

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • TUESDAY OCTOBER 3, 1972 • No. 884 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

AS LABOUR CHIEFS RETREAT ON HOUSING POLICY

MERSEY STRIKE LEAD AGAINST RENT RISE

MORE RENTS
NEWS P. 12

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- Recall of the TUC.
- Committees of action embracing tenants' and workers' organizations to fight the increases.
- Expulsion from the Labour



From Stephen Johns in Liverpool and Alex Mitchell in Blackpool

Party of councillors who voted for the Act.

● A campaign to defeat the rents legislation and the Tory government.

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'This kind of demonstration is only the beginning. We must make sure that this legislation is defeated, but the aim must also be to defeat this government and put a Labour government pledged to socialist policies back into power.'

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'Even as this Act comes into power the leaders of the TUC are sitting down wine and dining with the Tory leaders.'

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'Then it will be necessary for the working class to take over and do it for them.'

These Mersey warnings were amply borne out at Blackpool when 'left' MP Frank Allaun, replying for the Labour Party national executive, said that they could not offer retrospective relief to councillors victimized for their opposition to the Act.

Reading from a prepared statement, Allaun said that 'neither as a party now or a future Labour government can we guarantee such retrospective action'.

Workers and tenants unite on yesterday's Liverpool demonstration.

Labour councillors who defied the Act 'must do so at their own responsibility' There was uproar from delegates at this.

Allaun also told conference the NEC opposed a nationalization resolution from Manchester.

This failure was condemned by several speakers in the debate.

Eddie Loyden, delegate from West Derby, Liverpool, said the executive was 'responsible to a great degree for the confusions and splits' created by the Act. He said: 'No pious resolutions will get us anywhere.'

Loyden was seconding a resolution instructing all Labour councillors not to implement the Act, adoption of an immediate target of 1 million new homes a year and the nationalization under workers' control of banks, insurance companies and building societies.

The resolution, which came from Moss Side, Manchester, also called for the nationalization of the building and building supply industries and the land.

This was defeated.

There were almost 100 resolutions on housing before this year's conference.

The debate was dominated by hypocritical references to the 'fight' which Labour councils have waged against the Act.

In fact only about 50 of the 385 Labour-controlled councils have defied implementation.

● Labour Party and rent news, p. 12.

ATUA CONFERENCE

The way forward for all trade unionists

The All Trades Unions Alliance conference will be devoted to discussing the vital experience of the last eight months, to analysing the problem of political leadership in the unions and to developing the struggle for the implementation of the ATUA programme.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 22
10-30 a.m.
TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM

All trade union branches, shop stewards' and district committees are cordially invited to send delegates and/or observers to the conference. Delegates fee 25p.

Please send all correspondence and applications to Conference Secretary, R. Goldstein, 103 Lewis Flats, Dalston Lane, London, E8.

SPECIAL TRAIN FROM EUSTON, LONDON, £1.50. COACHES FROM OTHER AREAS

Union
Branch
Names, addresses and No of delegates/observers

I enclose £ at delegates fees Signature of secretary

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What we think

HEATH'S BEST FRIEND

HOW JACK JONES ever came to be considered as a left-winger is becoming a matter of increasing puzzlement to millions of trade unionists.

Yesterday's Labour Party conference debate on the Industrial Relations Act found Jones, the leader of Britain's biggest union, attacking the alleged 'violence' of some of his own docker members.

Delegates heard him regretting this year's increase in the strike figures, extolling the virtues of voluntary conciliation and arbitration and arguing for repeal of the Act so that 'good industrial relations can be restored'... under capitalism.

On Sunday the Transport and General Workers' Union secretary was holding out the possibility of a deal with the Tory government over wage restraint in return for a statutory 'freeze' on prices in the shops, rents and the cost of houses.

Property speculators and gazumpers should be jailed, he said, 'the same as porn and drug peddlers'. A £2 limit on pay increases was 'insufficient', but there could be 'a figure—or figures'.

On his way to Blackpool last Friday, Jones told a Birmingham meeting that rewards for increased productivity must be taken into account in what he clearly

considers will be continuing discussions between the TUC, the Confederation of British Industry and the government.

What emerges from all these statements is a picture not of a dedicated socialist working might and main to remove from power the Tory regime, which is tormenting his members, but of a trade union boss in the mould of his right-wing forebear in the T&GWU, Arthur Deakin, calculating cold-bloodedly how he can come to terms with Heath.

It is significant that during yesterday's debate there were only two things in Jones's mind when he spelt out to conference the alternatives facing unions under the anti-union Act.

They could either take all decisions at the centre by bureaucratic authoritarian methods, or face massive penalties if things went wrong locally. The third alternative—mobilizing action to force the Tories out of office—apparently never entered into his thinking on the subject at all.

This is the key to an understanding of Jones's absurd but dangerous proposal for a prices freeze. The T&GWU leader knows that, under capitalism, such a measure is impossible.

Already a growing number of indus-

trial giants such as British-Leyland, Courtauld's, Wiggins Teape, Ransome Hoffman Pollard and the British Aircraft Corporation have told the CBI that they feel unable to curb their prices beyond the end of this month.

The CBI's phoney price-restraint policy is being burst asunder. Retail prices are now again rocketing upwards at an annual rate of 6.6 per cent.

The danger of Jones's demagoguery, however, is that it loses further valuable time in the fight against the Tory government.

Militants who retain some confidence in his 'left' reputation may be disorientated at a time when there is a burning urgency to prosecute the fight. And of course the Communist Party, which has diligently sown illusions in Jones, will help in this process.

This is why Heath and his top Tory Ministers were so pleased with the response to their pay-curb plan when they met at Chequers on Sunday.

Jones's call for a price freeze is a cynical bid to avoid the demand that the talks with the Tories are immediately broken off. At Blackpool this week he is emerging as one of the best friends in the labour movement that Heath has.

Conciliation team heads for Yemen battleground

NORTH YEMEN yesterday confirmed the loss of a key town on its border with South Yemen after a six-day battle in which more than 50 South Yemen civilians were also killed.

Fighting was yesterday reported to be continuing in the border area, despite a request for a cease-fire from the South Yemen government, which denied that it had occupied any towns over the border.

South Yemen has asked other Arab states to mediate in the conflict and a conciliation mission is on its way to the battle areas.

The former South Yemen politician Abdul Qawee Mackawee has placed himself at the head of a provisional government in the hope that the present South Yemen government will be overthrown, according to reports from Beirut.

Mackawee headed the right wing of the anti-British liberation movement before independence five years ago. His organization, the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen, (FLOS) bitterly opposed the now-ruling National Liberation Front.

Mackawee's exile 'government' is likely to receive support from Saudi Arabia which has been backing North Yemen against the South. North Yemen is ruled by feudal chieftains who oppose the land reforms and other social measures carried out in the South.

Yugoslav purge starts

BY JOHN SPENCER

A MAJOR purge of the Yugoslav League of Communists has been set in motion by its leadership following top-level consultations with President Tito.

It is intended to bring to an end months of political and economic crisis which have racked the Balkan workers' state.

Jure Bilic, a member of the League's presidium, went on television at the end of last week to tell viewers: 'We shall rid our ranks of all who do not consistently carry out the party's policies.'

'I hold this purge necessary, despite the fact that this word has an undertone of an administrative, bureaucratic and even despotic way of settling things.'

Detailed criteria for carrying out the purge have not been released publicly, but they have already been circulated to provincial party organizations.

It has already been made clear that the victims of the purge will be sacked from jobs in the administration in addition to being stripped of their party membership.

As Bilic implied, the purge is indeed a bureaucratic attempt to find a way out of the chronic problems that beset Tito's regime.

In his television broadcast, Bilic went straight to the heart of the matter. He warned against the 'dangerous tendency of turning social into private property' and stressed that this tendency was particularly marked in foreign trade.

He referred in particular to the excessive number of Yugoslav enterprises abroad: in West Germany alone, he said, there were 800 such enterprises, 400 of which had been set up in the last 12 months.

Bilic said it was a fact that the Yugoslav government had

Tito leadership caught between imperialism and workers at home

practically no knowledge of these developments. 'This is the result of the market economy,' he said.

The outcome was that individuals were amassing capital in a way that would have been impossible had they been in ordinary employment. Public protest, he said, was 'justifiable'.

Individuals abroad had foreign-exchange accounts. Cases of individuals acquiring 'enormous' resources through commissions on import deals were not infrequent.

Bilic said it was 'most incumbent' on a socialist self-managing society by its very nature to resist such manifestations by

every means possible. Infringement of regulations had become the rule, he said.

Unless swift and effective measures were taken, it could be that individuals would acquire too much wealth, become 'overbearing' and 'domineering' and begin to alter the system of social relationships.

Bilic called for 'swift and effective action' against these trends. But what effective action can be taken while the Tito leadership itself undermines the basis of the workers' state by introducing the 'market economy' and undermining the monopoly of foreign trade?

Troops used in Latin American revolts

THE COLOMBIAN government has decided to maintain its state of siege for an indefinite period. This siege is aimed at opposition from students and guerrillas.

Minister of the Interior, Abelardo Benavides, in a message to the House of Representatives over the weekend, asserted that the government had an obligation to 'keep order and take all steps to preserve it'.

Since the beginning of June, over 96 people have been arrested and tortured on charges of being urban defenders of the Castroite National Liberation Army.

OVER 20,000 men of the Brazilian armed forces are being transferred to the upper Araguaia valley to reinforce the region's 5,000 troops. It is about 1,200 miles from Brasilia.

There are reports of heavy

fighting between the army and peasants who are being thrown from their land by a 'consortium' of big landowners, backed by US finance, interested in exploiting the possible mineral resources in the area.

Purges, trials and lengthy speeches are powerless to combat the economic weight of imperialism. This is the decisive factor which the Yugoslav Stalinists choose to ignore.

The Tito regime has opened the door to foreign capital, is in the process of making the dinar convertible and has abandoned—as Bilic admitted—virtually all state control over transactions with the west.

While Bilic was speaking on television, the government was preparing for talks with the Common Market countries to extend the present trading agreement to include industrial co-operation, joint investments of capital and joint appearances on third markets.

With the economy running more and more out of its control the Tito leadership is caught between the pressure of imperialism and the growing layer of wealthy Yugoslavs on the one hand and the anger of the workers on the other.

Whatever political capital it possessed with the workers and peasants is being rapidly frittered away by the bureaucracy, laying the basis for civil war in Yugoslavia.

A military plane has machine-gunned four workers building the Trans-Amazon highway.

Frame-up fragging case in the US

IN A TINY court-room at Fort Ord near Monterey, California, a US Army tribunal is trying the first 'fragging' case to be heard on American soil.

In the dock is Billy Dean Smith (23), a black private and Vietnam veteran accused of killing two officers and injuring others with fragmentation grenades.

These are the pre-

ferred weapons of GIs in Vietnam who want to rid themselves of unpopular officers. There have been hundreds of cases of 'fragging' since the Vietnam war began.

There is no direct evidence against Smith, beyond the fact that a grenade pin was found in his pocket after arrest.

GIs in Vietnam commonly carry grenade

pins with them or use them to decorate their hats.

The trial is being conducted under intensive military security.

All spectators are carefully checked by armed guards and their names and units (if they are military personnel) noted down.

The courtroom is a tiny building which can hold only 50 people, but

the army is deliberately restricting the number in the court to 35. The atmosphere, according to GIs on the Fort Ord base, is heavy with the smell of frame-up.

The charges carry the death penalty and it is clear the army wants a scapegoat for the failure of its Vietnam policy and the collapse of GI morale.

Simla agreement nearing breakdown

JUST THREE months after it was concluded, the Simla cease-fire agreement between Pakistan and India is in danger of breaking down.

Scattered fighting along the border between the two countries in Kashmir culminated on Saturday with Pakistani charges that India was seeking to undermine the agreement.

Pakistan charged that Indian troops had opened fire on a Pakistan border post north of Sohana village in the Kotli sector of the front.

General Tikka Khan, the Pakistan chief of staff, said the incident, in which one Pakistan soldier was killed and two injured, was the most serious since the summit meeting between President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Indian premier Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Bhutto yesterday declared his intention of upholding the Simla agreement—in the present weakened position of Pakistan he is in no position to launch an offensive which would certainly be rebuffed.

Tension over Kashmir has been one of the outstanding territorial issues between the two countries ever since independence.

IN AND OUT



OF LABOUR'S CONFERENCE

By ALEX MITCHELL in Blackpool

Roy's the boy—for the middle class

DESPITE what the capitalist press has to say, Roy Jenkins MP has been a damp squib at this year's Blackpool conference.

His fan club, which met on Sunday night, was exclusively a middle-class gathering. They clutched copies of their leader's recently-published works and wore floral rosettes to proclaim their allegiance.

In the present economic crisis, in which class polarization is rapidly taking place, Jenkins and his followers are walking from the middle of the road to the right—a dangerous place during peak traffic.

Jenkins, George Thomson, Shirley Williams, Harold Lever, Michael Barnes and trade union leader Jack Peel shared the platform for the pro-Common Market talk-in.

Jenkins exposed the unprincipled manoeuvrings of the Party's executive when he announced he



would support its statement in the vote on the Common Market on Wednesday.

So while Wilson and the 'lefts' claim they have a 'hard-line' policy, the lie is given by the rabid Marketeer, Jenkins, who welcomes it.

The fraud of the Jenkins faction was revealed during Mrs Williams' speech.

'The Labour Party is a broadly-based party', she said. 'In our party we have "Tribune"-ites, Fabians, trade unionists . . . And someone interrupted from the floor to shout '... and Tories!' The Jenkinsites were not pleased.



Quote of the day from Labour chairman Anthony Wedgwood Benn (seen above with fans), the man Fleet Street said was going to challenge Harold Wilson on the supremacy of Party conference decisions: 'Conference never has and never will want to dictate to a Labour government'. He went on to say delegates expect government to take conference decisions seriously and not deliberately reverse or ignore them. Presumably it's OK by Wedgie if they reverse them accidentally!

Left star gaze

THERE were riotous ironies surrounding this year's 'Tribune' brains trust. Chief among them was the fact that it was staged in the Planet Room of the main conference hall. Certainly the arguments put forward by the platform had an extra-terrestrial quality about them.

These gents are so painfully conservative in their politics except, it seems, when they are wheeled out onto public forums at conference time.

This year we had Messrs Mikardo, Orme, Heffer, Allaun, Atkinson and Foot telling us they were ready in the wings to attack the 'commanding heights' when re-elected to government.

The euphoria was dashed to earth by a question from the floor from someone who wanted to know why the Labour Party has failed to lead a fight against the Tories' 'fair rents' Act. Suddenly the wise men were crestfallen.

Allaun muttered some meaningless phrases, to the growing irritation of the audience. 'Shame', someone cried out. And others sought supplementary questions.

With the atmosphere getting distinctly brisker, chairman Mikardo stepped in. He called for order and announced that a purse had been found in the ladies' loo.

After a few wisecracks, an appeal for a collection and other very unsubtle diversions Mikardo, reports of whose retirement he says are 'much exaggerated', succeeded in cooling the situation.

It was next topic and the panel eased their way back into orbit.

As someone commented on the brains trust meeting: 'There's not much brains, and you can't trust the bastards either.'

LORD Longford failed to show up for a much-publicized meeting of the Free Communications Group at which he had been billed star speaker. It was announced his lordship had been unable to make the trip because of other engagements. 'He is tied up in pornographic activities in London,' the chairman of the meeting said.

Press barons have nothing to fear from FCG and Jimmy

WHEN THE Free Communications Group met during last year's Labour Party Conference, the Newspaper Publishers Association is reputed to have sent along some 'observers'.

Their job was to get an idea of the strategy of this left-wing organization to seize control of the media.

If the NPA stooges did bother to show up this year to hear ex-Labour MP Eric Moonman and journalist James Cameron, they will be reporting to Lord Thomson, Lord Cowdray and the Rothermeres that their presses are quite safe.

After Cameron's miserable speech, dozens of

'radical' journalists were quick to try to cover up for the old barnacle. 'He's not been well lately,' one said, while another commented: 'Jimmy was a bit off today.'

The point is, of course, that 'Jimmy' has been politically off for a considerable part of his professional life.

His excellent writing abilities are granted. But what has always been in doubt is his ticket as a great left-winger.

And at Blackpool Cameron dropped that guise when he appeared as main speaker at a seminar on the press.

He criticized those speakers who said there is

direct censorship in the capitalist media. Where is it? he asked.

He then developed the theory that the only censorship was self-imposed.

'Somebody writes the stuff, somebody subs the stuff, somebody prints the stuff,' he said.

'Journalists know what is expected of them. It's done by us,' he added.

To be strictly accurate, of course, Cameron should have said 'the censorship is done by me'.

The tone of his speech was that the press wasn't the bogey it was cracked up to be. ('Gone are the days of tyrannical editors lashing reporters.')

The capitalist press had its problems, but by and large it functioned well enough, he told his audience of young journalists whose incredulity grew by the minute.

The other main speaker was former MP for Gravesend Albert Murray, a NATSOPA worker for the Murdoch group of newspapers.

Murray derided calls for the nationalization of the press under workers' con-

trol. Such 'theories', he said, were 'a bit too intellectual'.

In a remarkable set of contradictory statements, he said that the Fleet Street press was 'doing well' with an advertisement boom.

But later he admitted that the industry was being hit by closures and amalgamations and fierce competition from printing firms in Europe.

Murray's 'solution' to all this centred on the Briant Colour 'work-in' in south-east London. He said every print worker should put in £1 so the works could be bought from the present owners.

'Put your money where your mouth is,' he told those who argued for nationalization.

Yet Murray's ludicrous suggestion is that every time a closure occurs, workers are to shell out to buy the plant!

He gave no perspective as to how his union plans to fight closures and redundancies.

Referring to his own workers, he said: 'They are perfectly capable of looking after themselves.'

Guess who heard first?

USEFUL anecdote from Tom Driberg, Labour MP for Barking. The day before Harold Wilson called the 1970 General Election, he summoned the Party's National Executive Committee and the Labour Cabinet to No 10 for a policy discussion. Various informal chats took place, then everyone went home. Next day Wilson named June 18 as election day. Why hadn't he informed his colleagues the previous day? According to Driberg he had to tell two other people first—the Queen and Edward Heath.

Doorstep lobby

STRIKERS who have been conducting a six-week struggle over wages and conditions in Blackpool itself yesterday lobbied the Labour Party conference seeking support.

The 800 workers at the town's Duple Coachbuilders Ltd factory are fighting for what they described to Workers Press yesterday as a 'meagre' £3 extra a week, plus average pay for holidays.

Five unions — all with delegates at the Party conference — are involved, including the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union. The T&GWU has not yet made the strike official and the EPTU is only backing it at local level.

Tony Gallagher, T&GWU convenor at Duple, told us:

'Each year we have a new agreement based on productivity and the company's profits. But this year they tried to foist an outdated piecework system onto a new line—the Dominant coach—which was ratified in 1963. They also refused even to discuss pay and conditions.

'Furthermore they asked us to sign an undertaking that we would not call meetings; that we would work to establish their procedure; and we would not work to rule or go on strike.'

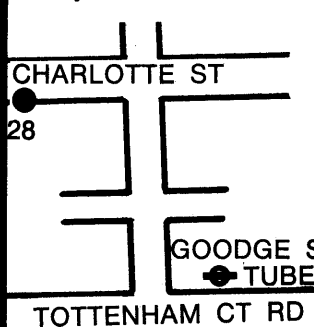
The men have been roused by the intransigence of their new owner of five months, the Cranley group. (In London yesterday the Slater Walker finance, investment and property giant denied it controlled Cranley, but confirmed that it had an interest in the group.)

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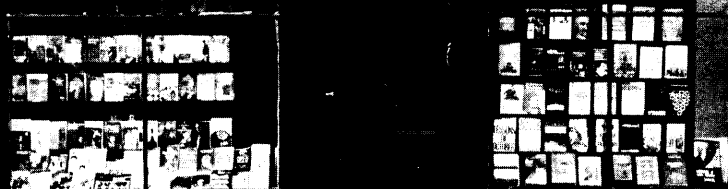
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BRITAIN'S DECAYING DENTAL SERVICE

By Virginia Strickland. Part Two

PROFIT OR HEALTH?

As long as a person has to pay for dental care, he is more likely to get the kind of treatment he can afford than what he needs. His dentist begins to see him as a prospective customer.

The dentist has several advantages over other businessmen. First, his customer comes to him to fulfil a need, not a whim. Health care is no luxury. It's a necessity.

Also, his customer, no matter what level of education he has, is probably ignorant about what is medically wrong with him and what treatment he needs. The present dental care system allows, indeed almost sanctions, the dentist's use of his patient's ignorance.

It's the dentist who has freedom of choice in a range of treatment. Any businessman knows it's good business sense to sell a person the most expensive commodity he can afford. It's even ethical if one ascribes to the belief that cost is equivalent to quality. The art of persuasion can be a simple matter. The very way a dentist describes various techniques influences a patient, especially if he's nervous.

'But the patient has freedom of choice whether he will have the treatment offered on the NHS,' protest many dentists, 'or pay for another treatment as a private patient.'

Consider the situation: You are reclining with your mouth wide open, anticipating a quick end to your agony. The dentist gives you a choice of paying him as a private patient and being done with it or getting up and walking out to search for someone who will do the job on NHS. What would you do? If you could afford it, that is.

For all practical purposes, the NHS leaves the dentist free to choose the 'well' patients by refusing to do certain types of NHS work. And he can persuade private patients to have the latest, most advanced forms of treatment.

The private patient generously makes up most of the dentist's profit, falsely believing he is getting more for his money in terms of the dentist's time or effort.

The Harley Street myth is a pervasive one. Few people stop to think there are no special examinations for a dentist to pass before establishing a practice on Harley Street. He only has to be able to afford the rent.

Ironically, the private patient gives up most rights to redress.

A person can't complain to his local Executive Council about private dental treatment.

The Department of Health

checks up on NHS dental work, but no such check is made on private patients. If they get charged for a more expensive material, but get the cheaper one, who's to know? The private patient is at the mercy—and integrity—of his dentist.

And dentists have an easy way out: they can always extract their mistakes.

The patient who, whether he can afford to pay or not, chooses to demand the health service he has paid for through the NHS, is caught in one of several traps.

An elderly man who had a persistent toothache could not find a dentist who would accept him as a patient. The reason? If a dentist takes a patient on the NHS, his part of the contract requires him to render the person dentally fit. This man needed dentures. None of the five dentists he saw would make dentures on the NHS. The man couldn't afford private work, which he was told would cost £45.

There was another possible way for the dentists to treat the man. They could have taken him on the NHS as an emergency patient. But they wouldn't. It did not matter that the man had not been to a dentist in the 24 years since NHS was established. He had paid his monthly contributions, but he couldn't get treatment.

A teenage girl broke her front tooth and couldn't find a dentist to do a crown on NHS. Nor could she get any other work done on NHS—not even a routine examination—until the crown was paid for. She finally found a dentist to take her as a private patient for the crown and promised to do all future work for her on NHS.

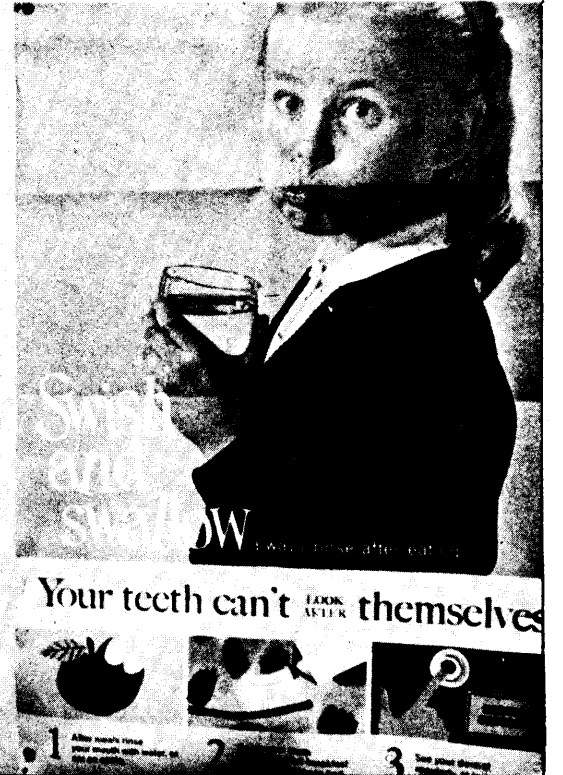
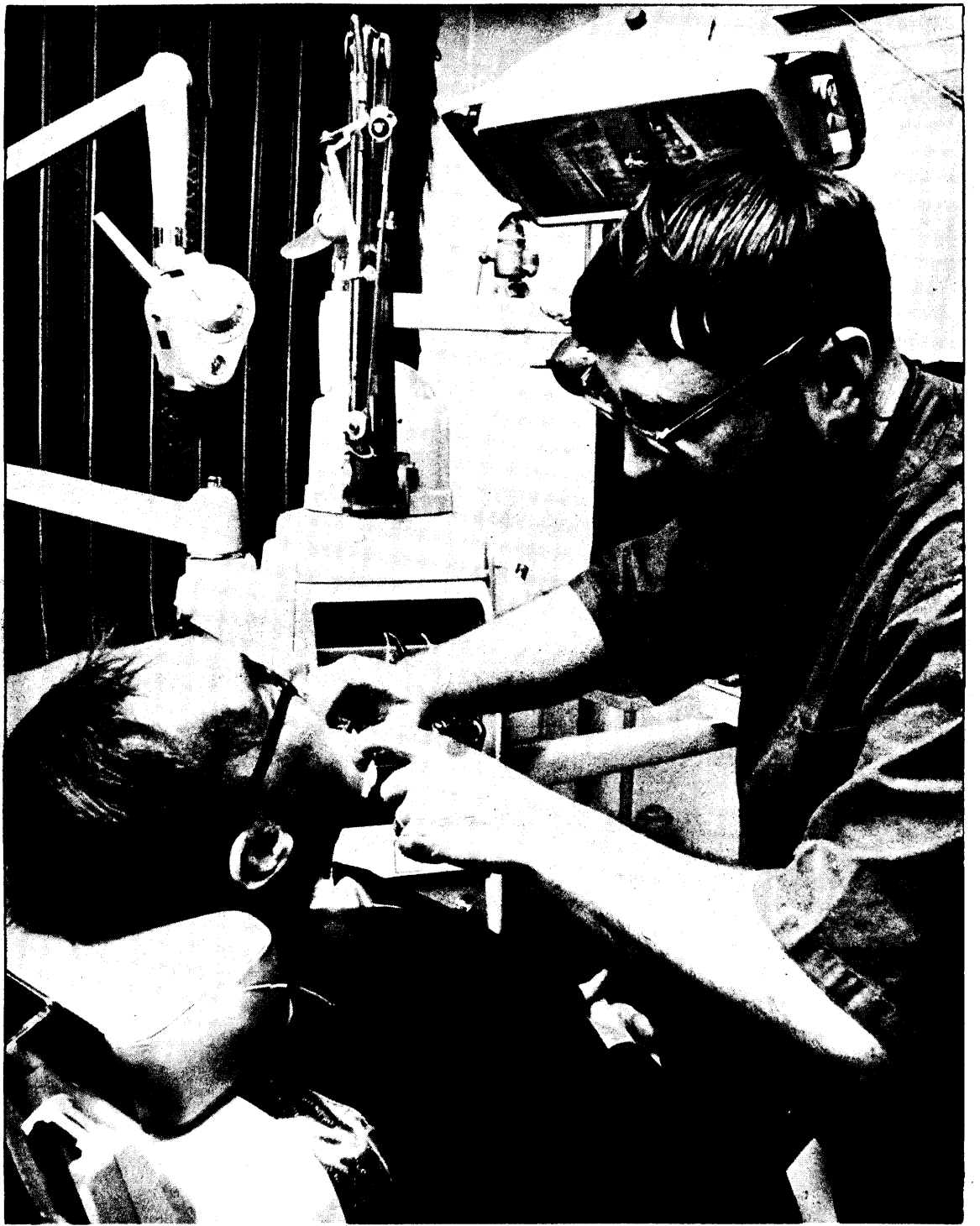
There are dentists who take each new patient on a private basis for the first 12 months. All the important (and expensive) repair work can be done during the year and then the patient goes on NHS for routine care.

SECOND OPINION

One dentist reversed the procedure. He switched from NHS to private practice, sending letters to all his patients saying he would still be glad to treat them, but privately. A woman who had been a regular patient for many years took him at his word. She made an appointment. After the examination, the dentist told her that her mouth was in 'terrible shape'. Repair would cost her £900.

A bank manager suggested the woman get a second opinion—when she asked him for a £900 loan. She found out the treatment she needed was simple enough to be done by an undergraduate.

Another trap for the patient in search of an NHS dentist is the receptionist. She is used as an efficient accomplice in salving the dentist's conscience



The dentist has several advantages over other businessmen. First, his customer comes to him to fulfil a need, not a whim. Health care is no luxury. It's a necessity.

so that he honestly never turns away hardship cases. The receptionist is told to automatically refuse anyone requesting NHS work.

An elderly woman who needed dental work described how this operation works. She went to the dentist her children and grandchildren were seeing, rang the bell, and made her request.

'This bit of a girl opened the door,' she explained, 'and said Mr Brown isn't an NHS dentist. It's all private.' So she left.

The dentist is under no legal obligation to refer patients to another dentist when he turns them away. Fortunately, dental patients aren't likely to die from their discomfort.

Where are patients to get help? A consumer group in Hertfordshire tried to complete a survey to give local citizens information about

where to get dental care on the NHS. They ran into all sorts of barriers—beginning with the receptionists.

KEEPING QUIET

All 33 of the local dentists' receptionists refused to say what services their employer offered on NHS and which ones patients could expect to pay for as private patients. If the consumer representative had a specific problem, she would have to go in for an examination. The dentist would then tell her whether he would take her as an NHS patient.

'But I don't have a dental problem,' explained the woman. 'Our consumer group is doing a survey to save people and dentists time and effort. If a patient wants a specific treatment on NHS, we would like to be able to tell

him not to bother going to Mr So-and-So because he only does that treatment privately. Then we could send the patient directly to a dentist who would take him on NHS.'

'Oh, I couldn't tell you that,' replied the receptionist. 'Giving out information on treatment would be considered advertising.'

The only dentist of the 33 in Hertfordshire who said he would take some patients on NHS had a one-year waiting list. And Hertfordshire has 60 to 70 per cent more dentists than the national average.

As more and more dentists go private, encouraged by business-management seminars on increasing profits in dentistry, the shortage of dentists for all but a privileged minority will become even more severe. Fewer patients will be treated with the latest, most complex techniques for higher fees.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

BRITISH CAPITAL AND PORTUGUESE POLICE STATE

BY OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

The centuries old alliance between the Portuguese and British ruling-classes has nothing picturesque or folkloric about it, whatever might be said over glasses of port at the functions of the Tory Anglo-Portuguese Society.

President Caetano is pursuing a policy of industrializing the Portuguese economy. Like his predecessor, Salazar, who destroyed the trade unions in Portugal and set up a corporate state modelled on the ideals of Mussolini, he can rely on British employers to bring in capital, set up factories and start extracting huge profits from a labour force that has no rights.

Already the Portuguese government has begun a new industrial complex at Sines half-way between Lisbon and the Algarve. This involves the construction of a new harbour capable of taking ships of up to 500,000 tons and a 10 million-ton oil refinery with an associated petrochemicals plant that will eventually produce 200,000 tons of ethylene annually.

Steel production is to be expanded as well. The National Steel Company has plans to expand its existing steel mill at Seixal, near Lisbon, and to export steel to Europe at prices which will be more than competitive.

An Anglo-Portuguese Industrial Corporation Committee has been set up to develop the 'exploitation of British research and development in Portugal'.

Plessey's, the British electronics company which has already closed factories in



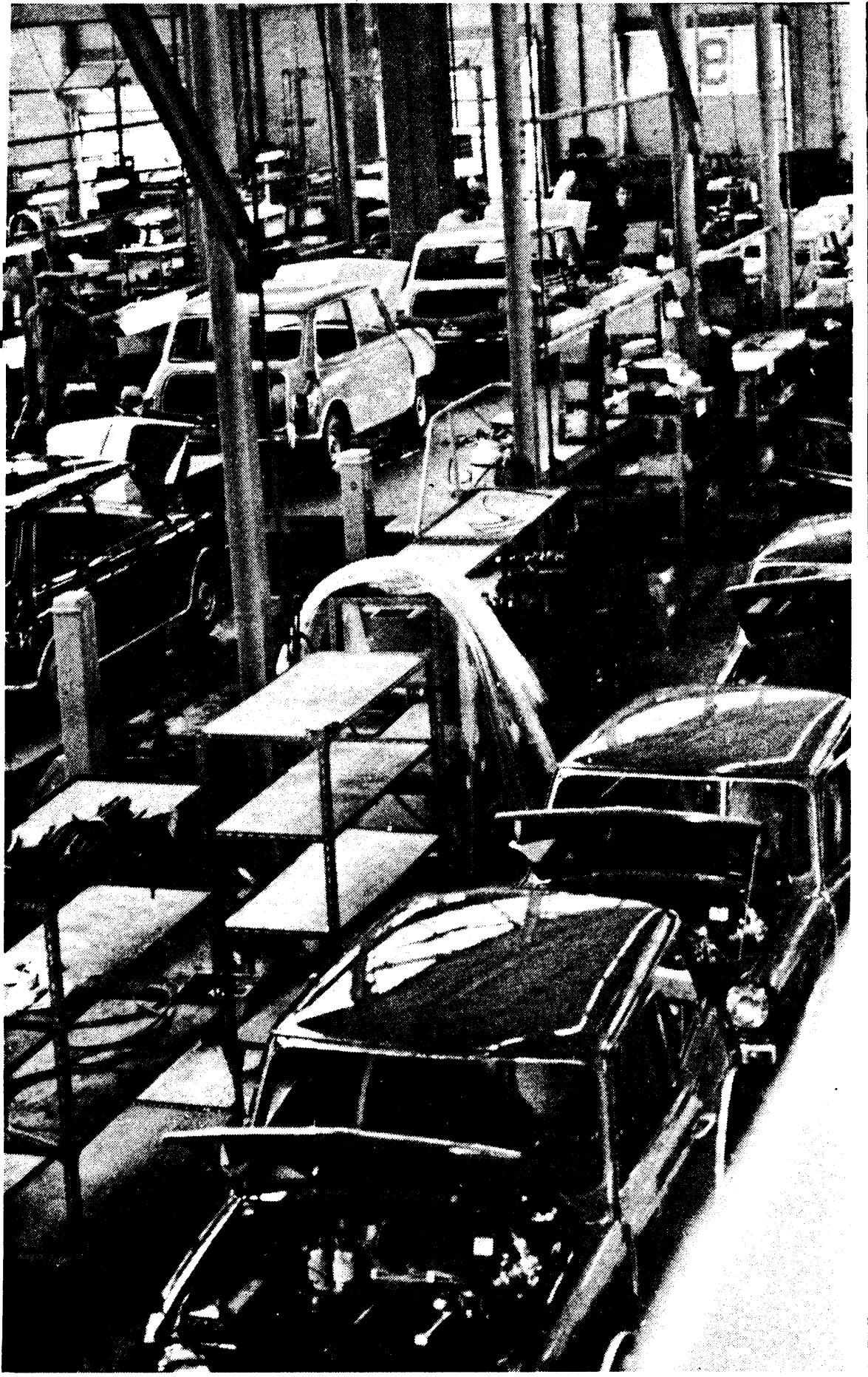
Above: Caetano industrializing Portuguese economy. Right: British-Leyland's motor assembly plant near Setubal.

Britain, has set up a subsidiary in Portugal.

Another firm pioneering in this country is British-Leyland which has a motor assembly plant near Setubal. Lord Stokes and his friends must have been impressed by the wages earned by Portuguese engineering workers as low as £5 for a 50-hour week. Rather different to the wage packets in Cowley and Longbridge!

Other Portuguese-owned factories have been good customers of British manufacturers of machinery—such as Platts in the textile trade.

It will not be long before more workers in this country are put on the dole by employers who have decided to switch their investment to police-state Portugal, where military workers are kept firmly in prison when they are not sent to fight the Portuguese colonial war in Angola.



LINING THEIR POCKETS WITH US AID

More massive aid funds from US into South Vietnam have gone astray—once again with the apparent complicity of the CIA and high military personnel.

Readers may remember recently the amazing stories that poured out of Saigon about the capital's black market which could supply anything from a crate of bourbon to a tank—for dollars of course.

Now it seems a cool \$400m have been gone astray—or rather the American taxpayer was never aware he was forking out such a sum in the first place.

A General Accounting Office report has revealed that the official estimate of \$1.5 billion in military aid for 1971 fell short of the true target by the \$400m.

Announcing the scandal Democratic Party Representative Les Aspin of Wisconsin said diplomatically that 'overpayments' had been made. Whether by design or bureaucratic mismanagement he knew not.

The agency primarily responsible is a CIA front called Civil

Operations for Rural Development Supports (CORDS). This was hastily tacked together with staff from the Department of Defence, the State Department and the CIA to run the disastrous pacification programme in the South of Vietnam.

CORDS first two chiefs were CIA veterans Robert Komer and William Colby and until recently the CIA had a strangle-hold over the outfit. Now it is suffering a slow demise with the winding down of US involvement in South Vietnam.

Throughout 1971, reports the accounting office, the US spent over \$2 billion on CORDS' programme. But it noted: 'Neither CORDS nor the Defence Department has developed a reporting system that provided reliable data for budgeting funds.'

About \$360m were supplied to South Vietnam officials as 'transfers' rather than actual expenditures. The US government never knew where the funds went or whether they were used effectively to improve the vast American murder machine in the south.

'Large quantities of food had spoiled, unneeded items had been purchased but not used for long periods and items had been diverted to ineligible recipients.'

These revelations of multi-million dollar corruption come as no surprise. US imperialism can only survive in Vietnam by brute force and mammoth bribery of puppets who support its war effort.

This is why the aid, poured into the south has not benefited the economy or the workers and peasantry. On the contrary the country is now on the verge of economic collapse.

The money usually finds its way into speculative holdings or is spent by the tiny privileged few on lavish quantities of American consumer goods.

The problem now is to prevent any real industry in the country coming to a complete halt. The boom of US spending sent prices rocketing (inflation has been a staggering 420 per cent over six years) and imports have been sucked into the country with the result that the south has a desperate balance-of-payments crisis.

Importers now find themselves with vast quantities of goods which they are unable to unload onto an already overstocked market. No one can buy and the distribution system and the connected financial system is near collapse.

Outstanding bank credits are 80,000m piastres compared with 60,000m at the end of last year and the smaller banks, faced with ranks of panicky customers trying to withdraw their saving, do not seem likely to survive.

On the docks sacks of fertilizer and perishable goods lie rotting because the importers have no desire or money to accumulate stocks.

President Thieu's reaction to the situation was to demand an economic growth of 6 per cent and an increase in national savings from seven to 15 per cent of total production.

But economists have politely informed him that this just cannot be done. The American war has so distorted the economy that it is stuck on the path of collapse—the economic crisis in the south is perhaps the greatest ally of the National Liberation Front.

Left: Thieu demanding growth.

THE MANY PIES OF ANDREW CUNNINGHAM

BY ALEX MITCHELL

In the labour and trade union movement Andrew Cunningham is an important power broker. He represents about 100,000 workers in the north-east who belong to the General and Municipal Workers' Union and sits on the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party, the 28-man body which runs the party.

He is an alderman on Durham County Council, chairman of the local police committee, chairman of the Newcastle Airport Authority (which, incidentally, employs a number of his own union members) and chairman of the Tyneside Passenger Transport Authority. (Complete list this page.)

Indeed, it can be said that Cunningham has fingers in many, many pies in public life. The Poulson bankruptcy hearing which precipitated the resignation of the Tory Home Secretary has now revealed further pies in Cunningham's life. He was, it has emerged, on Poulson's payroll and paid by the T. Dan Smith organization.

And his wife, Mrs Freda May Cunningham, also belonged to the Poulson empire.

During 1969 and 1970 Mrs Cunningham, a local magistrate, worked as a 'decorating consultant' in the Newcastle office on a salary of £1,250 a year.

The Cunninghams also took two holidays abroad paid for by Poulson. The cost of these jaunts—one of them to right-wing dominated Portugal—was £670.

When he heard of the court allegations Cunningham told the press with his accustomed bluntness: 'That's a laugh.'

When he received the news he was in Sweden on a trade union trip. He told the press: 'I have nothing at all to say about anything.'

Since the revelations in the Wakefield Bankruptcy Court, there have been demands that both Mr and Mrs Cunningham should resign all their public appointments. Perhaps because this would devastate the boards of a very large number of public bodies, the Cunninghams have so far declined to act upon this advice.

When attempts were made to remove him from the police committee the resolution was ruled out of order by the chairman—Cunningham. The press said he then 'stormed out of the meeting'.

Those who think that Cunningham is going to 'do a Maudling' and stand down are

in for a shock. They have misjudged the driving ambition which propels this self-made man.

Born in 1911, Andrew Cunningham was the eldest of a family of nine. His home town is Felling, a particularly desolated area of Tyneside. He joined the Labour Party when he was 18 or 19 and went to work as a docker and then in a paint factory.

He married a local girl and they have three children Andrew, John, who is Labour MP for Whitehaven, and Freda.

At 28 he became a Labour councillor at Felling and thus commenced a 30-year association in local government politics.

He is chiefly remembered in Felling for his marathon service as chairman of the Felling housing committee, an appointment he held from 1953 to 1967.

They were extremely busy years. During that time the local council built no less than 7,000 homes, reputed to be a record.

Local people believe that it was during this building boom that he first met Mr John Poulson, the Pontefract architect who built the largest architectural practice in Europe prior to his bankruptcy.

There is some sourness in Felling about the housing projects launched by Cunningham and Poulson. In 1965 Poulson was appointed consultant architect for two multi-million pound schemes in Felling.

The main project, Crowhall Tower, was built on the 'Ronan Point-style' and, following the disaster in Newham in London's East End, had to be evacuated and strengthened. The other development, Nursery Tower, has been the subject of bitter complaints from tenants.

In August two Nursery Tower tenants were forced to consult a solicitor with a view to legal action against the council. This followed serious water damage caused to their flat when it was flooded.

But in 1967 'Mr Felling', as Cunningham is known to the local press, moved to sweeter pastures. He took up residence in Chester-le-Street in a £15,000 luxury bungalow on a plush private estate which overlooks a large garden and park.

Chester-le-Street, County Durham, is basically an old market town surrounded by farms and pit villages. Ten miles from Newcastle and just off the A1, it has become the dormitory town for rich commuters who want to get out of the grime and decay of the main industrial centres.

It seems quite a lavish address for the man who moved the main resolution on



unemployment at the TUC Congress at Brighton in 1970, calling for the Tories to pursue 'an expansionist economic strategy which steers away from incomes restraint'.

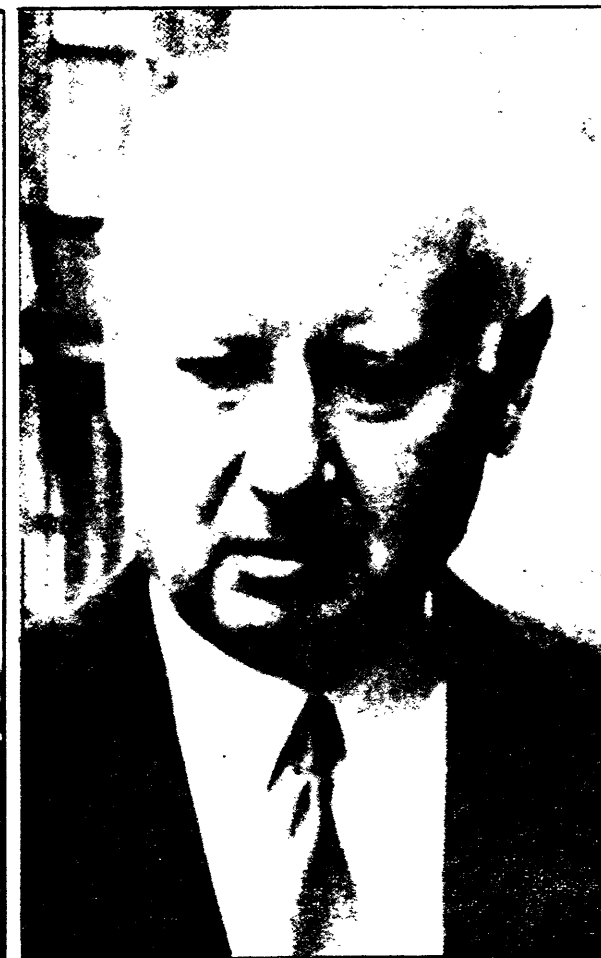
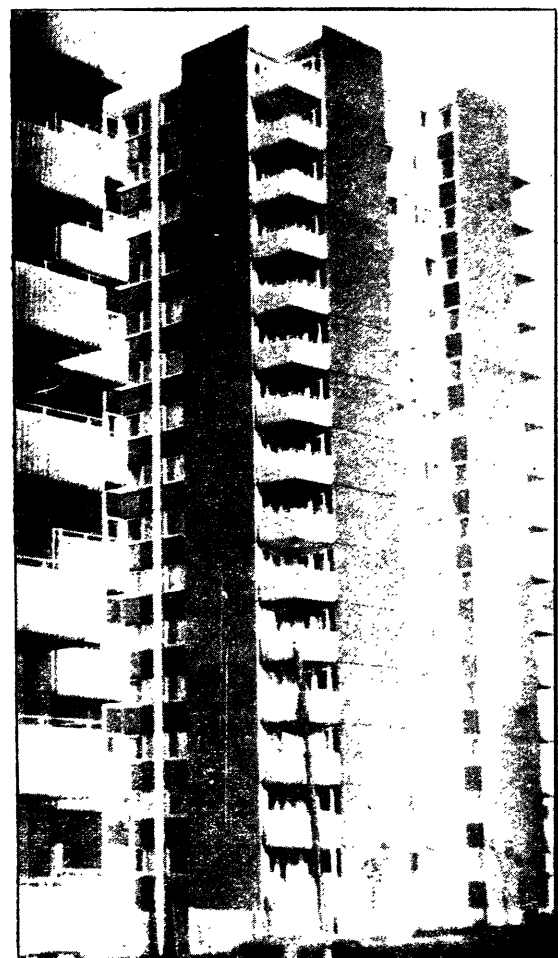
A man who was freshly installed in his £15,000 mansion and driving around the north in a limousine, Cunningham told delegates: 'We are still living in this imbalance of the pot-bellied south and the lean and hungry regions.'

He then started to reminisce: 'Those of you who lived in the 1930s know what I mean. It [unemployment] is destructive of the social fabric of society, it leads to the actual degradation of the man or woman who is unfortunate enough to be unemployed, and, last and most alarming of all, it leads to the loss of moral fibre of that man or woman.'

Although he is also a strident advocate of what is called by all reactionaries 'law and order', Cunningham has landed, like Maudling and T. Dan Smith, in the centre of the Poulson fiasco.

During the hearings at Wakefield Bankruptcy Court it has emerged that Cunningham, his wife and family were the recipients of financial and other favours from the Poulson empire.

They had two holidays



Top: Andrew Cunningham at the TUC Congress 1970. Above: The Nursery Tower development, Crowhall Tower, and John Poulson, consultant architect to both.

abroad and another at the Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth. After the revelations in court Cunningham repaid the cost of the free holidays to the trustees in bankruptcy.

One of the overseas holidays—worth £256—was in Estoril, Portugal.

Ironically he is a prominent member of the Labour Party's Southern Africa Solidarity Fund Committee which has pledged support to the African guerrillas who are engaged in military activity to free themselves from the jackboot of Portuguese colonialism in Angola, Mozambique and Guiné Bissau.

It is unlikely, however, that the right-wingers who comprise this body will raise any fuss about Cunningham's trip to Portugal. Nor does his union seem to think that there is anything strange about his position on Poulson's payroll.

The regional committee of the union met at the end of August and passed a unanimous vote of confidence in their local leader.

But the meeting was, to say the least, bizarre. It was not held in the Newcastle headquarters.

Committee members left in a fleet of cars to hold their discussion at an undisclosed destination in the area and a

press release was subsequently issued.

Cunningham is a typical reflection of both the Labour and trade union bureaucracies.

In an interview 18 months ago with the 'Evening Chronicle', a Tyneside newspaper, Cunningham said he would like the following words engraved on his tomb: 'Andrew Cunningham, Labour supporter and trade unionist.'

In another breath he added: 'They'll probably burn me, won't they.'

THE MANY LIVES OF ANDREW CUNNINGHAM

- 1929- Labour councillor for Felling.
- 1953- Chairman of Felling housing committee.
- 1967 Nominated for Jarrow constituency, but lost.
- 1964 Appointed north-east regional officer of the giant General and Municipal Workers' Union representing 100,000 workers.
- 1965 Elected to the 28-man National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Labour Party.
- 1966 Appointed director of Fairfield's shipyard, the Labour-inspired scheme

to 'rationalize' ship-building on the upper Clyde at the expense of jobs.

1969 Appointed chairman of the Tyneside Passenger Transport Authority. Position was confirmed in 1970 for another three years. Cunningham is an ardent advocate of one-man-operated (OMO) buses.

He is chairman of the Northern Region Labour Party. Chairman of the Newcastle Airport Authority which employs many of his members. Chairman of the Durham Police Authority.

He was chairman of the Northumbrian River Authority, a salaried post, but voted off. He was chairman of Durham County Council, but voted off.

He remains a Durham County councillor.

He was a member of the Northern Economic Planning Council, chaired by T. Dan Smith ('Mr Newcastle').

He has been chairman of Felling Labour Party and Felling Trades Council. Cunningham is a Justice of the Peace and his wife, Freda May Cunningham, is a local magistrate.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

STALIN CURBS THE WORKING CLASS

Part Five of a series by Tom Kemp on the history of the German Communist Party

The French army of occupation in the Ruhr in 1923 met the opposition to its rule with a policy of repression. The German Communist Party (KPD), in agreement with the French Communist Party, worked out a joint policy of resistance to German and French imperialism.

When the Ruhr crisis began, however, the Party was again near to a split. The so-called right wing, led by Thalheimer and Brandler, adopted a united-front policy which sought an agreement with the Social Democratic (SPD) leaders.

In Saxony and Thuringia the KPD and SPD had a majority in the provincial parliament, the Landtag, and Brandler proposed the establishment of a 'workers' government' with communist participation.

The former partisans of the theory of the offensive—Ruth Fischer, Maslow and Thaelmann—opposed this policy in the name of the left and put forward instead the united front from below and the constitution of a workers' government under Communist Party leadership.

For Brandler and the 'right' the Social Democrats were the right wing of the working-class movement. For Fischer-Maslow they were the left wing of the bourgeoisie and no government could be supported which did not rest directly upon the armed working class and led directly to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

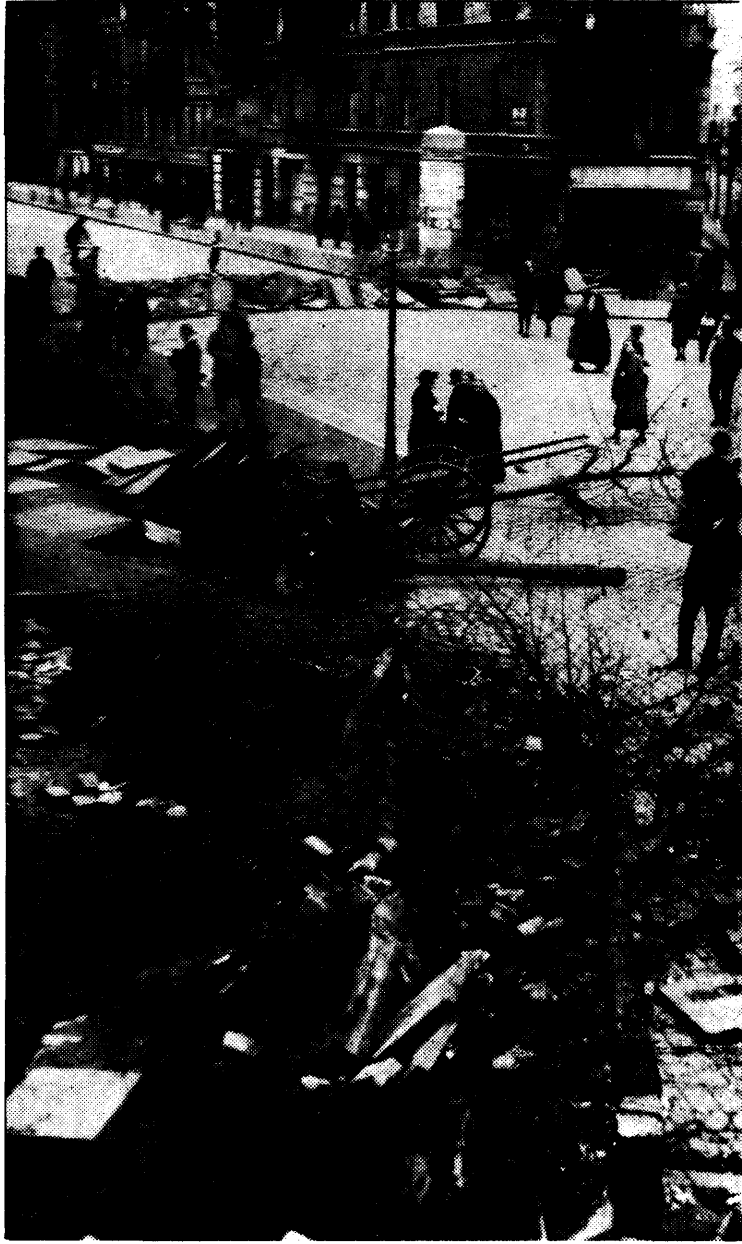
At the Leipzig Congress in January the left wing was defeated by 118 votes to 58. Although a compromise was reached on the definition of a workers' government as 'neither the dictatorship of the proletariat nor a peaceful and parliamentary means of reaching it . . . but an attempt of the working class to carry out a workers' policy by means of bourgeois democracy based on the mass movements and organizations of the working class', there remained a profound division between the two factions.

COMPROMISE

The occupation of the Ruhr created revolutionary conditions in the region where the left communists had their strongholds. Disregarding the Leipzig decisions they applied the policy of revolutionary offensive, set up workers' militias and adopted the slogan of a Workers' Republic in the Ruhr.

The differences with the central leadership became so acute that the Executive Committee of the Communist International called a special conference in Moscow in April 1923. Once again the two tendencies accepted a compromise. The left agreed to give up the revolutionary offensive in the Ruhr until conditions were ripe for revolution in the rest of Germany. The right dropped its policy of communist participation in the government of Saxony.

Meanwhile the revolutionary crisis sparked off by the Ruhr occupation and fuelled by the galloping inflation grew in intensity and spread to



Top left: Barricades in Hamburg where the KPD took over the town. Right: the occupation of the Ruhr. Above: Radek.

many parts of Germany. The whole of the German society was flung into chaos. The KPD's ranks were swollen by discontented workers. Relations between communist and social democratic workers improved markedly.

The occupation was opposed by the mass of the German population on nationalist grounds. The French took stern action against opposition from whatever quarter. Among

victims of the repression were several nationalists and National Socialists.

When the Nazi Schlageter was executed, Radek, speaking before the Executive Committee of the Communist International, called on German communists to honour such 'courageous soldiers of the counter-revolution . . . ready to die for a great cause' and to try to win them to the side of the working class.

Some party organs carried this tactic to extremes, organizing debates with nationalists and Nazis and pandering to nationalist and even anti-Semitic tendencies in the petty-bourgeoisie.

INFLUENCE

During the summer of 1923 the KPD's influence continued to grow rapidly while that of the social democratic leadership declined. Communist support in the trade unions and in the factories grew apace. Flechthelm* considers that in 1923 the KPD had behind it at least a strong minority of the organized workers and perhaps a majority of the unorganized.

Nevertheless the leadership was unable to give a clear lead. When a big anti-fascist demonstration which it had called for July 29 was declared illegal by the Prussian government the left and the right could not agree what to do. They appealed to Moscow, where the responsibility lay with Zinoviev and Bukharin. Both were away on holiday.

Stalin, who had just become Party secretary, wrote to Zinoviev:

' . . . if today in Germany, the power, so to speak, falls, and the communists seize hold of it, they will fall with a crash. That is the "best" case. And, at the worst, they will be smashed to pieces and thrown back. The whole thing is not that Brandler wants to 'educate the masses', but that the bourgeoisie, plus the right social democrats, will surely transform the lessons — the demonstration—into a general battle (at the moment all the chances are on their side) and exterminate them. Of course,

the fascists are not asleep, but it is to our interest that they attack first; that will rally the whole working class around the communists (Germany is not Bulgaria). Besides, according to all information, the fascists are weak in Germany. In my opinion the Germans must be curbed and not spurred on.' (Emphasis added.)

Showing complete ignorance of the real situation in Germany, Stalin proposed a completely opportunist course which prevented the KPD from taking the initiative.

A telegram was sent to the KPD ordering the demonstration to be called off, much to the anger of many rank-and-file members. The tempo of the class struggle continued to accelerate, despite Stalin, and in August the Cuno government was forced to resign as a result of a general strike in Berlin which cut off the supply of paper money from the printing presses.

A decisive stage was now being reached. The new Stresemann government, with social democratic participation, set out to bring the inflation to an end and to settle the Ruhr question by negotiation. To do this it had to settle accounts with the working class.

The central question was how the KPD leadership would respond to this situation. Brandler was summoned to Moscow where Trotsky argued that the time had come to pass to the offensive in Germany and make a serious bid for power. Detailed preparations were begun for what was to be the German October.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

*Name of book.

SOVIET JEWS NOT ELECTION ISSUE SAYS NIXON

US Round-up by Tom Kemp

President Nixon has told Jewish leaders not to bring about a clash with the Soviet Union over the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union, particularly the payments demanded from emigrants for the cost of their higher education.

Nixon wants to avoid this being used during his election campaign in a way which might prejudice his efforts towards an agreement with the Soviet Union.

He told the Jewish group meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria not to take up the question in a 'demagogic' way, but to work through diplomatic channels.

Democratic candidate George McGovern has said that he would deny most-favoured-nation trade treatment to Russia in retaliation for the charging of high fees to Jewish emigrants.

The group Nixon spoke to has already endorsed his candidature. No doubt he can afford not to bring in the issue as an appeal to the Jewish vote. His circumspection will no doubt be noted with approval in Moscow: the President obviously hopes it will.



TEACHERS BRAVE THREAT OF FINES

By Sarah Hannigan

Throughout the United States in the past few weeks teachers' strikes have been spreading rapidly.

Last week in Washington teachers refused to end their nine-day-old strike in the face of threats of a \$50,000 fine plus an additional \$17,000 for every day they stayed out beyond September 27.

The 3,500 teachers were on strike in support of a 17-per-cent pay increase. They had been offered a 7-per-cent rise by the Washington DC State Committee—compared with a 17 per cent increase given to policemen and firemen.

The swingeing fines were to be levied for contempt of a court order to return to work.

In the face of these threats, other school workers' unions indicated for the first time in nine days that they might not cross the teachers' picket lines.

About a third of the city's 188 schools were closed by the strike and about 70 per cent of the 140,000 students missed classes since the beginning of the strike.

In Philadelphia representatives of striking teachers and the city School Board last week reached a tentative agreement to reopen schools, at least until the end of 1972.

The 13,000 teachers there had been on strike for nearly three weeks while negotiations on a new contract stopped and started.

About 307 teachers in the



Nixon, top, wants to keep Soviet treatment of Jews out of the election campaign. McGovern, above, is making it an issue.

Barberton school district, Ohio, have returned to work after a two-day strike.

In Mobile, Alabama, janitors, bus drivers and canteen staff have struck work in support of their demand for union recognition.

Teachers on strike in two areas in Wisconsin have stayed

out and have been joined by technical teachers from the Fox River Valley technical institute.

In Burlington, Massachusetts, four officials of the Education Association were found guilty of contempt of court for ignoring an injunction against striking.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

RICH PICKINGS

Merger activity took a sharp leap upwards in the first six months of this year.

Where the first half of 1971 saw companies to a value of only £227m taken over, January-June this year had a crop worth £887m.

The trend seems to be getting back to that prevailing in the halcyon days of the late 1960s, when the value of take-over each year topped £1,000m and the number of companies involved ran into the 800s.

The table below—prepared by the Labour Research Department—shows a number of very big takeover bids made since July 1.

One feature of these bids is that the two companies are quite often in totally different fields of business.

Watney Mann and Courage, for instance, have been taken over by companies operating mainly in hotels and tobacco respectively. Quinton Hazell make motor industry components while Burmah Oil is in petroleum. P & O is shipping, Bovis construction.

The Great Crash of 1929 was, of course, preceded by a very similar development as giant companies rushed into promiscuous couplings in desperate pursuit of ever-falling rates of profit.

One interesting feature noted by LRD is that the government has not referred a single one of these large bids to the Monopolies Commission. It did, however, refer the rival bids made by Beecham and Boots for Glaxo earlier this year to the Commission, which reported against them on July 13 on the ground



Wall Street speculators watching tapes during the Great Crash of 1929.

that research and development in the British drug industry would be weakened if either of the mergers were allowed to go through.

The total value of these seven bids amounts to £1,012m. At this rate, it is possible that value of companies taken over in 1972 may exceed the previous peak in 1968, when the figure rose to the fantastic total of £1,946m.

There have been rich pickings for the shareholders of the companies taken over. For example, price of Courage shares rose from 156p to 220p as a result of the bid by Imperial Tobacco.

There is opposition by a minority of the directors of P & O to the proposed merger with Bovis, and by some big P & O shareholders. All the other takeover bids which have been agreed between the directors of both companies seem likely to go through.

	bid value £m.	approx. no. of workers involved	Result
Grand Metropolitan—Watney Mann	390	78,631	successful bid
Consolidated Gold Fields—Amey Group	58	10,595	successful bid
Imperial Tobacco Group—Courage	286	82,973	agreed bid
Burmah Oil—Quinton Hazell	58	13,903*	agreed bid
P & O—Bovis	137	24,574	agreed bid
Keyser Ullerman—Dalton Barton	58	n.a.	agreed bid
Sime Darby—Clive Holdings	25	n.a.	agreed bid

*Burmah Oil only

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

WOOLWICH: Tuesday October 3, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road, SE18. 'Stalinism and the Tory government'.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday October 5, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'The ATUA conference'.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'The ATUA conference'.

WEALDSTONE: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Wealdstone Labour Hall, Station Approach, Station Road. 'ATUA conference'.

BRACKNELL: Wednesday October 11, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre. 'The ATUA national conference'.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday October 12, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opposite New Cross Station. 'The ATUA conference'.



Penelope Wilton as Vivie Warren and Robert Powell as Frank Gardner in 'Mrs Warren's Profession' by Bernard Shaw on BBC 2 tonight in the 'Stage 2' season of classic plays.

Socialist Labour League

LECTURES

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM

given by
G. HEALY

(SLL national secretary)

London

Historical materialism today
Sunday October 8

EAST HAM TOWN HALL

Lister Room
Barking Rd, 7 p.m.

Liverpool

Tuesday October 3
Dale Street, Liverpool
7.30 p.m.
MUNICIPAL ANNEXE

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.

BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.30 Ayr y trywydd. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Camberwick green. 1.45 Canvas. 2.00 Schools. 2.50 Countryman. 3.15 Escape to fulfilment. 3.45 Rosla and after. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Adventures of Parsley. 4.40 Jackanory, 4.50 Deputy dawg. 4.55 Animal magic. 5.20 John Craven's news-round. 5.25 Josie and the pussycats. 5.45 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.50 TOM AND JERRY. Posse Cat.

6.55 FILM: 'THE BULLDOG BREED'. Norman Wisdom joins the Navy.

8.30 MY WIFE NEXT DOOR. Anniversary Schmaltz.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.

9.25 DOCUMENTARY: 'TO THE PROMISED LAND'. From Russia to Israel.

10.15 INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING. Horse of the Year Show.

10.45 MIDWEEK.
11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS.

11.35 THE OPEN PERSUADERS. Joan Bakewell talks to Fred Milson, Methodist minister.

11.55 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 12.00 Magic ball. 12.15 Labour Party conference. 1.00 Craftsmen. 1.25 Bellbird. 1.40 Flintstones. 2.05 Castle haven. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Labour Party Conference. 4.25 Sooty show. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 I dream of Jeannie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.30 CROSSROADS.

6.55 MY GOOD WOMAN.

7.25 FILM: 'TRAITOR'S GATE'. Albert Lieven, Gary Raymond, Catherine Von Schell, Edward Underdown. A gang plans to steal the Crown Jewels.

9.00 THEATRE: 'ON CALL'. Edward Petherbridge, Michael Coles, Richard Vernon, Jane Lapotaire, Jo Rowbottom.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 DOCUMENTARY: 'WE TAKE THIS CHILD'. Adoption.

11.30 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.

12.15 MISCELLANY. Noble Savages.

TV

BBC 2

9.30 Labour Party conference. 11.00 Play school. 11.25-12.45 Labour Party conference. 5.35 Open University.

6.35 WORKERS AT RISK. Getting at the Causes.

7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.

7.30 NEWSROOM, CONFERENCE REPORT. Weather.

8.10 FLOODLIT RUGBY LEAGUE. Barrow v Keighley.

9.00 WHEELBASE.

9.25 PLAY: 'MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION'. Stage 2 production of Bernard Shaw's play. With Coral Browne, Penelope Wilton, James Grout, Derek Godfrey, Robert Powell, Richard Pearson.

11.15 NEWS ON 2. Weather.

11.20 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. Stone the Crows, Jim Croce.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 4.20 Puffin. 5.25 London. 5.20 Shirley's world. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Tarzan and the Amazons'. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London. 12.15 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.00 Gus Honeybun. 2.55 London. 6.00 Diary. 12.12 News. 12.15 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.05 Labour Party. 1.00 News. 1.05 Jobs in the house and garden. 1.30 Dick Van Dyke. 1.55 Freud on food. 2.25 Labour Party. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Jimmy Stewart show. 7.05 Columbo. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 1.00 Our children. 1.45 A place of her own. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 4.10 Tinkertainment. 4.25 London. 5.20 Gustavus. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bless this house. 7.05 Film: 'Hondo and the Apaches'. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London. 12.15 Drive-in. 12.45 Weather. HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 4.10-4.25 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30 Y coleg ger y lli. 11.15-11.30 O'r wasg. HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West.

ANGLIA: 9.30-12.15 London. 2.00 Junkin. 2.30 London. 4.10 Cartoon. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Chimp. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Stranger Wore a Gun'. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30-1.00 London. 2.00 Horoscope. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Jackson five. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Riders of Vengeance'. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London. 12.15 Stories worth telling. 12.20 Jason King. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00-1.00 London. 1.30 News. 1.32 Cartoon. 1.40 Schools. 2.42 Labour Party. 4.00 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Partners. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Night Holds Terror'. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 1.00 We was all one. 2.00 Jimmy Stewart show. 2.30 Labour Party. 4.25 London. 5.20 Shirley's world. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 Film: 'Two for the Money'. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London. 12.15 Scotland Yard mysteries. 12.50 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 1.00 Galloping gourmet. 1.30 Rainbow country. 2.00 Junkin. 2.30 Labour Party. 4.20 News. London. 5.15 Peyton Place. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.25 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 McMillan and Wife. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 1.00 Edgar Wallace. 2.00 Jimmy Stewart show. 2.30 Amazing world of Kreskin. 2.59 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 Shirley's world. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon time. 7.05 Film: 'Two for the Money'. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.30 Scotland Yard mysteries. 1.05 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 1.00 No small change. 1.30 Quentin Dufgens. 2.30 Dateline Scotland. 3.00 London. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.40 Adam Smith. 7.10 McMillan and Wife. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London. 12.15 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 12.55 Let's face it. 1.20 Paulus. 1.38 Schools. 2.45 Cartoon. 2.57 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Top team. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon time. 7.05 Film: 'Two for the Money'. 8.30 My good woman. 9.00 London. 12.15 Meditation.

DOCKYARD industrial workers employed at Devonport and other parts of Plymouth naval base have decided to return to work today. Trouble at the base, which had been growing since July 7, culminated last Monday in all-out strike action. The 8,000 men made their decision after hearing a progress report on their campaign for better pay. An arbitration team is due to report in about three weeks.

Young teachers need a political lead

THE MILITANT tone of the Young Teachers' conference at Nottingham yesterday reflects increasing pressures on the lowest paid and younger members of the National Union of Teachers.

But, despite its opposition to overlarge classes, the arbitrary powers of headteachers and the Tory government's Industrial Relations Act, the conference revealed the limitations of militancy.

Supporters of 'Rank and File', a paper produced by the anti-communist International Socialism group, failed to explain the plight of teachers in the context of the political attack on all workers launched by the Tory government.

The IS group argues that the struggle for more militant policies within the teachers' union has to be taken step by step. 'Rank and File' avoids calling for a fight within the trade union movement to force the Tories to resign.

And, while opposing in principle the divisive five scales of pay, which is NUT policy, the IS paper merely calls for a reduction to four.

Neither can the problem of 'violence' in schools be solved by the reformist slogan of 'pupil power'. It is the Tory government which consistently attacks the standard of living of working-class children and con-

demns them to a future of unemployment.

'Rank and File' avoids the central question that the basic economic crisis of the capitalist system impels the Tories to attack all the gains made by the working class, including the right to education for its children.

There can be no solution to the problems of young teachers while the Tories remain in power.

The removal of this government and its replacement by a Labour government pledged to socialist policies is the main task facing young teachers along with all other workers.

The experiences of 1972 prove that workers will fight, but that without the construction of a revolutionary leadership in the unions the main fight against the government will be diverted by the reformists and Stalinists.

As on the docks, the building sites and at UCS, the IS group covers up for and supports the Stalinists. This prevents a real fight against the right wing and Stalinists in the leadership of the National Union of Teachers.

The militant phrases of 'Rank and File' are intended to prevent young teachers from developing politically through such a fight.

Young teachers should join other workers at the All Trades Unions Alliance conference at Birmingham on October 22 to develop a revolutionary leadership in the unions.

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We're caught in a trap say young Leicester Asians

THE LABOUR - dominated city of Leicester is at present preparing to repel any Ugandan Asians who plan to settle there. The council claims that there is an acute shorting of housing and social services in the city, which is already overcrowded.

Some Ugandan Asians have lived in Leicester for some time, and have had to face problems similar to those faced by all workers living under a Tory government.

Aruna (20) came from Uganda a year ago. Her parents are still in Uganda, but are coming to Leicester, Aruna hopes, in the near future. At the moment Aruna lives in a terraced house in the Belgrave area of Leicester with her sister.

'Earning only £14 a week in a plastics factory, she does not find it easy to manage.

Rents for terraced housing in Leicester are at present around £8 a week, but are increasing steadily, and Aruna fears that she will soon be forced to look for a house for her parents with the rents at £11 a week, and possibly more.

For this reason she had to give up college and take a job.

Although she feels that educational facilities in the Midlands city are better than those in Uganda, there is a tremendous shortage. One family she

Leicester Asians

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

knows have three children aged from 12 years downwards. Although this family has been in Leicester for five months, not one of the children has a school place.

The answer, Aruna feels, is not the racist policy chosen by the Labour-controlled council, which is advertising in Ugandan newspapers to warn Asians away, but lies in the number of school places.

'There should be more schools,' she says.

Her friend Jayshree (20) came to Leicester from Uganda eight months ago. Jayshree is living with her family in the Highfields area of Leicester.

Like Aruna, Jayshree has given up a college education, and now works as a lockstitch machinist earning between £12 and £19 a week on piecework.

Jayshree feels that the Asians here are caught in a trap. To

find a home they have to pay very high rents, and these rents are increasing sharply with the rise in the number of Asians in Leicester.

Many of these newcomers are old and cannot work. They usually arrive in a near penniless state.

'There should be fixed rents,' she says. 'Then these landlords would not be able to own 25 houses and would have to face their problems like we do.'

'Rents and prices of houses will rise unless the council or the government intervenes,' she says optimistically.

Jayshree's brother, Hasmukh, agrees.

'We tried to buy two houses, but we were bid out of the market each time. The seller was able to add £200 to the price in ten minutes. Since then we have not tried to buy a house.'

So tremendous profits are

being made on the backs of the Asians.

Prices of many houses in Leicester have doubled and are still rising.

The solution is not to restrict the number of Asians coming to Leicester, but to nationalize land and housing, without any compensation to the landlords who have been living well on the fruits of their exploitation.

This can only be achieved by the mobilization of the entire working class to force the Tories to resign, and to replace them by a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Such a programme can only be achieved in opposition to reactionary Labour councils like Leicester which has, through its policies on rents, on council house building, and on the Ugandan Asians 'crisis', shown its willingness to do the Tories' work for them—against British and immigrant workers and their families.



Some of Leicester's housing

Steps to unity at UCS

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 1,000 finishing trade workers at the Govan shipyard of the former Upper Clyde Shipbuilders yesterday voted to reintroduce a 50p-a-week levy to support the work-in campaign of the men at Clydebank.

Sam Gilmore, a Govan shop steward, said the decision was almost unanimous. 'This means that two-thirds of the manual workers at the yards are now supporting the work-in campaign,' he said.

Only the boilermakers and some general workers at Govan Shipbuilders are now not paying the levy.

Last week the shop stewards' appeal to reintroduce the levy was overwhelmingly rejected and 11 stewards, including leading Stalinist James Airlie, resigned.

Yesterday's decision proves that the Stalinist slander that the Govan men were pursuing 'sectional interests' and abandoning the Clydebank men was totally false.

What they had done, as Workers Press insisted, was turn their back on Airlie and the other Stalinist stewards.

Once these men had been forced to resign, the Govan workers began to turn to the assistance of their Clydebank brothers.

This underlines that the defeats inflicted at UCS in the form of sackings, speed-up and no-strike pledges are the responsibility of the Reid-Airlie Stalinist leadership and not the fault of the men.

Yesterday's decision is a further vote of no confidence in the leadership of the Stalinists.

Joe Black, district official for the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said some of the shop stewards might now reconsider their decision, but he hastened to add that it would be up to the men to decide on new appointments.

The building of workers' unity behind a principled leadership is vitally necessary at UCS.

Marathon, the new American owners of Clydebank, have said they will employ 2,000 men at the yard when fully in operation, but they will not be able to build up their labour requirements until Spring of next year.

This means imminent loss of around 900 jobs for Clydebank workers who are now completing the last of the ships at the yard for the UCS liquidator.

Discussions take place today between Dan McGarvey and Jack Service, president and secretary of the Confederation, and local union officials about the redundancies.

McGarvey, of course, was responsible — along with the Stalinists—for accepting sackings and conditions at UCS during the period of the work-in.

Buyers refuse to take control at Thornycroft

AN AMERICAN company has refused to take over British-Leyland's Thornycroft factory at Basingstoke, Hants.

Eaton's of Cleveland, Ohio, should have taken over the gearbox factory yesterday, but a spokesman said they would not do so until the seven-week-old workers' occupation of the plant ends.

The sit-in began on August 15 after British-Leyland announced that Eaton's would whittle down the labour force from 1,100 to about 700.

The Eaton's spokesman said: 'We have taken this stand under that condition of the contract which stipulated that the factory must be a going concern.'

'We are still interested in taking over the factory. No money, of course, has yet changed hands. The dispute is one between British-Leyland and the men and we are on the outside looking in.'

'Socialist realism' demands on Soviet authors

THE LEADERS of Soviet Stalinism have initiated a new drive against what they term 'one-sided' literature and demanded that writers adhere strictly to the bureaucratic school of 'socialist realism'.

The campaign is directed against writers like Alexander Solzhenitsyn whose recent novel, 'August 1914', has been officially attacked as 'anti-Soviet' and suppressed by the Stalinist censorship.

A leading article in 'Pravda' last week told writers to devote their energies to depicting modern Soviet man in the struggle

for communism and warned them that the Writers' Union and the Communist Party would keep a close eye on their work.

'For the Soviet writer there is no goal more lofty and more noble than to uncover the spiritual riches of those who smelt steel, extract oil, build towns and dams, grow grain and cotton, reach the cosmos and study the secrets of the living cell,' the editorial said.

The paper listed the heroes of novels and poetry published under Stalin as prime examples of socialist realism.

'We should not reconcile ourselves to publication of books

in which life is depicted in a superficial and one-sided way, which leads in the end to the impoverishment and distortion of the image of modern man,' it said.

The Stalinists have long insisted that literature must be subordinated to central direction and serve the political requirements of the privileged bureaucratic caste.

A. Zhdanov, who was bureaucrat in charge of literature under Stalin after the war, became notorious for his Philistine attacks on novelists and poets, many of whom paid with their lives for their refusal to write hack literature to order.

The 'social realist' school, which the Kremlin is once again trying to enforce in Soviet literature, is neither socialist nor realist. In reality it means what Max Eastman once described as 'writers in uniform' turning out propaganda tracts to glorify Stalinism.

1.75 million out of work—forecast

BRITAIN'S unemployment figures may reach 1.75 million by February, it was said yesterday.

A survey of 2,465 businesses carried out by Manpower Ltd, the international staff organization, showed there was no tendency for employers to take on extra labour on any scale.

The majority of executives questioned said that a shorter week would not lead to significant increases in employment prospects.

The report said that 9.5 per cent of industries were planning to slash their labour forces in the coming months.

Highest jobless ever in Manchester suburb

UNEMPLOYMENT in the Altrincham area of Manchester now stands at the highest September total ever recorded at the local Labour exchange.

Last week exchange manager Mr. W. E. Bailey warned that the figure could quite easily reach the 2,000 mark before next March.

At the moment a total of 1,528 people—1,396 men and 132 women—are out of work in

the Altrincham and Sale areas. Last month the figure was 1,489—1,332 men and 157 women.

Bailey said that there are now more than 210 building trade workers on the dole as well as 70 fitters, 46 electricians, 74 motor drivers and over 180 professional and executive workers.

He added that on past experience he thought that unemployment would rise throughout the winter to a total of almost 2,000 before March 1973.

SALES and service department workers at the Triumph Engineering Company, Meriden, near Coventry, struck work yesterday over the Board of Directors' decision to transfer the whole department to Birmingham by the beginning of December. The strikers are not meeting again until next Tuesday.

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No debate on Ulster

THERE WILL be no debate on Northern Ireland during the Labour Party Conference.

Emergency resolutions which have been tabled have been rejected as not coming within that category.

The only reference to the subject will be during a speech Mrs Shirley Williams, Shadow Home Secretary, will be making, probably on Wednesday morning, on the basis of a statement of policy on Northern Ireland issued by the National Executive Committee.

Farm lobby 'furious' at Heath plan

FARM WORKERS picketed the Labour Party Conference at Blackpool yesterday to win support for their current campaign for a £25 minimum wage.

Party delegates passed through a line of 35 men and women outside the Winter Gardens entrance carrying posters stressing the needs of farm workers.

The pickets — from Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire and Yorkshire — handed out leaflets saying that many of them received only £16.20 for a 42 hour week.

North western regional organizer Graham Humphreys told Workers Press that his members were 'furious' with Tory premier Heath's decision to limit wages.

'He'll never get away with it,' he said. 'It's absolutely bloody crazy.'

He said the farm industry's national wages board meet again on October 30, when the National Farmers' Union is pledged to put a 'realistic' offer.

Labour must repeal Industrial Relations Act

Unanimous LP decision

FROM ALEX MITCHELL IN BLACKPOOL

class enemy for 'sanity', Jones introduced into his speech an insulting attack on his own members.

Describing the events outside the crucial dock delegates' conference at Transport House, Jones said: 'The violence has nothing to do with decent trade unionism. Many were not trade unionists at all.'

The T&GWU secretary enthusiastically welcomed discussions with the Labour Party bureaucrats for a plan to replace the Act when it is repealed.

'There can be government assistance in reducing unnecessary conflict. A new industrial peace service should be given a central place not only in the party's election manifesto, but in what

it does when it is in government as well.'

Jones said the latest strike statistics showed nearly 20 million working days lost so far this year.

'Whereas a few years ago the average workers lost little more than one hour a year, today it is nearer one day a year,' he said.

He blamed this on the Industrial Relations Act and said that if a law was good people should not be advised to ignore it. But if it was bad, as the Act was, it should be thrown out altogether.

The Act also gave the unions the alternative either of taking all decisions at the centre by bureaucratic authoritarian methods, or facing massive penalties if things went wrong locally,

he said.

Jessie Carnegie, Hillhead constituency Labour Party, Glasgow, warned of the dangers in Jones's proposals. She said there should be no legislation, voluntary or otherwise, while capitalism remained in existence.

It was the duty of Labour Party members to have nothing to do with these industrial reforms etc, while workers lived under capitalism.

'I didn't join the Labour Party to further the interests of capitalism,' she added.

Eric Heffer MP called for 'a powerful movement of the working class to force the government to retreat'. He said the Labour Party must be on the side of those workers penalized by the Act.

Speaking on an unsuccessful resolution calling for more industrial democracy, Harry Selby, prospective candidate for Govan, said his constituency party did not approve of what had happened in the UCS struggle. He said one set of employers had simply been called in to replace the old ones.

But the working class had shown it was capable of running its own industries.

● See what we think page two.

THE LABOUR Party Conference yesterday unanimously passed a composite resolution calling for the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act by the next Labour government. The resolution was moved by Jack Jones, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

But Jones still appeared to be living in cloud cuckoo land as he told delegates: 'In the national interest we say this government should withdraw the Industrial Relations Act now.'

He told conference that the Act created a situation 'from which nobody could benefit'. The Tories' policies of confrontation coupled with the Act made 'ordinary workers' feel that 'the balance of power was being tipped against them'.

Apart from pleading with the

Wrangle over £2 ceiling

A BITTER wrangle has begun in the backrooms of the Labour Party conference over whether the party will condemn outright the £2 wage limit proposed by the Tory government.

At the weekend the conference arrangements committee refused an emergency resolution attacking the Heath plan. The committee argued that the matter

could be raised during Thursday's debate on prices and incomes.

But yesterday two unions, the white-collar ASTMS and the Post Office Engineering Union successfully moved for the inclusion of a specific emergency resolution in the debate.

Moving the reference back Brian Stanley, of the POEU, said his union could not accept

the 'shuffling to one side' of such an important question.

His resolution condemns discrimination against public service workers in the Heath plan. But Clive Jenkins' resolution is more sweeping.

It 'rejects absolutely' the proposal and 'demands that the Prime Minister's inequitable proposal should be with-

drawn'. It continues, 'and if not withdrawn should be strongly opposed by the party'.

Neither resolution calls for an end to all talks with the Tories.

Late yesterday all parties in the procedure row were behind closed doors trying to reach a decision as to which, if any, specific resolution should be included in Thursday's debate.

Rent 'commandos' in action

BY PHILIP WADE

ABOUT 1,500 tenants in Greenwich, south London, are pledged to refuse to pay the £1 rent increases imposed by the Labour-controlled council.

Yesterday leaders of the tenants' associations picketed the local rent offices, calling on tenants not to pay the extra £1. The picketing will go on for two weeks because rent payment is staggered.

Local factories and trade unionists have pledged their support against any possible evictions for rent arrears.

Among those refusing to pay were Jim and Marion Richardson. As he wheeled his young child into the rent office Jim said:

'We just can't afford to pay the increase. Our rent is £6.09 already and that is without the central heating and things like that.'

'As far as I'm concerned the Tories are making money for themselves,' said Jim, who is a gas fitter. 'Last year I got a £2 rise and after all the deductions I got 30p out of it.'

Added his wife Marion: 'If we pay this £1 we would have to cut back on food and everything else. As it is we can't afford to go out now.'

Jim thought a rent strike was only a beginning. 'All the workers should come out and tell the Tories that until they go we don't go back to work.'

One of those withholding the increase was building worker Arthur Ditchfield, who has just finished a 12-week strike for a paltry wage increase phased over 26 months.

'Things look like coming to a head with this government,' he told me. 'I just can't afford to pay this increase. But in my opinion we need a lot more opposition to this Act if we're going to win.'



Greenwich tenant Jim Richardson leaves the rent office with his wife and baby son after refusing to pay the £1 increase. With them is Pat Jeavons (r), local tenants' leader.

Greenwich Labour group split 28-27 in favour of non-implementation. But when it came to the council chamber, five Tories joined the Labour right-wing to force home the rent increases.

One of the councillors against the 'fair rent' Act was Jim Spence. He joined the picket line yesterday.

'As far as the Labour Party leaders are concerned there has been no campaign against the Act. And it's contemptible for Labour MPs to tell us it was a victory to get rents reduced from £1 to 85p in some areas.'

'The working class still looks to the Labour Party for leadership. But it's no use saying things will be fine when Labour gets back in in three years or so.'

'We can't wait that long and there has to be action now to get the Tories out,' said Jim who is a docker.

'It is a question of leadership and I think it's about time the Labour Party split from top to bottom and let those who don't want to fight go with the Tories or the Liberals.'

Defiant Manchester

'IF HEATH thinks the housewives of Britain are going to be a pushover he is going to be very surprised.'

These were the defiant words of a militant Manchester tenants' leader on day one of a wave of rent strikes against the operation of the Tory 'fair rents' Act.

Under the new legislation many working-class families now face rent rises of up to £1 a week.

'It is going like a bomb', Mrs Constance Fahey told me. 'We have got commando groups out following the rent collectors and we estimate 55 or even 60 per cent of Manchester's 93,000 council tenants won't be paying the increase.'

The commando groups, made up of housewives, unemployed and even schoolchildren are accompanying rent collectors to witness tenants pay their normal rent and to prevent harassment.

Said Mrs Fahey: 'It is not a question of will they pay the increase, it is can they? The answer is that they cannot pay

no matter what. A lot of tenants admit they are in arrears already.'

Mrs Fahey said tenants' associations in Manchester's nine divisions expect the rent strikes to snowball as the week goes on.

'We are working on the maxim that people who are sitting on the fence will refuse to pay once they see others getting away with it.'

'We have told people to spend the money and go on as if the Housing Finance Act did not exist, just as the TUC is doing with the Industrial Relations Act.'

Asked what would happen if tenants were evicted, Mrs Fahey claimed Manchester combined shop stewards' committee, representing 33,000 workers, had pledged their support.

She said: 'They would act as they did for the dockers.'

At nearby Oldham, town hall pickets were out early yesterday and in Bolton alone 4,000 tenants were expected to withhold their increases. Similar actions occurred at Bradford, Yorks.

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