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AMERICAN intervention in the Middle East cannot be ruled out. President Nixon was now scrutinizing National Security Council plans to safeguard US interests in the area, Herbert G. Klein, White House director of communications, said in London yesterday.

'One of the things the president does in any situation is mobilize the national security council to draw up contingency plans to safeguard our interests, he is now studying these closely,' said Klein.

'On the question of intervention I would say what the president's press secretary has said. That is, that it has certainly not been ruled out, but it has certainly not been ruled in either.'

He said that he was not aware that pressure from the Russians had been put on the Syrians to invade and expressed the hope that both the US, Britain and the Soviet Union would urge a withdrawal of their troops from Jordan.

'I think that there is no doubt that the situation in the Middle East is a dangerous one. There is the danger of a confrontation with the super-powers and we don't want to be sucked into this kind of confrontation.'

The ceasefire negotiations had not broken down completely, so that when the immediate situation was past, he thought that longer-range talks could proceed.

The President would not necessarily be discussing the Middle East with heads of state when he begins his European tour on Sunday.

Closer ties between the US and Europe and joint interests in the Mediterranean would be the main topics.

GUERRILLAS REJECT KING'S 'PEACE' OFFER

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Endorsed by the captured Al Fatah and pro-Nasser guerrilla leader Abu Ayad, the Hussein plan demands:

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- No guerrilla bases to be permitted in Amman or any other town. All bases to be on the front with Israel.

- All the King's laws to be applied to the guerrillas, who must pledge themselves to respect his sovereignty.

The aim of this deal is very clear. The guerrillas are to be trapped between the Zionists and the Royalists, and then massacred by both.

The guerrilla Central Committee's repudiation of the plan made it clear that Palestine guerrillas in prison do not speak for the revolution.

Zionist aid for Hussein

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And in the Zionist-occupied Gaza Strip, two Arab civilians were shot dead by Israeli troops when they opened fire on a suspected guerrilla.

Hussein cynically calls on his guerrilla enemies to turn their fire against the Zionists, while himself receiving military backing from Israel.

NUT PAY ATTACK.

LEADERS of the National Union of Teachers, Britain's largest teaching union, yesterday again attacked the rival all-male National Association of Schoolmasters for its counter proposals to their £225 million claim for an across-the-board pay increase.

Must Jordan be another Vietnam?

Halt the US aggressors

BY ROBERT BLACK

DECISIVE working-class action can still prevent American imperialism turning the Middle East into another and even more bloody Vietnam.

A noose of US troops, carriers, warships and armour is now being drawn tighter and tighter around the cockpit of the Arab Revolution in North Jordan and Amman.

Eighteen US Army transport aircraft landed in Turkey on Tuesday from an American base in West Germany.

Though an army spokesman at Incirlik air base refused to confirm this, it is generally believed that the Turkish base—barely an hour's flight from Jordan—is now swarming with US troops ferried from Europe.

All White House and State Department claims that this massive force is to be used for the 'rescue' of about 500 American citizens in Jordan are lies.

Every US ship, plane and weapon now concentrated in the area has one purpose only—to crush the Palestinian guerrillas.

And all these moves against the Arabs have the silent support of the Soviet bureaucracy.

Treachery

Acting on a request by Nixon, Heath and the butcher Hussein, the Kremlin has already called on Syria to end its support for the guerrillas in N Jordan.

This treacherous undertaking was being described yesterday in imperialist diplomatic circles as 'one of the few optimistic developments' of the Jordan crisis.

Nixon has a clear strategy.

His armed forces mount the main blow, while the Kremlin, hoping to work through the Syrian regime, stabs the guerrillas in the back.

And if Nixon's forces now stand poised to intervene in Jordan, it can only be because the Kremlin has already given the green light.

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● PAGE FOUR COL. 8

Weak protest by TUC

By an Industrial reporter

TRADE union chiefs yesterday accused the Tory government of 'abdication' from what they regard as its job of strike 'peace making'.

The accusation—made at a meeting of the TUC General Council—follows government plans to give the Department of Employment and Productivity a larger role in carrying out Tory economic policy.

The union chiefs' objections are simply that this will interfere with the existing conciliation machinery.

A top-level trade union delegation—representatives of the TUC's Economic Committee—met Robert Carr, Minister for Employment and Productivity, yesterday afternoon.

Independent

Before the meeting, TUC secretary Victor Feather stressed the need for negotiating committees and conciliation machinery to be independent of government economic policy.

'If the DEP's being made an arm of government economic policy,' he said, 'we are saying there is some difficulty in respect of conciliation.'

'If they are bailing out of this important function we think it ought to be expressly said.'

If this is to be the TUC's main objection to the government plan, it is a further indication of the extent to which the TUC has retreated.

There was no indication yesterday that the TUC was considering any further action in the face of the government's threatened anti-trade union laws, the first draft of which is to appear next month.

On the contrary, the strongest possible unity is needed in face of the Tories' determination to step up to 'productivity' measures and to hold down wages.

Jack Jones, T&GWU general secretary, however, considers that:

'There is now no place for this type of national negotiating machinery.'

At present the basic pay of a municipal corporation driver is £15 14s rising to £15 17s. They are demanding a £20 weekly basic wage.

The employers have said that no claim can be considered until February 1971— one year after the last award of 26s—but the busmen are determined not to wait that long.

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'Concorde flies, discord prevails—11th week', commented one of the locked-out Coventry men's placards.

Others contrasted the recent 30-31 per cent increases in Rolls' directors' already-sizeable pay packets to the company's offer.

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The national claim runs between £5 15s and £8 5s, but our claim in Coventry justifies an increase above that level.

The company recognized this—but they are afraid of the implications across the company...

'And we've said we won't even discuss "strings".'

'We're very conscious that we're not just fighting Rolls-Royce with this sort of claim, but the EEF and the employers as a whole.'

Three more AEF branches back ATUA conference

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They join the growing number of car, car-components, building-site, engineering and transport workers, union district committees and trades councils already backing the conference.

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And Swindon's Penhill and New AEF branch have joined the union's Walcot No. 1 branch and district committee in decisions to support the conference and send delegations.

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SWINDON district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers has adopted a five-point programme for mobilizing engineering workers against Tory attacks on wages and conditions.

This fighting resolution—carried overwhelmingly—contrasts sharply with the round of private dinners with nationalized-industry chiefs, judges and bankers which Trades Union Congress leaders began this week; apparently in the hope of building up pressure against the Tories' anti-union plans.

'In consideration of the coming to power of the Tory government and in view of the preparations by the employers to attack wages and working conditions,' the Swindon committee endorsed the following policy statement:

1. No Measured-Day Work! No intensification of working conditions!
2. Full support for any group of workers for "across-the-board" claims, in line with the cost-of-living increase!
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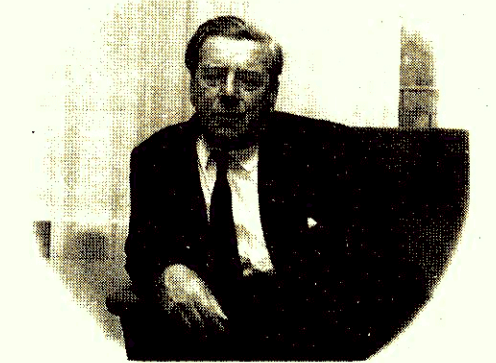
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● PAGE FOUR COL. 7

NEXT SATURDAY

September 26



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- Productivity and unemployment
- Victimization at Pilkington's

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men—were lobbied by some of the 85 Essex men locked out for taking action in support of their demand that a £63-a-year outer London 'weighting' is paid to all stations in the area. See photo page 4.

ON AGENDA

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'We're in the front line again,' one S London delegate told the Workers Press as he entered the conference.

'The Tories are out to smash all social services and we seem to be the first they take on—of course it's tied up with the local authority workers' claim as well.'

But the FBU executive is believed to be recommending a return to normal working in both Essex and London before

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Union breaks links on busmen's pay claim

By an industrial correspondent

THE Transport and General Workers' Union national executive's decision to recommend the break-up of the bus industries' national negotiating machinery and settle all claims on a local basis is being angrily opposed by many busmen.

The recommendations, which are to be put before the forthcoming busmen's national delegate conference, are the complete opposite of those put forward by many workers who have called for stronger links between the 64,000 municipal and 98,000 company busmen to fight for the current claim.

The T&GWU's proposals encourage the illusion that local authorities will settle the busmen's claim amicably

rather than fight to the end, confident of government backing.

This illusion was spelled out by a Leicester T&GWU branch secretary, Mr Bob Lee, who has reported in a local newspaper as saying: 'Leicester has a reasonably successful municipal undertaking and we have always enjoyed good relationships with the employers. If they wanted to give us more money they could not do it until they withdraw from the National Joint Industrial Council...'

'The hypocrisy of this shows at national level and I should say that local negotiations would be far more realistic.'

On the contrary, the strongest possible unity is needed in face of the Tories' determination to step up all 'productivity' measures and to hold down wages.

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Liberals worried about obituary

AT THE Liberal Party Conference's opening session yesterday a resolution by Mr John Pardoe, MP for N Cornwall, to suspend standing orders so that a debate could be held on party strategy was defeated.

Speaking on the motion Mr Pardoe had said that if strategy was not discussed before Friday the Liberals' obituary would have already appeared in the press.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 7

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PERU has evoked considerable interest in the working-class movement because of the emergence of a so-called 'progressive' military junta which is receiving uncritical and enthusiastic support from world Stalinism, including the British Communist Party, as well as Fidel Castro.

This unprincipled support for the military regime, which continues to suppress ruthlessly the struggles of peasants and workers alike, is a clear indictment of the treachery and political bankruptcy of Stalinism and Castroism.

This interview with a Peruvian Trotskyist shows with great clarity and cogency the reactionary working class, anti-democratic features of the junta and the inevitability, despite Stalinism and Castroism, of a revolutionary overturn in Peru as well as the favourable prospects for a Trotskyist party in Peru today.



STALINISM AND IMPERIALISM IN PERU



PERU

Top left: Students occupy Lima university in 1969. Left: One of the first demonstrations by students and workers resulted in brutal clashes with 'Assault' police. Above right: Police fire at workers and peasants during an uprising in Julica, S Peru in 1968.

PART ONE

OVER TWO-THIRDS of Latin Americans live under a military dictatorship like the ones in Brazil, Argentine, Bolivia, Panama, and Peru. But the bourgeois and Stalinist press have consistently tried to present the Peruvian case as 'unique', as a 'democratic', 'anti-imperialist', 'radical' government. Would you agree with this?

Certainly not. It is true that the Stalinists are quite pleased with the situation, and have gone so far as to say that 'The Peruvian Revolution has started', 'nothing will stop it', 'one can only be for or against The Revolution', etc.

So far as I am concerned there has been only one Revolution with capital letters in Peru—a defeated workers' revolution in the 1930s that ended in the mass execution of over 6,000 workers, executions that were carried through by the mentors of the present government.

But what the Stalinists say about the Peruvian military should not surprise anybody. I'm quite sure it has not surprised you.

Stalinists have never hesitated to support 'progressive' governments. Today they even accuse those who oppose the government as 'counter-revolutionaries'!

Over 40 years ago, a Peruvian Marxist, José Carlos Mariátegui, founder of the Socialist Party, clearly said that there was no possibility of being anti-imperialist without being socialist, and that there was no other anti-imperialist state but the workers' state.

But after Mariátegui's death, when the Socialist Party became the Communist Party, a fully Stalinist party, its leaders abandoned this and many other principled and scientifically based policies.

Blindness

To say that the Peruvian government is anti-imperialist because it has nationalized one oil firm, and because it has bought land and sheep from a huge copper mining concern, and because it has limited foreign ownership of banks, is to say the least, blindness and ignorance.

Mariátegui said it was impossible to be anti-imperialist without being socialist because the

historic conditions did not allow it: the national capitalist class was too weak and dependent, imperialism was too strong, and the world market established a rigid division of labour where there was space only for a few powers.

Today the situation has not changed and has become even more tight, and all the best wishes of the Stalinists, and the best conceived plans of the Peruvian generals, will not alter this fact.

World finance capital can, at any moment, completely asphyxiate the economy of any country which does not accept the 'rules of the game'.

Technological dependence has recently added a renewed and growing barrier to the host of problems that face any bloody-minded independent bourgeois government.

I think that the Peruvian generals are more aware of this problem than the Peruvian Stalinists. They have stated clearly and repeatedly that they do not intend to hinder imperialist investments in Peru.

They nationalized the IPC, a firm that has been denounced since the 1930s for exploiting Peruvian oil illegally, but they have generously opened the doors to the Becho Petroleum, Gulf and Texas Petroleum, not to mention the multi-million dollars agreement with the Southern Peru Copper Corporation.

Cut short

Incidentally in the latter case the generals attempted to be more 'anti-imperialist' than they actually were in the end; they offered the Soviet bureaucracy the chance to enter a bid for the \$340m Cusajones copper project.

But their 'anti-imperialism' was cut short when the Russian bureaucrats offered much stiffer terms than the US-based Southern Peru Copper Corporation.

The much publicised expulsion of the US Military Aid 'Mission' in Peru contrasts with their quiet, almost unnoticed return. The 'advisers' who five years ago helped the generals to murder every single guerrilla or suspicious peasants, that helped the 'progressive' military to burn entire villages, these 'advisers' are back, and increasing numbers of Peruvian officers are being sent again to US military bases and command schools for special training.

If the Stalinists don't believe this, they should read the 'Wall Street Journal', which knows it pretty well.

It is not possible to be anti-imperialist without striking at the heart of world capitalism, and this is a task that only the inter-

national working class can achieve.

The Peruvian generals, with their Stalinist supporters, may wish to play nationalistic, but as the generals (not the Stalinists) are aware, capital goods come from the imperialist metropolises, so does the finance capital that could make possible its importation, and also imperialism controls the technical knowledge and skills that can make 'independence' possible.

Imperialism controls the market for all our exportable products, and they provide all of the most important inputs to our industries, including the intermediate inputs that become in-

José Carlos MARIATEGUI

Peruvian Marxist founder of the Socialist Party said there was no possibility of being anti-imperialist without being socialist, and that there was no other anti-imperialist state but the workers' state.



creasingly important and expensive as our industrialization develops.

What can the Peruvian generals do about this? Nothing, absolutely nothing, and we are not misled by the demagogic statements.

WHAT ABOUT other internal political measures such as the agrarian reform, or the recently decreed industrial law. Do you think that these reflect a 'progressive' orientation? Would you say that a 'bourgeois-democratic' revolution is taking place in Peru under the military regime?

I don't remember the exact words, but I think Marx once said that 'history repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce'.

This is what is happening in Peru, and in many backward capitalist countries. History is repeating itself and we are in the second round. What was 'progressive' 40 or 50 years ago can only be considered a farce today.

To say that the agrarian reform dictated by the generals is 'progressive' is a mockery to those peasants who in the last 20 years have been struggling stubbornly for the right to own the land of their grandparents and the right to enjoy the wealth produced with their own hands.

And this struggle has been a bloody and bitter one. Hundreds of peasants have been killed, thousands injured, countless numbers jailed, tortured and

terrorized by the very same generals who today want to pose as benefactors.

As a result of these struggles, the latifundia and landed aristocracy were considerably weakened and a considerable share of their land (over a third) occupied, virtually expropriated by the peasants.

Now under the 'progressive' law, they are to pay for this land!

BUT WHAT about the expropriation of the sugar plantations? These were not, according to the

workers. Only the determined opposition of the workers prevented them in carrying out their objective.

Not everything is a 'farce' as you can see. There is quite a bit of tragedy lurking in the future of the Peruvian working class if there is not a clear awareness of the real implications of this new military government.

The tragi-comedy is, particularly in the case of the sugar plantations, particularly morbid. It was in the sugar plantations that the most militant sections of the working class rose in open rebellion against the capitalist state and captured several important towns, such as Trujillo, which they placed under their control.

The revolution, betrayed by its leaders, was finally defeated after a fierce and heroic struggle. Over 6,000 workers, the majority sugar plantation workers were executed in a few days.

This was 'a long time ago', 1932, the Stalinists may say, 'it's all forgotten'.

Hatred

This is not the case, particularly not for the military, who have been consistently educated in hatred against the 'mob' who, in the heat of civil war, executed a few imprisoned army officers and government supporters.

Every year, without fail, the whole army officialdom pays tribute to its officers who are all buried in one cemetery.

It is no coincidence that it was in the sugar plantations that the military began the agrarian reform, nor is it a coincidence that in applying the expropriation they also tried to disband the union organization, as if haunted by the possibility of being recognized, denounced, bitterly remembered in the eyes of the organized working class.

THERE HAS been quite a bit of coverage in the international press about this new industrial law or industrial code decreed by the Peruvian military junta. What can you tell us about this?

This is where I think that farce, tragi-comedy, ceases to be so.

It becomes an obscure threat. It is presented, like other measures, as a 'modernization' move, a 'progressive' and 'radical' policy.

Let's be clear, there is no doubt in my mind that what the Peruvian government is doing is bringing the Peruvian economy and legislation nearer to the

'advanced' countries of Latin America such as Brazil, Argentina and Mexico.

There is nothing very original in certain social legislation being introduced such as the protection of domestic labourers.

What we are saying is that certain policies, such as the agrarian reform law and the nationalization of oil industries, concern relatively old and, in the case of the agrarian reform, partially solved problems.

It would have been impossible for any government in Peru to go on for long without legalizing in some way the de facto occupation of vast areas of land without extending the agrarian reform to the whole of agriculture, and without dealing in some way with the decades-old illicit exploitation of Peruvian oil by the International Petroleum Company.

Other policies of the present government, such as the partial 'Peruvianization' of banks and the strengthening of the State Bank, the creation of a state monopoly of fish meal, commercialization, the promulgation of the recent industrial code, are more relevant and more dangerous.

Behind them is being shaped the 'new' reorganized Peruvian capitalist state; they point to the 'new path between capitalism and communism', being followed now in Argentina, Brazil, Greece etc.

Stalinists affirm that this 'new path' has opened an 'irreversible process towards socialism' that only 'oligarchic and imperialist plots' can stop.

You know perfectly well that there is nothing 'new' about the creation of a powerful State Bank, or the creation of state monopolies over the commer-

This is the Peruvian version of de Gaulle's 'participation'.

The French Stalinists were compelled to reject it; we are waiting to hear the reaction of our local Stalinists.

For the last two years, in particular since the military takeover, wages have been kept down systematically, and there has even been wage-cutting.

Only in the few cases, such as the miners in central Peru, when the working class went further than the Stalinist and right-wing union leaders thought 'wise', did wages actually rise.

Depression

The Peruvian bourgeoisie, before and after the coup d'état, have been submerging the Peruvian economy into a serious depression, resulting in unheard of unemployment levels and a decline of real wages.

The military government has done nothing to change this trend, and has shown no intention of doing so.

Wages continued to stagnate and decline in real terms, and I should remind you that this is taking place in a country where 40 per cent of the working population earns less than £50 a year, and 90 per cent less than £300 per year!

The total unemployment and under-employment in Peru estimated by the International Labour Organization (ILO) is over 2,000,000 workers.

The total working population is about 3,000,000. This means a rate of unemployment and underemployment of about 40 per cent; and each year over 200,000 workers enter hopelessly the 'labour market'.

Traditional, narrow-minded employers will no doubt feel quite uncomfortable at the beginning. But when they become aware of the advantages their attitudes will be quite different.

We do not see anything 'progressive' about the new industrial code. We see only a menace, a serious menace.

The Peruvian working class has not yet reached the level of organization and class identity reached in other countries. Only a fraction of the working class is actually organized in the union structures.

The Stalinists will, at the very best, offer weak and unwilling resistance. I would not be at all surprised if they welcome the scheme. The Peruvian working class could be forced to accept a de facto situation.

Revolutionary Marxists should oppose the industrial code with all their strength.

What concerns the working class is unemployment and starvation wages, not a share in capitalist failure, not another step towards the strengthening of a corporate state.

WHAT HAS been the policy of the junta concerning the issue of wages and unemployment?

It has been the same as in any capitalist state: sanctioning mass layoffs, wage freezing and even wage reductions.

Stalinist trade unionists feel quite embarrassed about this sometimes.

It was quite ironic to see in a demonstration in support of the five-week old strike of the workers of 'Bata-Rima' (a shoe manufacturer), where wages were actually reduced by 25 per cent, that Stalinist trade unionists were carrying placards saying 'the employers are creating problems between us and the Revolutionary government'!

The military junta's record on wage claims and unemployment is quite impressive. The most seriously affected are workers in the fishing, construction, textiles and shoe manufacturing industries.

The story of the strikes and redundancies at 'Ceramica del Pacifico', 'Lolas', 'Luxor', 'Coca-Cola', Patamó, Calzado Durable, Eternit, Calzado el Aguilá Americana, Pilas National, Texoro, Leonard, Banco Continental, Tejedos Union, Inca Cotton, Inca Extension, Victoria, Progreso, La Oroya y Cobriga, Tabacalera Nacional, Fundicion Callao, etc., to mention only a few, can tell the truth.

When working-class militancy has led to mass actions that threatened 'law and order', the 'progressive' military in Peru have answered in the language they know best—bullets to suppress the workers' demands.

It has violently suppressed the workers of Mala (a mining town in the south of Peru) and the workers of Atas factory in Lima.

It has suppressed violently the demonstration of workers of the fishing industries of Chimbote and murdered dozens of peasants, students and workers in the towns of Mala, Colquimarca, Ayacucho and Huanta.

In the two latter cases it was a vast popular mobilization of workers, students and peasants opposing a recently decreed abolition of free education.

After the massacre the 'Revolutionary' government was forced to withdraw the decree.

It was also forced to retreat by the 14,000 miners of central Peru employed by Cerro de Pasco Corporation.

The strike over wages and working conditions, which was not backed by the corrupt union bureaucrats, led, two weeks after its commencement, to a march to Lima, 150 miles away, by workers and their families.

Seven hundred 'special forces' violently suppressed the march, wounded many workers and arrested several hundred.

But in the face of defiant workers, the government and the employers were forced to retreat. Violence against workers' demands has continued and will continue.

The militant revolutionary trade unionists are constantly imprisoned, harassed and terrorized by the employers and their agents and the police.

In two years of power, the military junta has killed over 20 workers, a rate of about one a month.

In two parts — PART TWO will appear in tomorrow's Workers Press.



A miner from Mala in South Peru shows a wound inflicted by police when they ambushed 400 miners on a march to the capital.

'Assault' police shoot down peasant demonstrators in Colquimarca.



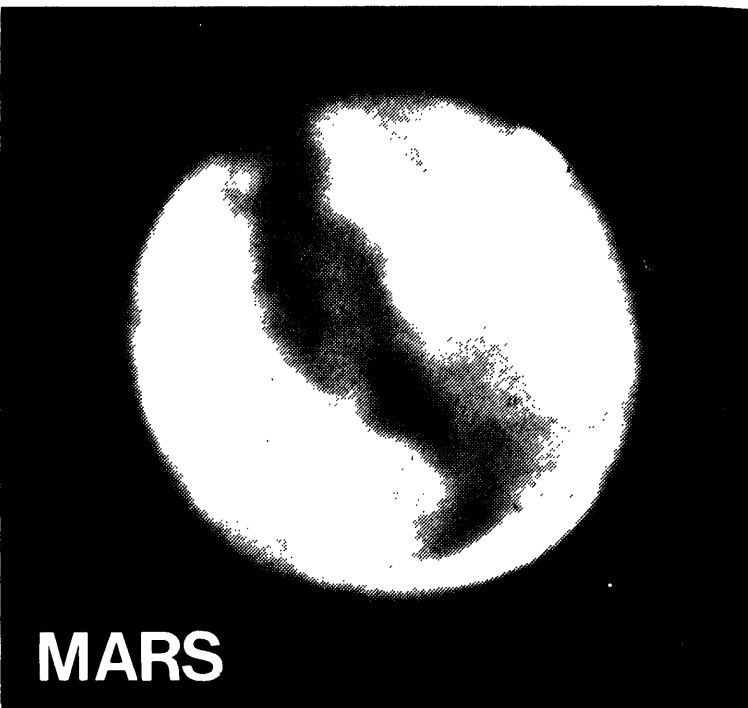
I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

Name

Address

Is anybody there?



THE POSSIBILITY of the appearance of life on a planet and the level which it can attain depends crucially on a number of factors, such as temperature and gravity.

Although it is possible to conceive of life existing at temperatures above the boiling point of water or in the absence of oxygen, the development of intelligent beings presupposes that a stage is reached when there is a certain independence from the 'energy conversion' which is necessary for any form of life.

It is argued that higher forms of life could have evolved only in an environment which made it possible for the most efficient body chemistries to develop.

In particular, an atmosphere containing oxygen in a usable form makes possible a far more efficient energy conversion than if hydrogen is predominant.

We derive our energy primarily from the combination of glucose sugar with oxygen, whereas in a hydrogen-dominated environment the glucose would have to be fermented to ethyl alcohol and carbon dioxide, a reaction that produces less than one-tenth as many calories.

In such an environment, a creature would have to eat ten times as much to get the same amount of energy.

Berkeley's Professor Huang has commented:

'It is doubtful that a mind such as man's would appear... because living creatures would be too preoccupied with seeking food.'

However, the presence of free oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere is not accidental, although unique in our own solar system.

The planetary atmospheres that we have been able to investigate, either by spectral

analysis from earth or recently by unmanned probes, fall into four classes.

The nearest planet to the Sun—Mercury—and probably the most distant—Pluto—have little or no atmosphere.

In the case of Mercury, the weakness of its gravitational pull would long ago have been insufficient to hold any gas molecules, particularly as they would be highly energetic because of the Sun's proximity.

LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS by MARTIN ZARROP

Pluto is also small and any gas that did not escape during the planet's formation, would certainly lie frozen on its surface now.

The remaining seven planets fall into two groups. The giant outer planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune have atmospheres rich in hydrogen and related compounds—so-called 'reducing atmospheres'.

Of the three inner planets, Earth alone has an atmosphere

rich in free oxygen—an 'oxidizing atmosphere'.

Finally, Venus and Mars have 'neutral atmospheres', which contain neither hydrogen nor oxygen to any great extent.

How did this take place?

The material out of which the solar system is thought to have condensed was probably about 90 per cent hydrogen, 9 per cent helium with the other elements making up the other 1 per cent between them.

In the early stages of planetary condensation, those planets nearest the sun could not hold on to their hydrogen (or any other part of their 'primary' atmospheres) and this was swept outwards by the Sun's radiation until captured by the outer planets, particularly Jupiter.

This accounts for the nature of the outer planets—their huge sizes and thick reducing atmospheres.

The final stages of condensa-

tion of the inner planets gave them gravitational attractions sufficient—except for Mercury—to hold the gases that were emitted from their interiors.

Venus, Earth and Mars all developed 'secondary' reducing atmospheres at this stage, together with oceans, and it was under these conditions that life began and the first basic molecules were built up.

Indeed, had the atmosphere contained substantial amounts of oxygen, the necessary ultra-violet radiation would have been blocked and its energy unavailable.

In addition to providing an essential source of energy, this radiation also broke up water molecules into free hydrogen and free oxygen—a process called 'photodissociation'.

While gravity was sufficient to hold the oxygen, the lighter hydrogen molecules leaked into space and the atmospheres of the inner planets slowly became neutral, consuming large amounts of water in the process.

Why didn't the oxygen build-up continue and give Venus, Earth and Mars an abundance of oxygen—an oxidizing atmosphere?

Uniqueness

We have already touched on the reason for this. The accumulation of oxygen built up a barrier to the ultra-violet radiation and hence progressively cut down the rate of oxygen-production.

In other words, photodissociation is a self-limiting process. It can convert a reducing atmosphere into a neutral atmosphere, but cannot go any further.

The uniqueness of Earth's development—probably arising from the relative abundance of the terrestrial oceans—springs from the formation of the chlorophyll molecule, which gains energy, not from ultra-violet radiation, but from visible light (photosynthesis).

The 'ceiling' could now be surpassed! The accumulation of oxygen barred ultra-violet but allowed visible light to pass through and continue its work.

Secondly, photosynthesis does not waste the hydrogen which is released, but forces it to undergo a series of chemical reactions which end in its combination with carbon dioxide to form starch and other components of plant cells.

Thus photosynthesis pours oxygen into the atmosphere and reduces the carbon dioxide level, finally leaving the Earth with a covering composed almost entirely of nitrogen and oxygen.

However, Mars and Venus did not surmount these obstacles.

Mars now has a thin atmosphere almost completely composed of carbon dioxide and whose water supply has decreased to the point where it is barely sufficient to form thin icecaps at the poles.

'Greenhouse'

On Venus, the atmosphere is probably made up of nitrogen and carbon dioxide and quantities of water vapour.

This has given rise to the 'greenhouse effect'.

Carbon dioxide is transparent to visible light but absorbs heat radiation. The thickness of the Venus atmosphere and the nearness of the planet to the Sun has meant that the temperature near its surface has risen to the point where all water has boiled.

Water vapour also absorbs heat radiation and this serves to enhance the effect and also to provide the planet's present cloud cover.

The conditions for intelligent life on Earth have therefore been prescribed along extremely narrow limits.

A little less water, a little more gravity or a slightly lower temperature and the outcome would have been qualitatively different.

● To be continued.

'BUILD THE YS'



'IF YOU don't work in the pit there's nothing else for you to do round here.'

This is David Evans and his friend David Morgan speaking. Both work as miners in S Wales; David Evans in Oakdale colliery and David Morgan in Markham colliery.

Their predicament is very typical of thousands of young people in the S Wales valleys whose parents and relatives have worked down the mines for generations.

Today they either take their chance of finding a job in the rapidly-closing pits or migrate to the larger towns—Port Talbot or Cardiff—to work in the textile factories or in the steel works.

It is the finality of such a choice, thrust on them by the requirements of monopoly capitalism, that has produced amongst the working-class youth of Wales a bitter hatred of the Tories and the system they represent.

Parallels

Such feeling has its parallel in history in the fight of the Tonymandy miners who challenged the Liberal government of 1911 and fought the troops sent by Home Secretary Winston Churchill.

Wales has its tragedies too—the 1966 Aberfan disaster with its death toll of 150 (116 of them small children) will not be forgotten.

These events, which are part of the history and experience of the working class, serve to sharpen the awareness particularly of the young.

The Young Socialists recruiting team which spent a week in S Wales as part of its 'Build the YS' campaign found the youth ready to discuss and willing to build the YS in a campaign to force the Tories to resign.

With Cardiff as its base the team moved out to the Ebbw

Vale area with its sprawling steelworks—stretched along the floor of the whole valley.

From there they went to the pits—Coedely and Cwm collieries—where they met the few young miners who can still find work on the coalface.

In Merthyr Tydfil the team met and recruited young girls working in textile and light engineering factories.

'Keep Left', the Young Socialists' monthly newspaper, got a keen response in Port Talbot where the majority of workers are employed in the British Steel Corporation works, the biggest in Europe.

Everywhere they went—the towns or the valleys—discussion centred around the need to fight against the Tories.

No one needed to be told who the Tories are. Young people in Wales know that.

They wanted a programme and a perspective which would offer them a solution to the drudgery of work in the steelworks, the textile factories or the mines.

Keen response

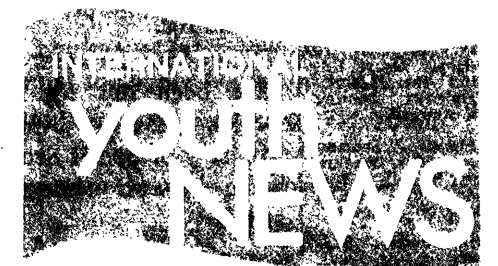
Such was the response that the first meetings of the new Ebbw Vale and Merthyr Tydfil branches had large attendances.

At the Merthyr meeting National Secretary John Simmance explained Young Socialist policies and the campaign for the Alexandra Palace rally on February 14 next year.

With the big influx of new members, the recruitment team was able to lay the basis for a Wales regional YS organization around the key industrial areas of S Wales.

Such a development is a big step forward for the Young Socialists in its work to build a mass Young Socialists' movement as part of the campaign both for the Alexandra Palace rally next year and the International Conference of revolutionary youth later this year.

team goes to Wales



Top: Port Talbot steel works. Left: First meeting of the EBBW VALE Young Socialist branch. Above: Two miners talk to a member of the YS recruiting team in MERTHYR TYDFIL.

BBC 1

9.38 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 12.55 p.m. Dysgub y daill. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 2.50 Racing from Ascot. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Scoobydoo, where are you? 5.44 Babar. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE. London. 6.45 THE DOCTORS. 7.05 TOP OF THE POPS. 7.45 BACHELOR FATHER. 'All in the Family'. 8.15 MARTY AMOK. Marty Feldman with guests. 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS, weather. 9.10 PRIZEWINNERS. 'The Goshawk'. The emotional and practical struggle that develops between man and bird. 10.10 24 HOURS. 10.55 A COUNTRY WALK. Rene Cutforth's personal view of Constable Country. 11.30 THE SELLING GAME. 'Commercial Deadlock'. 11.55 Weatherman.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as BBC 1 except: Midlands, E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Midlands today. Look East, weather. Nationwide. 11.57 News, weather. North, NW NE, Camberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North, weather. 11.57 News, weather. Wales: 2.30-2.50 Dysgu cymraeg. 6.00-6.45 Wales today, weather. Nationwide. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. 7.45-8.15

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 7.30 p.m. NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 JACQUES LOUSSIER. Playing the music of Bach. 8.15 BEETHOVEN MASTER CLASS. Paul Tortelier works with young cellists on Beethoven. 9.00 LOOK, STRANGER. On Glastonbury and John Shelley, a potter who lives there. 9.20 OUT OF THE UNKNOWN. 'Get Off My Cloud'. 10.10 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.15 WORLD CINEMA. 'Kangchenjunga'. Film from India with Chhabi Biswas.

ITV

9.30 a.m. Liberal Assembly. 11.00 Schools: Rules, Rules, Rules. 11.18 Primary French. 11.30 It's fun to read. 11.40 The captured years. 12.00-12.30 p.m. Liberal Assembly. 1.40 School: Picture box. 2.00 Karl und Christa. 2.25 Primary French. 2.40 Experiment. 3.00 Liberal Assembly. 4.17 Origami. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Flipper. 5.20 Maggie. 5.50 News. 6.02 TODAY. 6.30 PEYTON PLACE. 7.00 ON THE HOUSE. 'Let my people go'. 7.30 'HALLS OF MONTEZUMA'. With Richard Widmark, Jack Palance, Karl Malden and Robert Wagner. US marines in 1944 advance on a Japanese-held island. 9.30 THIS WEEK. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 CINEMA. 11.00 THE AVENGERS. 'From Venus with love'. 11.55 FROM ONE POINT OF VIEW.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 11.00-12 noon London. 1.40 London. 2.55-3.30 States of Jersey lottery, 4.40 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 Origami. 4.25 Wendy and me. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Cheaters. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Hitler'. With Richard Baschard and Mario Emolo. 9.00 London. 11.00 All our yesterdays. 11.25 Weather. SOUTHERN: 11.00-11.55 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 London. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 'On the house'. New comedy series. 7.05 Film: 'Don't Panic, Chaps'. 7.30 News. 8.00 News. 8.35 Department S. 9.30 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Women Today. 4.40 Hatty Town. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'Escape'.

With Robert Taylor and Norma Shearer. Emy Ritter, now in a German prison camp hospital, has managed to smuggle a note to her son in New York. He comes to find her. 9.00 On the House. 9.30 London. 10.30 Gallery. 11.00 Tales of Edgar Wallace. Hazel Court and John Crawford star in 'The man who was nobody'. 12 midnight. Weather.

HTV (West) Colour channel 61 as above except for 4.16-4.18 Report West. 6.16-6.35 Sport West. HTV (Wales) Colour channel 41 and HTV Cymru/Wales black and white service as above except for 2.20-2.50 Ddym Ddym. 6.01-6.18 Y Dydd.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 4.30 Newsroom. 4.40 Paulus. 4.50 Flipper. 5.15 London. 6.00 About Angela. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Survival 'Water, water everywhere'. 7.30 'The High Terrace' starring Dale Robertson and Lois Maxwell. 9.00 On the house. 9.30 London. 11.00 Prisoner. 11.55 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 3.50 four stars tomorrow. 4.35 2 Women Today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Fireball XL5. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'Decision Before Dawn'. With Richard Basehart, Gary Merrill, Oskar Werner and Hildegarde Neff. Second World War film. 9.00 On the house. 11.00 Untouchables, weather.

ULSTER: 9.30 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Mr Piper. 5.20 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 Branded. 7.40 Name of the game. 9.00 On the house. 9.30 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Aquarius.

YORKSHIRE: 10.00 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 London. 4.30 Mattinee. 5.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar. weather. 6.30 Saint. 7.30 'Kill or Cure'. With Terry Thomas, Eric Skyes, Dennis Price, Lionel Jeffries and Moira Redmond. Mayhem and murder at a health resort. 9.00 On the house. 9.30 London. 11.00 Avengers. 11.55 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.15 London. 6.10 Newsview. 6.10 UTV. 6.30 Saint. 7.25 Film: 'Village of Daughters'. With Eric Skyes and Seila Gabel. The mayor of a village is asked to pick the most beautiful girl. 9.00 On the house. 9.30 London. 11.00 Invaders. 11.55 News, weather.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 4.10 Newsroom. 4.15 Lone ranger. 4.40 Hatty Town. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.30 Police call. 6.35 Get Smart. 7.05 Love American style. 8.00 Hawaii Five-O. 9.00 On the house. 9.30 London. 11.00 News. 11.45 Epitaph.

BORDER: 9.30-12.30 Liberal Assembly. 1.38 London. 4.10 News. 4.15 Sailor of fortune. 4.40 Wind in the willows. 6.10 Newsview. 6.10 UTV. 6.30 Saint. 7.25 Film: 'Village of Daughters'. With Eric Skyes and Seila Gabel. The mayor of a village is asked to pick the most beautiful girl. 9.00 On the house. 9.30 London. 11.00 Invaders. 11.55 News, weather.

SCOTTISH: 9.45-12.30 London. 2.55 London. 3.40 Datteline. 6.30 High Flying. 7.00 Film: 'Yellowstone Kelly'. With Clint Walker and Edward Byrne. 9.00 On the house. 9.30 London. 11.00 Singing for your supper. 11.30 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58-12.00 noon London. 1.38 London. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.20 Telephone game. 4.50 Floris. 5.15 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Wally Whyton Style. 7.30 Film: 'Somewhere in Time'. With Christopher Clark Gable, Lana Turner and Robert Sterling. 9.30 London. 11.00 It takes three. 11.55 News, weather.

CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

THE WORKERS' and peasants' struggle against imperialism in Egypt, against the Nasser regime as an agency of imperialism and against Israel is a major part of the class battle in the whole African continent.

The struggle by oppressed Arab-speaking peoples is not only against the usual major imperialists—Britain, France and the USA—but also against a particular bastion of imperialism, Israel, which has many African interests.

Its artificial, subsidized economy is supported heavily by the 200,000 strong pro-apartheid 'white' Jewish community in S Africa.

The constant financial, aeroplane and commercial communication between 'white' S Africa and Israel is understandable—Israel is also a racial, 'Herrenvolk' state, discriminating racially against Arabs.

Its 'socialist' kibbutzim are manned to a certain extent by S



YOUTH NEWS EVERYWHERE

APARTHEID STATES: SOUTH AFRICA AND ISRAEL

African 'Zionist Socialists' of various political shades.

SECURING INVESTMENTS

Israel's official disapproval of apartheid is only a means of securing investments in the 'newly-independent African states'.

In African eyes Israel is an apartheid state, created by British imperialism by the 1948 partition of Palestine through the medium of the United Nations and on the basis of the dispossession of a million Arabs.

These same Arabs have been re-enslaved by the occupation following the 1956 invasion of Egypt by Britain, France and Israel and the 1967 six-day war.

Arabs in occupied Jordan and Sinai are treated little differently than the Africans are in the 'bantustans' of Anglo-Boer S Africa.

The fact that many Jews who

adoption of the Kremlin bureaucracy's line—that Israel has 'a right to exist'.

Israel has no more right to exist as a state than 'white' S Africa or the Smith regime in Rhodesia.

No racially exclusive state has a right to exist. Israel cannot be reformed into a democratic, non-racial country; it must be destroyed as a state.

It is not just a question of overthrowing it, but abolishing its machine, boundaries, its 'Jewish' nature, its existence as a 'country'.

BUREAUCRACY BETRAYED

The Soviet bureaucracy has betrayed the Palestinians, Egyptians, Jordanians and Arab masses in the Middle East and Africa on this question.

And Nasser has always followed the same line on his own and in conjunction with the Kremlin.

Revolutionaries in S Africa, for example, can never demand the admission of non-Europeans on a basis of equality into a 'white' state.

For the same reason, and more, Israel as a state has to become a part of Palestine. There can be no more minority rights for Jews in such a Palestine than there can be for 'whites' in a democratic S Africa.

Everyone will have equal, not special, citizenship in Palestine and S Africa.

'EXPERTS' BUSY

Beside S Africa, Israel has had long and important investments in a number of 'independent' African states.

In Ethiopia Israeli 'experts'

West Midlands gas strike in third week

BIRMINGHAM gas maintenance workers have now entered their third week of strike action. The strike involves the whole of the W Midlands and is in support of a £20 basic for labourers and a 25 per cent incentive guarantee for men not on incentive bonus—both demands are without strings. Coventry strike committee chairman told Workers Press: 'We are supporting Birmingham in their struggle. We are demanding £20 minimum for the lowest-paid worker.' Strikers complained that the gas board is employing outside contractors to do their jobs on the pretext that it is 'emergency work'.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

READING: Thursday, September 24, 8 p.m. Palmer Hall, West St. 'No to productivity! Full support for Pilkington workers! Force the Tories to resign!' Speaker: Tony Richardson, ATUA National Committee member. BRISTOL: Thursday, September 24, 8 p.m. George III, Filton. 'No to productivity! Full support for Pilkington workers! Force the Tories to resign!' Speaker: Bernard Franks. SWINDON: Sunday, September 27, 7.30 p.m. Oxford Hotel, Drove Rd. 'Unemployment and the Tories' Speaker: Alan Thornett, leading Oxford carworkers' steward. WELLINGTON: Monday, September 28, 7.30 p.m. YMCA Wrekin Buildings, Wrekin St. 'Speed-up and unemployment—The GKN-Sankey and Pilkington disputes'. ACTON: London, Monday, September 28, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Acton High Street, W.3. 'Pilkington's: The Tory attack on jobs, wages and the unions.'

New US smog laws

Washington, Wednesday—The US Senate yesterday unanimously approved a tough clean air law requiring manufacturers to build anti-smog cars within six years and to prevent factories from discharging pollutants into the water and air.

Productivity danger in Ferodo strike Picket doubled as lorries break line

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

THE PICKET line at the Ferodo brake company's Chapel-en-le-Frith Derbyshire factory has had to be doubled up because more lorries are taking semi-finished goods from the plant.

Several pickets allege that they have been narrowly missed being run over by trucks—some driven by non-union drivers.

There are fears that even picketing up to 10 p.m. may be inadequate.

The 250 strikers, who have been out for eight weeks, are angry over the Ministry of Social Security being drawn into the strike.

SWEET JOBS GO TO HULL

ABOUT 250 workers at Batger, the Clapham sweets firm in S London, are to lose their jobs following a takeover by a Hull company. Needler's, the new owners, will sell the Clapham plant as soon as production ends. Many of the women workers who have families are unable to move to Hull to take up jobs offered there.

The transport union at Ferodo's has refused support for the strike and said that if members who are still working become involved it would affect the social security payments to 1,000 T&GWU production workers who have been laid off.

Two hundred and fifty members of the engineering, electrical, sheetmetalworkers and building trade unions are out on official strike for a £10 wage increase, while another 1,000 have been laid off at the factory.

The strike is being supported by 60 skilled men at the company's Caernarvon plant. The present flat weekly wage at the plant—taken together with a £2 rise offered in June—£26 12s 6d. The firm's offer turned down last Friday was for £2 4s to £5 15s more.

The strikers have twice overwhelmingly rejected company offers linked to productivity terms—the second time after Department of Employment and Productivity intervention. Many have not yet received strike pay. But there are dangers in front.

Promises

Union officials—including leading Communist Party member John Tocher—appear to be willing to accept modified productivity terms if the company will agree to abide by earlier promises outlined in their letters to strikers at the end of last month.

All of these proposals were based on work study, Measurement-Day Work and job-evaluation. The strike is in grave danger because union officials pose the question of 'getting as much as possible' out of these productivity schemes. Strikers explain that if management gets its way, the schemes would mean a minimum 'fall-back' pay of £25—32s less than the current wage including the July increase!

FRIDGEMEN CONTINUE FIGHT

WORKERS at Sterne's refrigerator factory at Woodside, Glasgow, yesterday decided to continue their strike against the plant's threatened closure.

A shut-down of this British-Leyland subsidiary means the sack for over 400 workers. The strike, which was called last Friday, has AEF District Committee backing and over 50 Glasgow factories have pledged financial and moral support.

Workers at Sterne's Hillingdon plant are holding a meeting this week to discuss solidarity action.

Wharf blast

A CONTRACTOR went about demolishing 100 oil tanks 'like a bull in a china shop' while 'safety precautions' took a back seat, a Home Office report into the Dudgeon's Wharf explosion said yesterday.

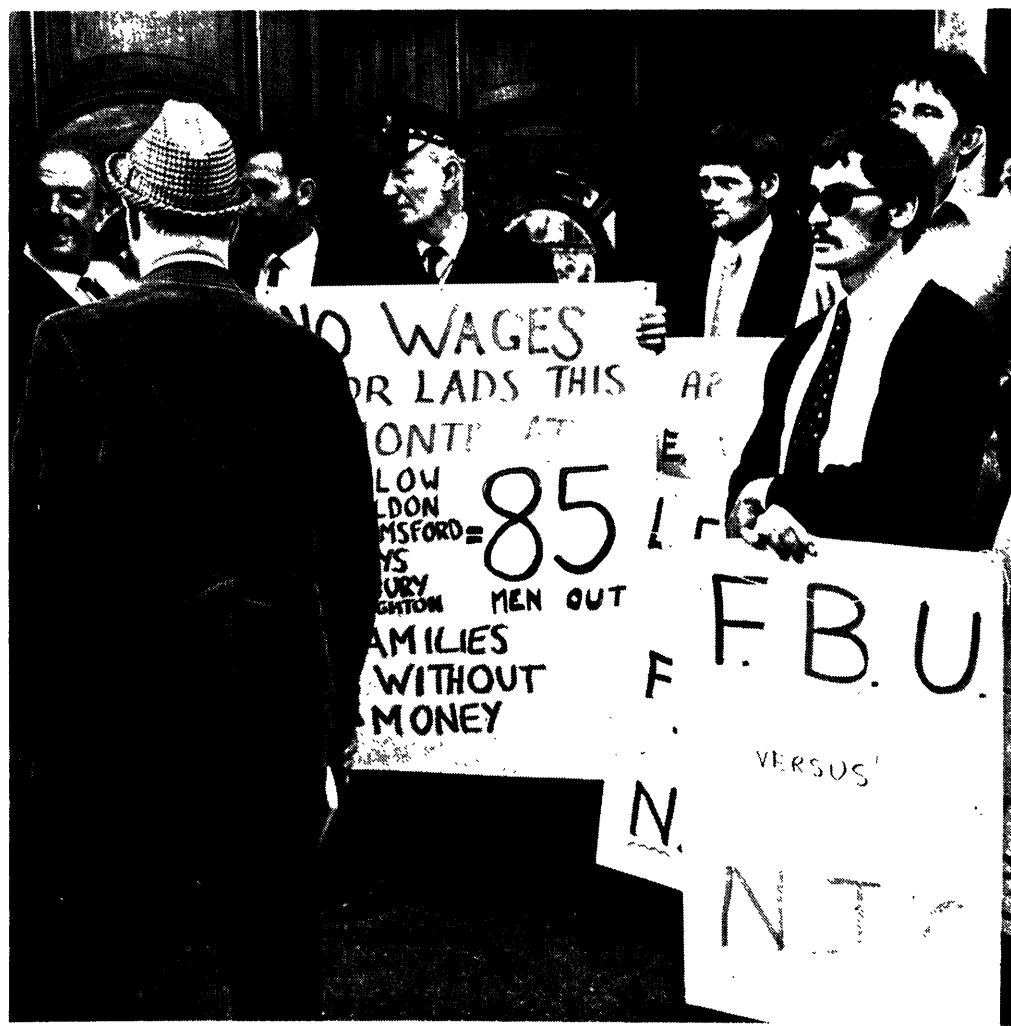
Five firemen and a workman were killed in July last year when an explosion ripped open a turpentine tank on which they were standing.

The report says that the site owners, ABCO Petroleum Ltd, had a public duty to employ an experienced contractor or tell him exactly what to do. The tanks—containing an inflammable vapour—were not 'purged' with steam for the necessary 24 hours before being cut open with a flaming cutting tool.

The tanks' atmosphere was never examined at any stage with an explosimeter. People living in Lefevre Rd, Bow, London, were warned by police to prepare to evacuate their homes after an eight-foot-high butane gas tank was found leaking yesterday.

The fire brigade was standing by and police warned people of a serious danger of explosion. Workmen were called in and the tank was later pronounced 'safe'.

Firemen from Essex lobbying yesterday Fire Brigades Union delegate conference over the national pay fight and their local 'emergency-calls-only' action. See page one story and Late News



Asbestos workers join mounting dole queues

OVER 230 men at Turner's Asbestos Cement Co Ltd which closed in Clydebank recently after a 12-week strike, have now joined the town's lengthy dole queue—many with little hope of a job.

The men claim that the decision to close the factory was taken because the example of the Clydebank men would be followed by workers throughout the Turner combine and cause a round of wage demands.

The only response so far from their union, the General and Municipal, has been to offer a £12 hand-out in lieu of strike pay.

Throughout the 12-week dispute they urged the men to return and, despite continual communication between the shop floor and district officials, refused to make the strike official.

Not optimistic

It takes 55 minutes from queue to counter at the Clydebank employment exchange and the Turner men who have joined the line are not optimistic about their future chances of a job.

Many are over 45 and others who have been promised places in a government training centre fear that no jobs will be available when the course is over.

The Scottish TUC has predicted a 110,000 total jobs loss North of the border by the end of the year.

Aberdeen fish men in recognition strike

FISH-WORKERS in Aberdeen, traditionally low paid and badly organized, are on official strike for the right to join the union of their choice—the Transport & General Workers' Union.

The struggle is centred on cold storage men at Claben Ltd., the main fish processing employer in the area and part of the Salvesen international combine.

In May the cold storage men joined the T&GWU and demanded later a £3 increase in their basic rate and improved protective clothing. Faced with this threat man-

CBI warns on EEC entry

BRITISH big business yesterday warned of the dangers if Britain's attempt to gain Common Market entry failed.

Overseas Director of the Confederation of British Industry Mr C. L. S. Cope told a meeting in Harrogate, Yorks, that failure would lead to a weakening of British industry's competitive position.

'We should become a relatively stagnant power of 50 million being overtaken and left behind... by go-ahead giants of much greater economic power like the United States, the EEC and Japan,' he said.

If negotiations failed, there would be the danger of British firms being left 'high and dry' as the European Community moved from being a free trade area and customs union to become a single continental market.

Liberal worried

FROM PAGE ONE He added that his 'some-what dramatic gesture' was an attempt to do something about meeting the major catastrophe the Liberals had suffered in the General Election.

Moves by Young Liberals to scrap this year's conference agenda and split the assembly up into discussion groups were also defeated. Earlier, at the opening of the conference Mrs Robson, president-elect, told delegates that strikes were 'a clumsy and costly weapon which should be outmoded in industrial relations'.

Fire

FROM PAGE ONE possible national action from next Monday. And several delegates arriving for yesterday's conference expressed disquiet about the implications of the executive's surprise pay move. If they're proposing just a week's national 'emergency calls' action, we'll get nowhere, said one London militant. The Essex men could find themselves dropped—like our rent allowance claim got dropped last year—for a settlement that would be very little use to any of us. See Late News

US aggression

FROM PAGE ONE

Middle East to be the preserve of imperialism and the oil monopolies. All advocates of Stalinist 'peaceful co-existence with imperialism' should listen to Yasser Arafat's description of the scene in Amman yesterday, scene of the most terrible massacres by Hussein's royalist butchers:

'Burning'

'Amman is burning for the sixth day, in thousands of our people are under the debris. Bodies have rotted. Hunger and thirst are killing our remaining children, women and old men. A sea of blood and 20,000 killed and injured of our people, separate us from them...'

Until yesterday, the 'Morning Star' had desperately tried to depict Hussein as a man wanting peace with the guerrillas!

And only last Monday, an editorial called on the King's Tory allies 'to oppose any intervention in Jordan before it is too late'.

Now, cynically adapting to the growing feeling of support for the guerrillas, the 'Star' commented yesterday:

'The stories of death and destruction now [sic] beginning to come out of Amman show what a crime has been committed against the Arab cause by King Hussein and his generals.'

The 'crime' began two months ago, when, with the full support of the Kremlin, Nasser and Hussein accepted the so-called 'peace proposals' of US State Secretary Rogers.

Stalinist calls 'for the British Labour and Peace [?]? movements to speak out now' are carefully designed to cover the trail of those very Communist Party leaders who hailed the 'cease-fire' agreement in the first place. Hussein's forces have been released to fight the guerrillas. That is the outcome of the deal.

Bitter fruit

The massacres in the refugee camps are the bitter, bloody fruit of the Gromyko-Nasser-Rogers plan to strangle the Arab Revolution.

The aim was the crushing of the Palestinian liberation movement. And, but for the heroism and revolutionary audacity of the most radical guerrilla leaders, they would have done it.

The Palestinians, whose struggle of the last week has been an inspiration to anti-

SPANISH SCANDAL GOES TO TRIAL

THE SPANISH Cortes (parliament) has lifted the parliamentary immunity of Navarro Rubio, ex-head of the Spanish central bank and previously Finance Minister in the fascist regime.

He will now face charges, along with other ex-Ministers Espinosa and Monco, in connection with the Matesa affair, involving the misappropriation of tens of millions of pounds of government subsidies.

His is likely to be the last sacrificial head to roll.

Not charged

Other ministers who were at one time rumoured to be involved, including Foreign Minister Lopez Bravo, leading figures in negotiating closer relations between the Franco regime and the Stalinist governments of E Europe, will probably not now be charged.

Cuts hit science research

BY MARTIN ZARROP

'SELECTIVITY' and 'financial stringency' were terms that cropped up frequently at the Scientific Research Council's press conference yesterday to introduce the Council's annual report for 1969-1970.

While 'economics' was not on the agenda, the problems facing British capitalism were present in their effects on the work of the Council—now the main source of research funds for university science.

Says the report: 'The last five years have covered a period of financial stringency leading to a sharp fall in the growth rate of the SRC budget and, partly owing to devaluation, an increase in the proportion of the budget devoted to international activities. The steady development of selectivity and concentration is a cardinal feature of Council policy... (p. 2.)

SRC Chairman Professor Sir Brian Flowers expressed fears that such restrictions could lead to 'severe handicaps' in five to ten years.

Impossible

However, he admitted the impossibility of expecting 'a guarantee of a straight growth rate (in the SRC budget) of reasonable magnitude—say, 7 per cent—for ten years.

'Governments come and go faster than ten years and crises come and go faster than that,' he added.

In fact, the average budget increases over the past three years have been about 4 per cent. Cut-backs have hit at the 'big science' projects and many have been 'phased back'—particularly in radio astronomy and nuclear physics.

Wrangles still continue over the financial feasibility of building a new and powerful atom-smasher.

Starvation

In Britain, the Council's 'selectivity' means that funds are to be concentrated on developing the main scientific research in a dozen or so universities, while around 50 other establishments—many of which have only been set up over the last few years—were condemned to financial starvation and stagnation.

'University-industry collaboration', however, is to be encouraged and the number of awards for this purpose in 1969 were 20 per cent up on the previous year.

Despite the smooth phrases of Flowers and his colleagues, the overall picture is decidedly bleak.

After all, said Sir Brian, there's no point in asking for cash when the 'financial climate is such that you know you haven't got a hope'.

which carries a maximum penalty of 12 years' jail, is based on the fact that he allegedly organized a hunger strike among Belgrade University students in support of Serbia coal-miners who struck for an adequate living wage and against the inefficient transport of coal in June this year.

It is also 'accused', though these are not in Yugoslav law criminal acts, of having had contacts with Milovan Djilas and Mrs Trevisan, E European correspondent of 'The Times'.

SOLIDARITY

In a gesture of solidarity the 5,000 Belgrade University philosophy faculty students have re-elected Mijanovitch President of their association.

It was these students who, in August 1968, occupied their faculty buildings in protest against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The prosecuting lawyer has demanded that the rest of the trial should be conducted in secret.

WEATHER

London area, SE, central southern, East, SW, NW and central northern England, E and W Midlands, Channel Islands: Mist or fog at first. Becoming dry and sunny. Light SE winds. Warm. Max. 21C (70F).

NE England, Edinburgh: Mist or fog patches at first. Otherwise cloudy. Light to moderate SE winds. Near normal. Max. 15C (59F).

Glasgow area, N Ireland: Mist or fog patches at first. Otherwise cloudy with occasional rain but also sunny intervals. Moderate southerly winds. Normal. Max. 16C (61F).

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Mainly dry, but some fog patches overnight. Becoming rather changeable in NW later. Temperatures mostly above normal.

NEW PAPERS SYSTEM

NEWSPAPER chiefs yesterday considered an emergency distribution system to offset the effects of the overtime ban operated since last Friday by 1,700 workers employed by wholesalers.

The ban is in support of a pay claim, believed around 45 per cent.

After a meeting with wholesalers, a spokesman for the Newspaper Publishers' Association said that the distribution system would 'enable newspapers to discharge their duty to the public'.

PITS BALLOT

S WALES miners' delegates meeting in Porthcawl yesterday voted unanimously in support of a union ballot for strike action. Pithead meetings are to be organized throughout the area.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Trotsky Memorial Meeting

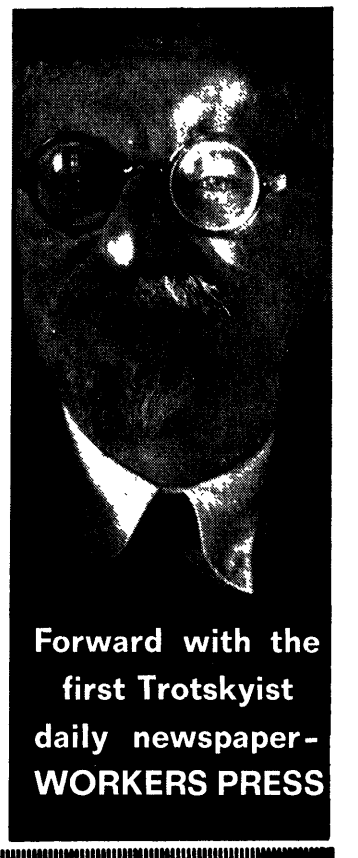
GLASGOW

Partick Burgh Hall (nr Merkland St underground)

7.30 p.m. Admission 2s.

'Trotsky and the coming English Revolution' Speaker: G. Healy (SLL national secretary)

Sunday October 4



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LATE NEWS

FIREMEN'S ACTION DOGGED BY INQUIRY CALL

Demands for an increase in basic pay and a shortening of working hours are to be backed next week by a seven-day 'emergency' calls only' action from Britain's 30,000 firemen.

But leaders of the Fire Brigades Union yesterday tied these demands to a call for the Tory government to set up an independent tribunal to inquire into the fire service.

And they are attempting to persuade firemen in London and Essex to call off their present pay struggle in favour of next week's action.

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