

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23, 1973 ● No 1005 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## THE ROAD TO DICTATORSHIP

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BY ALEX MITCHELL

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These developments can only be understood against the background of the rapidly deteriorating economic and political position of the British capitalist class.

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But the British working class won its rights—the right to a decent standard of living, the right to strike, to picket, to organize—in bloody struggle against the enemy class.

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So piles of letters, bearing the slogan 'Please Take One' were left near the wages office. They remain untouched.



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But Jim says: 'My branch voted for total strike, as did a majority of NUPE. The T&GWU also voted for total strike, but the union leadership in their infinite wisdom decided to go for something much less.'

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## Hussein's torturers at work

ABU DAUD, captured by Jordanian intelligence while on a mission against Israel for the Palestinian commando organization Al Fatah is being barbarously tortured by his captors, Fatah reports from Baghdad.

His health has seriously deteriorated since he was captured as a result of 'the ugliest forms of torture and constant interrogation by the officers of all the intelligence and military intelligence branches'.

Abu Daud is a member of the revolutionary council of the Palestinian movement. A former commander of the Palestinian militia in Amman, he was sentenced to death in absentia by a Jordanian court-martial after the massacre of September 1970 when the commandos were attacked by the Jordanian army.

The Jordanian authorities want to frame Abu Daud on charges of plotting against the King. This is a fabricated charge with the aim of discrediting the commandos in the eyes of the Jordanian masses.

One aim of Abu Daud's torturers is to force him to agree to appear on television and 'confess' to the trumped-up charges. Prince Hasan, a member of the Royal family, went in person with a group of army officers to try and extort such a confession.

Shortly after Abu Daud's arrest, the Jordanian radio and television broadcast an interview which purported to be a confession by Abu Daud. Fatah has stated that this interview was in fact recorded by a member of Jordanian intelligence called Abu Mohammed, who impersonated Abu Daud.

## The Middle East's real terrorists

# Two Zionist provocations

BY JOHN SPENCER OUR FOREIGN EDITOR

**THE SHOOTING** down of a Libyan airliner by Israeli jets over the Sinai desert is a clear demonstration of who the real terrorists are in the Middle East.

The Zionist leaders who were so indignant about the Munich Olympic shoot-out now have the blood of 90 innocent passengers on their hands.

The Israeli air force shot down the airliner as Marine officers were boasting in Tel Aviv of their success in raiding refugee camps in northern Lebanon, killing refugees and guerrilla fighters and blowing up the offices of Palestinian organizations.

These were official, calculated atrocities aimed at provoking the Arab states into a new round of conflict with Israel. They are fully in the tradition of Deir Yassin, the Arab village murdered in 1948 to spread terror and drive out Palestinians from Israel.

They expose the reactionary character of the 'peace' manoeuvres being undertaken by Egypt's president Anwar Sadat, whose envoy, Hafez Ismail, is currently talking with the Tories before going to Washington to talk with President Nixon.

### Sell-out

This 'peace' trip, which has already taken Ismail to Moscow for talks with the Soviet leaders, coincides with the plans of both US

and Russian leaders for the Middle East. These plans are counter-revolutionary to the core.

They are aimed at formalizing the status of Israel and putting an end to the war situation by a new partition of Palestine and by the complete sell-out of the legitimate national demands of the Palestinian Arabs.

### Massacre

These plans can be brought to fruition only by wholesale massacres of Arab revolutionaries and of workers and peasants in the Arab countries.

The arrogant Israeli provocations are designed to open the door for just such an outcome, simultaneously giving the Zionists the excuse they want to expand their territory and power even further.



GOLDA MEIR . . . Scared of own workers.

Sadat and the other Arab bourgeois leaders who have been promising to avenge the defeats of 1967 are now being called on to match their words with deeds.

### Pinpricks

Beyond token diplomatic acts and military pinpricks, however, they have no intention of doing so. Sadat differs only in degree from Hussein of Jordan, who openly proclaims his intention of making peace with the Israeli murderers.

Mrs Golda Meir, General Dayan and the Zionist leaders do not want peace in the Middle East. They are terrified of the hostility to Zionism building up within their own working class.

The wave of militant strike struggles by wide sections of Israeli workers,

the unrest among the exploited and oppressed Oriental Jews, as well as among the Arab population in Palestine, have all shaken the Israeli government.

They have been forced to admit the participation of young Jewish men and women in alliance with Arab fighters against the Zionist regime.

### Backing

The Zionists know that any form of 'social peace' in Israel is only possible on the basis of the continued generation of a war psychosis among the population.

Despite American gestures of annoyance over the Sinai massacre, it is clear that the Israelis have the full backing of US imperialism in their shooting down of the Libyan plane.

The Americans want a settlement in the Middle East which will keep the entire region firmly dominated by imperialism.

They want a pretext for the physical elimination of the hundreds of thousands of Arabs who refuse to knuckle down to the requirement of the US 'energy crisis'.

Wednesday's attack on the Libyan airliner is designed to open another phase of the campaign against the Arab revolution.

This is the real significance of the much-vaunted American 'peace initiatives' now under way.

## Student demos under vicious attacks

TWO STUDENTS were seriously injured in Naples on Wednesday when police attacked a demonstration against new laws giving more power to the police.

While a student leader was reading a letter from left-winger Mario Capanna, now in hiding, to a mass meeting in Matteotti Place, local magistrate Oliviero ordered a truncheon and tear-gas attack.

Vincenzo Caporale (19), a medical student, had his skull crushed by a tear-gas bomb and doctors have given up all hope of saving his life.

EIGHT youths were imprisoned in Rome after a 5,000-strong demonstration against repression of the student movement, and in particular the murder of Roberto Franceschi in the Bocconi University, Milan.

IN MILAN, 10,000 students demonstrated and fought against police tear-gas attacks.

Speakers at a mass-meeting outside the Bocconi called for the release of all imprisoned students. They condemned the Stalinist Federation of Communist Youth which boycotted all the protest demonstrations.

In a Milan town council debate on Wednesday the Communist Party lined up with fascists, liberals and social democrats to praise the police.

Mayor Aniasi began with a eulogy of the 'opportune intervention' of the forces of public order who took dangerous weapons from 'anti-constitutional and anti-democratic forces.'

Staiti (MSI-National Right): 'The mayor has made some cautious statements but they do not concur with the support given by the socialists to the violence of the student movement.'

Terzi (Communist Party): 'We condemn all forms of violence, adventurism, provocation and political hooliganism, but we must ask why there is this new spiral of violence. Democratic life must be re-established in the university . . .'



Naples police carry tear-gas guns. One fired a canister which has critically injured one student.

## Student leader appeals to Tory defenders of torture

DIGBY JACKS, President of the National Union of Students and a Communist Party member, has written to Tory Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home, calling on the British government 'to assert its influence to alter the repressive policies of the Greek government.'

Earlier this week eight Greek students were given suspended sentences of 8-11 months for 'insulting the authorities.'

This followed demonstrations at the Athens Polytechnic against calling up

students if they boycotted classes.

Ninety-six students have recently been ordered into the army.

Thousands of students have refused to attend classes in the last three weeks in opposition to the Papadopoulos government.

On Wednesday night 2,000 occupied the upper floor of the Athens Law Faculty and began a hunger strike in a campaign for greater academic freedom.

In Britain the National Union of Students, together with the Co-ordinating Committee for Overseas Students' Organization, is holding a demonstration today.

It assembles at 1 p.m. in Malet Street and will march to the Royal Hellenic Embassy.

Support is promised from Warwick, Cambridge and Oxford.

Yet the Stalinists seek to divert this act of solidarity with the oppressed Greek students and workers by spreading illusions that the Tory government can be persuaded to oppose the military dictatorship in Greece.

Sir Alec recently declared his total support for another regime of torturers — in Turkey.

'Allegations [!] of torture' he said, 'would encourage

disruptive forces in Turkey'.

There are over 1,000 political prisoners in jail under Turkish martial law. Yet the man Jacks is now appealing to went on:

'I think the Turkish authorities deserve support and understanding in their determination to retain their democratic institutions in the face of ruthless terrorist movements.'

Does anyone on today's march seriously think such a man is going to 'use the [Tory] government's influence' against arbitrary goalings in Greece?

Jacks has also urged the Tories to support a Council of Europe resolution to set up a fund to help Greek students.

The last time the Stalinists got enthusiastic about the Council of Europe was in 1969 when they called for the expulsion of Greece.

But they said nothing at all about the visit of Soviet Ambassador to Greece which coincided with the Council's meeting.

Levitckin's visit was intended to strengthen cultural and economic ties between the Soviet Union and Greek regime.

Stalinist countries now involved in close cultural and economic deals with the colonels' Greece include the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, Albania and China.

## Fighting and bombing in Vietnam

**BOTH SIDES** in Vietnam have accused the other of violations of the ceasefire agreement as fighting and bombing continues in several parts of the country.

Protests have been lodged with the joint military commission.

The National Assembly of North Vietnam unanimously approved the Paris agreement on Thursday after hearing a report of the government's activity on the military and diplomatic fronts.

The restoration of

peace in Vietnam was hailed as 'a tremendous victory of the most glorious resistance war in the history of the Vietnamese people against foreign aggression'.

The Laos ceasefire has now come into effect and US bombing operations came to an end yesterday.

Government officials in Vientiane saw the agreement as a victory for the Pathet Lao and feared a quick takeover.

Right-wing opposition

to Prince Souvanna Phouma, head of the Royal Laotian government, has been going.

A mixed commission is to meet soon to decide on the country's political future.

South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu welcomed the Laos ceasefire, but said that it would not stop North Vietnamese infiltration.

In Cambodia heavy fighting continued south of the capital, Phnom Penh, only nine miles from the city centre.

# PAGEANT DIARY

The Road to Workers Power



NORTH-EAST

# Sunderland jobs fight against Swiss millionaire

WHEREVER the Pageant committees are operating — Jarrow, South Shields, Middleton and Merthyr Tydfil — they have taken the fight for basic democratic rights of the working class into local struggles. Big local actions are centred on the shipyards, the pits and the occupation of a large firm called Coles Cranes. When they are not rehearsing, the Pageant group in the north-east has been campaigning for support for 'The Road to Workers' Power' among these sections of workers. In this special report STEPHEN JOHNS visits Coles Cranes to discover the reasons behind the determined eight-week occupation by the work force.

**WILLIAM** Alphonse de Vigier is a veteran of the class war. He is a Swiss millionaire who has left behind him a trail of bitterness almost unprecedented in modern industrial relations.

Sometimes he gets his workers together and throws a party with free beer. But more often than not he's fighting them.

His latest field of battle is Coles Cranes, the Sunderland cranemakers, where 2,500 workers have been on sit-in strike for over eight weeks.

De Vigier, who describes business as his 'hobby', invited industrial unrest at Coles when he summarily declared 300 men redundant on November 25 last year. There were no consultations, just the news of 'the sack' from Coles' managing director Don Hassall.

He followed up this initiative by trampling on all union agreements at local and national level. On the key issue of piecework prices, for example, he decided to scrap mutual agreements. Stewards were told virtually that rates were the prerogative of management.

As a bonus Mr de Vigier insisted on complete flexibility of labour, the end of staggered holidays, the introduction of a form of Measured-Day Work and 'the right of management to manage'.

Even the most naïve captain of industry would realize that such a charter of demands, introduced in the space of two months, would be guaranteed to provoke strike action.

That is exactly what de Vigier got. On January 2, an exasperated work force declared industrial action and occupied — not for pay, not for conditions,



Some of the young women workers from Coles Cranes.

but simply to defend the most minimal industrial rights.

The question all Coles' workers ask is: 'What is Alphonse's angle?'

Clearly he is a man with strong ideological motivations. His communications with the work force have that Heath-like tinge.

His latest message to the 2,500 is typical:

'What needs discussion and agreement upon are the following points: (1) The right of management to manage. Is this a fair request or not? (2) The right of management to employ in 1973 modern works study methods. Fair or not? . . . No



Above: A recent meeting of the Coles Cranes workers in Sunderland at which they voted to continue their occupation. Left: Strike committee secretary Matt Wake . . . we must broaden the struggle.



arbitrary demarcation lines—flexibility of labour. . . .

Other signs of his persuasions are the £5,000 his company, Acrow (Engineers) Ltd, gave to the Tory Party in 1971 and the £250 it poured into the coffers of the extreme right-wing Monday Club. The red-hunters of

the Economic League have also benefited from Acrow's generosity.

De Vigier arrived in the north-east in May 1972 when Acrow Engineers added the Steel Group Ltd, owners of Coles, to their fast-growing engineering empire.

Slowly his reputation has filtered to Wearside from his other main seat of activity—Manchester and Stockport.

One senior official of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has been watching de Vigier with interest.

His expansion follows a pattern. Acrow would buy a company, then begin almost

immediately to change conditions without any negotiations.

Invariably a strike would break out and the whole future of trade unionism would be at stake.

If de Vigier won, a badly organized shop would result. If he lost, he might close the plant.

In October 1964 he bought Adamson and Hutchett, Dukinfield. Conditions were changed, the union threatened.

A stoppage occurred. AUEW councilman Bob Wright, the then Manchester organizer, finally reached agreement. But the director he dealt with resigned.

The struggle went on, but the trade union organization deteriorated. One section is now completely non-union.

In 1968 Acrow bought S. H. Heywoods of Reddish, Stockport. The pattern was repeated. But this time the membership stood firmly behind the union. Conditions and pay were advanced. In 1971 the factory was closed.

In 1971, 55 people at Thomas Storey's, another Acrow plant in Stockport, were declared redundant. Among those for the axe were the convenor and other union militants. Workers at Storey's at this time were attempting to build a strong union.

The result was another strike from April to May. Eventually the 55 were re-instated, but weeks later de Vigier came to the plant and sacked the convenor on the spot. Talks were held, but de Vigier refused to re-employ the convenor.

'He is a difficult individual to deal with, and can only be approached from a position of strength,' says one union official.

The workers at Coles use less diplomatic language. Strike committee secretary Matt Wake says the Coles men are fighting for conditions throughout the Acrow group.

'Our own investigations and meetings with stewards have revealed that de Vigier's behaviour at Sunderland is by no means unique.'

Research by national union officials has revealed some spec-

tacular selling of Acrow shares in October, a month before the Sunderland trouble began.

His wife Betty Agnes de Vigier sold 34,978 ordinary shares, leaving her with 11,149 ordinary and 35,500 preference shares. Miss Anne Betty de Vigier has sold her entire holding of 65,250 ordinary shares and 2,500 preference shares.

De Vigier himself has kept

his substantial 789,750 ordinary shares, but has unloaded a fifth of his non-voting 'A' shares from 552,932 to 460,383—this is from a record of share transactions to October 1972.

The growth of Acrow, which has a turnover of £17.2m and pre-tax profits of £2.6m, is very fast. City observers have described these share transactions, carved out in lots of a few hundred a week, as 'very odd.'

The Coles workers are clearly in the midst of a vital struggle for democratic rights—primarily the right to make free collective agreements that are honoured.

Though de Vigier is obviously flamboyant in his approach, he is not a rare animal but very much a man of his time.

One can imagine the nods of approval in Tory circles at his approach. After all he is only doing in Sunderland what the Tories are doing all over Britain.

'Of course we don't have any proof, but we are bound to think the government is turning a blind eye to it. There have been people from the Department of Employment down here, but they have done nothing,' says Matt Wake.

'What we must do now is to broaden the struggle, the whole principle of trade unionism is at stake.'

Contributions to support Coles Cranes can be sent to:

N. Jackson,  
AUEW House,  
Roker Avenue, Sunderland.

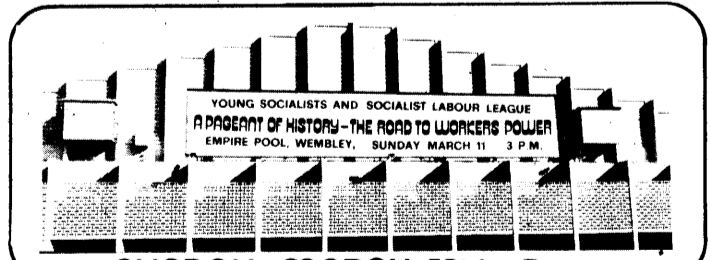
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## TORIES SET OUT TO CLOBBER GASMEN

The first of four articles on the struggles of the gasmen. By Bernard Franks.

The gasworkers' present struggle against the state pay laws is not just an action over an isolated claim. It is a defence of the rights, conditions, jobs and living standards of every worker against a pernicious government attack.

Faced with a calamitous world-wide economic crisis of capitalism, reflected in its most immediate form by the devaluation of the dollar, the Tories seek to extend to every employer in Britain the right of unlimited exploitation and control of the labour force.

This is to be achieved by driving down every worker's ability to resist the attack and to maintain himself.

The 47,000 manual gasworkers were specially chosen to be made an example of because:

- A vicious campaign of slander and intimidation could be launched by the capitalist Press on the basis of alleged danger, particularly to pensioners—remember the similar scaremongering used against electricity supply workers in 1970?

- Because the right-wing leadership of the main gasworkers' union, the General & Municipal Workers', has a history of prevarication, class collaboration and—certainly in the gas industry—the servile acceptance of low pay, the destruction of jobs and the most blatant systems of intensifying and speeding-up work.

The dangers of freezing to death which exist for pensioners stem not from workers' action, but from years of contemptuous treatment by successive Labour and Tory governments. Anyone unfit for full exploitation—the old, the sick, the unemployed, the disabled—are regarded as being fit only for the scrapheap.

Thousands are not given enough to pay for gas or any

other fuel in reasonable quantities. Only during strikes are they wheeled out by Fleet Street for anti-union publicity stunts. After the action they are invariably dumped back out of sight.

Incidentally, history shows that the only real advances in pensions and conditions for the aged have been won by the actions of the working class—including the gasworkers—and owe nothing to Fleet Street or the charity distribution, piddling efforts of middle-class do-gooders.

Last year the Gas Council was already preparing for a new increase in the price of gas. This was being discussed long before the gasworkers' claim was put in, but no doubt the employers are now hoping to blame the increase on any pay rise won by the industry's employees.

Manual gasworkers carry out a variety of important and responsible tasks in the industry, including the production of town gas, the conversion to natural gas, the maintenance of mains, services and appliances, the operations in appliance and meter workshops and also in transport, warehousing, stores, catering, property maintenance and cleaning.

Over the recent period they had to master new methods and equipment in keeping with the changes in the industry.

### TAKEN ENTIRELY FOR GRANTED

During the past 161 years of the industry's existence, gasworkers have learned to control town gas to such an extent that safe usage in domestic situations, of what is in effect a highly-toxic and lethal substance, is taken entirely for granted.

Unfortunately, the gasworkers' pay has also been taken entirely for granted. Basic rates now range from a labourer at £19.10 to a craftsman's £22.87. Extra money may be tied to all manner of

fake bonus schemes and to overtime; £30 total pay for 60 hours and £40 for 88 hours are two recent examples.

Prior to the 1960s the gasworkers were already facing speed-up and rationalization of town gas production. At the same time they were being told that they could not expect too much in the way of job security because the gas industry would probably deteriorate as atomic energy and other systems improved. The same sort of story was being told to miners about coal.

Between 1952 and 1966 the number of gas production workers was cut from 55,000 to 28,000.

The discovery of natural gas under the North Sea in 1959 did not lead to secure jobs, an easier work load or better hours, holidays and pay. On the contrary, it gave the Labour government and the gas employers a chance to make huge profits for both the nationalized concerns and for the private prospecting companies, while kicking thousands more workers out of the industry.

Today the gasworkers are faced with many more sackings; 11,000 by 1977 at least. At the same time, they know that with present soaring prices—and more to come with Value-Added Tax (VAT), rates and council rent rises—then acceptance of the Gas Corporation's £2.24, or any other payment in line with Tory policy would, in real terms, constitute a savage wage cut.

They, like everyone else, know that food prices have risen faster since the 'price freeze' was introduced than before it.

On the other hand, the use of these cuts and new methods in the industry have brought substantial returns for the employers. The results in October 1972 for the previous financial year were: sales of gas up 30 per cent, employment cut 10 per cent, profit before interest deducted £139.9m, a return of

7.2 per cent on assets. The increase in productivity over the last five years has been 200 per cent!

Workers' demands have been for £5.50 to £6 on the basic rate, increased shift premiums, plus longer holidays, fewer hours and a definite stop to redundancies. However, the union leaders are said to be aiming at increases of 'around' £3 a week and some reduction in hours.

Thousands of gasworkers had already been in action for weeks before union officials were finally forced reluctantly to concede the need for any activity.

In December 1972, gas stewards representing 14,000 men in London and the west Midlands called for strike action following Prime Minister Edward Heath's letter of December 15 ordering that pay negotiations be broken off.

Unofficial strikes occurring in January included gasworkers on Merseyside, Rotherham, south Lancashire, Nottingham, north London, the Midlands, Hull, Wigan and the whole of Scotland. Other workers supported and refused to cross picket lines. Works-to-rule and overtime bans were started in south London, Sheffield, Doncaster, Lincolnshire, Manchester and elsewhere. In London and Yorkshire 'flying pickets' were set up to visit outlying areas.

On January 30 1,000 gasworkers marched from the Gas House negotiations to the House of Commons to lobby union-sponsored Labour MPs where, after two hours, only one turned out to see them.

More than 500 workers lobbied the G&MWU executive meeting a few days later and met gas section organizer John Edmonds' announcement of overtime bans and non-co-operation starting in a week's time with chants of 'sell out' and 'what a load of rubbish'.

The gasworkers' activity is in stark contrast to that of union officials. The G&MWU's new general secretary, David Basnett, was explaining on December 28:

'This union has struggled for good relations in this industry for over 50 years. We have coped with redundancies in manpower greater than any

other nationalized industry—in the last five years, 20,000.'

Local officials put great energy and effort into trying to block workers' action. This continual delay gave the Tories plenty of time to prepare for the inevitable fight. When a decision was finally taken it was 'non-co-operation', overtime bans and some selective action in certain places—meaning where the great floodtide of angry trade unionists could not be held back.

'We are allowing our members to do their own thing rather than give explicit instruction', said one G&MWU regional organizer.

At the same time the Transport and General Workers' Union—with 5,000 members in the gas industry—called for 'a slow build-up' of one-day strikes in each area in turn.

### COLLABORATION AND LAW

The main preoccupation of Victor Feather and the TUC during recent months, when the Tories were fining unions, sending men to prison for defending their jobs and preparing to destroy collective bargaining, was a series of talks with the government and the employers on collaboration to police the working class and avoid disputes.

Today, the worsening condition of capitalism can only mean an intensification of the onslaught on workers and an even greater rationalization of jobs and conditions.

The statement by Home Secretary Robert Carr about his contact with Chief Constables on curbing picketing is a straight provocation with a view to condoning police violence against trade unionists, then calling a General Election on the issue of 'law and order'.

The activities of the union officials in the face of such acts totally confirm that the construction of a new leadership in the trade unions is of paramount importance.

This must be a leadership that single-mindedly dedicates itself to the defence of workers and the cause of revolutionary socialism with even more vigour than the Tories on their side use to attack workers and promote the case of capitalist reaction.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

BY CHARLES PARKINS

Israeli military 'advisers' may be going to South Vietnam soon, as part of a US-backed scheme to help the Saigon regime maintain itself in power.

The proposed aid mission fits in with a general build-up of Israeli involvement in south-east Asia. In Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines, Israeli aid programmes and investment, and Israel military instructors, are assisting reactionary regimes and acting as a front for US imperialism.

The possibility of military aid going to South Vietnam was disclosed in the Israeli newspaper 'Ma'ariv', in a report headed 'Saigon expects Israeli advisers to come after Americans leave', which it published on December 15.

According to 'Ma'ariv's' Saigon correspondent, Gil Kesari, sources in the South Vietnam government said that the question of Israeli aid was an urgent need.

The Israeli paper reported: 'A government source in Saigon stressed that South Vietnam's military situation—now and even more in the future—will require help in the form of military advice, if the country is to withstand the communists' subversion and aggression. Saigon will need advice on non-conventional methods in the defence field, and the creation of self-defence rural areas.'

After reporting that US troops would be withdrawn from South Vietnam under cease-fire agreements, the 'Ma'ariv' correspondent went on to quote his Saigon government source as saying:

'Yet the United States is not planning to abandon South Vietnam completely. The idea of being helped by Israeli knowledge is not only known to Washington, but it was inspired by it.'

It is quite evident from this that, as in African countries, so in south-east Asia, the role of Israeli military and technical aid projects is not only to serve Israel's own business and diplomatic drives, but, above all, to serve as sub-contractors for the main 'firm' at work there—United States imperialism.

This relationship is also demonstrated in the case of Singapore. There, a project has been set up by the Israeli electronics firm 'Tadiran', which is part of the Israeli Ministry of Defence's industrial consortium. The Singapore government is backing this project, and is responsible for providing 49 per cent of the investment.

'Tadiran' has investments in the Far East, Latin America, and Persia. But it itself is dominated by a 60 per cent controlling interest held by the American corporation General Telephones.

## ARMS AND ADVISERS

Besides being involved in developing an arms industry in Singapore, Israel also has 14 military personnel acting as advisers to the Singapore governments forces; and Singapore officers have been attending training courses in Israel.

Another country in which the Israelis have been active, and have close connections with the government, is Thailand.

With its corrupt military regime and impoverished peasantry, and its important American bases, Thailand has been seen by some observers as Indo-China's next major war zone, potentially another Vietnam.

In Thailand, helping the regime in its efforts to make itself secure, the Israeli experts are busy in a number of fields.

In the northern regions, which is vulnerable to guerrilla activity, they have been re-

# MEET THE NEW US AMBASSADOR-GOLDA MEIR



sponsible for preparing a comprehensive development plan. Elsewhere they have been involved in technical aid, irrigation and agricultural projects. Alongside this, they have been running training courses for the Thai army.

Other countries where the Israelis have been engaged in this kind of activity include Cambodia, South Korea, Laos and the Philippines.

From the point of view of the Israeli government, expenditure of financial and human resources in maintaining a widespread network of military and technical aid projects around the world is seen as worthwhile because it develops trade outlets, and diplomatic links to counteract the growth of sympathy for the Arab cause among Asian and African peoples.

But it is also one of the ways in which the Zionists

demonstrate their usefulness to their master, US imperialism.

So far as Washington is concerned, the Israelis are useful to employ as 'sub-contractors' in the aid business, both because of their technical expertise—whether it is in irrigation, counter-guerrilla campaign training, or how to integrate trade unions into the state—and because of their comparative cheapness, not only in the literal sense, but also in the sense of providing a politically expedient substitute for open, direct, US involvement.

As sometimes happens in industry, so also in international politics, the 'sub-contractor' acts as a front for the powerful interests which hide behind it.

It is not only in the 'aid' field that Israel's Zionist rulers have been assisting US imperialism and its oppression in south-east Asia.

Israeli political leaders Golda Meir and Yigal Allon went on record last year in support of Nixon's resumption of bombing of Hanoi, and as the US elections approached it became an open secret that Israeli diplomats and Zionist leaders were attempting to manipulate an American 'Jewish vote', rooting for Nixon.

## MEIR'S INTERVENTION

At the meeting of the so-called 'Socialist International' in Paris, Mrs Meir, once again, had a job to do for Nixon. According to David Leitch, reporting the conference for the 'New Statesman', (January 19):

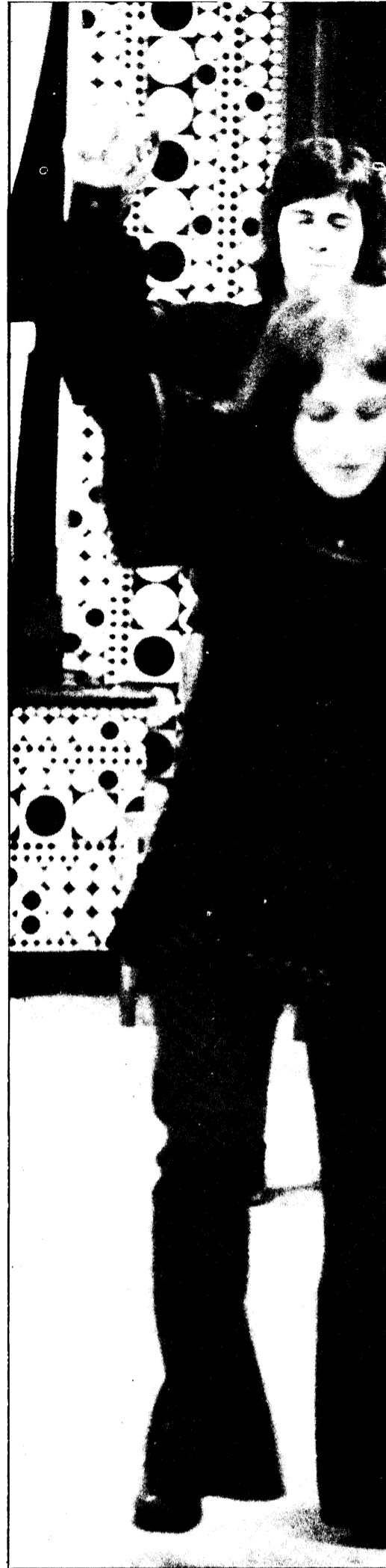
'It was Mrs Meir's intervention in the Vietnam debate, as well as her lobbying in the corridors of the Luxembourg Palace, which resulted in the

Above: Nixon and Golda Meir. The Israelis are useful to employ as 'sub-contractors'.

toning down of a motion condemning the Americans for the breakdown in the talks, as well as the resumption of bombing.'

If Israeli advisers are sent to help Saigon's reactionary regime and strengthen its military forces—and remember, the first American 'Green Berets' sent to Vietnam were also styled 'advisers'—then it is fully in line with the policy up to now of the Meir government.

The fact must be faced up to by any worker who has been taken in by Israeli Zionist propaganda; and thrown in the face of those self-styled 'lefts', such as are to be found in the Parliamentary Labour Party, who have helped to spread that propaganda: Zionism in an agency of imperialism, with all its bloody aspects.



# THE ROAD TO WORKERS POWER: PETERLOO AND THE RISE OF THE CHARTISTS

*'I think you look at the present, then you look at the past. You see what the rulers did in the time of Chartism and you know it's beginning to happen again. So we must fight now. If the working class slips once more they will pick us all off one by one. We would pay the price. But it would not just be us that failed, it would be the whole working class.'*

*'This thing has changed me because I am fighting and I am prepared to lead the working class. I am taking part in the pageant to say that at Peterloo young lads like me got slashed and they are coming for us again, to slash us again.'*

*'We are trying to do something that a lot of people have tried to do and failed. If we put on this play, and a lot of people come and see it, things will carry on. People won't just stand there, they will want to do something about what they have seen—they will ask, well how can we fight the bosses then?'*

On the left are three views on the 'Pageant of Workers' Rights' from Manchester. The first is from a schoolboy of 15, the second from a young unemployed worker of 22 and the third from a girl who works in a chemical factory.

They are part of the 15 or so hard-core who will make up the team that will present the Peterloo massacre and the birth of Chartism to 10,000 workers at the Empire Pool, Wembley, March 11.

At first many of them could not see the point of reviving history. But when the struggles for rights in the past were linked with the fight to defend rights today, people came forward.

Corin Redgrave, director of the Manchester operation, said that the most common response to the first explanation of Peterloo, the massacre of workers in Manchester in 1819, and the birth of the Chartist movement was: 'But this is happening today.'

The development of the 'acting' and the Manchester part of the Pageant, therefore, has been directly political from the start.

The primary task was to convince those interested that the Pageant was not a play, but a preparation for building a movement to deal with the Tories.

Once this had been achieved the importance of history became clear and the Pageant rehearsals themselves a powerful vehicle for political development and understanding.

At this point the 'actors' look forward to passing on their understanding to the thousands of workers who will watch the finished Pageant on March 11. Like the girl chemical worker, they become people who want to take a lead—to change the working class and show them how they can take power.

Last Friday's rehearsal was typical. The scene was the mass meeting where the Charter, with its millions of signatures demanding the vote and a political voice for all working men, was presented.

Thomas Attwood, the Birmingham MP and radical,

speaks first. He is followed by George Julian Harney, representing the working-class and revolutionary tendency in Chartism.

First the scene is discussed. But not merely as history. The young workers (the people in the Pageant are mainly young, like the militants who man the gasworkers picket lines—the age group is from 15 to 25) discuss Attwood and Harney as figures who are politically 'alive' today.

Victor Feather, the TUC leader, with his talk of 'negotiation', 'persuasion,' is an obvious candidate from the Attwood faction. Harney is a little more difficult—there are not many true revolutionaries in the labour movement. But everyone would like to be Harney.

This kind of approach completely absorbs the people in the Pageant. The scenes are really felt. If you join in, shyness and embarrassment are forgotten—you are listening to political speeches, you have views and opinions on them—you hear them every day from men like Feather, Wilson and friends at work and school.

This deep involvement with

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**JOHN COFFEY**, one of the older workers in the Pageant.

Listen to the words that are in this song as we go along.

And what happened then at Peterloo field

The same could happen today

Chorus:

Then the Tories, yes they had their way

They kept the workers down.

(To the tune of 'The Manchester Martyrs'.)

The first verse of a song on Peterloo written for the Pageant by John Coffey.

I think the Pageant is a great thing. We should get at the Tories and finish with them once and for all.

I knew a bit about the history of this period, but its real importance for the working class has always been hidden. People suffered then for their rights and people suffer for them today. The Tories and the bosses are just the same—only worse.

I have suffered twice for my rights. At one firm they were not paying me the wages they should have paid me. They said: 'Well you can't want your job,' and they sacked me. The other place was the Co-op up the road. I was just going to get the union man in and they created a redundancy to get shot of me.

Most workers who have fought at all have had these experiences. Now the times of Peterloo are coming back. I think there could be a revolution because people just won't stand round and let Heath rob them of everything they have got. The housewife is being kicked in the teeth all the time and the worker is getting it in the teeth.

It's hard to convince workers. Some of them are dubious about what is happening and how they can change it. A lot of workers might say they are ready to have a go, but when it came to the crunch they didn't stand together like they did at Clay Cross.

It will be the young ones who will give the lead. Then the older ones might come along later.

**CORIN REDGRAVE** is leading the Manchester campaign with six other actors.

It is not the experience of doing a play that is primary. As you saw last night, there is always development when you discuss what you are doing and why you are doing it and what are the connections with the past and the present.

In the rehearsals there is the opposite of what you would expect of actors. The professional actor wants to express something as an individual. Here, when you do a scene, what is expressed is the feeling of a class and a group of people who want to find a way to fight the enemy.

The importance of Peterloo is direct. Because what happened at St Peter's fields is happening today in Ireland. A lot of people around Middleton draw this direct comparison. A lot, of course, realize that the Tories, the bosses the employers, when they are desperate, are quite prepared to do exactly the same now as they did at Peterloo.

Chartism is again very close to the people here. Manchester and Middleton were Chartist strongholds. And the rights and concepts of rights that people

have are a living representation of those struggles. This experience is turned over in the present hostility and struggle with the Tory government. By presenting history in the way we are trying, we want to make people make the step forward to revolutionary politics in defence of their rights.

The way we got support is perhaps surprising. At first we got a lot of people round through the cabaret. These people came on a very general basis. They agreed with us because they thought what we were doing was a good thing. But it didn't go much further than that.

It was the other people, who at first thought the thing was silly, or who just couldn't see the point of the Pageant and re-enacting history, who have really formed the backbone of the campaign.

Really their resistance hid a serious approach to politics. They wanted to be convinced that this was a movement and a campaign that would really fight to get rid of the ruling class—that something important could come out of the Pageant.

Once we took up the political task of convincing them the Pageant had begun.



**CATHELENE HARKIN** (16) works at a Middleton washing-up liquid factory:

At first I thought it was silly. They seemed to be trying to do something they could not do.

But they didn't talk about the play at first, they just talked about Heath and what he was doing. I agreed with this. But then I couldn't see how a play could change what Heath was doing—it seemed a funny way of going about things.

But this changed when we saw the play going back 100 years ago. They were fighting for their rights. I thought, well we are doing this as well right now, so there's no harm in having a bash. This was when I began to realize there was something in it.

Now, after a few rehearsals, I know there is something in it. We have these speeches there is nothing we don't really know already, but people have been turning a blind eye to them. It's when you start doing it that it really comes out.

We are trying to do something that a lot of people have tried to do and failed. If we put on this play and a lot of people come and see it, things will carry on. People won't just stand there; they will want to do something about what they have seen—they will ask, well how can we fight the bosses then?

Sometimes I feel silly. When we have to fall down when the soldiers charge at Peterloo it makes me feel silly. I really want to escape and run away. But you have to remember that at Peterloo the crowd couldn't run away as they were all packed together.

These things are important for today. Heath has gone back on every promise he made, everyone knows that on Langley. But it's hard to get people together. If people got together I think they could get Heath out.

Heath is a con man, just a plain con man, and we have to get rid of him.

the scene produces remarkable results. Lines are learned very quickly—perhaps after two or three readings. When the script is discarded the quality of presentation immediately improves. People imagine themselves in the situation and they react naturally.

Often changes are suggested. Harney wins over the crowd of Chartists with his fiery denunciation of reformism. You must take the power, he tells them, not ask for it.

'But', asks one young worker playing Harney, 'would he win them over completely?' The answer is no. It takes more than one speech to win workers from reformism, it takes a political movement—a revolutionary leadership.

At the end of rehearsal the night's work is discussed. Political lessons are drawn, improvements suggested and so on.

This is the way the Pageant develops.

But there is another side to the campaign. It takes place outside the rehearsal room within the labour movement and working class of Manchester. Without a fight to

bring workers to Wembley to see the Pageant—without a struggle to bring workers round the revolutionary movement through the Pageant—the 'acting' effort would be futile. Moreover the 'actors' would never take part unless they thought they were building a political movement to draw on the lessons from the past and go forward.

Work therefore begins before dawn. The same Friday that ended with speeches from Attwood and Harney started at the picket lines. The idea of the Pageant is discussed first with a group of Manchester gasworkers on the picket-line. Arrangements are made for a delegation.

Later the team splits. A group concentrates on the Arndale shopping centre at Middleton Others contact hospital workers.

Tickets are sold, arrangements made to send speakers to union branch meetings and money is promised. The campaign has been going on for three weeks and it will continue right up until March 11.

It's a hard struggle, but it gets results. Manchester was one of the

Left: Actor **Corin Redgrave** directing the Manchester section of the Pageant. Right: The team in rehearsal.

birthplaces of the working class. The first unions were built in the textile towns like Middleton—the centre of the Pageant campaign. The Middleton banner at Peterloo is still displayed in the local library.

Today, unemployment is high because of the depression in cotton and the recession in engineering. The enormous Langley estate, home of workers from the older, decrepit parts of the city, is full of people who want a way to get rid of the Tories for good.

There are many people with Irish ancestry and the parallel between Peterloo 1819 and Bloody Sunday 1972 is only too clear.

They all watch the Pageant campaign closely. Finally it is the sheer-determination of the young workers and the organizers that wins them over.

People who talk about building a revolutionary party to take the power must prove it by their actions. Then they get support.



CBI director-general Campbell Adamson (left) hosting a luncheon—no 'middle-of-the-road' course for British employers.

## WHERE THE CLASS LINES ARE DRAWN

'The rich'll live and the poor'll die—that's what Heath's trying to do!' This comment of a Chesterfield worker cut through all the earnest platitudes of Monday night's 'Panorama' (BBC 1) on reactions to the Tory pay laws.

Richard Lindley's filmed report from the Derbyshire town revealed an extremely sharp polarization of class attitudes; when it came down to it, the local businessmen put their hands up for Heath almost as solidly as the gas-workers voted to strike.

So clear was the division that the programme retreated hastily from the film into a stagey, set-piece studio discussion which had little to do with the film—but demonstrated the fawning capitulation of the Labour front-bench to the Tories.

The most interesting section of Lindley's report was a public-house discussion with a group of gasmen and other workers affected by the industrial action.

Support for the gasmen was 100 per cent. Came the comments: 'We've got our own claim in, we must back them.' 'I'd stick out 12 months. £2.40 wouldn't feed a blind moggie.' 'There's nothing worth working for in this country any longer.' 'It's going to lead to a General Strike and revolution.'

Even trade union local officials caught the feeling.

'There's an undercurrent of discontent', said General and Municipal Workers' Union regional organizer Don Norry. 'With the dispute in gas this could explode and become a serious situation.'

At the Chatsworth Round Table, where the young executives gathered, opinion was verbally far less unanimous.

But although about half those interviewed disclosed that they thought Phase Two unfair, on a vote as to who backed Heath most hands went up. A local employer described the policy as 'rough justice'.

Yet in the studio discussion, Reginald Prentice, the 'Opposition' shadow of the Employment Secretary, crawled to Tory Consumer Affairs Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Most workers would reject a General Strike, he said. With the Labour Party they would accept the view that change should be through the ballot box. There could be unity between the parties on restraint if VAT and compulsory rent increases were withdrawn.

Below: Sir Geoffrey Howe.



# A PR JOB FOR THE EMPLOYERS' TOP MAN

TV REVIEW BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

The television cameras which followed Confederation of British Industry (CBI) director-general Mr. W. O. Campbell Adamson around for a day last autumn had to miss the best bits because they were not allowed in.

The programme—BBC 1's 'One Day in the Life' on Monday—was one of the best adverts for ending secret political intrigues and publishing all the records of government-big business conspiracies against the working class.

Adamson was first of all closeted with Sir Douglas Allen of the Treasury. Then with British Steel Corporation boss Lord Melchett. The subject both times was: what can we put across the trade union leaders in the coming tripartite talks at Chequers?

The cameras were excluded because the talks were 'confidential'.

One good point did emerge from Adamson's day. The importance to the ruling class of manipulating the news.

All day long, full-time staff worked on the problem of how to get maximum publicity effect for another bit of union-bashing on the subject of 'violent picketing'.

And to cultivate newspapermen, the director-general announced two or three small dinner parties he had orga-

nized 'with the media' at the top level.

He explained that he was not going to ask crudely for more of the CBI's views to be put across in the Press and TV. He would merely put it to them that the country was not getting a sufficient amount of information about business interests.

The importance of companies making bigger profits was one point that had to be got across, Adamson said. And he reported that there was already a good response. 'We are getting a lot of feedback—an appropriate remark after a round of lavish dinners.

Not that it is all that necessary to corrupt the bourgeois Press and television.

As Lytton Strachey remarked:

'Why bother bribing the British journalist, considering what he will do unbribed.'

An excellent example of this came right in the opening lines of the commentary, which, roughly paraphrased, ran:

'In the current industrial turmoil, the trade unionists blame the industrialists and the industrialists blame the unions.

'Here's Campbell Adamson seeking a middle-road, seeking a way to get peace, prosperity, and profits.'

The organizer of the British industrialists' political lobby can hardly be regarded as steering a middle course when the political party of British capitalism, the Tories, is making a historic offensive on all

democratic rights, aided by the CBI, to drive down wages.

Adamson's background—public school and Oxbridge—came over continually, nowhere more pointedly than when he was commenting patronizingly on the dilemmas facing the trade union bureaucrats who readily act as door-mats for the ruling class to walk over.

'We sympathize with the union leaders' problems,' said the big man. 'They are looking for moderation, but they are faced with demands for militancy from the rank and file following the success of the miners' strike.'

The class-collaboration that goes on at the top—behind closed doors—between bureaucrats and capitalists was implicit in this concern to help union leaders out.

But the overall picture is far from a happy one for the ruling class at this time of growing economic and political crisis. The cracks, strains and weaknesses are showing through more and more as their capitalist system disintegrates.

Adamson may still have two fivers to pull casually out of his jacket pocket to give to the chauffeur to go and buy a new shirt (he didn't have a clean one in the office to put on).

But as a class, the British capitalists are being squeezed mercilessly between international competitors on the one hand and the British working class on the other.

The frantic attempts to 'sell' their cause to the public

—to be allowed to make more profits—showed how desperate they are getting.

The industry leaders may still imbibe the wine over lunch and recall fondly their public school days, but right in the middle of the picture is Dr Barry Bracewell-Milnes, economics director, now sacked because of the serious split in the ranks over anti-inflation policies.

The divisions in the ruling class about how to deal with the unbroken strength of the working class were also hinted at in Adamson's remark about the parliamentary wing of the bourgeoisie.

'Parliament is still there, I suppose?' he said, making a comment about the apparent untameability of the shop stewards' movement.

'They're there, but their speeches are not reaching people,' his president Michael Clapham (ICI) replied.

'They make such poor speeches,' commented Michael King, chief Press officer, and son of the eminent diarist Cecil Harmsworth King.

The ruling class is, in fact, preparing to dispense with parliament as part of the need to crush all democratic rights in order to settle accounts with the working class. Only in this way can profits be maintained to fight the great trade war successfully.

It was, perhaps, significant that Campbell Adamson asked for a plain white shirt without frills. The ruling class is getting down to the serious business of winning the class war, if it can.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## PIN-UP MR HEATH



Japan's Premier Tanaka

Who said nobody loves Ted Heath? We can reveal that Premier Tanaka, the Tory leader of Japan, has three photographs on his office wall. One is of Emperor Hirohito, the other is the Empress and lastly... yes, you guessed it, Heath. People are starting to ask questions...

## CAUTIONARY TALE

A cautionary tale about coalition politics—right-wing Labour style—from Monday's London 'Evening Standard'. An interview with Sir Ian Horobin, admittedly 'about as right wing a Conservative as it's possible to be', revealed that he entered politics on the invitation of Philip Snowden, the Labour Chancellor who, with Ramsay MacDonald, deserted to the National government in 1931. 'When the whole country was going bust in 1931, he [Snowden] said would I like to fight a seat', Horobin told 'Standard' columnist Valerie Jenkins. 'I took a 15,000 socialist majority to a 15,000 National majority. Extraordinary.'

As an earnest of the right-wing views Snowden found so sympathetic, the former MP admits wanting to restore the death penalty and destroy 'The Guardian' newspaper. His racial opinions can be deduced from the comment: 'Half England's black and the rest knocked down.'

Such opinions are, of

course, no bar to being lionized by the Beaverbrook press—in fact Horobin's just the sort of hero they need now.

So despite the somewhat abrupt manner of his disappearance from public life in 1962 (he was jailed for three years for homosexual practices), the publication of a new book of poems is the occasion for a whole-page interview in the 'Standard'.

The exact purpose of the interview is not clear, although Horobin does let drop a heavy hint that he wouldn't mind



Philip Snowden: invitation.

coming back from exile in Tangier to take up the life peerage his jailing deprived him of 11 years ago. 'All my experience and knowledge is thrown away', complains the one-time Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Power. As a child he was dandled on the knee of W. B. Yeats, the right-wing Irish poet who was later to join the fascist Blueshirts. He was educated at Highgate School and Cambridge. His sister Norah was for 20 years headmistress of the pukka girls' public school, Roedean.

The introduction to his new book is written by Poet-Laureate Sir John Betjeman.

● Another interesting sidelight from the interview is that Horobin was the 'pet pupil' at Cambridge of economist John Maynard Keynes, of whose theories the reformists have made so much use in attempting to confuse the working class in the period following the last war.

## US ROUND-UP BY JACK GALE

After the Watts riots of August 1965, in Los Angeles, the United States Federal Government, business corporations and trade union bureaucracy rushed in to 'pacify' the black population.

All the tensions were to be eased away by a few timely reforms.

The Watts Labour Community Action Committee was set up under the direction of a pushing entrepreneur called Ted Watkins.

At its peak this organization was turning over \$30m a year from a supermarket chain, five manpower training programmes, a chain of service stations and restaurants and a construction company.

The Federal Government had almost entirely subsidized work-training programmes, community-improvement projects, youth programmes and the like in WLCAC's first years.

And it was the government and its hired business consultants who came up with the bright idea of black-owned supermarkets.

The notion was that black people would be happier in black-owned shops—and, besides, they would be bought up dirt-cheap from white owners anxious to move out of Watts.

The unions joined in. Together with the Federal Government's Small Business Administration, the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters' Union put up \$900,000 for the project.

And the United Auto Workers paid Watkins' salary.

But, after an initial boost, sales rapidly declined. Neither service nor prices were any better in black-owned supermarkets than they had been in white-owned supermarkets.

Within a short time the supermarket chain was losing \$40,000 a month.

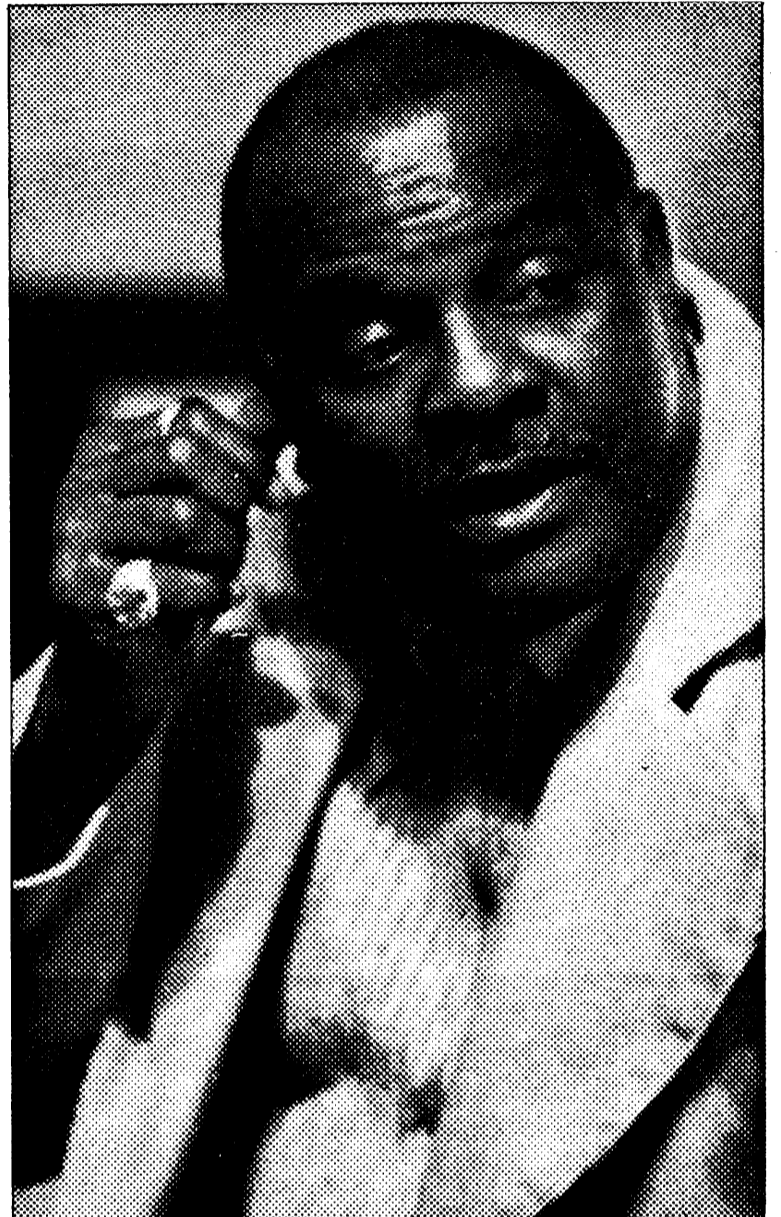
Then Watkins ran into trouble at his WLCAC work camp at Saugus, California, 35 miles from Watts, which has been set up in 1969 with the help of a \$2.6m, two-year grant from the US Labour Department.

The Labour Department's 1971 review gave the camp a glowing report and last year the grant was raised to \$1.5m a year to train 300 black ghetto youth in a trade.

But the bubble was soon to burst.

This year's Federal Review showed that the camp had no known personnel policies, no

# HOW MR WATKINS HAD A 'LEARNING EXPERIENCE' AND LOST \$40,000 A MONTH



Above: Mr Ted Watkins, an entrepreneur who took up the direction of the Watts Labour Community Action Committee. Below: A WLCAC supermarket—an abortive attempt to give the impression that black people would be happier in black-owned supermarkets.

regular reports of expenditure, no job descriptions and no staff-training officer. Only 170 of the camp's 300 student places were filled.

The main course—carpentry and auto-mechanics—had not prepared a single student for job certification or apprenticeship.

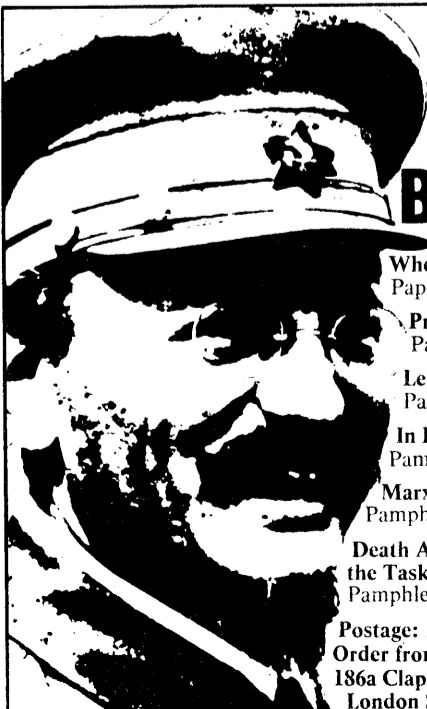
The Labour Department chopped off the Saugus programme forthwith. Now the

supermarket chain has gone bankrupt.

And, deciding to cut its losses, the United Auto Workers has stopped paying Watkins' salary.

The Watts 'reform programme' had failed.

But these collapses should not be described as failures, according to Watkins. They should, he says, be called 'learning experiences'.



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## Wage-cut threat at Triumph's

MACHINE-SHOP workers at the Triumph engineering plant at Meriden, near Coventry, meet today to decide future action in their week-old piecework dispute.

The dispute came to a head when management told machinists they would only be paid on a supervisors' assessment of their effort, instead of average earnings.

A black was imposed on the job concerned, the drilling of a motor cycle steering yoke. And when the 37 men again refused to work on management's terms they were taken off the clock.

A work-study of the job had resulted in a time of 3.75 minutes per component, which meant an operator having to produce 17 components an hour to maintain his old earnings level.

This amounted to 63.75 minutes work in every 60 minutes, or one component an hour more than it is possible to produce.

Operators had claimed that 14 components an hour—or 53.50 minutes' work—should be the production rate to maintain existing earnings.

With 1,400 men laid off at the factory many stewards claim the present dispute is being seized on by management as an opportunity to hold down and even cut wages.

Last month management summoned 70 shop stewards to a meeting to tell them of a nine-point plan to tighten up on earnings.

'The full nine points constitute every management's dream,' said one steward.

With the company reportedly £13m in the red and seeking government aid, a loudspeaker system was rigged up so management could address the whole plant about its plans.

'Management is out to break the machine-shop section—the most militant—in order to show the factory no one else can win,' said shop steward Fred Smith. 'We have to support the lug section. That's the only way we have got anything at Triumph.'

# Briant: Legal pressure off for deal?

Further legal moves against Briant Colour printworkers who have been working-in at their Old Kent Road factory for eight months are being delayed pending a deal with a buyer.

A spokesman for the liquidator Mr P. Granville White, said:

'If we are as near to a deal as we appear to be, I don't want to go to the added expense of getting an order for eviction.'

Last week in the Chan-

cery Division of the High Court the liquidator obtained judgement against the five man work-in committee after they failed to answer a summons telling them to quit the premises.

Mr H. B. Blandford Baker, who is in charge of the case, added: 'I am trying to be sensible about my timing.'

'I don't want to evict these fellows, even though they have been acting wholly against the law and

to the detriment of themselves and the creditors.'

The judgement established the right of the liquidator to act on behalf of owner Derek Syder in taking full control of the occupied factory.

He is now free to apply to the court for an order instructing the workers to leave the plant.

But Mr Blandford Baker said he would be reluctant to take this course when a position had been reached

in which he was 'very, very near a deal'.

The potential buyer is Mr Peter Bentley, a business associate of Mr David Brockdorff who, until now, has carried on negotiations with the liquidator, the print unions and the work-in committee.

Workers Press has already disclosed that the agreement—still to be officially approved by the work-in committee—could mean the sack for up to

two-thirds of the 105 men and women at the factory.

The problem has been the price Bentley was prepared to pay.

But he said at his home earlier this week he was now seeing 'eye to eye' with the liquidator.

Outstanding issues turn on convincing Mr Granville White of the soundness of his financial backers and, in turn, upon the liquidator convincing creditors.

## 'Terrible recommendation' says steward Hoover men accept Phase Two

WORKERS at the Hoover factory in Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales, yesterday agreed to start negotiations with management for a pay increase based on the Phase Two ceiling laid down by the Tory government.

This means that the basis for discussion will be £1 plus 4 per cent—giving Hoover workers a possible £2.40 increase.

The recommendation to proceed under these terms was put to a mass meeting yesterday by Tal Lloyd, a district official of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Lloyd, a right-wing Labourite, is the inaugural chairman of the newly-formed Welsh TUC which is an amalgam of many political tendencies including Tories, Communist Party members, Labourites and nationalists.

He is a councillor on Merthyr Council and was resoundingly defeated a few years ago when he stood as official Labour candidate against the late S. O. Davies.

By recommending negotiations on the basis of £1 plus 4 per cent, Lloyd is accepting in principle the Tory plan to impose state control on wages—corporatism.

Fred Sullivan, vice-chairman of the shop stewards' committee, said later it was 'a terrible recommendation'.

### BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

He said the feeling of the meeting, however, was that without leadership from the TUC or the union the men could not start a campaign against the government and its laws.

The shop stewards recommended to the meeting that there should be complete rejection of a management attempt to impose a bonus scheme which would inevitably involve productivity.

There have been simmering problems in the factory since the annual wage agreement ran out at the end of 1972 and the company refused to negotiate a new one for three months.

● HOOVER, the domestic appliances giant, yesterday announced another year of record profits.

Pre-tax profits were up at £16m, compared with £9.4m in 1971.

With the share of earnings of Hoover Holland, the total profits go up to £17.8m, an increase of some £6.8m over the previous year.

The company also announced a handsome dividend for all shareholders, with more to come after the end of Phase One of the Tory anti-inflation Bill.



TAL LLOYD... recommended state pay ceiling.

## Dogs as well off as prisoners

PRISONERS in the Maze Prison, formerly Long Kesh, Northern Ireland, cost £2.20 a week to feed—which is 31p a head more than the guard dogs there, but 30p less than security dogs at Leicester Prison.

These are among the facts obtained from the government by Miss Bernadette Devlin (ind., Mid Ulster).

She was given Leicester figures in a Commons written reply last November, when a Home Office Minister said the dogs cost £2.50 to feed and the prisoners £1.20.

## Teachers: The real level of wages

Dear Editor,  
As a teacher I was interested in today's article on the London teachers' pay claim (Workers Press, February 20).

I support this claim, although I feel it should be combined with an overall pay claim for teachers, linked to a political fight against the Tory government. Any moves by the leadership in this direction are very half-hearted if they can be claimed to exist at all.

In the present situation, discussion of actual pay levels can be very misleading—what is important is the onslaught by the Tories on the working class, through the slashing of the real standard of living and the attacks against democratic rights.

However, in view of statements in the article, I feel obliged to mention pay levels; without the correct facts, a situation can become more confused.

Teachers generally do not know their own precise pay scales, let alone those of others. But, unless I am grossly overpaid, to talk of pre-tax salaries of less than £20 a week (£1,052 a year) is nonsense, particularly with the London allowance added.

Until July 1971, a basic gross pay was well below £1,000 a year. (Take home pay was about £13.50 a week.) In 1971, a pay award made the basic £1,055—

the £20 a week gross mentioned. However in 1972 a further award gave a basic gross of over £1,200 a year. This figure is still abysmally low—giving a take-home pay of under £17 a week.

The figures about the ceiling figure are more or less correct around £1,750, after ten years' teaching.

The point is, even these higher figures give ludicrously low net salaries, considering the high rents charged in all cities—not only London. As a minimum, to cope with prices at their present levels, a basic of £1,800 would be needed, without the increases in prices planned for the future. A claim such as this, in the region of 50 per cent, is out of the question as far as the government is concerned.

Even in the so-called good years, increases were only around 8 to 12 per cent. It must be realized that any substantial claim must bring teachers, as with all workers, into a fight with the government.

To win a political fight against the state, united action, with the political aims made clear, is the only solution. For this reason, short protest strikes by isolated sections can achieve nothing. It is necessary for all teachers to join with all other trade unionists in a protracted General Strike to force the Tories to resign.

Fraternal greetings, a reader

### Special ATUA meetings

#### ANCILLARY WORKERS and CIVIL SERVANTS

No state control of wages!  
Support the gasmen, hospital workers and Civil Servants!  
Make the Tories resign!

Tuesday February 27  
7.30 p.m.

Norfolk Room  
Caxton Hall  
Caxton Street, SW1.

#### POSTAL WORKERS

The crisis of capitalism and the future of the trade unions.

Sunday March 4  
10.30 a.m.

Conway Small Hall  
Red Lion Square  
Holborn.

#### BUILDING WORKERS

The crisis of capitalism and the future of the trade unions.

Tuesday March 6  
7.30 p.m.

Norfolk Room  
Caxton Hall  
Caxton Street, SW1

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

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 8 p.m.  
Joiners Arms Hotel  
St Mary's Street  
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**  
TUESDAY MARCH 6, 8 p.m.  
Lord Morrison Hall  
Chesnut Grove  
Speaker: G. HEALY  
(SLL National Secretary)

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The urgency of this political situation demands it. The arming of the police, today being used against demonstrators and tomorrow against the working class, warns us all of the dangers ahead.

Only Workers Press is prepared for the nature of this fight against the Tories. Use our paper, therefore, to reach out to all those trade unionists and youth joining the struggle for the first time. Warn them of the fight ahead.

All the great strength and determination of the working class lies behind our paper. We are confident that you, dear readers, will do everything you can to pull the position around for our Fund.

A great spurt now and we will make it. Rush all donations immediately to:

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February Appeal Fund  
186a Clapham High Street  
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SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25  
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Mawson Rd  
SPECIAL SHOWING OF  
'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM  
RALLY, 3 p.m.  
Speaker: Maureen Bambrick  
(YS Nat. Cttee)**

## Wild buying on London market

# \$90 gold rush

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE GOLD rush was on in earnest in London yesterday. Buyers from all over the world pushed the price of gold to a record official fixing of \$83 an ounce, and after lunch the metal was selling at \$90 an ounce.

The price has gone up by more than 15 per cent in less than a week. It has increased almost a third since the beginning of the year.

Gold on the 'free' market—now the only place where it is in fact bought and sold—is at more than twice the 'official' price.

The gold rush means that the real value of paper money is melting away at a rate of almost 10 per cent a day!

And the price has by no means reached its peak. The big international companies which switched their dollar funds into marks last week are now fran-

tically buying gold with the proceeds.

Yesterday's gold rush indicates that last week's dollar devaluation, putting a final end to the rickety Smithsonian currency structure agreed in December 1971, has undermined all confidence in paper money.

The stampede is now in full swing to get hold of value by buying gold, giving the lie to those capitalist and revisionist pundits who proclaimed that

gold was no longer of any significance in the international monetary system.

These people are now discovering that gold occupies a central role, because, unlike paper money which has no intrinsic value beyond the cost of paper and ink, gold embodies large amounts of human labour and thus serves as the universal standard of value under capitalism.

● LOOK OUT for ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES tomorrow on pages 5, 6 & 7.

## Inflation cuts jobless

RIP-ROARING inflation has led to the fall in the number of people unemployed. Figures for February show 753,293 out of work in the United Kingdom—a drop of 70,483 on January.

The Great Britain total of 717,520—or 3.2 per cent of the working population—included 6,599 school leavers, a drop of 2,427 over the previous month.

Department of Employment statistics show there were 274,376 vacancies for the unemployed, 42,668 up on January.

At the same time it was revealed for the first time that 900,000 workers have been made redundant in the last four years.

The fall in wholly unemployed—the biggest from January to February since the war—does not reflect any underlying strength in the economy.

The fall has been stimulated by the massive rate of inflation which led to an increase in credit. On this basis a number of companies, mainly of a commercial and parasitic nature, have provided more jobs.

At the same time, any drop in the pool of unemployment can only strengthen the working class against the Tories.

# CBI-Tory split over Phase Two

BY ROYSTON BULL

FURTHER signs of the tension now gripping Britain's rulers because of the insoluble economic crisis have emerged in the row between the Tory government and industry leaders in the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) over the Phase Two price restraint proposals.

## TUC approves EEC corporatist plans

THE TUC yesterday published their official decision to cooperate in the setting up of corporatist institutions in Britain. In a memorandum to the government, they give their approval to the Common Market plan for putting worker-directors on to company boards.

The trade union leaders are thus taking part in the grossest deception of the working class.

At a time when the capitalist system is in the deepest crisis and the Tory government is making the greatest onslaught on basic rights in order to cut wages, the TUC bureaucrats try to sell class collaboration.

Worker-directors can achieve nothing for trade unionists except confusion.

It is the irreconcilable conflict of interests between capital and labour that makes difficulties for the working class right across the board—on rents, wages, pensions, and through inadequate schooling, housing and health care.

Despite the lying official figures, over a million workers are denied the right to work. The new laws now make criminals out of workers demanding wages or organizing freely in unions.

Instead of fighting to remove the capitalist class from power, the TUC now want workers to become permanent corporatist appendages of the capitalist system by serving on their boards.

● A forthcoming series of articles next week will deal in detail with the ruling class's attempt to reintroduce corporatist ideas into Britain.

So badly hit are British firms by the sharpening conditions of trade war and inflation that even the mildest of price controls envisaged by the government is filling them with alarm.

At the CBI Press conference this week, the dramatic divisions in the ruling class produced some dramatic language.

President Michael Clapham, (ICI), and Lucien Wigdor, deputy director-general, said the CBI 'would fight to the last ditch' to stop firms being 'penalized'.

It would be 'intolerable' if the voluntary price restraint the CBI introduced for 15 months was not now taken into account in allowing new cost increases to be offset.

The basic CBI position is that no cost increases at all are 'absorbable,' in the government's phrase. They must come either out of profits, wages, or go on prices. But if profits are squeezed any further investment will plunge disastrously yet again.

The Tories' real intentions, of course, are to eventually put all of the burden on to wage cuts and make the working class pay for capitalist inflation.

But in the politically-delicate situation of introducing Phase Two, some lip-service has to be paid to price restraint too. But the industrialists have their own balance sheets to work out—and many of them are facing bankruptcy. The revolt is on.

Things had not gone as far as to whip up a new Peasants' Revolt yet, said Clapham, but the industrialists were belligerent.

'They require the collaboration of industry,' Clapham added. 'The government would be ill-advised to antagonize it.'

## China and US—official links

CHINA and the United States are to establish official links as a result of the rapid improvement in relations which has taken place since President Nixon's visit to Peking last year.

A 300-word follow-up to Dr Kissinger's mission released yesterday says that they will establish liaison offices in each other's capital and expand trade and other contacts.

The Chinese will release two American airmen as a goodwill gesture and are considering the

release of a Central Intelligence Agency man later this year.

The agreement shows the anxiety of the Maoist regime to do a deal with American imper-

ialism at any cost and the final collapse of any pretension of support for revolutionary movements in south-east Asia and the Pacific area.

### BRIEFLY ● BRIEFLY ● BRIEFLY

**BUILDING** workers at the Mc-Alpine luxury hotel site in the Aldwych, London, say their strike will continue until labour-only sub-contracting is ended on the site. Yesterday strike leaders went to see union officials, demanding the dispute be made official. The three tower cranes

occupied on Monday morning have been vacated. A picket line yesterday was broken by only 10 out of the 150 direct and indirect workers.

**SOUTH WALES** steelworkers decided yesterday to hold a 24-hour protest strike and lobby of BSC headquarters on March 14 against plans to make 4,500 men redundant. The decision was taken at a mass meeting of steelworkers at Ebbw Vale who are facing a 50 per cent cut in the labour force.

**MORE** than 70 London fire stations were hit by industrial action yesterday against the decision to sack an Edmonton fireman. Fireman Hayward—described by his colleagues as a quiet, unassuming man and certainly no militant—was sacked by the Chief Officer of the London Brigade after he had received two adverse probationary reports. He will now be interviewed on Monday.

## Postmen's chief still looks for concessions

POST Office workers have been instructed not to join the civil service pay strike next Thursday—despite the Tory hard line against their own £5 pay claim.

The request for them to join the stoppage came from the Post Office section of the Clerical and Public Services Association, one of the five unions with which the Union of Post Office Workers is involved in the claim.

But although leaders of all six unions received a rough handling from Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan last week, the UPW is apparently still hoping to do a deal with the Tories over pay.

The UPW leaders are meeting their opposite numbers early next week in the fond belief that the government's Phase Two pay code may provide a loophole for such a deal.

Tom Jackson, UPW general secretary, has told branch secretaries that the reason he has rejected the call for next Thursday's strike is that it 'would only dislocate Post Office services at a time when we are trying to win more traffic'.

A circular signed by the union chief adds: 'Furthermore the UPW does not believe that a one-day strike will have any effect on government policy. In the circumstances we see no reason why our members should lose a day's pay.'

Yet Jackson admitted on February 11 that his 200,000 members have suffered a serious drop in their relative living standards during the period of Tory government.

Unite in action to defend basic rights

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6.30 p.m.

Castleford Civic Hall  
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