

AS PHASE TWO BITES

PRICE RISES

CAN BRING

CREEPING POVERTY

BY JACK GALE

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How long will this 'increase' be worth anything?

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MEAT will be up 12 per cent.

BUTTER 24 per cent.

SUGAR 18 per cent.

FISH 10 per cent.

DRIED EGG 20 per cent.

This means another 4p to 5p a lb on butter and 1p to 2p a lb on sugar.

All canned foods will be dearer in the near future because of a 12-per-cent rise in the cost of tins and higher distribution charges.

Tory Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Joseph Godber said on Monday that the food prices peak had not yet been reached.

'The high prices for meat and cereals in the past few months, which have already affected fresh foods, still have to show their full impact on manufactured foods,' he declared.

Godber also made it clear that the go-ahead for more rises would be given under Phase Two. Applications for increases so far rejected would be reconsidered, he said.

'I would expect that in Phase Two of the policy there will have to be further rises.'

The food 'under the greatest prices pressure' is bread, according to Godber. The manufacturers want a rise of 1p per large loaf.

The full effect of EEC entry on prices has yet to be felt. British prices, however, must be forced up to European levels.

This means butter will be 179 per cent dearer, cheese 62 per cent and bread 10 per cent.

Common Market policy is to fix food prices at the highest level proposed within the Market. For example, cereal prices are highest in Germany. Therefore the European price for wheat, barley and oats are adjusted to that level.

Similarly, the full effect of Value-Added Tax (VAT) is still to come. In the first days, some prices have fallen, but these will certainly rise again.

And the government has the power to increase and extend VAT at any time.

Meanwhile, in Britain, the retail price index published by the Department of Employment was at 172.4 on February 20, compared with 171.3 on January 16, and 159.8 on February 22 last year.

Early increases are expected in hotel and boarding-house charges, toilet requisites, washing powders and telephone costs. Cinemas and football matches will also cost more. Oil could rise by 1p a gallon next month and petrol by 1p a gallon.

Building Society chiefs meet today and are expected to recommend that interest charges on house mortgages be raised to 10 per cent.

Higher canteen charges will hit millions of workers. And there will be more.

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But the Tories have not yet succeeded in imposing its policies on the working class.

The union leaders, supported by the Communist Party, have done all they can to dissipate the strength of the working class



Ford militants critical of union lead

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The Labour Party leadership has opposed the Tories only in words, while collaborating with them in practice and tolerating within its own ranks the substantial Jenkinsite pro-Tory wing.

This creates divisions and confusion.

But it does not mean the Tories have won the battle.

The government's offensive against the working class is felt not only, in every factory, dock and pit, but in every high street in the country.

There is enormous resentment and resistance to these soaring costs.

APRIL £1,750 FUND NOW £13.25

IT'S A TOUGH BATTLE

AS PRICES go rocketing high with VAT on top of huge increases in food and other basic items, we know that this month it will be a struggle to raise our Fund. We appreciate that you, dear readers, will feel the brunt of this attack.

But everywhere, thousands of workers will not be able to pay these huge prices while wages are legally kept down. An enormous movement must emerge to fight the Tory government. No one will allow their basic standard of living to be taken away.

In this political situation, Workers Press is decisive. As

the trade union leaders remain silent on these issues and prepare to accept this onslaught, only our paper shows the way forward in the battle against the Tories.

Help us with a very special effort for our April Fund. We know it might mean a sacrifice, but this is the only way to fight back. Raise all you can and post immediately to:

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

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

OUR FUND appeal is just one day old; when are we going to get started? Who will give the first substantial donation? Of course we will really be grateful for any sum large or small. But send it in quickly.

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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Architect of Mexican repression visiting Britain



A WEEK after entertaining President Numeiry, butcher of the Sudanese trade union movement, the Tory government welcomed yesterday yet another infamous dictator—President Luis Echeverria Alvarez from Mexico.

He and his wife Maria will spend three nights in the regal apartments of Windsor Castle. He was the architect of the massacre of Mexican students on the eve of the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City.

As Minister of the Interior, he was directly responsible for the ruthlessness of the police, who jailed over 900 students and young workers, after their machine guns had murdered many protestors.

In 1970, Echeverria became President, following the Mexican tradition of successful Interior Ministers taking over full control of state powers.

ONE PARTY

He was virtually unchallenged in the elections and campaigned for 'continued confidence of Mexicans in the one-party system'.

His party is the Revolutionary Institutional Party.

Police and fascist gang activities have intensified in spite of a supposed amnesty and recognition by Latin America's 'lefts'—Cuba's Fidel Castro and Chile's President Salvador Allende—of a 'progressive' side to the new President.

In June 1971, the armed gangs of the fascist 'Falcons' broke up a demonstration of students and killed 28 of them—the riot police gave the Falcons encouragement which was not just verbal.

A government spokesman denied complicity: 'The government has no shock-troops or secret police.'

Subsequent diplomatic resignations by the mayor and police

BY JUAN GARCIA

chief of Mexico City, have not meant any limitation on the Falcons' exploits.

On March 31, 60 thugs armed with clubs, chains, steel bars and knives broke into the National Polytechnic Institute and a High School in the capital and attacked teachers and students.

The Federation of Teachers and the students' union issued a statement that the police supported the thugs: 'When a thug is arrested he is inexplicably released shortly afterwards while left-wing students who are arrested are never released.'

A would-be populist politician, Echeverria has toured the provinces to 'meet the people'. His proud boast has been that 'wealthy Mexicans must be as subject to the law as peasants'.

WEALTHY HANDFUL

The law defends the right of a handful of wealthy landowners to exploit thousands of peasants and landless labourers: there has been no lack of enthusiasm in carrying out the President's wishes.

In the province of Acapulco alone, 90 peasants are in jail for supporting the guerrilla movement led by Lucio Cabanas.

Guillermo Zamora Avila, chairman of the Acapulco peasants' defence committee, declared last week that peasants

are being tortured in secret police headquarters:

'The victims bear the signs of torture on their bodies, many of them have had their eyes covered over for three weeks.'

Trade unionists do not escape the network of the Mexican police state. Any attempt to challenge the grip of the state unions is quickly dealt with.

The fate of railway worker Valentin Campa has long been a notorious example of Echeverria's policy of 'helping the people'.

DISAPPEARANCE

In December 1971, Valentin Campa was released after serving 11 years in jail for organizing a rail strike and being a member of the Mexican Communist Party.

After addressing a student meeting in the north Mexican city of Ciudad Obregon, Campa was seized by a group of men in plain clothes who claimed to be police. His disappearance has never been solved.

With such a record of repression, President Echeverria will no doubt be a welcome guest at Windsor Castle.

After dining and dining with Tories and members of HM's loyal Opposition in the Labour Party and trade union leaders, Luis Echeverria and his wife—a folk-ballet expert—will move on to France, Belgium, Moscow and Peking.

Peking protocol puts capitalist diplomats first

THE CHINESE government has sent a signal to worried Maoists around the world that it has not forgotten them, despite its rapprochement with right-wing and fascist governments overseas.

Diplomats in Peking are said to place this interpretation on premier Chou En-lai's meeting with New Zealand Associate Foreign Minister Joseph Walding—less than 24 hours after he had received and feted the general secretary of the pro-Peking New Zealand Communist Party, V. G. Wilcox.

'Either China made a diplomatic faux pas in receiving the Communist Party leader before the government minister when they were both in Peking, or this is a clear message to allied Communist Parties around the world,' one diplomat told Reuter.

'And we know that the Chinese are just too careful to make such diplomatic slip-ups,' he added.

In recent weeks China has established diplomatic relations with Greece and Spain, in addition to earlier ties with such countries as Sudan and Iran.

CORDIAL

These ties were an extension of the cordial relations with US imperialism reached when President Nixon visited China last spring. The leaders of the various Maoist organizations have faithfully endorsed their masters' reactionary turn.

But apparently they feel peeved that the influx of capitalist ministers and diplomats into Peking has pushed them down the scale of protocol and deprived them of the rewards they feel are their due.

The Peking Stalinists still value their capitalist contacts higher than their overseas 'comrades', however. Diplomats told Reuter they doubted whether Peking would have made a similar gesture with a country of greater size or importance than New Zealand—such as Japan, Canada or Australia.

So British Maoist Chairman Reg Birch and his fellow leaders elsewhere must still get used to taking a cut in status in favour of capitalist diplomats when they visit Peking.

Jews urged to buy land in occupied territories

Zionist imperialism

THE DEMAND by Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan for more Jewish settlement on the occupied west bank of the river Jordan has met with some opposition in the ranks of the ruling Labour Party.

The one-eyed militarist called for individual Jews to be allowed to buy land in the territories occupied in 1967 from any Arab willing to sell for a good price.

This makes nonsense of Israeli claims that they are ready to negotiate with the Arabs without preconditions on a peace settlement. This is one of the reasons why Dayan's proposal has run into some resistance at the top.

The Labour Party leaders' 'opposition' is not in the least principled: the Party remains dedicated as always to the expansion of Jewish colonization in the Middle East and has no intention of abandoning the conquered territories.

Dayan's critics simply want the expansion of Jewish colonization to take place under controlled conditions.

General Haim Bar-Lev, the Minister of Commerce, says the

government cannot 'allow itself to be dragged along by the political inclinations of individual citizens'. Land purchases on the west bank should continue to be subject to state authorization.

UNDER COUNTER

Making a similar point, Israeli Foreign Minister Aba Eban said the government could not allow any citizen to pick where he wanted to create responsibilities for the state. The army might well become involved in protecting Jewish property beyond the 1967 frontiers.

State authorization or no state authorization, the purchase of Arab lands in the occupied territories is going ahead at a steady rate through under-the-counter deals. Among the purchasers, according to the Press, is the Jewish National Fund.

There is nothing to stop any would-be landowner fixing up a deal with an Arab landlord who wants to sell. The landowners are often absentees and the deals are frequently reached in

Cyprus, the nearest 'neutral' country.

These black-market purchases are in addition to the government's own colonization of the occupied territories. Military kibbutzim have been set up in Sinai, along the Jordan and west of the Gaza Strip.

At the same time, particularly on the west bank, Arab civil servants and functionaries are being corrupted by high salaries paid both from Tel Aviv and from Amman.

The occupied lands are being 'softened up' for the expansion

of Jewish colonization, dispossessing the Arab population just as has already been done in Israel proper.

Dayan's outburst and the speeches of his 'critics' blatantly reveal the nature of Israeli imperialism.

The Israeli leaders remain faithful to the basic ideology of Zionism, which has never been anything more than a form of Jewish imperialism making use of the sufferings of the Jewish masses to enslave and colonize the workers and peasants of Palestine.

Italian military plans in detective's office

MILITARY counter-espionage agents have now been caught up in Italy's telephone tapping scandal.

The investigating magistrate in Rome has revealed that plans of a French Mirage supersonic jet

fighter plane and of Italian motor patrol boats were found in the offices of Alessandro Morgante. He is a private detective already in custody on bugging charges.

The counter-espionage agents of Italy's Defence Information Service (SID) are now trying to discover how the plans reached Morgante's office.

Sino-Soviet trade

SINO-SOVIET trade in 1972 totalled £122.4m about \$300m, a 70 per cent increase over 1971, according to an estimate issued by the semi-official Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

This means that Sino-Soviet trade has increased for two consecutive years. But it cannot be predicted at this time that the expansion trend will continue this year, it said.

Argument over EEC fund HQ

COMMON MARKET Foreign Ministers yesterday staged a hasty get-together to bring into being the community's Monetary Co-operation Fund which should have come into force on April 1.

The fund is to be sited temporarily in Luxembourg, the smallest of the nine Common Market states, despite strong opposition from

the British Tory government.

Sir Alec Douglas Home has argued that the fund should be sited in Brussels, where much of the EEC administration is already concentrated. Luxembourg claimed the right to house the fund under a 1965 agreement.

The compromise, finally agreed after a top-secret three-hour

session, allows Luxembourg to keep the fund until the end of June when a permanent site will be decided.

The argument over the fund's site is only the latest in a long series of obstacles to the establishment of monetary 'co-operation' within the EEC.

The fund is to manage the joint float of currencies embarked on

by six of the nine EEC member-states.

A total of about £700m is being made available to support individual currencies within the parity bands of the float.

Britain, Italy and Ireland are outside this arrangement and their currencies are floating freely against those of the other member-states.

Cowley men stand firm

BY DAVID MAUDE
OUR LABOUR
CORRESPONDENT

FOUR THOUSAND Oxford carworkers were laid off yesterday by British-Leyland, which is refusing to meet the demand of body-plant workers for guaranteed shift pay during an assembly plant strike last week.

Production of the main Austin-Morris division model made at Oxford, the Marina, was stopped all day. The Maxi lines were also hit.

The number of workers laid off is expected to rise today, since all body production is completely halted and the 2,500 strikers have no plans to meet again before next Monday.

SECURITY

Main issue in the dispute, according to body-plant senior shop steward Bill Roche, is security of employment. An offer of eight hours' pay to cover earnings lost during the assembly workers' strike was rejected by a mass meeting on Monday.

The stewards insist that Leyland management is in breach of a 1971 guaranteed shift agreement.

They point out that while the assembly plant gates were open throughout the dispute for men who would agree to work with work-study engineers, the body-plant gates were shut throughout. The body workers were laid off indefinitely.

While the company claims the strikers are due for no money under a lay-off agreement, it has already made two offers and admitted yesterday that it was still hoping to reach a negotiated settlement.

Last week the Press crowed victory when the assembly workers returned to work after a highly-principled, eight-day struggle against the introduction of work-study men, dubbed 'industrial engineers' by the company.

TIRELESS

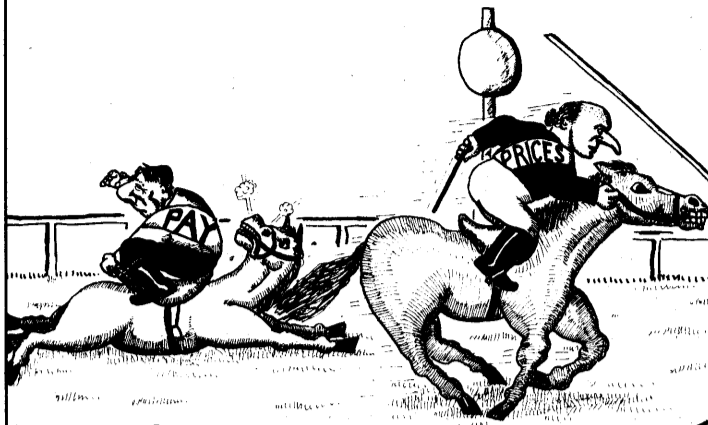
The 'Oxford Mail', praised negotiating tactics at the car body plant which have been shown to be more effective and to involve less loss of earnings through strikes.

This tireless enemy of the working class in Oxford attempted to intervene inside the trade union movement in the Austin-Morris factories on behalf of the company.

Its target was the struggle for principled defence of the carworkers' jobs, living standards and organization.

But the carworkers have rapidly demonstrated that they utterly reject these attacks, and will continue to fight uncompromisingly in defence of their rights.

Marvellous what a dose of stimulant does for the economy!



Sheffield hospitals to stop three days

HOSPITAL ancillary workers in Sheffield have voted unanimously to stage a three-day strike from today.

The decision was taken at a packed mass meeting on Monday of workers from all local hospitals.

It was revealed at the meeting that right-wing stewards belonging to the COHSE union had been holding secret

negotiations with the chief administrative officer of the United Sheffield Hospitals Group, Mr Kenneth Sumner.

They have been discussing a return to work based on implementation of productivity schemes carrying lead-in payments of £1 a week.

A COHSE shop steward said after the meeting: 'I don't know where

Sumner is going to get the money from unless he's paying it out of his own pocket.'

Union officials said the £1 was a 'red herring' and were equally sure that it could not be paid under the terms of the 'freeze', he said.

Stewards have organized pickets and toured hospitals to make sure there is no right-wing split of the strike.

A union official said yesterday:

'The feeling is very much that we have been pussyfooting around for too long and many of our members want to escalate the dispute.'

● Hospital workers will hold a demonstration in Doncaster on Friday. Miners from Armthorpe and Bentley collieries have promised support.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETING

Calling all hospital workers
NO COLLABORATION WITH
PAY BOARDS
FORCE THE TUC TO CALL
A GENERAL STRIKE
MAKE THE
TORY GOVERNMENT
RESIGN
Thursday April 5, 6.30 p.m.
Friars Hall, Blackfriars Road,
London SE
(near Blackfriars Tube)
Montage by A.P.

Tories returning workers to medieval medicine

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE TORY government's White Paper on the National Health Service, published yesterday, invites the private medical sector to step up its influence in the NHS.

Its publication is bound to anger striking hospital workers who are bitter about the way private practitioners bleed the NHS.

The document claims that the presence of the private patients in NHS hospitals is 'good for the service and helps to raise standards for other patients'.

The opposite is the truth. Hospital workers are made to spend extra time doing work for the private wards at the expense of working-class patients who can't afford the private fees.

There is another blatant lie in the White Paper. It rejects arguments that private beds in NHS hospitals necessarily mean long waiting lists for NHS patients; 'They can have only a very marginal effect,' it says.

But the number of private beds in NHS hospitals is expanding. This means that vital space in major hospitals is being handed over to those who belong to medical insurance schemes.

This must—and does—mean that ordinary NHS patients come at the bottom of the queue when it comes to admissions for operations, etc.

The government lists the reasons why it is 'beneficial' to have private facilities in NHS hospitals:

● The fact that people—with the world to choose from—come to Britain enhancing its position as an international centre of medical excellence.

● Part-time consultants with both private and NHS patients can give more time to them and deal with emergencies more easily if they are in the same hospital.

● Private patient accommodation can be used for NHS patients when required.

● Amenities enjoyed by private practice may set standards for the NHS to follow—as shown by the increased privacy in new hospitals.

● If private practice is divorced from NHS hospitals it could draw scarce professional skills away from them.

These statements represent a doctrinaire Tory attack on the NHS. These are the first shots in the Tories' campaign to set up dual health system in which the poor have to put up with the most feeble, miserable almost

medieval medical services, while the rich can enjoy the privilege of the highly-paid consultant.

Sir Keith Joseph, the millionaire Secretary for Health and Social Services, has been a persistent advocate of the expansion of the private sector in the NHS.

This is scarcely surprising since a number of his Tory Party friends are intimately involved with profiting out of the private schemes.

President of the Western Provident Association is Sir John Partridge, the former president of the CBI who took a leading part in the tripartite talks at

Chequers and Downing Street which led to the introduction of the state pay laws.

The Tories despise the free National Health Service, which was one of the major conquests of the working class after the war. They want it opened up for private exploitation

It can be defended today only by a united struggle by all sections of workers against the common enemy—the Tory government.

An incoming Labour government must be instructed by the mass movement to nationalize the whole medical service—no loopholes—and expropriate the big drugs manufacturers.

Right-wing guerrillas root for Young

VOTING commences this week to elect a new executive of the Monday Club, a right-wing branch of the Tory Party.

The balloting has taken a murky turn with the appearance of a four-page bulletin in support of George Young, the ex-deputy director of M16.

Young is challenging

Jonathan Guinness, the merchant banker, for the chairmanship of the club.

The bulletin claims to be published by the 'National Association of Conservative Action Groups' of Coachmen's Mews, Edwin Square, London. But neither the organization nor the address is known.

The election battle between these two extremely

reactionary candidates has been coloured by allegations of influence by the National Front.

Last week Guinness said if Young won the chairmanship, 'it would be considered a move in the National Front direction'.

He added, however, that there was no evidence to connect Young with the extreme right-wing Front.

The bulletin, pub-

lished by the 'Conservative Underground Press', strongly supports Young.

It says that Young has grasped the problem of unity facing the club and concludes that Guinness is both inconsistent and naïve.

Guinness said there was strong evidence that the bulletin was the work of those in the club who wanted Young elected.

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YORKSHIRE POLICE WANT GUNS

The clamour for guns for the police has been joined by Mr Ron Gregory, head of the west Yorkshire force.

He said that police should be armed to meet the threat of 'violent crime':

'Criminals will not be deterred from using violence unless society can impose sanctions which will be an effective deterrent—and the police cannot be expected to enforce the law without using sufficient force to carry out their duty,' he says in his annual report.

Gregory's plea for guns is all the more curious because the crime rate in his area has fallen by 1,285 to 71,833, or 1.8 per cent.

His statement is in line with a Home Office directive to all chief constables urging a propaganda campaign in favour of arming the police.

As we have repeatedly stated in Workers Press, the new police gun law has nothing whatever to do with bank robbers and criminals. It is a direct response to the rapidly worsening economic and political crisis of the Tory government.

The police are at present standardizing their forces with new 'man-stopper' weapons and special armed patrol groups (SPGs) are being set up in major metropolitan centres.



SECURICOR: THE FIRM THAT PRAYS TOGETHER

Securicor is not so much a company, it's more a way of life. That's what the chairman would have us believe in his annual review just published. It reads like something out of the Epistles.

Mr Keith Erskine told the Securicor shareholders — who have just made handsome dividends because of record profits — that 'Securicor cares'.

In large advertisements in all national newspapers Erskine humbly prays: 'It is human to err. We in Securicor regret our errors; but slowly, painfully and persistently we are climbing to a peak of unimpeachable integrity where Service is an end, not a means.'

This is one of the purpler passages in the 1,500-word holier-than-thou tract. Erskine rambles from one classical reference to another, from one mixed metaphor to the next.

In the space of a couple of paragraphs he manages to invoke the Athenians, the concept of 'Noblesse Oblige', Proust and Christopher Wren.

But beneath the beatitudes there lurks the uglier side of this operation—which is nothing more than the training and equipping of the largest private army in Britain.

'We are moving into a more hazardous society,' he says, 'Mugging is only one more threat to civilized life. Violence is the enemy. Liberty depends on order.'

(Now Erskine is no Adolf Hitler. But how remarkably similar this sentiment is to what the Fuehrer said at a rally in Hamburg in 1932:

'The streets of our country are in turmoil. The universities are filled with students rebelling and rioting.

'And the republic is in danger. Yes, danger from within and without. We need law and order. Yes, without law and order our nation cannot survive. We shall restore

law and order.')

Erskine goes on to encourage public support for the forces of 'law and order' or repression, as we call it on the Workers Press:

'I hope that the public—and the media—will come to see those qualities of integrity, devotion and duty, kindness and plain courage which animate the vast majority of police, security men and others who are in the last resort our insurance and our defence.

'Having got to know many hundreds of them, I believe they are the salt of the earth.'

In an oblique reference to the Industrial Relations Act, Erskine says: 'It will not be enough for the law to be changed—there must also be a change of heart, of which there are signs. If this does not come soon, private enterprise is doomed.'

And that, of course, is the rub. Securicor functions for the simple reason of protecting and guarding 'private enterprise'. Its guards ride the bullion vans, check passengers at Heathrow airport, patrol warehouses and factories and keep tabs on 'troublemakers'.

It is not known how integrated the Securicor company is with the state police machinery. One suspects pretty closely. A former director of Securicor is Robert Carr, now Home Secretary. When the Ugandan Asians were expelled last year it was Erskine and the Securicor holding company, Associated Hotels Limited, which made space available to receive fleeing families.

It is one of the most grotesque ironies that Securicor has close links with the trade union movement in the form of the General and Municipal



Top: the Securicor man, trained with the largest private army in Britain. Above: Carr, former director of Securicor, now Home Secretary.

Workers' Union leadership.

Lord (Tom) Williamson, the ex-head of the union, sits on the board, as does Ray Gunter, the ex-Labour Minister in the Wilson government.

One of the 'errors' made by Erskine and his colleagues in the past concerned a subsidiary, Complete Security Service Limited. This outfit sent out a circular to clients listing services it would undertake. These included:

(1) The supplying of undercover agents—a man planted among your employees to provide you with a complete appraisal of any unauthorized happenings.

(2) Reporting on any person who may be suspected of causing dissension or inciting employees to defection.'

In its best christian tradition Securicor had the letter withdrawn. And, of course, there were profuse apologies.

You see, Securicor cares!



Montague by A.P.

PALFREY RIDES AGAIN

William Palfrey, the former Chief Constable of Lancashire, may have retired, but he's still very active.

Whenever there's a speech to be made, a television programme to appear on, or a radio chat show to take part in—Palfrey is always there.

The other day he turned up at the Davyhulme Women's Conservative Association

where he chose a wide range of topics to speak on—religion, politics, teenagers, law, capital punishment and the birch.

A local reporter said there were 'cries of approval' when Palfrey called for the birching of teenagers who committed mugging offences or football hooliganism.

Palfrey, incidentally, is earning a fat salary as 'special co-ordinator for youth employment' for the Lancashire County Council.

In nearby Blackburn, Palfrey's views are shared by Ian McGaw, the prospective Tory candidate. In a speech to the faithful, McGaw said he was in favour of the re-introduction of capital punishment.

'I feel that our society needs a death penalty,' he said.

Aims of Securicor

1. To observe the highest code of business conduct.
2. To devolve and involve; to enrich both jobs and lives; to combine private enterprise with social justice; to care for the individual.
3. To put principle before expediency and make sure our word is our bond.
4. While not divesting from what is practical to enrol the idealism of youth.
5. To ignore class or race; to judge only by merits; to work in comradeship.
6. To divide more fairly the fruits of investment and work by means of the mutual company.
7. To combine what is best in public service, e.g. devotion to duty, with what is best in private endeavour, e.g. adaptability.
8. To express in the terms of guarding and watching man's regard for his neighbour and wish to serve him.
9. In sum, to seek Love, Truth and Justice.

Securicor recently declared record profits from its world-wide private policing works. Shareholders will be receiving a bumper dividend.



Corporatism in Spain by Juan Garcia. Part three

STALINISTS TO DEFEND NATIONAL INTEREST IN THE EEC

The Organizacion Sindical, Franco's corporate union, has been unable to dampen the militancy of the Spanish working class. Throughout the country, workers' commissions and political organizations have been built illegally.

Spanish workers have fought with the European working class against the erosion of their living standards by inflation.

A recent Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report on prices showed that prices in Spain rose by 12.3 per cent from April to October 1972, while the average increase in Europe was 9.6 per cent.

Despite a 'correction' figure of 6.5 per cent published in the Spanish Press (The OECD report had a printing error!) workers have gone on strike to defend the shrinking value of their wage packet.

During the first two weeks of February, there were 50 strikes involving 25,000 workers in the Basque provinces, Asturias and Barcelona.

In the Basque provinces, 3,200 workers in the shipyards of Astilleros Españoles, and more than 2,000 workers in Babcock and Wilcox engaged in action for higher wages.

Over 10,000 miners in Asturias, in the mining valleys of Nalón, San Victor, Turón, Nueva Montana, struck, while hundreds of 'pensionistas' occupied the churches of Mieres, Gijón and Langreo.

All were protesting against the high accident rates and low wage-rates in the pits. One family loses a son or a father each year.

The 'pensionistas' are miners who have had to retire through illness or accident and receive a pension from the company. In 1972, according to official statistics, there were 38,000 'pensionistas', the majority of them silicosis victims.

The greatest danger in these struggles derives from the leadership of the Spanish Communist Party which ties the working class to illusions that the Spanish fascist state can be transformed peacefully into a bourgeois democracy.

This evolution will enable Spain to take its place in the Common Market.

The CP's main demand in the commissions used to be the call for a General Strike to remove Franco and call a Constituent Assembly. This was a cover for setting up 'democratic assemblies' in each area, the embryos of that future imaginary Assembly. The commissions were subordinated to these bodies.

In a period of sharp class struggle, as in the prolonged

strike in the Seat car factory in Barcelona or the strike by Citroën workers in Vigo, local solidarity, 'general' strikes were called to lay the basis for a local assembly.

'Progressive' bishops, military officers, businessmen and intellectuals would be approached to form such a body.

The car workers risked torture and death to extract a statement from the clerics about the need for more 'social compassion' or 'social justice'.

Spanish Stalinism continues the policies which led to the defeat of the Spanish Revolution: the liquidation of the independent struggle of the working class into an alliance with the so-called 'democratic' wing of the Spanish bourgeoisie.

The leaders of this 'opposition' to Franco are Gil Robles, staunch anti-communist and Ruiz Gimenez, a former Minister of Education of Franco!

In line with the rightward turn of European Stalinism, the 'demagogic' call for a General Strike has been eliminated from CP propaganda, which now focuses on the demand that Spain must be 'democratized' in order to enter the Common Market.

This follows a visit of a delegation of the Spanish CP to Moscow and the debate at the 8th Party Congress in the



Ruiz Gimenez, a former Minister of Franco's, whom the CP regard as an 'opposition'. Above: Santiago Carrillo, Communist Party secretary—the EEC is a competitive reality.'

last months of 1972.

Communist Party secretary Santiago Carrillo presented the main report from the Central Committee at this Congress, advocating the right-wing turn:

'Today, the Common Market is a fact, a reality... But the Spanish bourgeoisie knows that any agreement on membership in accord with the Treaty of Rome is incompatible with the fascist structures of the regime and hence the pressure for the regime to develop: hence the phenomenon of neo-centrism.'

'The polemic between the different sectors of the bourgeoisie might lead misinformed people, depending on their political inclination, to think that the EEC is a type of miraculous panacea for all the problems of Spain—that EEC equals democracy; or that the EEC is the surest way of preventing or delaying the socialist revolution.'

'Attributing so many vices and virtues to the EEC is meaningless. The EEC is a competitive reality surrounding us and in the face of which we must lay the basis of a policy which seriously defends the national interest...'

Carrillo calls for the creation of a democratic regime under which 'the CP would be in favour of an agreement with the EEC enabling Spain to progressively co-operate with European countries as our economic structure is renewed and becomes competitive enough'.

Juan Gomez, leading party 'theoretician', followed Carrillo in the debate, noting with consummate hypocrisy:

'The Common Market did not prevent France, a full member for over ten years, from experiencing the May-June events in 1968. If they did not have a different conclusion, that was certainly not because of the existence of the Community.'

CONTINUED TOMORROW



EEC and NATO strategists:

COMMON MARKET—A MATTER OF GUNS AS WELL AS BUTTER

BY CHARLES PARKINS

War, as the German writer Clausewitz pointed out over 100 years ago, is the continuation of politics by other means. And, as Lenin once remarked, politics is 'concentrated economics'.

If you understand the meaning of these aphorisms, then you can understand an important aspect of the European Economic Community, which seems to have been deliberately ignored by many of its advocates.

This aspect was hinted at the other day by NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns, in a speech in which he referred to relations between the EEC countries and the USA, and 'warned' the European states against thinking that economic strength was a substitute for 'security'. It was not the first time that Luns had spoken on this matter.

For most people in Britain, the most serious aspect of the EEC is the effect which British entry has on our living standards—dear food, VAT, factory closures, and so on.

But a more long-term aspect of the Market, at least as serious if not more so, is its potentiality as a new political and military alliance. The Common Market is a matter of guns, as well as butter.

While this issue has been

studiously avoided by those in the Labour Party and the trade union leaderships who support the EEC, it is the topic of keen discussion among the political and military strategists of NATO and the EEC countries. What is more, it is precisely British entry which is seen as bringing the military issue forward on the agenda.

As a consequence, the last few months have seen the military journals of western capitalism full of discussion on the prospects for the new alliance. In December 1972, the 'Royal United Services' Institute's Quarterly' (RUSI) featured an article, 'NATO and the EEC'. In the same issue, the question of changed relations between the European capitalist powers and the United States is dealt with in a contribution from NATO secretary General Luns.

The same question is dealt with in the January issue of the magazine 'Defence', in the editorial column.

In the journal 'Survival', published by the International Institute of Strategic Studies, in the January-February issue, an article by Francois Duchene deals with 'The Strategic Consequences of the Enlarged European Community'.

In the background of all this thinking on the part of western strategists is the supreme significant fact of world politics today—the international crisis of capitalism. It is because the economic bankruptcy of the capitalist

system is matched by the political bankruptcy of the social-democratic (Labour) and Communist Party (Stalinist) leaders and their intellectual hangers-on, all of whom have based themselves on capitalism's supposed strength, that these leaders and their revisionist hangers-on refuse to acknowledge the reality of this crisis. For the same reason that they have refused to face the real significance of the European Common Market.

The capitalist economic crisis has led to two developments in government policies. One, is the onset of a vicious trade war between the United States and its rivals. The other, linked to the first, is the urgency for all these governments of an offensive against their own working classes, aimed at destroying all the gains in living standards and rights achieved by organized labour over many years of struggle.

Nixon in the USA, and Heath in Britain, and their counterparts in other countries, want to put the clock back to the days when a mass of unorganized, weak and poor workers were open to be freely exploited by the power of capital.

But they realize that to 'go back' in this way requires new measures, such as state control of wages, abolition of democratic rights and a powerful executive state to impose the wishes of the big monopolies. To return to the days of un-

restricted exploitation, yet in a period of modern powerful monopoly capitalism, the ruling classes need to go forward to the corporate state.

However accommodating the leaders of the trade union and labour movement may be in their efforts to avoid a struggle, the politicians and military leaders of the ruling class know that a struggle has got to come.

'COUNTER-INSURGENCY'

That is why Heath could tell the United Nations General Assembly in 1970 that this was going to be an era of civil war. It is also why the Tory government has aimed to strengthen itself with new legislation and with the development of armed police, a big increase in the Territorial Army and new weapons.

'Counter-insurgency' has been the topic of a number of articles in the same magazines that have been discussing the 'strategic consequences of the enlarged EEC'. There have been features on internal security, on 'counter-insurgent' tactics, and on new weapons, like the armoured cars designed for such warfare, which are now being supplied to the British army.

The September issue of the 'RUSI Quarterly' carried an article by Brigadier Michael

Calvert, currently a Research Fellow of the University of Manchester, entitled 'Some Aspects of Guerrilla Warfare'.

Brigadier Calvert, an army engineer and a member of the Monday Club is particularly interested in the topic that he calls 'Town Planning and Counter-Insurgency'.

Unlike the Labour leaders, he seems to have made his acquaintance with the writings of Marx and Engels, judging by his reference to the way European cities such as Paris were replanned and rebuilt in the late 19th century, so as to counter the barricades and street-fighting which had become traditional tactics of proletarian revolutionaries, and to facilitate easier repression by the forces of order. The brigadier believes that similar considerations should enter the planning of cities today.

He makes it quite clear in his article that he is not just talking about some remote colonial context, but thinking of Britain today, as he coolly discourses on the way city streets, working-class housing estates and university campuses ought to be laid out with their strategic aspect, in the event of civil war, in mind.

As might be expected, he is full of admiration for the work of another military writer, Brigadier Frank Kitson (formerly of army intelligence, now head of the Infantry Training School) whose book, 'Low Intensity Operations'—an



EEC and NATO strategists:

COMMON MARKET—A MATTER OF GUNS AS WELL AS BUTTER



Left: Sir Alex Douglas Home and Geoffrey Rippon seated beside Tory Prime Minister, Edward Heath as he signs the treaty of accession of Britain into the Common Market—a new political and military alliance.

tions of nation-states.

What has brought the EEC powers together today is not the strength of capitalism, but its worsening crisis, and the consequences this produces.

The EEC's member-states are brought together only by their desire to form an effective common strategy against their rival capitalist powers—the USA and Japan—and their need to deal with their own working classes.

Only two weeks ago Field Marshal Sir Michael Carver, the newly appointed Chief of the Armed Services, visited Bonn to participate in a meeting of FINABEL, a military union between the service chiefs of EEC countries.

The body was set up in the early 1950s as a prelude to the founding of the Common Market in 1956. Carver was the man who wrote the highly-flattering introduction to Kitson's book on counter-insurgency. The Cabinet appointed him to the top military job because of the civil war views that he shares with premier Edward Heath.

For a man like NATO boss Joseph Luns, it is a matter of open concern now that the North Atlantic alliance, built up under US leadership from the late 1940s on, may come apart under the strains of trade war and deteriorating relations between European and US capitalism.

His recent speech calling on the EEC powers not to neglect 'security' reflected this concern. And it is not the first time he expressed it.

In his lecture, printed in the December issue of the 'RUSI Quarterly', Luns referred to a statement by Nixon that, to assist the United States to overcome its economic difficulties, European nations must be prepared to shoulder their own arms burden.

Luns went on to comment: 'Whilst NATO is not directly responsible for economic matters and is not the forum in which difficult technical, economic or financial negotiations take place, it is, nevertheless, vitally concerned with their outcome. If these problems are not promptly solved by Americans and Europeans alike, the tensions which may develop between the two sides of the Atlantic would undermine the Alliance's solidarity and, furthermore, effect the availability of resources needed for a sustained defence effort.'

The date of publication of this lecture is interesting. It was actually given to a seminar held in March last year. Yet it is published in a magazine in December. Was this just an incidental matter of delay, or was it felt by the editors of 'RUSI Quarterly' that Luns' views had become of particular topical interest with the looming of trade war and the entry of Britain to the enlarged EEC?

Certainly its publication coincided with a spate of articles on the same theme.

Taken together, these would suggest that British entry is seen as a significant factor in the EEC emerging as a new power bloc.

Although Luns may be worried about the effect of the new economic and political situation on NATO military strength, his views in no way justify the claims by the bureaucracy in Moscow or Peking that an independent French foreign policy, or a new European alignment, may somehow mark a 'progressive' break with US imperialism, or a step to 'world peace'.

Asked a question at the NATO seminar about the attitude of France, Luns hastened to reassure his brass-hat audience that the French president had gone firmly on record

that, in the event of conflict, France would be on the side of her NATO allies. The NATO boss would seem to be worried about effectiveness; but he has no worries about an 'independent Europe' being any kind of move to the left.

A more positive approach than that of Luns to the rise of a new European power bloc is taken in the January 1973 issue of 'Defence'. In his editorial, Denis Archer also makes clear the reactionary attitude from which he and his fellow strategists start. On the question of Rhodesia and South Africa, for instance: 'Even supposing, for the sake of argument, that all the bad things that are said about these two regimes are true (and we are quite certain that they are not), the fact remains that the minority governments in both countries govern with the practical consent of the great majority of the populace...'

On the question of the coming to power of military regimes by means such as the Greek colonels' coup, Archer recommends that '... if and when it has become established, the sensible course for the other nations to pursue is to determine their future relationships with the new regime solely on the basis of strategic considerations (military and economic) and without reference to the acceptability of the new system in terms of morality or of political ideology'.

Of course, that is precisely how relationships are determined! Massacres in Indonesia? Repression in Turkey? Mass imprisonment and torture in Greece? A small price to pay for having regimes that can look after capitalist economic and military interests!

And of course, it is sheer hypocrisy for western politicians to pretend horror at the actions of the Greek colonels. They took power by putting into effect a NATO contingency plan and it is known that a similar plan exists for Italy, and further plans have undoubtedly been drawn up for other European countries.

Reviewing the changing relations between the western powers, Archer says that when NATO was established, it reflected the United States' 'crusading spirit against communism'. However, in his view, 1972 saw the USA changing its attitude somewhat towards the 'communist powers'.

He goes on to say: 'Situations may well arise in which some of the other NATO nations will find it difficult to support the policy line taken by the Americans.'

Coming closer to the point, Archer moves on to call on

tary preparedness ten years is not a long time, those responsible for national planning ought to have contingency plans for all possible realignments. We think it quite possible that some such range of plans exist in Paris...'

Indeed, it would seem that some such plans do exist in Paris and that they are not just at the level of contingency plans. The strategists of French imperialism want to see their policies writ large as the programme of a new European power bloc based on the EEC.

MILITARY POTENTIAL

In the January-February issue of 'Survival', François Duchene of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, writing on 'The Strategic Consequences of the Enlarged European Community', says that to be realistic such a programme could only be undertaken if the new alignment included the major military powers in western Europe.

'Accordingly', he writes, 'British entry has lifted the most obvious constraint on its progress from an economic to a "political" stage.'

Enthusiastically, he says of the EEC's military potential: 'In military terms, its general purpose forces, if they were ever organized as a single entity, would be considerable even by American or Soviet standards.'

Then, taking it further: 'a nuclear European Community could have a degree of self-reliance in all its policies and, by definition, a unity of political organization and purpose, which would turn its potential assets into achieved weight at many levels of world politics.'

Duchene acknowledges that nuclear strategy is not yet the main thing on the agenda and that there are other political questions to be settled first. But among these, he sees relations with the United States as the most important—and as determining the need for a European nuclear force.

Against this background of military preparations for class war in the EEC the Dick Tavernes and Roy Jenkins and their fellow Marketeers have a lot to answer for.

And we should remember that it is not only the obvious right-wingers in the labour movement who have supported EEC entry. There are a number of so-called 'lefts' in the Parliamentary Labour Party, characters like Paul Rose, the MP for Blackley, Manchester, for instance, who have put forward the idea that

socialists ought to welcome the Common Market out of some sort of 'internationalism', and that 'European unity' was somehow a step towards 'peace'—as though you can abolish gangsterism by getting a group of the most notorious imperialist gangsters together to form a bigger and stronger gang!

The parliamentary 'lefts' who put forward this sort of 'internationalism' have been echoed outside parliament among certain revisionists and also the drawing-room 'revolutionaries' and academic pseudo-Marxists of the 'New Left Review', who have attacked the Socialist Labour League as 'chauvinist', because of our principled opposition to the Common Market.

Presumably these gentlemen will also have to decide now, in retrospect, that socialists who opposed NATO were also chauvinist, for opposing an international capitalist agreement!

As for the Labour leaders, they never declared opposition to the EEC on principle; they only argued for better terms for British capitalism. They sheltered the pro-Marketeers in the Parliamentary Labour Party and succeeded in preventing the Labour Party conference from committing the next Labour government to withdrawal.

Now we see the consequence, as TUC general secretary Victor Feather and others, abandoning any pretences, rush to collaborate with the EEC and to take highly-paid jobs in its institutions—just as their political forbears rallied to take posts with capitalist governments on the eve of World War I.

The SLL and Workers Press will continue to fight for a Labour government to take power mandated to carry out socialist policies, which must include withdrawal from both NATO and the EEC.

The history of the last two centuries shows that the rise of monopolies, the erection of tariff-barriers and the launching of trade wars between rival imperialist power blocs are the prelude to real, shooting wars.

It was so before World War I and World War II. Imperialism has not changed—it has only acquired more deadly weapons.

The depth of capitalist crisis today, and the formation of new power blocs, only brings nearer the danger that capitalism could take us into World War III.

Those who oppose us must be made to face their responsibility for what they are helping the imperialists prepare.

AS BUTTER

'admirable book', says Calvert—discusses the situation that could arise in Britain as a result of a drop in the standard of living, with the army being called in to assist the police against strikers.

Calvert is particularly taken with the idea of co-ordination, of the police, armed forces, etc., to deal with an 'emergency'. He thinks it particularly important to have 'one man' to be in charge.

As Workers Press readers will know, the Tories have recently set up a special committee under Lord Jellicoe, to co-ordinate police and military in an 'emergency'.

In the December issue of the 'RUSI Quarterly', yet another Brigadier, R. G. S. Bidwell, also comes out in support of Kitson, and says that fears expressed by some MPs about his ideas are not really justified.

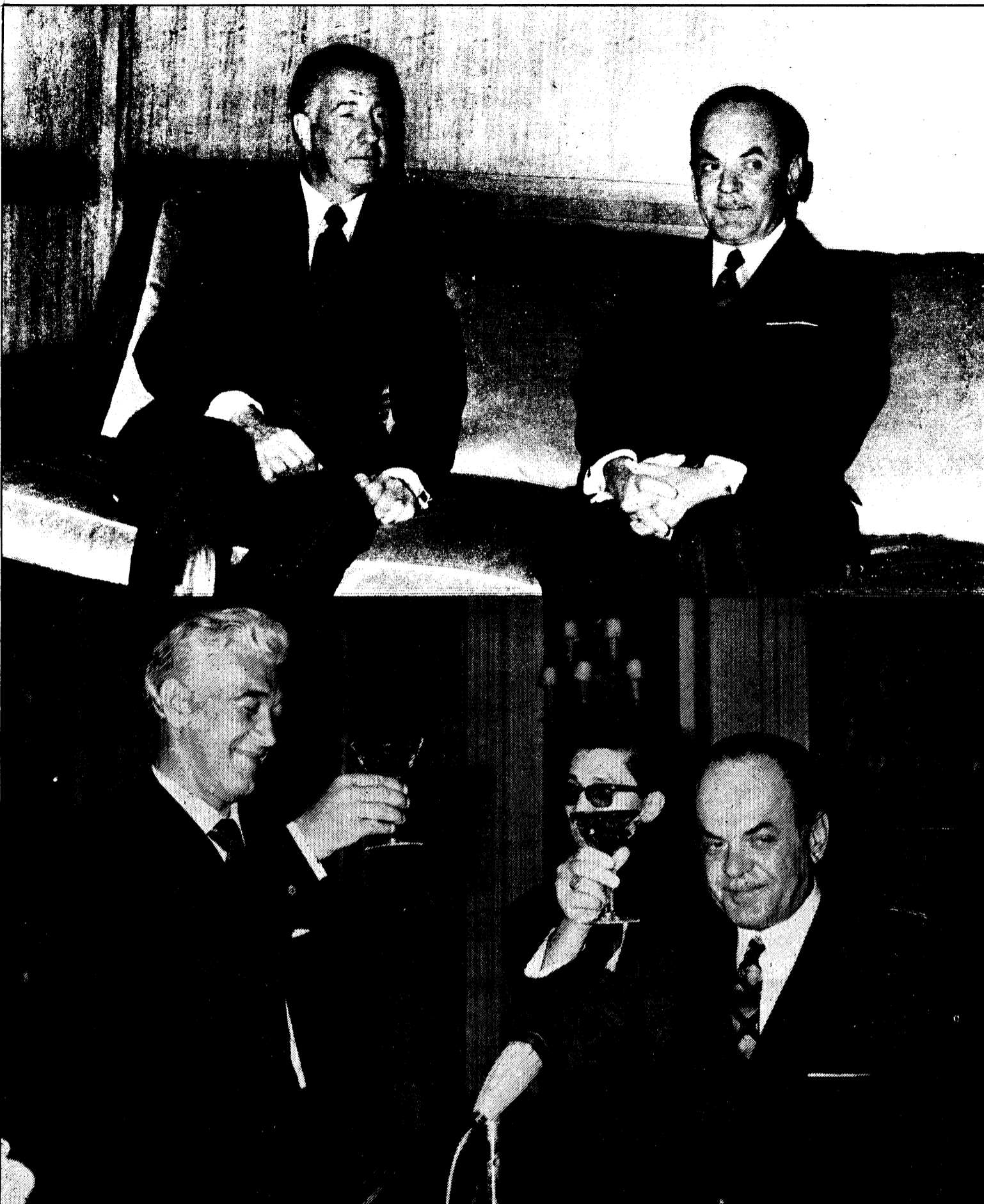
The European Common Market is an alliance of the monopoly capitalists of Europe. Capitalist powers, whose normal relations are those of competition and rivalry, can only form an alliance if they have a common enemy. The bickering, haggling and jockeying for positions that have gone on among the national governments of the EEC countries reflect the fact that despite the tendency towards an international economy contained in the development of the productive forces, the capitalist economic system cannot overcome the limita-



NATO Secretary General, Joseph Luns. Right: Brigadier Frank Kitson—support for his counter-insurgency ideas now appears in the 'RUSI Quarterly.'

the European powers to develop their own military and strategic programme to go with their economic alignment.

It would not be at all surprising if, within the next decade or so, there were several changes in the membership of the western alliance... Within the same period there are also likely to be major changes of alignment and alliance in Africa and the Far East. Since in terms of mili-



US President Johnson supported the establishment of a Greek dictatorship in 1967. Left top: Agnew and Papadopoulos. Left below: Rumanian foreign minister, Cornelo Manescu with Papadopoulos.

(A full account of all the connections between Stalinism and the Greek colonels was published in Workers Press on January 31, 1973.)

The Stalinists bear the major responsibility for the defeat of the Greek revolution after the end of World War II.

Stalin collaborated openly with British and American imperialism to crush the Greek workers and peasants.

The Greek Stalinists betrayed the revolution and subsequently collaborated with the Centre Union of Andreas Papandreu, allowing the forces of the right to plan their coup behind the scenes in collaboration with the CIA.

(For a full account of the role of Stalinism in Greece, see Workers Press of January 29 and 30, 1973.)

There is also, of course, support for the Greek regime in this country and it is not confined to Tory circles.

A few years ago it was revealed that Sunderland Labour MP Gordon Bagier, who had just returned from a junket in Greece and denied stories of torture, was on the payroll of public-relations firm Maurice Fraser and Associates of London. Fraser had been hired by the Greek rulers to build up their image in Britain.

Another organization which does not come out well from the Greek situation is the International Red Cross.

On February 10, 1970, the political prisoners of Korydallos prison denounced the International Red Cross Commission in Greece for refusing to show any interest in the fate of Communist Party member Argiris Baras—desperately ill after torture and refused any medical treatment.

In a smuggled letter the Korydallos prisoners declared: 'We have sent many letters to the IRCC asking it to visit us and concern itself with this case.'

'Our relations have visited it many times and have brought up the question of Baras. They have met with no understanding, no response, absolutely no concern regarding our demand that Baras be admitted to a civilian hospital.'

The Korydallos prisoners wrote again on February 15: 'The IRCC delegation in Athens has shown complete indifference to this case.'

'We have sent many letters and telegrams asking it to visit Baras and interest itself in his admittance to hospital, but we have met with no response.'

'We had an earlier promise that Mr Martin, head of the IRCC delegation would visit the prison about the middle of January but this promise has not been kept.'

'The IRCC took the same attitude when it was visited by our relatives who put the issue of Baras and other seriously-ill political prisoners. The junta is utilizing it (the IRCC) in order to cover its policy of the extermination of its imprisoned political opponents.'

CONTINUED TOMORROW

The Greek regime. Jack Gale investigates the tortures and the police state. Part 2

CIA MONEY FINANCES GREEK TORTURE

Under existing law any Greek can be arrested anywhere and held incommunicado for any length of time. The authorities are under no obligation to give any reason for the arrest nor to inform anyone of it.

There is the closest connection between the military regime and the torturers. As mentioned yesterday, the commandant of one torture centre is the brother of dictator George Papadopoulos.

The chief army torturer—Col Basil Ioannidis—is attached to the office of the army Chief of Staff.

The current chief of the KYP—General Hadzipetro—is a member of the inner junta.

There are also close connections with the United States, which replaced Britain in 1947 as the chief source of economic and military aid to Greece,

and particularly with the CIA. All the Greek armed forces were equipped, trained and supervised by the United States.

The KYP is modelled on and largely financed by the CIA. When former Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu clashed with the KYP in 1964 he revealed that the KYP finances came direct from the CIA without passing through any Greek Ministry.

The CIA lay behind the colonels' coup.

There was no basis for parliamentary democracy in Greece, despite the illusions spread by the Stalinists.

The Americans were extremely angry at the election of a Centre government in 1963, and when it seemed likely to be re-elected in 1967 the CIA acted.

In 1970 Papandreu revealed how the US government adviser Walter Rostow met the National Security Council in February 1967 and proposed the establishment of

a military dictatorship. This was supported by President Johnson.

Even before the coup, real control of internal and foreign policy in Greece was in the hands of the CIA and they were not prepared to allow that to be threatened.

In 1957 the CIA had established a camp outside Athens at Aghia Paraskevi, which was used to interrogate prisoners from Eastern Europe. It consists of eight sound-proofed bungalows in which doctors administer a 'truth drug'.

Its commander is Lt-Col Zourelis of the KYP.

The Aspholia receives US aid including special white cable whips and headscrews known as 'iron wreaths'.

Hundreds of prisoners have reported being told by Athens Security Police Insp Lambrou: 'Behind me is the government, behind the government is NATO, behind NATO is the United States. You can't fight us. We are Americans.'

The United States is not the

only country to lend encouragement to the colonels' Greece.

The Soviet Union maintains extremely friendly relations with the colonels, as do all the Stalinist states.

Since November 1969 close cultural and trading relations have been developed between Greece and the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, East Germany and Albania.

Contacts have been established with China.

Regular visits are exchanged between Greek Ministers and leading figures in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Regular banquets and junketings take place where these gentlemen drink each others' health—for example, when Cornelu Manescu of Rumania visited Greece on June 11, 1971; at the Salonika trade fair in August 1971; when Greek Ministers attended a reception at the Greek embassy in Tirana to celebrate Greek National Day.



KREMLIN TRIES TO BRING THE 'LAGGARDS' UP TO SCRATCH

The campaign to push up production in the vital third year of the Ninth Soviet Five-Year plan is now being waged in all the organs of propaganda and in Communist Party meetings and conferences.

'Pravda' carried a leading article on March 26 under the heading: 'More goods for the people'. It called for a big increase in output and an improvement in 'the quality and consumer appeal of products'.

It admitted that light industry had fallen behind its target in January, but claimed that this had been made up in February and that production was still increasing 'due to growing socialist competition'.

These comforting words were followed by a severe warning, and it was this which the reader was obviously expected to attend to.

Not only was the rate of growth of production in the light and food industries lower than in Soviet industry as a whole, but 'nearly one in every five enterprises failed to fulfil the plan for the first two months of the year while in the meat and dairy industry the failure rate is one in ten'.

This high rate of failure to achieve plan targets is a matter for serious concern. Strenuous efforts are being made to bring the 'laggards' up to scratch. Reports from different parts of the Soviet Union always speak of 'shortcomings' on the part of particular enterprises and organizations.

These include the turning out of poor quality products, failure to meet production targets, waste and embezzlement of materials and falsification of accounts.

A recent report from Perm spoke of machines standing idle because raw materials had not been received and said that useful employment of machines in capital construction and assembly was no more than 40 per cent.

A meeting of Party activists in the Ukraine was told of 'serious shortcomings' on the part of the printing machine works, the analysis instruments works, the Kalinin works, the Kiev food machines association and the cotton mill 'which do not fulfil state plans and socialist pledges'.

'In the oblast [region] as a whole', the speaker went on, '57 enterprises failed to fulfil their plans for the sale of products and 109 enterprises for raising productivity.'

The assembled bureaucrats on this occasion were treated to a run-down of 'shortcomings' in practically every sphere, not forgetting the Institute of Archaeology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. No doubt the audience knew too well what the 'shortcomings' were for it to be necessary for speakers to specify them in detail.

They were told that 'the implementation of the principles of communist morality is impossible without the struggle against manifestations which are hostile to us, such as greed, bribery, idleness, theft, drunkenness and the private-property mentality'. No doubt these six deadly sins were more than adequately represented in the audience of party and state officials.

They were ordered, in addition, to intensify their struggle against a broad category of 'negative manifestations' — 'bourgeois ideology, nationalism and Zionism, and the survival of the past in the awareness and behaviour of the people'.

A recent meeting of the Central Committee of the Byelorussian Communist Party was also treated to a list of shortcomings, some of them far from minor ones.

Masherov, the First Secretary, said that production plans for 1971 and 1972 had not been fulfilled in primary oil refining, knitwear, leather footwear, furniture and walling materials. Annual plans had not been fulfilled in a list of other industries as various as briquetted peat, butter and combine harvesters.

He said: 'All these shortcomings resulted from serious violations of Party and state discipline by the managerial workers of many enterprises and of certain Ministries and Departments in 1972. In 1972, for the first time in many years, the republic's industry failed to fulfil its pledges regarding higher output and labour productivity.'

He did not say whether any action had been taken against those bureaucrats obviously guilty of serious offences. These included, he said, 'the shameful widespread practice of modifying plans in the

course of the year to produce seeming plan fulfilment'. In other words, falsification of figures to make it seem that targets had been reached when production had been unsatisfactory.

A similar state of affairs was revealed in Lithuania at a plenum in January. The meat and dairy industry, the building industry and agriculture failed to reach their targets. Some 90 enterprises did not fulfil their productivity growth plan. There were 'frequent cases of wasteful use of resources, involving excessive consumption of electricity, raw materials and semi-finished materials.'

'Cases of mismanagement are still numerous' the assembled bureaucrats were told—as if they did not know—and the principal reason why capital construction plans had not been met was 'uneconomic dissipation of funds and other resources'. In other words, some bureaucrats had been dipping too deeply into public funds for their own purposes.

The contradictions in which the bureaucracy is caught are nowhere more apparent than in agriculture. Here too a vigorous campaign is on to try to avert another disastrous failure to meet crop targets. In fact, a target of 197.4 million tons has been set for this year, 11 million tons more than the record year of 1970.

It seems unlikely, on present indications, that such a target can be reached. In some regions there was not sufficient snow covering over the seeded fields; in others winter wheat was sown too late and crop yields are bound to be down again.

Food items, such as meat, butter and fresh vegetables, are in short supply or unobtainable in a number of areas of the Soviet Union. There has been talk of purchasing France's big butter surplus to meet consumer needs.

Reliable reports make it clear that the food situation is more critical than it has been for a number of years and it is likely to get worse until late in the spring or early summer when supplies normally improve. Lack of food no doubt affects production both by decreasing physical efficiency and by reducing the workers' incentive to work.

The difficulties of industry in reaching targets set for production and productivity are aggravated by the food crisis. But the situation in agriculture, although influenced by bad weather conditions, is also a result of industry's inability to supply sufficient farm machinery and especially spare parts.

On some collective farms as many as two-thirds of the tractors may be out of action at any one time, waiting for spare parts which are slow in arriving. Even 'Pravda' admits that only 80 per cent of the country's tractors were in working order at the beginning of March.

The chemical industry cannot produce enough fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides for efficient agriculture. Moreover, when they are available in sufficient quantities they are often badly used or wasted. In Byelorussia it is reported that in 1971-1972 there was an insignificant increase in crop yields after

application of mineral fertilizers owing to 'unskilful use and loss of nutrients during their transportation and storage'.

The difficulties in reaching targets in industry are connected with the agrarian crisis which, in turn, is a consequence of the forced collectivization carried out under Stalin in the early 1930s. The bureaucracy falls back on exhortations to work harder and blames climatic conditions when its own mismanagement and the policy of 'socialism in one country' are really responsible.

The working class is no longer willing to put up with shortages and bad conditions. It is demanding not only more, but better food and consumer goods. The 'Pravda' editorial reflects the concern which the bureaucracy feels at the challenge to its power and position implicit in the situation. It reflects fear of the growing strength of the working class.



STALIN LINGERS ON

There is one place in the Soviet Union where the memory of Josef Stalin, whose bloody purges cost millions of lives, is still very much alive.

That is the Georgian town of Gori where he was born in 1879. A Stalin museum stands beside the two-room wooden house which was his birthplace. A huge statue of the kind once to be seen in most Soviet cities but now removed is still there.

In Gori de-Stalinization has never been carried out. Many Georgians still revere Stalin and resent his elimination from the history books. Some are still hoping for his full rehabilitation.

A thousand miles from Moscow, the Stalin relics are preserved ready for future use. The bureaucracy which created Stalin in its own image came to dread the jealous and blind wrath of the blood-thirsty tyrant upon whom they depended.

Frightened by the ferment which Nikita Khrushchev's original 'revelations' stirred up in 1956, it now leaves huge gaps in Soviet history which are too dangerous to be discussed. The heirs of Stalin, the present-day leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, still adhere to the theory of 'socialism in one country' which Stalin was the first to expound.

The power and privileges which they enjoy today have their roots in the Stalin era: that is why they cannot permit the archives to be opened and the full truth about the crushing of the Bolshevik party, the purges and trials to be known.

The existence of Gori, with its museum, its piously preserved relics and its gigantic statue is an awful reminder of the past.

The bureaucracy can neither boost it as a national shrine nor call attention to the past by closing down the museum and uprooting the statue. Whichever way it turns, it cannot get rid of Stalin.

POLITICAL PROFILES

By LEON TROTSKY
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WORKERS NOTEBOOK

SALT CURE

Working in the salt mines used to be considered a dire punishment equivalent to a slow death but Soviet experts have discovered otherwise.

They have found that the salt mine climate is good for bronchial complaints and has other curative properties. A small experimental hospital is to be set up underground near the Solotvino salt mines in

the Ukraine and a large medical centre will follow.

The KGB already sends oppositionists to what are described as 'psychiatric hospitals'. Perhaps it will now be sending them for a cure at the Solotvino hospital instead.

PRAISE FOR 'PROGRESSIVES'

The Stalinists in the Langley tenants' association at Middleton, Manchester, were stung recently by a letter to the local Press condemning their reformist politics and failure to mobilize the working class.

Their reply is a wounded defence of their role, with much praise for 'progressive' Labour Party councillors. In one intriguing passage they cite Clydebank council in their defence.

'At Clydebank,' they wrote, 'Cllr Jimmy Reid and two

other communist councillors alongside the progressive Labour and Scottish Nationalist councillors have shown the way in mobilizing the whole of the Labour and trade union movement in not implementing Tory policies.'

Since the letter was published on March 9 one can only conclude the Stalinists of Langley are a little behind the time.

It is, a fact, after all, that Clydebank, after a fine in a Scottish court, went the way of all (bar Clay Cross) Labour councils and decided to implement.

The vote was unanimous. 'Progressive' councillors, Scottish Nationalists, Jimmy Reid and his Stalinist comrades all voted for TORY policy. As for the working class, it is true they were mobilized in Clydebank. It was suggested that a collecting tin be taken round to raise money to pay for the fine!

All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

EBBW VALE
Wednesday April 4, 7.30 p.m.
 'Stop the closures—make the Tories resign'
 Tabernacle Congregational Church, Armoury Street, Ebbw Vale.
 Speakers: Michael Banda and a Shotton steelworker.

WEMBLEY: Wednesday April 4, 8 p.m. Copland School, High Street. 'Tory "Law and Order"—Preparation for dictatorship'.

ABERDEEN: Thursday April 5, 8 p.m. West Front Room, Music Hall. 'The Way Forward for Hospital Workers.'

LEEDS: Thursday April 5, 8 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. 'The hospital workers' strike and the fight against the state pay laws.' Speakers: Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee) and a NUPE guest speaker.

DAVENTRY: Thursday, April 5, 7.30 p.m. Daventry Social Club, New Street.

MIDDLETON: Friday, April 6, 8 p.m. 'Assheton Arms', near Middleton Gardens.

LEWISHAM: Monday April 9, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club,

New Cross Road (opp. New Cross Tube). 'Build Councils of Action. Force the Tories to Resign'.

WANDSWORTH: Monday April 9, 8 p.m. 'Kings Arms', High Street, SW18. 'TUC must call a General Strike'.

WATFORD: Monday April 9, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall, Watford Road, nr Watford Station. 'The fight against Stalinism'.

CAMDEN: Tuesday April 10, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings X. 'The TUC must call a General Strike'.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday April 10, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'The TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

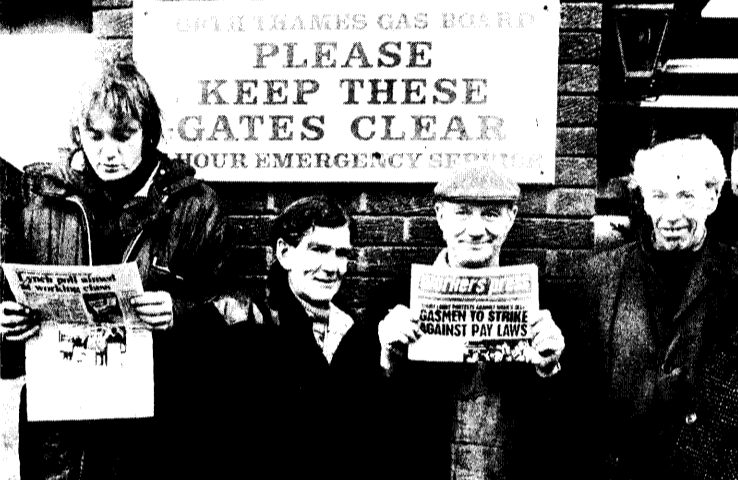
HARROW: Tuesday April 10, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Harrow & Wealdstone. 'The TUC must call a General Strike'.

HACKNEY: Wednesday April 11, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, opp. Town Hall, Mare Street. 'The TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

CROYDON: Thursday April 12, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. 'The fight against Stalinism'.



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BBC 1

12.30 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Barnaby. 1.45 Made in Britain. 2.00 I like it here. 2.30 Great zoos of the world. 3.00 Where is your god? 3.35 Television top of the form. 4.00 Peter. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Boss cat. 5.15 Event. 5.40 Sir Prancelot. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
 6.45 ASK THE FAMILY.
 7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD.
 7.30 ARE YOU BEING SERVED? Camping In.

8.00 BARLOW AT LARGE. Treasure.

8.50 WEEK BY WEEK.
 9.00 NEWS. Weather.
 9.25 SPORTSNIGHT. FA cup semi-finals, world ice hockey championships.

10.00 LIBERAL PARTY BROADCAST.

10.10 MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS. SFTA award winner.

10.40 MIDWEEK.
 11.25 LATE NIGHT NEWS.
 11.30 MAN AT WORK. Be Your Own Boss.
 11.55 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Yoga. 9.55 Film: 'Tarzan's Savage Fury'. Lex Barker. 11.15 Galloping gourmet. 11.40 Cartoon. 12.05 Hickory house. 12.25 Cuddles and co. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Sing out with The Settlers. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Whose baby? 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Get this. 4.50 Jensen code. 5.20 University challenge. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.
 6.35 CROSSROADS.
 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE.
 7.30 CORONATION STREET.
 8.00 SHUT THAT DOOR!

8.30 THE BEST OF FATHER DEAR FATHER. A Domestic Comedy.
 9.00 SPECIAL BRANCH. A Copper Called Craven.

10.00 LIBERAL PARTY BROADCAST.

10.10 NEWS AT TEN.

10.40 A PLACE IN THE COUNTRY. Sizergh Castle.

11.10 THEATRE: 'The Eagle Has Landed'.

11.40 FILM: 'Dangerous Voyage'. William Lundigan. Thriller.

12.50 THE EXILED.

TODAY'S TV

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

7.05 LOOKING TO EUROPE. A Matter of Course.

7.30 NEWS. Weather.

7.35 THE BUTCHER'S LEGACY. The Story of 7-a-side Rugby.

8.00 MAN ALIVE. The Juggernauts.

8.50 FILM: 'Ziegfeld Follies'. Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Lucille Brimer, Judy Garland, Kathryn Grayson, Lena Horne. Musical extravaganza.

10.00 LIBERAL PARTY BROADCAST.

10.10 FILM continued.

10.45 EDITION.

11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 10.00 Life in France. 10.10 London. 11.43 Angling. 12.10 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 9.55 Unseen world. 10.45 Danger man. 11.35 Dr Simon Locke. 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 10.00 London. 11.40 News. 12.08 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 10.00 Twizzle. 10.15 Yoga. 10.40 Canada's waterways west. 11.05 Gilbert and Sullivan. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 7.00 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 11.40 News. 11.50 Odd couple. 12.20 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 10.00 Sesame street. 11.00 Sara and Hoppity. 11.10 Press call. 11.35 Coachbuilders. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Cuckoo in the nest. 7.00 London. 10.40 Time was... 11.10 London. 11.40 European journey. 12.10 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.20 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.

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

ANGLIA: 9.40 North country. 10.00 Paulus. 10.00 Gilbert and Sullivan. 11.05 Galloping gourmet. 11.35 Coachbuilder. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 3.30 Dr Simon Locke. 3.55 Romper room. 4.19 News. 4.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 8.30 Protectors. 9.00 London. 11.40 Spyforce. 12.10 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.05 Bridge for beginners. 11.30 Survival. 12.00 Programme guide. 12.05 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.40 Citizens' rights. 11.10 London. 11.40 Baron. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.35 Coachbuilders. 12.05 London. 1.29 News. 1.40 London. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.22 News. 4.35 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 11.40 You and your golf.

YORKSHIRE: 9.50 Ed Allen time. 10.15 About Britain. 10.40 Last stand. 11.50 Whicker. 11.35 Rovers. 12.05 London. 2.30 Jobs around the house. 3.00 London. 3.30 Jason King. 4.25 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 10.40 Protectors. 11.10

London. 11.40 You and your golf. 12.10 Adam 12. 12.40 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 Enchanted house. 9.45 Time to remember. 10.10 Jackson five. 10.30 Galloping gourmet. 10.55 Cartoon. 11.00 Scotland Yard casebook. 11.30 Primus. 11.50 Hammy Hamster. 12.05 London. 3.25 Yoga. 3.55 Dr Simon Locke. 4.20 London. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. What's on? 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 11.45 Evil touch.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 Larger than life. 9.40 Grasshopper island. 9.55 Elephant boy. 10.20 Dick Van Dyke. 10.45 North country. 11.10 Shut up—I'm crying. 11.35 Coachbuilder. 12.05 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 10.40 Protectors. 11.10 News. 11.25 Streets of San Francisco. 12.20 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 10.00 No easy answer. 10.45 Flipper. 11.10 Press call. 11.35 Coachbuilders. 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 3.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.40 Sound stage. 11.10 London. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Blue light.

GRAMPIAN: 11.30 Julia. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 5.20 Wildlife theatre. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson. 6.35 London. 11.45 Frighteners. 12.10 Meditation.

The two faces of Hugh Scanlon



Left: Scanlon at a 1970 meeting of the corporatist Industrial Society. Right: Sitting with his union's delegation at the Labour Party conference.

THE CLAIMS by Hugh Scanlon, his colleagues on the engineering union's executive committee and the Communist Party that the engineers' president was misreported by the capitalist press about offering a deal to the Tory government can easily be settled.

Let Scanlon clarify exactly what his position is on the questions raised.

And if the 'Morning Star' really wants to convince people that it does not support Scanlon's capitulation to corporatism, then let it denounce Scanlon.

Scanlon has returned to the question of the confrontation between the Tory government and the trade union movement in the latest edition of his union's journal.

His editorial comments are full of the usual Scanlon left phraseology. 'We must give due warning that if the government persists in its indifference to the suffering of hospital workers and patients, then the entire movement will be forced to take action if only to make the government see sense.'

DAY BEFORE

First point to make is that this was written the day before he made his lunchtime speech to the Parliamentary Press Gallery offering to accept the Common Market, to accept the principle of the Industrial Relations Act and the principle of state control of wages . . . in return for concessions.

But secondly, and more important, there is no real contradiction between the two faces of Hugh Scanlon.

Even as his editorial was being composed, the TUC's Finance and General Purposes Committee, of which he is a member, was refusing yet again to take action on the hospital workers' behalf.

There have been four top-level meetings of TUC leaders since the special Congress decision to co-ordinate action in support of individual unions in struggle against the pay laws. Not once has Scanlon so far suggested that strikers be called in the hospital workers' support.

It is now four weeks since the special Congress and five weeks since the hospital workers and civil servants started their action.

COLLAPSE ?

How much longer before these fights collapse under the combined weight of police repression, middle-class hostility and the refusal to give a proper lead by their own union bureaucrats?

If Scanlon really means what his editorial states—'If we allow these groups of workers to be picked off one by one and then defeated, the consequences for collective bargaining, living standards, and trade unionism itself are enormous—then let him act on it.

Collections by engineers and support on picket lines and in demonstrations, as Scanlon proposes, while very helpful would not be enough.

If Scanlon wanted to stem the tide of retreat begun by the gas-workers', Post Office workers' and Ford workers' leaders, of which the engineering president is one of the most influential, he should have spelt it out at yesterday's AUEW executive meeting.

By our industrial staff

At the same time, let Scanlon correct any wrong impressions, if there are any, about what he proposed to the Tories.

Scanlon is not likely to do anything of the sort.

Elsewhere in his editorial, he writes: 'Certainly, there is some justification in criticizing a one-day stoppage as ineffective if the objective is a dramatic change of government policies. Expressed in terms of a strike, only sustained mass action could bring such a change about.'

Good left phrases. But then he goes on:

'All this does not mean to say that the May Day protest will be without effect. Far from it. The government might not make a sudden about-turn because of the protest, but a widespread stoppage will certainly indicate the trade unions' determination to maintain living standards.'

The government might not make a sudden about-turn, but Hugh Scanlon certainly can!

He has an idea of what is required in terms of strike action, and he knows what dire consequences will follow if the movement fails to meet the challenge. But then he says that he will only do what everyone else is doing.

'LEFT' TALK

'Rightly or wrongly, we have to work within the unified policy as laid down (by special Congress),' he says.

And, of course, they are not even doing that. It is just more 'left' talk from Scanlon.

Not only is Scanlon not carrying out what he claims to be necessary, he is not even carrying out the minimum of activity which he claims TUC policy has obliged upon him.

And, of course, even if he did carry out all that he says is necessary in terms of sustained mass action, it is still an illusion to think that this would change government policy.

From behind all this empty talk, the real Scanlon emerges: the 'left' leader who is preparing to do a deal with the Tory government which is introducing the corporate state into Britain.

Scanlon made many militant-sounding remarks about the gasmen's struggle, but then did nothing. His latest outburst has come in the middle of the hospital workers' desperate struggle and in the middle of the miners' balloting in the coalfields on strike action.

No longer is Scanlon just doing nothing to back up his left words, he is now actively sabotaging the working class's fight against the Tory government.

His moves to compromise the struggle at the height of the battle are deliberate.

Scanlon, along with his 'left' allies and Stalinist supporters, has decided to lend his efforts to getting the trade union movement to accept corporatism.

Execution date fixed for

UDA man

THREE Northern Ireland High Court of Appeal judges yesterday fixed April 25 as the date of execution of Albert Browne (29), a UDA man convicted of murdering a policeman.

They refused to allow him leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

It seems that only an intervention by the Home Secretary or the Ulster Secretary can stop the execution going ahead as planned.

Browne was convicted of shooting a Belfast policeman on the M2 motorway in October last year. He was sentenced to death on March 6. This is the mandatory sentence for killing a policeman in Northern Ireland.

Lord Chief Justice, Sir Robert Lowrie, sitting with Lord Justice Curran and Lord Justice Jones, rejected the grounds for appeal.

After the hearing Mr Robert McCartney, Browne's junior counsel, said he would be discussing an application to the House of Lords for permission to take an appeal there. They have 14 days to do this.

Yesterday's appeal against conviction was based on the fact that the trial judge had disallowed evidence of self-defence or of provocation to be put to the jury.

Stockport hospitals out

HOSPITAL workers in the militant Stockport area have begun a one-week strike. Stockport Infirmary, the town's main accident hospital, was operating with only three-quarters of its beds filled.

At St Thomas' geriatric and psychiatric hospital the proportion was slightly higher. Pickets were out at both hospitals handing out leaflets explaining their case.

'Unite against pay laws'—Sheffield stewards' motion

STEWARDS at a Sheffield engineering works have asked the district committees of local union branches to form a committee to unite all workers against the government's pay laws.

The call comes from the joint shop stewards' committee at

Doncasters, Sheffield, one of the big local engineering works.

They want the committee to campaign for the TUC to call a General Strike to force the Tories out of office and return a Labour government pledged to repeal all anti-trade union laws and committed to socialist policies.

Taverne backed as Euro-MP

LABOUR renegade Dick Taverne, MP for Lincoln, has been rewarded by the Tory government. They are backing his nomination as a member of the European Parliament.

Taverne was one of the Labour MPs who kept the Tories in power by voting with the government over Common Market entry. Later he was expelled by the Lincoln Labour Party because of this violation of Party policy. The European Parliament is boycotted by Labour MPs.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETING

Merthyr Tydfil

Build the revolutionary party
Join the Socialist Labour League
Defend basic democratic rights
Make the Tories resign

TUESDAY APRIL 10
7.30 p.m.

Caedraw School
Caedraw
Merthyr Tydfil

Speaker: G. Healy
(SLL national secretary)

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Newsdesk: 01-720 2000. Circulation: 01-622 7029.

SLL LECTURE SERIES

The revolutionary party and the history of the British working class

Merthyr Tydfil

Caedraw School
Merthyr Tydfil
7 p.m.

Sundays April 8 and 22

Lectures given by Peter Jeffries

The Unions and the working class in Britain.

The Revolutionary Past of the British working class—and its future.

The Transformation of the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.

READING

Trotsky, Where is Britain Going? Problems of the British Revolution.

Perspectives for Transforming the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.

Marxist Analysis of the Crisis.

SLL LECTURE SERIES

The Socialist Revolution in Britain

Middleton (nr Manchester)

Langley Community Centre
Middleton
4 p.m.

Sunday April 8

Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter
(SLL Central Committee)

The Socialist Revolution in Britain:

3. The state and revolution. Reformism and revolution in Britain. The fight for democratic rights today means preparing for working-class power.

Basic reading:

Perspectives for transforming the SLL into a revolutionary party.

Marxist Analysis of the Crisis. Problems of the British Revolution (Trotsky).

Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International, Communist Manifesto.

Dockers tighten strike grip

THE LONDON dockers' walk-out took a tighter grip on the port yesterday, with 36 ships idle as opposed to 27 on Monday.

Dockland was silent yesterday morning. All 7,000 men in the enclosed docks stayed away solidly without the need for pickets.

The only sign of activity was a mass meeting at Tilbury, where dockers remained out after being told their 18-man committee would seek official backing from the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Later the 18-man committee, which comprises 12 T&GWU dockers and six members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores' and Dockers' Union, met shop stewards from the riverside wharfs in an attempt to spread the stoppage.

The men in the enclosed docks walked out after employers refused to accept their with-

BY DAVID MAUDE

drawal from flexible manning arrangements.

In protest against the employers' £2.60 pay offer, the dockers had decided to 'devalue' the Devlin Phase Two conditions Green Book and demand more men in gangs and only one job per shift.

The employers were committed to withdrawing the offer and putting men off pay altogether if this happened.

A mass meeting has been called for Friday and the enclosed docks employers, meeting yesterday morning, decided they had little choice but to wait for the outcome before making their next move.

HULL dockers, meanwhile, were determined yesterday afternoon to go ahead with a 24-hour strike this week following the discharge by unregistered labour

of a timber ship there on Sunday.

The ship, the 'Inge Fiedler', a Dutch vessel, arrived secretly at Bankside wharf in the early hours of Sunday morning.

By 3.30 p.m. eight non-registered men employed by wharf owners W. S. Barchard and Son Ltd, working under a heavy police guard, had unloaded the ship's 400 tons of French beech and battened it down for sea.

The Hull dockers, who have conducted a long campaign against unregistered wharfs, are bitterly angry at the failure of the recent National Ports Council report on the subject to recommend their registration under the Dock Labour Scheme.

They have demanded the recall of the T&GWU docks delegate conference in this issue.

Both this issue and the London stoppage are expected to form the main items for discussion at Saturday's meeting of the national port shop stewards' committee in Birmingham.

Dagenham meeting rejects offer

Ford militants critical of union lead

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

FORD workers at the Dagenham complex rejected the company's latest pay offer yesterday, but they turned down a call for a nationwide overtime ban in support of their £10 claim.

The two decisions were taken at a morning mass meeting of about 20,000 workers. After the vote militant shop stewards criticized the union leadership for failing to give a clear lead.

The Dagenham meeting is the first of a series to be held throughout the Ford empire. The plant verdicts will be considered on Friday by the 15 unions involved in the claim.

They will decide what future action to take in the combine. Meanwhile the men are being told that the union will back any action they take.

Transport and General Workers official Fred Blake said the Dagenham vote was decisive.

'This is the biggest area in the combine and will be a big factor in deciding future action. National strike action is never ruled out,' he said.

Despite this kind of talk many of the most militant shop floor leaders were clearly dissatisfied with the way union officials presented the claim. While calling for its rejection they offered no lead whatsoever on how the future campaign was to be fought or how Ford workers could successfully challenge the government pay laws which have dictated the Ford offer.

Opening the meeting Fred Blake repeated the union's earlier argument that Ford could break the Tory pay laws on their own and make an acceptable offer.

He said all the 15 unions had rejected the offer put forward last Friday which made only minor improvements in holidays and penalty clauses. Some unions had taken a hard line and insisted any concessions to Ford would be tantamount to compromise with wage restraint but one union had urged a ballot of the membership.

He said the unions were asking the men to reject the offer and let them decide on future action on Friday. In the meantime the officials would back any action the men took in support of the claim.

Ron Todd district secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union said that the company had insisted on a standstill in pay and grading for the duration of the agreement if it was accepted by the men.

WORKERS at the Dagenham body plant voted to continue their overtime ban and to reject the company offer at separate sectional meetings yesterday morning. The framing, sub-assembly and underbody sections voted heavily against the offer, but there was a split — noticeably between younger, more militant workers and older men — in the other areas.

The global figure of the current offer, he added was £12.75m, compared to £30m in 1970 and £36m in 1971-1972.

Bob Dalziel, district secretary for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, foundry section, was the only official who appealed to the meeting over the pay laws.

'There is plenty of advice going about in the Press, on the radio and TV telling you what to do. I think that it is time, after the months of negotiation, that you should make up your own minds.

'We know this lot in Westminster are going to screw the working class. We have had VAT, Phase One, Phase Two and Phase Three to come. It is clear that the Tory government are determined to impose wage restraint for a generation or more. This is what is involved in your decision.'

After the offer was rejected by an estimated three to one majority, a resolution from the Dagenham Press Trim and Assembly plant calling for a nationwide ban on overtime was put to the meeting. But the officials declared that this was lost by a narrow majority.

While the men were meeting at Dagenham, Ford workers at the Daventry World Spares Centre agreed to the company's offer and called off a work-to-rule and overtime ban. Their position in the dispute will not be clear, however, until the unions have met on Friday.

Miners ballot against strike action

BY ROYSTON BULL OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE RESULT of the miners' ballot rejecting the NUM executive's recommendation for a national strike against the government-imposed pay settlement is a direct consequence of the capitulation by TUC leaders to the state control of wages.

As Joe Gormley himself said after announcing the result yesterday:

'The miners perhaps thought that after the TUC special Congress [where Jones and Scanlon sidetracked the call for a General Strike by asking for a one-day stoppage] they would be on their own fighting government policy.'

The NUM president added: 'It would be wrong to draw the conclusion that the miners have voted to accept the government's policies or that they are satisfied with this wage settlement.'

'But they saw what was happening around them and said: we'll take what we can get now, and keep negotiating.

'Maybe the miners are being more realistic than anyone believed. They will go into action when the time is right. When the time is wrong, they'll tell you.'

Gormley admitted he was surprised that only 36.6 per cent (82,631) voted for strike action, and 63.4 per cent (143,006) against.

He thought that last year's seven-week strike and even longer overtime ban was still too near for the miners to decide to strike again.

He said the deal, with extra pension rights and other fringe benefits, like smokeless fuel allowance, was worth about £3 a week.

The NUM will ask for its implementation from April 1, and for more talks on holidays, hours and productivity.

In the ballot, 225,637 votes were cast out of a possible 290,000. No area reached the necessary 55 per cent in favour of strike action.

Yorkshire, the biggest coalfield, came closest with 53 per cent, followed by Scotland, 51 per cent, South Wales, 50 per cent, and Kent, 49 per cent.

Of the other 19 areas, only Derbyshire, North Wales, and Cumberland went over 40 per cent.

Emlyn Williams, South Wales vice-president of the union and

commented: 'Naturally we are disappointed, but we are not surprised because we are of the view that the national leader-

ship out-manoeuvred the members.

'Negotiations started on three priorities in November: wages, craftsmen's differentials, and a shorter working week. The Board immediately conceded £2.29 across the board and then for some unknown reason, someone, principally Mr Gormley, introduced the additional week's holiday which was not one of the mandatory negotiable matters.'

Presumably Williams would have asked for less and settled without a fight.

Gormley attacked the TUC for delays in organizing the May 1 day of 'national protest and stoppage'. The NUM was still waiting for an official letter from the TUC containing details of the call to action.

An instruction to strike would require another ballot 'which might get heavily defeated'.

Right-wingers take students' union presidency

BY IAN YEATS

THE PRESIDENCY of the National Union of Students fell to the right wing yesterday on day two of the annual conference at Exeter University.

Digby Jacks' current running mate, York university's Mike Randall, won the election on the fourth ballot in a close finish with fellow national executive member Mike Terry, who was backed by the Communist Party.

But voting at the union's biggest-ever conference took place in an atmosphere of frustration and confusion at the marking time over the national grants campaign as prices soar.

Of the 1,100 students packed into the Great Hall at Devonshire House, only 600 voted with some delegates tearing up their

cards in disgust.

Randall is regarded as a left-winger, although he is not a CP member, and has been careful not to identify closely with the Stalinist-inspired tactics which have so far dominated the fight for higher grants.

A solid middle-of-the-road social democrat, he said the NUS must develop as a strong union and play its part in the struggles of the labour movement.

But the Stalinist and revisionist exhortations to escalate the grants campaign with a still bigger show of militancy to force open the Tory Chancellor's purse fell on deaf ears.

The conference was thirsting after an assurance that although the present fight could not be taken much further, they could still win. Randall's 'no compromise' platform gave it to them.

The fact that his stance turned out to mean no more than securing an 'equitable distribution' of whatever money the Tories were prepared to make available for grants was passed over in the frustration at seeing the Stalinist campaign immovably stalled.

In the elections for president the results were:
Mike Randall (right-wing Labour) 306

Mike Terry (Communist Party backed) 270

Mike Hill (International Socialist Group) 136

Piers Corbin (International Marxist Group) 27

Brian Prangle (Young Socialist Student Society) 13

In the election for vice-president Communist Party member Stuart Paul, with a militant-sounding policy of full backing for the TUC's campaign against the Tory pay laws, received 353 votes, Roger Haworth got 231 votes, Richard Palser (International Marxist Group) 31, and Dusty Miller (Young Socialist Student Society candidate) 17.

**13th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
YOUNG SOCIALISTS
BLACKPOOL APRIL 14/15 1973**

FOR DETAILS
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SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 14 & 15, WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL