

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY MAY 17, 1973 ● No 1074 ● 4p

THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TRADE BALANCE STILL IN THE RED

GOLD FEVER GRIPS MONEY MARKETS

BY JOHN SPENCER
OUR FOREIGN EDITOR

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The Department claimed that exports were up by £77m to a record £954m and imports were down £83m to £999m. Invisible earnings, from shipping, insurance and tourism, were £56m.

The figures come only 24 hours after the announcement of a \$10,200m quarterly balance-of-payments deficit in the United States, caused largely by the rush of dollars out of the country in the monetary crises earlier this year.

The absence of stability in the inner circles of the American government as it reels from scandal to scandal has thoroughly undermined any remaining confidence in the dollar and destroyed any prospect of restoring the slightest stability to the monetary system.

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gold rush can only come from Washington. But with his administration falling about his ears and his own reputation deeply compromised, Nixon is incapable of taking any such action.

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All Trades Unions
Alliance Meeting

What next after the
miners' ballot?

The fight against the
Tory government

CASTLEFORD

TONIGHT, 8 p.m.
Sagar Street Rooms

Speaker: G. Healy (SLL
national secretary)

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

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Post all donations to:
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186a Clapham High Street
London SW4

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STALINISM—a new
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International competition is becoming increasingly severe, it says. Capital support of up to £250m by 1977 will be needed to maintain even 39,000 of the present 50,000 jobs in the merchant shipbuilding yards.

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● Details, page 11.

NOW AVAILABLE

Fourth International

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Stalinists aid military repression of Peruvian Trotskyists

WITH the full backing of the Communist Party, the Peruvian military junta has begun a savage repression against the Liga Comunista, Peruvian section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

A letter to the Socialist Labour League from the central committee of the Liga Comunista describes the open collaboration between Lt-General Juan Velasco's government and the Stalinists who are united in their hatred and fear of the revolutionary party.

In their letter the Liga Comunista say:

Our organization is at the moment being very harshly attacked. The police apparatus is busy hunting out our comrades. The two comrades in the leadership are in prison and their

future, like that of the rest of the Central Committee, is uncertain.

Our Press has been destroyed and we are now completely clandestine. Repression has been unleashed not only against us, but also against centrist organizations and isolated cadres of the CP, who are being arrested, kidnapped and held incommunicado. Every right of individual freedom is being violated.

All constitutional guarantees have been suspended in Arequipa and Moquegua, the provincial leaders of the latter have been arrested. A General Strike is imminent in Cuzco and Puno in support of Arequipa and Moquegua who are fighting for the repatriation of a deported leader,

a worker in the mine in Moquegua (Cuajone). His name is Hernan Cuentas and he is a member of the POMR [a centrist group].

The repression has been unleashed against us because of the difficulties of the CP in getting rid of us. The facts we have mentioned plus the announcement that strikes will be subject to government intervention and the gains of retirement benefits are to be cut back show the seriousness of the problem facing Stalinism and the dictatorship.

The latter had to publish a communique through the CGTP in which we were explicitly accused of being CIA agents and our repression was called for.

They want to destroy us and have their hands free. We are determined that they will never do this! We have behind us almost all of the south of the country which is on strike, and strikes are spreading through Lima.

The Socialist Labour League unequivocally denounces and condemns the military repression against the Liga Comunista.

We call on all sections of the British labour movement to demand the immediate release of the imprisoned members of the Liga Comunista and an end to the anti-working-class repression in Peru.

In view of the role played in preparing and launching this re-

pression by the Peruvian Stalinists, we demand to know the position of the British Communist Party on this question. The British Stalinists recently refused to unite in defence of basic democratic rights with the Socialist Labour League and other organizations.

Will they now condemn the counter-revolutionary measures of the Peruvian junta or do they stand with the jailers and torturers of the military regime?

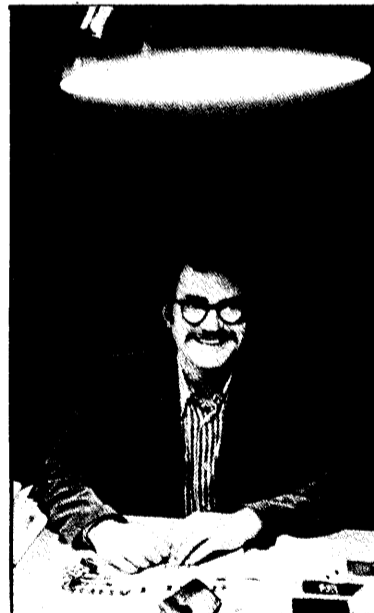
Resolutions from trade union branches and shop stewards committees demanding the release of the imprisoned Peruvian Trotskyists and all other victims of the Velasco repression should be sent to the Peruvian Embassy, 52 Sloane Square, S.W.1.

German crack down on Maoists

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MAOISTS still plan to demonstrate against Soviet chief Leonid Brezhnev's visit to West Germany, despite a gigantic police crackdown on their organization.

Two thousand demonstrated in West Berlin on Tuesday night against the police raids on the homes of members of the Communist Party of Germany/Construction Organization (KPD/AO), the League Against Imperialism and the Communist Student League (KSV).



Christian Semler . . . party leader escaped police net.

The police action swept through the whole of West Germany and West Berlin. At least four people were arrested, including Jürgen Horlemann, one of the KPD/AO's leaders.

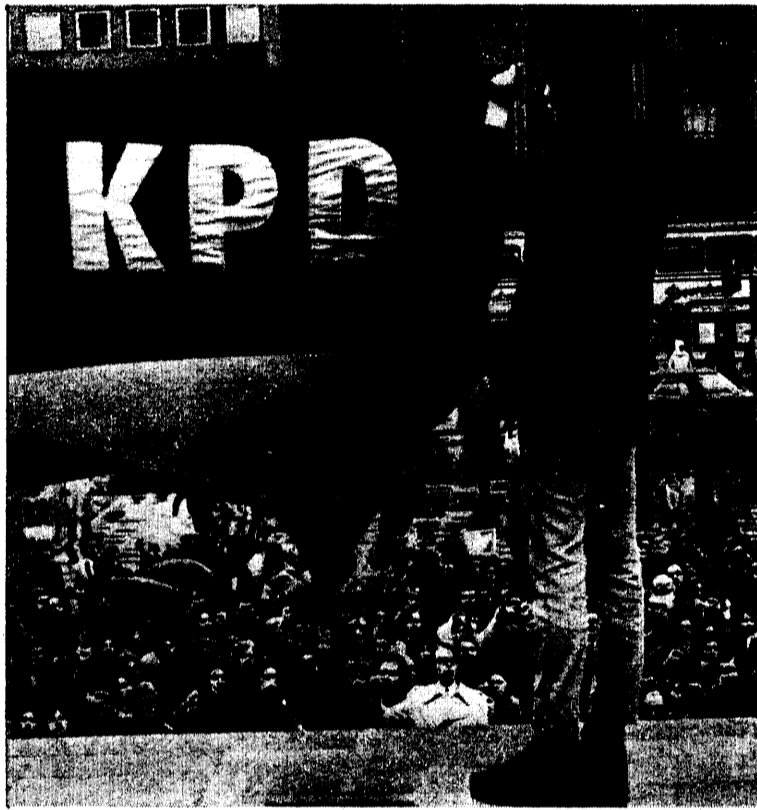
The raids and arrests were based on paragraph 129 of the Criminal Code, concerning criminal organizations.

Police were still searching for a 32-year-old British news agency correspondent, who is supposedly a close friend of KPD/AO leader Christian Semler (34), who also appears to have escaped from the police.

'RINGLEADERS'

Homes were searched in Berlin, Düsseldorf, Dortmund, Frankfurt, Cologne and Munich. State attorney Ludwig Martin announced on Tuesday that raids on the three organizations had taken place.

Members of these organizations



A KPD demonstration in Dortmund, where Maoists' homes were searched during police raids.

were accused of being ringleaders or members of a group whose aims and activities were directed towards carrying out illegal activities under paragraph 129.

The KPD/AO is a Maoist group which had called for demonstrations against Brezhnev.

These raids were clearly in preparation for the Soviet leader's visit to Bonn in three days' time.

The Brandt government is determined to prevent any possible disturbances to the talks with Brezhnev. But as one capitalist newspaper in Germany pointed out, there is another side to these arrests.

The pro-Russian Stalinist German Communist Party (DKP)

'now has a greater chance to present itself in the eyes of the government and the people, as a quite respectable organization', according to the 'Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung'.

WITCH-HUNT

The Communist Party has already supported the witch-hunt in the unions, launched by the union bureaucrats in the West German TUC (DGB) against these very same organizations.

Now they are clearly aligned with the forces of law and order in the Brandt government who want to join with the Moscow Stalinists in action against the working class.

First wave of strikes against Japanese poll law

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 300,000 trade unionists and students jammed downtown Tokyo yesterday in the first wave of demonstrations against the Japanese government's decision to change the electoral laws.

Traffic was brought to a standstill as the columns of marchers poured through the heavily-guarded streets.

The riot police were out in full strength. They carried full-length shields, batons and wore crash helmets fitted with special gas and missile prevention visors.

They were backed up by water cannon and television monitoring vans which filmed the entire march and relayed it to control points.

The marchers were in a boisterous mood. They sang labour slogans, linked arms and did the 'snake dance', blew whistles and waved placards saying: 'Smash the small electoral constituency system' and 'Down with the Tanaka Cabinet.'

A spokesman for the National Police Agency said this week's demonstration was the largest since the left-wing rallies in 1971 on the return of Okinawa to Japanese rule.

The biggest demonstration will be on Friday when Sohyo, the TUC of the public service unions, has called a one-day General Strike by its 4 million members.

This protest will be joined by members of the four opposition parties who are at present boycotting all parliamentary proceedings.

Premier Kakuei Tanaka has aroused this deep indignation in the labour and trade union movement by announcing his intention of forcing through changes in the electoral system aimed at perpetuating his Liberal Democratic's Party's 20-year rule.

The opposition has labelled this barefaced gerrymander as 'an attack on the Constitution' and a 'violation of democracy'.

With parliament paralysed and a one-day General Strike called for Friday, Tanaka is showing no signs of retreating for the proposed legislation. He has declared that he will extend the present Diet (parliament) from May 20 to handle the debate on the new laws.

Con Son governor gets job

THE THIEU regime in South Vietnam has re-appointed Colonel Nguyen Van Ve as director of the notorious 'tiger cage' prison on Con Son Island.

Colonel Ve was director of the prison in 1970 when two American Congressmen first uncovered the cramped underground cages used to house political prisoners, many of whom were permanently crippled by the ordeal.

Ve tried to prevent the Congressmen from seeing the cages and the ensuing publicity forced the regime to relieve him of his post.

After Thieu undertook to remove the cages, they were replaced by others even smaller which were built to specification by the American firm RMK-BRJ.

NATO wants greater nuclear 'freedom' for army

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's nuclear planning group have called for field commanders to be given greater freedom to use nuclear weapons on their own initiative.

Defence Ministers, chiefs of staff, ambassadors to NATO and other high officials of the United States, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Canada, Holland, Norway and Turkey attended the meeting in Ankara earlier this week.

The meeting heard a report by the US assistant secretary for defence, Robert Hill, who briefed them on the latest state of the strategic and tactical balance of the nuclear powers between east and west.

He showed the meeting 'highly-confidential' films and photographs of new Soviet developments in strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, according to a spokesman for the group.

The proposals for giving

greater latitude to field commanders are being advanced under the pretext of combating what the military describe as 'bureaucratic delay'.

Their argument is that in combat conditions there will not be enough time to wait for a 'political' (i.e., government) decision if tactical nuclear weapons are used by the 'other side'.

In practice, of course, the decision to launch nuclear weapons is in the hands of the military anyway. The US army has standard equipment an 'atomic bazooka', the Davy Crockett, which can be fired by two men.

NATO has never been able to

devise a fool-proof system which would prevent these two men from launching the missile against the wishes of the head of state under combat conditions.

The demand from the military for wider powers over the use of nuclear weapons is especially ominous in the light of recent reports about the development of 'mini-nukes', small-scale atomic weapons which, it is claimed, can be delivered with pin-point precision.

It is yet another sign that the ruling class is getting prepared behind the scenes to unleash World War III to halt the revolutionary upheaval against its rule.

Comment by Alex Mitchell on Heath's Lonrho outburst

Premier Heath has hit the Lonrho directors over the head with his handbag. He has called the Lonrho boardroom fight the ugly and unacceptable face of capitalism.

Judging from yesterday's Tory Press you would think that Heath had made the profoundest statement of the epoch. But what was new about it? Sure, capitalism is ugly; sure it's unacceptable.

The working class all over the world is well aware of this fact. You

don't have to tell a Cambodian peasant that capitalism is ugly. He feels it every day as American B52s pound his homeland.

Meanwhile, down at the old Watergate, the White House perpetrators of this wholesale murder and destruction are exposed as corrupt twisters.

Do you have to tell an American worker that capitalism is immoral?

Nearer home, Heath's sudden moral outburst is revealed even more clearly as a hypocritical stunt.

British workers and their families are persistently hammered by the exploitative nature of capitalism:

their wages are cut, their cost of living rises enormously to suit the profits of the food merchants, the rents and mortgage payments become more exorbitant, laws are enacted aimed at smashing the basic rights of trade unionists.

About these ugly and unacceptable faces of capitalism Heath says nothing. And why should he? After all, Heath is the leader of the most reactionary Tory government since the war. In the three years since he came to power it has launched attack after attack on the working class as a desperate defence of the capitalist system it represents.

The savagery of the regime he has now created in Northern Ireland is a warning that he will not shirk from employing the most barbarous powers of the military to defend the profits and privileges of his friends in the ruling class.

Away with Heath's humbuggery! Away with ugly and unacceptable capitalism by the mass mobilization of the working class to force the Heath government out of office.

Join with us in the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party which will lead the working class to power and the establishment of socialism.

Capitalism's ugly face



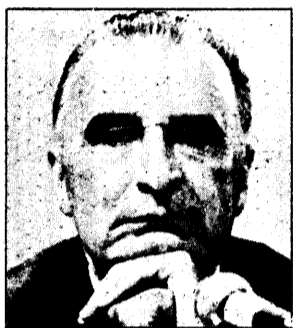
EDWARD HEATH

Broadstairs-born organist. Recently increased his salary from £14,000 to £22,000. Established martial law in Northern Ireland and began torture and internment regime there. Introduced Industrial Relations Act and state pay laws. Lives luxuriously; recently bought a new yacht worth £45,000 and has a private masseur to keep him trim. Former director of Brown Shipley merchant bank.



RICHARD NIXON

Born in Quaker town of Whittier, California. Wanted to join FBI after law school but opted for politics. Became, after Senator Joe McCarthy, America's most notorious anti-communist. After defeat in 1960 presidential election joined law firm with John Mitchell, his Attorney-General and now indicted in Watergate scandal. Responsible for heaviest ever bombing in history—North Vietnam. Dog lover.



GEORGES POMPIDOU

Born in Auvergne region of France. Took no part in resistance to Nazis. Spent war working on anthology of French poetry. Joined the French Rothschilds and became managing director. Appointed premier by de Gaulle in 1962. His name was linked in Alain Delon affair and also in business scandals which rocked his last government.



JOHN POULSON

Pontefract-born architect. Built largest practice in Europe. Went bankrupt two years ago. Lashed out money 'like a drunken sailor', according to bankruptcy court QC. Fraud Squad now investigating his empire. Friends include T. Dan Smith ('Mr Newcastle'), Reginald Maudling, Sir Bernard Kenyon, George Pottinger, Albert Roberts, Labour MP for Normanton, shadow cabinet minister, Anthony Crosland.



BRIGADIER FRANK KITSON

At public school slept on the floor to develop Spartan qualities. Invented concept of 'counter-gangs' to infiltrate liberation movements and assassinate leaders. Decorated for this kind of work in Kenya, Malaya, Cyprus and Northern Ireland. Promoted by Heath to head of the Infantry Training School at Warminster.



REGINALD MAUDLING

Former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Home Secretary and deputy Prime Minister. Forced to leave Heath Cabinet in wake of Scotland Yard investigation of Poulson group with which he was closely associated. Maudling also connected with now-bankrupt real estate fund; the founder of this outfit now in jail for fraud in America. Maudling is wine fancier.

A LETTER FROM MONTY JOHNSTONE

May 2, 1973

MY ATTENTION has been drawn to charges against me in your issues of February 17 and March 14. These are designed to justify the decision to exclude me from all SLL public meetings—at a time when, with curious irony, the League is publicly calling on the Communist Party to join with it in a campaign to end all bans and proscriptions in the labour movement!

I have not felt in the past that any useful purpose would be served by attempting to answer your multifarious personal allegations, most of which by their very nature are not susceptible to verification. In these two issues however certain statements of fact are made, which can readily be checked. It is on these that I wish to set the record straight.

(1) You alleged in both text and photo caption that I supported the trial and sentence of Soviet writers Daniel and Sinyavsky. The contrary is the case. I have consistently expressed my complete disapproval, including in BBC television's 'Late Night Line-Up' discussion on the trial on November 19, 1967.

(2) You alleged that I have 'still not retracted [my] support of the Rajk trial'. In fact I have for more than 17 years condemned it publicly on innumerable occasions as a criminal Stalinist frame-up—not just a 'mistake'. Indeed in my 1968 'Cogito' article on Trotsky, to which your March 14 attack refers, I cited Rajk's rehabilitation as one of the factors undermining the credibility of the Moscow Trials and necessitating the withdrawal of the criminal charges against Trotsky (pp. 34-35).

Moreover I have quite openly referred to and criticized my error in having till 1955 defended

Today we publish a letter received from Monty Johnstone of the British Communist Party. A reply will be published in due course.

such trials on the naïve belief that it was not conceivable that workers' states would engage in such judicial murders (see, e.g., my letter in 'Morning Star', January 31, 1972). I am not clear on where SLL Central Committee members Slaughter and Kemp have given a more 'acceptable' or 'Marxist' public explanation of their reasons for defending these trials over exactly the same period as I did—a fact that you would never guess from Slaughter's righteous indignation about my attitude in the Stalin period (Workers Press, March 14).

(3) To back his allegation that I am a Stalinist 'special agent' (007?) Slaughter refers to the 'behind-the-scenes' report of the 1969 Communist Party congress that appeared in Workers Press on November 29, 1969. This alleged that at that congress, by some Machiavellian arrangement with the Party leadership, I proceeded 'after a sham fight' to persuade most of the delegates from branches with resolutions calling for a fundamental analysis of the Czechoslovak invasion to withdraw them.

This allegation is completely untrue. All the dozen or so delegates from such branches, who were in the Resolutions Committee with me, will testify that exactly the opposite was the case. The argument on both sides was hard-hitting and genuine, and

we carried it back democratically to a vote by the full congress—which unlike the SLL's conferences was held in public.

(4) Slaughter's allegation that the SLL has wanted a public debate since 1968 but that the Communists 'would not entertain it' is completely at variance with the facts. If he looks at the front page of 'Keep Left' of January 1969 he will see the following Stop Press item: 'Sheila Torrance, National Secretary of the Young Socialists, informs "Keep Left" that Monty Johnstone is invited to a public debate on Trotskyism.'

As soon as the YCL leadership wrote agreeing to this, the YS changed the proposed title to 'Trotskyism and Stalinism'. Since then it has consistently refused to debate on its own original title, or to take up the suggestion for two separate debates on Trotskyism and Stalinism respectively. As far as I am concerned the offer stands. The preposterous new preconditions for a debate now demanded by the SLL in the form of a public Vishinsky-type confession of my mythical career as a teenaged Stalinist agent show quite clearly who is afraid of open and public debate.

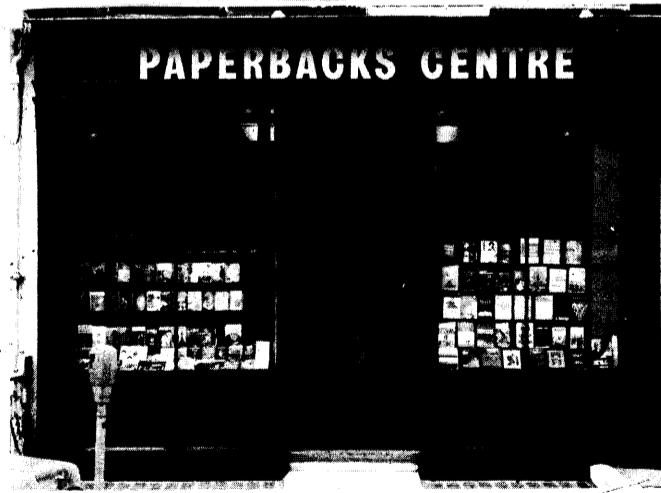
Reference to the above four items of demonstrable fact should be sufficient to cast doubt in the mind of any reasonable person on the veracity of such phantasmagoric and obviously unverifiable assertions as that I joined the Revolutionary Communist Party as a Stalinist agent in 1945 (at the age of 16)—or in 1943, at the age of 14, a year before the RCP was formed, as the SLL's organ, 'The Newsletter', claimed on November 14, 1964!

I trust that you will be prepared, out of consideration for your readers, to publish this letter in full.

Yours fraternally
Monty Johnstone

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TRANSFORMING THE SOC INTO A REVOLUTIONARY

Extract from the policy resolution adopted unanimously by 2,200 delegates and visitors at the All Trades Unions Alliance conference, Birmingham, on October 22, 1972.

Fellow trade unionists, comrades and friends we address you with this urgent call to action:

In its place must be elected a Labour government which is pledged by the mass action of the working class to implement socialist policies.

We say 'pledged' to socialist policies knowing that the present leaders of the Labour movement have no intention of introducing such policies. Indeed, in the last analysis some of them will be prepared to join a coalition government with the Tories to head off the working class.

But if the working class is strong enough to force the Tories out, it is strong enough to deal with the traitors in its own midst. This can only be achieved by exposing them in the fight for an alternative socialist policy.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League calls upon the working class to support the following policies to unite the working class against the Tories and the present Wilson-Feather leadership of the labour movement:

Here is the policy which the next Labour government must be forced to carry out.

1) A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act, Housing Finance Act, Immigration Acts, Fair Trading Act and all wage control. After the repeal of all Tory anti-working class measures, there must be legislation to implement the Charter of Basic Rights, along the following lines.

2) The right to work! Capitalism demands mass unemployment. The right to a job must be guaranteed. This can only be done by breaking the grip of capitalist ownership on the economy. Employed and unemployed must unite to insist on a Labour government nationalizing the main industries and banks, under workers' control and without compensation.

THE TORY government is relentlessly pursuing its plan for a confrontation with the working class. Each day new sections of workers are forced to become criminals — under Tory law — to defend their standard of living against government-inspired soaring cost of living.

Large sections of these workers openly acknowledge that the only answer to their fight to maintain a decent standard of living is a General Strike. That is, the creation of the industrial and political conditions which will force the government to resign.

3) The democratic right to strike and to organize in trade unions. Only the organized working class can lead mankind out of the historical crisis. Every right and every gain won by the working class, every democratic right in Britain, has been won because of the organized strength of the unions and the strike weapon.

A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act. This fight must begin now by forcing the TUC to break off all relations with the government and mobilize the working class to destroy state control of wages.

4) The right to defend rights won in the past and change the system. All the changes in legal procedures made by the Tory government must be repealed. All secret police and MI5 organizations must be disbanded and fully exposed. The secrets of the Tory administration in this sphere must be published. All rights to assembly, free speech and the Press must be guaranteed.

The struggle must begin now. No closures, no sackings, must be the policy of the trade unions. Occupation of factories threatened with closure,

as part of the fight to bring down the Tories.

5) The right to a higher standard of living. It is not the living standards of trade unionists, but the profit system, which causes the crisis. The first step must be to expropriate all the great fortunes of the rich, close down the Stock Exchange, place a state control over all movements of capital in and out of the country.

Nationalization of the basic industries and of all large companies, banks, building and insurance societies will provide the resources for a unified plan to improve the living standards of the whole people. Workers' control of these, as well as the present nationalized industries, will run them in the interests of the workers and consumers.

Again, the fight must begin now. State control of wages must be answered by the most widespread fight for wage increases to meet price rises and improve standards. This means a fight to remove the Tory government and change the union leadership.

6) The right to health and welfare benefits. Every Tory gov-

ernment cut in welfare benefits, in the health service and in all public spending must be revoked. On the basis of nationalization, a crash programme of expansion of services to the unemployed, the low-paid, the sick and the aged must be undertaken as an absolute priority. The working class and the Labour government must take immediate and absolute responsibility for these victims of the capitalist system.

7) The right to decent housing. Decent housing is not a luxury; it is a necessity. People have the basic right to decent accommodation at rents they can afford. Nationalization of the handful of building monopolies and building societies will provide the basis for a massive programme of new house building. The disgraceful problem of the homeless in the cities must be immediately solved by census and taking-over of all unoccupied property.

8) The international responsibilities of the working class. The working class is international. We fight for the unrestricted right of any worker of any nationality to move freely through the world.

Withdraw the troops from Ireland. Unite the Irish and British working class to throw out the Lynch and Heath governments.

Unite in the struggle for the Socialist United States of Europe, the only alternative to the Common Market plans for dictatorship.

Withdraw all British troops from abroad and disband the present standing army.

Sign treaties with all ex-colonial countries for programmes of equal trade and mutual assistance.

Break from NATO and all imperialist alliances.

For the carrying out of such policies the SLL fights for the setting up of Councils of Action to lead the struggle against the Tory government in every area. These Councils unite trade unionists, tenants, unemployed, all political parties and tendencies of the working class (Labour Party, Communist Party, SLL, IS, IMG, etc.) to fight against the main enemy, the Tory government.

The SLL calls upon every socialist and class-conscious worker to consider this programme and manifesto very carefully, and to decide now to take up their inescapable responsibilities. The building of the revolutionary party is the burning question now, not in some remote future. The SLL is determined to carry through its transformation into a revolutionary party.

JOIN the Socialist Labour League and help transform it into a revolutionary party.
Central Committee
Socialist Labour League

THE DISCUSSION GOES ON

'The struggle is not outside you, it goes through you'

Tina Jarvis is a young housewife—the wife of a building worker—from Prestwich, north Manchester. Her introduction to politics was through the Young Communist League which she joined at 16. A characteristic of the Stalinist movement is their inability to build a youth movement and Tina's own experience is testimony to this fact. Youth in the YCL are not developed as Marxists to take political leadership, but are used, at most, as a stage army for the party's reformist ambitions. The Stalinists therefore find it impossible to develop a serious cadre among young workers and students. Tina describes why she became a member of the newly-formed Middleton branch of the Socialist Labour League.

I joined the YCL as a teenager convinced of the cause of the working class, but not educated politically. But after three years in the Salford branch I could honestly say that my development had hardly improved. I used to attend meetings but no one took up a fight with me to read the important Marxist works and become active in the working-class movement. The branch largely revolved around three people and when they left for various reasons it disintegrated.

I think really the older layer in the Communist Party are afraid of the youth.

The first time I really took up a serious study of political literature was in the League. Once we did get advice on what to read in the CP but it was mainly novels—they said books like 'Sons and Lovers', 'Catcher in the Rye' and 'Grapes of Wrath' were worth reading.

Eventually, I suppose because of this, I dropped out, but I had no specific disagreements. I spent two very frus-



The Tenants movement against Tory Housing Finance Act in Manchester. 'The rent strike collapsed . . . because it was confined to protests and the hope that the Tories would give in over it.'

trating years, knowing that I ought to do something in the working-class struggle but not really knowing what.

We had heard of the 'ultra-lefts', but really we got the impression that they were something to do with bomb-throwing or that the people in these organizations were a bit mad. The whole thing was shrouded in an air of mystery. Someone might disappear, then you would have the whispers—'Oh he's joined the ultra-lefts'.

I came back to the movement after some CP comrades told me there were changes and that they were fighting for more—mainly to give the YCL a true revolutionary perspective instead of the peaceful roads.

But at the same time my husband had come into contact with the League and through him I began to learn a bit more about Trotskyism and the SLL.

I did go to some International Socialist meetings, but they did not really make much of an impact. They tended to organize around the university and be dominated by middle class. The impression I got was that they were going out to organize the working class and tell them what to do.

Of course the SLL has been an enormous change. I think for me it can be put simply as a question of training. This

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

comes out in the document for the revolutionary party. You don't join this movement just to be a member. It says that there is a need to train Marxist leaders in the working class and this is exactly what happens. I think I learned more in two weeks in the SLL than in all my time with the Communist Party.

It's not just a question of reading and listening to meetings and so on, but there is a continual struggle with you to take a lead. In other words the SLL is saying the most important thing, the struggle is not outside you, it goes through you. This is the greatest responsibility of all. It is the hardest thing really. (This kind of view was totally absent from the YCL.)

Once, for example, I went along to a college in the Manchester area with another League comrade. This college was not influenced in any way by the Labour Party, the CP or any group—it was new ground. So it was my job to get up and speak after we had seen the student union people.

Now before, I would never have dreamt of speaking—I was always there to listen not lead. But suddenly the movement was proving it meant just what it said—you have to lead, no matter how inexperienced you think you are. So I told them about our campaign. It was amazing, I was not Tina Jarvis and I was not nervous, because I had a job to do and I did it. We got good results that day. This is what I call real political work.

The other major factor in the League is its view of the way capitalism is developing. The economic crisis is at the centre of our politics, that is why so much time is spent analysing it. This is another major difference between the League and the Communist Party. Before I joined the SLL I never heard of Bretton Woods or the currency crisis.

Yet if you don't put the crisis at the centre of your politics, how can you possibly give leadership to the working class. The most important effect of the crisis is that it stops the period where the reformists could pass on concessions to the working class. The employers and the Tories don't have a choice but to take from the workers all their basic rights. This is not going to change but get worse. All perspectives are based on this.

This has an important effect on your political demands. For example, the main demand for unity of the working class to bring down the Tories. This is not something we decided because it sounds a good idea, but because of the crisis. There is no hope of getting real concessions from the Tories—they are just not there to give.

So from this we get the idea of All Trades Unions Alliance to unite workers in every union in defence of their organizations and also the idea of the Council of Action which we want to build in Middleton to unite all the working class on the issue of basic rights to get rid of the Tories.

As the draft document explains, the single protests on one issue are no use. I was talking to a lady on the Lang-



Henry Etienne: 'The TUC leaders are a fraud . . . All of them want to be like certain 'gentlemen' in the House of Lords'.

ley estate who was in the tenants' movement. She was disgusted that the rent strike collapsed.

I said that was because it was confined to protests and the hope that the Tories would give in over it. There was not the political perspective for uniting the working class in action to bring the Tories down or at least start that fight on Langley.

She said she agreed with no-politics—this is where the real struggle comes in to make people see the need for political leadership. The CP does its very best to stop people realizing this because of the 'peaceful co-existence' line.

There is also the question of the youth work. We are not out to 'get hold' of youth and make them model Marxists. We made this mistake on Langley at first. We used to be very formal in the meetings and thought just electing committees would get us somewhere.

Then you find out that most don't even know what we mean when we talk about revolution and revolutionary party. You are out to build a political youth leadership, but you will not transform all the youth.

The mass of youth will be attracted by discos, they will be noisy and things like that. We can't change that, but we must make the Young Socialists the organization which they all look to for political leadership in their everyday lives—this is the meaning of the mass youth movement to my mind. It is a crucial part of transforming the League into the Revolutionary Party.

'Slavery was through the church'

Henry Etienne (45), a London Transport and General Workers' Union member, came up against politics at an early age:

Once I heard the Pope telling a few thousand people 'Your poverty is the blessing of the Lord and if you bear it here you will get your reward in heaven'.

I thought 'Blimey, I want mine here'.

Since I am a black man, I went back into it and I found that slavery was through the church. They want with their Bibles to make the people believe slavery was nothing. They told them if they stayed slaves they would be rewarded in heaven.

Then I started looking at poor white people. Some children get millions for their education while others live in slums. I started to think how is this possible?

I asked myself what is it we call democracy and I started to read books.

I grew up as a Roman Catholic and I was made to believe I shouldn't read certain books because they were written by the devil. They said Marx was a leading hand of the devil. But when I read Marx I came to a different conclusion.

The capitalist system is in a desperate position. The crisis is building up and the more it does the more pressure will be put on the working class. That's why it is so desperate

to build up a revolutionary party in the working class.

With the Tory state pay laws working men's wages are frozen. But prices are going up all the time. The government says it cannot control the price of fresh food and imported food. But when you take that out, what is left? They are not controlling anything.

Four or five years ago a working man could put a deposit on a house. Today he can't. And mortgage rates are going up. Even those who have bought a house are in some difficulty now.

The economic situation is deteriorating. The paper dollar is only worth using in the toilet and the pound is going the same way.

I can't see there will be a boom as a result of the Common Market. The Tories went in mainly for the big companies, but now stuff from the Continent will flow freely into Britain.

The pressure the Tories are bringing on the working class is opening the eyes of thousands and thousands of workers. They are really pushing us.

You take home £26 a week and everything is rising and they tell you you can't get more wages, that is sufficient for you.

Every day democratic rights are taken away from the working class. A working man has no right to strike and his wages are decided for him. Who is the working man going to look to? The TUC leaders are a fraud. They are playing into the hands of the government. All of them want to be like certain 'gentlemen' in the House of Lords.

The first time I was approached by Workers Press, the man selling it said we must vote Labour. I said I could not see any difference between Tory and Labour. Then he explained to me that Labour is built by the working class and this is the only way they will realize they've been conned by Labour.

On the Common Market Labour had the power to bring the Tories down. The same people who voted to keep the government in power are still there today.

We need working-class leaders, men who understand workers. Men who use it as a game or as an opportunity to get themselves on will not give the working class anything. They will betray time and time again.

Workers need a leadership they know is not a fraud. Workers Press is a paper that gives the truth. It's for the working man. It's to develop him, to show him his rights, to show him who is pressing him down. I think the working class will follow the Socialist Labour League.

When the working class comes to power, led by the Party, it must be a government of the people, not like the Stalinists. Everything must be done by the people, not just telling them what to do.

The system they call freedom is freedom for one man to exploit another. If we nationalize everything everybody has to work. There are thousands who do nothing, just live off the sweat of others. To them it is honest, but if workers do it they are criminals.



THE WAR BEHIND THE PEACE

Today Dr ('Strangelove') Kissinger, one of President Nixon's few remaining advisers, meets Le Duc Tho, the North Vietnam negotiator, to examine the Vietnam 'peace' shambles. The fresh Paris talks have been called 'to review the implementation of the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Vietnam and to find measures to bring about the strict implementation of that agreement'. In the background of Kissinger's visit to Moscow and London, the US offensive in south-east Asia is continuing on an unabated scale: heavy fighting is reported in Vietnam, US bombers devastate Cambodia, the CIA incursions in Laos proceed. This article looks at the war behind the peace. By Alex Mitchell

The National Liberation Front has accused the Saigon forces of 60,000 violations of the Paris peace treaty since the international supervisory team arrived three months ago.

At the same time President Thieu's puppet regime alleges 12,000 violations.

One battle-experienced reporter said: 'Fighting is scarcely less intense than it was before the ceasefire. The military situation has worsened since early April.'

Fighting is occurring in many districts, especially the provinces of Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh in the highlands; in Binh Long where the ARVN post, Tong Le Chan, 50 miles north of Saigon, has been besieged for more than two months; and in My Tho and Chuong Thien provinces in the delta.

Last month 300 ARVN troops were killed and 6,000

wounded—the same figure as in April 1972. The Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) said this week that US warplanes had been bombing in the south since April, openly violating the ceasefire.

Col Duong Dinh Thao, a member of the two-party Joint Military Commission, said that American B52s, F4s and F105s have been bombing along the Cambodian frontier and up to four miles inside the south. The attacks began on May 2 and continued for a week. The US embassy refuses to confirm or deny the reports.

The much-vaunted International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS) has proved totally useless in policing the activities of the lawless Thieu forces. The commission has yet to reach a unanimous verdict in any of its deliberations; the Canadian and Indonesian delegates always line up against the Polish and Hungarians.

And if there is no unanimous agreement, no decisions can be taken. Thus the ICCS is powerless: it controls and

supervises nothing. Canada is planning to withdraw from the commission by May 31 and Indonesia may follow suit—if the Americans tell them to!

The continued Canadian participation is rendered even more farcical because it claims to be 'broke'.

The four parties to the Paris agreement—the US, the Thieu regime, the NLF and the North Vietnamese—contributed an advanced total sum of \$1m to get the ICCS going, but that sum has been used up.

'This is a very serious situation and difficult problem for the commission,' said Canadian External Affairs Minister, Mitchell Sharp, last week. 'We have requested the parties to the peace agreement to make another advance that will enable the commission to continue its operations.'

So far none of the participating countries has put a cent into the operating budget of the commission—a pretty obvious sign that no one is taking its work seriously.

In the neighbouring countries of Cambodia and Laos, US bombers are pounding 'strategic areas' in the countryside. The greatest danger facing the liberation forces in Vietnam and elsewhere in south-east Asia is the counter-revolutionary policies of the Stalinist bureaucrats in Moscow and Peking. They will go to any lengths to achieve a *modus vivendi* with imperialism. They hailed the 'peace' agreement signed in Paris on January 27 as a 'victory'.

It was nothing of the sort; it represented a breathing space for the Nixon administration which was being buffeted by the dollar crisis and profound domestic problems. Now, with Watergate, Nixon's corrupt administration is more desperate, its battle to survive becomes more brutal.

Yet it must be noted that the Stalinist Press in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe is keeping reports of Watergate to a bare minimum. Nixon's 'internal troubles' are reduced to minor paragraphs in the official newspapers with

Above right: the Defence Department's recruiting notice. Right: Kissinger and Le Duc Tho smile and shake hands after signing the 'peace' agreements.

little or no comment.

The Stalinists actively try to restrain the revolutionary movements of south-east Asia. How else can one explain the fact that the Khmer Rouge has not smashed its way into Phnom Penh when it clearly has the superior fighting capacity and the overwhelming support of the peasants, working class, students and intellectuals.

These forces are being kept on a leash in accordance with the Stalinist policy of 'maximizing pressure' on the Lon Nol regime and Nixon. Unhappy with the present 'broadly-based government', the Stalinists want any new government to be 'more progressive'.

While the B52s pound the Khmer republic, Kissinger holds cordial talks with Brezhnev. This Brezhnev, the man who has just awarded himself the Lenin Peace Prize!

RECRUITING PENTAGON'S SECRET ARMY

Article 4 of the Paris 'peace' agreement states that the US will not continue its military involvement or intervene in the internal affairs of Vietnam.

Article 5 stipulates that the US will ensure 'a total withdrawal from South Vietnam of troops, military advisers and military personnel including technical military personnel' within 60 days of the agreement.

On February 16 last H. Adrian Osborne, a senior Pentagon official, sent a recruitment circular to members of his department. The circular 'advertised' a number of positions vacant in 'the Republic of Vietnam'.

In his top-secret document Osborne said: 'A high priority, urgent requirement exists to fill these positions in the shortest possible time. Applicants should be advised that the tour of duty is one year, that there is a 25-per-cent differential, that dependants are not authorized, that PCS movement will likely begin within two weeks or less after selection and that for current Department of Defence employees re-employment rights will be granted across component lines.'

Osborne is acting director of the Pentagon's 'Centralized

Referral Activity' division. His job is to place the US military in overseas operations.

His letter seeking secret recruits for service in South Vietnam was written only two weeks after the signing of the 'peace' terms which specifically called for the complete withdrawal of all US forces.

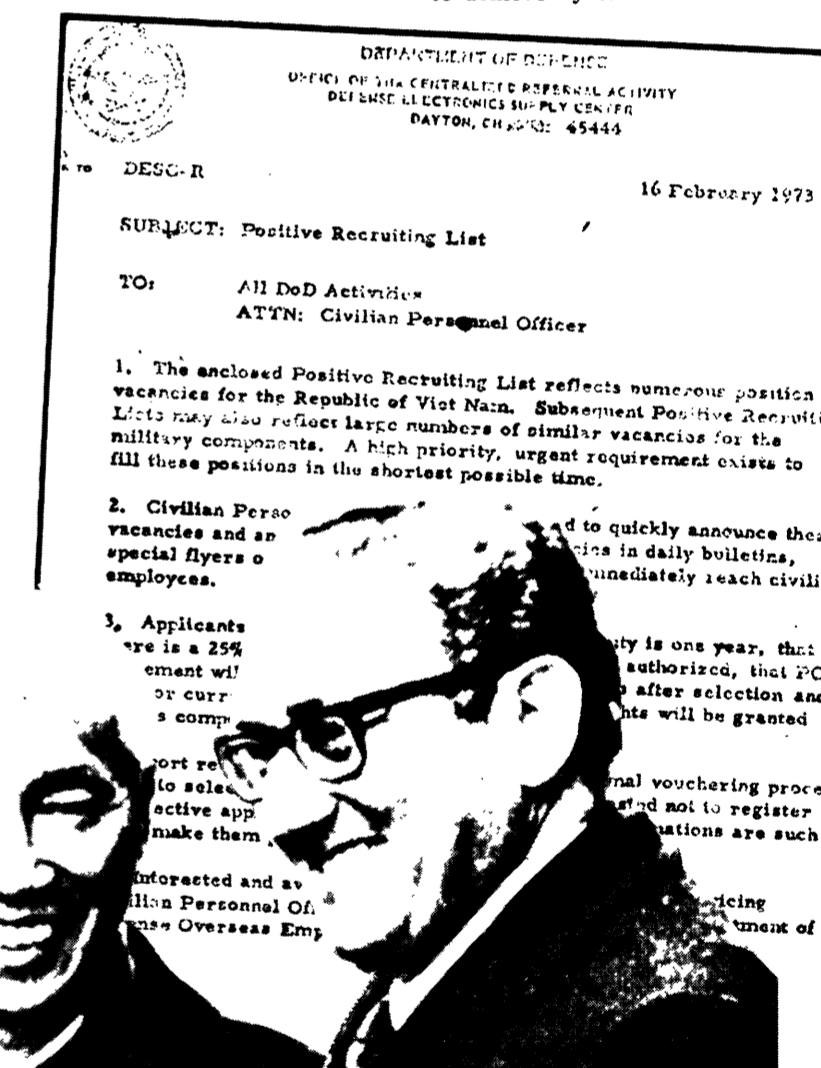
What is the Pentagon's game? Apart from Osborne's letter—issued at the Defence Electronics Supply Centre in Dayton, Ohio—similar recruitment notes went out to personnel in the air force and navy. All had a security stamp of 'top priority—urgent' and stated:

'Short recruitment time will not permit the normal vouchering processes prior to selection and personnel officials are requested not to register prospective applicants whose personal attributes or situations are such as to make them poor employment risks.' In other words, the Pentagon demanded scrupulous security vetting.

The air force circular asked for 'intelligence research specialists' and an 'intelligence clerk. There were other calls for radio operators, helicopter and fixed-wing pilots and communications technicians. When asked about the secret recruitment, the Pentagon declined to make an official comment.

'It's to help with the reconstruction and rehabilitation programme,' one Pentagon spokesman said cynically.

What he couldn't achieve publicly, Nixon is now trying to achieve by stealth.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE CENTRALIZED REFERRAL ACTIVITY
DEFENCE ELECTRONICS SUPPLY CENTER
DAYTON, OHIO 45446

DESC-R
16 February 1973

SUBJECT: Positive Recruiting List

TO: All DoD Activities
ATTN: Civilian Personnel Officer

1. The enclosed Positive Recruiting List reflects numerous position vacancies for the Republic of Viet Nam. Subsequent Positive Recruiting Lists may also reflect large numbers of similar vacancies for the military components. A high priority, urgent requirement exists to fill these positions in the shortest possible time.
2. Civilian Personnel Officers are requested to quickly announce these vacancies and an special flyers o employees.
3. Applicants are requested to advise their selection authority is one year, that there is a 25% differential, that PCS movement will likely begin within two weeks or less after selection and that for current Department of Defence employees re-employment rights will be granted across component lines.

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THE STORY OF JACK TANNER



THE ROAD TO ANTI-COMMUNISM. PART 3

BY JACK GALE

After World War I, Jack Tanner worked as an engineer on the London 'Evening Standard'. Despite his presence at the Second Congress of the Communist International—to get there he worked his passage to Helsinki and then stowed away on a cargo boat for ten days—and despite chairing the Unity Congress of 1921, which brought together the different bodies that formed the British Communist Party, Tanner never actually joined.

He was, however, a 'left' in the engineers' union. At the 1926 TUC he called for the right of unions to affiliate to the Red International of Labour Unions and he attacked the General Council for not presenting a full report of its treacherous role in selling-out the General Strike.

He questioned the leadership's failure to prepare for the strike, its unwillingness to support the miners, its assumption that nothing could be won and its failure even to win a no-victimization pledge from the employers.

The rank and file, he told Congress, were accusing the

General Council of being traitors, cowards and weak fools, who had sold out the miners.

'While the General Council says that it was not attempting to challenge the constitution or the government,' said Tanner, 'we know perfectly well that the government was challenging the whole of the trade unions of this country.'

In September, 1929, Tanner published a Minority Movement pamphlet called 'The Engineers' Struggle'. The views expressed in this are in startling contrast to the line he pushed when he became President of the Amalgamated Engineering Union.

'The post-war period' he wrote, 'is one of increased production and extensive exploitation owing to the introduction of various sinister forms of payment-by-results.'

Under this system, he continued 'men and women cease to be human and become trained animals, tearing, racing and sweating in order to keep the time on a job.'

In what could have been a description of his own future role, Tanner declared: 'The policy of the leaders of the engineering unions is one of co-operation with the employers. Under such a policy there is little hope for the workers improving or even maintaining their present standard.'

'The intensive struggle for markets forces British capitalism to rationalize its industries. The policy of the trade union movement, as expressed through the General Council,

is one of active co-operation with the capitalist class: to assist that class in its rationalization methods, and in maintaining capitalism which means starvation conditions, more unemployment, hunger and misery for millions of the working class, and eventually war.'

All this, said Tanner, was the inevitable outcome of 'the reformist policy of co-operation with capitalism'.

That same year Tanner became chairman of the London district committee of the AEU and in 1930 he became full-time London organizer.

In 1939 he succeeded J. C. Little as President of the union. He was still at that time regarded as a 'left'.

He was to tell the 'Evening Standard' some years later that he broke from the left after World War II over the 'rape of Czechoslovakia'.

But one of his first acts as AEU president was to sign—even before the war started—the Temporary Relaxation of Existing Customs Agreement, which accepted dilution.

On May 22, 1940, Tanner went even further towards assisting the employers by signing the Extended Employment of Women Agreement 'with special regard for increased output'.

This was opposed by the Communist Party which was opposed to the war at that time because Stalin had signed a pact with Hitler. When Germany invaded Russia on June 22, 1941, the Communist

Party line turned 180 degrees and Tanner once again became a 'left' hero.

He had full Stalinist support when he declared at the 1941 Trades Union Congress: 'If Russia succeeds, then we succeed; if Russia fails, then we fail.'

The Stalinists also applauded him ecstatically when he said: 'I believe Churchill is honest in his determination to defeat Hitlerism and act honourably with our Russian allies.'

Tanner again had the full support of the Communist

Party at the 1943 Trades Union Congress when he moved a resolution calling for intensified production, compulsory productivity and efficiency committees and payment by results.

In the interests of the Communist Party line of full support to the Churchill government and opposition to all struggles to defend workers' conditions and rights, the Stalinists consistently defended Tanner and covered up for his rapid move to the right.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



German invasion of Russia, 1941. Tanner now received full Stalinist support. He was a 'left' hero again. Top: General strike, 1926. Tanner accused the TUC General Council of being traitors, cowards and weak fools, for selling out.



RUN-DOWN ON SOVIET TRADE DEALS

Trade between the Soviet Union and the United States could quickly reach an impressive size according to an article in the government newspaper 'Izvestia'.

The carefully-laid out suggestions provide a fresh talking point for Soviet CP secretary Leonid Brezhnev when he visits President Nixon in Washington next week.

The 'Izvestia' article is by three journalists who participated in a recent conference on Soviet-American trade called by the National Association of Manufacturers in the United States, held in Washington.

NAM is the main organization of American big business which is now turning to markets in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe as part of the trade war.

Trade turnover between the Soviet Union and the United States has trebled over the past year. A number of important deals has already been concluded and more are being negotiated in line with the inter-governmental agreement signed as a result of talks in October 1972.

In a second article the authors suggest that Soviet industry should produce commodities specifically for export to the American market. This should be provided for in the economic plans.

In addition they propose 'new forms of economic co-operation' of a type which, they say, already exists with firms and banks in western Europe. These involve principally contracts to supply natural gas by the Soviet Union in return for the supply of machinery, equipment, pipelines and other materials for the Soviet gas industry on long-term credit terms.

Faced by increasing economic difficulties arising from its own mismanagement, the Soviet



Above: US President Nixon and Brezhnev on Nixon's visit to Moscow last year. Now they are making a 'fresh talking point' on increasing trade.

bureaucracy is now exposing the nationalized, planned economy of the workers' state to enormous perils.

It is proposing to shape the economic plans with reference to markets in capitalist countries and is opening the way for the penetration of foreign capital into the Soviet Union and the ending of the monopoly of foreign trade.

'Izvestia' also calls for closer co-operation on scientific and technical matters and for the mutual granting of 'most-favoured-nation' treatment in trade between the two countries.

A hint of this is given in the statement that 'contacts between American firms and Soviet foreign trade organizations and the submission of numerous proposals by both sides, show that conditions have ripened for mutually-advantageous co-operation on a long-term basis'.

While Soviet-American deals are being worked out, Japanese firms are also actively concerned with establishing a position in the Soviet market.

They are ready to co-operate in developing the vast oil and gas resources of Siberia and building a pipeline to the coast from whence it can be shipped to Japan. A similar agreement on Soviet timber has been in existence for some years.

Talks are now on the way for the participation of West German monopolies in the construction of a big new metallurgical complex to use the

process of direct recovery from ore.

The equipment for this will come from Germany and will be paid for by the export of steel.

Needless to say, the German capitalists expect to make a handsome profit on this transaction.

Capitalists from Italy, France and Britain have made similar agreements and the Soviet bureaucracy is inviting tenders for more.

There is a close connection between trade and foreign policy. The closer trade and economic links are intended to prepare the way for acceptance of a European Security Pact and a global deal with the US for the recognition of the existing division of the world.

The Kremlin bureaucracy makes plain that it is not interested in the spread of revolution and will support any regime which will, through trade and credit, assist it in facing its economic crisis and dealing with its own ruling class.

This is where the policies of 'socialism in one country' and 'peaceful co-existence' have led. The conquests of the Soviet working class are in jeopardy.

The bureaucracy, unable further to develop the productive forces, is obliged to look to the capitalists to exploit the natural resources of the country. Its dependence on world imperialism is becoming increasingly strongly marked.

ATTACK ON 'POISONOUS WEEDS' OF MAOISM

In a recent speech on the Central Television network of the Soviet Union, Gus Hall, general secretary of the Communist Party USA, launched a strong attack on Maoism.

He described it as 'one of the most dangerous and poisonous weeds in the international working-class movement' which acts together with the imperialists in most spheres.

He said that the Maoist movement is rent by factional struggles both in China itself and around the world. Soviet viewers could not know that Hall represents a discredited Party with little influence in the American working class, which itself has been, and still is, rent by factional struggles.

He was put on to assist the bureaucracy's anti-Maoist campaign. He carefully avoided discussion of the policies of the CPUSA, which supported Presidents Roosevelt and Truman and whipped up votes for the late Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1964 presidential election.

CHARADE

A curious charade took place on April 19 in Moscow when the Committee for the International Lenin Prizes for the Strengthening of Peace among Peoples decided on its awards for the year.

To the general surprise it decided to award one of the prizes to Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Since then praise has been lavished on him throughout the Soviet Union and eastern Europe in the fulsome but empty language reserved for such purposes.

The man who, with his Kremlin colleagues, permitted the Vietnamese workers and peasants to shed their blood for years and finally made a compact with US imperialism over their bones is praised 'for the great help and support which the Soviet people are giving to the peoples of Indo-China'.

Stress is being laid on what is called 'the great personal contribution' of Brezhnev in shaping the foreign policy of the Soviet Union and particularly for initiating a 'new stage in Soviet-American relations'.

Lenin Prizes were also awarded to the reformist President Salvador Allende of Chile, who the Stalinists have been backing in his opposition to revolution in Latin America; to Enrique Pastorino, President of the World Federation of Trade Unions, and to the journalist and author James Aldridge.

The award is no doubt intended as an earnest of Brezhnev's willingness to do a global deal with US imperialism no matter what the price. To describe these activities as being in the 'service of peace' is as degrading as the association of Lenin's name with a procedure with which he would have had nothing but contempt.

Aldridge, after working for a succession of newspapers including the 'Sunday Dispatch' and 'Time' and 'Life', has for a long time been a firm friend of the Soviet bureaucracy.

On May 2 he had an article in 'Pravda' in which he claimed Lenin's authority for the policy of 'peaceful co-existence'. He said the Soviet Union had proved over half a century that it is the most closely-knit multi-national society ever formed by mankind.

It is this unqualified and uncritical support for the Soviet bureaucracy which has earned Aldridge his prize, not any 'services to peace' or to the working class on behalf of whom Lenin fought.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

FRUSTRATED

Commissioner Robert Brake of Coral Gables, Florida, USA, is incensed by his failure to get 'Last Tango in Paris', starring Marlon Brando, banned. He thinks that if they will not stop the controversial film being shown altogether, the least the city planning department can do to protect the young from its evil influence is to limit it to theatres in industrial areas which are at least 500 feet from residential areas. Presumably the industrial workers are pretty corrupted already and the middle classes will not walk 500 feet to see it.

'People who watch these movies have latent criminal tendencies,' Brake declared. 'I wouldn't want my daughter and her date to go to Chippy's Restaurant (near the cinema where 'Last Tango in Paris' is currently showing in Coral

Gables) and be assaulted by someone who is somehow frustrated after seeing this picture.'

SUSPICIOUS

Some suspiciously minded people in Leeds have doubted the independence of the Yorkshire Electricity Consultative Council. How could it be independent, they asked, when it shared the premises of the Yorkshire Electricity Board at Scarcroft, Leeds?

Mr Peter Emery, Parliamentary Secretary for Industry at the Department of Trade, recently said that consultative and consumer committees for the nationalized industries should not only be independent, but should be seen and judged to be independent.

Labour Alderman Albert King, chairman of the Council, has now announced: 'We shall have a separate address and telephone number, which I hope will satisfy people with doubts.'

For the Council is, indeed, going to move out of the YEB headquarters. And who owns the new premises? The Yorkshire Electricity Board.

A new English edition of the 'First Five Years of the Communist International' incorporating hitherto unpublished material from Volume XIII of Trotsky's 'Works'.



NEW EDITION

The First Five Years of the Communist International
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(Enclose 10p for postage)

TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.42-11.20 Schools. 12.25 Disc a dawn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Mr. Benn. 1.45 Fanny Craddock invites. . . 2.05 With voice and brass. 2.35 Collectors' pieces. 2.50 Improving your playground. 3.15 Parents and children. 3.40 MacLeod at large. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Robinson Crusoe. 5.40 Hector's house. 5.45 News. Weather. 6.00 **NATIONWIDE.** 6.45 **THE VIRGINIAN.** Star Crossed. 8.00 **CHAPLIN SUPERCLOWN:** 'The Rounders' and 'Laughing Gas'. 8.30 **THAT MONDAY MORNING FEELING.** The Lorry Driver. 9.00 **NEWS.** Weather. 9.25 **MENACE:** 'Comfortable Words'. By Fay Weldon. With Sheila Hancock, Michele Dotrice, Renny Lister 10.40 **EUROPEAN SOCCER SPECIAL.** Leeds United v A.C. Milan. 11.30 **MIDWEEK.** 11.55 **NEWS.** 12.00 **Weather.**

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 At your service (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Witches brew. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Jokers wild. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.50 Racing from York. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Barkleys. 5.50 News. 6.00 **TODAY.** 6.30 **CROSSROADS.** 6.55 **FILM: 'Escape From Zahrain.'** Yul Brynner, Sal Mineo. Desert adventure story. 8.30 **THIS WEEK.** 9.00 **THE WHITEOAKS OF JALNA.** New series about a proud country family. 10.00 **NEWS.** 10.30 **CINEMA.** 11.00 **SOMETHING TO SAY.** The Long Debate on Poverty. 12.00 **WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.**

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University. 6.40 **WORKING WITH YOUTH.** 7.05 **OPEN UNIVERSITY.** 7.30 **NEWS.** Weather. 7.35 **WILDLIFE SAFARI TO THE ARGENTINE.** The High Andes. 8.00 **EUROPA.** 8.30 **CHERI.** 9.15 **SCHOOLDAYS.** Times remembered by Warren Mitchell. 9.25 **HORIZON.** Do You Remember the Memory Man? How good is your memory? 10.10 **JOHN WILLIAMS.** In concert. 10.40 **PLAY: 'Shakespeare Country.'** By Alfred Fagon. With Alfred Fagon, Carmen Munroe, Stefan Kalipha, Merdel Jordine. 11.15 **NEWS.** Weather. 11.45 **REAL TIME.**

REGIONAL TV

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Crossroads. 2.50 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Doctor in charge. 7.05 Film: 'Wake Me When the War is Over'. 8.30 London. 10.30 See it while you can. 11.00 Journey into the unknown. 12.00 Weather. **HTV Cymru/Wales** as above except: 4.25-4.35 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 4.50-5.20 Rainbow country. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. **HTV West** as above except: 6.18-6.35 Sport West. **ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 2.50 London. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Merrie melodies. 5.20 Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Jackpot'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Longstreet. 10.00 London. 10.30 Walpoles of Wolterton. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Baron. 12.30 Epilogue. **ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 2.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 Columbo. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 10.10 London. 11.00 Gardening. 11.30 Spyforce. Weather. **ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 2.55 London. 4.25 News. 4.27 Primus. 4.50 Joe 90. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Cast a Long Shadow'. 8.30 London. 9.00 FBI. 10.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Avengers. **YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 4.25 Skippy. 4.50 Hound cats. 5.20 Doris Day. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Hilda Crane'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Jason King. 10.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Streets of San Francisco. 12.30 Weather. **GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 12.00 Handful of songs. 12.05 London. 4.20 Tarzan. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Partridge family. 7.00 Film: 'The Tartars'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawk. 10.00 London. 11.00 What the papers say. 11.20 Danger man. **TYNE TEES:** 9.25 Christian aid week. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Let's face it. 3.00 London. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 Stingray. 5.20 F.troop. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Hilda Crane'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Jason King. 10.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 News. 11.50 Monty Nash. 12.20 Greatest fights. 12.35 Lectern. **SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 2.50 London. 4.15 Shape of things. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Film: 'Hilda Crane'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Department S. 10.00 London. 11.00 Gardening. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Edgar Wallace. **GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Lions are Free'. 8.00 Melody in. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 9.55 Police news. 10.00 London. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.25 Meditation.



Top: Paul Harding in one of the several roles he plays in a new, expensive series for Independent channels, 'The Whiteoaks of Jalna,' based on Mazo de la Roche's famous 'Whiteoaks' novels, the first of which appeared in 1927. In 'Shakespeare Country' on BBC 2 at 10.40, Alfred Fagon appears in his own play about an out-of-work coloured actor.

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Fight Phase Two with Councils of Action

NIGHT-SHIFT workers at Prestcold factory, Hillington, Glasgow, have called on their shop stewards' committee to initiate a conference in the West of Scotland to establish Councils of Action.

The call came from a meeting held to consider a management pay offer of £2.50 a week. The meeting endorsed by a majority vote a shop stewards' recommendation to accept the offer and authorized stewards to continue to negotiate fringe benefits.

The meeting voted in favour of the formation of Councils of Action on the basis that they were needed to prevent isolation and defeat under conditions where the union leaders had accepted Phase Two and state control of wages.

The councils should include not only factory delegates, but also tenants' delegates and representatives from the political parties of the labour movement, the proposer of the resolution said.

The aim was to unite all sec-

tions of the working class and wage an indefinite General Strike to force the Tories to resign. The Stalinist Liaison Committee for Defence of Trade Unions to which Prestcold normally sent delegates was purely a protest organization calling for one-day strikes.

At the meeting another worker criticized engineers' president Hugh Scanlon for his new attitude towards the Industrial Relations Act. It was time he was called to question, he said.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

MEETINGS

MIDDLETON (Lancs): Thursday May 17, 7.45 p.m. Assheton Arms, Long Street. 'Trade unions and the Tory government.'

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.'

LANCASTER: Thursday May 17, 7.30 p.m. Trades Hall, Fenton Street (near GPO). 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

FELTHAM: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes,' Felt-

ham High Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

ACTON: Monday May 21, 8 p.m. 'Six Bells', High Street, W3. 'Force the TUC to break off talks with the Tories.'

LEWISHAM: Monday May 21, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

ABINGDON: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. Above New Top Taxis, Ock Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

BATTERSEA: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. 'Nags Head', cnr Wandsworth Road/North Street. 'The economic crisis and the rising cost of living.'

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'The inflationary crisis and the rising cost of living.'

TOTTENHAM: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', High Road, nr White Hart Lane.

READING: Tuesday, May 22, 8 p.m. The T&GWU offices, King's Road. 'The TUC and Phase Three.'

WYTHENSHAW (Manchester): Wednesday May 23, 8 p.m. 'Cock o' t' North', Portway. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

HACKNEY: Wednesday May 23, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, Mare Street. 'Build the Revolutionary Party.'

LUTON: Thursday May 24, 8 p.m. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Road. 'Force the TUC to break off talks with the Tories.'

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THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to **NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.**

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Trade war, cash crisis, management

THE BOOZ, Allen and Hamilton report on shipbuilding, commissioned by the Tories in March 1972, was outdated well in advance of its publication yesterday.

In fact, even before this 262-page document thudded onto Industrial Development Minister Christopher Chataway's desk on February 1, the gathering trade war and monetary crisis had smashed away most of the flimsy assumptions of demand growth upon which it is based.

Yet despite its now baseless forecasts of 'substantial' growth in world trade, its conclusions about the British industry are avowedly pessimistic.

The most optimistic of five strategic alternatives the report places before the government envisages the sacking of 14,000 shipyard workers by 1977; the most pessimistic says that 25,000 must go by 1982.

PRODUCTIVITY

Almost all of these redundancies would take place in areas of already high unemployment, the so-called 'development areas'.

Meanwhile, the report says, to reach the current best European standards of industrial performance, an increase of more than 50 per cent in each individual worker's productivity will be needed.

To equal Japanese performance the required speed-up would be well over 100 per cent.

Booz, Allen and Hamilton, a prestigious firm of management consultants, received their commission to study the industry during the continuing crisis over Upper Clyde Shipbuilders early last year.

The Department of Trade and Industry wanted a factual examination of shipbuilding technology, finances, organization, management and competitive position on which to base its future policy decisions.

From the outset it was clear that the industry was in a mess.

Between 1967 and 1971 the tonnage of British ships launched had remained static, while the British share of total world launchings had fallen from 8.2 per cent to 5 per cent.

By comparison the Japanese industry had been growing by 20 per cent a year. The end of 1971 had found it controlling 46 per cent of the world market.

It was not the Japanese alone who expanded, however, since the consultants found that Britain was in fact the only leading shipbuilding country which did not achieve growth during this period.

Now the situation for British capitalist shipbuilding is even more serious.

As Chataway said in introducing the report: 'There are no grounds for complacency.'

COMPETITION

'The consultants' report shows that British shipbuilding has not generally been competitive or profitable and that it is likely to be exposed to increasingly fierce competition on the world market if, as the consultants forecast, capacity continues to grow much more rapidly than demand.'

Although the consultants include a ritual complaint about the shipyard workers' strike record, which they say 'compares badly with the national average', their general conclusions after surveying Britain's 12 shipbuilding companies point an accusing finger at management.

They slam the 'lack of general management skills', which, they say, is due to the industry's 'insular attitudes' and 'neglect of effective internal management development'.

Typically, the report comments, the industry has lacked any orientation towards marketing. No detailed strategy has been mapped out, no consideration has been given to which types or

shambles mean a BLITZ on jobs in shipyards



DAVID MAUDE, our labour correspondent examines the Booz, Allen and Hamilton report on the British shipbuilding industry

sizes of ships are the best commercial proposition and market information is always difficult to come by.

Little design work tends to be done in advance to assist marketing.

Estimates are often given, even for prototype ships, without full knowledge of the cost and technical implications of the tender. An analysis of cost estimates showed that they were consistently too low.

During preparation of their review, the report team visited most of the major shipbuilding facilities in Britain—finding many of them 'less than adequate'.

The increase in ship sizes which has taken place steadily in recent years has aggravated this situation. The report team found that it had caused severe problems, particularly as regards berth craneage, steel shops and storage.

SLOW RISE

Financial performance the report found to have been poor.

Merchant sales revenue in real terms has risen slowly due to fixed price contracts signed in the late 1960s, while costs have risen rapidly.

In addition the mix of costs has changed, with both labour and overheads assuming an increasing share of the total.

Over the five years to 1971 labour costs in Britain averaged

26 per cent and overheads almost 15 per cent of the total—compared with 25 per cent and 10 per cent in Europe.

Says the report: 'With deteriorating margins and additional costs on ships delivered late, the industry has suffered enormous losses, over £15m in 1969 and over £11m in 1970.'

'As a result, many individual companies have had liquidity problems in recent years and have become more dependent on government grants and loans to fund their shipbuilding operations.'

'Only £54m, a third of the total assistance provided to the industry, has been devoted to capital expenditure, despite the Geddes recommendation for assistance to modernize and re-deploy resources in the industry.'

'Almost all of it has gone to the three government-supported companies—Cammell Laird, Harland and Wolff and Govan.'

The report draws attention to further, haphazard characteristics and the British industry.

It says that management control procedures are under-developed in comparison to similar industries.

Budgetary control systems do exist but they are generally limited.

Control systems suffer from failure to measure the state of completion of ships under construction.

In many yards, work done is assessed visually and it is diffi-

cult to estimate work left to completion.

Despite the three- to five-year time cycle few companies plan more than one year ahead.

Yet it is, of course, the shipyard worker who will be expected to pay for the crisis his capitalist employers have produced. This is the common plank of all five alternatives Booz, Allen and Hamilton have laid before the government.

A look at just three of these alternatives shows the spread of choices which face the Tories in the report.

The alternative dubbed Situation A by the consultants presumes a continuing low level of government support for the industry, alongside a continuing low level of performance.

Under these conditions it is assumed that the government's present capital commitments of £60m-£65m to Harland and Wolff, Govan Shipbuilders and Cammell Laird would be maintained, with sufficient revenue support to ensure that all three would break even until 1977.

Output, say the consultants, would remain virtually static at 1.2 million gross tons to 1977. Two-thirds of this would come from the three supported yards.

JOBS CUT

Situation A would mean a cut in employment from its present level of 50,000 at the nine merchant main shipbuilding yards to 27,000 by 1977.

Beyond 1977, with no special assistance for any yard except for relief from import duty, Booz, Allen and Hamilton say output would probably decline to half the present level.

Employment would be cut to 25,000.

The consultants describe as Situation E a situation under which medium government support would be provided and there would be a medium level of performance similar to the best present European yards.

During the first five years output would increase marginally to 1.4 million gross tons, hampered by necessary yard reconstruction. By 1982 it would rise to 1.6 million tons.

This would maintain Britain's present 5-per-cent share of the world market, at a capital cost to the government of £120m-£130m over the next five to ten years.

But improved productivity would cut employment by 18,000, to around 32,000, by 1982.

In Situation I, the most optimistic of the consultants' projected strategies, a high level of support is combined with a high level of performance.

Government assistance, mainly for capital reconstruction, would cost £210m-£250m up to 1977. Output would more than double to 2.5 million tons by 1982, but employment would be cut to 39,000.

The DTI has virtually admitted that this last alternative could be ruled out under Common Market rules on regional aid.

LIMIT CHOICE

If the consultants' report is accepted this would limit the Tories' choice to slashing either 21,000 or 25,000 jobs inside five years—an even greater rate of job loss than the Tories plan in steel.

When he introduced the report, Chataway insisted that the Tories neither accept nor reject the Booz, Allen and Hamilton alternatives. Government policy would be decided only after consultation with all interested parties.

But he would not deny that redundancies of the massive and disastrous order envisaged could be on the cards.

In other words, even with their assumptions of boom, the consultants have made out an urgent case for the nationalization of shipbuilding without compensation and under workers' control.

They have shown that for the working class there is no strategic alternative to removing Chataway and his Tory associates and replacing them with a Labour government committed to nationalization.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

Merthyr Tydfil

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

Wednesday May 23

Theory and Practice 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.

Monday May 21

The Socialist Revolution in Britain:

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

Basic reading:
Perspectives for transforming the SLL into a revolutionary party. Marxist Analysis of the Crisis. Problems of the British Revolution (Trotsky).

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

Council of Action
North London

TUC must break off talks with Tories

**No negotiations on Phase Three
No capitulation to corporatism
Make the Tory government resign**

TUESDAY MAY 22, 8 p.m.

Lord Morrison Hall,
Chestnut Grove, Tottenham, N.17

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)

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Phase Two frustration

FRUSTRATION with the Phase Two pay award made recently to nearly 500,000 civil servants erupted yesterday in a complaint that top-grade officers had been asked to 'subsidize' lower-paid sections.

The complaint came at the Folkestone conference of the Society of Civil Servants, which likes to think it organizes the upper crust.

By an overwhelming majority the conference carried an emergency motion stating that it was not the society's responsibility to subsidize low-paid members of other unions by abating increases due to its own.

An executive officer in the Scottish Office, J. Raffety, told delegates: 'We should extract all we can get out of

Phase Two for the benefit of our members and not for the members of the Civil and Public Services Association and the Civil Service Union.'

Gerry Gilman, deputy general secretary, welcomed the motion on behalf of the executive. He criticized the government for setting a limit on the money available and telling unions to fight among themselves over sharing it out.

But to criticize the Tories for Phase Two is ABC.

The responsibility for frustration and split in the ranks of the civil service unions must rest with the TUC, which allowed the pay laws to continue by refusing to call co-ordinated action in support of the civil service gas and hospital strikes.

Registered union wins court appeal

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE APPEAL COURT yesterday handed the tiny, but registered Telecommunications Staff Association the right to carry on union activities on Post Office premises.

Judges overturned a decision of the National Industrial Court earlier this year, which upheld the Post Office's refusal to recognize the TSA and to grant it facilities.

Giving the Appeal Court's judgement, Lord Denning insisted that it was 'implicit' in the Industrial Relations Act that an employer should allow a registered union to carry on on his premises 'such activities as are reasonable in the circumstances of the case'.

It was also implicit, Denning said, that every worker should have the right to take part in those activities.

The judgement, which if confirmed by the House of Lords will open the door to a big expansion of TSA activities, constitutes a major challenge to the unregistered Union of Post Office Workers.

At present the UPW organizes 40,000 telephonists. The TSA claim a membership of 10,000, but the real figure is thought to be far lower.

At the UPW special conference in February, general secretary Tom Jackson hailed the NIRC decision as 'complete victory' for his union. He will have to make a rather different report to the UPW annual conference next week.

The action on which the Appeal Court gave judgement was brought by Walter Crouch (62), a night telephonist and TSA official in London.

While the judgement does not give the non-TUC union negotiating rights, it places it on equal legal footing with the UPW as far as organizational work inside the exchanges is concerned.

PUBLIC MEETINGS Transforming the Socialist Labour League into the Revolutionary Party

Central London
Sunday May 20, 7 p.m.
The London Film School,
24 Shelton Street
(corner Langley Street)
London WC2
Speaker: Roger Smith

Showing the Pageant Film:
'The Road to Workers' Power'

Hull
Wednesday May 23,
8 p.m.
'Windmill Hotel'
Witham

Goole
Thursday May 24, 8 p.m.
'Cape of Good Hope'

Briant print jobs disappear as deal nears

BY IAN YEATS



Bill Freeman

A DEAL clinching the sale of Briant Colour to Mr Peter Bentley is expected to be finalized this week when contracts are exchanged.

But as Workers Press has warned repeatedly, the deal means that only about 40 men and women will be employed.

When the work-in began on June 21 last year, 120 men and 30 women were said to be working at the Old Kent Road, London, plant.

In the last two months alone, as news has emerged that Bentley will employ only about 40, coupled with the drying up of the work-in's fighting fund, there has been a dramatic exodus from the labour force.

Work-in leader and Communist Party member Mr Bill Freeman told me on Tuesday that there were now only 85 occupying the factory.

He said the strain of living on dispute pay had forced a number of men to find other jobs.

Mr Freeman's own job at

Briant's is threatened by the deal expected to be concluded this week.

We understand that he and the father of the SOGAT chapel Mr Norman Pennington are to be transferred to other jobs in the print industry as part of the agreement between Bentley and the unions.

Mr Freeman and Mr Pennington have been the major

force in the leadership of the fight for jobs at Briant's.

Sources say that Mr Bentley has been worried about the impact on potential customers of the continued presence of militant work-in leaders at the plant.

He has given an undertaking to re-employ all those who cannot be given jobs immediately as he builds up the business.

Mr Freeman said negotiations on manning were still going on and we understand that at least one union has drawn up a precedence list for workers who may want to return to Briant's if and when it expands.

Liquidator's spokesman Mr H. B. Blandford Baker said yesterday he could not see what the work-in had achieved.

He said: 'Half of them have lost their jobs and it has cost me £75,000.'

Asked how he thought negotiations between Mr Bentley and the print unions were proceeding, Mr Freeman commented: 'I just don't know what to say to you.'

Greeks lobby embassy over junta visit



ABOUT 40 Greeks demonstrated outside their embassy in London yesterday against the visit to Britain of two members of the ruling military junta. A spokesman for the Greek Committee Against Dictatorship said the men were not elected representatives of the Greek people and they condemned the Tory government for inviting them.

Piecework dispute could close Reyrolles plant

REYROLLES, the Tyneside engineering combine, is facing closure this weekend over a piecework dispute involving production workers.

The Hebburn firm have already locked out their pieceworkers after they decided to operate the national consolidated time rate which drastically cut output. Yesterday management began to lay off ancillary workers and staff.

The dispute is over a claim by the production workers for higher minimum earnings and a better dispute rate.

Minimum earnings in the plant are fixed at £25, but most men get £11 to £12 a week more. Shop stewards argue that an increase in the minimum level would cost the firm almost nothing, but give more security to the employees.

The disputed rate is an agreed level of payment made when management and unions are in disagreement over new piecework prices.

The workers maintain that their claim is well within the government's Phase Two limit of £1 plus 4 per cent. They also

say that any increase in piecework earnings has been the result of higher productivity and is therefore covered by the Tory wage laws.

The firm disagrees. It says that piecework 'drift' has been caused by pressure from the shop floor and that the poor order situation makes it unable to give more money.

Stewards believe there are deeper causes to the clash.

'We have noticed a definite change in the atmosphere in negotiations,' one told me yesterday. 'There are strong indications that the management is preparing to clamp down on earnings next year because of the order situation. We think the current resistance is very much part of this new policy.'

Reyrolles is one of the few remaining north east employers which still operates a 'simple' piecework system without other more complicated forms of boosting productivity, like Measured-Day Work.

The get-tough attitude may be the opening shots in a war to get rid of piecework in favour of a works method that guarantees more output and a more intensive pace of work.

MAY FUND NOW £576.03 15 MORE DAYS

THERE is beginning to be a slight change. Yesterday's post brought £98.64, making our total up to £576.03. Keep it up. We must reach our £1,750 in good time.

As the capitalist crisis lurches from bad to worse—with the price of gold rocketing hourly—and a panic situation existing in virtually all the main capitalist countries, only Workers Press explains the major crisis facing the ruling class.

Every other daily paper tries to minimize the seriousness of the situation. Our paper alone warns the working class of the dangers ahead. We urge you all, therefore, dear readers, do all you can to keep Workers Press right out in front. Our paper is decisive today. Raise as much as possible for our May Fund. Keep up a steady pace and we will complete our total in good time. Post every donation to:

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All Trades Unions
Alliance Meeting
After Jones-Aldington
What next for dockers?
SOUTHAMPTON
Wednesday May 30, 7.30 p.m.
Conference Room
Civic Centre
Speaker: M. Banda
(SLL Central Committee)

CORRECTION

OWING to a typographical error, our report of the APEX conference in Tuesday's Workers Press read in paragraph eight: 'Williams [Shirley Williams MP]... did not mention nationalization'. This should have read: 'Did not mention nationalization of industries, only of land'.