even more virulent propaganda than at present.

For this purpose the appointment of Conte is ideal. A 52-year-old former journalist who was interned by the Nazis during the war as a member of the French Socialist Party, he now sits in the National Assembly as a representative of the ruling UDR.

Significantly, his conversion to Gaullism is of recent date. It took place simultaneously with the mass demonstrations of May 1968, which he vehemently condemned as 'inadmissibly packed with foreigners'.

In fact, Conte claims he still isn't a Gaullist. When he stood for the first time as a UDR candidate in June 1968, he said the old quarrels were a

thing of the past.

But he added: 'I am not a Gaullist and I have not promised anything. I am only an anti-communist.'

He can say that again. In 1963, three years after a short spell as a Socialist Party cabinet minister, Conte quit the party.

'I disagree most profoundly



MOVE: 'the police speak to you every evening at 8 o'clock'—a poster from 1968

with the tactic of forming an alliance with the communists which has been pursued by the leaders of the Socialist Party,' he said.

His chagrin was doubtless increased by the fact that six months previously the local Communist Party candidate had beaten him in the parliamentary election.

Conte's claim to a socialist past need not be taken too seriously. He was a partisan of 'Algerie Française' during the 1950s and attacked de Gaulle for 'betraying' the French Colonial settlers.

He attacked the General as heading 'the group of men who have made use of the confidence of the settlers only to lift themselves into office'.

Conte's new post is giving rise to lively misgivings among the liberal French press. 'Le Monde' commented:

'People will find it hard to believe that the nomination of a UDR MP to head the broadcasting authority is the best way to preserve its independence only months from the legislative elections.'

'In preparation for these elections M. Pompidou has just established a government which is clearly intended . . . for combat.'

'The fear will be, in these conditions, that the appointment of the new chief of the service will tend to put an unequalled battery of means of information and thus of indoctrination at the disposal of the government for the coming battle.'



Top: President Pompidou. Above: new French premier, Pierre Messmer.

BALLY HOO FROM MIAMI

Hundreds of young delegates who arrived in Miami Beach last week for the Democratic Party national convention soon discovered that the so-called party of the people is in fact designed for the very rich.

Many were attending their first convention and were appalled to find that the bill for a cheap week in Miami runs at something like \$450. When they complained about the prices they were told by the arrogant organizers that they should not complain because they were not on holiday.

Some stayed in cheap hotels—often four to a room—and ate ham sandwiches. Others were forced to camp out in Flamingo Park alongside the Yippy protesters.

Catherine Jermany, a McGovern delegate quoted in the 'New York Times', said: 'I don't have any money left, but I have some food stamps [luncheon vouchers]. Only trouble is I can't find any restaurants that will accept food stamps.'

Her delegation, from California, had been assigned to the plush Doral County Club on the mainland about 15 miles from Miami Beach. The cost for a single room there begins at \$30 a day, wildly beyond anything she could afford.

Another McGovern delegate, John Howard (19), who works in a Milwaukee car warehouse, arrived in Miami with a sleeping bag and '\$50 in case'. He had to sleep on the beach.



George McGovern

The youth who came to Miami found themselves faced with 3,000 National Guardsmen, backed up by 2,000 Federal troops, 3,000 members of the 82nd Airborne Brigade and the rest of the local and county police.

At the convention, the young delegates found that the much-vaunted 'new style' of the Democratic Party differed little from the old unregenerate style. They were there simply to endorse McGovern's candidature and watch him renege on the last vestiges of his 'radical' programme.

One youth angrily pointed out that in a campaign that fed upon the involvement of youth and minorities there was no floor manager who was black and not one under 30. The Democratic Party, despite McGovern's cosmetic attempts, remains the second party of big business in the United States.

It cannot be reformed, but can be fought only by the building of a Labour Party based on the trade unions, which alone offers the road forward for the disaffected youth and the poor.

BLUEPRINT FOR A NEW POPULAR FRONT

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

The common programme drawn up by the French Communist and Socialist Parties to fight the forthcoming National Assembly elections recalls the worst features of the pre-war 'Popular Front'.

It is aimed at deceiving the working class with left-sounding phrases while guaranteeing big business a continuation of its power.

Both parties long ago ceased even to pay lip-service to revolutionary struggle. In the great General Strike of May-June 1968 they proved definitely and not for the first time that they stand for the capitalist order.

Since that time the leaders of both organizations have devoted their efforts to holding back the workers' struggle, diverting it into sectional strikes for minimal reformist demands.

Their policies ensured the continuation of the crisis-ridden Bonapartist regime of the Fifth Republic. As we shall see, this is also the aim of their programme.

In particular, the programme guarantees continued French membership of the Common Market, which is now accepted definitely for the first time by the French Stalinists.

Their acceptance of this policy follows the remarks made by Kremlin leader Leonid Brezhnev in March this year, when he said the USSR was prepared to 'recognize the reality' of the Common Market.

The French CP has not taken long to fall into line.

Equally, the programme does not call for France to leave the Atlantic Alliance (NATO), except as part of a simultaneous dissolution of the Warsaw and Atlantic Pacts resulting from a European Security Conference.

Meanwhile it will strive for a policy of independence of all military blocs 'while respecting the present alliances of France'.

The programme has been greeted with some enthusiasm by certain sections of workers — particularly in industries dominated by the Stalinist-led CGT.

These workers see the programme as a step towards overcoming the long-standing divisions in the French working class where the Socialist



Right: at talks on the common programme Georges Marchais (foreground), Communist Party Chief and Francois Mitterand of the Socialist Party (right). Above: Marchais

and Communist Parties have long vied for influence.

In fact, however, the programme is a bureaucratic pact which can only serve to dupe and disorient sections of workers.

It reflects the crisis of the bureaucratic leaders of the French workers' movement, whose position is in danger of being undermined by militancy at the base.

The Communist Party is particularly loud in its self-congratulation, while at pains to assure the middle class that nothing fundamental will be changed by the programme.

This, for example, is what 'L'Humanité', the Party paper, had to say about the nationalization proposals a week after the common programme was published:

'Some people say [we are proposing] "an avalanche of nationalizations". Others say "It's too little".

'In fact, the whole of what is proposed in the common programme represents as far as industrial nationalizations are concerned:

- A good deal less than 1 per cent of French businesses.
- About 800,000 workers.
- 80,000-90,000m francs-worth of shares.
- 12,000-14,000m francs-worth of investments.

... These general figures indicate on the one hand that the new public sector defined by the common programme still only represents a small part of the productive activity of the nation (a large private sector will remain in existence) and on the other hand that this part gives mastery over industrial investment...



In other words, shareholders need not get too het up about what the CP calls 'a modern means of democratic economic policy'.

In any case, the programme assures them that 'a fair solution' will be found to compensate shareholders in the firms due for nationalization.

This recalls to the letter the rhetoric about the commanding heights of the economy served out by the Labour Party leadership in such copious quantities.

And the same reformist line is to be found when the programme discusses the establishment of a minimum wage and the 40-hour week, under the heading 'Live better. Change life'.

This talks in terms of establishing a 1,000-franc minimum monthly wage — not a princely sum in present-day France — and a statutory 40-hour week.

NOTHING IN PROMISES

It speaks of holding down prices as 'a permanent objective', though it nowhere spells out how this desirable aim is to be achieved.

Naturally, it makes no mention of the effects of international recession on the French economy, which is expected to go on 'developing' into the indefinite future.

Yet this crisis alone makes

nonsense of the promise to treat as a top priority the ending of unemployment and chronic under-employment, especially for women and young people.

This aim, the programme says, 'will be attained thanks to the new policy of restructuring and developing the economy, to the new investment which will be involved, the reduction in the working day, the increased facilities for training and the rise in wages'.

Similar promises are made for the social service, the health service, housing, youth, sport, education and culture.

The second part of the programme deals with 'democratization' of the economy, nationalization and so-called 'democratic planning'.

The section dealing with democracy in the factories is thoroughly corporatist in spirit. It envisages the creation of what it calls 'a new right to work' — taking responsibility for sackings out of the hands of the employer and placing it under the control of a factory committee, which must be consulted before any measures are taken affecting the workers.

This sounds very 'left', but in practice it means that the workers' shop stewards will be drawn willy-nilly into sanctioning the actions of the employer against their members.

It has nothing in common with genuine workers' control, which cannot exist without the complete expropriation of the employers.



Leonid Brezhnev: USSR is prepared to 'recognize the reality' of the Common Market

It is a trap to ensnare the workers and divert them from the struggle for power.

The same goes for the proposal envisaging 'democratic planning', in which the programme says workers will be involved 'at all levels'.

The proposal is for workers' organizations to take part in 'planning' French capitalism alongside their employers under the threadbare guise of 'democracy'.

The primary aim of the common programme's industrial policy is to 'guarantee national independence' and bring production in line with 'social and national needs'.

'National interest', not that of the working class, is very definitely priority number one.

The programme lays particular stress on the defence of the franc. It says: 'The support of the people is the first condition for defending the currency against speculation, adding that the government 'will seek economic and monetary co-operation agreements to defend the franc, notably with the member states of the EEC'.

The fate of the last EEC monetary co-operation agreement, signed in May and shattered in June by the sterling float, is tactfully not mentioned in this document.

The section dealing with the Common Market is worth quoting at length, especially for the benefit of the British Stalinists, who continue to maintain verbal opposition to

this monopolists' club.

'The government,' the programme says, 'will have a double aim in regard to the EEC:

'On the one hand, to participate in building the EEC, in its institutions and in its common policies with the aim of working towards freeing it from the domination of big capital, democratizing its institutions, supporting the demands of the workers and orienting the community decisions towards their interests.

'On the other hand, to preserve inside the Common Market its freedom of action to put into effect its political, economic and social programme.'

OPPOSITION DROPPED

In order to 'free' the EEC from the domination of big capital, the CP and the SP propose... 'a fairer representation of workers on the social and economic committee' of the Market.

This radical step is hardly likely to send many shivers down the spines of the Brussels officials who run the EEC on behalf of the big steel, chemicals and car combines.

But what is even more significant is that the programme marks the dropping by the Stalinists of the last vestiges of their opposition to the Common Market.

It is a guarantee to French big business that a future 'popular front' government will be no threat to their reactionary plans directed against the European workers.

They even get a guarantee that the trade union bureaucracy will participate in these plans.

Equally, the two parties have no intention of winding up the standing army. Far from it. The programme calls for renunciation of the absurd Gaullist nuclear striking force, the cessation of nuclear testing and the adherence to international disarmament treaties.

But it adds that the government 'will define a military strategy allowing it to confront any aggressor whoever it may be'.

This differs not a whit from the Gaullist slogan *tous azimuts*, which has been the basis of French military strategy for the last decade.

According to the manifesto, the army will not be required to carry out any mission to maintain order at home or to carry out 'any intervention abroad of a colonialist or imperialist character'.

On this basis it is hard to see what purpose it will serve. But it is certainly not going to be abandoned. Nor is conscription: though the programme promises that this will be cut to six months from the existing 12 months' national service.

It adds cynically: 'The government will count on the un-

failing loyalty of the officers and NCOs.'

It also intends to count pretty heavily on the loyalty of the hated police force.

According to the authors of this manifesto, the present government is turning the police away from their republican role as auxiliaries of justice and using them for repression.

This is creating trouble even among the police themselves, the manifesto claims.

Under the new regime, however, the police like everything else, will be 'democratized'. Thus, the programme says: 'As a public service watching over the exercise of liberty and assuring the security of individuals, the police will once again gain the respect of the citizens.'

Finally, it is worth noting that though the manifesto talks in terms of limiting presidential power, it nowhere mentions the overthrow of the Fifth Republic.

Certain constitutional changes to increase the power of the National Assembly at the president's expense are the most that is envisaged along these lines.

This common programme is one of the most reactionary agreements ever drawn up by two influential workers' parties. It is a blueprint for a government ten times more treacherous than the pre-war 'popular front'.

LET THE RECORD SPEAK

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE AND THE DOCKERS STRUGGLE

By David Maude
Part one

Within weeks of the Labour election victory in October 1964, Ray Gunter, Wilson's right-wing appointee at the Ministry of Labour, had announced the setting up of a committee of inquiry into the docks industry.

Its first task was to examine a pay dispute which had dragged on since April, when T&GWU leaders submitted a claim for a substantial increase in the then £9 9s basic rate.

But there was a second, more far-reaching job Lord Devlin and his inquiry team had to do.

Since June 1961, the port employers had been lobbying for the decasualization of dockers under conditions which would allow the destruction of job-security under the Dock Labour Scheme, a tightening-up of discipline and, thus, rapid and highly-profitable mechanization. Now they wanted the new government to implement it.

Acceptance of Devlin's 19s 2d award, by a T&GWU delegate conference meeting in a mood of post-election euphoria in mid-November, cleared the way for the second task.

'The Newsletter' then a weekly organ of the Socialist Labour League had this to say about Devlin's dual role:

'The Labour government, faced as they are by a serious economic crisis, are desperately trying to avoid a dock strike. . . .

'But the port employers have never treated the wage claim as something separate from their plans for reorganizing the whole docks industry. At every stage of negotiation they have tried to bargain an increase of wages for changes in the working of the Dock Labour Scheme.

'It is now quite clear that the port employers are determined to press forward with their plans for the "decasualization" of the industry. This is what is behind the appointment of Lord Devlin.'

This warning contrasted sharply with the attitude of the Communist Party, which welcomed the inquiry, and the equivocation of the revisionist International Socialism group.

The story of how 30,000 dockers' jobs have been lost in the last ten years is one in which all the tendencies so far mentioned — from the reformist bureaucracy of the T&GWU to IS—played a role.

If today dockers face the most serious crisis in their recent history, these roles must be studied. To do otherwise would be like entering a Cup Final without the faintest idea of either football strategy or the previous performance of



Birkenhead dockers march for recognition of the 'Blue' union in spring, 1955. Dick Barrett, one-time secretary of NAS&D, is centre with briefcase.

members of your own team.

November 1964 was by no means the first time the Socialist Labour League had warned dockers of the political character of the struggles they were entering.

Two-and-a-half years earlier,¹ for instance, 'The Newsletter' had this to say:

'Britain's portworkers are now involved in a wage struggle with the Tory government.'

'More and more firms in dockland are preparing to introduce mechanization and thus rid the industry of thousands of workers. Over the past few months there has been widespread unemployment in the large ports. This is indeed a critical time for the industry.'

'One would have thought that at such a time the task of trade union officials would be to develop the maximum unity between all workers employed on the docks in defence of wages and conditions.'

Even leaving aside the employers' casualization proposals of the previous year, there was ample justification for these remarks.

REDUCTIONS IN LABOUR

In the autumn of 1961, Sir Andrew Crichton, chairman of the National Association of Port Employers, had called for a massive reduction in the docks labour force, at that time 70,000-strong. London's 27,000 men should be cut to 14,000 over the next five years, he said.

And when, early the following year, T&GWU leaders submitted a claim for a substantial pay rise and a cut in hours from 44 to 40, the NAPE peremptorily rejected them both.

'The Newsletter's' April 1962 warning was directed particularly at Liverpool, where officials of the 'White' T&GWU were attempting to whip up their longstanding campaign against the 'Blue' National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers.

P. J. O'Hare, the T&GWU's Liverpool district secretary and a right-wing Labour alderman, had issued an ultimatum that his members would refuse to work with 'Blue' cardholders after April 24.

The employers welcomed this splitting tactic with open arms, of course.

But when the ultimatum expired, hundreds of 'Whites' joined their 'Blue' brothers in refusing to show their cards at all without guarantees of no discrimination.

O'Hare had some supporters, however.

The Communist Party had maintained bitter hostility to the NAS&D members in the northern ports ever since the 1954 breakaway movement which swelled their ranks there. And when the O'Hare strategy finally collapsed at a noisy meeting in Liverpool Stadium², leading CP members voted for continued refusal to work with 'Blues'.

The rest of the 4,000-strong meeting voted solidly against.

A day earlier, a T&GWU docks delegate conference had voted for strike action over the national pay claim. The Liverpool docker had thus instinctively adopted 'The Newsletter's' slogan: "'White" and "Blue" unite against the Tory pay pause.'

In 1954 the CP had fiercely opposed the mass 'prison break-out', beginning in Hull, which was largely responsible for the increase in NAS&D membership in the north.

When a mass meeting of striking Hull dockers decided, on August 22, 1954, to apply for membership of the 'Blue' in protest against T&GWU neglect, the late Harry Pollitt, CP general secretary, publicly attacked the move.

He called for 'unity in the fight to democratize the T&GWU'. As a result the late Albert Timothy, a highly-respected London docker, and one of those the Labour government had attempted to jail in 1951, resigned from the Party.

Pollitt failed to stem the tide of what was a popular, basic movement, expressing years of frustration with the bureaucratic, class-collaborationist policies of the T&GWU leadership.

'BLUE' MEMBERSHIP

CP members were persuaded that their main task was to manoeuvre inside the T&GWU to lift the ban on communists holding office (a task which was not completed until 1969).

The majority of trade union activists in the northern ports thought otherwise, however. Four weeks after the Hull meeting, 1,000 Birkenhead dockers packed the town hall and overwhelmingly agreed to apply for 'Blue' membership. Manchester followed soon after and by the end of the year thousands of Merseysiders were flocking in.

At the turn of the year Vic Marney, a well-known CP member on London docks, used the left-wing Labour weekly 'Tribune' to put the Stalinist position again.

'Tribune' itself had given

sympathetic treatment to the 'prison break-out'. But Marney, who was secretary of the CP-dominated Liaison Committee, at that time an unofficial body operating inside the T&GWU, followed a different line.

The Liaison Committee had decided, he wrote³, that 'under no circumstances will they be involved in any struggle for the recognition of the NAS&D in the outer ports'.

This was clear notice of intention to blackleg on the six-week national recognition strike which began on May 23, 1955. In the event, CP members refused to scab, but the Party succeeded in undermining the strike more certainly than if they had.

Over 20,000 dockers—several thousand of them T&GWU—stopped work in support of the recognition demand.

Support for the action was solid in the 'Blue', and so extensive in the ranks of the 'White', that even the 'White's' general secretary, Arthur Tiffin, later revealed that he knew the battle could (from his point of view) have been lost.

The T&GWU leadership declared it would willingly spend £9m to break the strike. 'It was one of the greatest crises we had to face for some time', Tiffin told his union's national docks committee in August 1955.

The TUC condemned the strike and demanded that the NAS&D hand back its 10,000 northern members.

For its part the CP, through the Liaison Committee, mounted similar pressure. After a few days of strike the committee, with the executive of the lightermen's union, met the London leadership of the NAS&D and demanded it call off the strike.

Meanwhile the Party's 'Daily Worker' continually gave the impression the strike was crumbling and about to be called off.

Two weeks after the strike started, the London executive of the 'Blue' pushed through the Liaison Committee recommendation at a conference with delegates from the northern ports.

The chairman had to ignore the rules and to use both his ordinary and casting votes to do this. Despite the opposition of the northern delegates, the recommendation was carried.

Mass meetings in both London and the northern ports, however, rejected the proposals, and a similar motion a fortnight later was treated likewise.

The final blow came on July 1, when the London executive met to consider an ultimatum

from the TUC disputes committee.

A CP member of the executive moved acceptance of the ultimatum, which was that the TUC would lift its suspension of the NAS&D only if the union expelled its northern members.

ULTIMATUM ACCEPTED

With representatives from the north excluded from the vote, the ultimatum was accepted. The strikers were instructed to return to work the following Monday.

Under this sort of pressure, the northern leaders had little alternative.

They recommended a return also. Mass meetings in all the ports, however, insisted that they would keep their membership of the 'Blue'.

In June 1956 the TUC Disputes Committee, in which the Communist Party had sought to sow false confidence throughout the strike, instructed the NAS&D to exclude all members it had recruited in the north since August 18, 1954.

The union's executive agreed. But in March the following year a test case in the courts forced it to take them back into the fold. The TUC leaders hit back by demanding, in September 1956, that the 'Blue' did not act on behalf of its northern members, allowing the T&GWU to service them instead.

Negotiations on this, and on a TUC demand for information about the union's membership and accounts, dragged on until 1959 when the NAS&D was disaffiliated from the TUC.

Unity of 'White' and 'Blue' dockers was, nevertheless, a major factor in forcing the 9-per-cent pay settlement with which the employers were forced to avert the threat of a national strike in May 1962.

But in the wake of that settlement, which undoubtedly blew a hole in the Tory government's pay pause, it was more than ever necessary to stress the dangers facing the dockers, which 'The Newsletter' did continuously. A dramatic 'Sunday Express' headline four months after the settlement expressed the nature of these dangers⁴:

'Now Cabinet is urged: Do a Beeching on the docks!'

CONTINUED TOMORROW

¹November 7 1964.

²April 7 1962.

³April 29, 1962.

⁴April 21, 1962.

⁵December 31, 1954.

⁶September 23, 1962.

TORY PRESS



POWELL AND SIR MAX

BY PHILIP WADE

If one Fleet Street group above all others illustrates without clothing the intentions of the British ruling class it is Beaverbrook Newspapers.

For decade upon decade the leader columns of the 'Daily Express' and others in the same stable have poured forth a continuous torrent of anti-working class lineage.

In the past few years it has, for instance, espoused the race policies of Enoch Powell not only in leaders but in paid articles by the ultra-right Tory MP.

Power workers will never forget the Jak cartoon in Beaverbrook's London 'Evening Standard' depicting them as murderers, which led to an immediate stoppage by print-workers.

Now with inflation rampant and so-called 'civilization' crumbling from all sides, Beaverbrook chairman Sir Max Aitken has taken space in the front page of his own paper to warn that his wealth is in danger.

Last week Aitken made his 'save-the-nation' speech to an obscure meeting of newspaper wholesalers in the south west of England.

'Inflation is one of the most dangerous things this country has ever seen. It has got to be curtailed,' his own staff man reported his as saying.

'We want Beaverbrook Newspapers to be a company which makes a fair profit and gives a reasonable return to shareholders and high wages to employees.

'That is my philosophy, but I do not want to be driven out of business, and that is what inflation can do for us all.'

It was clear, however, who Aitken was gunning for.

The working class was unfortunately not too concerned about the maintenance of his profit margins but more worried about rising prices eating away their standard of living.

'One of the miseries in the country at the present time is ... you get demands coming in which are quite unrelated to the profit potential for the next year,' he said.

And what was the role of his newspaper in this situation? Why, 'to tell what is going on in this country', added Aitken, 'who was loudly cheered by the 70 guests,' added the reporter.

So what did the chairman



Top: anti-Vietnam war actress, Jane Fonda as she appeared in the 'Sunday Express'. Above left: Sir Max Aitken, Beaverbrook chairman. Above right: Lord Beaverbrook.

and director of Beaverbrook Newspapers and director of two other companies, including Associated Television, tell the world about Britain through his newspapers last week?

From the beginning of the week until the end the group's millions of readers were told that the working class—whether here or in Northern Ireland—had to be taken on and dealt with.

On Tuesday the 'Daily Express' seized upon the ending of the ceasefire by the Provisional IRA to scream blue-murder.

To the Catholic workers of the Bogside and Creggan the leader writer issued the following threat in a fit of untempered rage:

'The no-go areas... should be given a time limit. After which no more National Assistance, no more unemployment benefit, or other service should be supplied. It should be made clear that "no-go" automatically brings "no-hand-outs".'

Then goading on British troops to enter these areas in massive force, the leader continued: 'The tepid policy (of patience) while worth trying has failed. Let it now be made abundantly plain to the extremists that Britain is not going to subsidize private armies.'

On Wednesday it was the turn of the dockers, fighting for their right to work in every port in Britain.

Picketing was suddenly discovered to be 'taking the law into their own hands'. Now they were 'tasting their own medicine'. 'The time is fast approaching when trade unions

—dockers, lorry drivers, and others—will bless the day that the government saw fit to re-organize industrial relations.'

Then came the 'Sunday Express'.

In one amazing editorial, anti-Vietnam war actress Jane Fonda was virtually threatened with her life for broadcasting over North Vietnam radio.

'Plainly her action is treason,' ranted the column. 'In the angry days of revenge after Hitler's war two men—William Joyce and John Amery—were hanged in Britain because they did exactly what Miss Fonda is doing now.'

Then, almost regretfully, it added: 'Of course, Miss Fonda will go unpunished. This is only partly because she is totally unimportant.'

The centre page was given over to right-wing Tory MP Ronald Bell, a member of the Monday Club, under the headline: 'I say bar these unfriendly foreigners.'

Writing on Ulster he called for 'military action on an intensified scale' and the re-establishment of the notorious and hated 'B' Specials. 'Their intelligence is bound to be more intimate and more useful,' wrote Bell.

He then called on the Lynch government to take firm action against the IRA. If that failed 'let us treat it [Eire] as a foreign country, close the Ulster border, repatriate Eire nationals from Britain'.

If inflation ever destroys the Beaverbrook empire as Aitken fears, we shall not miss such vital 'news' about what's going on in the country.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

GREATEST

Remember all the booming forecasts for the Leopold Minerals company in Western Australia? It was to be the greatest nickel find of the century.

It turned out to be the greatest nickel find since Poseidon. In other words, it crashed fairly spectacularly.

And this week Mr Brian Cutler (33), a former director of Leopold, was jailed for 3½ years for making a false report about the company's assay findings.

In his report made in March last year he claimed the company's nickel strike contained 5.33 per cent nickel. It sent Leopold's shares rocketing from 28p to 440p in three days.

MP

The London 'Evening News' carries a regular column called 'Meet your MP'. This week's face belongs to Bruce Douglas-Mann. It's all about the dynamic dimension of Douglas-Mann's attempts to bring happiness and prosperity to his constituents in Notting Hill.

A sample paragraph: '... Mr Douglas-Mann keeps his feet firmly planted on the ground.'

Representing a constituency which contains such a hot potato area as Notting Hill, he jolly well has to.

Fortunately, the explosive atmosphere of a few years back has eased considerably. Racial problems have very much improved.

Now the real difficulties crop up largely between the black community and the police, rather than between black and white sections of the local population.

Charges made against the police usually centre around allegations of unfair arrest, frequent searching and stopping of black youths and claims of persecution against particular black leaders.

It's the type of situation where a solicitor's cool assessing brain comes in extremely useful.

The article concludes with Douglas-Mann's attempts to fight against poverty, unemployment and poor housing

in the area. It then says: 'Mr Douglas-Mann meets constituents on Mondays at 8 p.m., 92 Ladbroke Grove, North Kensington.'

One is certainly left with the general conclusion that he gives unstinting time and labour to his work on behalf of the neighbourhood.

Great surprise to learn, therefore, that Douglas-Mann has announced he will not contest North Kensington at the next election. It seems that the boundary changes will mean that his old Kensington will be forced to include much of the wealthy—and Tory—area down to Cromwell Road in South Kensington. His once safe Labour seat is turned into a Tory seat.

He's picked up a much safer Labour seat in the council house belt on the outskirts of London.

Goodbye to Notting Hill...

STAR

Star of stage and screen department:

Stephen Sylvester, 46-year-old assistant secretary of Equity, the actors' and actresses' union, is to take over as general secretary of the Writers' Guild. He succeeds Alan Griffiths, who is leaving for a new job in America.

FAT

The Pentagon has such a diabolical genius for nicknaming the most brutal weapons with comic book names. Thus the gadget used to pour CS gas into bunkers is called 'The Mighty Myte'.

Now meet 'Fat Albert'. This is a larger and improved version of the television bomb. It has only gone into use in Vietnam in the past month. It weighs 2,000 lb. and a television camera in the nose directs it to the target.

'The primary advantages of the new "Fat Albert" are increased explosive impact, better reliability and greater standoff range—or the ability to hit targets from higher altitudes, the most popular feature for combat air crews exposed to enemy ground fire,' a navy statement said.

BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY:
Germany 1931/1932
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½
Where is Britain Going?
Paperback 37½p
Revolution Betrayed
Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.05
Problems of the Chinese Revolution
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £1.87½
Permanent Revolution:
Results and Prospects
Paperback 75p
In Defence of Marxism
Paperback 75p
Lessons of October
Paperback 60p

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

Toolmakers support CAV lab sit-in

SEVENTY highly-skilled toolmakers at the CAV engineering factory at Acton, West London, are refusing to release finished tools to the production lines until a laboratory dispute is settled to the satisfaction of the strikers.

The laboratory sit-in strike is now four weeks old and still the right-wing factory leadership of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has yet to organize a factory collection.

The toolmakers, however, have presented £100 to the laboratory men and have levied each toolmaker £1 a week.

In addition they are being penalized by management under the terms of a site deal agreed last week.

This states that any group of workers undertaking industrial action will not receive back pay to July 3, but will only receive their increase on resumption of normal working.

A leaflet distributed by the laboratory workers says they are fighting for the principle of defence of agreements.

Under a site pay deal agreed last year the strikers fell from second to sixth or eighth in the factory pay structure.

In March 1972, the leaflet says, the company said they would restore the position, but is now trying to avoid its obligations.

Pit stops

MINERS at Frickley, Yorkshire, decided yesterday to continue their 1,200-strong, week-old strike. Trouble flared after management introduced a new system of working a coal face in the Barnsley seam. They are asking miners to clean up spillage from the face conveyor.

'MPs shouldn't hold shares'

A BAN on outside financial interests for all MPs was called for in a Commons motion tabled yesterday by Charles Loughlin, Labour MP for Gloucestershire West.

Mr Loughlin said no MP or

any member of his family should be allowed to receive from any source money or gifts during the time he is an MP, and for five years afterwards.

He also urged that MPs should not be financially associated with or own shares in any company or business, have no connections with any trade union or trade

association or take fees for newspaper articles, memoirs, or radio or television broadcasts.

He said that British public life is 'relatively free from bribery and corruption' and rejects 'the over eagerness of persons, including members of this House, to exploit any suggestion made that Civil Servants and Members of the House of Commons are subject to bribery'.

Military papers so secret that Nixon never sees them

US SECURITY practices came in for an airing when Daniel Ellsberg submitted his written defence to a Los Angeles court and a former employee of the National Security Agency gave a press conference at Berkeley, California, on Tuesday.

Ellsberg, who leaked the 'Pentagon Papers' dealing with the Vietnam war to the press, alleged that there were some military documents which were so secret that even the President and his Defence Secretary were not allowed to see them.

He said that he had handled such documents while working for the Rand Corporation. They included plans for a general nuclear war in the Pacific.

The papers he gave to the press, although marked 'top secret', contained nothing vital to national defence. He claimed that in 1969 he had seen documents which were genuinely top secret lying around on desks in the National Security building in Washington.

Ellsberg and Anthony Russo, another former employee of the Rand Corporation, face secrets charges which carry prison sentences of 15 and 35 years.



Daniel Ellsberg

respectively. Selection of the jury has not yet been completed. A former employee of the National Security Agency told a press conference in Berkeley that the US had broken the secret codes of the Soviet Union and every major country.

The press conference was called by 'Ramparts' magazine following publication of an article on US electronic espionage by a former NSA sergeant. He said his real name was Perry Fellwock and that he had worked for the agency for three years.

He said: 'My experience with the US government and its global mission has convinced me that the most dangerous threat to me, to my family and to world peace itself, is the American military.'

David Horowitz, an editor of 'Ramparts', said: 'The Soviet Union is an open book to the National Security Agency; that it literally tests its military muscle by sending surveillance planes over its air space; that we monitor the communications of allied diplomats as a matter of fact, as we do the messages of the KGB.'

Stalinists 'hopeful' over steel jobs

COMMUNIST PARTY shop stewards at Sheffield's Firth Brown Tools Ltd, where 265 shopfloor workers and staff are threatened with redundancy, are 'hopeful' that the number of 'forced' dismissals will be 'negligible'.

At a mass meeting of 300 workers on Tuesday, the shop stewards made no proposals to fight the dismissal of a quarter of the factory's 900 workforce.

Instead they passed a resolution reiterating 'opposition' to the redundancies and promising 'support' for any worker wishing to defend his job.

What form this 'support' would take was never made clear, however.

The redundancies were announced after a bitter nine-week strike on the engineers' pay claim, settled on the basis of a rise only marginally larger than the general run of £2.50.

This move on the part of the FBT management is a direct result of the AUEW leadership's refusal to fight the pay claim on a national basis and of the CP encouragement of pure militancy

BY OUR OWN REPORTERS

at factory level.

The real answer to redundancies—the fight to make the Tories resign and for nationalization under workers' control and without compensation—they have avoided.

Albert Knight, CP works convenor and a member of the engineers' union Sheffield district committee, gave the meeting a more 'optimistic' report of several meetings with management than he had thought possible when the redundancies were first announced.

'I believe it is not going to be anything like as bad as we thought,' he commented afterwards.

He said that 128 people had received redundancy notices and most of these were skilled work-

ers who no longer wanted to work for Firth Brown!

Another 82 workers had volunteered for redundancy and their departure would create opportunities for re-deployment for those who wanted to keep their jobs.

Knight went on to say they were still 'worried' about 40 apprentices who had received notices and the whole shop floor was determined to fight for everybody who wanted to stay on the firm.

The balance of redundancies would be achieved by a 60 to 70 cut in staff and so 'there could be a situation where the enforced redundancies may be negligible'!

Many of those who face the sack, however, consider their situation far from 'negligible'. One young worker commented: 'There is little chance for me to find a job. There's thousands already on the dole in Sheffield.'

Ferranti cut

ABOUT 175 workers are to be made redundant at the Transformer Division of Ferranti at Chadderton, Lancashire, the company announced yesterday. Ferranti said the redundancies, which represented a 13 per cent cut in the division payroll, had been caused by a continuing low level of business in the industry.

Butter dumping

EUROPEAN butter surpluses may be dumped in Britain, chairman of the Milk Marketing Board Sir Richard Trehane has said.

The news comes hard on the heels of an announcement that 18 million eggs are to be withdrawn from the market to prevent prices falling to unprofitable levels.

Common Market countries can sell their butter abroad at less than the cost of production in times of surplus.

Judge Winn left £97,000

A FORMER Lord Justice of Appeal and chairman of the Permanent Security Commission, Sir Rodger Winn, who died in June aged 68, left £98,556 gross, £96,990 net. Duty was £30,109.

Sir Rodger, of Chester Street, London, SW1, was a judge until he retired for health reasons last year. He was also a governor of St Thomas's Hospital and chairman of its medical school.

He left most of his property to his wife and daughter and to the trustees of a settlement made in 1963. Sir Rodger was a brother of writer Godfrey Winn who died a year ago.

Eire wage deal to be decided Friday

FOLLOWING the recommendation of acceptance of the new draft National Wages Agreement by the executive of Eire's biggest union—the Irish Transport and General — the union's Galway branch has now voted to accept the deal.

The branch's 3,500 members were represented at the meeting by 60 delegates.

Branch secretary Sean Meade told the meeting that the new proposals—made after the Irish Congress of Trade Unions voted by a five-to-two majority to reject a new national agreement—had more flexibility in regard to fringe benefits and gave better support to the principle of equal pay for equal work.

The IT&GWU met in Dublin yesterday to vote on the terms of the new proposals and will hold a special delegate conference on Friday to make its final decision.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

The currency crisis and the working class

PRESTON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. Railway and Commercial Hotel, Butler Street (near railway station).

Subscribe! workers press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

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

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

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

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

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

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

Or Full subscription (six days) for months.

NAME

ADDRESS

Amount enclosed £

I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

Name

Address

ULSTER

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 8 p.m. CO-OP HALL, SEVEN SISTERS RD HOLLOWAY

DOWN WITH DIRECT RULE! WITHDRAW BRITISH TROOPS!
UNITE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC WORKERS FOR A UNITED SOCIALIST IRELAND

TV

BBC 1

9.45 Along the River. 10.00 Casey Jones. 10.25 If You Were Me. 10.50 Tin Tin. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 12.50 Hen Allorau. 1.30 Herbs. 1.45 News, weather. 3.00 Jackanory. 3.45 Horse Show. 5.00 Boss Cat. 5.25 Barrier Reef. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.55 HE SAID, SHE SAID. Panel game.

7.25 TOP OF THE POPS.

8.00 THE GOODIES.

8.30 THE BURKE SPECIAL. With James Burke.

9.00 NEWS, Weather.

9.20 ROYAL INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW.

10.45 DOWN TO EARTH.

11.15 NEWS.

11.20 WINDOWS ON THE BRAIN.

11.45 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University.

7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.

8.00 GREAT PARKS OF THE WORLD. 5: The Danube Delta, Romania.

8.30 EMMA. By Jane Austen. Part 1.

9.10 NOW AND THEN. With Robert Erskine. Celestial Symphony.

9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK. Morecambe and Wise.

10.05 NEWS, Weather.

10.10 WORLD CINEMA: 'THE LIFE OF ADOLF HITLER'. Paul Rotha's compilation of the years of Nazi power.

11.50 LATE NIGHT LINE UP. The Plot to Kill Hitler.

ITV

11.30 Polarized Society. 12.25 Women. 12.50 Cook Book. 1.15 Bellbird. 1.30 Zingalong. 1.40 Arthur. 2.05 Castle Haven. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Racing. 3.45 Marcus Welby. 4.40 Nuts and Bones. 4.55 Atom Ant. 5.20 How. 5.50 News.

6.00 WRECKERS AT DEAD-EYE. 3: The Legend of Thriabbas.

6.25 CARTOON TIME.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 FILM: 'PAY OR DIE'. Ernest Borgnine. New York's 'Little Italy' is terrorized in 1908 by unknown extortionists signing themselves The Black Hand.

9.00 NEAREST AND DEAREST.

9.30 THIS WEEK.

10.00 NEWS.

10.30 CINEMA.

11.00 THE AVENGERS. The Rotters.

12.00 THE COMMON MIND.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.45 Racing. 4.05 Nuts and bones. 4.20 Puffin. 4.22 Dick Van Dyke. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Donovan's Reef'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Alistair MacLean story. 11.15 Cinema. 11.45 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.43 News. 11.46 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 12.55 News. 1.00 Afloat. 1.25 Hogan. 1.50 Cooking. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 London. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Dithers. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Stingray. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Dr Locke. 7.15 Film: 'House of Numbers'. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Film: 'Don't Talk to Strange Men'. 12.20 Weather. Guideline.



Tonight Doran Godwin plays 'Emma', Jane Austen's heroine, in the first of a six-part dramatization for BBC 2. Donald Eccles (seated) plays her father and John Carson is Mr Knightley.

HTV: 2.15 Racing. 3.20 Cook book. 3.45 Dr Locke. 4.15 Tinker-tainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Joe 90. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Dick Van Dyke. 7.10 Film: 'My Friend Irma'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Gallery. 11.00 Spyforce. 12.00 Weather.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15 Miri Mawr. 6.01 Y Dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.18 Sport West.

ANGLIA: 1.40 Remember. 2.05 Joe 90. 2.30 London. 4.10 News. 4.15 Jimmy Stewart. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sale. 7.30 Film: 'Circle of Danger'. 9.00 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Family affair. 4.35 Rupert

bear. 4.50 Pretenders. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sale. 7.30 Film: 'Tomorrow at Ten'. 9.00 London. 11.00 O'Hara. 12.00 Stories.

ULSTER: 1.45 Racing. 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: 'Something to Live For'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Benny Hill.

YORKSHIRE: 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 London. 3.45 Ugliest girl. 4.10 Calendar. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Funky phantom. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Takes a thief. 7.25 Film: 'Apartment for Peggy'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Mannix. 11.55 Something to sing about. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 1.45 Racing. 3.40 Scotland Yard casebook. 4.10 News. Peyton place. 4.40 Nuts

and bones. 4.50 Make a wish. 5.15 London. 6.00 News. Police file. 6.30 UFO. 7.25 Film: 'Quarantined'. 8.50 Sylvester. 9.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.35 Scales of justice.

SCOTTISH: 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Animaland. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Funky phantom. 5.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 UFO. 7.10 Film: 'A Patch of Blue'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 As others see us. 11.35 Wrestling.

GRAMPIAN: 1.45 Racing. 3.31 News. 3.35 Job look. 3.40 Women. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Pippi. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Top team. 6.35 Crossroads. 6.55 Film: 'Guadalcanal Diary'. 8.30 In for a penny. 9.00 London. 11.00 Young view. 11.30 Avengers.

Expulsion of Soviet advisers a blow to Mid-East policy

EGYPT'S decision to expel up to 20,000 Soviet military advisers is a severe blow to the Kremlin's Middle East policy.

It culminates a period of increasingly strained relations, particularly since the death last year of president Gamel Nasser and the accession of Anwar Sadat.

Announcing his decision to the central committee of the ruling Arab Socialist Union, Sadat accused the Russians of failing to supply weapons when promised.

But he left the door open for further talks with the USSR. At the end of last week premier Aziz Sidky paid a flying visit to Moscow to deliver the Egyptian ultimatum.

The Soviet Union has supplied large amounts of arms to Egypt, but never in sufficient quantity or quality to enable the Egyptians to take on Israel on equal terms.

The bulk of the Soviet military aid is in fact defensive—about three-quarters of the Soviet advisers are believed to be attached to the SAM missile sites.

In repeated consultations with the Soviet leaders, the Egyptians have demanded long-range bombers and high-altitude interceptor planes to enable them to fight the Israeli air force.

The Kremlin is not in favour of the complete military defeat of Israel and has agitated ever since 1967 for the implementation of the United Nations resolution of November of that year.

The resolution calls for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories as the basis for an agreed settlement involving Arab recognition of Israel.

The Egyptian leaders have maintained a belligerent posture since the June war without the means to go to war again.

This has created great strains at home, where workers and peasants are increasingly disin-



Anwar Sadat

clined to make the sacrifices demanded by their leaders without seeing any results for them. By ousting the Soviet advisers, Sadat may be hoping to force concessions from the Kremlin. But it also enables him to form closer ties with the imperialists without relying on Soviet 'good offices'.

Big US-Soviet oil deal

ONE OF the biggest deals ever made between the Soviet Union and a capitalist firm was initialled in Moscow on Friday by Armand Hammer, boss of the Occidental Petroleum Corp. of Los Angeles.

The five-year deal provides for the supply of Soviet oil and natural gas in return for American technology and know-how. Occidental's project is being undertaken as part of an international consortium in which Japanese and European firms are involved.

American technicians will take

Ustachi raid over Austrian border

TERRORISTS have penetrated into Yugoslavia for the first time in 20 years, according to official reports from Belgrade.

They were identified as Ustachi, heirs of the Yugoslav fascists who ruled during World War II in the Nazi puppet state of Croatia. Since the war they have carried out intermittent bombings and other terrorist actions against Yugoslav diplomatic missions in Europe.

Last year Ustachi murdered the Yugoslav ambassador to Stockholm. This month, the Federal police announced, a Ustachi-fascist group of terrorists entered Yugoslavia illegally.

They crossed from Austria on June 26 with an arsenal of sub-machine guns, rifles with telescopic sights, pistols with silencers and a portable radio station.

The Yugoslav authorities said they had 'broken up and destroyed' the 50-strong unit, which tried to establish a base in the highlands of central Yugoslavia. Survivors were being hunted down, police said. President Tito summoned his closest advisers to an emergency meeting on the island of Brioni.

The Ustachi incursion met

with hostility from the local people who have good reason to remember the fascists with hatred. But it came at a tense time, two days before the scheduled opening of the trial of four young Croat nationalists in Zagreb.

That trial has been postponed for a month, but another trial involving seven other Croat nationalists accused of fomenting disturbances at Zagreb University last year is now under way.

Yugoslav media has attacked some western countries, without naming them, for allowing Ustachi to train on their territory. Informants say part of the 'invasion' group was trained in Austria.

Slavko Zecevic, Serbian Mini-

ster of the Interior, said last week that foreign intelligence services were involved in anti-Yugoslav activities of emigrés.

Other Yugoslav leaders have laid part of the blame on the foreign press for giving a 'false impression' in reports of last December's purge of the Croat Communist Party that the country was ripe for insurrection.

The main responsibility for the nationalist agitation inside and outside Yugoslavia lies with the Tito bureaucracy itself.

By opening the door to foreign investment and decentralizing the country's federal structure it has fuelled nationalist sentiment under conditions of considerable economic crisis.

NOW WEEKLY

KEEP LEFT
OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS
SATURDAY MAY 13, 1972
VOL. 21 NO 1 © PRICE 3P

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

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

Please send me 'Keep Left' for one year

I enclose £2.86

Name

Address

Dangerous docks split taken to Tilbury

FROM p. 1

future of their own jobs, threw a picket-line across the entrance to Tilbury docks.

'We shall keep this up until the dockers lift their ban on Hay's Transport,' their spokesman, a shop steward, said.

Dave Marks, chairman of the Tilbury dockers' shop stewards' committee, said later:

'This is obviously a retaliatory move against us, but it won't make any difference. We shall carry on with our campaign.'

Ted Johns, chairman of the recently-formed Drivers' and Warehousemen's Action Committee, said he thought the situation at Tilbury was certain to inflame feelings at yesterday evening's T&GWU drivers' meeting.

His committee would be taking up the issue, he said.

Asked about the possibility of talks with the dockers' stewards to try and hammer out a settlement, he said: 'When the dockers are refusing to talk we obviously have to take the same attitude.'

Here is a situation which no amount of diplomatic statements from union chiefs will solve.

(Ken Jackson, secretary of the T&GWU commercial services group, and Jack Moore, general secretary of the United Road Transport Union, on Tuesday attacked reports of a conflict of interest. 'Drivers are not seeking to take over dock work and dockers are not seeking to take over drivers' work,' they said in a joint statement.)

By abandoning the struggle for nationalization of the entire ports industry without compensation and under workers' control, the union leaders have cut dockers, drivers and depot workers adrift without a policy.

The only people to benefit from the resulting conflicts between worker and worker are the port employers, the haulage and warehousing bosses and the Tory government.

In helping the T&GWU leaders to drop the nationalization demand, the CP-influenced stewards on the London docks have thus done those they represent a double disservice.

They have helped prepare the ground for dangerous splits. And they have given credence to the idea of a solution to the jobs crisis in the industry without nationalization, through the Jones-Aldington inquiry.

The Tilbury picket again points to the need for an urgent change of policy by the docks stewards.

Cargo operations were slowed down at Southampton yesterday when 170 checkers began a 24-hour token strike.

The men, members of the National Union of Railwaymen, are in dispute with their employers, the British Transport Docks Board, over manning problems for a new cargo service.

Smith-Coggin strike goes on Mersey fight to keep job security

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN LIVERPOOL

DOCKERS in Liverpool said yesterday they faced a challenge by employers to withdraw their job security. Shop stewards told portworkers from A. E. Smith Coggins that the stevedoring firm has warned that management has control over who should man clerical jobs traditionally done by dockers.

Smith Coggins, one of the big four Mersey dock employers currently engaged in merger talks, have been strike-bound for three days over a manning dispute.

Yesterday's mass meeting decided that the 1,600 dockers involved—Smith Coggins' entire labour force in the port—will continue their action until their demands are met.

They will meet again on Friday.

Shop steward Jack Abbott told the meeting that after five hours of talks the firm was insisting that they had the right to employ unregistered labour on certain jobs and also to work out how many men should carry them out.

He reported that Smith Coggins has investigated the dispute and had suggested manning scales even worse than those originally envisaged.

'They have told us that if they have a job calling for four men, that they will decide who is going to do it. If they want to put three unregistered men in they will put three unregistered men in,' he said.

'This means they are making a stand against us in our jobs.'

Dockers say the jobs in question have always been done by registered labour. They see the move therefore as a threat to the National Dock Labour Scheme which safeguards dockers from redundancies.

The more unregistered labour firms on the dock can employ the easier it will be for them to declare future redundancies.

Already staff from the firm are under threat of the sack, and the staff unions have called a strike on Monday against these redundancies.

They will be joined on Thursday by dockers in the port who have called for a one-day token stoppage. This coincides with the dock delegates meeting in London which will hear the proposal of the Jones-Aldington committee on containerization.

Shop stewards appealed yesterday for men to come forward

and join the Liverpool delegation which will travel by special train to London to lobby the delegates.

'If this committee doesn't go along with our ideas, we want as many lads to come along and say we are not prepared to compromise,' said Jack Abbott.

Late yesterday all shop stewards in Liverpool were meeting to decide future action on the Smith Coggins issue.

Stewards not workers' organization—NIRC

THE NATIONAL Industrial Relations Court did not consider the London dockers' joint shop stewards' committee an 'organization of workers' as defined by the Industrial Relations Act, NIRC president Sir John Donaldson said yesterday.

Donaldson was explaining why, in the Midland Cold Storage picketing case, the court has twice refused to make orders against the stewards' committee.

Last week Alan Campbell, QC, sought on Midland's behalf a change of mind by the NIRC on its refusal to make stop-picketing orders against the committee. The court president was yesterday giving its reserved judgement.

The Act defined an organization of workers as a body, one of whose principal objects was the regulation of relations

between workers and employers, he said.

But the stewards' committee appeared content to leave the regulation of employer-worker relations to the unions so long as, in the committee's opinion, the unions were being sufficiently forceful.

Evidence indicated that the committee wanted a power of veto over particular actions of the Transport and General Workers' Union, rather than to regulate relations itself.

Donaldson went on to make clear, however, that the court's views related solely to this particular committee, and that any future questions relating to other similar committees would have to be investigated within their particular context.

And today Midland will be back in court complaining of contempt of the court's orders by seven named dockers.

Women engineers out on Hants picket line



ENGINEERS at Goodman's Loudspeakers, Havant, Hants, are maintaining a 24-hour picket round the factory in their strike for a £3 across-the-board, cost-of-living rise. The 300 AUEW members—who include over 200 women workers—say they will stay out until their demand is met in full by management.

FUND

NOW £990.45 WILL WE DO IT?

WE STILL have a long way to go—we need £759.55 more by this weekend. It is now Thursday and time is running out.

It will take our biggest effort so far but we are sure you will raise the £1,750.

We know that we have set our sights high. Not only are you helping us raise £500 more than usual, but this month we need the money nine days earlier, by July 22, before our Summer Camp begins.

At a time when the Maudling resignation demands that the whole of the Tory government resigns, Workers Press is more vital than ever.

We therefore urge everyone of you—we have three days left to complete our target. We need all the support you can raise. Go all out now. Rush every donation immediately to:

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

Briefly...

BRITISH STEEL Corporation intends to close a profitable steel works in the West Midlands because it is 'too small', it was announced at a press conference in London yesterday. And BSC will not allow anyone else to buy the Birchley steelworks in Worcestershire which employs 227 men, because it does not want competition from private enterprise, say opponents of the plan.

The mill, they say, is so popular—and profitable—that local firms have offered up to £1m to buy it.

REGINALD MAUDLING'S daughter, Mrs Caroline Mary Thompson (26), was granted an order for the restitution of conjugal rights against her husband, South African businessman Anthony Thompson, yesterday. The order is the first stage in obtaining a divorce. If her husband does not respond to the order by the date set by the Supreme Court Judge J. P. O. De Villiers—August 29—the order will automatically become a final divorce on September 12.

PAY CLAIM is to be lodged on behalf of London's 23,000 busmen. Delegates from all London Transport bus garages decided yesterday to go ahead with a demand for an interim payment to bridge the gap between the recent increases won by railmen on LT's underground and those agreed for the busmen in April.

'SHOOTING and murder' seemed to pay 'otherwise no one would wish to fly members of the IRA to England in order to hold discussions with them', Stanley McMaster, Ulster Unionist, told the Commons yesterday.

A GROUP of engineers backed by merchant banker Henry Ansbacher, have bought their government-owned firm for £100,000 to prevent it being taken over by 'private interests'. The firm, The National Industrial Fuel Efficiency Service Ltd, has offices in Glasgow, Dundee, Leeds, Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham and Cardiff. It employs about 100 people. Ray McLoughlin, a mechanical services engineer at the Glasgow office, said the staff got together and decided they would rather work for themselves than for an outside agency and made arrangements to buy the company from the Department of Trade and Industry.

CIVIL SERVANTS have been told to stop doing compulsory overtime—as a protest against 'constant and excessive overtime'. The order has gone out to 1,000 Land Registry clerks from their union, the Civil and Public Services Association, and the ban starts on August 21.

DR HENRY KISSINGER, Nixon's chief adviser on foreign affairs, had secret talks in Paris yesterday with Le Duc Tho, a senior member of the Politburo of North Vietnam's ruling party, and Xuan Thuy, Hanoi's principal negotiator at the Paris peace talks, after a month's boycott by the US.

LATE NEWS

COURT — SEE ABOVE
SIX of the seven dockers—including national port stewards' secretary Bernie Steer—were yesterday served with summonses on behalf of Midland to attend the court hearing.

WEATHER

THE MIDLANDS, East Anglia, southern England, south and central Wales will be mostly cloudy with fog patches at first but sunny intervals will appear by afternoon. In the evening scattered thundery showers will develop in these areas.

Fog patches near coasts of Scotland and north-east England will clear in most places. It will be generally very warm but parts of north-west England, Northern Ireland and south-west Scotland will have a hot day. **Outlook for Friday and Saturday:** Sunny intervals in many districts but some thundery showers in the south. Rather cloudy in the extreme north. Continuing very warm.

NEWS DESK 01-720 2000
CIRCULATION 01-622 7029

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.