

PENTAGON CHIEF CALLED IN

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BY JOHN SPENCER

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He plans on staying in office, Watergate or no Watergate.

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Is Nixon planning to try and ride out the storm on their backs? Is he moving towards a form of personal rule based on close collaboration with the military—a strong-man regime to sweep the scandal under the carpet?

Such a regime could try to silence the Press, defy Congress and the Senate to try and put him out and hold the line against the US working class under conditions of rampant in-

flation and growing militancy in the factories.

No wonder the chief witnesses against the president, among them his former White House counsel, John Dean, are in fear for their lives. They know that Nixon will stop at nothing to retain his position at the head of his gangster regime.

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The entire administration, with Nixon at its head, conspired to undermine basic democratic rights on a vast scale in association with gangsters, crooked financiers and shady secret agents.

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American labour now faces its biggest challenge.

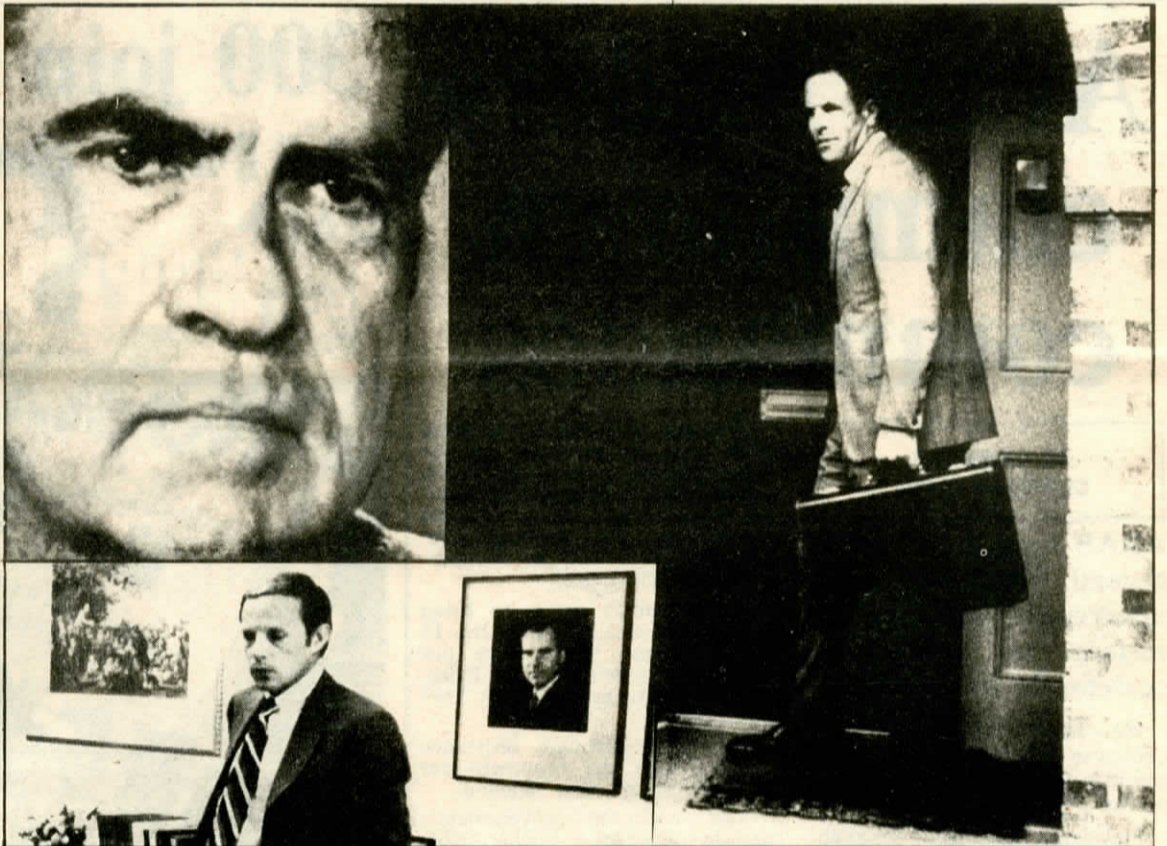
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WHO IS GENERAL HAIG?

GENERAL Alexander Haig, the new chief of staff at the White House, previously served as deputy to Dr Henry Kissinger throughout the negotiations on the Indo-China ceasefire.

He replaces H. R. Haldeman as the president's closest personal aide and day-to-day head of the administration. His transfer from one of the highest Pentagon posts to this key job symbolizes continued military backing for Nixon.

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Among the people involved are the former heads of the Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and leading members of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Haig is now being promoted as 'Mr Clean' who can purge the scandal from the administration and restore Nixon's credibility. Meanwhile, congressional and senate committees are examining the affair and a whole series of criminal cases are pending.



Haig

It remains to be seen whether Nixon can ride out the crisis with the aid of Haig and John Connally, the tough Texan ex-governor who has just rallied in his support.

What is certain is that Nixon is now forced to rely more and more on the military, who have long cherished ambitions of taking more power into their own hands.

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The NCCL passed an emergency resolution asking the government to abandon the Emergency Provisions Bill, repeal the Special Powers Act and ensure freedom for all political groups to contest elections and end internment.

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

OUR fund has now slowed down to a snail's pace. Socialist Labour League branches sent in:

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What we think

Stalinist treachery in the EPTU

THE BOAST in Friday's 'Morning Star' that 'total opposition to the Tory anti-union laws was voted overwhelmingly' at the electricians' union conference last Thursday is nothing more than a cover for yet another piece of Stalinist sabotage of the fight to get rid of the Tories.

The only effective way to oppose the anti-union laws is to mobilize the trade union movement to force the government to resign, and replace it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. That is precisely why the Stalinists supported the right wing by refusing to vote for a resolution whose mover, Mr. A. Pearse, had declared meant a General Strike to bring down the Heath government. A few weeks ago the Stalinists voted with the right wing at the National Union of Teachers' conference against a call to join the May 1 strike.

These are the politics of 'peaceful co-existence' in practice. In Saturday's 'Morning Star', industrial correspondent Mick Costello gave one paragraph to the General Strike call. He wrote: 'Only a handful of votes were cast' for a further resolution against state control of wages. Its mover called for industrial action to win 80-per-cent pay increases and wanted a General Strike

call now to be accepted as the only way to defeat an incomes policy.' Costello is lying. Brother Pearse did not call for industrial action to win 80-per-cent pay rises. What he did say was that conference delegates had voted themselves an 80-per-cent increase in their conference fees, and therefore ought to be willing to take on the government on behalf of the union's membership.

Like the right wing, the Stalinist 'reporter' seeks to present those who want a real fight against the Tories as people who make 'unrealistic' demands. The truth behind the Stalinists' talk of 'fighting the Act' is that the Chapple leadership emerged firmly committed to Phase Two of the Tory state pay laws. Chapple remains free to participate in the TUC-Heath talks whose purpose is to tie the working class to the state pay laws.

The Stalinists deliberately worked for this. They bear a major responsibility for these talks. At last September's Trades Union Congress they voted for a formula which permitted the TUC leaders to continue their collaboration with the Tories. Ever since, they have provided a 'left' cover behind which Feather, Scanlon and Jones have been able to capitulate completely to the Tories on the state pay laws, the Industrial

Relations Act, the Common Market and rents.

The Stalinists collaborated with the union leaders who left sections of workers like the gasmen and hospital ancillary staffs to fight alone and be defeated. They repeatedly defended the 'lefts'—Jones when he retreated on the issue of dockers' jobs and Scanlon when he publicly declared his willingness to accept an amended Industrial Relations Act.

At the national committee of the engineers' union in April, the Stalinists co-operated with Scanlon in composing out of existence all resolutions which called for mass industrial action to defeat the government, a national strike over wages or opposition to all talks with the Tories. As at the TUC in September, so at the AUEW national committee in April, the Stalinists rejected and fought against the demand that relations with the Tory government be broken off. It was Stalinist Sid Harraway who agreed to drop motions to the AUEW which outlawed more talks with the Tories, while the 'Morning Star' reported approvingly: 'At no stage in the debate did any delegate suggest that he (Scanlon) be barred from talking to the government.'

After all that, no serious worker should

be fooled by the Stalinists' claims that they are leading a fight against the right wing in the EPTU. It was indeed the Stalinists themselves, by their corrupt practices when they held the leadership of the union and by undermining the membership by such actions as sending them across picket lines to break the Shell-Mex South Bank strike in 1958, who handed the leadership of the union over to the right wing.

The Stalinist leaders, both in the ETU and in King Street, created the conditions whereby right-wingers in the union, with the collaboration of people like Woodrow Wyatt and John Freeman, were able to utilize the forces of the bourgeois state to take over the leadership of the union. Frank Chapple and Les Cannon—both ex-Stalinists—could never have become the leadership of the EPTU but for Stalinism.

The British Communist Party operates in the interests of the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, who developed the anti-communist theories of 'peaceful co-existence' and 'parliamentary roads to socialism'. The historic task of resolving the crisis of working-class leadership in order to end the capitalist system can never be accomplished without a relentless exposure and fight against Stalinism and all who capitulate to it.

Arab leaders clamp down on commandos

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

ARAB League secretary-general Mahmoud Riad intervened yesterday to restore a precarious ceasefire in the Lebanon.

He held talks with the Lebanese government and army commanders and with leaders of the Palestinian commandos.

President Suleiman Franjeh has made it clear that the Palestinian movement will in the future be even more tightly controlled than before.

He told Riad: 'When I took office I swore to preserve the sovereignty of this country and I intend to do so. I will not allow the rise of a state within a state.'

Franjeh and his government want the renegotiation of the Cairo agreement of 1969 which ended a previous round of fighting between the army and the commandos and imposed considerable restrictions on the guerrillas' free movement.

Now Franjeh wants to bring under government control the 15 refugee camps which were put under the control of the Palestinian resistance in the 1969 agreement.

But the Palestinian resistance fighters have said they will not compromise on this demand.

The Lebanese government's actions represent a further tightening of the net around the Palestinian movement.

Franjeh, like the rest of the Arab bourgeoisie, is completely subservient to the requirements of the imperialists and is prepared to sacrifice his 'Arab brothers' for the sake of good relations with Zionism.

300 join Indo-China march



ABOUT 300 people marched to the US and South Vietnamese embassies on Saturday to protest the continuing imperialist aggression in Indo-China.

Speakers at a pre-march rally in Trafalgar Square included representatives of the Indo-China Solidarity Conference, British Peace Committee, national student committee of the Communist Party, International Marxist Group and Indian Workers' Association.

Contingents were sent by branches of the IMG, International Socialism, CP and the Communist Federation of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

Joan Maynard, a member of the agricultural workers' union leadership and the national executive of the Labour Party, said the Watergate affair showed something of the corruption of American society which had been demonstrated in what the US did in Vietnam.

Tariq Ali, IMG secretary, said Nixon should not be tried just as a common criminal, as is now seemed likely he would be, but as a war criminal.

'Our task in the imperialist countries,' he said, 'is to increase and not diminish our solidarity action with the Indo-Chinese people—and to make it absolutely clear to the working-class movement that their struggle is our struggle.'

Cambodian troops desert

TWO Cambodian government battalions, totalling at least 500 men, have disappeared completely on the east bank of the Mekong River, not far from Phnom Penh.

The units, which had been on the river's east bank 25 miles to the south-east, have been listed as missing.

The Cambodian puppet authorities claim they were overwhelmed by a gas attack, but mass desertion to the liberation forces seems a far more plausible explanation.

American spotter planes were sent out to trace them but without success. Later tactical aircraft were brought in to bomb pro-Sihanouk forces nearby.

Fresh fighting was reported along the Mekong shipping route as the puppet forces face rocket and infantry teams within three miles of Phnom Penh.

The US Air Force was unable to bomb around Phnom Penh be-

cause of low cloud.

The start of the monsoon season makes it more difficult for the Lon Nol puppet government, which controls an area running three miles to the east of the capital and seven miles to the west.

Lon Nol is still attempting—on US 'advice'—to broaden his regime.

Last week he had discussions with the so-called Supreme Council, dubbed by some observers the Municipal Council of Phnom Penh in view of its restricted area of rule.

PAKISTANI police rounded up several hundreds—and possibly thousands—of Bengalis in a big security operation in Islamabad early yesterday.

A government spokesman said they were being taken to two or three places 'in preparation for their eventual repatriation to Bangladesh'.

Grigorenko to remain in psychiatric prison



Grigorenko

in a prison psychiatric hospital, informed sources said in Moscow yesterday.

The sources said the court made the ruling in January in Grigorenko's absence, but he only learnt about it in April when his wife Zinaida came to visit him in the hospital at Chernyakhovsk, in the Kalinin-grad area not far from the Polish border.

General Grigorenko, in his mid-60s, has been in the hospital for over three years.

An active leader of the Soviet dissident movement in the 1960s, he protested against the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, and championed the cause of the Crimean Tatars, a small Soviet nation deported to central Asia by Stalin.

He was arrested in Tashkent in May 1969 and charged with 'anti-Soviet activities', and was declared legally insane the following February.

A SPECIAL court has extended indefinitely the detention of Major-General Pyotr Grigorenko, once a leading Soviet dissident,

BSC SHUTDOWNS: TESTING POINT AT NEWPORT TUBES

BY IAN YEATS

July 7 will be a decisive day for the 700 men still employed by the British Steel Corporation at the Newport Tube Works, South Wales. It will also be a day which will make or break the anti-redundancy policies of the 13 steel unions and the unofficial national delegate committee.

Both are pledged to rally the strongest possible support to men at any location threatened with closure. 'If we don't get backing one way or the other that will be the end of our fight,' action committee secretary Mr Joe Parry told me. 'About 700 men will just walk out of the gate for good.'

If it doesn't sound much like fighting talk, it is because the men at Newport Tubes are battle-weary. Since they were first told of the plant's closure on Friday, January 7, 1972, at 10.30 a.m., about half the 1,200-strong workforce have been sacked.

Most of these were the younger men. Some were found work at other BSC plants like Llanwern. Some found jobs out of the industry. Others went into the army or navy. About 300 are still on the dole.

And during the same period, action committee members saw every conceivable relevant MP and trade union leader to lobby for the retention of the works. They also organized one of the biggest protest marches Newport has ever seen.

The channels of protest are familiar; so are the depressing results. Today there is less than a week's work at the plant and from now on the mainly ageing workforce will watch helplessly as the plant is remorselessly run down. For almost all of them closure will mean long months and even years on the dole. Some may never work again

KEPT SECRET

During their long campaign, the Newport men found that even protest was a right which had to be fought for. At first they claim the BSC refused to give them the detailed grounds on which the plant was being closed. After the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ex-BISAKTA) intervened, there was a six-months reprieve for social reasons.

Next, on July 18, 1972, the men's representatives put their case against closure to a select committee of the House of Commons. The Committee sympathized, but said it was not empowered to make recommendations — merely to examine the facts.

Broadly, the facts were that BSC said the demand for the type of tubes made at Newport was shrinking and that as a result production would be concentrated at Cambuslang, near Glasgow.

The works' action committee denied all of this and added that the plant had a 29-year record of profitability and that there had been no serious strike for half a century. All the time the action committee leaders were lobbying individuals as well from ISIC general secretary Sir David Davies to Labour leader Harold Wilson.



Members of Newport Tubes Action Committee formed to fight closure.

Right from the start they ruled out direct action, such as strikes, as being harmful to their case. Instead they committed their entire effort to producing facts and graphs to refute BSC's reasons for closing Newport. Their one aim was to have both cases submitted to an independent assessor whom they were confident would be forced—from the facts—to come out on their side.

They have not been given an independent inquiry and the chances are they never will. And they have learned the hard way that Labour leaders out of power have nothing to dispense but sympathy. Most of all they have learned

that with all their facts and figures and talk of an oil bonanza off the Welsh coast to push up the demand for tubes, a single works committee is powerless to influence the government-backed master plan for steel.

Now the action committee leaders themselves admit that after 12 months of reformist protest, even if they called for militant action at the works they almost certainly wouldn't get it.

INVESTIGATION

But a ray of hope appeared at the end of their particular tunnel two weeks ago when ISTC agreed to investigate all closures in depth. Where closures are found to be justified, the union pledged its full support in pressing for

alternative jobs to be made available.

Furthermore, when the national action committees met at Shotton last month, they pledged to rally to the aid of any location threatened with shut-down. 'It means a strike,' Joe Parry explained. 'If there's no strike over Newport Tubes, they won't get it for Cardiff, Ebbw Vale or anywhere else. They'll all be finished.'

Some of the men are still hoping for a reprieve so that a Welsh oil boom can have a chance of proving the works viable after all. Others are hoping only that someone, somewhere can be persuaded or forced through a national strike to provide alternative work in steel and in the locality.

WORKERS' CONTROL

The sorest point of all among the Newport men is the fact that, whatever their fate, it is being determined by a nationalized industry.

'It's disgusting,' said militant young action committee member Mike Anderson. 'I thought the whole idea of nationalized industries was to absorb unemployment. They belong to the people.'

'We've got a right to work and these industries should absorb us. I don't think nationalization or the idea of worker-directors has worked properly.'

'The nationalized industries should be put under proper workers' control. They should be run by shop stewards' committees.'

'Policy is being decided at the grass roots at the moment. People say return a Labour government, but you've got to ask what kind of Labour government.'

'Nationalization under workers' control will be an essential part of their manifesto.'

Meanwhile the 700 men wait helplessly to see which of the titans of the trade union movement—official or unofficial—will call the only action capable of saving their jobs. As Joe Parry said: 'If there's no strike, that will be the end of Newport Tubes.'

CLOSURE OF GOMERSAL PIT

Gomersal pit, near Bradford, Yorkshire, is being closed following the Lofthouse disaster in which seven men died. Like Lofthouse, Gomersal workings are close to old pit shafts and the National Coal Board now says there is danger of flooding.

Most of the men—380 in all—are doing maintenance work which is now almost complete. Sixty men are being sent to Kellingley colliery, 30 to Wheldale, 30 to Fryston and 30 to Sharston.

These pits are in the Castleford and Knottingley areas and involve at least two hours' travelling a day.

Mr Barry Wilson, president of Gomersal NUM branch, told Workers Press:

'The Board is picking off pits one by one. St John's, Normanton, is to close and now Gomersal is threatened. The NCB is closing down all its seam pits.'

'The men here are fed up with moving from pit to pit. One miner has been moved through five pits. When some miners were moved here from Thornhill pit, they were told that there was 25 to 30 years of life left in Gomersal.'

'The Lofthouse disaster is being used as an excuse to close Gomersal', Mr Wilson continued. 'A lot of experimental machinery has been



Rescue team during operations to free seven miners who died in the disaster at Lofthouse colliery.

used here and this has made losses—mainly because they did not listen to the advice of the miners on where to use it.'

Gomersal is the latest pit to close in this area. Others have been Old Roundwood, Shaw Cross, Thornhill and Shuttle Eye.

'The miners are being turned into nomads' says Mr Wilson.

'Coal Board policy is to take the easy coal and leave the rest, like an old man who eats the soft bit of bread and

leaves the crust. There are reserves of coal at Gomersal, but these are going to be left.'

Another Gomersal miner, Italian Mr Spolverato Bruno, has worked in pits in this country for 22 years. He told us:

'My father was persecuted by the fascists and I have been a socialist all my life.'

'We must keep that hole in the ground open. There must be no more closures.'

The Gomersal men have suggested that they all be put on the same shift—probably

at Kellingley pit. They say there has been some friction at Kellingley because the transferred men have started later and finished earlier because of travelling time.

But Gomersal NUM branch has also called for a Yorkshire-wide miners' strike against closures on May 14. This call was approved by the north Yorkshire Panel of the NUM on April 16.

It now goes before the union's National Executive Committee, which meets next Thursday (May 10).

LESSONS OF UCS

REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE

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REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE
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GRAPES OF WRATH 1973

BY OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT INTRODUCTION BY J. GALE

The United Farm Workers' union (UFW) was founded by Cesar Estrada Chavez in 1962, and was based on the Latin - American and Mexican-American workers in the Delano area of California.

By fighting on domestic issues, such as rents, welfare and education, it built up support among 2,200 families.

Its real test, however, came with the Delano Grape Strike. In May 1965, a strike of Filipino workers at Thermal was defeated. But four months after that defeat, over 1,000 Filipino workers walked out of the fields at Delano and eight days later were joined by the UFW.

The struggle became a General Strike in the grape fields for \$1.40 an hour plus a 25c-a-box bonus for the harvest season.

The main enemies were the DiGiorgio Fruit Corporation and the Scherley Corporation.

The most powerful of these was DiGiorgio, which owned some 30,000 acres. Three of its officials were directors of the Bank of America, and one of them—Carl Wente—was the bank's vice-president. Other leading figures in the DiGiorgio Corporation had key connections with the Pacific Gas and Electricity Company and the Pacific Telephone Company.

Other top employers were the Kern County Land Company (348,000 acres), the Tejon Ranch (Los Angeles Times-Mirror) with 168,500

acres, Perelli-Minetti, and Christian Brothers.

The owners fought the strikers with evictions—the bosses were also the slum landlords—while cars tried to run down pickets and bosses' agents sprayed strikers with sulphur. But the strike spread over 400 square miles of vineyards.

On the 100th day of the strike, the UFW called for a nation-wide boycott of Delano grapes and associated products. Before the strike had gone six months, 4,500 workers were involved and boycott centres had been established in 30 states.

On April 6, 1966, the Scherley Corporation signed an agreement recognizing the UFW. Two months later, a contract for a \$2-an-hour rise was won.

DiGiorgio, however, stuck out as the main enemy and violence against the strikers was intensified.

Substantial financial support was given to the strikers by the United Auto-Workers. Then, in June 1966, the UFW affiliated to the AFL-CIO (America's TUC).

Meanwhile the leaders of the Teamsters' Union were doing all they could to break the strike. They sent in scabs and reached 'back-door' agreements with DiGiorgio and Perelli-Minetti, while farmworkers in Salinas, organized by the Teamsters, were paid poverty wages of \$1.12 an hour.

The battle for recognition of the UFW lasted eight years before it was finally won.

Then, following the Delano Grape Strike, the UFW led the lettuce and strawberry workers

in the Salinas valley in a strike which broke out on August 24, 1970.

The immediate cause was a contract signed by the Teamsters' Union leaders which favoured their members and left the farm workers unprotected and undercut.

This strike was fought against powerful 'agri-business'—the merger of farming with big business.

Three of the largest fruit companies in the States were involved—United Fruit, S. S. Pierce and Purex Corporation. United Fruit profits the previous year had been \$30m. These firms had sought to clinch a deal with the Teamsters whereby the latter would supply the workers, keep the peace in the fields and keep the UFW out.

Over 3,000 workers were involved in the struggle and at one point a Monterey County Court threatened to jail union leader Cesar Chavez for life without trial if he failed to call off a lettuce boycott. The union had launched the boycott after the employers had won a Superior Court injunction against picketing.

Despite all this, Chavez continued to preach non-violence in the face of the employers' brutal assaults, refused to break politically from the Democratic Party, mounted no fight against the right-wing leadership of the AFL-CIO and continually directed his appeals towards liberals and churchmen.

The chief obstacle to the fruit workers remains his reformist politics, even though some limited gains were made under his leadership.

Chavez insisted that politics be 'kept out' of the struggle. When students flocked to the fields to assist the strikers against scabs and the bosses' strong-arm men, they were warned by Chavez not to 'politicize' among the strikers.

And 'El Malcriado,' the UFW's paper, declared on January 13, 1967: 'The idea that each man is to some extent responsible for the well-being of all other men is a basic leftist idea . . . examples of left-wing people are Martin Luther King and President John Kennedy . . . also, organizations such as the AFL-CIO are on the left.'

On June 2, 1966, 'El Malcriado' told the fruit workers: 'Henry Ford has learned to pay high wages and bargain with the unions, and still make all-time profits, millions of dollars every year. Growers should follow his advice and example.'

By statements such as this, and by his continual expressions of admiration for Robert Kennedy, Chavez spread illusions about the fruit growers' enemies and the system they maintained.

Nevertheless, the employers still fear the union.

Last year, the employers' Farm Bureau drew up a measure to outlaw the UFW and to make unionization of California's farm labourers virtually impossible.

Under Californian law this was put to a state ballot as Proposition 22. Despite a heavily-financed employers' campaign, the proposition was decisively rejected.

Meanwhile, the farm workers of California continue their fight.

Coachella — This small farming community, 150 miles south east of Los Angeles, has become the centre of a new stage in the Californian farmworkers' battle to defend the United Farm Workers union (UFW) and the limited gains made under Cesar Chavez's leadership in the eight-year struggle to organize.

Just three years ago this month the UFW signed its first major contract, and the Coachella valley vineyards have been the basis of union strength ever since.

A year later the UFW made an important informal agreement with the Teamsters, under which field hands would belong to the UFW and workers in the packing sheds and more mechanized jobs would belong to the Teamsters.

The UFW contract expired at midnight on Saturday April 14 and the second agreement was broken abruptly the next day when the Western Conference of Teamsters in Los Angeles announced 'sweetheart contracts' with a majority of the valley's 32 growers who produce 85 per cent of Coachella's table grape harvest.

The four-year agricultural contract is the Teamsters' first in the valley and was announced only a short time after the termination of five days' futile negotiations between the growers and the UFW.

The next day, Monday April 16, the UFW announced the renegotiation of its contract with the largest grower in the area, a prominent liberal, Lionel Steinberg, who was the first to sign up three years ago. The UFW contract covers approximately 15 per cent of the Coachella crop. Monday Afternoon, Chavez announced a strike against all non-UFW vineyards in the valley.

Although only 12 per cent of California's table grapes are grown in the Coachella valley, 80 per cent of the country's grapes on sale from May to July come from this desert area only 80 miles north of the Mexican border.

At stake then is the union label on 3 million boxes of grapes, the representation of some 5,500 farmworkers in the valley during the peak harvest season in late June . . . and the very existence of the UFW.

On the Monday night, a packing house in nearby Thermal, valued at \$740,000 and belonging to a grower who had signed up with the Teamsters, was burned to the ground. Riverside County sheriffs have been given 12 hour shifts and no days off, and police helicopters buzz over the vineyards nightly guarding against further 'vandalism'.

As dozens of Teamster 'organizers' stand behind sheriff lines in the vineyards, hundreds of spirited farmworkers of all ages, carrying the UFW's bright crimson and black banners, march along the highway on the edge of the field as their bullhorns blare the message in Spanish of the 'true union' to workers a considerable distance back who have been brought 60 miles from Brawley to thin the quickly-ripening grapes in the scorching sun.



Frank Fitzsimmons, Teamster president: will not accept UFW challenge to hold open elections in the fields.

Despite Tuesday's restraining order which barred effective picketing, 311 arrests had been made when, late Friday (April 20) the same judge dropped all charges for trespassing, cancelled the restraining order and released all pickets through the intervention of AFL-CIO attorney Jerome Cohen.

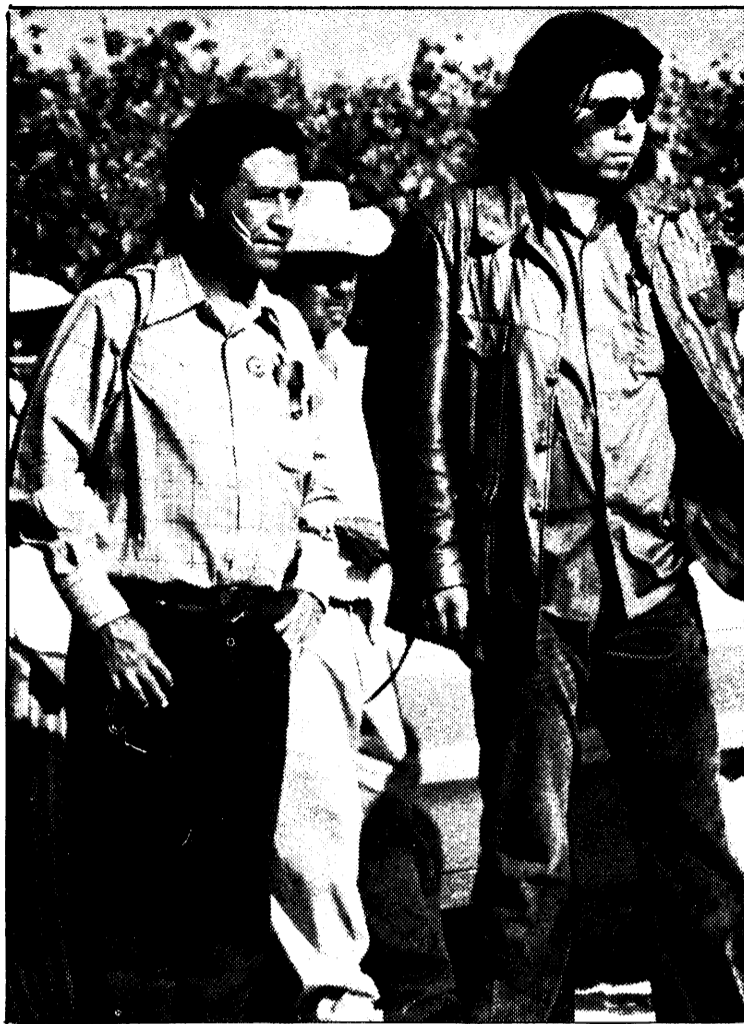
There can be little question that the UFW commands the support of the Coachella valley farmworkers, most of whom are Chicanos—Mexican Americans.

A meeting the week before the strike of more than 1,000 in Coachella's ageing high school auditorium gave Chavez unanimous authorization to proceed with the UFW's efforts to drive the Teamsters out of the valley's fields. At some 40 vineyards picketed the first day, only two crews refused to walk off and join the UFW.

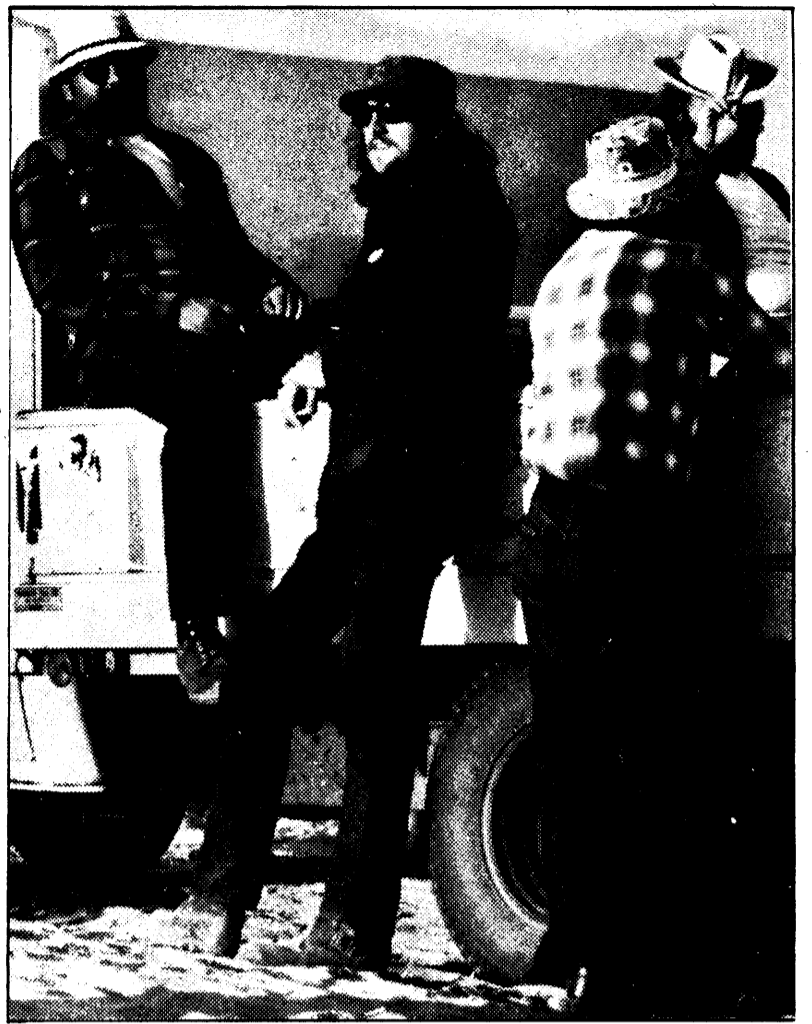
The Teamster organizer, Al Droubie, is the cousin of Coachella grower Dave Valdera. While UFW 'strategy sessions' include 600 workers, the Teamsters and the growers hold secret meetings which brought into the valley powerful growers from other parts of California.

They will neither reveal with whom agreements have been reached nor release copies of the contract.

While national Teamster president Frank Fitzsimmons, 'welcomes a national investi-



Left: Chavez and United Farm Workers' Union pickets in Coachella Valley. Right: Teamsters guarding scab grape pickers.



gation', the union will not accept the UFW challenge to hold open elections in the fields.

Teamsters have driven workers back into the fields when they attempted to walk off in support of the pickets. The UFW introduced 23 affidavits into court alleging such harassment and intimidation with 'guns, knives, clubs, baseball bats, grape stakes and other dangerous instruments'.

The UFW charged that the 1970 Teamster organizing drive in the Salinas lettuce fields was prompted by two \$1,500 bribes to Teamster officials.

Although local teamsters remain uninvolved, rank-and-file teamsters are brought in from Los Angeles at \$67.50 a day to protect the scabs against the UFW. The teamsters spend considerable time in their camps, well supplied with beer which, in the words of one farmworker, 'makes them drunk so they will fight against us'.

This reporter found the teamsters receptive to criticism of Fitzsimmons' support for Nixon, but very defensive about their role, which they pass off as 'defending Teamster workers in Teamster fields'.

The Teamsters imply the issue is simply a jurisdictional one; the UFW say it is a simple question of 'Mafiosa bribery'; neither is correct.

It is no accident that the latest Teamster decision to increase organizing efforts in Coachella was made in December, shortly after the Nixon administration began to map out its strategy to phase out the decades-old farm subsidy programme so that the US's highly-efficient agricultural sector could become the spearhead of its coming trade war with industrially more efficient Japan and the Common Market countries in order to reduce its \$6.8 billion trade deficit.

Accelerating food production in the US will simply increase the rate of mechanization in agriculture. At the same time field workers' wages will have to be driven down along with those of other workers—through inflation and the wage freeze.

The Teamsters are preparing to channel the few field workers who will receive more mechanized jobs into Fitzsimmons' support for Nixon's trade war.

The tens of thousands of present field workers thrown into the expanding pool of rural unemployed will be left by the Teamsters to the UFW,

if it survives the current Teamster attack.

Fitzsimmons' strategy, outlined here, suits Nixon's own plan: he would prefer to have farmworkers in a highly-bureaucratized union under a Fitzsimmons or a Hoffa than in the more democratic and populist-oriented UFW within which the rank and file will soon press for more farsighted policies than those now pursued by Chavez.

Chavez's consistent strategy of tying the courageous and persistent struggle of American farmworkers to the Democratic Party and middle-class protest is responsible for the very slow gains made by America's agricultural poor through nearly a decade of militant struggle.

While Fitzsimmons attempts to disorient workers with his direct support for Nixon, Chavez's support for Congressional liberals, who daily demonstrate their utter incapacity to stand up to Nixon over Indo-China, the wage freeze, impoundment or Watergate, disarms the farmworkers.

This at a time when their struggle against the growers will become increasingly a confrontation with the Nixon administration's need to represent the interests of American capital as a whole—locked in mortal combat with its counterparts abroad and having to discipline the American labour movement.

Since the Stalinist Communist Party has always supported uncritically this aspect of Chavez's strategy, it is not surprising to find that the west coast Stalinist weekly 'People's World' regarded the most 'significant' feature of a recent survey in the Coachella vineyards, which overwhelmingly favoured the UFW, to be the three Democratic Congressmen who participated in the poll-taking.

Chavez's Coachella strategy coincides with that of George Meany who, after a decade of belated, begrudged and niggardly support for the farmworkers' lonely battle, was driven by the latest Teamster push to send to Coachella a dozen national organizers including Bill Kircher, Director of Organization, from Washington DC.

In a Washington Press conference, Chavez, Kircher and Democratic Congressman Edward Roybal jointly called for a Senate investigation of Teamster moves, to which the Senate Committee on Labour and Welfare has graciously responded.

A Coachella field representative of the International Labourers' and Hodcarriers' Union frankly assessed Kircher's role in the coming battles in the valley's fields and the corresponding AFL-CIO lack of strategy:

'He even looks like he just bopped out of his air conditioned office, ripped off his tie, forgot his big *per diem* expense account and feels he's with the real people on the line of fire. All the AFL-CIO has to do is place a few strategic phone calls to all the local affiliates, and we'd close the whole thing down in support of the farmworkers.'

While the 'liberal' grower Steinberg prepares to add to the spiralling rise in the cost of food and blame it on the farmworkers—his contract 'substantially increases the farmers' costs'—Chavez calls for a resumption of the grape boycott of the late 1960s, which the federal government countered, in far less perilous times, with massive purchases for the US Armed Services.

Typical of its own drifting orientation to the middle class, the 'Militant', organ of the revisionist Socialist Workers Party, attributes the UFW 1970 contracts exclusively to the liberal boycott effort, 'which forced the growers to sign', rather than to the farmworkers' strike efforts.

Neither the Teamster nor UFW contract drives in Coachella offers any solution to the farmworkers caught in the tightening vice between rampant inflation and the lowest wages in the economy.

The Teamsters' contract supposedly will bring a four year increase to \$2.70 from the current \$2.30 an hour—along with the hated labour contractor system.

The UFW introduced the welcomed hiring rate, \$2.40 an hour and 25 cents a box, up from the \$2 of the last contract. These wages are little more than Nixon's current proposals for a national minimum wage and completely inadequate today to support a farmworker and his, often large, family which he must leave in the barrio or take with him chasing the seasons along California's freeways.

As one migrant from Delano expressed it: 'I can't live on \$1.65 an hour with everything going higher. When we ask for higher wages the bosses say: "If you don't like the work, go somewhere else".'

The Coachella farmworkers must begin with the international crisis of capitalism and the role Nixon expects

American agriculture to play in his attempts to glut the markets of highly industrialized competitors with cheap US food products.

Farmworkers and teamsters alike will increasingly face the determined policy of the Federal government, backed by both the Democrats and Republicans, to couple vicious attacks on their current wages with the already uncontrollable rise in the cost of living.

They must join together against their current union leadership to fight to build a national political organization, which alone can provide the framework to prepare themselves for the historical tasks ahead—their own Labour Party.

Despite his strategy to bust the UFW, Fitzsimmons cannot escape the growing discontent in his own ranks over his wage agreement with Nixon in January.

Within the UFW, the older farmworkers have demonstrated their patience and determination. When asked how long the struggle for decent wages and living conditions would continue, one elderly veteran of many crimson and black fluttering picket lines responded: '. . . a long time . . . a hundred years.'

But among the younger members of farmworkers' families, a hundred years more of stooping ten hours a day in the hot California sun to fill the neon-lighted shelves of the country's supermarkets in order to be told by Teddy Kennedys to mind the priest when he tells them to get down on their knees as the sheriff approaches to throw their bright banners in the golden brown California dust as he leads them off to the paddy wagon . . . a hundred years more of that to get a fair day's wages is too long.

A bottle thrown against a shiny new Oldsmobile full of jeering strikebreakers, a few rocks thrown at the police by impatient youth in their early teens—beneath the surface of the liberal 'non-violence' lies a new generation which is preparing itself for the tasks posed by the coming revolutionary decade.

This militancy must find its appropriate political expression in the coming fight to unite all working people in a Labour Party, to nationalize all agriculture and use the country's millions of acres of farmland and hundreds of thousands of pairs of willing hands to create a life of abundance and leisure for all.



THE WATCH ON THE CLYDE

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

'We thought it was just words, but it's not just words. These people mean business.'

This was the verdict from one experienced boilermaker on the situation in the shipyards on the upper Clyde. It is over six months since the work-in ended and the honeymoon between the new employers and the yard labour force is rapidly coming to an end.

Managements are beginning to drop the 'pals act' and insist that the two agreements signed by the former UCS shop stewards' co-ordinating committee mean exactly what they say—a massive breakdown in craft demarcation heralding an enormous increase in productivity. And in their efforts to make the words work, they have found familiar allies.

The situation is most critical at Govan Shipbuilders, the firm headed by oil boss Lord Strathalmond, which took over three of the old UCS divisions—Govan, Linthouse and Scotstoun.

Govan Shipbuilders want to drive up productivity by 120

per cent—the level which, according to the Swedish consultants Maynard's, will make the yard viable.

At two divisions, Govan and Linthouse, on the south side of the Clyde, time-and-motion studies are almost completed. Management hopes to hold a board meeting soon and reveal plans for re-vamping working practices and the yard lay-out to the five-man negotiating committee.

Only the boilermakers, traditionally the pace-makers in the yards and still jealous of their independence, hold reservations. At Govan's third division, Scotstoun, there has been strong opposition to what shipyard workers call 'the watch'. Scotstoun workers have never accepted time and motion, but now management, with the help of the shop stewards' leadership headed by Sammy Barr, (Communist Party member of work-in fame) is timing the men.

This struggle over time and motion, however, has revealed a new and dangerous tendency within the trade union movement.

It was the Scotstoun boilermakers who held out the longest against 'the watch'. At two mass meetings they rejec-

ted work-study, despite warnings from Barr that time and motion was written into the original agreement.

Eventually the conflict reached the point of confrontation when the men walked out in protest against a decision to send industrial engineers into the yards. It was around this time that Barr, on behalf of the majority of shop stewards, brought forward his amazing plan.

He told workers that the men doing the timing would be from the ranks. And, indeed, this turned out to be the case. Workers, in some cases ex-shop stewards, have been elevated to staff positions in order to time their work-mates. One man on the boilermakers' stop-watch is the former shipwrights' shop steward!

This procedure has shocked militants. They point out that the use of union men to time other union members is unprecedented in British industry, let alone the shipyards.

This outcome, however, is entirely in line with earlier developments. Towards the end of the UCS struggle it became clear that the co-ordinating committee, in particular the three Communist

Party leaders, Barr, James Airlie and James Reid, had embraced an essentially corporatist philosophy. According to them class struggle in the yards could be subordinated to a bout of co-operation between employers and men for the greater glory of shipbuilding on the upper reaches of the river.

'ANOMALIES'

The stewards' latest action—their insistence that the agreement must be honoured to the letter and their decision to promote the new breed of 'worker time-and-motion men', represents these policies in action.

Clearly management would have faced a confrontation if it had attempted to bring in time and motion to the boilermakers' trades at Scotstoun. Now the stewards have done the job. The aim of the exercise, says management, is to find out the 'anomalies' with the work force and 'iron them out'.

In fact the system involves speed-up and new working

practice that will make the incredible 120 per cent productivity increase possible. Barr and company are the company's greatest allies in this attempt.

The move is doubly diabolical because it takes place under the Tory plans for state control of wages.

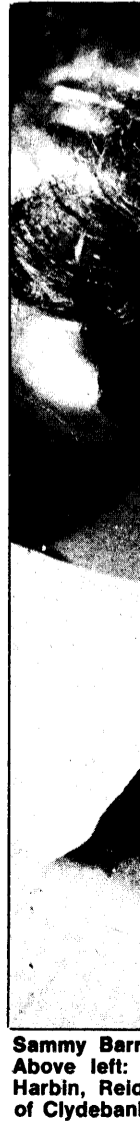
The other row in the yards is over money. Workers understood that the original agreements promised either a wage rise or a rise in bonus earnings by April. But management has refused extra money on both issues.

First it says that the government—which is still financing the project—will allow no increases until the drastic bid to boost productivity and break down traditional rights is under way.

Secondly it argues that wage or bonus increases would be near impossible under Phase Two of the Tory wage controls anyway.

Thirdly it says that workers should shut up and prepare for Phase three by co-operating with management over a new productivity deal so a claim for a rise can be lodged perhaps in September. Even then there is no promise over pay or bonus.

In other words Govan Shipbuilders is offering nothing but a beating. The unions' silence over the issue is revealing. Only the boilermakers—portrayed of course as the universal villains (and then only the rank-and-file boiler-



Sammy Barr
Above left:
Harbin, Reid
of Clydebank





Sammy Barr who introduced men from the ranks to time their fellow workers. Above left: Mass meeting in August 1971 for occupation. Above right: Harbin, Reid and McGarvey at Press conference announcing Harbin's takeover of Clydebank yard.

makers with one or two notable exceptions among the stewards)—are putting up any fight against this naked attempt to destroy wage rates and basic rights.

The situation at Marathon Manufacturing—which took over the Clydebank yard—is also one of brooding anticipation. The most immediate crisis is over redundancies. The 350 workers still left with the UCS liquidator finishing off the few remaining vessels are being paid off between now and June. Marathon says it would reconsider employing them if they could all retrain as steel workers. The four-year, no-strike contract at Marathon has been waved in the face of boilermakers who object to this erosion of their craft position. This provides for a massive re-training programme.

So far it is stalemate. Local boilermakers' officials will do nothing without orders from their leader Danny McGarvey. Meanwhile the steel trade men are villified in the local Press.

The changes Marathon wants to make may well be more sweeping than those proposed by Govan Shipbuilders. At present the 1,300 labour force (out of an original 2,500 hourly-paid staff at UCS Clydebank a near-50 per cent cut) are engaged in oil-rig building or reconstruction.

Marathon's Texan management has come in in typical American style. The first step was to introduce the hat sys-

tem. Workers on reconstruction get a yellow hat, men on production a blue hat, maintenance workers a green hat, supervision on production a white hat and an orange hat is reserved for the staff. The yard from the top of a crane looks like a heaving mass of chocolate smarties.

But it is not all gimmicks. The workers have been called to one mass meeting since the Marathon deal was signed last year and then only to hear James Fox, the lean US boss, tell them of their future.

He reminded the workers that there were too many crafts at Marathon and too many men in some crafts. As for wages—well in some of Marathon's yards, said Fox, men got less than the Clydebank rate and then in others they got more. For the present they were satisfied with the bargain, he said.

AGENTS

Workers are now thinking carefully about the implications of the statement. In the absence of any lead from the stewards, headed by Reid, they are very much on their own.

The struggles on the Clyde are clearly far from over. The Stalinist leaders who turned an enormous outburst of anger against the government into

a reformist protest, have now reached a further low in class collaboration. They have become the direct agents of the employers and by their active promotion of management plans, they are bringing corporatism to the yards.

This could eventually involve the destruction of all protective practices in crafts, a massive increase in productivity and a future of redundancy. This development is especially treacherous since it takes place at a time when the trade union leadership is co-operating with corporatist plans at national level.

Paradoxically, it is perhaps the traditional conservatism of the boilermakers that is the main obstacle to this pro-capitalist strategy.

But such conservatism is based on a history of bitter struggle for rights and conditions.

No shipyard worker will deny that it was the boilermakers who pioneered pay and conditions in the yards.

It is not for nothing that employers everywhere are watching the upper Clyde to see if the two companies can break the steel trades' resistance and maintain one rate for the job and eventually produce one 'all-purpose' yard worker.

In this period such 'conservatism', rediscovers some of its fighting past and may well become the main obstacle to the employing class and its Communist Party allies.

TODAY'S RETAIL GROUPS

A series by Bernard Franks
Part six.

Continuing our list of Britain's largest retailers, we have:

ALLIED SUPPLIERS LTD: 2,100 shops, 33,000 staff. Profits for year to April 1972, £10,264,000, an increase of 45 per cent over the previous year.

This company began life as Home & Colonial Stores, which it now includes along with Lipton's.

The number of shops owned has been cut back from around 4,000 in the 1950s, closing three for every one opened in recent years. The group has spent a massive amount on rationalization and has close links with property companies. It was taken over by the Cavenham Group in 1972.

SEARS: 59,000 employees, Profits for 1971-1972 £37,864m, an increase of 15 per cent over the previous year.

Headed by Charles Clore, the property magnate, Sears owns the British Shoe Corporation with its 2,000 stores. Its subsidiaries include Freeman, Hardy & Willis, Manfield, Saxone, Trueform, Dolcis, Curtest, Lilley & Skinner and Cable.

Its bid for William Timson, controlling 400 shoe shops, has gone to the Monopolies Commission.



Charles Clore

Other firms owned by Sears are Mappin and Webb (jewellers) Garrad (jewellers) and William Hill (bookmakers).

Sears controls 22 per cent of retail footwear sales, 8 per cent of national shoe production and 12 per cent of retail shoe outlets.

In 1972 it was Britain's 30th largest company.

UNITED DRAPERS: More than 1,000 shops and department stores, 32,000 employees. Profits for 1971-1972 £17.45m, an increase of 15 per cent over the previous year.

Shops owned by the group include the John Collier (tailors) chain, Claude Alexander, the chain of 132 Richard Shops (ladies fashions), John Myers mail order, Telstar Colour Television, John Farmer's footwear chain of 49 shops and department stores including Gorrings and William Whiteley's.

MARKS AND SPENCER: 248 stores, 35,500 employees. Profits for 1971-1972 £53.7m, an increase of 7 per cent over previous year. Britain's 40th largest company in 1972.

Michael Marks, a Polish Jewish immigrant, had been a pedlar before setting up a stall in Kirkgate Market, Leeds, in 1884, with the aid of Dewhurst the butcher. He sold household articles—clothes pegs, buttons, candles, soap, all at a penny.

He later linked up with Thomas Spencer, a cashier in a Yorkshire textile firm, to form a series of such penny bazaars.

In 1917, his son Simon Marks and son-in-law Israel Sieff played a leading part in the Zionist movement as collaborators with Chaim Weitzmann, later to be the first President of Israel.

THE BURTON GROUP: 850 shop, 26,902 employees. Profits for 1971-1972 £7,426m, 16 per cent increase on the previous year.

They own Peter Robinson, Browns of Chester, Orange Hand, Jackson the Tailor, Evans Outsize and Rymans, the office suppliers. In 1971, the group began introducing a programme for productivity and modernization and for selling off uneconomic properties, selling one building in Park Lane for £2.4m.

WOOLWORTH'S: 1,113 stores, 84,120 employees (50 per cent part-time), Profits for December 1972 before tax £40.63m, (an increase of 9 per cent over previous year). Britain's 31st largest firm in 1972.

During 1971-1972 the conversion from counter-service to cash-and-wrap was made in 777 stores and 73 stores were extended and modernized. Six hypermarkets are in operation under the name 'Woolco' and the firm is lobbying for planning permission for more.

The largest so far is 114,000 sq. ft. The surplus arising from a 1971 revaluation of the company's properties was £45,642,000 over the 1963 figure.

Frank Winfield Woolworth opened his first store in Utica, New York, USA, in 1879. He operated with fixed low prices—5c and 10c—gave no credit, made no deliveries and put all goods on display.

He merged with other companies to form F. W. Woolworth & Co. with 598 stores in 1912. Further branches were built up throughout the USA, Canada and Cuba.

The English company F. W. Woolworth & Co. Ltd., was formed in 1910 and had 330 stores by 1928. Control was maintained by the New York company and today the British subsidiary provides one-third of the US company's profits.

Woolworth died in 1919, leaving an estate of \$27m.

Another rapidly expanding sector of retailing is the mail order business which trebled in size from 1957 to 1967. Its 800,000-odd part-time agents and organizers sell on credit and receive 10-12 per cent on all sales.

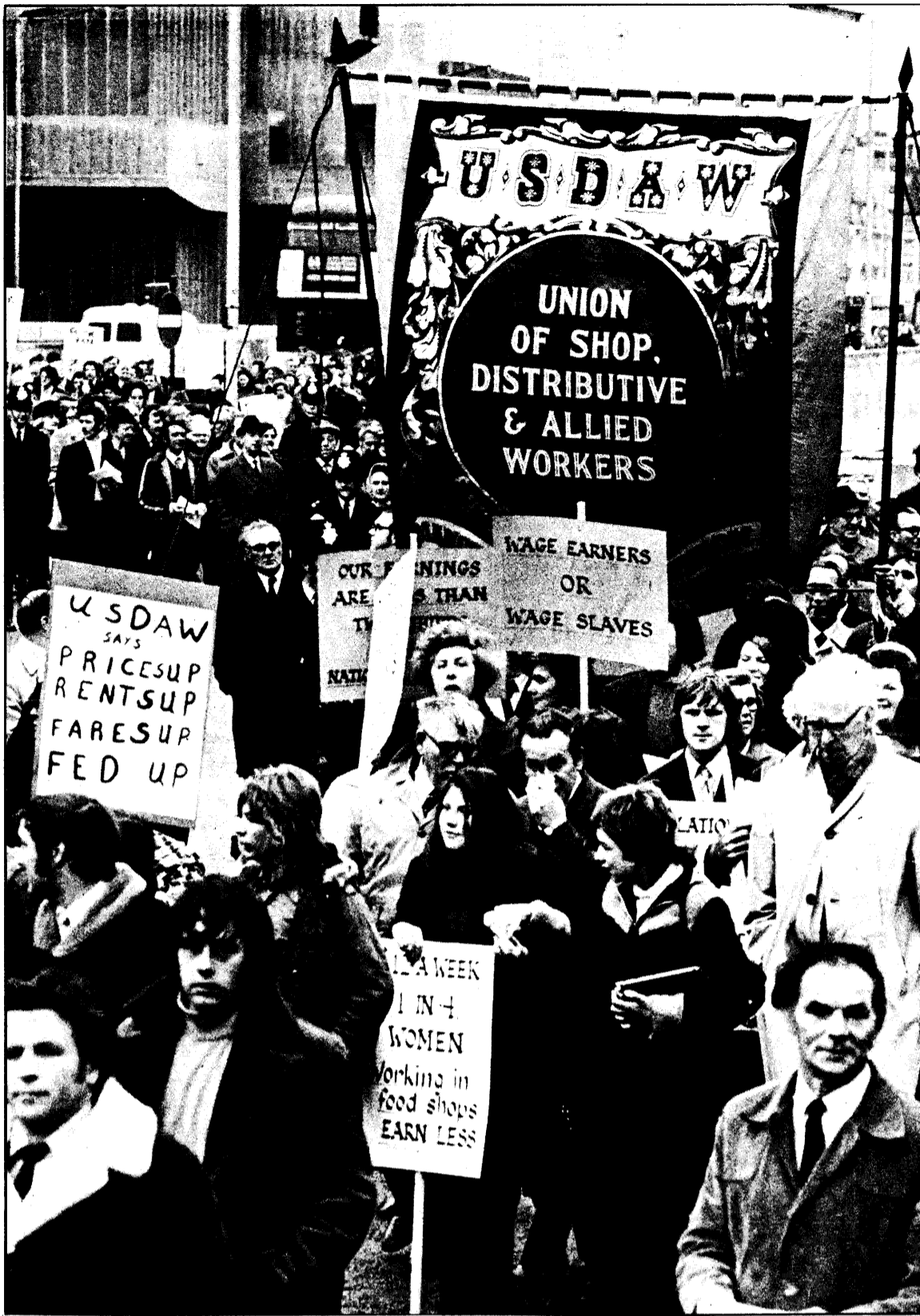
Customers usually have to pay an initial 5 per cent on goods and the rest over 19 weeks.

Six companies take around 88 per cent of the total sales including GUS 33 per cent, Littlewoods 25 per cent and Grattan Warehouse 15 per cent.

One other retail enterprise must be mentioned, not only because it is by far the largest in Britain, but also because of its important contribution to the development of the labour movement.

THE CO-OPERATIVE RETAIL SOCIETIES: 20,000 shops, 250,000 employees. Turnover £1,200m a year. Membership 12 million.

The first successful Co-operative shop was founded in 1844 in Rochdale by the Equitable Pioneers; they were 28 working men with a capital of £28 raised between them. They were Owenites, followers of the ideas of Robert Owen, believing that capitalism could be peacefully eroded and transformed into socialism by



the steady growth of Co-operative enterprises.

All class struggle would be avoided and capitalists convinced of the error of their ways.

These aims quickly proved futile—the Chartists soon showed that the fundamental question was one of political power and revolutionary force. The Co-ops, nevertheless, achieved a phenomenal growth. Societies spread throughout Britain and later developed throughout the world.

The original aims of the Societies were: a retail system controlled by its members who were also its customers—each member to have a single vote, whatever his shareholding in the Society; to distribute the

operating profit as a dividend to members in proportion to their purchases; to buy in bulk at wholesale prices and supply good food and reliable goods at reasonable retail prices (this was the period of widespread adulteration of food); to provide education for employees, members and the general public.

The Co-ops catered for the higher-paid workers and salary earners who could afford to wait for the 'divi' and in fact could use this as a method of saving.

The first Co-operative Wholesale Society was formed in 1863 as a supplier to the retail Societies. Later, farms and factories were established. Today, the Co-op's 280 local

Societies control 7 per cent of all retail trade and 15 per cent of all grocery trade in Britain. They operate 4,000 butcher shops, 300 department stores, 2,100 off-licences and retail one-third of all milk sold in Britain. In 1970 there was a surplus of £34m of which £20m was returned to purchasers as 'dividend stamps'.

From their earlier high aims of customer control, the Societies degenerated into complete bureaucratic control, forming close links with private manufacturers. However, millions of workers still loyally continue to support the Co-op, not just as another shop, but on a point of principle.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

ONE OF THE BETTER CLASS OF GHOST STORIES

BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

MENACE Series: 'Deliver Us From Evil.' By Hugh Whitmore. Produced by Jordan Lawrence, directed by David Sullivan Proudfoot. BBC 1.

Bodmin Moor — traditional spot for creepy happenings — a young man of lean and anxious countenance encounters a gateway bound by chains, surrounded by storm-whipped treetops and a ferocious breed of crow, guarded by roaring hounds bent on laying their teeth on him.

Undeterred, John Beste, our hero, plunges onward and despite a series of crashing omens, including a graveyard stuffed with weeds and more howling presences, meets up with the local vicar in his decaying mansion with more heavy-handed signposts to doom such as barred doors and black turrets, broken floorboards and cobwebs.

The vicar has advertised for an organist and John Beste has responded. It is soon apparent that the vicar is a madman with all sorts of debateable philosophies, that the place is full of rats and old bibles and that it's certainly no place for spending even the odd hour, let alone any nights.

However (surprise) a storm blows up, thunder and lightning abound, rain teams down, the dogs yowl and the crows rasp; John Beste is determined to make it back into town, against the vicar's wishes, and sets off on a nightmare journey through the grounds in which trees attack him, the path disappears and he is shortly soaked to the skin and understandably hysterical.

By this time, viewers of this highly-predictable piece of garbage, are in the sort of coma that this sort of television drama is designed to induce: it has the happy familiarity of material that is not likely to disturb with any nasty unforeseen events, has

no relation to the realities of everyday life and is full of infantile distractions and suggestions of what is always fondly called 'the supernatural' to take minds off the price of beef or wage-cuts.

But all is not finished yet: John Beste returns to the doubtful company of his lunatic vicar and they engage in polemics about MAN: MAN says the vicar is naturally evil—John, being a school-master and sensitive at that, claims the opposite.

The vicar locks him in a room for the night and possibly for eternity claiming that such innocence and goodness must be protected from the world. John Beste, a resourceful fellow, unlocks the window, braves the savage hounds and makes it over the wall to freedom on to Bodmin Moor.

The vicar died in 1959, we are told, of coronary thrombosis and are thus induced to speculate that the whole thing was drawn from 'true life.'

Hugh Whitmore is a skilful and intelligent writer who manages to extract meaning even from the most meagre circumstances, as in this piece; the dialogue is stylish and restrained.

Lewis Flanders gave a fine portrayal of the young man—and the whole piece was designed primarily as a vehicle, it seemed, for one of the old masters of the theatre, John Gielgud, to give a performance of considerable distinction, even against such odds.

Three talents—and those of producer and director and production team—of no mean proportions, given over to the presentation of such profound trivia, might seem confusing.

The television companies are turning out an enormous amount of this sort of material these days—plays concerned with the supernatural, the occult, fantasy of any old gruesome kind in such series as 'MENACE' and 'NIGHT GALLERY'.

There is nothing confusing in the motives behind it. This stuff is quite simply designed to confuse, to distract from



A scene from the MENACE series: 'Deliver Us From Evil' shown on BBC 1 last Thursday night.

the mounting chaos that objective circumstances present to us all: such talents as Whitmore and Gielgud are slotted willy-nilly, naturally enough, into work of this kind.

It is clear that the more imbecilic the quality of the drama, the more care and consideration is given to it, to give it the appearance of intelligent, enlightened work.

An intellectual life which, in times of stress, is centred upon fantasy, speculation, introspection and the worst kind of second-rate morality, has always been the preroga-

tive of the middle classes.

These days, the screens and bookstalls are crammed with variations on these themes. Ghost stories are old favourites—'Deliver us from Evil' was a stylish performance, one of the better class of ghost stories and given a seriousness of approach that might delude us for moments at a time that there is something of import here!

In this way drama becomes nothing better than an exorcism on the face of society, a parasite feeding on the superficial, reflecting the

most contemptible facets of a capitalist world in crisis.

Drama, in these times, is nothing better than a dim charade without consent or durability.

Even while every fresh shock economic and otherwise, in the objective world brings home to us that appearance means nothing, the purveyors of our 'culture' insist by implication, more and more forcefully, that appearance is the only thing that matters—performance, style, form is all; content is consigned to an afterthought.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

SAFETY-VALVE

Israel Independence Day will be commemorated today by a big military parade in Jerusalem, costing over £2m.

Parades take place every year, but this year the parade is supposed to be special, as it marks the 25th anniversary of the Zionist state. It will also be made more noteworthy this year by something else—among the vast throng of Israeli taxpayers who are expected to turn up to watch their money being spent, one figure will be noticeable by his absence.

Itzhak Ben-Aharon, leader of the Histadrut labour unions, who was to represent the workers' organizations at the celebrations, has returned his invitation, explaining that he does not consider the military parade appropriate, and that, besides, the money involved in expenditure on the parade could have been better spent.

The absence of the Histadrut man from the parade, on what for the Zionists is a most important occasion, will considerably mar their effort to present a picture of 'national

unity'. And it marks a break in the Histadrut's long record of full political and practical support for the state. It can be truthfully said that without the Histadrut, there probably would never have been any state of Israel.

Of course, Ben-Aharon's boycott is only a weak gesture. But it does indicate the growth of class tensions underneath.



Golda Meir

Not that the Israeli establishment is unduly worried about Ben-Aharon himself, although they might like to give that impression. When he wanted to resign as Histadrut secretary-general, in protest over government interference in wage negotiations, it was Israeli premier Golda Meir who persuaded him to stay in office.

The more astute of Israeli politicians have come to see Ben-Aharon, with his occasional 'militant'-sounding talk about the workers and his

gestures of protest, as a useful safety-valve for working-class discontent at present.

EXPENSIVE

If the Hollywood script-writers and producers had been called in to liven up the 'Adventures of the QE2', there could have been some sort of climax to stimulate us.

Like, say, a massive attack by thousands of extras, dressed up as Arabs—instead of Red Indians—all paddling canoes, or dhows or something, and making high-pitched blood-curdling yells and shooting rifles in the air.

The navy could then arrive at the last minute to save the day, like the US cavalry... maybe with bagpipes playing on the foredecks, though... and with some handsome star playing Moshe Dayan to finish the film embracing Barbra Streisand on the bridge as the sun sets over Haifa bay.

It wouldn't have conflicted with the general air of unreality about the trip of US Jews to Israel to celebrate the state's 25 years, and who knows, the box-office returns might have covered the costs of it all.

As it is, slightly puzzled Israelis who have been scratching their heads wondering what all the fuss was about will shortly be finding that the saga has not ended yet.

When the ship moved on to

Haifa, there was a little problem of parking space. It was decided, by whoever decides these things, that whereas a ship of that size might normally be anchored in the bay and the passengers ferried ashore, this would not do for the QE 2 for security reasons.

So the harbour-master had to find a suitable wharf for the liner to tie up at.

It docked alongside a familiar Haifa landmark—the huge

Dagon grain elevator.

This gave the passengers a unique opportunity to appreciate an impressive piece of architecture, but, incidentally, it prevented grain ships from unloading.

This happens to be a time when cheap grain from the USA could have been shipped in. The hold-up is likely to bring price increases. All in all, its quite an expensive cruise.

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Mansfield Hosiery Mills workers on strike last year against discrimination in job training.

CONFERENCE ON LESSONS OF MANSFIELD STRIKE

Leaders of the 500 Asian workers who recently struck alleging race discrimination at Mansfield Hosiery Mills, Loughborough, Leicestershire, are organizing a national conference in Birmingham early next month.

The conference — sponsored by a number of trade union 'lefts' such as Alan Sapper of the television technicians, Ernie Roberts of the engineers, George Doughty of the draughtsmen and Jack Dunn of the miners—has been called to discuss the lessons of the strike.

In line with the recommendations of a Department of Employment inquiry, 28 Asians were given contested knitters' jobs for the first time in the history of the factory.

According to the strike committee, it was also the first time in the history of the industry this had been done.

But white knitters refused to train the Asians and management has had to bring in training officers from outside to undertake the task.

The agenda of next month's

conference, however, will cover wider issues than just the situation in the factory.

Provisionally, there will be three topics: the fight against racialism in Britain generally, how the trade union movement can take a leading role in this fight and what measures the union can take to service the needs of immigrant workers.

The chairman of the committee which led the 12-week strike, J. Naik, says: 'One very important question the strike sharply posed was that of the unity of the working people of Britain.'

'Was this hard-won unity built through centuries of struggle to be vitiated now by the cancer of racialism, which, if allowed to go unchecked, must destroy the solidarity of the labour movement?'

'For this cancer can only benefit those who wish to profit from the fruits of the working people in Britain.'

The conference, says Mr Naik, will be a unique one, probably the first one of its kind in the country. He and the committee are hoping it will be a success.

The Mansfield Hosiery Mills strike began with a claim by semi-skilled bar loaders for a

£5-a-week wage rise, submitted on October 3, 1972.

It soon developed into a struggle involving alleged discrimination after two Asians, who had been promoted to the knitting section, were demoted to their original bar-loading jobs after a strike by white workers.

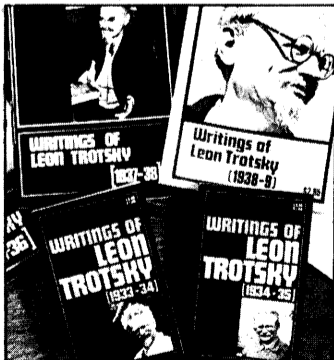
After the Race Relations Board declared that discriminatory practices were being carried out in the factory, management and union leaders put forward a compromise settlement which offered the bar loaders a marginal increase.

The terms proposed also promised that future knitting jobs would be allocated regardless of colour, race, ethnic origin or nationality, but within a very short time the Asians learned that the firm had employed 41 new trainee knitters who were all white.

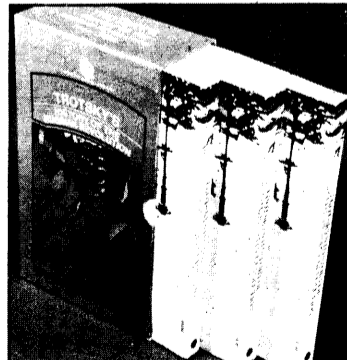
When they struck again, their mood was far more militant, and the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers was forced, after much delay, to make the strike official.

It was after this that the D of E stepped in with its committee of inquiry under Kenneth Robinson, former Labour Minister.

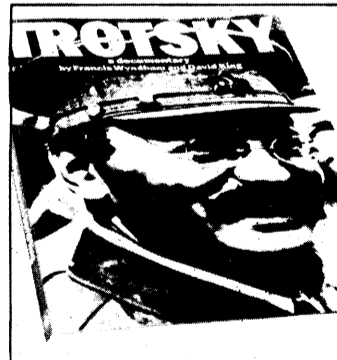
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Conspiracy charges 'threaten civil rights'

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE increasing use of conspiracy charges in cases of a political nature was highlighted at the annual conference of the National Council of Civil Liberties at the weekend.

In its annual report the council warns that 'the conspiracy law continues to pose a dangerous threat to civil

liberty'. This was borne out by speakers at the conference, some from their own experience.

Speakers pointed out that in a conspiracy trial the prosecution can make use of evidence about 'your life-style, your friends, your opinions, all things which would never be allowed in another criminal case.'

The report refers specifically to the 'Oz' and 'IT' trials, the Aldershot bomb trial and the case of James Roche and Bowes Egan, charged with conspiring to throw a CS canister into the House of Commons.

Peter Hain, himself the victim

of a private prosecution on conspiracy charges last year, said that it is 'an incredibly chastening experience' to be tried on a conspiracy charge.

'Things you have said and written are brought up at the trial in a setting which is totally removed from the political context in which they took place,' he said.

'In addition conspiracy charges force people to prove their innocence, reversing the basic principle of British law that a man is innocent until proved guilty.'

Other speakers drew attention to the recent judgement of the Court of Appeal in the Kamara case, which established that criminal conspiracy can exist even though the defendants were not planning to commit a criminal offence.

In the Kamara case a group of Sierra Leone students were found guilty of conspiracy after an attempt to occupy the embassy in London. The occupation—a form of trespass—was not in itself a criminal offence.

Member Eric Thompson challenged the NCCL policy of seek-

ing an 'early review' of the law on conspiracy and advocated the total abolition of this offence.

It was 'terribly convenient' for the authorities to use conspiracy charges against minority groups, he said.

'I find myself strongly attracted by the idea of abolishing the law of conspiracy,' Mr Thompson said.

Other speakers pointed out the dangers to the trade unions posed by conspiracy law, particularly since the passing of the Industrial Relations Act.

THE 58 British Leyland engine assemblers who have been on strike for five weeks, forcing management to lay off over 2,300 men at its five Lancashire bus and truck factories, have decided to return to work on Monday.

The assemblers, who have been pursuing a claim for extra track allowance, have won an immediate £1 increase in their pay packets, although this will be subsumed by any future plant-wide increase.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

Merthyr Tydfil

Given by Gerry Healy, National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League

Wednesday May 9
The materialist conception of History

Wednesday May 16
Dialectical Materialism—a Marxist theory of knowledge

Wednesday May 23
Theory and Practise of Marxism

Wednesday May 30
Role of the revolutionary Party at
St David's Church Hall,
Church Street, Merthyr
7.30 p.m.

Jarrow

Given by Cliff Slaughter
SLL Central
Committee member
Civic Hall, Jarrow
7.30 p.m.

Mondays May 7, 14 and 21

The Socialist Revolution in Britain:

1. Political tasks facing the British working class. Marxism and the revolutionary role of the working class. Lessons of the history of the working class in Britain.

2. The roots of capitalist crisis: Marxism and the contradictions of capitalism. Britain and the world crisis.

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.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

BRIXTON: Monday May 7, 8 p.m. Control Room, Brixton Training Centre. 'Report back from May Day'

LEWISHAM: Monday May 7, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opp. New Cross Station. 'The role of the TUC in the fight against the Tories'

BATTERSEA: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. 'Nags Head', cnr. Wandsworth Road and North Street. 'Report back from May Day'

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Marxism and the trade unions'

TOTTENHAM: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, High Road, near White Hart Lane. 'Force the Tories to resign'

WYTHENSHAW (Manchester): Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. 'Cock o'th'North', Portway. 'Report back from May Day'

KINGSTON: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Norbiton Hotel, Clifton Road. 'Forward from May Day—to remove the Tories'

WILLESDEN: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Brent Labour and Trades Hall, Willesden High Road, NW10. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'

DARLSTON: Thursday May 10, 7 p.m. 'The Nag's Head'. 'Fight the State Pay Laws and Measured-Day Work'

HULL: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Windmill Hotel, Witham. 'After May Day—what next?'

LEEDS: Thursday May 10, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. 'Building the revolutionary party'

EAST LONDON: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, E3.

WANDSWORTH: Monday May 14,

8 p.m. Kings Arms, High Street, SW18.

WATFORD: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall, near Watford Junction Station. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'

TOOTING: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. Tooting Baths, Tooting Broadway, SW17. 'Build the Revolutionary Party'

SLOUGH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party'

SOUTHALL: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'

WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. 'The Crooked Billet', North Circular Road. 'Force the Tories to resign'

WEMBLEY: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Copland School, High Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'

WOOLWICH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. The Castle, Powis Street, SE18. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'

SWANSEA: Thursday May 17, 7.30 p.m. YMCA. 'Defend workers' basic rights. General Strike to Force the Tories to resign'

BASILDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Barnstaple Community Centre. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'

CROYDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party'

FELTHAM: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes', Feltham High Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'

All Trades Unions Alliance Public Meetings

What next after the miners' ballot? The fight against the Tory government

OLLERTON: Monday May 7, 8 p.m. Blue Tit. Speaker: Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee).

BARNESLEY: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Masons Arms. Speaker: Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee).

CASTLEFORD: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Sagar St Rooms. Speaker: G. Healy (National Secretary SLL).

Wife claims Crime Squad 'faked evidence'

THREE detectives are to be prosecuted by the Director of Public Prosecutions after allegations of fabricated evidence.

The three officers are Det. Chief Inspector Percival Postans of Birmingham City Police; Det Sgt John Thomas Wood, of West Mercia Constabulary; and Det Sgt Derek John French, of the Warwickshire and Coventry force.

All were seconded to the Midland Regional Crime Squad last year when Donald Bennett (36), of Warstock, Birmingham, was arrested on charges of breaking and entering.

After being in custody on remand and awaiting trial for 19 weeks, he was acquitted at Coventry Crown Court in June last year.

His wife, Mrs Doris Bennett, then alleged that evidence against him had been fabricated.

Prison vigil

THE Belfast Ten Defence Committee is holding a vigil outside Brixton Prison every Saturday starting at 2.00 p.m.

Other pickets and vigils are to be held one Sunday per month in places to be announced.

On Sunday, May 20, one day before the trial, the committee is holding a march from Stockwell to Brixton, assembling at 1.30 p.m.

The committee is appealing for full support for these activities.

TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.38-11.55 Schools. 12.20 Dechrau canu. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 Pets and vets. 2.05 Schools. 3.10 Expedition North America. 3.35 Holiday 73. 4.00 Huckleberry hound. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Champion for the king. 5.40 Hector's house. 5.45 News, weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.50 TELEVISION TOP OF THE FORM. 7.15 Z CARS. Mileage. 8.00 PANORAMA. 9.00 LABOUR PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST. 9.05 THE MAIN NEWS. Weather. 9.30 THE SEARCH FOR THE NILE. Conquest and Death. 10.20 UK BALLROOM DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1973. 10.55 MILO O'SHEA. Stone Cold Sober. 11.25 LATE NIGHT NEWS. 11.30 MAN IN HIS PLACE. 'The Survivors'. The depopulation of Devon. 11.50 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 World War I (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Skribble. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 This is life. 2.20 Doing things. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Clapperboard. 4.50 Tomorrow people. 5.20 And mother makes three. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.40 THE DAVID NIXON SHOW. Guests Les Dawson, Finn Jon, Bevan Raynor, Shag Connors, Carrot Crunchers. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 BLESS THIS HOUSE. Atishoo! Atishoo! We All Fall Down. 8.30 WORLD IN ACTION. 9.00 LABOUR PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST. 9.05 THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. The Missing QCs. 10.05 NEWS AT TEN. 10.35 THE WILD, WILD WEST. The Night of the Vicious Valentine. 11.35 THE ART OF THE CRAFT. French polishing. 12.05 WORLD WAR I. 12.30 IDEAS IN PRINT.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University. 7.05 PARENTS AND CHILDREN. 7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather. 7.35 INSIDE MEDICINE. 8.00 THE HIGH CHAPARRAL. Alliance. 8.50 DAILY ROUND. 9.00 LABOUR PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.00 Schools. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Survival. 6.45 London. 9.00 Life in France. 9.05 London. 10.35 Theatre. 11.20 History of motor racing. 11.45 Protectors. 12.10 News and weather in French. Gazette, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sports desk. 9.00 London. 10.35 News. 10.38 Film: 'Brides of Dracula'. 12.05 Weather.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.35 Film: 'Brides of Dracula'. 12.05 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 2.30 Hamdden. 6.01-6.22 Y dydd. 8.30-9.00 Yr wythnos.

HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 London. 6.00

9.05 CALL MY BLUFF. 9.35 SHOW OF THE WEEK: AN EVENING WITH FRANCIS HOWARD. 10.20 DOCUMENTARY: 'The Ape Man that Never Was.' The rise and fall of the Sussex missing link. 11.10 NEWS EXTRA. Weather. 11.30 OPEN DOOR. Feedback.

ATV today. 6.45 London. 10.35 Romantic versus classic art. 11.05 Man in a suitcase. 12.05 Epilogue. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Please don't eat the daisies. 6.45 London. 10.35 Monday night. 10.45 Film: 'The Fantastic Disappearing Man'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.45 London. 10.35 Emmerdale farm. 11.30 Outsider. Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Yoga. 2.55 London. 6.00 Newsday. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.35 Film: 'The Stripper'.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.00 At your service. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 4.25 Superman. 4.50 London. 6.00 Scotland today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.35 Late call. 10.40 You pays your money. 11.10 O'Hara.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.00 Ed Allen. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Strictly Scottish. 6.45 London. 10.35 Romantic v classic art. 11.05 University challenge. 11.35 Odd couple. 12.05 Meditation.

THE PLOT AGAINST THE WORKING CLASS

THE COLLABORATION between the trade union bureaucracy and the ruling class to salvage the capitalist system out of the economic crisis took further ominous turns

over the weekend. Workers Press industrial correspondent Royston Bull looks at three aspects of this collaboration.

SCANLON

HUGH SCANLON is one of the most prominent of the TUC leaders who have been preparing deals behind the backs of the working class in secret talks with Heath.

Alongside Scanlon have been Feather, Jack Jones, Alf Allen, Sir Sidney Greene and a representative of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

But Scanlon only last week denied any knowledge of talks already having started with the Tories.

He told his own union members at the draughtsmer's conference in Bournemouth that IF there was an invitation to talks, it should be considered favourably.

This double-talk has been taken a stage further in the latest issue of the 'AUEW Journal.' In an editorial, Scanlon writes:

'Trade unionists had to fight with the weapon of industrial power in 1890 against a Tory government to achieve the shorter working day. We similarly fight a Tory government in 1973 to prevent our standard of living from being deliberately lowered by government policies.'

Scanlon talks left words to his members but does the complete opposite in the secret dealings with the Tories.

The Phase Two restraint on wages has already led to a reduction in the standard of living of the working class, with a net gain of 5 to 6 per cent for wages after deductions but with the official cost of living rising by 8 to 9 per cent a year.

Phase Two is indeed an example of a Tory government deliberately lowering the standard of living of the working class, but who has accepted Phase Two? The TUC leaders.

Who ran away from co-ordinated strike action in support of the hospital workers, who were fighting Phase Two, despite a clear call to organize such action from the March 5 special Congress? The same TUC leaders.

Scanlon has not once repudiated either of these acts, although he is on all the leading TUC committees that are responsible for them.

His participation in secret dealings with Heath, kept hidden from his own members, indicate that he is a willing participant in these acts.

Scanlon adds: 'The so-called fight against inflation is only a cover up for a fight by the government against working people.'

Yet if the government's offer of talks with the TUC are nothing but a cover for further attacks on the working class, as Workers Press has consistently demonstrated, then why is Scanlon not only justifying such talks to the Torquay conference but taking part in them in complete secrecy from his own members?

Anticipating more attacks on himself for his role within the TUC leadership, Scanlon tries to deflect some of the blows.

'The response by so many of the movement's rank and file in the face of great difficulties proves the abiding strength of the British working class.'

'It was only positive leadership that was missing, not the willingness of trade unionists to act.'

Precisely, Mr Scanlon. And what were you doing?

Scanlon is only able to get

away with his rotten political collaboration with the ruling class because of the deliberate cover provided for him by the Communist Party.

Scanlon pays tribute to the role the Stalinist 'Morning Star' performs.

'Nothing could better prove this continuing pro-Tory bias (in the Press) than the vicious and hysterical campaign waged by all save one of the newspapers in Fleet Street against the trade unions' resistance to the gross unfairness of present government policy.'

Another lie. Scanlon knows that Workers Press holds the commanding position in the fight for principle in the workers' movement. He also knows the long history of Stalinist treachery, exemplified by the 'Morning Star', which he is referring to here.



Max Morris will serve Thatcher

STALINIST Max Morris, president of the National Union of Teachers, is to serve on the advisory committee on the supply and training of teachers set up by Tory education minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The NUT, together with the 'joint four' secondary associations and the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions, all submitted amendments to the proposed committee which were overruled by Thatcher.

The committee is to have advisory powers only and will consist of 29 members, only eight of whom will be teachers.

The NUT had wanted the committee to have more power, to consist of 50 members and to have over 50-per-cent teacher representation.

Despite its 'disappointment', however, the NUT has decided 'under protest' to nominate Morris and general secretary Edward Britton to work on Mrs Thatcher's committee.

Fire-station move to cut hours

FIREMEN meeting at Morecambe this month will be asked to take industrial action in support of a call for shorter hours.

Forty seven resolutions for the Fire Brigades Union conference are concerned with hours and most demand that the present 56-hour week be reduced to 48 without loss of pay.

There will be calls at the conference for these demands to be backed by industrial action.

A Glamorgan proposal urges that, because of rises in the cost of living and increases resulting from Value-Added Tax, an £8-per-week rise for all ranks should be sought.



FEATHER

Victor Feather made further revelations at the weekend of the enormous impositions the TUC leaders have agreed to lay on the working class in order to help the capitalists out of their crisis.

These burdens on the working class have been worked out at secret talks with the Heath government.

Two sessions of these secret meetings have so far come to light: a Sunday at Chequers on March 18 and a meeting at Downing Street on April 19.

Feather, in a speech at Glamorgan, revealed that the trade union leaders are prepared to:

- ACCEPT the Industrial Relations Act in full
- SWALLOW the principle of

the permanent state control of wages and

- ACQUIESCE in Britain's membership of the monopolist Common Market.

These three developments are the crucial core of the whole Tory philosophy since they came to power three years ago, of first halting the rise in the working-class standard of living and eventually reversing it.

Tory policy is to begin to cut wage rates in Britain so as to reduce production costs and rescue Britain's rapidly-declining economic position.

It is essential, if these policies are to be carried through, to cripple the power of the trade union movement. That is why the pay laws and the Industrial Relations Act are so important to the Tories.

The Common Market is also vital for boosting the political strength of Britain's sick and tottering ruling class, and to provide a cover for the relentless rise in prices caused by world-wide capitalist inflation.

Feather's latest list of so-called 'demands' on the Tories, if wages are to continue to be restrained, are just propaganda gestures which will quickly be forgotten as they have already been in the TUC's acceptance of Phase Two.

The 'demands' are controls on food prices, special action on low pay, higher pensions, reduction of Britain's EEC contributions, reduction of VAT, postponement of further rent increases and expansion of house building.

Completely left out—for the first time in a public speech—are any call to repeal the Industrial Relations Act, withdraw from the monopolist EEC and restore free collective bargaining, which are the key issues facing the working class.

the capitalists have manufactured by printing vast amounts of fresh money and running up huge foreign debts.

The Tories' original intention for autumn's Phase Three was to cut wage increases down to 3 or 4 per cent, on their way towards an eventual nil norm, i.e. no wage increases at all. If prices are still rising uncontrollably by then and the trade union movement has remained largely undefeated, the Tories' timetable may have to be altered.

But their aim remains the same: to make British goods competitive again on world markets by savagely cutting down on the working class standard of living. The artificial boom will only make the Tories need to do this even more imperative when it ends.

9 PER CENT DECEPTION

THE GROSS deception being perpetrated on the working class by all the talk of economic boom was taken a stage further at the weekend when the capitalist Press predicted 9 per cent wage increases as being the likely norm under Phase Three of the government pay laws due in the autumn.

Such talk is designed to build up an atmosphere of economic expansion and more money in the pocket in order to disarm the working class and conceal from it the rapidly deepening crisis condition of Britain's economy.

By the talk of higher wages,

continuing boom, and the friendly discussions Heath will formally start to have with trade union leaders this week, it is hoped to lull the working class's defences so as to prepare for the drastic measures of wage cuts, closures, and restrictions on democratic rights that the collapse of this phoney boom will necessitate.

By deliberately avoiding any mention of the dire difficulties Britain's economy is plunging into, with record balance-of-payments deficits and runaway inflation, conditions are prepared for a possible snap election in summer or early autumn.

The Tories might need a new mandate before attempting to introduce the severe restraints that eventually will be made necessary by the completely anarchic spending spree which

All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

TEACHERS' MEETING
The way forward after the NUT conference
Thursday, May 24, 7.30 p.m.
Conway Small Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn (admission 10p)

HOSPITAL WORKERS' MEETING
Hospital workers and the fight against the Tory government
Tuesday May 29, 7.30 p.m.
Norfolk Room, Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, London SW1 (admission 10p)

BUILDING WORKERS' MEETING
TUC must break off talks with Tories!
Build revolutionary party!
Wednesday, May 30, 7.30 p.m.
Tudor Room, Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, London SW1 (admission 10p)

POSTAL WORKERS' MEETING
Break off secret talks with the Tories!
Force the Tories to resign!
Sunday, June 3, 10.30 a.m.
Conway Small Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn (admission 10p)

MAY FUND NOW STANDS AT £126.71

WE HAVE now begun to slip back. We started this month well, so let's do everything possible and catch up. Our total to date is £126.71 which is a long way from our £1,750 target. It must be into action right away.

As the enormous crisis caused by the Watergate affair shakes the United States, we get a glimpse of the depth of the crisis facing the ruling class throughout the world.

Workers Press, alone, is prepared to meet this situation. All our efforts must be used to reach out to new readers in every district and provide a firm political lead to thousands of workers everywhere.

Let's therefore, not waste a moment. We are confident that even greater support can be won behind our paper. So let's press ahead as never before. Raise all you can and post immediately to:

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