

ACTION SNOWBALLS

ENGINEERS STRIKE TO DEFEND UNION

BY STEPHEN JOHNS AND PHILIP WADE

'DEFEND our union, we've got to fight'—this call from a union official echoed throughout the industry yesterday as the strikes against the anti-union laws gathered momentum.

The action began at a mass meeting in Sudbury, Suffolk, when workers at the CAV factory struck after a mass meeting. They condemned the £50,000 fine imposed on the engineers' union by the industrial court, and criticized James Goad, the CAV Sudbury employee who brought the case against the union.

News of the Sudbury strike spread rapidly throughout the Lucas combine. Stewards from the Acton factory travel to Sudbury today to discuss action and stewards from the 12 Birmingham factories will meet today to discuss proposals for strike action in solidarity with Sudbury.

Lucas workers at the combine's Rochester plant held a mass meeting and voted to follow any lead given by the Acton men. Strikes in many major engineering areas seem certain today or tomorrow.

Engineers in Erith, Kent, have received an instruction from their district committee to hold a one day strike tomorrow. Big engineering plants like the Sovex works, Vickers, GEC and Standard Telephone are those most likely to be affected.

One district committee member told me yesterday: 'The feeling in the area is very high. Men feel their union is at stake. There is bound to be industrial action, especially after the news from Sudbury.'

The CAV-Lucas workers occupying their plant at Fazakerley on Merseyside issued a statement congratulating the prompt action by the Sudbury engineers.

'We in Merseyside think this is a big step forward in the fight against this Act and against all the policies of the Tory government. We only hope the union leadership and the TUC take note and extend this action.'

'What is at stake here is the survival of trade unions.'

In almost every district of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers moves are afoot to



Workers from the CAV plant, Sudbury, voting yesterday to strike against the fine on their union

join in defending union policy.

Today the union executive will meet to decide whether to call a one-day national strike.

In north London stewards will hold an emergency meeting at 3 p.m. today to discuss a proposal for strike action. South London stewards are already on record for industrial action against further fines.

In Manchester a mass meeting

of all workers in the Broadheath area today will hear calls for an all-out, immediate general stoppage.

Broadheath is the centre of the machine-tool industry.

Stewards' meetings will also take place in Stockport and Salford on Wednesday night. 'Many resolutions have come in for our meeting,' said Bernard Reagan, Stockport district secretary,

yesterday.

Shop stewards representing many of the 200,000 engineering workers in the greater Manchester area have inundated district offices with strike calls.

'Some of them say the executive council should call a national stoppage. Others demand token stoppages and all-out stoppages.'

TURN TO BACK PAGE

'Our action must be supported' CAV steward

BY DAVID MAUDE

WORKERS PRESS yesterday spoke to the men at the storm-centre of the strike movement against the industrial court's fine on the engineers' union.

Mike Stares has no regrets about turning James Goad away from the Sudbury branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Like Melvin Wiseman, the other CAV steward named in Goad's first complaint in the industrial court, he regards this action as defence of a basic right.

All workers must now act in defence of this right, he stresses.



Mike Stares

'We can't have the government, the courts or anyone else telling us who we let into the union', Mike said after yesterday's strike vote. 'Once that happens real trade unionism has just gone.'

Strike action was the only course open to the trade union movement now, he insisted.

'Our action should be supported by everyone.'

'What this fine shows, of course, is that when we had the Bill in front of us we should have fought it to a finish before it became the Industrial Relations Act. Every union should have made that its business—even if it meant a General Strike.'

'Perhaps what's happening to the AUEW will bring it home to people.'

'Maybe those other unions who have been wavering will learn the lesson and take action to show this government where we stand. They've got to. This is the only language the Tories know.'

Goad not talking

JAMES GOAD, the man at the centre of the attack on the AUEW, stayed at home yesterday deep in prayer. The Press who went to his thatched cottage in the Suffolk village of Wattisham were told by Goad: 'I'm afraid I can't comment. My solicitor and barrister have both said it is in my own best interests not to comment any more to the Press.'

He said he would spend his time at home opening a 'considerable number' of letters he had received from all over Britain. Nearly all were in support of the stand he had taken, he said. Goad is a former Baptist evangelist who still goes to chapel three times a week. At elections he votes Conservative. In a recent interview he said he believed his actions were guided by God.

MONEY

Two-tier gold plan upsets EEC plans

PLANS for monetary integration within the Common Market received a major blow yesterday when European central bankers decided at a meeting in Basle to abandon their debt repayment rules.

The rules were drawn up in April when the six EEC countries and the four candidates for membership decided to maintain their currencies around a common parity by mutual support operations.

Under the April agreement they agreed to repay each other for these support operations in proportion to the composition of their own gold and foreign currency reserves.

The first breach in the April agreement

was the floating of sterling in June. The Italian lira required heavy support to prevent devaluation and Italy was given special exemption from repaying the gold portion of its debts.

But two weeks ago Britain and Italy declared they would not in future break into their gold reserves to pay debts to other European central banks. They said that the current 'official' gold price, \$38 an ounce, was too low by comparison with the 'free market' price of over \$60 an ounce.

As the Workers Press emphasized on November 28 this meant that 'the free market price now predominates over the agreed central bank gold price and the [1968] two-tier system is effectively undermined'.

TriStar firm faces big losses

LOCKHEED Aviation, the United States manufacturer of the TriStar Airbus, face substantial losses unless they receive more orders for the plane, according to US government auditors.

The firm, which was saved from bankruptcy only by a huge injection of government funds, has at present 184 sales and options to buy from airlines around the world. It needs 275 definite sales to break

even, the auditors report.

Until now, the company has set its 'break-even' point at between 255 and 265 sales, but progress in winning orders has been slow and costs are mounting.

Lockheed executives are trying to maintain an air of optimism about the prospects for selling the TriStar, but the auditors are very sceptical about the firm's future prospects.

They say that though Lockheed might generate enough cash by 1975 to repay the \$250m government-guaranteed bank loans which kept it afloat, the company need many more orders. Substantial losses could be suffered unless these orders are forthcoming, the auditors say. The company claims that its present sales will give rise to 'second-generation' business in the years to come.

This is based largely on speculation about the future prospects of the world aircraft market.

The auditors' report has a direct bearing on the position of Rolls-Royce which supplies the RB211 engines for the TriStar. Negotiations on extending the Rolls-Royce contract with Lockheed are due to begin shortly. The present contract, to supply 555 engines, is nearing completion.

BY JOHN SPENCER

As Nixon gears up for a new round of tough trade negotiations, the Europeans are forced to make a major retreat from their attempts to build a single currency bloc.

On Thursday the US administration again warned it plans to be tough in negotiations with western Europe on a broad range of trade, economic and military issues over the next two years.

Henry Kissinger's chief deputy for European affairs, Helmut Sonnenfeldt warned a four-day international conference on the future of US-European relations, in Columbia, Maryland, there was a mood in the United States that western Europe must help to halt the permanent deficit in the US balance of

payments. He apologized if this sounded demanding or imperious but added it was a reality that west Europe must accept.

The EEC representatives at the conference disputed the widely-held US view that west Europe is not carrying as much of the burden as it should in military expenditure within NATO and asserted that US tariffs are more protectionist and higher than those of the EEC.

In trade negotiations beginning next year the US is expected to try and force the Common Market to cut its tariffs, particularly for farm produce. At the same time it is demanding that European NATO members pay a greater share of the organization's budget.

On Thursday the bank governors in Basle expressed concern about the inflationary threat posed by the huge pool of dollars in the so-called Eurodollar market.

They called for co-ordination of interest rate policies by the various European governments to avoid disruptive flows of 'hot' money across international boundaries.

EEC civil servants strike

THE COMMON Market's administrative machinery began to grind to a halt yesterday as 6,000 civil servants in its Brussels headquarters began a nine-day strike for more pay. They will be joined today by another 2,000 workers in Luxembourg.

The strike is against the refusal of the French and German governments to adhere to a wage-rise settlement reached last March after an earlier series of strikes. The two governments claim that the present demand conflicts with national wages policies.

A further complication is the threat that the European parliament may vote out the Executive Commission today. A motion of censure has been tabled by a French member against the executive's failure to give the European parliament wider powers over the EEC budget.

Troops brought in to break Paris dustmen's strike

THE PREFECT of Paris, Jean Verdier, yesterday called in the French army to break the strike of Paris dustmen and street-cleaners.

Verdier claimed that the troops were not breaking the strike, but protecting 'public health'. CGT trade union leaders have complained that the Prefect would have acted more sensibly if he had had serious discussions with them.

They reminded him that army strike-breaking in April 1970 only led to the damaging of mechanical collectors by untrained young soldiers.

This touching respect for council property, and lack of regard for the atrocious conditions of their members, is symptomatic of the reasonable, 'socially res-

ponsible' attitude of the Communist Party leadership in the CGT.

CGT general secretary, Georges Séguy, told a regional congress in Montpellier at the weekend that the situation in France resembled the chaos at the end of the Fourth Republic.

'The multiplication of strikes by workers, teachers and students, the various demonstrations of discontent by small farmers, traders and artisans, the proliferation of all types of scandal; the anarchy of prices, the dissensions in the government, all this gives the French people this impression of disorder and mess which legitimately horrifies them,' was how this CP Central Committee member described the state of France.

The gathering of trade unionists was told that a Socialist

Party-Communist Party government would guarantee 'order based on social progress'.

In other words, Séguy includes the strike movement by the French working class against inflation in his catalogue of chaos.

The CGT policy of short protest strikes has already imposed serious limitations on workers' struggles against the Pompidou government.

The unions have called a two-hour strike on Thursday in Renault-Billancourt on the eve of negotiations with their state-employers.

Such useless protests are calculated to break down workers' militancy and to intensify the frustration of the petty-bourgeoisie.

The CP in this way strengthens the drive by Pompidou and Messmer for a 'strong' government.

Vestey's Argentine chief goes missing

RONALD GROVE, general manager of the Vestey organization in Argentina, has disappeared on his way to a golf course. Vestey's lawyers, who believe he is in the hands of kidnappers, are trying to negotiate his release.

The company's representatives have received two tape recordings in which Grove says he is 'alive and well'.

He disappeared on Sunday on his way to play golf on a Buenos Aires course.

So far no political group in Argentina has issued a statement admitting responsibility for the kidnapping. This is very unusual.

In previous kidnap incidents the groups involved have issued communiqués stating the reasons for their action and the terms for their victim's release.

Lord Vestey, head of the multi-million pound firm, said yesterday he was doing 'everything possible' to obtain Grove's release.

He said the kidnappers had been told to make contact through the company's lawyers in Buenos Aires.

Grove, who has worked for Vestey in Argentina since 1946, was in Britain only ten days ago on a business trip.

He is head of Anglo, a Vestey subsidiary which has been engaged in meat packing in Argentina since the turn of the century.

● THE MIDLAND Cold Storage board meeting which was due early this week has been postponed because of the disappearance of Vestey's representative in Argentina.

Picketing by dockers has effectively shut the cold store in east London and the company was to meet early this week to take a decision on whether to seek an order in the National Industrial Relations Court.

'Lord Vestey must have a priority,' a spokesman for his organization said yesterday, 'and that must be a man's life. Lord Vestey wants to remain free on the end of a telephone to deal with the situation in Argentina.'

Left swing in Japan

BOTH the Socialist Party and the Communist Party made considerable gains in the Japanese General Election, though premier Kakuei Tanaka is still in office with a comfortable parliamentary majority.

Tanaka's Liberal Democrats (Conservatives) lost 26 seats, giving it 271 seats in the lower house. The bourgeois 'opposition' parties, the Komeito (Clean government) Party and the Democratic Socialists, also lost seats.

Komeito representation dropped from 47 to 29 and

that of the Democratic Socialists from 29 to 19.

The Socialist Party, by contrast, won 118 seats compared with 87 in the last parliament and the Communist Party gained 24 seats, bringing its representation to 38.

The results represent a definite swing to the left by the Japanese electorate and a polarization of voting along class lines. Japan faces a major economic crisis with the United States demanding big cuts in exports.

Over the past year this has produced

struggles by Japanese workers, notably in the lengthy seamen's strike earlier this year. It set a record for the longest strike in Japanese history.

In power for 24 years, the Liberal Democrats were hoping the election would endorse their sweeping anti-working-class 'Grand Design' for a radical redistribution of industry and population to tackle Japan's economic problems.

The election results, however, indicate that the working class is on the move against the Japanese employers and their militaristic state.

Military summit in Egypt

ARAB army chiefs of staff gathered in Cairo yesterday for a military summit meeting which will attempt to work out an agreed plan for confrontation with Israel.

The meeting follows talks between foreign and

defence ministers in Kuwait which failed to reach agreement on a concerted plan.

While the Lebanon and particularly Syria have been bearing the brunt of Zionist terror attacks, Egypt has confined itself to making bellicose noises. Jordan is

drawing closer and closer to the Israelis.

Egyptian People's Council members have issued a statement casting doubt on assurances from premier Aziz Sidky that the government has prepared the country for battle with Israel.

Socialist Labour League

CELEBRATE

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF WORKERS PRESS

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GLASGOW

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 2 p.m. Woodside Halls St George's Cross

Speakers:

MIKE BANDA (SLL Central committee)

JOHN BARRIE (YS national committee)

WILLIE DOCHERTY (chairman Paisley Tenants' Action Committee. In personal capacity.)

BIRMINGHAM

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 7 p.m. Assembly Hall Digbeth Civic Hall

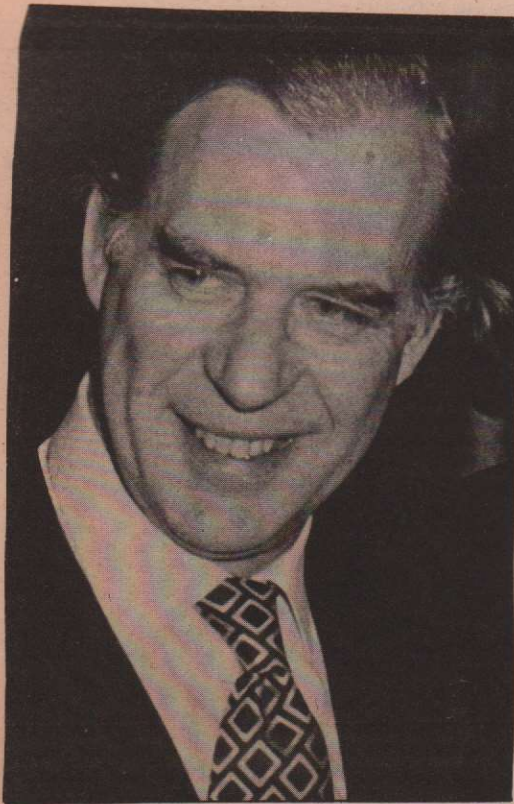
Speakers:

G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)

WILLIE AITKIN (YS national committee)

PETER SMITH (Rover shop steward. In personal capacity.)

CORIN REDGRAVE (Equity. In a personal capacity.)



The CBI's director general, W. O. Campbell Adamson . . . book of law

CBI wants rigid law on pickets

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday urged the Tory government to strengthen the laws against picketing. The CBI wants the law amended to make control over pickets more rigid.

Speaking to the Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, CBI director-general W. O. Campbell Adamson said:

'We have suggested the restriction of persons who picket the employees of an employer with whom an industrial dispute exists and officials of their unions.'

If this restriction is imposed, solidarity pickets from other firms or industries would not be allowed on the picket line.

It would mean, for example, the banning of demonstrations like the successful Saltley coke depot picket when Midlands engineers joined

miners to close the depot.

Campbell Adamson continued: 'We also believe that there should be restriction of the right to picket the premises of the employer with whom the dispute exists and possibly premises of the companies which provide specified support to that employer.'

This is relevant to the miners' strike too. If the government enforces the CBI suggestions, then miners would in future be prevented from picketing power stations because the electricity boards would not be considered in direct contact with the miners.

Campbell Adamson declared that increasing lawlessness was becoming a real threat to areas of British industry.

'For example, forms of

picketing are now being used which clearly go far beyond the limits permitted by the present law. Up and down the country our members have impressed on me the urgent need for action to deal with this situation.'

Accordingly, he added, the CBI had asked that the government should issue a booklet summarizing what constitutes 'criminal activity' and what steps the police can take when the 'criminal acts' are committed.

'We have also asked the government to consider amending the law to give a clearer definition to what constitutes reasonable picketing activity.'

Campbell Adamson's demand comes at a time when influential Tory back-

benchers are becoming increasingly shrill in their cries against pickets.

Home Secretary Robert Carr is examining a memorandum submitted by the Master Builders' Federation about flying pickets during the recent builders' strike.

Another powerful voice calling for tougher action against pickets comes from Enoch Powell.

He says the public must back the efforts of the police to 'control' pickets and thinks the present laws should be looked at.

Picketing, blacking and the right to strike represent workers' sole means of defence for the protection of their jobs, wages and standards of living.

The Tories and their big business backers are set on a course to destroy these rights.

That is the meaning of the Industrial Relations Act and its monstrous National Industrial Relations Court.

Seven could face £18,000 bill

Audit in Conisborough

BY PHILIP WADE OUR HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

THE TORY GOVERNMENT'S attempts to smash down opposition to their 'fair rents' Act continued yesterday with the arrival in Conisborough, Yorkshire, of the district auditor. He was instructed last week to carry out an extraordinary audit of the accounts to work out the deficit in rents which follows the council's refusal to implement the Housing Finance Act.

A small town near Doncaster, Conisborough, is split right down the middle on implementation, with six Labour councillors in favour and seven against.

It is ten weeks since the Tories demanded £1 increases for the town's 1,800 council tenants. The auditor could, therefore, find that about £18,000 was missing from the accounts.

His duty would then be to surcharge the seven Labour councillors the £18,000, ensuring their immediate disqualification for five years, together with certain bankruptcy.

IN SOUTH WALES, Tory-appointed Housing Commissioners have arrived in Merthyr Tydfil and Bedwas and Machen to assume full dictatorial powers over the Labour councils' rent control functions.

This unprecedented stripping of a local authority's powers follows the two councils' refusal to put rents up £1.

Now if the councillors dare to tell tenants not to pay the Commissioner it could constitute obstruction under the Act. The penalty for such an offence would be a fine of up to £400.

'The government is looking for a showdown and it will come eventually,' said Alderman Albert John, deputy housing committee chairman at Merthyr and local district secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

'The Tories were elected on the basis of giving local councils more powers. Now our prerogative to fix rents has been taken away from us.'

'There is no doubt this is part of a broad attack on the whole of the working class by the government. It is deliberate policy,' said Ald John.

Camden decides on defiance

CAMDEN Labour council in north London met last night to consider whether to continue defying the Tory government's Housing Finance Act.

Although they have been defaulted by the government, no further action has yet been taken against the council.

Past majorities in favour of non-implementation have been in the region of seven or eight.



Paddy O'Connor: Principle

Of the five non-implementing Labour councils left in England and Wales, Camden is the largest, with over 20,000 council tenants.

To date, therefore, the amount of extra rent which should have been collected since October 2 comes to just under £200,000.

'It makes no difference what the money is,' said Cllr Paddy O'Connor on the threat of surcharges. 'The principle of the thing is the most important.'

are unanimous in their opposition to the Act.

'This Act is quite typical of the Draconian measures the Tories have taken to fulfil their wishes. The government has failed to justify any of its measures and has to rely on the force of law.'

'But the whole culmination of events is chipping away at the Tories' morale and they will be brought down.'

LETTER

Need for principles

WE HAVE a Labour-controlled council at Kiveton near Sheffield who have not only implemented the Tory rent Act, but have gone further than many other councils.

They first sent intimidatory letters to all those tenants withholding their rent increases. Then solicitor's letters were sent demanding £7. Finally, county court orders were despatched. All this in a short period of four weeks.

Where are the councillors' principles? One of them told me he was only carrying out

the law. But what about the miners' strike and the Industrial Relations Act? Where does he stand on these questions? Does he support the government?

If these councillors cannot give us guaranteed assurances and have no principles, they should carry on acting on behalf of the Tories, but not under the flag of socialism.

Joseph Hepworth
National Union of Mineworkers branch secretary,
Shireoaks Kiveton Park
Tenants' Association

'What we need is action on a national scale. It is not much good individual areas being picked off. That's why I think the lead has to come from the TUC.'

'The policy of the TUC and the Labour Party is outright resistance, but they are not taking heed of these decisions,' he told me.

'But whatever happens we have an obligation here to our

tenants and we must give a lead.'

At Bedwas, Councillor Ron Davies, chairman of the housing, health and welfare committee, said he considered the appointment of a Commissioner the logical step for the Tories to take.

'As far as we're concerned it's the first stage in the battle,' he told Workers Press. There are 13 Labour councillors and they

12 unions protest jailings in Spain

TWELVE British trade unions and Amnesty International, have sent a protest to the Spanish Ambassador in London demanding the release of ten Spanish workers 'accused of trade union activities'.

The ten, who are awaiting trial in a Madrid prison, have been adopted by Amnesty as prisoners of conscience.

The protest condemns the sentences of up to 20 years de-

manded for them for forming a trade union organization—something that in most west European countries 'is considered legal and commonplace'.

The protesters are also asking Spain for a general amnesty for all other prisoners of conscience held in contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, which Spain has signed.

The unions who signed the protest are the Union of Post Office Workers, Inland Revenue Staff Federation, National Union of Public Employees, NATSOPA (print workers), Fire Brigades Union, Bakers' Union, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Iron and Steel Confederation, the Transport and General Workers' Union, the National Union of Mineworkers, the ACTT (film workers) and APEX (clerical and computer staff union).

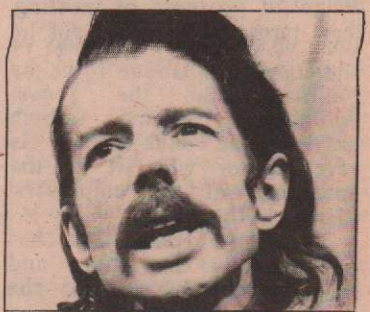
Call public sector pay conference —NUPE

THE EXECUTIVE of the National Union of Public Employees has called on the TUC to convene a conference of unions representing workers in the public sector, including the gas and water industries, the Civil Service and the Post Office.

NUPE national officer Bernard Dix told Workers Press: 'We are caught in the government's freeze, so are the gas workers and the water supply workers, the Post Office workers will be by January 1. The Civil Service workers will be caught in it too.'

'Public sector workers are hit hardest of all by the government's action. It has said they would "prefer" employers not to get involved in negotiations until the second stage of their freeze is known.'

'But in the public sector they just tell us and that's it. We want to discuss with other unions in the public sector to try to develop and co-ordinate common policies.'



Bernard Dix

'NUPE is balloting its hospital ancillary members on future action, following the half-day strike called for tomorrow when demonstrations will be held in 37 areas all over the country.'

Possible actions include full strike, strikes in selected areas, a one-day-a-week strike in all hospitals, strikes by selected categories of workers, overtime bans, and a ban on work with private patients.

'We want to get a feed-back from the rank and file', Mr Dix told me.

'We have no objection if union members turn tomorrow's half-day strike into a full day. We know that that will happen in many areas such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham and several areas in the north-east.'

● See north-west reaction p.11.

THE 'FACTOR OF TEN' THAT HAUNTS THE DOCKS

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

They are talking about money on London docks as the annual pay review for the port's 10,000 workers comes round once more.

The difference is that this year the two sides come together in the full knowledge that any agreed sum will be frozen by decree of Heath and his Cabinet. Then it will be up to the dockers, and particularly the shop stewards leadership, to make their next move.

If Liverpool is anything to go by, the London men will have to be on their guard for a retreat. The Merseyside shop stewards were faced with the freezing of their five-hour cut in the working week and a £1.50 increase in the basic wage — already agreed by management in exchange for the dockers' pledge to operate the mammoth Seaforth container dock.

There was talk at a mass meeting of calling on the Transport and General Workers' Union leadership to fight the claim. But no action on Merseyside was recommended. With a sigh of relief most of the Tory Press recognized the outcome as a reprieve for the government's pay plan.

But overshadowing the pay controversy still is the jobs issue. The container revolution goes grinding on, right over the dockers.

Remember Chobham Farm, the scene of the first major clash between the rank-and-file dockers and the National Industrial Relations Court? It was nearly picketed out of existence, but is now doing very nicely handling up to 110 freight vehicles every day with a tiny staff of 52 men. Registered dockers are accepted, but this hardly alters the brutal fact that at this rate of cargo-handling, jobs — thousands of them — are up for auction.

The latest figures reveal the full depth of the exodus from the registered ports. To date voluntary severance has resulted in some 6,000 men leaving the industry. The migration continues at the rate of 100 a week and the employers are rubbing their hands at the delightful prospect of meeting their target of a 10,000 cut in the industry's labour force by February. So the Jones-Aldington* report, which 'settled' the dock strike, is revealed for what it is — the spearhead of the employers' plans on the docks.

The only thing that has happened is that more and more workers have left the industry.

Worse is to come with the employers now openly talking about the 'factor of ten'. This neat little phrase is based on the following reasoning — if a good conventional berth can handle 100,000 tons a year, then a similar-sized container berth can shift 1 million tons. If it takes 150 men to manhandle the cargo of a conventional ship, then it will (and does) take 15 men to 'turn-round' a container vessel. This kind of logic is of great interest to employers and, needless to say, to dockers.

But not all is well on the employers side. Though Overseas Containers Ltd has announced its first profit since it began deep sea operations three years ago, the consortia still have to realize the long awaited profit on their massive investments.



The factor of ten on Liverpool docks. Top: The containers are loaded at the new Seaforth terminal. Conventional methods (above) are rapidly disappearing. Employers say they need one tenth of the men to shift containerized cargo.

The big British group OCL as well as ACT and ACL have spent some £350m on their container systems but up until now have suffered losses.

The first rush into containers now appears to be over, with the establishment of the Far East container trade shared now by three consortia (British, German and Japanese) called Trio Lines.

Trio Lines is itself a result of the unpleasant experience

on the Atlantic trade where the mad rush into containers caused overcapacity and a vicious trade war. Peace was made when the big European and US lines entered into a cartel agreement to carve up the tonnage and eliminate competition.

But overcapacity is still a huge problem and it does not stop at containers. The ports have followed the shipping lines into the battle with the

result that US capacity on the North Atlantic seaboard is 240 per cent above demand and an incredible 570 per cent on the Pacific side. The Pacific Ocean container trades are also running into trouble. An overcapacity ratio of three to one has been forecast and something drastic will have to be done soon if big losses or a rate war is to be averted.

Apart from the containerization of the land route to the east along the Trans-Siberian railway and the prospect of containerizing the South African and South American trade in four years' time, investment is stagnant.

These developments mean two things apart from bad news for shipbuilding.

First, there is an increasing pressure to break the militancy of dockers and get the full productivity the system offers. Jones-Aldington was very much a part of this drive and the lines have launched a determined campaign to speed things up at the container berths in the traditional ports where the militants work.

Employers estimate that the cost of moving a container through the port could be as low as £7 or £8. But the real figure turns out to be nearer £25 and they want to bring it down fast.

Another innovation which will hit registered dockers hard is the very noticeable trend towards more versatile ships in the roll-on, roll-off and lift-on, lift-off category which have their own handling gear and ramps. These vessels do not need to dock at a fully-equipped port — little more than large flat concrete quays are needed.

The other drive, of course, is towards the unregistered ports. These are at present under examination by the National Ports Council who are expected to report by the New Year. Meanwhile business

is booming.

'The City Press', organ of the City of London and the Stock Exchange, was recently treated to a two-page story on the wonders of Felixstowe — the country's leading unregistered port.

Twenty years ago Felixstowe worked to the hiss of an ancient steam crane and ten men handled the infrequent cargoes of coal and flour.

Now 1,200 are employed on the dock estate and land values have rocketed from £5 to £1,500 per acre.

In October all records for cargo-handling were broken when 250,000 tons passed through the port, the bulk of it in 10,259 containers.

This is almost an annual rate of 3 million tons. Compare this with the 19 million tons of container traffic passing through all British ports in 1971 and the challenge of Felixstowe to the registered dock is strikingly revealed. Other unregistered ports like Dover and Shoreham are also undergoing rapid expansion.

Given the necessity to use the enormous capital equipment to the full, the shipping lines, particularly on the continental run, have a great incentive to use places like Felixstowe and the less-militant unregistered dockers who work there.

Meanwhile in the registered ports the campaign to drive down job levels will grow fiercer. The aim is for a 20,000 labour force within five to ten years. Jones-Aldington has already opened the breach. If they want to reap the benefits of technology, dockers face the fight of their lives.

* The committee set up to end this year's dock strike headed by Transport and General Workers' Union general secretary Jack Jones and the Port of London Authority's chairman, Lord Aldington.



Leonid Brezhnev (centre), who has been characterized as the 'colourless apparatusman', with Kosygin (left) and Podgorny in Moscow.

LEONID BREZHNEV TIGHTENS HIS CONTROL

Hard-liner Leonid Brezhnev is tightening his grip on the Soviet Communist Party as the Soviet Union faces its most difficult winter for many years.

Huge quantities of grain have had to be bought in the world market in order to avert famine in many regions. The shipment of this grain over many thousands of miles from the ports throws an enormous strain onto an already over-worked transport system.

The 'economic reforms' which put more power into the hands of plant managements have not yielded the expected results and there has been a move back towards greater central control.

The promised increases in consumer goods, as well as foodstuffs, have not been forthcoming. There are widespread complaints about the poor quality, lack of service and actual shortages with which the Soviet consumer has to contend.

In some regions, such as Georgia, plans have not been fulfilled and the local officials have been raiding public funds on a scale which their superiors in Moscow can no longer permit.

Within the past year considerable differences have also appeared at the top of the Soviet Communist Party over questions of foreign policy. A section of the leadership obviously felt that the rapprochement with US imperialism was being made with independent haste and threatened to undermine the security of the state.

A first sign of this came last May when one of the most powerful figures in the party apparatus, Pyotr Shelest, secretary of the Ukrainian party was demoted. Shelest

objected to the political settlement with Federal Germany which was then taking shape. He may also have opposed the Nixon visit to Moscow at a time when B-52s were raining bombs on North Vietnam.

The ousting of Shelest from his Ukrainian fief was reckoned as the biggest shake-up in the Soviet bureaucracy since the fall of Khrushchev in 1964. It represented a blow by Brezhnev and his supporters aimed at their main opponents in the leadership.

A few days later Nixon visited Moscow and the bureaucracy took a further sharp turn to the right, seeking during the summer to force Hanoi to the peace table to accept US terms for ending the war in Vietnam.

There followed extensive changes in the administration in the Ukraine and purges began in other republics as well. It was announced that preparations were being made for a general exchange of cards in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to be carried out in 1973 and 1974.

Paperwork

This is more than a routine operation. It is intended to weed out of the party all critics and potential opponents of the leadership as well as lukewarm elements, those whose membership is purely formal or whose activities bring discredit on the bureaucracy itself. As the party has 14½ million members, an enormous amount of paperwork will be involved in this bloodless purge.

Last month a big shake-up was carried out in Georgia, Stalin's home state, which has a reputation for laxness, black marketing and every kind of racket in which top figures have been involved. The luxurious houses built and furnished at public ex-

pense by some members of the bureaucracy had become a scandal even by its own standards.

The First Secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Vassily Mjavanadze, was said to have resigned at his own request. His successor, Edward Chevardnadze, later made a report to his Central Committee in which he denounced the falsification of figures to conceal economic failings and attack the corrupt practices current in high places. These included the building of grand houses at public expense.

Later it was reported that industrial production was falling well below what was called for in the plans in Georgia and that many plants were operating at only 70 or 80 per cent of capacity. While the shake-up was going on in Georgia similar measures were being taken in the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

In these and other republics of the Soviet Union the same pattern is being repeated. Part of the old leadership is being replaced. They are shown to have been incompetent and corrupt. Practices which were well-known—such as the building of sumptuous dachas (i.e. country houses)—are now being 'revealed' and blamed onto particular individuals.

In other words, the bureaucracy is trying to defend itself against growing criticism and hostility by singling out a few scapegoats who also, probably, have differences with Brezhnev and his supporters on political matters.

A tense struggle thus appears to be going on in the top leadership on questions of high policy which finds its reflection in the regions in an attack on some of the worst and most obvious abuses of the local bureaucracy. Brezhnev is thus out to court a

little popularity while he extends and consolidates his own power.

This means stronger central control over the constituent republics of the union and particularly the elevation of former KGB (security police) men to high office. So far Brezhnev has been able to remove some of his most dangerous opponents and to establish at the same time a more personal style of government.

He is now taking on the role of Khrushchev if not of Stalin himself. With the publication of the fourth volume of his collected works he is also establishing a claim as a theoretician. The personality cult, if as yet only in its early stages, is gathering force.

Manoeuvre

Brezhnev does not have the ruthlessness and cunning of a Stalin nor the flamboyant, publicity-seeking appetite of a Khrushchev. More than either of these he is the colourless apparatusman who concentrates power into his hands by manoeuvre and stealth and with the consent of the cohorts like him who make up the upper ranks of the Soviet bureaucracy.

That is not to say that he does not face opposition. It is all the time a struggle to maintain his position in the face of those who, while giving him a big hand today, would eject him tomorrow as unceremoniously as they did Khrushchev if he threatened to become a danger.

Moreover, the divisions inside the bureaucracy, which have always existed, tend to be overshadowed by the tenseness of the economic crisis which now confronts it and by the growing opposition to its rule. The stepping up of repression against oppositionists in recent months reflects its fears.

TROUBLE FOR GIEREK IN THE BALTIC

The threat of a strike by workers in the Baltic port of Szczecin was behind the Polish government decision to cancel the appointment of Josef Cyrankiewicz as ambassador to Switzerland.

According to Polish sources, the workers demanded that Cyrankiewicz be kept in Poland pending a public investigation into who ordered police and troops to open fire on strikers during the Baltic port riots two years ago.

Cyrankiewicz is known to have signed the order to shoot, which resulted in over 40 deaths and nearly 1,000 wounded, but his role has never been publicly admitted. The riots struck terror into the Polish Stalinists who appointed a new administration in an attempt to placate the workers.

Cyrankiewicz was eased out of his job as prime minister and appointed president, a post he held until March this year. He also retained his seat on the Communist Party Central Committee.

A leader before the war of the Polish social-democrats, he spent four years in the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz and emerged after the allied victory to become premier in the so-called government of national unity.

He organized the merger of the Polish Communist Party and his own Socialist Party to form the United Workers' Party. It was the start of an unbroken career of service to Stalinism.

He survived unscathed through the purges masterminded by the Soviet dictator and remained in office in the regime of Wladislaw Gomulka.

Cyrankiewicz has earned the hatred of the Polish workers, for whom he is a symbol of the continued bureaucratic rule. The decision to cancel his appointment to the embassy in Berne reflects the present regime's fear of a new explosion of working-class anger.

A brief strike took place in the Baltic port of Gdansk recently in which dockers refused to load potatoes into a Soviet naval vessel for delivery to areas hit by food shortages as a result of the bad harvest in the USSR.

It is not clear whether the Polish workers objected to the food shipments as such, or to the Russians sending a military ship to collect them. Whatever the reason, the present prime minister, Jaroszewicz, was rushed to Gdansk to persuade the workers to call off the strike.

The Stalinist leaders have made repeated visits to the Baltic ports over the past two years and adopted a very conciliatory tone with the workers there. Edward Gierek, the party first secretary, has made many promises of improved living standards for the working class.

But promises are one thing; performance is quite another. And despite all the exhortations and pleas from the Warsaw leaders, the workers of the Baltic ports remain hostile and increasingly sceptical about Gierek's regime.

John Arden's and Margaretta D'Arcy's play 'The Island of the Mighty' opened last week at the Aldwych Theatre. It was preceded by a dispute between the authors and the management and resulted in the Ardens withdrawing their labour and picketing the theatre.

This is a completely new development in the history of the relations between author and management in the theatre. It raises important questions about the author's right to express his meaning. It raises questions about the nature of theatre today and the conflict between work that has a definite political purpose and the traditional bourgeois assumptions of presentation. It shows a growing crisis in the arts between old forms and new content.

In this exclusive interview with Workers Press, the Ardens talk about the play, the dispute and the future for the theatre in today's growing political crisis.

WHY TWO PLAYWRIGHTS ARE PICKETING THE ALDWYCH

RELEVANCE OF THE LEGEND OF KING ARTHUR

JOHN ARDEN: The Arthurian legend has been described as the national myth of Britain. It has the same sort of place in our national consciousness as the war of Troy had for the Greeks or the adventures of Siegfried for the Germans. It belongs, as all these old stories do, to the period of the great migrations. They come at different periods of history. The Trojan war was 1200 BC. The Arthurian myths belong to the break-up of the Roman Empire and the big migrations of the German tribes coming across to take over Britain in the fifth and sixth centuries. It seems absolutely constant all over the world that when you have large movements of population, new land settlements, a complete overturning of a settled and probably oppressive and decadent civilization by a new and vital tribal eruption on to the scene, epic poetry and epic themes are produced.

We came across the same thing in India, Ireland, everywhere you go. And it's still happening even in Soviet Russia today among areas of the tribal territories, Kazakhstan and places like that, where there is an unresolved contradiction between the nomadic tribes and the bureaucratic Soviet system and I believe that you still find Homeric bards in those areas who are still writing the same themes.

If the age of confusion and migration becomes resolved and the people settle down, society then proceeds to go through a fairly constant series of developments. It's followed normally by a feudal system which in turn is replaced by a mercantile class and so on.

But the stories, having been originally written orally and learnt through people's memory rather than through written texts, have become sunk into the public mind in such a way that you can always, for hundreds of years

afterwards, call up the events in these stories and the characters in them which remind people of how their community began.

And so that these stories never entirely lose their value, they have to be reinterpreted in each case and you still find an audience.

The Arthurian stories were rewritten—the original Welsh versions have disappeared—in the 12th century by Geoffrey of Monmouth who was writing actually to support the Norman feudal system by presenting Arthur as a strong central monarch to whom a feudal nobility were obedient and subservient, which was what the Norman kings wanted to establish in England in the 12th century.

Then later on in the 15th century you get the greatest literary version of the Arthurian legend which is Mallory. Mallory was interested in a united Britain, a united England. He was writing just before Henry VII sorted out the confusion left after the Wars of the Roses, so Mallory is representing the new consciousness of national identity and also a nostalgic regret for the old feudal independence of the nobles.

Hence all the main aspect of Mallory's story is individual knight errants going on quests. But at the same time there is a strong consciousness that there's something a bit disastrous about this because at the end of Mallory's story the whole thing suddenly becomes a national story with the tragedy of the death of Arthur and the break-up of a newly unified nation.

Then the story disappears for a while and isn't really revived until Tennyson in the 19th century who was producing a sentimental moralistic, Victorian view of the thing, very appropriate to the Victorian middle-class nostalgia for the wild old days of the middle ages.

It's a bit difficult to connect Tennyson very closely with Victorian capitalism, but he was writing for the sort of audiences who were getting rich on the capitalist development and the story is therefore escapist.

It's nice to get back into picturesque days of knights in armour and so on and not to



The play '200 Years of Labour History' written by John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy was first performed at an anti-

have to face the realities of the engineering workshops and the mills and the railways and the strikes and all the rest of the things the Victorians were concerned with in business hours.

We were anxious to get back to one of the original themes which has got kind of lost in the development of the story, which is the fact that it is a story about the age of migrations, the age of new land settlements, the age of poverty stricken and struggling peoples to gain power at the expense of the collapsing Roman empire.

The main character in our story in theatrical terms is Arthur, but really the main characters in our story are the groups of tribes, the people without names, the people whose names never appeared in the legends.

In the legend we just have the noble men and the princes and the great ladies. But the people who actually were responsible for the migrations

and for resisting the migrations, the peasants and the shepherds and the cattle raiders of the mountains and so on—these don't come into the legend by name and we wanted to try and show the reality under this.

THE PLAY IS BASICALLY ABOUT DEPRIVED PEOPLE'

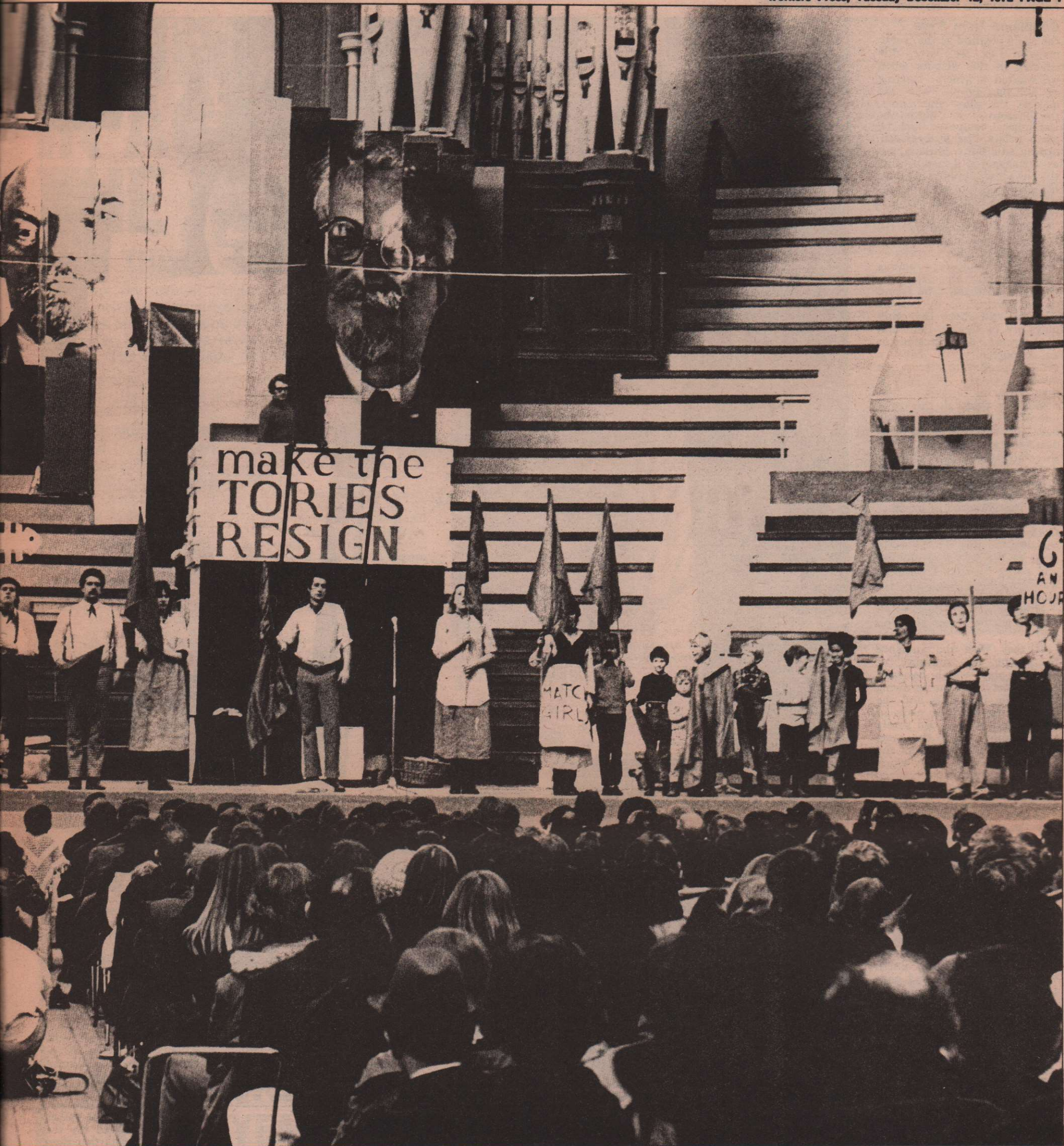
Arthur, in our story, is a hide-bound defender of an already collapsing Roman Empire. He attempts to do this by military power. He's perfectly prepared to fight people on his own side if they obstruct him. He has an army. He is defending the country against the Saxon invaders and in order to make quite certain that his army retains the power to do this, he also fights against the Celtic clans-

men in the country.

At the end of the play he is destroyed by a rising among these clansmen who are looking back to the age 400 to 500 years before the Romans came and are trying rather ineffectively to bring back the original and hopelessly obsolete idea of the completely independent Celtic island with confederated tribes, which is impossible because first the Romans have been and now the Saxons are coming and so the whole thing collapses.

And so the only people who actually win in the end are the Saxons.

We feel that the fact that this play has run into trouble is not an accident. Because if you take a national myth it means something to everybody, even though they've never read it. King Arthur is something that everybody has some vague connection with, even if their only knowledge of it is that they once went to see the film of 'Camelot' or they read about Sir Lancelot



ory Rally organized by the Socialist Labour League at Alexandra Palace. John Arden says, 'Here the whole meaning of the theatre became integrated into that of a political movement'.

in a comic or something. And in a time of political and social crisis you tamper with this at your peril.

The arguments about the play that have gone on at the Aldwych theatre, in fact, were industrial. They dealt with our place as writers to work in that theatre. But I think it's not an accident that the argument should have arisen about this play.

Because the play is basically about deprived people and their place in the community. And how the military force that is supposed to be defending them is in fact prepared to repress them if they show the slightest demand for their own rights. And it's a kind of a twist of the myth. It has stirred up strong passions.

When this production was first considered, we were asked by the Aldwych rather tentatively, because I think they knew we'd say no, if we had any views on this particular production being used as part of the Common Market cele-

brations that are coming off next year.

And I suspect the same mentality is still going on in the theatre. That here is a play which shows, if it's interpreted in one way, what a splendid country Britain is and what splendid ancestors we all have and also that we were once connected with the Roman empire, and so on and so forth, and it can be used as a kind of advertisement of the value of Britain to the continent.

In fact if the play is examined accurately the play does not stand up to this interpretation at all. We tried to show in the text how the people of the Roman Empire suffered from that imperialism, that we know that the Roman Empire provided roads and built cities and so on, but the general effect of the Roman Empire was 400 years of rigid repression and control which actually stultified the cultures of all the communities in it.

I mean the disappearance of

the art and poetry of the worlds which Rome conquered is one of the biggest disappearances in history. We don't know anything, for example, about the Druids who were the poets and priests of the ancient Britons before the Romans came.

All we know is that they were reputed to be extremely well educated, scientific, artistic, poetic and philosophical. And everything that they taught at their university at Anglesey has disappeared because the Roman army went into Anglesey and killed every Druid on it. And because they didn't write their work down—it was all kept in their heads—an entire national culture was wiped out by the Roman army and replaced by roads.

The Romans built roads just as Mussolini got the trains going on time and Hitler built the Autobahn. And we felt that the Common Market has certain things in common with the Roman Empire. It will clearly improve the economic

rationalism in Europe for the benefit of people who are benefiting from international capitalism. But it is also going to produce, as the Roman Empire did, a large and discontented mass of migratory workers going from country to country and our play as a symbol for the Common Market is actually absurd.

But it would be possible to present it in this light if the theatre were completely to disregard the opinions of the authors.

'THE ALDWYCH IS LIKE ALL THESE BUREACRACIES'

If the Aldwych were a collective in which the director, the actors, the designer and the composer and everybody took collective decisions on the interpretation of the

author's meaning, then, of course, the situation would be very different.

But in fact the Aldwych is like all these bureaucracies; just like British Rail, it is a hierarchy.

The stage hands are at the bottom, they are the railway porters if you like. They have a certain job to do and they obey orders quite strictly, they're not expected to express any new ideas in their work.

Then, above them, you have the actors, who again were in fact told by their union representative the other day that they have no rights whatsoever except the right to abide by their contract, and they like to think, they are deluded into thinking, that they are supplying a contribution to the play. But they are not allowed to supply more than the director permits them.

And then you have the director. And the director of the play at the Aldwych is in

Continued overleaf

Continued from Page 7

the same position as the works manager, as we have discovered in this dispute when we wanted a general meeting of all the people who are making the play—the actors, the director, the musicians, the musical composers and the stage artists. This was refused, not on an artistic decision, but as a managerial decision—that the director could not have his working process interrupted and interfered with in this way.

This is reinforced by the fact that they don't actually need playwrights there. They've got four plays running this season at the Aldwych. Only one of them, 'The Island of the Mighty', is by authors who are still alive. The other plays are by Gorky, Eliot and Shakespeare. By refusing us an opportunity to have a general meeting to discuss the meaning of the play during the last two weeks of rehearsal in which all the really important work is done, they have effectively rendered us as dead as any of those other three authors.

They have never, as far as I know, put on a play that contradicted this basic conception. The Aldwych in one season can put on a play by Gorky, who was a Russian socialist, writing at the early stage of the Soviet revolution, and a play by T. S. Eliot, who was Tory high Anglican religious writer.

Now what do they think they're putting these plays on for?

If they wish the audience to accept the meaning of Gorky's play, which basically is support for the growing Revolution in Russia and the fight of the working class in Russia and so on, then surely they cannot expect the same kind of audience to accept the message in Eliot's play, which calls for a return to church power as opposed to state power.

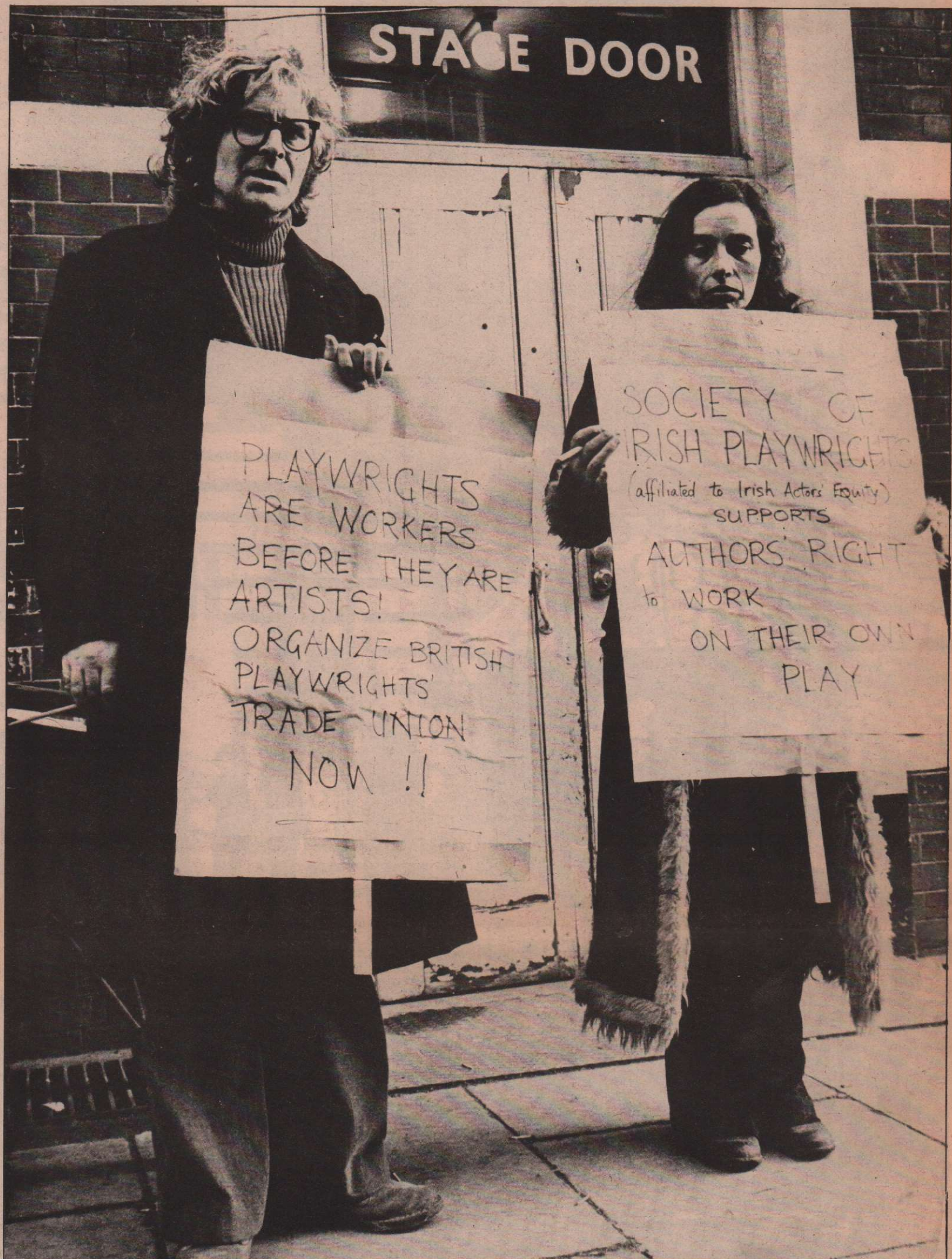
I mean the two plays are directly contradictory and yet they're being put on with more or less the same cast, in the same building and presented to the same sort of audience. Do they have any conception at all at the Aldwych that a play has anything to say?

They're presenting these plays as if they were abstract works of art like Chinese vases which you sit and contemplate and admire their proportions and the resonance of the language and the beauty of the actors' make-up and all that.

'ALL THE PROLETARIAT WERE TREATED AS COMIC'

MARGARETTA D'ARCY: I would disagree with this. An actor who was in the Maxim Gorky and also 'The Plebian Uprising' said that the play was done exactly as the T. S. Eliot play, as a right-wing play, all the proletariat were treated as comic, and all the managerial class were treated as good guys.

No. I would say that because the Aldwych Theatre is subsidized by the Tory government it automatically has to reflect what the Tory government says, which is that all workers are funny, ineffectual, incompetent people and all managers are God-fearing, intelligent, basically nice people. **JOHN ARDEN:** But it reflects it in a liberal point of view. The theatre doesn't come outright and say we are a Tory theatre. Their attitude to workers is that workers are comic, not that workers are dangerous. They wouldn't put on a play which said that workers are dangerous. This would appear to contradict



John Arden and Margareta D'Arcy picketing the Aldwych Theatre where their play 'Island of the Mighty' is being performed.

their function as a cultural thing.

They don't wish to be associated with the Tory government. After all they have worked through a Labour government doing much the same kind of thing. They represent English liberalism which finds itself always in fact siding with the *status quo*. And so in our play the tribes people are represented, or were represented when we last saw rehearsal, which was a fortnight ago, as comic and ineffectual, whereas the Roman soldiers were represented as strong and positive characters. And this is the kind of thing that is continually going on at the theatre.

MARGARETTA D'ARCY: Yes, but also it is reflected that when we were backed up by our union and went on strike the management refused to recognize the fact that we were on strike. They kept on making out to the Press that we were eccentrics, that it was an artistic interpretation, that we were just temperamentally rather eccentric and so they hoped to present us to the actors, the management and the Press as rather funny

people who were not dangerous.

We went on strike because as writers our work in rehearsal is to talk to the actors about the meaning of the play. Not to tell the actors how to play the play, but when we say what the meaning is then let the actors—and the director—argue with us if they don't think the meaning is that.

And this is where the deadlock came. Now it has been proved that the Aldwych has never even thought of the meaning of the play.

They used our dispute to the Press as saying that we were only concerned with the interpretation of the play which means that we wanted to control the theatre, we wanted to take over David Jones' job, we wanted to muck the actors around, tell them what to do.

This is not the role of the writer.

The only role that the writer has in the theatre is to make sure that the meaning of the play is understood by everyone concerned in the play. And from then on the dialogue and debate and conflict should take place.

'HISTORY MUST BE RELATED TO TODAY'

JOHN ARDEN: The future obviously lies, I think, in developing a strong relationship between the theatre and the political struggle and that plays must be put on for the sake of their meaning and their specific political meaning, even if the actual story of the play doesn't appear to be immediate... I mean if you're doing a historical play then the history of the play must be clearly related from the point of view of the struggle today. What I found particularly significant about the '200 Years of Labour History' at Alexandra Palace was that it was contained within the context of a political rally, that there was a play put on.

It was followed by speeches so that the whole meaning of the theatre became integrated into that of a political movement. I don't say that all plays should always be written to

take place in political rallies, but I think that to do this makes writers aware that there can be a specific and immediate purpose for their writing which is something that we have lost actually.

MARGARETTA D'ARCY: But also the idea in the old days... I mean just a few years ago... of playwrights being individually left-wing—they write a left-wing play and they put it on—I think that is no longer possible. The capitalist class are grouping themselves into a very, very strong party. All we left-wing people have got to put ourselves into a strong revolutionary party and out of that we are going to drive along collectively together.

The age of the individual playwright working on his own is gone.

* John Arden and Margareta D'Arcy wrote '200 Years of Labour History', which was first performed at the 4,500 strong anti-Tory rally organized by the Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists in the Alexandra Palace, London, on February 21, 1971. It subsequently toured the country during provincial rallies.

RENEGADES IN ACTION—THE IMG

PART THREE

Following the articles 'Renegades from Trotskyism' dealing with the situation in Ceylon, JACK GALE now goes on to examine the British section of the revisionist Unified Secretariat of the Fourth International, The International Marxist Group (IMG).

The Socialist Workers' Party of the United States has been moving rapidly to the right since it refused to carry out a principled discussion with the Socialist Labour League, particularly in the years 1960-1963.

Following this, in 1963, it declared its political solidarity with the Pabloite Unified Secretariat (for legal reasons it could not become an actual member) with absolutely no discussion of the political basis of such a reunification.

The SWP leadership prostrated itself before Castroism and—abandoning the basic Trotskyist thesis of the need for a revolutionary party—turned its attention to middle-class liberals such as C. Wright Mills in the 'Fair Play for Cuba' organization.

So anxious were the SWP leaders to establish their respectability in such circles that when President Kennedy was assassinated, they rushed to send a telegram of condolence to the widow of the man who had deliberately and cold-bloodedly murdered hundreds of thousands of people in Vietnam, and who had sought unsuccessfully to overthrow the Cuban revolution.

Today the SWP pays lip-service to the creation of an American Labour Party, but in practice holds back this development. During the recent election campaign it called for a separate 'Black' Party.

The reason for this is that the development towards revolutionary consciousness in the American working class undermines the SWP's middle-class, revisionist road.

This is also the basis of the

hostility of Hansen and company towards the Socialist Labour League. It was to fight the SLL that the International Marxist Group was formed in Britain, almost entirely as an external exercise by the Unified Secretariat and the SWP.

It has been, from the beginning, an adventurist, publicity-seeking group. Its national secretary, Pat Jordan, achieved temporary notoriety during the time of the 1968 Vietnam Solidarity Campaign (now long dead and buried) by giving wildly irresponsible interviews about 'instant demonstrations'.

One of its leading members—Tariq Ali—became a standing joke because of his love of television cameras. People were recruited with no regard to fundamental questions. Robin Blackburn, for example, argued in 'Red Mole' that there was no difference between a Labour government and a Conservative government.

The excesses of this type of leadership alarmed the SWP leaders. There is now conclusive evidence that the SWP intervened directly in the IMG's internal affairs. This was done by building up a faction, led by people who were virtually SWP agents and who were provided with resources by them.

This has caused a total breach of all fraternal relations between the leaderships of the IMG and SWP. The main storm-centre has been a man called Alan Harris and the American book service—Pathfinder Press.

The row broke into the open when, following a meeting of its National Committee in July, 1970, the IMG sent the following letter to the SWP:



The IMG has always been an adventurist and publicity-seeking group. During the 1968 Vietnam Solidarity Campaign demonstrations, Pat Jordan (above) posed for Press cameras in his office.

The Political Bureau
Socialist Workers Party
NY

Dear Comrades,

The following resolution was passed at the last meeting of the National Committee of the IMG (held over the weekend of July 25/26 1970):

The National Committee censures Comrade Alan Harris for his unilateral action re Leader Books and requests the Unified Secretariat to investigate the matter immediately because it will otherwise result in a serious deterioration of relations between two sections of the International. The NC empowers the Secretariat (IMG Secretariat) to carry out an amalgamation of Leader Books and Red Books under the control of the IMG.

N.B. Bearing in mind the legal position of the SWP it should be pointed out that this resolution in no way implies that the SWP is affiliated to the Fourth International.

We must explain that this resolution was passed after the committee had received a report of the informal discussions on Leader Books between Joe Hansen and comrades Ali and Jordan.

We cannot accept that there is any problem in 'explaining to Pathfinder Books' that Red Books would be taking over distribution of its publications from Alan Harris. This being the case we are confronted with a position where the SWP refuses to supply publications to the official bookshop of the British Section, but instead insists on supplying them direct to a member of the minority tendency of the IMG.

We would ask you to consider a hypothetical case: Suppose that the IMG, as publishers of a large number of books by Trotsky, etc., refused to supply them to the SWP but insisted that these be distributed in the United States via a minority tendency (which for instance might take the position that the YSA should advance the slogan 'Victory to the NLF' on mass demonstrations).

We think that in a case like this that you could be understood if you thought that the IMG was trying to support a minority—politically

and with resources—of the SWP. We think that you could be understood if you considered this to be a gross violation of the democratic centralist norms and an attempt to get round the democratic procedures and processes of the SWP.

We do not accept the argument that a book distribution centre (we do not want to get into semantic arguments about bookshops and import-export agencies) is not a political centre. Selling books, having an address list and a manned office amounts to having a political centre. This has always been recognized as such by the movement. This is why the IMG national committee resolved—just prior to its National Conference—that its bookshop would be completely under democratic centralist norms (it should be added that this position was approved by the conference).

We ask you to fully cooperate with us in implementing the above resolution. We want to avoid confusing political issues with an organizational wrangle and would ask you to help us to remove this organizational difficulty. We would point out that such affairs as the creation of Leader Books is in complete violation of the decision of the National Committee of the IMG and makes more difficult an objective political discussion. We hope that no one thinks that the minority tendency of the IMG will be strengthened by such actions. Quite the reverse: this tendency will become even more isolated the more it appears to be trying to circumvent the democratic norms of the IMG.

We should point out that this tendency is widely considered to be in solidarity with the SWP's criticisms of the majority position in the International. We would recall to your attention that this tendency first manifested itself when its leader, Comrade Susan Williams, appealed to the British delegation at the last world congress to be seated for the discussion on China in order to cast her vote against the majority. Furthermore it is well known that: (a) about half the members of the tendency are ex-members of a section which

supports the minority position in the International; (b) that leading comrades sent from North America to participate in the work of the International played the leading part in founding the tendency; and (c) that Alan Harris is a member of the Unified Secretariat designated by the previously mentioned section. Taking into account all these circumstances we think it would be in the best interests of a clear political discussion to avoid any action which could be construed as using organizational means to support a political minority.

We should add that we are going to pursue this matter in the Unified Secretariat because relationships between Trotskyists in different countries is involved.

We would ask for the earliest possible reply to the questions we have raised in this letter. We are going ahead with plans for the amalgamation of Red Books and Leader Books under the political control of the IMG. An early reply from you could help clarify things but we will be obliged to operate our democratically-decided decisions as soon as possible. We cannot procrastinate because of the serious state of affairs (our political opponents are well aware that Leader Books operates independently from our organization).

We intend to pursue this matter in an extremely serious manner: The British Trotskyist movement has suffered in the past from lack of understanding of the meaning of democratic centralism as applied to the task of building a mass section of an international revolutionary party. We would be failing in our duty of helping to construct a mass section of the FI in Britain if we did not take immediate and decisive steps to nip this situation in the bud.

We ask you to give us an undertaking that you will supply our bookshop with your publications without insisting that we purchase them from a concern which has been set up in violation of our democratically decided decision.

Revolutionary greetings,
Pat Jordan

CONTINUED TOMORROW

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The capitalist crisis
Wednesday January 10
Stalinism and Trotskyism
Wednesday January 24
Marxist theory and the revolutionary party
WHITE HART HOTEL
Alfred Gelder Street
(near Drypool Bridge)
8 p.m.

BARNESLEY

Sunday December 17
Revolutionary theory and the Marxist Party
RED LION HOTEL
(Worsborough) 8 p.m.
Lectures given
by Cliff Slaughter
(SLL Central Committee)

SHEFFIELD

Monday January 8
Marxism and the revolutionary party
FORRESTERS HALL
Trippett Lane, 7.30 p.m.

TODMORDEN

Monday January 8
'The economic crisis'
Monday January 22
'Stalinism'
Monday February 5
'Trotskyism'
THE WEAVERS' INSTITUTE,
Burnley Road,
7.30 p.m.



Nigel Davenport as Conan Doyle as Sherlock Holmes . . . If you see what I mean. No? Well watch 'The Edwardians' on BBC 2 if you really want to find out. He is seen above with Maria Atkin.

TV

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.
7.30 **NEWSROOM.** Weather.
8.00 **FLOODLIT RUGBY LEAGUE.** Widnes or Leeds v. Wakefield Trinity.
8.50 **WHEELBASE.**
9.25 **THE EDWARDIANS.** Conan Doyle. With Nigel Davenport.
10.30 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.
10.35 **OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST.** Focus, The Crickets.

BBC 1

10.30-10.55 Steam horse. 11.40 Schools. 12.00 The last Apollo. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Camberwick green. 1.45 Canvas. 2.00 Rugby union. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Crystal Tipps. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Josie and the pussycats. 5.15 John Craven's newsround. 5.20 Vision on. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 **NATIONWIDE.**
6.45 **LAUREL AND HARDY.** Live Ghost.
7.05 **FILM: 'WHAT A CARVE UPI.'** Sidney James, Kenneth Connor, Shirley Eaton, Dennis Price, Donald Pleasence. British comedy.
8.30 **MY WIFE NEXT DOOR.** Joint Assignment.
9.00 **NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.** Weather.
9.25 **THE COMMANDERS.** General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower.
10.25 **FILM 72.**
10.55 **MIDWEEK.**
11.40 **LATE NIGHT NEWS.** Weather.
11.45 **THE OPEN PERSUADERS.** Joan Bakewell talks to Colin Wilson, author of 'The Outsider'.
12.05 **THE LAST APOLLO.** Live pictures from the moon.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.05 Cartoon. 10.20 Bellbird. 10.35 Galloping gourmet. 11.00 Farewell to the moon—Apollo 17. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Magic ball. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Lunchtime with Wogan. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 The splendour falls. 3.25 Family at war. 4.25 Junior showtime. 4.50 Maggie. 5.20 I dream of Jeannie. 5.50 News.

6.00 **TODAY.**
6.30 **CROSSROADS.**
6.55 **THIRTY MINUTES WORTH.** Harry Worth.
7.25 **FILM: 'THE SPY WITH MY FACE.'** Robert Vaughn, Senta Berger, David McCallum, Leo G. Carroll. The men from U.N.C.L.E. ride again.
9.00 **THE STRAUSS FAMILY.** Lili.
10.00 **NEWS AT TEN.**
10.30 **DOCUMENTARY: 'CLEO AND JOHN.'** Cleo Laine and John Dankworth.
11.30 **WRESTLING.**
12.15 **SIX CENTURIES OF SONG.**

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-10.05 London. 11.00-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Shirley's world. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Look-around. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Back Room Boy'. 8.30 Harry Worth. 9.00 London. 12.15 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 10.05 Last stand. 10.35 Better driving. 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 12.13 News. 12.16 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 10.50 Torch. 10.15 Tricks of the good cook's trade. 10.35 Lune Valley motorway. 11.00 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Smith family. 7.10 Harry Worth. 7.40 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30-10.05 London. 11.00 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 And mother makes three. 7.05 Film: 'The Halliday Brand'. 8.30 Harry Worth. 9.00 London. 12.15 Drive-in. 12.45 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30 Blewyn glas. 11.15-11.30 O'r wasg.

HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West.

ANGLIA: 11.00 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Smith family. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Young Guns of Texas'. 8.30 Harry Worth. 9.00 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 10.35 Better driving. 11.00 London. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Jackson Five. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Harry Worth. 7.30 Film: 'Seven Angry Men'. 9.00 London. 12.15 Stories worth telling. 12.20 Jason King. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.35 Survival. 2.00 London. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Give My Regards to Broadway'. 8.30 Harry Worth. 9.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 Let them live. 9.55 Lord Kinross in Turkey. 10.50 Cartoon. 11.00 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Harry Worth. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Banacek. 9.00 London. 12.15 Scotland Yard mysteries. 12.50 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 12.00 Paintbook. 12.05 London. 2.30 Looking at. 2.55 London. 5.15 Adam 12. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Crown court. 7.00 Harry Worth. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Madigan. 9.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 Let them live. 9.55 Lord Kinross in Turkey. 10.50 Cartoon. 11.00 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Kreskin. 3.00 London. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Harry Worth. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Hec Ramsey. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.30 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 10.00 Studio. 11.00 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Scotland today. 6.35 Adam Smith. 7.05 Columbo. 8.30 Harry Worth. 9.00 London. 12.15 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 1.30 Bugalos. 2.00 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Countrywise. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Harry Worth. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Hec Ramsey. 9.00 London. 12.10 Meditation.

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All Trades Unions Alliance MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices Force the Tories to Resign

WEST LONDON: Tuesday December 12, 8 p.m. Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'No State Control of Wages'.

LIVERPOOL: Tuesday December 12, 7.30 p.m. The Mitre, Dale Street.

WOOLWICH: Tuesday December 12, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road, SE18.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday Decem-

ber 12, 8 p.m. Festival Inn, Crisp Street, E14. 'Build Councils of Action'.

Willesden: Thursday December 14, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, Willesden, High Road, NW10. 'No fines on the unions! No state control of wages!'

CROYDON: Thursday December 14 (Please note date change) 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Free Sean MacStiofain'.

MEDWAY: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue, Rochester.

LONDON TEACHERS: Monday December 18, 8 p.m. Caxton Hall (near St James's Park tube).

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETINGS

SWINDON

Wednesday, December 13 8 pm
AEU HOUSE, FLEMING WAY, SWINDON

SPECIAL SHOWING OF THE 'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM. A film made by ACTT showing the five Right-to-Work marches from Glasgow, Liverpool, Swansea, Deal and Southampton to London, ending with a huge rally at Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 12, 1972.

Speaker: G. Healy, National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League. Chairman: F. Willis, AEU steward at British Rail Engineering Workshop, Swindon (in a personal capacity).

- We demand the right to work!
- Make the Tory government resign!
- Build the revolutionary party!

BRACKNELL (Berks)

Thursday December 14 7.45 p.m.

MEADOW VALE SCHOOL, MOREDALE AVENUE, PRIESTWOOD ESTATE

WAGES, DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND THE TORY GOVERNMENT

Speaker: G. Healy, National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League

Warning from technical union 16,000 north east jobs in danger

EIGHT THOUSAND north-eastern manual workers in shipbuilding and the engineering industries may lose their jobs by the middle of next year. This has been announced by Arthur Scott, president of TASS (the technical and supervisory section of the engineering union) who claimed that, in addition, another 8,000 jobs in related and sub-contracting industries could go.

Mr Scott bases his assessment on the fact that in the last few weeks virtually every major factory in the region has notified TASS that redundancies are imminent.

About 400 TASS members face loss of their jobs in January and February, 1973.

A cut-back in technical staff must lead to a cut-back in production. In the north-east, the ratio of manual workers to technical staff is 19:1—400 technical staff jobs is equivalent to 8,000 manual workers' jobs.

At present the rate of unemployment among TASS members is 3 per cent, compared with the normal figures of 0.5 per cent. This, says Mr Scott, is 'our biggest unemployment crisis since the 1930s'.

The Steel Group of Sunderland, Hawthorne Leslie Ltd of Newcastle, George Clark NEM Ltd of Wallsend, the Swan Hunter group, Austin and Pickersgill Ltd, and A. Reyrolle Ltd of Hebburn have all announced, or warned of redundancies.

And C. A. Parsons Ltd of Newcastle will be short of work by June 1973.

According to Brian Bigley, north-eastern regional secretary of the Confederation of British Industry: 'It is a tight-rope situation.'

Ancillary hospital workers will stay out 24 hours

MORE than 35,000 ancillary workers at 150 north-west hospitals have now voted to support tomorrow's strike action in support of their £4-a-week pay increase frozen under the Tories' wage-control Act.

However, most of them will stop work for 24 hours and not just for the half-day called for by the National Union of Public Employees.

Among those planning a full day's stoppage in the Manchester area are: the United Manchester Hospitals, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, the Jewish Hospital, Wythenshawe and Baguley, Withington, Northern, Crumpsall and Springfield, and Booth Hall Hospital.

Ancillary workers at Warrington General Hospital have also voted for a 24-hour stoppage.



Photographs: Peter Kelly

Technical college teachers may stop

TEACHERS from 30 technical colleges in the north-east are prepared to take industrial action if their wage claim for a £9-a-week increase is not met.

According to Ernest Rowson, Press officer for the north-east division of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions, teachers could find their only redress lay in industrial action when their present salary agreement runs out next March.

£17m takeover in engineering

A £17M takeover approach yesterday pushed up shares in Davy-Ashmore, the specialist engineering plant firm.

The shares jumped 12p to 79p after Simon Engineering, which also designs and supplies plant for a wide variety of industries, made a shares plus loan-stock offer for a merger.

Simon directors said they were 'convinced there is a strong case in commercial and industrial logic' for putting the two companies together. They hoped the Davy-Ashmore directors would recommend the offer.

North Sea oil wages rigged

WHOEVER is getting the benefits from the much publicized North Sea oil boom, it is certainly not the stewards working on the rigs. At a recent meeting of Aberdeen Trades Council a photostat of a 22-year-old steward's pay cheque showed he had received £22.86 for a 90-hour week.

Trades Council chairman John Gallacher pointed out that if he had been able to get a job in his trade as a steel-worker the man could have made over three times as much for working these hours.

The Trades Council decided to set up a committee on wages and unionization on the rigs.

Previous Workers Press articles have revealed details of the vicious exploitation of oil-rig workers who have to work enormous hours, in some cases in appalling conditions, for wages which, hour for hour, are far lower than those in comparable shore jobs.

The oil companies are able to cash in on the fact that Aberdeen is a low-wage area. In key industries such as fish-processing unionization is weak and wages are notoriously low.

They are also able to rely on the reformist parochialism of the local labour leadership which has been relentlessly sowing the illusion that the oil boom offers Aberdeen workers a way out of the economic crisis.

This theory lies behind the North Sea Oil Action Committee which the local Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions has set up to try and stave off the crisis in the local shipyards by pressurizing the Tories into ensuring that more orders for oil supply vessels are placed with Scottish firms.

Behind these demands are the Communist Party members on the Trades Council.

OVER 250 trade unionists and Young Socialists marching through South Shields last Saturday in support of the 70 women on strike at Barbour's Rainwear.

At the meeting following the march strike committee secretary Josie Lloyd called for a mass picket on Monday morning to stop fresh labour going into the factory.

In fact, the picket was so powerful that Barbour's manager Ken Charlton capitulated and recognized the T&GWU. The seven-week strike had been victorious. Story: see page 12.



Writings of Leon Trotsky

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1939-1940	£1.05



These extremely vital writings by Leon Trotsky between the years 1929 and 1940—his third and final exile from the Soviet Union—are now available in Britain from the Paperbacks Centre (see advert below).

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Barbours' women win!

A GREAT victory for trade unionism has been won by the 70 women strikers at Barbours' Rainwear, South Shields. After eight weeks of determined struggle they have defeated the management and forced complete recognition of the union of their choice—the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Crunch-time came yesterday morning when the women were joined on the picket line by

miners, engineers and Trades Council delegates from South Shields and Jarrow.

At 8.30 a.m. when the police were preparing to break through the picket line, 80 sheet metal workers rushed from their factory next door and defended the Barbours women and girls.

Barbours were understood to be hoping to bring in new labour, but all entrances were blocked by pickets and no one got in, not even the staff workers and non-union supervisors who had previously worked.

And, as police arrived, manager Ken Charlton was prevented from opening the door.

Police reinforcements were

rushed in, only to find that workers at the factory next door—Elsie and Gibbons—were joining the strike.

Police made no attempt to break the picket and eventually the manager asked to meet the union representatives.

At this meeting he capitulated. The victorious strikers returned to work today with full recognition for the T&GWU, an immediate £2-a-week increase, and the management committed to further negotiations with the stewards.

After seeing the management, strikers and their supporters marched through South Shields

shouting 'Barbours have won'. Jack Grassby, secretary of the South Shields Trades Union Council commented:

'We all want to pay tribute to the Barbours girls. They have fought the battle of their lives and have won. It is a victory for the whole working class and the trade union movement. It will long be remembered in South Shields.'

Despite their tight financial circumstances after eight weeks on strike, a meeting of the girls raised £2.50 for the Workers Press Appeal Fund.

● See photographs p.11

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

WE REACH £406.88

LET'S STEP up the fight today. We are determined to raise our target of £1,750 by Christmas.

Engineers all over the country are beginning to reply with strike action to the decision to fine the AUEW £50,000. From this, the government should take warning. A huge movement is growing that could force the Tories to resign.

Workers Press is absolutely vital today. Only our paper can provide the firm political lead needed for this fight. So make a very special effort for our December Fund. Help us collect a record amount. Add something extra yourself, if possible. Post all your donations immediately to:

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

'We stay out until fine is withdrawn'—CAV men

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN SUDBURY

WORKERS at the CAV factories in Sudbury, Suffolk, say they will stay out indefinitely unless the £50,000 fine on the engineers' union is withdrawn.

A mass meeting yesterday morning decided solidly for immediate action against the fine. Only about 30 of James Goad's former workmates voted against their stewards' recommendation to strike.

The CAV engineers hoped their action would immediately be followed by trade unionists all over the country. Immediate backing came from Transport and General Workers' Union members in the Sudbury factories, bringing them to a standstill.

Said convenor Bill Duckling afterwards:

'It's not just a question of one factory, or one man. What's involved here is the future of the trade union movement throughout Britain, in fact throughout the world.'

The meeting, which began in semi-darkness and freezing cold, was addressed by union officials Les Stubbs and Ron Halveston.

Les Stubbs, district organizer of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, reported that a brief shop stewards' meeting shortly beforehand had expressed the view that 'if we don't demonstrate our feelings on these issues right now we will lose the chance for ever.'

He hoped the workers' actions would demonstrate that they would not allow their union to be dictated to.

Ron Halveston, assistant organizer, asked:

'What does the future hold if this goes through?'

It was a racing certainty that the £50,000 due to be paid on Friday would be followed by further massive fines, he said.

'We must make clear that we will not tolerate this. The National Industrial Relations Court must reconsider.'

The trade union movement was waiting for action from Sudbury, Halveston said. If they took it they would not stand alone.

A call for a ballot on the stewards' recommendation—'Out now'—found no seconder and was angrily shouted down.

Stewards immediately began picketing the gates of the main factory, demonstrating their determination to stay out as long as it takes to win by turning away first a load of Christmas turkeys destined for the canteen.

'I've got a feeling the only Christmas dinner I'll eat will be whatever the wife finds for us at home,' said one steward.

A further meeting of the 1,300 workers at the factory has been arranged for Friday morning.



AMNESTY International yesterday launched a world-wide Campaign for the Abolition of Torture. The chairman, Sean McBride, said torture was now being used on an 'organized and systematic' basis throughout the world. He said it was now regarded as a normal part of interrogation procedure. The campaign was aimed at generating a public outcry against the widespread official practice of torturing prisoners and detainees.

MINERS can expect a big new speed-up drive following the government's announcement yesterday of increased financial aid to the industry. Peter Walker, Trade and Industry Secretary, said aid on the scale envisaged could not be justified without 'effective and sustained efforts by all sides of the industry to improve its competitive position, contain costs and re-establish viability'.

● A date for formal pay talks with the miners' unions would be fixed following Thursday's meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive, an NCR spokesman said yesterday.

ENGINEERS STRIKE TO DEFEND UNION

FROM PAGE ONE

'It's too late now. The confrontation is here. There is no way out. I don't think the Official Solicitor will help them here,' said Mr Reagan.

Over 1,100 workers at Mather and Platt's machine tool plant in Oldham could strike today, taking the initiative before tomorrow's shop stewards' quarterly meeting.

Local officials are pressing for immediate action in opposition to the £50,000 fine and in support of the executive's call.

'We're not waiting for any circulars first,' Bob Williams, district secretary, told Workers Press yesterday.

'On Wednesday there will obviously be a call by stewards and by myself for industrial action throughout the district,' he added.

'It is good news that Sudbury are already out. We're defending our union here. The Tories have created this confrontation. They grabbed the tiger by the tail. Now we've got to make the tiger turn round and bite.'

Mr Williams said the AUEW was now in the forefront of the fight against the Industrial Relations Act.

'I hope other unions will support us. But we have to give the lead.'

Although lower Clyde engineers had by yesterday not taken any

definite decision on action, district secretary Ian McKee was in no doubt that his members would respond to the call.

'The £50,000 fine is a diabolical decision. You won't find the engineers here lacking in fight. There'll be some action very shortly,' he said.

Engineers' stewards in Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs, including those representing the shipyard workers at Vickers, have demanded a lead on all-out

strike action from today's executive council meetings.

'The action of the Sudbury men should be a catalyst and I think strikes will take place right throughout the country,' said Eric Montgomery, district secretary, yesterday.

'The entire question of opposition to the Industrial Relations Act swings on what we do. If we don't take all-out action we might as well wrap our fight up. And that would be fatal to the trade union movement as a whole!

North London and Lambeth Councils of Action call on tenants, housewives, trade unionists, youth and unemployed.

**Fight rising prices!
Make the Tory
government resign!**

**DEMONSTRATE NEXT SATURDAY
December 16**

March through Brixton shopping centre
Assemble 2 p.m.
opposite Brixton Town Hall
Meeting:
Clapham Baths
Clapham Manor Street
4 p.m.

March through Wood Green and Tottenham
Assemble 2 p.m.
opposite Wood Green Town Hall
Meeting:
Downhills Park School
3 p.m.



Convenor Bill Duckling



Organizer Les Stubbs



Assistant Ron Halveston

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