

## 'POLITICAL' SEARCH THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

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BY ALEX MITCHELL

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### PROVOCATION

They want to destroy this movement by undertaking provocations in the workers' movement against the left.

On January 20 last, the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League issued a statement specifically warning of the Tory government's intention to intensify attacks on the left.

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The attack on these rights is part of the ruling class strategy to ultimately illegitimize and suppress every form of political representation of the working class.

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Labour Party, Communist Party, International Socialists or International Marxist Group.

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WORKERS at Watney Mann's Whitechapel, Isleworth and Mortlake breweries are on strike against management's breach of a pay and productivity agreement, using the excuse that the Tory pay laws prevent them giving a £2.40 increase. The agreement, due to come into operation on April 2, would mean the phasing out of all guaranteed overtime, the ending of compensation payments for the changeover to shift work and Measured-Day Work in the transport department. Strikers say many of them would lose up to £7 under these terms, which the management is insisting are implemented despite the stopping of the pay rise.

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It still stands at £1,307.95. We need £692.05 to make the £2,000 by next Tuesday if we are to qualify for a reader's offer to double the fund. At the rate we are going we simply won't make it.

What do you think? Post your donation to:  
Party Building Fund  
186a Clapham High St  
London SW4 7UG

## MEETING Against the police raids

MONDAY APRIL 16  
7.30 p.m.  
Conway Hall  
Red Lion Square  
near Holborn Tube  
London WC2

Speakers:

Tariq Ali  
(International Marxist Group)

Jim Higgins  
(International Socialist)

Gerry Healy  
(Socialist Labour League)

## Now to get the Tories out!

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One seat won by Labour was Carshalton—which is Home Secretary Robert Carr's constituency in the next General Election.

The Tories were crushed in all six of the big new provincial conurbations. In not one of them did they win even half the number of seats that went to Labour. Their biggest defeat was in south Yorkshire, where they took only 13 seats compared to Labour's 82.

Labour won greater Manchester by 69 seats to the Tories' 23, Merseyside by 53 to 26, Tyne and Wear by 74 to 26, west Yorkshire by 51

BY JACK GALE

to 25, and west Midlands by 74 to 26.

In addition, Labour defeated the Tories in the non-metropolitan counties of Northumberland, Cumbria, Cleveland, Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Gwent, west Glamorgan and south Glamorgan.

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The reversal of that London vote alone points to a Labour majority of at least 40 seats if a General Election were held now. The provincial votes indicate a much greater Labour majority.

But Heath has no intention of holding an election. The Tories will cling to office as long as they possibly can, while their attacks on workers' living standards and basic rights will be intensified.

It is only the cowardice of the Labour and trade union leaders which permits this.

This week's election results are a powerful endorsement of the Socialist Labour League's demand to force the trade union leaders to call a General Strike to create the conditions for making the Tory government resign.

They give the lie to the trade union leaders who have persistently claimed that such strike action would strengthen the Tories.

The hospital workers are still in battle. Since the last General Election, miners, dockers, gasmen, teachers, municipal workers, civil servants, builders, engineers and railwaymen have also been on strike.

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# workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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# What we think

## A WRONG DECISION

THE executive of the National Union of Mine-workers have taken a wrong decision in not calling on their members to strike on May 1 in solidarity with the TUC special Congress call for a national day of protest and stoppage against the Tory pay laws.

Whatever interpretation is put on the NUM's rules covering the invitation or instruction to miners to come out on strike, the higher principle of class solidarity is what is involved here.

The NUM has a duty to back the fight for strike action on May Day which was the clear wish of the special Congress.

Passing a resolution inviting miners to participate in a day of protest and demonstration is not what the trade union movement wants, expects, or has called for. And Joe Gormley knows it.

The trade union movement is involved in a struggle over policy for fighting the Tory offensive against basic democratic rights. Gormley and the NUM have taken part in that struggle and have called for a General Strike to force the Tories to resign. And it was Gormley who opened the way for the May 1 stoppage decision by successfully challenging the General Council's do-nothing policy at the special Congress.

But the fight to give the correct leadership to the trade union movement cannot stop just because the TUC leaders are busy fragmenting the struggle, confusing the working class, and brazenly refusing to implement Congress policy.

The position of Gormley and the right wing at the NUM executive is a retreat every bit as deplorable as the scandalous capitulation of Scanlon and Feather to the Tories.

It is true that in the recent pay ballot, the miners voted against strike action. And it is equally true that one of the main reasons was their understanding of the need for more than just a wages struggle to beat the Tory government this time, of the need in fact for the General Strike. And because miners have no confidence in the present TUC leadership, they are unwilling to lead the way into such a struggle.

The same holds true for the working class generally. Because of the wholesale capitulation by the TUC as well as individual union leaders in the gasworkers, hospital workers, dockers and other struggles, the trade union movement is on the defensive for the moment.

But that is a very dangerous position to be in with the vicious Tory government daily turning the screw of police and state repression ever tighter on the working class movement.

Whatever the hesitations among working people, a bold lead is required and must be given for the movement to go back onto the offensive.

Gormley and the NUM executive could have helped to give such a lead by working to mobilize not just the miners, but the whole trade union movement for an all-out strike on May Day and from there on to greater things.

They had the mandate for this from the TUC special Congress decision to which the NUM were a democratic party. Instead, Gormley and the right wing have chosen to retreat using a pedantic rules formula as their miserable excuse.

The Stalinists on the NUM executive emerge with no credit from this retreat either, despite the fact they voted for a strike call. Their constant support for mere protest politics and for the main capitulators on the General Council, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon, has contributed as much as anything to the confusion and fragmentation of the anti-Tory struggle.

The Stalinist industrial correspondent Mick Costello tried to add further to the confusion in yesterday's 'Morning Star' with a slanderous attack on the Socialist Labour League's fight for principle.

'One irony in the present situation is that, as so often in recent times, the Tories and the left wing of the trade union and political movement both understand the full mobilizing significance of a 24-hour general strike. Those who denigrate this action are the right wing and the Trotskyist fringe.'

Costello is a liar. The SLL and Workers Press, while all along attacking the TUC leadership for deliberately trying to head off the movement for the General Strike, have, of course, always supported the maximum mobilization of the working class for such protest strikes as do take place, like May 1, and we do so today.

## 213 price increases in a week

'THE GROCER' magazine reports a total of 213 prices increases this week on honey, biscuits, canned meats, canned fruits, disinfectant, bleach and detergents.

This brings the total increases for the year to 2,599.

Among those items which went up was Fray Bentos corned beef, owned by Brook Bond Oxo. A 7oz can of corned beef now retails at 27½p (5s 6d old money) while the 12oz line is 46p (9s 2d old money).

The official food price index has risen by 3.8 per cent in the past ten weeks, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

When the figure was announced in the Commons, Mr Harry Ewing, Labour MP for Stirling and Falkirk, said: 'This really is a scathing indictment of the government's freeze policy.'

● See centre pages for 'The Great Prices Ramp'.

## 3 months for meat theft

A HOUSEWIFE was sent to prison yesterday for stealing beef and other meat from a super-market.

Mrs Clara Elizabeth Ali (43), of Jubilee Drive, Kidderminster, was sentenced to three months after she admitted stealing joints of beef and lamb and lamb chops worth £4.29.

And she must also serve three months of a previously suspended sentence

—making a total of six months.

Mrs Ali's solicitor said she had been affected by drink and took 'a colossal amount of meat', far more than she needed.

Insp Bryan Mahon said Mrs Ali had a long record of convictions and had served several jail terms for theft. She had twice appeared before the court for offences in breach of the suspended sentence.

## Striking Merseyside dockers meet Sunday

MERSEYSIDE dockers will meet tomorrow to decide whether to continue their four-day demarcation dispute, which has spread to involve more than 4,000 men and 30 ships.

The dispute, which concerns allocation of dockers' jobs to supervisory staff, has stopped work on both the Liverpool and Birkenhead sides of the river.

Centres on the container terminal at the north end of Liverpool docks.

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, which employs two-thirds of the registered dock labour force in the port following recent mergers, estimated yesterday morning that their entire labour force was on strike

or off sick. 4,135 had stopped work.

But apart from 'regretting' the dockers' decision to strike while talks were taking place, the MDHC was keeping tight-lipped about the issues involved.

Allocation of work between supervisors, many of them members of the clerical section of the Transport and General Workers' Union, ACTSS, and registered T&GWU or 'blue' union dockers has been a troublesome question in recent months.

It has become particularly crucial following the huge job loss which hit the registered labour force as a result of the Jones-Aldington severance scheme.

Sunday's meeting is expected to be at the Pier Head at 11 a.m.

CAR PRODUCTION at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port factory was halted by a walk-out of about 300 engineering workers yesterday. About 38 men in the crankshaft section stopped work in a labour dispute, and they were joined by about 250 men on machin-

ing operations which halted engine production.

The company had to lay off about 1,000 assembly workers on the day shift who were also told not to report on Monday.

In addition, about 1,500 workers were told not to come in last night.

# Engineers — break from Stalinism and reformism

THE WORKING CLASS must be broken from the policies of Stalinism and reformism if it is to defend any of its basic rights. This is the major lesson from the engineers' conference.

One choice faced the 52 delegates who met in conference this week at Torquay.

Were they going to allow president Hugh Scanlon to start a new round of collaboration with the Tory government?

Or would they reject attempts at further class compromise and order the leadership to start the campaign to force the government to resign?

The answer was YES to the first question and NO to the second. Scanlon got the green light for more talks with Heath and the second biggest union in Britain lurched closer to the Tory corporate state.

The key to this development was the Communist Party which has assembled one of its strongest factions ever at the union's national committee, which decides policy.

It was the Stalinists who opened the door for Scanlon.

In the crucial debate on the Tory pay laws the two leading Communist Party delegates, Sid Haraway and Arthur Gibbard, abandoned their motion which specifically outlawed more talks with the Tories.

This resolution read: 'This national committee instructs the executive council to inform the TUC that we will take no further part in discussion with the government on prices and wages.'

'We believe that to discuss such basic issues while rents and other items have seen such huge increases, was a disservice to our membership, when an all-out campaign for higher wages would have been in our members' interests.'

The same two delegates dropped another resolution which read:

'... every effort must be made by organized labour, the TUC and the people as a whole to remove them [the government] from office as quickly as is humanly possible.'

These two motions reached the national committee agenda, but they were withdrawn in favour of a composite resolution which gave Scanlon the loophole he needed to go back to 10 Downing Street.

The engineers' policy is now similar to that adopted by the TUC last year, which had pious words forbidding union leaders to talk to the

### From Stephen Johns in Torquay



Stalinists covered Scanlon's retreat.

Tories on 'any form of wage restraint'.

But, as Scanlon revealed at the national committee, the union leaders went right ahead and promised the Tories to hold back wage increases at £3.50.

This week Scanlon posed one question: did any delegate dare challenge his right to go back to the Tories? The Stalinists and the 'left' were silent.

The CP's other big job was to protect Scanlon from the justified anger felt by his members over his recent statements.

Two weeks ago Scanlon stated clearly he wanted minor amendments to the Industrial Relations Act, and he added:

'If we could get these two essential amendments, we could then talk of some of the other practicalities.'

The Stalinists did not take up this issue either.

Instead they engaged in an orgy of praise for the executive's stand against the Industrial Relations Act.

The Communist Party delegates peddle this policy in the name of 'left unity'. It is worth examining this strategy.

Unity, Stalinist-style, means attracting every reformist who talks 'left' but in practice goes along with every

retreat made by the leadership.

The price of this unity (one that the Communist Party willingly pays) is to abandon every principle—like the one of not talking with the Tory government.

The AUEW national committee, therefore, is not a body seeking to give a political lead.

It is a conspiracy of bankrupt factions that have one common aim—to prevent any independent initiative by the working class.

The Stalinists, with the left trailing behind them, protect Scanlon, Scanlon runs for the Tories while the right wing prepares to accept the pay laws and the corporate state.

This deadly bureaucracy was exposed on those rare occasions when hard reality broke into the empty phrases of Torquay.

On Thursday the Fine Tubes men, who have been striking for three years against a firm hostile to the AUEW, came to get backing for their struggle.

They got nothing from the national committee. Their emergency resolution was considered unworthy of attention by the standing orders committee—half controlled by the Stalinists and 'lefts'.

Not one delegate spoke out against this rejection of workers fighting for basic rights.

Hugh Scanlon told them their dispute was 'not urgent enough' to warrant immediate attention.

One can understand the Fine Tubes delegation being rendered speechless by the cynicism.

They had been told to go away and die quietly and not to bother the great men of the national committee.

Can any engineering worker have confidence in this kind of leadership?

If Scanlon and the national committee refuse to break one anti-union employer in Plymouth, how can they lead a campaign against the government over their pay claim?

Every trade union battle today involves the fate of the Tory government.

But no one in the engineers' union, Stalinist, 'left' or right, are prepared to take this government on.

The lesson of the national committee is that a new leadership within the AUEW must be built—a leadership which will fight on the political issues and turn the union away from collaboration, towards the only possible fight—to make the Tories resign.

THE Uruguayan army chiefs are calling for lifting the parliamentary immunity of left-wing Senator, Enrique Erro, a member of the Broad Front coalition opposed to President Juan Maria Bordaberry.

Army chiefs claim that Erro has connections with the Tupamaros guerrillas. One of his sons was arrested and charged with being a member of the movement.

Political prisoners held in military garrisons are not permitted to contact relatives or lawyers and charges are continually made that they are being tortured.

## A special Middle East correspondent poses some questions

WAS LAST Monday's Israeli raid in the Lebanon, in which 26 people were killed and the headquarters of a left-wing Palestinian organization was destroyed, solely the work of the Israelis? Or did their armed forces and intelligence service enjoy the collusion of others, at least in the planning of the raid?

This is the question which many Palestinians and other Arabs must have been asking themselves as the details of the raid came out. The Israeli raiders were able to go straight to the homes of the three Palestinian leaders they assassinated—Abu Youssef al-Najjar, a Fatah leader said to have connections with Black September; Kemal Adwan, another Fatah leader; and Kemal Nasser, official spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

All three lived in flats in the residential area of Snoubra, in the heart of Beirut.

It is thought that to get to these flats, the raiders, some of them in uniform, probably drove along the main thoroughfare, Verdun Street — right past a Lebanese army barracks!

They proceeded down a side street not far from the barracks to carry out a raid using explosives and sub-machine guns.

By the time the army decided to intervene, it was all over. And Palestinians—and many Lebanese too—suspect that the intervention was not only belated, but probably just for show.

Lebanese Prime Minister Sayid Salam handed in his resignation on Tuesday after an emergency Cabinet meeting.

### Army collusion

Earlier in the day he had visited the scene of the Israeli raids and spoken to Palestinian guerrilla leader Yassir Arafat.

The same morning, Lebanese students had demonstrated outside the army barracks with slogans like 'The Lebanese security forces—In collusion with the enemy'. It was to dissociate himself from the army's refusal to act that Salam resigned.

All the evidence that has come out since Monday night's raid shows that, although it was ostensibly supposed to be a 'reprisal' for the earlier unsuccessful Arab attack in Cyprus, it had in fact been planned in



Mourners carrying the coffin of Kamal Nasser—one of the three leading Palestinians murdered last Monday in the Israeli terror raid.

detail long before the Cyprus incident took place.

The evidence also suggests that the planning of the Israeli attack may not have been carried out by the Israeli command alone. Some Arab sources believe that western intelligence agencies were involved.

Among points worth noting, besides the behaviour of the Lebanese army in the affair, are the following:

- Israeli agents are reported to have been arriving in Beirut for several days prior to the raid carrying British, West German and Belgian passports. It was these agents who hired the cars used in the raid.

- The Israeli raiders were able to go straight to the homes of three selected Palestinian leaders.

### HQ stormed

- The left-wing Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was chosen as a target—its headquarters in the refugee camp of Sabra being stormed by Israeli commandos—although it is well-known that this particular organization is opposed to the sort of terrorist tactics, such as hi-jackings, that Black September and other groups have been carrying out.

The decision of whoever planned this operation to go for the DPFLP is significant for two reasons.

First it indicates that for all their shouting about Black September activities, the Zionist military leaders have a shrewder estimation of their enemies than might be thought.

The Democratic Front, which regards itself as Marxist, is in favour of a 'People's War' against the Zionist state, based on the struggle of the Palestinian masses. It has been highly critical in the past of hi-jacking and similar tactics used by other Palestinian groups, as being unlinked to such a strategy, and achieving publicity but little else.

Another aspect of the Democratic Front's policy distinguishing it from other Palestinian organizations, is that it has gone on record publicly for recognizing Jewish national rights in a future Palestine state.

(This was in its resolution submitted to the Palestinian Congress, held in Cairo in 1969.)

Contacts have taken place between elements in the Israeli left and in the DPFLP, and in 1970 the Front's programme was translated into Hebrew and circulated in Israel.

It looks as though the recent strike wave in Israel and the 'spy trial' of Israeli Arab and Jewish left-wingers, may have caused the Israeli military to give thought to the menace to Zionism from any link between the Palestinian masses' struggle and the Israeli working class.

They decided to make a military target out of the one Palestinian organization that had come close to posing such a perspective!

There is a further possibility, however, (although the two are not mutually exclusive). Namely, that somebody else suggested the Front as a target.

The DPFLP takes the position that the Palestinian national struggle cannot be separated from the class struggle against reactionary Arab regimes.

Members of the Front have been involved in considerable activity among workers and peasants in the various Arab countries.

In recent months, there has been a big upsurge of working-class strikes and demonstrations by workers, peasants, and students in the Lebanon.

### Coincidence ?

This social unrest occurs in a country which is the centre of banking and commerce for the Arab world and therefore extremely important not only to the Arab ruling classes but also to imperialism.

Was it just a coincidence, then, that in a military operation in which the Lebanese army refused to intervene against an invading force, the HQ of an organization which is not exactly a favourite of the Lebanese ruling class became No. 1 target?

Or did whoever arranged one, also manage to arrange the other?

Such collusion could have taken place either by means of direct clandestine contacts between Arab and Israeli governments, or through the good offices of a third party, such as the Central Intelligence Agency.

Israeli and Arab workers must unite soon—before they find that their respective ruling classes have beaten them to it!

## Foreign Office interfered in Amin film—says TV chief

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

**THE FOREIGN Office has been accused of making 'the most direct attempts at interference' in television programmes.**

Mr Denis Forman, joint managing director of Granada Television, made this claim in a lecture to the Royal Television Society.

He particularly mentioned Foreign Office interference to a 'World in Action' film on General Idi Amin of Uganda.

He said that when Granada made a programme in 1971 showing General Amin as 'a rascal who had seized power illegally, all hell was let loose.

'We were told in no uncertain terms—and could the Foreign Office have been behind it?—that those



Amin being interviewed by the 'World in Action' team

Amin had displaced were puppets of the left and that he was sympathetic to and a good friend of Great Britain.'

'The Foreign Office is quite open in its 19th century belief that if

television shows a programme that is unfriendly towards an unfriendly power—that's good.

'But if it makes a programme that is unfriendly towards a

friendly power—that's bad.'

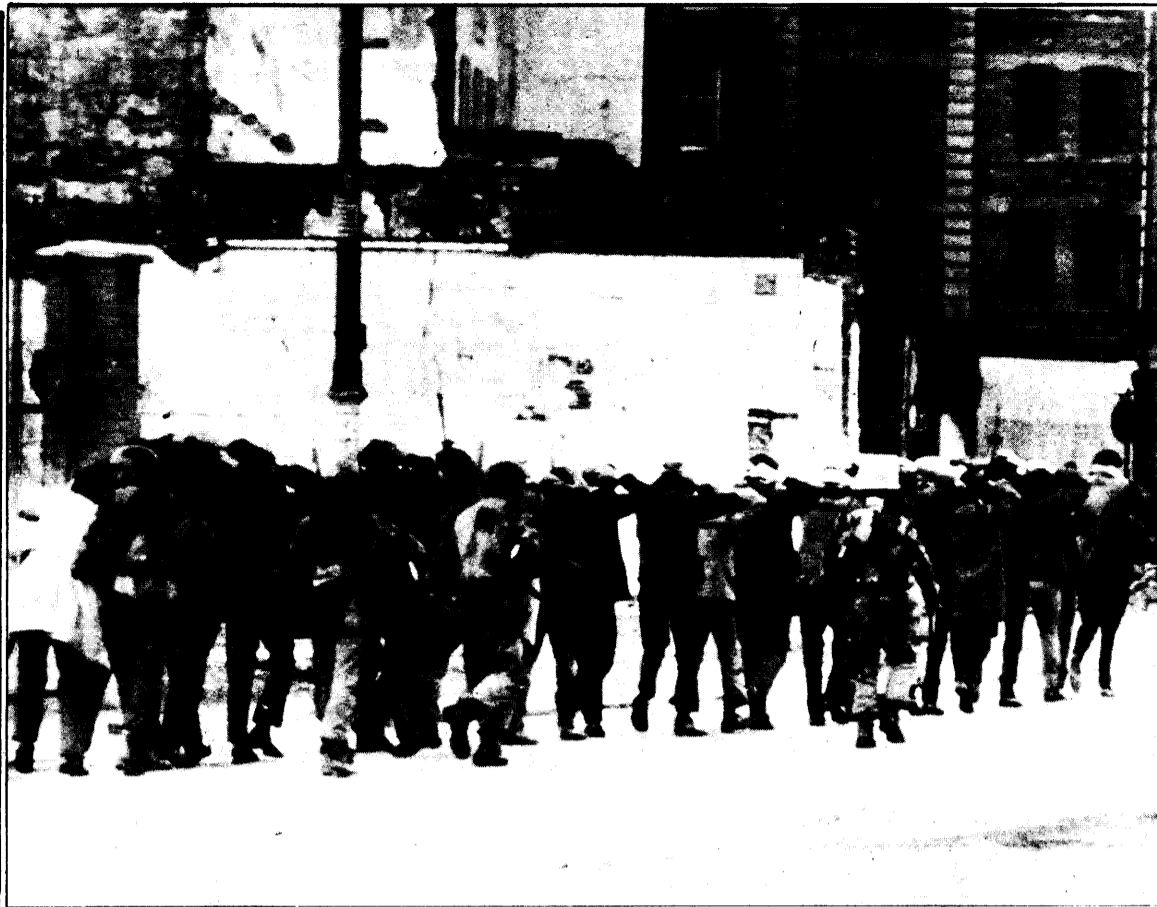
The 'World in Action' film on Amin's rise to power—'The Man Who Stole Uganda'—was made by Alex Mitchell, now of Workers Press.

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## MARTIAL LAW ADOPTED

The martial law-type proposals recommended last December by the Diplock Commission for Northern Ireland have been adopted in toto by the Tory government.

A new Emergency Provisions Bill, published last week, forms the most comprehensive anti-insurgency code ever to be drawn up by a government for use in the UK.

Its clauses are a measure of the lengths to which the Tories are prepared to go to stamp out 'terrorism and subversion'.

The Bill's proposals are aimed at giving the agencies of the state maximum power to deal with 'trouble-makers' in double-quick time.

Trial by jury is scrapped for all those accused of 'scheduled offences'.

These embrace all major crimes and some minor ones, from murder to theft. They include manslaughter, arson, rioting with damage to property or people, assault causing actual bodily harm, bombing, carrying firearms and intimidation.

These categories are so wide

that from now on juries will hardly be used for anything of any importance.

In addition, the formal statements of witnesses will now be accepted by the courts in cases where witnesses are not produced.

Thus the crucial safeguard of cross-examination of prosecution witnesses by defence lawyers is removed.

The circumstances in which a judge may give bail have been tightened up to the point where few can expect it.

He may not grant bail in any case where the suspect's release is likely to conflict with the interests of justice or the prevention of crime—a definition so vague as to include almost anything.

The tradition of 'British justice', which says that a man is innocent unless he is proved guilty, is stood on its head in the case of those charged with possessing firearms or explosives.

Once the Bill becomes law, the onus of proof will be on the individual—not on the prosecution, as in the past.

The army and the police are to be given practically limitless powers to stop, question, search, requisition and arrest

The army marches off arrested demonstrators in Derry, Northern Ireland on Bloody Sunday, January 30, 1972.

anyone they suspect of unlawful activity.

The army will be able to arrest suspects and hold them for up to four hours and no warrant will be needed for the arrest of suspected terrorists.

It becomes an offence to refuse to disclose one's identity or to answer questions put by police or troops.

The combined security forces have powers to enter any public place, to block roads and to stop the use of waterways if they think the peace is endangered.

The Bill also stipulates that spying in aid of terrorists is an offence as will be the wearing of clothes identified with proscribed organizations.

The Bill is a foretaste of what workers will shortly be facing in Britain.

For all those who have long believed that 'British freedom' meant what it said, the additional words 'under the law' take on a new meaning as one more piece of repressive legislation after another finds its way onto the statute book.

# US PROVOS MARCH IN 'HOME WITH HONOUR' PARADE

Representatives of the Provisional IRA in the United States have participated in a pro-imperialist 'Home with Honour' rally in New York.

A Workers Press correspondent in New York said that members of the Irish Northern Aid Committee, the Provisionals' arm in the US, marched with banners in the rally.

The INAC contingent was led by the three authorized spokesmen for the Provos in America—Mike Flannery, Jack McCarthy and John McGowan.

These representatives took part in the rally on March 31 despite the fact that it was condemned by every anti-war group in the US.

It is also a direct insult to the vast majority of Republicans in Ireland who are totally opposed to the death and destruction caused by US imperialism in Indo-China.

Support for the rally appeared in the newspaper, 'The Irish People' under the heading:

'Home with Honour parade Saturday'

The article said:

The Presidents of the six major uniformed associations of New York City are backing the 'Home With Honour' parade which will be held this Saturday as a tribute to Vietnam's veterans. Committee chairman Frank D'Amico has said that representatives of over 100,000 men are endorsing this parade. The Groups represented are The Transit Patrolmen's Benevolent Assoc., Correction Officers Benevolent Assoc., Housing Patrolmen's Benevolent and the Captain's Endorsement Association.

The parade will begin at noon this Saturday, March 31, at 37th and Broadway. The line of march will proceed up Broadway to Columbus Circle and from there up Central Park West to 77th Street. The lead unit of the parade will stop at the Father Duffy Memorial, 46th and Broadway, for one minute of silence and taps for the war dead.

The reviewing stand will consist of 1,000 Vietnam veterans—240 men from each of the four military branches and 40 members of the Coast Guard.

Irish Northern Aid groups will march, with banners, behind the AOH Saffron Kilt Pipe Band. Northern Aid marchers should assemble with the Saffron Kilts.

The US Provos' affiliation with right-wing groups is not new. In August 1972 a socialist sympathetic to the IRA wrote to 'The United Irishman' showing how the Provos had a number of reactionary connections.

COMRADES,

It is surprising that some people in Ireland still think the Provos are socialists. In America no one has such illusions. Here they are openly pro-capitalist.

In 1970 the American Provos backed the Conservative candidate for senator from New York: 'Dear Senator Buckley . . . We expected much of you inasmuch as you expected (and received) much from us.' Letter to Buckley from Irish Northern Aid leaders Flannery, McGowan and McCarthy—'Irish World', November 6, 1971.

The Provos have the strange idea that American imperialism is going to help Ireland: 'What is needed is . . . pressure by the United States Senate and House of Representatives of the kind which brought about the establishment of the State of Israel . . .' Letter to Buckley—'Irish Advocate', January 1, 1972.

The Provos support Kennedy's vote-chasing resolution on Ireland. Of course Kennedy supported the establishment of Direct Rule and he has publicly 'condemned IRA violence . . .'—'Irish Times', January 19, 1972. But the Provos have never attacked him for that!



Edward Kennedy: The Provos in the US supported his resolution on Ireland — yet he backed direct rule and condemned IRA 'violence'.

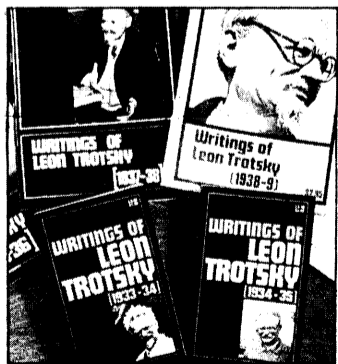
All intelligent Americans are horrified at the murderous imperialist war in Indo-China. Not the American Provos: 'The United States of America . . . continues to this very day to be the inspiration of the peoples of the world'—Nor-Aid advertisement, 'Philadelphia Daily News', June 21, 1972.

On May 10 the Provos held a concert at New York's Gaelic Park. 'Special Guest Stars . . . the New York City Police Emerald Pipe Band'—Advertisement, 'Irish Echo', May 6, 1972.

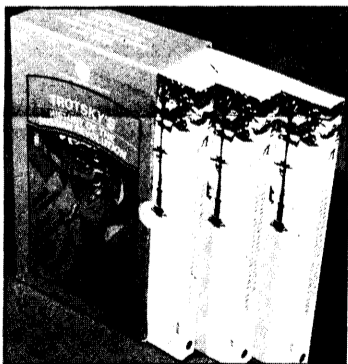
In Ireland most workers believe in some kind of socialism. So the Provos call themselves socialists to get their support. In the US most Irish are anti-socialist so the Provos don't have to hide their real right wing politics.

Connolly spent years in the States, as New York organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World. He fought US capitalism at every turn. Would the Police Pipe Band have ever played for a genuine revolutionary like Connolly? What kind of unsavoury movement must the Provos be if the police would play for them?

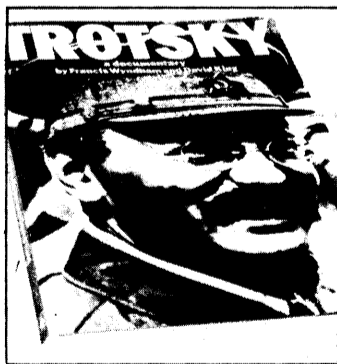
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# PRAISE THE LORD AND PASS THE PROFITS

*'Slaves be obedient to those who are your earthly masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart.'*—Letter of Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 6, verse 5.

**The British churches, as everyone knows, are run on very big business lines.**

And they certainly make money in South Africa, that most Christian of countries. The Prime Minister is Balthazar Vorster who was interned during the last war because of his open support for Adolf Hitler.

His brother, Dr D. J. Vorster, a prominent official of the Dutch Reformed Church, once so inspired a right-wing student audience with his praises of Hitler that their president declared: 'We are proud of being called Nazis. Mr Vorster has shown us where to draw our inspiration.'

It would clearly be a deplorable thing, however, and against Christian unity, if the South African churches were the only ones to make a profit out of the African and Indian population.

The Church Commissioners for England, ignoring the hoary old rumour that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven, have commissioned almost 7 million shares in four companies operating in South Africa.

These are British-Leyland Motor Corporation, GEC, Metal Box and Associated British Foods. The market value of these shares totals £6,543,276.

The total number of shares owned by British church organizations in major British companies operating in South Africa is 8,895,634. Their current market value is £7,564,679.

Fifteen British church organizations are involved.

The Anglicans, the Catholics, the Methodists, the Evangelists and the Church of Scotland are all in on it. They may have theological differences, but one thing they're all sure of—where there's exploitation there's money.

British-Leyland employs 3,000 workers, mostly coloureds, at its big motor assembly plant at Blackheath, near Cape Town, and a further 1,500, mostly Africans, at its plants in Durban and Elandsfontein.

Leyland South Africa is the 11th biggest South African company. Last year average wages paid to its unskilled and semi-skilled coloured and African labour was £7 for a 44-hour week.

In addition to the Church Commissioners' 4.5 million shares (worth nearly £1.5m), the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England owns 250,000 shares (£80,000) and the Central Board of Finance of the Methodist Church owns 10,000 shares worth £3,200.

Lord Soper is a former President of the Methodist Conference and a well-known contributor to 'Tribune'. A regular peace marcher, and soapbox orator, he is one of most famous protesters in the land.

His protests, if any, don't seem to have achieved much inside the Methodist Church. For in addition to its share in the exploitation of the African carworkers, the Central Board of Finance of the Methodist Church has 20,000 shares in GEC South Africa (market value £28,000); 11,700 shares in Metal Box (market value £31,000); and 12,465 shares (£21,564) in Tate and Lyle, which also operates in South Africa.

The full list of church investments in British-Leyland is shown in Table 1.

GEC has 29 South African subsidiaries and associates and is the biggest electrical engineering group in the country. It does not disclose its South African profits, but its South African turnover is £25m a year.

It employs a labour force of about 4,000 and on latest available figures (June 1970) Africans were earning as little as 10.7p an hour—£4.81 for a 45-hour week.

Church investments in GEC are shown in Table 2.

Metal Box profits in South Africa for the six months ending September 1972 were £950,000 after tax—that is, nearly £2m a year.

Metal Box South Africa has assets of £25.5m. It operates factories in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Walvis Bay.

Eight British church organizations have investments in Metal Box. They are shown in Table 3.

Other British companies operating in South Africa with the churches' blessings are Tate and Lyle and the Chloride Electrical Storage Co.

In addition to the Methodists' 41,700 shares, mentioned above, the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England has 100,000 shares worth £173,000 in Tate and Lyle.

The same saintly organization has 100,000 shares worth £95,000 in the Chloride Electrical Storage Company.

The profits of Premier Milling, the South African subsidiary of Associated British Foods are not available, but they increased by 10 per

cent in 1972 over 1971.

Premier Milling employs 18,000 workers, of whom 14,500 are black. The lowest paid Africans get £4.90 a week. Last year the company spent £3m in South Africa on the modernization and expansion of production facilities.

The Church Commissioners for England, with 102,000 shares worth £46,410, are—for some reason—the only British church organization to

**Above: Balthazar Vorster, South African Prime Minister. Top left: Bishop makes his yearly visit to the people in Mamelodi parish.**

invest in Associated British Foods. Perhaps the others don't want to encourage greed, which is, after all, one of the Seven Deadly Sins.

But its more likely that they realize that on the wages paid by all the Christians and their friends, the Africans can hardly afford to eat, anyway.

**TABLE 1: CHURCH INVESTMENTS IN B-L**

	No. of shares	Market value
Church Commissioners for England	4,458,000	£1,426,560
Central Board of Finance of the Church of England	250,000	£80,000
Church of England Pensions Board	5,000	£1,600
Church of England Children's Society	60,444	£19,342
Church Missionary Trust Association	18,750	£6,000
Blackburn Diocesan Board of Finance	4,809	£1,539
Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance	785	£251
Central Board of Finance of the Methodist Church	10,000	£3,200
Church of Scotland Trust	75,925	£24,296
Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees	750	£240
British Council of Churches	2,000	£640
British and Foreign Bible Society	400	£128
Church Adoption Society	2,800	£896
Church Army	803	£257
Africa Evangelical Fellowship	1,250	£400

**TABLE 2: CHURCH INVESTMENTS IN GEC**

	No. of shares	Market value
Church Commissioners for England	2,930,933	£4,103,306
Central Board of Finance of the Church of England	150,000	£210,000
Church of England Pensions Board	6,500	£9,100
Church of England Children's Society	50,420	£70,588
Church Missionary Trust Association	42,400	£59,360
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church	20,000	£28,000
Church of Scotland Trust	75,000	£105,000
Church Army	11,503	£16,104
British Council of Churches Trust Ltd.	4,200	£5,880

**TABLE 3: CHURCH INVESTMENTS IN METAL BOX**

	No. of shares	Market value
Church Commissioners for England	380,000	£1,007,000
Church of England Pensions Board	2,121	£5,621
Church Missionary Trust Association	1,620	£4,293
Church Finance Board of the Methodist Church	1,681	£4,455
British Council of Churches	11,700	£31,005
British and Foreign Bible Society	1,000	£2,650
Church Army	375	£994

# THE GREAT PRICES RAMP

In May 1970 in the run up to the General Election Edward Heath made his now-notorious speech promising to cut prices 'at a stroke'.

But in the two years and ten months since coming to office prices on the High Street have risen at an unprecedented rate.

For millions of working class families the cost of living has risen to such a point where they have to forego 'luxuries' like steak, fresh fish and vegetables. Under the Tories they have been told to eat tinned beefburgers, chicken and chips.

It's no wonder that a school's survey recently revealed that large numbers of children in working class areas are showing signs of rickets, the condition caused by poor nutrition.

The prices ramp is the result of deliberate Tory policy. Since June last year the pound has been floating—downwards—thus making the value of all imported foods some 11 or 12 per cent dearer.

In November when the First Phase of the state pay laws was introduced the prices of fresh fruit and vegetables were exempted from all controls. This enabled the profiteers in the commodity markets to charge what they liked while wages were legally held down.

Now the Phase Two laws are through parliament. They end the right of free collective bargaining and impose Tory pay controls. Prices are all but exempted. If a company wants to put up the price of its manufactured products, it simply goes to the Tory-appointed Prices Commission, presents its case and then makes the increase.

But just let a group of workers try to get a wage increase above Heath's £1 plus 4 per cent! If they defy the state 'norms' they are liable to prosecution, unlimited fines and even jail.

The price rises shown on this page are startling proof of the conspiracy against the working class. And this is not the end of it: the full effects of VAT are still to be felt; and the Common Market commissioners have already made clear that they want a new round of increases in the price of basic foodstuffs.

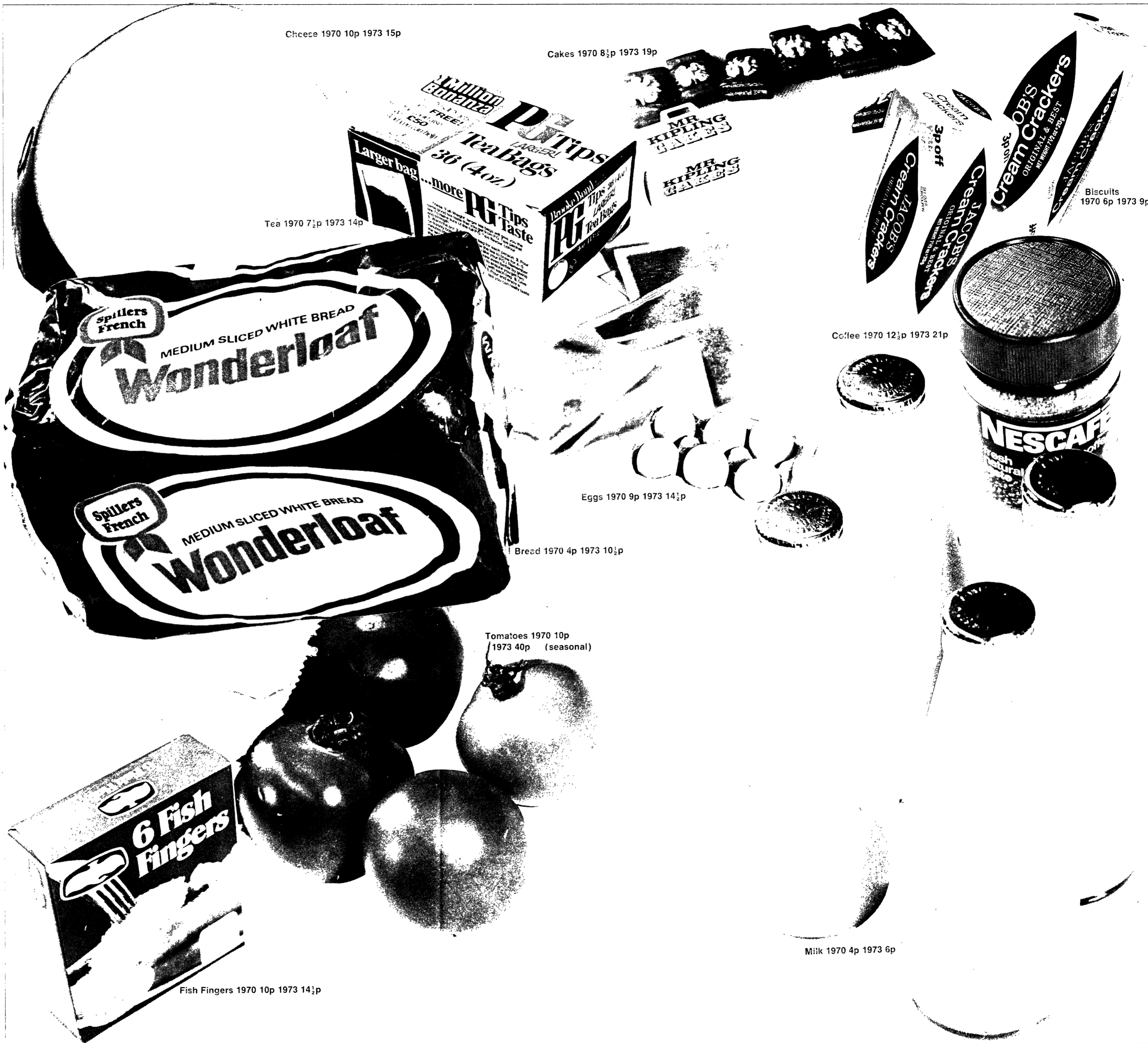
There is nothing accidental about these enormous price rises. They flow directly from the Tory policy of making the working class pay for the economic crisis.

In the face of this policy of mass impoverishment of the working class the TUC, the Labour Party and trade union leaders have offered no leadership at all for the millions of workers who have shown a willingness to fight. On the contrary, behind the scenes they have been working hand-in-glove to get the laws onto the statute books and to head-off the militancy of sections of workers.

No worker can today bring prices down or get higher wages without entering a direct political fight against the Tory government. The only way forward for millions of workers who want to defend their standard of living is to force the Tories out of office.

They must fight in every trade union branch, trades council and constituency party to force their leaders to adopt this policy and then fight for its implementation.

In place of the Tories must be elected a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. Such an incoming Labour government must be mandated by the mass movement to repeal all anti-working class legislation—the Industrial Relations Act, the Housing Finance Act, the state pay laws—and carry out a policy of nationalization of the banks, basic industry and the food monopolies.



# CIA 'COUNTER TERROR' IN VIETNAM



Prisoners, so badly maimed by confinement that they cannot walk, use trolleys to move around. Some are also blind.

## 'Peace' in Vietnam could well mean death to civilian political prisoners in the jails of the Thieu regime in South Vietnam.

The US-backed dictator may well find it more convenient to kill off these prisoners rather than risk their testimonies reaching the outside world.

Estimates vary as to the number of civilians behind bars. The Saigon government refuses to discuss it and the American officials claim it is an internal affair of 'independent' South Vietnam.

But members of the Saigon-based Committee for the Improvement of Prison Conditions claim that the figure is approaching 200,000 and that 50,000 people were jailed during the first five months of the North Vietnamese 1972 offensive alone.

A pervasive police network operates at every level of South Vietnamese society. This network includes both military and civilian branches, but there is little difference between the two. In 1971 the police administration was made into a separate military command whose head is responsible directly to President Thieu.

This combination of civilian police and military functions serves the objectives of the United States Agency for In-

ternational Development (AID) which finances most of the Saigon regime's police activities, under the direction of Robert Thompson, President Nixon's top adviser on counter-insurgency.

The largest South Vietnamese police agency is the National Police force. It has increased from 16,000 men in 1963 to over 120,000 by the end of 1972, and further increases are planned. Representatives of the National Police are now stationed in every district in South Vietnam.

The growth and sophistication of the National Police been accomplished by a decade of American planning, advising and funding. US economic assistance to the National Police has grown steadily over the last four years. With this funding the police have developed techniques of control which have now reached totalitarian dimensions. Responsibilities of the National Police force now range from identifying and keeping dossiers on every citizen over 15 to the interrogation of most prisoners.

The Special Police, a branch of the National Police, are responsible for eliminating National Liberation Front cadre and repressing all movements for peace and neutrality. They are especially feared and hated because of their practice of infiltrating

opposition political groups and torturing arrested suspects. The mass arrests of 1972 were carried out by the Special Police.

The Active Service Police forms part of the National Police force for administrative purposes, but actually receives orders directly from the President's office, from the American Central Intelligence Agency, from the Chiefs of Staff of the South Vietnamese Army and from the American Special Forces.

More than 20 provincial offices come under this branch of the police. In Saigon alone there are eight offices, employing 80 to 120 people each, not counting the personnel of the 200 to 300 bureaux and all the informers.

The National Police Field Force (NPF) is 'a paramilitary police unit engaged primarily in combating the Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI) in rural areas in south Vietnam'. The US Army calls it a 'relatively new and major police adjustment in counter-insurgency work'. Their equipment, including tanks and artillery, is identical to that used by the South Vietnamese military forces. Most of their material support comes from the US Defence Department. The NPF now numbers more than 25,000.

The employees of the Official Saigon Police can be divided

into two categories: uniformed police and plainclothesmen who are granted the right to make arrests. This right becomes an illegal source of income since the innocent but well-off (merchants, restaurant proprietors) are arrested and forced to contribute large sums in order to ensure their release.

The Order Police, another branch of the National Police, are charged with assisting in the quelling of 'demonstrations, disorders and riots'. Such action has been specifically praised in the United States AID report for several years.

One notorious piece of American 'aid' was the Phung Hoang or Phoenix Programme.

This was originally designed by the United States to 'neutralize' the political apparatus of the National Liberation Front or VCI (Viet Cong Infrastructure). The techniques used ranged from paying informers to assassination. Though generally conceded to be a failure in terms of reducing the NLF's political strength, the Phoenix Programme has come to be a significant aspect in the repression of political dissent in South Vietnam.

Wayne Cooper, a former Foreign Service Officer who spent most of his 18 months in Vietnam as an adviser to the Phoenix Programme described the origins of the operation:

'In the mid-1960s, the

Central Intelligence Agency began a programme which came to be known as "counter terror" or "CT". It was a unilateral American programme, never recognized by the South Vietnamese government. CIA representatives recruited, organized, supplied and directly paid CT teams, whose function was to use Viet Cong techniques of terror—assassination, abuses, kidnappings and intimidation—against the Viet Cong leadership.'

Cooper traces the development of the Phoenix Programme from an exclusively American operation to its incorporation into the Saigon police network. In the process, the original objectives of Phoenix were altered.

'In the field, we saw the inertia and ineptitude and knew the programme wasn't succeeding. But we failed to notice that Phung Hoang was becoming something else—a means for repressive political control over the South Vietnamese. . . . The "subversive" nationalist who expressed fatigue with the war, scorn for Thieu and Ky, and enthusiasm for a coalition government, was by definition a threat to public security. He might easily find himself on Con Son Island, his arrest being explained to advisers by ascribing to him a VCI title.'

In hearings before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, K. Barton Osborn, a former intelligence operative in Vietnam, testified on specific instances:

'They terrorized him [a prisoner] several times by taking him with his elbows behind his back, hands tied, running him up to the door of the helicopter and saying: "If you don't tell us what we need to know we are going to throw you out of the helicopter." They did this two or three times and he refused to say anything. He couldn't respond. He wouldn't respond. Therefore, on the fourth trip to the door they did throw him out from the helicopter to the ground.'

Osborn also stated that:

'I will say this: individually I never knew an individual to be detained as a VC suspect who ever lived through an interrogation in a year and a half, and that included quite a number of individuals. That may be my experience; may be a tremendous exception to the rule, but the experience of my peers there and my own experience first hand, which I swear to, and have sworn to, was categorically inhuman and with no rhyme, reason or bureaucratic justification for a murder programme which had gone way beyond the level of any competence at that level.'

In many prisons and interrogation centres spread throughout the country, torture and physical ill treatment are common. According to reliable information received recently in London, for example, 50 students—whose names were provided—were subjected to torture at the Saigon Police Headquarters during the period April 28 to May 28, 1972.

Eight of them were tortured so severely that at least one limb was left paralysed; a further seven were driven insane, while a further 20 suffered internal bleeding or other internal injury. Recently two more students, Buu Chi and Nguyen Duy Hien, were tortured to death in Hué.

One of the most notorious women's prisons is at Thu Doc, where clubbings, phalanx, electric shock, water torture, hanging from the ceiling and separation from their children are some of the sufferings the prisoners undergo.

CONTINUED TOMORROW





Left: The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie. Far left: Ambassador of Miranda (Fernando Rey); Mr Senéchal (Jean-Pierre Cassel); Mr Thévenot (Paul Frankeur).

They don't proceed very far before a terrible moaning from a back room interrupts them. It is some mourners around the bier of the proprietor who died that afternoon. The guests leave dinnerless.

They next come back to the businessman's for Saturday lunch. But when they arrive, the young couple are upstairs about to clinch.

Because the wife apparently makes so much noise during their sexual bouts, the couple decide to nip out to the garden, while their guests are informed via the maid to make themselves at home with the drinks.

During the boring lecture on dry martini making, a chance doorbell ring, coupled with the lengthy and unexplained absence of their hosts, suddenly fills the civil servant and the diplomat with the fear that it is a police raid about their dope-smuggling. They do a bolt, with one of the ladies leaning out of the car window to get rid of too many martinis.

It was, in fact, nothing of the sort. It was the local bishop looking for work as a gardener. 'You've heard of worker priests? Well I'm a worker bishop,' he explains to the baffled maid, who shows him where the garden shed is.

The hosts come back breathless and with grass in their hair, find their guests mysteriously vanished, and then have to deal with the mad bishop in a straw hat asking when can he start.

And that's all in just the first 20 minutes.

Later on, a pot-smoking army unit arrives; the friends do get arrested by some fairly brutal police; the worker-bishop commits homicide; and everyone's dreams become more and more fantastic.

... And their mealtimes go on being interrupted.

But the power of the film is in the observations of the middle-class mentality rather than in the events, themselves.

The pathetic vanity, the pretensions, the Philistine emptiness of their conversation, their greed, their hypocrisy, their moral corruption, and the indirect influence on all of them of the threatened position of their whole class, make the film worthwhile.

It is impossible to summarize in words how Bunuel achieves the effect he gets. Every word, gesture and movement is carefully conceived and faultlessly executed in exactly the manner required.

Not once throughout the film is the bourgeoisie mentioned by name or spoken about. Not a word of political criticism is raised against their rule. But the bourgeoisie everywhere will squirm uncomfortably to see themselves as Bunuel sees them.

# THE BOURGEOISIE ARE NOT WHAT THEY SEEM

BY JOE HARPER

Bunuel's 'Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie' is a masterly work. The characters are a nondescript bunch of middle-class people—a civil servant a young businessman, a diplomat from a Latin American embassy and their wives or girlfriends.

The scene is modern-day France, but it could be any western country.

The action mainly consists of innumerable attempts of this group of friends to get together and have a successful lunch or dinner free of incident.

They never make it. Either

there is some appalling misunderstanding or else some catastrophe bursts in on them from outside.

Many of the interruptions that we see on the film are in fact nothing but dreams of failure or disaster which different characters have in turn.

But in the end, it all amounts to the same thing: the bourgeoisie are not what they seem. They are beset with all sorts of anxieties and problems, haunted by fears of inadequacy and feelings of guilt and walking endlessly to nowhere. Above all they are laughably incompetent.

The whole film from the title to the closing shot is a subtly ironic comment on the doomed historical position of the bourgeoisie as a class.

Nowhere, of course, is this ever stated. Bunuel deals entirely in the stifling detail of everyday middle-class life—how to make the best dry martinis, how to make good herb soup, where to go for dinner etc. etc.

Other, more political incidents are brought in, such as a bit of heroin-smuggling and some brushes which the Latin diplomat has with a group of terrorists, but these are mainly episodic scenes used to bring out some of the detailed paranoia which torment the bourgeois soul.

The most powerful impression that comes across is the direct opposite of discreet charm. The bourgeoisie in fact are clumsy thugs and Philistines.

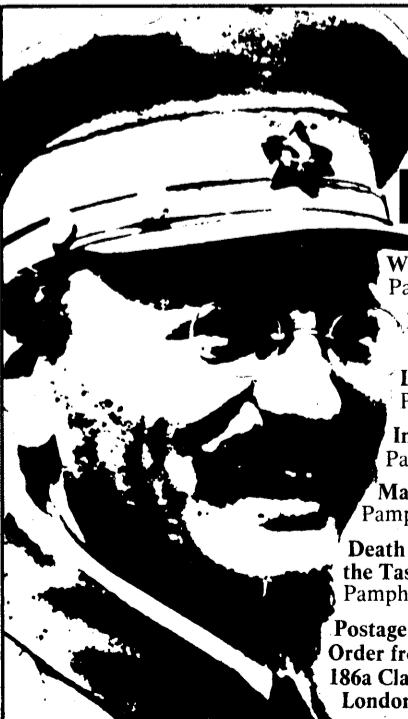
The film opens with four

guests arriving one evening for dinner at the young businessman's country home, all suave-up, nervously trying not to notice the empty boredom of their sparse conversation, and looking forward to pigging in.

They walk in, but the host is not there and the wife is in her dressing gown about to turn in for an early night. They have come on the wrong evening.

After some embarrassed silence, they eventually come up with an idea—all go off to a local restaurant.

After some confusion, thinking the place is closed, they eventually get inside and settle down, deciding to ignore the strange behaviour of the staff and the absence of any other diners.



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## WORKERS NOTEBOOK

### IMMUNE

Parking meters are no problem if you're a diplomat. In the last six years diplomatic immunity has been claimed by embassy staffs for a total of 132,055 parking offences.

Nigeria tops the league with 11,104 'immune' offences. Next comes Saudi Arabia, with 6,789 waived parking offences.

The rest of the 'top ten' are: Hungary (6,727), Egypt (5,767), Ghana (5,677), Poland (4,471), Turkey (4,460), Iran (4,162), Cyprus (3,637) and Cuba (3,460).



### SIX STALINS

The 'Manchester Evening News' had a remarkable item about Stalin the other day. It claimed that a diplomatic correspondent was in Moscow at a conference in 1947 when the

great leader paid a visit to the ballet.

The streets from the ballet back to the Kremlin were lined with double rows of police. Then six limousines swept past. Sitting in the back of each vehicle was... Stalin. The question is, which one was Stalin?

### NOT BEEF

Marbone Canners Limited of Gloucester Place, London, were in Birmingham magistrate's court the other day. The company was fined £25 after admitting 'providing food that was not of the substance demanded'.

It was all to do with a 6lb tin of corned beef. When it was opened it contained corned beef plus a 12-inch rolled green muslin bandage with a wound dressing in the centre.

The corned beef goes under the trade name of 'Trusty'.



## Chinese right-winger back in favour

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TENG Hsiao-ping, denounced during the Chinese cultural revolution as number two capitalist traitor after the disgraced head of state Liu Shao-chi is now back in favour.

Before 1966, Teng, who is now 69, was Secretary-General of the Chinese Communist Party. His first public appearance since 1967 came at a banquet in honour of Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia in Peking. High officials shook his hand as he reached his place at the top table.

The New China News Agency listed him number 15 among the 18 Chinese leaders present. Official sources explained that while he had made 'serious mistakes', they were not of the same order of gravity as those of Liu Shao-chi's and that he had repented.

A foreign diplomat commented: 'With Teng's reappearance tonight we can say that the cultural revolution is finally over.'

JAPANESE dockers are threatening to stage a 72-hour strike to press demands for a pay rise of £24 a month. They have turned down the employers' offer of £14.

# Carworkers attacked by thugs

WORKERS occupying part of the Peugeot factory in Saint Etienne were forced out by a strong-arm gang armed with clubs and iron bars sent in by the management before dawn on Thursday.

Nearly 80,000 workers in the town downed tools to protest against the attack. Later 15,000 attended a rally which was told that 20 of the strikers had needed medical treatment.

The sit-in has been going on for nearly two weeks in support of demands for a wage increase, shorter hours and pensions at 60.

French employers are increasingly resorting to strong-arm methods in order to discipline workers, especially immigrants, and to terrorize strikers. Gangs of men are recruited and armed and provided with guard dogs, ostensibly for 'security' purposes.

These methods have the backing of the police and Gaullist and other right-wing groups.

The strike of 400 Renault workers in the press shop which

closed part of the Boulogne-Billancourt factory was settled under pressure from the Stalinist CGT leadership.

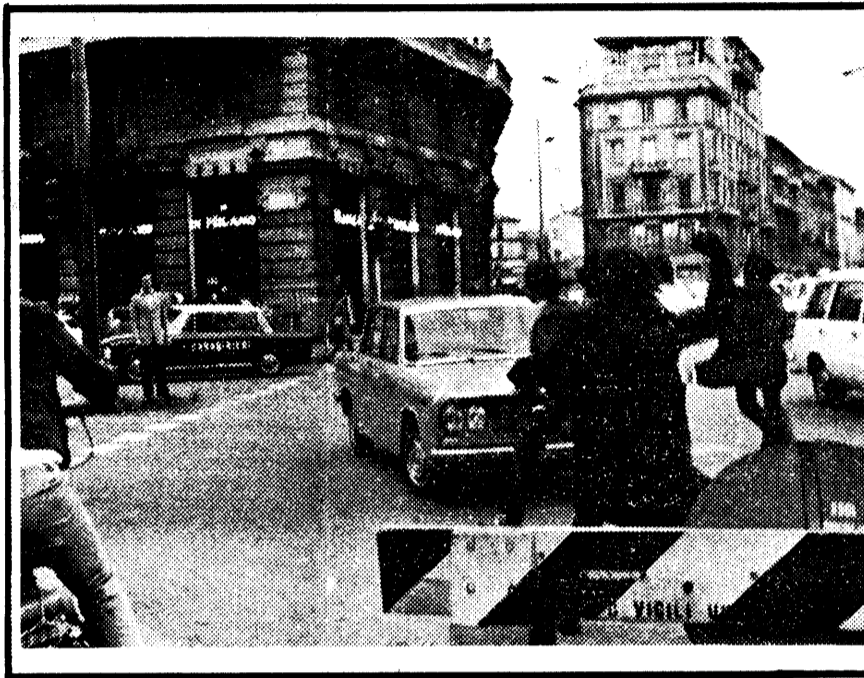
After reaching a compromise with the Renault management, the delegates of the CGT and the Catholic CFDT told the men, most of whom are foreign workers, to either accept the proposals or refuse them—without indicating any alternative.

In Tuesday's secret ballot on the terms only 187 workers took part of whom 108 voted for and 75 against. Pressure was obviously applied by the trade union

bureaucracy to get the workers back, although all their demands had not been met.

In particular Renault refused to pay in full for the days lost during the strike, which was a heavy blow for the immigrant workers. One said it would take two years to make up what had been lost.

The Stalinists were extremely afraid that the strike in Renault would snowball out of their control. They took over the movement among the press shop workers against their intolerable conditions in order to sell it out.



## Fascists' grenade kills policeman

A POLICEMAN was killed by a grenade hurled from a crowd of masked fascist demonstrators who were defying a two-week ban on demonstrations in the Italian industrial city of Milan.

The fascists, who normally enjoy protection from the police in attacking left-wing demonstrations, were out on the streets for a public meeting in the town centre, organized by the Italian Social Movement (MSI).

Their clash with the police followed several days of street-fighting, which began when the police attacked demonstrators be-

longing to the Movimento Studentesco, a left-wing university group.

The leader of this organization, Mari Capanna, and two of his comrades are facing trial on trumped-up charges arising from an occupation of the university on January 25.

They are charged with kidnap and assault against the university rector, a notorious right-winger noted for his bitter hostility to left-wing organizations within the university.

● left: Students throwing stones during their demonstration.

## Equity funding panic subsides for the moment

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE CONSEQUENCES of the Equity Funding bankruptcy in the United States appear—at least for the moment—to have been contained by the Wall Street authorities. The big institutions which invested in the bankrupt company's stock and the banks owed money by the firm seem to have escaped this disaster with only badly burned fingers.

The Securities and Exchange Commission—the government's rather toothless watchdog over the misdeeds of stock market operators—has moved in, promising its biggest ever inquest.

This appears—again for the moment—to have restored to a certain extent the shaken nerves of the Wall Street investors, though there is no saying what new horrors the SEC investigation will reveal.

With one of the prestige names of US finance revealed as a gigantic fraud, investors are bound to start asking how many more Equity Funding scandals are lurking in the skyscrapers of Manhattan.

The worst effects of the company's crash are being felt outside the United States in the European money and bond markets where Equity Funding had raised capital to the tune of \$25m.

The Euro-bond market is a creature of uncontrollable world inflation which has grown up in large part since August 1971, when President Nixon stopped selling gold from the US reserves.

International banking consortia in which all the capitalist world's main banks are heavily involved, undertake to dispose of shares and bonds issued by American and European countries in exchange for Euro-currency.

The very rapid growth of the market in this form of inflated paper, its world-wide scope and the involvement of top-level financial institutions makes it a transmission belt conveying all the problems of one corner of

the financial world into everyone else's bank parlour.

The flood of paper on to the Euro-bond market has been accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the standards of credit-worthiness required of the institutions taking part.

Large sums have been loaned to borrowers in areas like the Far East, where the Hong Kong and Singapore stock markets are plummeting and there is little or no check on the powers of borrowers to repay their debts.

The crash of Equity Funding, together with the inability of US Financial, another prominent American firm, to pay interest on its bonds, has virtually brought the Euro-bond market to a complete standstill.

New issues are still in the hands of the banking consortia, who can find no takers because of lack of confidence among investors, and only the most well-known names are in the market at the moment.

The absence of confidence in the Euro-bond market could have severe effects if it continues, because it will leave the banks underwriting large blocks of bonds of doubtful value, creating further liquidity problems for them at a time when much of their funds are already loaned out over a long term.

The Equity Funding affair demonstrates what one writer called the 'fallibility and fragility of the mechanisms through which even very big business may be conducted in America'.

These characteristics apply with even greater force to the mushroom growth of credit in the Euro-bond market.

## B52 bombers cannot halt Cambodian liberation forces

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THE LON NOL puppet regime in Cambodia is facing collapse under the hammer blows of the liberation forces who practically surround the capital, Phnom Penh, and the main provincial towns.

Heavy attacks by US B52 bombers based in Thailand have failed to halt the offensive. After General Alexander Haig's fact-finding mission to the area, President Nixon is considering whether to give South Vietnam the go-ahead to invade Cambodia in support of Lon Nol.

Democratic Senator Mike Mansfield has warned that use of South Vietnamese and Thai troops in Cambodia could be dangerous. The Cambodian government, he said, has almost

ceased to function despite millions of dollars of US aid.

The supply position in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh remains critical despite the arrival of a convoy of lorries. Its 1.5 million inhabitants have no water supply and heat and public transport has stopped running. Prices have soared so that a worker's daily pay will not buy a glass of beer.

The people of Phnom Penh celebrated the Cambodian New Year yesterday with dancing in the street in an atmosphere of almost feverish gaiety.

If Saigon forces enter Cambodia they will require US supplies and air support in order to fight their way through areas held by the National Liberation Front.

Washington is hesitating to authorize action in Cambodia which could mean the end not only of Lon Nol but also of the Saigon regime.

During the US attack on Cambodia in 1970 the Saigon troops were hated for their savagery and rapacity. Prince Norodom Sihanouk told the Australian journalist, William Burchett, that they 'helped forge our resistance movement from the start'. Many of Lon Nol's soldiers deserted and came over with their arms to the partisans.

There is no doubt that further Saigon intervention would provoke even fiercer resistance than in 1970. The Lon Nol regime has only survived for so long because of backing from the Americans and the South Vietnamese.

**SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETINGS**  
Make Scanlon retract!  
No collaboration with the Industrial Relations Act!  
No acceptance of Phase Two!  
Force the Tories to resign!  
Build the revolutionary party!

**South London**  
TUESDAY APRIL 24,  
8 p.m.  
Clapham Manor Baths,  
Clapham Manor Street,  
SW4

**North London**  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 25  
8 p.m.  
Woodlands Hall,  
Crown Street,  
Acton, W.3.

**Liverpool**  
Transform the SLL into the revolutionary party  
Monday April 23,  
7.30 p.m.  
'The Mona', James St  
(Entrance at back in Moor St)

### SLL LECTURE SERIES

The revolutionary party and the history of the British working class

**Merthyr Tydfil**

Caedraw School  
Merthyr Tydfil  
7 p.m.

Sunday April 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)**

Hollins Social Centre  
Tintern Road, Hollins Estate  
7.30 p.m.

Monday April 16  
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.

# Two-week recognition fight Picket arrested for second time

BY DAVID MAUDE

**TWO YOUNG** garage workers were remanded on bail at a south London magistrates' court yesterday after being arrested while on strike picket three hours earlier.

Kingston magistrates refused a police application to deny bail to one of the two, Philip Penn, who is already due to appear in court on May 3 on a previous obstruction charge.

The magistrates also refused a second police application, to ban the two from the area of the strikebound garage until after the hearing.

But although the second picket, Charles Penn, faces no previous charge, both brothers were warned that if they come before the court again before May 3 it is unlikely they will be granted bail.

Twenty-six workers at Lankesters, the main British-Leyland dealer in Kingston, have been on strike for two weeks for recognition of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in negotiations on a new pay structure.

## Backing

The dispute has the official support of the union's district committee and backing is being sought from the national executive.

Last Friday Philip Penn was arrested and charged with wilful obstruction of the highway in breach of section 121 of the 1959 Highways Act.

He appeared in court on Wednesday, the day after Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, had ruled, on a police appeal, that Stockport magistrates must convict a building union official under the 1959 Act.

On Thursday police arrived at the Lankesters picket line with newspaper cuttings reporting the Widgery judgement.

Yesterday morning, Philip Penn was again arrested while talking to a garage customer who had pulled up on seeing the strikers' placards announcing an official dispute.

Charles Penn was arrested when his brother attempted to hand him a wallet containing the strikers' funds.

## Obstruction

Philip was charged with wilful obstruction of the highway. Charles was charged with obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty.

Both were remanded on bail of £50 in their own recognizance.

Replying to the police objection to Philip Penn being bailed, counsel instructed by the brothers' union objected that he had only been charged, not convicted, and that he was not a criminal but someone fighting for his trade union convictions.

On the attempt to ban them from the area, he argued that they should be free to picket so long as they did not obstruct the highway.

# Steelmen plan action against jobs threat

BY IAN YEATS

DELEGATES from 22 steel action committees, representing 111,958 men, met at Connah's Quay, North Wales, yesterday to hammer out a policy for fighting a Tory run-down of the industry.

Nearly 100 delegates travelled from South Wales, Scotland, Midlands and the north-east to the first-ever rank-and-file steel conference in North Wales.

Shotton action committee chairman Mr Luke McLaughlin told the 200-strong conference:

'We feel this conference is an absolute necessity.

We've been let down by official channels. We've been sold down the river.

'We are going to fight and we are going to win. Make no mistake about that.'

About 6,500 jobs are to be axed at Shotton and 40,000 others could disappear by 1975 if Tory plans to 'modernize' the industry go ahead.

Mr McLaughlin said: 'We won't accept hatchet men coming round the country telling us what to do. It is time we told them what to do.'

Called by Shotton action committee, the conference was expected to set up a national rank-and-file body to fight redundancies.

Mr McLaughlin said:

'We want to get together to force the government, the BSC, the TUC and our own union leaders to give us the negotiations we must have.'

Conference resolutions indicated the new committee would press for an expansion of steel output up to 43 million tons a year in a bid to keep the doomed steel-works opened.

They were also expected to call for a stepping up of the campaign for a 35-hour week.



The picket continued at Lankesters yesterday.

## Rubery Owen vote

A MEETING of 1,500 Rubery Owen workers at Darlaston, Staffs, yesterday voted unanimously to continue their strike for a further week.

After hearing a report from local officials that no progress had been made in negotiating a settlement, the meeting decided to return to the original claim for £5-across-the-board for all workers.

Until this point, the pay demand had been scaled down to £2.52 to meet the government's state pay laws.

Two young workers told Workers Press:

'I don't think we will back down now and I can't see the management withdrawing either.'

'It's a political stand against the government's wages policy. One factory can't beat the government alone—we know that.'

'There's going to be a national one-day strike on May 1, so the TUC will have to extend this to a General Strike.'

'It's got to come. We should like to see a Labour government back in and they must end the wage freeze and the anti-union laws and provide cheap houses.'

## Coventry hospitals closed

ANCILLARY workers in seven major hospitals in the Coventry area came out on strike yesterday.

No emergency services are being undertaken, but the strikers have allowed one hospital to remain open for casualties.

The laundry at Whitley Hospital, Coventry, is also out on strike.

This supplies clean linen to all the hospitals in Coventry, Rugby and Nuneaton.

Hospital authorities say that this is the gravest situation to date.

A picket at the modern Wallgrave Hospital told Workers Press:

'We are hitting hard now. We here still think this selective strike method is wrong. Our branch has sent in resolutions demanding an all out national stoppage.'

While militant action was still continuing in Wales (43 hospitals affected), north west (73 hospitals), Scotland (90 hospitals), Midlands (50), north east (46), and the south west, leaders of the four unions were trying to negotiate a back-to-work agreement with management representatives in London on the basis of a quicker introduction of equal pay and productivity.

# Now to get the Tories out!

FROM PAGE ONE

Far from assisting the Tories, these conflicts have been followed by a record anti-Tory vote.

Labour's gains have exceeded those of 1972, which was itself the best year for Labour in local elections since the war.

What price now Tom Jackson, the Post Office workers' leader? Last year Jackson told Workers Press:

'I don't think the trade union movement can force a General Election and hope that the left can win it . . . the government would win hands down . . . there would be a reaction against trade unionists in a ballot-box situation following either a General Strike or a mini-General Strike.'

## FRESH LIGHT

And this week's massive rejection of the Tories sheds fresh light on TUC General Secretary Victor Feather, who also claims that strikes help the Tories and recently declared:

'We shall not go looking for trouble. We shall not seek dramatic confrontations either with the government or with employers, in court or outside.'

Only one month before Thursday's voting, Feather was telling the TUC special Congress:

'We have to deal with governments. There is only one government and we have always tried to maintain a working relationship with that government.'

And only three days before the council elections a former 'left'

AUEW President Hugh Scanlon—was telling the national committee of his union's engineering section that the government had won the battle for state pay control and that high wage claims could not win.

This followed his recent approval of an 'amended' Industrial Relations Act and Common Market entry.

It is these reformist leaders, backed up by the Stalinists, and together with the Parliamentary Labour leaders, who enable the thoroughly discredited Heath government to continue in office.

'The Times' claim that the miners' ballot was a 'vote of confidence' in Heath has also been decisively answered.

There is one clear message from these election results from every single industrial area throughout

England and Wales: the working class wants the Tories out!

There is no decline in the fighting spirit of the working class. On the contrary, a decisive lead against the Tory government will win an enormous response.

## HOSTILITY

There is no lack of hostility to the Tory Party, there is only a lack of leadership.

The transformation of the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party, the fight for Marxist leadership in the unions, and the conference of the Young Socialists this weekend are decisive steps towards resolving the historic crisis of mankind—the crisis of revolutionary leadership.

## APRIL FUND IS NOW £294.89 STEP UP FIGHT THIS WEEKEND

THE SWING to Labour in Thursday's Council elections proves one thing — that everywhere there is enormous feeling against the Tory government and that only the treachery of the reformist trade union leaders keeps this government in office.

This is why Workers Press is so important today. It is the only daily paper that fights to build an alternative revolutionary leadership. And such a leadership is vital for the working class in this political situation.

We appeal therefore, to every-one of you, dear readers. Our Fund this month is slow in getting off the ground. We need a very special effort immediately over this weekend to turn the position around. We know if we fight now we can do it. So do your best. Post all your donations to:

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

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