

NEW DEADLINE AT GOVAN—UCS

BOILERMAKERS CALL TORY BLUFF

BY DAVID MAUDE Our Industrial Correspondent

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This is not only a slur on the boilermakers. It ignores the cast-iron case they have put forward for a pay rise to bring them in line with the £1 an hour being paid by Marathon Manufacturing at Reid's own Clydebank yard.

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But after 14 months' virtual pay freeze their members are demanding an immediate rise with effect from the date of signing the agreement.

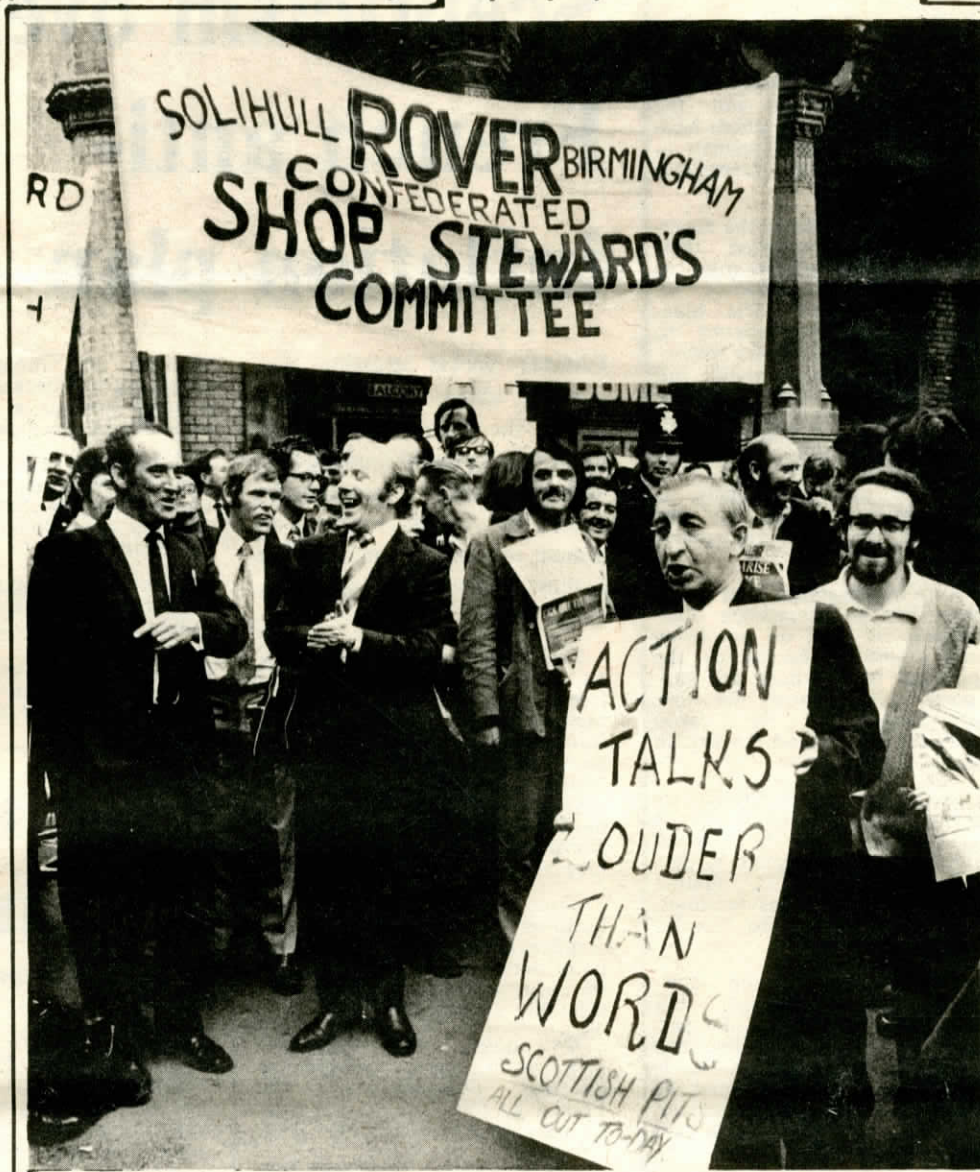
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The incident with Chiang Ching-quo, who is now Prime Minister of Taiwan, took place when he visited New York in 1970.

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workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 1972 ● No 861 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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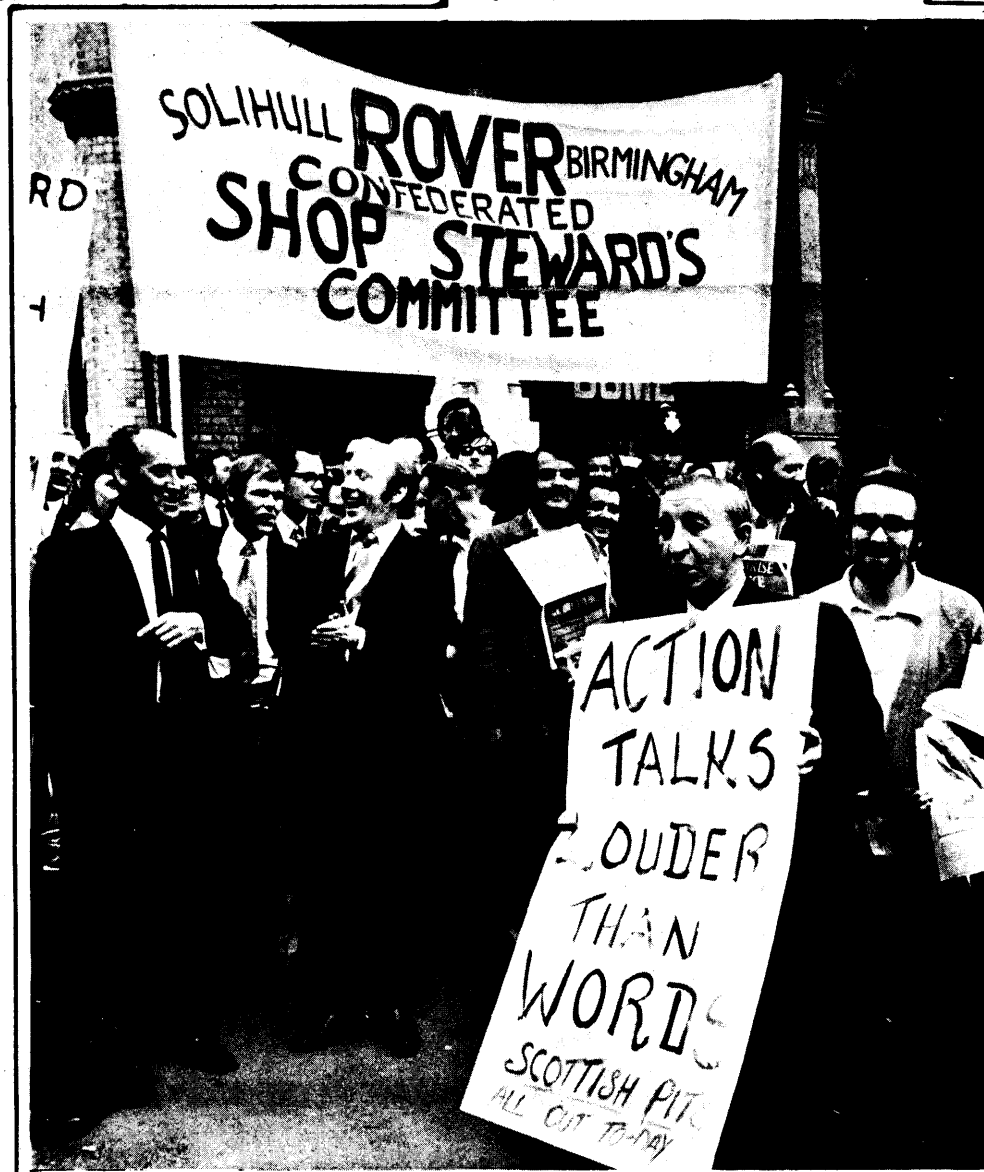
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What we think

MISS MCGUIRE AND THE PROVOS



A MOVEMENT which relies exclusively on individual terror, scepticism towards the working class and an absence of internal democracy is immeasurably more vulnerable to the virus of renegacy than most others.

This is the lesson which Maria McGuire's defection and accusations must impress on all IRA members who are critical of the Provisionals' internal regime and policy.

But this criticism of the radical middle-class leadership does not extend to any solidarity with the charges made by Miss McGuire.

Ever since the end of the 'truce' following the Lenadoon incident and the 'Motorman' operation on July 29, Whitehall and the British army have exerted the maximum military and political force to break the back of crisis-ridden Republicanism. The occupation forces have paid an exceedingly high price for this — the 19 killed and 70 wounded exceeds any other four-week period.

In Britain, France and the US, security police have arrested arms dealers and suppliers and one Irish paper says Interpol has been snooping on various suspected IRA arms sources for over a year.

In the Republic, Premier Jack Lynch has supplemented the efforts of General Tuzo with widescale arms searches, destruction of bomb factories and IRA camps and increased surveillance of the border to stop IRA infiltration. And British PM Edward Heath has demanded he steps up this campaign — giving Lynch a Secret Branch list of IRA names and addresses.

Paradoxically, the policy of internment, by depriving the IRA of the older and more conservative leaders, created a void which was filled by younger and more intransigent — if also more sectarian — leaders who support MacStiofain and Seamus Twomey.

If Whitelaw is releasing internees it is not through any altruism, but because he wants to restore the *status quo* within the Provos which existed before September 1971. There are strong rumours circulating in Belfast that Twomey has been replaced by the more flexible Gerry Adams, a former internee who joined the London peace talks with Whitehall.

The POLITICAL wing—like their predecessors of 1922 — would like a political solution preceded by secret talks with the imperialists and the Protestant Loyalists.

The MILITANT MILITARY wing wants the war continued until their demands are met. Their rejection of Whitelaw's overtures has considerably strengthened their position in the Catholic ghetto.

Their bombing tactics, however, not only strengthen the Ulster Defence Association, but more significantly have reduced their strength because of the number of volunteers killed by their own bombs. This had dis-

couraged the flow of volunteers for this type of operation.

McGuire's statement only reveals the magnitude of the insoluble crisis affecting the Republican movement. After three years of heroic sacrifice and blind militancy the IRA leaders are faced with the stubborn fact that neither their political nor military strategy can defeat imperialism.

Despite the denials of the IRA leaders it is strongly believed that they will abandon the bombing campaign and resort to 'flying columns' of gunmen laying ambushes and making hit-and-run attacks on British patrols and outposts.

But these tactics will not stop the political sell-out being prepared by the reformist SDLP, the CP-dominated Civil Rights Association and the Official IRA—all of whom have condemned the Provisionals in order to ingratiate themselves with Whitelaw.

The Ulster Unionists in the meantime have completed their proposals for presentation to the all-party conference on Northern Ireland. The blueprint, which is believed to include demands for the restoration of Stormont with full security powers and 100 MPs, has already won the approval of the former Cabinet and the parliamentary party.

The plan, more ominously, is also said to call for the creation of special riot police squads.

McGuire's allegations that plans were laid to assassinate MacStiofain, if true, do not bring any credit to herself or the political wing which she supports. It only shows the close correspondence of aims between herself and the British army of occupation.

Her accusation of MacStiofain as a 'bigoted murderer' is just as cynical since the outlook of the entire Provisional leadership is dictated by limited nationalist considerations, which is hostile to revolutionary Marxism.

MacStiofain's bombs do aimlessly kill individuals, but imperialism, which now patronizes McGuire, deliberately kills the aspirations of whole nations and has condemned the Irish people to endless poverty, famine and degradation for centuries.

Between the barbarism of British imperialism and the terror of the Provisionals there is an important distinction.

Notwithstanding our serious differences with the IRA we shall continue to defend the Provo leaders from the imperialists' attacks—and the calumnies of renegades like Miss McGuire. Only the withdrawal of British troops can put an end to the death and destruction in Ulster.

That McGuire should find herself the unsolicited darling of the 'Observer' is not to be wondered at. But it would be interesting to know why the 'Observer' could not show the same enthusiasm for the enterprises of former Home Secretary Mr Maudling as it has revealed in the internal affairs of the IRA.

Israelis are hostages for jailed guerrillas Olympics really go political

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THE PALESTINIAN guerrilla group Black September has claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack on the Israeli quarters in the Munich Olympic village.

A noon deadline (later postponed to 1700 hours local time) was set after which the raiders threatened they would shoot two Israelis every hour if 200 Arab guerrillas and political prisoners were not released.

The Black September group takes its name from the September fighting in 1970 when King Hussein's troops broke the power of the Palestine guerrillas in Jordan.

At least five guerrillas took part in the raid in the early hours. An Israeli wrestling coach was killed and 11 Israelis were held as hostages.

Negotiations followed between the Arabs and

Bavarian Interior Minister Dr Bruno Merk, Munich police chief Manfred Schreiber and Olympic Village chief Herr Walter Troeger.

A list of 200 names of prisoners to be freed from Israeli jails has been sent to Willi Daume, chairman of the Olympic Organizing Committee.

The guerrillas say the prisoners must be flown in a non-Israeli aircraft to any Arab capital apart from Amman or Beirut.

Negotiations for the release of the hostages and the safe departure of the raiders from Munich would begin once the prisoners had reached an Arab capital.

A West German government offer of an unlimited amount of money in return for the hostages was rejected out of hand.

Two Black September members in Israeli jails are Rima Tannous, (21), and Therese Halasseh, (19), serving life sentences for their part in the hijacking of a Belgian airliner to Tel-Aviv last May.

The group sprang into prominence last November when it assassinated the Jordanian Prime Minister, Wasfi Tell, in Cairo.

It also claimed responsibility for a machine-gun attack in London last December when Zaid-Al Rifai, former Jordanian ambassador, was wounded. Last month Black September members blew up a number of oil tanks in Trieste, Italy.

By noon yesterday, the original deadline time, police armed with machine guns had ringed the entire perimeter fence of the Olympic village and groups of riot police trucks stood at every gate and most street intersections in the area.

The guerrillas demanded three planes for their escape. Their plan appeared to be to divide their hostages into three groups which would leave in turn together with some of the raiders.

Head of the Egyptian team at the Games Abdel Aziz El Shafie, condemned the attack — named 'Ikrit and Baraam', after two villages on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

The inhabitants of these villages were driven from their homes in 1948 and resettled in Israel. A recent request by them to return to their villages was refused by the Israeli authorities.

The West Berlin correspondent of Israel radio reported that West German police had warned Israeli and Jewish organizations on Monday that Arab guerrillas had crossed from Scandinavia into Germany.

AROUND THE WORLD

Scepticism over French anti- inflation plan

FACED WITH growing discontent about rapidly rising prices, the French government yesterday formally launched its anti-inflationary programme. Prices in August rose at an annual rate of 0.8 per cent, the highest monthly rate since the early 1970.

The measures include a limit on bank credit, a pledge to freeze prices in the state-run sector till next March 31 and enforcement of price agreements between the Finance Ministry and manufacturers. In addition the government plans to help improve food supplies, particularly meat, whose price has soared rapidly in recent weeks.

Large sections of French business opinion are however sceptical about the measures. They point out that many prices in the state-run sector were raised considerably during August.

No doubt the Pompidou measures are partly motivated by electoral considerations. The French go to the polls in parliamentary elections early next year.

The growing American-Common Market clash on economic and monetary measures is a more important factor in the French government's strategy. Finance

Minister M. Giscard D'Estaing presented his measures as part of a move towards a unified Common Market monetary policy.

'Inflation is a European problem' he declared 'and this is a chance to show that we have the capacity for a common economic policy in Europe.'

Pompidou is hoping to win the support of West Germany for a united stand against the Americans when the Finance Ministers of the enlarged Common Market meet in Rome on September 11 and 12.

Rice roads cut in Cambodia

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THE CAMBODIAN government this week acknowledged a national rice shortage following an estimate by western economists that there is not even a month's supply of the staple food left in the country.

Meanwhile, ten miles of Highway Two, linking Phnom Penh with the south, is still in the hands of liberation forces.

Government relief columns have made no progress to the north west where two weeks ago liberation forces seized an 18-mile stretch of Phnom Penh's only road link to the main rice-growing region of Battambang.

A state of 'national danger' is still in force which empowers Marshal Lon Nol—who became President last month—to legislate by decree.

Last week's Lower House 'elections' were a farce in which the government party was unopposed in all but ten of the 126 seats. The two main opposition parties had withdrawn in protest at the government's revision of the constituency boundaries.

In Vietnam, northern forces have attacked a government position only 21 miles north of Saigon. More liberation troops are moving closer to Saigon through the Mekong Delta from eastern Cambodia along Route 13, which links the capital with An Loc.

The North Vietnamese have withdrawn the veteran 312th Division from Laos in order to strengthen their drive to the south.

But the Laotian government's defence spokesman, General Thongphanh Knosky, has emphasized that he needs more men and equipment if he is to recapture the Plain of Jars from the reduced liberation forces.

The government's shortage is very serious, particularly taking into account estimated losses of 15,000 men killed and wounded each year out of a population of 3 million.

Diplomatic sources in Laos say that the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is being forced to recruit ten-year old boys among the Meo Hill tribes to fight in the American-backed 'Secret Army' of General Vang Pao.

Briefly . . .

CLASHES between Japanese left-wing demonstrators and police erupted at Sagami-hara yesterday over the shipment of repaired tanks to Vietnam.

A LETTER signed by 59 politicians and academics has been sent to Russian Politburo members demanding historian Peter Yakir's release from jail. Signatories of the letter include Belgian, Italian, French and Luxembourg Members of Parliament, American and British university professors and American playwright Arthur Miller.

UNDER THE DOME

TRADES UNION CONGRESS 104
THE DOME BRIGHTON

No lead on jobless from Congress

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS AND JOHN SPENCER IN BRIGHTON

HEADLINES in the Tory press have talked about the big showdown brewing between the TUC and the government because of the policies decided at the Brighton Congress. Some delegates have their doubts. One is Peter Jones, executive council member of the Constructional Section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the union's branch secretary in Cardiff.

He talked to Workers Press in a personal capacity about the dangers facing the working class and the way he considered the movement was meeting them. He considers unemployment a key issue.

'Take my branch in Cardiff. The biggest bulk of the membership are out of work and I have just finished 14 weeks on the dole.

'This is bad, but it's going to get worse because there is no chance of resolving the problems of this economy within the existing framework.

'I have men unemployed for 12 months. The main factor is the level of government spending on big projects. But we have a Tory government and this is the main reason why nothing is done to get rid of this massive unemployment.

'This is the political crunch. The TUC nor any motion down this week really makes a stand against this policy.

'We all know that despite all the resolutions the TUC is going to go on meeting with the CBI and the Tories a week or so after this very conference—who is speaking out against this? There is not a resolution down this week that makes a challenge against this collaboration.

'And how the working class need this challenge, we all know how high unemployment will rise to this winter. But there is no solution posed by the TUC.'

The other vital issue, says Peter, is the anti-union laws. Again he believes that the lead given is inadequate.

'The resolutions that are down, let's say the most militant ones, are designed to take the steam out of the issue. There is no clarity about the future position on the court or fines. Speakers make statements on how they would like to see a resolution interpreted, but in the final analysis it will be the General Council with a right

Cold-war ban on CP is finally lifted

THE TUC General Council was yesterday accused of using the Communist Party as a bulwark to offset the actions of the Socialist Labour League.

Right-winger William Blair of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union told Congress this was the council's main reason for supporting a motion to lift the ban on CP members as delegates to the annual conference of trades councils.

Blair's last-ditch stand in favour of the 22-year-old proscription was overwhelmingly defeated in a show of hands vote.

Proposing the lifting of the ban, CP member Eddie Marsden, of the Constructional Section (CEU) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said

every union had the right to elect whatever delegate it chose to the TUC.

The ban at the trades council conference had been imposed at the height of the Cold War and was a contradiction which should be eliminated.

He pointed out that Ray Boyfield, former TUC official who was a prime mover in keeping the ban, was now on the National Industrial Relations Court judging 'so-called crimes committed by trade unionists under the Industrial Relations Act'.

Blair's amendment asked for a committee

to see whether 'the Communist Party is able to demonstrate that it has seriously changed its nature and tactics'.

He was jeered as he said the reason why the platform was supporting the resolution was its hope that the Communist Party would 'offset the problem being created by the actions of the Socialist Labour League and International Socialists, who, it is felt, are a greater danger to the trade union movement than the Communist Party'.

George Lothian, for the General Council, said he believed the time was opportune to lift the ban. But he

warned that if trades council found 'disruptive elements' inside their ranks they could insert a model rule and keep them out.

The General Council was relying on the good sense of the 'small organizations' mentioned by other speakers, he said.

The job of the trades councils was to pursue TUC policy in their localities.

'If there should be any repetition of the circumstances which brought about the ban the trades council consultative committee would be able to reintroduce it.'



Peter Jones (l) sitting in conference with his union secretary Eddie Marsden, who proposed the lifting of the ban on the CP.

wing and moderate majority who interprets policy during the next year.

'My greatest fear is that I don't think there will be results from this congress. I think to use a Ted Heath nautical expression the movement will "come about".'

'What more are we doing than suspending these unions? After this purge are we going to do anything positive? Have we an answer to this government which is going to disarm the trade union movement? I doubt if this conference will come up with an answer—I think the answer will still be the Official Solicitor.

'I would like to see an all out industrial fight; formulas that satisfy delegations are not enough.'

Union law lobby

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

THE IMPOTENCE of protest politics was revealed at the Brighton TUC yesterday. Less than 100 workers responded to the call from the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions to lobby the delegates over the Industrial Relations Act yesterday morning.

The demonstrators lined the conference approach in silence as the chairman of the Stalinist-dominated committee, Kevin Halpin, harangued the delegates entering the Dome for the morning session.

Halpin called for a policy of non-co-operation with the Act, but made no mention of fighting to force the Tories to resign.

No slogans were carried on the banners of the seven workers' organization and shop

stewards' committees who took part.

Among those present were Kent miners from the Tilmanstone and Snowdown collieries, a delegation from the Park Royal shop stewards committee in London and a 15-strong group from the Briant Colour occupation.

The Briant workers were there in a dual role: they were both supporting the lobby and seeking support for their own jobs fight.

Notable absentees were shipyard workers from the upper Clyde.

The consensus on the lobby was one of demoralization.

John Lowe, a sheet metal worker from London airport, said the airport was working normally. About 30 out of the 4,000 to 5,000 workers in the engineering and maintenance section had come to Brighton.

He told me why the shop stewards' committee had not recommended the Liaison Committee's call for a one-day strike.

'We have just had a one-day strike against the jailing of the dockers, and this follows a series of one-day strikes on the issue of the private baggage-handling firm GAS.

'I don't think we could have pulled another one-day strike off.' A building workers' shop steward from Camden—on a five-strong delegation from the Trades Council—took a similar line.

'I don't support the kind of demands your paper supports, for a General Strike', he said.

'I don't think this is possible at the present time. I am a building worker and it's difficult

enough to get men out on the basic issues we are fighting on.'

Numbers were down on the Liaison Committee's Blackpool demonstration last year.

Later the lobbyists held a demonstration from the East Pier, Brighton, to the conference centre.

By early afternoon the ranks of the lobbyists had been swelled to about 200 by delegations from Chrysler's, Linwood, and the Scottish pits.

THE TUC will know in a fortnight's time whether it will have to face legal action from the seamen's union over the latter's suspension from Congress.

The crucial meeting of the National Union of Seamen's executive will take place on September 19 and 20. It will be then that the possibility of legal action will be considered.

NUS general secretary William Hogarth says he will personally recommend the executive not to take such action.

But he said that if it were taken it would be for contempt. The TUC has already been warned by the National Industrial Relations Court that the suspension might constitute a contempt.

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Cleaners' slave rates

THE TORY government was 'in open contempt' of its cleaners, a member of the Civil Service union told conference. Mrs Margaret Morrison, a cleaner in the Department of Employment at Newcastle, was proposing a resolution from her union that government cleaning contracts should go only to companies which recognized and negotiated with trade unions.

The government, she said, 'puts out contracts for tender and does not concern itself whether or not the cleaners get a fair rate for the job'. Pay was frozen because the government agreed to fixed contracts without allowing for a cost-of-living increase.

'We only ask for basic justice as opposed to slave rates of pay. The pay is so low that it takes most cleaners all their time to pay for the bus fares to and from work.'

The resolution was carried.



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BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS

POWERS FOR VITAL SUPPLIES

Part 7 of a series on Picketing by Bernard Franks

In 1920, following the British army massacre at Amritsar, angry demonstrations by unemployed ex-servicemen, a spate of strikes including two by the police, and the beginnings of a Communist Party in Britain, the Emergency Powers Act was passed.

This was aimed at enabling the government to declare a 'state of emergency' and to break up any large strike said to be 'interfering with the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel or light, or with means of locomotion'.

The Act also gave powers to make regulations 'for any other purpose essential to the public safety and the life of the community . . .'

The Act contains the stipulation that no such regulation shall make it an offence to strike, or peaceful persuasion of others to strike. However, the General Strike showed that the rest of the Act was construed by the authorities as negating this clause. Pickets were batoned, ridden down and beaten-up by police, troops and assorted middle-class blacklegs.

Sweeping powers to search for and confiscate documents were given to the police by the Home Secretary.

The government seized land, buildings, foods vehicles and other essentials, issued licences to take over docks and railways and to control electricity, gas and water. The scabs' Organization for the Maintenance of Supplies (OMS) told volunteers to 'hit hard'—to 'hit to kill' according to one version.

A provocative statement issued by the government said: 'All ranks of the armed forces of the Crown are hereby notified that any action which they may find it necessary to take in an honest endeavour to aid the civil power will receive, both now and afterwards, the full support of His Majesty's government.'

As a result of the strike some 3,149 prosecutions for incitement to sedition and for violence were made.

During the action the picketing began to take on new forms, even in the short period of nine days that the strike lasted. In areas where violence by police and blacklegs occurred, workers' defence squads began to be formed by Councils of Action.

Not just the space outside a factory or building site, but the streets of entire areas became controlled by the strikers. Blacklegs were visited by workers and the situation explained to them. This was only reluctantly allowed by local leaders and totally abhorred by the TUC.

Capitalist property itself was not touched and the strike

leaders did not advocate its expropriation and occupation. The Communist Party's subordination of the needs of the revolutionary movement to that of the General Council of the TUC ensured that the Minority Movement acted as no more than a 'ginger group' in the trade unions, instead of constructing an alternative leadership. Even so, increasing control of supplies and transport were being taken by the strikers when the action was called off by the TUC leaders.

The defeat of the General Strike was followed by vicious legislation which in many ways stands as a forerunner of the Industrial Relations Act. The 1927 Trades Unions and Trades Disputes Act made general strikes and political strikes illegal and made it illegal to picket for, finance, incite, or in any other way further an illegal strike on pain of imprisonment for up to two years.

INTIMIDATE

Blacklegs received protection and compensation from any union which expelled them. Other picketing was restricted to one or more persons if 'calculated to intimidate'.

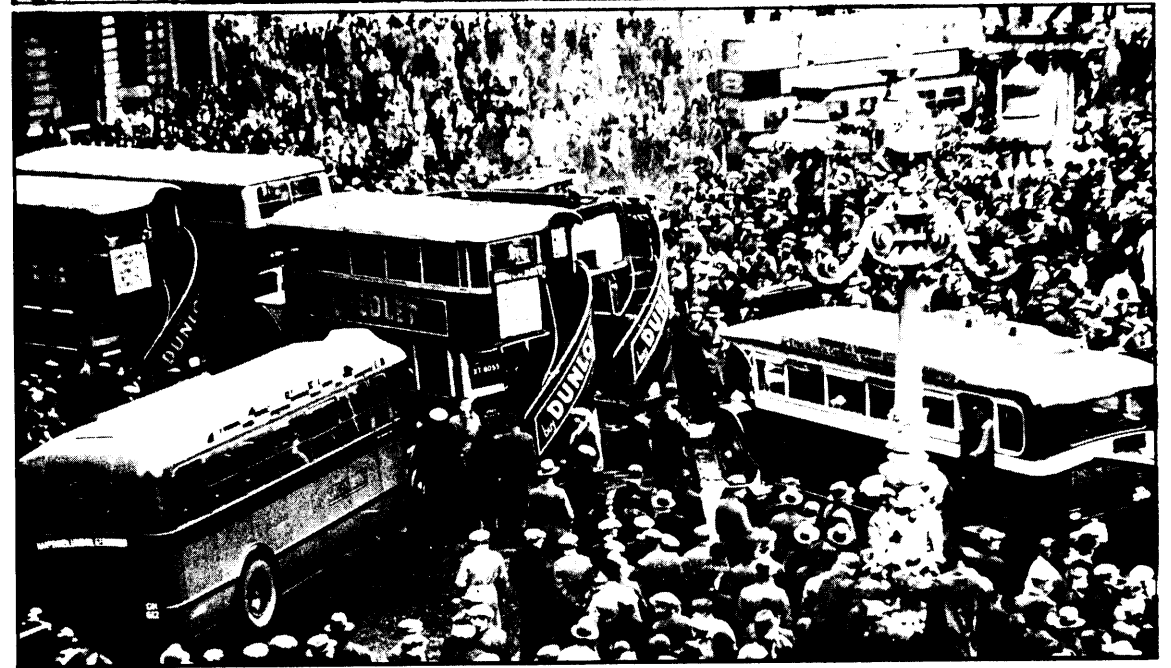
Intimidation was defined as 'to cause in the mind of a person reasonable apprehension of injury to him or to any member of his family or to any of his dependants, or of violence or damage to any person or property'.

Most sympathy strikes were banned by the Act and Civil Servants were forbidden organizations affiliated to the TUC, Labour Party, or connected with any other organizations outside the Service. Local authorities were prohibited from operating a closed shop and 'contracting out' of paying the political levy paid to the Labour Party by the unions was replaced by 'contracting in' (meaning a worker now had to actually apply to pay it whereas previously it was deducted from his contribution unless he stated otherwise.)

During the period of mass unemployment and poverty of the 1930s, this and other repressive laws were used against any workers who sought to defend rights and improve conditions.

Altogether, 1,432 workers were prosecuted between October 1931 and February 1933 because of their fight against the government. Of these, 480 were jailed, 734 fined and 130 bound over.

One 'law' of this time was the 'Trenchard Ban' which was an order made personally by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Lord Trenchard in November 1931 prohibiting public meetings near labour exchanges. Workers were arrested for this offence even though it existed



Top: trade unionists march on London Embankment against the 1927 Trades Unions and Trades Disputes Act. Above: hunger marchers in 1932—mass unemployment was used against unions during this period

nowhere in the Statutes as an illegal act. Trenchard's word was literally the law and there was no redress.

Generally, during this period the police mobilized in a more military style and used increasing violence against demonstrators. Major battles occurred, for example, when strikers and unemployed miners and their families fought scab labour and police, to defend their jobs, wages and union against the onslaught of the mine owners.

Two major anti-working-class laws of this period were the Incitement to Disaffection Act (1934) and the Public Order Act (1936). The former followed the Invergordon Mutiny and strengthened the restrictions of the 1797 Act against seducing any member of the forces from his duty. It also penalized any person 'having in his possession or under his control' any document which would constitute such an offence.

The Act empowered a judge to authorize a police 'aid' if necessary by force' on any premises and to seize anything or anybody suspected of contravening the Act. Maximum penalty for the offence was £200 fine or two years in prison.

Known generally as the Sedition Bill, countless protests and meetings were held against this insidious attack on freedom of printing and speech. It still applies today.

The Public Order Act, allegedly aimed at the fascists, gave police wide powers to restrict and prohibit demonstrations. From the way the police protected the fascists' meetings and repeatedly attacked and batoned anti-fascist demonstrators, it was not difficult to see that here was yet another anti-socialist and anti-trade union law. This is also still on the Statutes though with far stronger penalties.

LEGISLATE

In the years after the Second World War, British capitalism was in no position to impose new strictures on the working class, particularly returning servicemen. On the contrary, the 1927 Act had to be repealed and numerous improvements in Health and Welfare Services were made.

In the United States, however, the notorious Taft-Hartly Act was passed in 1947 following a huge number of stoppages including a 113-day strike at General Motors.

Workers called it the 'Slave Labour' law. The Act outlawed the closed shop, allowed the government to impose a 20-day 'cooling' period on strikes and protected scabs' jobs against union attempts to get them out.

It arranged for mass picketing to be outlawed, made strikes against the government punishable by immediate sacking, outlawed 'blacking' and most sympathy strikes and allowed damages suits against union assets for losses incurred through actions illegal under the Act.

Growing effects of the world crisis have eventually brought capitalism to similar legislation in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere.

A ten-day strike by New Zealand seamen, and the union itself were both broken by the joint efforts of the government and the New Zealand TUC in November last year during the 1954 Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. This Act compels settlement through an Arbitration Court whose findings are binding and enables virtual dissolution of the union. A new union was formed a few weeks later on terms approved by the Ministry of Labour. TO BE CONTINUED

BEHIND THE COFFEE QUOTAS FIX

The dollar devaluation and the breaking of its links with gold, has sparked off a deep-going crisis between coffee producers and the advanced capitalist states.

Coffee producers depend on foreign exchange earnings to finance their imports of capital goods used to develop national economies.

When the devaluation took place last August, those countries in South America and Africa which export coffee, sustained losses in real earnings.

PRODUCERS COMBINE

For the first time the producers combined and presented a united front to the consumer countries, led by the United States which takes 45 per cent of world production.

A demand was put forward for a 4 cents a pound increase in coffee prices. The US and others refused and for the last month both sides have been meeting in an attempt to resolve the crisis.

For many backward economies, the coffee exports are the lifeline for survival. But there has been a persistent crisis for them because of the nature of the trading relationships between advanced capitalist economies and the colonial and semi-colonial world.

The main problem has been too much coffee coming on to the market at the wrong time, enabling the consuming countries to force prices down.

In the long-term, a rise in the world price will encourage new plantings as farmers are attracted to higher earnings.

It may take four or five years before these trees bear fruit during which period the high price is still prompting an expansion of the area under coffee.

As the new supply reaches the market, the price adjusts itself downwards, but production continues to increase since new trees only reach their maximum yields 10 to 15 years after planting.

As a result crops are often destroyed. There were burn-

ings of coffee surpluses by Brazil in the 1930s, and even in 1968 the Ivory Coast was forced to destroy 100,000 tons of coffee, more than a third of its annual output.

The current crisis over coffee surpluses dates from 1954 when in response to a price boom, Brazil opened up the state of Parana to coffee. Because it was a lost cost area, there was a real problem that prices would depress and reduce foreign earnings. So Brazil introduced a policy of retention and stockpiling to limit exports, being quickly joined by other Latin American nations.

By 1962 an International Coffee Agreement was signed by most exporting and importing countries, aimed at long-term stabilization in prices. Each country was allocated an export quota and prices were guaranteed not to fall effectively below the 1962 level.

But if the market prices during the year rose or fell, a country's quota was accordingly adjusted by a reduction or increase. The ICA, however, has never come up with any real solution to this intractable problem.

PACT SIGNED

Brazil, for example, in a dominant position with one-third of the world's coffee quota, has in the past agreed to supply American roasters at discount prices.

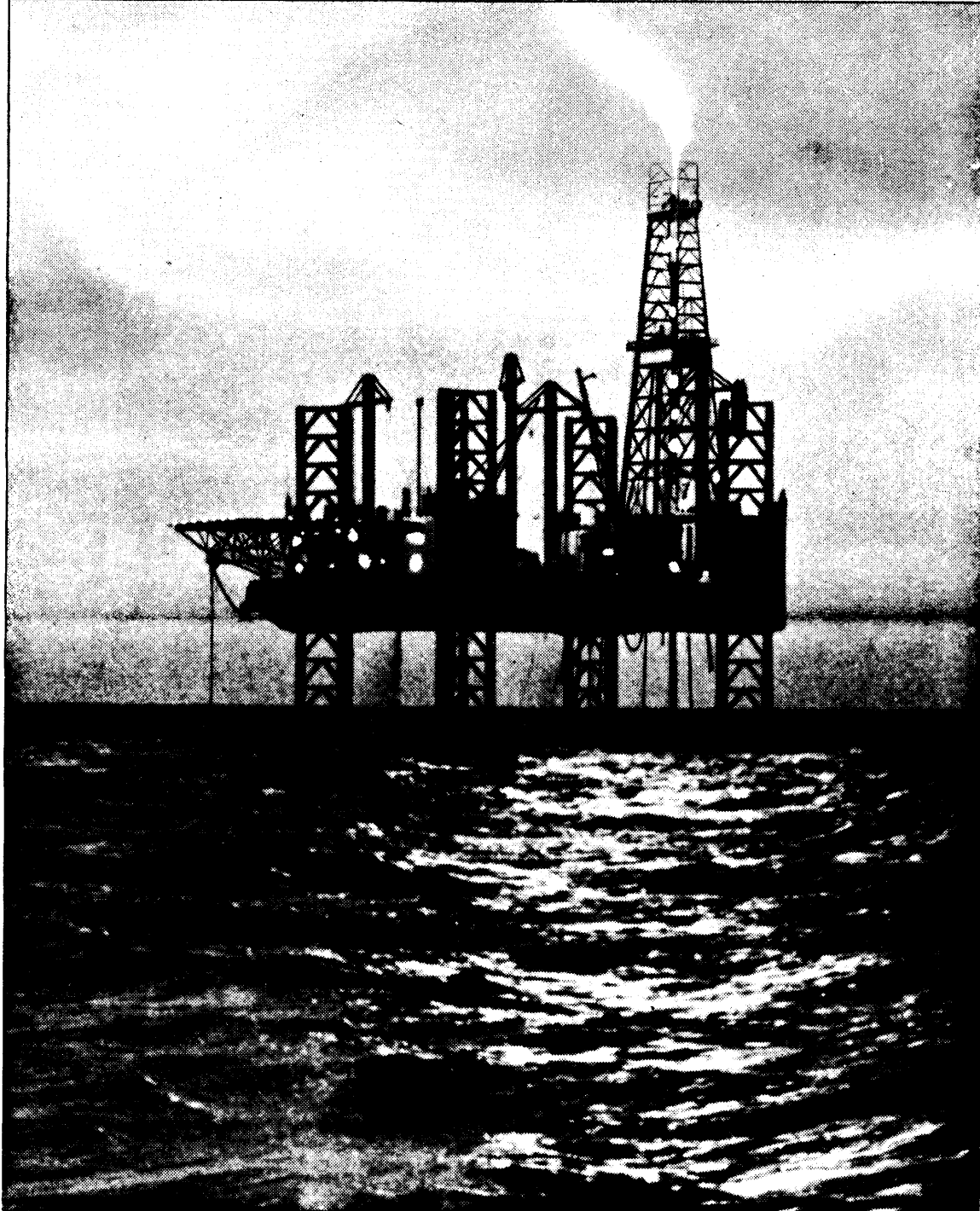
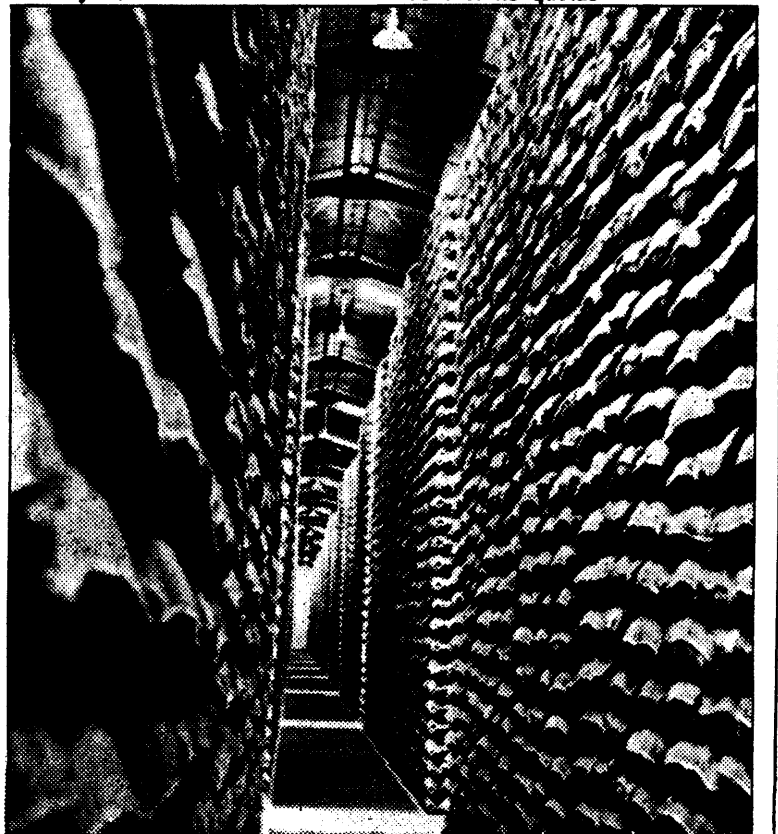
On the other hand, African producers facing the accumulation of huge surpluses want to enlarge their quotas. They have already reduced Brazil's quota by almost 15 per cent.

The dollar devaluation, however, brought the producers together—if only temporarily—in a common front against the United States.

In April, eleven of them signed a pact in Geneva to fix their own marketing arrangements and quotas.

Now they are face to face with America in negotiations which no one can see any end to.

Below: coffee surpluses in Brazil, which are now growing due to African competition taking 15 per cent of its quotas



DOUBTS ABOUT THE NORTH SEA OIL BOOM

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Long before the first barrel of marketable oil is due to emerge from the North Sea—that event is not expected until 1974—doubts are already beginning to surface about the all-embracing benefits which politicians and journalists claim have been opened up for the Scottish economy by the expected 'oil boom'.

The most obvious conclusion to be drawn from the statements of leading politicians, Tory and Labour, is that they are anxious to divert attention from the realities of the economic crisis and the class struggle by holding out the somewhat ill-defined prospect that NE Scotland—centred on Aberdeen—is to become the 'New Texas'.

And the increasing number of journalists, who are devoting some attention to the changing face of the north east, eager to cash in on the general euphoria and do their optimistic bit for the capitalist system, have so far mostly been forced to the conclusion that it's very hard to find out anything concrete about the 'boom'.

Certainly the big oil companies are hoping to alleviate their own crisis by taking big profits from the North Sea, and there are hundreds of small firms looking for quick gains.

Weldex (International) Off-Shore Ltd is one of them. It was one of the first North Sea oil service companies set up in

Aberdeen. It has just announced that it has folded, and that the 100 jobs it had forecast this summer will not now materialize.

A director of the firm, Mr Graham Alexander, son of local road haulage boss Charles Alexander, announced that all the staff had now been paid off. 'Things are difficult in the engineering field,' he said.

Nor are the assurances about working conditions on the rigs themselves, given by a Department of Employment spokesman in the Commons on August 28, very convincing. Labour MP Dick Douglas called for an investigation into allegations made to him in Aberdeen over pay, conditions and food on the rigs. He was informed that the turnover of labour did not seem particularly high, so presumably everything was all right.

There is very little trade union organization amongst rig workers and, in the words of a recent press report, the T&GWU's interest in organizing rig labour 'has not been encouraged by some rig operators'. This is particularly true of American operators.

Wages on the rigs often sound high, as they are usually paid in a lump sum after a two-week stint, during which men may work 16 or more hours a day. But hour-for-hour most sources agree they are low compared with comparable shore-based jobs.

Robert Skinner, of Northfield, Aberdeen, told Workers Press recently that he had gone on the rigs from his previous

job as a building worker because he had been attracted by the money. But he did not intend to return. He had worked on two American rigs. On the first, the men had had to be de-loused after two weeks, and the toilets wouldn't flush—though he believed conditions had been improved since he was on that rig.

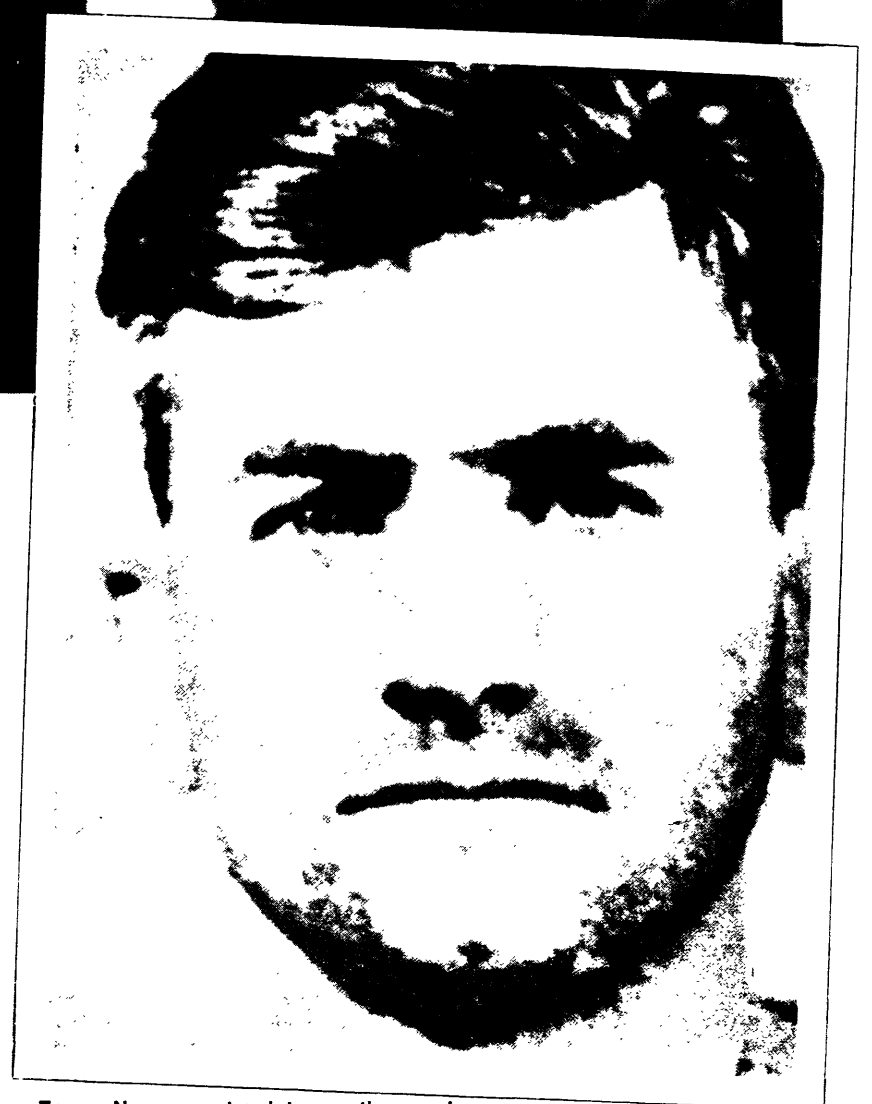
On the second he had to work killing hours, and was accused of wasting time when he went to clean up after being splashed in the face with diesel fuel.

He was subsequently sacked on the grounds that he was not competent for the job, but the management informed the Employment Exchange that he had left of his own accord.

Some of the economic and social realities behind the 'Big Boom' are beginning to trickle to the surface before the oil itself. Nor do the big companies themselves partake unequivocally of the unremitting optimism of the journalists and Tory and reformist politicians.

Esso announced recently in a staff magazine that some optimistic predictions did not take into account consumption trends, nor the high costs of recovering North Sea oil, nor the fact that very little oil would be produced before 1975 at the earliest.

They forgot to mention that nobody had thought of taking into account the world economic crisis and the effects of the developing international trade war on capitalist industry as a whole.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE TUPAMAROS?

BY OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

In June 1968, President of Uruguay, Pacheco Areco, decreed emergency measures to deal with student violence and strikes. Constitutional rights were suspended. Two newspapers were banned and trade-union leaders were imprisoned.

The liberal weekly 'Marcha' cried out: 'What are we making of our country? A general prison? A huge concentration camp? A great barracks?'

indeed require dictatorship in Uruguay, and Areco was clearing the path for destruction of democratic rights and trade unions.

Opposition to these measures has been misled by the Communist Party's peaceful road to socialism and the policy of socialism through a gun - barrel of the urban guerrilla band, the Tupamaros.

In the general elections last year, the Communist Party participated in the Broad Democratic Front which included the conservative Christian Democrats. The CP blamed the working class when its bourgeois front was defeated.

Newly elected President Juan Maria Bordaberry, did not take long to declare a

'state of internal war' on all opposition to government measures on April 15 of this year. Since then, his police force has arrested over 1,000 people suspected of subversion against the state.

The Communist Party, through its influence in the trade unions, has dissipated working-class opposition by organizing a series of one-day general strikes against price increases and for wage increases.

The strikes were supposed to pressurize Bordaberry into stopping inflation and introducing democratic reforms.

During one of these strikes, after the declaration of the state of emergency, eight Communist Party members were shot dead by the police.

The Tupamaros, meanwhile, have pursued their bank-robberies and kidnapping businessmen, politicians and all manner of well-to-do bourgeois.

They have also suffered heavy losses. A Tupamaros spokesman recently stated that 2,000 members are in jail and that 150 hideouts and 500 guns have been captured.

Only last Friday, Raul Sendic, leader and founder of the movement was arrested in Montevideo. After a brief gun battle with security forces, Sendic was shot in the face.

The Tupas spokesman had, previous to his arrest, explained how the movement could survive in a city under military occupation: 'their social origin will save them.

They are workers, Christian clergy, members of Parliament, poor peasants and even a few ranchers and manufacturers. In other words, to arrest them, would be to attack the whole "community" and that would not be possible'.

Bordaberry's police have been perfecting methods to penetrate every possible source of opposition and criticism. Daily spot-checks are carried out in the streets of cities like Montevideo. Brutal attacks are launched on demonstrators. Sophisticated torture methods are then used to complete the operation. Bordaberry replied to the protest over these methods: 'I defend the government's right to rigorous interrogation.'

The police chemistry department, with the aid of American Intelligence, has developed a series of new drugs to break down resistance. One of these aids to interrogation is the drug 'Tachiflaxin'. This is a toxic which is a derivative of 'curare' a substance used by South American Indians for poisoning arrows and employed in physiological experiments for arresting the action of the central nervous system.

This drug paralyzes the body within a few seconds and brings the prisoner to the point of death, at which point the prisoner is helped with a bit of oxygen, enough to bring the diaphragm back into action. In some cases, the oxygen has been applied too late and the victims have died.

In spite of the sophisticated measures of repression, and the preparations for dictatorship, in July the Tupamaros did call a truce and, at the request of the army, talks began between the Tupamaros and the military.

Negotiations came to an end when the military turned down the guerrillas' proposal of a plan for structural economic reforms and an amnesty based on the programme of the Democratic Front.

The Tupas claim that the military asked for talks because 'there are military men who have witnessed the nationalist character of the guerrilla struggle'. These officers, they also claim, are 'from the middle

classes which are also affected by the crisis and have discovered the venality and corruption of the traditional politicians who have plunged this country into the worst economic plight of its history'.

This statement has to be compared to a declaration by an assembly of Naval Officers at the end of August: this refers to their 'profound repudiation of any form of subversion, be it taking up arms to murder in a cowardly way or through the plunder of the national economy, the seizure from the people of the product of their labour, moral, administrative and political corruption, speculation to the detriment of the populace or the compromise of national sovereignty.'

Top : New arrests: interrogation and torture to follow. Above: Raul Sendic, leader and founder of the Tupamaros, who was wounded and arrested in Montevideo last week.



Dr Paul Ehrlich: screaming about the limits of food production

TOO MANY PEOPLE

Part 3 of a series on Science and the Environment by John Crawford

Environment

'No room! No room!' shout the doomsday men. With their computers churning out predictions and projections by the yard, they exhort us to recognize that a population which doubles every few decades must soon use up all the possibilities for supporting life on earth.

It is true, of course, that the fall in death rates in many colonial countries since the war, especially among the younger age groups, has meant a rapid rise in population. But, as is well known, improvement in living conditions has generally

through better housing and education, been associated with a fall in the birth rate.

The real question to ask is why this 'demographic transition' is delayed in the underdeveloped countries? The answer, of course, lies with the consequences of imperialist domination of world economy.

Piling up

Ehrlich and company scream about the limits to food production, while millions of peasants still use ploughs and oxen. No great improvement in agricultural technology is possible because of the forms of land ownership maintained by the imperialist powers for political reasons. Meanwhile, food 'surpluses' pile up in Europe and North America.

The refusal of the population panic-mongers to face the

responsibility of capitalist property relations for mass starvation is very clearly seen in Meadows' book 'Limits to Growth'. To make their computer predictions of disaster look 'objective', the authors pretend to discuss the so-called 'green revolution'.

This is the technology devised in the 1960s to utilize new varieties of plant, pesticides and fertilizers to raise agricultural productivity in backward countries. Meadows has to admit that it has worked in some areas, but, he says, not without 'social-effects'.

'The more common pattern in the non-industrialized world is a wide range of land ownership, with most people working on very small farms and a few people in possession of the vast majority of land. Where these conditions of inequality already exist, the green revolution tends to cause widening inequality. Large farmers generally adopt the new methods first . . . Simple economic considerations lead almost inevitably to the use of labour-displacing machinery and to the purchase of still more land.

The ultimate effects of this socioeconomic positive feedback loop are agricultural unemployment, increased migration to the city and perhaps even increased malnutrition, since the poor and unemployed do not have the means to buy

the newly produced food.'

Professor Meadows' computer, of course, does not know how to work out the consequences of a revolution transforming the ownership of land with it the productivity of agricultural labour. So his projections are made — no doubt with great precision — on the assumption that imperialism will continue for ever, or until everyone has starved to death.

Barriers

In Volume III of 'Capital', Marx shows how Professor Meadows' 'social side effect' is the essential result of capitalist private property in land. Both where there are a few large estates and where there is a large number of small farmers, 'private ownership of the land appears as a barrier of production itself.'

This is not only in preventing the application of new techniques, but also because: 'In both forms the exploitation and devastation of the powers of the soil takes the place of a consciously rational treatment of the soil in its role of an eternal property, of an indispensable condition of existence for successive generations of human beings.'

In agriculture, as in industry, it is capital which is the barrier, the 'limit to growth', and only the socialist revolution

can smash this obstacle out of the path of man's development. That is why, the further science and technology reach in controlling the forces of nature, the deeper the crisis of modern society.

A mere quarter of a century of industrial expansion, from 1945 to 1970, was sufficient to reveal the conflict between the productive forces and capitalist social relations in new and more horrifying ways. To those who see capitalism as the 'natural' social form, these effects appear as the inevitable results of too much growth in production.

Tinkering

On the other side, the more optimistic upholders of capitalism imagine that a bit of tinkering with the market mechanism—making industrialists pay for pollution, for example — will put it all to rights. One side demands that the number of human beings must be reduced and that science must be strangled, the other cannot see any basic conflict at all.

If the cheerful idiocy of the second group aims to lull us all to sleep, the shrill hysteria of the first has the most dangerous political implications.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



GRAPES OF WRATH IN TOBACCO COUNTRY

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

The Grapes of Wrath in River Valley, Connecticut, have nothing to do with Californian fruit but the brown tobacco leaf the American bosses puff away in their cigars.

And the oppressed workers there are not the poor farmers driven from the land by depression and the banks but youth, contracted to work in the fields by companies like General Cigar of America.

The growers pick their labour with a keen eye for racial differences which they hope to exploit. But for the first time the youth have begun to rebel.

Twenty seven Puerto Rican workers have filed a suit in the US District Court at New Haven against the company, charging it with a failure to live up to its promise of three hot meals a day.

This first defiance comes from the Simsbury Camp, but it has spread to Camp Whatley, South Deerfield, Massachusetts, where 50 young workers have staged a one-day strike.

The two rebellions have uncovered the cruel working and living conditions created by the Cigar Company's ruthless drive to bring in the rich harvest with the cheapest possible labour.

Workers are lured into the tobacco areas by recruiting leaflets which proclaim, 'Nourishing and healthful meals... planned by experts...'

The youth pay over \$14 a week for what turns out to be a frozen sandwich in the morning and an almost inedible midday meal. In between they work long hours for \$1.35 an hour—the minimum legal wage for a young farm worker.

Over 1,000 of them toil in the River Valley—a quarter of the total summer labour force

that produce the 'White Owl' and 'Tipperilo' cigars on sale in most American tobaccoconists.

Up until the Second World War the local Connecticut youth would traditionally take jobs in the fields during the summer vacations. Now the companies search the whole of America and beyond for 14- to 17-year-old wage slaves to bring the golden harvest home.

First the companies began in Florida, concentrating their recruiting drive around tobacco centres like Tampa. Later boys were brought from the West Indies to work, but in 1964 the US Labour Department decided that Puerto Ricans should get the 'benefit' of employment.

Today the labour force comprises Puerto Ricans, boys and girls from Western Pennsylvania, Florida and West Virginia—4,000 in all.

The companies make their employees live in barracks, isolated from the influence of workers outside the industry, thus ensuring wages stay at a pitifully low level.

In many cases racial differences are carefully exploited to prevent any organization. Youth up from Western Pennsylvania speak angrily of how experienced black workers were by-passed for less skilful white workers.

Racialism, fed by the intolerable conditions, is 'solved' by the employers expelling whole sections of young workers—the fate of a group of young blacks from Hartford who were thrown off the Culbro Company site this summer.

The appalling food is one of the chief sources of complaint.

If the youth reject the midday meal they must pay 60 cents for making up their own sandwiches—even then the company insist on one slice of meat per sandwich.

In addition the workers must do a turn in the kitchens—duty that is generally kept in reserve for punishing any

young person who steps out of line.

The 48-hour, six-day week begins at 5.30 a.m. each morning when the youth are roused from their sleep ready to go out to the field at 7 a.m. The labour is gruelling. It is a hand and knee job, down in the mud stripping the tobacco leaves off the plant.

One young worker spoke of the conditions:

'The boss makes us go out no matter what the weather. On wet days, the worst days because of the mud, we wear lousy thin plastic raincoats that always rip.'

Boys lose one hour's pay if they are caught pausing in the fields, even one assistant supervisor admitted, 'the kids are treated like slaves by the company. It's push, push, push. Some farms have ten minute breaks, some don't. This one doesn't because the director doesn't want one.'

Recreation is limited to baseball, field trips to the seashore and two dances a summer with the neighbouring girls' camps. On Sunday church, to praise the Lord for daily bread, is obligatory.

At Culbro's Camp, Floydville, second-rate movies are shown for 35 cents. This camp is a ramshackle affair. Gaping holes in the window screens let in the stinging mosquitoes and there is no heat and little

The boys endure these conditions because they have to. Hundreds of miles away in the towns of West Virginia and Pennsylvania there are no jobs. Most of their families work in the declining coal and steel industry.

These are the conditions the young American worker undergoes in the 'richest' nation of the world.

They are bitterly oppressed, but inevitably the flames of resistance are spreading along River Valley as the inexperienced tobacco pickers learn how to fight.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

CLUBBED

'Screaming abuse the crowd hurled anything available at the troops. At least three soldiers were felled by the barrage, and one, who was hit on the head with a golf club, later underwent an emergency operation.'

'Western Mail', reporting from Belfast.

HOW HAPPY WE ARE

A London office worker and the manager of a kitchen fittings shop in the capital have been walking round with fixed smiles for the last week and a half saying how happy they are their younger brother has come into a £2.35m fortune.

The so-happy pair are Christian and Gavin Grinling (32 and 27), whose expressions of fraternal delight on behalf of farmer Gorm Grinling (26) are, of course, entirely untinged by jealousy, sour grapes or any other unworthy emotions.

Gavin, just one year older than his lucky brother, did let his hair down slightly in a Danish newspaper when he pointed out somewhat aggrievedly: 'Gorm is not the eldest of the three sons in the Grinling family. I don't know why this large inheritance was left to him. It astonishes me.' Christian's comments are not recorded.

The story of Gorm's unexpected windfall may be of interest to any patrons of a well-known store chain who thought they'd got a bargain only to find the item in question had fallen to pieces by the time they got home.

Benedicte Grinling, mother of Gorm, Gavin and Christian (and their 23-year-old sister Agstonia), was niece to the late Count Haugwitz Reventlow, a former husband of Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton.

Their son, Lance who was dubbed 'The World's Richest Baby' when he was born in 1936, died in a plane crash last year. (On his 21st birthday, Lance inherited £9.62m.)

The count, who also died last year, left seven estates, 70 farms and several houses on the Danish island of Lolland.

Now the old farm down at Ewhurst, Surrey, is Gormless. He has flown to Denmark to collect.

COSTLY

The cost of living in Chile rose by 27.5 per cent in the first six months of this year, according to official figures published this week. The cost of living rose by 22.1 per cent in the whole of last year and 11.1 per cent in its first six months.

SPORT

Prime Minister Edward Heath is a keep-fit fanatic. Every evening he goes over to the Grosvenor Hotel swimming pool in London for a 20-minute dip.

A special gym instructor calls at No 10 every day to put Heath through his paces. Then there is his yacht-racing and finally the piano.

He doesn't smoke and bans smoking in Cabinet meetings, which explains why some of them are short.

This obsession with fitness also throws some light on Heath's political make-up.

In a recent interview with a Sunday newspaper he was quoted as saying: 'The Germans spent a lot of money on sports facilities in the 1930s and they have benefited ever since.'

Of course both he and the newspaper fail to point out that it was the Nazis who spent all this money. The German fascists were attempting to prove the supremacy of the so-called Aryan race.



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**ALL TRADES
UNIONS
ALLIANCE
MEETINGS**

LANCASTER: Wednesday, September 6, 7.30 p.m. Trades Hall, Fenton Street. 'The building workers' strike'.

SLOUGH: Wednesday September 6, 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.

GREENOCK: Wednesday September 6, 7.30 p.m. Salon Hall, Town Hall. 'The rents struggle and the Scott-Lithgow engineers' fight.'

SUNDERLAND: Wednesday September 6, 7.30 p.m. Trade Union Club, Frederick Street. Speakers: H. Nicol (ATUA), E. Ennew (President of Sunderland Trades Council, in a personal capacity). 'Build Councils of Action. Defend the right to work. Stop rents increases. Make the Tories resign.'

SHEFFIELD: Thursday September 7, 7.30 p.m. New White Lion, Wicker. 'The builders' pay claim and fight for the right to work.'

MANCHESTER: Thursday September 7, 7.30 p.m. Basement Theatre Town Hall. 'Build Councils of Action. Force the Tories to resign.'

CLYDEBANK: Thursday, September 7, 8 p.m. Clydebank Town Hall, Clydebank. 'Lessons of the UCS struggle.'

RHYMNEY: Thursday September 7, 7.30 p.m. Rhymney Workingmen's Club, Rhymney, South Wales. 'Crisis of leadership in the trade unions.'

EAST LONDON: Thursday September 7, 8 p.m. Festival Inn, Market Square, Chrisp Street, Market, E14. 'What is Stalinism?'

SOUTHAMPTON: Friday September 8, 7.30 p.m. 'The Glebe', Corner of Brintons Road and Northam Road. Speaker: Alan Thornett (deputy senior steward Morris Motors, Oxford, in a personal capacity). 'The lessons of the docks strike and the fight for jobs.'

BRACKNELL: Monday September 11, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre.

CROYDON: Monday September 11, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Lessons of the dock strike.'

HULL: Wednesday September 13, 7.30 p.m. Church Hall, Wayne Road, Bransholme (opp 'The Swallow'). 'Fighting the Tories' Rent Act.'

MEDWAY: Wednesday September 13, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue, Rochester. 'Defeat the anti-union laws. Force the Tories to resign.'

SWINDON: Sunday September 17, 7.30 p.m. 'Locomotive Inn', Fleet Street. 'Join the fight to force the Tories to resign.'

Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

Wind up fight call rejected by tenants

A FIFTY-STRONG public meeting called by the Cumbernauld, Scotland, rents action committee has rejected a call by right-wing treasurer Douglas Gilchrist to wind up the struggle due to 'dwindling support'.

Tenants had come to hear local MP Hugh McCartney, but he had another meeting in London.

Treasurer Gilchrist intimated that the local development corporation was not prepared to continue to receive representations from the action committee, while it advocated illegal action—the withholding of increases.

The meeting was totally hostile to abandoning the fight and in opposing the winding-up motion an ATUA speaker stressed that politics not legal quirks was at the essence of the rents fight.

The constituency Labour Party should have sent a substitute speaker, he said.

The Labour leadership in the two largest working-class towns in Scotland have refused to implement the Act—but nationally the LP is retreating before the Act.

'It is wrong to maintain that the rents action committee is non-political. There are no Tories on the committee and this is not accidental.'

The drive to force up rents is part of the drive by the Tory government to force down working-class living standards as the capitalist crisis bit deeper. The only way to oppose this was to maintain the rents struggle as part of the fight for a General Strike to force the Tories to resign and to replace them with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Gilchrist said if his motion were rejected, he would resign. Only three votes were cast in favour.

The chairman, Communist Party member David Kane, refused to accept the resignation.

BIRMINGHAM city council, which had asked for a nil increase in council rents under the Housing Finance Act, has been told by the government that rents should go up by an average 55p a week. Cllr.

Stanley Yapp, leader of the council's controlling Labour group, described the government's reply as 'completely unacceptable'. A special council meeting might be called to discuss the reply.



SOME of the 100 tenants and trade unionists who marched through Redditch, Worcestershire, last weekend against rent increases and terms of the Tories' Housing Finance

Act. Despite chants of 'Heath out' maintained by many tenants throughout the demonstration and posters calling for the nationalization of the land and building industry, not one of the speakers at the meet-

ing which followed called for the downfall of the Tory government. Doris Fisher, Labour MP for Ladywood, Birmingham, hoped for more protests 'to make the Tories aware' of the tenants' fight.

Industrial investment at a three-year low

INVESTMENT in basic manufacturing industry continues to fall rapidly. This is the most important conclusion from the latest Department of Trade and Industry survey into capital spending trends.

Plant and machinery investment fell by £25m in the second quarter of this year. Investment overall was 9 per cent down in the same period compared with the previous three months. It reached its lowest point in any quarter for three years.

The figure would have been even worse but for improvements in the distributive and service sector.

Not only have the reflationary and investment incentive measures dating from last October proved a failure. The figures also reflect the preparations of the monopolies for their entry into the Common Market as they switch investment plans into western Europe.

The latest 'Financial Times' survey of business opinion underlines growing business pessimism about prospects for 1973. Firms expecting an increase in industrial production over the next 12 months has fallen from 72 per cent to 67 per cent since the last survey. They blame stagnation in the domestic market as the main barrier to increased production.

Molins back

MORE than 700 strikers at Molins tobacco machinery factory at Deptford, south London, returned to work on a speed-up deal after a ten-week strike yesterday. A £3.35 weekly increase has been agreed for skilled bonus workers and £2.85 for semi-skilled and unskilled workers. The agreement with the unions also provides for a programme recovery bonus geared to percentage improvements on normal output.

Social workers face £170 wage-cut

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

SOCIAL WORKERS in five London boroughs—Hackney, Islington, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Lambeth—are still involved in a dispute over stand-by payments and are refusing to be on call at nights and at weekends.

The rate of pay in the London area for each 5 p.m.-9 a.m. session is £1.20, and £2 if they are actually called out. Since they only get one payment no matter how many times they are called out in a night, total payment works out at about 12p an hour.

The social workers are demanding a £7 inclusive payment regardless of whether or not they are called out. The employers, however, are insisting on separate payments and their last offer was an increase of the call-out payment to £4.50.

In the meantime, local authority social workers are under attack from a different direction.

Both the British Association of Social Workers and the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) have opposed the implementation of the Butterworth Report which, if the government decides to act on it, would mean £170 a year salary cut.

The government has agreed to salary increases to social workers in the probation and hospital

services, but it would appear they may be trying to pay for it by cutting the money to those in local authority employment.

NALGO has stated: 'The local government social work service is made a scapegoat for the Home Office and probation committees to pay realistic salaries to probation officers. Social workers' salaries are low in relation to their qualifications and the responsibilities they undertake.'

They also allege that the report is an attempt to introduce wage restraint in recommending a starting salary for newly-qualified social workers of £1,689, about £170 less than the present average pay.

Mr J. B. Butterworth, vice-Chancellor of Warwick University, who drew up the report for the Office of Manpower Economics, says that although this is only an interim figure suggested pending further discussion, he did have the need for a national incomes restraint policy very much in mind.

'I must not make recommendations which would be inflationary,' he said.

I would like information about

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

Name

Address

Dock peace move at Bristol

WORK IN the port of Bristol could soon be back to normal after seven weeks of industrial disputes.

A formula to end the latest dispute—an unofficial strike by 160 maintenance men — was agreed by shop stewards and will be put to the strikers today.

The formula was thrashed out at a meeting between shop stewards, union representatives and port officials.

The strike, over a £7-a-week pay claim, started on August 21—the day the rest of the port returned to work after the national dock strike.

Seven ships have been trapped in the city docks at Bristol because the strikers normally operate the swing bridge which leads to the river Avon and the open sea. Ships at Avonmouth are also affected.

Guarantees end strike

A MEETING of about 250 Armstrong Patents strikers near Hull yesterday voted to return to work this morning.

The vote was taken after convenor Jean Jepson had read out a guarantee that no work would be moved from the Grove Hill factory until full consultation had taken place with the union.

In the event of disagreement the matter is to go through procedure.

The management have not made any guarantee that the work will not be speeded up, but say they will open discussions on this after the return to work.

Resistance growing to Corby productivity deal



Some of the Corby 'dissidents' after their meeting last Sunday

RESISTANCE to a productivity deal at British Steel Corporation's Corby works has been reflected in a growing number of unofficial 'dissidents'.

On August 28, they walked out of a meeting in protest against a productivity agreement put by their negotiating committee.

Later 102 men signed a letter to George McCart, AUEW full-time organizer, asking for further discussion and for him to attend their meeting last Sunday.

But the officials are not pre-

pared to recognize the minority openly.

The men not only fear that productivity will cause unemployment, but they are also angry over the way they say the document appears to have been changed without the consultation of union members.

Productivity has been in operation in the steel side of the Corby works since 1965. But the recent vote was taken in the whole complex.

Tube worker John Smilie (32),

points out that productivity deals only mean redundancies. Other workers say these must be resisted at all costs otherwise Corby could become another Irlam — the Lancashire plant being run down.

The productivity document is careful not to offer any reassurances about sackings. It discusses yield speed, stoppages and reduced mechanical engine expenditure—in other words, higher speed and lower numbers of workers.

SPECIAL ATUA MEETINGS

CENTRAL LONDON :

Inaugural meeting of the entertainments and press unions.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 7 p.m.

'The crisis of technology and unemployment.'

SHAFTESBURY HOTEL MONMOUTH STREET, WC2.

Speakers: Roy Battersby (ACTT. In a personal capacity).

A London docker.

KENT:

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 8 p.m.

'Victory to the Creffield workers. Defeat the anti-union laws.'

'Make the Tories resign.'

THE GEORGE AND DRAGON SHIPBOURNE ROAD TONBRIDGE, KENT.

LIVERPOOL :

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 10.30 a.m.

'Crisis in the car industry. Fight for the right to work.'

STORK HOTEL QUEEN'S SQUARE

Speakers: Alan Thornett (deputy senior steward Morris Motors, Oxford. In a personal capacity).

Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee).

TV

BBC 1

9.45 Mr Benn. 10.00 Robinson Crusoe. 10.25 Play tennis. 10.50-10.55 Magic roundabout. 11.30 Olympic grandstand. 1.30 Andy Pandy. 1.45 News and weather. 1.55 Olympic grandstand. 5.25 News.

7.00 NATIONAL NEWS. Weather. 7.25 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. 8.10 PLAY: 'THE INCREDIBLE ROBERT BALDICK'. Never Come Night. Robert Hardy, Julian Holloway, John Rhys-Davies.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.

9.25 TODAY AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES. Athletics, boxing, volleyball, yachting, basketball, archery, dressage, cycling.

12.30 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Laurel and Hardy. 5.10 Story behind the story. 5.35 Magic roundabout. 5.40 Undersea world of Jacques Cousteau.

6.30 BIRD'S EYE-VIEW. Inis Fail: Isle of Destiny.

7.30 NEWSROOM. Weather.

8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED... By children abroad.

8.10 MAN ALIVE. Eastern Promise.

9.00 FOLLOW THE RHINE. To the North Sea.

9.25 FILM: 'BOOMERANG'. Dana Andrews, Lee J. Cobb, Jane Wyatt. When a priest is murdered the public prosecutor is under pressure to achieve a conviction quickly.

10.50 NEWS ON 2. Weather.

10.55 FESTIVAL 26.

ITV

11.00 Trades Union Congress. 12.25 Women today. 12.50 Freud on food. 1.15 Bellbird. 1.25 Sean the leprechaun. 1.40 Woobinda. 2.00 Castle haven. 2.25 Racing from Doncaster. 3.40 TUC. 4.10 Hatty town. 4.25 Little big time. 4.50 Ace of wands. 5.20 Olympics and news.

6.00 TODAY.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 WHICKER. Within a Woman's World.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 THE BENNY HILL SHOW.

9.00 PLAYHOUSE: 'REFUGE FOR A HERO'. Joan Thaw, Gareth Forwood, Edward Petherbridge.

10.00 NEWS AND OLYMPICS AT TEN.

11.00 ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

11.55 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.

12.10 ADDICTION.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 2.10 Good afternoon. 2.43 Puffin. 2.45 Racing from Doncaster. 4.10 Paulus. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 F troop. 6.35 London. 11.50 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 11.00-12.45 London. 2.00 Gus Honeybun. 2.43 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.53 News. 11.56 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 11.00 London. 12.45 News and weather. 12.50 Let them live. 1.15 Hot dog. 1.40 Common Market cook book. 2.10 Bellbird. 2.25 London. 3.40 Houseparty. 4.00 Little big time. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Get this. 7.00 London. 8.00 FBI. 9.00 London. 11.55 What the papers say. 12.10 News. 12.20 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 11.00-12.30 London. 2.15 Racing from Doncaster. 3.10 TUC. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 On the buses. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London.



Julian Holloway and Robert Hardy are in tonight's BBC 1 suspense play 'The Incredible Robert Baldick: Never Come Night'

11.55 Frighteners. 12.25 Weather. HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 3.45 Hamdden. 4.15-4.25 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.

ANGLIA: 11.00 London. 1.35 World War I. 2.00 Rovers. 2.25 London. 3.10 TUC. 3.30 Yoga. 3.55 News. 4.00 Romper room. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-1.00 London. 1.45 Racing from Doncaster. 3.10 TUC. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Rupert Bear. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London.

ULSTER: 11.00-12.45 London. 1.45 Racing from Doncaster. 3.10 TUC. 4.00 Romper room. 4.20

News. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Viewfinder. 6.35 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 11.55 World War I.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00-12.45 London. 1.45 Racing from Doncaster. 2.10 Bellbird. 2.25 London. 4.10 Sean the leprechaun. 4.25 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 12.30 Galloping gourmet. 12.55 Super car. 1.20 Audubon wildlife theatre. 1.50 Racing from Doncaster. 3.10 TUC. 4.10 News. Sean the leprechaun. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Newsday films. 6.30 Odd couple. 7.00 London. 8.00 Nichols. 9.00 London. 11.55 What the papers say.

TYNE TEES: 11.00-12.45 London. 1.45 Racing from Doncaster. 2.10 Bellbird. 2.25 London. 3.10 TUC.

4.09 News. 4.10 Make a wish. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.55 News. 12.10 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 11.00-12.45 London. 1.45 Racing from Doncaster. 3.10 TUC. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Hatty town. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Under these roofs. 6.35 London. 7.00 Band call. 7.30 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 11.00 Festival. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 McCue's music.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00-12.45 London. 1.45 Racing from Doncaster. 3.10 News. 3.20 Yoga. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.20 Canadian view. 6.35 London. 8.00 Department S. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 11.55 Scales of justice.



UNDER THE DOME



Jack Jones during yesterday's pensions debate

Only a lobby proposed to combat Britain's pension slum

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

BRITAIN was condemned as a 'pensions slum' at the TUC in Brighton yesterday by Jack Jones, leader of the transport workers. Opening the conference debate on old age pensions Jones called for a minimum award of £10 for a single person and £15 for a couple.

But the resolution he proposed was only a continuation of the TUC's as yet phoney campaign on this issue.

Once more any demand for bringing down the Tory government, which condemns old workers to a life on the breadline was dodged.

The strongest action proposed was a joint lobby of parliament by the TUC and pensioners' organizations.

At last year's conference it was Jones who resisted a demand for a strike over the poverty in which old people are forced to live. This year he did not even face this opposition.

Jones got a cheer from the conference hall when he attacked politicians who complain about poverty abroad while there was such 'abject poverty' in Britain.

'I think the efforts of the TUC, the pensioners' organizations and the National Council of Labour have put pensions right on the agenda and we hope to keep it there.

'There is really no question on the agenda of the conference that one feels is more important than this issue.

'Frankly we have got to stop Britain becoming a pensions slum country.'

He backed a call for a retiring age of 60 to alleviate unemployment and mental and physical strain, but warned that this could not be introduced until pensions were increased.

Bryan Stanley, deputy general secretary of the Post Office engineers, welcomed the government's annual review of pensions, but said that this on its own was not enough.

WEATHER

CLOUDINESS, with some rain, will move eastwards into west Scotland and Northern Ireland during the day, reaching most of Scotland later except the extreme east and southeast. All other areas will be dry with some sunshine. Some early morning fog patches may develop in the Midlands. Temperatures will be near or a little above normal, apart from north and west Scotland, where it will be rather cool.

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Rain at times, mainly dry in the south. Cooler in the north, normal temperatures in the south.

The right to work includes women

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE RIGHT to work was not generally considered a female prerogative, Pat Turner of the General and Municipal Workers' Union told the Congress.

She was moving a resolution affirming support for the abolition of sexual discrimination in employment practices and calling for support for any union taking industrial action to achieve equal pay.

She said that discrimination was so pervasive that in many areas it had come to be regarded as the norm.

The government report on moves towards equal pay showed that a real struggle would be required to make it a reality. Pay was not the only area in which women were discriminated against.

Trade unionists tended to forget unemployment among women though there were many thousands of households where a woman was the breadwinner.

industrial action' to secure equality for women.

'The right to work is the right of all workers, men and women,' she said.

Miss B. Tinton, from the Technical and Supervisory Section of the AUEW, said the problem of equal pay would not disappear when the Equal Pay Act came into force in 1975.

'Not to fight the equal pay issue is to give the employers a chance to interpret the law as they want.

'Unless there is an attempt to fight on this issue you can forget the idea of equal pay as our movement wants it for many years to come.

'Now is the time for all trade unionists to stop talking and start fighting for equal pay.'

Mrs Irene Swann of NUPE, a Communist Party member, called for action 'up to and including

She claimed that the recent concession of 90 per cent of the men's pay for women workers in engineering had been won as a result of the plant-by-plant fight on the engineering pay claim.

Mrs Swann attacked the 'extraordinary statement' in the General Council's report advising caution in encouraging girls to train for jobs 'traditionally regarded as mainly suitable for men.

'They appear to be asking the trade union movement to accept limitations imposed by traditional thinking on the question,' she said.

The Congress passed the resolution unanimously, but its acceptance does nothing to alter the TUC's supine neglect of its 2½ million women members. No amount of pious resolutions and platform rhetoric have proved able in the past to eliminate the gulf in wages and working conditions against women workers.

Piecework ends at Jaguar

THE 12-WEEK strike at Jaguars cars, Coventry, is over. By 723 votes to 579 the strikers accepted the final company offer.

This offer gives a £44 flat rate for 40 hours and £105 payment to those who are already earning over £45 and pro rata payments for those who are earning less than £44.

There are to be immediate talks on a new flat rate system of payment (i.e. Measured-Day Work).

Vehicle builders' union official Fred Palmer thought that the return to work vote was a result of people being in financial stress.

However, the conduct of this strike has been marked right from the beginning by a refusal of the shop stewards to see the whole implications of British-Leyland's determination to smash piece-work and introduce Measured-Day Work.

This is really confirmed by the comment made by Mike Richards, chairman of the strike committee, who in his final statement to the men said:

'As far as we see it the piece-work system is now gone for ever. At first we took a hard line regarding piece-work prices. Then we brought the issues out by a compromise agreeing to a flat rate increase.

'We took on Jaguar cars and found we had taken on the whole of British-Leyland. We have seen their full might.

'As a combine committee we may now have to change our tactics. British-Leyland could not have won if we had had the combine strength behind us. We would have liked to have seen support from other British-Leyland factories who are still on piecework.'

BIRMINGHAM building workers marched through the city centre yesterday to mark their 11 weeks on strike. The men are still tremendously confident of victory.

IN LONDON yesterday the workers' side of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry named more than 90 firms they claim have signed individual deals with the unions covering 20,000 men. All the deals, they said, gave craftsmen a £30 minimum wage.

SEPTEMBER FUND £36.25

LAST MONTH you raised a record amount of £2,160 for our Appeal Fund. Each month you, our readers, remain firmly behind us. Without your magnificent support, we would never have been able to maintain our paper and expand in the way that we have.

There is no doubt that in the fight against the Tories, more and more workers are turning towards Workers Press for a lead. But we are not content to sit back on our gains. Your support makes us even more determined to improve our news coverage and expand our circulation in a big way.

Your support this month therefore is vital. Our aim is to raise more for our Fund than ever before. Help us make it a record. Post all donations immediately to:

Workers Press
September Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG.

NALGO goes for 24 p.c. rise

UNIONS representing 900,000 local government manual workers decided in Brighton yesterday to lodge a claim for £4 a week more on basic rates across the board.

The claim represents increases of up to 23 per cent in the minimum rates. The unions are also asking for a threshold clause to ensure that pay stays in line with the cost of living and to protect earnings against inflation.

They want the working week cut from 40 to 35 hours, four weeks' holiday a year and two extra days in statutory holidays.

Alan Fisher, National Union of Public Employees general secretary said it was not an exaggerated claim but one that could be substantiated. It was so well supported by evidence that strike action would be unnecessary.

The unions do not expect to meet the employers until late next month.

ANOTHER CLYDE FORMULA

FROM PAGE 1

relaxed atmosphere Lord Strathalmond told reporters genially that he now expected the agreement to be signed by Monday week—seven days late.

He added dates did not make much difference.

He said smiling: 'When the signing takes place depends on when Mr Ramsay [boilermakers' district official] wants to drop in and have a beer with me.'

Union officials refused to disclose details of the peace formula thrashed out at yesterday's meeting. But James Ramsay said afterwards:

'There are more prospects now than there have been at the last two meetings.'

Murray added that the peace solution would need to be given very serious consideration by the

men at a mass meeting.

Ramsay and Murray were given a hot reception at last week's mass meeting when they turned up with nothing but threats of what would happen if the agreement was not signed.

There are firm indications that over the past 24 hours they may have succeeded in pressing the company to promise a review of wages earlier than next January.

At today's meeting of boilermakers at Govan's Lyceum Cinema the officials will almost certainly try to convince the men that Lord Strathalmond is showing great patience and that they have won enough of a victory to go along with the deal.

This would dovetail with boilermakers' leader Dan McGarvey's view that all that was needed to clinch the men's agreement was a new form of words.

GLASGOW demonstrators marched 600-strong yesterday afternoon demanding the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act. There was criticism by workers on the march of the failure of several large factories in the area to turn out. None of the shipyards came out on strike.

BOILERMAKERS in the Swan Hunter shipbuilding yards on the Tyne staged a mass walk-out in a dispute over a cost-of-living claim yesterday. The 4,000 men, who are seeking a 17½ per cent cost-of-living rise, yesterday gave 21 days' notice to end their present pay agreement which has 17 months to run, and seek a new settlement.

CIRCULATION
01-622 7029

NEWS DESK
01-720 2000

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