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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TORIES VERSUS THE CARWORKERS

BY DAVID MAUDE
OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

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They also know that Ford's made an estimated £1,000 profit from each of its 50,000 workers in 1972. And they can prove that the American-owned company extracted far more value from each worker than any other car firm.

But under Heath's new laws the Ford claim is not only out of the question, it's illegal. And with the hysterical backing of the capitalist Press, the Tories want to brand these carworkers with charges of treason.

The same treatment can be expected by British-Leyland workers at Oxford, whose claim for increases of up to £7 has already been greeted with alarm by Fleet Street.

The Tories are preparing for a stand-up fight with the workers in the motor industry. They recognize that in order to impose their wage-cutting plans, they must take on a powerful section of the working class, isolate them and defeat them.

Their aim is to intimidate the 4 million other trade unionists with pay claims or settlements which set them on a collision course with the Tories. But they will fail.

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A BIG PAY CLASH NEAR

STUDENTS RATTLE MAUDLING

BY PHILIP WADE

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Price increases will have robbed him of the benefit of two pay deals.

And while his take-home pay will have risen 4½ per cent in three years, this is only due to tax changes in the last two budgets.

This is the situation facing every worker. It proves that the clash is inevitable, and that the union leaders must be forced to break off their treacherous talks with the Tories.

All workers in the pay struggle must be brought together behind the political campaign to force the Tories out of office. The TUC must be recalled to mobilize this campaign. Its old leaders who will not fight must be removed.

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WHAT WE THINK

A legal diversion

THE DECISION of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers to challenge the government's state control of wages in the courts can only sow more confusion.

Of course, the 50,000 USDAW members who are on a basic wage of £15.35 and £15.90 ought to get the £1-a-week rise agreed last May. Indeed, they should get a lot more.

But taking the Co-operative Employers' Association (which has refused to pay the increase on government 'advice') before the London Area County Court, is not the correct way to get it. USDAW's general secretary, Mr Alf Allen says they are challenging the government after consulting 'some of the best legal advice in the country. This' says Mr Allen, 'is the only way we can enable the rise to be paid.

The way to defeat the government's state wage control laws is not to search out legal loopholes in them. In any case, the cost of living has gone up by much more than £1 a week since last May as a result of the Tory government's deliberate unleashing of inflation by floating the pound in June. Other anti-working class measures, like the rent Act, have also sent costs soaring.

During this period Allen, sitting on the TUC General Council, has been advocating and participating in talks with the Tory leaders!

It should also be remembered that the trade union leaders consulted legal 'experts' when the Tories were preparing the Industrial Relations Act. But legal advice proved useless in the face of the Tory determination to change the law.

It is not law books that in the last analysis determine history, but the movement of class forces. From that standpoint what is required is not legal procedure—even if small loopholes can be found in the law—but a united fight of all the unions to destroy the Tories' state pay laws altogether.

This would inevitably lead to a conflict in which the unions could force the Tories to resign and replace them by a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Suing the employer is really a way of avoiding this fight. A Manchester spokesman for USDAW let the cat out of the bag: 'We did NOT consider industrial action because we thought that was not the way to win this battle. Our advice is, we have a reasonable chance of winning on interpretation of the Act.'

This makes it clear, that, under the guise of fighting the government, the USDAW leaders in reality accept the Tory Act. Their action can only help to create illusions among lower-paid workers and spread confusion and division among the working class which has fought the Tory government on wages, rents, and trade union rights.

USDAW members must tell their leaders: 'No collaboration with the Tory Act, under any guise whatever.'

Nixon expects Hanoi response

PRESIDENT NIXON was yesterday reported to be expecting a response from Hanoi to his 'unilateral' action in suspending the bombing, mining and shelling of North Vietnam.

Observers in Washington believed that the President was expecting some sort of reciprocal action to demonstrate Hanoi's readiness to sign a settlement along the lines worked out in Paris.

Nixon's envoy General Alexander Haig is in Saigon to explain the Paris draft terms to the South Vietnam dictator Nguyen Van Thieu, who has previously opposed a deal with North Vietnam.

But according to Thieu government sources, North Vietnam has made several concessions—involving both the demilitarized zone and the size of the international ceasefire control force—in the course of the talks.

The Hanoi representatives were negotiating under great duress, with pressure being applied from both Moscow and Peking to bolster Nixon's threats of using guided missiles against North Vietnam.

But they appear, if reports are to be believed, to have accepted at least for the moment the division of the country along the 17th parallel. Hanoi Radio, however, continues to insist vehemently that Vietnam is indivisible.

ON THE same day Nixon called off the bombing the Communist Party's 'Morning Star' announced the participation of the International Socialism group in its fraudulent 'sign now' vigil outside the American Embassy in London.

This revisionist group has aligned itself uncritically with the Communist Party and become an adjunct of the Kremlin's counter-revolutionary pressure for a sell-out deal in Indo-China.

'No genuine Vietnamese would recognize "two Vietnams". Vietnam must be reunified,' one typical commentary said.

According to some Washington sources, the draft deal will include a compromise formula meeting both Hanoi's insistence that Vietnam is a single country and Saigon's demand that the puppet government's sovereignty be guaranteed.

This would be a major step back compared even with the demands being advanced in the summer by the North Vietnamese and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, which were calling for the removal of Thieu and the formation of a government of 'national concord'.

Ruchell Magee expelled from his trial for 32nd time



Magee, with gun, outside the San Rafael courthouse with Judge Haley as a hostage in August 1970.

THIRTY people walked out of a San Francisco courtroom yesterday when a murder trial judge ordered defendant Ruchell Magee to be thrown out of his trial for the 32nd time.

Magee was originally a co-defendant with Angela Davis, and is accused of murdering a judge in an escape attempt from a California courthouse.

The US Communist Party, which organized a massive protest campaign in support of the Davis defence, has barely mentioned Magee since his case was separated from Miss Davis'.

Magee is chained in his chair and has been forced by the court to accept attorney Robert Carrow, who refuses to carry on the type of defence he wants.

In the latest incident Judge Morton Colvin ordered 33-year-old Magee to be ejected from the court for talking too loudly to Carrow. Magee was taken to an isolation cell.

IN WASHINGTON, five of the seven defendants in the Watergate bugging trial are pleading guilty so as to prevent any further investigation into the case.

Accused of burgling and illegally bugging the Democratic Party headquarters, the defendants have close connections with the White House and top Nixon aides.

A group of Florida Republican businessmen offered them \$1,000 for every month they spent in jail so long as they pleaded guilty and kept their mouths shut.

Around the world

It's all a question of value

EEC: French raise gold bogey

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE FRENCH government has once again pushed the unwelcome topic of gold back into the centre of the international monetary crisis, proposing to raise the 'official' gold price—currently \$38 an ounce—to above the free market level.

Since the free market price is over \$60 an ounce this proposal would involve a vast upheaval in the capitalist monetary system. French Finance Minister Giscard d'Estaing has since tried to minimize the importance of the proposal, which was submitted to the Group of 20 currently discussing monetary reform.

The French argue that neither dollars nor special drawing rights (so-called paper gold) are an acceptable basis for international value. This position simply reflects the fact that no one can now determine what is the actual value of these paper assets.

The French proposal, of course, is ridiculed by the editorialist of 'The Times Business News', one of the last resting places of the theories of John Maynard Keynes.

'Really there is no problem about gold,' the editorial says. 'Gold . . . for more than a decade has not had a central place in the monetary system: and its position is certainly not going to be revived in any negotiated reform . . . What matters are relative currency values. . .'

This fails to explain why the French proposals—described by Giscard d'Estaing as merely a technical document for experts—should have caused such consternation in the Group of 20.

Nor, for that matter does it explain why gold should be given a special role in the Common Market's new monetary reserve fund at the express insistence of the British Tory government.

This plan, drawn up in Luxembourg by the Finance Ministers on Monday, provides that debts between EEC central banks must be settled in gold in proportion to the amount of gold in the debtor countries' reserves.

However, debtor countries will have two safeguards against a revaluation of gold: if they settle according to the rules, they can claim the right to buy back their payment following a rise in the gold price at the price ruling when they originally paid off the debt.

Alternatively, at the cost of a small interest payment they can give their creditor an IOU payable in 1975, when the ministers hope that the price of gold will have been stabilized.

This scheme reveals just how far away the Common Market is from actual monetary union.

It demonstrates that the Market's much-heralded unity is constantly being disrupted by the international monetary crisis.

SPANISH ROUND-UP BY JUAN GARCIA

Stalinist-Spain treaties built on repression

THE EAST German government had full consultations with the Soviet Union before establishing diplomatic relations with the Franco regime, reports a correspondent of the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug in Moscow.

The matter was discussed by East German Foreign Minister Otto Winzer on his visit to see his Soviet counterpart Gromyko on January 8. Gromyko gave his full support to the step.

This latest diplomatic coup for Lopez Bravo, Franco's Foreign Minister, follows the signing of the trade deal between Moscow and Spain on September 15, 1972.

The growing links between the Spanish fascists and Stalinist bureaucracy are built on the suppression of the Spanish working class.

FRANCO'S courts have been engaged in a very thorough anti-communist purge over the last week.

The Madrid Public Order Tribunal (TOP) has rejected the appeal by Lucio Lobato, Spanish CP Central Committee member and confirmed his 21½ years' sentence.

In El Ferrol TOP has demanded harsh sentences for those arrested during the March strikes in the local shipyards.

For Rafael Lista, 17 years; Amor Deus, 15 years; Jose Millan, 14 years; Aneiros, 12 years; and the lawyer Varez, four years.

THE military court martial of the Basque nationalists who kidnapped the industrialist Lorenzo Zabala began last Saturday.

The prosecution has demanded 25 years for Pedro Trincado and 21 years for three other Basques.

THE RECTOR of the Autonomous University in Madrid says he has no intention of re-opening the department of Pure Philo-

sophy, which he described as a 'centre of subversion'.

The department was closed at the beginning of the academic year as a result of a strike against the sacking of teachers.

A group of Spanish intellectuals has issued a protest manifesto against the attack on freedom of discussion.

They have been joined by a group of intellectuals led by Althusser and Sartre who sent a telegram to the Education Minister.



LOPEZ BRAVO . . . Diplomatic coup for Foreign Minister

IN VALENCIA, students are in conflict with the fascist university authorities who have closed down the university dining hall.

The management and staff have been sacked. There is no money for wages now that the Ministry has cut the annual £7,000 subsidy.

WRITER Luciano Rincon Vega was sentenced on Saturday to six years' imprisonment for 'illegal propaganda and extremist activities'.

He used to write articles against Franco under a pseudonym for the French publishing house, Ruedo Iberico.

Auditor to take away all Clay Cross powers

Rebel councillors prepare town hall siege

BY PHILIP WADE OUR HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

WITHIN A MATTER of hours the entire Labour council at Clay Cross, Derbyshire, could be disbanded for refusing to implement the hated Tory 'fair rents' Act.

This will happen if the district auditor surcharges each of the 11 councillors more than £500.



CHARLES LACEY . . . His report is expected today

Not only would the councillors be bankrupted, therefore, but Clay Cross workers would also be deprived of their elected representatives.

It is understood that the determined councillors have no intention of being removed so easily from office if the worst comes to the worst. There has been talk of a sit-in at the council offices.

The auditor's report — almost certain to be sent to the councillors today or tomorrow — follows his special investigation of the Clay Cross housing revenue account.

Auditor Charles Lacey was given the orders for the extraordinary audit by the Tory government after it was clear that Clay Cross's defiance was consistent and principled and not just so many words.

Ever since the White Paper 'Fair Deal in Housing' was published in July 1971, the Clay Cross council has been unanimously opposed to Tory plans to destroy the basis of municipal housing.

Police were out in force when the auditor arrived to complete his hearing a week ago. The tenants' anger will mount even higher if they lose their representatives on the council.



With unemployment in this ex-mining town running at a staggering 18 per cent, the council refused to put rents up £1 for 1,500 tenants last October.

The auditor has since estimated that almost £7,000 was missing from

the accounts as a result of the Act's non-implementation.

His report will decide who is responsible for the loss.

All of the councillors have gone out of their way to make it clear to the

auditor that the non-implementation was a unanimous and conscious decision.

If each of the 11 councillors are held equally responsible for the loss in revenue, they could be surcharged well over £500 each.

Under the Local Government Act 1933 this means their automatic disqualification from office for a period of five years.

An appeal could be made to the High Court against any decision of the auditor.

But councillors have ruled out any further legal battles against the Housing Finance Act.

If the disqualification does take place, it is possible that Derbyshire County Council will be asked to take over the running of the council's affairs.

AT CONISBOROUGH, Yorkshire, the only other non-implementing Labour council in England is also being lined up for similar treatment.

The district auditor — under instructions from the Tories — moves into town again on Friday to conduct the second stage of his special examination.

He has asked to see ten Labour councillors to find out who is responsible for an estimated £14,000 loss because some 1,800 tenants have not had rent increases.

Local tenants and trade unionists are planning to demonstrate against his arrival.

Hospital costs up

THE COST of keeping a patient for a week in the average large acute illness hospital in England rose to £78.58 in the year ending March 31, 1972, according to Health Department figures published yesterday.

This was a rise of £11.88 over 1971 figures, which were already £11 up on the previous year.

In Wales the weekly cost was even higher at £80.89.

In contrast, however, it only cost £23.39 a week to keep a patient in a hospital for the mentally handicapped in England and £28.34 in Wales. Ordinary long-stay hospital costs were £34.86 in England and £41.31 in Wales.

Welsh hospital costs were on the average much higher than in England.

A week in a Welsh isolation hospital cost £143.09 per patient in comparison with £83.43 in England; Welsh maternity hospitals came second costing £101.52 a week (£78.24 in England).

Extra staff recruited for the showpiece hospital in Neath, Cardiff—not fully operational until late in the year—was to blame for high Welsh costs, said a Health Department spokesman.

The staff, he said, were used in other hospitals and so raised the staff/patient ratio to higher than normal.

Union calls off gas action

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

THE GASWORKERS' overtime ban was called off yesterday despite news that the government will only allow payment of half the £2.65 to £3 demand.

After a meeting of the national executive committee of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, gas trade secretary John Edmonds said negotiations with the gas board would be resumed that afternoon.

Mr Edmonds said they were satisfied that the deadline on negotiations had been met. He had received two letters from the board, one which said an offer would be made today.

A statement from the executive, which represents 42,000 of the 47,000 workers in the industry, said the embargo would be lifted immediately to allow negotiations to start.

Mr Edmonds said that Phase

Two of the pay plan had not been discussed at the meeting.

A conference of gasworkers' delegates will be held later to discuss the offer from the board.

Other unions in the industry are expected to follow suit and call off the ban.

● In the West of Scotland today gas supplies will be hit by a one-day unofficial strike. The stoppage is expected to go ahead despite the national leadership's decision to call off the overtime ban. About 750 G&MWU members are involved.

One-man rent strike

COUNCILLOR Norman Weall, leader of the Labour-controlled council at Middleton, Lancashire, is waging a one-man rent strike.

He has received two demands to pay rent increases levied under the Tory rent Act. The third notice will give him 28 days' notice to quit his home at Langley.

His decision, he added, was purely an individual one; he would never advocate a rent strike to others.

He understood, however, that there were others on the same estate refusing to pay.

The poor get poorer

EIGHT of the 12 poorest groups in society nationally became worse off during 1971—in spite of the government's widely-publicized selective approach to help those in need.

Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, speaking at an inaugural meeting of the Rochdale branch, said that the government's selective approach to help those in greatest need had failed.

One person in ten of the entire population had been reduced to

drawing supplementary benefit.

By the end of 1971, he said, over 4.5 million people were dependent on supplementary benefits to bring their income up to the poverty line.

And despite expensive advertising campaigns, the government had failed to obtain a satisfactory take up level.

At the outset of the Family Income Supplement scheme it was considered that only an 85 per cent take up would be considered satisfactory. The number drawing FIS, however, remained stubbornly around 50 per cent.

Job illusions created in Cheshire

THERE ARE now almost 6,900 unemployed in the industrial belt of Altrincham, Stockport in Cheshire and Wythenshawe, Manchester. About 2,000 of these are from the Churchill Machine Tool factory which shut down last year.

The local Press is trying to create the illu-

sion that the Churchill men are being quickly found new work.

One headline said: 'AEI step in to help jobless'. The report said, however, that this gigantic empire was prepared to hire only 60 men!

Meanwhile another headline declared: 'High hopes of 500 new jobs

for skilled men.'

This revealed that the American-owned Ingersoll Rand company intends to resurrect part of the old AEI/GEC transformer works at Wythenshawe.

The articles limped on to say: 'Initially the work should provide jobs for about 100 people rising to "some

500 after about five years', a spokesman for the company has said.'

In other words, hang about on the dole for the next five years and you 'might' get a job with Ingersoll's.

● Latest unemployment figures for the area are: Wythenshawe 2,344, Stockport 2,898 and Altrincham 1,605.

Socialist Labour League Yorkshire Rally

**FORCE THE TORY
GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!
BUILD THE
REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY!**

SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 7.30 p.m.
Great Northern Hotel,
Wellington Street (near Leeds station),
LEEDS

**FILM: THREE YEARS
OF WORKERS PRESS**

Speakers:

G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)
PAUL WHETSTONE (Young Socialists)
In personal capacity:
GEORGE LUBY (U.P.W.)
ROBBIE ROBERTS (N.U.M.)

DOUBLE MONEY IN CITY PROPERTY

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Such is the crisis in the economy and the rate of inflation that many big investors are now prepared to pay double the price of a year ago just to buy their way into City of London properties.

Institutional investors like the insurance companies, for example, are stampeding to put their money in office blocks whatever the cost.

The enormous increase in prices being paid means that the yields—the annual return based on rental income—are falling.

In other words, while rents of properties bought remain fixed until their next revision, the market price of the property has gone up.

Yields, in fact, are so low in many cases that they fall below the average return from money invested in stocks and shares.

But these property investors are anticipating a further huge growth in the market values of the properties bought in the next period.

If that happens, the new valuation which will appear in the balance sheets of the investing companies will more than compensate for the seemingly low returns.

With inflation in Britain running at between 8 and 10 per cent, there are severe disadvantages in putting big money into fixed interest accounts.

Although the rate might be high, it is still insufficient to give any real increase in money invested because returns on capital are devalued by the loss of purchasing power of the pound.

The attraction of property investment today is that the asset itself can be constantly revalued to more than compensate for inflation. So although yields may be low, a 50 per cent or 100 per cent increase in market values will more

than make up for the initial loss.

Confirmation of these trends has come in the annual reports of three leading City estate agents.

Strutt and Parker say yields on both urban and agricultural land are coming down to 2½ per cent, and even lower at 1½ per cent.

On the other hand two record-breaking sales were recorded in 1972—the Brown Candover estate which fetched £1,355 per acre and Gateway House which was sold for £27.7m.

Another firm, Erdman's, point to an unprecedented increase in prices paid for vacant freehold and leasehold office property.

'In some cases the capital sums obtained have been almost double the amount that would have been realized had the property been sold in 1971,' they say.

Speculation in agricultural land went forward by leaps and bounds in 1972—resulting in some phenomenal increases in land prices.

As a result yields which began the year at around 4 per cent were as low as 1½ to 2 per cent by December.

Estate agents Savills had this to say about the increase in agricultural land prices: 'The City, disappointed by the performance of industry, both in the national and private sectors, are seeking alternative outlets for their investment funds.'

All these firms say the trend in 1973 is for even faster increases in market values.

The money paid for these purchases of course will land in someone else's bank balance and will immediately renew the process of fevered speculation.

It is a measure of the anarchy of the capitalist system that investments which are essentially a hedge against inflation only serve further to stoke the fires of new artificial values.

INFLATION AND THE TORY RATES HIKE

The massive rates hike planned for this April is the result of the inflation of the last ten years and more particularly Tory policies which have forced up prices faster than at any other period.

All properties have now been revalued for the first time since 1962. As a result the new rateable values produced are in some cases double the old ones.

Valuers have had to take account of inflation in making new assessments.

More immediately, the other pressure for higher rates comes from the fantastic rise in costs over the last year.

For local authorities it means that simply to maintain services at existing levels, more money will actually have to be raised through the rates.

At the same time as all this—which looks like resulting in

20 to 25 per cent rate increases for millions of people—the Tory government has asked local councils to keep their rate increases down.

But this is more than a public relations exercise by Edward Heath. For local authority spokesmen have been quick to point out that if they comply with the request, services and staff levels will have to be cut.

So what seems a sop to those hostile to the government's encouragement of price increases turns out to be a veiled way of inflicting another attack on workers by cutting down on expenditure by local councils.

Five big cities, Leeds, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool and Manchester have got together to plan a campaign against the pressures on them.

But up and down the country it is the same story. Inflation is the main source of rates increases.

A spokesman for the Association of Municipal Corporations said: 'Local authorities are having to pay very high interest rates for their money. Costs are going up in all directions.'

At Bristol, where a fantastic 36-per-cent increase is forecast, a spokesman said: 'Rising costs are evident in education, planning and roads, housing, public works and in our social services. Costs go up due to inflation, and also because we make improvement.'

The deputy chief treasurer of Birmingham, D. D. Lloyd, commented: 'It seems unlikely that anyone is going to get away with increases of less than 20 per cent in their spending this year.'

Under the Tories everyone was promised 'freedom of choice'. This fraud now amounts to either paying more rates for the same services or not paying them and having a cut in services. Some choice!

ROTHSCHILD TAKES A FOOTHOLD IN INDONESIA

N. M. Rothschild, the merchant bankers, are taking a foothold in Indonesia. It has been announced that Rothschild Intercontinental Bank with European, American and Japanese banks has teamed to set up a 'financial institution' there.

A formal application has been submitted to the Minister of Finance in Jakarta and his decision—a foregone conclusion—will be announced shortly.

The overseas consortium has a strong local partner in the form of P. T. Bina Usaha, a holding and management company owned by Bank Indonesia, the Indonesian central bank.

One of the European partners is Pierson Heldring and Pierson, the Dutch banking house, which has traditionally close relations with Rothschild.

Pierson's had a powerful influence in Indonesia, but this ended during President Sukarno's period of intense nationalism.

The consortium is saying little about its plans.

'We would hopefully be able to help with the development of capital and money markets,' says Rothschild's Thomas Stonor enigmatically.

With interest rates on local currency deposits recently raised from 15 to 20 per cent, the group should have little trouble in piling up profits.

COMPUTER FILES

Since the Department of Health and Social Security put its massive files into a computer, there have been many questions about the privacy of this information.

Could people be sure that the detailed information they give to the state is kept from prying eyes? The answer is no.

Recently the CID began a search of the records allegedly in connection with a murder investigation. The aim was to try to trace the writer of a 'mystery letter'.

The murder investigation was led by Detective Chief Superintendent Proven Sharpe of Devon and Cornwall CID.

When 'Computer Weekly' asked the Home Office about the case they received a 'no comment'. It was nothing to do with them.

It appears that the decision to 'interrogate the computer' was taken by the CID.

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EUROPE INVADED BY THE BRITISH INVESTORS

The real face of the Fanfare For Europe and the enthusiasm of the City bankers and Tories for Europe can be seen in the activities of the speculators who did not wait for the magic day of January 1.

Slater Walker, Argyle Securities and their friends in the world of finance and property speculating have long been busy in Europe. They have worried the financiers in Paris and Brussels, and are now making somewhat of an impact in Holland.

Dutch newspapers are talking of a 'British invasion'.

British interests had 116 subsidiaries in Holland and were partners in another 74 on January 1, 1972. In the past year many small enterprises have been taken over by British capital.

Slater Walker made giant strides into the Dutch market when it took control of Hellingman in October.

After an issue of rights and several purchases, Hellingman's market capitalization leapt from 2 million guilders to 60 million!

Interest has not been lacking in the unit trust market. At the end of last year, according to one Dutch banker, British investors bought 256 million guilders worth of equities.

In the first nine months, he continued, British investment in Dutch shares reached 821 million guilders compared with 282 million in the whole of 1971.

Investment by British speculators is one of the reasons behind the sharp rise of Dutch share prices in the last year.

The working class in Britain and Holland can gain nothing from this operation of the speculators whose political friends are intensifying their exploitation of the working class.

US SETS UP MILITARY BASES IN GREECE

Greece and the United States have signed an agreement providing home-port facilities for six destroyers and one aircraft carrier of the American Sixth Fleet.

The agreement means that in future ships of the Sixth Fleet will be able to remain in the Mediterranean for about two years at a time. The pact is for an initial period of five years.

Some 6,500 men and 3,350 dependants will be able to use Greek ports under the agreement. Facilities available will include the use of a floating dock at the Eleusis Bay, near Piraeus.

The establishment of permanent shore bases in Greece for the US Navy will pave the way for further US military installations there.



AFRICAN STATES BREAK TIES WITH ISRAEL

The Israelis' diplomatic offensive in 'independent' Africa has now reached its eclipse. In the past few months no less than five African states have broken off relations with the Zionists.

Congo, Niger and Mali decided to sever links with Israel thus following the lead taken by Uganda and Chad.

Behind these moves lies the mercurial influence of Colonel Gaddafi of Libya.

He has been promising military and economic assistance to a number of these minor republics, most of them

military dominated, in return for sanctions against Israel.

There is no need to regret the breaking of ties with Israel. But this does nothing to explain the reactionary implications of Gaddafi's new enterprise in black Africa.

Take his relationships with General Idi Amin, the butcher of Uganda. Last year Gaddafi sent a contingent of crack armed troops to Kampala when Amin was threatened with a counter-coup.

He is also supplying arms and military advisers to the general to help sustain his tyrannical and corrupt regime.

A similar relationship exists between Gaddafi and the puppet regime in Chad. President

François Tombalbaye visited Tripoli in December to seal a new economic agreement.

The two leaders signed an agreement by which Libya is to grant a loan to Chad equivalent to £38m plus the promise of finance for important development projects.

The Chad regime is backed by French imperialism. In 1970 the French Foreign Minister, Maurice Schumann, admitted there were 3,000 French troops in Chad.

Military aid ran into millions of pounds. The Chad government has been conducting the most savage war against a liberation army, the National Liberation Front of Chad (FROLINA), for many years.



Amin of Uganda. Above: Gaddafi of Libya, who sent a contingent of crack armed troops when Amin was threatened by a coup.

US STEEL QUOTAS TO REMAIN

A Washington judge has refused to end a cartel agreement between British, Common Market and Japanese steel producers to limit their steel exports to the United States.

The voluntarily-reached agreement was challenged by the Consumers' Union which claimed that restrictions on steel exports to the US would result in higher prices for steel products.

The voluntary steel quotas, agreed last May, are designed to protect the US steel industry from cheaper foreign competition.

Judge Gerhard Gesell said the case 'raised very serious questions' as to whether the agreement constituted a violation of the anti-trust laws.

But despite his misgivings, the question of whether there

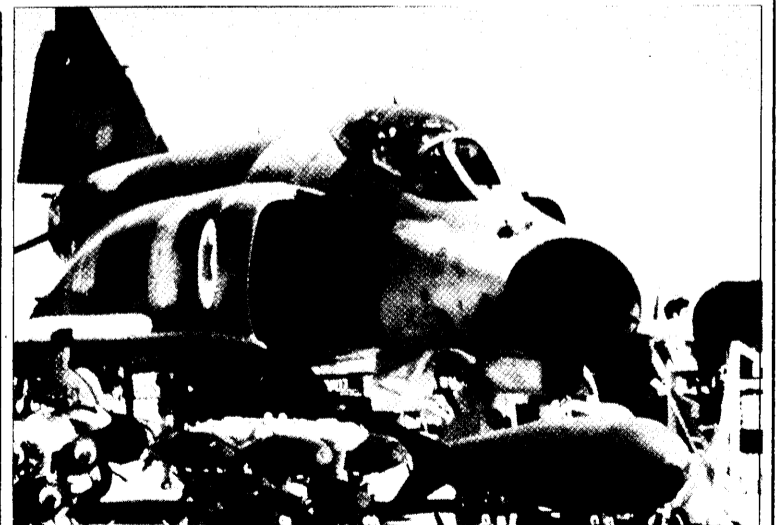
was a violation was not the issue for the court to decide, he said.

The foreign firms proceeded on the assurances of US officials that the agreements were legal under American law. Since they acted in good faith and the Secretary of State encouraged them in their belief, no injunction was appropriate, the judge concluded.

He noted that: the arrangements affect 85 per cent of US steel imports.

The test case brought by the Consumers' Union was a dead duck before it started. In the rapidly accelerating trade war all kinds of private arrangements will be made—and broken—to ensure that each country can stack up advantages against its competitors.

In such a situation the consumer has not the slightest say. And now will the capitalists dare to intrude on behalf of those forced to pay the artificially high prices?



ISRAEL SPENDS MORE ON ARMS

Just over 35 per cent of the Israeli budget will be spent on defence this year, according to figures presented to parliament by Finance Minister, Pinhas Sapir.

A total of £606m—£60m

more than last year—is allocated for defence.

It compares with the 42 per cent of the total budget which was allocated last year.

Commenting on the defence expenditure Sapir noted that large defence spending had been a 'hallmark distinguishing the Israeli economy from that of other countries'. The cumulative defence allocations in the past six years since the Six-Day War come to £2,500m.

AGNELLI PLOTS AGAINST WORKERS' RIGHTS

BY JUAN GARCIA

Gianni Agnelli, boss of the Italian monopoly, Fiat, recently remarked that the trouble with democracy was that it could not solve the problem of strikes and rising wages.

He was referring to the difficulties of competing with the United States monopolies with production relations based on the post-war boom. Profitability, he was saying, can only be restored when the democratic rights of the working-class have been destroyed.

His undisguised call for the open dictatorial rule of Italian monopoly capital recalls the sinister '5 x 5' operation which made a brief appearance in the Italian Press at the beginning of 1972 . . . before Press silence was restored.

Operation '5 x 5', it was revealed, was a movement uniting judges, industrialists, priests and parliamentarians to bring Fanfani into the presidency and initiate a presidential republic along Gaullist lines.

The political programme would include:

- The restoration of order in the factories.
- The banning of all left-wing organizations.
- The limitation of the right to strike.

The ideological basis for the programme was the philosophy of Catholic corporatism, or 'integralism', as expounded by Felice Balbo and others.

Amintore Fanfani, a staunch right-wing Catholic and leading member of the Christian Democratic Party, held an important post as a professor of economic history under Mussolini's fascist regime.

Sponsoring the authoritarian project was the Agnelli Foundation, a so-called 'cultural' centre, financed by Fiat and Confindustria, the Italian version of the Confederation of British Industry.

Some of the leading lights in the plot were: Umberto Agnelli and Valarino Gancia, young-bloods in Confindustria; Mimmo Scarano, Fanfani's Press officer; Ubaldo Scassellati, head of the Agnelli Foundation, General Mereu, the fascist Gino Ragno and a motley group of priests, ex-priests and colonels.

Fiat intervened to stop the Press from spreading details of the right-wing conspiracy.

At the end of 1971, the Agnelli Foundation secretary, Concetta Leonetti, was sacked from her job in Turin on the pretext of 'the requirements of restructuring and the drastic reduction of expenditure'.

Miss Leonetti, who had just had the temerity to put her name forward as a candidate for a place on the Foundation's internal committee, decided to fight her case in the labour section of the Turin courts.

The prosecutor who dealt with her case, a certain Signor Converso, has delved into the muddy waters of the finances of the Foundation and extracted some of the complex web of Fiat's power.

The Foundation, founded in 1966 to honour the centenary of the birth of Giovanni Agnelli, is financed directly 'through returns from Fiat's profits and a percentage paid in by the different constituent companies'.

Official expenditure involves the costs of administration and the financing of other 'cultural' activities like the Einaudi Foundation in Turin, the 'Il Mulino' publishing house and the Carlo Cattaneo study-centre in Bologna, which has recently commissioned many research projects into questions of work and wages.

The committee in charge of accounts includes three men who are not notorious as patrons of intellectual pursuits.

● Rodolfo Saporiti: ex-prefect of Turin and councillor of state.

● Scardi: Member of the Supreme Council in charge of legal activities in Italy and key-man in '5 x 5'.

● Francesco Rota, director-general of Fiat.

Signor Converso made an investigation of the accounting of these gentlemen and discovered a vertiginous spiral in expenditure in 1971 and a final record of huge losses.

One of the recommendations of the accounts committee at the end of 1971 was . . . to be more careful about the use of the telephone to avoid expense!

Well might Converso write in his report of a 'flood of contradictions and absurdities'!

In his evidence to the court Scassellati was able to state that there had been a drastic reduction in expenditure, although the balance-sheet actually shows an increase in one year from 14 to 25 million lire.

Converso then went on to read out the professed aims of the Foundation: 'To organize projects, cultural activities and research through which to spread the results of latest research and to attract with concrete proposals the initiative of the leading groups in the country, and public and private enterprise.'

Some of the research activity involved: Project Foundation, Project Image of Italy, Political Culture, Technology of Communications, Printing, the Home, Business Education, Quality of Life, Systems Theory, Europe, the Factory, and the role of women in industrial society.

Converso did not inquire into the finance used by the Agnelli Foundation in buying up young university intellectuals, fixing university appointments and purchasing publishing houses.

The recent election of the right-wing professor Sasso as rector of Turin university was inspired by Fiat. Agnelli's group owns the publishing-houses of Etas Kompass, Borighieri and Bompiani . . . and has made large, so far unsuccessful, offers for the Feltrinelli group.

Another sphere of 'research' and 'activity' not included by Converso is a subject which



the Foundation has promoted in the last few years in many lectures, round-table discussions and seminars—the study of the situation of the armed forces, the relevance of counter-insurgency in Europe and the militarization of labour in the factories.

In particular, the Foundation participated in the organization of a 'teach-in' in Rome on the subject of 'unorthodox war and defence' which was also sponsored by two '5 x 5' creatures, the Institute of Military Studies and the Association of Parliamentary Studies.

Among those attending this patriotic gathering were right-wing Christian Democrats like Bartolo Ciccardini and army and police top-brass, like General Sangiorgio, commander in chief of the 'carabinieri' . . .

Topics on the agenda: the need for greater influence in the life of the country of the armed forces, preparations for counter-insurgency and the encouragement of the values of the nation, religion, the family . . . and Europe.

It should be of no surprise then that the Agnelli Foundation works officially with the Institute of Strategic Studies.

The Agnelli Foundation sup-



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Above: Pirelli workers demonstrate in Milan in defence of their democratic rights. These rights are endangered by the plotting of the monopolies led in Italy by Agnelli, boss of Fiat. Left: Agnelli with Italian Premier, Andreotti. Right: with Pirelli, head of the tyre monopoly.

ports the London-based Institute, together with the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations and other monopoly interests.

The Institute has connections with Britain's secret intelligence service and publishes a stream of anti-communist booklets and inform-

ation of military deployment throughout the world.

Two members of the Institute are Brigadier Frank Kitson and Brian Crozier, biographer of General Franco.

Crozier is the director of the anti-communist Institute for the Study of Conflict when he is not presenting papers at

the ISS.

Kitson is a leading adviser on strategy to the British army.

He wrote in his book on counter-insurgency a description of the tasks of the army in the 1970s which is completely at one with the conceptions stirring up the Agnelli family and the other bosses of Italian capital:

'The second half of the 1970s is going to see a further swing towards the lower end of the operational spectrum with large-scale insurgency giving way to civil disorder accompanied by sabotage and terrorism, especially in urban areas . . .

'Subversion, then, will be held to mean all measures short of the use of armed force taken by one section of the people of a country to overthrow those governing the country at the time or to force them to do things they do not want to do. It can involve the use of political and economic pressure, strikes, protest marches and propaganda.'

As Workers Press commented: 'By this definition workers who are calling for an end to unemployment are "subversives"!'

Brian Crozier, a more 'uni-

versity intellectual' style personality in the Institute, has distinguished himself by writing a eulogistic biography of the Spanish fascist dictator Francisco Franco.

At the time of publication, large sections of Crozier's book were enthusiastically quoted by the Spanish Press.

Franco and the Spanish military staged their insurrection against the Second Republic when it seemed that the demands of workers and peasants were going beyond the framework of 'true and just order' in society, that is, were threatening the existence of capitalist order.

The Institute of Strategic Studies has naturally the best of relations with NATO generals, as does the Agnelli Foundation.

In March 1972, Admiral Gino Birindelli gave up his job as NATO's naval commander in the Mediterranean to stand as a fascist candidate for the Italian Socialist Movement in the Italian General Elections.

He had made the move 'because I regard this moment as particularly critical for national life and for NATO. It is a moment in which the fate of the alliance which even with its imperfections has

guaranteed peace for 20 years could be put in serious danger by the disintegration which seems to have struck our national community.'

NATO, which helped organize the colonels' coup in Greece in 1967, was accused two years' later of preparing a similar operation in Italy.

The connections of the Agnelli Foundation show that the Common Market is in essence no more than a conspiracy to suppress the working class which has been proceeding for several years.

It lays bare the dangerous lies and falsifications spread by the French and Italian Communist Parties that it is possible to work through the institutions of the EEC with a strategy of 'creeping' democratization. The European parliament and Commission are but the cover for the preparations of military dictatorship in Europe.

These plans can only be thwarted by the building of a movement in the ranks of the undefeated working class in Europe of a socialist leadership fighting for a rejection of all collaboration with the EEC and the construction of the Socialist United States of Europe.



Left: Stalin at the Yalta Conference, February, 1944, with Roosevelt whom he considered a 'progressive' imperialist. Because of this Popular Front, the masses in Latin America were called upon not to upset the war effort of American imperialism. Trotsky, above, fought against such class-collaboration for Marxist leadership in the working class.

Special correspondent JUAN GARCIA examines Stalinism and Trotskyism in Peru following the attack by Pompeyo Mares of the Communist Party on the Liga Comunista, which works in solidarity with the International Committee of the Fourth International. Part Four.

WHY THE PERUVIAN STALINISTS SLANDER TROTSKYISM

The Peruvian Communist Party's most abject crawling before the parasitic representatives of US imperialism took place in 1938.

The Stalinists fully supported the 8th International Conference of American States held in the Peruvian capital, Lima, on December 9-27. It ratified US President Roosevelt's so-called 'good neighbour' policy and ironically the Lima declaration came out against 'foreign intervention' in Latin America.

Ravines, general-secretary of the Peruvian CP, was one of the organizers of the Popular Front and supported Roosevelt's New Deal in Latin America. He had been sent by the Third Communist International (Comintern) to organize the Popular Front in Chile.

On the eve of the 8th Pan-American Conference, he issued a pamphlet attacking its opponents as 'Trotskyist'.

Having said that the conference was held under the sign of the 'rule of democracy in the USA', he continued:

'In spite of the clear character of this position to the least perceptive, there exist in Peru leftist politicians—Trotskyist elements—who refuse to accept the evidence of the progressive policy of the good neighbour . . . arguing that a "definitive guarantee" is needed . . . The "definitive agreement" which is demanded of the policy of the good neighbour is a sectarian, absurd conception.'

His parting shot was that the cry of 'down with American imperialism' was a Trotskyist conception.

In the pamphlet, Ravines

attempted to ally Trotskyism with the various regimes and parties in Latin America which were in favour of Hitler's victory.

This was a complete falsification of the Trotskyist movement's policies which expounded the independence of the working class from every variety of imperialism, in accordance with Lenin's analysis of imperialism as 'reaction all along the line', a system of production relations which was a fetter on the development of the productive forces.

The Trotskyist movement did not look for non-existent progressive features in world imperialism, but worked for the defeat of the imperialist powers. While the Stalinists in Latin America were embracing Roosevelt's New Deal, Trotsky wrote in the Transitional Programme of the Fourth International:

'The Fourth International, already today, is deservedly hated by the Stalinists, Social Democrats, bourgeois liberals and fascists. There is not, and cannot be, a place for it in any of the People's Fronts. It uncompromisingly gives battle to all political groupings tied to the apron strings of the bourgeoisie. Its task—the abolition of capitalism's domination. Its aim—socialism. Its method—the proletarian revolution.'

Just as Stalinists Harry Pollitt in Britain and Maurice Thorez in France backed the bourgeoisie's war effort and entered into patriotic alliances with their home imperialists, so the Latin American Stalinists stomped the continent calling on workers not to damage the Allies' war effort.

When Vincente Lombardo Toledano, president of the Stalinist-controlled Latin

American Confederation of Workers, visited President Prado and spoke at a meeting of workers in the Municipal Theatre in Lima, his message was simply: do not strike, work harder, do not damage the Allied war effort.

This was the school of the present leadership of the Peruvian CP. The expulsion of Ravines at the 1st National Congress of the CP in 1942 was in no way a move towards a principled policy, as Mares claims in this pamphlet attacking the Liga Comunista.

Ravines had been one of the leading Comintern agents in Latin America and his removal for 'capitulationism' was only a manoeuvre to give the impression of the party's independence from the dictator, Prado.

Mares claims that it is impossible to talk about the CP leadership accepting or rejecting anything before the 1st Congress, because no leadership existed—only a 'trio named by Ravines'. Yet this was the leadership which pioneered the Popular Front in Peru, and in the case of Ravines and Portocarrero had relations with the Comintern from the mid-1920s. They were Stalin's men!

As the Liga Comunista wrote in the series of articles on the Congresses of the PCP in 'Comunismo'; 'after the expulsion of Ravines, the "new leadership" referred to the Prado government as "our government", "our Supreme Command", or "our people applauds and supports the Supreme Commander of the Nation", etc. ('Democracy and Labour' October 11, 1942).

'All this, despite the declaration by Jorge del Prado in a Bulletin of the National Commission for Organization dated April 6, 1942 and addressed to "Committees, cells and members of the Party", that "the marked right-wing deviation of the leaders who had forgotten the vanguard role of the party, lost revolutionary perspective and subordinated their actions to the wishes of the government and some functionaries considered as allies.'

(Del Prado is now General Secretary of the PCP.)

Hence Mares curses 'CIA-intellectuals' who have 'a special predilection for the past of the Party' and 'speculate on subjects about which many members know little'. At all costs, the PCP must keep quiet about its past and especially about the period in which it openly advocated support for American imperialism.

The present support for Velasco is a direct continuation of that policy, learnt in the Stalinist school of the Popular Front.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

DISCORD

It is no wonder that Peter Walker, the new Secretary for Trade and Industry, is talking about legislation to control asset-stripping and the like, though it's no more than a political gimmick.

(Walker himself comes from a financial conglomerate which is dabbling in these sort of activities. I refer to Slater Walker Securities — though Walker had to give up his directorships when he became a Minister.)

Walker has been forced to make mild denunciations of his erstwhile colleagues because of mounting anger from the companies who represent industry.

This sector, the foundrymen of capitalism, have little time for the whizz-kids who are turning fortunes in property speculation. In a recent copy of 'The Engineer', the weekly magazine for engineering management, there is a strong editorial attack on the speculators.

With biting sarcasm the magazine begins its editorial in the following vein: 'Financially there is no justification for setting up any manufacturing company in Britain; under present conditions property development is the only realistic business.'

This situation is accentuated by the attitude of merchant bankers, who generally couldn't care less whether you make tintacks or sell pornography as long as the return on their capital is high.'

(Merchant bankers in the Tory Cabinet include Lord Carrington, the party chairman and Defence Secretary, Peter Walker, while Heath is a former director of Brown, Shipley and Company. Former Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling, was a director of Kleinwort Benson, and the new chairman of the influential 1922 Committee is Edward du Cann, chairman of Keyser Ullman.)

'The Engineer' goes on: 'More serious for the engineering industry is the growth of asset-stripping and mergers promoted for reasons far remote from the business of the companies concerned.'

'Industry does not want a prop for the inefficient. But it does need greater incentive for investment—especially as the

promised pre-EEC entry investment boom has fizzled out. Otherwise the government's proposed growth rate means nothing.'

This discord in the ruling class should be seriously noted.

'LITTLE JOKE'



As everyone knows, the Communist Party ceaselessly covers up for Jack Jones. I wonder how they took his 'little joke' to the snobs and business magnates at the Savoy last week.

Jones was speaking to the American Chamber of Commerce, the agents of American imperialism, before rushing off to 10 Downing Street to see Edward Heath.

His anecdote came from Poland where he and Feather had been on a visit.

A farmer there had applied to join the Communist Party. He was asked whether he was prepared to sacrifice his life for the party. 'Yes,' the farmer replied.

'And your house?'

'Yes.'

'And your car?'

'Yes.'

Then the farmer was asked if he was prepared to sacrifice his horse for the party.

'No,' he said, 'I've got a horse.'

The Tory-owned 'Daily Telegraph' reported that the story 'endured Mr Jones' to his audience.

ART IN THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION

By a guest reviewer.
'The Age of Charles I'—Tate Gallery, London. Seven days a week. 30p.

The present-day Queen's Master of Paintings (who chose the pictures for this exhibition) implies in the official catalogue, that the beheading of this illustrious monarch with impeccable taste in the 1640-1646 revolution and the destruction of everything he stood for, forestalled a possible great artistic renaissance in England. But precisely the opposite is true.

It was the growing social tensions as the entire economic basis and social function of the feudal monarchy was eroded by the rapid technological and social transformations taking place, that propelled Charles on his feverish cultural endeavours.

He desperately needed to identify himself with the spirit of the renaissance and the enormous artistic accomplishment of Europe. The impending revolution was the forcing house for this. One could not exist without the other, and the presupposed day of reckoning finally came.

The outspoken, but somewhat unpredictable pre-civil war parliamentarian William Prynne denounced the Papal Nuncio for striving to corrupt the chief men at court and 'to seduce the king himself with pictures, antiquities, images and other vanities brought from Rome'. Of course the established tactic of the day in attacking these 'evil men' around the king, rather than monarch himself.

Charles I's avid, almost fanatical acquisitions of the mainly counter-reformation variety of renaissance masters was a determined, but ultimately futile attempt to provide the illusory grandeur and ideological justification for his attempt to reverse the tide of history and introduce the military version of the counter-reformation in England.

This importation of some aspects of the most-advanced artistic techniques, was paralleled by Prince Rupert's initial success against the parliamentary forces in employing Swedish cavalry tactics, which he had learnt serving in Protestant armies in the 30 years war, until Cromwell built the New Model Army.

Charles not only collected Titians, Carravaggios and Durers, but he was in direct contact with Rubens and Velasquez and the papal sculptor Benini. And, of course, he was the most prominent patron of Van Dyck.

Much to the bitter disgust of courtly art lovers to this day, Cromwell's men, having destroyed the king, dismantled the old feudal monarchic structure and sold off most of the paintings. To subsequent 'cultured' reactionaries, this was an act of gross vandalism.

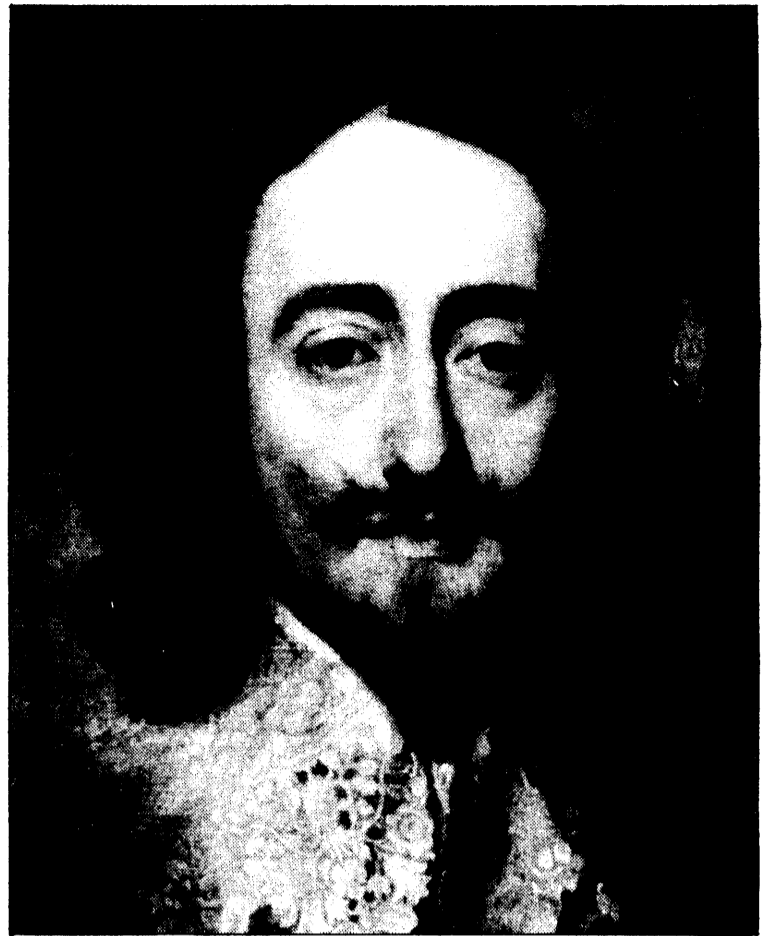
But these sales, at ridiculously low prices, even for those days, was determined by the conscious anti-monarchical outlook of the revolution army. They broke forever the feudal 'magic' with which Charles and his cronies had surrounded themselves.

The art of the counter-reformation, with its emphasis on piety and the greatness of martyrs, was the rallying cry for the Catholic forces determined to crush the Protestant Reformation.

This had an obvious appeal to Charles, for in England the puritan trip on the newly-emerging trading and industrious classes was so complete that no real tradition of painting had emerged.

The 1630 Rubens portrait of Charles as St George killing the dragon against a setting of a non-commercialized, idealized London was an open employment of this tradition. In sharp contrast to the fanciful dramatics of this picture is the rather staid portrait of three leading members of 'The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers' by an unknown artist which was still in the flat, formal Elizabethan tradition and typical of its genre.

In the first sections of the



Charles I in 1636—from Van Dyck's triple portrait.

exhibition a number of portraits and drawings of the King's favourite, the odious Duke of Buckingham (also a notable patron of the arts) stand out. He has the disdainful gaze of a man who is confident that he is looking down on his inferiors.

In Mytens 1626, full-length portrait in particular, we see him gorgeously dressed and covered in pearls. Together with Charles, he assisted the King of France in revoking the edict of Nantes in 1628 which deprived the French Protestants of their former privileges. Shortly after he was murdered, and his assassin became 'the most popular man in England'.¹

The other major art cronies of the king, the Arundels, also stand out at the entrance. In two portraits painted about 1617 we see the artificial importation of the continual techniques as the Earl stiffs points to his statue gallery with his Earl Marshal's baton, and his wife sits in front of their picture gallery. Formal possession of works of art as property, and culture as a veneer, stands out sharply.

In sharp contrast are the main paintings of the exhibition by Van Dyck of Charles himself. The centre piece is the 1633 picture of Charles clad in armour, sitting astride an enormous white horse and riding through a triumphal arch.

In stark contrast to the heroic stance of the monarch is his tired weary facial expression, and the apprehensive gaze of his attendant. Similarly the same washed-out, almost doomed look is even clearer in Van Dyck's triple portrait of Charles which he painted for Benini to use in lieu of a model.

Van Dyck was the principal painter to flourish in these 'hot-house' conditions. He had studied extensively under Titian and Rubens and when invited to England to become the court painter, he developed enormously, especially the art of portraiture.

He purposely abstracted aspects of the work of the Venetian school and Rubens, concentrating on the theatrical and rich colour and limpid sensuality. But precisely because he never really understood what in fact his painterly flourishes stood for, the end product is far from convincing. Even his central paintings have a contrived quality, as he imposes 'realistic' crisis-torn facial expressions on improbable armed, or gorgeously-dressed figures.

Mercifully the rather 'hack' attempts by the parliamentary painter Robert Walker (apart from one self-portrait) in which he superimposed Cromwell and other faces on similar figures, are absent. Presumably Cromwell's jocular injunction to 'Mr Lilly' to 'remark all these ruffness, pimples, warts' and paint 'everything as you see me' expressed his dislike of this romantic self-deception.

Van Dyck's special relationship to Charles is exemplified by the rather smug self-portrait of himself pointing at a brilliant sunflower, which for him is the source of wealth, beauty and

inspiration which motivated him. The self-portraits of Rubens, Mytens and the portrait of Ben Johnson (the playwrights who, together with Inigo Jones—the supreme artistic genius of the Caroline period—created the courtly masks and entertainment) are brooding, searching pictures as if they were musing on their own role and purpose.

A further contrast is provided by the early paintings of the royal and aristocratic children—especially Polson's one of Prince Charles (II)—which express the uncomprehending arrogance of a class that has turned its face blindly against the forces of change. While later on we have Dobson's portrait (the first major English painter) of Charles's nephew Prince Rupert, after he had lost the siege of Bristol, 'which virtually ended the civil war'² and had been dismissed by the king.

The face, although much less finely painted than the previous ones, is a sadder and wiser man. Similarly the determined look of the regicide Henry Marsden (with NOW engraved on the stonework behind him) by Lilly, contrasts with Bower's portrait of Charles at his trial. Gone are the dramatic poses and flaunting arrogance. All that remains is an almost blank look of bored disbelief.

The exhibition demonstrates the degree to which there arose a social dichotomy under the Stuarts that sharpened up in Charles' reign. The frantic need for survival demonstrated by Charles and the higher aristocracy contrasts with the interests of the towns and the rising middle classes who saw in Charles' court all that was flippant and pleasure-loving.

It was not for them to imitate the cultural decadence of a parasitic court. They preferred the more staid puritan works of the English and Dutch artists.

This is shown in the two kinds of paintings that are exhibited—the limited, insular, sometimes certain Dutch artists and the naïve work of the English and imported painters who depicted royalty and the aristocracy in a particular way that could not have been painted within the English tradition.

Dobson is the only English exception to the Continental artistic monopoly preferred by Charles and his hangers-on, and he painted in the style of Van Dyck and the Venetian school. It was to the counter-Reformation that Charles felt closest.

This divergence of philosophy and purpose must be seen as the exhibition's real point of interest and the febrile eulogies of a wise, cultured king that the Tate Gallery, assisted by the Queen's 'taste-watcher', would have us believe.

This is the first time that these works have been brought together since the collection was broken up. If you are able to get along to the gallery, be sure to watch for Samuel Cooper's unfinished miniature of Cromwell.

¹ C. Hill 'God's Englishmen'

² Ibid.

BOOKS



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TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.15 Schools. 12.30 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 On the farm. 1.45 Made in Britain. 2.05 Schools. 3.00 Sunday debate. 3.35 Young scientists of the year. 4.00 Deputy dawg. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Thursday's child. 5.20 Screen test. 5.40 Magic roundabout. 5.45 News. Weather.
6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.50 TOM AND JERRY.
7.00 TOMORROW'S WORLD. 7.25 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. Squeeze Play.
8.10 SOFTLY, SOFTLY: TASK FORCE. Money for Sale.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.
9.25 SPORTSNIGHT. Football and the European Heavyweight Championship.
10.45 MIDWEEK. 11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS. 11.35 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.35 Yoga. (London only) 10.55 Schools. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Rupert Bear. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Sing out with The Settlers. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Whose baby? 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Get this! 4.50 Arthur of the Britons. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 News.
6.00 TODAY. 6.35 CROSSROADS.
7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE. 7.30 CORONATION STREET.
8.00 PATHFINDERS. The Nightmare.
10.00 NEWS. 10.30 A PLACE IN THE COUNTRY. The Vyne.
11.00 LATE NIGHT THEATRE: MELODRAMA. The Crimson Scar, or Cursed Treasure of Sierra Maria.
11.30 FILM: 'THE MURDER GAME'. Ken Scott, Marla Landi, Trader Faulkner. A woman plots to murder the husband she wants to get rid of.
12.05 DEAR LORD . . .



Inspector Lockhart joins Frank Marker? Not quite. Raymond Francis, veteran TV cop from 'No Hiding Place' screened several moons ago on BBC, plays a rose grower in tonight's 'Public Eye' on independent channels. He discusses his problems with Marker (Alfred Burke) over the snooker table.



REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.55 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. Hogan's heroes. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 11.30 News, weather. Epilogue.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy Hampster. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 11.28 News. 11.31 Generation three. 11.55 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 London. 8.00 Spirit of London. 9.00 London. 11.30 What the papers say. 11.45 News. 11.55 Guideline. 12.00 Shirley's world. 12.30 Weather.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 4.50 Rainbow country. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Arthur of the Britons. 7.00 London. 10.30 Time was. 11.00 London. 11.30 Cinema. 12.00 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.20 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.
HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 3.30 Odd couple. 3.55 Romper room. 4.19 News. 4.20 London. 5.20 Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 11.30 Spycor.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.

7.05 MAN AT WORK. Out of the Rut. **7.30 NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.

7.35 ALL IN A DAY. The Collection. One day in April 1972 a young fashion designer launched his autumn collection.

8.05 MUSIC ON 2. Fou Ts'ong. **9.15 TIMES REMEMBERED.**

9.25 MAN ALIVE. Danger—Men at Work. Every year hundreds of workers fall ill and even die from industrial illnesses.

10.15 THIRTY-MINUTE THEATRE: 'PLAYTHINGS'. Brian Glover, Stephen Bone, Malcolm Reynolds, Kurt Christian.

10.45 EDITION. A look at the American Press, including an interview with radical I. F. Stone.

11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 London. 11.30 O'Hara US treasury. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.45 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women today. 3.55 Harriet's back in town. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 London. 8.00 Bearcats. 9.00 London. 11.30 World War I.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.30 Jason King. 4.25 London. 5.20 Bewitched. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 8.00 Benny Hill. 9.00 London. 10.30 Adam 12. 11.00 London. 11.30 Spycor. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 3.25 Yoga. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.25 London. 6.00 Newsday. What's on. 6.30 Here's Lucy. 7.00 London. 8.00 On the buses. 8.30 Anna and the

king. 9.00 London. 11.30 What the papers say.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 Prologue. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 London. 3.25 Champions. 4.20 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.35 London. 8.00 Benny Hill. 9.00 London. 11.30 News. 11.45 Edgar Wallace. 12.40 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 London. 8.55 Scottish National Party broadcast. 9.00 London. 10.30 Report. 11.00 London. 11.30 What the papers say. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Blue light.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.45 Cartoon. 2.50 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women today. 3.55 Harriet's back in town. 4.20 London. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson at teatime. 6.35 London. 8.00 Persuaders. 8.55 Scottish National Party broadcast. 9.00 London. 11.30 Protectors. 12.00 Meditation.

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Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign
Support the Engineers

HOLLOWAY: Thursday January 18, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Rd (near Finsbury Park tube).

CROYDON: Thursday January 18, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, South Croydon.

TOTTENHAM: Thursday, January 18, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers' Arms', Tottenham High Road, N17 (near White Hart Lane).

CONISBOROUGH: Monday January 22, 7.30 p.m. 'The Castle Inn'. 'How can workers fight the Tory offensive?'

ACTON: Tuesday January 23, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Street, W3.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday January 23, 8 p.m. The Library, Osterley Park Road.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday January 23, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Market Square, Crisp Street Market, E.14.

LEICESTER: Wednesday January 24, 8 p.m. Queen's Hotel, Rutland Street.

WILLESDEN: Thursday January 25, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW10.

LEEDS: Thursday, January 25, 8 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. 'The state pay plan'.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Sunday January 28, 7.30 p.m. Settlement Community Centre, Newport Road.

ROCHESTER: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue.

BARKING: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, corner of Fanshawe Ave./Lagbridge Road.

HARROW: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Harrow and Wealdstone.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4.

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Tooting Broadway, SW17.

KINGSTON: Thursday February 1, 8 p.m. 'Liverpool Arms', (corner of Cambridge Road/London Road).

An appeal on behalf of the Fine Tubes strikers of Plymouth

THE Plymouth Fine Tubes strikers have just completed two years and seven months on strike.

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.

These latest months have been the hardest of all for the men, their wives and 53

children. Common Market entry, with rapidly rising prices, has imposed a severe financial burden. The 37 strikers face the challenging months ahead with a depleted strike fund—this is in a period when meat has now become a luxury for all but the highest paid. 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 Workers 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.

I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

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PROFILE By Alex Mitchell

FRANCIS BENNION, the barrister who brought a private prosecution against anti-apartheid campaigner Peter Hain, has been appointed a parliamentary counsel. At the same time Bennion has resigned as director of his self-styled organization, Freedom Under the Law.

In his new post he will be involved in drafting and piloting Tory legislation. Writing in the Freedom Under the Law journal, Bennion says: 'Clearly I must avoid involvement in public controversy. Indeed, publicity of any kind is to be avoided in future so far as I am personally concerned. Within these limitations I shall do all I can to continue the good work we have started.'

Francis Alan Roscoe Bennion, lawyer, writer and property developer, is described in legal circles as 'a brilliant constitutional lawyer'. In 1953 he joined the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel to the Treasury.

In 1956, when still only 33, Bennion was sent to Pakistan to help draft the country's new constitution. Three years later he was loaned to Ghana to carry out the exacting legal transformation of Ghana into a republic.

Back in London in 1964 he became deputy counsel; he was considered next in line to be First Parliamentary Counsel to the Treasury. This post carries a knighthood and elevation to Queen's Counsel. But on the election of Labour, Bennion became uneasy and left the civil service to set up a private practice.

His main business was in the emerging black countries of Africa and the Caribbean. He helped frame legal straitjackets which the black bourgeoisie placed on the workers and peasants in these countries.

He had a £10,000-a-year contract with the Jamaican government to advise on taxation.

Scab force

In 1970 Bennion started to show the first signs of his political ambitions. During the teachers' strike he organized a scab force, known as the Professional Association of Teachers (PAT), whose members give a pledge not to strike.

He also made two attempts to win pre-selection for Tory seats. He got on the short list, but failed to get selected.

He came to public notoriety, however, when he launched his private case against Peter Hain, chairman of the 'Stop the Tour' campaign.

After a series of legal battles Bennion succeeded in having Hain committed for trial at the

Heath recruits Hain case lawyer

Old Bailey. After a 21-day trial, Hain was convicted by a 10-2 majority verdict of conspiracy to disrupt the Davis Cup tennis match at Bristol in 1969 by running on to the court. He pleaded not guilty and was fined £200.

The success of this prosecution marked an important precedent in the use of conspiracy laws.

At the same time Bennion formed his Freedom Under the Law International (membership fee: £2.40). Item 18 modestly says the body will 'promote legislation in any part of the world'.

During this period Bennion began forging his links with the right-wing Monday Club. At its annual ball in 1971 he was a guest along with Enoch Powell. The National Front also joined in singing his praise.

He won favourable response from right-wing Tories and sections of the middle class when

Whizzkid lawyer Francis Bennion... I must avoid any controversy

he took out a private action against the National Union of Mineworkers over the big strike early last year.

This case never got off the ground. In September last year Bennion launched 'Youth-Ful', an organization 'to fight subversion'.

The group's first magazine attacked dockers and other militant trade unionists for 'endangering basic liberties'.

One function of the group is to monitor 'subversive and dis-



US finance penetrates Yugoslavia

A UNITED STATES government agency will provide insurance and finance services for private firms investing in Yugoslavia, the first time such government services have gone to an East European country, it was announced yesterday.

The move is an expression of US government confidence in the Tito government's guarantees for foreign investors. A large amount of foreign capital, including some from the United States, has flowed into Yugoslav industry over the past period.

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) is to sign a bilateral agreement authorizing the insurance and finance programme in Belgrade on Tuesday. OPIC is chartered to guarantee that private American firms investing in 'developing' countries are not adversely affected by internal politics or confiscatory actions.

OPIC president Bradford Mills said he expected a gradual build-up of American interest in Yugoslavia. 'We view this as a significant step forward in the development of closed ties and greater freedom of exchange with the people of key developing countries and we look forward to a steady growth of investor interest in the nations of eastern Europe,' Mills said.

Scottish foundry to close

FOUNDRY department at Hallside Works, Cambuslang, Lanarkshire, is to close and about 70 workers will lose their jobs, the British Steel Corporation confirmed yesterday.

The department forms part of the Craigneuk, Hallside and Pollcross works within the special steels division.

The BSC's Scottish office said: 'This announcement follows consultations with works' representatives and trade union officials on the reasons for the closure and its implications, from which no more acceptable alternative has emerged.'

'Neutral' myth

Since coming to office the Heath government has passed a stream of legislation attacking basic democratic rights: the Industrial Relations Act, the Housing Finance Act, the amendments to the Criminal Justice Act and now the so-called Counter-Inflation Act which takes away the right to negotiate wages.

Bennion's legal talents will be employed to develop even more stringent laws as Heath moves rapidly towards greater dictatorship and repression.

His re-appointment as parliamentary counsel blows up for all time the myth that the law is 'neutral'. As we have seen from this profile, Bennion is certainly not a neutral man.

Plessey profits jump

PLESSEY, the electronics and telecommunications giant, yesterday produced another record set of half-yearly results.

Best-ever second-quarter profits — up from £5,080,000 to £7,201,000 — lifted the group's six-month pre-tax total to £12,117,000, a 42-per-cent increase in profits over the same half of 1971.

Sales also hit record levels during the six-months period to the end of December. They stood at £150.3m — £17.7m up on the corresponding half of 1971. About £10m of the improvement was scored in the second quarter.

Why policemen are 'retiring' early

CRIME and corruption among the police is on the up and up. In 1972, 80 officers involved in disciplinary cases were 'allowed to retire' from the Metropolitan Police, compared with 45 in 1971 and 46 in 1970.

Complaints against the police in 1972 are expected to be 800 up on those in 1971 — totalling almost 4,000. As a result of inquiries into 451 serious complaints, 27 officers, 17 of them CID men, have been charged and are awaiting trial for serious crimes.

Next Monday, January 22, Detective Chief Inspector Victor Kelaher, former head of Scotland Yard's Drugs Squad, is due to appear in court with four other officers. The five are facing charges of conspiracy and perjury.

Eleven officers have already been convicted during 1972, compared with eight in 1971 and five in 1970. Of those guilty, only nine were imprisoned, against five in 1971 and one in 1970.

In the seven months since A10 — the branch formed to investigate complaints against the police — was formed, seven complaints which its officers



DRURY . . . resigned from Fraud Squad

have investigated have resulted in disciplinary proceedings. Inquiries by policemen outside A10 have resulted in 107 disciplinary proceedings in 1972; in 1971 it was 88 and 62 in 1970.

Of the 107, ten officers were being 'allowed to retire' after being served with disciplinary charges. This was six more than in 1971 and eight up on 1970. Internal disciplinary inquiries were down in 1972; 129 compared with 141 the year before. A total of seven



KELAHER . . . Drug Squad chief facing trial

officers were dismissed, four others were 'required to resign' and five officers were 'allowed to retire' after being served with disciplinary charges.

Another 65 police officers were allowed to retire before completion of criminal or disciplinary proceedings into their conduct. This was 28 up on 1971 and 24 higher than in 1970.

One officer who 'retired' last year was former Scotland Yard Flying Squad head, Commander Kenneth Drury.

SLL LECTURES

TODMORDEN

Monday January 22

'Stalinism'

Monday February 5

'Trotskyism'

THE WEAVERS' INSTITUTE, Burnley Road, 7.30 p.m.

HULL

Wednesday January 17
Stalinism and Trotskyism

Wednesday January 24
Marxist theory and the revolutionary party

WHITE HART HOTEL
Alfred Gelder Street
(near Drypool Bridge)
8 p.m.

DONCASTER

Sunday January 21
What future for the labour movement.

Sunday February 4
The crisis and the socialist answer.

Sunday February 11
The revolutionary party in Britain.

Lectures given by
Cliff Slaughter.

SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL
Westlathgate
7.30 p.m.

Defence of closed shop moves to London site

WORKERS at a London building site threatened immediate strike action if a fitter who refuses to join a union is allowed back on the site.

The men are employed by Imperial London Con-

tractors at their one and only site in Britain at Bedford Way, Holborn.

They took strike action on Monday when the fitter—ironically named Donaldson—refused to join a union or pay his dues to a charity as an alternative.

JOSEPH LANGSTON, the Chrysler worker whose campaign against the closed shop has been backed by an industrial tribunal, had a half-hour meeting with the secretary of the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday.

He would not say whether he had definitely decided to take his case before the court.

'I am here to inquire about the procedure should I decide to make an appli-

cation,' he said afterwards. Langston has still had no reply from the works committee at Chrysler's Ryton, in Coventry, about whether he will be allowed to return to work as a non-unionist.

His ultimatum to the committee expires on January 27. But yesterday Langston, who is suspended by the company on £44.70 a week, was forced to admit that the workers' attitude towards him is 'unrelenting'.

After a one-hour stoppage management backed down and took Donaldson off the 140-man site.

Site steward Jim Kemp said yesterday that there would be an immediate walk out if Donaldson returned.

A battle for a closed-shop has been going on since May.

'This is a basic issue. The men here are fully aware of the implication of their action and that it takes place under a Tory government pledged to attack trade unionism,' he said.

A spokesman for Imperial London Contractors said yesterday that 'delicate negotiations' between all parties were continuing to solve the issue.



Site steward Jim Kemp

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

15 DAYS TO GO WITH £484.69 RAISED

A GREAT collection of £50 at our meeting in Liverpool last Sunday night has helped give a boost to our fund this month. We now have 15 days to raise the remaining £1,265.31 to complete our total. Let's press ahead faster than ever.

Nothing will halt these huge price increases. Every day more and more items rapidly become dearer than ever. The Tory government has no intention of stopping this onslaught. This is a conscious policy on their part to take away all the basic rights of the working class.

But they will not be allowed to do this without an enormous battle. Everywhere, more sections of trade unionists are demanding pay rises to meet the cost-of-living increases. A showdown with the Tory government is not far ahead.

Only Workers Press is politically prepared for this fight. Our paper alone has fought consistently to defend all the basic democratic rights of workers everywhere. Make a very special effort therefore for our January Fund. Go all out and help us pull the situation around. Post every donation immediately to:

**Workers Press
January Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London, SW4 7UG**

Milk and meat bound to rise

Forecast in cattle speech

THE 1970s will be a period of rising beef and milk prices, it was forecast at a cattle breeders' conference yesterday.

Mr R. E. Williams, chief economist of the Milk Marketing Board said: 'The pattern for the future seems likely to be modest increases in the price of milk, but larger rises in the price of beef.'

Williams was presenting a paper on 'The UK milk industry and the EEC' at the British Cattlebreeders' Club winter conference in Cambridge.

Beef and veal consumption in the Common Market is expected to grow during the 1970s and the policymakers difficulty will be considerable, he said.

At the same time the Association of Public Health Inspectors said that the adoption of EEC meat inspection methods in Britain could mean higher prices in the shops.

The Association said yesterday that EEC methods would add to the cost of meat production and 'so create further pressures for increasing the price to housewives'.

At present meat inspection in

Britain is almost entirely the responsibility of public health inspectors, whereas in Europe it is under the control of veterinary officers.

● Guinness prices will go up after the Tory government's so-called price freeze, it was announced yesterday.

The brewery company's annual report yesterday pointed out that since the last price increase 11 months ago 'costs have continued to rise, and it will be necessary to raise the ex-brewery price again during 1973'.

The company's earnings, how-

IMPORTED Golden Delicious apples may rise by 6p a lb to 16-18p a lb by mid-February, Mr Matthew Mack, president of National Federation of Fruit and Potato Trades, said yesterday.

The rise in price would become inevitable because government had refused to suspend Common Market compensatory levy on apple imports which takes effect on February 1, Mr Mack said.

ever, appear to indicate another profits increase.

● On Monday night Post Office chief Sir William Ryland said that postal charges must go up again.

Actors still without policy on £12 pay cut

ACTORS' union leaders yesterday put off for the third time any decision on fighting the Tory £12 pay cut against their West End members.

But they agreed to accept a humiliating £1,000 hand-out from the Society of West End Theatre Managers to the union's benevolent fund.

The executive of the actors' union, Equity, has called a protest meeting of the West End membership for January 28. Actors are incensed by the Tories' decision to stop a £5 pay rise due January 1, and to slash minimum rates back £7 to their level of last November.

A call for all-out industrial action, the recall of the TUC and a campaign to remove the Tories from office is believed, however, to have been ruled out of order at yesterday's meeting. So unless a further executive

meeting next week decides otherwise, the union's leaders seem certain to remain without a policy for January 28.

The employers' £1,000 donation to the Equity benevolent fund is presumably designed to be paid out in cases of particular hardship caused by the pay cut.

A previous suggestion that all the money stopped by the Tories be paid into the fund is thought to have been abandoned for legal reasons.

SHOTTON Steelworks' 12 unions will stage a one-day strike starting tomorrow night in protest against closure. The men are fighting to save 6,500 jobs placed in danger by British Steel Corporation's 'reorganization plan'. Ken Monto, secretary of the Flintshire works' action committee, said Liverpool dockers and Cheshire car workers had pledged solidarity support.



VICTOR FEATHER... Looking for more talks with Heath

We're not looking for trouble TUC chief

VICTOR FEATHER, general secretary of the TUC, said last night that the government's counter-inflation legislation will not solve the country's economic problems.

'Nor, unless some new dramatic change of policy comes about, will the so-called Phase Two,' he added. Feather was giving a lecture on trade unions at Warwick University, Coventry.

'The government's unilateral decision to introduce a standstill on incomes is neither justified by Britain's economic problems nor calculated to secure the support of trade unionists.

'On the contrary, the freeze could intensify the problem. It will certainly make it more difficult to achieve a long-term solution based on agreement.

'It does nothing to deal with the basic disequilibrium in the ownership and distribution of wealth and income in our country.

'It is all very well telling workers not to rock the boat when they are crowded in the fo'c'sle and the preacher is in the state room.'

Feather also warned that he faced difficulties in keeping order in the rank and file of the trade union movement.

'The TUC cannot issue orders to our unions, any more than the unions can issue orders to their members. If you want that kind of trade union movement you will have to go to a totalitarian country.

'The TUC cannot put the whips on as the government can in parliament; we have to depend on the merits of our case.'

But having forecast conflict over wages, Feather went on to declare that the TUC would act 'responsibly'. He pledged: 'We shall not go looking for trouble. We shall not seek dramatic confrontations either with the government or with employers, in court or outside.'

'If trouble comes our way, we shall have to cope with it in the interests of our members, as we always do, but we will not throw our weight around.'

'This is not the time for provocation, and I hope that the government and the employers share this view.'

Feather's suggestion for the future? 'Eventually, and probably quite soon, we shall need to talk again.'

Feather's 'militant' speech must be answered uncompromisingly. He has gone along every step of the way to allow the Tories to formulate their dictatorial state pay plan.

He has consistently opposed the recall of the TUC to develop a policy to fight the government wages policy which has done away with the right to negotiate pay.

Feather is simply mouthing words. What about deeds? Will he make a statement pledging support for any section of workers who decide to fight for decent wages?

Will he, to be more specific, pledge support for the wage claims of the Ford and British-Leyland workers and the gasmen?

Feather says this is not a totalitarian state. He's right. But if he and the other TUC leaders continue to encourage the Tories in round after round of dangerous talks, they will open the door for this very development.

Instead of negotiating with the Tories Feather should be preparing the industrial strategy to kick them out of office.

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