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BY MICHAEL BANDA

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BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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Attempts to make direct rule from Westminster conference policy were overwhelmingly voted down by delegates after Shadow Home Secretary James Callaghan's rearguarding of the line that pressure for reforms must be mounted on the Stormont regime.

Not shirking

'I do not want to shirk this difficulty,' said Callaghan. 'Do we say that what is meant by a political prisoner? There is no one in N Ireland who is in

prison for his political views alone.' People who used violence in N Ireland must be brought to justice, he said. 'Do we say that if someone is found guilty by a court of using violence in the furtherance of his political ends—and by violence I mean attempting to kill people or to blow them up—that we demand their release? No. No, Mr Chairman,' concluded the man who first sent British troops to police the working class in Ulster.

Second of the composite, Harry Dowley of Coventry constituency party, refused to allow remission—and the platform recommended total rejection; a recommendation supported almost unanimously by the floor.

Swing

In all, the debate preceding Callaghan's closing remarks was a miserable affair. It swung from openly reactionary statements like

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It is believed they were stopped by direct intervention of the Tory government, which was quite prepared to prolong the strike and force an unacceptable settlement on the GKN workers rather than see its non-statutory wage freeze being impugned.

If this information is correct—and we see no reason to doubt it—then Mr Heath's September 24 TV statement acquires an even more sinister meaning than many trade unionists would, at first, have been prepared to concede. It also reinforces the growing suspicion among workers that the trade union leaders are concealing vital information from their members in industrial disputes for fear of exacerbating an already tense relationship with the employers and the government.

One trade union leader is learnt even boasted to GKN stewards that the GKN settlement was better than the Ford deal!

Precise

In his infamous interview Heath spoke particularly of GKN and the docks and the danger of employers caving in to wage demands. In reply to Alistair Burnet's query about what constituted a 'good wage demand', Mr Heath made clear the precise terms of Tory policy: '... we, the government, are not going to force employers to pay wages which they don't believe are justified [in other words the government will also force employers not to pay "unreasonable" demands; the use of the double negative by Heath is quite intentional] and Mr Carr demonstrated this quite clearly during the dock strike and the settlement—although I know you disagree—was one of the lowest of recent months.'

Reference to the dock dispute is quite symbolic. The negotiations were unique and unprecedented in the history of industrial talks because, for the first time, Confederation of British Industry leader Mr Campbell Adamson sat through the entire discussion in order to prevent any tendency of appeasement to the dock employers.

The combined Ministry-CBI pressure had the expected result. In response to Burnet's next question 'Do you think it discouraged wage demands?', Mr Heath replied effusively:

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I want is to see responsibility and trade unionists—and amongst employers.

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The GKN lesson cannot be ignored either by the local authority workers or the miners.

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If the Tories try to undermine the trade unions by legislation and tying wages to productivity then it is the task of the trade unions to frustrate these attempts by tying their wages struggles with a political attack to force the Tories to resign.

There is absolutely no other way to safeguard the independence of the trade unions, increase the real wages of workers and ensure full employment.

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They are Dr George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Nayef Hawatmeh, of the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

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Agreement

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The Labour Party conference's successful resolution on unemployment 'notes with disgust that the trend of unemployment is upwards and politely ask the Tories—hell-bent on maintaining this

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Other trades in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions are being asked to support strike action and if they agree 100,000 workers throughout Scotland will be involved.

A further series of stoppages was also discussed. The Glasgow engineers' move is added to the calls for similar one-day stoppages already made by three NE trades councils—Sunderland, South Shields and Gateshead.

The NE Federation of Trades Councils is meeting on October 10 to discuss promoting the one-day general strike against unemployment.

Jack Gasby, secretary of South Shields Trades Council who issued the call for the one-day strike, told our reporter:

'Already three local trades councils represented by delegates from some 250 trade union branches and approximately 30,000 workers have declared in favour of this strike.'

Seven other trades councils on Tyneside have still to meet and consider their attitude but the demand has already gone up to the Federation of Trades Councils to promote this strike.'

On the opposite coast, the Lancashire Federation of Trades Councils and eight Merseyside councils are sponsoring an un-

employment conference on October 25 when a call for a one-day strike and lobby of parliament will be discussed.

All trade unionists and unemployed workers should support in every way possible the campaign for one-day strikes against unemployment, a main prop of the Tory offensive on the unions.

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Leyland claims that the strike has already lost it production of 9,000 cars and that the cost will amount to some £10 million by the time the strikers meet again next Tuesday.

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Far from weakening the strikers, yesterday's vote demonstrates that this arbitrary action has strengthened their resolve to fight through to victory.

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But the Greater London Council claimed such help would be forthcoming if necessary and that 'the government is keeping in touch with us'.

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13,000 out

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Massey tractor speed-up

MASSEY FERGUSON management in Coventry is reported to be planning a speed-up on the night shift. The night assembly line now moves at 18 tractors an hour but management want that speeded up to 22 an hour.

At the same time the firm has announced plans to make 300 workers redundant—about 10 per cent of the indirect employees.

The staff unions affected by this threat have agreed to 'negotiate' with the employers and are preparing 'voluntary' redundancy proposals, but manual workers' shop stewards have rejected the company's redundancy document in its entirety.

Clandestine protest over Nixon visit

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VICTOR FEATHER—in the interview published in Workers Press seven days ago—says he doesn't think there's anything he can do about what's happened at Pilkington's at this stage; he says he's not responsible.

This is just not good enough.

Leaving aside for the moment the inaccuracies in what he told Stephen Johns, there are crucial issues of principle—directly affecting the lives of millions of trade unionists—at stake in the events at St Helens and Pontypool.

These concern the two most basic and fundamental rights of the working class: the right to a job and the right to strike.

In both cases the Tory government is unmistakably on the attack after only three months in office and if the leadership of the trade union movement can't answer this attack, then every rank-and-file member of every single trade union must wake up to one very simple proposition; he'll have to organize to build a new leadership which can defend these rights.

More than 600 men were sacked by Pilkington's—and between 230 and 250 at St Helens and 27 at Pontypool remain without work. How are trade union leaders going to get the 600,000 unemployed off the dole queues if they can't defend the jobs of 270-odd glassworkers?

We in St Helens were sacked for withdrawing our labour in defence of a fellow-worker who wanted to be represented in a complaint by someone of his own choosing—not by someone the management, the people he was complaining against, endorsed.

★

At Pontypool, which had struck in sympathy with St Helens, the men were sacked for refusing to return to work while we were still out.

In fact what's happened at both towns is that we've been staked out on the barbed wire as an advertisement against going on strike. At first, we thought this was something special to Pilkington's. But recent events have shown it's starting to happen all over the country.

Doesn't Feather think this warrants some action? What is he arguing with the government about anti-union legislation for if they're already allowing employers to get away with this kind of attack on the right to strike?

Really, the only thing I agree with Feather on in his interview in the Workers Press is that he doesn't work at Pilkington's.

He says he didn't sign the agreement made at Congress House on May 22 after the

ending of the seven-week strike—and that, even if he did, it was only a matter of countersigning an agreement to which he was not a party.

In fact everyone at that meeting—Feather, Lord Cooper of the General and Municipal Workers' and myself—initialled the agreement. Feather even initialled a copy of the TUC centenary book for us at the same time!

★

It was made clear in a telegram we received from Congress House—the one we read

to the meeting which ended the strike—that he would chair the meeting.

He had a role to play, as every chairman has a role to play. Our interpretation was that as chairman—and as general secretary of the Trades Union Congress—he would see that the agreements made at the meeting were upheld.

We put our trust in him. If he was not going to be a party, why did he chair the meeting? Why didn't Harry Pilkington chair it?—we'd have been as well, as it turned out!

We ended the strike on the understanding that this meeting would take place and see justice done.

We wanted to make sure the voice of the shop floor would be heard on questions affecting their livelihoods; we were elected to ensure this.

The General and Municipal Workers' Union had forgotten what it was formed for. The rank and file had become just pawns in a power game.

It was agreed at that first Congress House meeting that there would be no victimiza-

tion. But I was immediately victimized—along with many others of the rank-and-file committee—when I got back to the factory.

★

I had been working on machine-cutting of car windcreens, a job I'd done for about seven-and-a-half years, with bonus and shift supplement, about £25 for a 50-hour week—you couldn't manage at all without overtime.

When I got back I was sent to training school as if I was a

new starter and told by management that I couldn't take up my old job. I lost about £7 a week as a result of this—and the settlement was only £3!

This happened to a lot of us in the rank-and-file movement.

It was a campaign to humiliate us on the shop floor. That was victimization—the agreement wasn't worth the paper it was written on; it was broken before the ink was dry.

Pontypool speaks for itself. Those 27 men are still on the stones. Although the Congress House meeting—the first one, that is—wasn't attended by any of the rank-and-filers from there, it was attended by the local G&MWU branch secretary.

Jack Cooper told him to get these men either reinstated or re-employed. But it was really all cut and dried. He just asked for re-employment and then accepted the company's statement that there were no vacancies.

★

A couple of weeks after this, when we could see the victimization taking place and nothing being done about it by the union, despite the agreement, we asked for another meeting. Feather agreed to chair a second meeting and invited Cooper—who agreed to attend on the understanding that we would stop attacking the union.

We in fact ceased any such attacks for about a fortnight before the meeting.

We travelled 200 miles, at a cost of about £70, to attend—but Cooper never showed up. A quarter of an hour after we got there—it must have been 6.45 p.m.—Feather came in. Cooper had telephoned that he would not be coming because our attacks on the union had continued.

This was just not true. Cooper was using the fact that people were coming to us with votes of no confidence in their shop stewards—they wanted new shop stewards and new Joint Industrial Council members elected.

The answer from the officials was that we couldn't have new elections until the inquiry into the St Helens No 91 branch—set up in an attempt to counter criticisms which had arisen during the strike—was completed.

What they were worried about was that we would occupy all the posts and that

the people they wanted elected as branch secretary and works convenors wouldn't get in.

In other words we were denied proper representation. How can you work within the machinery of the union, as Feather asks us to do, when this happens?

I attacked Feather for accepting Cooper's reason for not attending without proof. He had given John Potter and myself advice—but only to make the union collect dues on the shop floor, instead of having the check-off system.

★

No doubt he'll deny this now. But when we told him we couldn't get the representation people wanted, he was simply unable to answer. I challenge him and Cooper to argue all this out—anytime, anywhere.

He says he's not criticizing anyone. But he was the chairman, it is his job to criticize. Some of the Pontypool men went along to a face-to-face confrontation with Cooper, and there were about 12 of the St Helens committee.

But we couldn't get paid by

LEADER OF THE SACKED PILKINGTON GLASSWORKERS



Members of the glassworkers rank-and-file committee—L to R: Derek Greenough, Gerry Caughey, Brian Woodward

IN LAST SATURDAY'S WORKERS PRESS TUC GENERAL SECRETARY VICTOR FEATHER ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON WAGES, PRODUCTIVITY, UNEMPLOYMENT, ANTI-UNION LAWS AND THE PILKINGTON DISPUTE. TODAY GERRY CAUGHEY, A LEADER OF THE ST HELENS GLASSWORKERS TAKES UP FEATHER'S REPLY ON THE LAST POINT.

GERRY CAUGHEY REPLIES TO VICTOR FEATHER

TUC GENERAL SECRETARY



the union for the day's pay was lost. And half the train fare was paid by the TUC—still leaving us about £30 down. Some of us ended up having to sleep down in the park until we could get a train back the next morning.

Feather is just adopting the traditional attitude of the trade union establishment. When the rank and file are attempting to break through he takes the side of the official set-up every time.

But if he was really concerned about the shop-floor workers of this country—who are being let down every day by their official leaders—he would take responsibility.



JOHN POTTER

If 250 men can be victimized without a squeak of opposition from the G&MWU then it's time their affairs were investigated—and, as general secretary of the TUC, that's Feather's job.

He should be using his influence on the TUC General Council to bring pressure to bear from other unions to change this situation.

But he hides behind procedure because he can't afford to antagonize the established leadership of a union like the G&MWU.

★

What we're fighting for is reinstatement of all those men who have been sacked by Pilkington's—and remember, all the Pontypool lads are still members of the G&MWU. There are members of the G&MWU at St Helens who've been re-employed by the company but have lost all their rights under the pension scheme, the Redundancy Payments Act and the Contracts of Employment Act. What are Cooper and Feather doing about this?

We came out for a basic trade union principle—after exhausting every possible channel of procedure. Feather is supposed to be leader of the entire trade union movement. If he can't take responsibility for that, just what is he there for?

We were still inside the G&MWU at the time of the second Congress House meeting. We hadn't yet formed the Glass and General Workers' Union. In fact we hadn't even given Pilkington's our contracting-out forms until then.

I think it was that second Congress House meeting that decided us. Of course it was a provocation.

If Feather says there's nothing he can do—he doesn't think there's anything that can be done—then he's accepting that workers can be sacked for withdrawing their labour.

He told Stephen Johns that Tory Employment and Productivity Minister Robert Carr has two hats. If he doesn't change his tune, there are a lot of people in St Helens who'll go on saying he's got two faces.

Stalinist calls for profit sharing

A CALL for the negotiation of profit-sharing with the employers has been made twice recently in Communist Party publications.

August's 'Marxism Today' contained an article by Alan Spence which explained that resistance to productivity deals only modified and did not provide a receipt or solution to the main problem—which was automation.

Held back

He saw the present struggle being held back because wages are now tied to production.

'The only way is to negotiate the division of profits', he comments. In this situation Measured-Day Work becomes a bargaining counter, i.e. 'equally central to the working-class struggle must be the

rejection of Measured-Day Work until alternative means are enforced for the maintenance and improvement of the wages of the production workers.' (Spence's own emphasis.)

'Until this practice is established as a right,' he adds, 'a policy of one man, one machine must be operated.'

Presumably, it is all right to be sweated labour once profit-sharing is in.

Again, in last week's issue of 'Comment' the Stalinist weekly, Spence demands a division of profits along with 'trade union overseers at management and board meetings'.

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BY BERNARD FRANKS

In fact, Spence calls for nothing that the employers have themselves not advanced.

Many managements have attempted to trap their employees in a mass of class-collaborationist, profit-sharing double talk in an attempt to get them to become enthusiastic about making profits—even to the extent of planning to speed themselves up.

Schemes

In many cases these schemes have been exposed by the workers themselves as being another way of retaining part of the workers' wages to swell the firm's own interest at the bank and to re-invest in the company.

All this was exposed during the 1930s when John Lewis 'Partnerships' were launched. It was a measure taken to prevent the trade unions from getting a footing in the firm.

When it came to the pay-off, the workers who had accepted it found that they were only to get a tiny percentage of the profits as against the large handouts for the shareholders.

It was difficult for them to break from the scheme because withdrawal meant the loss of their jobs. The 'Daily

Worker' of that time exposed the scheme in detail.

At present some industrial relations consultants are talking in terms of profit-sharing systems to complement the introduction of modern equipment.

They know that automation will mean a chance to bring about huge reductions in the labour forces (a fact nowhere mentioned by Spence), and they are looking for any way to buy workers' agreement to its introduction.

Of course, in this situation the 'profits' from which the remaining workers are paid bonuses are really the savings in wages made by sacking hundreds of workers.

Certainly, industries with rapidly-falling profits will not mind 'opening the books' to prove there's nothing to 'share' anyway.

And many of these are the most up-to-date, highly-automated industries of all.

(A recent 'Sunday Times' report listed industries in need of government aid as aircraft, computers, atomic energy, micro-electronics and lasers.)

Spence also proposes a new job for shop stewards.

He says their traditional

role vanishes with the introduction of automated techniques, and explains:

'... the traditional meeting ground for the determining of wages has moved from the shop floor to the finance departments and, therefore, the shop stewards must move with it.'

So, the shop steward ends up in the manager's offices along with the work-study consultants and job-planners!

At a time when the government and employers are preparing an all-out war on jobs wages and trade union rights, proposals by the employers to introduce 'workers' representatives' into board meetings, to incorporate shop stewards into management and to set up 'separate' productivity committees constitute an extreme danger to the working class.

First steps

towards the concepts enforced by the fascists of destroying all workers own organizations and totally subordinating all employees to the production process and management control.

Demands like those of Spence—and those of the so-called Institute for Workers' Control—lead, in this situation, to the corporate state, and not reforms, which the capitalists can no longer afford.

Socialists call for the elimination of production for profit entirely, not for the improvement of profits.

The answer to automation that is introduced and to the crisis and stagnation of the forces of production is nationalization under workers' control to take the machines out of the hands of parasites and sharks.

JUST OUT

STALINISM IN BRITAIN

A TROTSKYIST ANALYSIS BY ROBERT BLACK

Available from New Park Publications 186A Clapham High St. SW4 Price 24s post incl

TV SATURDAY

BBC 1
11.40 a.m. Time machines. 12.40 p.m. Weather. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 Football preview. 1.10, 1.40 Boxing. Fight of the week. 1.20, 1.50, 2.20, 3.20 Racing from Chepstow. 2.10, 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 Motor racing. 4.05 Rugby Union. The Centenary Match. England and Wales v Scotland and Ireland. 2.55 Preview and review of Rugby Union's centenary year. 4.55 Results service. 5.15 Pink Panther show. 5.35 News and weather. 5.45 Here's Lucy.

REGIONAL BBC
All regions as BBC 1 except:
Midlands, E Anglia, North, NE, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland, SW, South, West 11.42 Weather.
Wales: 11.20-11.40 Cadi. Na. 5.45-6.10. 10.45-11.05 Match of the day. 11.42 Weather.

BBC 2
3.00-4.25 p.m. Cinema: 'Conflict of Wings'. With John Gregson and Muriel Pavlow. A group of villagers fight an RAF proposal to make a target range out of a local bird sanctuary.
7.30 NEWS, SPORT and weather.
7.45 DISCO 2.

ITV
11.25 a.m. RAC road report. 11.30 Music room. 11.55 Toolbox. 12.20 p.m. Stingray. 12.45 News from ITN. 12.50 World of sport. 12.55 On the ball. 1.20 International sports special. The All Ireland Gaelic football final. 2.10 They're off! 2.20, 3.00, 3.35 Racing from Newmarket. 2.45, 3.15, 3.45 Racing from Windsor. 3.50 Results, scores, news. 4.00 They're off! Racing from Newmarket. 4.10 Wrestling from Halifax. 4.55 Results service. 5.10 Stewpot. 5.40 Forest rangers.
6.10 NEWS FROM ITN.

REGIONAL ITV
CHANNEL: 12.45 London. 5.15 Road West. 6.10 London. 6.15 Crowther's in town. 7.00 No, that's me over here. 7.30 Film: 'Watch Your Stern'. With Kenneth Connor and Leslie Phillips. 9.00 London. 10.10 Theatre. 11.10 Frost. 12 midnight Weather.

SUNDAY

BBC 1
9.00-9.30 a.m. Nai zindagi—naya jeevan. 10.30-11.30 Parish mass. 11.25-1.50 p.m. Farming. 1.55 Education programme. 2.20 Made in Britain. 2.29 News headlines. 2.30 Personal choice. Michael Charlton talks to Albert Speer—associate of Hitler. 3.00 Film for the family 'The Tender Years'. With Joe E. Brown. 4.20 Asterix the Gaul. 4.30 Golden silents. 4.55 Going for a song. 5.20 Europe's richest race. Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe. 5.40 The black tulip.
6.05 NEWS and weather.

REGIONAL BBC
All regions as BBC 1 except:
Midlands, E Anglia, North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland, SW, South, West 11.22 Weather.
Wales: 10.00-11.00 Oedra's bore. 1.25-1.50 Farming in Wales. 2.30-2.15 The doctors. 3.15-4.00 Rugby Union.

BBC 2
7.00 p.m. NEWS REVIEW and weather.
7.25 THE WORLD ABOUT US. From Amazon to Orinoco by Hovercraft.
8.15 'MEET ME TONIGHT'. Film version of three playlets by Noel Coward with Valerie Hobson, Stanley Holloway and Nigel Patrick.

ITV
11.00 a.m. Church service. 12.10 p.m. On reflection. 12.35 Music room. 1.00 Toolbox. 1.30 Wind in the willows. 1.45 All our yesterdays. 2.15 Survival. 2.45 The big match. 3.45 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased). 4.45 The golden shot. 5.35 The Flaxton boys.
6.05 NEWS.

REGIONAL ITV
CHANNEL: 11.00-12.35 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 Big match. 3.10 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 4.05 Cartoon time. 4.35 Date with Danton. 4.45 London. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Trial'. With Glenn Ford and Dorothy McGuire. 10.15 This is... Tom Jones. 11.15 Avengers. 12.05 Epilogue.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 1.45 Farm and country news. 1.55 Acres for profit. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather.
HARLECH: 11.00-1.25 London. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Matinee: 'Casting Biggles Drammond'. With Walter PIDGON and

European REVIEW

AT THREE in the morning of September 19 a young Greek student, Costantino Georgakis, poured petrol over his clothes and set himself a light in Matteotti Square, in the centre of Genova.



The only witnesses, four street cleaners, heard him shout 'Long live free Greece!'

They put out the flames and rushed him to hospital, but he was terribly burned and died later the same day.

His death was to reveal the existence of a widespread network of spies and provocateurs of the Greek colonels at work in Italy, with the connivance of the Italian police, NATO, and the main Italian fascist party, the MSI.

Costantino Georgakis was a native of the Greek island of Corfu, lying between the Greek mainland and Italy.

Magazine
Before the colonels' coup he wrote for a student magazine, which was then banned by the military regime.

Three years ago he left Corfu for Genova—one of the main centres of resistance to the Italian fascism—where he found a job with an insurance firm and resumed his studies in geology.

On the day before he died he received an express letter from Athens—which was read

Colonels' victim

by a number of his friends among the other Greeks exiled in Genova, but after his death could not be found. It was an official order to return to Greece for military service.

Costantino left in his room a farewell letter to his father—a tailor—which said in part: 'After three years of violence I can no longer go on. I don't want to make you run risks on my behalf, and I cannot do less than act and think as a free person... Long live democracy! Down with the tyrants! Our country, which gave birth to freedom, will abolish tyranny! Pardon me if you can.'

The following day the Italian press published extracts of an article he had written for a Greek anti-fascist magazine, 'Sigla'.

In it he wrote of the existence of the Greek spies in NATO and the police and their helpers and the threats made against Greek exiles and their families at home.

Despite the precautions taken by the editors of 'Sigla', the text of the article and its authorship had become known to the Greek consulate in Rome.

Costantino's friends in Genova were emphatic that his suicide followed on the leaking of this article and subsequent threats by the Greek regime to victimize his family if he refused to return. The events which followed confirmed their statements.

The only relative to come for the funeral was his father. Everywhere he went he was accompanied by Greek diplomatic officials, in particular one Giorgio Niakas.

He never spoke to the press face-to-face, but made a statement over the telephone from the Greek consulate to the Italian news agency ANSA.

In it he denied that any pressure had been put on his son and claimed the suicide letter made him 'suspect that Costantino had been the victim of a method of political exploitation'.

According to ANSA staff he interrupted the statement to say, aside, 'But what is written here? What are you making me do?'

He also requested that his son should be buried in private, immediately.

But the Greek anti-fascist organization set a guard in the mortuary where his body was lying and organized a mass demonstration to commemorate

ate him and oppose the Greek dictatorship.

The father was forced through his humiliating paces by the fact that the rest of his family were still in Corfu.

When, on the day before the funeral (September 23) a group of Greek students came to the mortuary to pay their respects, they found a photographer by Costantino's body, who took individual flash photos of them.

When challenged, he claimed to be an ANSA employee, but refused to show any credentials and rapidly departed. He was later identified as a plain-clothes policeman.

Details
These damning details, which the Italian capitalist press did not have the impudence to conceal completely, were not broadcast by the (state-controlled) Italian radio and TV.

One good reason may be that Italian TV transmissions can easily be picked up in Corfu.

As Greek left-wing students warned newsmen at a press conference after the funeral: 'Tomorrow you could be put in jail by the same forces that are strangling Greece. Why do you not write about NATO, the CIA, the Prometheus plan (the US-devised computer-organized plan of operations which the colonels used to take 'power in Greece), of Nixon, who is about to visit your country.'

(The same Nixon has just resumed sales of heavy armaments to the Greek regime.)

For the same reason, scarcely a whisper of Costantino's death appeared in the capitalist press in the rest of Europe.

CLEAN SWEEP

THERE WAS wailing and gnashing of teeth in the editorial offices of Moscow and Leningrad last week.

On orders from the highest circles a massive purge of journalists, editors and radio and TV writers has been carried out during the last week, shifting hundreds of discreet and hypocritical rumps from an equal number of well-upholstered armchairs.

Which is easy enough to understand.

In a profession where the two worst sins are precision and honesty, human material is bound to degenerate at an alarming rate. Apparently routine wielding of the blue pencil and complaint scribbling of the lies required by the latest contortion of Kremlin policy have reduced many of these 'gentlemen of the press' to little better than literate vegetables.

To which must be added the fact that in an industry where the essential skill is knowing what not to say, there is naturally an in-built tendency to overmanning.

Not that examples of gross incompetence have been lacking—'ideological leaders' have recently been hauled over the coals for attributing to Lenin passages in fact penned by the German revisionists!

Obliged
We are obliged, though, to disappoint readers who may hope that present sweep will be the prelude to glittering indiscretions from the Stalinist lie machine—news of the purge has come only from French journalists in Moscow.

Tory education cuts hit Lancaster University

BIG CUT-BACKS in the Lancaster University's building programme have been announced by the vice-Chancellor, C. F. Carter.

In a report, which was discussed by the University Board of Senate at a conference in September referred to 'grave news about the building programme for the years 1972-1975'.

Carter says that the University Grants Council (UGC), which deals with all university building plans, is... under strong government pressure to reduce the overall cost of the programme, and, although some savings can be made by (for instance) not redistributing money saved when a university falls behind with its programme, they consider that projects not essential for academic purposes will have to be sacrificed.

Casualties
The vice-Chancellor's report lists as 'immediate casualties' of the cut-back:

- All new science and technology buildings, except a new Engineering block, and possibly a small extension for Environmental Sciences if the cost can be subtracted from money for Arts teaching areas.
- A projected student drama centre.
- All Library extensions: 'and it is quite likely that it will be necessary to convert some existing Library space to other uses'.
- Indoor recreation centre extensions and swimming pool.
- A new college building.

Other cuts
Another likely casualty is the provision of study rooms for students not living on the campus. At present, non-resident students, many of whom have

to travel a considerable distance from digs and flats, can rent these rooms—three or four students to a room—in which to study and keep their books, conveniently near to the lecture theatres, library, etc.

The university is likely now to abandon the attempt to provide these facilities, and to convert existing study rooms to teaching purposes.

Taken together with the cut-back in library space, at a time when the number of students is expected to double, this can only mean that the students' academic work will be hit very harshly.

Since Lancaster is a campus university, situated by a small town, the students are heavily dependent on the university for both library and recreational facilities.

In fact, facilities for young people in the Lancaster and Morecambe area are poor, and an increasing number of young workers also turn to the university for recreation.

That such projects as the 'umbrella' drama centre—which would also have catered for dances—and the indoor recreation centre are being cut-back is a serious matter.

Loans
Cuts in buildings are only the beginning. The Tories are reported to be giving serious consideration to a measure which the last Labour Minister of Education suggested, then dropped—to replace student grants with loans.

If this measure is passed, it will, in effect, shut the gates of the university to the student from a working-class home. Students now face the bill. The Tory attack on education throws a sharp light on the weaknesses of the student movement in this country.

Radio control of home appliances

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

A LAWSUIT alleging misuse of a radio-controlled water heater system has been filed in Detroit, USA, against an electrical supply company. The system controls supplies of electricity to water heaters in domestic premises.

According to the magazine 'Electrical Review' this allowed the company to reduce consumption during peak demand periods. The water heaters are divided into two compartments. Supplies to the lower compartment are automatically switched off by a radio signal from any one of the firm's ten transmitters.

However, consumers are complaining that when the bottom half is switched off, the top half immediately begins to heat up, and bills are now higher.

It is also claimed that hot water is not available when it is most needed—in the early evening.

The firm, Detroit Edison, began installing water heaters which can receive radio signals in early 1968. Now, more than a quarter of a million are fitted into private homes.

Witnesses at a hearing on the system by the Michigan Public Services Commission claim that it constitutes an invasion of privacy to put control devices in a private home 'without giving the householder the right to refuse'.

In Britain, recent reports indicate that the Plessey Company has developed a similar system, though this operates through telephone cables and not by radio control. The main emphasis has been on its use to monitor amounts of gas and electricity—to eliminate the need for meter readers—but it has also been admitted that the device could be used to control supplies.

New cash register can cut out jobs
AN AUTOMATIC tallying device for use in retail stores has been developed which can enable managers to cut staff and increase the work of those remaining.

Each item—say, in a supermarket—is fitted with a coded tag which indicates price, brand, etc. The sales assistant at the cash desk passes a pen-shaped sensor over the tag which is automatically 'read'. The information is passed to a cash register which incorporates a minicomputer. Prices of the items are added up by the machine which issues a sales ticket. The computer can also be programmed to make out sales bills and audit records for accounting purposes and can pass all information to a central data store for inventory control.

No dole for CAV strikers

BY A CORRESPONDENT
EIGHTY labourers and storekeepers laid off for nearly six weeks at Lucas and CAV factories at Fazakerley, Liverpool, have still not received any unemployment benefit.

The area insurance officer of the Department of Employment and Productivity (DEP) refused benefit because there are labourers and a storekeeper employed by the works engineers department at Fazakerley who are out on strike with the rest of the maintenance men in that department.

But the labourers and storekeepers who have been refused the benefit are employed by different departments under different conditions and were laid off by the management following the maintenance strike.

Get tough

The treatment of these workers is a clear expression of a get-tough policy on social service payments under a Tory government.

An appeals tribunal last Tuesday decided that labourers and storekeepers in Lucas Industrial Equipment should be paid their dole, but labourers in CAV should be refused.

Unemployment benefit was refused for these 48 labourers because a fortnight ago, when the management sent for six labourers to come in to clean out the factory, the labourers decided that all must be taken back or none would go back.

Appealed

Now the insurance officer has appealed against the tribunal decision and wants no dole paid to any storekeepers and labourers.

Unemployment benefit has still not been paid for the whole lay-off period. Workers cannot obtain social security benefits because they are classed as strikers by the Ministry of Social Security.

Council

FROM PAGE ONE

Council workers there, who have been out on unofficial strike since Wednesday, gave a rough reception to a General and Municipal Workers' official's claim that he had received no reply to his request for official backing.

'Use a telephone!' they shouted. '24 hours' notice! And the Bristol workers' stoppage only began in the teeth of strong opposition to a total stoppage from the union chiefs.

They had attempted to divide them by saying that only the city engineers and the sewage-disposal workers would receive official backing. But the meeting rejected this.

Applause

From the first cry for an all-out strike, applause and foot stamping shook the hall. 'You've always told us you were as strong as we make you,' shouted one militant at the officials. 'How we want you to prove that.'

And in London, Lambeth council workers—meeting yesterday morning—gave a hostile reception to union officials who claimed that the unions had insufficient funds for an all-out strike. The Lambeth men had earlier marched through S London to the meeting.

LATE NEWS

MERCENARY OFFER
'Mad Mike' Hoare, the Congo mercenary colonel, has offered a 5,000-man force to the Thailand government for use against communist guerrillas, a Defence Ministry source revealed in Bangkok yesterday. The offer has been turned down.

ASTURIAN SUSPENSIONS
Two thousand miners in the Asturias coalfield in Spain are on strike against suspensions imposed on 4,000 of their comrades who struck on two days last week against inadequate safety equipment underground.

HI-JACK LEGISLATION
The West German Bundestag (upper house) yesterday approved a Bill providing for sentences of up to life imprisonment for air piracy.

Whole of South end to go

LIVERPOOL port employers revealed this week a ruthless timetable of economies and redundancies to dock workers. If these are not immediately carried out, port chiefs have threatened to close the whole of Liverpool docks.

Mersey port bosses plan huge jobs cut-back...

From our Industrial correspondent

The government has told the port employers that if public money is to be spent at Liverpool, all inefficient units must be closed and 'everyone and everything possible must be got rid of' by December.

The cuts involve:
● The closure of the South end of the docks consisting of over half Liverpool's seven miles of waterfront within three years.
● Big redundancies in the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board's (MDHB) direct labour force; 10 per cent of the board's staff will have to go and many ancillary workers like engineers and boilermakers will be hit.
● The sale of vessels involved in dredging, causing redundancies among crews.
● Stringent economies in all sections of dockland both sides of the Mersey. Employers claim that dockers themselves will not be affected yet.

But as portworkers' representatives who lobbied Liverpool MPs at the Labour Party Blackpool conference on Thursday pointed out, over 2,000 dockers are employed in the South end of the port and with stringent economies planned elsewhere prospects for re-employment in Liverpool cannot be bright.

No change at Blackpool

FROM PAGE ONE

those from the mover, Conor O'Brien from Billericay Labour Party, who described people at the barricade as 'yobbos and yahobs'. To Downey who, despite his call for nationalization of the banks, monopolies and land, made no demands for the withdrawal of British troops.

It is perhaps one of the best indications of the bankruptcy of the week's debate that both the right and 'left' wings of conference could only back away from the bitter struggles of Ulster's workers.

Another doomwatch warning

IN THE last 12 years British industry has lost almost half of its share in world trade and it could be out of the 'race' in the 1970s if the trend continues.

This reminder of the backward and declining state of British capitalism was given yesterday by Mr Fred Catherwood, Director General of the National Economic Development Office.

He proposed a four-point plan stressing the need for the employers to join the Common Market and a reduction in company taxes to help them compete with the rest of the world.

In the 1960s our growth rate was 2.7 per cent. None of our major competitors had a growth rate of less than 4 per cent, he said.

owners, warehouse companies, and stevedoring firms—in the expectation that nationalization of the ports would have allowed redevelopment with public money on the docks.

The other factors, claim stewards are the efforts by Liverpool port bosses to force through Phase Two of the Devlin re-organization.

Obvious

'It is obvious that what the employers want is to go to the workers' Liverpool docks and say you must accept modernization and Devlin because the government are forcing this on us—and if you don't the whole port will close,' Eddie Loyden, president of Liverpool Trades Council and an employee of the docks board, told me.

'And I take their threat very seriously. The Rochdale report on British ports has already shown the way for the employers.'

'It argues that new ports should be opened in Britain

with new docile docks labour forces. What they want in Liverpool is to close all the old sections and build a containerized roll-on-and-off port at Seaforth in the North.

'We as stewards demanded in the past that the docks board reveal their plans for the port's future.'

'But they have refused to do this. They have been deliberately keeping dock charges low because this benefits firms and shipping lines that dominate the board.'

'What they were hoping was that nationalization would bring public funds to subsidize this area of docks operations, leaving the more lucrative aspects in private hands.'

John Lenehan, AEF convenor at the MDHB, told of the moves that have taken place between port chiefs and the Tory government prior to the announcement of the cuts.

'After the election when it was clear that nationalization was a dead issue the board went to the government and requested permission to raise a £10 million loan on the markets.'

'But after an independent accountant had reported to the government on the board's financial position, the government said that not only was the loan out of the question but that the financial position was so bad that there were not sufficient liquid assets even to pay existing interest charges. They added that a further loan would in fact break company law.'

Intimation

'We met Robert Edwards, director general of the board. He informed us of their plans, and intimated that the whole of the docks might be closed if they were not carried out. His deputy Frank Monday openly admitted that press speculation of immediate redundancies of 200 was "a very, very conservative estimate indeed".'

'They say that dockers are not to be affected, but where are the 2,000 workers at South end going, if there are going to be cutbacks throughout the port?'

Nonsense

'They say the strike record of Liverpool docks has caused this. This is nonsense. It is due to the cynical way that the docks board have deliberately held down dock charges.'

Now the representatives of the ancillary workers, who lobbied at conference, plan to call a meeting involving all sections of Liverpool and Birkenhead dock employees to work out a campaign of action.

'This announcement has been so sudden we are not clear what we will do yet. But dock workers and the Liverpool Trades Council will meet as soon as possible on this issue,' said Eddie Loyden.



Face-saving 'nationalize' call by Ceylon CP

CEYLON'S pro-Moscow Communist Party is trying to save its face in the new coalition as the economic situation grows desperately worse and the government's reluctance to implement its promises increases.

Now that the euphoria has died down the Stalinists find themselves impotent hostages in Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's coalition government.

They are pressing for immediate radical measures, including a take-over of foreign banks and plantations, to solve the crisis.

NOT STAMPED

But Mrs Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the dominant partner in the coalition, shows no signs of being stamped into any drastic new moves.

The government has not yet implemented all the economic reforms promised in the election manifesto on which the United Front swept to power last May—it is very doubtful that it ever will.

The manifesto promised nationalization of banks, state control of the export and import trade, and the setting up of agencies to 'guide' plantations. But it made no specific commitment to nationalize foreign banks or plantations.

In neighbouring India, the government nationalized Indian-owned banks but found that to take over foreign banks would hamper foreign trade, and Mrs Bandaranaike's government is expected to make the same assessment.

TOO WEAK

The Stalinists are in any case too weak in the government to force a major policy switch. They won only six seats in the 151-member House of Rep-

No papers again

THERE WERE no newspapers for two million Londoners yesterday as warehouse packers and drivers continued their unofficial overtime ban in support of their claim for a 40 per cent wage increase.

The men, who are members of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, have been pressed by their leaders to accept the wholesalers' offer of a 10 to 12 per cent increase with further talks on wages and conditions.

Busmen continue pay fight

But only united national strike action can win

CORPORATION bus crews in three cities yesterday challenged union leaders' attempts to restrict nationwide action for a £20-a-week basic rate to bans on overtime, standing passengers and one-man-operated buses.

Left-wingers leave Italian CP

They include Elisio Milani, one of the youngest Communist Party deputies in the Italian parliament.

The 'Manifesto' group, formed by people expelled from the Communist Party last autumn for publishing their criticism of its reformist line and reliance on parliamentary manoeuvre, has since grown in strength.

Almost all its supporters have been expelled from, or have left, the Party.

While the leaders of the group denounce the present Party chiefs, they have made no fundamental break with Stalinism.

They claim the Party's parliamentary policy in the immediate post-war years was correct—because it 'relied upon' instead of 'substituting for' the strength of the masses.

In fact, at this time, Togliatti, on Stalin's instructions, handed Italy back to capitalism although the employers' state was near collapse.

Nonetheless, the resignations in Bergamo, and the very existence of the 'Manifesto' group, are the signs of an insoluble crisis within Italian Stalinism—driven to search for reformist, 'peaceful' solutions to ever-sharpening class confrontations.

THOUSANDS of trade unionists throughout Italy staged a two-hour general strike yesterday in support of their campaign for wide-ranging social and economic reforms.

The strike was called by the Stalinist trade union federation.

But workers belonging to the Socialist and Roman Catholic trade union federations were instructed not to take part in the strikes which their federations considered unnecessary in view of progress being made in talks with the government on reforms.

Chile right-wing to block Allende

LEADERS of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party have raised objections to voting for Salvador Allende, left-wing candidate who topped the poll in the September 4 presidential elections.

Allende had a narrow lead over Alessandri, an anti-communist right-winger, and the Christian Democrat Tomic was third.

Since no candidate got an absolute majority, the constitution requires that parliament should decide between Allende and Alessandri.

It votes on November 4, with the Christian Democrats holding the balance.

Normally such votes are a formality, with parliament endorsing the candidate with most votes. But the Christian Democrats are now unmistakably seeking to block Allende.

His victory, which ended Christian Democratic president Frei's six years in office, was a result of workers' and peasants' opposition to the 'liberal' regime and its broken reform promises.

Allende, a Socialist, stood in the name of the Popular Alliance, an electoral front of Socialists, Stalinists and Radicals.

He stood on a policy of land reform and the nationalization of banks and big industry, including major foreign investments.

Habash

FROM PAGE ONE

plement pointed out how 'old revolutionary hands like the Algerian Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Bouteflika lectured Fatah on the need for real integration of all the commando groups into one body—if necessary by force.'

'Bouteflika recently reminded Arafat pointedly how the Algerian FLN ruthlessly exterminated its rivals during the war with France. But Arafat once explained to me how much they wished to avoid "irresponsible violence".'

'Other Fatah leaders have insisted, "This must be a humane solution". Arafat's "humanity" has tied him inexorably to the Hashemite feudalists, and must now favour a "settlement" with Israel.'

How he is going to carry out this pogrom against the 'left' is another question however. The left-wing is strongly entrenched in the North and has substantial support from China and Albania.

Blessing

These 'counter-revolutionary moves have the blessing of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, who told a rally in Azerbaijan yesterday that he hoped Arab leaders would "honourably carry on the cause of the late president".'

A cease-fire agreement has been signed with Arafat's blessing between guerrillas and Hussein's forces in the North Jordan town of Ramtha.

Tunisian prime minister Bahi Ladgham, who returned with Hussein from Nasser's funeral yesterday, is supervising the 'restoration of order' on behalf of the Arab nationalist leaders.

He said yesterday that calm was coming in the capital and throughout the rest of Jordan.

With the active agreement of all the bourgeois-nationalist Arab leaders and of the Soviet bureaucracy, and with the sympathetic connivance of world imperialism, the discredited Hussein is given the go-ahead to crush the revolutionary wing of the guerrillas.

Arafat, with Stalinist backing, has begun the betrayal of the Palestine revolution.

One step

From coming to terms with Hussein over the bodies of Habash and Hawatmeb it is only one step to reaching 'peace' with Israel, perhaps on the basis of a rump Palestinian state on the West bank of the Jordan.

The United States Senate has just passed a massive \$8,000 million arms budget which includes generous military aid to Israel.

Soviet leader Alex Kosygin told Egyptian leaders in Cairo that Soviet military aid would continue despite Nasser's death.

But the Soviet Union still wishes to continue the search for a peaceful solution in the Middle East, he said.

His statement was echoed by interim Egyptian premier Anwar El Sadat, who told an Italian journalist in an interview two days before Nasser's death:

'Peace must be concluded as soon as possible through the farrising mission.'

The development of revolutionary, Trotskyist leadership to lead the Arab working class against imperialism, Zionism and the Arab bourgeoisie is now the only way to meet the very real dangers in front of the Palestinian revolution.

British workers must stand solidly against any attempt to crush the revolution.

WEATHER

Pressure will be high to the SW of Britain. In southern and E England and S Wales, there will be scattered showers and sunny periods. Elsewhere, showers will be fairly frequent and, at times, heavy. But there will be bright or sunny intervals. There will be strong NW winds in the north. It will be rather cold over much of Scotland. Elsewhere, temperatures will be only a little below normal.

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