

# Workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 1972 • No. 876 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY ALEX MITCHELL

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## Praise

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It was support from this mechanized battalion of the Uganda army and the air force which played the key part in Amin's military take-over in January last year.

## Trained

Amin himself was British-trained and was commissioned in the King's African Rifles by British officers.

Since coming to power Amin has doubled the size of the army to almost 10,000 troops.

The infantry is trained by the British and is supplied with British-made weapons including Bren guns, Sterling sub-machine guns, FN rifles and Lee Enfield rifles.

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rise of a black dictator

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BY OUR OWN  
CORRESPONDENT

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# WHAT WE THINK

# UCS chickens come home to roost

# WELL, FANCY THAT!

THE TWO-FOLD exposure of the deals signed by the Stalinist leaders at UCS with Marathon Manufacturing and Govan Shipbuilders coupled with Reid's recent denunciation of the boilermakers as 'rat-racers' has left Govan workers confused to say the least.

Communist Party stewards James Reid and James Airlie know that support for their four-yards policy at departmental meetings to be held on Tuesday is dicey. Now that the majority of men at the yards have read the agreements they signed, the joint committee is almost a dead letter.

The Stalinists cannot admit the agreements were bad without admitting their whole strategy for the fight for jobs at UCS was wrong. They are forced back on blaming 'sectionalism' and ultimately the working class for their own failure and treachery. It is the self-same people who are now attacking the shipyard workers for sinking into a morass of petty internecine bickering who themselves created the conditions for it to take place.

**Who began the split between the four yards as early as October 1971 by bowing to Tory threats and accepting the setting up of a rump company at Govan if not Reid and Airlie?**

**Who sealed the split by signing two separate agreements with Marathon and Govan Shipbuilders if not Reid and Airlie?**

**Who first sowed and meticulously nurtured the myth that the struggle at UCS**

**should be confined solely to the maintenance of jobs and working conditions if not Reid and Airlie?**

It was they who refused to lift the fight from trade union issues to political issues, namely the struggle to force the Tory government to resign, and who, as a result, prepared the way for the boilermakers to discover the betrayal and decide to go it alone. The same Airlie who yesterday threatened to resign unless the sectional bickering ended said on August 10, 1971:

'We have kept clear of politics. Our job is to save UCS. Political issues may come into it, but only in the fight to save UCS and not in bringing down the Tory government.'

While publicly peddling the view that the Tories could be pressured into maintaining jobs and working conditions on the Upper Clyde exactly as they were at the time of liquidation, the Stalinists with their reformist policies have been forced back on every issue.

The sacking of up to 1,000 men at Clydebank by the year's end takes them back to square one and the wholesale implementation of the plan drawn up in 1969 by Tory Minister Nicholas Ridley. He concluded that the best course on the upper Clyde was 'to bail out UCS—to write off its debts—sell off government shareholdings—close one or even two of its yards—appoint a new chairman and let it stand or fall on its own'.

With the exception of the extent of the Tory government's loan commitment, this is exactly what has happened.

Worse, the two surviving rump com-

panies have been able to impose the most savage work-practices and conditions throughout British industry including Measured-Day Work, interchangeability and no-strike clauses.

Of 8,500 men employed at the yards when the 'work-in' began last summer 4,000 are working for Lord Strathalmond and of the 2,000 at Clydebank half are to go by Christmas—halving the work force as Ridley planned.

Stalinist reformism not merely opened but swung wide the door for the Tories to press ahead with their ruthless butchery of UCS.

Now that UCS workers are sick to death of the endless treachery the Stalinists have turned on them. Blaming the working class for their betrayals is an old and dangerous Stalinist game.

The same argument was used during and after the war to excuse the way Stalin and the German Communist Party allowed Hitler to seize power. Soviet Stalinist writers like Ilya Ehrenburg went over to outright anti-German, racism in their efforts to cover up the treachery of the politics of the third period, when they denounced reformist workers as social fascists. It was this policy which split the German labour movement and allowed Hitler to come to power.

At UCS the hand of Stalinism has at last been exposed. The Clydebank men must not be left to fight alone. A new unity in the four yards must be forged under a new leadership pledged to halt unemployment once and for all on the Clyde by mobilizing the fight to force the Tory government to resign.

THE THREE French revisionist organizations purporting to be Trotskyist, Lutte Ouvrière, Ligue Communiste and Organization Communist Internationaliste (which broke away from the International Committee of the Fourth International last year) have drawn up an agreement relating to their candidates in the elections due in March 1973.

So far the agreement goes no further than avoiding clashes in deciding in which constituencies to put forward candidates. Lutte Ouvrière is pressing for an agreement in which the organizations will support each other's candidates or organize joint election campaigns.

The agreement which still has to be finalized was the outcome of three month's negotiation between the three organizations. It is believed that Claude Chisseray was the main representative of the OCI.

The Ligue Communiste and the Organization Communiste Internationaliste have not, according to 'Lutte Ouvrière', rejected the possibility of such an agreement.

'We hope very sincerely' the paper of the tendency which bears the same name writes, 'that our comrades of the OCI and of the Ligue will understand all the importance, for the whole of the Trotskyist movement [sic] and for their respective organizations, of making a solid and responsible impression as revolutionaries in the forthcoming legislative elections.'

## Big push down the coast

NORTH VIETNAMESE forces have captured three outposts defending the towns of Duc Pho in the northern coastal province of Quang Nai. This follows the capture of Ba To on Monday.

At least 9,000 North Vietnamese troops and guerrillas are believed to be operating in this new push down to the coast from mountain sanctuaries. American bombers and warships are in action in an attempt to break up the offensive.

US command admitted that it had mined rivers and canals in Quang Tri province in northern South Vietnam for the first time. The operation began in May at the same time as northern ports were mined.

It is claimed that no Americans were killed in Vietnam last week for the first time since March 1965.



# Pompidou desperate to hide corruption

BY TOM KEMP

**PRESIDENT Pompidou's press conference on Thursday was a desperate public relations job which could only have impressed his own committed supporters. Even they must have looked back with regret to the days when de Gaulle was in command.**

Although Pompidou promised that government supporters involved in current scandals would be weeded out, he did not explain how so many Gaullist politicians had become involved in corrupt practices.

Instead of dealing with the substance of the charges made by former ministerial aide in the Ministry of Equipment and

Housing, Gabriel Aranda, he tried to cast doubts on his integrity or mental stability and attacked photo-copying as an invasion of privacy.

He referred to France's stormy history since the 1930s and, in true Gaullist vein, appealed for reconciliation between all Frenchmen.

He had previously defended his action in pardoning Paul Touvier, a collaborator who helped the Gestapo in Lyons hunt down and murder many Jews and resistance workers.

French workers will no doubt have treated Pompidou's performance with the contempt it deserved.

Here was a seedy politician, of doubtful antecedents and connections, covering up for a

regime which stinks with decay and corruption.

The activities of the Gaullist miscreants that Pompidou now tries to disown, from property frauds through trafficking in influence and tax evasion to brothel-keeping, reflect very accurately the nature of the ruling class he represents.

With the regime now preparing to take on the working class in the coming wage struggles, it was typical that the Communist Party editor of 'L'Humanité' asked Pompidou what he would do as president if a left-wing coalition won the forthcoming elections. This enabled Pompidou to say that he would form a government based on the majority.

So the illusion is cultivated that it is possible to get big changes within the constitutional framework of the Fifth Republic inherited from General de Gaulle.

Although a main aim of the press conference was to try to restore the somewhat tarnished image of the government in the eyes of the French public, Pompidou, replying to foreign pressmen, also made some significant pronouncements on France's external policy.

He indicated that he had changed his mind in favour of the European summit to be held next month because of the need to bring about some agreement on monetary matters. The implication was that a common front was necessary to prepare for inten-

sified trade war with the United States.

Pompidou said that he would welcome Franco Spain's membership of the Common Market. He went on to assure a Tass man that France wanted improved relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The Pompidou press conference was but a pale imitation of de Gaulle's infrequent but electric performances.

This time it was more like a clever lawyer trying to get a light sentence for a clearly deeply-implicated client. The final impression must be that there is not very much to distinguish the President of France from the seedy politicians of the Gaullist party from whom he now has to try to dissociate himself.

# Spanish-Stalinist deals weaken Vigo strikers

SIX HEADS of commercial and consular offices of Franco's Spain in Eastern Europe finished talks yesterday in Vienna on the prospects for what is described by the Spanish press as the 'offensive in the East'.

Discussions centred on the recent Moscow-Madrid trade agreement signed in Paris. The fascists hope to have ambassadors recognized in Warsaw and Sofia within a year.

Polish Stalinist leaders want

to establish diplomatic relations at the highest level.

Spain only has commercial representation with Yugoslavia because partisans who fought in the International Brigades against Franco in the 1936-1938 Civil War oppose political relations.

Diplomats are optimistic that President Tito, himself a former member of the Brigades, will soon overcome this antagonism.

This conspiracy between the Stalinists in Eastern Europe and Franco is a deadly blow against the struggles of the Spanish working class.

YESTERDAY in the northern

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

town of Vigo, the Labour court began to hear the case against three of the sacked Citroën workers. The three are all married with families and are in their early thirties.

The local newspaper, 'The Light of Vigo', printed a letter from a group of strikers attacking a letter witch-hunting the strike.

The workers explain their strike is 'in solidarity with the dismissed workers' and nothing to do with 'agitators imposing

themselves on the mass of workers and leading a stupid, unreasonable strike'.

The Citroën management did not carry out the threat to dismiss the whole work-force when there was a slight return to work. However, the main body of workers is still on strike and the shipyards are still halted by sympathy action.

The greatest danger in the strike is the Communist Party, which has considerable influence in Vigo. The Party leadership responds to working-class militancy and the fascist alliance with the Eastern European

bureaucracy by moving closer to 'liberal' sections of the Spanish bourgeoisie.

The CP is making much of the Vigo Bishop's statement on the strike, which will be read from every pulpit in the diocese next Sunday. It claims that 'strikes in extreme cases may be necessary'. It also calls for an end to the class struggle!

The alliance which the Spanish Stalinists are trying to build with such sham liberals is used against the political extension of the strike to build a movement to bring down the Franco government.

# T&GWU leaders jump at Tories' half-hints

# Jones moves right:

# Hits union democracy

BY DAVID MAUDE

MILITANT DOCKERS who gave vent to dissatisfaction and frustration with the policies of their union at a lobby of delegates on August 16, could face expulsion or fines of up to £10.

The Transport and General Workers' Union executive has sent evidence against a small number of the lobbyists, mainly from London, to regional committees and expects action to be taken soon.

Other decisions taken by the executive after a lengthy discussion of the incidents on Thursday are that:

- Regional committees must ensure all 1.6 million members of the union undertake to abide by the rules and policies of the union.
- The executive's 'inner cabinet'—its finance and general purposes committee (F&GPC)—will conduct an immediate examination of 'the methods necessary to protect lay delegates from interference at constitutional conferences'.
- The F&GPC which meets monthly, will also look into 'the circumstances which may require alternative methods of consulting the membership concerned where difficulties arise'.
- Full-time T&GWU officers are being instructed, in the words of T&GWU secretary Jack Jones, to 'take a much more positive role and provide much more leadership' in the docks industry.
- The F&GPC has been authorized to take 'whatever action is possible' to prevent interference in the union's affairs by non-members.

With these decisions — presented by Jones as an attempt to 'refine and improve' T&GWU



Jones  
democracy—the union has taken a big step rightwards.

Having already split the dockers and condemned them to lose thousands more jobs under the terms of the Jones-Aldington report, the leadership has now been handed powers to intimidate its rank-and-file opponents.

And the way has been opened to the virtual dismantling of any form of real control from the ranks.

Jones was, to say the least, extremely vague on Thursday night when asked by reporters to spell out what could be meant by 'alternative methods' of consultation.

In practice, he said, the present delegate conference could be held out of London, replaced by a series of district conferences. The trade group committees could put their recommendations direct to workplace meetings or in some cases there could be ballots.

All this was hedged around, of course, with the usual flannel about 'we don't want to do this, but . . .' and 'there's no question of us starting a witch-hunt'.

But Jones made the revealing comment: 'Justice will be done and will be seen to be done within the union.'

'Our rules require that matters affecting the union be dealt with within the union and that will be done. But the public is entitled to know that the highest authority in the union has looked at this matter and this is what they have decided.'

For 'public', substitute 'Tory government' and you will be nearer the truth.

The ultimate source of these moves by the T&GWU executive became clear in Jones' comments about the Tories' threatened review of the law on picketing.

After discussing the possibility of issuing pickets with official armbands and other means of bringing their activities into line, he said:

'I wouldn't wish the government to intervene. I hope the trade union movement can find its own solution.'

In other words, the Tories have only to threaten action and the union leaders fall into line. It can also be predicted that they will receive enthusiastic support in this from the Communist Party.

Stalinist shop stewards from London docks originally opposed the calling of the August 16 lobby on the national port stewards' committee.

And after the incidents which erupted there the 'Morning Star' said that perhaps dockers did not always choose the best means of expressing their grievances.

The CP can now be relied upon to back whatever moves Jones makes against rank-and-file democracy in the T&GWU, cowering behind the argument that if these are not accepted worse may follow.

The Stalinists will not fight for the independence of the unions from the state. Only Trotskyism today can do this.

## N London Council of Action started

Gestetner's shop steward Richard Goldstein speaking at Thursday's meeting



NEARLY 100 trade unionists, tenants, youth and Co-op members, old-age pensioners and members of the Socialist Labour League, Young Socialists, International Marxist Group and International Socialists attended the first meeting of the North London Council of Action on Thursday night.

Delegates hotly debated the issues facing the working class today. An amendment by the IS calling for support for all rank-and-file action by workers was defeated. The meeting felt this was not enough to enable the working class to defeat the Tories. Richard Goldstein, secretary of Gestetner's

shop stewards' committee, said the main question was to build an alternative revolutionary leadership in the Labour and trade union movement to clear out the traitors. The Council of Action had to be set up to provide such leadership in a campaign to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour

government pledged to socialist policies. Other resolutions called for dispensation for the Workers Press and 'Morning Star' and support for the All Trades Unions Alliance conference on October 22. A committee was elected to carry forward the decision and to prepare for the next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

## YS Right-to-Work campaign

# Hunger march town welcomes the YS

SUPPORT for striking Tyneside boilermakers was expressed on Wednesday night by north east Right-to-Work marchers in a resolution sent to the strike committee.

The following day the Young Socialists' seven-day march left Sunderland along the coast road to South Shields. A housewife told us that her son was abandoning his science course at the Polytechnic because none of his friends could find work.

Her neighbour was sceptical of the aims of our campaign. 'It was the same when the Labour government was in. There were no jobs in this area.'

When she was told of the long struggle for socialist policies the Young Socialists had waged against the reformist leadership in the Labour Party, she donated 50p to the march fund.

'British troops out of Ulster!' echoed around the huts of Whitburn army base as we marched past.

As the march reached South Shields it shouted its support for the fight against the Tory Housing Finance Act.

South Shields is now the only Labour council in the north east which still refuses to implement the Act.

Over 40 copies of the Workers Press were sold in the two miles between South Shields and Jarrow. At a public meeting to welcome the marchers to Jarrow, county councillor Michael Campbell said that the town, which was the scene of hunger marches in the 1930s, was once again experiencing serious unemployment.

Over 2,500 were out of work, including 550 school leavers.

'Big firms take over small companies only to close them down,' he said. Other speakers included Vin Foy, president of the trades council and Frank Dixon, a former Jarrow mayor.

Dave Jones, march leader, said that the march was not a 'protest' against unemployment. 'What we are doing is preparing a new leadership for the working class which will drive out the Tories as well as the Labour traitors.'

Mike Banda, on behalf of the Socialist Labour League, thanked the trades council for their reception. On the Tory rent Act, which Jarrow council has decided to implement, he said:

'This is not just an attack on rents, but the end of reformism in local government.'

Mr Foy has pledged trades council support for the march and said its banner would appear at the Newcastle Right-to-Work rally on Saturday.

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# HOW STRIKES ARE MADE ILLEGAL

Part 22 of a series on Picketing by Bernard Franks

So-called emergency procedures in the Industrial Relations Act enable the government to make any strike illegal. These are:

**The 60-day 'cooling-off' order.**

By this, the Secretary may apply to the industrial court for an order to stop a strike or other action for up to sixty days if he considers it to be (a) 'injurious to the national economy'.

(b) liable 'to endanger the lives of a substantial number of persons' or expose them to risk of disease or injury.

(c) liable to inhibit or defer settlement.

This procedure gives enormous powers to the state for restricting workers' action. In time of economic crisis virtually any strike can be claimed to be 'injurious to the national economy'.

Even the Emergency Powers Act of 1920, at least nominally, has a clause allowing the right during an 'emergency' to strike and to 'peacefully persuade any other person or persons to take part in a strike'. Now the Industrial Relations Act would make an emergency a valid reason for calling off any strike.

**The compulsory ballot.** The Secretary of State can order a ballot of workers involved in an industrial dispute on the same basis as the cooling-off period (threat to the national economy, etc).

The strike, or other action must be called off while the ballot takes place. If the Act had been in operation during the recent miners' strike there would have been a huge vote to continue the action. But meanwhile, during the ballot—if the miners had called off the pickets—the authorities would have tried a massive shuttling-about of coal stocks between the coal depots, docks, power stations.

The pickets would have been back to 'square one' when the strike was resumed.

Both the cooling-off structure—in this case 14 days—and the compulsory ballot were used against the recent rail work-to-rule and overtime ban. The ballot, run and controlled by the Commission for Industrial Relations took ten days! This included a change of premises because the hall where the count was held was needed for GCE examinations.

It was claimed in the Court of Appeal that the railmen's action was 'a grave threat to the national economy'—that in any case 'to order a ballot would not harm anyone' and that 'the Solicitor-General had suggested some reasons for doubting whether the individual men's wishes were behind the industrial action'.

The purely political dependence of the operation of the Act and the NIRC was indicated by Lord Justice Buckley who explained that in any case there was nothing in the Act to compel the Secretary of State to disclose his reasons for applying for a ballot.

## Precedent

The courts are now affecting the right to picket. What is not directly illegal under the Act is to be made so by individual judges' decisions.



Above: miners' pickets during their strike earlier this year. A compulsory ballot calling off picketing would have put them back to 'square one'

In English courts 'a judicial precedent is a judgement or decision of a court of law cited as an authority for deciding a similar state of facts in the same manner, or by analogy'. (Jowett's Dictionary of English Law)

One example of a decision that could be used in this way was the NIRC finding during the rail strike, that workers can have a contractual obligation to work overtime, and that rail workers were in breach of contract by not doing so. A lawyers' magazine commented on this decision:

'In theory it could bring the normal master-servant relationship enjoyed in industry closer to that obtained in the armed forces, in which a man's free time is dependent on the exigencies of the service with the needs of the service being the sole arbiter of how, when and if, that free time is made available to him.' ('Law Society Gazette', April 27, 1972).

## Restrictions through agreements:

● The fact that collective-bargaining agreements are now legally-binding unless they contain disclaimers to the contrary, means that strike or other action against any aspect of such an agreement can be declared illegal.

● Further, as the term 'collective bargaining agreement' also includes procedure agreements, then, any strike or other action taken before a disputes procedure has been

fully exhausted can be declared illegal.

● The National Industrial Relations Court has power to impose a legally-binding procedure agreement, drawn up by the CIR on a trade union. Employers can claim compensation through the court on the above 1st and 2nd counts and a union can even be penalized for not actively working to stop an unofficial strike which breaks a legal agreement.

● The engineering union also warned earlier this year that employers are trying to get round agreements containing non-legally binding clauses by writing terms of such agreements, and also other non-negotiated matter into contracts of employment. These clauses make the terms binding in law on the individual employee, though not on the union.

## The Press

The radical and outstanding political journalist, William Cobbett, was forced to flee to America in 1817 to avoid arrest under the 'Gagging Acts' of the same year, not merely for reporting the conditions of the working class, but also for drawing some trenchant political conclusions on Tory rule and Whig 'reform' in his newspaper 'The Political Register'.

Previously he had spent two years in jail for publishing seditious writings. Hundreds more were to follow him to

prison for selling banned publications. Today, the Industrial Relations Act takes on the form of a new 'gagging law', restricting certain press reporting.

**Firstly:** Section 96 of the Act makes it an unfair industrial practice for anyone not an officer of a registered trade union to induce breaches of contract to further a trade dispute. This leaves it wide open for anyone publishing or reporting a leaflet, book, script or newspaper article favourable to any such action to be called before the court. Unlimited damages can be awarded against them.

**Secondly:** Evidence exists of extensive use being made of the 'sub judice' law in connection with the Act.

This law makes any subject before the law courts closed to public discussion until the case is over. Anyone who so discusses it is liable to a charge of contempt of court and possible jail or fining.

In May this year a barrister and Labour MP confirmed such use of the law when in the House of Commons he referred to the Industrial Relations Act as a challenge to free expression and speech.

He added that 'it was absurd that newspapers and broadcasters should not be permitted to report hostile and other commentary by any trade unionists for fear of having the law of contempt invoked against them'.

Even BBC news and pro-

gramme editors have been issued with a gagging circular warning them not to commit contempt of the NIRC.

Marxists have absolutely no illusions about the role of the capitalist press. As Lenin said:

'Freedom of the Press' in bourgeois society means the power given to the rich of systematic, unceasing, daily, million-sale perversion and deception of the poor; of the exploited and the oppressed masses.'

On June 12 the Editorial Board of Workers Press issued a statement: 'Parliament, the Law and Press Freedom' warning of the serious interference with free reporting of industrial disputes by this use of the Act.

The statement shows how a major clampdown on the press could be enforced during a 'national emergency' and adds: 'All these decrees, judgements and veiled threats add up to one thing—the creation of a political climate in which the Tories are intimidating the press. The last vestiges of "Freedom of the Press" are to be stripped away as the government moves in the direction of Bonapartist rule.'

'The Act and its creature, the National Industrial Relations Commission, can only be demolished if the government is forced out of office and the incoming Labour government is pledged to socialist policies and the repeal of the Act.'

CONTINUED ON MONDAY

# RAIN WAR

Science has never been put to the service of war so much as it has been in Vietnam.

Ever since 1968 the US general staff in south-east Asia has been seconded by a team of experts working under the direction of physicist G. McMillan, whose job is to advise the high command about the use of all types of new weapons and offensive techniques, which range from defoliants to the most complex electronic apparatuses.

The use of laser rays which guide missiles to their target with the precision of a surgical operation is merely a sample of this team's achievements.

And now while the F-4 Phantoms continue bombing dykes, hospitals, and North Vietnamese schools, the latest rumours speak of a meteorological war or what is now generally called 'geophysical warfare'.

The first allusions to this new form of making war had already appeared in the famous 'Pentagon Papers' which a few months ago produced such an uproar.

Over a period of time indiscretions on this subject multiplied to such a degree that on March 17 a group of 14 US senators presented a bill prohibiting for purposes of war the use of the natural environment and the geophysical properties of the planet.

But when, on June 14, the US magazine 'Science' produced its bombshell article entitled: 'Rumours concerning artificial rains in Laos', the impact on public opinion was still greater.

The release of this information sparked off a series of controversial articles which consisted of denials and counter denials.

There is no shadow of a doubt now that artificial rains were provoked in Laos along the well-known Ho Chi Minh trail (Operation Popeye), as well as over Hué to end the demonstrations made by the Buddhist monks, who for religious reasons scatter when it rains.

## RESULTS UNCERTAIN

But in face of all this US official circles keep complete silence. Secretary of Defence Melvin Laird declared laconically that the Pentagon had never participated in anti-environment activities over North Vietnam — which implies that this might have been the case in other parts of Indochina.

The fact is that everybody knows only too well that for years now the Pentagon has been at work on projects aimed at modifying the climate for purposes of war.

The names of these projects also are well-known: 'Circus', 'Blue Nile', 'Storm Fury', 'The Intermediary Compatriot', etc.

The meteorological war, whose results are still uncertain, has a twofold incentive for the user: the discretion with which it can be effected combined with low cost.

An enemy plane can fly over a region at a very great height and without the need of a specially trained crew, drop, unbeknown to the inhabitants of the region silver iodide into the clouds which would convert the humidity into raindrops.



Top: Vietnamese diplomats inspect damage to the dykes. Above: a B52 bomber.

If such meteorological war were to be directed on a big scale against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and were to coincide with the monsoon period, the most catastrophic effects are predictable for the civil population doomed in such an eventuality to overwhelming floods.

In fact the actual bombing by US planes of the 4,000 kilometres of dykes below Tonkin could be regarded as a preparatory stage to such an offensive.

The summer monsoon blows its hot wet currents of air over Vietnam from May to October. Between 75 and 85 per cent of the country's total rainfall comes during those 4 to 6 months and reaches its peak in July, August and September.

The rainfall varies over the years from 1.5 to 3 metres. The Red River and its tributaries which flow down from the Chinese mountains and

cross the Tonkin Delta are liable to overflow rapidly.

In Hanoi, for example, where during the dry season the Red River normally flows at the rate of 700 cubic metres per second, in the rainy season it increases to a total of 30,000 cubic metres per second.

## DEPENDENT ON LAND

Although Hanoi is only approximately 2.5 metres above sea-level, the river water will sometimes rise to as much as 12 metres above sea level.

So if it were not for the system of dykes, locks and hydraulic works of all kinds these waters would easily submerge the entire Delta.

And in this region which is among the most densely populated in the world (having 500 inhabitants per square kilometre) the consequences of such a geophysical war would

be particularly catastrophic because the people of this region are so closely dependent on the land.

It would however be but one more of the monstrous geophysical attacks that have already been inflicted on the country, for, according to the 'Scientific American', 13 million tons of bombs have been dropped so far on Vietnam with a total release of energy amounting to 450 atomic bombs of the type dropped on Hiroshima.

This fantastic quantity which corresponds to 300 kilograms of explosives per inhabitant has made 26 million craters in the country and has destroyed millions of square metres of land.

If one adds to this the results of the defoliants one can get a rough idea of what war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam's environment means.

There is still however another feature of this meteorological war which the press has not referred to, and that is the spraying of clouds by US planes with chemical products so as to turn the rain water acid and thus corrode and oxidize the North Vietnamese radars, cannons and rocket launching pads.

And since the US has already gone to these extremes in waging a meteorological war would it be so far-fetched to suggest that it might even think of dropping toxic and bacteriological substances into the rain and of thus poisoning off neatly, discreetly and cheaply all those Vietnamese who would not succumb to the bombings? Is it not already patent to all in south-east Asia what the USA is capable of doing . . . ?



## A PACT WITH SOUTHERN PUPPETS?

North Korean premier Kim Il-sung is moving energetically towards a reconciliation with the US-backed puppet dictatorship in South Korea.

In an interview with the Tokyo newspaper 'Mainichi Shimbun', Kim called for an immediate meeting of government officials, deputies or political parties from both sides of the border to promote peaceful unification of Korea.

He said 'many-sided contacts and negotiations on a wider scale' were needed and called on the South Korean regime to refrain from 'unfounded slanders and provocative acts' to promote 'an atmosphere of reconciliation'.

Kim, who is the object of a vast self-orchestrated 'personality cult' in North Korea, called on the United Nations to discuss the Korean question this year to aid the country's reunification.

He said the UN must dissolve its Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea, set up after the Korean War in which the UN supported the Syngman Rhee dictatorship.

This reactionary puppet regime has now apparently become respectable in the eyes of the North Korean Stalinist leader, who seems in a great hurry to smooth relations with them.

## SOVIET OIL FOR JAPAN

Japanese government agencies are discussing implementation of a Soviet-Japanese oil exploration project in Siberia, involving the construction of a 2,600-mile pipeline to import low-sulphur oil into Japan.

Sources at the Tokyo Ministry of Trade and Industry said the focal point at the discussions was a Soviet proposal for a bank-to-bank loan totalling about £400m to finance the Soviet purchase of necessary materials.

Other problems concerned a Japanese guarantee to take deliveries of Siberian oil and Soviet assurances on the oil's sulphur content, they said.

The Trade and Industry Ministry and the Finance Ministry are insisting that a suppliers' credit should be used to finance the exports of machinery and materials from Japan instead of the proposed bank loan.

One Japanese official told a Tokyo press conference earlier this week that Japan and the USSR would meet in November to discuss development of oil and natural gas resources on the continental shelf of north Sakhalin, a far eastern Soviet island. The US Gulf Oil Corporation is supplying technical advice on the prospects for off-shore drilling.

# SAN QUENTIN SIX

BY ALEX MITCHELL

On August 21 last year prison warders at San Quentin in California opened fire on a group of inmates. When the shooting stopped six men lay dead—among them was Soledad brother George Jackson.

The state authorities immediately claimed that Jackson and some of his colleagues in the 'Adjustment Centre' were engaged in an escape bid at the time of the shooting. Nobody believes that Jackson would have been involved in such a dangerous and adventurist action. It contradicts all the political conclusions he was reaching shortly before his murder.

The more likely explanation is that the state decided to cold-bloodedly murder Jackson whose political development was being studied and imitated by thousands of coloured youth in America and, to some extent, internationally.

For the warders it meant settling an old score. In March that same year a guard was killed and a couple of weeks later Al Mancino, a white prisoner, filed an affidavit in which he stated that guards had asked him to kill Jackson.

Immediately Jackson was murdered, the state moved in with a barrage of capital charges against his associates. Six men were singled out and charged with conspiracy to attempt to escape, conspiracy to possess firearms and conspiracy to kidnap 'correction officials'.

Now, 12 months later, the men are still in San Quentin and still awaiting a trial date. The San Quentin Six are Fleeta Drumgo, Johnny Spain, Luis Talamantez, Hugo Pinell, Willie Tate and David Johnson.

In the wake of the Jackson slaying, warders began an unprecedented series of attacks on black prisoners. Men were stripped and beaten, their bodies burnt with cigarettes and their hair pulled out. One prisoner wrote to his family saying that he had been threatened: 'You'll never get out of here alive.'

On June 21 this year the National Lawyers' Guild filed a Federal suit against the authorities charging the prison staff and the director of the California Department of Correction with conspiracy, brutality and maltreatment. This followed allegations that four of the accused were chained, shackled and brutally beaten by guards.

The delay in bringing the Six to trial is based on two considerations. First of all the state is not anxious for the full story of Jackson's murder to gain public prominence.

And secondly, the Six have had great difficulty in getting the legal defence of their own choice. Many of the lawyers who take 'black militants' cases have run themselves into debt and some have even been 'blacklisted'—or whitelisted!

John Clutchette's lawyer, Floyd Silliman, has been penalized by the legal profession for defending militants. Another radical lawyer, Charles Garry,

is willing to take on the defence of Johnny Spain, but his law firm won't let him engage in other free cases.

In August, Fleeta Drumgo became the first of the Six to win the right to choose his own attorney. He will be defended by Dick Hodge who successfully appeared for the Soledad Seven last year.

At the back of these manoeuvres the state is preparing a massive legal frame-up against the Six. A press statement on April 6 revealed that almost \$250,000 has been budgeted for the prosecution.

The report on the Attica prison slaughter proved conclusively that troopers were responsible for the murdering of prisoners and hostages when they launched their military-style relief operation. Publication of this report shows beyond doubt how the US ruling class is prepared to deal with those who defy it.

With this brutality now nakedly revealed, the US working class has one primary political task to undertake—build a Labour Party, the only weapon which can begin to mobilize working-class forces to put an end to the barbarities of US capitalism.

## STANDING TRIAL: HUGO PINELL

Hugo Antonio Pinell was born in Nicaragua 28 years ago. His mother brought him to the United States—the land of opportunity. His teenage and adult life has been spent in one prison after another.

Being poor and brown Pinell was a sitting target for the forces of 'law and order'. At his first appearance before the courts Pinell couldn't afford a lawyer. He was advised to plead guilty and 'put himself at the mercy of the court'.

In Pinell's case this proved to be a sort of judicial harakiri. He was sentenced to a youth authority corrective centre.

In December 1970 he was charged with stabbing a prison officer and the following March he was charged with murdering an officer. The indictments carry a mandatory death penalty.

In spite of savage assaults and the likelihood that he will never be released from prison, Pinell says: 'I'm not so worried about my person. They can continue harming me—it doesn't matter. We were tried, found guilty and punished on August 21 (the day George Jackson was murdered). We have been continually brutalized. I am with all oppressed people everywhere. Give my love to the people.'

When he eventually appears before a court, Pinell faces a total of nine charges—five counts of murder, three of kidnap and one of possession of a weapon. At one of the first court appearances of the Six, Pinell told the judge: 'It is not a question of living or dying, it is a matter of liberty.'

## JOHNNY SPAIN

When he was 17-years-old Johnny Spain was sent to Soledad on an alleged murder



Top: George Jackson under guard in San Quentin prison shortly before his murder by prison warders in August last year. Fleeta Drumgo is behind him in the corridor. Above left to right: Hugo Pinell, Johnny Spain, Luis Talamantez, David Johnson, Fleeta Drumgo and Willie Tate.

rap. Spain has persistently maintained that at the time of the murder attempt he was in fact trying to defend himself from white assailants.

In Soledad he teamed up with Hugo Pinell in fighting against the racist attacks of the jail staff. Because of his militant activities Spain spent a lot of time in and out of the 'hole'—the solitary confinement block. He was transferred to San Quentin in November 1970 for possession of 'inflammatory literature', a reference to his personal diary.

Describing his feelings in a recent letter, Spain said: 'Through these years (I'm working on number six) I have become—as a result of my learnings and beliefs—one of the prime targets of the system. It is a system intent to destroy me by the same vicious means which has

destroyed so many other comrades. 'But then, this miniature ameriklan (prison) is but displaying its nature: war upon humanity. The effects of the war that prisons have waged on all political prisoners have not passed me by. (It) has given me a progressive manner and forced awareness in my life. It is true then, I am not prepared to go back to minimum security and sit, watching and accepting the sight of the people enduring hell that ultracapitalism creates.

'What's further, I won't sit in maximum security hoping my life will be saved or my job will be done by "prison reform". That man will resist: first against the imprisonment, and then against the social order which created the imprisonment, and then against the society.'

**LUIS TALAMANTEZ**  
He is the Chicano member of the Six. Born in Venice, California, he was sent to San Quentin in November 1965 after being convicted of two counts of armed robbery. His sentence was two five-year-to-life sentences! During his time in prison Talamantez has devoted himself to stopping prisoners from fighting among themselves.

He is an avid writer and spends much time communicating the struggles behind the prison walls to outside helpers. He declared in a much-quoted letter to a friend: 'All revolutionary struggles going on all over the world are enhancing our own chances for revolutionary changes. 'But the countries to the south are even more relative to la raza's (the people's) own revolutionary development and



and the loss suffered when George was assassinated. Our memories are with our late comrade.'

## DAVID JOHNSON

Although only 23, Johnson has a considerable history of struggle against racialism and brutality in prisons. In 1970 he became the first prisoner to file a complaint against San Quentin authorities. This followed the death of Fred Billingslea, a black prisoner who was tear-gassed and beaten to death.

He wrote recently: 'I have dedicated my life to exposing to the people the corruption that exists in these pig styes. For my efforts I have been the victim of all types of persecution which has culminated in my indictment in this fraud case. The hatred we have for our oppressor is not a sudden thing. Years of hardships, heartaches and pains have served to kindle our vigour and revolutionary flame.

'It is inevitable that a revolution will come to pass in America, but we don't desire it to occur 50 years from now but today, now. We have got to discipline ourselves and arm ourselves with necessary weapons and ideologies to wage an effective struggle. We will not die defeated men or in obscurity. The destruction of this corrupt capitalist system will be a monument to our existence.'

'All of us political prisoners know the plight of each other

In a letter to a friend in London Johnson writes: 'The moral and spiritual support of the people gives me the strength to carry on the struggle. Even though I am confined to a concrete module, I still resist. I have taken a position which I will not compromise. Revolution is the only way to liberate my homeland. 'Comrade, every act which appears as a defeat is but a motivational spark for us. We have found something greater than the fear of death or death.'

## FLEETA DRUMGO

IN 1965 Fleeta Drumgo was given the notorious one-year-to-life sentence which is frequently handed out to black 'troublemakers'. His offence was alleged possession of stolen property.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, Fleeta first came up against the police in the early 1960s in Los Angeles when he was locked up in a 'boys' home'. His turn to politics began in 1967 when he was sent to Soledad Prison where: 'I started attending black history classes, trying to really get myself together.'

Fleeta explains what happened: 'In 1969 I heard about Comrade George Jackson. My cell partner asked me did I know General G. I said no. 'I remember being in the gym punching the bag when Tony came up and said come

and meet Comrade — speaking of George. When we got over there George was in a heavy conversation discussing the war. When we got together he gave me some literature and told me to read it.

'George always encouraged us to read and exercise. George didn't trip a lot like other prisoners. I mean he didn't always spend time discussing women. He spent most of his time schooling us and himself. He used to stay up night after night after we were locked up explaining Marxism to us. I once asked why it was that people reject Marxism. George explained that they had been programmed that communism was destructive and something to fear.

'This came from the reactionary forces and through TV and movies and other propaganda. Comrade George stressed that we should really drive and transform from Utopian socialist to scientific communists. And that's where it's at...'

## WILLIE TATE

'I was born in Selma, Alabama, and raised in Fresno, California. I am 27 years old. In the hopes of giving their offspring a better and less oppressive life, my parents moved to California in 1952. In order to survive we picked cotton, berries, cut grapes, etc. There were 12 of us then. My father's wages just weren't

sufficient to feed and clothe all of us.

'Coming into contact with the institutionalized racism of the California juvenile judicial system, I was, after being subjected to its bogus court proceedings without benefit of an attorney, sent to the Youth Authority.' As early as 1962 Tate came into contact with George Jackson and Jimmy Carr, later murdered outside his home during the Angela Davis trial.

He recalls: 'These brothers (Jackson and Carr) strived tirelessly to educate and raise our consciousness politically. They taught us to respect blacks, not to fat-mouth, not to play with racists. In short, they taught us how to survive and win respect from our fellow prisoners regardless of their colour. They also taught us the importance of prisoners' unity.

'We, however, were seldom able to make this a reality since guards could easily instigate some neo-nazis into starting a racial conflict.'

When David Johnson drew up his petition against the killing of Fred Billingslea, Tate was one of the first to sign and thus declare himself against the brutal regime at San Quentin.

He closed a recent letter saying: 'Well, if they don't get you one way, they will get you another. All power to the people.'

# ORIGINS OF RACIALISM

## PART THREE: AN END TO THE SLAVE TRADE

The fate of those slaves who went to the West Indies was terrible.

On arrival in the sugar plantations, the servants were put to work 'grinding at the mills and attending the furnaces, or digging in this scorching island; having nothing to feed on (notwithstanding their hard labour) but potato roots, nor to drink, but water with such roots washed in it, besides the bread and tears of their own afflictions; being bought and sold still from one planter to another, or attached as horses and beasts for the debts of their masters, being whipped at the whipping posts (as rogues) for their masters' pleasure and sleeping in sties worse than hogs in England.'

There was, of course, one important difference in the condition of the indentured servant and transported convict, and that of the African slave.

Indentured servants and convicts were transported for a set period. They knew that if they survived, even if they never got home again, they might have a chance to acquire a few acres of land for themselves and their children would be free.

African slaves were slaves for life and their children after them. Their colour made it much more difficult for them to escape from a cruel master, and even if they managed it they were unable to look forward to owning anything.

If their masters set them free, they lived in constant terror of being snatched up as runaways and sold again.

It was not, however, pity for the white servants and convicts which put an end to the practice of transportation, and which opened the way for the kidnapping not of white slaves, but of black.

The invention of new machines and the consequent development of industry required a large work force to be available at home rather than in the colonies.

At the same time the expansion of the plantation system in the West Indies and America needed a huge, disciplined supply of labour in areas where people were scarce.

## STARVATION

Since the number of white indentured servants and felons could not keep pace with the rapacious demands of the plantations, particularly since they were needed to man the factories in Britain, the growth of the African slave trade became inevitable.

The ending of the transportation system for the British worker, however, did not mean the ending of his misery.

On the contrary. Whilst sugar, cotton and rum were produced on the slave plantations under the overseer's whip, the working class in the 'mother country' was toiling its life away under the whip of starvation.

In 'The Condition of the Working Class in England', Engels wrote, in 1844:

'When one individual inflicts bodily injury upon another, such injury that death results, we call the deed manslaughter; when the assailant knew in



Top: a family on the block at auction in Virginia. Above: slaves at work in the cotton fields.

advance that the injury would be fatal, we call his deed murder.

'But when society places hundreds of proletarians in such a position that they inevitably meet a too early and an unnatural death, one which is quite as much a death by violence as that by the sword or bullet; when it deprives thousands of the necessities of life, places them under conditions in which they cannot live—forces them, through the strong arm of the law, to remain in such consequence—knows that these thousands of victims must perish, and yet permits these conditions to remain, its deed is murder just as surely as the deed of the single individual...'

The slaveowner, out of sheer self-interest, fed his chattel, even if only just enough to keep body and soul together. The 'free' worker, if he had no work, literally starved.

Over a million people starved to death during the

potato famine in Ireland. Millions died every year in Britain, some directly from starvation, the majority from diseases and debilitation associated with constant malnutrition.

On the slave ships it was found that the death rate among the sailors was almost double that amongst the slaves themselves.

Slaves, after all, were profitable. Seamen were cheap. When food ran short, the rule was slaves before sailors.

## HARSH

Ships' doctors were there to keep mortality down among the slaves, who were to be sold, not amongst the sailors and so very few of them would treat sick sailors.

Discipline was harsh and floggings were routine. In a single crossing, all but three of the 50-man crew on the 'Alexander' were flogged, one man so frequently that he jumped overboard.

Oludah Equiano, snatched as a child from his African homeland and taken as a slave to Barbados, was later freed by his master and published his memoirs. He gave a horrific description of the Middle Passage.

At one point he wrote: 'I had never seen among any people such instances of brutal cruelty; and this not only shewn towards us blacks, but also to some of the whites themselves.'

'One white man in particular I saw, when we were permitted to be on deck, flogged so unmercifully with a large rope near the foremast, that he died in consequence of it, and they tossed him over the side as they would have done a brute.'

The great ports of Liverpool and Bristol grew up on the slave trade. In the cotton towns of Lancashire industry flourished. Shipbuilders, merchants and manufacturers grew rich and built spacious houses.

In Volume I of 'Capital', Marx quotes Dr Lee, Medical Officer of Health for Manchester, who stated that 'the average age at death of the Manchester... upper middle class was 38 years, while the average age at death of the labouring class was 17; while at Liverpool those figures were represented as 35 and 15.'

'It thus appeared that the well-to-do classes had a lease of life which was more than double the value of that which fell to the lot of the less favoured citizens.'

For the working classes in the large industrial towns of England, Scotland and Wales, life was a constant struggle just to survive, a struggle which thousands of them lost. Housing conditions were frightful, disease and malnutrition rampant.

Men, women and children laboured 10, 12, 14 hours a day, or even longer, in crowded, dangerous, insanitary and noisy workplaces, haunted by the dread of losing their jobs and being thrust down even further into the whirlpool of misery in which they struggled to keep afloat.

The British Tories of the day, just as their successors

now, cared no more for the wellbeing of the British worker than they did for the Negro slave or the Asian peasant.

The ending of the slave trade was not the result of a sudden upsurge of conscience on the part of the British ruling class, nor was it the result of the activities of the abolitionists.

## FREE TRADE

Just as the ending of the trade in white indentured servants was occasioned by the growth of industry, so the end of the black slave trade was brought about by the growth of Free Trade.

The merchants decided it was more profitable to trade freely on the world market without being tied to special relationships and tariffs with the West Indies.

Many of the leading abolitionists, such as William Wilberforce, were far from being enlightened humanitarians.

Wilberforce himself was never opposed to the exploitation of labour, black or white.

Even as he argued for the ending of the slave trade, he opposed all measures to relieve the distress of the British working class. It was a case of what one cynic at the time referred to as 'lucrative humanity'.

The slave trade ended in 1807, and slavery itself was declared illegal in the West Indies and Britain in 1833. The slave owners were paid a total of £20 million in compensation.

The slaves, who had fought for their freedom in many harshly-suppressed uprisings, received little if any compensation. But it took the American Civil War to put an end to slavery in America.

In the meantime the British working class had been through a number of major struggles. The long, hard fight for trade unionism was on.

The working class was learning, out of its misery and exploitation, that its only hope lay in the unity of the working people against the capitalist class.

CONTINUED



# EMPLOYERS PLAN THE FOUR-DAY-WEEK SWINDLE

## BOOK REVIEW



**'4 DAYS, 40 HOURS: Reporting a Revolution in Work and Leisure'**  
Edited by Riva Poor. Pan Books 75p.

One of the great dangers of the four-day week is its use by capitalism to promote longer hours. Workers earning inadequate wages are forced to take a second job — a system known in the USA and Britain as 'moonlighting'.

According to this book, 5 per cent of workers in the United States have two jobs. In firms which changed to the four-day week this number quadrupled.

Companies cashed in on this by themselves supplying extra shifts and extensive overtime. Other production workers were found to take employment as part-time policemen, firemen, or trying to run a farm.

This new 1972 edition of the book contains a 'follow-up' chapter, directly advocating encouragement of 'moonlighting':

'Instead of holding moonlighters in derision, we really ought to extend them some well-deserved praise. They are people who are trying hard for their families.

'They are people struggling to buy homes, putting children through college, supporting elderly folks, and so on. This sort of behaviour for family is highly constructive and desirable and should be encouraged.'

The passage concludes 'In sum, four-day does lead to higher incidence of moonlighting, but why should that bother anyone?'

In many ways, this paragraph lets the cat out of the bag; admitting that workers take two jobs, not to acquire luxuries, but simply to arrive at the necessities of life—a home, schooling and support for the elderly — and confirming that this is entirely the situation that the writers would like to see made universal.

The fact is, such enthusiasm for 'moonlighting' indicates quite clearly that this book is not at all about a step forward towards the shorter working week but on the contrary is demanding that workers return to ten hours a day, seven days a week, every week, in order to maintain an existence.

### Changes in the Law

Some of the stumbling-blocks to women doing ten hours of night work are a number of protective labour laws. These can be evaded in the United States as in Britain by employers applying to the relevant government department for a waiver permit.

They are rarely refused and

in Britain exemptions are available simply on the claim that the longer hours are required to maintain or increase efficiency.

But this is not enough for Poor & Co who demand relaxation of any laws requiring overtime payments to be made after eight or nine hours' work a day and of those which prohibit women from working beyond eight or nine hours a day.

And Mrs Poor comments 'When the four-day work-week becomes more widespread we can expect the regulations to be re-written and/or abandoned.'

Most of the '4-40' firms are said to have 'increased productivity considerably'. One textile firm, for example, achieved a production rise of 15 per cent.

The output of a paint company rose by 33 per cent. A survey of 143 four-day firms found 61 per cent reporting output rises and 51 per cent had higher profits.

A mass of arguments ranging from defence of the United States Constitution to development of a 'momentous social invention' are used in the book to prove the need for a ten-hour day.

For example, the laws prohibiting long hours of work for women are described as discrimination against them and as a restriction on 'freedom of choice'. The fight to invalidate the laws is explained as an extension of the suffragette and women's liberation movements.

Advice given to employers introducing the '4-40' system is to do some groundwork among employees. Even hold a poll of workers to get their views.

An example of a staff questionnaire used by a Boston savings bank is given. Some of the questions are, to say the least, 'loaded'. For example:

'Q. How would you suggest the Bank deal with an employee who repeatedly abused the hours scheduled for a four-day workweek, which in turn causes more work for employees who come to work regularly and usually are on time?'

'A. Fire or dismiss them. — deduct money from week's pay.

— require abusers to work a five-day week. — other \_\_\_\_\_'

Employers are recommended to introduce the scheme on a piecemeal basis. Under the heading 'Some Don'ts' a management consultant advises—'Don't tell all your employees, or even intimates that you are planning to go into the four-day work-week. This holds true especially if your plant is organized.'

In one example given of a textile mill, workers were told of the new system a little more than a week before it was begun. Management gave employees a lecture on the subject lasting 45 minutes, then allowed 15 minutes for questions and answers.

The book amasses a large amount of evidence to show that everyone likes the '4-40' system. Opposition is explained as 'part of the human tendency never to be satisfied'.

Nevertheless, some dis-

advantages are mentioned in order to give the appearance of a 'balanced' view. Effects of the system complained of include fatigue from the long hours, particularly for operatives on their feet all day, and for older workers.

'The hours are too long; I get exhausted', 'everybody is grouchy from the lack of rest'. 'Working ten hours a day can be very tiresome sometimes'. 'Ten hours is too long to stand up'.

Virtually all home life disappears on four days of the week, which become simply work, eat and sleep.

The illusion that the three-day weekend amounts to extra time for recreational activities is dispelled somewhat by the book's own evidence which shows that many workers spend much of this time off simply recovering from the effects of four ten-hour days.

Some workers complained of pay cuts, and with tea-breaks, washing and rest-time reduced, were even working longer hours than on five days. In some cases, too, national holidays have disappeared entirely.

The possibilities of introducing '4-40' week as a widespread movement in Britain today 'look bleak' according to one report in the book. It explains:

'If the four-day movement gets going in Britain, it is likely to do so initially (as in the United States) among small to medium-sized, non-unionized firms.'

One positive contribution in this direction, however, is said to be the TUC's review of collective bargaining of May 1972, which drew attention to the '4-40' concept and stated that it might be an advantage to employer and employee.

In an interview with Jack Jones, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union Jones is reported to have emphasized the need for the shorter working week, but when pressed on the 4-40 idea to have said:

'We would be sympathetic, although a lot would depend on the product, the location and other factors. We are flexible in our approach. We wouldn't say No on principle.

It may be asked, if workers are on a basic 40-hour week what's the difference if they or the employer find it convenient to work this in four days?'

The answer is that changes in pay, working conditions and hours do not occur by some abstract mathematical proportioning of what is somehow best for everyone, but are born of the unceasing struggle between the workers and the capitalists whose interests are fundamentally opposed.

In the present period of world-wide economic crisis, the capitalist class searches frantically for methods of reducing wages and the number of workers in employment, and for extending the level of exploitation of those at work, both in length and intensity.

At the same time, it seeks through trickery, law and brute force to gain a political stranglehold on the entire working class.

Sufficient evidence is given in the book '4 Days, 40 Hours' to show that it is directly advocating just such a system for the crisis.

On the other hand, the high level of absenteeism and disaffection at work generally show that workers are sick and tired of working long hours simply so that a small minority can continue to amass profit.

Even if they do not know the actual facts and figures, workers know that with modern machinery and methods there exists today an enormous individual labour productivity whereby the collective work of a very few operatives can produce a huge mass of commodities.

In spite of this, and of all the talk about the 'problems of increased leisure' manual workers in Britain work over-all hours a week second in Europe only to those in France. Their holiday allowance is also one of the lowest in Europe.

More than ever the employers are forcing a section of the working class towards seeking a second job in order to maintain its standard of living; and this at a time when hundreds of thousands of men and women cannot even find one job.

Mary workers in Britain and America on four or five days believe that the fight against the employers' and government's political drive for greater exploitation and continuous large-scale unemployment must include, on the contrary, the demand for fewer hours of work.

Union leaders who want to jump on the '4-40' bandwagon as a substitute for a real struggle for less hours must be ordered to fight for the shorter working week with commensurate pay and holidays.

The building workers demand for £30 and a 35-hour week shows the true feeling in this direction. Similar is the Ford workers' demand for a 35-hour week, four weeks' paid annual holiday and a substantial pay increase.

The 35-hour week and four weeks' paid holiday is, in fact, the policy of the Transport and General Workers' Union adopted at its 1971 annual conference.

Trade unionists have always maintained, quite rightly, that workers cannot be left to decide individually to work unlimited hours. In some industries controls have been enforced by workers to protect some operatives from the employers and from themselves.

Workers who have already secured the four-day week, an adequate increase in pay and a substantial cut in basic hours of working, contribute to this struggle.

For those on the '4-40' system, the demand for fewer working hours is imperative. Employers who want work beyond this must employ more workers.

The fact is that capital's insatiable greed for profit and ferocious resistance to fewer hours of work in this cause, shows that the struggle for reasonable conditions, pay and hours of work can only be irreversibly established when the capitalist class itself is forcibly relieved of its ownership and control of the means of production, distribution and exchange and when its state power is completely overthrown by the working class.

## WORKERS NOTEBOOK

### DELIVERANCE

Britain is morally and spiritually—not to say financially—bankrupt. Who says so? A religious group called 'The Victory Tract Club'.

There's too much violence, sex, gambling and just sheer enjoying yourself. The dominant sin, however, is 'trying to get as much money for as little effort as possible'.

This does not apply to the employing class, which gets most of the money for no effort at all, but to the workers whose 'couldn't care less' attitude impairs our productivity.

'We', it seems, don't respect authority, 'we' are often beaten in production, beaten in delivery, beaten in ideas and beaten in quality. In fact, 'we' are not doing very well at all.

'Once ahead of the world markets we shall soon be bringing up the rear unless we do something quickly.'

Through Jesus, it goes without saying, we will be delivered from 'the corruption that is in the world through lust'.

And then we can get on with making more profit for the boss.

### EMPRESS MEETS CHOU

Empress Farah Pahlavi, wife of the Shah of Iran, arrived in Peking for a state visit this week.

She was met at the airport by premier Chou En-lai, the vice premier, the foreign minister and the chairman of the Peking 'Revolutionary Committee' with their wives.



Top: visiting empress, Farah Pahlavi. Above: greetings from Chou En-lai

The empress and her party are certainly 'distinguished' guests. They represent a regime without parallel in the Middle East for its ferocious hostility to communists. Even the most elementary democratic rights are entirely suppressed.

The fulsome welcome they received in Peking was undoubtedly carefully orchestrated by the Mao-Tse-tung bureaucracy. It testifies the Maoists' counter-revolutionary stand that this feudal monarch should be welcomed with all the trappings due to her status.

# SATURDAY

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 10.40 Merrie Melodies. 11.05 Puffin. 11.10 Bonanza. 12.00 London. 6.15 Film: 'Taras Bulba'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 All our yesterdays. 11.55 Weather.

**WESTWARD. As Channel except:** 10.15 Make a wish. 11.05 Gus Honeybun. 11.55 Faith for life. 12.00 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 All our yesterdays. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Man from UNCLE. 11.57 Weather. 12.00 London. 5.10 Smith family. 5.40 London. 6.15 Film: 'The Key'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 News. 11.40 Spyforce. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.00 London. 10.00 Tomfoolery. 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 Follyfoot. 12.00 London. 5.10 UFO. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'The Vikings'. 8.30 London. 9.30 Benny Hill. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Name of the game. 12.55 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except:** 5.10 Shut that door. 5.40-6.10 Sion a sian.

**ANGLIA:** 9.00 London. 10.00 Rovers. 10.25 Film: 'Tarzan Triumphs'. 12.00 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'My Son John'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Children of the Damned'.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.45 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Lord Mountbatten. 11.05 Tomfoolery. 11.30 Osmond brothers. 12.00 London. 6.15 Film: 'Hotel'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.25 Film: 'The Shuttered Room'.

**ULSTER:** 10.30 Thunderbirds.

11.30 Skippy. 12.00 London. 5.10 Flintstones. 5.40 Sportscast. 6.10 London. 6.15 Branded. 6.45 Film: 'Diplomatic Courier'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.25 Journey to the unknown.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 UFO. 12.00 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'Escape From Fort Bravo'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Journey to the unknown. 12.25 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Draftsmen. 10.35 Sesame Street. 11.35 Clapperboard. 12.00 London. 5.10 Big valley. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'Hotel'. 8.25 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Fingers at the Window'.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.45 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 UFO. 12.00 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'Escape From Fort Bravo'. 8.15 Cartoon. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.40 Journey to the unknown. 12.35 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Cartoon. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 London. 5.10 Bonanza. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'The Key'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Spyforce.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.15 Beagan gaidhlig. 11.30 Rumble jumble. 12.00 London. 5.15 Batman. 5.40 Protectors. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'Fort Apache'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Shirley's world.

a shoestring. 1.30 HR Puffin. 1.55 Women only. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Half Angel'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'From Here to Eternity'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Saint.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 11.00 Golf. 12.30 On the buses. 1.00 Farming outlook. 1.25 Calendar. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'Cry For Happy'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Double Man'. 10.00 London. 11.15 In search of Tutankhamun. 12.05 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 10.35 Time to remember. 11.00 Golf. 12.30 Merrie melodies. 12.55 Bearcats. 1.50 Survival. 2.20 Football. 3.30 Film: 'Good Morning Boys'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Silencers'. 9.40 Tell tale heart. 10.00 London. 11.15 All that jazz.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 11.00 Golf. 12.30 On the buses. 1.00 Farming outlook. 1.25 Something to sing about. 1.50 Where the jobs are. 1.55 Shoot. 2.50 Film: 'Never Let Me Go'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Devil at Four O'Clock'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Strange report. 12.10 Poems of the people.

**SCOTTISH:** 10.15 Master chefs. 10.30 Skilful rugby. 11.00 Golf. 12.30 My brother David. 1.00 Out of town. 1.20 Randall and Hopkirk. 2.15 Soccer. 2.45 Film: 'Johnny Frenchman'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Elephant boy. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Return of the Gunfighter'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 Strange report.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.00 Golf. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.30 Farm progress. 2.00 Here and there in Canada. 2.15 Soccer. 2.45 Film: 'Follow That Horse'. 4.10 Cartoon. 4.15 Rainbow country. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Rat Race'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Untouchables.

# TV

## BBC 1

12.40 Weather. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 Football preview. 1.15, 2.05, 2.35, 3.05 1972 Burghley trials. 1.50, 2.20, 2.50, 3.25 Racing from Ascot. 3.45 Rugby league. 4.40 Final score. 5.05 Donald Duck. 5.15 Mary Tyler Moore. 5.40 News and weather. 5.55 Bruce Forsyth and the generation game.

6.45 **DIXON OF DOCK GREEN.** The Specialist.

7.35 **THE TWO RONNIES.** Ronnie Barker and Ronnie Corbett with guests Alan Price and Georgie Fame.

8.20 **FILM: 'BLINDFOLD'.** Rock Hudson, Claudia Cardinale. A psychologist finds himself involved in a kidnap plot.

10.00 **NEWS,** Weather.

10.10 **MATCH OF THE DAY.**

11.10 **PARKINSON.**

12.10 **Weather.**

## BBC 2

9.30-12.00 Liberal Party Assembly. 3.00 Film: 'My Friend Flicka'. Roddy McDowall, Preston Foster, Rita Johnson. A boy's love for a horse. 4.25 The world about us. 5.15 The mind of man. Worldwide investigation into current research on the brain and human nature.

7.20 **NEWS, SPORT, CONFERENCE REPORT.** Weather.

7.45 **WAR AND PEACE.** A preview with Anthony Hopkins and Morag Hood.

8.20 **LOVE AND MR LEWIS-HAM.** Part 4.

9.05 **PLAY: 'HAMLET'.** Shakespeare's tragedy with Ian McKellen. Faith Brook, John Woodvine, Susan Fleetwood, James Cairncross.

11.00 **NEWS ON 2,** Weather.

11.05 **PLAY** continued

12.30 **FILM: NEW YORK CONFIDENTIAL.** Broderick Crawford, Richard Conte, Anne Bancroft. An international crook is faced with betrayal and double-cross.

## ITV

9.00 You and your golf. 9.30 Collecting on a shoestring. 9.55 The Osmonds. 10.20 Merrie melodies. 10.30 Return to Peyton Place. 10.55 Sesame street. 11.55 Junior police five. 12.00 World of sport. 12.05 International golf. 12.45 News. 12.50 On the ball. 1.15 International golf. 1.20 The ITV six. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 Racing from Catterick. 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Stratford. 2.55 International golf. 3.50 Results, scores, news. 4.00 Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.10 Best of please sir. 5.40 Sale of the century.

6.10 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

6.15 **FILM: 'CARRY ON—DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD'.** Sidney James, Jim Dale, Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawthrey, Joan Sims, Dany Robin. Comedy set during the French Revolution.

7.55 **THE TOMMY STEELE HOUR.** Tommy Steele with The Irving Davies Dancers, The Peter Knight Orchestra and The Michael Sammes Singers.

9.00 **THE FRIGHTENERS.** You Remind Me Of Someone.

9.30 **SATURDAY VARIETY.** The Kopykats with Robert Young.

10.30 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

10.40 **McCLOUD.** Fifth Man in A String Quartet.

12.00 **THE 'TOO DIFFICULT' FILE.**

12.05 **SPYFORCE.** The General.



It's certainly 27-year-old Scottish actress Morag Hood's week. On Sunday she plays Breeze Anstey (top left) in the last of the present series of H. E. Bates' 'Country Matters' on Independent channels at 10.15. And next Thursday she plays Natasha (above left) to Anthony Hopkins' Pierre in BBC2's 'greatest [TV] epic ever made', Leo Tolstoy's 'War and Peace'. That's the real-life Morag on the right.

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Bad For Each Other'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The VIPs'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Avengers. 12.05 Epilogue. Weather.

**WESTWARD. As Channel except:** 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 11.00 The tribe that hides from man. 12.15 John Constable. 12.55 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.20 Smith family. 1.45 Farm progress. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.15 Talking hands. 9.30 London. 10.30 Farm progress. 10.57 Weather. 11.00 Golf. 12.30 Bush boy. 1.00 Superman. 1.20 How. 1.50 Hogan's heroes. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Lad: a Dog'. 4.35 News. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'A Kind of Loving'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Strange report. 12.10 Frighteners. 12.35 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 11.00 Harvest festival. 12.35 Talking hands. 12.45 Journey of a lifetime. 1.00 Let them live. 1.25 Love, American style. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Seven in Darkness'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.15 London. 7.55 Film: 'Noose For A Lady'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 11.15 Villains. 12.15 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except:** 6.45-7.00 Llusern.

**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 10.30 Survival. 11.00 Golf. 12.30 Dr Simon Locke. 12.55 Cowboy in Africa. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming. 2.30 Name of the game. 3.55 Match. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Mob'. 9.30 Shut that door. 10.00 London. 11.15 Department S.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 Tribe that hides from man. 12.30 Citizen's rights. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Soccer. 3.00 Film: 'The Adventures of Quentin Durward'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Tom Jones'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Spyforce.

**ULSTER:** 11.00 Golf. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on

# SUNDAY

# TV

## BBC 2

11.35-1.00 Open University.

7.00 **NEWS REVIEW.**

7.25 **THE WORLD ABOUT US.** The Foals of Epona.

8.15 **A COLLECTION OF GOODIES.** Tim Brook-Taylor, Graeme Garden, Bill Oddie.

8.40 **MARY.** Rhymes and Reasons. Mary Travers with guests A. L. Lloyd and The Ian Campbell Folk Group.

9.25 **SIX FACES.** True Life. Kenneth Moore in a new series.

10.10 **FILM: 'THE FORTUNE COOKIE'.** First of a season of Billy Wilder's comedies. With Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau.

12.10 **NEWS SUMMARY,** Weather.

## BBC 1

9.00-9.30 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 10.30-11.30 Morning service. 12.05 VAT special. 12.40 Farming. 1.05 Made in Britain. 1.20 Don't just sit there. 1.55 News and weather. 2.00 Chigley. 2.15 Ken Dodd. 2.55 Story theatre. 2.50 Film: 'Waterloo Bridge'. Vivien Leigh, Robert Taylor. An English soldier remembers a love affair. 4.35 Burghley horse trials. 5.20 Wonderful world of Disney.

6.05 **NEWS,** Weather.

6.15 **A CHANCE TO MEET.** The Rev Canon Gonville french-Beytagh.

6.50 **SONGS OF PRAISE.**

7.25 **THE ONEDIN LINE.** Pound and Pint.

8.15 **FILM OF THE WEEK: 'TOO MUCH TOO SOON'.** Errol Flynn, Dorothy Malone.

10.10 **NEWS,** Weather.

10.20 **OMNIBUS.** The Last Samurai, Akira Kurosawa and his films.

11.10 **KENNETH HARRIS INTERVIEW.** Phil Bull who devised a unique system of analysing a racehorse's strengths and weaknesses.

11.55 **Weather.**

## ITV

9.30 Harvest festival. 10.30 Return to Peyton Place. 10.55 Film: 'Tarzan and the Huntress'. Johnny Weissmuller. 12.30 Forest rangers. 1.00 Thunderbirds. 1.50 Brian Connell interviews. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Persuaders. 4.20 Golden shot. 5.15 Aquarius.

6.05 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

6.15 **ADAM SMITH.**

6.45 **THY KINGDOM COME.**

7.00 **STARS ON SUNDAY.**

7.25 **DOCTOR IN CHARGE.** The Rumour.

7.55 **FILM: 'THE HOUSE ON GREENAPPLE ROAD'.** Janet Leigh, Julie Harris. Thriller made especially for television.

10.00 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

10.15 **COUNTRY MATTERS.** Breeze Anstey.

11.15 **THE FBI.** The Hostage.

12.15 **THE 'TOO DIFFICULT' FILE.**

12.20 **SIX DATES WITH BAR-KER.** 1899—The Phantom Raspberry Blower of Old London Town. Ronnie Barker.

# Tenants' fight betrayed Stalinists' 'gesture of 'gesture of



Solly Kaye: Instalments plan

## defiance' ...retreat

BY PHILIP WADE

THROUGHOUT the past year the Communist Party has tried to send the tenants' movement down a blind alley of protest against the Tory Housing Finance Act.

With the control of organizations like the National Association of Tenants and Residents they launched a phoney campaign of petitions and lobbies to 'Kill the Bill'. The strategy was to make the legislation 'inoperative' through the non-cooperation of Labour councils.

Attempts to unite tenants with trade unionists in a powerful movement to bring down the source of the rent doubling operation—the Tory government — were dutifully

attacked by the Stalinists. All this, of course, had no effect whatsoever on the Tory government. The Bill became an Act and the first £1 increases are due on Monday week. The Tories understood the

'opposition' of the Labour councils was a mere token gesture. They were right. One by one the 380 Labour councils capitulated and decided to implement the Act.

In London the retreat has been virtually complete. Only Camden—and they appear to be having second thoughts — are refusing to implement out of a total of 21 Labour-controlled inner London councils. Nationally only about 40 councils are still defiant.

The Stalinists have refused to fight this collaboration by the Labour councils. At no time have they called for the expulsion of the right-wing in the town halls.

Now they have come forward in Tower Hamlets, East London, to attempt further to divert tenants away from the main Tory enemy and the Labour bureaucracy which carries out its directives.

At a meeting on Thursday night, the Stalinist leadership of the local tenants' association called for the withholding of the £1 increases as a 'gesture of defiance'.

Ex-CP councillor Solly Kaye—removed last year when the Local Bengali workers voted Labour in opposition to the CP's line on Bangladesh—made it quite clear that only a protest would do now.

'There is always a time to retreat when you are forced to retreat,' said Kaye.

He then explained how, when the bailiff eventually arrived at the tenants' doors, he would be told the arrears would be repaid at so much a week. So no one would get hurt.

### 'Unfortunate'

It was not going to be a rent strike as such, he said, because of 'certain unfortunate events of 1968'. No doubt he was referring to the isolated rent strike by Greater London Council tenants which the Stalinists isolated and led to defeat.

Apart from gestures of defiance, Kaye and the other Stalinist speaker, Max Levitas, had nothing but words of despair for the tenants. It was little wonder that most of the 100 people at the meeting drifted off before the close.

Having driven tenants into blind-alleys, the Stalinists are now trying to demoralize them with hopeless gestures. With only a week to go before the increases, the urgent question becomes the construction of Councils of Action in all the areas.

This is the only way in which the millions of tenants and trade unionists — betrayed by their leaderships—can be mobilized in a campaign to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government pledged to repeal the Act and carry out socialist policies of nationalization under workers' control and without compensation.

And it is in this fight that the Stalinists like Kaye and Levitas, who spend their time propping up the Tory government by preventing the working class getting to grips with it, will be defeated and a new principled, revolutionary leadership built.

## Wandsworth loses a quarter of jobs in six years

OVER 27,000 jobs have been lost in the south London Wandsworth borough in the past six years, a report from the Wandsworth Council has revealed.

This is more than a quarter of the borough's total working population.

The report says: 'The engineering and electrical goods industries, formerly among Wandsworth's most significant industries, are known to be leaving London at an increased rate and Wandsworth appears to be no exception.'

'The service industries in both Wandsworth and Greater London as a whole account for a higher proportion of employment than nationally, although in the case of Wandsworth there has been a decline in the number of employed in all categories other than insurance and professional-scientific between 1966 and 1971.'

One of the reasons for the decline, says the council, is that economic pressures have forced a reappraisal of operating methods, resulting in rationalization and mergers.

BRITISH-LEYLAND yesterday obtained a Measured-Day Work agreement with 350 workers at the assembly and paint sections of its Common Lane, Birmingham, car-body factory.

The workers will receive a flat rate of £44.50 a week, rising to £48 by the end of November next year. Similar deals were announced for two engine plants and a foundry in Coventry on Thursday.

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

WATFORD: Monday September 25, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall (upstairs room), Woodford Road (opposite Watford Junction station) 'Force the Tories to resign.'

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Tuesday September 26, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'ATUA national conference.'

BASILDON: Tuesday September 26, 8 p.m. Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, Laindon. 'ATUA national conference'

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday September 26, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road, Tooting. 'Lessons of the builders' strike.'

LUTON: Wednesday September 27, 8 p.m. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Road, 'Stalinism and the capitalist class.'

HOUNSLOW: Thursday September 28, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Bath Road.

TODMORDEN: Thursday, September 28, 7.30 p.m. The Weavers' Institute, Burnley Road. 'Lessons of the builders' and busmen's strikes.'

### Lessons of the building workers strike.

SWANSEA  
Thursday, September 28  
7 p.m.

Swansea Council of Social Services, Mount Pleasant Hill, Next to the fire station.

Speakers: Gordon Carruthers (Chairman of Swansea No. 1 UCATT branch. In a personal capacity).

Jim Bevan (Chairman of Margam AUEW branch. In a personal capacity).

## Means-test report shows 'fair' fraud

THE 'FAIRNESS' of the means test in the Tories 'fair rents' Act has been exposed as a fraud by London sociologist Della Nevitt.

Generally speaking, she says, Britain's means-tested aid system is not solving the problem of family poverty because the amount of benefit from such schemes is not related to family size or needs.

Miss Nevitt, reader in social administration at the London School of Economics, adds:

'The effect of the present benefits is so minimal that there is a very small difference between the net disposable income of large and small households.'

In her report, 'Hidden Equalities and Family Incomes', she

points out that a single man earning £30 gross a week has £16.99 to spend on food, clothes, etc., while a man with three children, after all taxes and means-tested benefits, has £22.17—leaving only £5.18 to feed and clothe an additional four people.

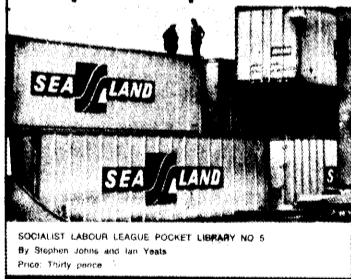
'If we assume that the family must pay a higher rent than the single person—say a single person pays £5 a week and a five-person family £10 a week—then the difference between what the family has to spend on food, clothing etc., and the single man is only £2.58.'

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# AS MILLIONS JOIN THE PAY QUEUE

# TUC RETREAT ON WAGES BEGINS

By DAVID MAUDE Our Industrial Correspondent

POWER and government industrial workers were yesterday tasting the first bitter fruits of the TUC talks with the government and the Confederation of British Industry on pay. These already harshly-exploited sections of workers have been made an example of by the union leaders' eagerness to come to terms with the Tories.

Scenting blood, big employers, like CBI president Michael Clapham, have been talking ominously this week about hotting up the pace of the joint talks. It now seems certain that next Tuesday premier Heath will feel confident enough to table a fully-fledged proposal for a 'voluntary' incomes policy.

At Chequers last week TUC leaders discussed with the Tories a scheme for making low-paid workers the scapegoat for wage restraint.

On Thursday the scheme came into operation.

The power workers' leaders asked the Electricity Council for a £5.50-a-week increase on all basic rates, rather than on the minimum. Council negotiators had anticipated a more expensive demand for £5.50 on the minimum with proportionately more for other grades.

A few hours later the government industrial workers' leaders, meeting at the Civil Service Department in Whitehall, agreed to send their members' claim for a substantial pay rise to arbitration.

In both cases these moves are utterly treacherous.

Britain's 105,000 power workers are still extremely badly paid. The 7½-per-cent settlement accepted by their union chiefs earlier this year left basic rates at only £19.50 for labourers and £24 for craftsmen.

As a sweetener there were lead-in payments to productivity deals which can only mean more lost jobs in an industry whose labour force has already been slashed by 42,000 in five years.

Basic rates in the 194,000-strong government industrial service, which has lost 35,000 jobs since 1967, range from £17.30 for labourers to £23.35 for craftsmen.



Since their claim for a big increase was submitted in June, the union leaders' only action has been to call a series of entirely inadequate selective strikes and overtime bans. Now, with the militancy of their members at a high-point in areas like Scotland and southern England, they go for arbitration.

These retreats, which could leave over 250,000 workers completely at the mercy of the series of heavy price-rises planned by the Tories, must be halted.

Now there are only 71 working days to go before entry into the Common Market. Next month the Housing Finance Act will force up council rents all over the country, and in November prices will take yet another leap as steel, electricity and road

transport all go up 10-15 per cent.

Like the Tories and the CBI, the union leaders are well aware that a series of major upsurges in working-class struggle are inevitable as these onslaughts on living standards take effect.

Their talks with the Tories, therefore, are in no way an attempt to reach some kind of compromise, but a preparation to do battle on the employers' behalf.

And on the same day as the retreats on the power and gov-

**THE OFFICIAL retail price index leapt by 1.3 points last month, the second biggest monthly increase since April last year. The jump is blamed by the Department of Employment on price rises for milk, fresh fruit, eggs, clothing and footwear, and some other goods and services.**  
The index now stands at 165.5, compared with 164.2 on July 18. In April this year there was a 1.5 jump, and in April last year, the rise was 3.2 points.

ernment industrial pay claims, the Tories handed them the weapons to do it—a further rise in hard-core unemployment.

The threat of more unemployment has always lain behind the TUC's talks with the Tories.

Early in the series they toed the line on wages 1.4 million workers could be out of a job by next year. At Chequers last week it was made clear that part of the government's contingency plan if the talks did not produce effective restraint was a tight money policy, including a possible increase in Bank Rate, which slash investment and therefore jobs.

In other words, the right wing was instructed to blackmail union members with the argument that

Government industrial workers from all over Britain on a recent pay lobby of parliament. Many complain about the negotiating set-up—the Whitley Council—which includes union and management (government) representatives.

**SEPTEMBER FUND NEEDS £1,064.94 ONLY 8 DAYS TO GO**

FRANKLY, we're anxious. Only eight days left and we need, on average, to raise £133.12 each day to complete our target of £1,750 on time.

High prices and unemployment are playing havoc with the meagre resources of our readers and supporters. Briefly, there is only one real answer and that is to keep on pushing the sales of Workers Press upwards.

Sales are rising, but not fast enough to cover the deficit caused by rising costs. It needs a politically-inspired campaign each month to keep our wonderful Fund-raisers on their toes.

At UCS, our paper alone exposed the reformist futility of the 'work-in' and the treachery of the leadership of Reid and Airlie. Thousands now are losing their jobs at Clydebank and joining the huge numbers of unemployed throughout Scotland.

These shipyard workers are learning bitterly that an alternative leadership must be built. Our paper must show trade unionists everywhere this revolutionary alternative. This is why Workers Press gives its fullest support to the ATUA conference in Birmingham on October 22.

Our Fund this month is vital. Help us today. Go all out and collect as much as you possibly can. A huge effort now and we'll make it. Post all donations immediately to:

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

Public Meeting

## Banbury

Wages Jobs and the Fight against the Tory government

Thursday October 5, 8 p.m.  
Town Hall, Banbury

Speaker: Gerry Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League.

## London

Development of Marxism through working-class struggle  
Sunday September 24

Nature of the capitalist crisis  
Sunday October 1  
Historical materialism today  
Sunday October 8

**EAST HAM TOWN HALL  
Lister Room  
Barking Rd, 7 p.m.**

Socialist Labour League

### LECTURES

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM

given by  
G. HEALY  
(SLL national secretary)

## Liverpool

Historical materialism today  
Tuesday September 26

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

## LATE NEWS WEATHER

**HULL BLACK 'FOREVER'**  
THREE transport firms said to have carried loads from ships at the unregistered Neap House Wharf, Scunthorpe, during the dock strike have been blacked for ever, Hull dockers were told yesterday.

The decision was taken by the unofficial dockers' shop stewards committee at Hull.

One firm was Clugston Transport and another Kenneth Wilson of Scunthorpe.

Walter Cunningham, chairman of the shop stewards' committee, said:

'The blacking is for ever, and even after we are dead it will be continued.'

A construction company using Clugston transport to ferry materials from Scunthorpe has been told to find an alternative firm.

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.

OVER England, Wales, Northern Ireland and southern Scotland fog or mist patches will clear during the morning to give sunny periods in the afternoon, but fog patches are likely to reform in many areas before midnight.

Over northern Scotland it will be rather cloudy and, though mostly dry, some drizzle is likely over the hills.

It will be rather warm in the south. Temperatures will be near normal in the north.

**Outlook for Sunday and Monday:**  
Dry and rather warm with sunny periods after morning fog patches.