

PHASE TWO BATTERED FROM TWO SIDES

BIG TRADE DEFICIT SPARKS NEW CRISIS

By Royston Bull

ECONOMIC pressures are pulling the government's Phase Two plan apart at the seams. On one side, workers are putting up enormous resistance to the state wage controls. On the other, industrialists are urging Heath to pass ever more of the burdens of inflation onto the working class.

At the same time, the overall economic situation is deteriorating rapidly with chaos on the currency markets and a steadily mounting balance-of-payments deficit shown up in yesterday's bad trade figures.

This will further shake confidence and lead to renewed demands for firm political action to meet the crisis.

For the seventh month running, the balance of payments was more than £20m in the red last month, with a visible trade deficit of £77m only partly offset by invisible exports.

It means Britain's trade is failing to pay its way to the tune of £400m a year or more.

These mounting debts will have renewed repercussions on the shaky international finance scene which will again be discussed at a meeting of the major industrial powers this weekend in Paris.

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THE SIEGE OF SHREWSBURY

ABOUT 1,000 pickets—building workers, dockers and steelmen—yesterday swamped the town of Shrewsbury in Shropshire to protest against a conspiracy trial against 24 building workers.

The workers calling for the release of their colleagues faced a solid wall of about 400 police who ringed the courthouse.

Inside Shrewsbury magistrate's court 24 building workers were committed for jury trial on a total of 210 charges ranging from conspiracy and intimidation to causing actual bodily harm and damaging property.

Road blocks were erected on all major routes into the town, and coaches and private cars were searched. The Abbey Foregate, running past Shrewsbury Shire Hall where the committal proceedings took place, was sealed off from 8 a.m. until almost lunchtime.

Our car was stopped and searched at a police road block about seven miles from the town and we had to prove our identity with Press cards, etc.

POLICE BLOCKADE TOWN AS 1,000 PICKET COURT CASE

ON-THE-SPOT REPORT BY DAVID MAUDE

The police stood three deep outside the courthouse behind specially-erected barriers. Others walked the area with savage Alsatian dogs.

At one point demonstrators chanted 'Jackboots' and 'Ges-tapo'.

The police operation—almost 1,000 were involved—was mounted by the West Mercian Constabulary with assistance from all the adjoining constabularies.

By comparison with this massive show of force the ten-minute committal proceedings were less than spectacular. But their implications for the working class movement are no less grave.

The medieval town was the scene of a combined legal and police operation testing out methods the Tory government will use in its coming battles with the working class.

All 24 men are charged both with fighting and causing an affray, and with intimidation and under a 98-year-old Act of Parliament.

This charge reads: 'That you . . . wrongfully and without legal authority intimidated divers people with a view to compelling those people to abstain from their lawful work, contrary to Section 7(1) of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act of 1875 as amended.'

Six of the accused, all of whom are Shropshire and north Wales building workers, face the even more serious charges of conspiracy.

The Crown Court trial will begin in Shrewsbury on April 25 at 10.30 a.m., but may be moved later to Bridgnorth. All 24 accused were bailed yesterday on £50 in their own recognizance.

There was a great, spontaneous cheer at a meeting of the picketing workers when it was suggested that a one-day General Strike be held on the day their trial starts.

● Further report and picture—page 12.

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Cinderellas and Cinderfellas of the wards see pp 4 & 5

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'THE CINDERELLAS OF THE WARDS.'

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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WHAT WE THINK

Labourites move steadily rightwards

WHILE 2,500 steelworkers demonstrated outside the British Steel Corporation's headquarters on Wednesday to save their jobs, gas and hospital workers fought on against the state pay laws, locomen continued their action for a decent basic wage and teachers planned further action for their London allowance, they were all stabbed in the back by the Labourites in the House of Commons.

To the smirks and applause of Tory MPs, Mr Reg Prentice, Shadow Employment Minister, said locomen 'really must have regard to the great hardship which their action is causing to hundreds of thousands of people'.

This at a time when rail workers fighting the Tory state pay laws are being beaten up by frenzied Tory voters from the commuter belt!

Prentice has acquired a considerable reputation for siding with the Tories against the working class. Last August he denounced the dockers who were jailed for picketing. And last month he told his admirers on the government front bench: 'I dissociate myself from anyone who says there should be a national confrontation between the unions and the government on the [state pay] policy.'

But Prentice is not alone. His leader, Harold Wilson, declared on television that he regarded the Tories' state control of wages as 'an enormous bonus, a bequest' and that a Labour government would use it. He, too, publicly called on workers not to fight against the Tory legislation.

More than that, he stood up in the House of Commons and advised Heath on how to circumvent parliamentary procedure in order to implement his anti-working-class legislation before it had been passed.

Shortly afterwards Mr Carol Johnson MP—one of the pro-Tory Labourites who saved the Heath government in the 1971 Common Market vote—again came to Heath's rescue by giving his casting vote to the government in a committee stage of the state pay laws.

And the 'left' Michael Foot, while mouthing protests against the steel closures, himself declared on the day of the Shotton steelworkers' lobby: 'We believe that major modernization must eventually follow to a great extent the lines laid down by the BSC.'

The Tory government has passed laws against the unions, against strikes, against wage increases and against elected representatives carrying out their mandates. By the rent Act, Common Market entry and deliberately accelerated inflation, it has robbed workers more efficiently than any back street 'mugger'.

Yesterday the five top men from the Confederation of British Industries went to Downing Street to demand even harsher measures against the working class in the interests of profit. These men want an immediate show-down—a General Strike provoked on their terms.

The cost of such a defeat for the unions would be state corporatism penetrating every corner of life. But one major and decisive problem remains for the employers and their government—the workers have not been defeated.

Gasworkers, hospital workers, carworkers, miners, busmen, dockers, steelmen, teachers, civil servants and hundreds of thousands of others confront the Tory government. It is this strength which terrifies the Labour leaders.

While the reformists and Stalinists in the unions do all they can to dissipate the strength of the working class in one-day protests, isolated and piecemeal actions and time-wasting trips to Downing Street, their co-thinkers in the Parliamentary Labour Party move rapidly to the right.

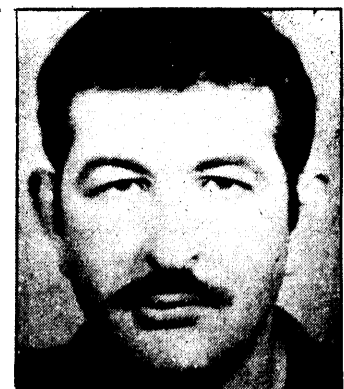
As the working class fights back, these leaders crawl to Heath as their predecessors crawled to Baldwin. They are the Ramsay MacDonalds of today.

They represent the politics of coalition—a reactionary alliance with the Tories to smash the unions and establish a Bonapartist dictatorship over the working class.

The construction of a revolutionary leadership is therefore the central task facing the working class. Such a leadership can only be built in the struggle to force the Tory government to resign.

That is why it is so necessary to transform the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party, to unite in defence of basic rights and to demand an emergency conference of the Labour Party. Such a conference must thrash out a socialist policy, mobilize the working class to bring down the Tory government and drive out the pro-Tory traitors replacing them in parliament with people pledged to a socialist programme.

Hussein forced to act Reprieve for Abu Daud



ABU DAUD . . . Fatah founder

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan has commuted the death sentence on Abu Daud, the founder of the Al Fatah Palestinian guerilla movement, and 16 of his comrades.

In a message to his premier Ahmad Al-Tarawneh, Hussein said his decision was based on 'human consideration'. This is believed to refer to the barrage of protests he has received from other Arab heads of state.

The commutation of the death sentence does not mean the Fatah men will be released. There was no indication yesterday how long they might be held in prison by the Jordanian regime.

The 17 guerrilla fighters were captured in early February on their way to the Israeli-occupied territories on the west bank of the Jordan. They were

Still to be held in jail

a reprieve for Abu Daud and his fellow-prisoners.

They killed two American and one Belgian diplomat and now face capital charges themselves.

Hussein's regime has undertaken a massive repression of Palestinian fighters since the massacre of September 1970 when many thousands of guerrillas and refugees were killed by the Jordanian army.

His attacks on the Palestinians are intended to cement relations with the Zionists in Israel and with

his imperialist masters in Washington.

In the two years since the September massacre 19,000 Palestinians and their supporters have been arrested.

Many of them were released after questioning—and frequently torture—at the hand of the Jordanian secret police. More than 200 are held under sentence of death.

Frightened

Seven Palestinian fighters were hanged two months ago.

Among them were Said Tabatibi (26) from Gaza; Yousef Dura (24) from Deir Trais Lidda; and Abdel Hamid Basbous (21) from Hebron.

The reprieve of Abu Daud demonstrates that Hussein is frightened of popular anger despite his eagerness to please the imperialists and the Israeli leaders.

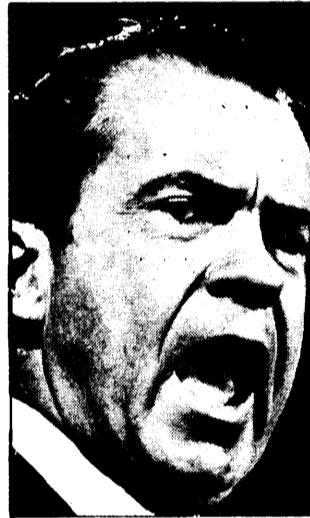
BY JOHN SPENCER

tried by a secret military tribunal on charges of preparing to commit 'acts against state security'.

Terror

Black September terrorists organized the take-over of the Saudi embassy in Khartoum in a bid to secure

Nixon joins electric chair lobby



PRESIDENT NIXON has thrown his full weight behind the campaign of the 'law-and-order' brigade to bring back the death penalty.

He called the death penalty a 'valuable deterrent' and urged that it should be obligatory in certain cases. He also wants heavy terms of imprisonment for drug offences to include life imprisonment for trafficking in more than four ounces.

He is preying on fears produced by the growing crime wave in US cities and preparing the way for the use of tough measures

against the working class and all political opponents.

The death penalty for Federal crimes was abolished by a five-to-four vote in the Supreme Court last year. Legislation will be required to reverse the decision.

Most crimes are state offences and Federal jurisdiction only covers relatively rare crimes such as political assassination, treason, kidnapping, hijacking and the killing of policemen.

But Nixon has now thrown

his weight behind campaigns going on in more than half the states in the Union to bring back the electric chair and the gas chamber for murder.

In other words he has made the demand for the return of capital punishment more respectable.

The support of Nixon for the death penalty and tougher measures against crime, which is a product of the decay of American capitalist society, must be seen together with other reactionary measures proposed since his re-election.

These include big cuts in social programmes and welfare services likely to intensify the crime problem.

Maltese Archbishop in cash scandal

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

A FIRST-RANK ecclesiastical scandal has broken round the head of Malta's archbishop, the Most Reverend Michael Gonzi (87).

This arch-conservative priest, who for 13 years kept Dom Mintoff's Labour Party out of office by threatening Labour voters with ex-communication, is deeply implicated in the disappearance of large sums of church money.

The first scandal involved a 'millionaire' who was one of Gonzi's trusted backers. This man left Malta with over £100,000 of the church funds. The money was never recovered.

The dust had hardly settled

on this spectacular disappearance when Maltese-owned Bank of Industry, Commerce and Agriculture Ltd (Bical) went bankrupt.

The bank was the custodian of almost all the liquid cash owned by the Maltese church. This amounted to over £1m, half of it in bearer bonds. The bulk of the money had been donated by Catholics towards masses to be said for the repose of souls after death.

Gonzi is making desperate efforts to get the money back, even appealing to Labour premier Mintoff, his old enemy, for assistance. The money, meanwhile, is nowhere to be found.

Nobel - Tito

MARSHAL TITO of Yugoslavia will be this year's Nobel Peace Prize winner if the Soviet government has its way.

The Soviet Peace Committee has written to that effect to the Nobel Committee in Oslo.

The ageing Marshal, outlawed and vilified by Stalin in 1947, is now very much in Moscow's good graces and was warmly received during his visit last year. Nomination for the award represents approval for Tito's tough new home policies aimed at the working class.

South African plot to attack us—Kaunda

THE WHITE minority regimes in Rhodesia and South Africa are plotting to attack Zambia, charged President Kenneth Kaunda yesterday.

He said they would attack centres of population in Zambia on the pretext that they were being used by guerrillas operating in Rhodesia. He showed a map printed in the South Afri-

can magazine 'To The Point' marking alleged guerrilla bases which he said was 'a dirty lie' and proved that there was a plot.

Landmines planted on Zambian territory had already killed 13 civilians and wounded others. He said that the 4,000 South African troops stationed in Rhodesia were being replaced by mercenaries.

Relief over results

WHILE hailing Communist Party successes in the French elections, the bureaucracy in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union is relieved at the result.

The main thing is, as Radio Moscow put it, 'that there will be no changes in the main orientation of French foreign policy'.

The Polish paper, 'Glos Pracy' said it could be assumed that France would continue the same foreign policy, a principal feature of which was the striving for detente in Europe and co-operation with socialist states.

Moscow feared the return of a Gaullist government dependent upon the votes of centre deputies opposed to this policy.

It wanted stronger Communist Party representation to put pressure on the government.

But it did not want a victory for the left coalition which might have led to François Mitterand, whom it does not trust, becoming Prime Minister.

Ironically, the French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann lost the seat which he has held since the war and he will probably have to be replaced, although the Constitution does not require a minister to have a seat in the National Assembly.

WELSH STEELMEN GET LITTLE SATISFACTION FROM LOBBY — IAN YEATS EXPLAINS WHY

Cynical eye on Labour's steel promises

EBBW VALE steelworkers' cynicism about the outcome of Wednesday's parliamentary lobby was certainly justified. The 2,500 men and women had come to London seeking a firm promise from the British Steel Corporation that 4,500 jobs would not be axed. Instead they heard their leader, Mr Colin Hudson, call a BSC pledge to discuss shut-down dates as 'satisfactory' and front-bench Labourites promise no more than a review of the closure plans.

A mass meeting at Central Hall, Westminster, heard their 'champion', Michael Foot, tell them they were 'magnificent' and T&GWU leader Mr Jack Jones reiterating his threadbare theme that if everyone stood together they could win together.

Mr Foot had been delayed arriving at the meeting through his efforts in assisting the police to control demonstrators outside BSC headquarters—a role in which he was memorably portrayed in a front page picture in yesterday's 'Times'.

But after all the talk from Labourites about 'the dignity of work' and the 'repugnant' and 'odious' character of the BSC's plan, workers filing out of the meeting were in no doubt—'We'll lose the bottom end' (the steel-making section).

The steelmen had mounted the biggest ever lobby of BSC headquarters and more Labour MPs, as well as Opposition leader Harold Wilson, spoke to them at the Central Hall, and at the House of Commons, than at any other recent lobby.

Despite the presence of some of Labour's heaviest artillery, including James Callaghan, who said some people regarded him as 'old-fashioned and reactionary', it was West Riding Labour MP Mr John Mendelson who succeeded best in putting the steelworkers' fight into perspective.

Michael Foot made much, if not everything of the fact that by 1975 there would be a General Election with the prospect of the steelmen's fears being swept aside by



'Left' words from Michael Foot, MP

the return of a Labour government.

But to all those with high hopes that Labour will leave the structure of the steel industry as it is, Mendelson said: 'Labour has always sought and welcomed modernization.'

Labour, he claimed in an ill-timed bout of party chauvinism, had looked over BSC chairman Lord Melchett's shoulder every minute of the time the steel modernization plans were being drawn up.

The crucial difference between the approach of his party and the Tory government was that Labour intended modernization to create more jobs and to provide alternative employment where plants were shut or contracted.

Rarely have so many had the misfortune to hear so much gibberish.

The steel bosses have explained over and over again that the very core and essence of modernization is redundancy.

And in the remote areas where the doomed steelworks are located there has been no new industrial development since the war.

Despite six years of previous Labour rule, which saw generous incentives to industrialists to set up in places like Ebbw Vale, the steelworks remains the town's sole industry.

Although Callaghan talked of direction of industry, on the basis of incentives (tax concessions, loans etc), in the present climate of rationalization and contraction it is doomed to failure.

All of this explains why Wilson's dramatic intervention at committee room 14 of the House of Commons could amount to no more than a promise to lift closure dates and review the modernization plan for steel in the light of the social consequences.

And it explains why ex-Secretary of State for Wales Mr George Thomas could only say: 'Social considerations are a high priority for a Labour government.'

How could they be more? In two years' time, modernization will be so advanced that the shut-downs will be inevitable. More important, no one in the Labour Party, including Michael Foot, has ever denied that they agree in principle with the Tory plans.



Only two of the leaders of the 16 steel unions bothered to turn up—Eddie Linton of the EEPTU and Hector Smith of the blast-furnacemen.

Angry murmurs and foot-stamping greeted the remark that it would have been encouraging if more of the steel union leaders had been present.

Linton said it was important for him to counteract the view 'getting about' that the steel unions had 'automatically' accepted closures.

He said: 'We have not.'

The contrast between the political smugness of the trade union and Labour speakers was drawn sharply when the chairman of Newport Tubes action committee addressed the meeting.

Mr Michael Anderson

said the 1,300 men at Newport would lose their jobs in three months.

'A campaign consisting of purely logical and sensible arguments will be a waste of time,' he said.

There was wild applause when he concluded:

'All our pleas have fallen on deaf ears. Unless there is a national strike within the steel industry, the jobs at Newport and at the other plants will be lost for ever.'

'If our leaders won't act, then we, the shop stewards and the rank and file, must take it upon ourselves.'

The meeting broke up, after a day's protest carefully orchestrated by works' leaders and police to avoid all possible flashpoints, with the singing of the Welsh national anthem—at Mr Foot's insistence.

Some of the Ebbw Vale steel workers during their trip to London to lobby BSC headquarters and MPs

Tories let food prices rip 'freeze'

THE BIG food monopolies are crashing through the Tories' prices barrier at will. The government has just announced that meat processors will be allowed to increase their prices by 7p a lb instead of 5p, as originally planned.

The meat products concerned are brisket of beef, tongue, chopped pork and canned and frozen meat products. The sharp increase in the price—it amounts to almost 1s 6d a lb in old money—is a measure of the soaring inflation and the high cost of EEC entry.

The original 5p increase was granted by the Agriculture Minister, Mr Joseph Godber, on February 23. Now, less than three weeks later, the Tories have added another 2p to the housewives' shopping bill for these items.

A statement by the Ministry said the 'adjustment' had been agreed following further evidence from the manufacturers' association. 'The Times' said yesterday that 'leading companies have been advised not to disclose

details to the Press'.

In other words the Tories and the monopolies have done a secret deal to allow the increases and nobody is to know what products are affected except in the most general terms.

At the same time the Tories have disallowed a 1p increase in the price of bread. This much-publicized decision overlooks the

fact that the increase has only been postponed.

The bread monopolies—Ranks Hovis McDougall and Spillers—have just disclosed record profits and they can afford to let the increase go for a few weeks so as to lessen aggravation with the Tories.

The bread monopolies have

taken the government's 'refusal' very lightly because there is a private arrangement to allow a large increase within the coming weeks.

Further details have also started to emerge about the Tory plans to raise steel prices, which will have a big effect on the cost of all manufactured goods, from cars to can openers.

The British Iron and Steel Consumers' Council has reached an agreement with the government to increase the price in 'phases'.

On May 1 the price will go up by an average of 8 per cent and about three months later it will rise by a further 4 or 5 per cent. This would make a total of 12 or 13 per cent on average and up to about 16 per cent for some products.

The heavy price rises are being demanded by other countries in the European Coal and Steel Community. British steel prices were last raised in April 1972 by 4.6 per cent. The previous increase to this was made a year earlier when the British Steel Corporation was given government permission to raise them by 7 per cent.

On April 1, in two weeks' time, Value-Added Tax will be imposed. The government has insisted that this be held at a 10 per cent level with temporary exemptions on children's clothing, ice cream, soft drinks and crisps!

This runaway inflation is as a result of deliberate government policies. The working class which is bearing the brunt of these policies can resist in one way—fight to remove the government from office.

Price Code clause upsets Chambers of Commerce

A KEY clause in the government's proposed Price and Pay Code should be abandoned, the Association of British Chambers of Commerce said yesterday.

The clause 'arouses greater concern than any other provision of the code', according to an Association memorandum to the Treasury.

The clause states that 'to ensure that the benefits of increased productivity are passed on to the consumer, not more than 50 per cent of allowable cost increases arising from pay increases may be passed on as price increases'. The necessity for a 50 per

cent productivity deduction 'is not apparent in view of the proposed ceiling on profit margins and the constraints on pay rises', the Association declared.

It would bear 'particularly hardly on labour-intensive industries, with clear adverse implications for general levels of employment. We strongly recommend the abandonment of this concept'.

The Association also said that provision made by two paragraphs in the code for recognition of pre-freeze price restraint by companies was 'completely inadequate'.

In a statement on general

policy, it said that it did not believe that there was real understanding of the nature and danger of inflation at all levels in the community.

The Association said that compulsory restraints would be only a 'temporary palliative, succeeded sooner or later by a rush of pent-up wage and price increases unless the breathing space so obtained is used for a nationwide, prolonged and in-depth campaign of explanation and persuasion'.

It is seeking an early meeting with Heath or one of his senior Ministers to discuss the part Chambers of Commerce can play.



CINDERELLAS OF THE WARDS

BY BERNARD FRANKS

Rocketing food prices and now the imposition of the new budget means that the standard of living of hospital workers is not merely 'frozen', it is to be driven down even from its present appallingly low level.

Furthermore, far from 'endangering' patients' the hospital employees are in fact, defending the Health Service by their action.

Faced with the severe economic crisis, the Tories have set out to make the working-class pay for it by greater exploitation at work, by attacks on the standard of living and on jobs and by reducing to a bare minimum the public services used mainly by the workers.

The Health Service is one sector to be broken up and its remains are to be either destroyed or, where possible, turned into profitable business. Wards, clinics and hospitals are being closed. The wages of ancillary workers and nurses are kept down to force workers out and close down departments because of 'staff shortages'.

Elsewhere private contractors are brought in to do work traditionally done by ancillary workers.

While working-class patients wait longer and longer for beds,

private patients can buy the right to jump the queue and get tax concessions for doing so.

Plans for the takeover of private wings of National Health hospitals by private firms were revealed in January. It was admitted that Social Services Secretary Sir Keith Joseph had discussed the project with representatives of the Harley Street Clinic as early as 1971.

Said Joseph: 'I think private practice has a great deal to contribute to the health and benefit of the people of this country.' (Workers Press report.)

In fact, the main concern of hospital authorities during the last ten years has been to cut down on jobs, a plan which must seriously endanger the service provided and in consequence, the patients. If action is not taken hospitals will not only be closed for a few weeks because of a strike, but permanently because of Tory policy.

Naturally, the hospital workers' strikes come under the smear and scaremongering attacks from the capitalist Press. These are now guaranteed with any major strikes.

A few senior consultants have been dug out to allege that the workers' actions are a threat to lives. When it comes to details of who, when and where, they conveniently retire behind 'professional etiquette'. No one should be fooled by their claimed

'impartiality'. Some of them certainly have an interest in supporting private enterprise and Tory policy.

As NUPE pointed out recently, one of these people can earn in a week through treating private patients, almost as much as an ancillary worker in the same hospital gets in a year.

On the other hand, the fact that thousands of doctors and nurses actively support the ancillaries, and in the case of nursing staff, are taking action to forward their own 40 per cent claim, is hushed-up by Fleet Street.

The 230,000 National Health ancillary workers carry out a variety of important tasks vital to the running of the 2,900 hospitals in Britain.

There are roughly 100,000 domestic workers, mainly women, involved in jobs such as sweeping and polishing floors, washing and scrubbing walls, floors, baths, lavatory-pans, urinals and sluices, dusting and polishing furniture and fittings, and washing up.

There are 40,000 catering workers — cooks, butchers, bakers and kitchen staff who prepare the meals and clean the kitchen equipment. Also 20,000 porters who convey equipment, supplies and messages round the departments of a hospital.

They play an important part in the care of patients, helping the incapacitated and keeping up the morale and confidence of both long-term patients and

of newcomers. Another of their constant tasks is the disposal of refuse, especially of infected material.

A further 10,000 workers are involved in laundry operations, including the handling and washing of heavily blood-soaked and soiled linen. Other ancillary duties include mortuary work, gardening, driving, switchboard operating and stores control.

Another 20,000 who do not come under the ancillaries' pay system are electricians, builders and other workers concerned with the maintenance of equipment and services.

A 1970 government report found union membership covered 70 per cent of men in ancillary work, 60 per cent of women and even 40 per cent of part-time workers.

Out-dated

Most ancillary workers in hospitals prefer this type of work both for the service it provides and for the friendly relationship with workmates. On the other hand, the overcrowding of hospitals and continued use of out-dated premises make all tasks doubly difficult.

The early hospitals were founded by religious orders in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries. Records of hospital

work go back almost to that period.

St John's Hospital, Oxford, employed 12 servants, artisans and farm labourers in the year 1380. Farm labourers were employed because the establishments were required to produce their own food. At a York hospital 16 male and female servants were part of the workforce along with cooks, brewers, bakers, smiths and carters.

There was often no clear division between nursing and ancillary staff as reflected in the old term 'sister-housewife' for a woman who both tended the sick and undertook the essential chores.

At a Coventry hospital servants for the sick were required 'to see them clean kept in their persons and houses and for dressing their meats, washing of them and ministering all things to them'.

For the poor, up to the middle of the last century illness meant ending up in the workhouse sick wards. The workhouses brought together the poorest of the old, the unemployable, the orphans and the physically and mentally sick. All inmates were required to occupy themselves continuously, either working or praying. Those too ill to work were tended by the other paupers who invariably caught their diseases.

The great fear of the authorities was that idleness and laziness might be en-



Newcastle hospital ancillary workers on the picket line last week. Above left: NUPE members in London. Union membership amongst hospital workers is high—70 per cent of men, 60 per cent of women and 40 per cent of part time workers belong to a union. Above right: At King's College Hospital pickets draw attention to private practice which threatens the gains of NHS.

couraged so harsh discipline was enforced to ensure that the poor and the sick understood that they were being punished for their condition. It was the Metropolitan Poor Act of 1867 which finally provided for separate hospitals for the sick, the insane and the infirm.

Many of those old infirmary and workhouse buildings are still in use as hospitals.

The forerunner of NUPE was founded in 1888 by Albin

Taylor, a labourer in the engineering department at Crossness (Kent) Sewage Works, and a member of the Social Democratic Federation. It was called the London County Council Employees Protection Association and was open to all municipal employees, including hospital workers.

In 1894 its name was changed to the Municipal Employees Association. Following the establishment of

the National Health Service in 1948, hundreds of hospital workers were recruited to the unions.

Previously, the members took part in the major struggles of 1889, 1911 and the General Strike of 1926. In the latter action the then general secretary, Jack Wills claimed: 'We were more successful than any other union in getting our members back to work.'

One previous action by the hospital workers was in 1956. Up to 1953 the 44-hour working week had been obtained in every industry and service except the National Health Service, which was still on 48 hours. Many demonstrations occurred for a reduced working week.

A huge meeting at Caxton Hall, London, of ancillary workers, mostly women, required two other halls to take the overflow from the main meeting. The workers demanded an immediate reduction in hours but the union leaders agreed to a two-stage cut-down to 46 hours in 1957 and to 44 hours in 1958.

Today, women make up 70 per cent of the ancillary work force, half of these are part-timers—working less than 40 hours a week. Fifty per cent of all ancillary workers are over 50 years of age (10 per cent over 60) and 8 per cent are disabled in some way.

Basic rate for most men is below £20 a week. For a quarter of the women it is below £15.30. Even with overtime, bonus and shift payments, the take-home pay is only three-quarters that of the average worker.

Now the Tories are trying to palm off a miserable £1.84 on this lowest paid section of workers.

The four unions involved, the Transport and General Workers' Union, the National Union of Public Employees, the General and Municipal Workers' Union and Confederation of Hospital Employees have messed about for years with all manner of productivity deals, bonus schemes, efficiency payments and the like, as a substitute for real wages.

Time wasting

Their only sign of activity has been in promoting these schemes. However, in recent months when workers have shown their determination to take action, then union officials have scurried from hospital to hospital trying to stop it taking place. A number of workers have condemned the NUPE ballot of branches as deliberate time wasting.

Many hospital employees are totally dissatisfied with the union's official claim of £4, saying that only the workers' original demands—an increase of £8, a 35-hour week, four weeks' holiday—could begin to bring pay and conditions up to a reasonable level.

Far from linking up the struggle of the civil servants, gasmen and railwaymen with the hospital workers into one all-out united General Strike to force the Tories to resign, the TUC has openly worked to oppose any such action.

Far from seeking the election of a Labour government committed to socialist policies—including total elimination of all business interests from every aspect of health and

welfare—the TUC leaders' avowed policy has been collaboration with the Tories and employers in the maintenance and protection of capitalism.

This has continued even after labour courts have been set up, trade unionists sent to prison, unions fined for carrying out what have been normal trade union practices for most of this century, and pay laws and agencies proposed which were originally perfected in the past corporate state systems of fascist Italy and Nazi Germany.

The day before the TUC special Congress on March 5, which called for a totally inadequate 'one-day of national protest', TUC general secretary Victor Feather was still asking for more talks with the Tories. He said:

'Mr Heath should jettison the worst features of the Industrial Relations Act and get us all back to talks at Chequers and Downing Street—and those talks should be conducted with an open mind around an open agenda.' He added: 'The road to success is by way of agreement. It is the quickest route and the smoothest journey.'

The Stalinists of the British Communist Party condone this fraud. On the day of the TUC Congress, Bert Ramelson, CP industrial organizer, called for a one-day General Strike and this not even to change the government but '... to compel a change in government policy'.

Feather's remarks and the March 5 betrayal in the face of a vicious Tory attack utterly confirm that the construction of a new revolutionary socialist leadership in the unions is the first and foremost task for all trade unionists today.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

Reckitt and Colman, one of the wealthiest of Britain's grocery producers, has what can be called a 'quaint' history.

The company was founded by Quakers. The Reckitts from Hull began co-operating with the Colmans, the Norfolk mustard squires, in 1910, when the two families pooled their South American interests.

In 1921 they cemented their relations further by combining all their overseas interests. Then, in 1938, they took the unusual step of merging all their trading interests, but remaining separate companies. They drew up an agreement to share profits on a *pro rata* basis.

In 1953 came the final merger. The following year the first big takeover took place when Reckitt and Colman absorbed the family firm of Chiswick Products, which makes the Cherry Blossom polishes.

But whereas most people know Lord Stokes of British-Leyland, Lord Kearton of Courtauld's and Lord Robens of Vickers, who knows the men who dominate the Reckitt and Colman monopoly?

The simple answer is that the company prefers to have a low corporate profile; anonymity is the keynote of its operation.

But if the names of the well-heeled directors are kept obscure, the company's products are the subject of the most intensive advertising campaigns. The brand names have become household words.

Who would have guessed, for example, that the Reckitt and Colman group straddles such varied products as:

Pharmaceuticals: Dettol, Disprin, Codis, Lem-Sip and Solprin.

Toiletries: Loxene shampoo, Cossack hairdressing, Corvette toiletries, Bathjays bubble bath and Steradent denture cleaner.

Shoe polish: Cherry Blossom, Meltonian suede cleaner and Nugget shoe polishes.

Household cleaners: Robin starch, Cardinal polishes, Cleen-o-Pine, Mr Sheen, Harpic, Brasso, Windolene, to name just a few.
Food products: Gale's honey, the leading brand in the honey market, Robinson's baby food, mustard—English, French and American-style—OK family and mint sauce, Colman's Instant Potato.

EXPANSION

Since 1968 the group has invested more than £9m in becoming a significant force in the wine business in Britain, America and Australia.

The company's overseas expansion has been particularly vigorous. R. T. French, the American subsidiary, holds more than half the US mustard market and easily leads all competition in the instant potato trade.

Last month the company made its first move into the Common Market. It has purchased a small French pharmaceuticals firm called Laboratoires Manceau. The 'Daily Telegraph' noted: 'The deal is significant for it gives the British company existing permits and licences to manufacture and market pharmaceutical products in France and provides a platform for further expansion in this product area in other countries in Continental Europe.'

'At the same time R&C is actively searching for acquisitions in the toiletries trade in France and Germany, having already bought Olivin of Wiesbaden in Germany last year and the Swiss-based Dae Health Laboratories—makers of Veet and Valderma—in 1969.'

Mr David Clifford, the company secretary, said the group was on continuous look-out for acquisitions in France and West Germany. He said the

purchase of Laboratoires Manceau 'avoids much bureaucratic conversation over obtaining permits to trade in pharmaceuticals'. The company has recently closed down a number of its European factories to concentrate production in France.

Chairman of the group is Arthur Mason whose family firm, Chiswick Products, was taken over in 1954. There's little about the gentle Quaker image in Mason.

His philosophy is simple: 'Our great strength is the wide range of trade marks we have. We literally have thousands of them. We have never gone out of our way to sell the company—except in the City. We think it better to put our money behind the trade name on the shelf.'

Since taking over as chairman in 1970 Mason admits that the group has become 'more abrasive'. There have been heavy redundancies and large-scale factory closures.

During Mason's first year of office he introduced rationalization plans as part of 'our continuing nationalization process'. Operations at Norwich were closed down. In August 1971 the axe fell again. This time the Carlton works at Peterborough was shut involving 250 jobs and the factory on the Shannon Industrial Estate in Eire was also closed.

A note in the annual report stated: 'We are taking a much closer look than hitherto at ways and means by which our fixed assets can be nationalized world-wide.' Yet despite Mason's attacks on workers and their living standards he says: 'We still like to be good employers.'

One of his first jobs was to divide the group up into five divisions—food, household, toiletries, pharmaceutical and industrial. This meant sacking many representatives who were 'duplicating' work, according to Mason.

The vast range of products was also scrutinized. Mason reckons that about a dozen products 'die every six months. We have been just as tough with products. If something is not earning its corn, its throat is cut.'

He also 'killed off' products which he considered 'old-fashioned'. For instance, flypapers that cost a penny or so—and lasted—were replaced by gleaming, modern aerosols. The aerosols have a distinct advantage for the profit-hungry company—they dry up faster... and cost about 75p.

And when other 'old-fashioned' products have outrun their market expectations in Britain, the company simply switches them to Africa and Latin America.

Another product which didn't shape up to Mason's demands was paint. He explains why:

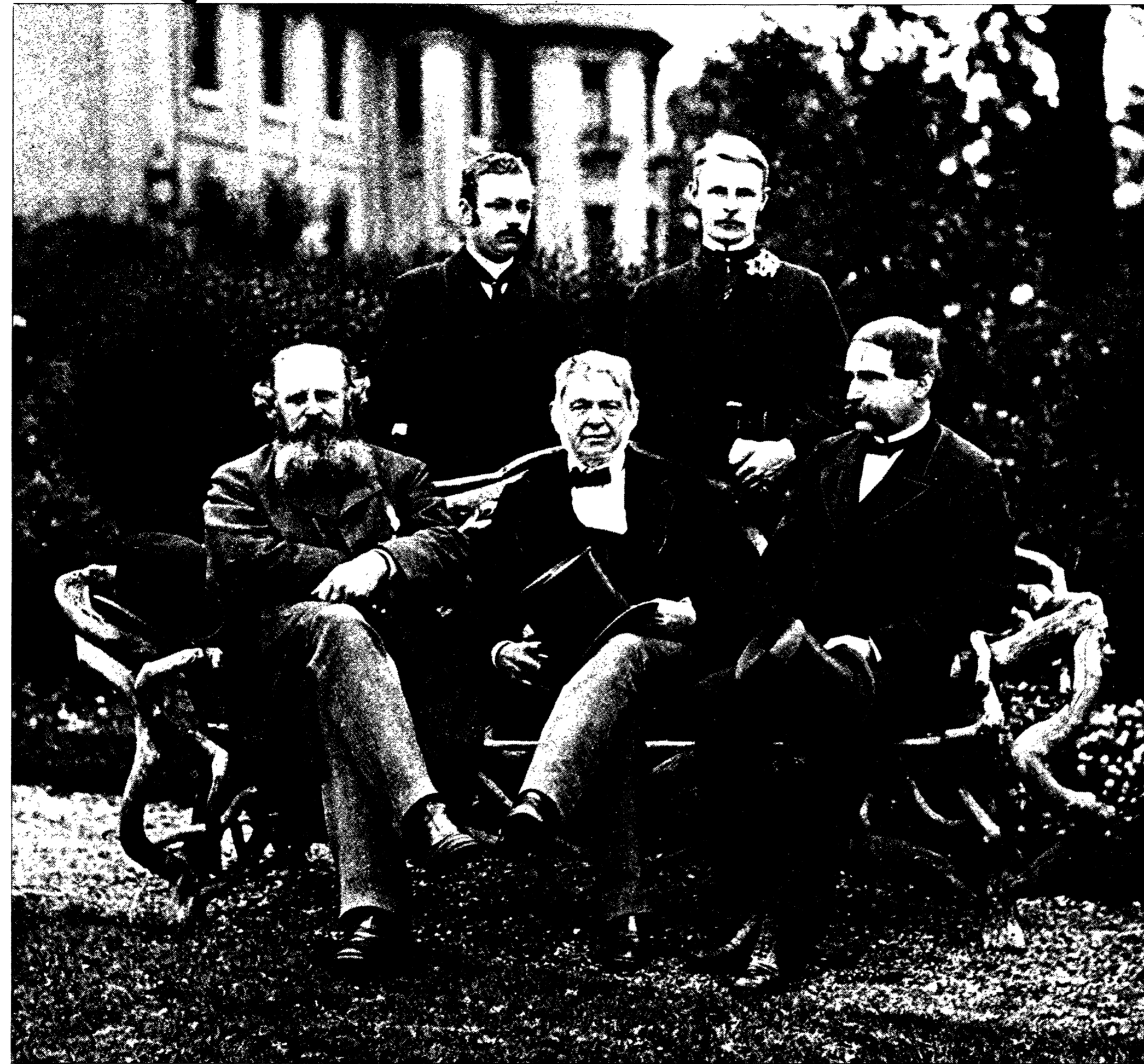
'When we entered the paint market, the business was not so rigidly controlled by Courtauld's and ICI. There were 20 paint firms in Hull alone. We thought it a good industry to get into. But we found the skills we thought we were buying were not there.'

Mason resolved the 'problem' by simply damping the paint division and leaving it to the major monopolies. This should not be seen as an example of corporate cowardice, he adds. 'Oh, yes, we'll face the big boys. We're used to fighting Imps, Colgate Palmolive, Beecham's and the like. We're not afraid to take on anyone. But we must be able to see that it will be profitable in the end.'

The pursuit of profits has led the company to the four corners of the globe and to some of the most reactionary regimes including South Africa, Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina, while in Europe it has factories in Greece, Portugal and fascist Spain.

There are production plants in more than 40 countries and

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN MR MASON TOOK OVER THE QUAKER-OWNED RECKITT AND COLMAN EMPIRE



its products are sold in 100. There are 25,000 group employees throughout the world who have laboured to quadruple the group's turnover in the past 20 years.

Last year the profit of the group was £26.8m, an increase of £3m on the previous year. Mason took home a nifty salary amounting to £26,000 plus lucrative dividends on his personal shareholding in the company.

Meanwhile the average salary of his UK employees was only £1,366.

TORY FUND

With such a prominent stake in the capitalist system, it is really no surprise to discover that R&C are generous donors to the Tory Party. In the year ended January 1, 1972, the group gave £20,000 to British United Industrialists which is the fund-raising body for the Tories. They also gave £500 each to two right-wing organizations—the Economic League and Aims of Industry.

Mason and his friends may like to remain anonymous men at the top, but they can't any longer.

As the cost of living continues to soar, due to deliberate Tory government policies, housewives are starting to ask who is responsible.

There is only one way to answer these giant profit-makers—they must be expropriated under socialism. To achieve this end first requires a massive political and industrial campaign throughout the labour movement to make the Tories resign. In its place must be elected a Labour government pledged to socialist policies of nationalization under workers' control and without compensation.

By placing these demands for socialist policies on the Labour reformists, they too can be exposed. In such a situation the masses must be summoned to the banner of the revolutionary party to carry out these long overdue tasks.

Above left: Three generations of Colmans. Above right: Arthur Mason, chairman of the Reckitt and Colman group. Below: Two products—mustard and Brasso. 'It's better to put our money behind the trade name on the shelf.'





A RECORD OF TREACHERY

A series by Jack Gale on revisionism and Ceylon. Part one continued.

It is a deliberate, despicable lie for Jaya Vithana to say in the International Marxist Group's pamphlet 'Ceylon and the Healy School of Falsification' that 'Healy raised no criticism of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party [LSSP] at this time' (i.e. before the split with Pablo in 1953).

National secretary Gerry Healy and other comrades in the present leadership of the Socialist Labour League raised the sharpest criticisms of N. M. Perera and the other LSSP leaders long before the Pablo split in one committee meeting after another for their preparation to join a government with Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). This they finally achieved in June 1964.

It is the present leaders of the Unified Secretariat who consistently defended the future Ceylonese renegades, particularly in the period from 1953 to 1964.

In Workers Press of October 18, 1972, we showed how the LSSP's characterization of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party as a centrist organization paved the way, not only for the 1964 betrayal, but for a deal with Pablo.

Although the LSSP National Committee had unanimously rejected Pablo's 'Rise and Decline of Stalinism' in 1954, the Ceylonese delegates

at the revisionists' International Conference in June of that year accepted Pablo's resolution with only minor amendments.

Why no challenge?

This was a deal in which each side agreed to ignore the opportunism of the other. If, as Vithana claims, the LSSP was still characterizing the SLFP as a bourgeois party right up until 1963, on what basis did they announce a policy of 'responsible co-operation' with the SLFP when it became the government of Ceylon in 1956?

Why was this not challenged by the Pabloite International?

Indeed, as late as 1964 the present leaders of that International were still protecting Perera, Gunawardena and company. When there was a demand inside their organization, early in 1964, for a discussion on Ceylon, they replied:

'It would be wrong for us as a body representing the movement as a whole to brush aside the deliberations of the majority of the LSSP leadership and refuse to grant them the time needed to prove in action the sincerity of their stand in relation to the United Left Front and the good faith of their assurances.

'It would mean first of all to deliberately heat up the atmosphere in the LSSP by injecting the sharpest kind of

factionalism. A divisive policy of this kind would put in jeopardy, if not destroy, fraternal relations between the Unified Secretariat and the leadership of the LSSP.

'The end result could be highly injurious to the Fourth International, including its left wing, which has absolutely no interest to put in question the unity of the party through the creation of undue internal friction and tension from any source.' (See Workers Press, October 19, 1972.)

In June of 1964, the LSSP leaders showed their 'sincerity and good faith' by joining the Bandaranaike government!

Vithana is completely incapable of explaining this part of history because it reveals the corruption and degeneration of his International.

Vithana cannot refute these facts, nor can he refute the letter which we reprinted on October 19 in which—two months before they entered the government—the LSSP leaders received a letter from the Unified Secretariat supporting the United Left Front strategy—i.e. unity with the Stalinists and Mrs Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

Vithana has to keep off all this—except to deny our statement that those people who broke from the LSSP did so without assistance from the Unified Secretariat. They were, he says, 'assisted and advised' by Pierre Frank at the time of the LSSP special conference in 1964.

But this was too little and

too late. The International Executive Committee of the Unified Secretariat had held a meeting in December 1963. Between then and the LSSP conference, nothing was done. Instead of sending a delegation to work with the Ceylonese comrades who were opposing Perera and company, the Secretariat's leaders did nothing except hope that the problem would go away.

All discussions of the intentions of the LSSP leaders had been suppressed and a minority statement written the previous year had been filed away without action in the interests of 'unity'.

Perera's critics were advised to break when the split was already a fact.

Vithana sneers at what he calls the Socialist Labour League's 'raiding operations' at the time of the LSSP special conference in 1964. This is a slander.

Principled questions

The SLL was not—and is not—interested in 'raids'. What we called for was a serious examination of the principled questions involved in the degeneration of an entire section of the revisionists' International. We warned those who correctly broke from the LSSP in 1964 that unless such an examination was carried out, they would go the same way.

We said: 'One cannot separate the problems of the LSSP Revolutionary Wing from

Above left: Mrs Bandaranaike. Right: Surrounded by supporters and adorned with flowers, N. M. Perera becomes a minister for Mrs Bandaranaike in 1964. The Unified Secretariat consistently defended Perera right up to his joining the coalition government.

this degeneration. These comrades are aware that a lot of discussion has to take place about what happened in the International movement since 1953.

'Many comrades who support the minority are only now beginning to realize the relations between the international and national degeneration of the Fourth International founded by Trotsky in 1938.

'The future of the revolutionary wing depends mainly now upon a serious study of this relationship.' (G. Healy, 'Ceylon: the Great Betrayal' 1964.)

The unprincipled Vithana presents this call for a serious study of the history of the Fourth International as 'raiding operations'.

It was because the Unified Secretariat could not bear a serious examination of its own history that the Ceylonese LSSP(R) learned no lessons from the betrayal of 1964.

Ernest Mandel, Pierre Frank and Joseph Hansen of the Unified Secretariat established precisely the same unprincipled relationship with Bala Tampoe—leader of the LSSP(R) breakaway—as they had previously had with Perera and Gunawardena. The result was the degeneration of yet another 'section'.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

TO RUSSIA

Deep consternation down in the editorial offices of the Tory 'Daily Telegraph'. When it was rumoured that members of the Royal family may pay their first-ever visit to the Soviet Union, the 'Telegraph' was the paper which denounced the rumours in the most crushing terms.

In a leading editorial the paper declared: 'Let it be said straight away that the Queen should be advised by the government in the strongest



Prince Philip.

terms on no account to consider such a tasteless proposal. The present rulers of Russia are the direct spiritual heirs of the men who murdered the Queen's relatives in 1918.'

There's been a compromise. The Queen isn't going, but Prince Philip and Princess Anne are.

INDIGNITY

'Those who say that entry into the Common Market is going to put us on a starvation diet are not painting a wholly truthful picture.'

So writes Miss Monica Greenwood, who has just had a remarkable little cookbook published by the 'Merlin Press'.

Miss Greenwood has all kinds of handy hints for housewives threatened by food prices rocketing to Common Market levels.

Basically her motto is to avoid starvation by eating foods mainly from the era of the great depression in the 1930s.

She advises the working class to go out hunting for their supper: 'Mussels, winkles, and in some places cockles, can be found around the coast; and, speaking of the seaside, so can sea-spinach and samphire. Spanish chestnuts may be larger, but you can still find some sweet chestnuts in parkland and elsewhere, not to mention beens and acorns.'

Miss Greenwood does not quite suggest that the working class should go out grazing in the parks—but she gets near to it.

On the flesh side of things, she suggests the British public ought to cast prejudice aside and start shooting and eating sparrows, blackbirds, etc., etc. Other favourites are cabbage soup, tripe casserole, sheep's head pudding, mixed herbs and plants washed down with dandelion coffee.

I doubt if Miss Greenwood will suffer the indignity of eating such foods—her book, called 'Common Market Cookbook', is undoubtedly designed to exploit the genuine fears over prices in the Common Market. It is a tawdry affair noticeable for its lack of copy—spread over 56 bulky pages. Idiomatic etchings accompany the briefest of recipes.

BOOK REVIEW



'The Spanish Revolution' By Leon Trotsky. Pathfinder Press (New York). Price £4.15 cloth. £1.65 paperback.

BY TOM KEMP
PART FOUR

The Stalinists did not desire a revolution in Spain. The bureaucracy feared such a revolution at a time when its policy was based upon making a counter-revolutionary alliance with Britain.

The arms and material aid sent to the Republican government were intended to shore up the bourgeois social order and to crush the revolutionaries. As Soviet influences increased, so the repressive apparatus of the GPU (secret police) established a branch on Spanish soil with its own prisons and murder gangs. That is why it was necessary to take up the question of the Moscow Trials and expose the role of Stalinism in the midst of the Civil War.

In order to cover up its role in Spain and to convince Communist Party members of the need to support the bourgeois Republic, the Comintern provided its own 'analysis' of the Spanish situation. The most sophisticated exponent of the Stalinist view was Ercoli, the name used at this time by Palmiro Togliatti, who became one of Stalin's principal agents in Spain and secretary of the Italian CP.

The contrast between Togliatti's position and that of Trotsky is striking. Togliatti took his stand on the fact that the tasks of the bourgeois-democratic revolution had not been carried out in Spain to defend the alliance with the bourgeoisie. He invented a new kind of revolution:

'It is a people's revolution', he wrote in 'International Press Correspondence', the organ of the Comintern. 'It is a national revolution. It is an anti-fascist revolution.'

He claimed that the civil war between 'the people' and the 'reactionary castes', whose power Franco aimed to restore, bringing some capitalist elements and the major part of the middle class into the struggle against fascism.

The Communist Party, in fact, had no real mass base in the working class even during the Civil War period. It grew rapidly as the most energetic supporter of the bourgeois republic, of the army and the police (equipped with the best Soviet weapons) against the revolutionary workers and peasants who, in July 1936, had taken over many factories and public buildings and seized the big estates.

Recruits to the Communist Party, to a large extent, came from sections of the middle class, civil servants who had remained loyal to the Republic and army officers such as General Miaja who, at the end, was to capitulate to Franco. It was to these people, not to the revolutionary workers, that the Stalinists appealed. Togliatti claimed: 'As for the urban petty-bourgeoisie, the vast majority of them are on the side of democracy and the revolution against fascism.'

TROTSKY ON SPAIN



Palmiro Togliatti, secretary of the Italian Communist Party and one of Stalin's principal agents in Spain. He labelled the Spanish workers' struggle a 'national revolution, an anti-fascist revolution.' Above: On the streets of Madrid in 1936, a Popular Front demonstration with Communist Party banner in the background.

Togliatti distorts and exaggerates the role of the middle class in order to disguise the support which the Stalinists gave to the bourgeois Republic. In fact in this article Togliatti boasts of the adherence of men whom he describes as industrialists and landowners to the Republic, such as José Giral, 'a fairly big landowner' and a minister in the first Popular Front government.

Togliatti also holds up as an example the support for the Republic by nationalist politicians in Catalonia and the Basque country. It was the alliance of the workers' parties with the Catalonian bourgeoisie which sealed the fate of the revolution in that area in May 1937. It was no accident that Nin had entered the government in Catalonia. Togliatti also omits to mention that the Basque nationalists, although they opposed Franco, also carried out a repression of the revolutionaries in their part of Spain.

Togliatti's article was the 'theoretical blueprint for betrayal by the Stalinists. The Civil War was described as a national struggle for 'democracy' and against fascism. In reality the Stalinists confused and disarmed the working class, restored and strengthened the bourgeois state, murdered revolutionaries and paved the way for the Franco victory by making it impossible to carry through the only policy which could have enabled the working class to come to power.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

BASILDON: Sunday March 18, 5.30 p.m. Barnstaple Community Centre.

COVENTRY: Monday March 19, 7.30 p.m. Biggin Hall Hotel, Binley Road. 'Victory to the hospital workers. Force the Tories to resign.'

RUGBY: Monday March 19, 7.30 p.m. 'The Engine', Bridgett Street. 'Victory to the hospital workers. Force the Tories to resign.'

DAGENHAM: Tuesday March 20, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue.

BRIXTON: Tuesday March 20, 8 p.m. Control Room, Brixton Training Centre.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday March 20, 8 p.m. Festival Inn, Crisp Street Market, E14.

TOTTENHAM: Wednesday March 21, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, Tottenham High Road, nr. White Hart Lane.

WOOLWICH: Wednesday March 21, 8 p.m. Castle, Powis Street, SE18.

WEMBLEY: Wednesday March 21, 8 p.m. Copeland School, High Road, Wembley.

SOUTHALL: Wednesday March 21, 8 p.m. The Library, Osterley Park Road.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road.

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

LEWISHAM: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road.

SLOUGH: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road, Slough.

STEVENAGE: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. 'Red Lion', Stevenage Old Town.

WILLESDEN: Thursday March 22, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, High Road, NW10.

WANDSWORTH: Monday March 26, 8 p.m. Kings Arms, High Road, SW18. 'The Fight against Stalinism'.

WATFORD: Monday March 26, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall, Woodford Road, nr. Watford Junction Station.

Liverpool Labourites hoist rates 25 p.c.

BY 49 VOTES to 28 the Labour-controlled Liverpool City Council has approved the highest-ever rise in city rates.

The rates are to go up by 25 per cent throughout the city in accordance with a new rate revaluation introduced by the government.

At the same time the council added a rider calling on the government to resign.

It said that the strongest possible protest should be made to

the Prime Minister for failing to provide assistance, necessitating placing a crippling burden on the ratepayers.

Alderman Bill Sefton, the leader of the council, has led a deputation of six local authorities to London to seek extra funds.

He said he was 'very satisfied' with the meeting with Heath. But although Sefton may have been impressed by Heath, the feeling wasn't reciprocated: the Tories flatly turned down their plea for money.

State pay laws hit women hardest

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN WORKERS would suffer the most from the Tory government's state pay laws, the women's TUC at Weston super Mare was told yesterday.

Conference chairwoman Mrs Marie Patterson attacked the government for ignoring legislation on equal pay for women.

In Phase Two, she said, the government had stood by the requirement of the Equal Pay Act to achieve equality before 1976—but at the same time, equal pay increases in many industries and services were being held up in the freeze.

'The present government's policy completely ignores the spirit and intention of the Equal Pay Act. The lowest paid—among those ranks are to be found the majority of women workers—are the most likely to be the hardest hit by the government's ignorant and vicious wages policies,' she said.

Paper talks

TALKS to solve the dispute which has halted the 'Irish Independent' were held yesterday after trouble spread to another Eire newspaper.

Journalists at the 'Independent'—the country's largest newspaper group—began a sit-in strike after 180 editorial staff were sacked for demanding more information over a takeover. Industrial unrest spread to 'The Kerryman', but there were hopes that the 'Irish Press' would be published after an intervention from Harold Pearson, president of the National Union of Journalists, in a dispute over six sackings.

Blast victim: Heart disease

THE MAN who died shortly after the Old Bailey bomb blast had had heart disease for some time, a pathologist told an inquest in London yesterday. Professor Keith Simpson said a coronary thrombosis developed some hours before death. But, he said, 'there was nothing from my examination by which I could connect this to any recent event which might have disturbed him physically or mentally'. Frederick Milton (58), a caretaker, collapsed and died at St Bartholomew's Hospital several hours after the bomb blast.

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6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 TOM AND JERRY.

7.00 THE VIRGINIAN: MEN FROM SHILOH. Jump-up.

8.15 MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW. With guests Nana Mouskouri, Black and White Minstrels, Sooty, George Hamilton IV.

9.00 NEWS. Weather.

9.25 THE REGIMENT. Troopship.

10.15 DIMBLEBY TALK-IN.

11.00 LATE NIGHT NEWS.

11.05 FILM: 'THE MOVIE MURDERER.' Arthur Kennedy, Warren Oates. An arsonist and a fire investigator battle it out.

12.40 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

7.05 HAMMER IT HOME.

7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.

7.35 GARDENERS' WORLD.

8.00 MONEY AT WORK. The New Capitalism.

9.00 FILM: 'LES CARABINIERS.' Jean-Luc Godard's film about two peasants who go to war.

10.15 FILM NIGHT.

11.00 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 Film: 'Murder Once Removed'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Report. 6.35 London. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.30 FBI. 8.30 Who do you do? 9.00 London. 10.35 Film: 'Hot Spell'. 12.05 News. weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 7.00 Miss Westward 73. 10.32 News. 12.05 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 Galloping gourmet. 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Weekend. 4.25 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 4.50 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 University challenge. 7.15 Sale of the century. 7.35 Banacek. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weekend. 10.35 Film: 'A Weekend at Dunkirk'. 12.25 News. 12.35 Weather.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 3.25 Dangerman. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.50 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Doctor in charge. 7.00 Film: 'The Yellow Rolls Royce'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Upper crusts. 11.00 Press call. 11.30 UFO. 12.30 We ther.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 12.5-4.50 Stesion catantail. 6.01-6.15 Y. dvdd. 10.30-11.00 Sports arena. 11.00-11.45 Dragon and the lion. 11.45-12.45 UFO. 12.45 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 VAT (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Hickory house. 12.25 Happy house. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Time was . . . 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Junkin. 3.25 Marcus Welby, MD. 4.20 Elephant boy. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 Arnie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 SKY'S THE LIMIT.

7.30 THE FBI. The Eye of the Storm.

TODAY'S TV

8.20 ON THE BUSES. On the Omnibuses.

9.00 JUSTICE. Divorce.

10.00 NEWS. 10.30 POLICE FIVE.

10.40 FILM: 'GREEN FINGERS.' Robert Beatty, Carol Raye, Nova Pilbeam. A fisherman becomes a successful osteopath.

12.10 WE SHALL OVERCOME. Glenys Groves sings songs of ancient Wales.

12.15 JASON KING. Uneasy Lies the Head.



Christopher Cazenove and Isla Blair on board the 'Troopship' in BBC1's 'The Regiment' series.

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

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 3.30 Dick Van Dyke. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 O'Hara. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Film: 'The Old Dark Horse'. 12.30 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 3.30 Jason King. 4.20 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.30 Comedians. 8.00 Protectors. 8.30 Adventurer. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Pepe in Hollywood'. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women. 3.55 Yoga. 4.23 News. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 London. 7.30 Pathfinders. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Spectrum. 11.00 Name of the game.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Me and the chimp. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Man in the Attic'. 12.00 Cade's county. 12.50 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Handful of songs. 12.05 London. 3.25 Shirley's world. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.30 TV funnies. 4.50 London. 5.15 Please don't eat the daisies. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30 Upper crusts. 7.00 Film: 'Strategic Air Command'. 10.00 London. 10.30 Kick off. 10.55 Film: 'The Black Castle'. 12.30 Spyforce.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Only a dream. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Yoga. 3.00 London. 3.30 Dangerman. 4.25 Woobinda. 4.50 London. 5.20 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 5.45 Cartoon. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Place in the country. 11.00 Film: 'Them'. 12.35 News. 12.40 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Deline. 3.00 London. 3.30 It takes a thief. 4.20 Nanny and the professor. 4.50 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Doctor in charge. 7.00 London. 7.30 Film: 'Golden Hawk'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Friday night. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Man in a suitcase. 12.00 Love American style.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.53 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Good afternoon. 3.55 Shirley's world. 4.20 Dave Cash. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Zero Hour'. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Points North. 11.00 Job look. 11.05 Film: 'Homicidal'. 12.40 Meditation.

Full co-operation in 12 months — forecast

Feather flouts Congress: Ends boycott of EEC

BRITISH trade unions will be taking a full part in the European Common Market within 12 months, according to TUC general secretary Victor Feather. He told journalists in London that the General Council of top union chiefs would end the boycott of EEC institutions.

He said they would decide to participate in the Common Market, regardless of the decision of Congress, which voted overwhelmingly for boycott last autumn. He maintained that it was up to the General Council, not to the Congress as a whole, to decide whether TUC representatives should sit on EEC committees.

Gasmen's ballot will say no — steward

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE BALLOT of gasworkers would almost certainly show that they rejected the government's latest pay offer, a London shop steward said yesterday.

Stepney steward Mr Bert Collins said: 'I think pressure was put on the union to suggest that not everyone was in favour of the work-to-rule. But the ballot will prove that the gas industry is 100 per cent united.'

The Gas Board has offered £2.80 plus up to 50p more derived from reduced pension contributions. It has also offered to hold redundancies over until October and to review differentials.

Said Mr Collins: 'I would say the result of the ballot will be "no". The offer is not enough and its not what we want. As I see it £4.50 to £5 a week would be a generally acceptable figure.'

He added: 'This government's policies have brought our standards of living down tremendously. We've never had any help from them in controlling prices; there has been no curb.'

'Biscuits are going up and I see they're putting the price of tinned meat up again for the fourth time this year.'

'Our fight is not really against the Gas Board. It is against the government with these policies.'

Mr Collins added that selective industrial action in support of their pay claim could be intensified after the ballot and sustained for a very long time.

He said: 'There is a bit of a lull at the moment because of the ballot, but afterwards I think the action already being taken will be stepped up.'

This demonstrates that the right wing is prepared to flout completely basic democratic decisions in order to further its collaboration with Tory policy.

It also aligns Feather firmly with the Jenkinsite right wingers in the Labour Party who are elated at the by-election victory of Dick Tavner and becoming increasingly arrogant in their pro-Market pronouncements.

Feather's statement was made at a reception at the imposing Common Market 'embassy' in Kensington Palace Gardens, nicknamed 'Millionaires' Row'.

Tory MPs were among the guests at the reception, including Maurice Macmillan, the Secretary of State for Employment and the man charged with implementing the state pay laws.

Feather's host at the reception, Alfons Lappas, is chairman of the Common Market Economic and Social Committee.

Lappas is a former chairman of the West German farm and forestry workers' union and a member of the executive of the European Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

APEX

His committee is a 144-member body comprising employers' and union representatives together with a nebulous third group representing the 'consumers'.

Its members average some 30 expenses-paid trips to Brussels every year, to 'advise' the European Commission and the Council of the EEC.

It is the apex of the Common Market system of class-collaboration. According to vice-president Henri Canonge the committee is the place where different social sections come together to hammer out some sort of agreement.

Lappas and his delegation visited London for talks with various Tory Ministers and with the TUC. Afterwards he said he was 'hopeful' that the British unions would soon fill the empty seats on his committee.

He claimed that the TUC's boycott had caused problems for the other union representatives on the Economic and Social Committee, who include two members of the Stalinist-led CGT of France.



Below: Victor Feather—became president of the European TUC and claims the British General Council can decide on who it co-operates with despite Congress decisions.

He claimed the absence of the British union representatives gave the employers a built-in majority on the committee and was depriving European workers of the benefits participation could bring.

But when pressed to give details of these benefits he could produce only vague generalities.

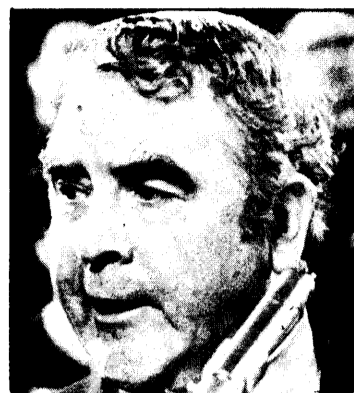
Lappas said his talks with Feather had strengthened his view that the British trade unions' attitude had been influenced mainly by 'considerations of domestic politics'.

One hopeful sign for a speedy end to the boycott was the TUC's participation in the recently formed confederation of EEC unions, Lappas said. This new body is chaired by Victor Feather while Jack Jones, of the solidly anti-Market Transport and General Workers' Union, is on its executive.

UNREALISTIC

Lappas said that the British unions' attitude to the EEC was not realistic because there could be no renegotiation of the Rome Treaty terms, even under a Labour government.

'The fact that the TUC is now collaborating in the European trade union confederation means that we shall lose no opportunity to make our position known to them,' Lappas said.



Gormley defends Common Market coal

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

BRITISH and West German miners' unions have called for a total ban on the import of coal from countries outside the European Common Market.

The proposal is part of a seven-point plan drawn up by Adolf Schmidt, of the West German Miners' Union and Joe Gormley of the National Union of Mineworkers.

They want Common Market policy-makers to evolve 'a European concept' of the coal industry to supplement current national policies.

The plan, which is blatantly protectionist, calls for support of the coal industry in the EEC at present production levels and the extension of industrial use of the fuel.

Crisis over Turkish president

THE conflict between the Turkish parliament and the Army over the appointment of a new president continued yesterday with the parliamentary parties hoping for a compromise based on extension of the term of office of the outgoing president, Cevdet Sunay.

The Turkish Army wants General Faruk Gurler, the former chief of staff, to become head of state. But despite repeated presentation of his nomination to the parliament MPs have refused to vote him in.

The Army is now threatening to dispense with the parliament which has acted as a docile façade for military rule since April 1971 when the government of Suleiman Demirel was dispersed in a bloodless coup.

In four ballots in parliament Demirel's Justice Party voted en bloc for civilian candidate Tekin Aruburun while the other main group, the Republican Peoples' Party boycotted the election. Gurler was left trailing a bad second behind Aruburun.

The constitutional crisis is not the first since 1971, but it demonstrates the increasing difficulty the Army is finding in ruling from behind the shadow of a parliament.

Sooner rather than later the Army must take over full executive powers and dissolve the puppet parliament altogether. There is a limit to what can be achieved by manipulation of even the most servile National Assembly.

Gold price rumours subside

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

RUMOURS that the German and American central banks were about to begin selling their official reserves at the free market price have subsided and the gold price has again begun to climb.

The rumours were firmly denied by all the central banks concerned, none of which have the least intention of selling their stocks of the precious metal for rapidly depreciating paper money.

The prospect of gold sales by central banks brought the gold price down by \$1 an ounce in a short period on Tuesday, but the price is now rising again.

On the London bullion market the price was fixed yesterday morning at \$82 an ounce, \$1.50 above the closing price on Wednesday afternoon. This demonstrated that the rumours were being discounted by gold buyers and sellers.

The sale of gold on the free market by central banks would not overcome any of the problems created by the collapse of the international monetary system. With some \$270,000m in paper currency in the form of short-term capital the total world gold reserves could be bought several times over.

The rise in the gold price demonstrates a lack of confidence in paper money which is shared by every central banker. While the gold price continues to rise why should they 'throw good money after bad' in a futile attempt to stem the tide?

MARCH FUND REACHES £413.90 STILL A LONG WAY

WE HAVE 15 days to complete our £1,750 target. Let's not waste a single moment. Raise everything you can and push our figure right up.

The Tory government is relying on sections of workers, now out on strike, being kept isolated from each other and then being driven back to work under the acceptance of Phase Two. The trade union leaders, in hesitating to come to the aid

BEHIND

of the gasmen and hospital workers, openly help the Tory government.

Workers Press must be used to build an alternative leadership throughout the unions against this treachery. The TUC must be forced to support all these sections of workers and made to call a General Strike

to force this government to resign.

Only our paper shows the way forward. We have therefore no time to rest back in any way. We need to raise extra amounts immediately. Collect as much as you can and rush it to us. Post all donations to:

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

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

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01-720 2000

Sanctions a provocation to railmen

THE RAIL dispute got closer to confrontation yesterday as British Rail began to operate new sanctions against drivers working-to-rule.

Inspectors, depot supervisors and local managers began reporting drivers who refused to handle trains with minor faults. The men involved will suffer an average of £2 cut in wages due to loss of mileage bonus.

The move has all the markings of a deliberate provocation and it follows calls from Tory MPs to sack drivers and close lines.

Yesterday the rail rebellion

spread in London when drivers at London Bridge, headquarters of central region, refused to man trains with no speedometers. There were virtually no suburban services in Southern's three divisions—south eastern, south western and central, and main line services were restricted.

Drivers at Waterloo reacted angrily to the clampdown on bonus.

'This is a deliberate stunt by the Tories,' one locomen's representative told me. 'We don't earn the mileage bonus anyway.'

Another driver with 14 years in the cab showed me his wage

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

packet—£18 net. 'This figure of £2 bonus is laughable anyway. I only get 18p a week,' he said.

The problem facing railway workers at big stations like Waterloo are attacks from the most frustrated sections of the middle class. Feelings have been deliberately whipped up by the Tories and the media and railway workers have been subjected to unprovoked assaults.

One of them, Henry Kelly, a Waterloo porter, was back at

work yesterday after being attacked by commuters on Monday. After a television interview the Waterloo management have stopped Mr Kelly talking to the Press.

A spokesman for his union, the National Union of Railwaymen, said yesterday that no special steps or instructions were going out to their members.

'We have asked them to keep on working normally. I don't think the executive has even discussed these incidents. It's difficult to know what to do though. Naturally we deplore them,' he said.

NUR men at Waterloo, however, defended the action of the drivers and spoke bitterly about the government.

Meanwhile a slight possibility of new talks emerged yesterday after British Rail invited the drivers' leader Ray Buckton to a meeting at 2.30 today.

Mr Buckton said that he would be asking the Board to allow more meetings of the tripartite committee on drivers' pay.

'I only hope the men do not get provoked over this £2 business,' he said.

BSA take-over?

THE GOVERNMENT is having talks with Manganese Bronze which has expressed an interest in taking over all or part of BSA Ltd, the Midlands motorcycle and engineering group, said the Minister for Industrial Development, Mr Christopher Chataway, in a Commons statement yesterday.

In Birmingham yesterday shop stewards were told that the company would not be placed in liquidation. 'Something big is happening,' said Jack Rogers, Transport and General Workers' Union engineering official, 'but liquidation is not one of the things that has been discussed.'

Hospital 'peace': Quick Tory reply

THE GOVERNMENT moved quickly yesterday to turn down the British Medical Association's request for an independent inquiry into the hospital workers' pay dispute.

The Tories are alarmed at this proposal because it threatens to further erode the support they are relying on from the middle class in any showdown with the trade unions over the hard-line policy of Phase Two wage controls.

One 'special case' and the government's tactics will be totally disrupted.

Late last night, the TUC belatedly began talks with hospital unions about 'co-ordinated action' in their support. Hospital workers have been crying out for solidarity action for three weeks, particularly sympathy strikes and picket support.

General Strike call from picket at 'conspiracy' trial

FROM DAVID MAUDE AT SHREWSBURY

A MASS meeting of building workers, Shotton steelworkers and Liverpool dockers yesterday called for a one-day General Strike to protest against the conspiracy trial of 24 Shropshire building workers.

The call to the TUC came unanimously from the 1,000-strong meeting held outside the Shire Hall in Shrewsbury following the committal proceedings.

Birmingham building workers' leader, Peter Carter, said this was one situation which could not be solved by negotiation.

He addressed a call to TUC

general secretary Victor Feather for a General Strike of all workers when the 24 were brought to trial on April 25.

Carter contrasted the massive police turnout at Shrewsbury with their refusal to act in the case of building union activist Mike Shilcock, who was beaten up at his home following the end of the building strike last year.

There had been no police attempt to find those responsible for the savage attack, he claimed. Building workers have had to conduct their own investigation.

Shilcock had taken CID officers into a Birmingham drinking club and identified the ringleader, he went on. But police had refused to arrest the man or conduct an identity parade.

'That's the law in this country at the moment.'

An attempt was being made to whip up support for the Tories' projected legislation on picketing which would outlaw the 'flying picket' techniques used by the miners and the building workers.

The meeting also heard greetings from Liverpool docks steward Mick Quinn who said that the dockers were repaying the debt built up last year when building workers struck over the jailing of the Pentonville Five.

Luke McLoughlin, Shotton steelworkers' leader, said that the future of the working class lay in the type of strike action which had been shown on the mass picket.

'If the working class sticks together against all the attacks which are being made upon it today, we will win,' he said.

During the meeting there was considerable criticism of the building union leaders who have so far done nothing to support their threatened members, despite the fact that the charges have arisen out of official picketing duties.

Building sites all over Merseyside, north Wales and the Midlands stopped work yesterday in protest against the trial, and the 8,000 dockers in the Port of Liverpool were out solid in support of the 24 accused.

Steelworkers facing closure at Shotton, Flintshire, also stopped work and brought placards condemning the '1875 Tyranny'.

Most contingents taking part in yesterday's mass picket arrived late, after the scheduled start of the hearing, because they were held up by the police road blocks.

A coachload of building union members from Wolverhampton complained that they had been stopped five times in seven miles, then diverted so that they did not arrive until mid-morning.

Liverpool dockers said that they had been given a 'Royal escort' of police motorcycle outriders from about 14 miles out of the town.

Workers Press photographer and I were stopped, questioned and had to prove our identification at a roadblock.

One Merseyside building workers' leader told me he was convinced that some of the newly-trained anti-picket squad, used at Hull docks last week, had been called in.

'I talked to one copper who claimed he had been travelling since 4 a.m. to get here for 8 o'clock. Now where had he come from?'

The head of Shrewsbury police, Chief Superintendent Alex Nichol, dismissed suggestions that the police arrangements showed evidence of 'over-reaction'. The police have to be prepared for all eventualities, he insisted.



Police denied 'over-reaction' as 1,000 uniformed men blockaded Shrewsbury and swamped its streets.

TRADE DEFICIT SPARKS NEW CRISIS

FROM PAGE 1

aggravate the middle class against strikers and to provoke trade unionists still further.

The TUC's inactivity so far in not lifting a finger to help the hospital staffs plays into the government's hands by letting a situation drag on confusedly and demoralizing the workers who have taken action.

The Tory plan is to force a General Strike on a reluctant TUC so that it can be decisively beaten and the defeated workers driven back to far worse conditions than they came out with.

Nothing less than this will satisfy the demands the CBI has again pressed on Heath: that unless profits are raised to a

level at which capitalists have the will and the means to invest, production and trade will be brought to a grinding halt.

With imports soaring to a new record, the beginnings of mutterings in the City that Heath is not doing the job on the working class that is required of him will grow louder.

The CBI language is again becoming violent, recalling the startling outbursts of three weeks ago when it threatened to fight to the last ditch and withdraw co-operation from the government.

In the event, the Phase Two Green Paper, although piling further burdens onto the working class, failed to meet all the CBI demands for complete freedom to raise prices as they wish to cover all cost increases.

Before going to No 10 yesterday, W. O. Campbell Adamson, CBI director-general, complained that the Green Paper had been written by someone 'who hadn't the slightest idea about how industry works'.

The sort of politics the CBI wants to see was spelled out by Adamson. 'It is up to us, because we are members of the public, to make it clear that the time really has come, after sliding for ten to 15 years, to show a minority element of the population that they are not going to dominate all the rest of us any more.'

'The time really has come.' And no sooner were these words uttered than a railwayman was beaten up at Waterloo station by inflamed commuters and the disciplinary threats were made by British Rail and the Customs and Excise.

Adamson's thirst for action was underlined by references to the 'disastrous outcome' of last year's miners' strike and the 'urgent need' for legislative action of the pay laws kind.

Any agreement between the government and the CBI could well involve plans to lock out the train drivers and organize wholesale scab labour in the hospitals.

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