

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • THURSDAY JANUARY 25, 1973 • No 980 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY WORKERS PRESS INDUSTRIAL STAFF

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He went on to claim that the Ford workers' demands for strike action on March 1 were a 'hypothetical question'. And he refused to comment on the statement by Eric Heffer MP that it was the duty of the Labour and trade union movement to back workers in struggle against the pay laws.

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The meeting decided to reiterate its complete opposition to the government's interference in free collective bargaining. The convenors want to call on the company to continue 'meaningful negotiations' regardless of the pay law for a new pay deal starting on March 1.

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The meeting in Birmingham urged affiliated committees to 'proclaim their refusal to operate it and actively campaign for a return to worker-employer collective bargaining'.

The executive recommended that trade unionists should ask their executive to demand the immediate recall of the TUC, lobby MPs to vote against the legislation and organize meetings, marches and demonstrations.

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The general secretaries of both

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The TUC's preparedness to reopen talks with Heath and the Parliamentary Labour Party's decision not to impede the state pay laws go hand in hand.

The present leaders of the working class have shown that they will not fight the Tories. On the contrary, the spend most of their time collaborating with Heath and company.

The right-wing in the leadership do not reflect the views of the vast majority of workers. Despite the capitalist Press attempts to belittle the strikes against the fines on the AUEW, it is important to note that as many as 17 of the 26 divisions of the union have put down resolutions for the April national committee meeting supporting the union's policy of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act.

The urgent task facing every worker today is to rid the movement of the right-wing class collaborators. They must demand the recall of both the TUC and the Labour Party conference to mobilize the whole working class against the Tory government.

Such a mass movement could and must finish the job which was started by the miners this time last year.

# workers press

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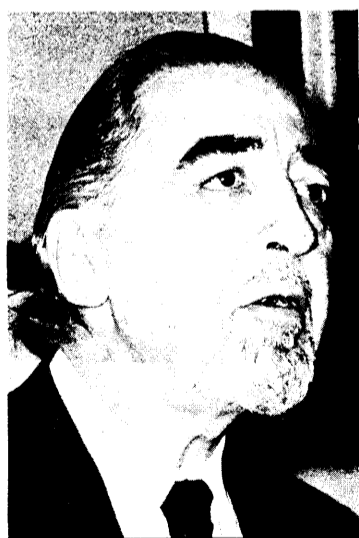
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# Divisions over value and gold

BY JOHN SPENCER

WHILE the European foreign exchange markets reeled under the impact of the lira devaluation and the floating of the Swiss franc, the Group of 20 Deputies were meeting in Paris yesterday to discuss the world monetary system.

The Group was set up last autumn under the chairmanship of the Bank of England's Jeremy Morse to undertake a detailed examination of the question of monetary reform before reporting back to the International Monetary Fund.

Predictably the committee is deeply divided on national lines. Though the ever-optimistic Peter Jay of 'The Times' detects signs of a consensus on the question of gold, the French government remains adamantly opposed to any scheme to replace the metal with special drawing rights for international transactions.

What is under discussion in Paris is not a technical question, as Jay still appears to believe, but a basic issue of value. The French central bank holds large amounts of gold and refuses to see it phased out or devalued in favour of artificially created paper assets.

The fact that gold is at present selling on the free market at \$64.75 an ounce, \$26.75 above the 'official' price, indicates the real value put on the metal by the market.

It is worth noting that Britain—a strong supporter of replacing gold with SDRs—recently refused to part with any more reserve gold to settle debts within the EEC.

To make the situation still worse for the Europeans, the US is insisting that a cast-iron mechanism be agreed to force trade surplus countries to re-value their currencies.

It also wants the abolition of discriminatory trade practices to be given equal importance with monetary issues in the talks, thus cutting into the EEC's preferential agreements with other states.

The 'Financial Times', stressing the immense difficulties facing European capitalism, quotes a Danish banker as saying:

'I shall believe in European economic and monetary union when someone explains how you control nine horses that are all running at different speeds within the same harness.'

# 'BACK STATE PAY REBELS'

IT IS the duty of the Parliamentary Labour Party to back workers who refuse to obey the Tories' state pay law, says Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Walton, Liverpool.

Workers are bound to become involved in struggle against Phases Two and Three of the law, irrespective of what the trade union or Labour leaders tell them. 'It is all very well Harold Wilson saying the law is the law, but this is class law. Workers are obviously going to fight it, and when they do we must support them.'

Heffer, who says he will make this point in parliament when the law is debated next week, told Workers Press:

'As I told the PLP meeting on Tuesday, this law has got to be considered in the light of the crisis of British capitalism. Successive governments have tried to control wages over the years, but what I find ludicrous is the suggestion that this has something to do with socialism.'

'There are only two ways out of the present crisis. One is what the government is doing now—state control of wages. But at the end of that road is the corporate state, and with their present proposals we're moving very rapidly in that direction. The other way is the implementation by a Labour government of policies giving greater control of the economy on socialist lines.'

'Now, everyone talks about the second way as if it's a long-term objective—something for the future. But I say that we have to oppose the present legislation on the basis of its unfairness, while at the same time being more fundamental and advancing the socialist solution.'

'This is an immediate question. The Labour Party is going to have to say where it stands when workers move into action in defiance of this law, as they undoubtedly will. As I told the PLP meeting, when the government tried to push through repressive legislation during World War I, the South Wales miners were out the day after. We're going to see the same thing today.'

## WHAT WE THINK

# WORDS AND DEEDS

### BRIEFLY • BRIEFLY

**THE EDITOR** of the left-wing Italian daily 'Lotta Continua', Adele Cambria, has been sentenced to seven months' jail and fined about £200 for calling the Genoa public prosecutor a fascist. The case relates to an article in the paper last April. An appeal has been lodged.

**THE TRIAL** of two Yugoslavs accused of aiding last June's 'mini-invasion' by right-wing Ustachi opponents of Tito's regime has been adjourned for a month. The two accused, who had lived for some time in Australia, were alleged to have helped in planning the incursion, which ended disastrously.

**MR ERIC HEFFER**, 'left' Labour MP for Walton, Liverpool, is right when he says that the Tory wage control laws represent the road to corporatism (see above). He is right, also, when he says that workers will fight the Tory class laws.

Mr Heffer told Workers Press that it was the duty of the Parliamentary Labour Party to back workers who took this stand. But what is the record?

The 'left' Michael Foot described the miners' strike which brought the Tories to the verge of defeat, as a 'tragedy'.

When dockers stopped work to force the release of five shop stewards from jail they were denounced in parliament by Labour's Shadow Minister of Labour, Reg Prentice.

When hundreds of thousands of council house tenants throughout the country demonstrated their willingness to fight the Housing Finance Act, the Parliamentary Labour Party turned its back on them and worked actively to bring the revolt to an end.

It was the 'left' Frank Allaun who, on behalf of Labour's National Executive, told the

party conference that Labour councillors who defied the rent law could expect no support from their leaders and would be left to pay massive surcharges.

Workers have gone into action against the Tory government and its laws again and again. Each time the Labour leaders—'left' and right—have rushed to support the government and stabbed their own followers in the back.

Heffer encourages workers to defy the state pay laws, yet gives no explanation of Labour's betrayal of those who defied the state rent Act.

Nor does he explain the refusal of the 'lefts' to fight the right over this betrayal, let alone their failure to demand the expulsion of Roy Jenkins and the 69 right wingers who saved the Tory government in the 1971 Common Market vote.

It is precisely because of such betrayals that the Tories are still in office and in a position to launch their attacks on the living standards and basic rights of the working class.

Heffer and the other 'lefts' bear a big responsibility for this because of their refusal to mount a real offensive against the right wing.

At Tuesday's Parliamentary Labour Party meeting not a single 'left' denounced Wilson for his recent broadcast in which he told workers to fall in line with Heath's state pay control laws and declared that a Labour government would itself use the Tory laws.

Vague talk of 'support' from the Parliamentary Labour Party after workers have taken on the state, without a vestige of a struggle against the Labourite right wing, is an abdication of leadership.

What is needed is not simply 'workers moving into action', but a campaign to force the powerful organizations of the working class—the unions—to destroy the Tory pay laws.

This would create the situation in which the Tory government could be made to resign and a Labour government pledged to socialist policies could be returned.

This calls for more than 'left' talk, but a serious drive to build up Councils of Action to unite all sections of the working class against the Tories and to construct the revolutionary party.

## Iranians lobby embassy over jailing



IRANIAN students in Britain yesterday lobbied their embassy in London to demand to know the fate of Doctor Sheibani who has been condemned to death by the Shah's regime.

They asked Press counsellor Mr Shapourian four questions: the date of Dr Sheibani's arrest; the charge against him; where he is imprisoned; the date and place of his appeal against the death sentence imposed by court martial.

Dr Sheibani is a prominent supporter of the national front founded by Dr Mossadeq, the nationalist premier who was deposed in 1953.

He has been in prison intermittently for more than ten years since Mossadeq was overthrown.

# Moscow and Peking Stalinists welcome Vietnam 'peace'

THE CEASEFIRE agreement announced simultaneously yesterday by President Nixon and by the governments of North and South Vietnam brings to an end the direct involvement of US ground forces in South Vietnam.

US and South Korean troops will be withdrawn within 60 days and US prisoners of war in the north will be released. The full text of the agreement and the accompanying protocols will be published today.

From the statements of President Nixon and President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam it appears that North Vietnam has accepted, at least on paper, the continued existence of the Saigon regime in its present form.

It is clear, however, that neither Thieu nor the National Liberation Front has any real intention of relinquishing the struggle, but are continuing to jockey for position and acquire territory.

Nixon insisted: 'The United States will continue to recognize the government of the Republic of Vietnam as the sole legitimate government of South Vietnam.'

Not only has the Thieu regime taken over US military bases, but since the abortive October agreement hundreds of planes, tanks, heavy guns and other weapons have been sent to South Vietnam.

US officials state that Thieu has been assured that the US's strategic bombing force will remain in Thailand and other parts of Indo-China.

The North Vietnamese have been forced to accept the peace terms by the Moscow and Peking Stalinists who have doled out military aid on a puny scale.

The bureaucracies are opposed to the extension of the revolution into south-east Asia and have betrayed it in order to make a deal with US imperialism.

The Foreign Ministry in Peking issued a statement saying: 'We welcome the signing of the agreement to end the war and restore peace between Vietnam and the US. It is not only in conformity with the interests of

the American people, but will also be conducive to the relaxation of tension in the Far East and Asia.'

The welcome from Moscow took a similar form. At least since President Nixon's visit last May the aim has been to bring the war to a speedy end.

The US mining of Haiphong, and the air blitz which reached its peak in the destruction of large parts of Hanoi after 25 years of uninterrupted struggle against imperialism.

Although North Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong hailed the agreement as 'a great victory of the Vietnamese people on the military, political and diplomatic fronts', there can be few illusions in Hanoi after 25 years of uninterrupted struggle against imperialism.

Pham Van Dong went on to say: 'We shall continue to carry high the banner of peace, friendship and democracy so as to march ahead in the cause of the liberation of South Vietnam and the reunification of the homeland.'

## Assassins captured

THE NAVY commander of the PAIGC anti-Portuguese nationalist movement assassinated the organization's leader, Dr Amilcar Cabral, president Sekou Touré of Guinea claimed yesterday.

President Touré, in an interview on Radio Conakry monitored in Abidjan said the man, Innocentio Canida (37) had been captured and had confessed to the assassination.

Dr Cabral, head of the PAIGC (African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde

Islands), was killed in front of his Conakry home on Saturday night.

President Touré said Canida and others kidnapped a number of PAIGC executives, including Dr Cabral's second-in-command, Aristide Pereira, and attempted to escape by boat.

President Touré said previously that the assassins were deserters from the Portuguese colonial army who had feigned sympathy with the PAIGC movement to infiltrate its ranks.

# Cost of living creates campus paupers Students launch grant-rent strikes

BY SARAH HANNIGAN

Students at Central London Polytechnic have now been staging a rent strike at halls of residence for six days. Below: One of the many 'Strike Action Now' posters on display at the Poly's six buildings.

STUDENTS IN THE west Hampshire area are to stage a one-day strike and demonstration today in support of a demand for immediate cash supplements to bring their grants in line with increases in the cost of living. In Southampton University, which has led the campaign in west Hampshire, students have voted by an overwhelming majority for the strike in line with a policy to fight for the removal of the Tory government.

Throughout the country at least 35 colleges and universities have decided to hold back rents in a protest at the grants level which they say has now fallen £100 below the 1962 value.

The cost of living has increased by 66 per cent over the same period. At present, a full grant for a year gives students in the provinces £445. In London, Cambridge and Oxford, students get an extra £35-a-year cost-of-living bonus.

Out of this undergraduates are allowed £240 for board and lodging, £51 for books and writing materials, £43 holiday expenditure, £15 travel expenses, £46 for clothes, laundry, etc. and £50 pocket money.

But for London students in particular £240 is nowhere near enough to pay for rent and food, especially when a chronic shortage of living accommodation forces students into digs where they pay between £5 and £10 a week for board alone.

This week Workers Press interviewed students at some London colleges to find out just how far their grants went.

Angela is a first year sociology student at North London Polytechnic.

'I get £400 a year. That works out at roughly £134 a term—over the year it works out at £12 a week.

'But a lot of students at North London Poly are like me in that since this term is a very long term I'm living on £10 in actual fact.

'It breaks down at £5 a week rent, over £1 a week fares, which leaves me £4 a week to live on.

'That's about 60p a day.

I can't afford to buy books on that.

'For many students it is a choice between eating and buying books.

'But at polytechnics like Kilburn, where students are only 17 and don't get full grants, they are living on ridiculous amounts like £7 a week and still pay about £5 a week rent.

'Someone told me that in a class of 30 alone at one college, ten people have been forced to leave because they can't afford to go on.'

At North London Poly last week, students collected over 400 signatures in two hours for an emergency general meeting of the union to discuss a fight on grants.

Said Angela: 'We've had a tremendous response at this college.'

'There's no doubt that we've got to mobilize this response in line with the working class to fight for unity in action against the Tory government.'

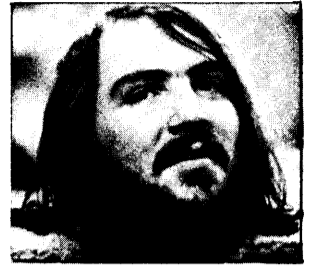
Said John Absalom, a second-year engineering student at London's Imperial College:

'You're not allowed to earn more than £100 a year during term time to supplement your grant.

'If you do, you have to pay the difference between £100 and your grant back to the local education authority.

'I don't see why students should have to be dependent on their parents for their grants.'

## What London students say



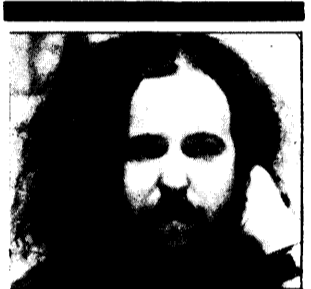
Nick Lisborg

NICK LISBORG a second-year engineering student at London's Imperial College:

I think for the person on an ordinary grant the situation is tight. The parental contribution system for grants is ridiculous. As it stands at present, if the parents earn £2,000 a year their sons or daughters only get the minimum grant of £50 a year plus fees. So the parents' contribution works out at about one quarter to one third of their income.

If the parent has to pay £450 a year it comes out of £700 taxed money and it leaves them with an income of £1,300.

We're supposed to have £40 or so vacation expenses, but that's ridiculous. They say there's about £50 a year pocket money, but it's just not enough. Board and lodging expenses are far too low, especially if you're living in London where digs can cost up to £10 a week.



Stewart Thompson

AT CENTRAL London Polytechnic students have been on rent strike now for six days. Stewart Thompson, students' union treasurer, told us that so far they had got support from 20 per cent of students in halls of residence. They expected this to go up as grant cheques arrive in the next few weeks. Stewart told us:

There are about 300 students in halls—about 10 per cent of the total students. But people who live in halls are the best-off students since their rents are cheaper. So if they are prepared to go on rent strike, it shows students are behind grant increases.

I think that grants should go up each year in line with the rate of inflation. From 1962 the drop in grant compared to the rise in prices is something like £100. I should say we're the worst off section in the country apart from old age pensioners.

A rent strike on its own isn't going to do much, but we should be taking local action, demonstrations, etc to help the fight.



## Fine Tubes call for giant picket

A MASS picket of the Fine Tubes factory in Plymouth has been called for Monday, March 19, at 6.30 a.m.

The strikers, who have been fighting for the right to belong to a union for 31 months, hope for large-scale national support.

If this is not forthcoming, they

say, they may have to look very seriously at whether or not to continue their action.

Hermann Welch, chairman of the strike committee, stresses that if this happened, it would be a defeat for the whole trade union movement.

Support for the blacking campaign organized by the 37 strikers has deteriorated since the Fine

Tubes national conference last October, says a statement from the committee. The same is true of the financial backing they have been receiving.

National officials of the unions involved in the dispute are to meet a Department of Employment conciliation officer on the issue today.

● Financial appeal, page 10.

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.)

## 'Unite Loughborough workers'

LOUGHBOROUGH hosiery workers are calling on their union leadership to launch a campaign to unite black and white workers in the industry.

The call comes from Asian workers at Mansfield Hosiery—the firm investigated recently after allegations of racial discrimination.

The Asians say they are satisfied with the latest allocation of jobs for trainee knitters. Of the 49 available, 28 have gone to Asian workers and 21 to white workers. In addition 11 Asians

have been promoted to runners-on in the firm's other plants in the Loughborough area.

'We think this is a fair and reasonable settlement,' their spokesman, Mr Bennie Bunsee, said yesterday.

'One immediate thing that should be done now. The union should try and unite black and white workers.

'In our recent strike there was a split, many white workers did not come out and we think this is a very dangerous thing for the whole of

the trade union movement,' he said.

The Asians also want to see an inquiry into possible racial discrimination throughout the industry in the Loughborough area.

This has been suggested by the Department of Employment which has handed the job over to the Commission on Industrial Relations.

But the union leaders are opposing this inquiry because the CIR comes under the machinery of the Industrial Relations Act.

'We do not want to go against the policy of the trade union movement on the Act. We would like to see an independent committee of inquiry set up under the Department of Employment,' said Mr Bunsee.

He said that the recent spate of racist literature in the factory had dried up, but that the extreme right-wing influence had still not been eradicated.

'It is up to the union to do this by uniting the black and white workers,' he said.

# SIR ERIC'S THREATS TO WARSHIP BUILDERS

Although Yarrow Shipbuilders has 11 ships on its order books worth about £100m, the company needs orders for two more ships if its present labour force of 4,250 is to be maintained into 1974.

This warning was made by chairman, Sir Eric Yarrow, at a launching of a Royal Navy Type 21 Amazon class frigate last week.

Threatening the work force is nothing new for Yarrow. In September 1971 he told his workers that a 'hard road to recovery' lay ahead. This was after he had bailed out of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders' consortium under the most favourable terms.

In his annual report that same year he blamed workers for the company's financial problems: 'The costs of contracts have been affected by the exceptionally high inflationary trends and also by labour unrest and strikes, which have been on an unprecedented scale during the last two years.'

It was to this theme that Yarrow returned last week. While the company was now in very good shape, he said, it was the future that concerned them; and by that he meant not only employers of Yarrow Shipbuilders, but also employees of sub-contractors, many of whom were dependent for their livelihood on the workload at Yarrow's.

He said: 'It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the building of a modern warship provides far greater em-

ployment than the building of certain other unsophisticated ships twice the size in length and of a tonnage possibly ten times greater.

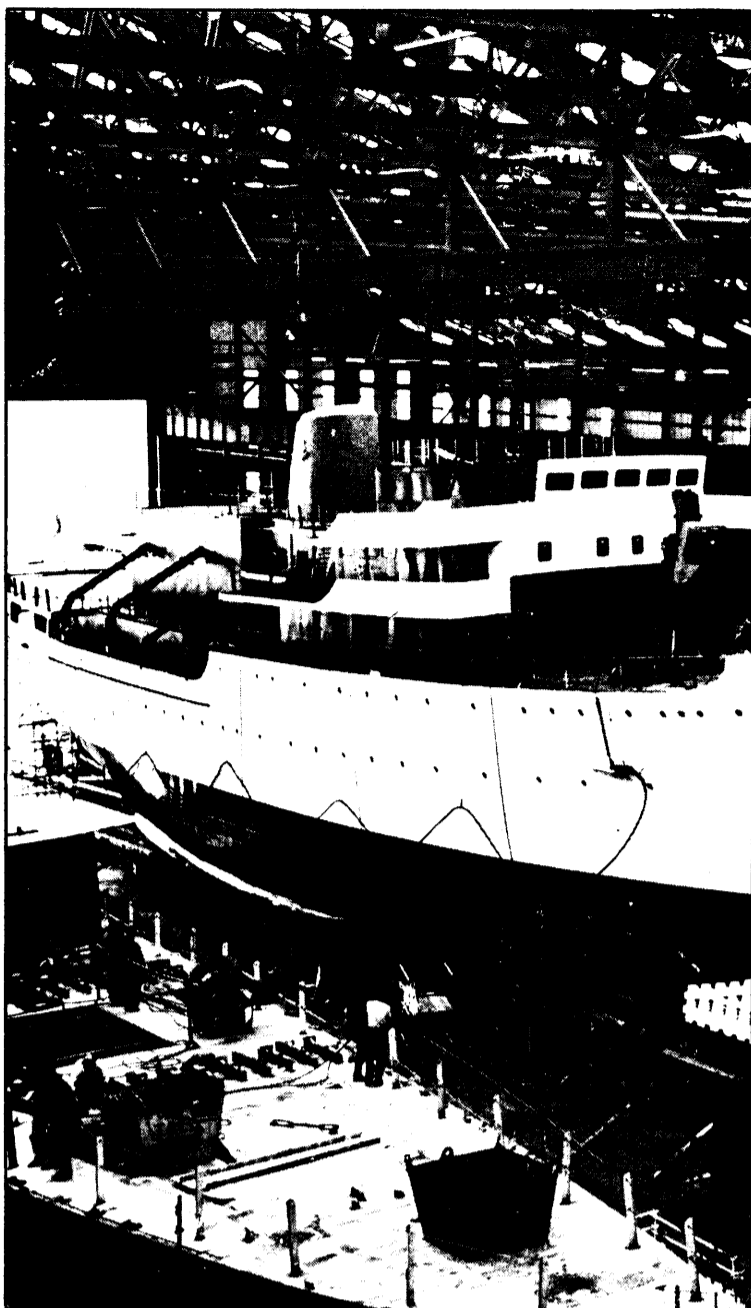
'Thus, at a time when the government is naturally and rightly concerned about the number of unemployed, particularly in this area, I would hope that our politicians will consider very carefully the employment advantages of increasing the number of new naval vessels, quite apart from the obvious defence considerations in having more new ships, and there continues to be much talk about the dwindling size of our navy.

'Our concern is to sustain our present workload throughout the 1970s and to enable this to be done we require further orders soon, and I know the Ministry of Defence is well aware of our situation.

'An order is, I understand, in the pipeline — a word I have never liked, for the pipe can be a very long one.

'I can only express the hope that the pipe will contain more than one ship this year for another order from one source or another' is essential if we are to maintain our present labour force into 1974 and there is no doubt that the quickest way to commercial suicide is to maintain more employees than a workload calls for, regrettable and painful though result redundancies are at a time of high unemployment.'

Yarrow is here asking the Tories to subsidize his yards again (the company has already received perhaps the largest share of hand-outs on the Clyde in recent years) and he is calling on his workers for higher output.



A special covered bay at Yarrow Shipbuilders on the Clyde.

He is in the business of making warships — which at least gives him a head's start in Tory economic priorities over the merchant ship-builders. The government is at present considering a report on the British shipbuilding industry drawn up by a firm of private consultants, Booz-Allen.

The Minister of Industrial Development, Mr Christopher Chataway, has already made clear that the Tories are not rushing this blueprint for carving up the shipbuilding industry. They are withholding any extension of the government grants scheme which will have the effect of forcing to

the wall those firms which can't compete with overseas competition.

For shipworkers, there is only one policy which can meet this impending devastation of their industry: a fight for the nationalization of their industry without compensation and under workers' control.

*'I work for a shipyard,  
That's doon by the Clyde,  
The name of the shipyard,  
Fair fills me with pride.  
It's called Eric Yarrow's  
And it's sae dear to me,  
He allows us ten minutes  
For a wee cup of tea.'  
Verse in Sir Eric's 'Newsletter'  
for all company employees.*

## CASHING IN ON THE BANKING BONANZA

The Commercial Bank of Wales launched by millionaire broker Sir Julian Hodge proved a profitable experience for all those shareholders who gambled on the stock when it was first listed.

What is now well known, however, is the fact that a number of prominent Labourites shared in the bonanza.

Among those to grab an early stake in the bank were two directors James Callaghan, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and treasurer of the Labour Party, who took a £5,000 stake, and George Thomas, former Secretary of State for Wales, also with £5,000 worth.

Others are Leo Abse (Pontypool) £4,000, Cledwyn Hughes (Anglesey), Fred Evans (Caerphilly) and Arthur Probert (Aberdare), all in for £1,000 and the two Rhondda members, Elfred Davies and Alec Jones, £500 each.

The remaining shareholder is intriguing also.

He is Will Edwards of Merioneth, who has £500 worth of shares.

When Harold Wilson asked Welsh MPs for policy ideas last summer, Edwards suggested that Labour should nationalize the Bank of Wales.

Perhaps Edwards believes in the theory of burying himself in the capitalist camp and then working from the inside for socialist policies!

Below: Callaghan, £5,000 stake.



## NOT SO LIBERAL MONEY-LENDERS

The Overseas Financial Trust loan firm—with which Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe is connected—is threatening to seize the home of 36-year-old widow Mrs Violet Clarkson.

Last week OFT wrote to Mrs Clarkson demanding immediate payment of £1,190—£690 of which was interest—and stating its intention to take the case back to the County Court.

Mrs Clarkson, of Haslingden, Lancs, pledged her house, valued at £1,000, as security for a £500 loan.

In a number of cases involving OFT, borrowers signed an agreement with a clause stipulating that by missing one monthly payment they could be forced to pay back the entire loan plus all the interest due to be paid over the entire period of the loan—or forfeit their homes.

In Mrs Clarkson's case this amounts to 280 per cent interest.

In another case a postman was charged £200 in interest and fees to settle a £700 second mortgage he had had for four months.

And OFT has demanded £425 or his house from welder Mr Harry Cook of Darwen, Lancs, who borrowed £250 from the company.

Overseas Financial Trust is a totally-owned subsidiary of the £30m banking group London and County Securities, of which Thorpe is a director.

The Liberal leader joined the board of London and County in May 1971 and was allocated 10,000 'incentive' shares. These now have a face value of £29,500.

The Moneylenders' Act limits interest charges to 48 per cent, but OFT is licensed under Section 123 of the Companies Act as a 'bank' and there is no restriction on the rate of interest a bank can charge.

The pre-tax profits of London and County Securities went up from £681,220 in 1971 to £1,771,927 in 1972—160 per cent.

Sir Robert Mark, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, is expected to announce a new head for the CID early next month.

The reshuffle at the top of the plainclothes division is part of an overall restructuring. The reorganization report has been drawn up by Mr Colin Woods, the assistant commissioner of the CID, and one of the few top men in whom Mark has trust.

Several private empires will be clipped in the reorganization. The drugs squad and the so-called murder squad will be phased out. Mark will strengthen CI department, the group involved in the 'Railway Gazette' case and the cuts at British Rail, the Special Branch and the Flying Squad.

The bomb squad, which was set up to track down the Angry Brigade, will be integrated with the Special Branch.

Mark is trying desperately to clean up the Metropolitan police force without causing a dangerous drop in morale. There has been an unprecedented crop of early retirements and resignations in the past six months since he took up the top job.

Only last week a detective sergeant from Hammersmith was jailed for two years for demanding a bribe of £500 not to press a firearms charge.

## MARK RESHUFFLES THE CID



# PRESIDENT MARCOS TAKES ABSOLUTE POWERS

BY JOHN SPENCER

President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines has taken extraordinary personal powers and proclaimed a new constitution as an expression of 'the people's will'.

In addition to his presidential status, Marcos is now premier and has taken over all the powers of the legislature under the new charter, announcing also the indefinite continuation of martial law.

This action, he said, was necessary 'to protect the people and the republic'. The new decrees were signed into law in front of a hastily-summoned so-called people's congress of 4,000 delegates.

The seizure of absolute power has supposedly been ratified by assemblies throughout the country—voting on a show of hands under the weapons of Marcos's ubiquitous retainers.

Announcing his sweeping constitutional upheaval, Marcos said he was accepting the informal vote of the citizens' assemblies and would not now bother staging the planned secret-ballot plebiscite on the constitutional changes.

According to government spokesmen, the six days of voting at public meetings up and down the country had shown 'overwhelming approval' of the continuation of martial law, adoption of the new charter, cancellation of the secret ballot and suspension of elections for the next six or seven years.

General elections under the old constitution were to have been held in October, and Marcos's term as president would have expired on December 31. Now he has full powers to rule by decree.



He will hold another set of general elections if and when he feels like it. He told the people's congress: 'We are engaging in a peaceful and constitutional revolution to return sovereignty to the people'.

One of his opponents, senator Lorenzo Tanada, made a last-ditch effort to prevent the constitutional change by having the Supreme Court declare Marcos's action illegal.

Tanada argued in the court that the show-of-hand votes on the new constitution were unofficial and claimed Marcos was acting illegally by accepting them. But the court was still sitting when Marcos declared the new constitution in effect.

The court proceedings were halted as its members were unsure of their positions and authority under the new situation. Chief Justice Robert Con-



Two young Maoists captured after a shoot-out in which two of their comrades and a police inspector were killed. Left: Marcos.

ception said he was not sure whether the court organized under the old charter could continue to exist.

Marcos's action consolidates his already immense power. Last September he first took arbitrary powers—naturally on a 'temporary' basis—to deal with what he claimed was an outbreak of internal subversion.

Since then prominent Filipino intellectuals and opponents of the regime have been arrested and held without trial and in many cases have simply disappeared into army camps.

Marcos, who is a faithful supporter of the United States and an anti-communist of long-standing, is the only man to have won the Philippines presidency twice. But his second term, which began in 1969, has proved to be a time of crisis.

Rising prices continued unchecked, though the president was boosted in the Press as the man who would get the economy back on its feet. At the same time, political violence and corruption continued to flourish.

Students demonstrated on the streets against the effects of economic decline. Left-wing insurgents, the heirs of the Huks, stepped up their activity and there were violent clashes between minority Moslems and Christians in the southern islands.

When Pope Paul visited Manila in 1970 to give the pre-

dominantly Catholic regime the Vatican's accolade, the visit was marred by an attempt on the life of the pontiff.

Marcos tried to turn away unfavourable publicity by boasting that he had helped to foil the attempt with a karate chop on the would-be assassin, Bolivian painter Benjamin Mendoza y Amor.

The move towards untrammelled personal power began in August 1971 when the President announced he was taking special powers to detain without trial people suspected of subversive or rebellious activities.

There was widespread opposition to the move and there has since been a notable growth of the underground opposition movement led by the Maoist New People's Army.

Ferdinand Marcos's political career has been marked by extreme ruthlessness even for the stop-at-nothing traditions of the Philippine ruling class. His first big coup was a successful appeal to the Supreme Court against charges of murdering a political opponent of his father.

Then came the war and Japanese occupation, and Marcos organized guerrilla resistance with the backing of US imperialism. He collected 27 medals and the Americans recognized a coming man when they set up the Asian republic in 1946.

He rose first within the

ruling Liberal Party, but found his way to the presidential palace blocked by President Diosado Macapagal, head of one of the rival political gangster outfits.

Finally he left the party in 1964 to join the Nacionalistas who were prepared to offer him a presidential nomination. In 1965 he beat Macapagal in a ruthless campaign which led to widespread charges of forgery, bribery, landgrabbing and political assassination.

One of Marcos's key platforms was the so-called rice self-sufficiency programme, an extension of the much-heralded Green Revolution to the Philippines. New strains of rice were imported with American assistance and improved harvests won Marcos some popularity.

A little man with a reputation as a keen hunter and golfer, Marcos is said to have had a sliver of holy wood implanted in his back by a priest to protect him from being killed.

With his wife Imelda, a former beauty queen who was once Miss Manila, he lives in great luxury. When he took office for the second time, the President magnanimously donated all his wealth to the nation.

But there was no discernible drop in his standard of living, though he was reputed to be one of the richest men in the republic, paying declared in-

come tax at the rate of £26,000 a year.

When he announced his gift, however, there was no reference to the holdings of Imelda or the rest of the Marcos family.

Smuggling, corruption, urban violence and guerrilla struggle in the countryside have intensified. At the same time the Philippines have been turned into the largest US base in south-east Asia.

At Subic Bay the American aircraft carriers are refuelled after weeks on station in the Tonkin gulf bombing and shelling North Vietnam. And the Philippines is also home base to much of the US B52 bomber fleet.

Marcos, who likes to think of himself as an Asian statesman, took the Philippines into the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) alongside Indonesia, Malaya, Thailand and Singapore.

Despite obviously planted stories in the US Press to the effect that the State Department disapproves of Marcos's seizure of personal power, there is little doubt that his regime has full US backing.

It is worth noting that his is the third US client state in Asia where personal dictatorship has recently been proclaimed. The others are Thailand and South Korea. All three regimes are regarded as staunch allies of the American government.

# ITALY'S NEW FASCISTS



## THE STORM TROOPERS

BY STEPHEN JOHNS.  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
MARTIN MAYER.

Italian fascism has already reaped its first crop of victims. Hundreds of left-wing militants have been murdered or maimed for life by the 'squadristi', the storm troopers of the extreme right.

The 'squadristi' act under orders from the MSI, Italy's fascist party, which has 56 members of parliament.

Activists in the labour movement court physical attack if they walk round areas like Rome, where the fascists have a strong following, without protection.

No security is offered by the so-called forces of law and order. Most of the police are fascist sympathizers and on occasions have been known to join in the frenzy at outdoor fascist rallies.

The army too is firmly on the side of the extreme right. Paratroopers flaunt their allegiance openly by marching with the fascists and donning the uniforms of the 'squadristi'.

Theoretically fascism and all its trappings are illegal in Italy. A law of 1952 makes it a crime to organize a fascist party. The use of fascist speeches, uniforms, salutes, principles, emblems etc are also banned by pain of fine or up to ten years' jail.

But the police persistently ignore these regulations. Fascist attacks have been launched right under the eyes of the Carabinieri (the armed 'national guard') and riot police take no steps whatsoever to arrest fascists who salute, wear uniforms and carry emblems at meetings and demonstrations.

Fascists who are wanted in connection with bloody assaults on the left are allowed to wander free. Stefano Delle Chiaie, for example, a founder of the fanatical Avanguardia Nazionale (National Guard), is supposed to be wanted by the authorities, yet he moves openly around Rome with no harassment from the police.

The official MSI line is that they neither approve nor disapprove of the 'squadristi'. In fact the chain of command goes right from the street corners and the dingy bars where the fascist gangs gather to the top of the party.

There are supposed to be two lines in the fascist movement. The fanatics disapprove of the 'respectable' policy of courting the right-wing Christian Democrats (Italy's Tory Party). They stand for 'revolu-

tionary fascism'—the seizure of power by an uprising. Others back MSI leader Giorgio Almirante's drive to gather all the forces of the right behind him ready for power.

But in reality the split is illusory. The MSI leaders know the 'squadristi' are an essential part of the party's armour and appeal. Their more exuberant savagery may sometimes be an embarrassment—but they will always be a part of the movement.

The thugs are called in to guard the big meetings and demonstrations. They were there last week at the 10th MSI congress—sons of the wealthy bourgeoisie, who swaggered round the hall with an exaggerated air of self-importance, and the youth from the working class, driven from the ranks of the labour movement by years of unemployment and poverty.

The 'squadristi' are fed on fascist literature of the most blatant and rabid kind.

The Congress bookstalls are loaded with the speeches of Hitler, Mussolini, Ezra Pound, the Japanese novelist Mishima, the philosophy of Nietzsche and histories of fascist rebellion—whatever Almirante may say about his movement, he certainly knows what books his supporters like to read.

The mentality of the 'squadristi' is also familiar. They read a magazine called 'Il Borghese' (literally — 'the Bourgeois') edited by MSI ideologue and senator Mario Tedeschi.

'Il Borghese' contains nonsensical but lewd and salacious attacks of figures of the left, intellectuals and artists (except for Eugene Ionesco who gets fulsome praise for attending the fascist's 'Congress of Free Culture'. Ionesco said: 'The revolutions that have been made in the name of justice and freedom have become a living hell.')

Adverts invite the 'squadristi' to buy revolvers, rifles, bugging devices, virility potions and elevator shoes ('Just think, six centimetres... more power, more security, more success').

The magazine reflects the psyche of its readers, their insecurity, paranoia, warped emotional development and a desire to overcome these deficiencies with the mystique of fascism and the idea of being the chosen ones.

The history of the 'squadristi' goes back to the end of the war when a few hardened fascists witnessed the collapse of the Mussolini regime, yet avowed to carry on their activities.

One of the most important of the new 'squadristi' was Pino Rauti an unrepentant fascist.

Rauti is now an MSI deputy who has escaped a jail sentence in connection with the Milan bank bomb outrage which killed 14 people in 1969, because of the law of parliamentary immunity.

He now publishes his own newspaper, 'Presenza' ('Presence') but the start of his

political career was less auspicious.

Rauti emerged in 1952 with a pamphlet titled 'Democracy Here is the Enemy'. His following grew and in 1955 he was able to bring out a monthly magazine.

In the same year he published one of Hitler's Nuremberg speeches, 'Race and Culture of Nazism' (Rauti at the time was a Nazi supporter: he decorated his office with swastikas). 1956 was a seminal year for the emergence of the smaller fascist groups. Several were formed, including Rauti's Ordine Nuovo (New Order—symbol is the axe—see the title head of the series).

A decade later Ordine Nuovo boasted 5,000 brown-shirt members and a weekly magazine called 'Noi Europa'. One of its greatest propaganda drives was towards the army. The movement worshipped a mythical figure called the 'Centurians', a kind of political, fascist soldiers. The ideal was to transform the Italian troops and police into such creatures (in this the movement had considerable success).

## ATTACKS

Other groups formed during the 1950s include Squadrie di Azione Mussolini (Mussolini Action Squad), a secret exclusively terrorist group based in Milan. These fascists specialize in bomb attacks on left-wing premises and murders of militants.

Another important band of terrorists are Avanguardia Nazionale, with an estimated membership of 500 thugs. They are led by Stefano Delle Chiaie, who proclaims his dedication to the struggle against 'ne-illuminationism and the alliance between catholic modernism and socialistic reformism in government'. (The 'illuminati' conspiracy is continual paranoid obsession in fascist movements.)

The other Avanguardia Nazionale leader is the Maquis Felice Genosese, one of the aristocratic fascists now in jail for a bomb attack on a left-wing demonstration.

Outside these two organizations, smaller, freelance groups proliferate—Europe Civilization, Tomorrow's Order, Knights of the Nation, Black Eagles, etc, etc.

The biggest of all however is the MSI's own official movement, Givoane Italia (Young Italy). The Front is a tribute to the fascism that the MSI publicly disavows. Its members have been involved in bloody attacks on the left and bomb attacks.

They also organize military-style camps in the countryside. One was discovered by Communist Party members in the Zafferana district of Catania, a fascist stronghold.

The camp was held on the land of Coco Francesco, the Christian Democratic assessor for Zafferana. The black fascist flag and the Italian tricolour flow from the camp flagpoles. Superimposed on the tricolour



Carabinieri, the official armed 'national guard', protecting the MSI Congress. Right: Roberto

was a black fist holding a torch, the symbol of Givoane Italia.

The trees on the site were posted with MSI stickers and a wide range of literature written by party leaders was also found. The 50 youth at the camp were given a crash course in fascism from several instructors, which included the construction of bombs and the 'art' of karate.

There are many other examples of the direct connection between the 'squadristi' and the 'respectable' MSI leaders. It was, in fact, Almirante himself who gave the open door to the strong-arm wing when he became national secretary in 1969.

He was noted as a hard-liner and the 'squadristi' flocked into the party when he became leader. Rauti was one He led Ordine Nuovo into the MSI claiming: 'We will give a shock to the movement... we will review it to go towards a completely new kind of state based on racist theory of history, without parties.'

(This was not entirely out of tune with MSI ideology. In December 1970 Roumuadi, the party president, had said: 'We believe in the positive side to racial differences and we pledge ourselves to defend the physical and spiritual form of the Arian race.')

Almirante welcomed the newcomers. He called Ordine Nuovo 'the most consistent, the most serious and the most noble', of the section of the 'national right'.

Wherever he went in the

May elections Almirante was flanked by a guard of 'squadristi' and on occasions he has encouraged them to violence. In Florence, for example, he told his young followers:

'Our youth must be ready for confrontation with communists. I have already been misunderstood on previous occasions and I want to prevent misunderstanding now. When I talk of confrontation, I mean physical confrontation.'

But the real leaders of the 'squadristi' within the MSI are parliamentary deputies Luigi Turchi and Giulio Caradonna (Rauti has lost some of his support since Graziani, now on trial for forming a fascist group, pulled some of the Ordine Nuovo out of MSI).

Turchi was the man who whipped in the American Italian vote behind Nixon and Caradonna was the centre of the plot by the fascists, army and right-wing Christian Democrats to stage a coup d'etat after the May elections last year.

## HERO

Caradonna (45), is a particularly nasty character. He has close and personal command of the Rome 'squadristi' and gathers a 100-strong body-guard round his person. The youth go to war with this battle cry: 'And we, by the Madonna, are the squadristi of Caradonna'.

He boasts of his strong-arm activities: 'During my intense activities against Bolshevism and the regime I have been

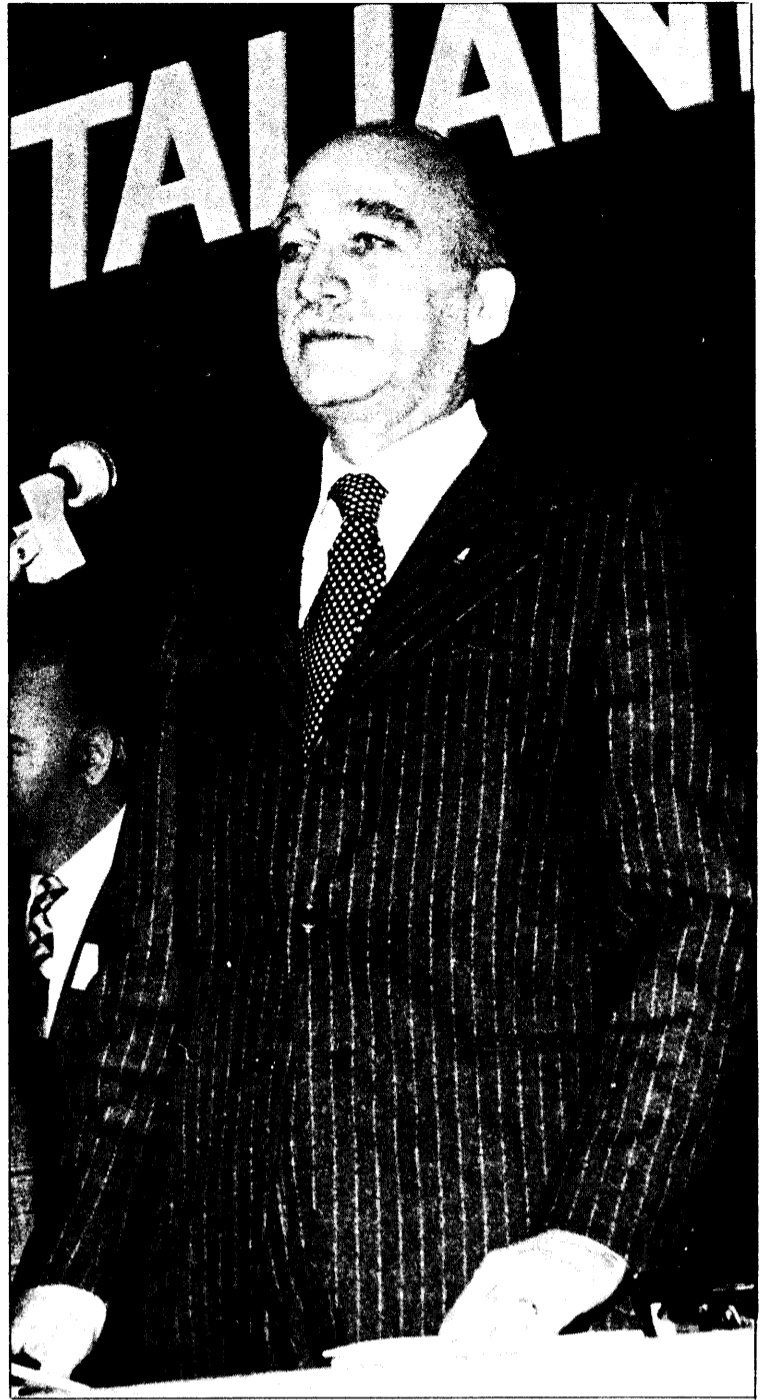
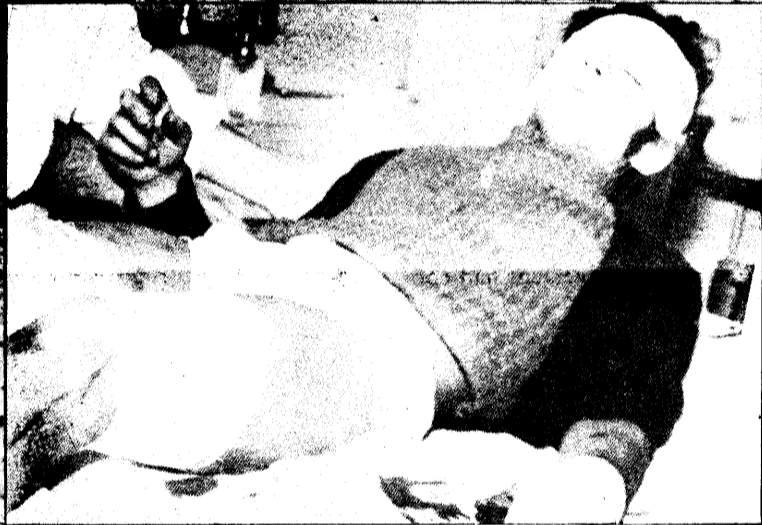


Carabinieri, the official armed 'national guard', protecting the MSI Congress. Right: Roberto Pecoraro, stabbed by an Ordine Nuovo member, then arrested with his attacker for 'causing an affray'.





... Congress. Right: Roberto Pecora, stabbed by an Ordine Nuovo member, then arrested with his attacker for 'causing an affray'.



## ALMIRANTE SPEAKS

'Those who do not present themselves will be considered outlaws and will be executed by shooting in the back'— Order from present MSI leader Giorgio Almirante to Italian people, 1944.

'Italians of Florence! They say a vote for us will result in civil war. But civil war exists now... We have been fighting the communists for 25 years and the communists have been fighting us...'

'... there is a civil war. If we get 100 deputies in parliament... then the black shirts which all Italians have had in their top drawer for so many years will come out. They will queue up in front of the party headquarters to enroll in the party.'—Election speech, 1972.

'You see the present regime in Greece does not have a dictator. It is a totalitarian regime in the sense that parties are illegal for the moment. I don't say that we have to apply this formula in Italy necessarily. If we can do it another way, so much the better. In Greece where the communists brought about the carnage we all remember—the longer and more savage civil war than our own where other parties were absolutely incapable of saving the nation—the solution of force was necessary. At the moment we Italians do not have that situation, but if we reach it I could not exclude a similar situation.'—On Greece.

'If only a solution of force could save us from communism, we will have to adopt that solution.'—On Italian television.

'The first thing will be to offer our votes for a law against strikes and so to get rid of this permanent conflict.'—On unions.

'I praise the old national principles of daring and strength in struggle. If the state does

not function then we are the state.'—To the 'squadri' in October 1972.

'We are witnessing the unfolding of a permanent attempt at a coup d'état which has two targets, the national right and the forces of order.'

'If the government continues to avoid its obligations we are ready to take over the state... we will sound the alarm everywhere...'

'Our youth must be ready for the confrontation with the communists. I have already been misunderstood on previous occasions, and I want to prevent misunderstanding now. When I talk of confrontation, I mean physical confrontation.'—Election speech.

'The so-called culture of the left is the invading enemy, the moral bacteria. The culture of the right must immediately enter the battlefield against it.'—Address to MSI conference last week.

'The synthesis of the state, the nation and labour. We prefer this word because it is the real antithesis of classisms, of the class struggle, of Marxism.'—On corporatism, at the MSI congress.

'The corporatist message, that is the message of the breaking of the class struggle, the message of breaking and over-coming of false Marxist myths.'—At the MSI congress.

'We will practise legitimate individual group defence wherever the forces of order are unable to carry out their duty.'—Last Congress.

'The order we foresee is disciplined and hierarchical. It is a system of ability, that is the corporatist system, the system of free selection, the meritocratic system.'—Last Congress.

'AM I A FASCIST? I ALWAYS ANSWER I HAVE FASCISM WRITTEN ON MY BROW.'—Interview 'L'Europeo', May 5, 1972.

imprisoned more than once, undergoing long periods of detention and numerous trials.' Caradonna is no longer in prison, but in the Italian parliament and in army circles he is a hero.

Two eye-witness accounts give testimony to the murderous savagery of these strong-arm squads. One, in April 1970, describes an attack on university students in Catania. The narrator is Giovanni Centamore, who was badly wounded:

*'I was standing outside my house with a group of friends in the evening of April 6. It was 8.30 and we were just getting into a car when we were surrounded by a group of about 20 people who started to insult us with phrases like 'dirty communists' and other insults.'*

*'We tried to ignore the provocation so as not to play their game, and also because there were girls with us. Recognizable in the group were fascist 'Pichiatori' [fighters] Caudullo, Santogati, Ropisarda, Salmeri, Chiarenza, Marnello, Vitalone and Marotta.'*

*'We had hardly started to get into the car when the fascists took iron bars, hammers and clubs from their jackets. They first began to beat us savagely attacking those of us who had not been able to get into the car, hitting them on the head till they were knocked out. Then they turned on the car in which I and three of my friends were sitting. They broke all the*

*windows and seriously damaged the bodywork.'*

*'At this point we decided to get out of the car and try to help our friends who were still on the ground. But as soon as one of us put his head out, Caudullo gave him a blow on the head with a club which cut open his forehead.'*

*'We finally managed to get out of the car and we were followed into the hall of my house and they only stopped when other people arrived on the scene. They fled, leaving several iron bars on the ground.'*

The perpetrators of this attack are still at large. The fascists have big support among the police in Catania.

The second incident concerns an attack launched by MSI 'squadristi' in the university faculty of science. Student Giuseppe Lamartina recounts:

*'The meeting had just started, when a group of fascists burst into the room and, without being provoked in any way, began to attack us savagely with iron bars, chains and knives. A student and professor Centineo were seriously injured.'*

*'I went to hospital with a serious head wound. Another student had several knife wounds, and professor Gabriele Centineo had several stab wounds in the head.'*

*'After receiving these wounds I have suffered for several months from serious disturbances. I can't write, I can't read, I can't stand strong*

*light and I suffer from terrible headaches and a general lassitude.'*

The fascists recognized in this attack were Caudullo, Vincenzo, Francesco Rajsarda and Filippo Fatuzzo. They are still free.

The last case concerns the communist student Roberto Pecora. In January 1972 he was the victim of a murder attempt by fascist Salvatore Ardizzone, a member of Ordine Nuovo.

Ardizzone ambushed Pecora as he was distributing leaflets and stabbed him nine times. He fled brandishing the bloody knife. Other students caught him, but not before he had wounded one of his pursuers, Vito Lanzafame.

This time the police were forced to act. Both attacker and victim were arrested for causing an affray. But Ardizzone was freed after three months after being charged with causing bodily harm!

These are just a few of the examples of the attacks by fascists. They are carried out systematically all over Italy, but more in the south where the fascists feel secure.

Violence against the left is an essential part of the fascist policy in Italy. There is overwhelming evidence that the police either support or do nothing to halt this pogrom.

But the police are not the only institutions backing the jack boot.

**TOMORROW** we trace the fascist support among big business, the army, police and government.



# THE HIRED GUNMAN OF MONSIEUR DREYFUS

**Jean - Antoine Tramoni, Renault motor company official, was recently given a four-year sentence by a Paris court for murdering Maoist, Pierre Overney (23).**

Overney was shot during a demonstration at the gates of the Renault factory at Boulogne-Billancourt, just outside Paris. The case became a national issue with big demonstrations demanding an end to the use of armed factory guards.

Despite the protests, however, the hired-guns system remains. It has never been officially admitted that Tramoni was hired as a gunman, though that was his speciality as a retired army training officer. Tramoni claimed he was simply a menial helping the security guards.

The nationalized Billancourt plant is dominated by the Communist Party which controls the union organization and is extremely hostile to all manifestations of 'leftism'. In the course of the trial the defence produced CP leaflets denouncing Overney and his comrades as fascists in the pay of the management.

The court proceedings extracted here reveal how generals and the head of Renault came to the defence of their hired murderer, and how the Communist Party through the CGT union leadership in Renault were com-

pletely compromised in the anti-Maoist purge in the nationalized car company.

The light sentence given to Tramoni compares with the prison sentences of two or three years given to left-wing youth for merely distributing leaflets which are an expression of dictatorial repression favoured by the Pompidou government.

**The judge:** You are still quite young, Tramoni. What are you thinking of doing. How do you see your future?

**Tramoni:** I don't know what is going to be decided here. But I am sure to find work very quickly. I have a lot of friends.

**The judge:** Let's deal with the circumstances of the drama. How was it that you were moving around with a revolver on you?

**Tramoni:** I must admit this, I am not a superman. I was very frightened.

**The judge:** But why was the safety-catch not fixed on the weapon?

**Tramoni:** The safety-catch? . . . But you must know that when you are at war, you never put on the safety-catch. Do you think we used the safety-catch in Algeria?

**Maitre Leclerc (civil lawyer):** But you weren't in Algeria. You were in Billancourt.

**Tramoni:** I was in danger . . .

**The judge:** Let's get back to the details of the drama. Overney was hit by a bullet in the heart from less than three metres.

You say that you shot accidentally as you waved your arm from left to right. That is really an extraordinary coincidence.

**Tramoni:** That's fate, milord judge.

Maitre Leclerc interrogates the murderer:

**Leclerc:** Let's say a little about the job Tramoni had in Renault. First of all, who recruited Tramoni.

**Tramoni:** I was recruited by M. Moracchini.

**Leclerc:** How did you get to know M. Moracchini?

**Tramoni:** We were both instructors for officers in the reserve army. We had been friends.

**Leclerc:** All right. What work did he recruit you for?

**Tramoni:** To be in charge of the maintenance and cleaning of the washrooms.

**Leclerc:** Since you have spent 20 years in the army, weren't you surprised to be put in charge of cleaning washrooms?

**Tramoni:** I was taken on by M. Moracchini and I had confidence in him.

**Leclerc:** All right. Explain what was the relationship between cleaning out the washrooms and:

● Your active participation in the removal of the worker named Thereau from the factory.

● Your participation in the removal of a delegation led by Jean-Paul Sartre, which had entered the factory.

● Your presence at the factory

gates on the day of the murder.

**Tramoni:** In the first two cases, Moracchini asked me to come and help the security guards. I am not a man to discuss orders. My superior asked me to come. So I did. As for being by the gates. I had just finished my meal and I always come in through that gate.

**Leclerc:** Yes. But you arrived at 2 o'clock. At that time, leaflets were being given out for about half-an-hour with no incidents at all. You stayed at the factory entrance all that time. Why?

**Tramoni:** I was discussing with the security guards. That's not a crime, is it?

**Leclerc:** To discuss with security guards is not a crime.

Two of the witnesses who spoke about Tramoni in the army were a general and a rank and file soldier.

**General Lagrange:** I knew Tramoni very well. He was under my orders. I must say that Tramoni was always an exceptional soldier. Good, agreeable, never angry and a quiet fellow. He had an extraordinary vein of professionalism. I say it was extraordinary, because it is not very common. I am particularly glad that I was personally responsible for giving him a military medal. If Tramoni had stayed in the army, he would have become an officer.

**Soldier G.L.:** When I was doing my military service in the 76th Infantry battalion stationed at Fort-Neuf in Vin-

cennes, I 'knew' sergeant-major Jean Antoine Tramoni who was in the 3rd Company in Vincennes. The aforementioned gentleman was well-known for his virulent, fascist type remarks on the 'red scum which must be liquidated' and other statements of the same type.

Leclerc proceeded to interrogate the Chairman of Renault, M. Dreyfus.

**Leclerc:** M. Dreyfus, are you saying that there is no militia in Renault, and that the security guards have no weapons? Now, the court has heard evidence from five workers who have been driven from the factory by the management with the use of truncheons.

**Dreyfus:** Milord, on my word of honour to this court, there is no employers' militia in Renault. There has never been any beating up with truncheons. I speak my word.

(Shouts of 'Liar, murderer', Overney's brother, with tears in his eyes, attacks Dreyfus and is removed from the courtroom.)

**Leclerc:** Not only are there guards armed with clubs and truncheons in Renault, but didn't you know, M. Dreyfus, that there is also within the security services, a photographic department in charge of photographing for the files militants and suspicious workers?

**Dreyfus:** This is completely untrue. We have no secret police. There were never any photographs.

**Leclerc:** In that case, M. Dreyfus, how do you explain the fact that Moracchini gave to the police photos of militants which are used in the dossier of evidence?

**The judge:** In fact, a few photos were given to the police by the security department?

**Dreyfus:** I know nothing about this. I can only repeat this:



there are no militia, private police force, or thugs in Renault.

**Leclerc:** Also, M. Dreyfus, did you know that Tramoni himself took photos?

**Dreyfus:** No photos were taken. **Leclerc:** But a responsible witness in the CFDT, M. Lauret, has just stated at the bar that on September 22, 1971, he saw Tramoni in a car with the number 9140 BM 92 photograph sellers of 'Lutte Ouvrière'. The matter was taken up in a factory committee meeting:

**Dreyfus:** I do not recollect that. Anyway, when one is responsible for a company employing tens of thousands of men, one cannot know who has a camera and who hasn't.

**Leclerc interrogates Poisblanc**  
**Leclerc:** How is it, Inspector, that all your witnesses have been guards or members of management? These people are directly linked with the firm. The photos have shown that there were a good number of workers who saw the murder.

**Inspector Poisblanc:** I asked the management to give me a list of all the witnesses. I saw all those they identified.  
**Leclerc:** That is management men? But could you have found the other witnesses with the help of your departments?  
**Inspector:** Yes, of course.  
**Leclerc:** Then, why didn't you do it?  
**Inspector:** It's something we overlooked . . .

**M. Desan (Renault worker CFDT member):** The working conditions have got much worse since the strike in May 1971. Sackings and suspensions have been imposed for the slightest reason. The climate in the factory is one of violence. Strengthened guard at the gates, increased speed . . .

**Felipe (Maoist worker in Renault):** It is hell on the production line. The temperature is 40 degrees (104°F) and 48

cars an hour on the line. It is unbearable. There are all kinds of personal breakdowns . . .

**Thereau (another Maoist):** My sacking was prepared illegally, carefully. I was isolated from other workers. My speed was increased. I had to do 45 units an hour instead of 26. One day, I was sacked for no reason at all. I came back to my shop in the factory. Fifteen thugs jumped on me, tied me hand and foot and drove me off. Luckily, I was able to get free at a road-junction . . .

Sylvain, CGT secretary in Renault, was called to the witness-box by Tramoni, and wanted to read a prepared statement. He was not allowed to do this. Sylvain is a member of the CP faction, which is notorious for its collaboration with Renault.

**The judge:** We want to speak about what happened in the Billancourt factories on January 10, 1972.

**Sylvain:** I have been called to stand as a witness today. I suppose it is because my evidence has some relationship with the Tramoni trial. I will then speak about January 10, after I have given the position of the CGT on the trial.

On January 10, we were giving out a leaflet when we were attacked by a group claiming to be Maoist.

**Tramoni's lawyer:** What, claiming to be Maoist? You stated that they were leftists, Maoists, and even, to quote a CGT leaflet 'fascists, common criminals, police paid by the management' . . .

**Sylvain:** I will say that the CGT condemned violence, but, unlike Tramoni, it never killed anyone. I must say, moreover, that the Press has exaggerated leftist violence. There have only been a few skirmishes.

**Tramoni's lawyer:** But, Monsieur Sylvain, are you dissociating yourself from the leaflet, an extract of which I have just read out?

**Demonstration in Paris following the murder of Overney. Above: French troops in Algeria. 'Do you think we used the safety-catch in Algeria?' Left: Renault factory in Billancourt where Overney died.**

**Sylvain:** No, I do not want to dissociate myself from that. The CGT is against violence. It is in favour of the action of the masses.

**The Public Prosecutor:** I must congratulate the CGT on this position and the position that it had at the time of the drama in which Overney was killed.

**Sylvain:** In relation to this matter, I must say to the court and the jury, that the CGT, expressing the feeling of the workers in Renault, demands an exemplary punishment for the murderer Tramoni. Nothing can excuse the shot being fired.

**Leclerc:** Is there in the factory a repressive squad called 'the flying squad'?

**Sylvain:** Indeed, We have denounced its criminal activities several times. In particular, the presence of spies with cameras in the factory. We have always been rejected by Dreyfus.

**Leclerc:** Dreyfus told us yesterday that none of the factory supervisors has ever taken any photos. To your knowledge, are there any photos?

**Sylvain:** Yes. We know that photos have been taken. We have protested to the management on that question as well.

**Leclerc:** One final question, M. Sylvain, M. Dreyfus told us that there was no repression in Renault and there have been no arbitrary sackings. What do you think about that?

**Sylvain:** Naturally, in Renault, there is repression, violence which is inherent in the capitalist system itself. I must make it clear as well that Renault, being a nationalized concern, does not have more repression than many other factories. We are not like Citroën. But, in effect, there is repression, and there are unjustified sackings to get rid of workers who are in the way. We condemn them.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## BUSY

Wilmslow councillor Patrick Purser, fined £10 and ordered to pay £6 costs for using a TV set without a licence told a Post Office inquiry officer: 'I haven't got time to bother with licences—I'm too busy trying to keep Wilmslow in Cheshire.'

## SANITY

Professor David Rosenhan, a Stanford University (USA) psychologist has revealed that he and seven other investigators arranged as a test to be admitted as schizophrenic patients in 12 different mental hospitals.

None of the eight was found to be sane by the hospital authorities.

But other psychiatric patients did recognize the investigators as 'normal'.

In the January 19 issue of 'Science' magazine Professor Rosenhan revealed that he and his colleagues could only secure release as 'schizophrenics on remission' despite their best efforts to convince the hospital staffs of their sanity.

Hospitalization ranged from seven to 52 days with an average of 19 days in hospitals in California, Oregon, Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware.

'It is clear,' writes Professor Rosenhan, 'that we cannot distinguish the sane from the insane in psychiatric hospitals.'

## NO MATCHES

'Cmdre Marr told how one of his old cruising passengers revealed the fall in standards. She said she had only to produce a cigarette for a steward to immediately appear with a light.

'On her last cruise she took out a cigarette and turned to a steward. When she asked for a light the steward replied "I don't carry matches" and walked off.'—'Evening News'.

## 'OUR PEOPLE'

There is 'a combination of firmness and fairness with which we move now towards the second stage of our fight to contain inflation. It is a fight in which we claim the support of all our people'.

So said Sir Geoffrey Howe, Consumer Affairs Minister, when talking to the Tories of Eastbourne last weekend.



Support of 'all our people'? He's not only kidding, he's telling an untruth.

On the same day he spoke, the National Opinion Polls produced the results of a survey they conducted.

**Question: Do you think the measures announced will work or will not work?**

**Answer:** Will work 36 per cent, won't work 48 per cent, don't know 16 per cent.

**Question: Is the policy fair or unfair?**

**Answer:** Fair 45 per cent, unfair 45 per cent, don't know 10 per cent.

**Question: Do you think the government is right to ignore food prices because of the difficulty in enforcing controls?**

**Answer:** Yes 27 per cent, no 65 per cent, don't know 7 per cent.

So it seems from the NOP that when the Tories talk of 'our people' they are really only talking about their most hidebound supporters and not the vast majority of people at all.

## 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**

9.42-12.10 Schools. 12.25 Disc a dawn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Trumpton. 1.45 High street. 2.00-2.30 Schools. 2.50 Workers at risk. 3.15 Children growing up. 3.45 Countryman. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 John Craven's newsround. 5.20 Brady kids. 5.40 Magic roundabout. 5.45 News. Weather.  
**6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 TOP OF THE POPS.**  
**7.15 Z CARS.** Big Jake.  
**8.00 COMEDY PLAYHOUSE.** The Birthday. With Gordon Peters.  
**8.30 HOLIDAY 73.** Touring France, Darjerba, Travel Agents and Holiday bookings.  
**9.00 NEWS.** Weather. **9.25 COLDITZ.** With the Wild Geese.  
**10.15 FRANKIE HOWARD IN WHOOPS BAGHDAD.** 10.45 MIDWEEK.  
**11.30 NEWS.** 11.35 INTERNATIONAL TENNIS. Rothmans International Tennis Tournament. 12.25 Weather.

**ITV**

9.30 Schools. 10.30 All our yesterdays (London only). 11.00 London. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Witches brew. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Jokers wild. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon! 3.00 Generation three. 3.25 Happy ever after. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 5.50 News.  
**6.00 TODAY. 6.40 CROSSROADS.**  
**7.05 MCMILLAN AND WIFE.** The Night of the Wizard. **8.30 THIS WEEK.**  
**9.00 PATHFINDERS.** In the Face of the Enemy. **10.00 NEWS AT TEN.**  
**10.30 CINEMA.** 11.00 COOKING WITHOUT TEARS.  
**11.30 SCOTLAND YARD MYSTERIES.** Evidence in Concrete.  
**12.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.** 12.15 CRISIS OF FAITH.



Part 18 of BBC 2's 20-part version of the epic 'War and Peace' has Harry Locke as Platon Karateyev and Tony Caunter as a French corporal.

**REGIONAL TV**

**BBC 2**

**CHANNEL:** 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.20 States of Jersey lottery. 4.25 Follyfoot. 4.55 Elephant boy. 5.20 Doctor at large. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Mave-rick. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Very Edge'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.02 Cinema. 11.35 Scales of justice. 12.00 News, weather.  
**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 Report. 10.59 News. 12.00 Faith for life.

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.  
**6.40 BEHAVIOUR AND BELIEF. 7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.**  
**7.30 NEWS.** Weather. **7.35 WEB OF LIFE.** The Living Rain Forest.  
**8.05 EUROPA.** Man and Magic. **8.30 WAR AND PEACE.** The Retreat.  
**9.15 THE FANATICS.** Crooked Sculpture.  
**9.25 HORIZON.** The Curtain of Silence. What is it like to be deaf?  
**10.15 FACE THE MUSIC.**  
**10.45 THE TRINIDAD PHILHARMONIC STEEL ORCHESTRA.** In concert.  
**11.15 NEWS EXTRA.** Weather. 11.45 REAL TIME.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Film: 'Once Before I Die'. 8.30 London. 9.30 Nearest and dearest. 10.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Guideline. 11.15 Film: 'Donovan's Brain'. 12.35 Weather.

11.00 Cinema. 11.35 Living and growing. 12.05 Frighteners. 12.30 Epilogue. 10.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.35 Theatre macabre.

**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Film: 'Flying Leathernecks'. 9.00 Nearest and dearest. 9.30 This week. 10.00 London. 10.30 Gallery. 11.00 Spyforce. 12.00 Weather.  
**HTV West as above except:** 6.15-6.20 Sport West.  
**HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 2.30-3.00 Hamdden. 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35 Cantamil. 4.50-5.20 Rovers. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd. 10.30-11.00 Studio one.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.20 Julia. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Johnny Stoolpigeon'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 10.00 London. 11.00 Gardening today. 11.30 Film: 'It's that Man Again'.  
**TYNE TEES:** 9.25 Prologue. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Place in the country. 3.00 London. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 Stingray. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Ring of Fire'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 10.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 News. 11.50 Scales of justice. 12.20 Greatest fights of the century.

**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.31 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women today. 3.55 Harriet's back in town. 4.23 News. 4.25 Elephant boy. 4.55 Phoenix five. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'No Questions Asked'. 8.30 London. 9.00 O'Hara. 10.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about. 11.30 Champions.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 4.25 Lost in space. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cimarron strip. 6.00 Burns supper. 9.00 Nearest and dearest. 9.30 This week. 10.00 London. 11.00 Gardening. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Journey to the unknown.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Farmhouse kitchen. 3.00 London. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Moss Rose'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 10.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Mod squad. 12.30 Weather.

**GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.53 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women today. 3.55 Harriet's back in town. 4.25 Skippy. 4.55 Merrie melodies. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Escape from East Berlin'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 9.55 Police news. 10.00 London. 11.00 Alastair Borthwick. 11.30 Frighteners. 12.00 Meditation.

**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Katie Stewart. 3.00 London. 4.25 News. 4.30 Land of the giants. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Survival. 7.30 Film: 'Two for the Money'. 8.30 London. 10.00 London. 10.30 Byones.

**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS**

**Fight Rising Prices  
Force the Tories to Resign  
Support the Engineers**

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

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

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

**LIVERPOOL:** Sunday January 28, 10.30 a.m. St Christopher's, Speke.

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

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

**WATFORD:** Monday January 29, 8 p.m. Trades Union Hall, Watford, near Watford Junction station.

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

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

**PADDINGTON:** Monday January 29, 8 p.m. 'Dudley Arms', corner North Wharf and Bishop's Bridge Road, W.2.

**CAMDEN:** Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, off York Way, Kings Cross.

**HACKNEY:** Thursday January 25, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, opposite Hackney Town Hall.

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

**MANCHESTER:** Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. 'The Maypole', Ford Lane, Pendleton. Speakers: Connie Fahey, Harry Price, Mike Hyndman. 'Fight rising prices! Force the Tories out!'

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

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**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.**

# Engineers demand chiefs defend the union

A NORTH LONDON engineering branch has called on its union to defend the policy of total opposition to the Industrial Relations Act.

The resolution was passed unanimously by the Tottenham No 7 branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. It states:

'This branch calls on the national committee and the executive council to maintain the policy of our union of non-co-operation in any shape or form with the Industrial Relations Act or its court.

'And in the event of any further action being taken under the government's anti-working-class legislation against the union, any of its members or group of members, a national strike be called as part of the struggle to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.'

TRADE unionists in mid-Glamorgan have called for a united struggle to force the Tory government out of office as the only way to defend trade unions.

In a resolution passed by mid-Glamorgan quarterly shop stewards' meeting, Margam works AUEW No 7 branch and

mid-Glamorgan district committee, they call on the leadership of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to implement its policy of solidarity—including strike action if necessary—with workers under attack by the Tory government. The resolution reads:

'That this quarterly shop stewards' meeting demands the executive council stop sitting on the fence and expecting officials and shop stewards in the areas to lead the campaign to defend the AUEW.

'We have seen since the Goad case that lack of leadership against the Act, NIRC and Tory government has encouraged more action against the AUEW. Its very life, which depends on the closed shop, and which engineers have fought a lifetime of struggle to achieve, is now under attack because of our leaders sitting back.

'The executive council must come out and tell all the members to come out on strike, as the first step to defending the AUEW and consequently

the principle of free trade unions.

'As we have seen, the policy of local battles proved disastrous in the engineering industry pay claim last spring—when militancy was dissipated in a series of isolated stoppages. The same mistake must not be made again in this crucial confrontation now facing us.

'The other step the executive must take is to demand an immediate meeting of the National Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions whose policy is solidarity with those under attack from the anti-union Act, through strike action if necessary, and must be recalled to implement this policy now that the leading member is now under the threat of the full force of the NIRC! All 3 million members are affected by the fate of the AUEW.

'Also, whether the executive council likes it or not, this fight is political and without a united struggle to force the Tory government out of office, it cannot be won.

'So we therefore call on the executive council and the district committee to carry out this resolution as the only way of defending the AUEW and free trade unionism.'

## Recall TUC - Paperworkers

PAPERWORKERS in the Midlands have issued a call for a reconvened TUC to remove those union leaders who will not fight. The SOGAT chapel at James Baldwin (Cartons) Ltd, Oldbury, Worcs, has forwarded a motion to the union's General Printing Trade conference, to be held later this year.

Urging the SOGAT Executive Council to press its demand made last November, for

a recalled TUC, the motion continues:

'EC should demand such a conference to remove those trade union leaders who will not fight the Tories' anti-union legislation and wage control, and unite all workers in the wages struggle in a General Strike to bring down the government and replace it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. Only in this way can our right to free negotiation and a decent living standard be maintained.

## 'Too many teachers out of jobs'

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

IN AN exchange of letters with the Department of Education and Science published today, the National Union of Teachers expresses its concern that hundreds of newly-qualified teachers are unemployed.

Replying to Mr Philip Halsey, Private Secretary to Education Secretary Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the NUT says:

'We cannot accept your view that a measure of unemployment should be seen as part of the price of securing a much better supply of teachers . . .

'It is greatly to be regretted that at a time when the staffing needs of the majority of schools have not been satisfied, there should be hundreds of newly-qualified teachers without posts.'

By December, 1972, 167 newly-qualified unemployed teachers had contacted the union directly and several hundred others are known to be still seeking work.



The National Farmers' Union finished its annual meeting in London yesterday after a conference dominated by one thing—soaring prices. NFU president made it clear during conference that the so-called 'cheap food days' were over for ever.

## Weekend meat prices up again

WEEKEND meat prices will be up again. This follows increases in beef cattle prices at the livestock markets in England and Wales yesterday.

The average was £19.93 per live cwt, a rise of 36p in a week. Sheep were up 5p to 32p a lb

while the average for pigs was £2.94 per 20 lb, 20p up on last week.

Higher wool prices will push up the price of spring clothes in wool and worsted fabrics. The Susan Small fashion firm has issued a statement saying:

'A navy worsted suit in the

last spring collection would have retailed at £44.50. In this collection it will be £46.50.'

This could rise to £49, the firm added.

The International Wool Secretariat said some prices were double those of last summer. The cause? Heavy Japanese buying.

## Stoves' strikers say 'No sacking'

A THOUSAND domestic appliance workers in St Helens, have decided to insist on the principle of no redundancy before they will end their six-day-old strike.

The strikers—members of three unions from the Lancashire town's Stoves Ltd factory—rejected a management bid to split the strike.

Stoves Ltd wants to increase its production of cookers to 2,000 a week, while at the same time slashing the labour force by up to 15 per cent. The company refused a shop-floor plan to avoid redundancies by stopping overtime and starting a four-day working week.

The strike started when Stoves unilaterally issued redundancy notices to 61 workers.

At first the action was over an alleged breach by the company of the principle of 'first in, last out'.

But on Tuesday, Stoves offered

to explain the sackings at a two-hour meeting with shop stewards and 50 rank-and-file members.

A mass meeting angrily rejected this offer and demanded the stewards stick by their 'no redundancies' principle.

The unions involved are the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs and the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers, Heating and Domestic Engineers.

Just over a week ago a Dutch consultant introduced by management began to investigate possible cost-cutting.

Two very similar stoves sold privately in this country are produced more cheaply in Holland.

In the caravan stove range Italian manufacturers brought their version to the UK last year and have cornered 12 per cent of the market.

With entry into the Common Market cutting the tariff barriers, the men fear even bigger redundancies.

One steward told Workers Press: 'As far as I can see they will unload the stuff here and we will be shut down.'

Stoves Ltd was taken over recently by Jessell Securities, the conglomerate run by City financier Oliver Jessell. His organization is modelled along the same lines as Slater Walker Securities and Barclay Securities run by asset-stripper John Bentley.

## 5,000 psychiatric cases left forces since 1968

A TOTAL of 5,351 serving members of the British forces had been discharged since 1968 because of psychiatric disorders, the Minister of State, Defence, Mr Ian Gilmour, has disclosed.

In a Commons written reply he told MPs that 872 service personnel had been discharged for this reason in 1971, and an

estimated 876 in 1972. This compared with 1,508 in 1968.

Of those discharged last year, 76 were women, and of those discharged the previous year, 95 were women.

Figures for individual services last year were Royal Navy, 123 discharges; Army, 440; and RAF 313.

## Metal splash kills worker

AN IRON foundry worker was killed and two others injured in Jarrow yesterday when they were splashed with molten metal as it was being poured from a ladle into moulds. The men were working at Davy Roll Armstrong, Ltd.

Melvin Hamilton (27) of Westbourne Avenue, Gateshead, died immediately. Brian Phipps (27) of Lancaster Way, Fellgate Estate, Jarrow, was seriously injured. The third man, John Bellfield (46) of Walter Street, Jarrow, left hospital after treatment.

## SLL LECTURES

### GLASGOW

Sunday January 28  
The Communist International in the Days of Lenin and Trotsky.  
Sunday, February 4  
The Left Opposition's struggle against Stalinism.

MID HALL  
Partick Burgh Halls  
7.30 p.m.

Lectures by Tom Kemp, SLL Central Committee member

### 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.

### TODMORDEN

Monday February 5  
'Trotskyism'

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

### LONDON

Lecture 1  
1919-1924—The Communist International in the days of Lenin and Trotsky

Lecture 2  
1924-1933—The Left Opposition's struggle against Stalin

Lecture 3  
1933-1938—From the German defeat to the founding of Fourth International  
given by TOM KEMP (SLL Central Committee)

### ACTON

Wednesday January 31  
Lecture 1

Wednesday February 7  
Lecture 2

Wednesday February 14  
Lecture 3

Woodlands Hall  
Crown Street, W.3. 8 p.m.

### EAST LONDON

Thursday February 1  
Lecture 1

Thursday February 8  
Lecture 2

Thursday February 15  
Lecture 3

Old Town Offices  
Poplar High Street  
E.14. 8 p.m.

**Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND**

**ONLY 7 DAYS TO**

**RAISE £764.48**

WILL WE do it? It is now getting very close to the end of the month and we have a long way to go yet. Over these next seven days help us do everything possible to pull the position around.

We know it is a tough struggle. The huge increase in the cost of living has greatly hit the incomes of all our readers. But we also realize this this onslaught by the Tories has made everyone even more determined to fight back in every way.

This Tory government should be warned. The main issues have still to be fought out with the working class. In such a situation, the Tories must be made to resign.

Workers Press will continue in the forefront of this fight. All our efforts must be turned therefore into a big campaign to complete our Fund this month. Take a special collection at work. Try wherever you can and raise extra amounts. Post all donations immediately to:

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

## Tenuous deal on EEC prices

THE COMMON MARKET meeting of agricultural ministers came near to breakdown during a marathon 28-hour meeting on farm prices in Brussels yesterday.

Differences between member-countries were at last resolved in a package deal of balanced concessions and advantages for a price policy to come into effect on February 1.

The prices were based on an effective devaluation of sterling of nearly 10 per cent as EEC farm policy assumes fixed exchange rates.

As a result of the agreement, cereal prices in Britain will have to rise. Increases in sugar prices are also likely.

## North-west area hit by strikes

# Gas pay action gains momentum

THE UNOFFICIAL strike wave by gasworkers is gathering strength. More workers in the north-west joined the strike yesterday.

The stoppage, which began last Friday in south Lancashire, spread to depots in mid-Cheshire, covering Crewe, Chester, Northwich and Winsford.

Pickets from strike areas also went to Preston to try to persuade colleagues there to join in.

Other work disruptions occurred in Liverpool and Blackburn where North Sea gas conversions have been slowed down. Most of the North Western

Gas Board area is affected by some form of industrial action or other.

Workers in the Southern Gas Board service depot in Reading, Berks, began a week of 'non-co-operation', affecting Wokingham, Wallingford, Henley and Basingstoke.

The action will mean a delay in service work, but no loss in gas pressure, said a gas board spokesman.

Fitters were on strike at Wakefield, Castleford, Pontefract,

Dewsbury and Batley, Yorks, said the North Eastern region.

Fitters were working to rule at Leeds, where half the men on the distribution side walked out.

Engineers at Hull were banning overtime and with fitters were working to rule.

In Nottingham 400 workers have staged their second one-day strike in a week while men at Mansfield and Newark have decided to ban overtime. Only emergency calls were answered in

Nottingham where pickets turned away a lorry loaded with spare parts from East Midlands Gas Board headquarters.

Shop stewards representing 3,000 gas industry manual workers in Northumberland, Durham and Cumberland meet in Newcastle tonight to discuss their ban on overtime and policy of non-co-operation.

The sanctions were imposed last week in protest against the pay increase offered by the Gas Corporation.



## Lively Merthyr pageant cabaret audience

A LIVELY and attentive audience packed into the Pentrebach Labour and Social Club, Merthyr Tydfil, on Tuesday night for the opening of the pageant campaign, 'The Road to Workers' Power.

Following the cabaret, Roy Battersby, who is directing the South Wales campaign, explained to the audience what the pageant was all about.

The basic democratic rights of the working class are being taken away by a crisis-ridden government, he said. The defence of these rights was facing the whole labour and trade union movement.

He explained that these actors and actresses participating in the cabaret were not part of an artistic 'showcase'—they were

revolutionary fighters in the workers' movement.

He then invited local people to come forward and help prepare for the pageant to be staged at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Sunday, March 11 (see left).

In the discussion that followed a number of people expressed their full support for the anti-Tory campaign.

At Wembley the South Wales contribution will be centred on the legal attack on the trade unions launched by the Tories at the turn of the century. This culminated in the Taff Vale judgement on the rail unions.

It was this court ruling, which imposed massive fines on the unions, that paved the way for the trade unions to build the Labour Party. Tonight on the Langley Estate, Middleton, near Manchester, the cabaret will stage a repeat performance.

FOOTNOTE: The arrival of the campaigners in Merthyr Tydfil was heralded by rumours and counter-rumours.

There was talk that Plaid Cymru, the Welsh nationalists' party, intended 'breaking up' the cabaret. In the event none of these dire predictions came true.

Police in the audience seemed perturbed that the club had one of its quietest and most serious evenings for years.

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.

## Legal move will hit rents fight

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

RENT REBEL councillors were in London yesterday taking legal advice over their decision to appeal against a fine of £6,985 for not putting up local council house rents.

Chairman of the council, Charles Bunting, said the move to appeal in the High Court against the order, imposed for persistent defiance of the Tory Housing Finance Act, did not mean the political campaign in the small Derbyshire mining community would be toned down.

'We have had tremendous support from the community over the last few days,' he said.

The decision to continue the so far fruitless legal battle was taken after a delegation of two councillors and local MP Tom Swain visited the Labour Party headquarters for advice on Tuesday.

A Labour Party spokesman said yesterday that the battle was now in the 'legal arena' and that the councillors now had a split policy of maintaining the political fight in the local community while appealing in the High Court.

After attending a meeting of the Clay Cross Labour group, Mr Swain said:

'The decision was unanimous. I don't care how long it takes, as long as we win. Obviously there is no precedent in the courts for this type of case and we have no idea how long it will take.'

The decision to continue the legal battle contains great dangers for the Clay Cross councillors and tenants.

The Labour Party leadership, which has given no support whatsoever to councils who have fought for party policy and defied the Act, clearly would like to get a political struggle at Clay Cross off the agenda.

Rent battle after rent battle has proven that the only means of opposing the Tory Act is to mobilize the working class of the area behind councillors, who take a stand.

Now Transport House wants to divert the struggle into the courts in the hope that the remaining resistance to the Act will evaporate.

Apart from Clay Cross, the only remaining centre of resistance is Conisborough, Yorkshire. In Scotland seven of the original 20 councils that defied the rent rises, are standing firm.

## CPers back King

SUPPORT for the monarchy was professed by Charalambos Dracopoulos, secretary-general of the Greek Communist Party's 'Bureau of the Interior', which broke from Moscow in 1968, when he appeared in an Athens court yesterday.

Dracopoulos, on trial for the third day with 16 others accused of plotting to overthrow the Greek regime by force, said that although the party was theoretically opposed to a crowned monarchy, it believed:

'The King must return to Greece, form a government of national unity and lead the country back to normal democratic rule.'

IN AN Ankara trial the prosecutor claimed 187 alleged members of the Turkish Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Party aimed to overthrow the social and economic order and had set up cells specializing in sabotage. He demanded sentences for the accused of up to 15 years' imprisonment.

Communists did not want to overthrow the social order, he added. 'This would have been a tactical error at this stage in the country's political history.'

Defence witness Elias Eliou, former spokesman of the banned EDA Party, also said that the Greek CP aimed at coming to power by peaceful means, not by violence.

Among the accused is the veteran leader Demetrios Partalides, founder of the breakaway party, who also stands for what he called adjustment to Greek realities.



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