

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1972 ● No. 854 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## LEAP IN HARD-CORE UNEMPLOYMENT NEW DANGERS IN JOBLESS GROWTH

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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The serious nature of this deep-rooted unemployment is glaringly revealed by comparing it with figures of the short-term jobless.

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In April this year there were, for the first time since modern records have been kept, more workers in the last two categories than any other category.

In April the number out of work for over a year rose to 157,200 and the numbers out of work for over six months to 166,200. These compare with the numbers for the other categories which all fell between January and April.

Other statistics illustrate the trend. Between January and April an extra 15,000 workers started to experience unemployment for over a year. This represents a rate of increase of 5,000 per month. But the monthly increase for April 1971 to April 1972 was

much lower at 3,850.

In other words the size of the long-term pool of unemployment is growing faster as each month passes.

These figures prove that workers are staying on the dole longer, that over one year's unemployment is the rule rather than the exception and that as each month goes by the odds in favour of long-term unemployment are shortening.

But they also have a profound political significance. There is clearly emerging a substantial body of men who cannot get a job for years on end. These workers are not only desperate for employment but are forced to undergo long periods of forced demoralization and relative poverty.

Those who are lucky enough to find work—perhaps after migrating hundreds of miles across the country—are often disorientated by their experiences.

Within the factories they can become a bulwark for the employers against the militants—inflamed by the stories of 'communist plots' in the capitalist press designed to split the ranks and draw back from the struggle against the employers and the Tory government.

In many cases they are motivated by the ever-present fear of falling back into the insecurity of the dole.

In a more direct way the extreme right and fascist groups are using this growing army of the long-term unemployed to spread racialism within the ranks of the working class.

The events of the last week at Smithfield meat market, London, where a small group of porters joined with the National Front to march against the Uganda Asians and the new surge of activity from groups like the Festival of

Light and the so-called Citizens Defence Council now organizing in the north west, are ample evidence of this development.

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It is more than this—its growth does provide a rich recruiting ground for the right wing and racialism.

Hence a sharp and serious political struggle is posed to the trade union and labour movement.

If there are thousands condemned to years without hope on the dole and if demoralized workers are turning in desperation to racialism, a major responsibility lies with those in the labour movement who have kept workers from politics.

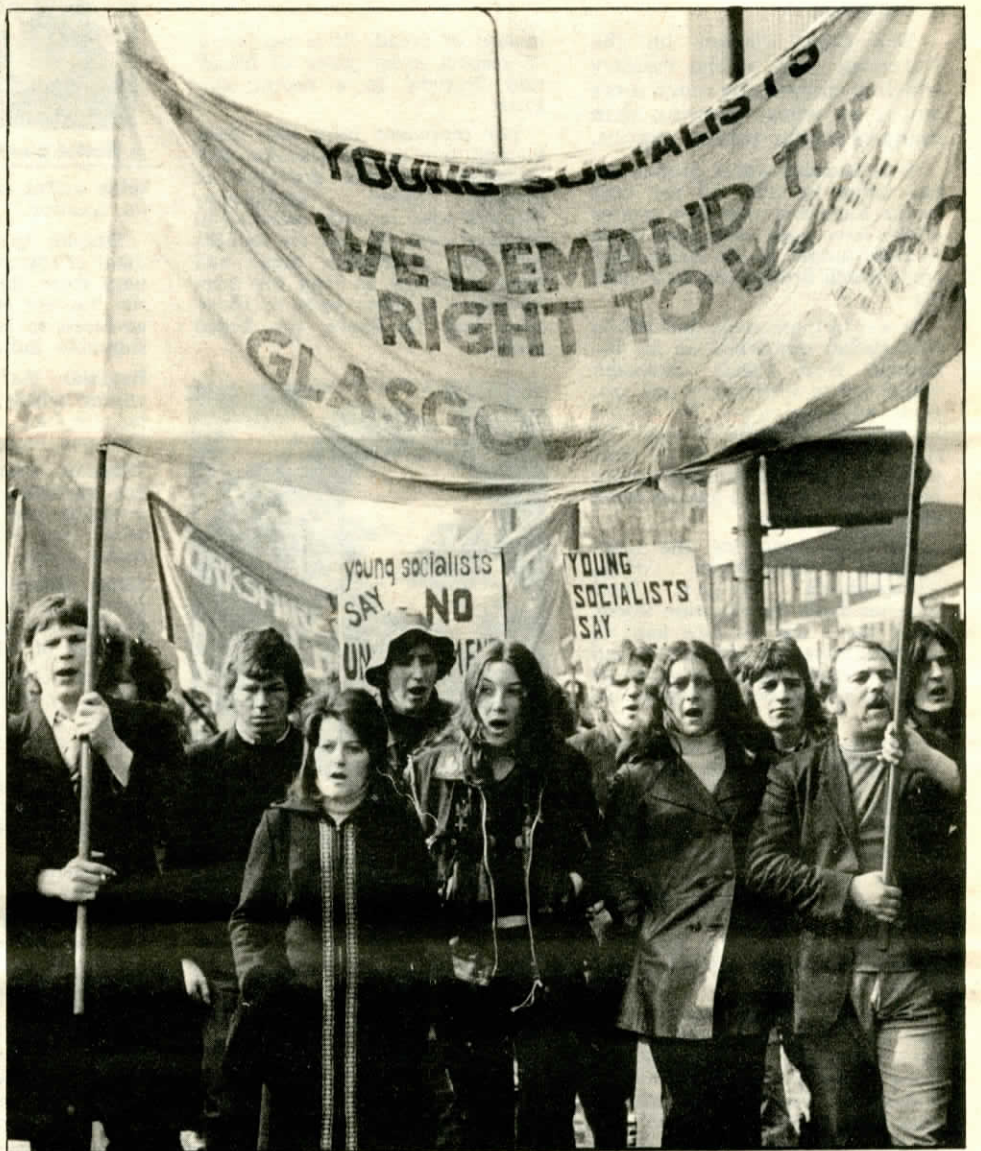
We refer to the union leaders and the TUC who manoeuvre desperately to dissipate the enormous strength and political potential of the working class so they can carry on their talks and collaboration with the Tory government and the monopolies.

The Stalinist leaders of the Communist Party are just as guilty.

In the recent struggle on the upper Clyde they diverted the mass movement against the Tory government into non-political reformist channels. They ended up trading in 2,000 jobs—no doubt adding many men to category six, the long-term jobless.

Workers must reject these suicidal policies. It is clear that the only way to wipe out the pool of unemployed is by first removing the Tory government and electing a Labour government pledged to the socialist policies of full employment for every worker.

The only possible way this can be implemented is by nationalizing all industry, banking and commerce, under workers' control without compensation.



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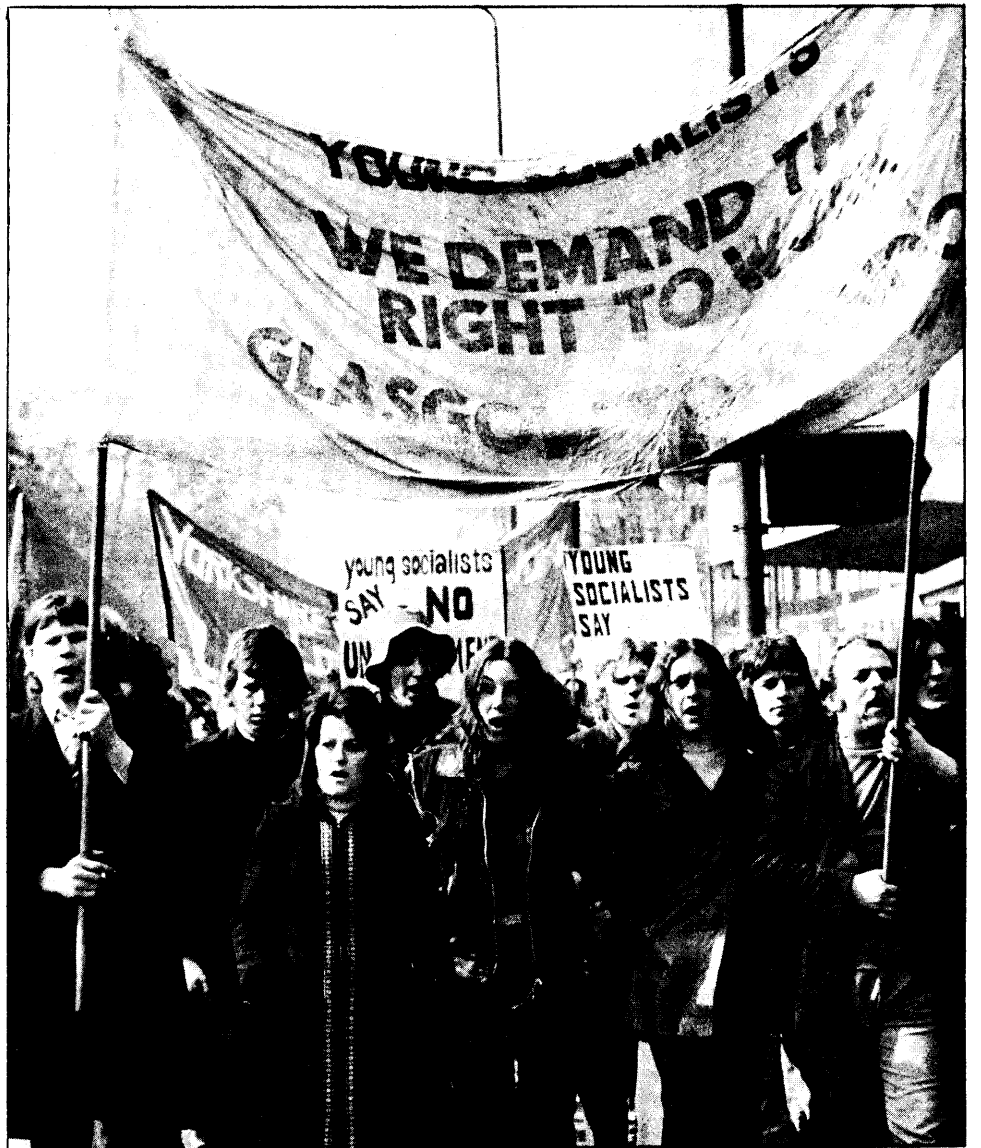
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AROUND THE WORLD

# Bitter harvest

## Soviet Union buys a quarter of US grain supplies: Jail for dumping bread

THE CURRENT VISIT of Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev to inspect the progress of the grain harvest in Siberia and other remote eastern regions of the USSR is the clearest possible indication of the deep crisis now gripping Soviet agriculture.

The extent of this crisis is clear. The present five-year plan aimed at a current target of 190 million tons. But many western experts now predict that the figure will be seriously below last year's figure of 181 million tons, perhaps falling to as low as 160 million.

The crisis centres on the European area of the country which is climatically much more suited to wheat growing than many of the far eastern regions.

It is because wheat production has fallen by over 15 per cent in the European area that greater efforts have once more been made to raise output in the virgin land areas which Brezhnev is now visiting.

It was in these areas that Nikita Khrushchev embarked on his infamous New Lands campaign which led to widespread soil erosion, affecting some 20 million hectares in Kazakhstan alone by the late 1960s. And it is clear that very few measures have since been taken to guard against wind and water erosion.

Far from resolving the long-standing agricultural crisis, Khrushchev's virgin land schemes made the situation worse. Once there was no new land to acquire, increased production had to come from higher yields, to be ensured by greater fertilizer output.

But resources were completely inadequate to raise the output of either machinery or chemicals and by 1963 state grain procurements were more than 15 million tons below what was required.

It is a measure of the current crisis that the bureaucracy has been once more forced back to the virgin lands in a desperate attempt to resolve its acute problems.

Even the official Soviet press has been forced to refer however guardedly to the implications of the present situation. A widespread campaign is now in progress against the waste and

misuse of bread. 'It is necessary to respect every piece of bread' said 'Pravda' in a recent editorial.

Jail sentences have also been handed out in the Ukraine and elsewhere for the dumping of mouldy bread. 'Vechnaya Moskva' also recently asserted in Moscow over the last six months 114 tons of leftover bread had been delivered as feed for farm animals—a bitter sight to those who had to heave the bread away'.



Brezhnev: Touring virgin lands

And while the press has been hasty to assure the working class that the words 'no bread' will never be heard again as they were in the war, there have been many hints that 1972 will be a 'difficult agricultural year.'

Citizens have been reminded: 'The bread that lies on your



A Soviet poster telling people to have 'a careful attitude' towards bread

table unites all who take part in its creation.'

Despite the large-scale movement of tractors and other machinery from the west to the east, the harvest which is now being gathered in is running into considerable difficulties.

**Estonia:** Harvesting of barley, winter wheat and rye has been hit by bad weather which has flattened many crops.

**Western Siberia:** Party officials are particularly worried by the situation here where again heavy wind and rain have destroyed many crops.

**Chita Oblast:** Bad weather has forced the postponement of the harvest for two to three weeks because of adverse weather.

It is in this situation that the Soviet bureaucracy has been forced to turn to America for wheat supplies. Last July, during Nixon's visit to Moscow, agreement was reached for the US to supply Russia with \$750m-worth of wheat over the next three years. A novel feature of the agreement was that much of the payment was to be in gold.

But since July American sales have far exceeded even the high level agreed in Moscow. Current sales, at 400 million bushels this year, are now running at \$1,000m a year. This is equivalent to one quarter of total American output.

It far exceeds in size any of the deals which Soviet leaders previously made for wheat pur-

chases from either Canada or the US.

Because of their sheer size, American wheat sales abroad are now forcing up the domestic price. Last week, US bakers asked the Prices Board to sanction increases in retail bread prices. Under existing arrangements, the Administration has been subsidizing its Russian sales by almost 38 cents a bushel. Such is its anxiety to build up its gold stocks in preparation for its struggle against European capitalism.

The grain sales also have a crucial political significance as part of Nixon's policy of rapprochement with the Kremlin bureaucracy. They give Nixon a lever to influence the development of the Soviet economy.

But the Russian agricultural crisis reveals above all the deepening crisis of the 'theory' of socialism in one country.

It is impossible to solve Russia's agricultural crisis in isolation from the world economy. Climatic and geological factors are such that output can only be increased within narrow limits and this at the cost of enormous waste and maldistribution of resources.

The crisis of Soviet agriculture can only be solved when the resources of the rest of the world—many of them far better suited to grain production—are integrated with the USSR as part of a world socialist plan.

## Jobs fight needs principle says staff striker

OVER 300 staff employees on strike against the sack at Davy and United Engineering, Sheffield, may return to work tomorrow if their union representatives can win a three-month stay of execution on redundancy notices.

The union, TASS (technical and supervisory section of the engineers' amalgamation), is advising men to accept a management offer of up to £1,700 redundancy compensation.

The men struck last week after management had sent redundancy notices to 180 of the staff.

Among the strikers is 52-year-old Ron Lewis, a TASS member who has worked at Davy's for 26 years.

He has refused the management's £1,700 'blood money'. Like many of the others, he is demanding immediate reinstatement.

In a statement to Workers Press, Ron Lewis said:

'In 1964 there was an all-round, 10 per cent reduction in the workforce at the factory. At the time the managing director stated in the local press that he "couldn't afford to worry about the 10 per cent at the expense of the other 90 per cent".'

'The next lot of redundancies was about 12 months ago, when about 80 people from all sections were sacked and no positive move was made to protect the livelihoods of the redundant people at the time. The joint shop stewards' committee is dominated by the Communist Party.

'About three weeks ago the announcement was made that 180 staff would be made redundant.

'At that time the union officials were insisting that no names should be mentioned and that the redundancies "shouldn't be acknowledged".'

The crunch came on August 17. Said Ron Lewis: 'We were called individually into the office and confronted by two of the management. They informed us that there was no place for us in the reconstructed company.

'They are now concentrating on smaller mill plant and not on longer-term capital equipment. In other words we had gone back to the sort of size the factory was 26 years ago when I joined.

'I put forward a motion last Friday demanding that our officials instruct the district committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to call all their members out on strike if one of our members is made forcibly redundant—or any other worker in Sheffield.

'The divisional organizer of TASS, while admitting that everything I said was politically right, claimed that this was not the time to take up the matter on a political basis. Due to this lack of leadership, my proposition was heavily defeated.

'I've never agreed with any redundancies whether "voluntary" or forced. To agree with, and actually campaign for, voluntary redundancies is agreeing with the whole principle of it—the very thing we are fighting.

'Many will have no prospects possibly of ever getting a job again—as in my own case. I'm 52. And who wants to employ me at this age?

'Our present leaders will either have to fight on a principled political basis or resign and be replaced with a leadership prepared to defend our basic rights.'

Asked at a recent mass meeting what would happen at the end of the proposed stay of execution, shop committee chairman Jim Holton replied: 'It's anybody's guess. I suppose management will go ahead.'

# Israel-Jordan in sneak deal?

ISRAEL and Jordan may be sneaking a separate peace settlement behind the backs of the Palestinians and the other Arab states.

Both parties have made public denials, but there are persistent reports from Jerusalem of active discussions.

General Moshe Dayan has already dropped broad hints about negotiations with King Hussein, who has said he is optimistic peace will be restored next year.

Such a peace, whatever the terms, can be concluded only on the ruins of the Palestinian people's legitimate national demands.

Various schemes for a settlement have included the formation of a Jordanian administration for the occupied West Bank, which would continue under Israeli occupation.

This would effectively stifle any independent movement of the West Bank Palestinians, who

would find themselves caught between their two biggest enemies—Zionism and the Hashemite dynasty.

Hussein's position has been strengthened by the marked turn to the right in the other Arab states—notably Egypt's expul-

sion of the Soviet advisers and the right-wing coup in the Sudan.

There are also signs of considerable tensions among the ruling circles in Syria, which until now has maintained a 'left' stance and is still receiving large quan-

ties of Soviet military aid.

The Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has accused 'a certain wing in the resistance movement'—which it did not name—of involvement in mediation attempts with Hussein.

## Italian fascists held for stabbing

TRANSPORT workers in Parma, Italy, stopped work for two hours yesterday for the funeral of murdered left-winger Mariano Lupo.

Italian police have arrested two young fascists accused of stabbing Lupo (19) to death. He was a member of the left-wing Lotta Continua organization.

Naples police arrested

one of the youths on Sunday and the other was being interrogated in Rome after being arrested and charged with murder there on Saturday.

Three other fascists have been arrested and charged with causing grievous bodily harm to a friend of the murder victim.

Lupo, a tile-layer from Sicily, was stabbed

outside a cinema in Parma on Friday night. According to a police reconstruction, five fascist youth had earlier drawn up at the cinema in cars for the attack.

The killing is part of a wave of fascist violence against the extreme left in Italy. Lotta Continua recently exposed a military-style fascist training camp in the Dolomite Alps.

The main fascist party, the Italian Social Movement (MSI), claimed the five killers had recently been expelled from its Parma branch. The murder was 'a barbarous, uncivilized act of hooliganism'.

This attempt to evade the blame will fool nobody familiar with the brutal traditions of Italian fascism.

# HOW DONALDSON CAN AFFORD A LONG BREAK

While dockers return to work after their bitter fight against the Tory government, the police and the Jones leadership of their own union, they might spare a thought for Sir John Donaldson.

The president of the National Industrial Relations Court is spending the long legal vacation—it lasts until October—down on his 40-foot ketch.

Like Heath he is a keen yachtsman and he will be idling away the next eight to ten weeks on the South coast.

He can afford such an idyllic holiday on his salary. When he took the job eight months ago his wage was £14,000.

But since then the Tories have increased it to £15,750—an increase of about £35 a week. Building workers all over the country are at present out in massive numbers trying to get just £30 for a week while Donaldson gets a £35 increase 'at a stroke' of Heath's pen.

But then the Tories always look after their kind.

Donaldson has a long association with the Tory Party. It began when he was at Charterhouse, an exclusive public school, and continued during his university studies at Cambridge.

In 1938 the president of the Federation of University Conservative and Unionists' Association was Edward Heath. In 1940, two years later, it was an ambitious young Tory student, John Donaldson.

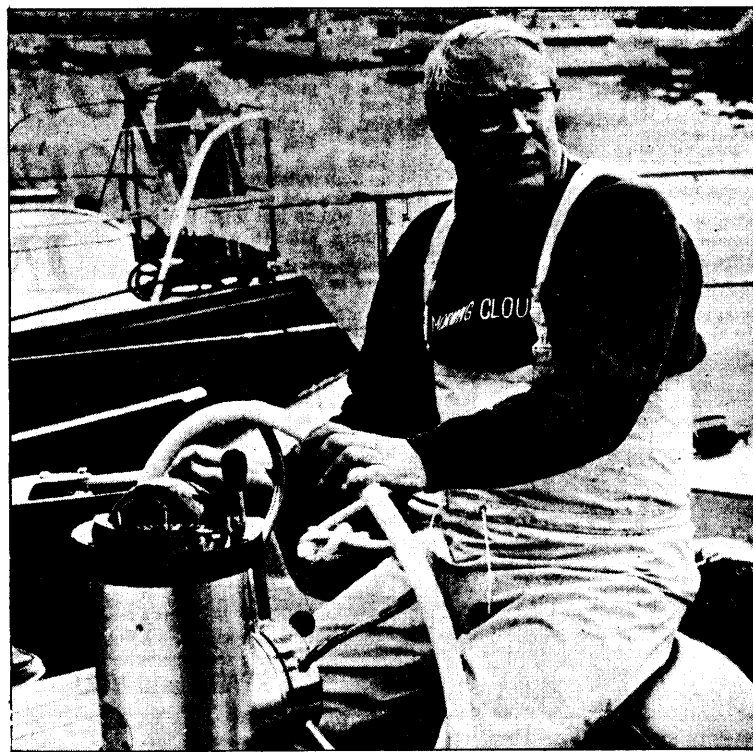
After the war he went into local government politics and won a seat on the Croydon Borough Council as a candidate of the Upper Norwood Electors' Association.

Although the association claimed to be 'non-political' no one was surprised when Donaldson took the whip of the majority group which was out-and-out Tory. When he left the council and threw himself into his legal career Donaldson became a prominent member of the Inns of Court Conservative and Unionist Association.

It is this body which is responsible for giving birth to much of the Tories' most repressive legislation.

Asked about Donaldson's personality, a fellow member of the legal profession said: 'John is a man who feels a sense of destiny. He would like to mould society.'

After six months as head of the Tory court, he has shown trade unionists just how he wants things moulded. And they won't have it!



Top: Sir John Donaldson, NIRC President who is now holidaying on his 40 foot ketch. Above: Heath, who at a stroke of his pen gave Donaldson a £35 a week rise.

# DEVALUATION: ONE CASE FROM 1967

The decision to devalue the pound last month accelerated the slide towards a total collapse of world trade. No one now has any confidence in any of the world currencies.

For merchants and traders, devaluation poses the possible loss of huge sums of money, because the question arises which of the parties to an international commodity transaction shall bear the loss arising out of devaluation.

This will largely depend upon the currency in which at the date when payment became due, the purchase price was to be measured.

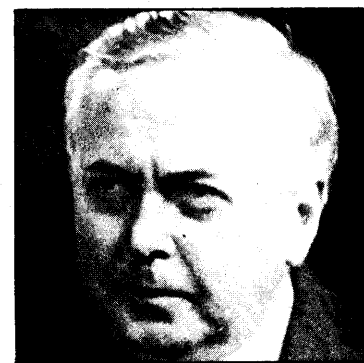
The previous devaluation by the Wilson government in November 1967 threw traders into confusion and finally cost them millions of pounds.

A specific case was one involving a cocoa company and a Nigerian company over the interpretation of 14 contracts for the sale of Nigerian cocoa. All the contracts were open at the time of the devaluation.

Both companies agreed that at the material time the mode of discharge permitted payment in sterling. Before the 1967 devaluation the Nigerian pound and the pound sterling were exactly equal in value.

After devaluation, the pound sterling was worth between 14 and 15 per cent less than the Nigerian pound.

The buyers paid over the money in sterling to obtain delivery of the cocoa. But they



Wilson

paid under protest and soon Wilson began an action against the Nigerian company.

They sought the return of a sum of money equivalent to the difference in sterling between the purchase price measured in Nigerian pounds and the same price measured in the same number of pounds sterling.

It was argued by the buyers that documents showed that an agreement had been made to make payment in pounds sterling measured against itself and not Nigerian pounds. The sellers denied this.

Eventually the case reached the Court of Appeal, where the sellers' case was upheld. The House of Lords agreed with this decision.

Therefore the buyers had to hand over enough pound sterling to make up the stipulated number of Nigerian pounds. The devaluation bill had landed at the feet of the buyers.

# COMMON MARKET PERKS

Now that the Tories have passed legislation taking Britain into the Common Market, a new perk is about to fall into the lap of those MPs attending the new European parliament.

In plans which have just been made known in Whitehall, MPs will get expenses of £35 a day while they are in Brussels or Paris on Market business. This is on top of their £90 a week salary plus telephone and postal allowances.

The expenses also do not take into account a £1m fund which has been put aside for celebrations when formal accession is announced early next year.

Until now many of the parliamentary expenses—travel to and from Europe, hotel expenses—has been paid by wealthy European movements who have been backing

Britain's entry.

The favourite hotel of British MPs in Brussels is the Metropole where you can pick up a tasteful room for just under £10 a night.

The restaurant which they frequent is the Comme Chez Soi—Heath is a regular customer—where the menu is as rich as the bill.

A typical meal might be pâté de la maison (75p), steak au poivre (£1.50), a little spinach (20p), sauté potato (20p), green salad (30p) with a touch of local wine (£1.50). With coffee you might like a brandy (60p).

An excellent little meal for only £5.05.

If you want to stay for the floor show and a magnum of champagne it will cost you an extra £14. A couple of glasses later the bill can go nearer £30.

But on Heath's salary—he get just over £20,000—this is just a flutter.

## POCKET LIBRARY

Why a Labour Government?

A reply to some centrist critics

By Cliff Slaughter

A series which appeared in Workers Press in June, 1972 is now available as a pamphlet in the Socialist Labour League Pocket Library.

'WHY A LABOUR GOVERNMENT? A Reply to some centrist critics.' By Cliff Slaughter Price 5p

Other titles in this series include: The Case for a General Election By Alex Mitchell.

The Ulster Dossier The Social Security Swindle which includes the All Trades Unions Alliance Draft Manifesto and the Charter of Basic Rights.



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# TRYING TO RECOVER THE GIFTS

Although the public examination of Yorkshire architect John Poulson does not resume until later next month, other legal proceedings in the case are continuing.

Action is being taken by the creditors' solicitor to recover the many thousands of pounds worth of gifts—furs, jewellery, holiday cruises—which Poulson lavished on MPs, civil servants and local dignitaries.

The lawyers are invoking Section 42 of the Bankruptcy Act to try to recover money from these favours.

Already the first summons has been served on George Pottinger, a Permanent Under-Secretary at the Scottish Office who was suspended on the orders of the Prime Minister. Pottinger is still on full pay.

The summons claims the return of £21,400 which is the sum Poulson allegedly gave to Pottinger because he was 'an old friend'.

Pottinger has also been served with a court order preventing him from selling his luxury home overlooking Muirfield Golf Course, near Edinburgh.

It is thought that similar summonses will be served on other prominent figures mentioned in the case. Lawyers are considering the possible recovery of the £22,000 paid to the Adeline Genée Theatre Trust, East Grinstead, at the request of former Home Secretary Reginald Maudling.

Maudling, an ex-director of the Poulson group, resigned as Deputy Prime Minister when it was announced that Scotland

Yard's Fraud Squad was going to probe the bankrupt companies.

He says he did not accept a salary from his chairmanship of Poulson's international company; instead he had a sum of money paid to his wife's favourite charity, the Adeline Genée Trust.

There are more than 70 creditors in the case, the largest being the Inland Revenue which is owed almost £200,000.



Left: George Pottinger on the golf course. He has already had his first summons. Above: John Poulson (left) and Maudling.

## BRITAIN'S ELECTRONIC ARMY IN ULSTER

The British army in Ulster is now using a sophisticated range of electronic sensors developed by the United States in the Vietnam war.

Although the devices have been employed for 18 months, their use was not admitted until the army invaded the no-go areas on July 31.

In Vietnam the surveillance devices have been dropped all over the Ho Chi Minh trails and they have been accompanied by anti-personnel mines.

Although the army has not yet reached this stage in Northern Ireland, the electronic sensors have been used to trap a number of IRA men around the border area.

The longest-used surveillance equipment is the ZB 289 ground surveillance radar—a 'man pack' designed for standard infantry patrol use.

The 'New Scientist' has just revealed that they were introduced early last year. It can even discriminate between humans and farm animals.

The radars are now set up in the 3,000-yard stretch of countryside between Donegal and the Creggan Heights. The Provisional IRA once made great use of this area for many months to bring supplies in.

It is claimed by the army that the use of the ZB 289 sets has considerably disrupted



The ZB 298 ground surveillance radar now used in Ulster

the supplies of explosives, forcing the IRA to turn to the use of highly toxic explosive materials which are unsafe to handle.

Two other ground sensor systems, Tobias and Iris, are licence-built modifications of US designs. Recently introduced, they are used in conjunction with ground surveillance radar.

Tobias is a seismic intruder alarm system. It is small and portable and can be used in all weathers. Sensors are buried beneath the ground—up to 20 on each channel—and are virtually undetectable.

A walking man can be detected 50 metres from the sensor, the army claims. The system gives visual indication of movement on each channel on a display unit. An audio pick-up, through headsets, enables the

operator to recognize the nature of the movement.

Iris (infrared intruder system) is an electronic trip-wire effective over distances of up to 200 metres between its two component parts, a beam transmitter and a sensor.

Interruption of the beam causes an alarm to be triggered at a remote monitoring unit and the beam itself is said to be virtually undetectable without interrupting it and turning on the alarm.

All three devices are manufactured by Marconi-Elliott Avionic Systems Ltd, a GEC-Marconi electronics company.

Their use by the army in Ulster is one more sign that the capitalist state machine is getting tooled up to take on the working class here when it moves to challenge the power of the Tory government.

## LEYLAND ON THE MOVE INTO EUROPE

The whole tendency of the British Leyland Motor Corporation in 1972 has been one of trying to raise cash to meet debts and finance new operations.

Last September, BLMC had current debts to suppliers and others of £239m. It had also borrowed to the tune of £88m from the banks, mainly Barclays. BLMC also owed another £32m in short-term loans.

The interest burden was massive, running at about £17.5m a year. The banks were worried about their money and BLMC had short-term liquidity problems.

In this situation Lord Stokes decided on a policy of selling factories and assets to raise cash, with a view to financing operations inside the Common Market.

One such sale, of course, involves the Thornycroft heavy transmission subsidiary at Basingstoke to the American-owned Eaton Corporation.

The 50-acre site on which the factory stands has been sold to English and Continental Property company. The whole deal is planned to net BLMC £5m.

It was not that Thornycroft was unprofitable. In the three years to 1971, it paid £554,000 in dividends to BLMC, and its sales have risen by £2.7m—an increase of 48 per cent.

The fact it was profitable made it possible for BLMC to go ahead with such a deal with Eaton.



Lord Stokes

At the same time, Eaton plan to sack about 600 workers when they take over from October 1.

In the last three years almost 30,000 BLMC workers have lost their jobs through closures and mergers of this kind.

This year's funding operations by BLMC began in February when they raised £50m from existing shareholders by selling them new BLMC shares. In the same month they sold Maudslay Motors to the American-owned North American Rockwell corporation for £4.5m.

By May it was clear what BLMC, headed by Lord Stokes, were up to. For the group acquired Innocenti of Milan in Italy. They will assemble Minis and 1300s there. The complete purchase cost £5m.



Left: Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society. Top right: Wallace. Above: US 'advisers' instructing Nationalist troops in China in 1945

# THE MAKING OF A RIGHT-WING HERO

**Captain John Birch was an American Baptist minister turned intelligence officer who was killed in China by communist troops just ten days after the Japanese surrender of 1945.**

He has become the Horst Wessel of the American right. Robert Welch, a sweet manufacturer, wrote a book in 1945 called 'The Life of John Birch' which described the dead officer as the first casualty of World War Three, the war against communism.

In 1958 Welch founded the John Birch Society and has been its leader ever since.

The Society is perhaps the most influential far-right organization in America. It is especially prominent in Alabama governor George Wallace's American Independence Party and the party's two presidential candidates are both Birchites.

Several state governors have given backing to the Society, proclaiming John Birch Day on the dead captain's birthday. Since the Society first came into public view in 1961, there has been a certain amount of speculation about who he really was and how he met his death.

Some people claimed that he had provoked his own death, but the government refused to publish an official version.

Welch believes that the United States is at least 60 to 80 per cent under communist control. According to him, president Eisenhower was a 'dedicated, conscious agent of the communist conspiracy'.

Not surprisingly he has woven into his conspiracy theory, the charge that the facts of Birch's death were

deliberately suppressed.

Welch's view of Birch's death runs something like this:

'With his death and in his death the battle lines were drawn in a struggle from which either communism or Christian-style civilization must emerge with one completely triumphant and the other completely destroyed.

'Partly for these reasons, but even because John Birch, in all his short but outstanding career, so typified America, we have named our organization in his memory.'

The US Army records on Birch's demise have been secret for the past 27 years and were only released as a result of a liberal campaign for 'freedom of information'.

## Dangerous conduct

They make it clear that Birch did indeed provoke a group of Chinese Red Army soldiers into killing him and wounding his Chinese adjutant, a Lt Tung, by being demanding, threatening and arrogant.

They give considerable detail of Birch's mission at the time he was killed.

As summarized by Wesley McCune in the 'Washington Post', the documents show Birch as an archetypal, imperialist. Even the American authorities whose comments form part of the file conclude that the Chinese gave him what he deserved.

Nine days after Japan's surrender, Capt Birch was assigned to lead a small group of US, Chinese and Korean personnel to Suchow, in the interior of China, to collect Japanese files

and check the airport for the Office of Strategic Services.

Although the war was supposedly over, this territory was occupied by Japanese and their puppets, and there was still hostility.

Nationalist forces under Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek had been fighting the Japanese, as had Communist Chinese forces under Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai.

Gen Albert C. Wedemeyer, commander of US forces in China, was also chief of staff to Gen Chiang, and the United States had an observer group at Communist headquarters in Yen-an.

The two Chinese forces were not co-operating but, nevertheless, both were supposed to know the location of American missions. In this case they did not because the area was occupied by the Japanese.

The Birch group found the Japanese co-operative on the first day of the mission, but was warned of danger if it proceeded into the Communist area.

Despite the warning, Birch led his group forward, and they encountered some Communist troops.

Birch, who was fluent in Chinese, was allowed to pass, but according to the records Lt Tung noticed that Birch's attitude was 'a little severe'.

He told Birch he thought his conduct was 'dangerous,' but the captain replied: 'Never mind, I want to see how the Communists treat Americans. I don't mind if they kill me, for America will then stop the Communist movement with atomic bombs.'

Nevertheless, Birch let Tung do the talking to the next two groups, and there were no incidents.

At Hwang Kao railroad station that afternoon the Chinese were more belligerent. Tung reported that fact to Birch, who reacted by taking a hands-on-hip stance and telling one of the Chinese: 'Well! So you want to disarm us.'

'At present the Americans have liberated the whole world, and you want to stop us and disarm us. Are you bandits?'

By this time the Birch party was surrounded by 60 to 70 armed Chinese.

After some delay, they told the party it could proceed, but Birch refused to be satisfied until taken to the commanding officer.

When a Communist soldier started to lead them back where they had just been, Birch grabbed him at the back of the collar and said: 'After all, what are you people?'

'If I say bandits, you don't have the appearance of bandits. You are worse than bandits.'

## Lengthy interrogation

A short distance further, the leader of about 20 armed Communists ordered his men to load their guns and disarm Birch.

Tung tried to intervene again, but was shot. He lost consciousness after hearing another shot and hearing Birch say he was hit in the leg and could not walk.

A third shot apparently killed Birch, and he was bayoneted as well.

Both men were left for dead, but Tung was rescued and returned to an American base, where he was interrogated at

length. He lost an eye and a leg.

The others in the Birch group were detained nearly two months.

They reported later than they were treated fairly well. Three of the Americans made out a joint report which substantiated Tung's, especially as to Birch's attitude and the warnings he had been given.

Birch's body was recovered from a shallow grave, and after a Catholic service was buried with military honours on a hillside near Suchow.

A ten-page report on the incident, submitted to Gen Wedemeyer by the judge-advocate for the theatre and dated November 13, 1945, relied substantially on the eyewitness account by Tung.

It concluded that 'although Capt Birch's conduct immediately prior to his death indicated a lack of good judgement and failure to take proper precautions in a dangerous situation, nevertheless the actions taken by the Chinese Communist army personnel fell short of according the rights and privileges due even to enemy prisoners of war and constituted murder.'

## Provoked attack

It added: 'The shooting was done maliciously . . . the killing was completely without justification.'

With that conclusion, however, was the following statement:

'Since the presence of the Birch party in the area had not been announced to the Communists, Nationalists or the Yen-an Observer Group . . . and because the Communists were still in battle action, it was entirely proper for them to hold Birch and Tung until satisfied that they were friendly groups.'

'Further, in view of Birch's attitude and actions, the Communists were to a degree properly resentful at being termed "bandits" and were not inclined to be immediately helpful.'

The report also said: 'From Lt Tung's testimony, it seems clear that Birch was in no mood to treat with the Communists and that his actions toward them were belligerent and contemptuous.'

Wedemeyer wrote on August 31 to Mao Tse-tung about the incident, expressing gratitude for past co-operation and asking for a prompt investigation and report.

A reply from Yen-an asserted that Birch and Tung had approached from the enemy's direction, had cursed the Communists who challenged them, and were shot in self-defence.

About ten years later, Wedemeyer wrote an article for Robert Welch's new journal, 'One Man's Opinion', and soon was listed on its editorial advisory committee.

In 1958 Welch secretly organized the John Birch Society and changed the name of his magazine to 'American Opinion'.

Wedemeyer remained as an adviser through the October issue of 1961, several months after the rightist organization became public. But a few weeks later he told 'Newsweek' magazine that he had left Welch.

'I knew John Birch as a captain in China,' he said.

'He provoked the attack on himself; he was arrogant. I warned Welch not to make a hero of Birch.'

'That's why I quit . . . I think Welch is a dedicated, fine American, but he lacks good judgement.'

Ironically the military records which were finally released were held up a few additional days so that their disclosure could not cause embarrassment during President Nixon's trip to China.



# PICKETING!

## —DEFEND YOUR BASIC RIGHTS

Ever since the Heath government came to power in June 1970 it has directed a series of attacks against the right to picket.

Its Industrial Relations Act has a section which deals directly with the rights of workers to call out their brothers in other industries in support of their struggle. In Tory terminology such solidarity action can be 'an unfair industrial practice' punishable in the industrial court. This section of the legislation is regarded by many Tories as too tame-fisted and they are demanding more specific laws to outlaw pickets.

The cries for such legal powers reached two climaxes this year—in the miners' strike and more recently in the dockers' strike. Remember the crescendo of protests after Midlands engineers took the day off to reinforce miners' pickets outside Saltley coke depot, Birmingham, and the huge battalion of police assembled there had to march away?

Predictably the liberals or 'The Guardian' joined the clamour against 'violence' and 'intimidation' on the picket-line without mentioning that the violence and intimidation comes from the state and its police force. Answering these wild distortions by the capitalist press Dr Raymond Challinor said in 'The Guardian':

'As an historian I have been very interested in your editorial campaign against working-class violence. During the past 200 years it is possible to cite countless other examples of newspapers expressing the same viewpoint.

'The principal users of physical force in society have never been the workers but the army and the police. It is impossible to escape the conclusion that the average per-

son has a much greater chance of being done to death by someone wearing a state uniform than by any demonstrator or striker.'

The issue of picketing has recently become the centre of legal actions in the National Industrial Relations Court.

Was it 'legal' for dockers to picket container bases? In the event the court and the employers ducked the picketing question and imposed orders on the men for 'black-ing'.

Starting in Workers Press tomorrow, Bernard Franks, our specialist writer, will be presenting an important series on the laws of picketing. Many trade unionists will remember that it was Bernard Franks who wrote a definitive work against Measured-Day Work, which has since been reprinted several times.

This is an exhaustively researched series. For miners, dockers, engineers, Post Office workers, dustmen—in fact for every section of the trade union movement, which will inevitably be thrown into combat with this hated government—this series makes indispensable reading.

In many senses the picket line is the front line of political struggle today. Workers should know their rights and how they were won so they can be better equipped to defend them.

Writing on this very theme in 'Where is Britain Going?' Trotsky said: '... in all countries the police defend the right of the strikebreakers to injure and kill the striker, to whom, as is well known, the law of the sanctity of human life is not extended.'

● Order special copies so you won't miss this vital series of articles, starting page 4 tomorrow.



Thousands of engineers joined striking miners at Saltley coke depot, Birmingham (top), enraging the Tories; at Neap House Wharf, Scunthorpe, police moved in ruthlessly to break the dockers' picket-line (above left); a precedent had been set at Pilkington's, St Helens, in 1970 (above right)

Builders' pickets like this one from Bristol (top) could find themselves outlawed by the Tories; union chief Jack Jones has started an inquiry after being picketed by his own members recently (above centre); even white-collar workers have taken to the picket-line, like these ASTMS members (above)

The abortive Bolivian revolution of August-September 1971 which brought the CIA-sponsored regime of Col Banzer to power has had a considerable impact on the Trotskyist movement.

Not only did these events prove the complete bankruptcy of the revisionist forces of the Unified Secretariat in Latin America, but they also revealed the theoretical degeneration and blatant political opportunism of the Lora-Lambert tendency within the International Committee of the Fourth International (ICFI). These grave events gave a vital fillip to a discussion on the philosophical and political roots of the opportunism of the POR (Revolutionary Workers' Party of Bolivia) and its subsequent betrayal of the Bolivian proletariat.

No development of Trotskyism we believe is possible without an understanding and assimilation of the lessons of the revolution and counter-revolution in Bolivia 1970. In the interests of such a discussion we are publishing this critique of the 'Workers' Vanguard' statement on the POR. It has been submitted for publication by the Greek section of the ICFI.



Bolivian miners during street fighting in 1970

# WORKERS VANGUARD AND THE BOLIVIAN REVOLUTION

With its document 'The Bolivian Revolution and the Deviations of the POR' (published in Workers Press from June 29 to July 5, 1972) the 'Workers' Vanguard' of Greece wanted to present to the ICFI its positions on the latest events in Bolivia and on their reflection within the Fourth International.

We must, however, see clearly that this document is something more than a simple presentation of the Bolivian problem or a simple political placement in regard to it: it is at the same time the partial result and manifestation of a whole approach, of a certain political methodology, not at all new, as much within the Greek as in the world workers' movement.

Marxist criticism must not confine itself to a criticism of conclusions, but advance to an understanding of the way in which these conclusions were reached, to sharpen the method of its criticism by making a criticism of the method which was followed.

## Deviations of the POR

The 'Workers' Vanguard' criticism of the POR does not seem to have set out from this point.

In the introduction to the document, we find, as a methodological 'explanation' of the deviations of the POR, its abandoning '... of the struggle for an understanding of dialectical materialism as a theory of knowledge', '... its pragmatist adaptation to circumstances and its negligence and disdain of Marxist theory'. This is all the document has to say. Afterwards it returns to the empirical events.

Does the 'Workers' Vanguard' believe that with the ceremonial recitation of a credo on the basic principle of the ICFI on revolutionary theory, the whole subject of the POR's abandonment of dialectical materialism is exhausted? Without showing the principal cause of this anti-theoretical stand? Or, to look at the question from its other side, does the 'Workers' Vanguard' believe that an essential theoretical development of the POR would have been possible, had it taken up the struggle for theory, but carried it out within the stifling localized framework where Lora's leadership had confined (and still does) the Bolivian Trotskyist movement?

The abstract truth of the necessity for the struggle for dialectical materialism is transformed into its opposite when it remains cut off from the concrete material reality which it reflects.

For us, an enmity towards theory is inseparable from a rejection of internationalism.

The disdain of the POR leadership towards the struggle for theory is inseparably tied to the disinterest it has always shown towards the building of the Fourth International, its persistent refusal to base revolutionary work in Bolivia on the foundations of international revolutionary perspectives.

The struggle for the development of the science and philosophy of revolutionary Marxism cannot be undertaken fruitfully in a vacuum, nor in the solitary studies of isolated learned scholars, nor in the local office of some national party suffering from the characteristic political myopia of the leading group gathered around Lora, as far as international political developments and internationalist responsibilities are concerned.

Marxism is always developed only through permanent struggle against its opposite, the rejection of Marxism — every kind of revisionism — a struggle which does not unfold in the field of academic sword-play, but on the battleground of class conflicts, for the building of revolutionary parties which will lead the working class to power and mankind to the first truly human civilization.

And all those who take their weapons for present-day conflicts from the arsenal of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, are well aware that 'in the present epoch, an international epoch, a national revolutionary party can be built only as a part of an international party'. (L. D. Trotsky, 'Centrism and the Fourth International'.)

Only by starting from an international strategy and an international programme, which are organizationally expressed within the international form of a world party of socialist revolution, can revolutionaries in each country see in a scientific light their national peculiarities and concretize, under local conditions, the tactics and strategy of the smashing of the bourgeois state.

Marxist theory was developed within this internationalist framework, within the struggle for the world party, the International, against every liquidationist trend, against every attack of bourgeois ideology from without or from within.



Guillermo Lora of the POR

Between the struggle of Marx and Engels against the Bukunin anarchists at the time of the First International; and through the fight of Lenin and Trotsky against the social-traitor reformists of the Second International and against petty-bourgeois leftism for the building of the Communist International; between the struggle of the International Left Opposition and Trotsky against degeneration into a Stalinist bureaucracy for the building of the Fourth International and through the struggle of the International Committee against the liquidationist attempts of Pabloite revisionism, the same red thread runs without a break.

The worldwide struggle of the proletariat does not tolerate breaks.

Often, in times of retreats and defeats, the Marxist vanguard remains concentrated in small minority groups. But it swims against the current, waiting for the next revolutionary wave which will bring it to the head of the masses, guarding all the theoretical and practical experience of the workers' movement which is found embodied in Marxism.

This does not at all mean that the Marxist is transformed into a museum guard.

To the contrary, the Fourth International and the International Committee were able to surpass the imperialist storms and Stalinist brutalities, to defeat all the revisionist attempts at adapting the International to counter-revolutionary defeatism and to arrive armed on the threshold of this new revolutionary epoch, because for three decades, on all fronts of the class war, they defended Marxism in the only genuine way: by developing it further.

What role did Lora and the leading group of the POR play

in this whole process of the defence and development of Marxism, within the struggle for overcoming the world crisis of revolutionary leadership and the building of the International?

Only within this concrete framework can the question of the abandonment of the struggle for theory by the leaders of the POR be posed. About these internationalist responsibilities not taken up by the POR, about the negative international role which it played, the 'Workers' Vanguard' (WV) says nothing in its document. And as we shall see, this is not an accidental omission.

Lora's leadership, at the time of the big split in the Fourth International in 1953, maintained a completely Pabloite stand with regard to the nationalist MNR government which finally prostituted the Bolivian revolution of 1952.

On the Latin American level, he put most of his weight behind revisionist policies, against the ICFI, and bears full responsibility for the liquidation and disfiguration suffered by the Latin American Trotskyist movement at the hands of Pablo, Posadas, Mandel and Maitan.

He came into conflict with the Pabloite Secretariat, proceeding clearly from local criteria and aspirations, while on the other hand he refused repeatedly to take up the struggle of the ICFI for Trotskyism in Latin America.

When he reappraised the ICFI he again took as his starting point the problems which the Pabloite faction of Gonzalez Moscoso created for him. He always was and is in opposition to any attempt whatsoever to base revolutionary activity on internationalist foundations.

This shortsighted localized view and anti-internationalism are at the root of the opportunist adaptation of the POR to bourgeois nationalism, the horizon of consciousness of the local national bourgeoisie.

So we see that in the final analysis, without revolutionary theory (and development of theory) not only can there be no revolutionary practice, there can only be practice (or inaction) adapted to the limits of bourgeois society.

The POR did not act as a revolutionary leadership in the latest revolutionary situation in Bolivia because it lacked the theoretical weapons which are acquired only within the theoretical and practical struggle of the International, only in the arena where the working class, as an international entity, struggles against the worldwide system of oppression.

This connection between the anti-theoretical and anti-internationalist stand of Lora's group, between the struggle for theory on a national and international level and the revolutionary practice of the International and its sections, does not seem to have been noticed by the WV.

## The crisis of capitalism

This weakness in grasping the dialectic between the international and the national is also evident in the main document, which lacks the first distinctive characteristic of a Marxist document: the correct historical dimension.

In the lengthy diatribe on the counter-revolutionary bourgeois nature of the Torres dictatorship, this regime is nowhere placed as it should be within its international framework.

There is only a reference to the fact that this was a coup d'état that took place within this world crisis of capitalism, which the WV characterizes as 'cyclic'.

This assessment by the WV certainly does not surprise us. In 1966, at the 3rd Conference of the ICFI, when this group was still a minority within the EDE, it agreed with Robert-

son that we were at least 10 years away from a crisis of capitalism.

So from that time, the position of the WV concerning the world economic situation was diametrically opposed to the ICFI's analysis.

In one of the group's documents again, after April 21, they talk about a crisis which, when at some time it acquires social depth, the dictatorship in Greece will fall...

But in the latest document which we are now studying, we see again that they confront the present-day crisis of capitalism as though it were one of the periodic crises which the process of the accumulation of capital has experienced up to now, and which have always been followed, as Marx's analysis points out, by periods of relative stabilization until the next crisis, and so on.

Such a characterization of the present-day world economic crisis, which in the final analysis foresees that sooner or later the crisis will be surpassed and replaced by a new boom, would not find a Mandel, for example, in disagreement.

## International strategy

The ICFI, on the contrary, has based its international strategy on an entirely different assessment.

Today's crisis, the collapse of the world monetary system and of all the economic and political relations based on the decisions at Bretton Woods, are more widespread and deep than any that capitalism, in its whole history, has known before now. We are on the threshold of the greatest revolutionary earthquakes that class society has ever known.

It is certainly not enough for a Marxist to acknowledge the crisis that imperialism is undergoing throughout the world and from there to conclude mechanically that for this reason 'therefore the Torres coup took place', for this reason 'therefore a revolutionary situation was created in Bolivia' etc.

The most essential point of a Marxist analysis is the one where it is shown how in every concrete situation and under particular conditions the general trend of the epoch manifests itself. That is, how the need that imperialism feels on a worldwide scale to come into total conflict so as to smash the militant decisiveness of the oppressed masses, in order to survive, in the one case passes through conspiracies for Common Markets, in another wears the mask of the populist demagoguery of the Velasco junta in Peru, or of the popular front in Chile and in yet another passes from the Torres regime to Banzer's coup.

The truth is always concrete, Lenin said.

This presentation of the concrete, the highest point of a Marxist analysis, is not the empirical conception of the raw fact (something Marx called 'the imaginary concrete').

The scientificness of Marxist thought consists of conceiving the concrete as 'the combination of many determinations, as the process of a composition'. (Marx, 'Grunderisse'.)

Revolutionary action needs as its guide concrete theoretical analyses using Marxist method and not formalistic abstractions and schematic generalizations.

In the WV analysis we see Torres and his regime placed not within the material conditions of our revolutionary epoch, but a statue hovering in some timeless, unhistorical circle of Dante's Hell, keeping company with Chiang Kai-shek, Castro, Ben Bella, Boumediene, Nasser, Gaddafi, Bandaranaike, Aref, Papan-dreou, Suharto, Makarios, Sadat, Hussein, even Thiers.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

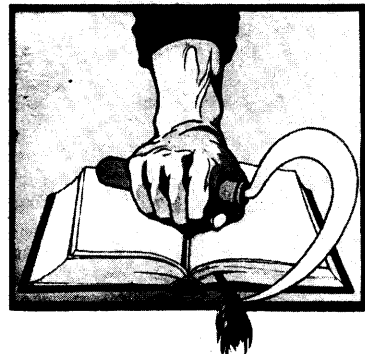




Trotsky (second from left) with a group of revolutionaries under arrest and on their way to exile in Siberia after the events of 1905.

# TROTSKY ON 1905

## BOOK REVIEW



'1905', by Leon Trotsky (Allen Lane, The Penguin Press. 488 pp. £4.95.)

BY JACK GALE

Trotsky wrote the essays comprising this book while in a Tsarist prison after the crushing of the 1905 revolution. At the age of 25 he had been the leading figure in the St Petersburg Soviet.

Lenin was to describe 1905 as 'the dress rehearsal' of the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. Trotsky says it was the prologue in which 'all the elements of the drama were included but not carried through'.

1905 grew directly out of the Russo-Japanese war, as the revolution of 1917 was to be the direct outcome of World War I.

With a mass movement behind it, the liberal bourgeoisie frightened the monarchy.

Peasant uprisings to seize the land occurred throughout Russia and revolutionary stirrings occurred in the army.

Above all a new form of proletarian organization emerged: the soviets, in which workers organized themselves separately from and in opposition to the bourgeoisie.

However, as Trotsky explained in his 'History of the Russian Revolution', the revolutionary forces were going into action for the first time

and they lacked experience and confidence.

Workers' consciousness developed in a contradictory way.

In January 1905 a strike began in the Putilov works involving 140,000 workers. Yet while this strike was on the Petersburg workers marched behind Father Gapon to present a petition to the Tsar:

'Sire! We workers, our children and wives, the helpless old people who are our parents, we have come to you, Sire, to seek justice and protection.'

'Sire, our strength is at an end! The limit of our patience has been reached; the terrible moment has come for us when it is better to die than to continue suffering intolerable torment.'

They were, in fact, to die. Trotsky describes the march on January 9 to present the petition:

'As agreed, the march to the palace was a peaceful one, without songs, banners or speeches.'

'People wore their Sunday clothes. In some parts of the city they carried icons or church banners.'

'Everywhere the petitioners encountered troops. They begged to be allowed to pass. They wept, they tried to go round the barrier, they tried to break through it.'

'The soldiers fired all day long. The dead were counted in their hundreds, the wounded in their thousands. An exact count was impossible since the police carted away and secretly buried the bodies of the dead at night.'

In the space of one day, the working masses, united at first in an appeal to an idealized monarchy, were to unite later in the recognition that the proletariat and the real monarchy were mortal enemies.

But it was precisely the realization that it was not enough to shake Tsarism, but that it had to be smashed, that forced the liberals to back away from the revolution.

The 'progressive' bourgeoisie

and a large part of the democratic intelligentsia moved away from the working class. The monarchy was able to isolate revolutionary elements in the army, and use the loyal units to suppress the workers and peasants.

The working class was not strong enough in 1905 to take the power. But it could not have conquered in 1917 without the help of the experience gained 12 years before.

But 1905 was invaluable not only for the development of revolutionary experience. As Trotsky points out: 'We Marxists were already armed with the scientific method of comprehending historical processes.'

The period between 'Bloody Sunday' (January 9) and the huge October strikes which sparked off the revolution was the period in which Trotsky's theory of permanent revolution was formed.

Trotsky argued that the Russian revolution, though directly concerned with bourgeois aims, could not stop short of those aims. The revolution could not solve its immediate bourgeois tasks unless the working class took the power.

But the working class, once it had the power, would not remain within the limits of the establishment of bourgeois democracy. It would be compelled to make inroads into bourgeois property relations.

This, Trotsky explained, would bring the proletariat into conflict not only with bourgeois groups but also with the broad masses of peasantry, even though it had come to power with their support.

The theory of permanent revolution was an internationalist theory.

Trotsky writes: 'The workers' government will from the start be faced with the task of uniting its forces with those of the socialist proletariat of western Europe. The permanent revolution will become, for the Russian proletariat, a matter of class self-preservation. 'If the workers' party cannot

show sufficient initiative for aggressive revolutionary tactics, if it limits itself to a dictatorship that is purely national... the united reactionary forces of Europe will waste no time in making it clear that a working class, if it happens to be in power, must throw the whole of its strength into the struggle for a socialist revolution.'

The Russian working class could not overcome its conflict with the bourgeoisie and the peasantry except through a world proletarian revolution.

The revolution would not only have to go beyond the limits of bourgeois democracy but also beyond the national and state boundaries of Russia.

This meant, Trotsky concluded, that the Russian revolutionaries had to 'strive consciously for the Russian revolution to become the prologue to a world revolution'.

In this book, Trotsky does not seek to give a complete factual history of 1905. Instead he selects those events and institutions which, he says, 'summed up the very meaning of the revolution'.

He concentrates mostly on the last three months of 1905 which began with the great all-Russian strike and ended with the crushing of the December rising in Moscow.

From the earlier period, he deals mainly with the brief 'liberal' period which he describes as 'that honeymoon of rapprochement between the government and "the public"', and which came to an end on Bloody Sunday.

He then covers the events of Bloody Sunday, the transition from liberalism to revolution.

The section on the October strike, which forced Nicholas II to make the concessions of October 17, was written for a Petersburg revolutionary paper while the strike was still continuing, and is reproduced here almost without change.

The second part of the book begins with the arrest of the entire Soviet of Workers' Deputies on December 3, 1905,

which began the era of counter-revolution.

The trial of the Soviet Deputies was turned into a working-class demonstration. When it was announced that one of the defendants had already been executed before the trial began, the courtroom full of workers stood in his honour and the case could not proceed until the tribute was over.

Workers waiting to be called as witnesses sang revolutionary songs outside. When they took the witness stand they greeted the defendants first.

Trotsky deals in detail with the court trial and then with his own exile to Siberia and subsequent escape.

After the arrest of the Petersburg Soviet (its members spent over a year in gaol and then were exiled 'in perpetuity') all revolutionary organizations in Russia fell victim to the counter-revolution.

As the counter-revolution gathered speed, the sentences became more severe.

When the members of the Yekaterinoslav Soviet of Workers' Deputies were tried in 1909, dozens of them were given hard labour and 32 were sentenced to death.

In addition to this invaluable material, some of which has not appeared in English before, Trotsky's book contains three important appendices.

These deal with:

- His refutation of the Menshevik conception of bourgeois revolution;

- An exposition of his own theory of permanent revolution;

- An article entitled 'The Struggle for Power', published in 1915, in which Trotsky argues that the political relations which became clearly outlined in the 1905 defeat would find their culmination in the successful revolution.

This book is an indispensable weapon in the struggle for the development of Marxist theory. The publishers would be performing a valuable service if they brought out a paperback edition.

# WHATEVER HAPPENED TO RENTAVILLA?

**Rentavilla-Villaparties was a group of companies which offered the British middle class those continental get-away-from-it-all holidays.**

Its luxurious advertising sent thousands of clients scurrying off to fascist Spain, Portugal and Corfu.

The smart offices in Piccadilly and the Broadway, Hammer-smith, gave it an aura of utter respectability and unshakability.

But in the Bankruptcy Court last week further details of the Rentavilla operation were revealed.

Liquidation and debts of almost half a million pounds were a solemn reminder that in many speculative capitalist enterprises—what goes up, must come down.

When Geoffrey Gillvray, the assistant Official Receiver, spoke to creditors last week he gave them a bleak history of the enterprise.

There had been problems in researching the collapse, he said. 'Our inquiries have been handicapped. We have had to search far and wide for such information as we have got.'

In particular the investigation was hindered by the unavailability of the main director,

Lawrence John Cullen. He had failed to attend for interview, Gillvray said.

He had been told that Rhodesian-born Cullen had gone to Spain. 'Unless he can be extradited there is nothing we can do,' he told one of the creditors.

The original company was formed by a couple of Oxford graduates in 1959.

It came into the hands of Cullen—and his wife Marjorie—in 1970 when the annual turnover had reached a comfortable quarter of a million a year.

Writing in the 'Sunday Times' a month ago, Richard Milner said the group immediately began an expansion programme based on 'more panache than prudence'. Within a short time Rentavilla-Villaparties plunged into the red. It lost £79,000-odd in the first year of new management.

To ease the liquidity problem, Cullen promoted three fund-raising schemes. How these schemes operated make incredible reading.

Cullen generously offered various adventurous business the chance to become 'partner-plan' directors by paying him the sum of £2,000 each.

Other, better-heeled citizens were brought onto the firm after paying £6,000 each. He

promised them a 14 per cent return.

Unbelievably about 140 people lent themselves to this scheme and paid Cullen more than £1,000 each. Despite the new money the group's financial troubles continued and on May 10 this year the whole show folded up leaving a trail of debts from West London to southern Spain.

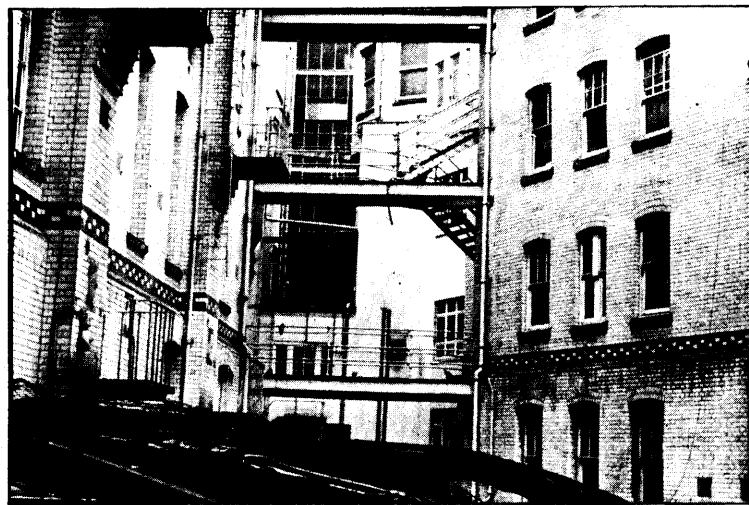
But on July 8, two months after the liquidation, a curious advertisement was placed in 'The Times'.

It said: 'Investment, with directorship, offered in three companies, dealing with (1) young people's holidays, (2) property sales abroad, (3) services and management for property owners abroad.'

'Trading profit of £30,000-plus is expected in year to October 1972, on turnover of £250,000-plus. Minimum of £50,000 is required. Principals only please.'

Who inserted the advertisement is not known but the bonanza referred to was none other than the embattled Rentavilla-Villaparties.

How many customers dived for their chequebooks is impossible to say. But before anyone does decide to dip into this enterprise they should perhaps familiarize themselves with what's going on in the Bankruptcy Court.



Old Charing Cross Hospital

## WHO BENEFITS?

Building union officials have agreed to exempt the new Charing Cross Hospital site in Fulham, South-West London, from the strike in the building industry. Whilst this is a fine humanitarian gesture on their part, the only people likely to profit from it are the property speculators.

The present Charing Cross Hospital, just off the Strand in central London, is due to close by the end of the year. There were fears that the new building would not be finished in time to take in all the patients who would have to be transferred there.

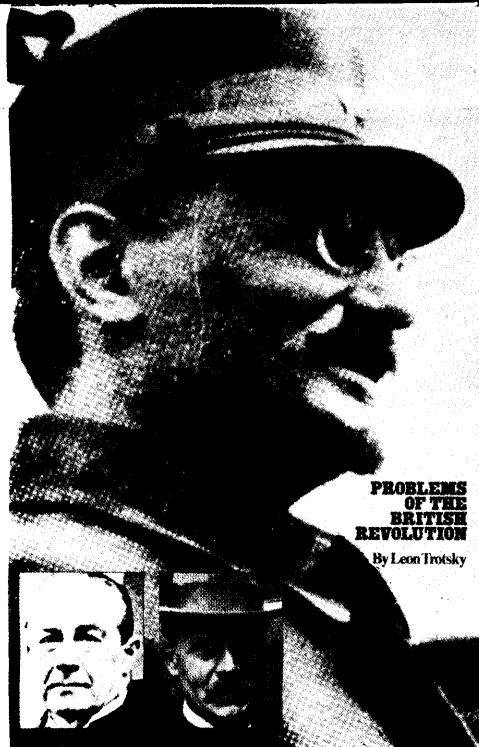
It is an old building. It is dingy and inconvenient and staff fight a never-ending battle with the cockroaches which crawl out of the decaying woodwork. There is no doubt that, as a hospital, it should have been pulled down years ago.

The reason it is closing now, however, is because it is part of the old Covent Garden site which is due for redevelopment next year. In place of the present hospital will rise yet another luxury hotel. If the new hospital was not ready in time, work might have been delayed on the hotel.

No one would want to deny the people of South-West London a fine new hospital.

The closure of the present Charing Cross, however, means that central London, which gets a large number of emergency patients from the West End, will have one hospital less. The casualty departments of others in the area, such as the Middlesex, which are already stretched to capacity, are having to take on all their patients as well.

But the property speculators will be making a mint.



### Trotsky's reply to critics of 'Where is Britain Going?'

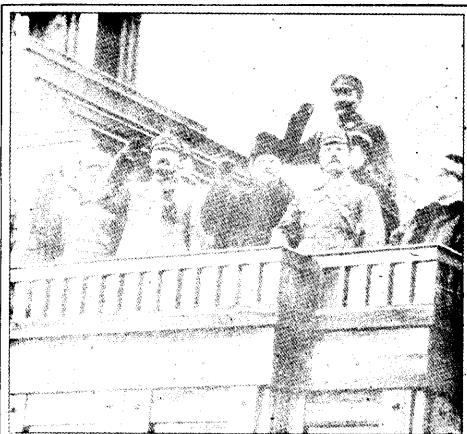
This collection of articles was penned by Trotsky in reply to various critics of his then recently-published 'Where is Britain Going?' They appeared in the Soviet press of the time and constitute a necessary corollary and sequel to that work. Trotsky here dissects the arguments of all the brands of opponents of Marxism: reformist, centrist, pacifist, Fabian, trade-union bureaucrat and by implication, its Russian counterpart, the nascent Soviet bureaucrat. Here also he unravels many of the knotty problems facing the infant Communist Party developing a strategy for power in the revolutionary epoch.

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# Agency anger

AMERICAN-OWNED United Press International, one of the four major world-wide news agencies, has provoked a dispute with the journalists in its London office which has turned into the first officially NUJ-backed strike on Fleet Street in a long while.

The degree of UPI's hostility to the National Union of Journalists—and to all other unions—is now revealed for the first time. Captured documents have left even those experienced in fighting newspaper managements gasping.

The dispute began two months ago when the father of the NUJ chapel Mark Grantham recruited into the union five Americans who worked the foreign correspondents desk.

They wanted to join in order to get some bargaining strength in their negotiations with management over their own pay and conditions which were separate from the rest of the chapel. The NUJ wanted them in in order to get an all-union shop.

UPI's first move was to sack Grantham on the spot. The NUJ replied with a threat to black UPI copy throughout Fleet Street and beyond and Grantham was at once reinstated.

Then the management pressured the five new members individually to get them to leave the union. They were warned that management would not tolerate them remaining on the privileged dollar payroll and get union protection as well. It was made clear their future with UPI was now in doubt.

They were given ten days to either not seek to change their dollar payroll conditions; or to

## NUJ leads first official Fleet St. strike against US press employers

3. Within a day of the three-hour walk-out he withdrew from union activity, telling the union he no longer would support any action by them and followed up by resigning from the union and telling them (as well as us) that in any further dust up he would continue working and with the intention of defeating the union in such actions.

4. Were we to rid London of Joseloff, we could not get a replacement in the near future (the union-buttressed British government barriers on issuing UPI work permits for foreigners) and we quite likely may face a strike situation in which we will need the services of those relatively few Unipressers with work permits or British nationality (to elude work permit bans)...

up and instead left a letter which was read out by a subordinate.

It could have just as easily been sent by post because the management refused to explain or elaborate any of the points which mainly repeated the previous ultimatum.

Then, in the middle of further negotiations to revert to Department of Employment approved hours in return for a discussion about ending the work-to-rule which by now was in operation, UPI delivered a new ultimatum individually to four of the Americans:

Either agree to a 45-hour week and withdraw from the work-to-rule or leave the office for good immediately and report back to New York within two weeks to an uncertain fate.

The first man approached said he would have to consult the union. He was told to get out. Within hours the whole NUJ staff was out on a permanent mandatory chapel meeting which, after some dangerous dilatoriness by the NUJ leadership, was eventually turned into an official strike.

The situation quickly escalated. Journalists throughout Fleet Street were instructed not to handle news off the UPI wires.

Telegraph operators of the National Graphical Association inside the UPI offices refused to handle copy given them by management.

UPI replied with dismissal notices to all NUJ men and NGA men, who hit back by sitting in at their machines in order to stop management punching out the news. One wire-telegraphist's chair was occupied for two hours by a management representative before a fierce argument persuaded him to vacate it.

UPI then brought in a special machine which can transmit both photographs and news copy and hired Securicor guards to make certain management could operate it in peace, completely in breach of agreements with the NGA.

The unions then moved to stop all UPI traffic over as wide a field as possible. Five UPI journalists (NUJ members) were ordered back from Munich where they had been sent to cover the Olympic Games.

Contact was made with UPI bureaux in other countries to stop traffic being re-routed. A member of the chapel flew to Belgium to persuade Brussels journalists to help stop UPI using the Belgian capital as an alternative to London for transmitting British-based news.

The unions involved in the London dispute must be prepared to fight all the way for legitimate union demands despite all the threats from Humi and others that UPI will quit Britain completely if the pressure is not called off.

The NUJ national leaders have already shown dangerous hesitation in this dispute and any further uncertainty or unfirmness of purpose in face of a fairly ruthless employer will only encourage UPI.

Worse, it will encourage other Fleet Street employers to try to adopt a hard line when dealing with the unions.

The attempted victimization of FOC Mark Grantham is only one of three recent cases of attacks on NUJ officers and Associated Newspapers closing down of the 'Daily Sketch' without the unions landing a scratch on them is still being looked on with envy by other newspaper groups.

UPI is owned by the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain in America. It ranks second to the Associated Press among US news agencies, and operates in 40 to 50 foreign countries on a world-wide basis.

Generally, UPI tries to make progress at the expense of Reuters, AP, and Agence France-Presse by offering a cheaper service, presumably made possible by working their overseas US staff that much harder than other agencies.

In London, for example, AP American-hired staff enjoy the same work conditions and union membership rights as British staff, but also keep the dollar-payroll privileges. This is also the rule for

British newsmen working outside Britain.

Recently, UPI moved its centre of European operations out of London to Brussels on the direct insistence of the president of the parent company in America, Jack Howard, and against the advice of the subsidiary board of UPI in New York. The reason: to get away from the power of the British trade unions, particularly the NGA.

The real danger with such anti-union companies is that they will eventually move their operations to countries like Portugal where they can rely on a police state to protect them from the demands of trade unionists.

9. Firing Joseloff now would probably wipe out what little chance there is of the London FIVE (Sudhalter, Wright, Hollander, Gibson, Smith) moving away from a position in which they see themselves as the Sacco and Vanzettis of some star-crossed nonsensical crusade to gain the status of trench-coated TV-type foreign correspondents.

We must deal tough as hell with these wowers [term of abuse], but being corralled by the work permit curse—not even the Russians go near the strictures put on the freedom of UPI by the British—behoves us to take the toughest course in a way that will cause the smallest ripples.

That is, if we do not fire Joseloff, we would give the five poltroons no ammunition for feeding their martyr complexes and plunging toward endless cooperation with the NUJ radicals.

Firing GJ would, I feel, further inflame the five and make them union militants.

The last sentence provides in UPI's own words startling proof of the need to build unions to protect men from arbitrary dismissal once they have begun to question their conditions of work.

The earlier section on UPI's hostility to British work permit regulations indicates that there is much for Michael Foot, MP, who has said he will investigate the matter following approaches from the NUJ, to look into.

There are also clear hints that UPI never intended seriously to negotiate with the NUJ, but all along was looking for a show-down. The way the talks were conducted added to that impression.

At an eventual summit meeting arranged with Ken Morgan, NUJ general secretary, the chief of UPI operations in Europe, Julius Humi, failed to even show

go wholly onto the British payroll and lose all their concessions for working away from home; or to be transferred at once back to New York.

The main issue in the argument on conditions was the length of the working week. NUJ agreements specify a 40-hour week including time for meal breaks on day shift and a 35-hour week including mealtimes on shifts beginning after midday. The foreign correspondents desk worked a 45-hour week as a minimum, day or night.

In the negotiations which followed, pressure was brought to bear on UPI because they were in breach of undertakings given to the Department of Employment that any Americans who were granted foreign work permits to work on Fleet Street would abide by NUJ hours.

Meanwhile, management's pressure had apparently also borne fruit in that one of the five decided to quit the NUJ. But confidential UPI correspondence reveals that the case of Gordon Joseloff was not all that it seemed. A letter from European news manager Richard Growald to New York editor H. L. Stevenson, headed 'The fall and rise of Gordon Joseloff', suggests that Joseloff is really more on management's side than the union's and should not be sacked. But more important, it shows what management thinks of men who join unions.

Gordon Joseloff did a stupid thing in the London bureau walk-out. Although acting bureau manager, he did not inform UPI of pending NUJ walk-out plans.

Should he be fired? Answer: no. Why not.

1. He quickly realized he had been duped by the union.

2. He had acted all along sincerely in the belief he was aiding UPI by working to moderate the NUJ radicals.

# TV

## BBC 1

9.45 Joe. 10.00 Robinson Crusoe. 10.25 Sounding out. 10.50-10.55 Magic roundabout. 11.00 Olympic grandstand. 1.30 Trumpton. 1.45 News and weather. 1.55 Olympic grandstand. 7.30 FILM: 'The Paleface'. Bob Hope, Jane Russell. 'Painless' the dentist meets Calamity Jane. 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.25 MARILYN MONROE TEN YEARS ON. Her film career is assessed by John Huston, Joshua Logan, George Axelrod, Lee Strasberg, Ben Lyon, James Dougherty and others. 9.50 TODAY AT THE OLYMPICS. Gymnastics and swimming finals. 12.30 Weather.

## BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Scooby-Doo. 5.15 Blue Peter flies the world. 5.45 Magic roundabout. 5.50 Sounds of music. 6.50 HORIZON: 'The Dinosaur Hunters'. 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 A MATTER OF DISCIPLINE. The Primary School.

## ITV

11.10 Outlook. 12.25 Women today. 12.50 Common Market cook book. 1.15 Bellbird. 1.25 Felix the cat. 1.40 Flintstones. 2.00 Castle haven. 2.25 Racing from Epsom. 3.45 Dr Simon Locke. 4.10 Yak. 4.25 Junior showtime. 4.50 Maggie. 5.20 Olympics and news. 6.00 TODAY. 6.40 CROSSROADS. 7.05 QUEENIE'S CASTLE: 'Mr Faintheart'. 7.35 FILM: 'The Reluctant Heroes'. Ken Berry, Jim Hutton, Trini Lopez. Korean War story. 9.00 ARMCHAIR THEATRE: 'Whatever Became of Me?' John Thaw, Joanna Dunham, Beth Harris. 10.00 NEWS AND OLYMPICS AT TEN. 10.45 OUR BRIAN. Brian Marshall with guests Design, Keith Harris, Gemma Craven. 11.20 CHILDREN TO CHILDREN FROM AUSTRIA. Shadow Children. 11.50 CRAFTSMEN IN THE CHURCH.

9.10 COLLECTOR'S WORLD. 9.50 OUT OF THE UNKNOWN. 'Taste of Evil'. Maurice Rooves, Peter Copley, Jack Lambert. 10.40 PICK OF 'REVIEW'. Writers and writing. 11.35 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 11.40 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP INTERVIEW. Charles Mingus.



Marilyn Monroe: Ten Years On' on BBC 1 tonight assesses her work

## REGIONAL TV

SOUTHERN: 12.55 News and weather. 1.00 Jobs in the house and garden. 1.25 Dick Van Dyke. 1.50 Farmhouse kitchen. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.25 London. 3.45 Houseparty. 4.00 Junior showtime. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Film: 'Caxambul'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 News. 11.30 Farm progress. 12.00 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 2.25 London. 3.45 Let's face it. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Shirley's world. 7.10 Film: 'Tarzan's Peril'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 Castle and clan. 11.55 Collecting on a shoestring. 12.25 Weather.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15-4.25 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 11.55 Sion a sian. 12.25 Weather. HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West.

ANGLIA: 1.40 Remember. 2.00 Mr Piper. 2.25 London. 3.40 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Columbo'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 Jesse James.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.45-3.15 Racing from Epsom. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Women today. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Copper Canyon'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 Who do you do? 11.50 Stories worth telling. Weather.

ULSTER: 1.45 Racing from Epsom. 4.00 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 News.

6.10 Lidsville. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Meet Me After the Show'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 Shirley's world.

YORKSHIRE: 1.45 Scotland Yard. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.25 London. 3.45 Matinee. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 London. 6.00 Calendar. weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Guns of Diablo'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 Spyforce. 12.15 Weather.

GRANADA: 1.20 Audubon wildlife theatre. 1.45 Racing from Epsom. 3.40 Peyton Place. 4.10 News. Enchanted house. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Amazing world of Kreskin. 6.30 Dr Simon Locke. 7.00 Film: 'The Hard Man'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 Felony squad.

TYNE TEES: 1.40 Scotland Yard. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.25 London. 3.45 Jimmy Stewart. 4.09 News. 4.10 Paulus. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'All Jennings of Oklahoma'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 Division four. 12.15 News. 12.30 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 1.45-3.20 Racing from Epsom. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Women today. 4.10 Yak. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Man With the Gun'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 Late call. 11.25 Festival.

GRAMPIAN: 1.45 Racing from Epsom. 3.15 News. 3.20 Yoga. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Yak. 4.25 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.10 Dick Van Dyke. 6.35 Crossroads. 6.55 Film: 'Dear Wife'. 8.30 Queenie's castle. 9.00 London. 11.20 Epilogue.

# Slave city brings back shackles

BY IAN YEATS

THE POLICE Federation has criticized cells at two Liverpool First Division soccer grounds equipped with huge steel shackles to restrain violent fans.

The hoops are bolted to the wall and prisoners can be chained or handcuffed to them.

Federation chairman Inspector Reginald Gale said: 'The public are not going to like this sort of thing. I believe it will cause a lot of repugnance. This will do the police image no good.'

'There will be many people who will say: "After the shackles what next?"'

Gale is dead right. The same people might also be wondering why he is more concerned about the police image than the methods they use.

One of the reasons might be that it was the police who designed the shackles in the first place. Not only that. They are standard practice in Liverpool police stations.



An example of the shackles installed at the Anfield (Liverpool) and Goodison Park (Everton) grounds

Designer Chief Supt Bob Grant said: 'It is an indication of what we feel is necessary in case the situation gets any worse.'

It might be inferred from this that the police are prepared to go to any lengths to maintain law and order.

There are certainly those who agree.

Dennis Follows, secretary of the Football Association commented: 'If we ask the police to do a job we cannot complain about the way they do it if the methods they use are in accordance with normal practice.'

He was backed by the 50,000 strong Citizens Protection Society founded a year ago after Blackpool Supt Gerald Richardson was shot. A spokesman said tougher measures were necessary even if the police image had to suffer.

Shackles, concentration camps, gas chambers. Apparently it all comes down to—if the public will wear it, it's all right.

# Right-to-Work strike closes B-Leyland plants

BY DAVID MAUDE

WIDESPREAD strikes closed down the British-Leyland car and heavy-vehicle groups yesterday as workers staged an unprecedented solidarity action in defence of the right to work.

Major sections of the £437m combine were hit.

The company, which attempted for most of last week to foster a right-wing backlash against the strike plans, maintained unaccustomed reticence on the subject. A spokesman agreed they were 'trying to ignore it'.

Good reasons exist for British

Leyland's stance of feigned indifference.

The strike—in support of 1,200 workers who are occupying Transport Equipment Thornycroft, at Basingstoke—in a bid to save their jobs—was an extremely political one.

Hit by shrinking markets and deep financial trouble, company chairman Lord Stokes plans to sell off the Basingstoke factory to an American firm and its site to a property company (for the detailed background, see page 4). 344 jobs were to go immediately and many more later.

As Thornycroft convenor Gordon Owen-Jones told Workers Press: 'What Leyland's are doing in this rationalization is carrying out government policy to the fullest extent.'

So big issues were at stake for

those workers who answered the strike call of the Leyland combine shop stewards' committee yesterday.

In Scotland, the Bathgate truck and tractor plant in West Lothian was at a standstill, with all 3,400 workers out.

Further backing from within the heavy-vehicles division came from Lancashire and the Midlands. All 8,000 workers at the Leyland Motors factories, Leyland and Chorley, were on strike. Also involved here was a domestic manning dispute.

Tractor and Transmission, Birmingham, stopped with 2,000 workers out.

In the key Austin-Morris car division, there was normal working at the sprawling Longbridge, Birmingham, complex yesterday morning.

But at the Cowley assembly plant, Oxford, more than half the 8,000 production workers stayed away, preventing any production at the factory. Those who did report for work were sent home.

The BMC Service and KD (export) plants at Cowley were also shut. Body-plant workers worked normally, however.

At the Thornycroft factory, Gordon Owen-Jones said the sit-in workers were encouraged by the response to the strike call. 'But this is only the first stage,' he said.

'What we need now is financial backing to keep this action going for ever and a day if need be. It's time for the trade union movement in the combine to show its teeth. If we don't, no one's job is safe.'

## Jaguar stewards to sell piecework?

THE TEN-WEEK-OLD Jaguar car strike at Coventry will go on—because stewards feel British Leyland is not paying enough to buy out piecework.

Shop stewards hold the dangerous claim that they have no rooted objection to Measured-Day Work, but they had hoped to win a substantial wage rise first to bring their pay on a par with other workers at the factory.

Although no figure has been named, the stewards are angling for rises which would give all track workers around £48 a week.

So far the management has offered £44—which many already earn—plus a lump sum payment of £105.

Talks between management and union officials broke down after nine hours on Saturday, although the stewards will not be told what happened until their next normal meeting tomorrow.

Union officials are almost certain to urge that Jaguar's latest offer be accepted and that there is nothing more to gain by staying out on strike.

Less than half the 2,000 strikers attended last week's mass meeting and management are said to feel that a new and better attended meeting might respond more favourably to their new offer.

## Teeth talk

THE DEPARTMENT of Health and Social Security has opened discussions with the British Dental Association to start National Health Service dental charges from 18 years of age instead of 21.

Changes would mean alterations to the National Health Service Act.

## Leeds women indignant at £2 offer

THERE IS bitter resentment among clothing workers in Leeds about their union's decision to accept a £2-a-week pay rise.

The Leeds workers had been demanding that the union fight for the full claim of £6.

One leading militant told Workers Press that the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers' executive has no mandate to settle for anything less.

Mrs Una Ambler, a machinist at C. and M. Sumrie's, one of the largest factories in the district, said:

'The union hasn't the manners even to come and tell us.'

And Mary Wood, another machinist, added: 'The executive board members should have come down to the factory floors and let everyone vote, but I doubt if some of them know what a factory floor looks like now.'

In view of soaring inflation, £2 is nothing these days, said one passer (an employee who checks work).

'It's a disgusting offer,' she went on. 'We'll be on the bread line when we go into

the Common Market.'

Mrs Bellfield, a machinist, said: 'They haven't given us a rise. This offer hardly covers the cost of living increase. We're just back to square one.'

Sheila Wilkinson, a 16-year-old, 22p-an-hour machinist (women over 18 are paid an average of 35p an hour for the same job) said: 'We just can't live on what we get. We're entitled to a decent wage.'

Mrs Anne Stead, who was a leading militant in the 1970 clothing strike in Leeds, and who fought against workers being led back to work

before an agreement was reached, said:

'The £2 was accepted on the basis of the rest of the country having accepted it. But we were never told what other areas said.'

'Why should we be dictated to by the smaller towns when Leeds has the biggest tailoring work force in Britain? We want a new executive board. The lowest-paid workers, mainly the women, aren't getting a living wage. Unless women clothing workers are supported by their husbands or families they can't live.'

## London builders to march on HQ



Scottish builders during their demonstration in Glasgow last week.

LONDON building workers—about 20,000 are on strike in the capital—will march on the employers' federation headquarters tomorrow.

Many of them will have been striking for ten weeks for the claim for £30, 35-hours, and three weeks' holiday.

In this their first real major battle for 50 years, they have been cruelly misled.

The union leaders have refused to call a national strike and now plan to send 20,000 back to work on the basis of separate company deals, many only giving a £25 basic.

This strategy has had the 100 per cent support of the Communist Party, which now describes the 83 deals as 'strike victories' in the 'Morning Star'.

Not wanting to embarrass the union leaders or enter a fight with the Tory government, the Stalinist 'Charter' group has not brought out a new edition of its paper during the strike.

In Hull on Sunday, a mass meeting of 600 building workers, rejecting union officials' 'advice', called for a national strike. They also rejected company agreements and decided to call every Hull builder, including local authority, out on strike today and tomorrow.

Laurie Rice, convenor at Spooners, Hull's biggest contractor, told the meeting: 'We've had a

load of codswallop from the platform. My members want to come out but have been told not to do so.'

Rice condemned the union leaders for not calling a national strike and for signing company agreements.

Corporation workers at the meeting demand their separate

negotiations be ditched and that they also be called out.

But J. Mortimer, Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians' regional secretary, said the Industrial Relations Act prevented an all-out strike. 'The strike is not what we want; it's a settlement,' he said to heavy barracking.

**Socialist Labour League**  
**FOUR LECTURES**  
**THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM**  
 given by  
 G. HEALY  
 (SLL national secretary)

1. **Marxism as the theory of knowledge**  
 Tuesday September 5
2. **Development of Marxism through working-class struggle**  
 Tuesday September 12
3. **Nature of the capitalist crisis**  
 Tuesday September 19
4. **Historical materialism today**  
 Tuesday September 26

**AEU HOUSE**  
**Mount Pleasant**  
**Liverpool 1, 7.30 p.m.**

**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS**

**TUC MUST BREAK OFF ALL TALKS WITH HEATH!**  
**MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!**

**NOTTINGHAM: Tuesday August 29, 7.30 p.m.** People's Hall, Heathcote Street. 'Victory to the building workers'.

**WANDSWORTH: Tuesday August 29, 8 p.m.** Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road, Tooting. 'Lessons of the docks strike.'

**DUNDEE: Wednesday August 30, 8.00 p.m.** YMCA Constitution Room.  
 Lessons of UCS and the Docks Strike.

**PRESTON: Wednesday August 30, 8 p.m.** Railway and Commercial Hotel, Butler St (nr railway station). 'The Tory government and the building workers'.

**EAST LONDON: Thursday August 31, 8 p.m.** Festival Inn, Market Square, Chrisp Street, Market, E14.

**CAMBRIDGE: Thursday August 31, 8 p.m.** Red Cow (behind the Guild Hall). 'Lessons of the dockers and Builders' strikes'.

**DAGENHAM: Tuesday September 5, 8 p.m.** Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking. 'Lessons of docks strike, UCS jobs fight.'

**SLOUGH: Tuesday September 5, 7.30 p.m.** Slough Community Centre, Farnham Rd. 'Force the Tories out! Expose the traitors in the labour and trade union movement!' Speakers: Frank Tomany and Brian Bailey, both in a personal capacity.

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