

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1973 ● No. 998 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

CAPITALISM HITS THE DUST AS NIXON PUTS THE

BOOT IN

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

LESS THAN 24 hours after the 10-per-cent devaluation of the dollar, President Nixon has dropped a second bombshell on the stunned financial capitals of the world.

The latest attack involves tariff barriers which will choke off the flow of foreign goods into the American market. Meanwhile US industry—riding high on the competitive advantage of devaluation—will go all out to cripple its rivals abroad.

The background to devaluation is the \$70,000m held by speculators, banks and firms in Europe which have a fictitious value since the US refuses to redeem them in gold. These have totally disrupted the international monetary system and now Nixon is turning to trade and rushing the tariff Bill through Congress.

These latest moves are the most serious yet of the crisis which began when the capitalist rulers in the US encouraged a massive wave of speculation against the German mark and the Japanese yen.

Tariffs mean America is snatching the rug from beneath Japanese and European capitalism—turning to destroy the very creatures it created after the end of World War II.

Recession

For Europe especially it will mean massive recession, the physical destruction of capital and millions and millions of unemployed.

Concorde will be a backstreet closure compared to the crashes ahead.

Ever since 1914 the capitalist system has been gripped by contradictions that could only be solved by slump or world war.

Now its corpse—bloated by the post-war inflation—has burst. And the system is turning to dust beneath the horrified gaze of the European industrialists and speculators.

Now is the time for a political roll call.

It was only the Trotskyist movement through the International Committee and the Socialist Labour League that warned and warned again that the crisis was central to the political situation.

The Stalinists in the Communist Party and the revisionists who deserted the Trotskyist movement said we were wrong.

They still have a cringing faith in the economic survival of capitalism.

But today even the dimmest bourgeois commentator is sounding the alarm and admitting that order from the monetary chaos seems impossible.

These views on the crisis had a crucial effect on the working-class struggle against the Tory government.

Serious

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They said this was premature, that the Trotskyists 'over-estimated the seriousness of the situation'.

So instead of political mobilization they suggested

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AUEW taken to court

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BARCLAYS BANK yesterday joined the move to dearer overdrafts, raising its base rate from 8½ to 9½ per cent. This is in line with the record levels announced by National Westminster and Lloyds and means that customers face another increase on their overdraft charges.

The Midland Bank has not yet made an announcement, but the general rise in money rates is expected to force it to increase its basic rate.

Barclays deposit rate is also increased by 1 per cent to 7½ per cent. Barclay loans are not affected.

FOREIGN car imports have forced British-Leyland to cut back its sales target from 40 to 35 per cent of the market. Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' figures show British-Leyland has borne the brunt of the onslaught by overseas car-makers who have doubled their market share over the past three years.

VITAL READING Today's centre pages

If you want to understand today's economic crisis read

Karl Marx on Money and the Falling Rate of Profit

An article by Peter Jeffries



'Left' union leaders on their way to an ultimatum from Heath yesterday . . . (l to r) Hugh Scanlon, Jack Jones, Harry Urwin and Terry Parry.

Blunt reception for TUC at Downing Street

BY ROYSTON BULL OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PREMIER Edward Heath yesterday told the TUC General Council at 10 Downing Street that there was not the slightest chance of the government 'giving in' to wage demands.

In a blunt and unprecedented meeting he warned the trade union leaders of the seriousness of the economic crisis.

The TUC trooped into Downing Street shortly after 2.30 p.m., having considered an invitation from Heath at the morning session of the General Council.

Only two members of the council refused to take up Heath's invitation to another round of intimidatory warnings. They were Alan Sapper of the film and television technicians' union and George Doughty, the draughtsmen's leader.

The Council, as expected, voted to call a special congress of the full TUC on Monday, March 5. The resolution for a special Congress was carried 17 votes to three. The meeting also approved a policy document which

calls for 'general support' for any unions forced into struggle against the state pay laws.

As the union leaders were being carpeted by Heath, the stock market continued to slide. At 3 p.m. yesterday the 'Financial Times' index had slipped 2.6 points to 446.6, gold had risen to an all-time record of \$72.30 an ounce and the pound rose to \$2.4675, a rise of 8 cents since last Friday's closing price.

A Cabinet meeting yesterday examined the financial situation and plans were discussed for the introduction of a state of emergency over the gas dispute.

David Basnett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, sought no concrete backing for his gasworker members from the TUC yesterday. 'I did not ask the General Council to do anything but express their support at this time,' he said afterwards.

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WHAT WE THINK

THE MAN
FROM
SECURICOR

ROBERT CARR is the Tory government's 'man from Securicor', the largest private army in Britain. When he joined the Tory Cabinet in June 1970 he was obliged by tradition to drop his directorship on the board of this company.

But from being a private policeman, Carr became a public one. He was made Employment Secretary and his first duty was the introduction of the Industrial Relations Act. This legally stripped from the trade unions the right to strike, to picket, to black and to organize.

WHEN dockers defied the Act they were jailed.

WHEN railwaymen imposed a work to rule, they were taken to court and the government forced a court-controlled ballot over their wage claim.

He has started to lay down the law in no uncertain fashion about the way the police will smash pickets. With Carr in charge there will be no more Saltley coke depots—the retreat of the police before the overwhelming strength of miners and engineers in Birmingham during the miners' strike.

On the eve of the gasworkers' selective strike action, Carr has sent a confidential memorandum to Britain's chief constables giving them their battle orders.

Speaking to Dulwich Tories on Tuesday night he announced what he intends to do:

'Pickets have no right to insist on stopping vehicles. Picketing which involves violence, intimidation or threats is not protected and those responsible are liable for prosecution. Sheer numbers can themselves amount to intimidation and the courts have held that if the police reasonably anticipate that there is a real possibility of breaching the peace or an obstruction of the highway, they may limit the number of pickets.

'It should also be remembered that it is not only the criminal law which operates in this field and, dependent on the nature of the acts committed, it may be possible for someone who has suffered damage because of picketing in pursuit of an unfair industrial practice to obtain redress in the National Industrial Relations Court, or in the ordinary civil courts if the picketing involves other civil wrongs.'

In less diplomatic language, Mr Russell Fairgrieve, vice-chairman of the Tory Party in Scotland, told a meeting yesterday that the government's duty was to resist 'the militant trade union leaders, unofficial strike-calling shop stewards, illegal pickets and communist dockers'.

Since the miners' strike last year the Tories have been secretly preparing the special forces required to tell pickets to 'shove off'—Mr Fairgrieve's words. A 'heavy mob' based on the CRS unit in France has been trained on an inter-constabulary basis.

This crew of specially-armed 'riot police' will travel around picketed sites provoking incidents and smashing picket lines. Carr says that these uniformed thugs are carrying out 'the wishes of the nation'.

It is to protect 'the old, the infirm and the disabled who will be the people most at risk if this sort of industrial action [the gas strike] goes forward'.

The barefaced hypocrisy of this statement is breathtaking. This gang of speculators, asset-strippers and money-lenders who make up the Tory government have never given a fig for the frail and the sick.

Can we draw Carr's attention to the case of Mrs Mary McCoy? On Christmas Eve she was found dead in her home at Halewood, near Liverpool. There was no food in the house. A coroner decided she had choked to death eating cardboard!

On Tuesday this week a Labour MP produced figures to show that 20 per cent of 600 school children recently tested were found to have symptoms of rickets.

Workers who are now thrust into wages struggles are fighting for the right to a decent standard of living. They are refusing to go back to the malnutrition and poverty of the 1930s and beyond. The Tories are saying that workers, housewives and youth who fight for these elementary necessities of life are 'lawbreakers'. They want to make them into criminals.

But it is the Tory government that is 'mugging' women shoppers on the high streets every day as prices continue to skyrocket; workers face prosecution in the criminal courts simply for taking industrial action in support of wage claims; unemployed youth are sent to prison and detention centres for the 'crime' of hanging around the housing estates with nothing to do.

The Socialist Labour League and its daily paper Workers Press have consistently fought for the central task facing the working class in Britain—the removal of the Tory government from office. This task cannot be avoided a minute longer.

Inseparable from this programme of action is the campaign to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party to lead the working class to power.

Spanish students in clashes

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS and riot police clashed violently during three illegal demonstrations in Barcelona, Spain, on Tuesday. Some 1,500 youth protested against a police jeep running down and seriously injuring a young girl.

In one of the demonstrations a young law student sustained a fractured skull and two others were taken to hospital with lesser injuries after they had been clubbed by riot police.

The university later closed two more faculties, bringing the total closed to five.

Authorities blamed 'mounting tension' on the campus.

At least 12 people were detained during Tuesday's demonstrations. Police also arrested 17 architectural students for allegedly plotting disturbances when their school reopens.

The students were found in possession of a number of leaflets from the outlawed Communist Party and other illegal pamphlets, police said.

The Zagreb newspaper 'Vecernji List' reports that Aleksandr Ishkove, the Soviet Minister of Fisheries,

may possibly meet Spanish Foreign Minister Lopez Bravo in Madrid at the weekend.

Lopez is described as 'the initiator and insistent architect of new relations with Moscow and the other east European countries'.

Yesterday Reuter reported the arrival in Madrid of a four-man Soviet delegation to hold official talks which would give Moscow rights to charter flights to and from the Spanish Canary Islands.

The flights would provide

cheap transport for Russian fishermen who use the Islands as their base.

Spain and the Soviet Union signed a commercial treaty last September—the first major agreement between Moscow and Madrid since the fascist regime came to power in 1939.

OVER 2,000 miners are on strike in the Asturias in ten pits belonging to the nationalized HUNOSA.

They are protesting against a regular discount which is being taken from their wage-packet and non-payment for a one-day stoppage over a serious accident in the Lliascaras pit.

Around the world

Telephone tapping and letter opening in Bill
Swedish swipe at
democratic rights

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE DEMOCRATIC pretensions of Sweden—hailed for years as a paradise by the social-democrats and fabians—are growing increasingly threadbare.

The Swedish capitalists are by no means immune from the general crisis of their system which is driving every ruling class onto a collision course with its own workers.

Democratic rights are now under fire from Secretary of State Carl Lidbom and his special 'anti-terrorism' commission set up following the hijacking of a Swedish plane by Ustachi fascist émigrés from Yugoslavia. It reported two months ago and framed a Bill for presentation to parliament.

The Bill's full title is the 'Law concerning special measures to prevent certain violent actions with an international background'.

The report defines as 'international terrorism' any violent actions hitting against non-concerned countries or citizens of such countries.

It particularly singles out the left-wing guerrilla and national liberation movements of Uruguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala, Turkey, Greece and Palestine.

It makes clear that these movements are regarded as criminal and time and again stresses the 'insidious and conspiratorial' nature of these 'extremist groups'.

Though it claims to guarantee the right of foreign citizens to 'devote themselves to such political activities as are consistent with our democratic social system', the Bill puts an extremely wide interpretation on the term 'terrorist'.

It will enable the government to deport any foreigner on suspicion of terrorist involvement, and to prevent any such 'suspect' entering Sweden.

The police will be given powers to open mail and to tap foreigners' telephones.

They will also be able to raid homes and search any foreigner they suspect of 'terrorism'.

It will now be possible to direct foreigners to live in specified places under police surveillance.

Police will also compile a register of data in co-operation with other countries' police organizations of individuals, groups and organizations which have been stamped as 'terrorists' or 'presumptive terrorists'.

The law is so vaguely phrased that it will also give the police extremely wide powers over Swedish organizations.

For example, the police will be able to tap virtually any telephone, provided that it is occasionally used, or can be assumed to be used, by a 'suspect' foreigner.

Call-up threat to
Greek students

STUDENT opponents of the Greek colonels' dictatorship can be forcibly drafted into the army under a new decree issued this week. The decree is designed to intimidate students involved in the recent strikes and demonstrations against the regime.

Students at Athens Polytechnic University, for example, have been boycotting their classes for more than two weeks demanding the abolition of repressive legislation.

They are also calling for the withdrawal of police agents from the campuses and for active student participation in educational policy-making.

Minister of Education Nikolaos Gadenas, a former colonel, said the government was determined to put an

end to the effort by 'a minority of "student-mongers" instigated by outsiders to create the artificial impression that Greek students are in a state of turmoil'.

Under the new decree, any student who steps out of line can have his military deferment withdrawn immediately by the Ministry of Defence. This action can be taken simply for not attending classes.

ON TUESDAY the colonels announced agreement with China establishing a regular air service.

Crude nationalism from
'loyal manager' Marchais

GEORGES MARCHAIS, French Communist Party secretary, looked forward to the return of his party to the government after 25 years when he spoke to an electoral meeting at Villejuif on Tuesday.

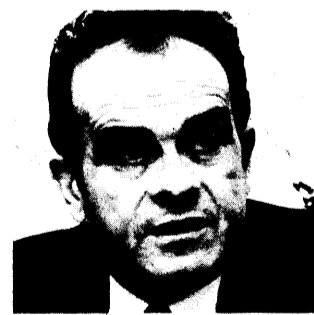
He was referring to the period 1944-1947 when the Stalinists supported General de Gaulle and played a vital part in restoring French capitalism at the end of the war.

It disarmed the partisans and proclaimed the slogans 'one police, one army, one state', 'production first' and 'the strike is the weapon of the trusts'.

Now Marchais attacks President Pompidou because, for all the guarantees of good behaviour the CP has offered, he has no intention of allowing it back into the government.

Marchais claimed that the President was exercising 'an inadmissible pressure' on the electorate and challenging the right of French people to choose their own deputies.

The CP would stand firmly on the side of legality,



Marchais

appealing to the Bonapartist constitution of 1958.

Answering a question from a Radio Luxembourg journalist on the alleged differences between the CP and its Socialist allies on the Common Market, Marchais said:

'We agree on the fact that inside the Common Market the interests of the workers must be defended, it must be democratized, and in any case it cannot prevent us from carrying out the Common Programme which we have agreed upon.

'We are against any policy which would destroy our national independence. France must remain master of its destiny.'

Marchais appeals to the

crudest nationalism in true Gaullist style. He also expressed strong support for the European Security Conference, which is the main target of Soviet diplomacy.

Marchais emphasized the 'responsibility' of the CP by rejecting the idea of 'workers' control' which, 'as put forward by certain people would lead to anarchy. We don't want that'.

Instead he proposed greater representation for trade unions and members of workers' committees in the management of nationalized enterprises.

He is going all out to present a respectable image to the middle class and offers his services, to use the phrase of Leon Blum, the Socialist Prime Minister of the 1936 Popular Front government, as a 'loyal manager' of capitalism.

While Pompidou and the ruling class will be ready to turn to Marchais to hold back the working class, they are sparing no effort to prevent an electoral victory for the Common Programme coalition.

Pompidou has made it clear that he will not call upon it to form a government in such an event.

SHOTTON fights for 6,500 jobs Steelmen to work-in

SHOTTON STEELWORKERS may stage a work-in as a last-ditch bid to halt the closure of their works with the loss of 6,500 jobs. Action committee secretary Mr Ken Monti, announcing the decision yesterday, said that the alternative to steel-making at Shotton was mass unemployment.

Shotton action committee is inviting steelworkers and trade union officials from doomed plants in England, Scotland and Wales to a national conference next month.

They want to plan their answer to the British Steel Corporation's rationalization scheme.

Whether the Shotton work-in will actually come off is still problematical. Mr Monti revealed that the works has only eight weeks' supply of iron ore and 48 hours' supply of oil.

'If we can get round this we are prepared to work-in,' he said.

Flintshire's chief executive Mr Haydn Rees said yesterday that the loss of steel-making at Shotton would be a body blow to the area.

Apart from the 6,500 steelmen sacked, the jobs of 700 miners would be in jeopardy, up to 200 Birkenhead dockers, 1,750 contractors and shopkeepers would be ruined if the £500,000 a week wage bill at Shotton suddenly ceased.

He claimed unemployment would go up from 4.5 per cent to 20 per cent in Shotton, from 3.3 to 5.5 per cent in Chester and from 6.2 to 8 per cent in Wrexham.

Redundancy payments are now expected to be between £4,000 and £5,000 per man, but, said action committee chairman Mr Luke McLoughlin:

Prices forced up

THE PRICES of British steel products are from 2 to 43 per cent lower than their west European counterparts, it was revealed yesterday.

British steel producers are under heavy pressure from the European Coal and Steel Commission to raise prices.

European makers fear that as tariffs come down following Britain's entry into the EEC, they will be undercut in world markets.

Mr Jack Frye, chairman of the now independent British Iron and Steel Consumers' Council, said that when Phase One of the

Tory pay plan ends on May 1, steel prices could go up by 6 to 8 per cent.

This would add £65m to £85m to industry's annual costs and the prices of many steel products can be expected to rise.

Meanwhile skyrocketing scrap prices are likely to put further upward pressure on the British Steel Corporation's costs.

Steel scrap prices in America have reached the highest level for 16 years.

Japan imports 31 per cent of US scrap and the recent vast expansion of her output has been a major factor in pushing prices up.

A MEETING of TUC steel union delegates will be held in Sheffield on March 7 to discuss action against proposals for huge labour cut-backs recently announced by the British Steel Corporation.

Opposition to BSC's rationalization plans, which involve cutting down from 229,000 to 180,000 jobs over the next ten years,

'We must not sell our children's rights to jobs for a mess of pottage.'

Women's action committee secretary Mrs Rosa Rosedale said:

'Jarrow was the town that was murdered in the 1930s. Shotton is the town about to be murdered.

was expressed at a special TUC conference on Tuesday.

Altogether 60 representatives took part from TUC regional advisory committees in England and Wales and the Scottish TUC.

Decisions on possible action over the proposed closures will be deferred until after the March 7 meeting.

'They might just as well drop an atom bomb on the place and get rid of everyone.'

'Nowadays if men go on strike they are acting against the law. If the government puts 13,000 men [Shotton's total workforce] onto the dole, to what law do they answer?'



Shotton steelworkers on a London demonstration.

Anti-state pay law meeting

FORD SHOP stewards at Dagenham, Essex, have called for all-out strike action from March 1 in support of their big pay-and-hours claim.

And the stewards have issued a call to other sections of workers clashing with the Tories' pay-control laws to attend a national meeting at the weekend.

A stop-work mass meeting at Dagenham on Monday demanded a national stoppage if there was no improvement in the offer.

The Dagenham stewards' meeting, which took place on Tuesday night, also passed a resolution urging the recall of the TUC to co-ordinate the struggle to defeat Phase Two.

Sections of workers to be invited to next Sunday's national meeting, which will be held in Coventry, include Vauxhall, Chrysler and British-Leyland carworkers, as well as gasworkers, teachers, civil servants and others fighting the pay laws.

Rickets returns to the classrooms

BACK TO the 1930s in terms of schoolchildren's health. This is the only conclusion that can be drawn from Tuesday's House of Commons statement that the poverty disease, rickets, is increasing among schoolchildren.

Mr Laurie Pavitt (Labour Willesden West) claimed that there are about 100,000 cases of biochemical rickets in the country.

'Something like 20 per cent of 600 schoolchildren recently tested were found to have symptoms of rickets,' he said.

He was calling for a return of free school milk 'in the light of new evidence of an increase in rickets'.

Pavitt's report is not far different from details pub-

lished by Sir John (now Lord) Boyd Orr in 1936.

He reported then that 4.5 million people—10 per cent of the population, including 20 per cent of schoolchildren — had an insufficient diet.

Needless to say, Tuesday's debate ended with a refusal by Tory Education Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, to reintroduce free milk in schools for children over seven.

Thatcher said that recent reports on the increase in the incidence of rickets 'are being considered by a panel of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy and it is too early to say what action may be needed'.

Rickets only existed

among immigrant children, she suggested.

Tory MP for Brierly Hill, Mr Fergus Montgomery, quoted the opinion of some medical expert, allegedly from Birmingham General Hospital, who had come to the comforting conclusion that rickets would 'always be with us'.

Mrs Thatcher agreed greater supplies of Vitamin D would remedy rickets, but added that milk was not a rich source of the vitamin.

Yet the main reason for introducing free milk in schools after World War II was precisely to combat disease among children.

Fergus Montgomery's remedy is 'dollops of cod liver oil'!

IN THE centre of Covent Garden, the London contingent of the Pageant have found rehearsal space.

It is a large warehouse donated to us for the duration of the rehearsals.

We've got a bookstall set up and large blow-ups of photographs of previous productions—'200 Years of Labour History', presented at Alexandra Palace in 1971, and 'The English Revolution' that was performed throughout the the national Right-to-Work marches last year.

People who drop by can see our sketches of the early TUC leaders, Applegarth, Allen and Odger, cavorting around to the strains of 'Buy them off, buy them off, buy them off,' as sung by Queen Victoria and her consort.

Or there are long, serious discussions among the participants about Marx's role and policies in founding the First International in 1864.

Indeed, the first meeting place of the International was not a few hundred yards away in St. Martin's Hall.

Tom Kempinski has written the script which recreates Marx's struggle for the legal eight-hour day in collaboration with his life-long comrade, Engels.

The cast of the London episode of the Pageant will be predominantly professional actors and actresses.

Many of them have come into the Pageant work from the fight in their union, Equity, against the right-wing leadership and its policies of registration under the Industrial Rela-

PAGEANT DIARY

The Road to Workers Power

BOOK YOUR TICKET FOR EMPIRE POOL NOW

Union fight reflected in London production for the Pageant



tions Act, acceptance of wage-cutting and the flat rejection of the mass membership's recent decision for strike action. By coming forward to work in the living struggle of the working class, these actors are serving notice on witch-hunters of Equity. They are saying that a new leadership can and must be built based on the continuation of the revolutionary struggles of Marx.

DEFEND ALL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Defend trade unionism and basic living standards
Unite in action to make this Tory government resign

The road to power is through the building of the revolutionary party

SUNDAY MARCH 11th 3pm

PAGEANT • RALLY • CONCERT

I would like to take part in the Pageant/come to Empire Pool. Please send me further details.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

No. of tickets required Amount enclosed (£1 each £.....)

Complete form and return to:
Pageant Office, 34 Hamilton Gardens, London, NW8

'LAW-ABIDING' UNION BLOCKED BY POLICE

The National Union of Bank Employees has again written to the City of London police complaining about the treatment of its organizers.

Last month union officials distributing NUBE news-sheets to City workers were threatened with arrest if they did not desist.

Although the Metropolitan Police Act of 1867 allows the Commissioner of Police the discretion to give permission to organizations for leaflet distribution, the union has been told that as a matter of policy this permission is never given.

Mr Terry Molloy, NUBE national organizer, thinks that this is an 'Alice in Wonderland' situation, particularly in relation to the union's recruiting efforts with the Bank of England, because although the management there will not grant facilities for recruitment on its premises, it has stated that it has no objection to leaflets being distributed outside the door.

'Legal rights'

Molloy has again written to the Assistant Commissioner of the City of London Police pointing out that the policy was in conflict with the wording of the Metropolitan Streets Act of 1867 and went on to say:

'As you are probably aware, because of the Industrial Relations Act which gives us certain legal rights in the City of London, we must also have the right to circularize prospective members outside an office or bank and, therefore, it is important that we pursue the right that we claim we have to distribute literature in the City of London. I shall be grateful if you will inform me why you do not, as a matter of policy, use the permissive powers of the Metropolitan Streets Act 1967 Section 9.'

It is deeply ironical that NUBE is also complaining about the police harassment because it is in conflict with 'the letter and spirit of the Industrial Relations Act 1971 and the recommended Code of Practice'.

'Law-abiding'

NUBE is one of the handful of unions which decided to remain 'law-abiding' and register under the Act. For this reason the union was suspended from the TUC. Now the leadership finds that despite its prostration before the Tory Act this does not mean that its recruitment campaign will proceed smoothly in the City of London.

On the contrary the big City institutions and the police are collaborating to resurrect ancient statutes to attack the union's right to organize.

The heads of the American and Soviet intelligence agencies are publicly known figures. Their names appear in the Press off and on as they make statements or tours of duty.

Not so their British counterparts. These faceless individuals remain secretive, anonymous servants of the ruling class.

The head of MI6, for instance, is simply known as 'C'. This is despite the fact that every Russian and CIA agent in the world knows who he is.

It came to pass that recently his younger son was charged with possessing imported Chinese heroin. He is to appear on trial at the Old Bailey. The committal proceedings have been conducted in such a way that the charged man's name hasn't been published.

Why can't the newspaper publish the man's name?

Because there is a thing called a 'D-notice'. The 'D-notice' is an order issued by the Ministry of Defence to Fleet Street editors, the BBC and ITV which tells them what they should publicize and what they should not publicize.

Each editor has a safe in his office in which he has a handsome folder of these documents. Whenever he is given an article which may contain 'security problems', he reaches for his 'D-notice' file and thumbs through.

One of the top notices is an order which states that the names of the heads of MI5 and MI6 or any of its agents should not be used in the Press or broadcast.

Since the 'other side' has a perfectly good list of these names anyway, it might seem that this security arrangement is absurd. And so it is!

The situation is further compounded by the fact that 'D-notices' are only advisory pieces of paper. They are not legally enforceable in any way.

But because the capitalist Press is absolutely servile to the wishes of the ruling class—it is an instrument of it—the rulings of the faceless 'D-notice' committee are never broken.

But last week the West German news magazine, 'Stern', published the name of the defendant in the drugs case. He is—apparently—John Rennie (24). 'Stern' went further. It said that John's father is none other than Sir John Rennie.

Then we had an astonishing

OPEN SECRET



Above: Head of MI6, Sir John Rennie.

situation. Because the millions of West German readers could hear who the head of MI6 was, the British Press finally broke its code of silence.

In an editorial, the 'Daily Mail' said: 'For the first time in a British newspaper, you can this morning read the name of the present head of MI6—Sir John Rennie.'

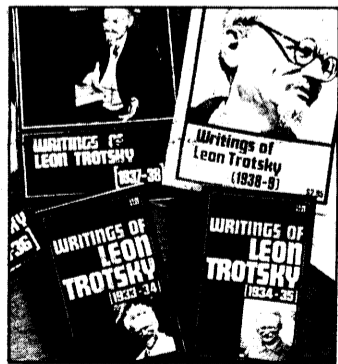
And once the 'Mail' and the 'Daily Express' had overcome their pathological secrecy,

everybody else had a go.

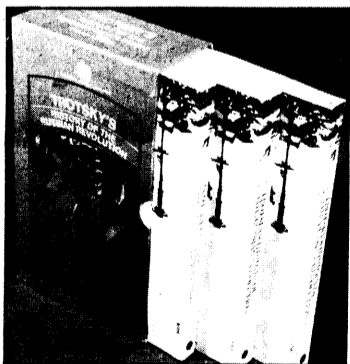
So it's out—Rennie is 'C'. Will the country survive this horrific breach of 'national security'?

● The late Allen Dulles, head of the American CIA, was always bemused by the British insistence on anonymity for its security chief. He once said that every London taxi driver knew his name and address.

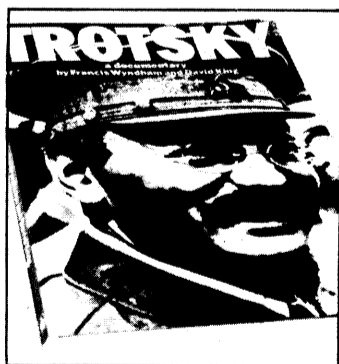
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'A VERY DISQUIETING AFFAIR'

Details have begun to emerge about the purchase and sale of the 23-acre Central Station site in Manchester.

When the transaction was first announced last year the details appeared to be 'hush-hush'. But with the passage of time, some intriguing information is beginning to surface.

First of all, the purchaser of the site was an Irish property developer, Mr Patrick McCrea of Navan, Co Meath.

He bought the land from British Rail last year 'for more than £2m' through his company, Arkle Holdings.

Last month English and Continental, a London-based development group, picked up the freehold for 'more than £3m'.

It would seem, therefore, that in the space of a few months the fortunate Mr

McCrea made £1m for himself.

Not so, says the indignant McCrea. 'It is absolute rubbish to say that I have made £1m from the deal. All these suggestions and allegations are rubbish. I bought the site with the intention of developing it and had discussions with Manchester Corporation over the development.'

'My architects spent six months working on plans for the site and I spent a great deal of money on the plans.'

McCrea's soothing explanations have not satisfied Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Wythenshawe.

He is to ask Mr Geoffrey Rippon, the Tory Environment Secretary, to conduct an inquiry into the deal which Morris describes as 'a very disquieting affair'.

Last word to McCrea: 'I don't understand why there should be an inquiry into the matter at all. It was a straightforward business deal.'



Far left: Léon Guyénot the public prosecutor who called for death sentences. (Photo taken in 1972 in Paris, where he now lives.) Left: The three victims; Trzebrucki, Bastard and Bréchet.

member of the staff of the Communist Party daily 'L'Humanité', who received a life sentence after putting up a strong defence. He had committed no specific offence but was on trial for his opinions.*

That meant only three death sentences while the Nazis required six hostages. After a few telephone calls it was confirmed that they would be satisfied with three lives.

The flower of the French judiciary had done a good day's work. Three unknown men had been sacrificed for 'crimes' which they had not committed and which had been invented for the purpose. Eminent French judges and lawyers had flouted their own cherished principles and astonished even the Nazis by their servility.

GUILLOTINED

The three men died bravely, guillotined in the courtyard of the Santé prison. The night before the execution, the militant Brechet wrote a last letter to his wife which contained the passage:

'Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, perhaps this evening I will be no more than a memory.

'You will speak of me sometimes to our dear son. You will tell him that his father died to defend his life, the life of humble people, the workers and toilers, for those who suffer; and also for the beautiful land of France.

'It was Jaurès, I think, who said that the road which leads to victory is bordered with tombs; mine will be added to the others, and if that permits the column to advance, if only for a few yards, my passage on this earth will not have been in vain.

'You will tell him that I died proudly, as a communist, regretting nothing of my life ...'

As for the judges and lawyers who took part in this miserable affair, they lived on to enjoy a peaceful retirement and to draw pensions from the Fourth and Fifth Republics.

Hervé Villère was able to interview some of them, as well as other officials involved, who appeared to believe that there was nothing discreditable about their behaviour. As for the French authorities today, they refuse to lift the 100-year secrecy ban on records connected with judicial proceedings even for the period of the Occupation.

In a letter to Villère denying him access to these records, René Pleven, the Privy Seal, made the point: 'In this domain the greatest circumspection must be preserved.

'It is a case of avoiding as much as possible anything which may cause prejudice to private interests and reawaken passions in public opinion.'

The French ruling class does not like to be reminded of its period of collaboration with the German occupying forces and of the crimes which it then committed and condoned. When it became obvious that the Germans would be defeated it shifted its allegiance from Marshal Pétain to General de Gaulle and hailed the Anglo-American invaders as 'liberators'.

In both periods they counted on these 'survivors' to protect their property and position from working-class revolution. And while thousands of honest militants like André Brechet went to their deaths under Pétain, the Communist Party joined forces with de Gaulle in 1944-1947 to put the discredited French bourgeoisie back on its feet.

*In December 1941 he was handed over to the Nazis and shot.

EXECUTED FOR A CRIME THEY DID NOT COMMIT

BY TOM KEMP

On August 27, 1941, three men serving short jail sentences in German-occupied Paris were taken from their cells and sentenced to death for a newly-invented crime of 'anarchist and communist activities'.

They were hauled before a special court composed of some of the highest legal dignitaries in the country.

The trial was carried out with the full panoply of French bourgeois justice, but in flagrant contradiction with the principles which it professed. It lasted only eight hours and the next day the three men were guillotined.

The discreditable manoeuvres behind this judicial murder has been brought to light in a book recently published in France, 'L'affaire de la section special' by Hervé Villère.

The affair began when, on the morning of August 21, a German naval officer was shot dead at the entrance to the Barbès metro station by a young communist. He was later made a resistance hero by the French CP under the name of Colonel Fabien.

Marshal Pétain's government immediately expressed its regrets to the Nazi authorities and the same day a Council of Ministers was held to expedite the passage of a law to repress political activity

described as 'anarchist or communist'.

Each appeal court was to have a 'special section' to judge political offences independently of the normal penal code. It was to include a clause which applied the law retrospectively to political prisoners held or sentenced before it came into effect.

PRINCIPLES

This clause was quite without precedent in French bourgeois law and the representative of the judiciary in the Council of Ministers had actually written his thesis against retrospective legislation of this type.

But Pétain's collaborationist government, representing the major part of the French ruling class which had now placed its wager on a Nazi victory in the war, wanted to do everything possible to please the occupying power, even if it flew in the face of its own legal principles.

The Germans demanded six hostages for the Barbès metro shooting. Even they were surprised at the alacrity with which the French government responded. Noting the retrospective character of the new law, a German legal expert described it as 'a revolution in the judicial principles practised in France. The retrospective nature of a penal law makes nonsense of the sacrosanct liberal principle "No penalty without a law"'. He went on to say that

France was on the road to a new kind of state order. Other Germans, not themselves given to scruples, were surprised to learn that the French government was prepared to condemn people who had nothing to do with the killing of the Nazi officer. And they rejected the French proposal that the chosen victims should, after their trial, be publicly executed at the Place de la Concorde.

Two days after the assassination the leading French judges were summoned by the Council of Ministers to approve the principle of retrospective application of the new law against 'anarchist and communist activities', as well as the setting up of 'special sections' alongside the ordinary courts.

It then became possible for anyone to be condemned to death for acts committed before the passage of the law. Five judges were selected to constitute the special court. One or two refused when they knew what its duties would be, but it was not difficult to find others prepared to do the dirty work.

VICTIMS

Then, because legal forms were being preserved—up to a point—prosecuting magistrates had to be found who were ready to demand penalties for crimes which had not existed until the previous day. It was not difficult to find lawyers to play this role.

It only remained to find

victims to go through with this judicial charade. This was not easy because the French police handed over to the Germans all those suspected of serious political offences. But the government's lawyers were insistent: there had to be at least one Jew, the rest should be communists.

A batch of suspects were hauled before the court, which held its proceedings in secret. The first one received ten years' hard labour, the next two 15 years. The third accused was a Polish Jew, already serving a five-year sentence for distributing Jewish aid society literature. He was, in any case an illegal immigrant. By four votes to five the judges pronounced the death sentence.

After a copious lunch the judges resumed their work in the afternoon. The next accused was an electrician, André Brechet, already sentenced for distributing communist leaflets. This time the judges voted the death sentence by three votes to two. Then came Emil Bastard, who had a police record for petty larceny, but was actually serving a sentence of two years for distributing communist leaflets. Short shrift for him—the death sentence was rapidly voted by four to one.

Before their afternoon's work was done, the eminent French judges had sentenced four other prisoners to terms of hard labour. Then came Lucien Sampaix, well-known



KARL MARX ON MONEY AND THE FALLING

BY
PETER JEFFRIES

THE BACKGROUND TO THE CURRENCY CRISIS

The latest round in the monetary crisis—by far the most serious since August 15, 1971—is more than anything a great vindication of the Marxist analysis of capitalism.

Throughout the post-war boom period, all the reformists and revisionists declared that capitalism had changed fundamentally. No longer was it prone to crisis and breakdown, as Marx had said.

This new type of capitalism ('neo-capitalism' for Ernest Mandel and the Pabloites; 'permanent arms economy' for the state-capitalist International Socialists) meant that social revolution and the taking of power by the working class were things of the past. Only 'sectarians' and 'dogmatists' talked about such things.

Revolutionary parties were no longer necessary—'structural reforms' or 'consistent

reformism' was possible through social democracy or Stalinism.

The shallowness and bankrupt nature of this 'new thinking' is now plain for every worker and serious socialist to see.

But along with this touching faith which the revisionists had in 'welfare capitalism' went a profound ignorance of the nature of the capitalist system and particularly its monetary and credit system, a system which now stands at the centre of the crisis.

Each of these new-style Fabians was able to laugh at the analysis which the Socialist Labour League and the Fourth International made at each stage of this unfolding money crisis. For the revisionists, money was merely a 'technical device', a clever way of overcoming the difficulties of barter.

In this, of course, they were only reflecting the complacency which sections of the capitalist class itself displays about money and its role during a period of capitalist expansion.

During such times, the capitalists consider only 'real' commodities as constituting value; money is treated with contempt.

'On the eve of the crisis, the bourgeois, with the self-sufficiency that springs from intoxicating prosperity, declares money to be a vain imagination. Commodities alone are money. But now the cry is everywhere, money alone is a commodity! As the heart pants after water, so pants his soul after money.' ('Capital' Vol 1, p. 138).

WHAT IS MONEY?

This then is our first question: what is money and what is its relationship to the capitalist system? It is in 'Capital', particularly the opening three chapters of Volume 1, that Marx provides an answer to this now vital question.

He shows that money arises out of the contradictions within commodity production. A commodity has two 'sides' or 'aspects'. On the one hand it is an object of wealth which meets a certain definite need. Thus a coat enables its wearer to keep warm and dry. Marx refers to this quality of the commodity as a **use value**.

As such a use value it is the product of labour of a particular type, in this example, the work of the tailor. Marx refers to this as **concrete labour**.

But at the same time, a commodity is also a value, that is, it has a relationship in exchange which is independent of its particular use. If we say 10lb of tea equals one coat, we are not comparing their particular uses. The one is for drinking and the other for wearing.

No, we are comparing their **values**—the fact they exchange against each other means that they are the products of equal quantities of socially necessary labour time. The fact that, under normal conditions, one coat and 10lb of tea take,

let us assume, five hours of labour-time to produce, means that they have the same value.

Now when we compare the labour of the tea producer and the coat maker in this way, we are not comparing the concrete, particular, labour concerned, but the **abstract labour** involved.

Marx shows that the development of commodity production necessitates the emergence of one commodity against which all other commodities are measured. This commodity Marx calls the money commodity, or simply money.

What is the role of money?

Its function is to become the embodiment of value, the measure of abstract labour-time. Without such a commodity, the regular exchange of commodities would be impossible, because there would be no mechanism whereby the private labour of individuals, which produces use values having an infinite number of qualities, can be compared with the labour of all other individuals.

It is through money that the social nature of labour asserts itself and makes everyone, capitalist or worker, conform to its objective laws.

How Marx would have laughed at the hopeless confusion of the revisionists whose utterly false 'theory' of money would lead one to think that the chaos now gripping every financial centre can be eliminated if only all the bankers of the world would get round a table and devise a new means of international payment.

As against these muddle-heads, Marx shows that the

development of a commodity which stands against all other commodities, yet united with them (in that it is only through this money commodity that the value of any other 'ordinary' commodity can find its expression) is part of the emergence of capitalism.

'Money is a crystal formed of necessity, in the course of exchange, whereby different products of labour are practically equated with one another and thus by practice converted into commodities. Thus historical and progressive extension of exchange develops the contrast latent in commodities, between the use value and the value. The necessity of giving external expression to this contrast for the purpose of commercial intercourse, urges the establishment of an independent form of value, and finds no rest until it is once and for all satisfied by the differentiation of commodities into commodities and money.' ('Capital' Vol. 1, p. 87.)

Gold eventually came to play the role as the major money commodity within the capitalist system. This it did because of its physical qualities. In the first place a small quantity of gold contains a considerable value, because it takes a large number of hours of labour-time to prospect for, mine, refine and shape. Second, it is highly durable, does not easily wear out or rust. Third it is easily divisible into bars, coins, etc. all of a uniform quality.

Particularly since the last war however, gold has been

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KARL MARX ON MONEY AND THE FALLING RATE OF PROFIT



Far left: Karl Marx. Left: the 1944 Bretton Woods agreement, Henry Morgenthau and J. M. Keynes.

ance and stock speculation.'

It is here that the 'asset-stripper' and 'offshore funds' operator fits into the picture. It is an indication of the depth of the impending crisis that these sectors should have been the first to feel its blast.

It is in a crisis that these contradictions burst with great violence. Now money (gold) once more comes into its own as everybody rushes out of credit and much of the swindling of the boom is revealed for what it is:

'In a system of production, where the entire continuity of the reproduction process rests upon credit, a crisis must obviously occur—a tremendous rush for means of payment—when credit suddenly ceases and only cash payments have validity. At first glance, therefore, the whole crisis seems to be merely a question of the convertibility of bills of exchange [these are the main forms of credit—PJ] into money . . . At the same time, an enormous quantity of these bills of exchange represents plain swindle, which now reaches the light of day and collapses.' ('Capital' Vol. 3, p. 478.)

Here we can see the seeds of the giant crisis which is now being prepared. The very length of the boom and with it the extension of credit prepares for an equally catastrophic fall.

The more the capitalists have tried to dispense with money and relied on paper money, Euro - dollars, international credits etc., the harder their system must fall.

'The entire credit mechanism is continually occupied in reducing the actual metallic circulation to a relatively more and more decreasing minimum by means of sundry operations, methods and technical devices. The artificiality of the entire machinery and the possibility of disturbing its normal course increase to the same extent.' ('Capital' Vol. 3, p. 500.)

THE FALLING RATE OF PROFIT

But the great expansion of the credit system since 1945 is also revealed through the aggravation of a final and major contradiction for capitalism. This is the tendency for the rate of profit to fall. Marx speaks of this law as the 'most important in political economy.'

In all his investigations into the nature of the capitalist system Marx stresses one vital point. It was a system based upon production for surplus value and profit. The aim of each capitalist was the expansion of his capital. Once more, this did not arise from the greed of the capitalist class.

In the course of capital accumulation there is an inexorable tendency for the organic composition of capital to rise. In his expenditures, each capitalist purchases on the one hand supplies of raw materials, heat, light, power etc; this Marx calls constant capital. On the other hand he also purchases labour power, which Marx calls variable capital. It is called variable capital because it alone can create surplus value.

Now with each change in technique ('technical progress') the ratio of constant capital against variable capital rises. This Marx refers to as the rising organic composition of capital.

The contradiction involved in the process is this: variable capital, the sole source of surplus value and therefore profit, is a declining proportion of total capital. Unless the capi-

talists can continually increase the mass of profits (through the rising productivity of labour which goes with technical improvements in production) the rate of profit will tend to fall.

The aim of production is not use, but profit. A declining rate of profit spells crisis for the capitalist system.

It is here that the role of credit in post-war economy must be understood. For it has been largely through credit that constant capital has been extended and built up.

The rate of profit tends to fall in a crisis because too much capital has been created in comparison with the available surplus value. The rate of profit is determined by the ratio of constant capital plus variable capital compared with surplus value (s/c plus v.)

It is because c has been 'overexpanded' that a crisis of profitability is created. The crisis is not one of the overproduction of goods, as the Keynesians and revisionists imagine, but an over-expansion of capital. 'The ultimate barrier to the expansion of capital is capital itself' writes Marx.

How is this crisis tackled by the capitalists? Through a savage competitive struggle in which each tries desperately to ensure that it is not his capital which is deemed to be 'excess'.

'So long as things last well, competition effects an operating fraternity of the capitalist class. . . But as soon as it is no longer a question of sharing profits, but of sharing losses, everyone tries to reduce his own share to a minimum and shove it off onto another.' ('Capital' Vol. 3, p. 248.)

The present vicious struggle is principally one of the large capitalists against their weaker brethren. Here, once more, we can see the Europe-American conflict as the major element in the world crisis.

The Americans are determined that the vast quantities of excess capital, built up via credit and a lot of it now representing no value, shall not be wiped out to their cost. They are determined that it is the capital of the weaker Europeans and Japanese that must be driven out with the huge unemployment, bankruptcies and chaos that this would produce.

'Compensation of a fall in the rate of profit by a rise in the mass of profit applies only to the total social capital and to the big firms placed. The new additional capital, operating independently, does not enjoy any such compensating conditions. It must still win them, and so it is that a fall in the rate of profit calls forth a competitive struggle amongst the capitalist, not vice versa.' ('Capital' Vol. 3, p. 251.)

In other words, the capitalist crisis is now a twin one which combines an unprecedented credit-inflation crisis with a tendency for the rate of profit to decline, a tendency which is no longer 'latent', as it has been for much of the boom, but one which operates openly on the surface of society.

'The chain of payments and obligations, due at specific dates is broken in a hundred places. The confusion is augmented by the attendant collapse of the credit system, which develops simultaneously with capital, and leads to violent and acute crises, to sudden and forcible depreciations, to actual stagnation and disruption of the process of reproduction, and thus to a real falling off in production.' ('Capital' Vol. 3, p. 249.)

Here was Marx speaking over 100 years ago! It is now up to the revolutionary movement to match his prophetic words in deeds and go forward and build a powerful revolutionary party in the working class which alone can lead the way to socialism and elimination of capitalist anarchy and crisis.

FALLING RATE OF PROFIT

augmented by the dollar as the main means of international payment and debt settlement. Indeed, the 1944 Bretton Woods arrangements were designed to lift the dollar to the rank of gold. The Americans guaranteed to exchange all dollar holdings into gold at a fixed rate, \$35 to an ounce of gold. They were able to do this only because, in the immediate post-war period, they monopolized the world's store of mined gold.

But although the Americans aimed to make the dollar the equal of gold, they could never succeed. For whereas gold embodies considerable value, paper money is almost valueless: its production can be increased merely by speeding up the printing press.

In other words, the dollar's role as leading currency could only be established within definite limits, determined by the quantity of gold within the capitalist system.

'Paper money is a token representing gold or money . . . Only in so far as paper money represents gold, which like all other commodities has value, is it a symbol of value.' ('Capital' Vol. 1, p. 128.)

In an attempt to keep the capitalist system going, and through their fear of the working class's strength, the Americans after the war were forced to churn out more and more dollars and pump them into Europe. This meant that from around the end of the 1950s onwards a considerable quantity of paper money within the capitalist system ceased to 'represent gold'. It was paper money, with no gold backing,

with no basis in value.

All the crises and the measures which the capitalist class have been forced to adopt—Special Drawing Rights, two-tier systems, etc.—have been attempts to stave off the consequences of this fact.

The decisive turning point came, of course, on August 15, 1971, when the US Administration finally broke the dollar-gold link which had sustained the 1944 Bretton Woods arrangements.

From now onwards, any increase in production or capital accumulation could only make the crisis that much worse in that it was accumulation in a situation where the basis for international value and payments had been forcibly and deliberately removed. Here again the utter confusion of the revisionists who see in every slight 'upturn' in production or 'improvement' in the payments balance hopes of a new boom, however short-lived. On the very contrary, such 'upturns' and 'improvements' can now only aggravate every contradiction which has matured throughout the boom.

THE ROLE OF CREDIT

For the capitalist system the situation we have outlined would have been bad enough. But onto the billions of unbacked dollars, masquerading as money, has been built a huge superstructure of credit.

Once more Marx shows that

this development of credit is no accident, but tied inescapably to the development of the productive forces.

By credit we mean the system whereby commodities exchange not against money (gold, or its equivalent in paper) but against promises to pay in the future.

Here again, however, the limits to the expansion of credit (which the revisionists such as Mandel saw as the means of indefinite capitalist expansion) are strictly limited by the available money supply.

'But it should always be borne in mind that, in the first place, money—in the form of precious metal—remains the foundation from which the credit system, by its very nature, can never detach itself.' ('Capital' Vol. 3, p. 592.)

Apart from being tied to its money (gold) base, the development of credit tends enormously to sharpen the contradictions of the capitalist system. As Marx shows in the last volume of 'Capital', it is the credit system which tends to make available to any single capitalist the whole of the social capital. It speeds up the tendency towards the growth of monopoly and the centralization of production.

In doing this it brings forth a new breed of capitalist—much evidenced in recent months—the speculator.

'It reproduces a new financial aristocracy, a new variety of parasite in the shape of promoters, speculators and simply nominal directors; a whole system of swindling and cheating by means of corporate promotion, stock insur-

PART FOUR

Antonio Expedito Carvalho Perera (41), a lawyer and university professor, was arrested on March 3, 1969, in Sao Paulo.

He was tortured throughout March in the Military Police barracks, rua Tutoia, near rua Abilio Soares, and on the third floor of the DEOPS headquarters in Sao Paulo, by successive teams under the command of General Luiz Felipe, Captain Antonio Carlos Pivatto and officers Newton Fernandes and Simonetti.

Perera underwent various forms of torture, including:

- Electric shocks, mainly on the neck, head, tongue, ears, vertebral column, genital areas, toes and the soles of the feet.

- Introduction of instruments into the genital areas of the body.

- Blows to the body.

- Other forms of ill treatment.

- Physical and psychological torture to third parties: relatives, friends and clients.

He was present at torture sessions involving other prisoners at the Military Police quarters and at the DEOPS in the Tiradentes prison from March 3, 1969, until January 13, 1971 (the date on which he was released).

He was brought on March 3 1969 to the Military Police quarters and from there to the DEOPS on March 18, 1969, returned to the military police on March 20 and then brought to Presidio Tiradentes on July 10 1969.

His interrogation took place in the military police barracks, in the DEOPS and at the military tribunal before Judge Nelson da Silva Guimaraes.

He received no medical aid; the only assistance available was dispensed by doctors who were fellow prisoners, such as Dr Antonio Carlos Madeira.

He did not receive any visit from his lawyer whilst interrogated by the police and during the police inquiry—from March 3 1969 until July 10 1969. He was transferred to the Tiradentes Prison after the state of 'incommunicability' had been lifted—July 10 1969.

He received no visits from members of his family until after July 10. Such visits were always in public and had to be authorized beforehand by Judge Nelson da Silva Guimaraes.

Eleven months after his arrest he was brought before the military tribunal judge but he was not tried, simply released along with a group of others.

Thirty-one-year-old economist Ladislav Dowbor was arrested in Sao Paulo on April 21, 1970, by the Bandeirantes Operation.

Torture—particularly 'pau de arara'—was inflicted on him from April 21, 1970, at the Bandeirantes Operation, at the DEOPS in Sao Paulo (in rua Tutoia and Praca General Osorio) by Colonel Waldir Coelho of CENIMAR, by the Bandeirantes Operation and by the Death Squad in Sao Paulo.

He witnessed torture being inflicted by Colonel Waldir Coelho of OB (Operacao Bandeirantes), by members of CODI, and of DEOPS in Sao Paulo, and members of the Death Squad, in September 1968 and from April to May 1970, both in the OBAN (same as OB) and DEOPS headquarters.

This consisted of:

- 'Pau de arara'.
- The electric chair.
- Electric shocks.

He was not taken to prison but was simply interrogated in interrogation centres in April and May 1970. He was kept in solitary confinement

BRAZIL: THE PARROT'S PERCH

BY JACK GALE



Above: Military Police in Brazil, who are responsible for the torture, physical and psychological, of political prisoners.

and given a radiography examination to check his physical condition after a session of 'pau de arara' at the DEOPS.

A strait-jacket was put on him and he was given injections and his wounds, bleeding as a result of the torture he had undergone, were treated.

He was kept incommunicado and never received any visits or legal assistance from his lawyer.

He was visited once by his brother-in-law in the interrogation room for three minutes.

EXECUTIONS

Twenty-seven-year-old lawyer and journalist Lucio Flavio Uchoa Regueira was arrested on April 21, 1970, in Rio de Janeiro by the Operations Centre for Internal Defence.

He was tortured from April 21 until April 25 1970 at the Military Police barracks, rua Barao de Mesquita, by Major Gomez Carneiro, Captain Zieminski, Lieutenants Volio, Timoteo and Costa Lima.

He underwent various forms of torture:

- Electric shocks to the eyes, mouth, genital areas and anus
- Introduction of a stick in the anus.
- Immersion in water to the point of near drowning.
- 'Pau de arara'.
- Blows all over the body.
- Injection of 'truth serum'.

The tortures were not used in isolation but in combination.

From the second day on-

wards, he was tortured with electric shocks and beatings to the body. Throughout his period of imprisonment he was psychologically tortured—simulated executions, constant threats of physical torture. He was woken up at all hours of the night, a black hood was placed over his head and he was brought to a place where executions were simulated. This lasted throughout the nine months' detention. In this way, they tried to get him to reveal information about individuals and meeting places and tried to weaken him psychologically by keeping him in a constant state of fear.

Regueira underwent torture throughout his detention and afterwards declared that the terrible atmosphere in Brazilian prisons is due to the fact that prisoners are forced to be present while fellow prisoners are tortured.

Throughout his imprisonment, at the military police barracks, he constantly saw the very people who had tortured him torturing others. In addition to better-known methods of torture (near-drowning, electric shocks, 'pau de arara'), one prisoner Fayal de Lira also underwent the 'mad dentist' torture, a name given to this particular method of brutality by the torturers themselves.

This consisted of keeping the mouth open forcibly with an instrument whilst Fayal was attached to a 'dragon chair', his torturers meanwhile used a dentist's drill and electric shock treatment on him.

Regueira says that he saw the drill break three of his companion's teeth; but the

latter, despite the pain and several attacks of fainting, remained strong until the end. A doctor saw him, revived him with an injection and indicated that the torture could continue.

Regueira said that he had to listen to Fayal's cries and the torturers' laughter for more than an hour, and it was the most painful session he ever witnessed. He was himself linked by an electric wire to the 'dragon chair' to which Fayal was attached and also received the electric shocks.

This torture session took place approximately a fortnight after his arrest. Fayal was in his third month of torture.

Regueira was held in the army prison from April 21 to June 3 1970, at the Regiment of Infantry School of the Vila Militar from June 15 1970 until January 8 1971, at the DEOPS in Guanabara from June 3 to June 15 1970, at the army police barracks in Vila Militar from January 8 to January 11 1971 and at the air-force base at Galeao from January 11 to January 14 1971.

He was kept in small cells without windows and he had not once seen the sun. Each cell held many prisoners.

The torture rooms were very cold and prisoners were kept naked during interrogation. Torture was carried out by specialized teams which worked in relays when the sessions were unusually long (the shortest session lasted three hours).

Regueira received no medical attention. The doctors in the torture chambers were there to diagnose the resis-

tance capacity of the victims for the succeeding session; there was no medical attention at the end of the session or during the period of detention as a whole.

RELEASED

During the interrogation period, a lawyer may not see his client. Regueira was never allowed to speak with a lawyer in private. He was allowed to see him once a month but always in the presence of a policeman.

Regueira was brought for the first time before a judge of the military tribunal six months after he was first detained. He was not tried and was released on January 14 1971.

When he was questioned by the naval court in Rio de Janeiro, Mr Regueira said that the army officers who accompanied him occupied the hall with machine guns and the public was not allowed to be present during his testimony before the military court.

The judge, Jacob Goldenberg, distorted his complaints of ill-treatment in which he gave the names of his torturers.

Regueira was once again tortured as a punishment for his desposition and also because they wanted to know how he had learnt their names. * 'Pau de arara': (Parrot's perch) an iron bar leaning on two stands, passing under the knees with the wrists and ankles tied together and the whole body hanging downwards defenceless.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

'RESIGN'

Miners' leader Joe Gormley was given an unexpected reception when he spoke at a meeting organized by Birmingham AUEW at the weekend to celebrate last year's battle of Saltley coke depot.

Gormley was feted by local full-time officials of the AUEW and listened to respectfully by the rank and file when he outlined the importance of the joint action by miners and Midlands workers on the course of the pit strike.



Joe Gormley

When he suggested that all trade union battles should be conducted within the law, implying acceptance of the Industrial Relations Act and the Tory pay law, he was greeted with jeers from the 300 engineers and miners present.

And when he went on to argue against a national miners' strike, the floor erupted with cries of 'defeatism' 'sell out' and 'resign'.

Many miners interpreted Gormley's words as an acceptance of their latest pay offer even before the union's national executive has met.

PEP UP

In the footsteps of the United States, Japan and other countries, the Italian government is trying to pep up its ailing economy by increasing trade with the Soviet Union and prevent Italian exports being pushed out of the market.

Italy has to vie with other competitors for trade with the Soviet Union by offering favourable credit terms. It is now making available a £250m

line of credit with the hope that this will boost demand for engineering products, machine tools and chemicals.

It is hoped that some major deals will now be concluded between big Italian firms and state purchasing agencies in the Soviet Union. Italy will be willing to buy more oil, petroleum and other raw materials.

PROMISES

A good example of unprincipled vote-catching by the French Communist Party is shown in its attitude towards the European inhabitants of north Africa who were repatriated after Tunisian and Algerian independence.

In a Press conference in Marseilles, one of the main areas of resettlement for so-called 'pieds noirs', Francois Billoux, of the Party's Central Committee, and deputy for the town, called on the government to speed up compensation for loss of pensions and other rights.

In the period after 1936, the French CP gave up any struggle for the independence of the colonies and made concessions to the prejudices of the Europeans in north Africa. When the independence struggle began in the 1950s, most of its base among these sections disappeared and it was not able to win the confidence of the Arab masses.

After their arrival in France most of the settlers supported the extreme right-wing parties. Their subsequent experiences, and the growing up of a new generation, has resulted in many of them breaking with these parties.

The CP is now angling for votes from this source with typically opportunist promises while leaving all the political questions in obscurity.

DRUNK

There were 4,078 traffic accidents in Moscow last year, according to the city's official report, and about 28 per cent of them were caused by drunken pedestrians.

But the daily newspaper Moskovskaya Pravda complained that 83 per cent of traffic accidents were caused by careless pedestrians, 1,090 of whom had drunk too much.

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London SW4 7UG



THE SOVIET RACKETEER

New light has been shed on the downfall of the Georgian Communist Party chief Vasily P. Mzhvanadze who was removed from office last September.

A recent issue of the Tbilisi newspaper 'Zarya Vostoka' reports that Otari Lazishvili, an unemployed chauffeur, has been jailed for 15 years.

Together with 18 associates, Lazishvili was sentenced for building up an illicit manufacturing enterprise which milked the state of 836,792 roubles.

This is the equivalent to \$1,020,886 at the official exchange rate.

Lazishvili had established an extensive network of underground factories that turned out hard-to-get consumer goods such as nylon raincoats and shopping bags and sold them on the black market at inflated prices.

With the income from these operations he acquired two villas with swimming pools, several cars and he was able to throw lavish dinners to celebrate the victories of his favourite soccer team.

A regular guest at these dinners was Mr Mzhvanadze, while Mrs Mzhvanadze was often on the receiving end of generous presents.

Lazishvili became so powerful that he was virtually able to dictate appointments and dismissals of Ministers of the Georgian Republic.

He was also able to control the appointment of secretaries of the Tbilisi City Committee and to influence the composition of the Georgian Communist Party's Central Committee.

The prosecutor at Lazishvili's trial demanded the death penalty, which is the legal punishment for embezzling state money. Certainly people have been shot for stealing much less than the amount involved in this case.

The relatively light sentence may indicate that there are still some Lazishvili men in Georgia's official bureaucracy.

Last year Georgia's industrial output went up a mere 0.7 per cent on 1971 and labour productivity only 0.5 per cent. A number of industrial enterprises failed to reach their target.

In particular the crisis of house-building has reached scandalous proportions.

Above: The crisis in house building has reached scandalous proportions. Executives have been criticized for their 'irresponsible attitude'.

The Bureau of the Georgian Communist Party's Central Committee has publicly criticized the 'irresponsible attitude' of the executives of certain construction organizations, ministries and departments over fulfilment of the 1972 housebuilding plan.

The plan envisaged the completion of 950,000 square metres but only 808,000 were built.

Despite 'severe criticism' by the CPSU Central Committee of the organizational and political work of the Tbilisi administrative bodies they 'have not paid adequate attention of late to house building and the construction of cultural and public service projects', says the Georgian Party's statement.

There was 'a low standard' of management of house building in the city.

A number of city and Party officials were jailed in Tbilisi at the end of last year for utilizing public funds and resources to build houses for themselves.

Massey Ferguson plant microcosm of workers' struggle

Tractor deals rebound

THE GIANT Massey Ferguson factory in Coventry has been hit by a series of small but bitter disputes. In this article a special correspondent reports on the situation facing the work force in the tractor factory. 130 storemen in the second week of a strike for a bonus scheme meet today to decide their next move. 1,200 men are laid off in the assembly shop.

THE PROBLEMS facing the working class as a whole can be found in the situation at Massey Ferguson's Banner Lane factory.

The management grows increasingly confident the more the present trade union leadership retreats in the face of past deals being enforced, and, more recently, of agreements being broken.

During the wage agreements of the last four years, 'strings' were accepted by union national officials on the basis of 'mutuality'. They also claimed the company was not enforcing the 'strings'.

Workers can now see just what they meant in practice. Mutuality is carried out in this way—accept company instructions or be locked out.

A clear example of this is an old agreement on mutuality of labour which dates from the days when the Banner Lane factory was owned by the Standard Motor Company.

Up to the end of 1972 mobility was used to avoid redundancy. Now, however, the company transfers men as and when it thinks fit.

Men have been moved from a factory at Boginton to Banner Lane and vice versa and from grade to grade. Last week a 1964 agreement was dragged out which meant transferred labour suffering a wage-cut!

Custom and practice

During the boom days it was an established custom and practice for a man transferred to a higher earning gang to receive the earnings of that gang.

If he transferred to a low earning gang he received his own average bonus.

The company is now saying that when men are transferred to lower earning gangs they will be paid accordingly.

Assembly workers who went on strike in January against mobility of labour returned to work on the promise of official action if the company continued these activities.

Since then nothing has developed from the union side, but the company has continued to dictate its interpretation of the agreement.

Stewards also will admit that 'strings' conceded in



past wage agreements are being stringently enforced, particularly in relation to piecework prices.

Many frustrated lower-paid gangs are also fighting for wage claims that have been ignored not for months but for years. The recent 'prime dip' dispute is an outstanding example.

Now assembly workers' stewards are claiming an agreement with a production manager was literally torn up.

The company had conceded that once men had turned up for work they would be paid for the full shift, even if production stopped.

The only proviso was that the stoppage was not caused by assembly disputes. Nevertheless twice in the

last two weeks men have been sent home after the shift commenced.

When convenors pointed out that the agreement was being broken, they say they were told it no longer applied.

All these agreements were made when it was possible to reach compromises and deals based on boom-time conditions.

Unite all sections

The urgent requirement is a leadership that starts from the realization that the international monetary crisis, the developing trade war and the employers' attacks are related. It must unite all sections of workers in defence of basic rights.

The joint shop stewards' committee policy must be:

- Full support for any section of workers defending pay and conditions of work.

- For the annual claim soon to be negotiated.

- No recognition of the Tory pay laws and for all outstanding claims to be settled.

Above all a leadership has to be forged that will campaign for a recall of the TUC to mobilize the whole working class to remove the Tory government from office and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Central to this campaign, a large Coventry delegation should come to the Empire Pool, Wembley, rally and Pageant and help transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party.

Some of the Massey Ferguson workers are seen in this Coventry Precinct crowd during the engineering workers' toolroom dispute in the area during 1971.

Unionists may expel Craig

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MR WILLIAM CRAIG, the leader of the Ulster Vanguard movement, is facing the threat of expulsion from the Unionist Party. The former Stormont premier, Mr Brian Faulkner, has demanded his resignation.

Craig's call for an independent Ulster Dominion must be seen as a demagogic gesture to secure support from dissident Catholics and nothing more.

It will not prevent Vanguard and the Ulster Defence Association from preparing 'justifiable and necessary' war plans to conduct civil war against Catholics and perpetuate the sectarian division of the working class after the White Paper is announced.

While ostensibly warning against sectarian strife Mr Craig's tongue-in-cheek manner would certainly be construed in Republican quarters as an invocation to civil war. What else did Craig mean when he talked about violence against Catholics after the General Strike?

'Remember this, that such a blood bath can be



CRAIG . . . Doesn't fool Catholics

triggered off by freelancers responsible to no one. That is how critical things are.'

On the one hand he evokes the spectre of a 'blood bath', on the other he offers Catholics the prospect of a mythical independence from Westminster and Dublin.

'Ulster Protestants and Ulster Roman Catholics have much more in common with each other than with the political entity of the southern Republic.'

Ulster workers will treat Craig's gibberish with the same scepticism that they will extend to the border poll and the White Paper.

The only future for Ulster is a united Socialist Republic of Ireland—not a many Dominion completely subservient to Westminster and governed by an Orange dictatorship.

British imperialism does not fear Craig's outbursts any more than the UDA's threats. Far from attacking the Orange fanatics, 'security' forces are now stepping up their arrests of Republicans and intimidating the Catholic ghetto on a big scale.

On Monday dozens of Provo supporters—and many Workers Press readers—in the Andersonstown area were 'lifted' by the army.

This is now a frequent if daily occurrence. Their release can be secured only by forcing the Tories out.

- Anthony 'Dutch' Doherty is to fight his extradition to Northern Ireland in the Dublin High Court.

He is claiming a declaration that any step to transfer him to any territory not under the jurisdiction of the High Court in relation to any political offence, constitutes an invasion of his constitutional rights and is contrary to the constitution.

Socialist Labour League Public Meetings

UNITE IN ACTION TO DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

ACTON

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 8pm
Woodlands Hall,
Crown Street
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

WANDSWORTH

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 8pm
Wandsworth Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

BRADFORD

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 7.30 p.m.
Central Library
Top of Hall Ings.
Speaker:
Cliff Slaughter
(SLL Central Committee)

CASTLEFORD

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 6.30 p.m.
Castleford Civic Hall
Ferry Bridge Road
Speaker: C. SLAUGHTER
(SLL Central Committee)

BIRMINGHAM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 7pm
Digbeth, Civic Hall
Digbeth, Birmingham
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

SOUTHAMPTON

MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 8 p.m.
Marlands Hall
Havelock Road
opp. Civic Centre
Speaker: ALAN THORNETT
(Deputy Senior Steward Morris
Motors in a personal capacity)

MEDWAY

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 8pm
Aurora Hotel
Brompton Road
Gillingham
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

SLOUGH

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28 8pm
Britwell Community Centre
Long Furlong Drive
Britwell Estate
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

DAGENHAM

THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8pm
Manor Park Library
Romford Rd/Rabbits Road
opp Rabbits Pub
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

HULL

THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8 p.m.
'Windmill Hotel'
Witham
Speaker: CLIFF SLAUGHTER
(SLL Central Cttee)

WEST LONDON

THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8 p.m.
Lyndhurst Hall
Grafton Road, NW3
Speaker: M. BANDA
(SLL Central Committee)

LUTON

FRIDAY MARCH 2, 8 p.m.
Assembly Hall
Town Hall
Speaker: M. BANDA
(SLL Central Committee)

TOTTENHAM

TUESDAY MARCH 6, 8 p.m.
Lord Morrison Hall
Chesnut Grove
Speaker: G. HEALY
(SLL National Secretary)

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

**FEBRUARY
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DAYS TO GO**

IT IS becoming a very serious battle for our Fund this month. Our total of £351.33 means we are still a long way behind what we need. We urge you all to step up the pace immediately. We know you can and we are sure you will raise our full target of £1,750 in time.

Never has there been a more clear political situation. The devaluation of the dollar has created an enormous crisis for other currencies and exposes the depth of the economic crisis that faces the whole capitalist system.

Desperately, the employing class will fight back to hold on to its dying system. We must be

prepared for even greater attacks to be launched against the working class.

Workers Press is vital for the huge battles ahead. Our paper is more important than ever for building a revolutionary leadership.

We need all the support you can raise. Help us overcome the difficulties facing our Fund this month.

Make a very special effort. This political situation demands that you do. Post every donation immediately to:

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

Better safety cover than normal—claim Gasworkers angered by Press lies

BY DAVID MAUDE
OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

GAS WORKERS yesterday slammed the safety scare whipped up by the Fleet Street Press as part of the government campaign to ram its pay-control laws down the throats of the working class.

At the North Thames board's Camden Town depot men maintaining a 24-hour safety cover were angry and bitter about the lies spewed forth by the media over the last few days.

'It's about time the onus was placed on the government,' said fitter Ted Croucher. 'If there's any risk it's their fault. They've remained absolutely adamant about our pay and we're supposed to sit back and accept it.'

'Yet because of price increases and all the other things the Tories have done, we can't afford to live these days.'

'I can tell you, if it was left to some of us, our feelings would be to walk out on strike over this. But we're not. In fact they've got better safety cover than they have normally.'

'All these scare stories are just designed to turn people against us. We've been set up.'

'They're all saying we shouldn't strike, shouldn't do anything,' said George Dennis, also a fitter.

'But how much are these people getting who're saying this? I've got a wife and three kids and after a flat 40-hour week I take home £16.'

'We have to do overtime to make ends meet, and the Boards rely on that to maintain the legal safety levels. The job couldn't run without overtime.'

'But they didn't say anything in the winter of 1963, when, because of the very severe weather, the pressure dropped for three weeks and we were working all hours of the day and night.'

'They're only screaming now because the government policy's at stake.'

Rates for all the fitters are £6 behind electricity supply, he pointed out. 'For the flat 40 hours we're working now, I'll take home about £17.'



George Dennis (right): £16 to keep a wife and three children. Ted Croucher: If there's a safety problem, it's the government's fault.

State take-over of Clydebank's housing affairs

THE SECRETARY of State for Scotland, Mr Gordon Campbell, may take over the housing functions of Clydebank town council. The only alternative lies in him asking the Court of Session for an order similar to the one Clydebank council has just ignored, instructing them to apply the rent Act.

The second course is thought to be unlikely, and although Campbell has given the councillors further time to reconsider their position, it is near certain that he will shortly assume the powers of a housing commissioner.

Housing commissioners cannot be appointed under Scottish rents legislation, but it is open to the Secretary of State to instruct town council officials to obey the law.

Clydebank councillors meet today to discuss whether they will pay the £5,000 fine imposed on them this week for contempt of court.

The fine would have to be met from rates by a 4p increase on the rate poundage.

Such a move will further incense the Clydebank owner-occupiers association, which is already threatening to withhold 9p in the £ this year—the extra sum is being charged they claim because of the council's failure to implement the Act.

The council will also be faced with paying back money borrowed due to the withholding of a £300,000 government housing subsidy.

In addition to the £5,000 fine, the councillors could be surcharged for any illegal expenditure or arrears under the Act.

At a special meeting of Cumbernauld council on Tuesday, a default order against them for failing to implement the Act was not even discussed.

Briant bargaining still on—liquidator

A SPOKESMAN for Briant Colour Printing's liquidator Mr P. Granville White said yesterday that talks with a potential buyer for the factory were going well. Prospective buyer Mr David Brockdorff upped his offer on Tuesday for the Old Kent Road works.

The liquidator has rejected previous offers from Brockdorff because they fell below the magic £300,000 mark he regarded as a starting point for serious negotiations.

But the spokesman said yesterday that there were 'strong signs' that the two sides were at last moving in the direction of agreement.

The Brockdorff offer involves the loss of up to two thirds of the 105 jobs with a promise that as many as possible will be re-employed in line with the expected business build-up.

The print unions who were thinly represented at Tuesday's mass picket and lobby of parliament have already endorsed the offer in support of the work-in committee.

There was no official confirmation yesterday that the liquidator

was proceeding against the five-man committee after their failure to appear in court on Tuesday.

The committee had been told to hand over the factory and all books and records to its lawful owner. They are now legally in default and the liquidator is free to obtain judgement against them.

The company's solicitor, Mr Michael Prior, refused to comment yesterday and it may be that fresh legal moves are being delayed while the latest Brockdorff offer is being considered.

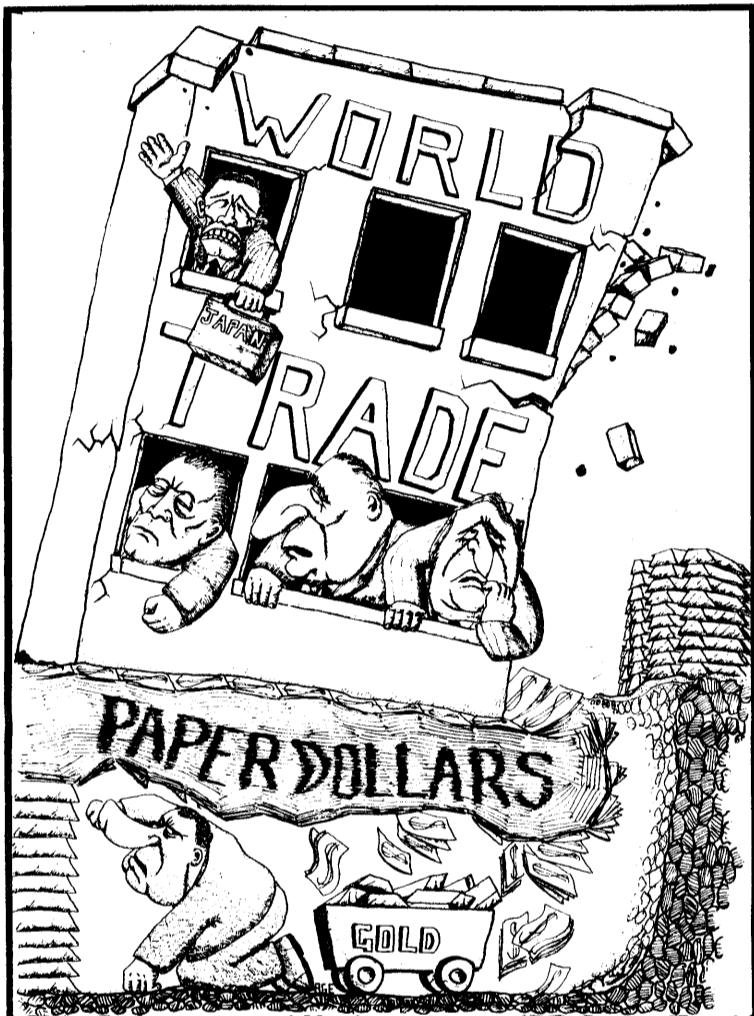
MEMBERS of the Confederation of Health Service Employees have given massive support for industrial action against the Tory pay laws, a ballot revealed yesterday. 80 per cent voted for national action. COHSE leaders are expected to give strike notice when they meet the hospital employers on Friday, bringing them in line with the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Public Employees.

FIVE more schools are to take part in the first phase of the National Union of Teachers strike in support of an increased London allowance on February 20, 21 and 22. The total of schools participating will now be 95.

The five schools are in the London boroughs of Enfield, Haringey, Havering and Heston. Of the 45 NUT members in these five schools, 42 voted to strike said the NUT. This brought the total of teachers voting to strike, in the 95 schools to 1,326 out of 1,479 balloted.

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NIXON PUTS THE BOOT IN

FROM PAGE ONE

'pressure' on the government to change its mind, or shift to the left.

We saw this policy at UCS where thousands of jobs were exchanged in an abysmal Tory deal which violated all the principles of the trade union movement, including the right to strike.

The example was repeated in struggle after struggle.

We condemned this treacherous horse-trading. All the time we said:

'This Tory government cannot change or be bought off. It is gripped by an insoluble economic crisis that forces it to rob the working class of all its democratic rights and reduce it to slavery under some form of dictatorship.'

Now we see who was right.

The crisis rages with a vengeance. The capitalists howl for war and blood and 'The Times' talks of a Gen-

eral Strike and asks the unions—'are you ready for power?'

Only the Socialist Labour League has been preparing for this revolutionary situation—our record proves this.

Now Workers Press readers and supporters of the movement must take a decisive step. They must join in the battle against mass repression by becoming League members.

We ask all the forces in sympathy with the revolutionary struggle to launch the SLL as a revolutionary party by helping to make the March 11 Pageant at the Empire Pool a massive blow to the Tories.

A decisive turn must be made immediately. It should be remembered that with slump and recession stalk the horrors of fascism and dictatorship. Such a political eclipse could only be three or five years away if the working class does not take the power.

**SLL
PUBLIC
MEETINGS**

Unite in action to defend basic rights

JARROW

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 18
7 p.m.

Civic Centre, Jarrow

Speaker: G. HEALY
(SLL national secretary)

NORTH KENT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 19,
8pm

The Shakespeare,
Powis Street
Woolwich

Speaker: G. HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

WATFORD

MONDAY FEBRUARY 19,
8pm

Trades Union Hall
near Watford Junction stn

Speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)