

WORKERS PRESS

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

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a year of intense class struggle**

**It is also the year to
form the revolutionary party**

BRITAIN'S ENTRY into the Common Market today marks a watershed in the history of British capitalism. It is a desperate act by a ruling class in the grip of the worst economic crisis it has ever faced.

They are joining hands with the reactionary monopolies and cartels of Europe to destroy all the democratic rights of the European masses.

1973 will be a year of intense class battles because the working class will fight any attempt to smash its independence, drive down wages and reduce it to a state of poverty and oppression.

No one should mistake the intentions of this capitalist alliance. These men have not changed. They control the same monopolies that financed Hitler, Mussolini and Franco against the European working class only a generation ago. Their money paid for the concentration camps and the gas chambers where the labour leaders and the Jewish people perished.

The same industrialists—the Krupps, Thyssens and Pirellis—dominate western Europe today. Now they are faced with an economic crisis far worse than the one which brought forth fascism. The monetary system which has underpinned the post-war expansion of world trade has collapsed. All attempts to restore stability by negotiation have failed completely.

The prevailing condition of international economic life is now trade war.

America and Japan have started an economic offensive to expand their markets and maintain their profit margins. This will drive the bosses of western Europe in one direction—towards ever more intense exploitation and repression of the working class to the point of dictatorship.

This is the real meaning of the Common Market and the struggles ahead in 1973.

No one who has witnessed the rule of the Tory government since June 1970 can deny the dictatorial ambitions of the British and European capitalist class. The Heath government has systematically forced through policies aimed at depriving the working class of the following basic democratic rights:

The right to free trade unions: The Industrial Relations Act is a legal instrument to rob workers of their right to maintain unions as independent fighting organizations. The way the Act has been used proves this. Five dockers have been jailed, the two biggest unions in the country have been fined tens of thousands of pounds and the rail unions were court martialled and compelled to hold a ballot when the government wanted to crush their strike.

FORWARD IN 1973 TO REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

An Editorial Board statement



The Socialist Labour League, British section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, on the march to the revolutionary party.

The right to a living wage: Wage increases are now illegal. Phase two of Heath's state pay plan will construct permanent machinery to hold down wages. In other words, all independent wage bargaining is to be abolished by decree. Unions or sections of workers who refuse to comply with the state pay 'norms' face unlimited fines and imprisonment.

The right to a decent standard of living: While wage rises are outlawed, prices skyrocket. By the crude arithmetic of the ruling class this results in one thing—the mass impoverishment of millions of working-class families.

The right to decent housing: Backed by their friends in the property speculation business, the Tories are deliberately setting out to destroy municipal housing. The number of council houses built last year was the lowest since 1963. Meanwhile the so-called 'fair rents' Act is aimed at eventually doubling council rents and throwing the public housing sector to the inflationary influence of the free market.

In the face of this savage onslaught on basic rights, what have the so-called leaders of the trade union movement done?

With their allies in the Communist Party they have tried to hold back the militancy of the working class and pre-

vented it from meeting the Tory government in a political confrontation.

In 1972 real opportunities existed for forcing the Tories out of office.

The miners exposed the weakness of the Tory government and drove it to the brink of political collapse. Heath was saved when the engineers' leaders refused to join the miners in a national wages strike and the NUM executive traded a chance to bring down the Tories in exchange for higher wages.

In April and May the railway leaders, with the encouragement of the TUC, recognized the National Industrial Relations Court's compulsory ballot and prevented unity with the dockers in a fight to defend basic rights.

In July Britain came near to its first General Strike since 1926 when hundreds of thousands of workers took unofficial action to force the release of the Pentonville five. But again the leadership held back a political mobilization.

The most craven collaboration of all came in autumn when the trade union leaders spent weeks talking with Heath over the joint management of the economy. While this charade went on, the Tories were preparing their plans to enter Europe and ban all wage increases.

But despite the lackeys who lead the trade unions, the ruling class will need more than warlike speeches and Acts of parliament to take away rights that the working class have won in 200 years of struggle. Workers in Britain have shown that they will not be intimidated by Heath's bombast or the bragging arrogance of his Ministers.

This resistance is world-wide. Within the Common Market the lines of struggle are also clearly drawn.

Steel and engineering workers will close the industrial powerhouse of the Ruhr in ten days' time in the biggest strike action since 1929 and the rise of fascism.

But the highest point of the international class struggle is the Vietnamese revolution. Their struggle is a signal to workers all over Europe.

Like the Americans, the capitalists of western Europe must go to war on all sections of the people. The struggles of the British and European working class are one and indivisible with the heroic resistance of the Vietnamese workers and peasants and the Arab guerrillas.

Workers now face the struggle inside the Common Market. The question of unity with their European brothers is raised.

There are two distinct perspectives.

These are those, like the Stalinist leaders in western Europe, the revisionists of the International Marxist Group and a section of the International Socialists who argue that the institutions of the EEC can be 'democratized' and that workers should fight within its framework. This also happens to be the view of the extreme right wing of the Labour Party led by Roy Jenkins!

The other perspective is a revolutionary one. Our opposition to the Common Market is not nationalistic like that of the British Communist Party. The only basis for unity between the workers of Britain and Europe is the struggle to destroy the Common Market, overthrow the capitalist governments that control it and go forward to construct the Socialist United States of Europe. Involvement in any of the EEC's institutions or plans is an act of class collaboration.

The building of sections of the Fourth International to carry out these tasks in all the countries of the Common Market is the vital issue of 1973.

The International Committee of the Fourth International is in the forefront of this struggle. No other revolutionary organization in the world today is engaged in the theoretical clarification and discussion essential to the building of such parties.

This task can only be achieved by attracting to the banner of Marxism the most-advanced sections of the working class and those elements of the middle class who refuse to submit to the dictates of this degenerate system.

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workers press

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What we think

Labour lackeys of Nixon

NOTHING can exceed the hypocrisy of the 'protests' about Nixon's bombing of Vietnam issued last week by the leaders of the British Labour Party.

The 'Daily Mirror' gave over its entire front page on Friday to Roy Jenkins' letter to Heath complaining of the Tory premier's 'indifference' to the United States' offensive against 'stubborn' Vietnam.

Neither Jenkins nor the 'Mirror' pointed out that if he had not led 69 Labour traitors into the Tory Common Market lobby in October 1971, the Heath government would not be in power today.

Also on Friday 'The Times' published a letter from Mr R. G. Hayward, general secretary of the Labour Party, outlining Labour's 'abhorrence' of the bombing and its 'regret' at the breakdown of the Paris 'peace' talks.

Mr Hayward failed to explain why there has not been a single official demand from the Labour Opposition for even a parliamentary debate on the renewed US bombings, let alone any campaign against them in the labour movement.

Leader Harold Wilson, fresh from Israel, where he had been hailed as a friend of Zionism, also 'condemned' and 'deplored' the atrocities.

But this was the same Wilson who, as Labour Prime Minister, flew to Washington on January 25, 1970, and gave President Nixon his complete support for the Vietnam policies of US imperialism.

And that was shortly after the revelations of the notorious My Lai massacres, which had also occurred during the lifetime of the Labour government—in March 1968.

Other clear examples of imperialist brutality in Vietnam which hit the headlines during the time of the Labour government included the news that in June 1969, a company commander of the US Ninth Infantry Division ordered his men to use village huts and their occupants for target practice.

About the same time American army commanders were ordered not to 'generate' more refugees because all the camps were full. This meant, as everyone knew, 'kill them instead'.

An authoritative 'New York Times' report spoke of 'official acquiescence to the destruction of the countryside and its people' and declared that 'air strikes on civilians have become a matter of routine'.

Yet the Socialist Labour League was the only organization to campaign against Wilson's visit

to Washington. We said then (Workers Press, January 21, 1970):

« We know that Wilson, reformist and servant of the bankers that he is, supports Nixon's war to the hilt. That is one of the reasons why he is going to Washington.

All talk of Wilson being able to put 'pressure' on Nixon to stop the war is so much rubbish.

But for that very reason, we will fight tooth and nail in the remaining few days to prevent Wilson speaking up for imperialism in the name of the British labour and trade union movement.

That has happened all too often in the past.

Wilson and his kind did not build this movement. The working class did, in a fight against the very system we see unleashing its terror today on the Vietnamese people.

Wilson has no right to speak for the millions of workers who fought for this movement in the past and continue to defend it today—against, it should be said, the attacks of Wilson and his big business friends.

As we have stressed repeatedly throughout this campaign, the fate and struggle of the British and Vietnamese workers are linked.

What Wilson has attempted to do with his 'penal clauses' against the trade unions and his wage freeze against the entire working class, Nixon continues in Vietnam with napalm bombs and 'pacification campaigns'.

They all attack the working class. The difference is one of degree, not kind. United with our Vietnamese brothers we can both defeat imperialism and go on to build socialism.

Everything we said then has been proved correct. Yet neither the Labour 'lefts' nor the Communist Party Stalinists raised a murmur against Wilson's Washington trip.

Neither have they fought since to bring down the Tory government. No number of verbal protests nor 'vigils' outside the American embassy can end the war in Vietnam.

That needs the united action of the Vietnamese masses and the American and European working class. Immediately, that means a campaign now to force the Tory government to resign and to return a Labour government committed to all-out opposition to American imperialism in Vietnam.

The verbiage of the social democrats and the vigils of the Stalinists are a cover to avoid such a fight.

Barriers going up

THE United States has reserved its rights to revise tariff levels with the Common Market—indicating tough bargaining at this year's meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Washington sources said at the weekend.

The US move was in response to a similar decision relayed to Washington by the EEC under an article of the GATT agreement which says members may exercise the option at three-year intervals.

The EEC had used the option before—but only in respect of specific trade items. This time it covered the whole range of imports.

This is the first time the US has exercised its option rights, but sources said the decision was not aimed at other American trading partners and that discussions with Canada and Japan to review the EEC action would be sought soon.

The EEC is one of the largest outlets for US agricultural exports.

Hanoi army paper claims victory over B52s

Why Nixon called off the bombing

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE DECISION to call off the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong is an admission of bankruptcy by President Nixon and a portent of impending defeat for US imperialism in Indo-China.

The American claim—dutifully echoed by Tory premier Edward Heath—that the North Vietnamese have been forced back to the Paris talks is a threadbare lie.

It is designed to cover the fact that the US has lost a major portion of its strategic bomber force since the air onslaught against the northern capital began on December 18.

Hanoi has put American losses at 34 B52s, five F111 swing wing jets and 42 other planes, totalling 81 from December 18 to 29. The Americans admit to losing 15 B52s and ten other planes.

Yesterday the army newspaper 'Quan Doi Nham Dan' said North

Vietnam had scored a victory over the B52 bombers which had created the best political and military experience it had ever experienced.

'For 12 days and nights of fierce but heroic and skilful fighting we have dealt deadly blows to the US strategic air force and gained victories full of strategic meaning and without precedent in the history of wars,' the paper said.

The commentary, entitled 'A Strategic Victory', said the US mobilized its entire strategic as well as tactical air potential in south-east Asia to produce a 'destruction effect' similar to an atomic bomb in the most populated areas.

The paper said US strategy was important both militarily and politically, but it failed because of the courage and heroism of the North Vietnamese people and armed forces.

The bombing was a desperate act by the Nixon regime to try and stave off defeat in the south and maintain the partition of Indo-China. President Thieu's

puppet government is crippled by inflation and is falling apart despite vast injections of US war material.

Nixon had hoped to bomb North Vietnam back into the stone age, dropping a greater explosive power in the last two weeks than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombs combined.

The barbarous tactics have proved a failure. The workers and peasants of Vietnam have stood firm in defence of their revolution against everything that Nixon can throw at them.

The talks reopen in Paris in a week's time, though there will be meetings of 'technical experts' beginning on Tuesday.

The American side is trying to save face by maintaining that the Vietnamese have made crucial concessions on the size of the international observer force to police an agreement.

However, according to reports, the US has made the far more fundamental concession of recognizing, according to reports, that Vietnam is one country.

It is on the basis of this principle that North Vietnam claims the right to maintain troops in the south.

Bukovsky protest at Soviet embassy

VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY, the young Soviet writer now serving a 12-year prison sentence in the USSR, is in a bad state of health and suffering from rheumatic fever, say the latest reports.

Bukovsky, who was 30-years-old over the weekend, is reported to be in the tough Vladimir Prison outside Moscow. His damp cell is affecting his health and could lead to heart trouble.

He was arrested by police in March 1971 on the trumped-up charge of 'anti-Soviet agitation'. His 'crime' was to publish an appeal to western psychiatrists to assess the mental state of oppositionists imprisoned in asylums, based on diagnoses he had managed to obtain.

On Saturday, actor David Markham, secretary of the Working Group on the Internment of Dissenters in Mental Hospitals, staged a protest against Bukovsky's continued imprisonment outside the Soviet Embassy in London.

'According to information the authorities are building 150 new mental hospitals in the Soviet Union for political prisoners,' he told Workers Press.

'And it is said a lot of workers are being imprisoned now, as well as the intellectuals.'

The Kremlin bureaucracy is also dealing harshly with dissenting psychiatrists. Dr S. Glusman has just been given ten years in jail for refusing to certify normal people insane.

David Markham said attempts had been made in the west to keep the whole question quiet.

'In my opinion, some leading British psychiatrists have assisted in preventing the subject being raised at world conferences for fear of antagonizing the Soviet delegation.

'On the other hand, a number of leading psychiatrists are sympathetic and are willing to do anything they can to help.'

His working group is actually made up of four leading doctors in the psychiatric field.



DAVID MARKHAM... More 'mental' hospitals being built for oppositionists.

Socialist Labour League North West Rally

FORCE THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY!

SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 7 p.m.
The Everyman, Hope Street,
LIVERPOOL

'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.

Speakers:

- G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)
- CHRISTINE SMITH (Young Socialists)
- In a personal capacity:
- CONNIE FAHEY (Manchester Tenants)
- ALAN STANLEY (Vauxhall Shop Stewards)
- BRIAN GEENEY (U.P.W.)
- WALLY FOUCHS (CAV Occupation Committee)

TUC CHIEFS SURRENDER TO EUROPE

The leaders of the trade union movement have accepted British entry into the Common Market and are on the point of becoming its 'reluctant' policemen.

This is the only conclusion which can be drawn from the resigned, weak-kneed statement issued today by the TUC General Council.

While reaffirming formal opposition to entry, the statement goes no further than a few, fairly mild warnings about possible increases in food prices and unemployment.

Nothing is said about fighting the European capitalists' conspiracy against the working class. Silence reigns on the dire threat the Market poses to the very existence of independent trade unions.

Instead the General Council lamely accuses the government of tending to 'play down' the problems presented by entry.

'The government could and should have done much more to insist that the UK's prospective payments to the Community Budget should be reduced to a level roughly equivalent to our likely receipts from it,' the statement says.

No principle

'On this crucially-important issue in the negotiations, the government at no stage appeared to have a specific negotiating objective.'

This forms paragraph two of the statement. And this fact provides the key to the TUC leaders' treacherous attitude. Nowhere are they opposed in principle to entry—only to the present terms.

All 'could have done' and 'should have done', when directed, as they are, at the

Tory government, merely signal the union chiefs' fundamental acceptance of the British capitalists' needs and plans.

This point is driven home in each subsequent paragraph.

The TUC's major area of concern', the statement says, 'has been with the potential effects of entry on employment and living standards, and on the distribution of income. In particular the adoption of the Common Agricultural Policy and of Value-Added Tax will each lead to price increases, with particularly adverse effects on the lower paid.'

Food prices

Britain, we are told, has for over a century 'relied on a cheap-food policy'. It is 'a retrograde step' to 'change to a system of high food prices' in the shops.

Far from challenging the Tories' historic decision to completely reverse the cheap food policy—in operation since the mid-19th century—the General Council wants trade unionists merely to plead for no further blows.

'If the government were to take the additional step of extending VAT to food', their statement says, 'the consequences would be . . . wait for it . . . very serious indeed.'

Were the statement adopted as a guide to action, the unions would also bend the knee to the Heath government on jobs.

'There must be a commitment to full employment in all regions of the United Kingdom, not just the south east', the General Council pleads.

'It is essential for the government to retain the right to take whatever measures are needed to achieve this. The retention of a labour-related subsidy for the regions is vital and it would be no sort of a bargain to exchange this for a



TUC leaders at the Brighton Conference this year, where opposition to Common Market entry was reaffirmed

far-less effective scheme administered from Brussels.'

What sort of a 'bargain' they think they could get from the Thyssens, the Hoechst, the Dunlop-Pirellis, the Berliet-Michelins, and the ICIs the union chiefs do not make clear. But they clearly think one is possible.

They also seem to think they can persuade the Tories to stop British employers transferring their capital into Europe, as they are already doing on a hefty scale following the Barber budget of last March. The General Council is 'concerned' at this trend, the statement says.

Neither concern nor the other pious sentiments expressed in the TUC statement can soften the massive blows against the working class which start today. They—and the class-war government which is aiming them—must be defeated and driven from the scene.

Writings of Leon Trotsky

1933-1934	£1.43
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1935-1936	£1.25
1937-1938	£1.25
1938-1939	£1.25
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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SLAUGHTER ON THE SITES

Peter Jones, the Cardiff branch secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' constructional section, has reported that six men have died on industrial sites during the last six weeks in Wales. Yet a conference on industrial safety has had to be cancelled because of the poor response from union officials.

More than 200 invitations had been sent out, but only 75 bothered to reply.

Said Mr Jones: 'I think it is a terrible indictment of the trade union movement in South Wales that a conference on something as important as the Robens Report fell because of lack of support.'

Mr Jones said he was opposed to the recommendation of the Robens report on health and safety in industry, but that the unions were leaving everything to the firms. Apart from the occasional weekend school on normal safety matters, nothing was being done.

VAT AND CHILDRENS' CLOTHES

At present, children's clothing and footwear are exempt from purchase tax. But the government has so far refused to say that they will be exempted from Value-Added Tax. If VAT is added, prices would rise 10 per cent after April 1. Some examples are:

- A girl's school blazer would jump from £6.50 to £7.15.
- Boy's anorak, from £5.75 to £6.33.
- Girl's school shoes, from £3.19 to £3.51.
- Boy's shoes, from £2.99 to £3.29.

Clothing experts calculate that it costs about £46.20 to clothe a 12-year-old boy and £58.50 for a 12-year-old girl.

CARPET PROFITS

Carpet manufacturers Bond Worth Holdings, who have factories at Horwich and Wigan, have reported a big upsurge in profits to £914,000 for the 12 months to last June, beating their own forecast by £14,000. This profit compares with £230,000 in the previous year.

Another big jump is expected when profits for the second half of this year are announced. The figure for the first six months equalled that for the whole of 1971-1972.

More Strikes, More Demonstrations leading to
GENERAL STRIKE AND REVOLUTION
Comrades, Prepare to Occupy Your Factory!

M.T.U.C. MILITANT TRADE UNION COMMITTEE
Underground Movement of the Revolution
operating from the Midlands to build British Socialism

SOCIALIST REVOLUTION NOT CAPITALIST REFORMS

We want urgent progress in 1972:
One way is to be forever patient and subservient.

The other way is the modern and quick method of initiating reforms that have been outstanding for a hundred years, i.e. by means of Revolution. In a few weeks after Revolution, it is possible to bring about more changes and make more progress than in one hundred years of reform. In a few months after Revolution, we can change the fundamental basis of our political system and the moral values in our society.

OUR OWN BRAND OF BRITISH SOCIALISM

When we speak of a change of system, we do not mean a system based upon the political system of any other country. What we shall evolve is very much a Socialist system suitable for the British people and for our nation.

PREPARE FOR REVOLUTION PREPARE TO OCCUPY YOUR FACTORY

Comrades, let's bring Socialism into the Labour Party.
Members of the Labour Party

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Comrades, Brothers, Friends!

Capitalism is an evil in our society.
How long must we tolerate this evil?
The bosses say there will be no General Strike.
We say the opposite. Who will be right?
Only you can decide. It's in your hands!

1972

Each factory must take its own responsibility.
First of all, every shop steward has to make up his mind.
Once you've done that, then get a few loyal comrades.
Get a plan. Get a programme. Get a time-table.
Where do you stand if others begin to occupy?
Start getting the idea around. Talk about it.
Just ask yourselves what is the alternative.

Once more, we urge you to: PREPARE FOR REVOLUTION PREPARE TO OCCUPY YOUR FACTORY

Comrades, don't hesitate to join the coming Occupations!
Members of the Labour Party

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GENERAL STRIKE and REVOLUTION

1972

Labour and Tory bosses use the same refrain:
Work harder! Don't ask for rises! We need more profits!
Have you not had enough of the bloody swine?
Must we continue to use our hands to make their profits?
If not, then you know the only other alternative:
Lose time, do as little as you can at work
Lose the profits for the firm, soften it up from inside
Get it ready for occupation and take over.
That's the next step for us working class.
Let's take it all into our own hands.
We can do it if we want to, you know that!

PREPARE FOR REVOLUTION PREPARE TO OCCUPY YOUR FACTORY

Comrades, let's bring Socialism into the Labour Party.
Members of the Labour Party

THE BLOOD AND THUNDER PROVOCATEURS

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

Many militant trade unionists will have come to know and thoroughly distrust the communiqués and posters from the Militant Trade Union Committee.

This shadowy body specializes in blood-and-thunder manifestos, published and printed anonymously, without imprint and written in Victorian melodrama.

In their latest message—to Edward Heath—they claim to be leaders of the British revolution and also claim to be 'operating from the Midlands'. The MTUC is, in fact, a group of provocateurs—either from the extreme right-wing or the British Special Branch (or both).

Their efforts are always characterized by a tell-tale attraction for nationalism. Hence the Heath Christmas letter threatens: 'We shall not let you control the life-blood of the nation.'

Other passages reveal a petty-bourgeois outlook characterized by opposition to 'worthless parliamentarians, financiers and the privileged class'.

As usual the authors portray themselves as the fulcrum of all industrial militancy. They were responsible for the strike waves over the Industrial Relations Act. They say to Heath:

'You will say "These damned workers are just a bunch of cranks. They will never succeed. The Industrial Relations Act is working and will take greater effect as time passes".

'But just look at the situation we have created in the country,' they continue. 'Millions and millions of man-days lost through industrial disputes. You know the figures. We do not have to quote them for you. We are succeeding in a way we never thought it possible.'

The letter promises General Strike and revolution in 1973 or perhaps 1974.

With the Heath letter, samples of the year's publications are included. These were almost all a call to revolution, particularly allied with a de-

mand that workers occupy their factories like the shipyard workers at UCS ('The UCS did it. Others are on the way!')

Again the appeals betray the dubious origins of the group, whose members claim to be Labour Party card-holders.

One talks in a patrician fashion about 'good working men on the dole'. Another asks: 'Have you not had enough of the bloody swine?'

Others urge on workers to mild forms of sabotage. 'Don't be shy, produce less, lose the profits, bring capitalism to a halt' and 'Let's make it impossible for the bosses. Let's begin to make careful plans to occupy our factories. Let's begin to make real trouble everywhere.'

But one particular manifesto is most revealing. It repeats what appears to be the MTUC's main slogan 'Socialist revolution not capitalist reforms'. But calls for 'our own brand of British socialism'. 'When we speak of a change of system,' it says, 'we do not mean a system based upon the political system of any other country. What we shall evolve is very much a socialist system for the British people and for our nation.'

The political colouring is very much that of the extreme right, or at least people who believe in the potency of nationalism—this of course could also be the political police, the Special Branch or their agents—though as every trade unionist and socialist will recognize, the job of 'incitement' is particularly crude. The authors clearly have very little understanding and knowledge of the working class and labour movement.

Perhaps the most significant indication that the group is made up of provocateurs is the fact that they remain entirely anonymous.

'Let's make careful plans,' they say—but who with?

Neither do they at any stage propose a programme.

Clearly the MTUC 'members' do not want to establish a serious socialist organization.

What then is their purpose? The history of the group is instructive.

It first surfaced in 1968 when shop stewards' commit-

tees began to receive its outpourings, starting with 'Poster No 1' called 'Prepare for Revolution'.

It was about this time that a group of fascists, known to be connected with more respectable figures on the right—particularly one individual with intelligence connections—were halted by a police patrol on their way to a massive left-wing demonstration in London.

By their manner and dress they appeared to be part of the left, but the group, which was armed with anything from clubs to barbed wire, turned out to be fascist.

It was at this time that hundreds of thousands of the MTUC leaflets were flooding the labour movement.

The next major incident came immediately prior to the 1970 General Election—again there was a call for a General Strike and revolution. A few days later the then right-wing Tory for Knutsford, William Bromley Davenport, used the leaflets to support his argument for an investigation of left-wing groups by the police and Home Office.

This gives one clue to the MTUC's possible role—a peg on which a pogrom of the left could be hung. Last week we revealed that the Tories were considering a plan to purge the left if an early election was called. The MTUC could figure in such a campaign.

One other function could be to implicate genuine left-wingers in activities that might lead them to run the risk of arrest or to a frame-up.

The MTUC remains anonymous. But on occasions its members do surface. Members of the Socialist Labour League have been approached by people claiming to be MTUC members—people who offered money across cafe tables: a typical frame-up technique.

Whatever their origin the MTUCers are clearly enemies of the working class. So far their efforts have been hopelessly clumsy. But they may improve.

After the so-called Angry Brigade trials and the general deepening of the Tory offensive, workers must be on their guard against the activities of these servants of the ruling class.



More Strikes, More Demonstrations leading to
GENERAL STRIKE AND REVOLUTION
Comrades, Prepare to Occupy Your Factory!

M.T.U.C. MILITANT TRADE UNION COMMITTEE
Leaders of the British Revolution
operating from the Midlands to build British Socialism

14.12.1972.

A Christmas Gift to the
Parasites of the Nation:
Tories, Government and the City.

Dear Heath,
We send you and your kind our gift for your Christmas reading as you relax while millions of our people struggle through in

Edward Heath and the letterhead of the document addressed to him by the Militant Trade Union Committee. Above: Three of the expensively-produced leaflets issued by the same shadowy organization.

TRUMAN— AGAINST AMERICAN WORKERS

Part three in this series by Jack Gale on Harry S. Truman, the US President who introduced laws against the trade unions and initiated the McCarthy witch-hunt era.

In the five years after World War II, United States national production increased from \$213 billion to \$284 billion.

In that period there was a vast demand for consumer and durable goods on the home market, while a foreign market for American surpluses was assured by the programme of aid and reconstruction abroad undertaken by Harry S. Truman's administration in order to shore up world capitalism.

Thus there was a continuation of heavy government spending, accompanied by an explosive increase in private investment.

This, of course, created an enormous inflationary problem. In the single year 1946-1947, prices rose more than they had done throughout the entire war period.

The authority of the Office of Price Administration—set up by Roosevelt in 1941—expired on July 1, 1946. In the two weeks that followed, prices jumped by 25 per cent—more than in the entire previous three years.

This inflation, of course, led to wage demands from the unions, and the American workers—determined never again to return to the days of depression—fought tenaciously to improve their standards of life.

Within a month of the Japanese surrender 500,000 workers were on strike in the United States. The following year, 1946, saw 4.6 million workers out on strike, with a loss of 116 million man-days of work.

WALK-OUT

On April 1, 1946, 400,000 miners walked out of the pits. For 40 days they cut off America's supply of fuel and threatened the whole programme for the recovery of capitalism in western Europe. On May 21, after a short truce, the government took over the mines.

When John L. Lewis refused to lead the United Mine Workers back to work the union was dragged before a Federal Court which imposed a \$3.5m fine—though this was later reduced to \$700,000. Despite this the union won most of its demands.

In the middle of the miners' strike the railway union leaders threatened the first total strike on the American railroads since 1894. To head this off, Truman took over control of the railways, but the rail workers walked out just the same.

Over 90,000 passengers were marooned and 25,000 freight wagons stopped, many of them loaded with perishable cargoes.

On May 5, 1946, Truman went to Congress and de-

manded a Bill to draft rail strikers into the army. The strike was settled the same day, but Truman had shown how far he was prepared to carry his hostility to the working class. He had, in fact, already gained the support of the House of Representatives for this step.

One of Truman's last acts as President was to take over the steel industry in 1952 in order to break a strike in this crucial industry during the Korean war. He always insisted it was inherent in the power of the President to take over industries to 'protect the public interest at times of national emergency'.

On this occasion the Supreme Court declared the seizure illegal, by a vote of six to three the steel workers went on strike for 55 days.



Robert A. Taft

It was during Harry Truman's presidency that the notorious Taft-Hartley Act was passed in 1947.

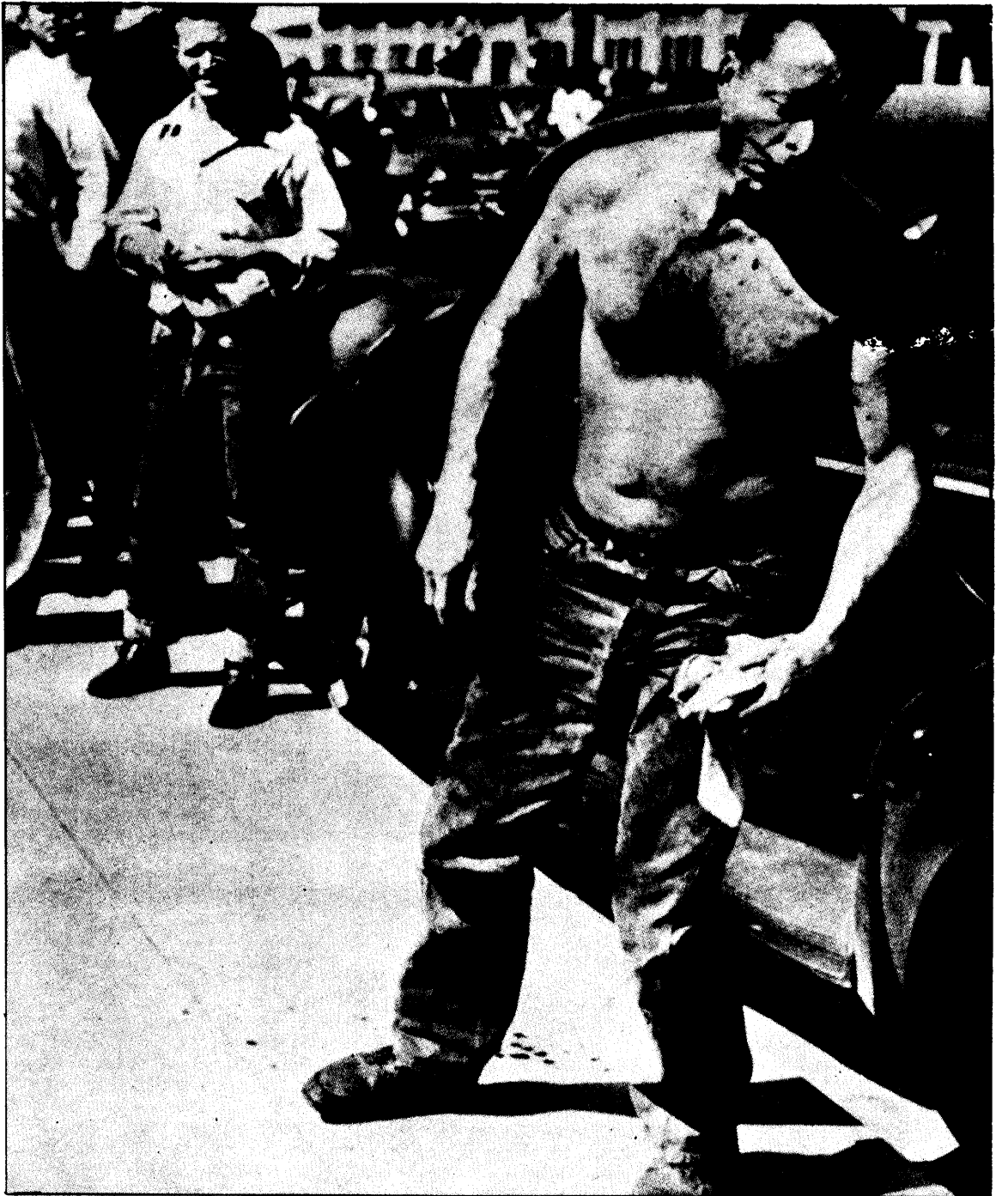
This measure outlawed the closed shop and sympathy strikes; made unions liable for breach of contract or damages resulting from jurisdictional disputes; required a 60-day cooling off period for strikes; authorized an 80-day injunction against strikes that might affect national health or safety; forbade political contributions from unions and banned 'excessive' union dues; required union leaders to swear a non-communist oath and set up a special government 'conciliation' service.

Truman vetoed this Bill, not because he was opposed to it on any principle, but because he thought it would cause more strikes than it would prevent. 'It contains', he said 'seeds of discord which would plague this nation for years to come.'

But the Republicans—thanks to price rises and food shortages—had gained a majority in Congress in 1946 for the first time since 1930.

(In 1946 Truman's inept efforts to hold down food prices had created such a shortage of meat that he became widely known as 'Horsemeat Harry'.)

Accordingly, Congress im-



A beaten-up can worker, the victim of a hysterical 'red-hunt' in the McCarthy period. Truman initiated the witch-hunts with his Order 9835 aimed at 'loyalty' of civil servants.

mediately re-enacted Taft-Hartley with a huge majority and it became law.

American union leaders swung back to Truman following this, conveniently forgetting the pronouncement of R. J. Thomas, national secretary of the CIO's Political Action Committee, who had declared when Truman sought to draft strikers into the army: 'Labour is through with Truman.'

The rallying of the Labour leaders to the Democrats was one of the major factors in Truman's unexpected victory over Thomas Dewey.

Certainly, the Democratic convention of 1948 had opened in an atmosphere of deep gloom. Truman gained renomination almost by default—delegates were wearing campaign buttons reading 'We're Just Mild About Harry'. There was, indeed, an unsuccessful attempt to persuade General Eisenhower to accept the Democratic nomination.

Within a week, the right-wing 'Dixiecrats' had walked out and organized a States Rights party with Governor J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina as their presidential nominee.

On the other wing, ex-Cabinet minister Henry Wallace organized the Progressive Party with a programme of opposition to the Marshall Plan and demands for the nationalization of basic industries.

Dewey, like just about everyone else, thought victory was a foregone conclusion. In a lack-lustre campaign he uttered such startling observations as 'Our streams should abound with fish' and—'incredibly'—'Our future lies before us.'

But Truman's victory was to usher in the era of McCarthyism.

Every bourgeois newspaper in its obituary of this 'warm-hearted' atom-bomber has stressed that Truman vetoed

the McCarron-Nixon Internal Security Act of 1950. This Act required all communist 'front' organizations to register with the Attorney-General, excluded communists from employment in defence plants and made it illegal to 'conspire' to perform any act which would contribute to 'the formation of a dictatorship in the United States'.

It also barred from the United States anyone ever affiliated with 'a totalitarian organization', or with organizations looking to the revolutionary overthrow of government, authorized deportation for aliens involved with suspect organizations, barred passports to communists, provided for the internment of 'subversives' in the event of war, and set up a Subversive Activities Control Board.

It is true that Truman vetoed this Bill, which was immediately passed by Congress over his veto. But what the bourgeois obituaries left out was that the McCarron-Nixon Act was a product of the McCarthyite witch-hunting hysteria which was itself initiated by Harry S. Truman.

WITCH-HUNT

The House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee had been formed as early as 1938, but the real witch-hunt period began with the issuing by Truman of Executive Order 9835 on March 21, 1947.

This order was aimed at investigating the loyalty of civil servants and it introduced the doctrine—basic to the McCarthy period—of guilt by intention and association.

Under its terms evidence of disloyalty included 'membership in, affiliation with, or sympathetic association with . . . any organization, movement, group or combination of persons designated by the Attorney-General as having adopted a policy of approving the commission of acts of

force or violence to deny other persons their rights under the Constitution.' (My emphasis.)

On July 20, 1948, the Truman Administration indicted 11 leading members of the American Communist Party under the Smith Act of 1940. The Supreme Court accepted that the Smith Act was constitutional and that the Communist Party members were guilty of conspiracy to advocate the overthrow of government.

(The Stalinists, of course, had supported the introduction of the Smith Act because it was originally used against the American Trotskyists.)

In 1948 Chiang Kai-shek was finally defeated and the Russians detonated an atomic bomb. Truman and his advisers thought that these achievements could not be gains of a revolutionary struggle and a planned economy, but could only be the work of spies and infiltrators among scientists and intellectuals in the United States.

In this atmosphere Richard Nixon was able to secure his first great triumph—the conviction of Alger Hiss in August, 1948. Only two weeks after this, atomic physicist Klaus Fuchs was found guilty of spying in Britain.

It was this which, added to Truman's initial moves, created the climate for McCarthyism in the United States.

The tensions of McCarthyism conveniently drew public attention away from such awkward incidents as scandals involving public agencies like the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the necessity to indict high-ranking Internal Revenue officials around the country during the last years of the Truman administration.

But nothing could divert attention from Truman's greatest 'achievement' after the dropping of the atom bombs—the launching of the Korean War in 1950.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

THE FINE TUBES FIGHT

A TWO PART INVESTIGATION BY PHILIP WADE

Three years ago last month, pay negotiations opened with Fine Tubes, a small American-owned firm in Plymouth. The claim for higher wages affected almost 200 workers.

Take-home pay was about £13 to £14 a week at the factory, a subsidiary of Superior Tubes of Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Management retaliated to the claim by bringing in job-evaluation and shift work without consulting the unions. Negotiations broke down.

Fine Tubes workers considered the procedure exhausted after six months of futile 'negotiations' and went on strike on June 15, with official backing from both the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Three days later the Tories were elected: every employer felt heartened. Here, at last, was a government which was going to take on the unions.

Within two weeks of the Tory victory the strikers received an ultimatum: Either return or be sacked. No one went back and in due course all received their cards.

The Tories had declared their intention to change the course of British history, meaning the existing 'peaceful' relationships between the classes based on the 'boom'. Fine Tubes management had taken the government up on that pledge.

Today 37 men are still outside the factory gates, picketing the plant to enforce the black against Fine Tubes products. They refuse to leave until their basic rights are restored.

STAND ALONE

Fine Tubes strikers have had to face blackleg labour, a hostile and often vicious, unsympathetic local Press, the backbreaking job of organizing blacking support throughout Britain and struggling against police intimidation on the picket lines. On all these questions they have basically had to stand alone on their own resources, supported by the rank-and-file of the working-class movement.

The election of the Tories also signalled the beginning of a wholesale retreat by the trade union leaders in face of an open attack by the enemy class and their government.

Directly challenged by the government which made little secret of its intentions to destroy basic rights, the trade union leaders decided collaboration was the order of the day. In that way the Indus-

trial Relations Act became law and unemployment rose to 1 million without any serious opposition from the bureaucrats at Congress House.

Now with Phase One of the state pay laws on the statute books and Edward Heath forbidding any discussion on wage claims, the union leadership has decided a further meeting at Downing Street is necessary!

It is in that context that these leaders must bear the responsibility for the fact that the Fine Tubes strikers are still out on the stones.

For at no time have the trade union leaders led a mobilization of their members behind the Fine Tubes men. In fact, today they even refuse to use the word 'black' in official circulars because—presumably—they want to operate within the framework of the Industrial Relations Act.

Fine Tubes, which produce stainless steel tubing, moved to Plymouth in 1962 with a £355,400 interest-free loan from the Tory government to set up shop.

At that time—as now—the West Country was an attractive place for investment. As a rule, trade unionism was not well organized in the region, with wages as a consequence being lower than elsewhere.

According to one union official, the rates at the plant, which had contracts for the Concorde project, were low. 'There are no bonuses... only overtime,' he added.

From July 1970—the day after the strikers were sacked—management began to recruit fresh labour. In early July all the new recruits were given a backdated pay rise and staff status. The fight was on.

But after seven weeks on strike, Ron King, the AUEW district secretary, could only say: 'A dispute of this length is surely as important to the West Country as the recent dispute at the Lucas factory was to the motor car industry.'

He wanted the Department of Employment to intervene, but found—to his surprise—that Fine Tubes management was not interested in such a proposal.

Herman Welch, the chairman of the strike committee, told reporters after eight weeks on strike the blacking campaign was going well. Support had been promised from dozens of factories in Birmingham, Coventry, Derby and Sheffield.

Not long after his statement the 'Western Evening Herald' launched the first of many bitter and often scurrilous attacks on the Fine Tubes men, who appeared to be shattering the long-established paternalism on which labour relations in the region were supposed to be based.

After declaring the strike was doing 'the city's reputation no good' on August 22, 1970, it used the excuse of a

letter from a scab who refused to give his name as he did not 'want to be beaten up on a dark night', to write:

'Has Plymouth really got to the stage where a person with a point of view is afraid to say who he is for fear of being attacked by those who oppose his opinion, but have already stated theirs? What has happened to the English sense of freedom of speech, a right for which wars have been fought and lives lost?

'British democracy, the envy of the world, is founded on the freedom of speech. Were it not, this country would be little more than a communist state without an individual mind,' screamed the editorial.

Here a small group of workers were accused of attempting to bring down the state when the newspaper knew full well that Fine Tubes management had consistently refused to even talk to union officials about the dispute!

HATRED

Worse was to come from the pens of the editorial writers on the 'Western Evening Herald'. On September 11 they went overboard without hiding their hatred for trade unionism in general and the Fine Tubes men in particular:

'One firm in Plymouth has taken on industrial "black-mailers" and, so far, seems to be winning the battle. Work is continuing, say present employees, with even more gusto than before and productivity has increased.

'How did the firm accomplish what others have tried to do, but failed? By sacking all those who went on strike, refusing to have any negotiations with them, or their trade unions, by keeping on the loyal workers and by starting again, almost from scratch,' it went on enthusiastically.

'The line that the company, Fine Tubes, seems to have taken was that if the rates of pay were inadequate, there would be no staff to run the machines. The fact that the machines are running seems to be the answer to their logic.

'Admittedly, more money is being paid to the staff now than it was when the workers went on strike, but the workers who remained with the company say they are better off without the antagonists.

'It shows that companies can, with enough determination, sometimes stand up against the workers and their unions, and apparently win without finding themselves in the financial strait-jacket that leads to higher prices or bankruptcy.

'Unions must have the power to call for official strikes in retaliation for acts



of unfairness or injustice, but on the other hand, shouldn't companies have the right to dismissal and self-preservation?

'Provision, of course, must be made for this side of industrial relations also to be subject to the same government control as wild-cat strikes would be under the impending legislation. There must be fair play on both sides.'

The 'impending legislation' was, of course, the Industrial Relations Bill.

In the same month, September 1970, a plot to keep wages low in the West Country was revealed and police moved in to help strike-breakers for the first time.

The September issue of a free publication, the 'Plymouth Post', had the headline: 'Don't Pay So Much to West Workers'.

It told of an American firm planning to put up an 800-job factory being advised by the Department of Employment: 'Pay lower wages than you planned to—you'll still be

paying above the average.' A DEP spokesman quizzed by the 'Post' said this was 'standard practice'.

After 13 weeks of the strike police intervened at a British Road Services depot where Fine Tubes strikers were picketing to prevent the movement of strip tubing—which had arrived from the United States.

The BRS men refused to handle the tubing and men from inside Fine Tubes and a number of executives eventually loaded the material themselves while police removed the pickets from outside the depot gates.

Meanwhile, local union officials were still seeing the dispute in the most naive way. One told a newspaper in September 1970 that the 'irresponsible action of what appears to be one solitary individual' was to blame. He was referring to Fine Tubes' managing director Tom Barclay.

CONTINUED TOMORROW







Fine Tubes management is led by Tom Barclay (above). They have refused to even discuss the dispute with the union. Right and above: Shortly after the first anniversary of the strike, about 300 workers from different factories in the area staged a joint picket at Fine Tubes. But police moved in brutally to break up the demonstration of support, arresting nine in the process. Union officials said they had not seen such intimidation 'since Nazi Germany'.



MACDONALD FORMS THE FIRST NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

In Part II of her review Jane Brown examines the formation of the National Government under Ramsay MacDonald and analyses some of his 'socialist theories'.

With 288 Members of Parliament, Labour came to power once more in 1929. The Wall Street crash in that year heralded the world economic crisis which was to bring the reformist Labour Party to disaster. By 1931, unemployment had mounted to over 2 million.

In July, a run on the pound began. Helplessly, MacDonald sought a solution from the superior wisdom of bankers and Tory politicians. The Labour Party's 'socialism' was strapped firmly to the existing capitalist system, and could provide no answer to the crisis.

The Tory bankers advised 'economy'. Britain's trading partners were losing confidence in the value of the pound because of the government's 'reckless expenditure' on social services, which was leading to a massive budgetary deficit. The sum spent on unemployment benefit must be cut by £66.5m, for a start, while another £30m could be saved through reducing the pay of teachers and other government employees. (May Report, July 31, 1931.)

The Bank of England's reserves were almost exhausted. All further loans from America were being refused until an 'economy' drive against the

working class was set under way. At a loss for alternatives, MacDonald tried to persuade the TUC to accept the bankers' solution. But the TUC leaders knew the limitations on what they could 'sell' to their members and refused. So did the majority of the Labour Cabinet.

MacDonald was now convinced that the time had come to 'put country before party'. In 1931, at the king's special request (and to the satisfaction of both Tory and Liberal Party leaders), he became Prime Minister in an all-party National Government.

A month later, despite £70m government 'economies' in the form of dole cutting, the pound was forced to come off the gold standard, and was effectively devalued by around 30 per cent. Two months later, MacDonald went to the polls as leader of the National Government. He almost destroyed the Independent Labour Party in consequence, reducing it from 289 to 46 MPs. Breaking all promises that coalition politics would be short-lived, MacDonald stayed on as a 'Tory prisoner'—Prime Minister till 1935 and Lord President until his death in 1937.

The fact that the Labour Party expelled MacDonald and the MPs who followed him into the National Government in 1931 had provided the Labour Party with an excuse to 'disown' the man who had

led it for so long.

MacDonald has been portrayed as merely a tragic individual: a sincere idealist, afflicted by an 'inferiority complex' about his obscure origins, and consequently an obsessive desire to cling to power in later life. But such excuses will not wash with the working class today. As the editor of the new edition of MacDonald's 'political writings' points out, the 'underlying continuity' between the political position of MacDonald, and that of the modern Labour Party leadership, is unmistakable. In 1931, MacDonald acted as all reformist 'socialists' must do in a crisis.

Trotsky went to the essence of the matter in his comments on the Labour Party after its first spell in office ('Where is Britain Going?').

'The Independent Labour Party . . . could not have been better adapted to the role of an irresponsible centrist opposition which criticizes, but does not do any great harm to the rulers. However, it was the fate of the Independents in a short time to become a political force . . . From the moment that centrism became a political force, it was compelled to pass beyond the confines of centrism, in other words it had either to draw revolutionary conclusions from its opposition to the imperialist state, or openly to enter its service.'

There was nothing 'accidental' about this. It had no-

thing to do with 'personalities'. It was true of the 1924 Ministry, still more manifestly true in 1931, and is once again evident in the bankruptcy of Harold Wilson's Labour Party. The more acute the capitalist crisis, the more acute becomes the crisis within the reformist ranks.

The re-publication of MacDonald's writings provides an opportune warning. Unless they are forced by the working class to carry out real socialist policies of nationalizing industry under workers' control without compensation, the next Labour government will prostrate themselves beneath the heel of the capitalists as they did in 1931. They will actively assist the Tories in destroying the basic rights which workers have won in centuries of bitter struggle.

For many years, Ramsay MacDonald was regarded as a leading socialist 'theorist'. This was less because of his originality or intellectual powers ('absolute triviality', as Trotsky calls them), than because his writings suited existing prejudices in socialist circles and sections of the British working class.

Politically, MacDonald was a descendant of 19th century Gladstonian Liberalism. From the Liberal Party he grafted onto the new Labour Party nationalism, pacifism and religiosity, together with an unswerving devotion to 'our free institutions of government'.

Together, these political qualities, borrowed from a complacent, prosperous bourgeoisie, gave the British Labour Party its faith in 'the inevitability of gradualness'; its insularity; and its 'rejection' of revolutionary force.

As Trotsky pointed out in 1925: 'Whoever renounces force should renounce all struggles generally, in other words he should really stand in the partisan ranks of the triumphant forces of the ruling class'. Which, as we have already seen, is exactly the position to which MacDonald's politics eventually led him.

MacDonald's main 'contribution' to socialist theory was his comparison of social to biological evolution. By means of a superficial knowledge of Darwin's theories, he managed to produce a brand of socialism which was both distinctively British and 'scientific'. In fact, it is not hard to demonstrate that his political preconceptions completely dominated his notions of biology.

He saw evolution as the ultimate proof of 'gradualness'. But in doing so, he ignored the most critical factor in biological, as well as social, evolution—the decisive moments when the new being bursts from the old'. Examples of such moments, suggested by Trotsky, include the transformation of a chrysalis into a butterfly; or of an egg into a chicken.

MacDonald's interpretation

of evolution similarly ignores all the revolutionary 'breaks' in British history—such as the Cromwellian Revolution. Moreover, Trotsky demonstrates that the biological analogy is fundamentally inadequate in assessing social change. For human beings are able to go beyond Darwin's 'natural selection' of the fittest, to a 'conscious utilization within certain limits of the experiences of the past'.

In other words, the working class, although historically conditioned, does not have to experience centuries of defeats, and possible annihilation, while it waits for socialism to arrive 'naturally'. It must fight for socialism. And, in doing so, it will learn through study and experience to construct the revolutionary party as the instrument for the destruction of the capitalist system.

MacDonald's superficial appeals to 'science' are a very inadequate attempt to conceal his anti-materialism, and essentially his anti-Marxism. His attempts to refute Marx became more and more central to his arguments as his career proceeded—as he witnessed the triumph of the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, and the foundation of the Communist Party in Britain in 1921. According to the editor of his 'Political Writings', MacDonald appears to have read only the 'Communist Manifesto'.

But, unlike the editor, we do not find this philistine ignorance, revealed in everything he writes about Marxism, justified by the fact that MacDonald was a busy man of practical affairs, and 'the only Labour Prime Minister not to have received an Oxford education'!

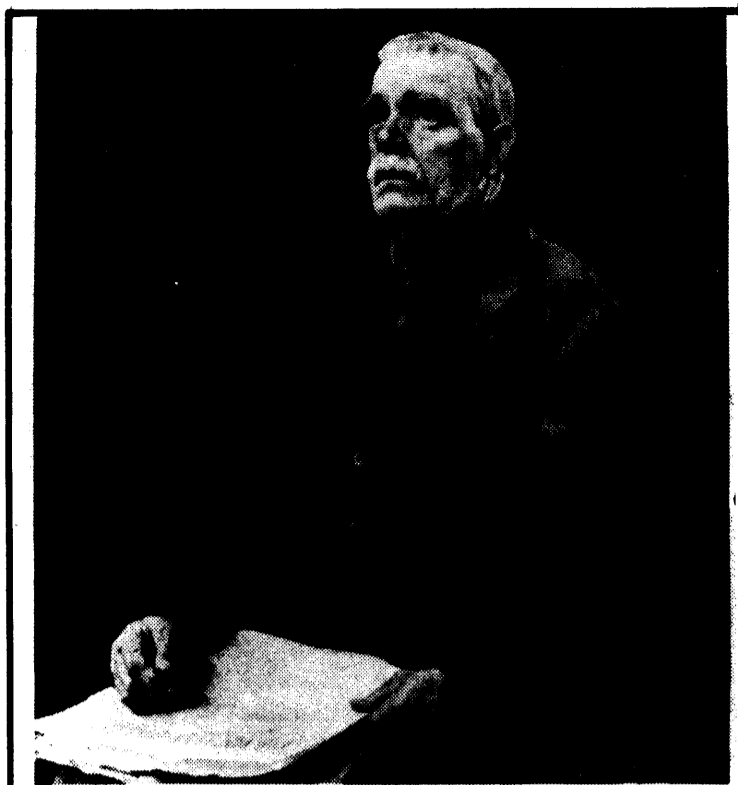
If MacDonald had found time to venture beyond the 'Communist Manifesto', he would have found every one of his 'evolutionary' theories torn to shreds by Marx and Engels, and his own contemporaries, Lenin and Trotsky. For 'evolutionary socialism' is the antithesis of Marxism, in that it denies the importance of correct political leadership. It claims the main danger is that the leadership will outstrip the 'organic development' of society. Therefore tail-ending and propagandism (as practised by the Stalinists and revisionists today) must be the general rule.

MacDonald sums it up neatly: 'One is often met with the enquiry—How is socialism going to be brought about? . . . We dogmatize about what human beings will and will not do, and about nothing are we less well-equipped for dogmatizing. Moreover the question really does not arise in our socialist problem at all, because under democratic government we can never have more socialism at any given time than human nature will stand, and that settles the question.'

It goes without saying that MacDonald had never read Hegel. Yet, with the sure political instinct of a reformist, he manages to extract from plagiarized 'summaries' of his works precisely those features of the Hegelian dialectic which Marx and Lenin grasped so eagerly.

The dialectic, writes MacDonald, 'cannot be dissociated from the idea of catastrophe and revolution, of accumulated energy bursting through opposition . . . Biologically "the negation of the existing state of things", its "inevitable breaking up", its "momentary existence", is impossible . . . The biological view lays the very slightest emphasis on its "critical and revolutionary" side, because it is mainly constructive, and the idea of "clearing before building" is alien to its nature . . .'

Behind the attack on Hegel in this passage, the political antagonism to Marx is barely concealed. A few pages further on, it bursts forth into the open:



From the painting by Harold Speed.

NO MORE SOCIALIST PROMISES FOR ME, I'M VOTING



MacDonald (beside driver), with union leaders, sets off to meet Baldwin to arrange the settlement of the General Strike in 1926. Above: National Government election poster of 1931. Left: MacDonald during his term as Prime Minister at the head of the coalition government.

'To the biologist, the old disappears by renewing itself, and while the transformation is taking place there is perhaps a rest, an apparent reaction, but no revolutionary chaos, nothing "short and sharp". But to Marx, all that was meaningless.' (Incidentally, MacDonald had never actually read Darwin's 'The Origin of the Species' either!)

In another section about Hegel, MacDonald accuses him of propounding 'a simplicity of opposing forces which is never found in the actual world'. This fitted in neatly with his denial that the class struggle, as defined by Marx, is the motive force behind social change. Indeed for MacDonald, whose ignorance of philosophy is perhaps only equalled by his ignorance of economics, the class struggle barely exists.

MacDonald saw no need for a theory of value ('. . . we need not quarrel about these technical points'). He maintained that 'The Ricardo-Marx economics can be knocked on the head at any time, and socialism would not suffer in the least'. It is perhaps rather an exaggeration to claim that labour is the source of all value. From this casual conclusion, it does not take MacDonald long to deduce that '. . . it is not true that there are only two great classes in the community'.

Class conflict is being steadily mitigated by 'the goodly number of workers who cross the line and become employers and employers' managers'. In addition, workers are being won over 'psychologically' by such organizations as Building

Societies, Co-operatives and co-partnership schemes. People often no longer identified themselves with their 'own' class. 'Hence the value of the class war as an uncompromising statement of hard economic fact becomes a mere semblance'. A more uncompromising statement of idealism could scarcely be found!

MacDonald goes on to search out 'new' class antagonisms, apart from that between workers and their employers. There is, for example, 'the opposition between consumer and producer'. Such an opposition may lead to some workers, in their role as 'producers' (particularly those organized in strong trade unions) holding other workers, in the position of 'consumers', to ransom. This confusionist formula has been re-discovered quite recently by the Tory government. They use it to justify a 'wage freeze'.

The other chief flaw in the class struggle as described by Marx is that it 'leaves out of account the middle class'. Even MacDonald is obliged to admit that, in the Communist Manifesto itself, Marx accepts the possibility that sections of the bourgeoisie will be won to the revolutionary party. But this does not prevent him, as Trotsky points out, from using a debased argument to 'delude the workers in the matter of the actual class basis of their power, supplanting it with the fiction of super-class solidarity'. **CONTINUED TOMORROW**

These articles are based on a recently published book: 'Ramsay MacDonald's Political Writings.' Edited by Bernard Barker. Allen Lane The Penguin Press, 1972. £4

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

SHARES

Despite all British-Leyland's frantic efforts to win back favour with bankers and the Stock Exchange by its ruthless hiving-off and rationalization activities to get out of debt and into Europe, the company's share price is still rock bottom.

Among the largest (bigger than £5m) companies, British-Leyland's share price shows one of the biggest falls in 1972—a drop of almost 40 per cent.

The stock market watchers are still showing the same distrust as earlier in 1972 when an attempt to raise more capital by a new issue of shares proved a disastrous failure for British-Leyland.

Leyland's financial sickness—in debt, losing markets, and with only the desperate gamble of expanding into Europe as its last chance of survival—is symptomatic of the economic crisis itself. And capitalism has its own unique way of recording the patient's assumed progress—the share market index.

Among other ailing giants on the stockbrokers' black list for 1972, all having recorded share price falls of more than 30 per cent, were Alfred Herbert machine-tools, Chrysler UK, Ransome Hoffman Pollard ball bearings, and Dunlop.

All have a close connection with the motor car industry which generally acts as a thermometer for the capitalist economy as a whole. This could be the time to sell . . .

PRISONS

A recent BBC Scotland TV programme on Scottish prisons produced at least two thought-provoking statistics. Scotland has a greater percentage of its population in prison than any other country in Europe. And a recent Parole Board report claimed that 35 per cent of all prisoners eligible for parole in Scotland opted to remain in prison.

Most Scottish prisons are old, dank and overcrowded, and have never been renowned for being in the vanguard of penitentiary progressivism. They are the same institutions which Soviet emissary Michael Borodin, who was imprisoned in Glasgow in 1922, compared unfavourably to the worst jails of the Russian Tsars. Except that they are now 50 years older and more overcrowded.

That such a high percentage of prisoners entitled to leave such places prefer to remain in them speaks volumes about conditions in the 'free' society to which they would otherwise return.

HEALTHY

Nantwich urban council has protested to the Cheshire County Council over the latter's £15,000 gift to help set up a private nursing home.

The cheque has gone from the rates towards the £440,000 project.

A county council spokesman has replied that the private nursing home could be an alternative for health services provided by the council for their own staff.

These include medical check-ups—but only for staff earning more than £2,500 per year.

The county council does not provide this service for staff earning less than this figure because there are limitations on medical services and, it says, experience has shown that staff above that salary level were 'more of a health risk'.

Nantwich urban councillor John Mason claims that the home—which will have only 20 beds—will benefit top-level staff earning high salaries.

ODD CHOICE

Once general manager of the 'Daily Worker', Ernie Pountney (92), has just written the story of his 'life and adventures' for publication in early 1973.

Nothing wrong in that, you might think? On the surface of it, no. But Pountney, a founder Communist Party member, has made an unusual choice of writer to put a foreword to his book.

It is none other than the retiring general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union—Lord Cooper.



This veteran, right-wing bureaucrat, has now come together with one of Britain's oldest Stalinists.

Will Thorne, first leader of the gasworkers' union, set up by the Marxists in the 1880s, and which is now the main stem of the G&MWU, would turn in his grave if he could see the state of affairs now.

BOOKS



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CHEAP LABOUR FOR EUROPE

Britain's depressed areas will be worse off and prices will skyrocket after today's entry into the Common Market, according to two new booklets published by the Fabian Society.

Trevor Fisk and Ken Jones, the joint authors of a pamphlet on regional development, say there is a danger that industry will move to the Continent rather than north or west Britain in a bid to slash transport costs by locating itself nearer the heart of the markets.

PARTNERS

In addition foreign-controlled multi-nationals, or companies with partners in Europe, may also opt to expand their businesses on the Continent.

One consolation, they say, is that in UK development areas labour is plentiful and relatively cheap and should therefore lure new employers.

They write: 'In most of the golden Paris-Amsterdam-Ruhr triangle, wage costs are substantially higher than in our development areas.'

That, of course, is not the point. All over Europe, businessmen are shaking out labour and shutting factories so as to benefit from capital-intensive production methods and economies of scale.

The stage has been reached where even cheap labour is too dear and must therefore be employed at the lowest price, in minimum quantities and at as few manufacturing points as possible.

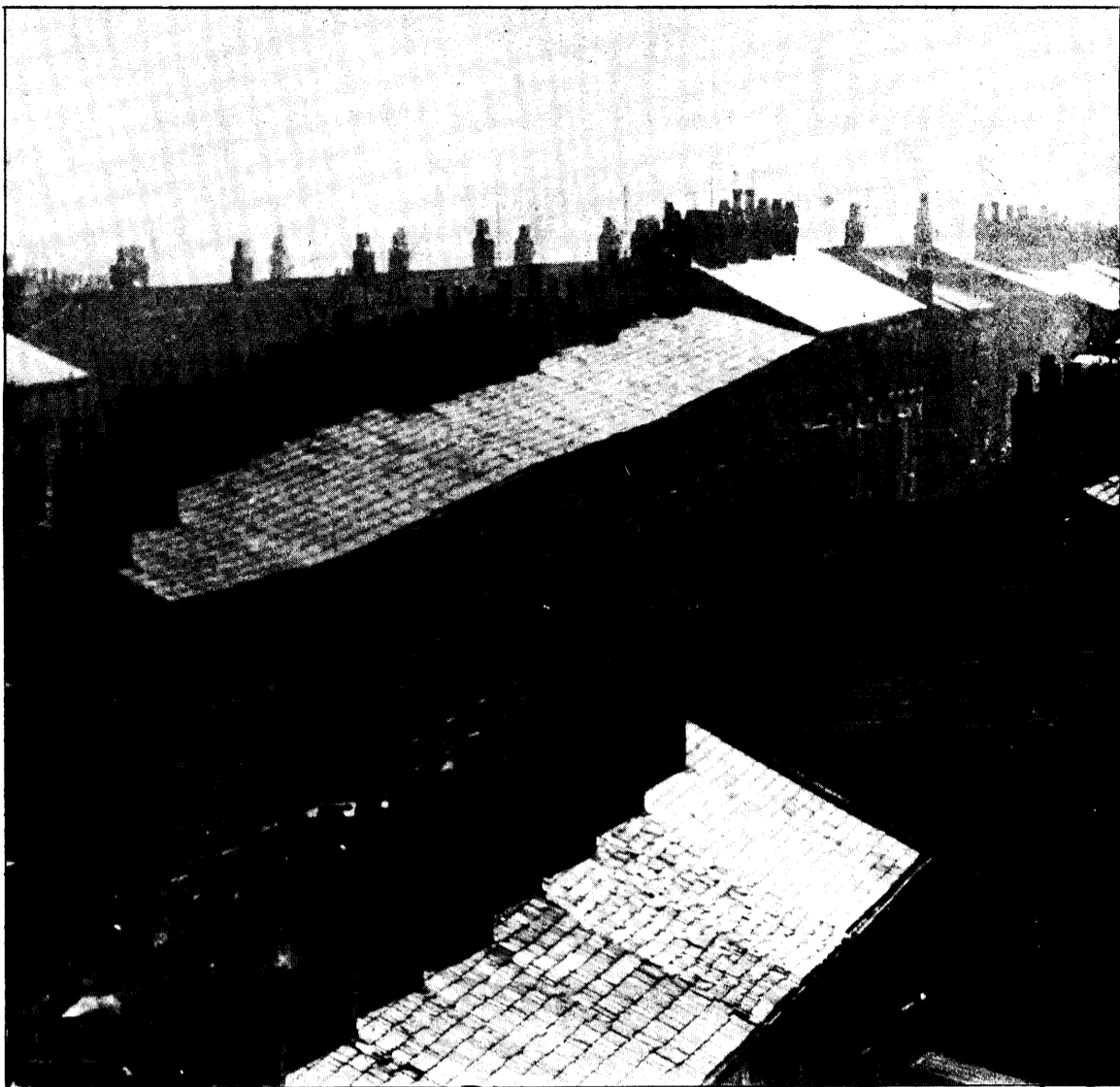
This trend has been developing sharply for more than a decade and significantly even in the so-called boom years regional unemployment has been up to twice the national average.

The second booklet, by Peter Coffey and John Presley, dealing with monetary union within the EEC, contains some further warnings.

Inflation in the UK is roaring ahead at nearly half as much again as the average for the Common Market countries as a whole.

The authors say: '... the rate of inflation has fallen short of that of the EEC average in only one year. This continuing loss of competitiveness must eventually have serious repercussions upon the trade balance.'

They add that the loss of



Depressed areas such as Blackburn, above, in the centre of the North Lancashire industrial belt, will be hit by higher unemployment and sky-rocketing prices on Britain's entry into the Common Market.

Commonwealth trade preferences is likely to tilt the UK balance of payments still further into the red.

'... in addition any increase in food prices on entry will add to domestic inflation and stimulate further wage demands from trade unions by virtue of the subsequent increase in the cost of living.'

This gives the impression that wages cause inflation, which is, of course, not so.

Inflation was triggered by the bourgeoisie's conscious de-

cision to placate the working class after the war by erecting a whole edifice of credit based on paper currency utterly divorced from real value.

STANDARDS

Now the employers must solve the crisis this decision has produced. They can only do that by smashing the fighting organizations of the working class and driving down their living standards.

Coffey and Presley say: 'The recent inflationary tendencies of the UK, far worse than anything encountered in previous years, would suggest that more severe "stop" policies may be required.'

The Tories and the employers have been preparing for this task for months. That is the meaning of the anti-union law and the state pay plan. And what cannot be obtained through persuasion and compromise will be achieved by force.

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THOSE PROPERTY MILLIONS

A report from Scotland last week revealed that 82 acres of land at Skene, just outside Aberdeen, was sold at auction for £1.61m.

This works out at roughly £20,000 an acre, and with a density of ten houses an acre will put £2,000 on the cost of building a house.

The land was sold in four lots, three going to W. & C. French (Developments) Ltd. and the fourth to George Wimpey and Company Ltd.

Mr. W. J. Braby, chairman of W. & C. French, said: 'This is what our business is all about—the ability, the expertise to look into the future and I see a good future for us here.'

Asked what the price of his houses might be, Mr. Braby replied that this was 'too difficult a question to answer in view of inflationary building costs'.

The auction was the first phase of a projected new £20m township outside Aberdeen expected to be completed by 1980.

The promoters are the Ashdale Land and Property Company, London, whose managing director, Mr. S. E. Denman, said: 'The prices reflect the importance of the whole project and are in keeping with the general trend'.

Of course, the Tory government expresses great 'concern'

over such property speculation and its accompanying soaring rises in house prices.

But it isn't difficult to see how seriously the property companies regard that. They know where their friends are and they're prepared to kick a good bit into the funds to keep things good.

Property companies who donated to the funds of the Conservative Party in 1972 include:

Capital and Counties Property Co.	£5,000
Great Portland Estates	£5,000
Town and City Properties	£2,747
Central and District Properties	£1,000
Property Holding and Investment Trust	£1,000
Cornwall Property (Holdings)	£500

It has also been possible to make a good bit of money out of property shares during the Tory government's so-called 'freeze' period.

For instance, you could buy shares in Land Investors on November 3 when the share

price was 87p and sell on November 27 when it had gone up to 113p.

That represents a capital gain of £299 per £1,000 invested.

Similarly, you could buy Peachey Property shares on November 3 at 133p and sell on November 27 at 159p, making £195 capital gain per £1,000 invested.

Or you could make a bit on Samuel Properties. The respective share prices there were 178p and 209p.

And that represents a capital gain of £174 per £1,000 invested. Not too bad, considering there's a freeze on.

Of course, it's not only in property that you can make your killing. The table below shows a number of firms whose share prices went up between November 3 and 27, making juicy capital gains available for investors while workers were supposed to get no increases 'in the national interest'.

Overall, since the 'freeze' was announced, the industrial ordinary share index of companies quoted on the stock exchange rose from 485 on November 3 to 509 on November 27. This is equivalent to a capital gain of £50 on every £1,000 invested in just over three weeks.

And capital gains can be cashed in during the 'freeze'. It's only wages that are supposed to stay down.

Company	Share Price		Capital Gain per £1,000
	Nov. 3	Nov. 27	
Hambros Bank	(p) 410	(p) 465	134
Allied Breweries	101	112	110
Richard Costain	292	323	106
Marchwiel Holdings (McAlpines)	314	360	148
Associated Television	125	138	103
John Brown & Co.	134	162	208
Hawker Siddeley	406	447	101
Pricerite	119	134	126
Boots	290	322	110

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Camden councillors plan rents demo

BY PHILIP WADE OUR HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

A NUMBER of Labour councillors in Camden, north London, previously in favour of non-implementation of the Housing Finance Act are beginning to waver under pressure from the Tories.

Now the 20,000 council tenants in the borough are being urged to turn out and demonstrate their support for those councillors who are standing firm against the rent increases.

Councillors are touring the streets informing tenants of the position and asking for their backing before the next council meeting on January 10.

The vacillation by certain councillors apparently flows from the Tory government's threat to cut Camden's housing subsidies by up to £8m.

'It is very evenly balanced at the moment,' Cllr Phil Turner, deputy chairman of the housing committee, told Workers Press on Saturday.

'I believe we should keep going, but a number of councillors say we should give in now.'

At Camden's last meeting on the 'fair rents' Act, the decision to continue non-implementation was carried by only 28 votes to 24, with a number of Labourites voting with the Tories.

'A lot of them are saying we will have to put the rates up 25p in the £ if we lose our subsidies,' added Cllr Turner. 'They say it will be equal to a £1 increase in rates for everyone, including the council tenants.'

Fighting the Tory rent Act



Cllr PHIL TURNER . . . Mobilize next Sunday

In Cllr Turner's opinion, the Tories did not seem to want to send in a Housing Commissioner or order the district auditor to make a special investigation of Camden's accounts.

'We want a big demonstration of tenants and trade unionists from all over the country outside the town hall next Sunday. That will help us enormously and could help win the day at the next council meeting.'

All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign
Support the Engineers

EAST LONDON: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Crisp Street Market, E14.

WEST LONDON: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, King's Cross.

BRACKNELL: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre.

HARROW AND WEALDSTONE: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Railway Approach, Station Road, Harrow.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Clapham Baths, Clapham Manor Street. 'Transform the SLL into a revolutionary party'.

CROYDON: Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, south Croydon.

TOTTENHAM: Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayer's Arms', Tottenham High Road.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday January 4, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road. 'Build Councils of Action! Defend the engineers!'

LETCWORTH: Thursday January 4, 8 p.m. Trades Hall. (please note changed date.)

SOUTHALL: Thursday January 4, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road.

MANCHESTER: Thursday, January 4, 7.30 p.m. 'The Cardinal's Hat', Wood Street, Middleton. 'Fight Rising Prices—Force the Tories to Resign.'
Speakers: Connie Fahey, Winnie Price (Manchester tenants' leaders).

WATFORD: Monday January 8, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall (upstairs), Woodford Road, opposite Watford Junction station.

WOOLWICH: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road.

HARROW AND WEALDSTONE: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Railway Approach, Station Road, Harrow.

ROCHESTER: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue.

HULL: Wednesday January 10, 8 p.m. White Hart Hotel, Alfred Gelder Street (near Drypool Bridge).

SHEFFIELD: Wednesday January 10, 7.30 p.m. 'The Grape Inn', Trippett Lane, Sheffield 1.

TONBRIDGE: Thursday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Foresters', Quarry Hill Road.

KINGSTON: Thursday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Liverpool Arms', corner of Cambridge Road and London Road.

SLOUGH: Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. Community Centre, Class Room, Farnham Road.

LEEDS: Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane.

An appeal on behalf of the Fine Tubes strikers of Plymouth

The Plymouth Fine Tubes Strikers, their wives and 53 children have just spent their third Christmas on strike with very little money.

These men have waged a bitter struggle for the most basic right a worker can possess—the right to belong to a trade union.

Strike committee members have travelled over 100,000 miles to sustain their fight.

This Christmas has been the hardest of all. It has imposed a great financial burden. Now the 37 strikers face the rest of the winter with a depleted strike fund. January is always a difficult month to raise money to further their fight.

Yet they are determined to fight on. This is a struggle the working class cannot afford to lose. That is why the Socialist Labour League and the Work-

ers Press wishes to make a special appeal to all trade unionists to take collections in their factories and branches for the Fine Tubes men in order that their heroic and determined action can be carried forward. All money should be sent to:

Fine Tubes Treasurer
c/o 65 Bretonside
Plymouth, Devon.

New Year's Day

BBC 1

9.25 Captain pugwash. 9.35 Desert crusader. 10.00 Unsolved mysteries. 10.20 Huckleberry hound. 10.30 Winners at the wheel. 11.30 A blank on the map. 12.30 Film: 'The Mark of Zorro'. Tyrone Power, Linda Darnell, Basil Rathbone. 2.00 Best of knock-out. 2.50 Joysticks and jets. 50th anniversary of the King's Cup Air Race. 3.35 Ski jumping from Garmisch. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Scooby doo. 5.40 Crystal tips. 5.45 News and weather. 5.55 Your region tonight.

6.00 BRUCE FORSYTH AND THE GENERATION GAME.

6.50 FILM: 'ON THE BEAT'. Norman Wisdom. Comedy.

8.30 THE TARBUCK FOLLIES. Jimmy Tarbuck.

9.15 MAIN NEWS. Weather.

9.30 GALA PERFORMANCE. Michael Flanders introduces Margot Fonteyn. Maria Chiara, John Williams.

10.30 TALK IN EUROPE. Rt Hon Sir Christopher Soames and Rt Hon George Thomson, Britain's two Commissioners in the Common Market.

11.15 ON STAGE WITH LENA MARTELL.

12.00 Weather.

TV

ITV

9.30 Wandering through winter. 10.25 The further perils of Laurel and Hardy. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Cliff's kids. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Film: 'The Ladies' Man'. Jerry Lewis, Helen Traubel, Pat Stanley, Kathleen Freeman. A young man takes a job at a hotel for aspiring actresses. 4.15 Black arrow. 4.45 Clapperboard. 5.10 And mother makes three. 5.40 News and sports. 5.55 Kelvin Hall circus.

6.45 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 FILM: 'ONE SPY TOO MANY'. Robert Vaughn, David McCallum. The men from UNCLE.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 MIKE AND BERNIE'S SHOW. Mike and Bernie Winters with Peter Noone, Sylvia Syms, Sheila White.

11.30 LOOK BACK WITH THIS WEEK. 1972.

12.15 THE FUTURE OF THE FUTURE.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 3.30 Film: 'Pal Joey'. Frank Sinatra, Rita Hayworth, Kim Novak. Rodgers and Hart musical about a singer who has great ambitions and no money. 5.15 New Year's Day concert from Vienna. Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and dancers of the Vienna State Opera Ballet.

6.25 RIPPLES IN THE ETHER. Royal Institutions Lecture. Getting Rid of the Wires.

7.25 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.

7.30 LOOK, STRANGER. Foula—the Lonely Island.

7.55 CALL MY BLUFF.

8.25 AMERICA. Domesticating a Wilderness.

9.15 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. A Fistful of Diamonds.

10.05 MARLENE DIETRICH SHOW. First-ever television special with musical arrangements by Burt Bacharach.

10.50 OPINION. The 1972 Critics' Circle Television Awards.

11.15 NEWS EXTRA.

Regional TV

CHANNEL: 1.30 London. 2.10 Film: 'The Nutty Professor'. 4.05 Puffin. 4.15 London. 8.00 Film: 'The Long Duel'. 10.00 London. 12.15 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.25 Let them live. 9.55 Marco Polo. 10.50 Adventures in rainbow country. 11.15 Jackson five. 11.40 Katie Stewart cooks. 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London.

SOUTHERN: 10.10 Torchy. 10.25 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Kelvin Hall circus. 3.50 Lucy. 4.15 London. 5.55 Day by day. 6.45 London. 8.00 Film: 'The Quiller Memorandum'. 10.00 London. 12.15 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 10.25 London. 1.00 Plus Tam. 1.30 London. 2.00 Farmhouse kitchen. 2.30 Film: 'Climb an Angry Mountain'. 4.15 London. 5.10 Please sir. 5.38 News. 5.40 London. 8.00 Film: 'Goodbye Mr Chips'. 10.00 London. 12.15 Weather.

ATV MIDLANDS: 10.25 London. 2.00 Dr Simon Locke. 2.30 Film: 'The Lady Vanishes'. 4.15 London. 8.00 Film: 'Sex and the Single Girl'. 10.00 London.

ULSTER: 11.05 Hogmanay show. 12.05 London. 1.33 News. 1.35

Smith family. 2.05 Romper room. 2.30 New Year's Day concert from Vienna. 3.45 Skippy. 4.12 News. 4.15 London. 5.10 Emmerdale farm. 5.40 London. 5.55 News. 6.00 London. 8.00 Film: 'Genghis Khan'. 10.00 London. 12.15 Monday night.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 Galapagos the islands. 10.25 London. 2.30 New Year's Day concert from Vienna. 3.45 Hogan's heroes. 4.15 London. 4.45 Skippy. 5.10 London. 12.15 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 Thunderbirds. 10.25 Film: 'Kelly and Me'. 12.05 London. 2.30 Film: 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum'. 4.15 London. 8.00 Film: 'One Spy Too Many'. 10.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Out where the new begins. 9.30 The door that never closes. 10.00 Lidsville. 10.25 London. 2.30 New Year's Day concert from Vienna. 3.45 Chicago teddy bears. 4.15 London. 4.45 Skippy. 5.10 London. 12.15 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 10.25 London. 2.30 New Year's Day concert from Vienna. 3.45 Hogan's heroes. 4.15 London. 5.55 Hogmanay at McCue's. 6.45 London. 8.00 Andy Stewart special. 8.45 Film: 'The Adventures of Nick Carter'. 10.00 London. 12.15 Late call.

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Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

YOU MADE it. Our final total finished with the record amount of £2,539.72. 1972 has certainly been a magnificent year. Each month, you, dear readers, have raised well over our monthly target. And now—to end the year — December's total raised our biggest amount so far. It is a

record we are very proud of.

But your wonderful support encourages us to press ahead even more. Today we enter the Common Market, which means even greater changes in the lives and living standards of the working class. By no means will we sit back.

1973 is a year to expand Workers Press in a big way. We are more determined than ever to reach out into the workers' movement. We will show to workers everywhere that Workers Press is the only daily paper that fights on behalf of the working class.

We know we have all

your support behind us. Many, many thanks to you all for a magnificent year. Our very best wishes to you for the New Year—and don't forget — January's Fund starts today! Post all your donations to:

**Workers Press
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186a Clapham High St,
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Engineers strike over fines

THE THIRD wave of strikes against the £50,000 fine imposed on the engineering union in the Goad case will begin today in Leeds.

The action will shut all the city's engineering plants and affect other industries as well.

Swindon engineers also plan to join in the protests. Today the town's Plessey factory will be shut and tomorrow 6,000 workers at Pressed Steel Fisher, part of the British-Leyland combine, will stop work.

These strikes will be followed by more stoppages on Merseyside where the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions has called a General Strike in the area for January 14.

LONDON DOCKERS decide today whether to black shipping lines in the South American conference because of plans to transfer their meat trade to Southampton. If blacking action is taken by a mass meeting at the Royal docks this morning, the dockers' leaders will appeal for support from other ports. The shipping lines are demanding big increases in productivity to go on using the Royals.

GAS pressure will be cut in 80,000 homes in the south today as the overtime ban and work-to-rule by 1,000 workers at two key south London coal-gas plants begins to take effect. A Gas Board spokesman warned that if flames go out altogether, supplies should be shut off at the mains.

Right-wing pay-off for reformists



The National Front and other extreme right-wingers swing in behind the official banner at Saturday's Common Market Safeguards Committee demonstration addressed by Labourites Douglas Jay and Peter Shore.

AN ANTI-Common Market demonstration organized on Saturday by Labour Party members, including Douglas Jay, was almost entirely taken over by the National Front and Colin Jordan's British Movement.

The protest attracted over 400 extreme right wingers who interrupted the speeches at the Central Hall, London, with chants of 'National Front' and 'Enoch'.

Many were encouraged by the largely nationalist opposition put up by Jay and Peter Shore—two leading members of the Parliamentary Labour Party. They shared the platform with Tories

and other extreme right-wingers.

After singing 'Land of Hope and Glory' the protesters held a torchlight procession to Westminster Bridge by the House of Commons.

The National Front took the lead until they were pushed into second place by the organizers of the Common Market Safeguards Committee.

The demonstration signals the collapse of reformist protest over entry into Europe. People like Jay, and even the British Communist Party, have encouraged the forces of the extreme right by confining their opposition to the Market to issues of nationalism and 'sovereignty'. Saturday was the pay-off for this treachery.

Birmid: Asians to complain to race Board

PUNJABI foundry workers at Smethwick, Warwicks, will complain to the Race Relations Board because management decided to axe their factory after they rejected a new pay deal.

Peter Higginbottom, manager of Birmid Qualcast's Midland Motor Cylinder subsidiary, said: 'The Asians just would not accept the new wage agreement in spite of being recommended to do so by their union.'

'Eventually the minority of white workers at the factory decided to give it a try and later the Asians did as well. But by this time we had had so much trouble at this factory we decided to close it.'

The Punjabis, who make cylinder blocks for diesel engines at the company's Middlemore Road works, say that only a few months ago Birmid announced the closure of North Works No. 1 which employs 60 per cent white workers.

They claim the decision to reprove No. 1 works and shut their factory instead is a cut and dried case of racial discrimination.

The Transport and General Workers' Union earlier urged the men to accept the firm's pay deal. Now it approves Birmid's offer of alternative temporary work for the Punjabis until the factory is modernized and reopened. The men say they are labouring jobs at only half pay.

Teesside teachers' work-to-rule leads to sack

TEESSIDE Education Committee has sacked two school-teachers who took part in a work-to-contract involving members of the National Association of Schoolmasters.

A mathematics teacher Keith Howell (41) was sacked on Friday night for refusing to teach classes of more than 30 pupils at Fairfield Secondary School, Stockton-on-Tees. Felix Rudge was dismissed on Saturday for refusing to obey an order from his headmaster at Stainsby School, Middlesbrough. Howell and Rudge are among 155 Teesside teachers who have been suspended for taking part in the work-to-contract. After two full-day sessions a special sub-committee set up by the Teesside authority has only been able to deal with these two cases.

BRIEFLY ● BRIEFLY

NIGHT STAFF at the Garrick International Telephone Exchange, London, meet today to discuss whether to continue a strike which began last Wednesday over a bomb scare. It is believed they may be offered the backing of other operators within the Central Branch. The shift struck when a supervisor threatened disciplinary action unless they went back into the building after only ten minutes and a cursory search by only two police officers.

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KEEP LEFT

★

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and National Speaking Contest

Next Saturday—January 6, 2.30 p.m.

East India Hall, East India Dock Road, London E14

Dance 8-11 p.m.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER

DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS—BUILD REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

FROM PAGE ONE

Many workers are not aware of the political consequences of entry into the Common Market. It means that the defence of all democratic rights raises the question of building revolutionary parties and taking state power.

But illusions will be stripped away when the Tories re-intensify their attacks from within the EEC.

The revolutionary party must prepare the British working class for this shock. The key issue remains mobilizing the entire working class in political and industrial action to force the government to resign.

The programme for unity must answer the capitalist attack blow for blow. It must demand:

- NATIONALIZATION of industry, the

banks and the land under workers' control without compensation.

- REPEAL of all anti-working class legislation.

- WITHDRAWAL of all troops from Northern Ireland, withdrawal from NATO and the disbandment of the standing army.

- WITHDRAWAL from the capitalist conspiracy of the EEC and a campaign for the Socialist United States of Europe.

In the struggle to realize these policies workers will deal with the Tories and also settle with the fifth column of Labour and trade union traitors in its own ranks.

Such a revolutionary call was issued unanimously by more than 2,000 trade unionists at the national conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance in Birmingham on October 22.

- The ATUA is convinced that the only way to face up to this responsibility is

through the struggle to build the revolutionary party. Immediately this means going ahead with the preparations to transform the SLL and its industrial wing, the ATUA, into a revolutionary party.

The recruitment and training as Marxists of all those workers who share such responsibility is the essence of this task. In its policy the revolutionary party must take up the struggle on every basic minimum demand of the working class—for wages, against price increases, for democratic rights, against unemployment, against the Industrial Relations Act and the Housing Finance Act—combining these demands with the programme of transition to working class state power.

Every one of these elementary demands raises the question: is it the will of the ruling class to defend its dying system which shall prevail? Or is the working class to impose its will on the economy through the conquest of power?

In 1973 the working class must answer this question.

- No to the Common Market: Begin the fight for a Socialist United States of Europe now.

- Clear out the right-wing traitors in the labour and trade union movement who want to co-operate with any of these reactionary, anti-working plans.

- Mobilize the labour and trade union movement to force the Tories to resign.

- Elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Build sections of the International Committee of the Fourth International, the world party of socialist revolution.

- Transform the SLL into the revolutionary party of Britain.