

CRISIS IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE

£4,500m SHARES IN PHASE TWO PLUNGE

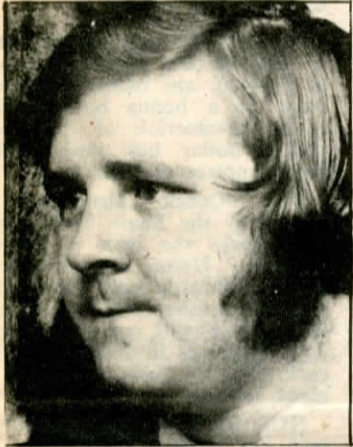
BY IAN YEATS

HUNDREDS of millions of pounds were wiped off the market value of Britain's top companies on the Stock Exchange yesterday.

Since the Tories' Phase Two state pay plan was announced last Wednesday, more than £4,500m has been wiped off share values.

Yesterday the 'Financial Times' Index recorded one of the biggest ever single falls in the first half hour of trading. By 3 p.m. it had plummeted 18.1 points to 470.0.

Extradition order against Doherty



AN EXTRADITION order against Anthony 'Dutch' Doherty was granted yesterday to the Royal Ulster Constabulary in the Dublin District Court.

Doherty, who is wanted for arms offences, has 15 days in which to appeal to Dublin High Court and ask for the order to be put aside.

If he fails to do this, he will be handed over to the RUC at Carrickarnon, County Lough, on the border.

Phase Two won't stop us: Scottish miners

A SPECIAL delegate conference of Scottish miners' leaders in Edinburgh yesterday announced total opposition to Phase Two of the government's state pay plan and declared it would not stop them achieving their current wage claim in full. They pledged themselves ready to take any action necessary to achieve pay demands—if necessary to ask the national executive of the National Union of Mineworkers to ballot British miners on industrial action.

● See p. 12. State pay plan strike revolt.

The downward price slide is a dramatic illustration of big business anxieties about the Tory government's ability to inflict permanent defeats on the trade unions and the working class.

Their survival in the teeth of fierce world competition depends on driving down costs and an all-out attack on workers' wages and living standards. Until now Heath has been unable to do this and yesterday's selling undoubtedly reflects the growing middle-class panic over the economy's future.

The Confederation of British Industry slammed down the shutters on all Press comment yesterday after they had been asked if the wave of stock market selling had been triggered by trade union response to the state pay plan.

But significantly, share prices fell by up to 13 points on the FT Index following the unveiling of Phase Two by Heath at his Lancaster House Press conference last Wednesday.

By far the largest falls came after the meeting of the TUC economic committee on Friday at which leaders of Britain's major unions decided to recommend total non-co-operation with the pay plan.

Internationally the situation of British capitalism in the on-going trade war situation continues to worsen. Italy's decision to operate a two-tier system for the lira—in effect a badly camouflaged devaluation—is a blow to British industry's prospects of competing within the Common Market.

The government has virtually committed itself to 'peg' sterling in April at \$2.3499—an effective devaluation of 9.2 per cent since the pound was floated last summer.

Deputies of the Group of 20 countries meet in Paris today to discuss the 'reform' of the international monetary system. Preliminary discussions have revealed no agreement between the major powers on this vital question.

When the London Stock Exchange opened for business yesterday morning the price landslide was immediate with falls of up to 35p on some shares.

Heath has himself admitted that a section of employers do not want controls of any kind over pay and are clamouring for a return to a free-for-all situation in which they can get to grips with the working class.

It is hardly accidental that the very companies which led the price retreat yesterday are notorious for the size of their contributions to Tory Party funds and are represented in the party's right wing up to ministerial level.

Guinness led the field closely followed by Reckitt and Coleman and EMI.

Building, including Bovis and BPB Industries, property, insurance and banks including Barclays and Westminster all took tumbles of around 10p a share with one company losing 25p.

ICI, Beecham, Courtauld's, and Boots all registered losses of up to 10p a share. The FT Index has dropped 30.4 points since Phase Two was announced.

The share price landslide reflects the middle class's growing uncertainty over the Heath government's attempt to destroy basic democratic rights by the imposition of a state dictatorship over wages.

CAV sit-in still on

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHOP STEWARDS at the occupied CAV factory in Liverpool yesterday voted to maintain their control of the Fazakerley site on which the factory stands.

They resisted pressure from the Lucas combine to give up control of the gates, boiler house and canteen.

Last week a mass meeting agreed to allow supplies on and off the site so that Lucas Industrial Equipment, a smaller factory also operating on the site, could re-open.

Workers there have been laid off since week three

of the 14-week CAV sit-in against closure.

But Lucas refused to accept the CAV workers' insistence that they continue to control the gates through a system of passes issued by their occupation committee.

Later yesterday afternoon the CAV stewards' leaders were meeting their opposite numbers from LIE to inform them of the decision and to appeal to them not to participate in a planned lobby of the engineers' union executive council today.

Some LIE stewards wanted to ask the union executive to withdraw financial aid to the sit-in.

Tonight, the CAV stewards, who have withdrawn pickets from three other Merseyside factories using Lucas products, will meet trades council leaders to point out that increased support for their fight against unemployment is now vitally important.

TOMORROW: Industrial correspondent David Maude in an on-the-spot assessment of the sit-in.

NUR listens in on pay talks



The National Union of Railwaymen attended yesterday's talks with British Rail on the £9.25 claim by the locomen's union ASLEF. Sid Weighell (left), NUR assistant general secretary, joined ASLEF's Ray Buckton (right), at BR's

Marylebone headquarters. NUR leaders only made a decision to attend the talks at the last minute. ASLEF has already threatened strike action to raise the locomen's basic to £40 a week.

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • TUESDAY JANUARY 23, 1973 • No 978 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

CRISIS IN THE STOCK EXCHANGE

£4,500m SHARES IN PHASE TWO PLUNGE

BY IAN YEATS

HUNDREDS of millions of pounds were wiped off the market value of Britain's top companies on the Stock Exchange yesterday.

Since the Tories' Phase Two state pay plan was announced last Wednesday, more than £4,500m has been wiped off share values.

Yesterday the 'Financial Times' Index recorded one of the biggest ever single falls in the first half hour of trading. By 3 p.m. it had plummeted 18.1 points to 470.0.

Extradition order against Doherty



AN EXTRADITION order against Anthony 'Dutch' Doherty was granted yesterday to the Royal Ulster Constabulary in the Dublin District Court.

Doherty, who is wanted for arms offences, has 15 days in which to appeal to Dublin High Court and ask for the order to be put aside.

If he fails to do this, he will be handed over to the RUC at Carrickarnon, County Lough, on the border.

Phase Two won't stop us: Scottish miners

A SPECIAL delegate conference of Scottish miners' leaders in Edinburgh yesterday announced total opposition to Phase Two of the government's state pay plan and declared it would not stop them achieving their current wage claim in full. They pledged themselves ready to take any action necessary to achieve pay demands—if necessary to ask the national executive of the National Union of Mineworkers to ballot British miners on industrial action.

● See p. 12. State pay plan strike revolt.

The downward price slide is a dramatic illustration of big business anxieties about the Tory government's ability to inflict permanent defeats on the trade unions and the working class.

Their survival in the teeth of fierce world competition depends on driving down costs and an all-out attack on workers' wages and living standards. Until now Heath has been unable to do this and yesterday's selling undoubtedly reflects the growing middle-class panic over the economy's future.

The Confederation of British Industry slammed down the shutters on all Press comment yesterday after they had been asked if the wave of stock market selling had been triggered by trade union response to the state pay plan.

But significantly, share prices fell by up to 13 points on the FT Index following the unveiling of Phase Two by Heath at his Lancaster House Press conference last Wednesday.

By far the largest falls came after the meeting of the TUC economic committee on Friday at which leaders of Britain's major unions decided to recommend total non-co-operation with the pay plan.

Internationally the situation of British capitalism in the on-going trade war situation continues to worsen. Italy's decision to operate a two-tier system for the lira—in effect a badly camouflaged devaluation—is a blow to British industry's prospects of competing within the Common Market.

The government has virtually committed itself to 'peg' sterling in April at \$2.3499—an effective devaluation of 9.2 per cent since the pound was floated last summer.

Deputies of the Group of 20 countries meet in Paris today to discuss the 'reform' of the international monetary system. Preliminary discussions have revealed no agreement between the major powers on this vital question.

When the London Stock Exchange opened for business yesterday morning the price landslide was immediate with falls of up to 35p on some shares.

Heath has himself admitted that a section of employers do not want controls of any kind over pay and are clamouring for a return to a free-for-all situation in which they can get to grips with the working class.

It is hardly accidental that the very companies which led the price retreat yesterday are notorious for the size of their contributions to Tory Party funds and are represented in the party's right wing up to ministerial level.

Guinness led the field closely followed by Reckitt and Coleman and EMI.

Building, including Bovis and BPB Industries, property, insurance and banks including Barclays and Westminster all took tumbles of around 10p a share with one company losing 25p.

ICI, Beecham, Courtauld's, and Boots all registered losses of up to 10p a share. The FT Index has dropped 30.4 points since Phase Two was announced.

The share price landslide reflects the middle class's growing uncertainty over the Heath government's attempt to destroy basic democratic rights by the imposition of a state dictatorship over wages.

CAV sit-in still on

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHOP STEWARDS at the occupied CAV factory in Liverpool yesterday voted to maintain their control of the Fazakerley site on which the factory stands.

They resisted pressure from the Lucas combine to give up control of the gates, boiler house and canteen.

Last week a mass meeting agreed to allow supplies on and off the site so that Lucas Industrial Equipment, a smaller factory also operating on the site, could re-open.

Workers there have been laid off since week three

of the 14-week CAV sit-in against closure.

But Lucas refused to accept the CAV workers' insistence that they continue to control the gates through a system of passes issued by their occupation committee.

Later yesterday afternoon the CAV stewards' leaders were meeting their opposite numbers from LIE to inform them of the decision and to appeal to them not to participate in a planned lobby of the engineers' union executive council today.

Some LIE stewards wanted to ask the union executive to withdraw financial aid to the sit-in.

Tonight, the CAV stewards, who have withdrawn pickets from three other Merseyside factories using Lucas products, will meet trades council leaders to point out that increased support for their fight against unemployment is now vitally important.

TOMORROW: Industrial correspondent David Maude in an on-the-spot assessment of the sit-in.

NUR listens in on pay talks



The National Union of Railwaymen attended yesterday's talks with British Rail on the £9.25 claim by the locomen's union ASLEF. Sid Weighell (left), NUR assistant general secretary, joined ASLEF's Ray Buckton (right), at BR's

Marylebone headquarters. NUR leaders only made a decision to attend the talks at the last minute. ASLEF has already threatened strike action to raise the locomen's basic to £40 a week.

WHAT WE THINK

Classes and individuals

MR HAROLD WILSON'S speech in Edinburgh last Saturday was aimed at convincing working-class men and women that they were powerless to fight monopoly capitalism.

He described workers not as a class but as a collection of weak, isolated individuals. These individuals, claimed Wilson, were at the mercy of 'remote financial interests', 'irresponsible multinational organizations' and giant 'mega-corporations'.

They were 'robbed of any real control of how they live their lives', 'denied any real voice', 'drilled, dragooned and distracted'.

It would be difficult to recognize in this description of weak, atomized individuals—reminiscent of the helpless 'proles' of Orwell's '1984'—the working class which halted Sattley coke depot and pushed the government to the verge of collapse in the miners' strike; which forced the release of five dockers jailed by the Industrial Relations Act; and which went on to demonstrate in its hundreds of thousands against the Tories' anti-union legislation and rent Act.

It would be difficult also to recognize the class which built the unions, formed the Labour Party and placed Wilson and his forebears in office on six occasions.

The fact that workers could do all that and more is proof that it is not they who are prostrate before capitalism, but their leaders.

And that, of course, is why the leading Tory newspaper, 'The Times', is delighted to carry Wilson's speech in full and to load it with editorial praise.

In the early days of the Tory government, 'The Times' was saying that Wilson was finished and should quit the political scene. But now the same paper declares that 'Mr Wilson's diagnosis is correct' and marks 'a healthy sign'.

It is 'correct' from the standpoint of this bourgeois newspaper that the Labour leader should consider the working class 'impotent'.

The ruling class would very much like workers to be impotent. It knows, however, that this is not so. On the contrary, the enormous increase in the cost of living and in unemployment consequent upon Common Market entry and the intensified American trade war will lead to more and more fundamental

battles as an undefeated working class defends its basic rights from Tory attack.

What delights 'The Times' is Wilson's insistence that the working class cannot fight as a class. This is consistent with the Labour leader's immediate reaction to the Tory wage control White Paper, which was to pledge his assistance in making it law and to urge the working class not to fight it. Capitalism is all-powerful and its laws sacrosanct, in the eyes of the social democrat leaders.

Wilson's statement on the Sunday night TV programme 'Cross-Talk' must have delighted the Tories even more. Here Wilson emphasized that a Labour government would utilize anti-working class legislation passed by the Heath government.

Heath, Wilson told his ex-Minister Richard Crossman, 'will have left us an enormous bonus, a bequest. We will use it.'

It is one thing to say this, however, and another to put it into practice. Whatever Wilson and 'The Times' might like

to think, the working class is a class. It only becomes a collection of isolated individuals if it is decisively defeated and its organizations smashed.

The Tories have not succeeded in doing this.

Wilson's speech underlines once again what Trotsky wrote in the 'Transitional Programme of the Fourth International': 'The world crisis is reduced to a crisis of working-class leadership.'

An alternative leadership must be built in defending the basic rights of the class—the right to strike, the right to increase wages, the right to organize and the right to defend all the gains won in the past.

This involves fighting in the unions to defeat the Tory pay laws and thus creating the political conditions for forcing the Tory government to resign. A Labour government returned by such a class action could not be a repetition of the one which Wilson headed from 1964-1970.

Placed in power by a strong, victorious working class insisting on a socialist programme, such a government would be split.

The conditions would be created for the emergence at the head of the working class of a revolutionary leadership to carry through the British socialist revolution.

Portuguese assassinate Cabral

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

AMILCAR CABRAL, one of the most prominent leaders of the African struggle against colonialism, was assassinated on Sunday at his villa in Conakry, where he was the guest of the Guinean Republic.

Portuguese officials denied responsibility for the killing, and one senior Lisbon official said: 'This is not our way of acting. We do not resort to violence of that kind.'

However, Cabral's own organization, the African Independence Party of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC) stated: 'Portuguese colonialists preferred to assassinate Cabral to demonstrate their civilizing mission.'

Guinean President Sekou Touré, announcing the murder over Conakry radio, said his assassins had been taken into custody. They were hired killers and professional subversives corrupted by the Portuguese special services, he said.

Portugal has a powerful motive for the cowardly murder of Cabral, because the PAIGC has won important territorial gains in its struggle to drive the Portuguese fascists out of their Guine-Bissau colony.

According to Basil Davidson, writing prior to the assassination in the 'Sunday Times', Cabral's movement was on the verge of declaring an independent state of Guine-Bissau and applying for United Nations membership.

The capital, Bissau, and some of the surrounding areas are still in Portuguese hands, but the bulk of the country is ruled by PAIGC through a network of elected local and national committees.

According to Davidson: 'When I was in Guinea, the Portuguese governor and commander in chief, General Antonio Spínola, was issuing warnings from besieged Bissau that his African opponents were about to spring some military surprises.'

It may well be that the Portuguese decided to get in a blow against the PAIGC leadership in the hope of disrupting the movement's planned offensive and taking a vindictive revenge on its leader.

Cabral (47) led the military struggle for the liberation of Guine-Bissau from 1963. While



AMILCAR CABRAL . . . Many threatening letters

a student in Lisbon in 1948 he had helped to found the Centre for African Studies which became a magnet for young African radicals.

In 1956 he helped found the PAIGC underground organization which began sabotage operations against Portuguese occupation forces in 1961. As leader of the liberation movement Cabral had received many threats to his life.

When mercenary soldiers led by Portuguese agents landed in Conakry on November 22, 1970, their prime target was his house.

In October last year, when he visited New York to address the UN general assembly, he received a number of threatening letters.

Though he was acclaimed as a revolutionary leader by the communist parties and the New Left, Cabral was a nationalist concerned primarily with independence. He told an interviewer last year:

'We do not want to bring the Portuguese to their knees but to bring about the withdrawal of the Portuguese colonialists from our territories.'

● PORTUGAL'S fascist dictators have a long record of assassination and murder of African militants. Their most prominent victim was Dr Eduardo Mondlane, leader of the Mozambique liberation organization Frelimo, who was killed in Dar es Salaam on February 3, 1969.

Another victim in Mozambique was Samuel Kakombe, for three years political commissar in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique's north-east province, who was shot in ambush in southern Tanzania.

Another Frelimo leader, Jaime Sigauke, was murdered in July 1966 in Zambia.

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000

Seamen stage Sydney walk-out

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

SEAMEN from the British liner 'Ocean Monarch' staged a mass walkout for higher wages in Sydney yesterday and said they would 'sit here until we rot' if the owners did not pay up.

The 350 strikers, all members of the British National Union of Seamen, are demanding payment of a bonus because the recent revaluation of the Australian dollar has slashed the buying power of their wages.

The 'Ocean Monarch' is owned by the Shaw Saville line which pays the men in British currency. Union representative Mr A. Edwards said: 'We have had discussions with the captain of the ship and our own union representatives in Britain and in each case we have met with a blank refusal.'

NUS headquarters in London said one of their officers was on his way to Sydney to intervene in the dispute.

'He will listen to the men's case and decide whether to negotiate or not to negotiate as the case might be,' a union spokesman said.

The ship was due to sail to New Zealand with almost 1,000 passengers.

Textile pay fight

TURKISH textile workers employed by the nationalized Sumerbank company are fighting for higher wages against stiff government opposition.

Their struggle began with protest hunger-strikes at the company's factories in Malatya and Adiyaman, and has since spread throughout the country.

Teksif, the union tolerated by the military regime, has been holding talks with the state-appointed management for the last nine months on a new contract.

The workers are demanding an increase of 150 piastres (about 5p) an hour, while the management is prepared only to pay 77 piastres more.

Brandt and Pompidou talk money

THE INTERNATIONAL monetary crisis, Common Market questions and relations with the Soviet Union were high on the agenda at the meeting in Paris yesterday of Chancellor Willy Brandt of West Germany and President Pompidou.

The summit marked the 10th anniversary of the friendship treaty between the two countries signed by President Charles de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer. Since then trade between the two countries has increased fourfold, but there have been serious differences on relations with the US and Britain's entry to the Common Market.

Of immediate concern also is the question of European monetary policy on which the French government has insisted on fixed parities and closer integration.

Death threat to Stalinists

TWO VETERAN leaders of the Greek Communist Party face the death sentence in a trial which began in Athens yesterday.

Demetrios Partsalides, a leader of the home-based Greek Communist Party, and Charalambos Dracopoulos, organization secretary of the formerly legal EDA, are charged with 15 accomplices of plotting to overthrow the colonels' regime by force.

They are accused of setting up an underground communist organization, producing leaflets, recruiting members and raising money for subversive activities.

Parsalides and Dracopoulos are accused of entering the country on forged documents to organize the movement.

Fighting the Tory rent Act

BY PHILIP WADE OUR HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

THE LABOUR PARTY leadership was as far removed from the feelings of the working class as it could ever be, says Cllr David Nuttall.

'Let's put it straight,' he added. 'The Parliamentary Labour Party and the National Executive were quiet about our struggle until yesterday. The leadership has no feelings for the rank and file, for the working-class movement.'

He told me the auditors' report came as no shock. 'It's not something which hits you because the whole fight has been going on for 18 months.'

Cllr Nuttall said Clay Cross councillors had attended hundreds of meetings throughout Britain, including a number of conferences of Labour councillors which were particularly disappointing.

'Take the Sheffield conference last June. It was characteristic, dominated by aldermen from the major cities. Some had the effrontery to accuse me and Arthur Wellon of being "demagogues". Now they've dropped their opposition altogether and are down on their bended knees.'

'We see this as an attack by the Tory government on Clay Cross in order to try and get us barred. It is anti-working class legislation. They're taking away our housing powers which local authorities have had since their inception and giving it to Whitehall.'

'They want to save money on council housing and the Housing Finance Act is no different from the rest of their policies. We've come not to learn to expect Christmas presents from the Tories. Apart from the rents, it's back to the means test of the 1920s and 1930s.'

'Now with Phase Two it's back to the Combination Acts. As a branch secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union I can be fined £400 for leading men in a strike in order to claim what is ours by right, in a collective way for what we believe to be our rights.'

'We are politically conscious and prepared to go as far as possible and will never implement and can say rents will not go up in Clay Cross. If we're disbanded, another 11 councillors will take our place.'

'There's no situation to compromise. Those who did that have implemented the Act and spent the rest of their time looking for loopholes.'

'We're looking for a win—which means rents not going up. Appeal or no appeal—there will be no change. We've obviously got the support of the tenants.'

'What is needed to bring the Tory government down is a re-organization of leadership. The TUC has now become a defunct body, bankrupt of any ideas—part of a bureaucracy. The Tories were able to use the TUC in the "tripartite" talks to introduce Phase Two', said Cllr Nuttall.

Clay Cross: Total rent strike likely by the end of the week

ANGER IS mounting in Clay Cross over the £7,000 surcharge on the Labour councillors. And by the end of the week the town could be hit by a total rent strike.

A spontaneous movement by tenants at the end of last week resulted in a picket of the council offices and only six out of 400 tenants paid their rents.

Groups of tenants approached council leaders during the weekend and told of plans to get all the town's 1,400 tenants to withhold every penny of rent.

'The tenants want to take some form of action to support us,' said Arthur Wellon, leader of the council

council surcharged for refusing to implement the Tory 'fair rents' Act.

'In fact they are clamouring to do something and it looks like a total rent strike by Friday,' he added.

Feeling against the Tory government in this small, ex-mining town where unemployment is 18 per cent, is rising minute by minute.

The automatic removal from office of the councillors, is seen as a Tory attempt to deprive Clay Cross workers of their right to elected representatives who had a mandate for non-implementation.

While local supporters demand some action against the government, the Labour group tonight holds its crucial meeting to decide on whether to appeal against the surcharge and disqualification to the High Court.

At the start of the meeting the two councillors who saw Labour Party chiefs in London earlier today will report on their visit.

It is known that Transport House suddenly became interested when the surcharge was announced and promptly offered legal advice.

A decision tonight to appeal to the courts would have the effect of defusing the movement in Clay Cross.

Workers who have been demanding a lead for an immediate fight against the Tories would be left high and dry while the case disappears into the legal jungle.

We were mandated to keep rents low say councillors



David Nuttall (above left) and Roy Booker, two of the 11 Clay Cross councillors who lose their seats for opposing the rent Act.



COUNCILLOR Roy Booker, a committee member in the local National Union of Mineworkers' branch, said it was now up to the leadership of the trade union movement.

'The TUC must call all-out action, a General Strike against the Tories,' thought Cllr Booker, who works in the coking works just outside of the town.

'I knew it was going to happen. The government think if they can squash Clay Cross they can beat us all. The auditor will get nothing out of me—I've got nothing, so he'll get nothing.'

'We've got most of the people behind us. I'm willing to go to jail if it comes to that. It is a vicious Act. We were elected on a mandate to keep rents low,' he said handing me the proof.

From his pocket he pulled the manifesto on which the Labour councillors stood at the Clay Cross elections last May. 'Defeat the Tory Means Test and Rent Robbery', it said, urging tenants to vote Labour.

'If they want us off the council, that's for the people of Clay Cross to decide,' added Cllr Booker, while council worker Peter Bilbie and his friend Anthony Wyld nodded their support.

STRIKERS from the St. Helens, Lancashire, firm of Stoves Limited will hold a mass meeting today to hear the results of talks with management. The stewards are at present asking management to introduce a four-day week and they are also seeking consultation over redundancies. The strike began almost a week ago when the company announced severe staff cutbacks.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Why were the Labour Council members elected?

At the Clay Cross Council election in May 1972, the Labour Party candidates were elected on a mandate to keep rents low and to oppose the Tory Rent Act. The Labour Party has a long history of fighting for the interests of the working class.

Does your mass building have stopped?

The mass building has stopped because the Tory government has introduced the Rent Act, which has made it impossible for us to build new council houses.

What about the Central Area?

The Central Area is a council estate in the town of Clay Cross. It is one of the worst areas in the town and we are fighting to improve it.

Will the older Council houses be improved?

The older Council houses are in a state of disrepair and we are fighting to get them improved.

Why is the Council not doing anything?

The Council is not doing anything because it is controlled by Tory councillors who are in league with the Tories.

So give the Labour Candidates a chance to push even harder!

SUPPORT THE LABOUR FOUR

ROY BOOKER
Councillor for the Clay Cross Council. He was elected in May 1972 on a mandate to keep rents low and to oppose the Tory Rent Act.

DAVID PERCIVAL
Councillor for the Clay Cross Council. He was elected in May 1972 on a mandate to keep rents low and to oppose the Tory Rent Act.

GRAHAM SKINNER
Councillor for the Clay Cross Council. He was elected in May 1972 on a mandate to keep rents low and to oppose the Tory Rent Act.

ARTHUR WELTON
Councillor for the Clay Cross Council. He was elected in May 1972 on a mandate to keep rents low and to oppose the Tory Rent Act.

Our four are committed to a policy of non-implementation of the Tory Rent Act.

CLAY CROSS UDC ELECTION
SATURDAY 20 MAY 1972
Polling 8 am to 7 pm

Defeat the Tory Means test & Rent Robbery

VOTE FOR THE LABOUR FOUR

BOOKER, Roy	X
PERCIVAL, David	X
SKINNER, Graham	X
WELTON, Arthur	X

THE CANDIDATES WHO SAY 'NO' TO THE TORY RENT BILL

Part of the May 1972 manifesto in which Labour candidates opposed the rent Act.

Labour shortage on Mersey

SHIPS are being transferred from Liverpool to Middlesbrough because the number of Merseyside dockers has slumped since the Jones-Aldington report.

So many dockers have taken the new severance offer that insufficient are left to work every ship that enters the port.

UK/West Africa Lines Joint Service (UKWAL) has transferred the scheduled February 28 sailing of the Black Star Line vessel 'Afram River' to Middlesbrough on February 3.

And UKWAL warn it may be forced to transfer further sailings in the immediate future.

It says that although a berth was available in Liverpool, UKWAL's stevedores had insufficient labour to load the ship.

STEELWORKERS from Shotton, north Wales, will lobby parliament on Thursday after travelling to London in two special trains. Copies of a plan to save the plant prepared jointly by managers and workers will be handed to MPs. A conference of steelworkers from Scotland, northern England, Scunthorpe and Wales will be held, probably in Birmingham, to formulate a joint policy to halt the Tory rundown of the industry.

Engineers want action on state pay plan

A **NORTH** London branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has passed a resolution utterly rejecting the Tory state pay plan.

The Gladstone Park 80GE branch passed the following resolution with only one vote against:

'This branch utterly rejects the Tory government's attempts to introduce legal control of wages, which takes away from the trade unions the right to strike and fight for a living wage for their members.'

We support the decision of the AUEW Executive Council not to co-operate with the National Industrial Relations Court. We now call on them not to accept any part of the new legislation, but to press ahead with wage claims wherever our members are involved, such as in Ford's and British-Leyland's.

However, just as the policy of leaving decisions on action to be taken to local areas was quite unable either to win our national claim, or to prevent the government seizing over £60,000 of our funds, so if the EC does not give a clear, national lead on this issue, the strength of our membership will not be mobilized against Heath's wage-cutting plans.

We therefore call on the AUEW Executive to give notice to the government that any attempt to prevent our

members winning their just claims will be met by immediate national strike actions. Further, we ask the EC to call on the TUC to break off all relations with this viciously anti-working-class government and prepare to give full industrial backing to any union which is under attack.

We further believe that such backing must involve the preparation of a General Strike to force the Tory government out of office since the Tories have made it plain that as long as they remain there they will press ahead, no matter what setbacks they have, with their attacks on the unions.

It must also be made clear that, in the event of the election of a Labour government following such action, the trade union movement expects them to repeal immediately all the anti-union legislation and restore our full rights.

At the same time, we call on the Brent Trades Council to call a conference of representatives from all trade union branches, shop stewards' committees, tenants' associations, the various political parties in the labour movement, and all sections of the working class in the area which are under attack from the Tories, to set up a Council of Action in Brent to co-operate with other similar Councils of Action in the country to mobilize the maximum strength of the working class to fight for these policies.

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.)

JAPAN RIDES THE 'SUPER-BIKE' MARKET

The world market for small motor cycles is totally dominated by the Japanese, in particular by Honda.

Except for a few moped manufacturers, such as Steyr-Puch in Austria or Mobylette in France, which are helped by local licence regulations, the Japanese face no serious challenge in the field.

This has pushed back the British motor-cycle industry which, until the Japanese challenge of the 1960s, was the world's largest manufacturer.

Driven out of the market for small motor cycles, the British have been forced to fall back on the large (or 'super-bike') category.

Since the bankruptcy of Associated Motorcycles, two British companies—BSA and Norton-Villiers—have been the main British competitors in the field.

Both are heavily dependent on exports, especially to the United States.

BSA, following its financial troubles of 1970-1971, has rationalized operations around the Triumph 750 and the Trident.

Norton-Villiers—a subsidiary of Manganese Bronze Holdings—has concentrated on its 750cc Commando.

Until 1968 these firms faced only the competition of the American producer Harley Davidson, with the BSA Triumph leading the field.

1969 saw the full-scale arrival of the Japanese and within a year they dominated the market.

This domination has since become even more powerful.

In 1970 the Honda 750 raced into the lead with sales of 22,000. By last year this had doubled to 44,000.

Second is the Yamaha 650/750. From sales of 3,000 in 1970—behind the Triumph 650, the BSA 650/750 and the Norton Commando—this Japanese machine made a

phenomenal leap to an estimated sale of 20,000 in 1972.

Last year two new Japanese bikes—the Kawasaki 750 and the Suzuki 750—entered the American 'super-bike' market with sales of 8,500 and 6,000.

This took them ahead of the BSA 650/750, the German BMW 750, the Italian Moto-Guzzi 750/800 and the BSA 750.

Although the American market as a whole has expanded in recent years, sales of some British machines have dropped. The Triumph 650, for example, fell from 14,000 in 1970 to 12,500 in 1972, the BSA 650/750 from 6,000 in 1970 to 4,500 in 1972 and the BSA 750 from 1,000 to 400.

Another rival is the Italian Moto-Guzzi which increased its sales from 1,300 in 1970 to 2,200 in 1972.

The biggest British loser from the Japanese decision to take over the market is, of course, BSA.

Its efforts to introduce a completely new line of machines from the small to the large led to a financial crisis in 1970-1971.

In 1971 BSA lost £2.7m and had to get a £10m credit from Barclays Bank.

And the Japanese are now so firmly in control that the big British, German and Italian motorcycles have to be sold in the United States through Japanese dealers.

Now, even more critical days lie ahead.

Yamaha has already an-

nounced a new rotary engine motorcycle and Suzuki is expected to announce one within a few months.

BSA has a rotary motorcycle under development, but needs a cash investment for further development and manufacture.

Little private investment is likely in such an uncertain future.

Accordingly BSA has asked the government for a £5m subsidy to modernize its ageing plant at the Triumph factory in Coventry.

So far the crisis for the European motorcycle producers has been to some extent hidden by the expanding world market.

Even ageing designs were selling in those conditions. But this is now certain to slow down.

And British firms which lost sales even in an expanding market seem certain to be pushed to the wall when the market shrinks.

The only possibility for the European manufacturers to live alongside the Japanese involves radically updated machines produced with lower labour costs.

As the 'Financial Times' pointed out last Thursday: 'The alternative of tooling up to build a full range of motor cycles seems unthinkable given European labour rates.'

This means an inevitable drive against the standards of workers in the European motor cycle industry.

THE AMERICAN 'SUPER-BIKE' MARKET

	1970	1971	1972 est.
Honda 750	22,000	34,000	44,000
Yamaha 650/750	3,000	9,000	20,000
Harley Davidson 1000	n.a.	11,000	15,000
Harley Davidson 1250	n.a.	9,000	13,000
Triumph 650	14,000	14,000	12,500
Kawasaki 750	—	—	8,500
Norton Commando	4,000	4,500	6,500
Suzuki 750	—	—	6,000
BSA 650/750	6,000	4,000	4,500
BMW 750	1,000	3,000	3,500
Moto-Guzzi 750/800	1,300	2,000	2,200
Triumph 750	1,000	900	1,800
BSA 750	1,000	600	400



SIR CHARLES ADDS £70M TO HIS ASSETS

Sears Holdings, the industrial and property conglomerate which dominates the shoe industry, is shortly to find itself worth another £70m.

The £220m group, under chairman Sir Charles Clore, will not actually be producing more or building up assets.

All that is happening is the publication of a revaluation of the market value of Sear's 3,000 and more properties.

The last one was back in 1966-1967 so the valuers think the £131m book price calculated then needs updating.

With inflation, property men reckon gleefully that the revaluation will produce a surplus of at least £50m and perhaps £80m.

Clore, a millionaire many times over, is about to join an exclusive club, as far as the City is concerned.

There are only about six property companies with a £200m portfolio which Sears

will shortly have when the valuers have completed their work.

Two of the most impressive of the Sears properties are the Lewis and Selfridges department stores, originally bought for around £65m.

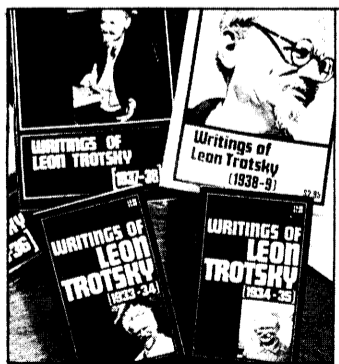
They are standing in the books at £74m, but after the recent rebuilding of Selfridges' Oxford Street store, are worth well over £100m.

Through his holding group, Clore controls well over 2,000 retail shoe outlets throughout Britain, holding 22 per cent of all sales and 8 per cent of national production.

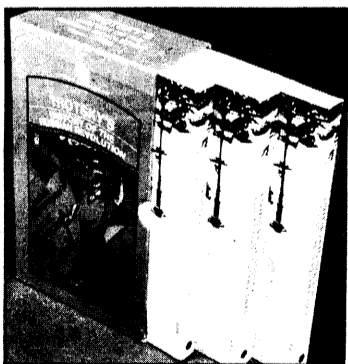
Takeover-king Clore also has control over engineering factories and William Hill, one of the leading bookmakers. A bid for shoe group William Timpson has just been referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Sir Charles has forecast profits of £40m this year, and city men think it might turn out to be £45m. Remember that when you next buy a pair of shoes or have a bet.

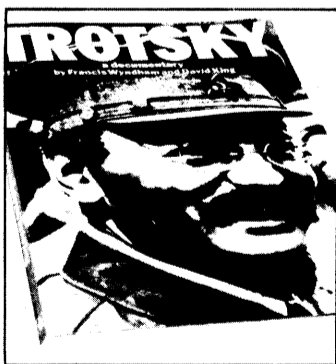
ANNOUNCING...



Six volumes of Trotsky's writings during the years 1933-1940 £8.00 including postage



History of Russian Revolution—special gift pack of three volumes £1.70 including postage



Trotsky—a documentary by Francis Wyndham and David King £1.65 including postage

Please tick those you require. Amount enclosed £.....

Name

Address

Complete form and post to:
New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG
A New Park Publications Booklist is available, free, on request.

LOYAL TO THE KREMLIN

R. Palme Dutt (76) is as loyal to the present leadership of the Soviet Union as he once was to Josef Stalin.

This is clear from an article of his just published by the Soviet trade union journal 'Trud' in which he gives effusive support to the bureaucracy's peaceful co-existence policy.

He hails the Nixon visit to Moscow in May 1972 as a remarkable landmark in post-war international relations which paves the way to détente and east-west co-operation on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence.

He hands out lavish praise to Chancellor Willy Brandt's 'Ostpolitik' of improving east-west relations through treaties with Poland and the German

Democratic Republic. He sees the Bundestag elections of November as being an overwhelming endorsement of this policy.

Dutt's article is intended to give a boost to the current Soviet demand for a European Security Conference to endorse the present division of the continent and uphold the status quo. He chides the Tory government for its anti-Sovietism as shown by the expulsion of diplomats accused of espionage.

Dutt claims that the Tory government has led Britain to 'complete isolation' as a result. This is a fantasy, just as is Dutt's assumption that other NATO countries are any less anti-Soviet than they were when that body was founded.

Dutt's endorsement of the counter-revolutionary policy of the bureaucracy deserves attention because it sets the tone for the whole rightward course of the communist parties in Europe, including support for the European Common Market and tacit acceptance of NATO.

BRITAIN'S SECRET ARMY IN THE OIL STATES

Militants of the left-wing movement in the Gulf States have protested that their comrades are being subjected to brutal torture by special units of the Jordanian army.

The Jordanians were sent to the Persian Gulf by King Hussein to assist the ruler of Muscat and Oman to put down a guerrilla uprising against his feudal regime.

The ruler of Muscat and Oman, Sultan Qabus bin Said (32), is entirely dependent on aid from the imperialist powers and the neighbouring reactionary regimes to stave off defeat in the struggle.

His army is officered largely by British soldiers—some seconded from the Ministry of Defence, others employed by the Sultan on a contract basis.

There are more than 250 such mercenaries in the Sultan's army and their efforts have been supplemented by 100 officers from Pakistan, the Jordanian officers and helicopter crews from Iran.

The Sultan was so delighted with the aid from Iran that he allowed the Shah to grab one of the Omani islands in the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

The war is going badly for the Sultan despite the lavish equipment and backing of his army. He is currently having to spend more than half his annual £30m oil revenue on the war.

The war has been described as 'Brit down to its desert boots': the Omani army, navy and air force are all commanded by British officers and the Sultan's secretary of defence is called Hugh Oldman.

The Special Air Services have a detachment there, allegedly 'purely for training purposes'. But soldiers on the spot have made no pretence of keeping up this threadbare disguise.

8 YEAR WAR

The purpose of the military aid is simple: it is aimed at crushing the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arab Gulf, which is backed by the left-wing government across the border in South Yemen.

The war has been in progress for over eight years, beginning with the revolt against the Sultan's father Said Bin Taimur, who was a notorious feudalist.

Said was in fact overthrown by his son, in a *coup d'etat* organized by British officers who considered the old Sultan to be an obstacle to the efficient prosecution of the anti-guerrilla struggle.

The British tactic in the last two years of war has been to try and prevent infiltration across the border from South Yemen, where a kind of miniature Ho Chi Minh trail is used to bring supplies and fresh forces to the liberated area.

In October 1971 the British-officered Omani forces were joined by SAS units which had fought in Malaya, Aden and Borneo. The force attacked through the desert to the north of the liberated area and from the coastal plain moving westwards towards the Yemen border.

The attack was aimed at cutting the supply lines, and the attackers set up a line of blocking bases along the



A captured liberation fighter. Above: British troops in Oman—some are seconded from the Ministry of Defence, others work under contract.

border between Oman and Yemen. But the guerrillas counter-attacked and all but one of the bases had to be abandoned by May of last year.

By July, the PFLOAG guerrillas were in a position to attack the government-held port of Mirbat where they faced the biggest pitched battle of the war. The attempt to take Mirbat failed, with the loss of 30 lives.

Late last year the government forces mounted a second counter-attack, with up to 10,000 troops, hoping to take advantage of the struggle which was then in progress between North and South Yemen.

This conflict was fomented largely by the Saudi Arabian regime, which sees South Yemen as a dangerously subversive influence on the Arabian

peninsular. The North Yemen government is virtually a creature of the Saudi regime.

TO AND FRO

Its attack on the south led to a to-and-fro struggle with attempts at mediation by a number of Arab states. Despite talk of eventual unity, the two states remain in a

state of armed truce.

It is not possible for the British and the pliant states of imperialism in the area to eliminate the guerrilla struggle in the Gulf without overthrowing the South Yemen regime. But their latest attempt appears to have backfired and it remains to be seen whether they have any more success in the battle against the Omani insurgents.



ITALY: THE NEW FASCISTS

BY STEPHEN JOHNS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN MAYER.

This picture spread is the first evidence we present of the growth of fascism all over Italy. The movement which avows to smash the working class and murder left-wing militants for the greater glory of European civilization is no longer a sect.

It claims hundreds of thousands of supporters and members and already has a powerful following in industry, the police and government.

The 'respectable face' of Italian fascism is the MSI, the Italian Social Movement, founded by the relics of the

Mussolini era, but now re-born in the conditions of capitalist crisis and workers' struggle in Italy.

At their congress last week the 1,400 MSI delegates courted influence among the entire Italian ruling class now shaken by a devaluation of the lira. Their argument—'MSI is the only force capable of restoring order and spirit to a "new Italy".'

Leader Giorgio Almirante, a junior minister under Mussolini, pleads his movement has renounced fascism. But the real MSI was represented by the bands of young 'squadristi who guarded the

conference (a second line of defence to the massive military police protection) and the literature on the book stalls — Hitler's speeches, biographies of Mussolini—the fascist broadcasts of poet Ezra Pound.

A three-part series uncovering the story of the new rise of fascism in Italy begins in Workers Press tomorrow.

It is a series no British worker can afford to miss. Italy is not some exception in the capitalist conspiracy of the Common Market. Some of the biggest and most 'respectable' monopolies and

cartels already support the Italian fascists and the UK is plagued with perhaps an even worse economic crisis than Italy.

The threat of fascism is now very real and can only be stamped out by the revolutionary struggle of the working class, the construction of a workers' state and the expropriation of capitalism. This is the immediate prospect facing the Italian working class.

Tomorrow—Who are the fascists and Giorgio Almirante, man of the Salo Republic?

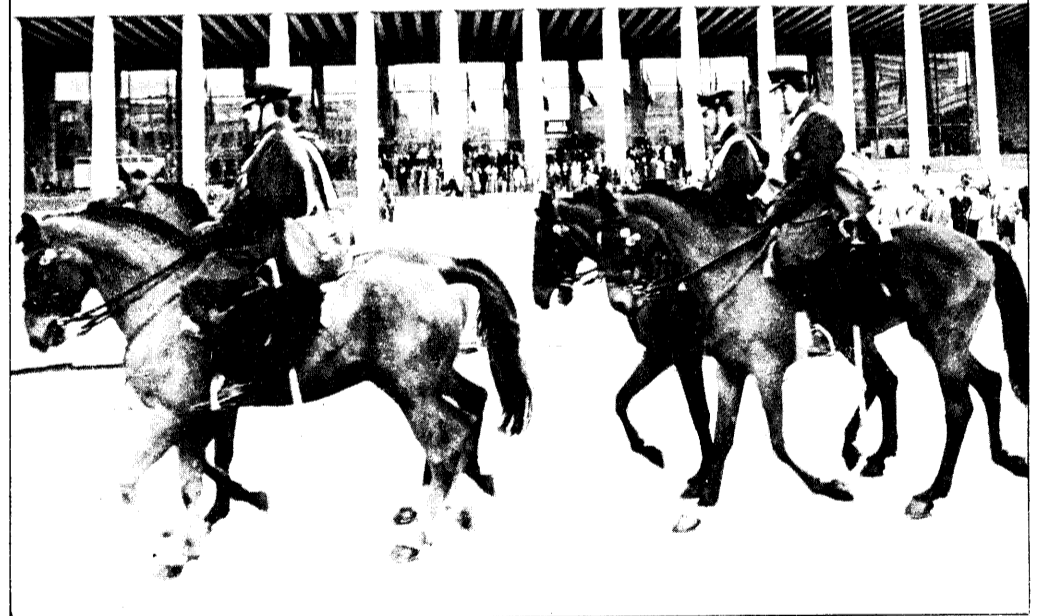






Left: The Congress: 1,400 delegates attended. The huge hall which was built by Mussolini, was draped with the Italian national flag and the tricolour flame, symbol of MSI. Above: The fascist leaders. The platform line-up when the Monarchists joined with the fascists. Leader Almirante at the rostrum. Below: Military police guard the fascists against attacks from the working class

X CONGRESSO NAZIONALE MSI



Left to right: Gino Birindelli, one of the MSI's greatest coups. He left his post as NATO fleet commander in the Mediterranean to stand as an MSI candidate. Pinto Rauti, an avowed fascist. Founder of the fascist terrorist movement Ordine Nuovo (New Order). They are believed to be responsible for a bomb attack in Milan killing 13 people. Rauti was arrested and jailed on suspicion but now as an MSI deputy he enjoys Parliamentary immunity. Pino Romualdi Ideologue and president of the MSI. Was responsible for organizing a rearguard action when Mussolini fled from the British and American armies. Jailed as a war criminal. General Giovanni de Lorenzo, ex-head of the Italian counter intelligence. Has personal files on 36,000 trade unionists and politicians. Now MSI deputy. Luigi Turchi, MSI deputy, head of the combat division of MSI. He is the fascist link man with Nixon.



POMPIDOU'S RISE TO POWER

Until he was dragged from obscurity by General de Gaulle, Georges Pompidou was an unknown figure on the French political scene.

Today he is the President of the Fifth Republic, not due for re-election until 1976, endowed with vast powers as head of state and in a key position with elections pending on March 4.

Pompidou was born into a family of prosperous peasants and small businessmen in the Auvergne: a region noted for the craftiness and cunning of men of this class.

One such was Pierre Laval, perhaps the most odious character in the 20th century political history of France, who collaborated with the Germans in 1940-1945.

Pompidou's father was a school teacher and Georges, a clever if not a brilliant pupil, passed from the lycée (secondary school) to the Ecole Normale Supérieure, the training ground for the élite corps of the French educational system. At this time Pompidou is best described as a dilettante and a man with his options open. He took out membership of the Socialist Party, supporting its right wing in the controversies of the 1930s.

Gaullist

After a period in the army in the early stages of World War II, he returned to live quietly under the Occupation. His options open, and with a keen desire to preserve his own skin, he neither collaborated nor resisted. He has thus

been able to extend presidential favour to at least one notorious collaborator and cast aspersions on those who make play with their Resistance record.

As luck would have it, Pompidou was recommended to General de Gaulle after he had installed himself in Paris in 1944 as the right person to keep contact with the educational set up.

Pompidou thus became an official Gaullist, but, keeping his options open, he did not join the first Gaullist Party, the Rassemblement du Peuple Français, founded in 1946, nor the second, founded in 1958.

Success

After de Gaulle's withdrawal from the government Pompidou became a top civil servant for a time until his appointment as director-general of the Rothschild Bank. His feet now firmly on the road to success he extended his relations with the bankers and bosses who held real power through all the governmental ins and outs of the Fourth Republic.

Rothschild's evidently paid him well for his services because, besides his ancestral home, Pompidou managed to acquire four other residences in different parts of France. Wherever he travels he is literally never too far from home.

After de Gaulle returned to power in May 1958 at the time of the settler revolt in Algeria he remembered the discreet banker with whom he had retained a formal relationship in the intervening years. Pompidou was then the direc-

tor of the foundation set up by the de Gaulles in memory of their mentally-subnormal daughters.

Thus, in 1958, while retaining his position with Rothschilds, Pompidou was drawn into de Gaulle's inner councils as member of the Constitutional Committee and the Supreme Court. He was a link man between two centres of power, while remaining unknown to the mass of the French public.

Such an ascent, and such a performance of a dual role, could only have been possible under the Fifth Republic. But still further doors were to be opened to the suave Pompidou, with his intellectual pretensions and his eye for antiques and modern paintings. In 1962, he came to the top of the Gaullist heap and was nominated Prime Minister.

His role at first was strictly subordinate to that of President de Gaulle—until May-June 1968. Then, when other members of the government were flung into confusion and panic and de Gaulle himself was not sure where to turn, Pompidou kept his head. It was he who met Georges Marchais and held the fort while the strike movement was being defused.

The turn of events was by no means to de Gaulle's liking. Pompidou looked too much like a rival. After the elections of June 1968, de Gaulle appointed Couve de Murville as Prime Minister. But in April 1969, beaten in a referendum on the powers of the senate and regionalism—really a vote of no-confidence—de Gaulle resigned.

Pompidou immediately posed his candidature for the

Presidency without consulting the Prime Minister or the Gaullist Party. Speaking to a gathering of Gaullist deputies, he claimed that he would be able to ensure 'continuity'. A letter was sent to Colombey-Les-Deux-Eglises, where de Gaulle was in retreat—then came a reply. Supported by Madame de Gaulle's discreet lobbying, Pompidou became the Gaullist candidate.

The election was hardly a smashing success for Pompidou. On the first ballot he won 44.46 per cent of the valid votes cast. On the second ballot his percentage of valid votes cast rose to 58.2 per cent, but this still left him with only 37.5 per cent of the total electorate. In other words he was rejected by nearly two voters out of three.

Scandals

Nevertheless the election put Georges Pompidou in the Elysée Palace with all the presidential powers laid down in the Constitution of the Fifth Republic for a seven-year term. It also merited a terse congratulatory telegram from de Gaulle, then visiting Ireland.

Pompidou was able to rally the Gaullist team, but in the next two years he was to preside over a series of scandals affecting even his first Prime Minister, Jacques Chaban-Delmas. With the General safely passed into history, his underlings were having the time of their lives.

After the grand style of the 'man on horseback', affecting a contempt for wealth, came the moneygrubbers presided over by Rothschild's man in France.

An ambitious small-town bourgeois with intellectual pretensions now presides over the Fifth Republic. For the ruling class of France, this mediocrity is a favourite son; a reassuring figure to have at the top after the alert of May-June 1968. Pompidou is more to its taste than de Gaulle, who was indispensable in his day but remained a disturbing figure in many ways alien to their way of life.

De Gaulle was, after all, more at home in the officers' mess than in the salon. His intimate friends were military men and his ambitions for France were not all that the capitalists desired. Moreover, de Gaulle, a rigid and puritanical Catholic, had a disturbing royalist past and talked bombastically about the greatness of France and his historical mission.

By comparison Pompidou is low key. Businesslike and indulgent to the characteristic bourgeois vices which he fully shares: good eating and drinking, luxury living. Tough when it comes to dealing with the working class, a hard bargainer with the craft of an Auvergne horse-trader.

In short, the sort of man the bourgeoisie trusts to see them through any confrontation like that of 1968, the man who will know how to use to the maximum all the powers which the Constitution gives him to deal with Georges Marchais and François Mitterrand should the left coalition be elected in March.

After all, that Constitution was devised by de Gaulle to strengthen the bourgeois state and preserve the capitalist order. 'Continuity' is Pompidou's watchword.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

HEALTH

The health of working-class people has never been a noted priority of the capitalist class of any country. It has now been pointed out that the Tory government has budgeted £860,000 a year for an occupational health service scheme—to cover the needs of 25 million people.

Compare this with the cost of a new home for Sir John Davis, chairman of the Rank Organization and Southern Television, who has paid £510,000 for the 331-acre Ardenrum Place estate, near Lingfield, and the cost of a 11b pear-shaped diamond which was bought for £335,196 by London jewellers Andrew Grima for an unnamed British client at a Christie's sale in Geneva.

The health budget is just under £14,800 more than both these items!

PHASE TWO

From the 'Financial Times' the morning after the 'alleged' publication of Phase Two of the state pay laws:

'Copies of the White Paper on countering inflation were unavailable to the public in London yesterday because of the continuing strike by 170 bookshop and mail-order staff at the Stationery Office.

'A spokesman said yesterday that the quickest way for people in London to obtain copies of the White Paper would be to go to SO bookshops in Edinburgh, Cardiff, Manchester, Bristol, Birmingham or Belfast.'

Edinburgh is five hours and 43 minutes away on a fast train from London.

APARTHEID

Dr Samaed Moosa and his wife are two very respected citizens in the little Transvaal town of Duiwelskloof. Recently the community decided to celebrate the jubilee of their hospital. Besides being on the hospital staff Dr Moosa was invited because of his long service to medical care in the area.

Then the hospital board decided to withdraw his invitation on the grounds that this was 'a white function to which Dr Moosa could not

be invited'. Apartheid supporters backed the board by saying it was in line with government policy that it was 'dangerous' to encourage social mixing. The ban remained in force.

RAIL LINK

A member of the Greek Communist Party recently suffered a heart attack while in his prison cell near Athens.

The reason for his illness wasn't revealed. The attack coincided, however, with the initialling of an agreement between the military junta and the Soviet Union to provide a rail service between Athens and Moscow. An air agreement is now under discussion.

FOR SALE

With the housing situation becoming even more grim in central London, Workers Press takes the opportunity to give readers a rundown of a few flats and houses for sale.

Two, small self-contained flats near Hyde Park are going cheap at £120,000 on a 74-year lease. The agents are Wilson and Sons.

A four-bedroom town house in Dulwich, south London, is selling for about £21,000. Some three-bedroom houses in Lambeth are modestly being priced at £30,000.

Agents Blake and Company say they still have desperate home-buyers willing to pay more than £150,000 for a five-room flat.

The same agents are asking—and expect to get—a mere £195,000 for a five-bedroom maisonette in Belgravia.

1911

Next time you hear some wretched Tory talking about 'building bridges' with South Africa, please mention the following facts:

- The average per capita income of whites is over 13 times higher than the average income of Africans.
- Black gold miners in 1969 were earning no more—and possibly slightly less—in real terms than their grandfathers in 1911.



GENUFLECTING TO THE MILITANTS

THEATRE BY A GUEST REVIEWER

Middle-class Scots seem to have a special knack of portraying working-class struggle in a way which can completely castrate it—or rather behead it.

In the background of this sort of writing are forces similar to those which led sections of middle-class people into uncritical support for the Stalinist leadership at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders.

Workers are forced into the role of the eternal underdog. Alongside all sorts of myths about the 'dignity of labour' lies the comfortable conviction that although workers struggle, and struggle heroically, their struggles are doomed.

Although brilliantly acted for the most part, impressively produced and often extremely entertaining, 'Willie Rough' must be placed in this category.

Bill Bryden's play about the early struggles of the Clyde Workers' Committee broke box-office records in both Glasgow and Edinburgh. It is now playing at the Shaw Theatre, London, for two weeks and received an enthusiastic reception from a first-night audience predominantly of liberals and 'lefts'.

Centre of the play are the experiences of Willie Rough, who, at the start of the action, arrives in Greenock from Johnstone in February 1914 seeking work in the shipyards.

A follower of the Scottish socialist John McLean, Rough bridles at having to obtain a job by bribing the foreman, Jake Adams.

With the outbreak of the first imperialist war, Rough

becomes involved in the anti-war agitation, bringing both McLean and Willie Gallagher to speak to meetings of shipyard workers.

He becomes the shop steward for the allied trades in the yards, and, ironically through Adams, forges a link with an engineer from the upper Clyde yards, Charlie McGrath.

McGrath is an activist in the Clyde Workers' Committee. They become joint leaders of the pay strike which crippled the yards in 1915. Rough writes an article for the committee's paper 'The Worker'.

Although the article is not published until after the end of the strike, Rough is caught

up in the sedition trial of the following year and sentenced to six months.

He returns to the yard in June 1916 to find Adams has betrayed his trust and that he has been victimized. The play ends with the same words as the first scene: 'I'll get a start. I've got to.'

Bryden's skilful and sympathetic treatment of the period embraces no sense of its importance in the development of the working-class movement, however.

Gallagher's own hindsight on the period is far more illuminating: 'We were carrying on a strike when we ought to have been making a revolution.'

Below: Eileen McCallum and James Grant as Kate and Willie. Above: Joseph Brady, James Grant and Fulton Mackay in 'Willie Rough'

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

Where is Britain Going? Paperback 37½p

Problems of the British Revolution Paperback 35p

Lessons of October Paperback 60p

In Defence of the October Revolution Paperback 15p

Marxism and the Trade Unions Paperback 25p

Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International Paperback 10p

Postage: 10p per book. Order from:
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG



TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.30 Ar y trywydd. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Andy Pandy. 1.45 Cartoon time. 2.05 Schools. 2.50 Going for a song. 3.20 Rolf Harris. 3.45 Behaviour and belief. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Scooby doo. 5.10 John Craven's news-round. 5.15 Vision on. 5.40 Magic roundabout. 5.45 News. Weather.
6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.50 TOM AND JERRY.
7.00 BRITISH FILM COMEDY: 'RAISING A RIOT'. Kenneth More, Ronald Squire, Mandy Miller.
8.30 WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LIKELY LADS? Cold feet.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.
9.25 THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD. Joe Frazier (USA) v George Foreman (USA).
10.15 FILM 73. 10.45 MIDWEEK. 11.30 NEWS.
11.35 VIEWPOINT. 11.55 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 This week (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Pinky and Perky. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Lunch-time with Wogan. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Burns country. 3.25 Kate. 4.25 Junior showtime. 4.50 Maggie. 5.20 I dream of Jeannie. 5.50 News.
6.00 TODAY. 6.30 CROSSROADS.
6.55 FATHER, DEAR FATHER. The Right Hand Man.
7.25 FILM: 'THE SNORKEL'. Peter Van Eyck, Mandy Miller, Betta St John, William Franklyn. A man plots to murder his wife.
9.00 LOVE STORY. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 DOCUMENTARY: 'DEADLINE LEEDS'. Behind the scenes in television making.
11.00 WRESTLING. 11.45 SMITH FAMILY. The Homecoming. 12.15 Epilogue.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 3.25 Kate. 4.20 Lottery. 4.25 London. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Film: 'Waco'. 9.00 London. 11.45 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.25 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 11.42 News. 11.45 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Junkin. 7.05 Father dear father. 7.35 Hec Ramsey. 9.00 London. 11.45 News. 11.55 Royal Clarence yard. 12.05 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Try for ten. 7.00 Film: 'Son of a Gunfighter'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 11.45 Time to remember. 12.15 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd. 10.30-11.00 Y patrwm newydd. 11.45 World in action.

HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Osmonds. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 McMillan and wife. 9.00 London. 11.45 Dick Van Dyke. 12.15 Peter Plant reports. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.22 News. 4.50 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 Columbo. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Madigan. 9.00 London. 11.45 Scotland Yard mysteries. 12.15 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 2.30 Collecting on a shoestring. 2.55 London. 5.15 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Police file. 6.35 Partridge family. 7.05 Father, dear father. 7.35 Film: 'A Tattered Web'. 9.00 London. 11.45 Adam 12.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Prologue. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Kreskin. 3.00 London. 5.20 Jackson five. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Madigan. 9.00 London. 11.45 Scotland Yard mysteries. 12.15 News. 12.30 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Adam Smith. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Columbo. 8.55 Cartoon. 9.00 London. 11.45 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 Schools. 12.05 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.35 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Me and the chimp. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Madigan. 9.00 London. 11.45 Odd couple. 12.12 Meditation.



The Likely Lads—Rodney Bewes and James Bolam—are on BBC 1 at 8.30

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.50 Open University.
6.40 OFFICE. 7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.
7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. 7.35 ART AT ANY PRICE. Art and Patronage.
8.05 INTERNATIONAL TENNIS. Commercial Union Masters Tournament.
9.00 PLAY: 'A VOYAGE AROUND MY FATHER'. By John Mortimer. Mark Dignam, Ian Richardson.
10.20 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. 11.05 NEWS.

SLL LECTURES

DONCASTER

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 Westlithgate 7.30 p.m.

HULL

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

TODMORDEN

Monday February 5
'Trotskyism'
THE WEAVERS' INSTITUTE, Burnley Road, 7.30 p.m.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices
 Force the Tories to Resign
 Support the Engineers

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.

FELTHAM: Thursday January 25, 7.30 p.m. The Co-op Hall, Bath Road (near the Bell Pub), Hounslow.

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).

CAMBRIDGE: Thursday February 1, 8 p.m. 'The Rose and Crown', corner of Newmarket Road and East Road.

Subscribe now!



Do you get **WORKERS PRESS** regularly? If not, why not take out a subscription now?

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)
 £10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)
 £5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:

£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)
 £6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below **NOW** and send to:
 Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required (Please tick)	MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY
-----------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------

Or
 Full subscription (six days) formonths.

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Amount enclosed £

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.**

Name.....

Address.....

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.**

BAC chief's desperate trip to US

Concorde: Make or break

BRITISH Aircraft Corporation chairman Sir George Edwards flew to New York yesterday to try and persuade US airlines to take up options on the Concorde.

Trying to play down the make-or-break nature of the visit, BAC described it as one of Sir George's 'many business trips'.

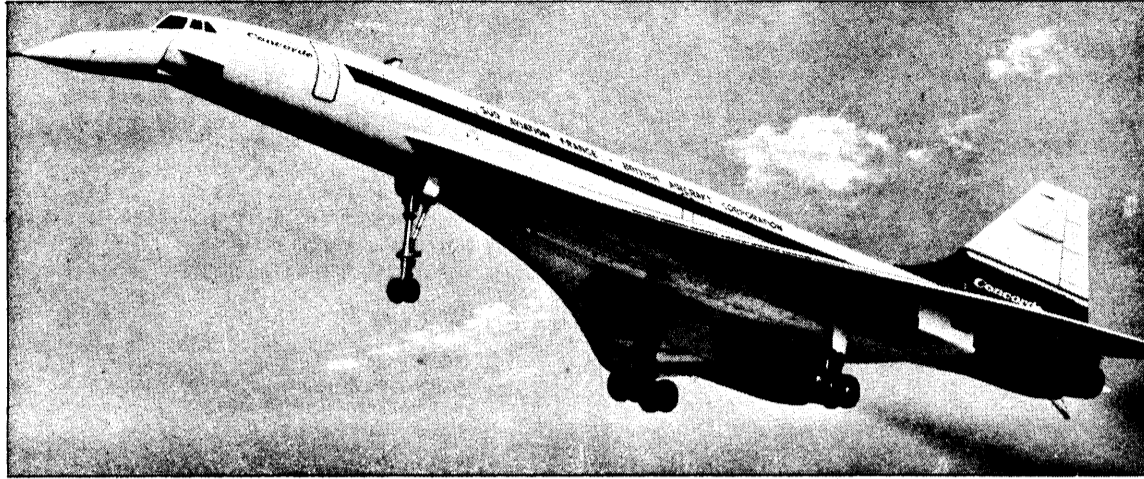
But the BAC's concern follows the reports over the weekend that Pan American would not be taking up its options for eight Concorde and that American Airlines and Continental would also cancel their total of nine options.

It was also said that if Pan Am cancelled, Trans World Airlines, with their six options, would probably do the same.

A BAC spokesman said the negotiations and discussions with the US airlines were 'continuing normally'. But with Pan Am's options expiring on January 31, time is running out.

If the US airlines did cancel their orders, it would leave both BAC and the French partners, Aero Spatiale, in serious difficulties, to say the least.

Concorde 002, the second prototype, leaves for trials in South Africa today.



Hawker stewards link up

SHOP STEWARDS in the Hawker Siddeley group have formed their first-ever combine committee.

At the inaugural meeting a resolution was adopted declaring total opposition to the Tories' state pay laws.

The new committee will represent about 70,000 workers em-

ployed throughout the combine. It is aimed at co-ordinating struggle on a national basis.

Delegates from South Wales, South Shields, Swindon, Huddersfield and London attended the first meeting, which was held on Sunday at the engineering union's Coventry headquarters.

The inspiration for

the formation of the committee came from stewards at Glanannan in South Wales who staged a ten-week dispute over rates.

It was only when they took the struggle into other parts of the combine that they were able to carry it forward and win.

Hawker Siddeley

profits rose from about £23m in 1971 to £31m last year. And, although it has taken over a large number of smaller companies since 1962, the total work force in that same period has dropped from 97,000 to 70,000.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on March 25 at a venue to be fixed.

Rent strike students back staff

STUDENTS at Warwick University occupied the social building yesterday in support of 300 ancillary staff who are out on strike in support of a pay claim.

The staff, who include cleaners, porters and caterers, came out on Saturday demanding parity with workers in local authority establishments.

It effectively amounts to a £2.40 claim, but negotiations have been suspended through the introduction of the state pay laws.

Lecture theatres were shut yesterday and students—who have voted overwhelmingly to support the strike—occupied the social building when it was rumoured the authorities were to close it down.

With the agreement of the strikers, a skeleton catering service was maintained for both those in dispute and the students.

At the same time as taking joint action with the staff—all members of the Transport and General Workers' Union—students at Warwick have launched a rent strike this term in conjunction with other colleges.

About 90 per cent of those living in halls of residence are said to be withholding their fees and paying them into a special students' union account.

Liberation troops urged on to bigger victories

IN A MESSAGE to the Lao People's Liberation Army on its 24th anniversary, General Vo Nguyen Giap of North Vietnam called upon it 'to intensify the struggle until the American aggressor is thrown out of the Indo-Chinese peninsula'.

On behalf of the command of the LPLA, Khamtay Siphandone issued an Order of the Day saying that 'the present situation in Laos as well as throughout Indo-China is turning unfavourable for the enemy.'

'The puppet armed forces the Vang Pao special forces and the Thai reactionary troops are demoralized and

about to collapse.'

He called on the army to 'firmly grasp the opportunity, take the initiative to attack the enemy relentlessly and strongly on all battlefronts.'

'Put out of action as many enemy soldiers as possible, shoot down more enemy planes, destroy more enemy war supplies and co-ordinate with the fraternal Vietnamese and Cambodian armed forces and peoples completely to defeat the US imperialists in Indo-China.'

HEAVY fighting continued near Saigon in the vicinity of the huge Michelin rubber

plantations yesterday. US planes made heavy bombing raids over the area.

American Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker had a meeting with President Nguyen Van Thieu on Sunday night.

President Nixon met his special envoy General Alexander Haig, who has been visiting Saigon and other south-east Asian capitals.

Some reports suggest that a peace agreement will be prepared in Paris this week ready for signing by Saturday.

Others say that the hope is to bring about a ceasefire before the Tet New Year on February 3.

Husak extends purge of Dubcek supporters

A FRESH purge of supporters of Alexander Dubcek is taking place in Czechoslovakia. Those already crossed off Communist Party membership lists are being removed from jobs in scientific and cultural institutions and from the Press and TV.

The delay in sacking one-time oppositionists may be that until now properly-trained replacements were not available.

TV directors are said to have received instructions to replace all staff employed in 1968 and 1969, regardless of whether they were Party members.

In all over 400,000 people were crossed off the membership lists as unreliable. Those now being sacked, however, are in occupations considered to be politically sensitive.

In some cases enterprises have reclassified staff on paper while quietly letting them get on with the same jobs.

In others they have been transferred to less delicate posts.

A close check is kept on workers in some types of job.

This includes filling out a detailed questionnaire at regular intervals or when

applying for a new job.

They ask about membership in political organizations before 1945, before 1948, after 1948 and now.

Such information has to be supplied for wives or husbands, children and brothers and sisters, even if dead.

One of the key questions is: 'What was your political activity in 1968 and what is your contemporary attitude to this activity?'

By such police methods the Husak regime hopes to frighten its critics and opponents into cringing silence and enforced conformity.

Allende blames working class for his failure

PRESIDENT Salvador Allende has made the Chilean working class the scapegoat for the failure of his reformist policies. During a visit to a large state-owned textile plant near the capital of Santiago, he blamed the Chuquicamata copper miners and the Chilean working-class as a whole for lacking 'revolutionary consciousness and spirit'.

In his first public speech since returning from Moscow he referred in particular to a strike in the copper mine revealing workers as 'real monopoly bankers, asking for money for their pocket, without any consideration for the situation in the country'.

Allende appealed to his audience of textile workers and union leaders to work harder and push up production figures (in 1972, the state enterprise lost \$800,000).

If the copper miners—who were similarly harangued by Fidel Castro on an official visit to Chile—have turned against the Popular Unity government, that is entirely the responsibility of Allende's reformist, 'peaceful road to socialism' policy.

In his speech, he mentioned the serious 'mistakes' of his government.

● The people should have been informed that we found the country with a huge debt. Most of the reserves inherited had to pay for commitments made by previous governments. He said the foreign debt today stands at \$4,020m.

● The only way to solve the meat problem would have been to establish a livestock policy.

● Parliament should have been dissolved in the early stages of his administration in order to have won a majority of deputies who supported Popular Unity policies.

In later talks with government ministers and leading civil servants, Allende condemned corruption and sectarianism.

'There exists a sectarian attitude which prevents dialogue, even between members of Popular Unity . . .', he claimed.

The hysterical outbursts from the Stalinists' model 'democratic'

socialist reveal the complete anti-working class fraud of the old demagogic attacks on United States imperialism.

The constant defence of the so-called bourgeois-democratic traditions of Chile was no more than an instrument to enable the imperialists to intensify their onslaught on the living standards of the Chilean masses.

With elections due in March, the speech in the textile plant can only split the Chilean working class and produce maximum demoralization ensuring the victory of the right.

The confidence of the right has been expressed in a series of

violent attacks on the organizations of the Chilean working class.

There have been over 20 violent incidents since January 6.

In one attack, members of the extreme right National Party burnt the provincial headquarters of Allende's Socialist Party in Linares.

Twelve youth who were attending a meeting in the building were injured.

In another incident, a Communist Party member was shot in the head.

Allende has made it clear that he has no intention of uniting workers in defence of their own organizations.



Allende took power with the support of miners. Now he turns on them.

Shipbuilders, dockers, students gasmen act State pay plan strike revolt

THE FIRST wave of industrial action against the Heath state pay plan broke yesterday. Shipyard workers walked out at the Vosper Thornycroft yards at Southampton, Hull dockers staged a one-day stoppage and gas workers all over the country either stopped work or tightened their overtime ban.

Two thousand Vosper Thornycroft workers were joined by about 2,000 engineers striking against the £61,000 fines and costs imposed on their union by the National Industrial Relations Court.

A noisy demonstration through Southampton, led by delegations from Ford and the railway works, was joined by a contingent of students demanding supplementary grants.

At the meeting which followed, speakers calling for the formation of a Council of Action were enthusiastically received and a

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

motion to form one was carried overwhelmingly.

This was in opposition to the platform. But the vote was bigger than that for the original motion demanding the recall of the TUC.

Mick Hodges, Vosper's convenor, told Workers Press afterwards: 'One-day strikes will achieve little except to get other people interested. What is needed is the removal of this government.'

But when Plessey's Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' shop steward Martin Lush approached district organizer and Communist Party member Pat Farelly to demand support in setting up a Council of Action, he

was told: 'You got the vote for it, you go and organize for it.'

ABOUT 2,000 Hull dockers yesterday staged a one-day strike against Phase Two of the state pay laws.

This was decided at a mass meeting called by the shop stewards' committee at the City Hall yesterday. Dockers themselves have submitted a £10-a-week wage claim.

Walter Cunningham, chairman of the committee, put the resolution for the one-day strike. The other main speaker at the meeting was Walt Greendale, a T&GWU steward and member of the local Dock Labour Board.

The recommendation was also put that the dockers stop the practice of 'welting', which gives them a say in the size of gangs.

The feeling after the closed meeting that although the one-day strike was a start, it was not enough in the circumstances.

'Only all-out national action by all the unions can halt this Tory government,' one docker commented.

MORE than 3,000 Newcastle gas workers began an overtime ban yesterday in protest against the recent £2-a-week pay offer by the gas corporation.



Walter Cunningham, Hull docks steward.

IN THE north-west an estimated 500 gas workers were out and 1,000 more were banning overtime. The strikers were service and distribution workers in the Lancashire towns of Warrington, Wigan, St Helens, Runcorn and Widnes.

Overtime bans were in force in Greater Manchester and outlying towns, including Stockport.

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

JANUARY FUND GROWS TO £868.27 — 9 MORE DAYS

WE ARE pressing ahead, but not yet fast enough. We only have nine days left to complete our total of £1,750. Immediate action is needed to raise the outstanding £881.73.

The struggle to keep Workers Press out in front is decisive. Only our paper has maintained its firm political stand against the Tory government.

Just at a time when Heath is preparing even greater attacks against the working class with his Phase Three proposals, Wilson and the reformist trade union leadership prepare to co-operate with his plans.

As thousands more workers are drawn into the fight to defend their living standards, this treacherous leadership capitulates more and more to the Tories. Workers Press is determined to go on leading the fight to build an alternative revolutionary leadership.

Help us therefore with a very special campaign to complete January's Fund Raise extra amounts wherever you can. Rush all your donations immediately to:

Workers Press
January Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High St
London SW4 7UG.

STAR (Great Britain) Holdings, one of Britain's most powerful property companies, has come into an extra £100m through a revaluation of its portfolio. The company, the third largest of its kind, is now said to have properties worth in excess of £500m. Some 50 per cent of the portfolio is now located outside the UK. Latest figures show a rental income of over £33m by Star and profits of over £20m. The company has many stakes in the Covent Garden area which is to be redeveloped by the Greater London Council.

'Cheap food days are over'

THE DAYS of cheap food in Britain are over, National Farmers' Union president Mr Henry Plumstead has said.

World demand for foods like cereals and meat had enormously expanded, he said, and as a result Britain no longer had the power to influence prices.

'The prices we must pay are determined by the strength or weakness of other people's buying and not our own', he told the union's annual conference.

Plumstead said the only solution was the expansion of home food production and renewed efforts to set up agreements on prices and

stockpiling in times of surplus.

He added that skyrocketing beef prices underlined the urgency of an expansion across the board at farms and market gardens.

Plumstead claimed the union had persistently lobbied successive governments to implement new growth policies for the industry. But on each occasion their advice had been cold-shouldered.

He said: 'With agriculture's outstanding productivity record, the case for increased investment in one of our most successful industries is irrefutable.'

Whether Plumstead

was referring to the case for direct subsidies or to increases under the annual farm price review is unclear.

Either way it would mean higher prices for the housewife.

WHILE the farmers served notice of still higher food prices, Swansea West MP, Mr Alan Williams, claims that clothing manufacturers are urging retailers to impose Value Added Tax even before it is introduced officially on April 1.

He said that if retailers followed the advice, customers would find themselves paying both Value Added Tax

and purchase tax on clothes with the manufacturers pocketing the profit.

'The price list put forward by one manufacturer says that this arrangement will increase the profit margin in the period before VAT comes in.'

Mr Williams added: 'They are not only brazenly advising retailers to break the freeze legislation, but they are also anticipating a rate of tax and charging it before the government has announced a final level.'

He is to ask a question in the House of Commons.

Builders may strike to back reinstatement fight

ALL BUILDING workers in Birmingham have been asked to strike today in a further demonstration against the sacking of Peter Carter, chairman of the UCATT joint shop stewards committee, and three bricklayers on his gang at C. Bryant and Sons.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Last Wednesday 13 sites stopped work and a total of 1,000 building workers were out.

Today in London the union will demand reinstatement of Carter and the other three when the case is heard before the Joint Industrial Conciliation Council for the building industry.

The terms of reference by the

union are as follows:

'UCATT requests the National Joint Conciliation panel to instruct C. Bryant and Sons Limited to reinstate the gang of four men dismissed from the company's Chamberlain Garden site on grounds of redundancy.

'The union believes a redundancy situation was fabricated by the company as an excuse to dismiss P. Carter, a well-known UCATT steward, and this was extended to the other three men of Mr Carter's gang in order to cloak this act with respectability.'

Mr Matthews, one of UCATT's organizers, told Workers Press: 'We are treating this case as a straight case of victimization.'

The Birmingham building stewards will meet again tomorrow to hear a report on the outcome of the conciliation proceedings and will consider what future action to take.

In a statement to Workers Press, Mr Carter said:

'The real issue as far as we are concerned is that Bryant's has thrown down a challenge to the whole of the organized movement in Birmingham. I am chairman of the Birmingham joint shop stewards' committee of UCATT and if I fall they can attack any steward.'

'Since last year's building strike the employers have been united in a way that we have never known before.

'My sacking is directly linked with the fight by the employers to reintroduce the lump.

'The government, with its wage laws, is trying to do what it couldn't achieve against the miners and other workers last year in order to give capitalism another lease of life.'

Wilson and Feather keep options open

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

HAROLD WILSON, the Labour Party leader, and Victor Feather, the TUC general secretary, spent only 15 minutes discussing the state pay plan at a summit meeting yesterday at the House of Commons.

Press Association's political correspondent commented: 'It was understood no attempt was made to reach joint conclusions. Mr Wilson outlined the procedures to be adopted by the parliamentary party in relation to the legislation, while Mr Feather gave the union attitude.'

Another commentator said that the fact that they drew up no plans on the legislation indicated both sides 'were keeping their options open'.

The failure of the two leaders of the labour and trade union movement to prepare a fight against the Heath plan should be no surprise to workers who have been watching their preceding footwork.

They both agree with the state control of wages, even if it means a drastic lowering of the standard of living of the working class.

They are both dedicated reformists who will do anything to shore up capitalism because

they have no fundamental disagreement with the capitalist economy.

There must be an immediate recall of both the Labour Party conference and the TUC to stop this retreat turning into a rout.

● See What We Think—p. 2

UNION LEADERS representing more than 20,000 shipbuilding workers in the north east are to meet at Newcastle next month to discuss the future of the industry in the area.

The chairman and secretaries of the Tyne, Wear and Tees district committees of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions will talk about the lack of orders in the area and the rundown at some yards.

During this week itself, union officials are expected to meet management from Swan Hunter where work is running out and redundancies within the group are looming.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AND SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

1973

PAGEANT OF HISTORY

SUNDAY MARCH 11 STARTS 3 p.m.

1832

1868

1842

1901

THE ROAD TO WORKERS POWER

EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY

DEFEND ALL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS DEFEND TRADE UNIONISM AND BASIC LIVING STANDARDS UNITY IN ACTION TO MAKE THIS TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN THE ROAD TO POWER IS THROUGH THE BUILDING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

TICKETS £1