

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY APRIL 5, 1973 ● No 1040 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TUC IN NEW TALKS WITH TORIES

FEATHER PREPARES PHASE THREE SELL-OUT

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BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

TUC leaders yesterday held fresh talks with premier Edward Heath preparing the way for the introduction of Phase Three of the state pay laws.

Attending the amiable discussions with Heath at the National Economic Development Council were TUC general secretary Victor Feather, engineers' president Hugh Scanlon and transport union leader Jack Jones.

The meeting came three days after the introduction of the Phase Two pay laws which outlaw the basic right to free wage negotiations. The talks were also held against a background of soaring prices, fuelled by VAT, and a rapidly worsening crisis for British capitalism.

During yesterday's secret gathering, the union leaders made no complaints whatsoever about the crippling price inflation hitting high street shoppers. The discussion mainly centred on the recent Tory Budget.

The signal for this new round of class-collaboration with the Tories was given a week ago by Scanlon when he addressed the Parliamentary Press Gallery at the House of Commons.

He and the rest of the General Council believe they can strike a deal with Heath so that the Phase Three strait-jacket on wages is voluntary.

This was the same treacherous nonsense which led the trade union leaders into the tripartite talks at Chequers and No. 10 Downing Street at the end of last year.

There can be nothing decided voluntarily with Heath.

The economic crisis which overshadows these talks dictates that the Tories must pauperize the working class and destroy its basic democratic rights in order that British capitalism is prevented from disintegration and recession.

● PAY laws, which put an end to free wage negotiations, are to be ruthlessly applied.

● FOOD prices, rents, interests and the like are permitted to soar.

The Pay Board's objective is to police all negotiations and ban 'excessive' awards, while giving the appearance of sorting out 'anomalies'. Far from protecting 'special cases', the Pay Board will be an instrument for state-controlled wage-cutting.

The TUC leaders have had some successes in fragmenting the early struggles against Phase Two, wearing down some groups of strikers by refusing to come to their aid and others by totally ignoring them.

With support from the 'lefts' like Scanlon and Jones, backed by the Communist Party, the TUC has managed to avoid the General Strike call and substituted a one-day protest instead.

To cut living standards by the huge amount the Tories require is likely to involve actual wage reductions.

Certainly a nil wage norm is the Tories' immediate objective.

To get this, the trade union movement will have to be smashed.

But far from the trade unions being destroyed and

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Three St George's pickets arrested

THREE pickets were arrested late yesterday at St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, where they are on selective strike action for higher pay.

Despite harassment from the police, the pickets have managed to stop many vehicles from crossing the line.

On Monday all the ancillary staff staged a one-day strike and since then the maids and the branch management committee have been maintaining the picket stopping non-essential services.

The mood of the strikers is hardening following 'inflammatory' statements by the hospital management.

Earlier in the week, Richard Ellis, the house governor, made a statement that the industrial action was creating health and fire hazards. These exaggerated claims have been completely repudiated by the workers' committee.

St George's workers will send a strong delegation to today's mass rally and march through London.

Police wade into hospital 'take-over'

POLICE went into action yesterday against Darlington hospital workers who tried to stage a 'take-over' of a boiler house.

Strikers got into Darlington's Imperial Hospital in a bid to pull out the plugs as a protest against strike-breaking, but police moved in to stop them.

This action follows widespread intimidation of pickets in the north.

Bernard Dix, research officer for the National Union of Public Employees, said that police had been going round in Manchester and other centres in the north telling hospital workers to reduce their picket to four (see story p. 3).

'There is no basis in law for this figure,' he said. 'But it seems widespread.'

Obviously a change of law on picketing is in the air and four is the number being muted.'

The strike was stepped up yesterday in Sheffield where staff at eight hospitals went on a three-day strike.

They were joined by ancillary workers at five Barnsley hospitals. In both areas bed occupation was reduced to less than 50 per cent of normal.

The latest in a planned series of 24-hour strikes in the West Midlands hit the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

About 250 workers, including transport, domestic staff and some porters walked out.

Week-long strikes at the Jaffray Hospital's laundry at Erdington, and High View Hospital, Nuneaton, continued, but work was re-

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WHAT WE THINK

Don't be fooled by miners' vote

THE TORY Press is rejoicing too soon at the result of the miners' strike ballot. 'The Times' claims a victory for the Tories and says the miners are 'less militant'; 'The Guardian' says the government has 'won the battle'; the 'Daily Mail' says the miners are 'heralds of spring' for the government; and the 'Daily Telegraph' claims they have 'backed down' and given Heath 'a vote of confidence'.

These anti-working class forces are making a serious mistake in underestimating the feeling in the coalfields. Miners have a record of class-consciousness and struggle second to none. Their fight in 1926, when they battled alone for nine months after the TUC had betrayed the General Strike, is only one peak in their history.

Last year they brought the Tory government to its knees in a seven-week political strike. The clear lesson of that strike was the need for a revolutionary leadership which would not pull back from forcing the Tory government to resign.

A significant number of miners began to draw that lesson. As one man told Workers Press during the strike:

'Everyone takes it for granted the Tories have got to get out. Any Labour government would have to go for a complete change of policy. We want a group of people who understand that the goods we produce are ours. We work to get from the work the value of it. We want leaders who recognize that the working people are the only people who matter.'

It was the absence of such leadership which pulled the miners back from forcing the Tory government out of office. It has been the union leaders, backed up by the Communist Party, which have successively isolated the postal workers, engineers, dockers, railwaymen, gasmen, hospital staffs, teachers and every other section of the working class which has clashed with the Tories' anti-union legislation and state pay laws.

The reformists and Stalinists have persistently rejected the political implications of these struggles. They have united against the only possibility of victory—an unlimited General Strike to create the conditions for forcing the Tory government to resign.

But the Tories have not won the battle.

Capitalism's international crisis, soaring inflation, currency chaos and ruthless trade war, rages on towards even greater crisis. Despite the best efforts of the trade union bureaucrats and their Stalinist friends, industrial peace is not possible. As Trotsky said: 'The laws of history are stronger than the bureaucratic apparatus.'

The Tories must seek to solve this crisis at the expense of the working class through intensification of labour, unemployment, lower wages, higher prices and state control of the unions.

If, in these circumstances, the miners vote against taking on the Tories today they reflect the beginning of a mass realization of the crisis of leadership—the central question on which turns the entire future of the working class.

It is on this basis that revolutionary consciousness can be developed and the revolutionary party built.

That is the task of the Socialist Labour League in the period ahead.

Immediate reaction as builder dies

Demonstrations over Barcelona killing

BY JUAN GARCIA

A WAVE of protest strikes spread through Barcelona province yesterday against the police murder of Manuel Fernandez Marquez.

Marquez (29) a builder and married man with a two-year-old son, was killed when the fascist police opened fire on a demonstration of 2,000

building workers in the northern suburb of San Adrian de Besos.

The Civil Governor claimed that 'demonstrators made violent attacks on the police'. The fact is that armed police opened fire on workers demonstrating peacefully.

The strike began on Monday when the employers—Contro y Aplicaciones, Sociedad Argentina de Electricidad and Constructora

Pirenaica—refused to grant a wage increase and reduce the working-week from 48 to 40 hours.

The building workers were locked out and their employers stated yesterday that anyone who failed to report for work next Monday would be sacked.

A second demonstrator who was shot in the neck is in a 'satisfactory' condition according to his doctors.

Hundreds of students marched through the centre of Barcelona yesterday and a group of 40 threw stones at the central offices of the main power station.

The building workers' dispute is only one of many in Catalonia.

A sit-in strike was staged at the Cinca factory recently when the management dismissed several workers.

It was broken up by police using tear-gas bombs and batons.

At the Hispano-Olivetti typewriter plant, workers have been on strike since February 12 against the victimization of two militants.

A mass meeting of parents and children in the textile town of Mataro was dispersed by police on Monday.

The main demand was: 'We want free education!' A TELEX line was opened up between Madrid and Peking last weekend. And a high-powered seminar is being conducted in Madrid this week on the possibilities of trade expansion with China.

Talks are also proceeding between trade representatives from eastern Europe and the Spanish trade department.

● See Stalinists aid Franco pp. 10 & 11. Also Spanish series p. 5.

Costliest Californian trial deadlocked

RUCHELL MAGEE, charged with killing a judge in a court-room escape attempt, gave a clenched fist salute after a mis-trial was declared in the costliest case in Californian legal history. After more than 50 hours' deliberation over eight days, the jury reported on Tuesday it was hopelessly deadlocked.

Magee was charged with shooting Judge Harold Haley and kidnapping five people from the Marin County courtroom in August 1971. It was the same case—estimated to have cost

£400,000—in which Angela Davis was acquitted last year on charges of planning and providing guns for the attempt.

But unlike Miss Davis, who has since been feted by the Stalinist bureaucracy around the world, Ruchell Magee received no support from the Moscow propaganda machine.

He could now face a second trial, though his defence lawyer Robert Carrow said he doubted whether the state would try him again for the Marin County shootings.



Magee standing behind Judge Haley

Kremlin trade associations set up

GROWING economic difficulties have forced the Soviet bureaucracy, in the third year of the current Five-Year Plan, to introduce a major industrial reorganization.

Under plans announced in 'Pravda', new nationwide associations will be set up to run industry, reducing the powers of both the economic ministries and the plant managers.

The new bodies will be controlled by boards of directors and be responsible for research and development in the industry concerned.

The reorganization is an admission that the much heralded 'economic reforms' initiated in 1965, which gave greater powers to plant managers, have failed to deliver the goods.

Many industries, especially those producing consumer goods, failed to meet their plan targets last year. The whole Five-Year Plan is lagging behind schedule.

Many criticisms have been voiced in high-level party meetings and in the Press of 'shortcomings' in industry ranging from under-utilization of capacity to outright corruption.

Now the bureaucracy is trying to find some way of overcoming its crisis by yet another administrative reform.

The first attempt to deal with the problems inherited from the Stalin period of forced draught industrialization and over-centralization came under Khrushchev.

He abolished the industrial ministries altogether and transferred their powers to regional economic councils where for a few years the local bureaucrats revelled in their greater freedom from centralized control.

Khrushchev's successors abandoned this policy and returned to the centralized ministries.

Under the 'economic reform' more initiative was left to the plant managers in

deciding how to meet plan targets.

They were given financial incentives as well as control over enterprise funds for welfare, housing and bonus payments. These powers are now to be taken away or greatly whittled down.

It seems probable that the bureaucracy has been influenced by the management methods used by the big capitalist corporations with which it wishes peacefully to co-exist.

Each industry will form a giant corporation with a certain degree of autonomy subject to overall control by the state planning commission.

The boards of these associations, as they are called, will have to decide what to do about lagging enterprises and take steps to increase efficiency and labour productivity.

They will be powerful arms of the bureaucracy against the Soviet working class, which is opposing speed-up and strict labour discipline and demanding

more and better consumer goods.

The new measure represents an empirical turn by the bureaucracy in the face of this growing working-class opposition.

The main factor holding back the development of the nationalized productive forces is the policy of 'socialism in one country', to which the Stalinist bureaucracy adheres.

It is now establishing closer economic ties with world capitalism in an attempt to solve its economic crisis.

It is significant that the new industrial associations will have powers to suggest goods for export and will have funds for export promotion.

This raises the danger that they will be able to make direct deals with foreign capitalist firms, breach the monopoly of foreign trade and open up a channel for the penetration of capitalist influences into the planned economy.

Dangerous plant by plant decision on Ford pay

CAR ASSEMBLY and transmission workers from Ford's Halewood, Liverpool, plants meet tonight to decide their attitude to the company's latest pay offer, already rejected by workers at Dagenham.

Last night men from the body stamping plant at Halewood voted on the offer which conforms exactly to Phase Two of the Tory pay laws.

Although Dagenham workers rejected the offer, there is confusion in the ranks, mainly due to the complete absence of a lead from union officials and leading shop stewards.

The question uppermost in men's minds at their Tuesday meeting was the government pay laws. The unions remain largely silent

on these, using the fatuous argument that Ford should agree to break the £1 plus 4 per cent norm and improve their £2.40 offer.

The failure to launch any campaign against the Tory government strengthens the weakest elements who want to accept the offer.

The unions have left it to this extremely late hour before considering any form of official national action. This has fragmented the plants throughout the country.

At Dagenham a 'ginger group' of younger stewards is pressing for action and a lead from the union.

'How can we be expected to keep working 40 hours and banning overtime if some other plants are working seven days a week?'

asked one engine plant steward after Tuesday's meeting.

'The trouble is, we have separate plants doing separate things. We should have a lead.'

'I think the unions should start an overtime ban in all the plants. If that doesn't work, we should have a series of strikes, perhaps one day a week.'

Another young steward said: 'A lot of the men are voting for the offer not because they think it is fair—obviously it does not even keep up with the standard of living—but because no one is telling them how they can fight the government.'

'The officials keep on coming back to us until they get an acceptance of the offer,' he said.



The vote at Dagenham on Tuesday

Protest on May Day—without illusions

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE ENGINEERS' leaders have instructed their members to strike on May 1. As far as it goes this is correct and should be followed by every union executive.

Some union leaders have already decided to violate the decision taken at the special TUC Congress of March 5 by voting against action. Others have taken the more cowardly way out and 'left it up to the branches'—a policy which is almost an open invitation for strike-breakers.

But it is not right to say, as the Communist Party's 'Morning Star' did yesterday, that the engineers' decision 'wipes from Heath's face the smile'.

Heath will be happy before May Day and after it.

The Tories have already reconciled themselves to losing production because of the TUC protest. The bigger prize is now within their grasp—full union co-operation with the Pay Board and acceptance of the corporate state philosophy on which the pay laws are based.

This is ample compensation for the Tory frustration on May Day.

The government has witnessed the postal workers accept the Pay Board.

They have heard Hugh Scanlon—the president of the same engineers who will be striking on May 1—offer a deal. And they now see the civil servants abandoning action through lack of TUC support.

The reason for Heath's smile is to be found therefore at the top of the trade union movement among TUC members and union leaders who solemnly swore on March 5 to prevent any group of workers being bled to death by this government—only to cast aside their promises weeks afterwards.

This kind of treachery causes the joy in Tory circles.

It is the duty of every single worker to strike on May Day and every militant and socialist in the labour movement must campaign unceasingly for the biggest possible turn-out.

But workers must protest without illusion. May Day in itself is totally insufficient.

There is only one way to deal with the Tories—a mass industrial and political mobilization to bring them down.

But it is this political task which raises the question of power, which the TUC—'left' and right—and the Communist Party Stalinists are determined to avoid in favour of ultimate class-collaboration with the Heath government.

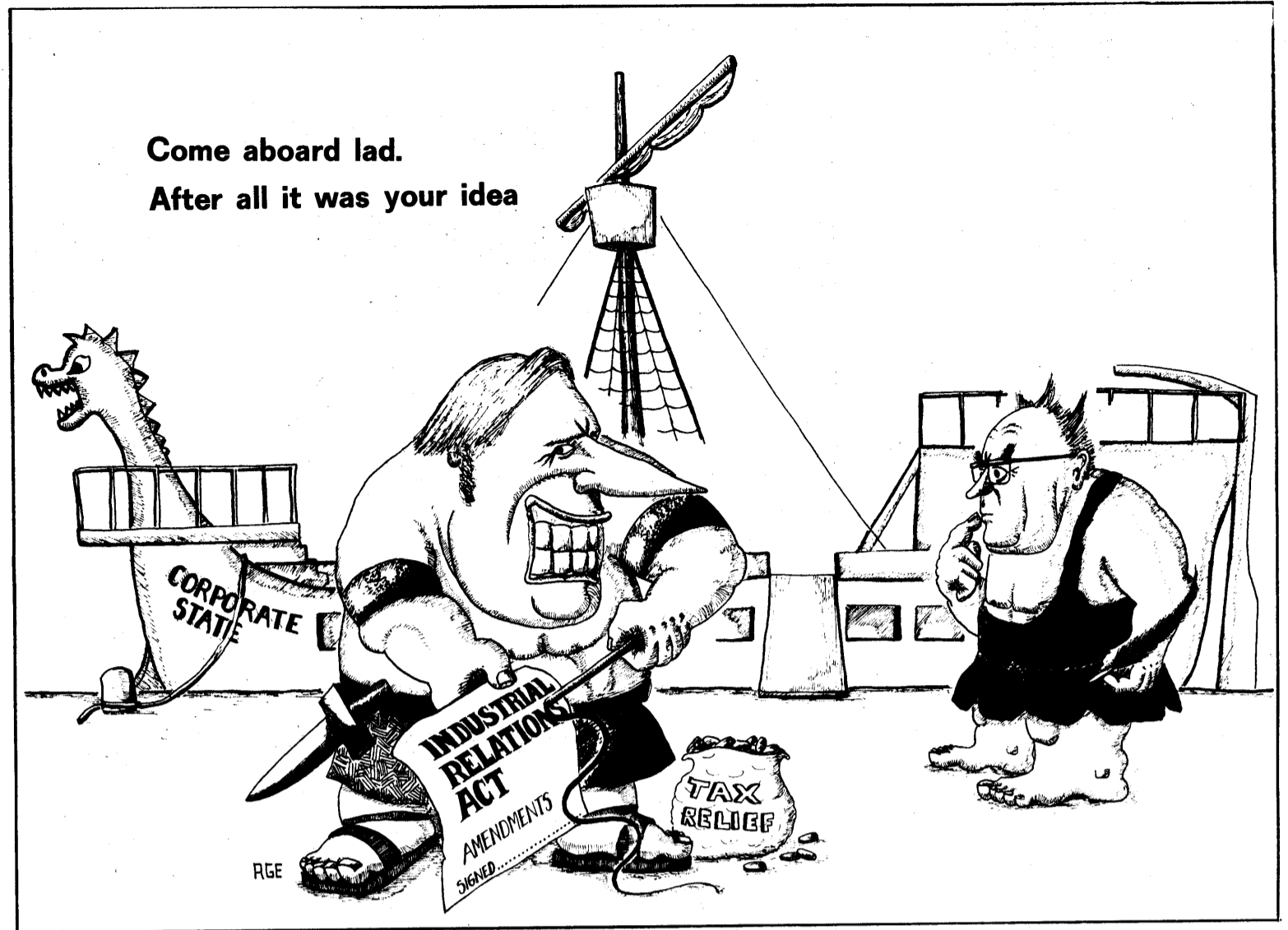
Nurses taken to Pay Board

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

NURSES' leaders accepted Phase Two pay awards and agreed to take their next claim to the newly-established Pay Board.

The 340,000 National Health Service nurses and midwives are to get awards ranging from £78 to £225 a year. The agreement takes effect from April 1.

Nurses are grotesquely underpaid. Under the state pay laws student nurses of 18 will get rises of £78 a year to bring their salaries up to £699.



Butter glut—but prices to rise

BUTTER will go up by about 4p a pound next month and is likely to go up by a further 2p by the end of the year.

The price rises are being introduced in line with Common Market policy.

The new attacks on the housewives' budget are all the more criminal because Britain's current stock of

butter is an enormous 150,000 tons.

Of this amount, 103,000 tons are held in public stores compared with 81,000 tons a year ago.

So, although there is a huge surplus of butter—both in Britain and the EEC itself—prices are being raised to 'ensure a good return for producers'.

Earlier this week, Mr Anthony Beresford, president of the Food Manufac-

turers' Federation, said that butter prices would rise by up to 24 per cent by the end of the year.

As prices continue to soar there is a concerted propaganda campaign in favour of synthetic meat.

People are being told that they can give up eating meat, cheese, eggs and fresh vegetables and eat synthetic products.

The most widely known product is Kesp, made by

the chemical and textile giant, Courtaulds.

It is spun protein made from beans and is already being fed experimentally to children at schools in northern England.

Professor J. Hawthorn, the Professor of Food Science at Strathclyde University, said at a convention yesterday:

The new vegetable proteins, replacing meat proteins, will first be

used alongside meat in mixed dishes such as pies, hamburgers, meat sauces, sausages and the like.

Their immediate use will be to combat, by partial replacement, the rising trend in meat prices, and during this period the technology will improve.

The substitutes will gradually become foods in their own right and we will enjoy them for their own sake.

Hospital pickets restricted

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

POLICE in Manchester are to go on applying their 'four pickets only' rule outside hospitals in the city. A spokesman said that numbers have to be kept down to prevent possible breaches of the peace.

Trouble started last week when police swooped on pickets outside Hope Hospital, Salford, and cut the picket down to four men.

This followed a statement by J. B. Duckworth the Salford Hospital group secretary, attacking pickets. But the police deny they were acting under instruction from the hospital board or the Home Office.

'We make our own estimation,' said the spokesman. 'The size of the picket depends on the size of the hospital gates.'

'At Hope and at Ladywell in Eccles these are narrow and a crowd of ten or 12 men in the entrance may lead to trouble.'

'A driver may come up and a heated exchange may occur—there are always a few hot-heads and the whole thing may lead to a breach of the peace,' he said.

Hospital workers say that the effect of cutting the picket down to four is to make their action far less effective.

They hit back at this police action last Friday when a mass picket was launched outside Hope hospital gates.

Workers from several other hospitals in the city joined in with builders from the Hope hospital site in a 60-strong solidarity action. Police observed the demonstration from cars but did not intervene.

Since then the picket at Hope has been kept at its normal strength of six to eight strikers—hospital drivers who have been out for six weeks.

Their shop steward, Arthur Craven, said that so far there had been no fresh challenge from the police.

'We expected trouble on Friday, but this did not materialize,' he said.

'I think we have pushed them back. They will not shake us. We have been 100 per cent out since the strike started and we have said this is indefinite. We will stay out until October if necessary.'

Mr Craven voiced a common

complaint when he took up the lack of contact between the union leadership and the rank and file.

'We are not told anything about the course of the campaign. We have to wait for the local paper to find out which hospitals are on strike and which ones are going back.'

'It is sometimes demoralizing for the lads. It's about time the

unions started backing our struggle—as it is we are out on our own.'

The keen interest by Manchester police in picketing is part of a national trend.

New laws are expected to give the police clear legal powers to break up pickets. Meanwhile the police forces are filling in the gaps with their own 'freelance' action (see page 1).

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EPILEPTIC FITS— POLICE DEVELOP A NEW WEAPON

A new weapon which breaks up demonstrations by causing epileptic fits among demonstrators is being developed by a major supplier of police and military equipment.

The firm, Allen International of Westminster, is building what it calls a phonic driver which uses inaudible noises in invisible light to achieve its effects.

Scientists have long known that a combination of flashing light and loud noise can cause epileptic fits in a certain proportion of the population.

About 5 per cent of people actually go into a fit under these conditions, while another 25 per cent feel 'strange'—giddy, sick or disoriented. Some may faint.

Ultra-sound

Allen have refined the principle by using ultra-sound—which is outside the range of the human ear—and infra-red light which cannot be seen. Infra-red pulses pass through the eyelids and will work even if the victims close their eyes.

According to the 'New Scientist', the phonic driver is not a priority project because the company's main trade is in bugging and night vision devices. But chief engineer Charles Bovill has received encouragement and research facilities from a military neurologist.

New experiments on the device are planned later this year. It is also known that the US Air Force has conducted research into similar devices.

Dr William Grey Walter, a Bristol neurologist who was one of the discoverers of the epileptic effects of flashing lights, has sharply condemned the research.

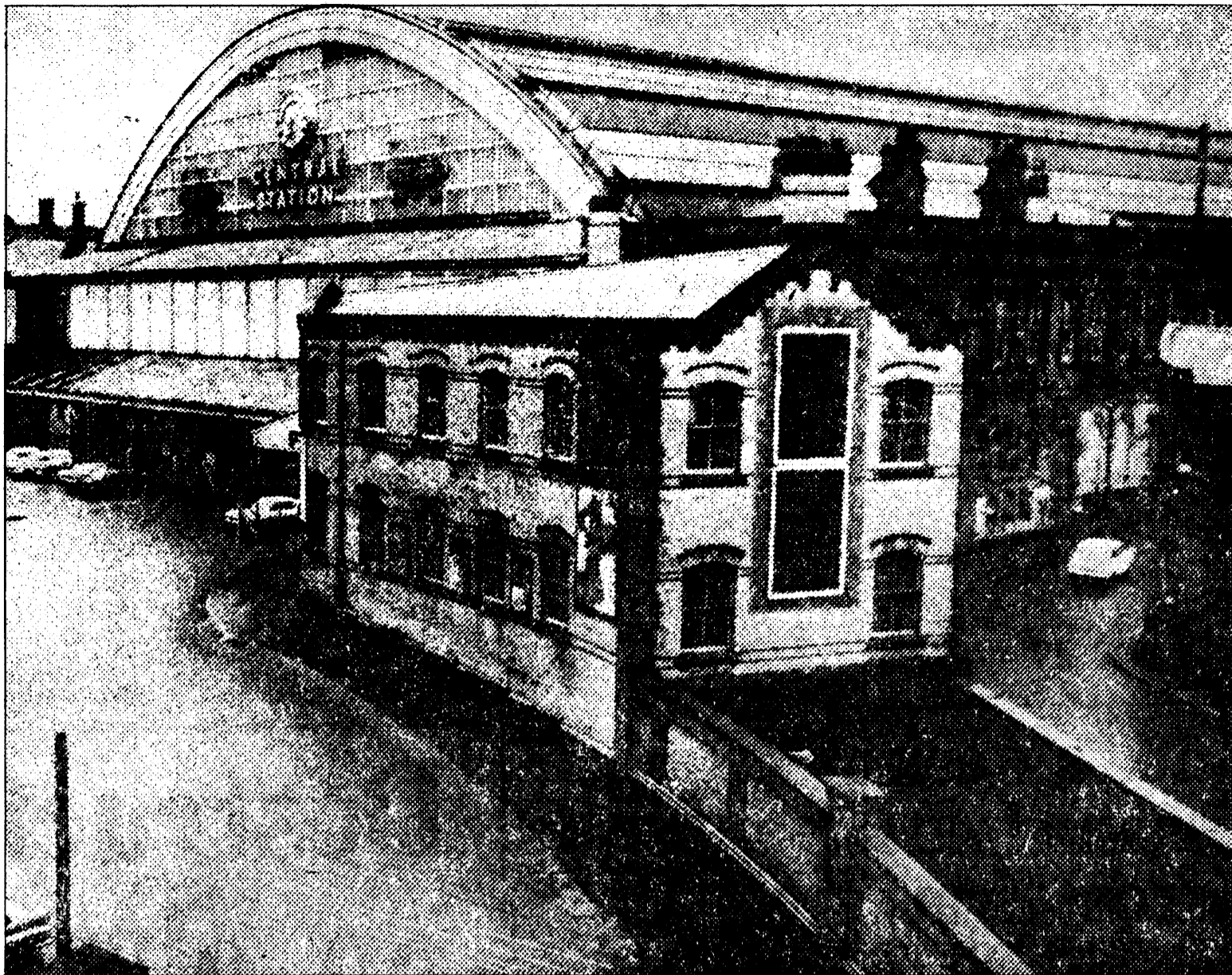
'It would be dangerous to cause epileptic fits, especially for the first time, in people and I would certainly consider it unethical,' he said. Dr Grey Walter doubted whether the device would have any really mass effect on a crowd.

'The very real danger would be when a person was caused to have such a fit for the first time,' he said. 'Such a person who has never had an epileptic fit before would then be more likely to have subsequent fits.'

'Non-violent'

Bovill claims his phonic driver would be 'non-violent' but epilepsy experts are not so sure. Collapsing epileptics could break bones as they hit the ground and if their tongues drop back in their throat, as sometimes happens, they could be asphyxiated.

The phonic driver, if it ever gets beyond the laboratory stage, looks like joining such previously acclaimed 'non-lethal' devices as CS gas, the rubber bullet and the water cannon. At one time or another all these weapons were regarded as the answer to the policeman's prayer.



HOW TO MAKE A MILLION

Labour MP Alf Morris has tried unsuccessfully to raise in the House of Commons the sale of Manchester Central Station by British Rail to private property developers.

Manchester Corporation twice sought to buy the 23-acre site and on the second occasion did not even receive a reply to its offer from British Rail.

Morris claims that soon after its closure, nearly five years ago, the station became the subject of 'unreported negotiations between unnamed property developers, unnamed architects and unnamed officials'.

However, after these long

and secret dealings, Manchester Corporation was told that the property had been sold to McCrae Holdings Ltd. In fact, it was bought by Mr Patrick McCrae Holdings Ltd. In fact, Arkle Holdings Ltd. The price was reported to be £2.7m.

McCrae and his associates swiftly sold out to the English and Continental Property Company. The profit was said to be £1m.

McCrae's bankers, Dalton Barton, were taken over by Keyser Ullmann, the big city bank which is headed by Edward du Cann MP, chairman of the Tory backbenchers' 1922 Committee and a past national chairman of the Conservative Party.

According to the Manchester 'Evening News', a spokesman for English and Continental said the only reason they

acquired Arkle was because of Central Station.

There are now said to be plans for a £30-£40m development of the site, including a million square feet of office space, housing accommodation for 300 people, shopping space and an exhibition hall.

English and Continental is a London-based property group which was recently involved in a £100m deal in the City of London, Wales and Scotland. The buyers were the Post Office Superannuation Fund and the main beneficiaries were Jack Walker and Ramon Green, who have a 49 per cent stake in English and Continental.

They were said to have made £40m from that deal.

The other 51 per cent interest in E&CP is held by the Crown Agents—a semi-government body for whose solicitors Jack Walker worked before moving into property three years ago.

An official inquiry began into the Crown Agents in 1971, following an investigation into their activities by 'The Guardian'.

Du Cann's firm, Keyser Ullmann, plans to take up some 300,000 square feet of

Above: Manchester Central Station — a 23-acre site which brought £1m profit.

office space, together with merchant bankers Samuel Montague, in a planned multi-million pound development in Throgmorton Street, near the London Stock Exchange.

The designers of this project are Fitzroy Robinson and Partners—who are also the designers for the redevelopment of the London Coal Exchange site. The company behind this is Town and Commercial Properties, a banking, insurance and land group with more than 70 subsidiaries and assets of almost £100m.

Town and Commercial Properties made a profit last year of £6,685,000—an increase of £3,511,000 over the previous year. But this is only the seventh largest property company in Britain.


The largest is Land Securities Investment Trust, which made £28,582,000 profit last year.

The second largest is the Metropolitan Estate and Property Corporation which made £20,172,000 profit last year.

MEPC's chairman is Sir Henry Johnson, former British Rail chief.

POLITICAL PROFILES

By LEON TROTSKY
Paperback. £1.00 Illustrated



Sharp pen-portraits of leading figures of the Second International in Russia and Europe, for the first time published in an English edition. The translations were first commissioned by the Young Socialists' paper 'Keep Left' Their enormous success has led to the completion of the translation of the whole book, which is the first part of Volume 8 of Leon Trotsky's 'Works' published in the Soviet Union in 1926. It provides the most vivid picture available of the historic figures of the Second International, their strengths and weaknesses, written by an observer who was also a participant in the daily struggle of the European and Russian working class.

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ANGILLARY EXODUS OVER CONDITIONS

There is a massive exodus from the hospital service by ancillary workers because of the appalling conditions they suffer and the pay they earn.

These shock allegations come in a recent survey of staff turnover in the Manchester United Hospital group—often over 100 per cent a year and rarely below 50 per cent.

At Barnes hospital, Manchester, for example, the turnover among porters was 125 per cent between April 1972 and March 1973 and among domestics an incredible 153 per cent.

At Manchester Royal Infirmary, the biggest hospital in the city, there was a 101-per-cent turnover in laundry staff.

The picture is the same at the specialist hospitals. At the Royal Eye Hospital, the turn-

over among orderlies was 67 per cent and over half the domestic staff at the dental hospital left over the last six months.

Stan Seddon, branch chairman at the National Union of Public Employees, blamed conditions and pay.

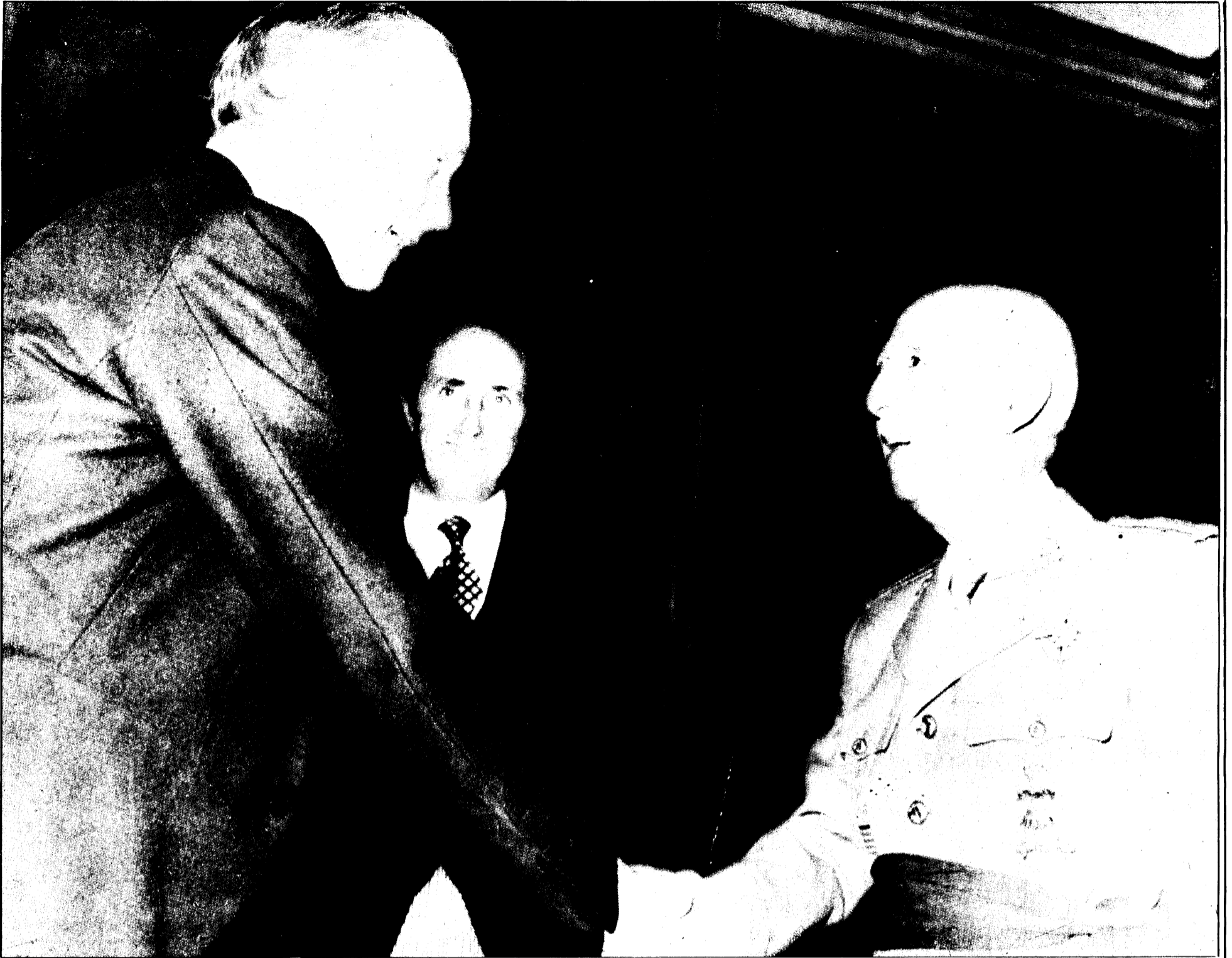
Kitchens at Manchester Royal Infirmary, he alleges, are infested with mice and cockroaches, despite regular visits by a disinfectant firm.

The domestics who clean the wards and wash pots get only one change of overall a week.

At the dental hospital, women cleaners have to change in a basement corridor outside the men's toilets. Facilities are poor and the basement is a cockroach-infested laundry store.

Staff talk of 'dictators of the wards'—middle management—who bawl them out before the public in hospital corridors.

After considering the complaints for three hours, the hospital board decided not to comment.



Corporatism in Spain by Juan Garcia. — Part three.

THE FRAUD OF DEMOCRATIZING FRANCO'S FASCIST UNION

Both general secretary Santiago Carrillo and Juan Gomez, leading Communist Party 'theoretician' know that the Common Market is an attempt by the most reactionary forces in Europe to deal with the working class.

The head of the EEC Commission in Brussels is Francois Xavier Ortoli. As a minister in De Gaulle's government, he was responsible for consolidating French investment in Spain—he is an open advocate of the Franco regime's entry into the EEC.

Andreotti, Douglas Home and others are of the same opinion.

These representatives of 'democratic' Europe are laying the basis for their own corporate states.

Yet the language of 'national interest' of the leadership of the Spanish CP and its advocacy of Spanish entry into the EEC is no different from the fictions poured out by representatives of capital in Spain.

The chairman of the Seat motor company, Juan Sanchez Cortes, recently called for a renegotiation of Spain's agreement with the EEC and expressed the desire that 'the necessary step to a stage of greater liberalization of trade must take place as a process parallel to the strengthening of our industry'.

As if Cortes did not realize that Seat, Barcelona, is but a branch of the Italian Fiat, just as 'Authi' is a branch of British-Leyland, Citroën-Hispania of Citroën . . .

European capitalists want to use Spain as a main base for investment, to take advantage of the fascist state to produce cheap goods.

The liquidationist policies of Carrillo's party complements the diplomatic and commercial relations established between Franco and the Stalinist bureaucracies in Moscow and eastern Europe.

Carrillo raised some protests when the Polish government broke the strike of miners in the Asturias and when the Soviet Union signed a trade deal with Madrid.

But his party is now fighting to close down what remains of the workers' commissions on the eve of revolutionary struggles between the Spanish working class and the Franco regime.

After all, if there is agreement with the chairman of Seat, why do Seat workers need a workers' commission?

The CP sees its job as 'democratizing' the fascist vertical union.

The Stalinist policy of 'taking over' the official unions is now carried to its logical conclusion after the turn to promoting Spain's entry into the EEC as the centre of party policy.

This is spelt out in a two-part statement, 'Advance with the masses', in the March 1

and 15 issues of 'Mundo Obrero' the Spanish Party's fortnightly paper: 'It is necessary to continue using legal possibilities. These must not be limited to trade union positions, but be extended to the Press, the church, professions, well-known personalities, etc . . .'

Not only is there now a 'vanguard' in the official Organization Sindical which must be won, but attention must be paid to 'that considerable sector of trade union representatives who are not in this vanguard.'

'We must not forget that in the majority of cases these are honest workers whose passivity, lack of combativity, or fear of the consequences of action, are but a reflection of the passivity and initial fears of the great mass of workers.' (Emphasis in original.)

So the working class is blamed for the fact that representatives of the fascist union are passive. Their 'passivity' has presumably no connection with the fact that this union is the official strike-breaking body of the state. There is no passive attitude in the agitated phone calls to the local barracks of the Civil Guard when strikes break out!

The first part of this statement has no mention of the workers' commissions, concentrating solely on the spurious notion of the legal take over.

The second part calls for a new look at the workers' commissions, warning of the danger of routinism: the first



Spanish foreign minister, Lopez Bravo, with Sir Alex Douglas Home. Above: Home, Bravo and General Franco together in Spain. Home, along with other European representatives are open advocates of Spain's entry into the EEC.

workers' commissions were the first chain in the new movement in Spain, but today it is not enough to stop there.

There is a new situation: the workers' commissions have built a strong organization: 'They have won legal positions and in essence have disrupted the bureaucracy in the vertical union.'

Hundreds of militants in the workers' commissions are in Franco's jails, as far as the CP is concerned, in order to take over and disrupt the Organiza-

cion Sindical!

In propagating the lie that the vertical unions have been taken over by real representatives of the working class, the CP builds up the 'liberal' image of the now Euro-centred Franco regime.

The 'defence of the Carabanchel ten'—ten workers' commission members rotting in Franco's jails—has become the most nauseating instrument for fomenting this illusion in the European working class. CONTINUED TOMORROW



ALI BHUTTO'S 'NEW' CONSTITUTION

Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is riding rough shod over all opposition to consolidate his personal power.

The President, who took office in the wake of Pakistan's defeat in the Bangla Desh war, is currently drafting a new constitution.

Nobody has yet seen the full text of this document, which is due to be produced shortly for parliament's ratification.

But there is already plenty of evidence to show that it will be equally as arbitrary as the previous Pakistan constitutions.

Pakistanis have almost lost count of the number of phoney constitutions foisted on them since partition in 1947. At least five have come and gone with the different ruling and military factions that drew them up.

But Bhutto's new version seems to be bidding for the record in terms of sheer deception and fraud.

The President apparently bowed to opposition demands that the constitution should be 'parliamentary' rather than 'presidential'. But the change was in name only. The new constitution enables Bhutto to transform himself from President into Prime Minister for life.

There is virtually no way the Prime Minister can be removed under the new constitution. His opponents would need to gain a two-thirds parliamentary majority in an assembly which is heavily dominated by Bhutto's own People's Party.

Once a vote has been taken on the question of no confidence in the Prime Minister, no further motion of no confidence can be tabled for at least six months. To make quite sure Bhutto is not voted out, members of his own party will be constitutionally barred from polling against him in such a vote.

If the opposition shows any signs of overcoming these formidable obstacles, Bhutto can play his final trump card.

The constitution gives him complete power to dissolve parliament when he wants to and put an end to the whole farcical sham of 'democracy'.

Outside parliament the regime's powers will be equally arbitrary. The constitution ratifies the existing legal situation under which *habeus corpus* and other elementary rights have long been suspended.

These rights disappeared under the state of emergency legislation and the Defence of Pakistan rules which have been in operation for long periods ever since 1947.

Under the new constitution, a policeman can arrest any person without a warrant and hold him indefinitely.

Even Bhutto's Minister of Law, Mahmood Ali Khassuri, found the constitutional draft too much to stomach. A former president of the Punjab Bar Association, he resigned in protest against the draft.

To ensure the passage of this extraordinary document, Bhutto has banned all political

activity throughout Pakistan. This was done on the incredibly cynical basis that there had been shooting at a meeting of the opposition National Awami Party on March 23.

At this meeting, organized by the opposition United Democratic Front, Bhutto's supporters opened up with machine-guns. The opposition put the figure of killed and injured at 13 dead and more than 100 injured. The official figures are nine dead and 65 injured.

Ghulam Mustafa Khar, the provincial governor, announced on television and radio that the ban on all public meetings and processions would remain in force until the constitution was adopted. This leaves Bhutto a clear field to push through the constitution by April 21 without any public manifestations of opposition.

Following the massacre at Rawalpindi, 60 oppositionists were arrested and charged with carrying arms. Khar made a crude effort to blame

the opposition for the Rawalpindi shootings, claiming that the shootings were 'a planned attack by 10,000 armed men of the Pakhtoon Zalmie under a pre-planned scheme'.

Pakhtoon Zalmie is the youth wing of the NAP, the pro-Moscow party headed by Wali Khan which is one of the eight components of the opposition front.

The governor claimed the opposition crowd at the meeting had started the violence by lynching a man who shouted 'Long Live President Bhutto'. This unlikely tale was sufficient grounds, in the eyes of the Pakistan government, to put an end to all rights until the constitution is safely passed.

The opposition, for all its protests, has no real intention of challenging him.

Leaders have submitted constitutional amendments which Bhutto has refused to accept. Earlier this week, however, they accepted Bhutto's offer to talks aimed at breaking the deadlock on the constitution.

Bhutto has released the 60 detained oppositionists — against whom he had no evidence anyway — as a conciliatory gesture.

But at the same time, he

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has 'uncovered' a 'conspiracy' in the armed forces and arrested a number of officers. All this is aimed at producing the climate of terror Bhutto needs to put through his dictatorial plans.

Pending the outcome of their talks with the President, the opposition front have not decided whether their ten-day old boycott of the constitutional discussions will continue. But in the absence of the UDF the People's Party representatives have a hefty majority in the chamber and have been able to process the draft constitution with ease.

Everything new indicates that despite the killings and the repression, the constitution will go through without too much opposition and Bhutto will be installed for life. This will be a further victory for the United States, which has backed Bhutto's regime as a front for virtual military rule since Yahya Khan's regime was ousted over a year ago.

Bhutto's regime is one of the kingpins of the CENTO alliance and plays a vital part in the plans of American imperialism to dominate the political life of the Middle East and the Indian Ocean.

The dictatorial regime in Pakistan is more and more

becoming integrated with the even more savagely repressive government in neighbouring Iran.

Kareem Baluch, emissary of the Baluchistan People's Democratic Party in London recently spoke of the growing ties between the two governments.

Baluchi people suffer repression both sides of the artificial border which cuts their mountainous and barren homeland in two.

In Iran the national oppression is particularly savage. In one case a Muslim mullah from the Pakistan side moved to a village in Iranian Baluchistan.

When he began to teach the local children the Koran in Baluchi he was arrested and treated as a dangerous agitator.

Only after he had been ill-treated by his captors did they realize he was simply naive.

Iranian Baluchistan is a closed area today. It can only be entered by slipping over the Pakistan frontier. The whole province has been turned into an armed camp, where the Shah's forces of repression are being trained.

They include pilots for the 400 helicopters Iran has ordered from the United

States. These aircraft, as Kareem Baluch pointed out, are ideally suited to the suppression of local uprisings in Iran.

The United States sees the Middle East area as a vital one in view of the immense oil riches it contains.

President Nixon and his aides are preparing to meet the US 'energy crisis' by heaping new burdens of repression and dictatorship on the peoples of Pakistan and the other states in the area.

Pakistan, even under Bhutto, has definitely been allocated a subordinate role in this plan. The local leader is to be the Shah, admired by the London and Washington imperialists for his ruthless staying power.

Since the defeat of Pakistan's army in Bangla Desh, the country has been regarded as too unstable to play a paramount role in the area.

Iranian intervention in Pakistan's internal affairs is quite blatant. The Iranian monarch's recent visit illustrates the point very well. After the visit, the ministerial portfolios of Defence and Foreign Affairs were both awarded to Aziz Ahmad, the former Pakistan ambassador in Washington and notorious US stooge.

Above: Shelkh Mujib, Bangla Desh president, and Bhutto who became Pakistan's president in the wake of defeat in the Bangla Desh war. Above left: Armed patrol in Pakistan's capital. Below: US President, Nixon.



Aziz Ahmad's brother G. Ahmad, figured in a political scandal at the time of partition. He was deputy director of police intelligence under the British and his opponents published a compromising telegram from London to the British intelligence chiefs in India.

It urged the director of British intelligence to get G. Ahmad appointed head of the Pakistan secret service by using his influence.

The telegram was published in the 'Pakistan Times' and the paper's editor was later punished for releasing this compromising document.

But despite the damaging disclosures G. Ahmad was confirmed in the post. When he reached retiring age some five years later he stayed on to 'reorganize' the police force'. His younger brother now controls two of the most important ministries and is plainly there to represent the interests of Washington and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Directly after the Shah's visit, the Pakistan government claimed to have uncovered a cache of arms at the Iraqi embassy — plainly another bid in its search for excuses to put down the opposition.

Despite their willingness to compromise, the Pakistan UDF are likely to find that Bhutto's regime cannot be fought simply by words and that while he talks with their leaders he is simply preparing to emulate the Shah and dispense entirely with opposition parties.



Left: Wing Commander Anastasios Minis who is now in Korydallos prison after being tortured for 111 days and sentenced to ten years imprisonment. He was told by the torturer Hatzisis: 'You can go and tell everyone we tortured you. We want everyone to know. We want them to tremble.'

area, this room contains a special noise machine to drown the screams of the victims.

Sometimes a urine-soaked rag is stuffed into the prisoner's mouth to silence the screams, or water is poured down the throat. The room also has a thick bench in the middle on which people are tied for the 'falanga'.

Arrested under law 509/1947, Miss Arseni named as her chief interrogators Basil Lambros and two officers—Evangelos Mallios and Petros Babalis. The chief torturer was called Spanos.

Miss Arseni later declared: 'I saw men walking on their elbows and knees, crawling on their stomachs, perhaps with broken ribs, damaged spines, feet completely split open and broken, heads and faces maimed, misshapen. The majority of men were not able to walk.'

After 'treatment' at Bouboulinas Street, Miss Arseni was taken to the 401 Military Hospital where she was given electric shock treatment on the grounds that she was 'insane'.

Later at the ESA headquarters she saw detainees being hanged by their shoulders for hours, with their hands tied behind their backs, their tongues held out with pliers and their bodies burned with matches and cigarettes.

They were given electric shock treatment so often that for some of them the mere mention of it would bring on the spasms.

When this happened, Miss Arseni reported, they would be surrounded by laughing 'doctors'.

Miss Arseni also encountered a special student torture section, called the Spouthastiko, headed by Karapanayiotis and Gravaritis.

Costas Frantzeskakis, a member of the Piraeus branch of the Accountants' Union, was arrested on August 25, 1967. He was beaten on the soles of the feet with US-supplied whips by officers he named as Foteinos, Iliopoulos and Kanatas, under the guidance of a policeman named Yannoutsos.

He was told: 'Even if this government goes, you will continue to suffer like this as long as there is NATO.'

He was transferred to the Partheni Camp on Leros Island, later to the Averof prison in Athens and finally to Larissa in north central Greece.

Gerassimos Notaras was arrested on October 28, 1967, in Athens. He was given six days solitary without food or water. He suffered falanga, mock executions and hanging up by the hands behind his back.

After two months of this he was moved to the Averof prison and then sent to the 'Elli' warship for a month.

Fellow-prisoners declared that on his return he could barely walk and trembled uncontrollably.

His jailers were so confident that they had broken him that on July 4, 1968, they brought him before an open court in the presence of foreign observers.

To their dismay, Notaras declared that his testimony had been obtained under torture.

He described his treatment and named the men chiefly responsible — Navy Commander Kamarineas and Major Theophiloyannikos of the Military Police.

He was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment and was placed in a cell in Aegina prison with violent homosexual prisoners who were encouraged to molest him.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

The Greek regime. Jack Gale investigates the tortures and the police state. — Part 3

TESTIMONY FROM BOUBOULONAS STREET

Torture in Greece is centrally controlled and follows the same routine everywhere — although some centres have their own 'specialities'.

It begins with crude, violent abuse and threats directed against the victim and his family. Routine beatings begin at the moment of arrest.

This is followed by 'falanga'—beating the soles of the feet. (There are local variations in this. In Piraeus the victim sits while his feet are thrust through a second chair, in Salonika he is trussed up in a rifle sling, at Bouboulinas Street he is strapped onto a special bench.)

The 'advantage' of falanga for the torturers is that it inflicts the maximum pain and usually leaves no permanent marks. The feet can also be

sensitized again by making the victim walk on a wet floor.

An exception to this 'rule' was Apostolos Dakos. Fellow prisoners in Averof in December, 1967, described his right foot as:

... burst open like an over-ripe fruit, red and raw flesh visible even through his stockings and two of his toes broken and mended crookedly through lack of medical help.

Teams of torturers take it in turns to inflict the falanga beatings.

This is accompanied by beating with fists, sticks, whips, barbed wire and metal bars of the entire body, especially the genital area.

A variation used at Dionysos is running the gauntlet—sometimes of up to 200 soldiers.

This is followed by electric shock through wires attached to the most sensitive parts of the bodies.

At Bouboulonas Street there is an electric shock machine called 'The Machine of Truth'. At this centre there is also a device on which the victim is made to sit while water is forced at high pressure up the anus into the intestines.

Victims are often hung up by the hands or feet, burned with cigarettes and have objects forced into their body apertures.

Chemical agents are used. Detergents and chlorine are poured into the prisoners' eyes, mouths and noses. Pepper, salt and cigarette ash is rubbed in open wounds.

At Dionysos military camp, dogs trained to attack the genital areas are set upon naked prisoners.

Other refinements include mock executions, constant noise to prevent sleep, being forced to watch and listen to others being tortured, deliberate destruction of sanity, soli-

tary confinement without food, water or toilet facilities, confinement with violent, depraved criminals who are encouraged to commit physical and sexual assaults.

Workers Press has received details of the treatment of a number of Greek prisoners, including their own statements.

One of them was actress Katerina Arseni, who was arrested on August 23, 1967, by the Athens Security Police. She was beaten in the car on her way to the police station and, also on route, the car was stopped and she was beaten on the soles of her feet.

She was placed in 'strict isolation' for four days. This means being given no food or water and provided with no hygiene facilities.

She was taken to a special room in the Bouboulinas Street headquarters known as the 'taratsa'. Since Bouboulinas Street is in a populated

BBC RESURRECTS STALIN

TELEVISION REVIEW BY JOHN CRAWFORD

'STALIN'—BBC 2. Friday March 30. Written and produced by Robert Vas.

As revolutionary crisis shakes society to its foundations, all the conceptions of bourgeois ideology are turned inside-out.

Liberalism, which is based on the certainty that capitalism is eternal, must line up with the most reactionary forces in a desperate effort to halt the development of revolutionary leadership and Marxist theory. It justifies this shift with the argument that democratic institutions are threatened by the machinations of 'extremists'.

Based on the book by the late George Palocz-Horvath, Robert Vas's mammoth programme on 'Stalin' was a nauseating illustration of this trend.

It took the hackneyed cliché about the horrors of Stalinism being the inevitable consequence of Bolshevism and gave this distortion a further sickening twist.

Stalin, Vas told us, was only the product of the Party machine, while this was itself the creation of Lenin. So, while condemning Stalin, almost in passing, as a mass-murderer, the programme tried in essence to justify him.

The current attempt to boost the Communist Party on TV — a conscious move to head off the growth of the revolutionary party — involves the presentation of the CP as 'respectable' and 'democratic'. This runs headlong into the corpse of Stalin and the record of his crimes. Vas' programme must be seen as a piece of historical camouflage.

Vas kept referring to the words of Stalin's opponents and critics as 'the rigged trial', implying that their evidence was as false as that presented against the victims of Stalin's purges.

The young Stalin was shown as a romantic peasant lad, hardened and disillusioned in the school of Lenin. Unlike those intellectuals Lenin and Trotsky, he was close to the realities of the life of the masses, said Vas.

When, in March 1917, he was not under the influence of Lenin, Stalin turned instinctively towards 'democracy'—in the shape of the Provisional government of Prince Lvov. Lenin's return in April rudely shattered this democratic idyll.



Khrushchev, in his 1956 speech, accused Stalin of inventing the category 'enemy of the people'. Not at all, says Vas, the phrase was used by Lenin.

Secret police? The Cheka already operated in Lenin's day, did it not?

One-man dictatorship? Some chopped-up phrases from Lenin were thrown in to tell us where that came from. (In fact the only quotations from Lenin's works were such torn-out fragments, referring to 'dictatorship' or 'terror'.)

Perhaps the most barefaced in this heap of lies and distortions was the reference to forced collectivization of agriculture. Stalin, we were told, had not wanted to make this turn, which cost so many peasant lives and damaged both industry and agriculture so severely. He had been pushed into it—by Trotsky and the Left Opposition!

The trials of Old Bolsheviks and the mass purges of the 1930s were then presented as merely the logical outcome of the revolution and its Bolshe-

vik leadership. Lenin's last fight against the rise of the Stalinist bureaucracy was recalled, but not explained. Trotsky's fight against Stalinism was dismissed as a 'power struggle'.

The form and style of the programme was determined by its political content. Three narrators were supposed to represent respectively 'the official viewpoint', Stalin's 'critics' and something called 'eternal Russia'. A fourth and leading narrator was supposed to stand for 'objectivity', as shown by the enormous size of the book he pretended to read from.

A great deal of newsreel material was shown, but its significance was twisted to fit in with the programme's line. Poems by Anna Akhmatova were supposed to form a continuous thread through the programme's epic 140 minutes.

In this poetry, the agony of Soviet history is focused on the screen of the feelings of the poetess. Seen in this way, through the wrong end of the

telescope, great and tragic events are made to seem boring.

But even the immense boredom of the programme had its political function. Like the vast expanse of Russia swallowing up an invading army, the yawning wastes of TV time aimed to dissolve the viewers' critical faculties.

And so Vas worked to degrade the movements of history to the proportions of individual psychology. When, in 1956, Khrushchev tried to explain away the degeneration of the Soviet state in terms of Stalin's personal weaknesses, Marxists dismissed his efforts as a bureaucratic-idealist evasion. Vas turns this method on its head.

Instead of Khrushchev's picture of the revolution being spoilt by one man's defects, the TV Stalin was an honest peasant caught up in a bureaucratic machine already built by Lenin.

The greatest movements of masses of workers and peasants for their liberation are thus depicted as the machina-

tions of a tiny, malevolent but efficient group. Bolshevism, the great theoretical development of the most advanced thinkers of our time, is made to look like a recipe for organizing a dirty trick on society.

Then, of course, it becomes possible to conceal the 'river of blood' which Trotsky saw dividing Stalinism and Bolshevism. Principles and theory and the self-sacrificing struggle for them in constructing a revolutionary leadership in the working class, the essence of Bolshevism, have no place in the Vas picture of the world.

The centralized organization Lenin built was the essential instrument through which Marxist theory could be developed. Without its struggle in the working class, the masses remain at the mercy of the ideology of the ruling class.

To identify this with the Stalinist apparatus, founded on lies, and lubricated by individualism and careerism, is to strike a blow at the only force which can take humanity forward.

The struggle to destroy the power of the ruling class and open the road for the liberation of mankind from exploitation and oppression, meets the violence and cunning of the exploiters. In the Soviet Union this meant the most brutal civil war.

Those who devoted their lives to winning this war, using every weapon they could muster, were some of the most politically principled and physically courageous workers, peasants and intellectuals in history.

Vas tries to put them on a level with the thugs and liars who later defended the privileges of the Stalinist bureaucracy. This cancerous growth on the body of the revolution was an expression of the pressure of capitalism in decay, the system on whose behalf Vas speaks.

Stalin was not the victim of the revolution, but its grave-digger, transmitting the requirements of imperialism by his murderous destruction of Lenin's party.

Today, new generations of workers and intellectuals come forward to take up the fight for this party, not only in the capitalist countries, but inside the Soviet Union itself.

They will uncover the real history of Stalinism, continuing and enriching Trotsky's struggle for Bolshevism, and complete the job for which Lenin's party was built. It will take more than BBC 2 to stop them.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

TALLY-HO!

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has been getting all worked up about Princess Anne.

A group of members, led by Mr Brian Seager of Middlesex, recently issued a call for the Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to resign as RSPCA patrons unless they expressed regret at Princess Anne's foxhunting weekends.

The upper-class royalists who run the society were aghast and threatened to haul Mr Seager before the society's national council and expel him for 'prejudicial conduct'.

Now they've climbed down... but they've reiterated their view that a bit of blood-lust is all right when it's royal.

'The society wishes to reiterate very firmly', they say, 'that it has deplored and continues to deplore any criticism of its royal patrons and any suggestion that their position should be reconsidered'.

Tell it to the foxes.

IN CHECK

What is the greatest danger facing people in Britain? The moves to dictatorship by the Heath government? The prospect of huge unemployment as a result of economic recession? The pauperization of millions of men, women and children from the cuts in wages and the unprecedented rise in food prices?

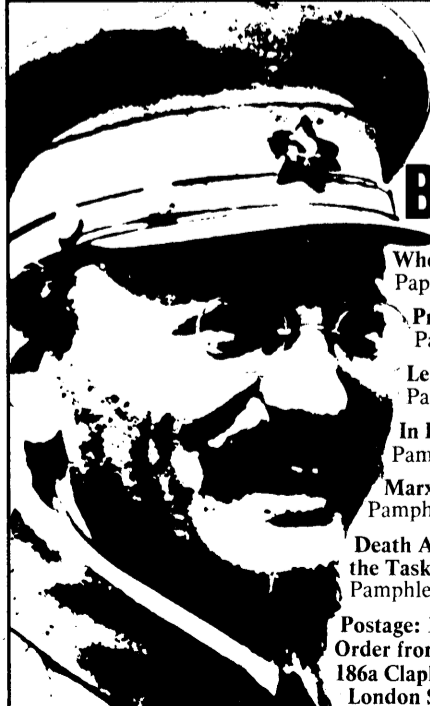
None of these items rate with Sister Mary Magdalene, headmistress of Paddock

House, Covent Grammar School at Accrington, Manchester. She has just stated that 'one of the greatest disasters of so-called progress' is the intrusion of television into the sanctuary of the family.

'Ours is a television society whose standards are those of the screen which undermines true christian relationships. It warps the mind and imagination of the young and innocent, kills the God-given powers of reflection and deep thought, condones violence and the release of animal proclivities, but above all tends to stifle real communication between parents and children.'

In the same speech she praised head girl, Bernadette Duckett, and prefers for their efforts to revive the 'house spirit'.

Now, girls, when you leave school you had better keep your animal proclivities in check!



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All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

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

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

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.

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

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

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'.

CAMBERLEY, Surrey, Friday, April 6, 8 p.m. St Peter's Hall (committee room), Frimley.

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

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

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'.

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'.

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

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

Stalinists

BY
JACK
GALE

TUESDAY'S 'Morning Star' carried an article by Sam Russell on the trial of the ten Spanish workers, the Carabanchel Ten, who face up to 22 years in fascist jails.

Russell's article correctly refers to 'the mounting persecution of the Franco regime, not only against workers, Catholics, communists and socialists, Basque and Catalan nationalists, but also against doctors and lawyers, priests and professors, against anyone who wants to rid Spain of the hated Franco regime'.

The 'Morning Star' foreign editor attacks the hypocrisy of the Labour Attaché at the Spanish Embassy in London who seeks to 'influence people and make friends for his loathsome master Franco, particularly in Britain's trade union and labour movement'.

Russell outlines the brutal suppression of strikes and the brutal treatment meted out in places like the notorious women's prison at Alcalá de Henares, near Madrid.

Luis Lobato, a Central Committee member of the Spanish Communist Party, recently received a 2½-year jail sentence.

Terrorize

Strikers from the Bazan shipyard, now on trial, face sentences of up to 22 years.

The aim of these sentences is, as Russell says, to intimidate and terrorize Spain's workers into acceptance of wages and conditions that are worse than any other country in Europe and to accept as permanent the fas-



Spain's Commerce Minister, Basabe y Manso de Zúñiga, opens a Spanish exhibition in Moscow.

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TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

12.25 Disc a dawn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Mr. Benn. 1.45 Fanny Craddock invites. 2.05 And Teddy came too! 2.35 Paul Corin's musical collection. 2.50 Cinema now. 3.15 Parents and children. 3.40 Bean's boots. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Brady kids. 5.40 Sir Prancelot. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.45 TOP OF THE POPS.
7.15 Z CARS. Pat.
8.00 FILM: 'THE IMMIGRANT'. Charlie Chaplin. Specially reconstructed version shown at its correct speed.
8.30 THE BURKE SPECIAL. James Burke.
9.00 NEWS. Weather.
9.25 MENACE. 'The Haunting'. Anthony Bate, Marilyn Taylorson.
10.45 MIDWEEK. 11.30 NEWS. 11.35 Weather.

ITV

9.30 A season of Gilbert and Sullivan. 10.20 Cartoon. 10.30 At your service. 11.00 Wildlife theatre. 11.25 Galloping gourmet. 11.50 Cartoon. 12.05 Hickory house. 12.25 Magic fountain. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Indoor league. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Secret Mendips. 3.25 Hine. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Barkleys. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.30 CROSSROADS.
6.55 FILM: 'HUNTED'. Dirk Bogarde, Kay Walsh. A boy falls into the hands of a fugitive from justice.
8.30 THIS WEEK.
9.00 LONGSTREET. Please Leave the Wreck for Others to Enjoy.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 A EUROPEAN JOURNEY. From the Baltic to the Adriatic.
11.00 CHILDREN TO CHILDREN. From Mexico—Today is Tomorrow.
11.30 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.
11.45 SCOTLAND YARD MYSTERIES. The White Cliffs Mystery.
12.15 THE EXILED.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University. 6.40 Looking to Europe. 7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.
7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.
7.35 THEIR WORLD. Courtship.
8.00 EUROPA. 8.30 BEL-AMI.
9.15 BELOW STAIRS. Times remembered by Georgina Landamare. Sir Winston Churchill's cook.



Victor Henry, Frank Crompton and Marck Dignam in 'Said the Preacher' tonight on BBC 2.

REGIONAL TV

SOUTHERN: 10.00 Twizzle. 10.15 Yoga. 10.40 Come on George. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Doctor in charge. 7.00 Film: 'I Deal in Danger'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Guideline. 11.15 Name of the game. 12.40 Weather.
HARLECH: 10.00 Sesame street. 11.00 Sara and Hoppity. 11.10 Henry Andy. 11.30 On the costa del coal. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.05 Film: 'Edge of Eternity'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 10.30 A touch of Sarah. 11.00 Spyforce. 12.00 Weather.
ANGLIA: 9.40 North country. 10.00 Paulus. 10.10 Edgar Wallace. 11.05 Galloping gourmet. 11.35 On the costa del coal. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Let's face it. 3.00 London. 4.25 News. 4.30 Land of the giants. 5.20 Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Congratulations'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Bygones. 11.05 European journey. 11.35 Baron. 12.30 Living word.
ATV MIDLANDS: 11.05 Bridge for beginners. 11.30 Survival. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 Columbo. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 10.00 London.

11.00 Gardening. 11.30 Spyforce. Weather.
YORKSHIRE: 9.30 Ed Allen time. 9.55 Tennis. 10.20 A place in the sun. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.15 We need each other. 12.05 London. 4.25 Houndcats. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 Doris Day. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Time Travellers'. 8.30 London. 11.00 Sport. 11.35 Streets of San Francisco. 12.30 Weather.
GRANADA: 9.30 Enchanted House. 9.40 Audubon's wildlife theatre. 10.05 Film: 'The Seven Faces of Dr Lao'. 11.40 Pete Smith. 11.50 Hammy Hamster. 12.05 London. 4.25 Thunderbirds. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Partridge family. 7.00 Film: 'Harem Holiday'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawk. 10.00 London. 11.00 What the papers say. 11.20 FBI.
TYNE TEES: 9.30 Larger than life. 9.40 Grasshopper island. 9.55 Elephant boy. 10.20 Dick Van Dyke. 10.45 Gilbert and Sullivan. 11.30 On the costa del coal. 12.05 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 A place in the country. 3.00 London. 4.55 Stingray. 5.20 F troop. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Lydia Bailey'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 European journey. 11.35 News. 11.50 Monty Nash. 12.20 Greatest fights. 12.35 Lectern.
SCOTTISH: 10.00 Seven seas. 10.45 Primus. 11.10 Henry Andy. 11.35 On the costa del coal. 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Film: 'The Time Travellers'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Strange report. 10.00 London. 11.00 Gardening. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Edgar Wallace.
GRAMPIAN: 11.05 Strange report. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Skippy. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Night Holds Terror'. 8.30 London. 9.55 Police news. 10.00 London. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.30 Meditation.

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aid Franco

AND THE 'STAR'S' MR RUSSELL FORGETS TO MENTION IT

cist dictator General Franco, 'his heirs and successors'.

Students, teachers, workers and youth are fighting back against the Franco terror. But one vital aspect of this struggle is omitted in Russell's article.

And that is the support given to Franco's regime by the Stalinist leaders of the Soviet Union and eastern Europe.

The most blatant act of support was the export of coal from Poland to Spain in 1970 which was used to break the strike of the Asturian miners. The Polish and British Stalinist leaders justified this act of murderous strike-breaking by saying that a commercial agreement had already been signed and therefore could not be broken.

RELATIONS

Full diplomatic relations between Spain and Poland were established in January this year when a Spanish parliamentary contingent visited Warsaw. This delegation was led by the Count of Mayalde, the head of the Spanish security police, and also included General Iniesta Cano, head of the Civil Guard.

On February 14, a four-man Russian delegation went to Madrid to discuss charter flights from Moscow to the Spanish Canary Islands. The first major agreement between Moscow and Madrid since Franco came to power was the commercial treaty signed on September 15, 1972.

On January 8 this year, the East German Foreign Minister Otto Winzer visited his Russian counterpart Andrei Gromyko who gave full support to the establishment of diplomatic relations between East Germany and Spain. Negotiations for this had been held in Helsinki during last November and December.

The Bulgarian vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, Emil Razgolv, visited Madrid in January for discussions with Enrique Fontana Codina, the Spanish Minister of Commerce. A protocol agreement was signed which allowed the establishment of a bilateral Spanish-Bulgarian committee of factory-directors.

TRADE

Trade between Spain and the Soviet Union and eastern Europe doubled in the first ten months of 1972, compared with the corresponding period in 1971 and is increasing even more this year.

There are also great possibilities for the development of Spanish exports to China following the recent diplomatic recognition of the Franco regime by Peking.

But Russell says nothing about all this.

Neither does he discuss the programme of the Spanish Communist Party which is for the peaceful development of democracy in Spain by alliance with the democratic bourgeoisie—including sections of the church, the army and the state apparatus itself.

Leaders of the Spanish Communist Party launched a strong attack at their Congress last year on oppositionists who rejected this line and called for a fight for socialism.

The Spanish Stalinist leader, Santiago Carrillo, supported Spanish entry into the Common Market and praised Diaz Alegria, the head of the Spanish armed forces, as a liberal in search of a modern, 'truly national' army. The International Committee

of the Fourth International defends all those, including Communist Party members, who are oppressed by fascism.

But, unlike Sam Russell, we will not keep silent on the aid given to the fascists by the Stalinists in Moscow and elsewhere.

Nor will we hide the fact that

not only the Spanish Labour Attaché, but the leadership of the Spanish Communist Party, attempts to point to 'liberal facets' of the Spanish state.

To do so would be to aid Franco and his heirs and to intensify and prolong the sufferings of the Spanish working class.



President of the Soviet Red Cross, Nadedja Trayan, in Barcelona — but she didn't see any political prisoners.



Freight charges rise 15p.c.

FREIGHT charges for shippers using the South and South-East African Conference lines will be increased from next Monday.

The conference said that a surcharge of between 10 to 15 per cent would be applied in

line with the currency devaluation of both the dollar and the pound.

The decision was taken in the light of current levels of exchange rates and a decline in the value of the line's tariff currency.

Gas union at NIRC

THE GENERAL and Municipal Workers' Union was represented at the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday to hear complaints from independent contractors in the gas industry that the union is inducing breach of contract by its campaign to get more work for unionized Gas Corporation employees. The parties agreed to out-of-court talks to try and settle the dispute.

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)

MDW revolt at Rubery Owen tractor plant

RUBERY OWEN'S bid to switch to a fixed-rate pay system on the Measured-Day Work pattern has led to the lay-off of hundreds of Midlands tractor workers.

Not only are more than 2,400 of Rubery Owen's own 3,000 workers on strike against its proposals, over 600 assembly workers at the Massey-Ferguson tractor factory, Coventry, have been sent home.

The lay-offs are caused by a shortage of petrol tanks and other components from Rubery Owen's strike-bound factories. The strike is caused by proposals which would mean a complete standstill on higher-paid Rubery

Owen workers' rates. The strikers have rejected the company's proposals, which would mean £4 for lower-paid workers and lump sum compensation payments for the higher paid.

<p>London</p> <p>ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE PUBLIC MEETING</p> <p>Demand Scanlon withdraw his remarks accepting the Industrial Relations Act</p> <p>TUESDAY APRIL 10 7.30 p.m. Conway Hall Red Lion Square London, WC2 (near Holborn Tube)</p>	<p>SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETING</p> <p>Merthyr Tydfil</p> <p>Build the revolutionary party</p> <p>Join the Socialist Labour League</p> <p>Defend basic democratic rights</p> <p>Make the Tories resign</p> <p>TUESDAY APRIL 10 7.30 p.m. Caedraw School Caedraw Merthyr Tydfil</p> <p>Speaker: G. Healy (SLL national secretary)</p>	<p>SLL LECTURE SERIES</p> <p>The revolutionary party and the history of the British working class</p> <p>Merthyr Tydfil</p> <p>Caedraw School Merthyr Tydfil 7 p.m.</p> <p>Sundays April 8 and 22 Lectures given by Peter Jeffries</p> <p>The Unions and the working class in Britain.</p> <p>The Revolutionary Past of the British working class—and its future.</p> <p>The Transformation of the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.</p> <p>READING</p> <p>Trotsky, Where is Britain Going? Problems of the British Revolution.</p> <p>Perspectives for Transforming the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.</p> <p>Marxist Analysis of the Crisis.</p>	<p>SLL LECTURE SERIES</p> <p>The Socialist Revolution in Britain</p> <p>Middleton (nr Manchester)</p> <p>Langley Community Centre Middleton 4 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday April 8 Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee)</p> <p>The Socialist Revolution in Britain:</p> <p>3. The state and revolution. Reformism and revolution in Britain. The fight for democratic rights today means preparing for working-class power.</p> <p>Basic reading: Perspectives for transforming the SLL into a revolutionary party.</p> <p>Marxist Analysis of the Crisis. Problems of the British Revolution (Trotsky).</p> <p>Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International, Communist Manifesto.</p>
<p>CIRCULATION</p> <p>01-622 7029</p> <p>NEWS DESK</p> <p>01-720 2000</p>	<p>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.</p>		

'Bigger fish' watch Hull wharf fight

HULL DOCKERS are expected to strike tomorrow following the High Court decision to endorse the use of non-registered labour to unload timber in the port.

The men are angry, although not surprised, at the decision, which arose from an appeal by the National Dock Labour Board against the ruling of an industrial tribunal.

And they are determined to continue their campaign against the use of non-registered labour by the scores of small wharfs dotted up and down the Humber,

APRIL FUND TOTALS £38.21 A SLOW START

IT IS a slow beginning. We have now reached the fifth day of April and almost at the end of our first week. Don't let us leave it this month to a last-minute fight.

The miners' decision not to strike poses the question of an alternative leadership for the whole trade union movement. There is no confidence behind both the reformist and Stalinist union leaders to challenge and defeat this Tory government.

Only Workers Press provides this revolutionary leadership. Now, more than ever, our paper is needed to prepare politically for the struggles ahead. Help us expand our sales amongst all sections of workers.

And let's see if we can raise a record amount for:

Workers Press
April Appeal Fund
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London SW4 7UG

LONDON'S enclosed docks remained at a standstill yesterday, with all 7,500 dockers out for the third day running over pay and manning arrangements. No move is expected by either unions or employers until after a mass meeting called for tomorrow.

The dockers' 18-man committee, which comprises members of both docks unions, is expected to call at that meeting for a reaffirmation of existing policy—to accept a £2.60 pay offer from the employers, but withdraw from flexible manning.

the Trent and the Ouse.

Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, said, in giving judgement on the NDLB appeal, that he was satisfied regular employees of W. S. Barchard and Son Ltd, timber merchants of West Dock Street, Hull, could unload the company's timber from ships prior to its being processed in the company's waterside sawmill.

The work was not 'dock work' as defined by the Dock Labour Scheme, he said. But leave for a further appeal by the NDLB was given.

Docks stewards and union officials will be meeting Barchards today.

But the prospects of a negotiated settlement are slight.

One local union official speculated yesterday that 'much bigger fish' were eagerly watching the outcome of this week's events in the port.

Registered dockers could lose up to 200 jobs as a result of the High Court verdict, he pointed out. Other sawmill operators would attempt to follow Barchard's example.

Heated NUS grants debate expected

THE TIDE of censure running against the National Union of Students' executive gained ground yesterday on the third day of the union annual conference at Exeter.

In a campaign led by defeated alternative left candidate for president, International Socialist member Mike Hill, six major amendments were tabled to a resolution on student union autonomy condemning NUS leaders' inaction.

Unrest at the Stalinist-led executive's failure to fight for autonomy emerged in votes where up to a third of the delegates voted against the leadership.

On a card vote an IS-backed amendment condemning the executive's handling of the autonomy campaign was carried by 913,639 votes to 259,431.

Defeated Stalinist-backed NUS secretary Mike Terry excused the executive on the grounds that the union did not have the resources to fight two major campaigns on autonomy and grants simultaneously.

The main resolution, sponsored by nine universities and colleges, stressed the continuing need for autonomy, but called for the struggle to be waged locally instead of by the union as a whole.

Today's five-hour debate on grants promises to be the most heated yet.

First statements by new right-wing president John Randall already throw a long shadow over the campaign's prospects.

FROM IAN YEATS IN EXETER

He told Workers Press that although the union would keep up its pressure on the Tory government, the period between May and September when grants are assessed was bound to be a quiet one.

Asked whether the executive would escalate the campaign in the autumn, he said: 'We are going to be in a new position.'

'Next year is the year the government has promised to review grants and they can hardly offer us nothing.'

He could not say whether the executive would accept a Tory offer, but he said that whatever it was, they would press for the most equitable distribution of the money available.

There have long been signs that the executive was less than enthusiastic in its backing for rent strikes.

Angry exchanges swept the conference on Tuesday when Dundee strike leader Mr Arthur MacDonald accused the executive of not lifting a finger to help them.

Mr MacDonald told me afterwards that 100 Dundee students have received summonses from the university for payment of arrears, but he claimed the executive has still not agreed to pay the legal costs without which the campaign must be called off.

Within the limits of trade union activity Randall has consistently backed the grants campaign, the apparent failure of which has spread the deep frustration and confusion which

characterized this year's conference.

The vote for him was a clear rejection of the Digby Jacks style of leadership which, as nobody forgot, included lunch with Tory Education Secretary Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

But the remainder of Tuesday's voting showed plainly that the vote against Jacks was based on assessment of him as an individual rather than as a Communist Party member.

The offices of vice-president, treasurer and secretary all fell to the Stalinists and their supporters and they captured one of the three executive officers' seats.

With the exception of gaining one executive officer's position the IS and the IMG fared badly because of the apparent similarity between their policies and those of the CP.

Most significant at this year's conference was the intervention of the Young Socialists' Student Societies which contested every seat for the first time.

Sharpy aware of the fall in the value of their grants and in some cases desperately needing a rise, students nevertheless balked at taking up the inescapable challenge posed by YS speakers of fighting to force the Tory government to resign.

On Tuesday night initial laughter and heckling turned into puzzled silence then bursts of applause as one YS candidate after another rammed home the point that the students' campaign for higher grants could not be won without a fight against the Tory government and all its policies.

FEATHER PREPARES PHASE THREE SELL-OUT

FROM PAGE ONE

the working class defeated, resistance is at a very high point.

Workers have not accepted Tory government domination over their standard of living.

They have not accepted the principle of state control of wages.

The trade union movement has been unable to mount a successful fight against the Tories—so far. But these are early days.

More importantly, political understanding is growing of the TUC leaders' treacherous role—covered up by the 'lefts' and the Stalinists.

There is widespread recognition that the fight to defend rights and a decent standard of living involves

a political fight to bring down the Tory government and that the present leadership won't prosecute such a struggle.

The vote of a majority of miners against strike action on their pay claim can be seen as a vote of no confidence in their own leadership and in the TUC.

What predominates in the workers' movement today is the urgent fact that an alternative revolutionary leadership is required to defend the trade unions and to protect basic democratic rights.

That is why the Socialist Labour League is forging ahead in the immediate days and weeks to transform itself into a revolutionary party.



Feather . . . No complaints at Nedly.

Hospital workers' meeting today—see p. 11.

Police wade into hospital 'take-over'

FROM PAGE ONE

summed at Birmingham General Hospital, where 300 workers walked out on Tuesday.

A big test of morale will come today and tomorrow when a series of demonstrations will be held.

Hospital workers hope to attract the support of other trade unionists.

A one-day strike of London's 200 hospitals starts today and union officials were visiting their members

urging them to take action until late last night.

The strikers will assemble at Tower Hill at 2 p.m. to join a solidarity demonstration called by the London Trades Council.

A 1,000-strong contingent of hospital workers and others is expected to march to Tower Hill from the East End.

Engineers, miners and council workers are among those who have already

pledged backing for the protests in London, Stockport and Doncaster tomorrow.

On Friday afternoon hospital union leaders will go to the TUC 'inner cabinet', the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to seek backing.

For NUPE, Bernard Dix said the union was not appealing for talks.

'The initiative must come from Sir Keith Joseph [Secretary for Social Ser-

vices] not from us,' he said.

Alan Fisher, NUPE general secretary, has said he would be prepared to take his member's case to the Pay Board—but on his union's terms.

According to the Department of Health, there were 3,000 workers on strike and 100 hospitals were being hit by direct action.

They said the situation in Sheffield and the south-east was getting worse.

Civil servants 'reluctantly' suspend action

THE CIVIL and Public Services Association's decision to 'reluctantly suspend' its selective strike campaign is another consequence of the TUC leadership's strategy to hold back the movement against the Tory pay laws as much as possible.

The CPSA has been the most militant of the civil service unions which have bitterly resented having the pay review postponed for three months and limited to £1 plus 4 per cent instead of getting the 20 per cent they were expecting to bring their pay up to comparable industrial wages.

But the CPSA could get little strike support from the other union leaders involved and was relying on the TUC to co-ordinate action on behalf of public sector workers. The CPSA even called its own public sector conference of 30 unions when the TUC refused to make a move.

But the combination of its own hesitant leadership and the obstructionist tactics of Victor Feather and the TUC bureaucrats eventually succeeded in demoralizing these sections of workers. By keeping the CPSA strikes isolated, the bureaucracy has succeeded in wearing them down.

The CPSA leadership has officially blamed 'a lack of significant support from other civil service unions and the absence of a mass campaign by the TUC against the government measures' for the defeat.

But the CPSA must consider its own responsibility in this too.

The campaign to put pressure on the government by intermittent disruptions to various departments was no answer to the Tories' state control of wages. Such tactics confuse the main issue of calling the General Strike to bring down the government.

The 200,000 strong CPSA is to continue its policy of non-cooperation with management and 'is prepared to resume an industrial action campaign with other civil servants or TUC unions if and when it is considered necessary'.

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

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

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