

On eve of L.P. conference

WAGES CLASH AHEAD

EDITORIAL

A
Silent
press

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Since the aim of our paper is to serve the working class, defend the trade unions through building the revolutionary party, we are confident of all the support we need to maintain our paper.

We do not need the publicity of the capitalist press in order to continue because the most politically-minded members of the working class, the people who matter, are rallying to our support.

So by all means, lords and ladies of Fleet Street, maintain the silence. In a class sense it speaks louder than words.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE AND YOUNG SOCIALISTS DEMONSTRATE

on the eve of the Labour Party Conference in Brighton

- For a Socialist alternative to Wilson!
- Withdraw Troops from Ulster!
- Catholic and Protestant Workers Unite!
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- No Measured-Day Work! No Anti-Union Laws!
- Nationalize all basic industries without compensation under Workers' Control!

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out on September 27, 1969

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Wage fight sharpens German poll

By Peter Read

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But both parties have moved to a united position in postponing negotiations on the claim by the public employees, most of whom belong to the 900,000-strong Public Services and Transport Union.

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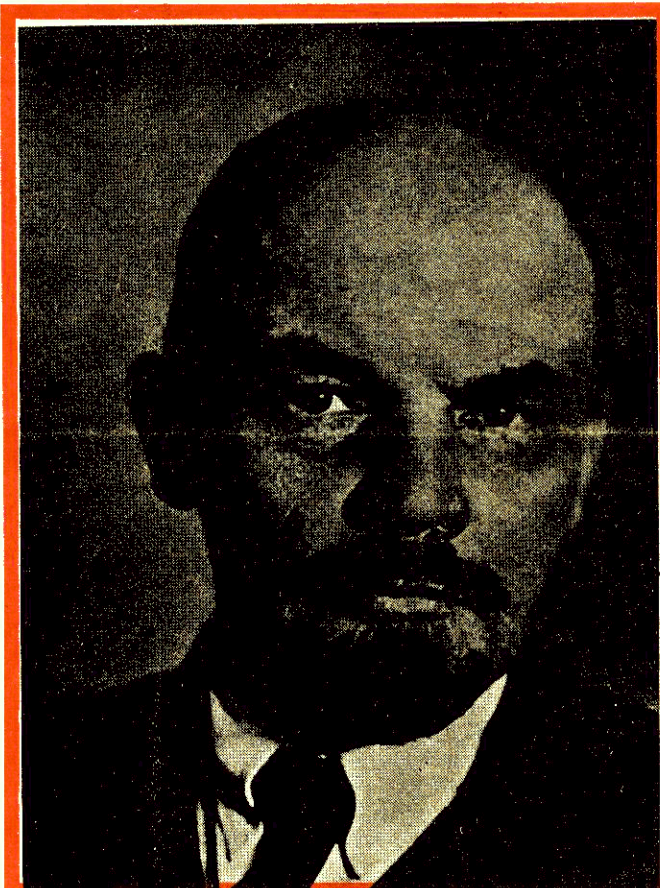
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'among other industrial countries few have so far made an active use of fiscal instruments to counteract overheating'.

The IMF fears that the Bonn government's monetary policy is aggravating already high interest rates.

Even after the elections the Germans may still refuse to revalue the mark, particularly after the recent strike wave which threatens to end the 'miraculous' German boom.

Fund directors hope to meet the crisis with Special Drawing Rights (SDR) or 'paper gold'.

Yet there is little firm agreement among west European countries about the value and distribution of SDRs.

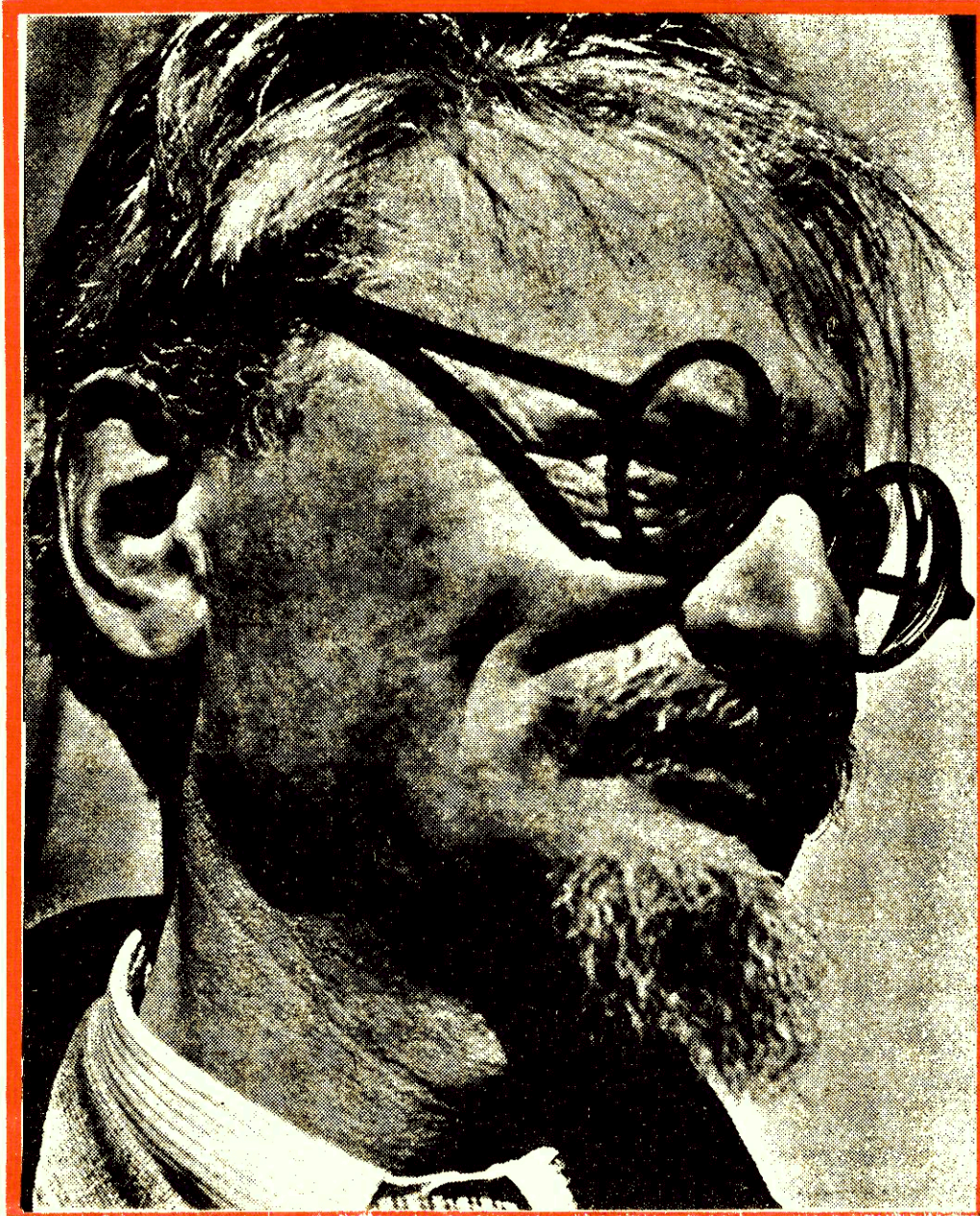
And on these key matters the Fund Report has little to say.

None of these problems can be answered purely by ingenious schemes.

The employers can only tackle their international crisis through a renewed onslaught on the working class.

This realization underlies much of the nervousness and tension so evident in the IMF Report.

1970—the year of Lenin and Trotsky



Statement by the S.L.L. Central Committee

1970 will be an historic year for the Trotskyist movement. At last, after all the betrayals of social democracy and Stalinism, the working class of central and Western Europe has within its grasp the political and theoretical resources for the construction of genuine mass revolutionary parties based on Marxism.

The historic general strike in France in 1968, the continued offensive of the colonial masses against imperialism, events in Northern Ireland and lastly the anti-Stalinist resurgence in Czechoslovakia are all portents of even more profound revolutionary upheavals in the immediate future.

These, and many other body blows struck against Stalinism and imperialism, are certain guarantees that the working class is on the offensive and intends to win.

But the Socialist Labour League proposes to make 1970 historic in another, if related sense. Next year will mark two anniversaries that encompass a whole epoch in the history of the international workers' movement: The birth of Lenin and the death of Trotsky.

VLADIMIR LENIN, founder of the Bolshevik Party and architect of the Russian Revolution, was born on April 22, 1870.

LEON TROTSKY, co-founder with Lenin of the Third, Communist International and pioneer of the Fourth, was murdered by a Stalinist agent on August 20, 1940.

Standing, historically speaking, on the shoulders of Marx and Engels, Lenin and Trotsky forged a party and a programme that today inspires and arms the entire working class and colonial people for the historic task of the overthrow of capitalism and the emancipation of mankind.

Their life's work was fused into a single whole in the crucible of the Russian Revolution and the struggle to build the Third Communist International.

The counter-revolutionary Stalinist bureaucracy undermined and betrayed that work.

After Lenin's untimely death it was left to Trotsky and the Left Opposition to carry on the heroic struggle against Stalinism which, in the years that followed, cold-bloodedly butchered the majority of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party during the period of the infamous Moscow Trials.

In this foul deed Stalin enjoyed the wholehearted support of the present leadership of the British Communist Party, whilst Trotsky went on to found the Fourth Inter-

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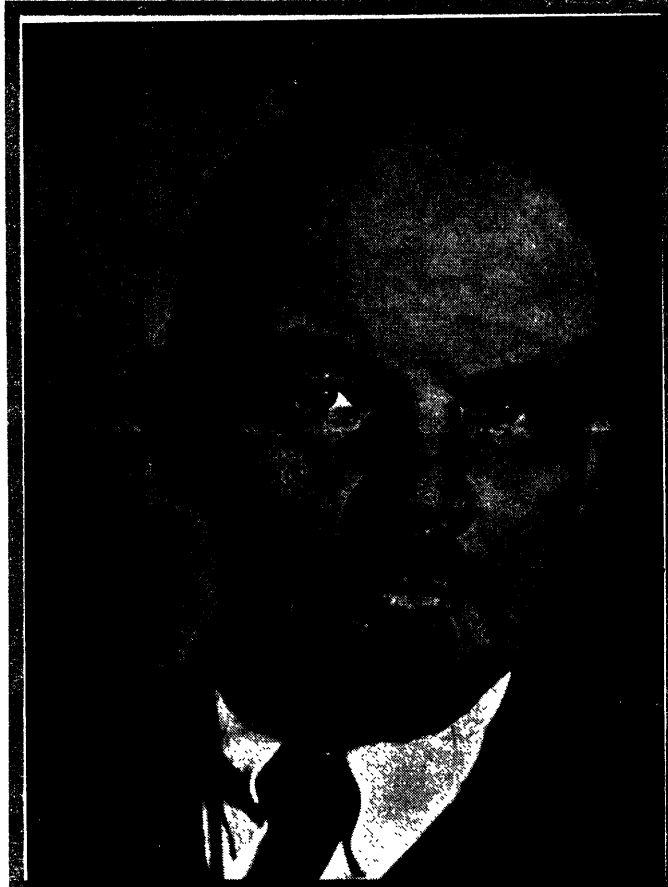
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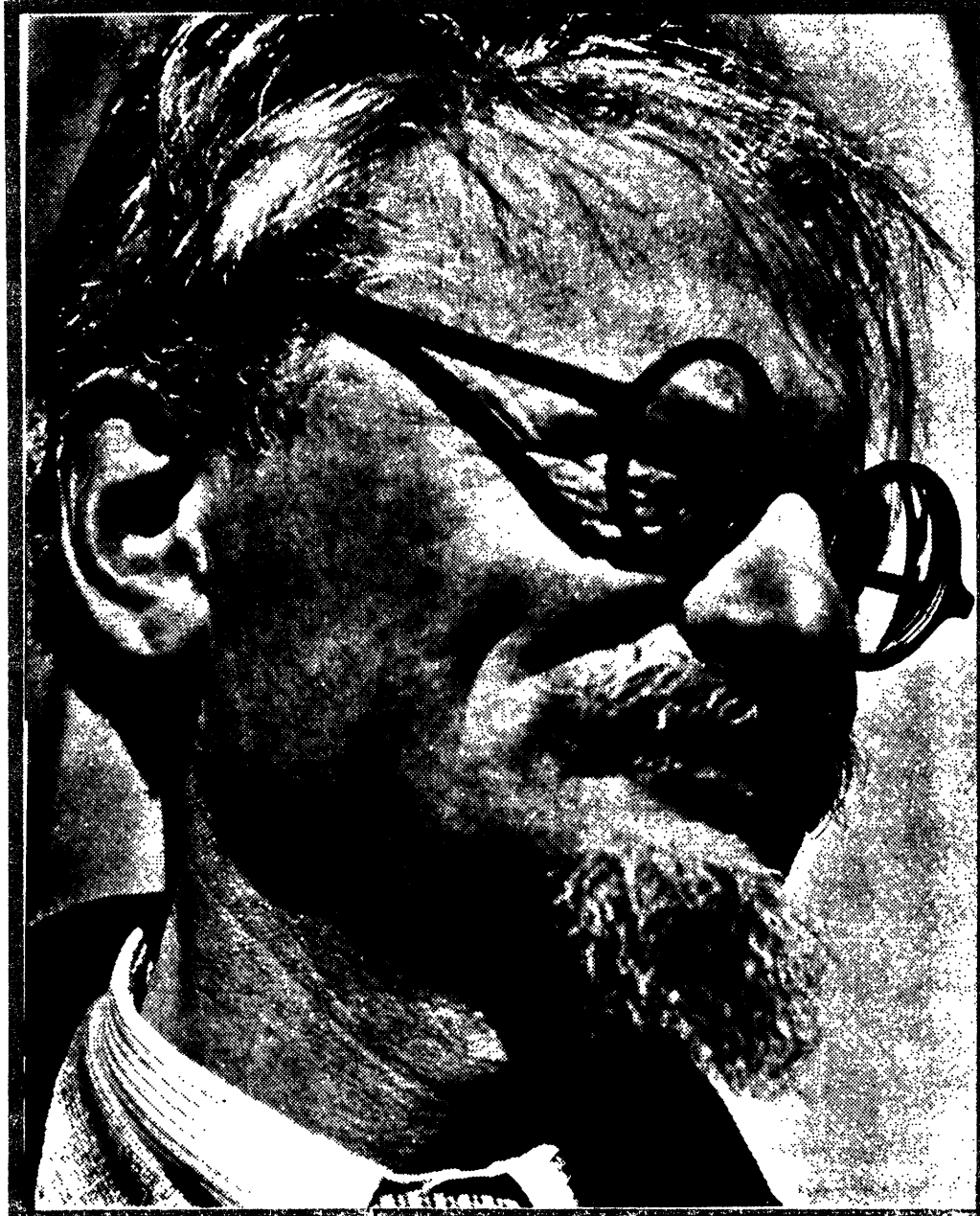
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national, the World Party of the Socialist Revolution in 1938.

The Socialist Labour League is today the British section of that World Party, affiliated to the International Committee of the Fourth International.

We are the historical heirs of the Bolshevik Party, the Russian Revolution and the monumental extension of Marxist theory after Lenin's death which is Trotskyism.

That theory is embodied in the Transitional Programme of the Fourth International and is the foundation stone upon which the Socialist Labour League is building the mass revolutionary party in Britain.

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MAKING CAPITALISM WORK

IN MINES DOCKS AND MOTORS

SINCE its election in 1964 the Labour government has systematically encouraged the development of every method of exploitation known to the employers.

Further, it has set out to transform these methods from measures used by individual managements to raise output, into major weapons of the government and employers in their political struggle against the entire working class.

The passing of the Prices and Incomes Act in 1966 instituted the wage freeze which held down workers' pay while the cost of living rapidly rose. At the same time, the Act put on a statutory basis the National Board for Prices and Incomes.

This body consisting of employers' representatives, trade union officials, and labour relations professors from the universities was to examine wage claims and to report as to whether or not they were justified.

REJECTED DEMANDS

In each case the PIB rejected the demands for basic increases on the basis:

- That they did not conform to the wage freeze.
- They did not conform to the ruling of the Prices and Incomes Board that the workers must either accept more exacting work or major changes in working practice before any form of increase could be paid.

The PIB went on to publish reports recommending the introduction of all the most recent methods of exploitation under cover of 'productivity deals' for every industry.

Railmen were to be prepared to overlap jobs and do any work on railway stations; busmen were to drive faster, spend less time at stops and to agree to one-man operation of buses; all craftsmen were to accept an end to demarcation between jobs and the elimination of mates.

Lorry drivers must accept a tachograph meter in the cab; firemen were to be on call for longer periods; factory and power station workers must accept flexibility and mobility; journalists were to undergo job analysis to increase their efficiency.

Nurses were to be paid on an hourly basis, work revised shifts and accept that numbers be made up with part-time labour; university teachers were to accept a payment-by-results system.

In effect, the Labour government has set out to change the work and increase the speed of the job of every worker without exception. In every one of these reports on 'workers' pay' and in every productivity deal that is put into operation a major emphasis is placed on work-study.

WORK-STUDY MUSHROOM

Over the last five-year period this official government backing for these systems has given immense impetus to the mushroom development of work-study consultancy firms.

National conferences and seminars are held constantly to devise new methods of regulating the worker at work. This is nothing more than the spreading of intensive methods of working into every aspect of work and into every second of the working day.

Whatever claims are made about the new schemes, about their ability to increase wages and to pay 33 1/3 per cent bonuses, under capitalism their real aims are:

1 To lay down the amount of work a worker must do in each minute of the working day. Times for jobs are worked out to a hundredth of a minute. Some methods go so far as to include time for eye movement and eye focusing.

2 To fix manning levels—on the basis of the speed-up. The same work to be done with fewer workers and the labour force can be cut.

3 To prove ('scientifically') the need to install any methods which will help to increase profits—elimination of tea breaks, introduction of shifts or revised shifts, and so on.

4 To bring about closures—it is often on the basis of work-study consultants' reports that managements decide that it is feasible to close entire factories and to rationalize work throughout a firm.



Labour government encourages wage freeze, speed-up, Measured-Day Work and productivity deals

By Bernard Franks

5 To install Measured-Day Work (MDW)—to the employers it is essential that greater productivity is not reflected in higher wages. In the short term, they hope to get back the early payments used to get the schemes in by savings on labour costs, on cutting out overtime and on use of shift-work. In the long term, Measured-Day Work is their key weapon.

This is a fixed wage completely tied to the worker's ability to keep to the time-and-motion man's standards.

The worker is then paid not according to production, or, of course, to the cost of living, but only to the amount of 'standard minutes or credits' fixed by work-study.

No matter how large the initial payments may be in the early days of a bonus scheme, the employers know they can recover the lot once MDW is fully operative.

6 To complement modernization—as some new machinery or computers are introduced, work study is used alongside to ensure the absolute minimum of workers on the job. This can lead to mass sacking of 80 to 90 per cent of the labour force, depending on the level of modernization undertaken.

7 To break the organized strength of the working class—work-study is used to break up militant shops. To eliminate time available for shop meetings, to move out and to move on militant or powerful groups of workers who have led

ment and declared them to be 'under capitalism, a torture or a conjuring trick'.)

Large numbers of psychologists and industrial relations professors have been employed by the government to develop ways of talking these schemes in.

(It is all a question of 'communications' they say.)

The government often uses these people to run royal commissions or courts of inquiry on questions of labour relations. They also have evolved the technique of incorporating shop stewards into work-study.

These are sent on special courses under management or union control, after which they are then expected to sell the schemes to their members on the basis of the large amounts of money to be earned.

JOB REWARD

Once the deal is in, the stewards may be rewarded with a job in the management, or he may be sent back to his job.

Anyone who simply looks at the 'bread and butter' issues may be fooled by these schemes during the early stages. But anyone who looks at the wider aspect will see the situation much more clearly.

particular emphasis on the introduction of work-study makes it quite clear that the Labour government is absolutely dedicated to 'solving this crisis of capitalism at the expense of the working class.

Miners who accepted the drive for higher productivity, who fought to raise the coal output again and again, who accepted modernization (or who had it accepted on their behalf by their trade union 'leaders'), found thousands of their numbers thrown out of work precisely on the basis of the new productivity level.

On the docks, modernization, combined with the government-backed Devlin scheme, enables a business consultancy firm to claim that 90 per cent of the dockers will eventually not be needed.

Throughout the car industry the employers' drive to introduce Measured-Day Work is aimed at direct wage-cuts in the car workers' wage packet.

In many social services, fire, ambulance, and other local authorities' departments, sections are under-manned because no real policy of recruitment exists. (In some cases a deliberate policy of no-recruitment has been introduced.)

It is true that in many cases productivity deals have been put into operation and some increases in output have been brought about by speeding-up.

It advised the widest possible introduction of productivity deals at local levels which could lay the basis for enforcement of severe measures against workers through law at a later date.

On the recommendations of the Donovan Report, the government set up a Commission on Industrial Relations, a body which was, in fact, to lay the basis for the coming anti-strike legislation.

BASIS FOR CIR

As well as setting out the proposals for action against strikers, the White Paper, 'In Place of Strife', published in January 1969, set out the basis of the CIR:

'The CIR will be concerned with ways of improving and extending procedural arrangements, for example, how to promote suitable company-wide procedures, how to develop acceptable rules governing disciplinary practices and dismissals, how to encourage effective and fair redundancy procedures, how to bring shop stewards within a proper framework of agreed rules in their firm, and how to ensure that they are provided with the right kind of facilities to do their job.' (Page 13.)

It is also made clear that what was aimed at was direct state intervention into every

turn, blink and twitch of which a human being is capable.

Now the Trades Union Congress (TUC) is straining itself to prove that it can do the job of disciplining the workers through their own organizations, i.e. the trade unions, and that anti-strike legislation is not really necessary.

The union leaders, all along the line, had given full backing to productivity deals and the introduction of work-study systems.

Without their support none of these schemes would have got a foot in the door anywhere.

At the same time union officials were given a 'left' cover for their activities by the Communist Party.

As employers and government agencies combined to spread new methods of working, major re-organization and modernization throughout industry, CP militants told their followers that these were purely local action by employers, 'bread and butter issues' and should be looked at on this basis.

Members and supporters of the Socialist Labour League, who set out to explain the political nature and the universal application of productivity schemes, were directly opposed, in some cases by force by Communist Party members.

The CP policy of peaceful co-existence with capitalism leads directly to the betrayal of the workers' struggles.

DUE TO BETRAYALS

The savage curtailment of the number of working miners and the foothold that employers in the building industry have gained with speed-up methods do not in any way result from the 'weakness' or lack of fight of the workers concerned, but have been entirely due to these betrayals of leadership by fake left-wingers in the face of a major political attack by the capitalist class.

While the 'militants' continue to deny the nature of the political struggle, the employers, the consultants, and the government continue to combine in the development of new extensions to their schemes.

Recent months have seen—

- The extensive introduction of pre-determined motion-time systems and synthetics.

This means, instead of timing workers on the job with a stopwatch, the consultant simply lists every movement the worker makes then looks up times for these movements in a standard list of 'synthetic' times and works out a final time for the job.

The manual of synthetics gives a time for every twist,

• The direct spying methods on the shop floor.

An example of this is the introduction by CAV into their factories of tele-control methods, a system by which micro-switches on the machines work in combination with a telephone system and a computer to continuously report on the operators level of production.

This ensures that the worker never stops or slows down for an instant and aims to tie the worker completely to the system of production.

• The further extension of work-study into new sections of workers.

Judging by the latest sounding off by the PIB a big drive against clerical workers is being prepared.

No doubt all their work will be designated as 'unproductive' and a short-term aim of speed-up and cuts in staffing will lead to later attempts to replace large section of office workers with computers.

Also, the specialist magazine 'Work Study' recently reported on a course to train blind work-study officers.

This has been run by Industrial Advisers to the Blind 'in order to improve the efficiency of the blind work-shops'.

The magazine sees this as especially helpful in the work-shops which are changing to light engineering from previous basket-making, etc.

• A drive to change all incentive bonus schemes and allied pay systems. The main plan is to make Measured-Day Work a universal pay system.

• The attempted introduction of disciplinary and anti-strike clauses into agreements.

This was high-lighted by the struggle at Ford over attempts to negotiate no-strike clauses.

The employers are now preparing to take a much tougher line.

They are demanding the right to hire and fire workers without question and to insert disciplining and no-strike clauses into all agreements.

They are also demanding that all agreements be made legally binding, i.e. that once union officials have signed a productivity deal the worker becomes bound in law to accept every method, every change in work and every management-dictated time for a job.

Delegates who attend the Labour Party conference face a government leadership which is not only 'allowing' these measures to be introduced, but one which is actively leading the assault by the employers against every section of the working class.

All talk without action from the Labour Party members is a fraud.

Only the immediate sack for the Wilson leadership and the fight for socialist policies of nationalization of the basic industries under workers' control, for the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act, for proper housing, rents and wages and for a real offensive against the capitalist class instead of against the labour movement will convince workers that the Labour Party is really concerned with fighting against the return of the Tories.

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All these books are available from New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.



On the recommendations of the Donovan Report the Commission on Industrial Relations was set up. It was to lay the basis for the anti-strike legislation. Included on the Commission were ex-Communist Party member and mineworkers' leader Will Paynter (extreme right) and ex-TUC secretary George Woodcock (second from right).

struggles in the past. A work specification sheet is meant to keep the workers' movements under control and he is answerable on his time-sheet for 'unauthorized movements'.

At the same time, work-study also tries to divide workers into those above average and those below; to turn young against old, slow against fast, shift-worker against day-workers and so on.

CONFIDENCE TRICK

These schemes are introduced, not with enforcement, threats and orders from management, but in the form of a confidence trick.

(Lenin, in 1916, examined time-and-motion systems in the early days of their develop-

At the time of the developing capitalist crisis throughout the world, with over-production threatening many markets and with one currency after another under pressure, are employers really falling over themselves to put more money into workers' pockets?

In Britain, within recent weeks, the aircraft and motor cycle industries have been pronounced in dire trouble. Strikes in the steel industry reflect a much deeper crisis of production and sale of steel.

There is also talk of a downturn in car sales. Full order books in some sections of shipbuilding has done nothing to divert the crisis from that industry.

The basis of the Prices and Incomes Board with its par-

Nevertheless, the plans of the capitalist class have received a severe set-back inasmuch as working-class strength has definitely not been broken. In some cases, workers have been strong enough to force concessions even on productivity deals and have been able to increase wages by this method.

DONOVAN CONCLUSIONS

It was in the face of this 'problem' that the Royal Commission on Trades Unions was set up. Conclusions found in the Donovan Report were that over-full employment gave immense backing to the already powerful position of workers at shop floor level.

aspect of bargaining and working.

The need for state intervention and involvement in association with both sides of industry is now admitted by almost everyone. The question that remains is, what form should it take at the present time? (Page 7.)

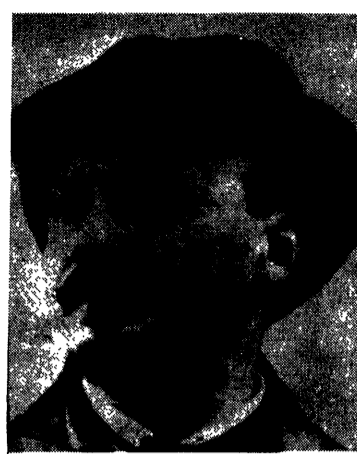
However, the immediate preparations for mobilization by the working class, as reflected in the support for the demonstration held on February 23 and the May 1 strike showed the formidable opposition facing the government.

(A general strike in Australia over the implementation of exactly the same type of legislation at that time also showed the sort of opposition the government could expect from workers.)

Growing opposition to Stalinism in the Soviet Union



Karl Radek



N. I. Bukharin



A. Shlyapnikov



Yenukidze



N. I. Muralov

Surviving children of murdered Bolsheviks protest

STALINISM was built in the USSR by completely liquidating the Bolshevik Party, by massacring its militants from top to bottom, including the supporters of Stalin. From 1935 to 1938, for example, one million Russian militants were arrested, 600,000 were executed and 400,000 were deported.

Stalin and the bureaucracy had to liquidate almost the whole of the Bolshevik Party, from the Party branches to the Politburo, in order to consolidate its domination and exclude the proletariat from power.

The political revolution in the USSR requires, in particular, the renewal of this link with the past of Bolshevism that Stalinism tried to erase forever. That is why this document written in 1967 and published in 'Samizdat I' ('The Voice of the Communist Opposition in the USSR'), which evaded the Stalinist political police, is so important.

The signatories to this letter, all sons and daughters of the Bolshevik cadres assassinated by Stalin and the bureaucracy, represent by their names and by the contents of the letter a direct link with Bolshevism. Reflected in their names is the diversity and richness of the executive committee of Soviets, etc.

Bukharin, member of the Politburo, leader of the Right Opposition; Antonov-Ovseyenko, responsible for the political leadership of the Red Army, member of the Left Opposition from 1923 to 1927; Radek, member of the Central Committee, advisor to the German Communist Party, member of the Left Opposition from 1923 to 1929; Petrovsky, People's Commissar for home affairs, member of the Central Committee, half-hearted supporter of Stalin at first; Shlyapnikov, member of the Central Committee, leader of the workers' opposition; Muralov, one of the leaders of the Moscow Soviet in October 1917; member of the Left Opposition from 1923 to 1931; Saponov, leader of the so-called Democratic Centralism group, member of the Left Opposition in 1923; Piatnitsky, president of the railwaymen's union, member of the Central Committee, supporter of Stalin; Serebriakov, one of the three secretaries of the Central Committee in 1919, member of the Left Opposition from 1923 to 1928; Yenukidze, secretary of the executive committee of the Soviets, half-hearted supporter of Stalin; Berzin, colonel, commander of the Latvian regiment in 1917; Kalinin, member of the Politburo, president of the executive committee of Soviets, etc.

If the number of signatures isn't greater, it is because entire families, like that of Trotsky were assassinated. By this protest against the rehabilitation of Stalin, carried out today in the official organ of the Central Committee of the CPSU, the descendants of the assassinated Bolsheviks express the refusal of millions of workers and intellectuals to yield before the escalation of the rule of force, an escalation which follows naturally from the rehabilitation of the father of concentration camps and counter-revolutionary terror who the bold thinker, Roger Garaudy, in 1952 still called, 'Papa Stalin'.

Jean Jacques Marie.

Letter signed by

PIOTR YAKIR, son of E. A. Yakir.
L. PETROVSKY, son of P. G. Petrovsky and grandson of G. I. Petrovsky.
A. BOKI, daughter of G. I. Boki.
A. ANTONOV-OVSEYENKO, son of V. A. Antonov-Ovseyenko.
G. TROITSKAYA, daughter of Livchitz.
G. AKOULOV, son of I. A. Akoulov.
S. V. STANKOVA (Ossinskaya-Obolevskaya), daughter of communists.
G. POLECHTCHOUK, daughter of N. I. Muralov.
YU JIVLIOUK, son of communists.
V. TERLIN, daughter of M. S. Gorb.
Z. SEREBRIAKOVA, daughter of G. Serebriakova.

The serious crimes of Stalin make all positive judgement of his activity immoral. I am signing precisely this point:

YU AIKHENWALD, son of a communist.
S. FEDOROVA, daughter of G. F. Fedorova.
J. KRIAPIVANSKY, son of N. G. Kriapiviansky.
V. SCHMIDT, son of V. V. Schmidt.
YU LARIN (Bukharin), son of N. I. Bukharin and grandson of Yuri Larin.
S. K. RADEK, daughter of Karl Radek.
A. VSEVIATSKAYA, daughter of communists.
A. GASTEVA, son of A. Gastev.
LARISSA BOGORAZ, daughter of a communist.
I. YAKIR, grand-daughter of I. E. Yakir and daughter of P. I. Yakir.



G. I. Boki



A. Gastev

To the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR (CPSU) on behalf of the surviving children of the innocent communist victims of Stalin.

TODAY, in speeches, in the press, on television, the 'merits' of Stalin are praised. This represents a political revision of the 20th and 22nd Congresses of the CPSU.

This troubles us deeply. And not only because our parents and ourselves were, like millions of others, victims of the criminal machine of Stalin. It saddens us to think that the betrayed masses were forced to consent to this arbitrary despotism.

This must not be repeated. The rebirth of the past brings communist ideas into question, discredits our system and legalizes the assassination of millions of innocent people.

All the attempts to whitewash the black deeds of Stalin raise the danger of a repetition of the hideous tragedy that struck our Party, our people and the whole communist movement.

The tragedy of the Chinese events obliges all of us to outline necessary safeguards to prevent a repetition of similar catastrophes. Only revealing totally the crimes of Stalin and his supporters can gener-

ate movement, consciousness and indignation in all of society needed to destroy all the results of the Stalin cult and make the return of new cults and new despotisms impossible.

How can one praise Stalin after all that our people and the international communist movement have suffered because of him?

This adulatory praise shackles our movement, weakens our ranks, destroys our power and makes the triumph of communism impossible.

We must celebrate the 50th anniversary of the great October revolution under the flags of the Party, bearing like a torch the immortal name of Lenin, the greatest democracy, collective control of society, control of society by society itself.

To unfurl these flags is the best homage we can pay to the men crushed by the diabolical cult of the individual.

On some of us today there

is still an unjustified stigma. Others are doomed to oblivion. History will bring them back into the heart of the Party, into the heart of the people.

The monument to the victims of Stalin's despotism promised by the 22nd Congress of the Party must be erected to mark the existence of the Soviet state for 50 years.

In these days of celebration, those who fought for a world October will be with us.

Their number cannot be counted: from the eminent leaders of the Party to the soldiers in the ranks of the revolution.

There is no place for the name of a despot on the flags of the Party.

We ask you to take notice of all that is written here and to see our letter as part of the struggle for communism. We hope this letter will allow an irreparable error to be avoided.

LENINISM YES! STALINISM NO!

THE following article was written by Ivan A. Yakhimovitch, former chairman of a collective farm in Latvia called 'the Young Guard' and a member of the Communist Party. In 1964 he became well known through the publication of excerpts from his diary in the youth paper 'Komsomolskaya Pravda'.

Early in 1968 he addressed a letter of protest to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union following the trial of Sinyavsky and Daniel which drew attention to discontent among the youth.

'It is stupid to see in them [the rebels and protesters] the enemies of the Soviet power', he wrote, 'and more than stupid to let them rot in prisons and

mock them. For the Party, such a line is equivalent to self-strangulation. Too bad for us if we are not capable of reaching an understanding with these young people. They will create inevitably a new party. Ideas cannot be murdered with bullets, prisons or exile. He who does not understand this is no politician, no Marxist.'

In June 1968 Yakhimovitch was dismissed from his post and condemned to unemployment. He took a stand against the intervention in Czechoslovakia and, in February 1969, he drew up and distributed with Grigorenko a leaflet concerning the suicide of the Czech student Jan Palach.

In March 1969 he was arrested and has not yet been brought to trial.

SINCE THE END of the Great Patriotic War our people has not known such an uncomfortable situation as that into which it was plunged by the events of August 21, 1968.

To occupy an allied socialist country solely because of a supposed counter-revolution, to occupy a country in which the leading role is played by the Communist Party, without its consent, with contempt for its wishes, is something which runs counter to all the moral conceptions of the Soviet people.

They desire peace and know how to appreciate the friendship and confidence of other peoples.

An old illness: fear, a stupor similar to paralysis, has gripped the souls of millions of men like a rebirth of the servile and degrading fear of the bloody night of Stalinism.

All that gang of Stalinists who have not and never had anything to do with Marxism-Leninism, but who, on the contrary, tended towards fascism, and who often used the methods of fascism, these Stalinists who Khrushchev relegated to the storehouses and corridors of history, considered that the time had come to take their revenge.

How much they resemble those thirsty for revenge in West Germany. They also camouflage themselves behind phony slogans. They also hope to take revenge!

Can such brutal acts of interference in the affairs of a socialist state strengthen the communist movement? No!

Can they strengthen the authority of the Soviet Union? No! Stalinism has become the principal danger which threatens the unity and solidarity of all countries, the principal danger which threatens peace and progress.

It is undoubted that all Marxist-Leninists must unite their efforts to destroy Stalinism, to destroy this leftist deviation, this revisionism, this non-socialism, before the danger which it represents leads to catastrophe.

A spectre is haunting Europe: That of catastrophe

By I. A. Yakhimovitch

Whether the Stalinists are conscious of it or not, they fear their own people more than they fear the imperialists.

It is this fear alone which can explain the continuous brain-washing of large sections of the population, the use of methods of intimidation and blackmail, the rude violation of the Constitution, the extreme bureaucratization of the state, the immense network of spying, of informing, of prisons and concentration camps.

Is all this socialism? Where did they get this policy from?

Marxist-Leninism did not put forward this type of 'socialism'; it does not include such principles; it knows nothing of such ideas, this is what has to be admitted when all their screen of verbiage has been swept aside and the facts brought into the light of day.

No! a thousand times no!

This is why the 20th Congress of the CPSU affirmed the necessity to restore the norms and principles of Leninism.

This is why the whole communist world followed with such close attention and hope the process of democratization in Czechoslovakia.

And this is why the Stalinists attacked the Czechoslovak Communist Party with such fury, because they saw in it a mortal danger for themselves personally; they make a mockery of socialism and communism and of all their principles in order to save their own skins.

Isn't it significant that those comrades who demonstrated in Red Square on August 25 with the slogans of support for Czechoslovakia, its people and government were arrested and beaten up?

This took place in the Year of the Rights of Man, and, what is more, in Red Square.

They must have reached the limit of fear and panic in order to turn on their own citizens, Soviet people. These demonstrators, Pavel Litvinov, Larissa Bogoraz-Daniel and others, were they not supporting a socialist state?

Perhaps, after all, they were supporting Franco, Salazar, the Greek military junta!!!

No, the Stalinists feel that the earth is slipping away beneath their feet, that the mortal hour which history has chosen for them is approaching. Their panic is that of condemned men, it is the panic of living corpses.

But it is necessary to be vigilant! They have in their hands today a powerful weapon, they have in their hands the levers of power, but their hands are frail. They are the hands of criminals.

Communists of the world, stop them before it is too late.

I do not base this upon a simple hypothesis, but upon my personal experience.

On September 27, five individuals carried out a search of my home because I was 'suspected of having stolen 19,000 roubles from the State Bank of the town of Yourmal'.

They went through my flat, they found some political literature concerning events in Czechoslovakia and took it away, including 'Pravda' and 'Izvestia', because comments had been written in the margin on some of the statements. There is no need for the least doubt that 'they' will now have material for a direct intervention of the KGB [i.e. the secret police] and for my arrest!

☆

The examining magistrate asked me why I had been so long without working (since April 1 this year). I was sacked while on holiday (for the letter written to Suslov and addressed to the Central Committee).

Besides, I have not been given a registration permit to allow me to join my family. Everybody knows that without this in the USSR one cannot obtain work even as a porter or be admitted to hospital.

What sort of hypocrisy is it to ask someone unemployed under these conditions: 'Why are you not working?' when it is obvious on whose orders the things just mentioned have been decided!

☆

When a torrent of calumnies floods all our papers, when the fraternal Communist Party of the socialist republic of Czechoslovakia is also slandered, what does a further slander against the former chairman of a collective farm matter?

Those Communist Parties which support the CPSU in its crude mistakes render it, whether they want to or not, the worst of services: they contribute to deceiving the Soviet people, they weaken our country in practice, because they strengthen the adventurist elements within the leadership of the party and weaken the healthy and progressive elements.

We repeat: Come to your senses!

We repeat: Hands off Czechoslovakia!

We repeat: Free the political prisoners!

We repeat: LENINISM YES! STALINISM NO!

I Yakhimovitch was indeed arrested in March, 1969. This permit, the propiska, is required by anyone settling in a Soviet town and it is illegal to possess one. Without it a worker cannot hope to get a job.

New M.D.W. threat at British-Leyland

Newsletter Industrial Reporter

BRITISH-LEYLAND has begun a new push for Measured-Day Work—this time at its Southall commercial vehicle subsidiary, AEC.

Nine months ago, AEC's ancillary (so-called 'non-productive') workers had their claim for parity earnings with production put into procedure.

After granting a small interim pay rise, the company tried to side-track the claim towards a pay-and-productivity package deal including 'penal clauses'.

Fixed wage

Announced on September 18, the deal would put workers on a fixed wage, 'guaranteed' as long as production in the factory was not stopped through disputes.

Bonus earnings would average 13s. 6d. above their present level.

The management's own figures, however, show that the pay of sections of these workers rose 22 per cent last year—almost solely through bonus increases.

Leyland's project an annual pay review by a wages council made up of shop stewards and management men.

This would have company statistics—trends of company business, etc.—placed before it, but would have no powers.

Job-evaluation

The company also wants, in the same deal, agreements for the introduction of work-measurement and job-evaluation schemes 'where required in the future by the company', and that 'there will be no restrictions on new methods of working in any departments covered by the agreement'.

This is a warning to workers throughout the British-Leyland combine.

Lord Stokes like Hegland (of Vauxhall's) has by no means given up the idea of introducing Measured-Day Work and 'penal clause' agreements into his factories.

The Southall deal must be thrown out completely. After AEC, Midland car-workers who have so far resisted such deals are next on the list!

G.E.C. English Electric FIGHT AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT MUST GO ON

WEDGWOOD BENN'S visit to Merseyside a week ago has, as expected, solved none of the problems facing the area's GEC-English Electric workers.

Those who fought the plan to occupy the company's three Liverpool plants, or tacitly helped prepare September 17's setback still face one big question: What to do about the closure of Napier's and the 3,000 other redundancies scheduled by Weinstock and Nelson?

As Weinstock told the Liverpool 'Daily Post's' business editor, Ian Hargraves, in an interview published on September 18:

'This plan is vital if we are to remain competitive. In the last few years the business has become highly competitive internationally... we can only survive if we get our costs down, improve productivity and stick to promised delivery dates.'

Attacks

In other words, there are further attacks to come and the first lesson—yet to be learnt by the Merseyside stewards—is that GEC's 3,000 Merseyside redundancies are not some local phenomenon, but are inextricably bound up with the deepening crisis of world capitalism. There is no reformist way out.

The Labour traitors have, in fact, assisted and supported the company's plans at every stage. Listen to Weinstock:

'The need for these changes was recognized by the Ministry of Technology and the Department of Employment and Productivity, who have been consulted from the start.'

Response

Thus the struggle at GEC-English Electric presented, from the outset, a first-rate opportunity to mobilize workers politically in the fight against unemployment. The demand for national-



BY DAVID MAUDE

Workers from the Merseyside plants marching earlier this year against the closures.

ization of the big monopolies and banks under workers' control would, as was demonstrated by the Liverpool Trades Council's September 16 meeting for local shop stewards (reported in 'The Newsletter', September 20), have been assured of a big response in the area.

Merseyside has already been hit hard by the rising jobless trend. 30,000 workers—more than 4 per cent of the labour force—are already out of work.

As George Stratton, divisional organizer of DATA, told the Trades Council meeting, 12,000 workers have already been put out of the GEC combine nationally—with very little opposition. Why?

At AEI Woolwich, 5,000 were sacked after their struggle had been diverted to a protest by a combination of 'left' talk from Labour MPs, disapproving noises from trade union leaders and rationalizations of defeat from the Communist Party.

Failed

By failing to mobilize the strength of those workers the stewards helped to run the Woolwich struggle into the ground.

Despite the government's pious phrases about alternative employment, many of them are still out of work.

GEC Merseyside workers took the first steps on a different road, a road advocated alone by the Socialist Labour League from the beginning of the Woolwich struggle.

But it was highly dangerous to see this simply as 'a higher form of protest', as Netherton English Electric steward Ted Mooney—a member of the revisionist 'Militant' group—described it on September 16.

Thus many stewards, encouraged by the so-called 'Institute for Workers' Control', concentrated on 'winning public sympathy' to the exclusion of the political preparation of their own forces within the three plants.

Stunt

Unfortunately, the occupation was tied prematurely to the demand for workers' control and in this way was channelled away from the real fight against unemployment.

(It is indicative of the real character of the middle-class

politics of the 'Institute' that one of its leading lights, Mr Ken Coates, found himself re-admitted to the Labour Party by the bureaucracy only two days before the occupation was due to take place.)

How should the fight have been waged? The occupation should clearly have been the climax of a broad campaign against unemployment in the area, leading to a situation where the GEC-English Electric workers would have been supported by sympathy actions in the area. Weinstock cannot be pushed back without such a campaign.

A struggle also had to be taken into the mass of workers in the three plants themselves.

Warning

Stewards had fair warning of this as a result of the fight that was necessary in order to implement the overtime ban agreed after the August 13 demonstration—but did not really take this up.

All kinds of forces hostile to the occupation, some of them alleged to be influenced by Moral Re-Armament, were allowed to operate under the surface—particularly in the East Lancashire Road factory, which is to be only marginally affected by the redundancies.

At the same time, the management was waging a consistent anti-union campaign, which opened the way to the organization of the September 17 demonstration of 300 workers from the plant's fusegear division.

'There is no room now for those who want simply to bewail the 'backwardness' of such groups of workers.

Strike

The fight against the redundancies and unemployment must go on, centred particularly around the AEF district committee's decision to call a strike of all 12,000 GEC workers in the area as soon as the first redundancies are announced.

But the political mistakes of the last period must be learned.

If they are, there can be no doubt that the struggle will be successful—that a new stage in the fight against the threat of unemployment will have decisively been opened up.

C.P. hinders work-study opposition

THE INTERVENTION of Stalinist leadership threatens to bring the defeat of 70 electricians who are on strike at the three Scottish factories of Rolls-Royce Ltd.

By Bob Shaw

The electricians, members of the Electrical Trades Union, have been on strike for a total of nine weeks, with a break of two weeks in July to allow their claim to go through procedure.

Their struggle is against a wage-grading system which was introduced throughout the three factories ten months ago and which grades workers according to job-evaluation.

The electricians are in grades S4, S5, and S6 with a 10s. differential between the first two and £1 between the first and last.

The men claim that the works committee at the Hillington factory which is dominated by Communist Party members, has refused to support their strike by blacking machines which have been put out of action by

electrical breakdown. When this happens the shop stewards of the other trades allow jigs to be moved to other machines.

Shop stewards for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers and other trades have accepted the job-evaluation scheme and refuse to support the electricians.

At a meeting between an ETU organizer and shop stewards of all trades at the Hillington factory there was a clash with CP members during which one prominent Stalinist walked out.

It appears that what offended the CP members more than anything else was that an ETU organizer, and one-time CP member himself should attack them.

S.L.L.

FROM PAGE ONE

We are proud to present this issue of the Workers' Press, which is the first daily Trotskyist newspaper ever to be published. This is indeed an historic occasion for it marks a decisive turning of the international revolutionary tide towards Trotskyism.

The devoted sacrifices of the thousands of our followers who made this great step possible will, we are confident, inspire millions of revolutionaries to emulate our efforts in all the major capitalist countries.

As Trotsky lay dying on the evening of August 20, 1940, from a blow struck by Stalin's assassin, he gave this last message to his followers:

'I AM CONFIDENT OF THE VICTORY OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL—GO FORWARD.'

In publishing Workers' Press we have met that challenge—the building of the mass party lies ahead. This is the burning question of the hour.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League calls upon the working class and the youth to join with us in making 1970 'the Year of Lenin and Trotsky', a year in which we shall take powerful strides forward in fulfilling this task.

Socialist workers, trade unionists, revolutionary youth: The hour is at hand to strike the mightiest blows in history against degenerate imperialism and its corrupt social-democratic agents. We can and will put an end to capitalism.

We call upon you to join with us in making 1970 'the Year of Lenin and Trotsky'.

FIGHT to financially sustain and build the circulation of Workers' Press as the mass organizer of the revolutionary party.

JOIN the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists.

BUILD the Fourth International—the World Party of Socialist Revolution.

September 26, 1969

A.T.U.A. calls motor workers' conference

THE motor industry, now occupying a major position in the western European economy, is being hard hit by the growing economic crisis.

Deflationary policies and high interest rates are creating the conditions for recession in the industry. There is now a real danger of short-time working and redundancy.

Meanwhile, the industry has been subject to the greatest speed-up drives in its history.

Measured-Day Work, job-evaluation and productivity bargaining have intensified exploitation and in the long run lowered wages where they have been accepted.

Workers all over western Europe face these same problems.

The All Trades Unions Alliance believes that car

workers, irrespective of their unions, should discuss these problems in a conference.

They cannot be resolved by trade union struggles alone, because the crisis is one of the whole capitalist system.

It is therefore a political question which poses the necessity for international action through the building of the alternative revolutionary leadership.

Car workers from the Michelin, Renault and Citroen factories will be attending the conference.

The provisional agenda is:

● Reports on the position of car workers in Britain and western Europe.

● The campaign against unemployment and short-time working.

● Steps to support the campaign for wage parity between Ford and Vauxhall workers and the Midlands.

● The setting up of a national car workers' advisory committee affiliated to the All Trades Unions Alliance.

Delegates and visitors must be workers in the car, car delivery and components industry.

The conference will be held at:

Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth, Birmingham, Saturday November 8 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Conference fee: 5s a person

Yorkshire miners rent fight: strike off

Wages demand stepped up

By Jack Gale

TWENTY-FOUR West Yorkshire pits have threatened to strike if Primrose Hill Colliery, Woodlesford, near Leeds is closed; and 19 pits in South Yorkshire may strike in support of a wage dispute at Cadeby Main colliery.

Twenty pits in Yorkshire have closed in the last 12 months and the miners are determined to keep Primrose Hill open.

1,600 men have been on strike since September 15 at Cadeby Main over wages paid to 130 market men.

On Tuesday, September 23, a mass meeting rejected appeals by the Yorkshire area NUM agent, Abe Collins, and financial secretary, Jack Kane, a prominent Communist Party member, to return to work so negotiations could take place.

They claim that these men are being put on to lower-paid jobs when there are vacancies at the colliery.

Delegates from 19 other pits in the area have agreed to consider strike action if no satisfactory settlement is reached by the end of this week.

The linked issues of wages, closures and rents (see report on miners' rent disputes) mean that Yorkshire could face its biggest pit stoppage since 1961 when the entire coalfield struck for a month over colliery contract earnings.

BENTLEY and Scawthorpe (Yorkshire) miners' strike against the proposed rent increases in National Coal Board houses has been deferred. The original call for a strike on September 22 and a demonstration through Doncaster was passed at a mass meeting on Sunday, September 14 (see 'The Newsletter', September 20).

This call caused alarm at NCB headquarters.

Lord Robens, NCB chairman, appeared on television on Friday, September

19, appealing to miners not to strike and promising to meet their 'representatives' in Yorkshire.

As reported in 'The Newsletter', the Communist Party was split on the issue.

At a meeting of the Doncaster Area Committee of Tenants' Associations a big attack was launched on the Scawthorpe men.

One of the leaders of this attack was a long-standing Communist Party member and former parliamentary candidate, Communist Party members joined with right-wingers in denouncing the Scawthorpe men as 'anarchists' and 'disrupters'.

VAUXHALL MOTORS

FROM PAGE ONE

the absence of the plant's 3,000 National Union of Vehicle Builders' members, laid off by the management two weeks ago as a result of its dispute with 400 press operators.

Many workers felt that the vehicle builders, who are equally affected by the company's proposed deal, should have been brought into the meeting.

the start

'I'm not despondent,' Ellesmere Port convenor Alan Baker told the Workers' Press on Wednesday night. 'This is just the start of the struggle. The situation is still very fluid—there can be big developments in the next two weeks.'

After returning to work, one section of workers—from 629 division—clocked out on Wednesday after the management toured the plant telling stewards that if the overtime ban and work-to-rule was not lifted workers would be sent home.

'Unfortunately,' said Alan Baker, 'we inherited the Measured-Day Work system—it was already in operation when the Ellesmere Port plant was built. But all this is now coming in question.'

'I don't think there's a single worker who's in favour of the company's new proposals. What we need is united action with Luton—and that means educating the membership throughout the combine.'

Ultimata to return to normal working have now gone out from the management to members of both the main unions at Ellesmere Port.

This can be a powerful factor in bringing together the press operators to fight with that against the company's pernicious proposals for a 'penal clause' deal.

WEAKENED

It must be said frankly that the Scawthorpe committee itself weakened.

After the strike decision was taken not a single leaflet calling for support was issued.

Yet when the decision to defer the strike was taken, a leaflet was out in matter of hours.

I understand that at a meeting of the Bentley and Scawthorpe Tenants' Defence Committee a proposal was put to call off the strike altogether.

A member of the All Trades Unions Alliance fought for the strike to go on and insisted the only way to win was to stay on the offensive.

After this, a resolution to defer the strike was passed, I understand, by five votes to two with one abstention.

Communist Party members voted for deferment.

Tenants £5

FROM PAGE ONE

FORD'S 1/667 Transport and General Workers' Union branch has donated £5 to the GLC tenants' fight against rent increases and promised active support in the event of any attempted evictions.

N.A.L.G.O. No strike action

ABOUT 1,200 delegates attending the National and Local Government Officers' Association Special Group Meeting (Local Government) in London on Saturday, September 23, explored their negotiators' failure to get a pay rise from the local authorities.

A motion instructed them to negotiate an improvement 'without delay'.

By Mickie Shaw

THE STRIKE of 1,000 Better Sound Reproductions workers in East Kilbride, Lanarkshire, has continued now for six weeks and the management still refuse to recognize the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers.

Mrs Judith Hart, MP has stated that she supports the strikers but the burning question is whether she is prepared to put words into action.

After all, she was a member of the government during the period when proposals were being drafted to introduce laws penalizing striking workers and she did not then raise her voice in protest.

Wordy statement

Mr Dave McDowell, prospective Communist Party parliamentary candidate for Lanark, also made a wordy statement in the 'Morning Star' on September 20 calling for government intervention to compel BSR to grant the right of trade union organization.

He stated 'Action is urgently required to win the just de-

STRIKE CALLED TO BACK E. KILBRIDE WOMEN

mands of these men and women... but apart from government action he makes no other proposals except to the Glasgow district AEF shop stewards' quarterly meeting for support.

At a mass meeting of strikers last week a full-time AEF official reported that solidarity action was expected from other sections of workers, particularly at the Grangemouth oil refinery, and railway workers on freight-line trains.

The employers are adamant that they will not meet or speak to trade union representatives at any level.

Since the DEF is one of the departments set up by the government to discipline workers, it is unlikely that it will do more than request the management to arrange a meeting.

A way to break the deadlock was discussed at a quarterly meeting of AEF shop stewards in Lanarkshire, who represent 20,000 workers.

They passed a resolution calling on the AEF's mid-Lanark district committee to call a half-day token strike in support of BSR.

This strike is planned for Wednesday, October 1.

An approach is also being made by the strikers to the Glasgow district AEF shop stewards' quarterly meeting for support.

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over—nationalized without compensation and placed under workers' control.

In this dispute, involving almost entirely women workers, the key card is clearly held by the AEF.

It has a tremendously powerful weapon in its membership in the engineering and shipbuilding industries on the Clyde and in the West of Scotland area.

Within the union the demand must be made that this power be used by mobilizing all engineering workers in support of the BSR strikers to force the management to recognize and negotiate with the union representatives.

Donations to the strike fund should be sent to: Mrs. Maxine, 28 Houston Terrace, West Main, East Kilbride, Lanarkshire.

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West Germany

FROM PAGE ONE

of the economy in the face of the big wages movement.

The German ruling class will be looking to the SPD, whether it wins an election or not, to play a part through its ties with the unions in heading off this movement.

Divert

The SPD could do this if the CDU is able to form a government on its own by trying to divert the German workers' struggles behind a fake parliamentary SPD opposition to the new government.

Alternatively if the SPD finds itself in office it would inevitably carry out a similar betrayal to that of the Wilson government in Britain.

But the crisis has now developed to such a stage that such a role is very limited, now that the working class is on the move.

This militancy has also expressed itself in the determined working-class opposition to the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD).

Six times in eight days anti-Nazi demonstrators clashed violently with police protecting the NPD rallies.

Von Thadden, NPD leader, notwithstanding the protection of his bullet-proof glass cage, has had to give up speaking at public meetings.

By Robert Black

THE LIFE of John Campbell, who died (aged 74) a week ago, is a case study in the history of British Stalinism.

The most important aspect of Campbell's political career is not his collection of First World War medals, nor his involvement in the 1924 'Campbell Case', which helped to bring down the first MacDonald coalition.

These things have naturally been blown up in the capitalist press (as indeed they have in the 'Morning Star'), but they only serve to divert our attention from the real role that he and his co-leaders of the British Communist Party played in the workers' movement.

DEFENDED POLICY

Campbell represented Stalinism in most right-wing and virulently anti-Trotskyist form.

He was never happier than when defending the latest right-wing switch in Stalinist policy or explaining away the total massacre of the Leninist 'Old Guard' in the Soviet Communist Party by Stalin.

Always very close to social democracy in his political outlook, he recoiled sharply from the ultra-left line of 'social fascism' spelled out at the

J. R. Campbell

Sixth Congress of the Communist International in 1928 and fought a rear-guard action against its application to the British political scene.

This opposition to the tactics of the 'Third Period' was not based on Leninist principles.

Campbell endorsed to the hilt the right-wing line of the British Communist Party before and during the 1926 General Strike, summed up in its slogan 'All power to the General Council'.

He was in prison throughout the strike with several other Party leaders.

Nevertheless, their political line helped to doom the strike to defeat.

After the collapse of the 'Third Period' with the victory of Hitler in 1933, Campbell's organic opportunism could be given full rein.

AGAINST FOURTH INTERNATIONAL The rightward swing of the 'Popular Front' proclaimed at the Seventh Congress of the Comintern in 1935 also split the fate of the last remaining leaders of the Russian Revolution.

Campbell then became the main British Communist Party

'expert' on Trotskyism and the Moscow Trials.

His book 'Soviet Policy and its Critics', published by the Left Book Club of Victor Gollanz, is the most vicious and conscious of all the Stalinist slanders against the Fourth International and the political record of its founder, Leon Trotsky.

For sheer slander and historical distortion, this book is rivalled only by James Klugman's 'From Trotsky to Tito'.

At the Birmingham 1938 Congress of the British Communist Party, Campbell delivered the main political report.

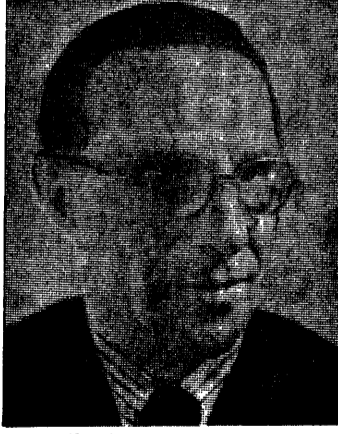
This was devoted exclusively to the struggle against the Fourth International and a defence of the Moscow Trials and the Stalin purges.

The Khrushchev revelations of 1956 left Campbell unmoved.

He withdrew not a word of his previous slanders, now torn to shreds by the 'Secret Speech' of 1956 and the open revelations made at the 22nd Congress of the CPSU in 1961.

Of course, Campbell's diatribe Stalinism and anti-Trotskyism is shared by the entire leadership of the British Party.

That is why his 'Soviet Policy' is listed as one of his



contributions to Marxist theory in the 'Morning Star' obituary to Campbell.

TO THE END

Campbell also heaved his right-wing line to the end.