

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 1973 ● No 1003 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN LOBBY THE TUC ON MARCH 5th

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THE STATEMENTS by right wing miners' union President Joe Gormley in last Sunday's 'News of the World' and in his speech the previous Thursday, are a challenge to intimidate the 'left' in Britain.

He has no more intention of mobilizing the working class in a General Strike than he ever had. His speech was made a few moments after he and the majority of his executive had decided not to fight the government on the miners' wage claim.

At all costs Gormley, TUC secretary Victor Feather and the right wing seek to avoid the approaching and inevitable confrontation between the Tory government and the working class. And if they cannot avoid it, they are determined that the working class, under their leadership, will be defeated.

But this does not alter the fact that the choice facing the working class is just what Gormley says it is. No one can avoid the question he has raised. However, this has been the situation ever since the autumn of 1970, when the Tory Government first introduced the draft of the Industrial Relations Bill.

At that time, and ever since, Gormley and the whole trade-union leadership fought bitterly against the policy of a General Strike to bring down the Tories, a policy advanced only by the Socialist Labour League.

What is behind Gormley's statement? He deliberately tries to give the impression that he might himself favour a general strike. But the 'News of the World' is not in the habit of issuing calls to industrial action, let alone a strike to bring down the government.

In the background of Gormley's statement is the rapid development of revolutionary confrontation between the working class and the capitalist class, led by Heath's government.

The Tory government has created a situation in which the ordinary working men and women of Britain find it impossible to live. The rising costs to which Gormley refers are much worse than he knows.

Together with the state-controlled cuts in real wages, under 'Phase Two' and 'Phase Three', and the abolition of col-

Statement by the SLL Political Committee

lective bargaining, these rising prices mean that millions of decent working people are put in the position of being classed as criminals! Their normal way of living and defending themselves and their families have been placed outside the law!

These are the ingredients of a revolutionary situation: the ruling class can no longer govern in the old way—it is forced to change laws which have existed for generations; and the mass of the people can no longer continue to live in the same way.

It is in this situation that Gormley and the right wing issue their challenge. It must be resolutely accepted.

Gormley's intention is to put the issues so squarely to the 'left' trade-union leaders that they will be scared stiff into following the right wing. But these 'lefts' do not need any persuading. At no time in their history have they ever set out to lead the working class against its enemy, and they will betray in 1973 just as they have always done.

One section of workers after another in the last few years has learned in struggle that these leaders always run to the employers.

Today all these trade union leaders, supported by the Labour 'left' and the Communist Party Stalinists are discussing one thing and one thing only: **how to head off the revolution.** In their circles, they see the entry into the struggle of millions of workers not as a great opportunity to mobilize for bringing down the Tory government, but as a disturbing and

frightening development which at all costs they must prevent.

Their intention at the Special TUC on March 5 is to divert and divide the working class, not to organize to bring down the Tory government.

The Stalinists will help them with proposals for one-day protest actions which dissipate the strength of the working class and leave the Tories free to proceed. In last Monday's 'Morning Star', the Communist Party compares the struggle over Phase Two with the strike actions which led to the freeing of the 'Pentonville Five', remarking that the government 'had to climb down'.

There is no question of the Tories climbing down because of protest actions. The question is to organize a General Strike to create the industrial and political conditions to make the government resign. This will enable the working class to return a Labour government and insist on socialist policies.

Nobody doubts the cowardly response of the fake left to Gormley's challenge. **NOT ONE OF THEM HAS DARED TO ANSWER HIM!** But the Trotskyist movement will not shrink from it. These are hours of great danger, but also of great opportunity. The revolutionary movement can be built only through confronting precisely such contradictions.

We have organized the Pageant of Working-Class History on March 11 for this very reason: in 1973 the working class is brought face-to-face with all the accumulated problems and experience of its history of struggle.

Every reader and supporter of the Workers Press and the SLL must work for the success of this Pageant.

On March 5, the All Trades Unions Alliance is calling for the maximum support for the lobby of the Special TUC Conference, to demand that the movement close its ranks to bring about the defeat of the common enemy, the Tory government. Every basic right has been legislated away! But the working class is undefeated! There is only one way to fight!

● Mobilize the whole strength of the trade union and labour movement in a General Strike to create the conditions under which the Tory government must resign!

● Return a Labour government, pledged to socialist policies: nationalization of all the banks, building societies and insurance and finance companies, as well as all major industries, without compensation and under workers' control.

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February 20, 1973.

TUC should back us now—say gasmen



Pickets at the Hind Street depot, Sunderland.

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They were expecting a walk-out by production workers when gas pressures reached minimum safety levels. Instead leaders of the General and Municipal Workers' Union appear to have actually increased them, following talks with management.

They also fear that Press speculation about submitting their claim to the state pay board will be used to damp down militancy until Phase Two becomes law, allowing the union to be fined heavily for taking action.

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workers press

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London market at all-time high

Gold at record

\$76 an oz

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

THE price of gold on the London market reached an all-time record level yesterday. It was fixed in the morning at \$76.10 an ounce, up 72½ cents on Monday's closing price.

The demand for gold has risen even more steeply—at one point last week the European markets were selling 50 tons a day—five times the usual volume.

The continued rise in the gold price on the free market is a clear indication that nothing is settled in the international currency crisis.

The uncertainty is made even worse by the fact that the Bill raising the official price from \$38 to \$42 an ounce has yet to complete its passage through Congress.

Since August 15, 1971, the US has refused to sell gold even to central banks at the official price, leaving the free market as the only effective market for buying and selling gold.

With the free price soaring towards \$80 an ounce the gold assets in central banks are effectively frozen—as the

Common Market was forced to acknowledge when it agreed to allow members to 'roll over' their gold debts.

Officially the dollar has been devalued by 20 per cent against gold in the last 15 months. But in fact its effective value in gold terms is only just over half what it was then.

Every other currency has also declined against gold which is the only real measure of value under capitalism. Where £1,000 would have bought nearly 70 ounces of gold in 1968 the same sum will now buy only about 32 ounces.

The rapidity with which the gold price is again increasing demonstrates that none of the basic questions have been solved by the dollar devaluation.

There is every reason to believe that much of the gold buying is by or

on behalf of the big American multi-national corporations which organized the speculation against the dollar culminating in its devaluation last week.

This devaluation has prepared the way for a new round of crises, just as in 1967 the devaluation of sterling led to a general loss of confidence in paper money and a run on gold.

The outcome of the run on gold at that time was the institution of the two-tier gold market—a free market open to all in which gold was more expensive than in the official market.

Set up in March 1968 the two-tier system has now irretrievably broken down and the real worth of the dollar and other paper currencies is being brutally asserted despite all the attempts to control it.

Greek torturer brought in as witness

TWO men on trial in Greece this week claimed they had been tortured and brutally beaten by military police.

Retired air force officer Anastassios Minis (53) and Dr Stefanos Pantelakis (43) were charged with setting up an underground resistance organization called 'Independence, Liberation and Resistance' and planting 19 bombs.

They face possible life imprisonment.

Dr Pantelakis objected to the second prosecution witness, Police Major Constantinos Klonaris, who he identified as one of his torturers. His objection was rejected by the court.



ALEXANDROS PANAGOULIS, in jail since 1968 charged with trying to kill Greek Premier George Papadopoulos, has gone on hunger strike in solidarity with the Athens students.

In another trial this week eight students charged with insulting the authorities were sentenced by a civil court to prison terms ranging from eight to 11 months, suspended for three years.

They were charged following a demonstration of about 1,000 students at the Athens Polytechnic—Greece's main technical university—against legislation threatening students with call-up to the army if they boycotted classes.

Nixon confident of union support for trade war

PRESIDENT Nixon appeared confident yesterday of support from the trade union bureaucracy for his trade war against Japan and Europe.

He professed himself pleased with his visit to Bal Harbour, Florida, where he met the executive committee of the AFL-CIO in closed session.

The AFL-CIO, led by George Meany, is the largest trade union confederation in the US. Its right-wing leaders have been in the forefront of protectionist agitation.

Nixon's Trade Bill, now on its way through Congress, is completely in line with the reactionary policy they have long advocated.

As Meany put it after the meeting, it provides Nixon with 'a number of options' for use in the forthcoming trade talks with the main capitalist competitors of the US.

Meany said that he believed trade was a 'two-way street' and that America should 'close the door' on any nation which closed the door on her.

Namibia: UN deal with Vorster?

A SOUTH AFRICAN government Bill to impose full apartheid on Namibia (South-West Africa) in no way conflicted with the United Nations charter and would not surprise UN officials, according to premier Balthazar Vorster.

Vorster took the unusual step of intervening in parliament during the second reading of the Bill to say that its general principles had been discussed last year with Alfred Escher, the UN envoy who visited Namibia.

Escher's chief, secretary general Kurt Waldheim, tried to get the UN to accept a deal with Vorster on the status of Namibia last year. The colony was formerly a UN trust territory mandated to South Africa.



VORSTER . . . stepped into debate.

The UN now claims that the mandate is void and has politely demanded that the South African racialists hand over the territory. South Africa has simply ignored them. Now the imperialist-dominated UN, in the interests of the big mining and mineral companies, wants to settle the question with Vorster.

The Namibian black majority, which organized a courageous strike against the contract labour system last year, has repeatedly demanded unconditional independence under majority rule. Has the UN done a deal with Vorster behind their backs to betray this demand?

Rhodesian freelance journalist Peter Neisewand (28) was detained in Salisbury yesterday under the Emergency Powers Act. His wife said the order, signed by Minister of Justice Desmond Lardner-Burke, alleged he would disturb or interfere with public order.

EEC farm prices sent haywire

THE CURRENCY crisis has created so many problems for the Common Market that its system of farm prices will have to be completely reassessed.

Meeting in Brussels yesterday the EEC Farm Ministers decided to delay by one month the start of the coming farm season.

This is the time from which the annual price revision comes into effect. This year it will come into effect on April 30, not April 1, as originally scheduled.

The farm prices are fixed in terms of the pre-devaluation dollar, but the EEC currencies are now far out of alignment and a complex system of correctional payments has been hastily cobbled together.

The purpose of fixing prices at the start of the farm season is to enable customs authorities to levy tariffs on agricultural imports from outside the EEC.

The highly-protectionist EEC farm policy is one of the cornerstones of the Common Market. But it is gravely menaced by the United States.

The US authorities have authorized farmers to plant an additional 40 million acres of grain-lands this year. This grain is far in excess of US domestic demand.

The surplus could be dumped on the world market, forcing down the price of grain and making the EEC farm policy even more difficult to operate.

The US has already demanded that the Common Market dismantles its farm policy to make way for American agricultural produce.

Spanish Stalinists condemn Polish link-up with Franco

BY JUAN GARCIA

MANUEL AZCARATE, Spanish Communist Party executive committee member, has written to the Polish Stalinists condemning their warm reception for 'so-called Spanish parliamentarians'.

This follows the recent EC statement criticizing East Germany for establishing diplomatic relations with Spain.

The delegation visited Warsaw in January and discussed, among other topics, establishment of diplomatic relations between Warsaw and Madrid.

Azcarate describes the composition of the Francoist contingent: 'It was led by the Count of Mayalde who was General Head of Security (that is head of police) in some of the bloodiest periods of terror. It included general Iniesta Cano, well-known head of the

Civil Guard, one of the armed bodies directly in charge of repression against the people.'

With a remarkable slip of memory, he then notes that the Spanish masses are upset by the 'abandonment of the tradition of solidarity of the Polish people'.

It can hardly shock Spanish workers that the Stalinist bureaucrats who helped break the Asturian miners' strike with shipments of Polish coal in 1970 are now courting Franco's police-chiefs!

It only disturbs the Stalinist leadership of Santiago Carrillo, which is desperately attempting to maintain its control over the Spanish working class with the lie that it represents the traditions of the Russian Revolution and the Spanish Civil War.

Indeed, Azcarate still mutes

his criticism of Polish Stalinism while making overtures to the 'democratic' capitalist powers:

'Everybody knows that fascism exists in Spain; and that there is no freedom, and no real parliament or elections. The invitation from a parliament in a socialist country (when the parliaments of the main capitalist countries have not taken similar measures) is the same as giving a kind of support (!) to the farce of Franco's Cortes.'

Why, in that case, has the Spanish CP leadership accepted as necessary the trade agreement between the Soviet Union and Madrid which has been ratified by the same Cortes?

Which bourgeois parliament has not recognized the Franco regime? Heath, Pompidou, Brandt and Andreotti have never hidden their enthusiasm for Franco's corporate state

and would dearly like to impose similar conditions on the working class in their countries.

Azcarate remains completely within the confines of Stalinist falsification in this letter.

Acceptance of the 'democratic' Common Market, coupled with faith in the peaceful democratization of fascist Spain, lines up the Spanish Stalinists in the forefront of the battle to modernize Spanish capitalism.

Over the last month, the social-political Brigade in Madrid has arrested several dozen workers, activists in the illegal workers commissions.

The Prosecutor in El Ferrol is demanding heavy sentences for those arrested during last year's strike—led by the CP with the policy of bringing 'democracy' to Galicia.

He is demanding 17 years for Rafael Pillado Lista,

PAGEANT DIARY

The Road to Workers Power



JARROW

1973 miner sees lessons from 1831

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

'THIS IS exactly what they did in the miners' strike.' This verdict on a scene from the Jarrow contribution to the Pageant for workers' rights came from a young miner, John Watson.

He had just emerged from a melee on the picket line when members of the newly-formed union clashed violently with blacklegs who were protected by the military.

The year was 1831 and the first miners' union had experienced its first baptism in blood.

'Well, I don't think it was quite like that,' comments director Steve Clarke. 'There was a lot of bloodshed because the soldiers were involved,' John Watson goes on. 'It was like that at Westoe last year. We all lined up across the road and the police came after us with their truncheons.'

The picket scene was the best of the night's rehearsals at the Jarrow ex-Servicemen's Club. Struggles with the forces of law and order are engrained in the history of the north-west working class.

William Jobling paid the ultimate price for his defiance. He was hanged and gibbeted in Jarrow, but the union he built did not die.

This is the theme of the north-east episode for the Pageant to be presented at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 11.

Two club members come into the upstairs room to watch the rehearsal.

'That was good,' says one smiling. 'It is very real. They get quite carried away, don't they?'

He and his mate say they will come to Wembley to see the finished Pageant.

But despite great enthusiasm by the 15 workers or so taking part, development is a hard struggle. The evening's rehearsal began with a run-through of a key scene.

The miners have decided to form a union and have sent terms of employment to the pit owners. They confront the overseer who wants them to sign the bond—the symbol of slavery in the pit.

One miner, played by a young unemployed worker, steps forward 'What are the terms?' he asks the enraged overseer.

'Terms? There are no terms.' is the reply.

The conflict is fundamental. The miners are demanding a basic right to negotiate freely on employment and pay—a right that the Tory government is taking away with its 'bond' over the whole working class—Phase Two.

Different approaches

The scene is run through several times, using different approaches. Then there is a dis-

ussion of the difficulties.

Outside the rehearsal rooms the battle to rally the north-east working class behind the Pageant continues.

Gasworkers, miners, hospital workers, engineers and shipyard workers are all approached.

Will they send delegations, give financial support?—there is argument and political struggle.

These are the things that make up the Pageant and the fight to build the revolutionary party.

Latest to support are the South Shields AUEW No. 1 branch. After members heard a Pageant speaker, they gave a

total of £7 and agreed to send a delegation.

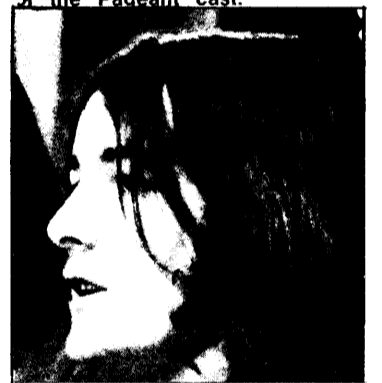
Hawthorne Lesley shipyard workers are going to discuss sending a delegation and have already agreed to give some money.

Mechanics' delegation

Mechanics at Westoe Colliery are sending a delegation and are organizing a coach. Gasworkers at Sunderland are also to discuss the Pageant and whether to back it.



Above: A pitworker speaks out against signing the overseer's bond—symbol of slavery. Below: Young miner John Watson, part of the Pageant cast.



Clydebank councillors still refuse to raise rents

CLYDEBANK council meets tomorrow to consider whether to pay the £5,000 fine imposed on it for contempt of court.

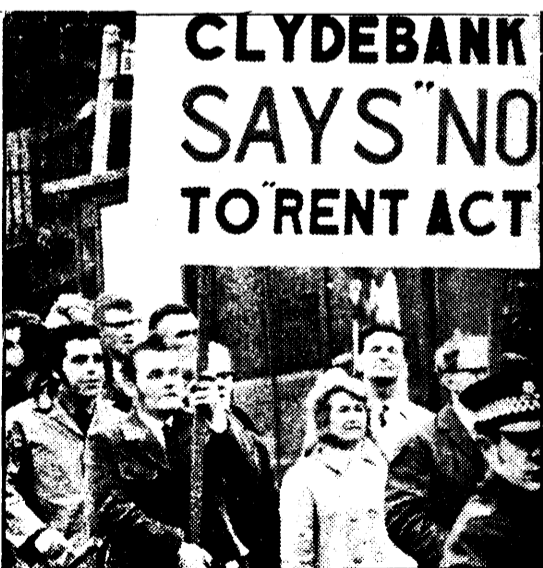
A decision not to pay the money over could lead to a larger fine for compounding the original contempt.

Even if the fine is paid, however, the Labour-controlled council will still be in defiance of the courts following its Monday decision affirming non-implementation of rent increases.

After a two-hour debate, the council divided ten votes to seven against carrying out the provisions of the Housing (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Act.

Previously there had been 13 votes against implementation, but three councillors were absent on this occasion.

It was the Tory government which obtained the court order against Clydebank. The latest vote is thus a further



Baillie Betty Brown below the anti-rent Act banner on a march through Clydebank.

snub to both the government and the courts.

Baillie Mrs Betty Brown, chairman of the special resistance committee, told the council meeting:

'If we decided to implement the Act, we would be destroying the people we are trying to protect.'

The action was

brought by a politician—the Secretary of State for Scotland—against the town council for refusing to implement the Act, which would be detrimental to the working-class people of this country,' she added. Any attempt to make 'scapegoats' out of the Clydebank people would be resisted.

Some renegade Labour-

ites were in support of 'law and order'.

Baillie Jack McAllister called for the restoration of 'industrial and commercial confidence for investment in the town'.

The majority, he added, moving implementation, had no mandate 'to conflict with the courts'.

Councillors were given 14 days to pay the £5,000 fine—the deadline expiring next Wednesday.

It will then be up to Lord Wheatley and other judges to decide what to do now that Clydebank has reaffirmed non-implementation.

A Scottish Office spokesman said yesterday it was a 'completely new situation' for them to face.

But he confirmed that power does exist under the Act 'which allows the Secretary of State to take over any functions of the council as he sees fit'.

Clydebank council could be stripped of its powers and have its affairs placed in the hands of a Tory appointee.

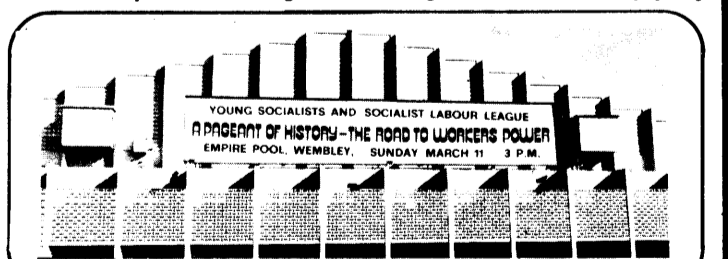
BOOK YOUR TICKET FOR EMPIRE POOL NOW

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Unite in action to make this Tory government resign

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



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ADDRESS.....

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INSIDE STROESSNER'S JAILS

Part three of a series on Paraguay. By Jack Gale.

Political prisoners in Paraguay are held in groups of between five and 15 in small and overcrowded cells in numerous police stations, called comisarias, throughout Asuncion and its suburbs.

Tin cans are used for ablutions; lights are kept on all night, and, in most cases, outside exercise is completely prohibited.

For this reason, the only time that most prisoners leave their cells is when they receive a visit. Such visits are, however, restricted to parents, wives and children under 18, and normally last for five minutes once a week.

Visits are now staggered so that relatives of different prisoners in the same cell do not meet each other when entering or leaving the police station. The conversation during the visit is held in the presence of armed guards and the topics of conversation are expressly restricted to family matters.

In most police stations, prisoners are forbidden to receive literature, and in none of the police stations can they receive letters. In many, the practice of chaining prisoners by the ankles to a rail-bar is still a common form of punishment.

Up to August 1971 prisoners at the First Precinct Station in Asuncion were kept in irons between 20 and 23 hours a day. Now, however, the chief—Alfonso Lovera Canete—has been removed for daring to arrest the sons of a leader of the Colorado Party. Prisoners are only chained at night.

In the Fourth Precinct cell doors and bars are electrified 'to prevent escapes'. One of the inmates at this prison is Ignacio Chamorro who has been held for 13 years without trial.

At the Central Police Station are the 'Dungeons of Silence'.

These are iron cages measuring two metres by one and which are brightly lit 24 hours

a day. Napoleon Ortigoze has been in such a cage for 11 years.

In the sweltering heat of Asuncion's summer, temperatures inside the cells reach 40 degrees centigrade. In the short but cold winter, the prisoners receive no special clothing from the authorities, and are as usual completely dependent upon gifts of blankets and vitamins from relatives.

Medical attention is prohibited, but in an emergency, such as a prolonged hunger strike, or in the case of imminent death, prisoners have been transferred to the police hospital, Policlinico Rigoberto Caballero which is situated next door to the United States Embassy.

Crowded

Prisoners sleep on mattresses on the stone floor. In very crowded cells, they arrange a rota system for standing awake at night, due to the lack of floor space for sleeping.

All personal belongings are hung from the ceiling at night in order to maximize floor space. The miserable food supplied to prisoners is the most common complaint in letters smuggled out of the cells. There is no food allocation for political prisoners as such.

The local police station authorities therefore feed them on watery soup, hard biscuits and beans. For this reason, aid to prisoners in the form of a steady supply of food is important. Relatives are allowed to bring food to prisoners during the weekly visits—usually, they bring sugar, bread, fruit and yerba mate, a national beverage.

The very few prisoners with more wealthy relatives receive food daily from outside. The majority of prisoners, however, with relatives either too poor or too distant to be able to visit them with any regularity, are completely dependent on the goodwill of fellow-prisoners who are better off than they in terms of food supply.

The variation of conditions

from police station to police station reflects the arbitrary nature of imprisonment in Paraguay. The local police chiefs enforce the harshest conditions possible, since they are aware that they each bear full responsibility in the event of a prisoner escaping from their police station.

The Paraguayan armed forces total some 20,200 men, in addition to which there are another 8,500 paramilitary security forces. The police force itself is a paramilitary body and its chief is an army general called Francisco Britez. The Ministry of the Interior is headed by a civilian called Sabino Augusto, who receives orders direct from the ruling military élite.

The system of civil repression is centred on the Investigation Department of the Ministry of the Interior, which is housed in a building opposite the parliament in the city centre. It is here that most newly-arrested people are brought.

Questioning is followed by beating with sticks in order to extract false confessions. The two floors and cellars of this building are divided into many small cells called calabozos where some long-term military political prisoners are also detained. The prolonged beating for periods of up to two hours non-stop with whips and sticks, burning of sensitive parts of the body with cigarettes and the removal of fingernails are all common forms of torture used.

More brutal forms of torture take place one block away in the building occupied by the Department of Crimes and Vigilance. Here, the torture consists of applying electric shock treatment to sensitive parts of the body with a prod-like instrument called a picana electrica.

The most brutal form of torture employed here is called la pileta, which means 'the bath'. This takes place in a small room on the ground floor of the building. The radio is turned on full, and, in daytime, traffic is diverted in the street

outside so that the prisoner's screams cannot be heard.

The prisoner's hands are tied behind his back. He is then made to sit on the edge of an iron bath containing water filled with filth and excrement. He is punched heavily in the stomach in order to wind him, whilst other guards raise his feet above the ground, and his head is then forced backwards and down under the water. He is held under until near drowned and forced to swallow the filthy water.

His head is then removed from the water and he is punched hard on the stomach again until he vomits the liquid back into the bath. His head is then replaced in the bath, after more punching, and the process is repeated several times.

In the opinion of several people who have received this treatment five such immersions are beyond the limits of human endurance. This form of torture has resulted in many deaths over the past five years. During 1969, there was one documented case, the Farias case, and in 1970, there was one documented case of attempted suicide as a result of this torture, that of a prisoner called Nighionico, of Uruguayan nationality.

In 1971, in the Monzon case there was a well-documented example of the use of this form of torture.

Sessions

During the torture sessions, on the basis of the reports of people who have been tortured, the following high-ranking Paraguayan generals attended—Generals Caceres, Alborna, Martinez, Johannsen, Britez and Colman (all in civilian dress). In addition, a constant spectator at these sessions is Humberto Dominguez Dib, the 25-year-old son-in-law of President Stroessner. A police doctor called Francisco Gomez de la Fuente, employed at the police hospital also attends these sessions.

Nazis like Patrick Contric, a former SS man, and Josef Men-

gele are actively engaged in the Paraguayan system of internal repression. The chiefs of the torture teams who actually carry out the torture on the orders of the above-mentioned army generals, are Raimundi, Budi Hellman, Erasmo Candia, Victor Martinez, Augusto Moreno and Comisario Lovera (who recently graduated as a Doctor in law at the Catholic University).

Their teams are composed of certain mentally deficient and sexually disturbed employees of the Ministry of the Interior, of whom the most famous are Hipolito Santacruz and Juan Carlos Hermosa.

Two other institutions are used by the ruling military élite as part of its system of civil repression.

The Technical Department of the Ministry of the Interior effectively functions as an autonomous body apart from the Ministry itself. From its building in the city centre in Chile and Jeju Street all espionage work against political opponents, both within and outside the country, is carried out under the label of 'the repression of communism'.

The two chiefs are Dr Antonio Campos Alum, an expert in the use of psychological torture, who spent several years in the United States at the International Police Academy in Washington, and Budi Hellman, who is especially feared for his brutal repression of workers at the San Antonio meat plant, owned by the International Products Corporation of New Jersey.

These two men, together with Dr Miguel Angel Bestard, assistant secretary of the Ministry of the Interior, control the vital system of communications between the political section of the United States Embassy in Asuncion and the ruling military élite.

All information about political prisoners in Paraguay is forwarded to the CIA via this office. The oft-repeated claim by the US Embassy officials in Paraguay that they are ignorant of the existence of political prisoners in Paraguay is a complete lie.

The final branch of the system of repression used by the military élite is the amorphous collection of pyraques (secret police), maintained by the state via the Ministry of the Interior.

Their numbers are hard to gauge accurately. They can be divided into three main types.

First, there is a full-time staff in civilian dress and issued with special identity cards which grant them superior status over the police. They number about 300.

Secondly, there is a part-time staff of information gatherers (public employees, students, taxi-drivers, hotel staff and prostitutes) who are paid only by results, numbering at least 2,000.

Thirdly there is a small group of about 100 poor people working in the city centre as street-vendors, boot-blacks, newspaper sellers, and small-time contrabandistas, whose only reward for their services appears to be the free daily meal which they receive from the Ministry.

The headquarters of the secret police is a building opposite the US Embassy behind the Police Hospital Rigoberto Caballero in Avenida Kubischek. The chief of the secret police, who are under the direct control of President Stroessner, is called Erasmo Candia.

Telephone tapping occurs widely in Asuncion. It is carried out from the Vigilancia Civil y Policial Department of the main state telephone service (ANTELCO) in General Brugez and M. Dominguez Street in Asuncion. Over 60 per cent of the 1,200 (1968) employees of ANTELCO are part-time police. Tapping is carried out by a modern system of 12-track cassette-type recording machines installed

by a team from Siemens in 1965, and it is considered to be the most modern system of its kind in Latin America today.

Compared with the security system of neighbouring Brazil, that of the Stroessner regime is clumsy and unsophisticated. But by employing a technique of mass random arrests of totally innocent people, and especially the arrest of relatives and suspects, brutal torturing and false accusations and arrests, the regime seeks to keep the population in a state of fear. And the penalty for subversive activities in Paraguay is instant death.

The death of political prisoners while in police custody is a common occurrence. It is impossible to be exact about the number of such deaths because the internal operations of the police are surrounded in secrecy, but the following are three well-documented cases of deaths of political prisoners whilst in detention:



President Stroessner. Left: Throughout Latin America, brutal regimes propped up by the CIA employ mass arrest and torture to stay in power.

JUAN JOSE FARIAS:

On March 7, 1969, Farias, a 38-year-old cigarette and sweet seller in the streets of Asuncion was arrested and taken to the Investigations Department on suspicion of bringing secret messages from Argentina.

On March 12, his body was delivered to his wife by the police following a pronouncement by forensic Doctor Hernan Godoy that he had died of a heart attack. However, a legal autopsy the following day revealed bloated lungs, fractured ribs, blood-clotted nose. He had been beaten with leather or rubber thongs and then subjected to the 'bath' torture.

There was no evidence of heart failure. A protest by the opposition Liberal Radical Party elicited no response at all from the government.

JUAN BAUTISTA BENITEZ:

Benitez, a peasant from Loma Pyta, was arrested at his home in November 1967. He was tortured and then placed in the Seventh Precinct Station, where he became ill in August 1969. For ten days he remained seated on the floor, as his breathing became weaker, and his body began to swell until he finally died in that position. All pleas for medical attention by his fellow-prisoners were met with the comment: 'Let him die' from the prison guards. His body was returned to his wife and two daughters by the police, who even charged her for the coffin.

GUMERCINDO GAMARRA:

On February 14, 1968, Gamarra, a peasant from Toledo Canada, Capiata, was arrested in a bar in Asuncion with no explanation given. He was taken to the Investigations Department, where he was tortured and made to confess to being a communist, even though he was a member of the ruling Colorado Party. He was then placed in the second police station, where he went on hunger strike in March of 1971, to plead his innocence. His death in the police hospital, Rigoberto Caballero, was announced on May 20, following a 38-day hunger strike. His body was returned to his wife and seven children without a medical certificate or explanation. With it came approximately \$23.



Nixon at Nato headquarters last year just prior to the Helsinki talks. Now the Stalinists sit in conference with 'all the European states, without exception' and with Nixon's envoys to conspire against the working class the world over.

THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY

A statement by the International Committee of the Fourth International

While the working class in every country is facing the harshest attack by the capitalists on its standard of living and all the rights it has gained, in Helsinki, Finland, the preparatory Conference of the European Security Council is meeting, with the participation of the US and Canada.

The Stalinist bureaucracy is participating in the conference with delegations not only from the USSR and other eastern countries, but also from the western communist parties.

This conference is a conspiracy of the Stalinists and imperialists against the working class, in the whole of Europe and worldwide. The International Committee of the Fourth International cannot help but declare its most absolute opposition.

The Stalinists not only took the initiative on this conference in order to further their counter-revolutionary co-operation with the imperialists, but were also the most ardent supporters of participation by fascist and military dictatorships such as that of Franco in Spain and Papadopoulos in Greece.

'We support the participation of all the European states,

without exception, irrespective of the character of their regimes,' said the representative of the Greek Communist Party, V. Venetsanopoulos, speaking at the Conference.

In expressing the policy not only of Greek, but also of international Stalinism, Venetsanopoulos made a distinction between his position and all the 'groups without influence' which reject 'peaceful co-existence of states with various social systems'.

'These groups,' he said, 'maintain that the Soviet Union and other socialist states forget their internationalist obligations and maintain relations even with dictatorial regimes, like those of Greece, Spain and Portugal. That with their relations towards the dictatorial regime they become a serious factor, it is said, in the disillusionment of our people, they belie their hopes and expectations, they create ideological and political confusion.

'That supposedly they subordinate the interests of the international movement to their own politico-military calculations, and that by making opportunistic, one-sided assessments, they give priority and importance only to their own state interests.'

This Stalinist found nothing to oppose all the accusations he enumerated except the arbitrary opinion that 'these views are foreign to the vital

interests of the movement'.

To seek the co-operation and to promise the defence of the security of a world dominated by the monopolies, through reactionary governments, fascism and military dictatorships, means by itself an alignment with the counter-revolution.

Under present conditions, conditions of the deepest crisis of the capitalist system, the security of this world means every kind of insecurity, savage exploitation, oppression and even physical annihilation for the working class.

From the time Nixon took his measures on the dollar in August 1971 and declared trade war on the competitors of the US in Europe and Japan, the crisis of capitalism passed to a higher stage. Stalinist treachery has escalated to the same degree.

The decision of the Stalinist bureaucracy to proceed to a conference on security and co-operation with the imperialists constitutes a betrayal a thousand times worse than the post-war agreements at Yalta and Potsdam. Then the Stalinists helped the imperialists to avoid the revolution. Now they are helping them launch the counter-revolution.

As to what the defence of 'peace' and 'security' promised by the Stalinists means, we had the opportunity of seeing it, not only in their co-operation with dictatorial regimes, but

also in the sell-out of the General Strike in France in 1968, in the intervention in Czechoslovakia, in the fierce suppression of the workers' movement in Poland, in the sell-out of the Vietnamese and Arab revolutions and at every point of their political activity.

The Stalinist bureaucracy, in order to confront the problems created in the workers' states by its reactionary policy of 'socialism in a single country', not only betrays the working class in the west, but places the revolutionary gains of the working class in the east in danger.

The International Committee of the Fourth International declares that only one kind of peace and security can exist in Europe and in the whole world: A peace that comes through the overthrow of imperialism as well as from the overthrow of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the workers' states.

The IC calls on its partisans to confront the new Stalinist betrayals by intensifying the fight for the building of revolutionary parties in every country, as necessary organs for the overthrow of capitalism and the bureaucracy and for the conquest of power by the working class in the coming great revolutionary struggles.

**International Committee of the Fourth International.
February 10, 1973.**

PRICES: ADVERTISING MAKES IT PAY

BY STEPHEN JOHNS — PART THREE

'Lord Leverhulme was a grocer's son, He learned to sell when he was young And all the time that he could play Was 'Advertising Makes it Pay' Over the hill and across the skies By God it pays to advertise.'

Everyone knows that BO is to be avoided. Millions are spent removing the natural smell of the body and replacing it with a chemical odour.

But 40 years ago people would have looked blank if you had whispered BO in their ear. Because that was before Francis A. Countway, the head of Unilever in America, discovered it after playing golf.

Another one of Unilever's ideological wars was unleashed on the population of the world. Soon people from Hong Kong to New York were all worried about BO and wanted to buy Lifebuoy toilet soap—introduced in England in 1898—to get rid of it. Unilever, naturally, made millions.

The BO story is by way of an introduction to the staggering expenditure on advertising, packaging and promotion in the food industry. Unilever alone spends £200m a year on 'promotion' and a further £100m on packaging—the budget of a small country.

Almost all this is parasitic, represents an enormous waste of human resources, adds greatly to the price of groceries and in many cases leads to inferior goods. The advantage is entirely the manufacturers. The aim of advertising is to promote the 'exclusiveness' of a product, which in all important respects is identical to other products in the same field.

This development is a direct result of the capitalistic structure of the food industry.

Before the war several large firms dominated particular sectors of the industry.

But the development of convenience foods, in cans and in frozen and dehydrated packets, led to a rapid diversification of interests. Combine followed combine into new fields. To stand still would have been to risk annihilation.

Eventually two, three or four combines faced each other in all sectors of the food market. Some, like Unilever, Imperial Tobacco, Associated British Foods and Cadbury Schweppes, have substantial interests in many fields. In the language of the economists the structure of the food industry is oligarchic.

Price competition in these circumstances is too much of a risk for the big companies. For example Proctor and Gamble (Thomas Hedley) and

Unilever between them control the entire British market for detergents. They both have massive resources. A price-war would be so damaging to both companies that it is entirely ruled out.

Instead both firms tend to shift competition into other fields—especially advertising and promotion. The same is true of the whole food industry. Company after company spend millions of pounds to persuade the customer to buy their products.

Advertising is a vicious circle. Once a giant promotes a brand through blanket coverage on commercial television, the Press and on hoardings, its rivals are forced to follow or lose millions in sales. This accounts for the saturation advertising of food products and the endless search for gimmicks and innovations to show the product is 'new'.

It all leads to the paradox that while sales promotion makes products appear different, they are becoming more and more the same. Bread is a typical example.

The great variety in the loaf is being destroyed as the big three private bakers get a greater grip on the market. But their packaging is designed to suggest there is an outstanding example between their products and the bread products within each of their own ranges.

For example Associated British Foods (Sunblest), desperate for a new innovation, introduced 'Happy Bread'. It was more or less the same product dressed up in a different coloured wrapper for each day.

Deterioration discovered

In 1970 the results of a five-year check on 100 common consumer goods by Warwickshire weights and measures inspectors was published. The conclusion was that while goods may have appeared to be improving, the opposite was the case.

They discovered widespread deterioration—loaves had been made to look bigger by increasing the moisture content and bottles of dish washing liquid were enlarged by adding water. The inspectors concluded that the manufacturers 'know they will lose sales by putting price up . . . whereas they can . . . profit safely by reducing quality'.

The Vim campaign gives some indication of the sums of money involved.

Vim was launched by Unilever (or Lever Brothers as it was then) in 1904 as a simple cleaner. Later the emphasis was changed. Vim became a cleaner that could tackle anything from roof to cellar.

Everything went splendidly and Vim captured 55 per cent of the £9m heavy-household cleaner market. But in 1955 Proctor and Gamble brought out Ajax with the 'greater cleaning power'. Vim's share



Top: The supermarket; convenience foods, canned, frozen and dehydrated, but the public must pay far more for any product surrounded by a 'halo' of advertising. Above: Lord Sainsbury.

of sales slumped to 30 per cent. So Unilevers invented 'new' Vim. The perfume was changed from 'garden pine' to 'fragrant floral' and the powder from white to green.

The whole idea was to make Vim noticeably different from other powders in what was described by the ad-wizards as a 'low-interests field'.

Apart from the smell, the campaign hung on a 'chemical miracle' which was supposed to happen right in the housewife's sink. What happened was that the green powder turned white on contact with water. One contemporary commentator had this to say about the promotion:

'Obviously housewives are not sufficiently interested in science to prefer a product merely because it enables them to enact a minor chemical miracle in their sinks, but it may at least help them to believe that "New Vim" is really an improved product. But . . . for a product such

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as Vim, which has already undergone several revampings during its long history, a consumer might well have reason to be cynical'.

The cost of this one campaign alone was £500,000 (by no means a record for Unilever which spent £8m promoting 'Radiant' the biological washing powder) one eighteenth in value of the entire household cleaner market.

This kind of fabulous spending is repeated throughout the entire groceries field—in 1971 £1.42m was spent on 'Ariel' (Proctor and Gamble); £1,329,000 on Persil (Unilever); £1,195,000 on Weetabix; £1,177,000 on Kellogg's Corn Flakes; £9.6m on chocolate and confectionery; £5m on bread and flour; £2.9m on biscuits; £1,317,000 on Wall's sausages (Unilever); £3,607,000 on tea; £1,207,000 on Nescafé and Gold Blend (Nestlé's group, a Swiss combine), and so on.

One recent argument

brought in by the defenders of monopoly in the food trade is that pressure from the retail trade has curbed the power of the giant manufacturers and forced them to compete.

It is true that the growth of the chains has had an important effect on the industry. One of the most noticeable developments has been the rise of 'own label brands'.

Sainsbury's for example, does a line in beans, manufactured by Crosse and Blackwell (Nestlé's), which it sells a lot cheaper than the main brands.

Something approaching 20 per cent of all retail sales in the multiples are captured by 'own labels'.

But the result has been to strengthen rather than weaken the power of the big combines, and the necessity on their part to advertise.

'Own-label' brands sell on the strength of their cheapness. They do particularly well, therefore, in fields where

stitute for them. You may think that a baked bean is a baked bean, but the manufacturers would have it otherwise.

The power of the retail trade, therefore, tends to work ultimately in favour of the giants and against the smaller manufacturer who cannot carry massive advertising costs. This was recognized at a sales conference held recently in Blackpool. John Harvey, the marketing director of Cadbury Schweppes, said:

'Despite the many pressures of the past two or three years, big brands remain dominant in the grocery market.

'It is the minor brands that are really feeling the competition from "own-label". Big brands have their own distinct personality, the development of which represents an enormous investment in advertising, promotion and selling effort [note the priorities—not cheapness, or quality]. A big brand must sustain its uniqueness and there is a need for constant innovation if it is to stay that way. Its physical characteristics and all the elements of its communication—pack, style, advertising and promotion—must be blended into a single-brand image.'

This is really a fancy way of saying the public must pay far more for any product surrounded by a 'halo' of advertising.

Promotion is often carried to such fantastic lengths that the product itself becomes a secondary factor.

Recently Unilever found that grocers were buying as many giant sized packets of Persil as they could, not to sell the powder, but solely to acquire a 30p voucher on each pack. The powder was being thrown away or given to favourite customers because the special offer was worth more than the retailer paid for the pack at the cash and carry warehouse.

The combines, of course, display a wounded innocence towards criticism over heavy advertising expenditure. A passage from the 1966 Unilever annual report delivered by Lord Cole fairly states their case.

'Our market is of infinite variety of our public partly to accept it in all its variety, to accept that some people prefer to stay at home, sweet stay-at-home, sweet well-content . . . some like pretty packages and others are concerned only with what is inside them. Some want the reassurance of an old tried brand name—others like endlessly to try something new, that some like shopping . . . and some find it a chore.

'We accept this immense variety of our public partly because if we did not, the public would discipline us in the simplest ways. They would buy from somebody else.'

This argument is a total evasion.

Choice, as we have shown, is severely curtailed in groceries. In margarine, for example, Unilever and Kraft, a US firm, have a total monopoly of this product—with Unilever far and away the leading manufacturer. The 'choice' presented to the housewife is a choice between two ranges of margarine very similar in terms of quality and price, different only in their brand images which are the result of mass advertising.

Cole added: 'Whether an advertisement misleads or a package deceives lies entirely in the eye of the beholder.'

This too is completely false. And advertising campaign after advertising campaign proves it.

Even, the authorities on occasion have been forced to recognize this. The 1964 Monopolies Commission report on detergents (again Unilever dominates the field) found that all competition

was in the field of advertising and promotion:

'The main criticism of the advertising and sales promotion policies of these two firms, Proctor and Gamble and Unilever, are that their advertising matter is concerned merely with emphasizing unprovable qualities and building up brand images than with informing the public about the practical attributes of the product and how best use can be made of it.

'They [the Commission] say this encourages a consumer to buy a particular powder for the benefit of the gifts or prizes and that the effect is uneconomic because it leads a manufacturer to market two very similar products under two different brand names and to launch 'new' products or change the formula of existing products for the sake of "improvements" which are of little intrinsic value to the consumer.'

The Commission suggested that a reduction in advertising expenditure would reduce the price of detergents by as much as 23 per cent. The giants resisted. No price cuts were carried out.

One might ask Lord Cole, if the housewife is sovereign, if the companies are at her mercy, if she cannot be fooled, why on earth does his company spend millions to broadcast the 'qualities' its products are alleged to possess?

The answer is that the monopolistic structure of the food industry forces Unilever to do so. If it did not, the company would lose sales and millions in profit.

In private moments the food bosses are much more candid.

Do the profits rise?

Yes

Bill Bowman, the international division head of United Biscuits (McVities, Crawford's, Carrs etc.), described to the 'Financial Times' how his company's fortune was revived.

'There was no advertising, no product support at all, no image, they were cut-price products. So we made a start on revamping McVitie. We put up prices massively, we improved packaging and got away from English-style packs.'

Did the consumer gain? No. Were the biscuits cheaper? No. Was there more variety? No. Was there any particular improvement in quality? No.

Did the price go up? Yes. Did United Biscuits' profits rise? Yes.

The thing to grasp about advertising is that the bulk of it is entirely the product of the monopolistic structure of the industry and aids only the big firms to make more and more profits. Apart of increasing prices, it results in enormous human waste.

Under a socialist system there would only be need for the most minimum advertising—enough to inform the public that there were certain commodities available and that they had certain properties and qualities.

The emphasis would be strictly on transferring the benefits of technology and efficiency to the consumer in the form of lower prices, better quality etc.

The Tory government has the opportunity to slash prices at a stroke—by ordering a halt in the mad race to persuade the punch-drunk housewife that this powder is whiter than that one, that this margarine spreads better than the other.

But it will not.

Talks of a 'decent standard of living' and 'prices freeze' is a sham. Because the Tories represent the food monopolies, the supermarket bosses and the advertising kings, not the working class.

STRIKE!

ON THE

Taff Vale Railway.

Men's Headquarters,
Cobourn Street,
Cathays.

There has been a strike on the Taff Vale Railway since Monday last. The Management are using every means to decoy men here who they employ for the purpose of black-legging the men on strike.

Drivers, Firemen, Guards, Brakesmen, and SIGNALMEN, are all out.

Are you willing to be known as a

Blackleg?

If you accept employment on the Taff Vale, that is what you will be known by. On arriving at Cardiff, call at the above address, where you can get information and assistance.

RICHARD BELL,
General Secretary.

RICHARDS, PRINTER, 41, LOWER CATHEDRAL ROAD, CARDIFF.

The Taff Vale judgement of 1901 was a powerful blow against the trade union movement which drastically changed its legal position.

When the five Law Lords sitting on July 22 in an action taken by the Taff Vale Railway Co. against two officials of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants (ASRS) declared that 'a trade union was liable to be sued in its registered name' employers all over the country were jubilant.

With these few words, the judiciary, on behalf of the employers, had struck a crippling blow against trade unionism, the only defence of the working class against exploitation. The decision made it virtually impossible to carry out picketing during a strike and enabled employers to sue a union for damages inflicted during a trade dispute.

A trade union would think twice about calling a strike which might result in it being saddled with heavy damages and legal costs sufficient to ruin it financially. The judgement was thus a class attack by the judiciary on the rights of trade unions which were believed to exist under the Acts of 1867 and 1875.

Not only was effective picketing made virtually impossible, but the question of whether the workers had any rights of combination at all—whether the trade unions were legal bodies—was now raised. In addition, trade unions could be restrained by court injunction from activities regarded as tortious; in other words, the full power of the law could be mobilized to hamstring the unions.

In this case the Taff Vale Co. was able to sue the ASRS and was awarded £23,000 damages. The total cost to the union was £42,000 which, in 1901, was a very large sum.

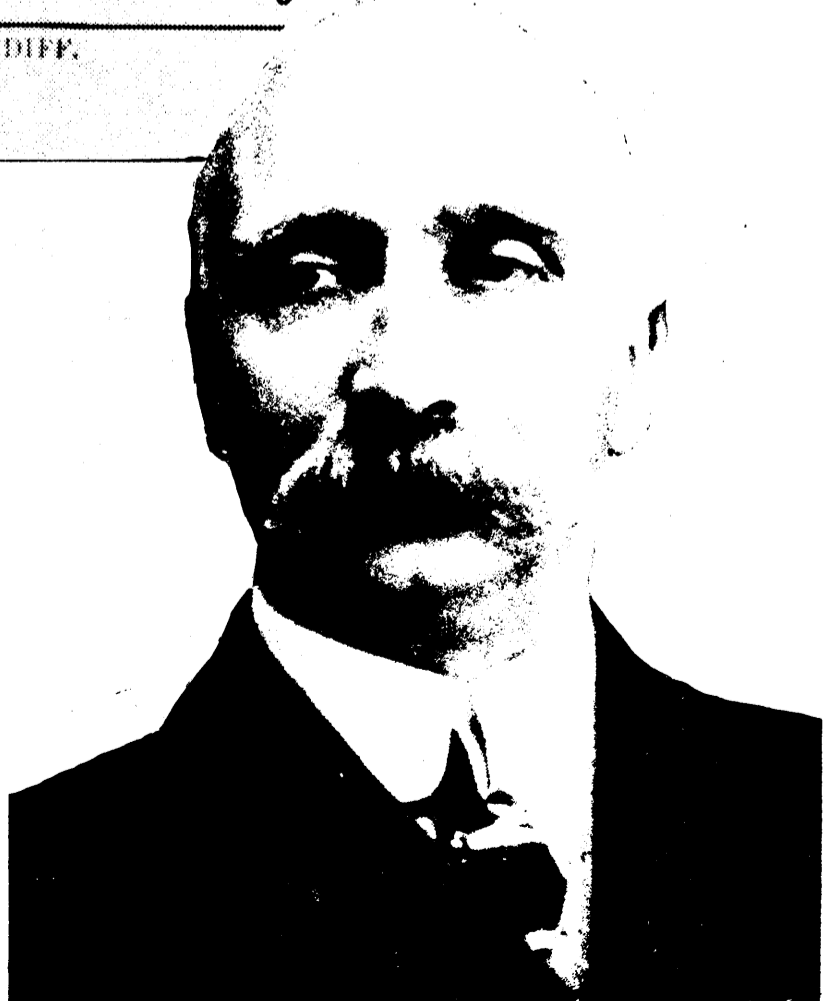
The case went through three stages in the courts. In the first court the judgement went in favour of the Taff Vale Railway Co. which brought the action. In the Court of Appeal this decision was reversed, but the company took it to the House of Lords where the first judgement was upheld.

The Taff Vale case arose out of a struggle by the ASRS for wage increases against a number of railways in South Wales which were largely concerned with transporting coal.

Left: Official union poster for the strike on the Taff Vale railway. Below: Richard Bell.

THE MEANING OF TAFF VALE

On Sunday, March 11, at the Empire Pool, Wembley, a pageant of working class history, 'The Road to Workers' Power', will be presented before an audience of 10,000 trade unionists, their wives and youth. One of the episodes in the pageant is based on the fight of the trade union movement to resist the legal attacks of the Tory government at the turn of the century. The attacks culminated in the Taff Vale judgement of 1901 which fined the railway union £23,000. In the fight against this savage judicial attack, the trade unions went forward to found the Labour Party in 1906. Trade unionists and young people in the Merthyr Tydfil area in South Wales are working with a special pageant committee to recreate the Taff Vale incident—to bring yesterday's struggles before today's working class. On Thursday night a public meeting will be held in Merthyr to discuss the pageant and its implications for the British working class in defeating the Tory government and building a revolutionary party to take power.





Banner of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants (ASRS), the union which was sued and forced to pay damages in the Taff Vale case of 1901.

During the South African war prices had soared. But the rail bosses refused to grant wage increases.

Taff Vale's general manager, Ammon Beasley, was determined to hold out against wage increases even when other companies had granted them. He was also a tough boss intent on smashing the unions. And he was far from alone.

During the 1890s a general offensive against the trade unions was mounted by the employers. Hostility to the unions was increasingly reflected in the press as well as in a number of legal decisions which prepared the way for the Taff Vale judgement. One of these, in 1898, made it an offence to call someone a 'blackleg'. Another important development was the systematic recruitment of strike-breakers. The best known of the scab organizers was the self-styled National Free Labour Association set up by William Collinson. Beasley turned to this Association during the strike which broke out on the Taff Vale railway.

As the railwaymen became increasingly militant Beasley became still more adamant. A rank-and-file militant, signalman Ewington of Abercynon, was victimized by the company and Beasley refused to negotiate with the union.

The treatment meted out to Ewington, who had 20 years' service with the company, coming on top of the still unsatisfied wage claim put the men in a militant frame of mind. Despite the fact that the ASRS officials were looking for some kind of compromise, a strike had become inevitable. Notices were handed in and the strike began on August 19, 1900.

Beasley refused to recognize the ASRS. He sent them a wire which read: 'I am prepared to see any reasonable number of the company's servants and give full and careful consideration . . . but I regret that I cannot receive officially or unofficially any person not in the company's service.'

It was a bitterly fought dispute. Beasley called on the National Free Labour Association to supply blacklegs. They were recruited from as far away as Glasgow and Hull and were given free beer, food and their fares to Cardiff. Here the union mounted a campaign to persuade them to return home and many of them got no further than Cardiff. About 400 men were recruited in all of whom only about half were actually employed.

Those that were headed off were given a square meal and a ticket home after the issues in the dispute had been explained to them. Blacklegs who were taken on proved to be incapable and pickets joined in to make their life difficult. One anti-scab device was heavy grease on the track at a steep incline so the locomotive's wheels could no grip. Trucks were uncoupled so that trains could not run.

The frustration of his union-busting plans infuriated Beasley. Strikers who were living in company-owned cottages were mercilessly evicted although their rents had been paid. He consulted the firm's solicitors with a view to getting an injunction to restrain the union officials from 'watching and besetting' the company's premises. Their advice was that action could not be taken against a trade union 'in its registered name'. Beasley thought, however, that given the action of the men and some statements made by the union he would have grounds for an action. In fact the way had already been prepared by the 1896 and 1898 legal decisions already mentioned.

At the end of August a compromise settlement was reached between the ASRS and the Taff Vale Co. and work was resumed on September 1. The company did not keep its undertaking to get rid of the labour brought in during the strike and legal proceedings continued. The result, as we have seen, was a defeat for the ASRS and for the whole trade union movement which followed the court proceedings

anxiously from the start.

Although the class bias of the judges could not be proved, it obviously existed and reflected a growing ruling-class hostility to trade unions which was visible in the previous decade. Now that the trade unions were growing stronger and were being extended to wider sections of workers, the relative tolerance which had existed after the legislation of the 1870s disappeared.

The trade union movement carried on a struggle for the reversal of the legal position, which could only be done through an Act of Parliament.

But the working class also drew the lesson from the Taff Vale case that it needed a political party to defend its interests. The direct result was a big increase in support for the Labour Representation Committee which, in 1906, became the Labour Party.

By the Trade Disputes Act of 1906, passed by the newly-elected Liberal government which depended upon working-class votes, the previous legal position was restored. Many Liberal members had been returned subject to their support for the reversal of the Taff Vale situation.

The new Act contained a clause 'that a trade union should under no circumstances be capable of being sued in tort'. It also upheld the right to picket 'for the purpose either of peacefully obtaining or communicating information or of peacefully persuading any person to work or abstain from working . . .'

The interpretation of these rights, of course, still remained with the courts which proceeded, in subsequent judgements, to whittle them down. Then, in 1909, another court decision, the Osborne judgement, laid it down that a trade union could not collect or spend money for political purposes. This made financial support for the Labour Party illegal.

This decision was reversed by the Trade Union Act of 1913 which expressly permitted a union to use its funds for political objects.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

BETTER THAN COUNTING SHEEP

William Steig is a cartoonist whose drawings have for many years brought humour to the pages of the American magazine 'The New Yorker'.

His subject is generally marriage and the family and, although he claims his characters are not meant to be taken for real, his wry digs at married life bring grins to people who find the figures depicted remind them of someone they know.

But if his humour is domestic, that isn't to say that Steig is unaware of the bigger issues around him.

Recently, he was telling a reporter about himself. Apparently, although he makes his living from humour, his own feelings are pretty despondent. He says he believes despair is the human condition, and that people are paralysed by it.

Asked why, he replied: 'What makes me despair? The fact that Mr Nixon has been re-elected—all I have to do is look at him to see he is the manager in a necktie shop.'

To banish despair, and help himself to get to sleep at night, Steig says he has invented a 'long-distance magic dart', with which he 'bumps off' the US government and 'everybody in the world who is preventing paradise from reappearing'.

His wife commented: 'I'm lying there, having these tender thoughts . . . and I find I'm next to this killer. He gives a little twitch and I ask: "What is it, dear?" "I got Nixon", he says.'

BREAD AND WATER CHAPLAIN

When the first tourist guide book to Lancaster was published, around the middle of the 19th century, one of the sights and places of interest it recommended as worth a visit was the Lancaster prison.

In those days, the prison was open to sightseers (just as the asylum was, until relatives of patients protested) and among the 'attractions' des-

cribed for visitors was the chance to taste a sample of prison bread, baked on the premises, and to inspect the fine new treadmill in the yard.

Obviously, for the refined Ladies and Gentlemen of the 1850s, just the kind of pleasant things to make a holiday really worth remembering!

That was a long time ago, of course, and things are very different in Britain's modern prison service.

As a matter of fact, the prison authorities these days are very particular about whom they let in to visit the prison.

They've just stopped a clergyman calling at Lancaster. The Rev Bob Morgan, a curate at the Lancaster Priory, says 'It has been indicated to me that I am *persona non grata* at the prison and I am not now visiting as chaplain.'

The curate had been visiting the prison once a week, and running discussion groups for the prisoners.

A spokesman at the Home Office confirmed last week:

'Mr Morgan's services as a chaplain at the prison are no longer required. The Friday night discussion groups are being conducted by somebody else. Mr Morgan is no longer given the run of the prison.'

Apparently what upset the authorities was a piece which the curate wrote for the 'Christian Comment' column which the local paper, the 'Lancaster Guardian', features each week.

In his contribution, Mr Morgan referred to the putting of prisoners on bread and water diets, still a form of punishment used at Lancaster.

The prison authorities have said that Mr Morgan was 'not sympathetic enough to the governor's problems'.

Perhaps the curate naively thought that as a Christian he should be sympathetic to those on bread and water, rather than to the man in charge who puts them on it!

Presumably, a more reliable Man of God has been found to serve as chaplain.

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

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Lessons of October Paperback 60p

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Marxism and the Trade Unions Pamphlet 25p

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Postage: 10p per book, 5p per pamphlet.
Order from: NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG

TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.15 Schools. 12.30 Nai zindagi naya jeevan; 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 In the town. 1.45 Made in Britain. 2.05 Schools. 3.05 Sunday debate. 3.35 Young scientists of the year. 4.00 Deputy dawg. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Right Charlie. 5.15 Val meets the VIPs. 5.40 Wombles. 5.45 News. Weather.

- 6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 ASK THE FAMILY.
- 7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD. 7.30 NOW LOOK HERE.
- 8.00 BARLOW AT LARGE. Review. 8.50 WEEK BY WEEK.
- 9.00 NEWS. Weather. 9.25 SPORTSNIGHT.
- 10.15 ONE DAY IN THE LIFE. Of Jack Jones, General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.
- 10.50 MIDWEEK. Roy Bradford's Republic. The former minister in the Northern Ireland government looks at life in the South.
- 11.35 LATE NIGHT NEWS. 11.40 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.35 Yoga (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Mr. Trimble. 12.25 Rupert Bear. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Sing out with The Settlers. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Whose baby? 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Get this. 4.50 Arthur of the Britons. 5.20 University challenge. 5.50 News.

- 6.00 TODAY. 6.35 CROSSROADS.
- 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE. 7.30 CORONATION STREET.
- 8.00 THE FIRST OF LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR.
- 8.30 ALL OUR SATURDAYS. The Unhappy Hooker.
- 9.00 LOVE STORY. Home for the Holidays.
- 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 LOOKS FAMILIAR.
- 11.00 LATE NIGHT THEATRE—SHORT STORY. The Great Uncles.
- 11.30 FILM: 'FRIEND WITHOUT A FACE'. Marshall Thompson. Three people are found dead, their faces distorted with horror. 12.50 ANYTHING TO SAY?

BBC 2

- 11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.
- 7.05 MAN AT WORK. Job Enrichment—What's That?
- 7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.
- 7.35 JOHNNY MORRIS IN MEXICO. Taxco, Acapulco.
- 8.00 MAN ALIVE. 'From the Cradle to the Grave'—Thirty Years On. The Welfare State.
- 10.25 CANADIAN JOURNEY. Highlights of John Earle's 2,000-mile journey through Canada for Children's Programmes.
- 10.45 EDITION. 11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.55 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.00 This is your life. 8.30 London. 10.30 Place in the country. 11.00 London. 11.30 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy Hampter. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 11.30 News. 11.33 Generation three. 12.00 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Whicker's South Seas. 7.00 London. 8.00 Persuaders. 9.00 London. 10.30 Place in the country. 11.00 London. 11.30 News. 11.40 Shirley's world. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.

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

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

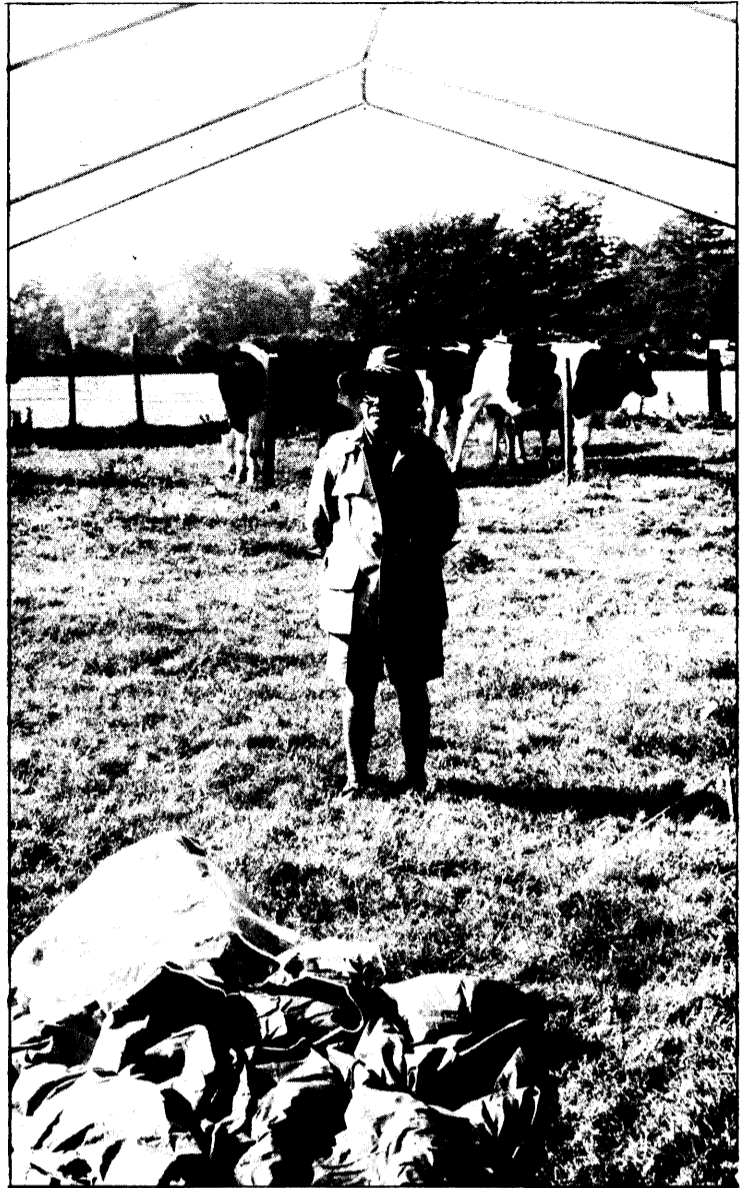
HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 3.30 Odd couple. 3.55 Romper room. 4.19 News. 4.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 8.00 Protectors. 8.30 London. 10.30 Fittipaldi file. 11.00 London. 11.30 Spyforce.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Please sir. 8.30 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 London. 11.30 O'Hara. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.45 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women today. 3.55 Harriet's back in town. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 London. 8.00 Protectors. 8.30 London. 10.30 About Britain. 11.00 London. 11.30 World War 1.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.30 Jason King. 4.25 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 8.00 Anna and the king. 8.30 London. 10.30 Protectors. 11.00 London. 11.30 Spyforce. 12.25 Weather.



Parodying the middle-class twit Ronnie Corbett, in 'Now Look Here' on BBC 1, decides package tours are out and plans to go camping. Dressed in his Safari kit—in the middle of an English Paddock—he joins thousands of other campers who have had to unravel the intricacies of a frame tent.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Handful of songs. 12.05 London. 3.25 Yoga. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. What's on. 6.30 Here's Lucy. 7.00 London. 8.00 Lovers. 8.30 London. 10.30 Chicago teddy bears. 11.00 London. 11.30 Kreskin.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Our total well being. 9.30 London. 3.30 Champions. 4.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Anna and the king. 8.30 London. 10.30 Tour. 11.00 London. 11.30 News. 11.45 Edgar Wallace. 12.40 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.30 STV report. 11.00 London. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Blue light.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.45 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women. 3.55 Harriet. 4.20 London. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson at teatime. 6.35 London. 8.00 Stuart Gillies. 8.30 London. 10.30 Protectors. 11.00 London. 11.30 A kind of living. 11.55 Meditation.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight rising rents and prices
Defend basic democratic rights
Force the Tories to resign

LANCASTER: Wednesday February 21, 8 p.m. Trades Hall, Fenton Street (near GPO). 'Stop the retreat on Rents. Defend basic rights.'

WINSFORD: Wednesday February 21, 8 p.m. 'Wheatsheaf Hotel'.

LANGLEY: Wednesday February 21, 8 p.m. 'Cardinal's Hat', Wood Street. 'Defend Democratic Rights. Forward to the Pageant'.

PRESTON: Wednesday February 21, 7.30 p.m. 'Waterloo Hotel', Friargate. 'The Road to Workers' Power'.

WOOLWICH: Wednesday February 21, 8 p.m. 'The Castle', Powis Street, S.E.18. 'The Crisis of leadership'.

TOTTENHAM: Wednesday February 21, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', High Road, near White Hart Lane. 'The case for a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.

SLOUGH: Thursday, February 22, 7.30 p.m. Slough Community Centre, Farnham.

STEVENAGE: Thursday February 22, 8 p.m. 'Red Lion', Stevenage Old Town. 'Support the gasmen'.

LEWISHAM: Thursday February 22, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club. (opposite New Cross station).

HACKNEY: Thursday February 22, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, opposite Town Hall, Mare Street.

WILLESDEN: Thursday February 22, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, High Road, N.W.10. 'Road to Workers' Power'.

SCUNTHORPE: Sunday February 25, 7.30 p.m. The Kingsley Hall, Cole Street.

BASILDON: Sunday February 25, 5.20 p.m. Barnstable Community Centre. 'Road to Workers' Power'.

WANDSWORTH: Monday February 26, 8 p.m. 'King's Arms', High Street, S.W.18. 'Defend the right to work'.

WATFORD: Monday February 26, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall, Woodford Road, near Watford Junction Station. 'Rise of fascism in Italy'.

ACTON: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3. 'Forward to the Pageant—The Road to Workers' Power'.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, S.W.4. 'Defend Democratic Rights'.

PADDINGTON: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. 'Prince of Wales', corner of Harrow Road and Great Western Road.

KIRKBY: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. Southdene Community Centre, off Broad Lane. 'Crisis of capitalism and the future of the trade unions'.

SHEFFIELD: Monday March 5, 8 p.m. YS PREMISES, Portobello (near Jessops hospital). 'The Revolutionary Party in Britain'.

CAMDEN: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Lessons of fighting the Housing Finance Act'.

HARROW: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Wealdstone. 'All out for Wembley Pageant'.

TOOTING: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. 'Selkirk Hotel', Selkirk Road, Tooting Broadway. 'The rise of Italian Fascism'.

GLASGOW: Wednesday February 28, 7.30 p.m. Woodside Hall, St George's Cross.

DERBY: Thursday, March 1, 7.30 p.m. Metal Mechanics' Premises, Charnwood Street.

CROYDON: Thursday March 1, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Support the gasmen'.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday March 1, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road (near Finsbury Park Station). 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

KINGSTON: Thursday March 1, 8 p.m. 'Liverpool Arms', Cambridge Road. 'Support the gasmen and hospital workers'.

GLASGOW: Sunday, March 4, 3 p.m. Partick Burgh Hall, near Merkland Street Underground. 'Hospital workers and the Tory government'.

Socialist Labour League Lectures

GLASGOW: Sunday, February 25, 7.30 p.m. WOODSIDE HALL, St George's Cross. 1933-1938. From the German defeat to the Fourth International. Speaker: Tom Kemp.

'Penny black' portfolios—the new way to keep your cash

LACK of confidence in the value of money has led to a desperate search for more lasting forms of investment. For years rare paintings have been considered safer than cash as a means of acquiring value.

Now Stanley Gibbons, the well-known stamp dealers, are entering the investment market with stamp portfolios, mainly in the £1,000 to £5,000 bracket.

Stamps have always caught the investor's eye when share prices are falling.

'With most of the pre-1900 stamps there has been a healthy rise averaging out at about 12-15 per cent a year,' a Gibbons' spokesman announced this week.

Stanley Gibbons believe that a well-managed portfolio would have trebled in value during the last ten years.

An added bonus is that there is no limitation on what can be taken out of the country, as there is with fine art.

With their last financial year's turnover standing at £2.5m, Stanley Gibbons admit to handling transactions of up to \$1m.

CAMBRIDGE
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25
Mawson Hall
Mawson Rd
SPECIAL SHOWING OF
'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM
RALLY, 3 p.m.
Speaker: Maureen Bambrick
(YS Nat. Cttee)

REFA report delayed

IT WAS not yet possible to say when the investigation into the Real Estate Fund of America would be completed, said Sir Michael Havers, Solicitor General, in a Commons written reply this week.

'When the Director of Public Prosecutions receives the final police report, he will consider what action, if any, should be taken,' he added.

Mr Arthur Lewis (Lab West Ham North) had asked when it was expected a statement could be made by the Attorney-General 'on the investigation he has ordered into all matters pertaining to the Real



HOFFMAN

Estate Fund of America, and when action may be expected in this connection.

The founder of the company, Mr Jerome D. Hoffman, is now serving



MAUDLING

a two-year sentence in the United States for mortgage fraud. Hoffman's first president was Mr Reginald Maudling, the former Home Secretary.

Maudling resigned as president in 1969, but he sent a letter which was used as promotional material for the offshore fund. In it, Maudling described the fund as 'a good and sound investment'.

A year later the fund crashed into bankruptcy leaving creditors all round the world.

Maudling was also linked with another group of companies which suffered financial failure: the Poulson empire.

Maudling was formerly the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a position which entrusted him with the country's finances.

'Code of conduct' for 45 p.c. interest men

Slight Tory tap for moneylenders' wrists

SIR JULIAN HODGE, millionaire chairman of a finance company named in the Commons as charging interest rates of up to 45 per cent, yesterday welcomed government proposals for a voluntary code of practice among second mortgage companies.

'We advocate the introduction of legislation. We will support any measures and will support them actively even if they are voluntary,' he said, but he denied his rate of interest was so high.

One of the merchant banker's companies, Julian S. Hodge and Co Ltd, was named by Trade and Industry under-secretary Mr Peter Emery among companies which had been brought to the notice of his department for excessive interest charges.

'These include First National Securities, with a true interest rate of over 25 per cent; Evergrowth Investments, Liverpool, 29.4 per cent; Turret Mortgage Company, 26 per cent; and Julian Hodge, whose true interest rates range from 26 to 45 per cent, which includes special charges,' said Mr Emery.

Emery proposed a six-point code for moneylenders in which borrowing contracts would clearly show the total money cost of the loan, including all extra charges to be made, and state it in terms of annual percentage.

Hodge's latest venture is the Commercial Bank of Wales, which includes a number of prominent Labour MPs on its board.

They include Mr James Callaghan, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and treasurer of the Labour Party, and another ex-Cabinet Minister, Mr George Thomas, the Secretary of State for Wales in the Wilson government.

Shares

They both have £5,000 worth of shares in the bank.

Other Welsh Labour MPs with a stake in the bank are Leo Abse (Pontypool) £4,000; Cledwyn Hughes (Anglesey), Fred Evans (Caerphilly) and Arthur Probert (Aberdare), all in for £1,000, and the two Rhondda members, Elfred Davies and Alec Jones, £500 each.

The final MP with a shareholding is an intriguing figure.

He is Will Edwards of Merioneth who has £500 worth of shares. When Harold Wilson asked Welsh MPs for policy ideas last summer, Edwards suggested that Labour should nationalize the Bank of Wales.

By taking a share of the Hodge banking enterprising, Edwards is presumably working on the theory of 'undermining capitalism from within'!

Knighted

Hodge, who was knighted by the Tory government in 1970 for 'services to industry', yesterday reacted rather bitterly to the charges made against his company in parliament.

'I cannot understand it at all,' he said. But he went on—inevitably—to welcome a full and fearless inquiry!

He was chairman of the Aberfan Disaster Fund Industrial Project sub-committee and is a member of the council of the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology.

He has written a book entitled 'The Paradox of Financial Preservation'.

Yorkshire strike for full-time convenors

SEVERAL hundred workers are on strike at the Swinemoor Lane plant of Armstrong Patents, Beverley, Yorkshire, in defence of their union.

The two convenors, Jean Jepson of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Sid Poskitt, of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, have been suspended indefinitely because they refused to accept a management demand that they cease full-time union work and

that they spend only two hours a day on union business.

Jean Jepson said:

'It has been custom and practice for four years for us to have full-time convenors. We know we can't give the service our members require without this right.'

The entire workforce at the engineering factory struck work

on Monday and has manned a 24-hour picket line since. All lorries have been stopped from entering the plant.

Management has sent out letters to all the workers threatening the closure of the factory if the strike does not end immediately.

It also claims that it wants an early settlement.

'But,' said Jean Jepson, 'I've been stood out here for the last 23 hours and no one's contacted me.'

Socialist Labour League Public Meetings UNITE IN ACTION TO DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

MERTHYR
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22
8pm
AUEW Hall,
Swan 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)

OXFORD
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27
8 p.m.
Clarendon Institute
Walton
Speaker: G. HEALY
(SLL National Secretary)

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

Stalinists prepare March 5 betrayal

BY DAVID MAUDE
LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE COMMUNIST Party has joined with right-wing reformists in consistent preparation of the ground for a cynical betrayal by the TUC leaders on March 5.

Within days of the gas workers starting their official industrial action against the Tory pay laws, evidence of this preparation has emerged very clearly.

One example already dealt with by Workers Press occurred at the national Ford stewards' meeting in Coventry on Sunday. On Monday, a London meeting of shop stewards' committee secretaries and chairmen from the engineering unions completely vindicated our warnings about the Coventry events.

The London meeting called on the TUC to unite the trade union movement behind workers fighting the pay laws, 'even to the extent of strike action'.

Programme

Called by the No 8 district of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, it endorsed an action programme drawn up by the CSEU district committee.

This includes a mass lobby of the March 5 TUC, support for the March 31 conference of the Liaison Committee for Defence of Trade Unions and a one-day stoppage on May 1.

But as Workers Press reported yesterday, the platform failed to put to the meeting a motion calling on the TUC to mobilize an indefinite General Strike to force the Tories to resign.

A similar motion was also kept from being voted on at Sunday's Coventry meeting. On both occasions the Communist Party's 'Morning Star' has kept absolutely silent about these motions and their fate.

Instead the 'Star' is campaigning for what it calls 'a one-day General Strike against the freeze'—a slogan which leaves the gas, hospital, railway and Ford workers isolated and which the Stalinists know can arouse no enthusiastic support in the working class.

In other words, by the most bureaucratic means possible the Communist Party is now daily engaged in a strategy of trying to confine workers to the politics of defeat.

Editorial

Yet at the same time, yesterday's 'Star' declared editorially that 'Heath is moving towards fascism'. The working people, the paper went on, must put a stop to this.

If the 'Star' is serious about this analysis, why does it not declare the resolution for 'a national day of action', passed at Coventry, totally inadequate?

Why does it not tell the London engineering stewards that they are dangerously marking time?

The reason is that the Communist Party is hand-in-glove with the reformists and the TUC leadership in wanting to hand the working class, beheaded, on a plate to the Tories.

Behind the 'left'-sounding phrases in yesterday's 'Star' editorial about 'defeating Heath's policies' (not forcing the Tories out of office), counter-revolutionary Stalinism remains as treacherous as ever.

Stalinists and union chiefs help Moves to split Ford strike

BY ROYSTON BULL OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE right wing is making a concerted effort to undermine the struggle of the Ford workers to resist the state pay controls imposed by the Tory government. Aided by the Press and exploiting politically backward elements among sections of the 250,000 employees, a combination of government, Tory back-bench MPs and Ford Motor Company forces are trying to whip up anti-strike sentiments.

Considerable newspaper publicity has been given to a vote in the Dagenham engine shop against the idea of all-out strike action from March 1 in rejection of the state pay norm of £1 plus 4 per cent.

In Liverpool, the Press is trying to cast doubt on the result of a mass meeting of workers from the body plant at Halewood which approved the all-out strike.

Now Tory MP Edward Taylor is suggesting that the NIRC imposes a compulsory ballot on all the Ford workers, just as was done on the railwaymen last summer.

Despite the rebuff to the Court then, the Tories are willing to risk another stunt because of the desperate position they are in with their pay controls.

Aiding and abetting the right-wing in all this are the Stalinists in the car industry and the Stalinists and left Labourites in the trade union movement in general, whose policies are sowing the confusion and feeding the right wing.

The TUC, 'left' and right, are making no clear call for united, trade union action to defeat the pay laws in the only way possible, by creating the industrial and political conditions to force the Tory government to resign.

Ford convenors' chairman and Communist Party member Sid Harraway and other car industry leaders are doing nothing to force decisive action on the TUC leadership.

As a result, workers are saying that since there is no chance of an individual trade union or section of workers beating the Tory government on their own, and since there are no convincing plans for all-out, united, trade-union action, then a strike by Ford workers on their own is a stupid proposition.

As a result of this understandable confusion, another Ford plant—the Basildon radiator shop—has voted against an all-out stoppage from March 1.

But important sections at Dagenham, Halewood, Langley, and Swansea have already indicated their willingness to strike in defiance of the new legislation outlawing such strikes and in rejection of the wretched company pay offer dictated by the Tory government.

It is up to more class-conscious workers in Ford's to insist that the meetings of convenors and works' committees later this week make the decision for strike action from March 1 decisive.

From there, a political campaign must be organized by Ford workers, centring round the special Congress on March 5, to force the TUC leaders to call a General Strike.

'One in ten' hospital strike

EXTENSIVE strikes by ancillary workers will hit at least one big hospital from March 1 in each of the ten National Health Service regions it was announced yesterday.

The central co-ordinating committee of the four unions involved in the hospital workers' pay dispute said that the strikes were just part of their plan to force payment of a £4-a-week increase.

Under Phase Two of the Tories' state pay laws, their 220,000 hospital ancillary members have been offered just £1.84. Present basic pay is £17.48 a week.

Their statement on the 'initial details' of industrial action to begin on March 1 said: 'In the ten hospital regions in the country there will be extensive strikes of ancillary workers at one or more of the major hospitals.'

'In other large hospitals there will be strikes by selective grades of ancillary workers.'

'Ancillary workers at other selective hospitals will stage strikes of limited duration (between one and three days) on a rota basis. Ancillary workers at all

hospitals will ban overtime working and withdraw co-operation from management.'

The unions have told the TUC of the dispute and are asking all other organizations with members in the hospital service not to undertake duties normally performed by ancillary workers.

The unions involved—the Confederation of Health Service Employees, the General Municipal Workers' Union, the National Union of Public Employees, and the Transport and General Workers' Union—are setting up joint regional committees to co-ordinate action at local level.

Southend locomen stop work

RAIL locomen at Southend yesterday stopped work entirely just a few hours before their union leaders entered talks with the British Railways Board about their official overtime ban.

The Southend men's action—hitting one of the heaviest commuter areas in the country—came as representatives of 26 Scottish branches of their union were preparing to call for 'stronger action' in support of a pay claim outstanding since last June.

ASLEF, the locomen's union, has been told that

the BRB's eight-month-old pledge to pay its members a £40 basic wage is to be held up by the Tory pay laws.

And the Board has also said that any review will be subtracted from this year's pay settlement—meaning that the locomen

would get nothing for 1973.

The Southend drivers refused to work yesterday morning because, they claimed, the trains they were expected to drive were defective. Later they withdrew their labour altogether.

MINERS' leaders have agreed to accept an arbitration decision—expected before the end of next week—on their claim for an extra week's holiday.

The National Coal Board last week opposed the claim on the grounds

that five individual days off, awarded by the Wilberforce report last year, already gave the 280,000 miners an extra week.

But if the tribunal came down in favour, the Board believes it might help turn the miners against striking for their £5.50-£7 claim.



Teachers plan their action for the day.

London teachers start rolling strikes

SEVENTY-TWO London schools were hit yesterday by a teachers' strike. An estimated 40,000 schoolchildren were sent home as the teachers protested against the government's refusal to increase the special London allowance.

BY IAN YEATS

In two boroughs—Hounslow and Ealing—all 28 schools called out by the National Union of Teachers were closed.

The union plans two further waves of strikes starting on February 27 (involving 207 schools) and another at a date to be fixed in March.

About 1,500 teachers were involved in yesterday's strike.

At Havering in Essex 17 schools were affected by the first of two days of strikes involving 200 of the 1,300-strong teachers' association.

Association secretary Mr John Bull told a mass meeting of strikers at Windmill Hall, Upminster:

'We have reached the stage where what we need is the cold determination to go through with what we are doing.'

London's 36,000 teachers are demanding an increase in their special cost of living allowance from £118 a year to £300.

The Tories have offered them a rise of £15. Mr Bull said: 'The Prime Minister has said that there is to be no give whatever over the Counter-Inflation Bill. But we have got to try to succeed to persuade them to leave out the London allowance. We have succeeded before, and we will do it again.'

He added: 'Young people are getting out of the borough at a terrific rate in order to have a

better standard of living in the provinces. Many secondary schools can't even fill their plum posts because the pay is so low.

He stressed the importance of winning their case, with the warning that at Friday's meeting of the Burnham committee local authorities had refused to exempt teachers' salaries from the Tory pay laws.

Young teachers in the militant Havering association yesterday threatened tougher measures if the present campaign failed.

'We have got to see how much success we have with this first,' said one. 'But if it fails, we will have to think of something else. I don't know how people live on the money. If I was married and needed a house or a car, I just couldn't do it. And I earn about the minimum.'

At Romford police kept close watch as teachers filed into the borough education headquarters at Mercury House to present a petition to education committee chairman, Councillor Mrs Margaret Latham.

The teachers will be lobbying leaders of the Labour-controlled council throughout their two-day stoppage in addition to bombarding Tory MPs with letters demanding the exclusion of the London allowance from Phase Two.

Gas explosion scare a hoax

ANOTHER piece of scare-mongering against gas-workers was exposed yesterday when the South East Gas Board withdrew its warning to 850,000 consumers that they were in imminent danger of being blown up.

Shop stewards from the East Greenwich and Croydon production plants reaffirmed guarantees they had already given that despite their 24-hour strike today, pressure would be maintained above the minimum safety level and emergency cover provided.

SEGAS chairman Geoffrey Pratt had alarmed consumers and tried to whip up a Press campaign against the striking gasmen by warning, without any consultation with the production workers involved, that a potentially dangerous situation could develop if gas supplies stopped.

Another spokesman said: 'Anybody turning on the taps would get a highly-dangerous mixture of gas and air which, if lighted, will explode.'

If the Gas Corporation is really worried about the effects of the gasmen's campaign of industrial action, it should cut off gas supplies in the normal—and safe—way it would have to do for any other disruption.

The gas explosion scares are designed to panic the middle classes into a vicious political onslaught against the strike movement building up over the government's pay laws. WEEK-LONG strikes begin in north-west towns next week which will close more factories.

The effects of gasmen's strikes, overtime bans, and other actions are building up in all areas.

A one-week strike began at midnight in the East Midlands. About 20,000 men will be involved in the 24-hour strike in the south-east, south, and south-west regions.

FEBRUARY FUND STILL NEEDS £1,003.61

IT IS getting dangerously close to the end of February and the response to this month's appeal is still very slow. Our total so far stands at £741.39—a long way from our £1,750 target.

We know you will not let us down, but we remain concerned that you might leave it too late.

The Tory government allows no time to sit back. The inflationary crisis is forcing the Tories to tackle gasmen, car-workers, hospital workers, and all those involved in the wages struggle, in a head-on fight.

Workers Press must be used to warn workers everywhere of the confrontation ahead. This government will do everything possible to try and defeat the working class.

Show your determination to fight back. Make a very special effort to raise our Fund this month. Collect as much as you can. Post everything immediately to:

WORKERS PRESS
FEBRUARY APPEAL FUND,
186a Clapham High Street,
London, SW4 7UG.

SLL

PUBLIC

MEETINGS

Unite in action to defend basic rights

BRADFORD

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 22
7.30 p.m.

Central Library
Top of Hall Ings

Speaker: CLIFF SLAUGHTER
(SLL Central Committee)

MERTHYR

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 22
8 p.m.

AUEW Hall
Swan Street

Speaker: G. HEALY
(SLL National Secretary)

WANDSWORTH

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 22
8 p.m.

Wandsworth Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street

Speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Committee)