

What we think

What the fight against Tory govt means

THE TORY government and monopoly capitalists are now working hand and glove to inflict serious defeats on the working class.

This was the essence of Prime Minister Heath's speech to the Tory Party conference. Previously, on television, he made reference to their keen interest in the retreat of the dockworkers during the July strike and the similar experience at GKN-Sankey.

It should be clear that there is now a sort of general staff approach to the class struggle on the part of Tory ministerial departments and leading members of employers' organizations.

They are studying workers' reactions in disputes and, in particular, the way reformist trade union officials can be used to weaken and then break militant resistance.

The employers and the government are on a class-war footing, while the trade union officials go on peddling the old reformist class collaboration of the boom era.

While the capitalist enemy looks for ways and means to chop down the working class, the trade union officials go on seeking union solutions which solve nothing.

They disarm the working class at a time when political preparation is vital.

Shop stewards who allow these officials to dominate their negotiations are inviting disaster. Each strike is against the government and it must be won at all costs.

But this cannot be done unless those involved are made conscious of the fact that they can only win the strike as part of the fight against the Tory government.

Strike leaders must see to it that a real hatred of Toryism is generated during each strike.

Once the workers begin to see that the government is involved, then they will start to learn political lessons. If the strike is bogged down by the trade union officials on purely union and wage issues, then the workers learn nothing.

The main strategy must centre on how best to assist workers to see and study their main enemy.

This can only be done when they become conscious of who he is, and what he is doing.

At the same time, shop stewards must work under conditions where they are constantly studying the day-to-day developments of a strike which is being fought out within the context of a struggle against the Tory government. They must study intimately the business policies of the company they are working for and search out their weakness.

Right now the employers are lining up with the government, but if it becomes clear that a number of them are going to be made bankrupt, then this class front can be broken.

It is all very well for a Conservative employer to support a Conservative government provided he has something to conserve at the end of the strike.

If he risks the danger of going bankrupt, then the fight will soon go out of him and the government will be forced to retreat.

Strikes can be won and the government defeated, provided the anti-Tory political approach is made.

There is unfortunately another serious danger, particularly on Merseyside, of 'rank and file-ism' which is another way of encouraging backwardness by keeping politics out of the unions.

It applies to a number of building sites and factories in the St Helens area. Rank and file-ism is the syndicalist approach of the revisionists and Stalinists.

At a time when the Pilkington strikers are facing a combined attack of the Tories and employers they call for the setting up of machinery to disseminate 'more information' about local issues.

Unemployment grows and The cost of living soars

By a political correspondent

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And there have been massive rises in food, clothing and footwear prices.

With decimalization looming a mere six months away, it is clear that the cost of living could leap 20 per cent over the next year.

While the employers are given a free hand and active encouragement to hoist their prices, unemployment is well over the 600,000 mark—even on the government's own figures—and rising rapidly.

What kind of future do the Tories have in store for the army of unemployed, the millions of old-age pensioners and workers on low wages?

Reshuffle

Heath has already answered that question, with his brutal determination not to concede an extra penny to the council workers' 55s claim.

The latest offer is simply a reshuffle of the previous one.

In every industry the employers are being cajoled, encouraged and warned not to give in to wage demands.

Wages, they say, can only rise if workers sell their most cherished conditions and accept stringent productivity terms.

Here is where the treacherous trade union chiefs come into their own.

They are running scared from a fight against the Tories and hold out constantly the carrot of 'easy' wage rises through productivity.

This is an outright trap, as workers in many industries are coming to recognize. The purpose of the onslaught on the standard of living is to

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Militants see this decision as a dangerous retreat on an important principle.

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'It's really a matter of whether you accept the "normal channels of procedure" for these matters—channels which are controlled by the government, of course—or whether the workers themselves use their strength to fight it out.'

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Such an interpretation would amount to a national penal clause—on the lines of the 1968 Ford agreement—policed by government departments!

A DEP spokesman in London refused to comment on the Oxford case.

See 'Wishful thinking!'—page 2.

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What the Tory 'Mail' failed to point out in its carefully-angled story is that the essential purpose of piecework ceilings is to defend workers' livelihoods.

Under piecework, a pool of money is available for a given schedule of work. Labour would inevitably be reduced if individuals were allowed—through what car stewards often describe as 'the cut-throat race of individual piecework'—to work others out of a job.

'Alan Hinks' membership of the Communist Party is used by the "Mail" as a slur,' Oxford stewards said yesterday.

'But that's irrelevant—the fact that he operates this system is to his credit.'

They feel, however, that Fleet St could not have produced its scare story had he refused to talk to them.

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THE FIGHT is on, but the results so far are poor. We need £959 8s 4d and we have just 17 days in which to get it. There is no time to lose. Roughly, we need £57 a day. The sooner you and I explain to all our readers the urgent need for the fund the sooner we will be out of danger. Post your donations immediately to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

Tories are preparing trap for council men

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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It is an attempt by the town-hall chiefs and their Tory backers to weaken the strikers' tremendous resistance. Their offer offers in only one respect from the one already rejected by the unions.

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This will however include any overtime or service payments.

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ON the demand for an equal increase for women workers as a step towards eventual equal pay.

ON the demand for more holidays and improved service payments.

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Encouraged

Even to negotiate on the basis of this desirous offer would be a retreat by the union.

They would, in effect, be playing into the hands of the Tory government which throughout has encouraged the employers to stand firm and offered financial support to do so.

If the union leaders need any indication of their members' feelings at this stage, let them look to Swindon where yesterday strikers threw out a corporation offer of a 40s increase.

But instead of acting with this aggressive confidence union leaders have described the latest move by employers as 'a step in the right direction', a sentiment apparently shared by the 'Morning Star' which talked yesterday in its lead article of 'an improved pay offer'.

It has been clear throughout the strike that the union officials, both local and national, are worried of the possibility of a major political show-down with the government as the strike spreads.

Hence their acute concern to start talking with the employers.

More site sackings

A FURTHER 16 workers at the £800,000 Rowlinson building site in St Helens have been sacked by management.

The men did not attend the Pilkington glassworkers' demonstration in the town on Monday, but walked off the site on Tuesday in support of their 59 locked-out work mates who were dismissed for marching with the Pilkington men.

Yesterday pickets were again out at the site gates at Liverpool Rd by the giant Pilkington's sheet-glass plant and after visits from union officials the lock-out is being referred to national level.

MEETING
Hands off the unions!
GREET THE SIX-DAY
workers press

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
Poplar Civic Hall, Bow Road, E.3

7.30 p.m.

Adm 2s

SPEAKERS

G. Healy (SLL National Secretary)

G. Caughey (Chairman Pilkington's Rank and File Committee)

Roy Battersby

John Simmance (YS National Secretary)

Chairman: C. Slaughter (SLL Central Committee member)



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'Daily Mail' witch-hunts again

BRITISH-LEYLAND shop stewards yesterday angrily condemned reports in several Fleet Street newspapers on Birmingham's Austin Longbridge plant.

Headlined 'The Man who Fines the Hard Workers', the story claimed Communist Mr Alan Hinks, 58, walks down the assembly lines at British-Leyland's West Midlands body shop and demands to see the men's wage slips.

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Hence their acute concern to start talking with the employers.

DESPITE the pay offer, officials of the three unions said they were planning to extend the strike from Monday.

Dustmen and sewage workers throughout the W Riding of Yorkshire will be called out on Monday bringing the total out in the country to 12,000. A NUPE spokesman said yesterday that the union would be concentrating their action on smaller sewage plants.

The total now out is 62,000 and NUPE report that the strike has caused a boom in recruitment—the average numbers joining the union before the strike was 50 a day. The figure had now reached 190.

Yesterday a National Union of Public Employees spokesman admitted to me that the new offer was clearly a reshuffle of the old one plus 'a few extra pence.'

'I can't see anyone accepting it, but if it gets negotiations going it might break the deadlock.'

These are dangerous attitudes. Are the council workers to be next for the Sankey treatment?

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A FURTHER 16 workers at the £300,000 Rowson building site in St Helens have been sacked by management.

The men did not attend the Pilkington glassworkers' demonstration in the town on Monday, but walked off the site on Tuesday in support of their 59 locked-out work mates who were dismissed for marching with the Pilkington men.

Yesterday pickets were again out at the site gates at Liverpool Rd by the giant Pilkington's sheet-glass plant and after visits from union officials the lock-out is being referred to national level.

MEETING

Hands off the unions!
GREET THE SIX-DAY
workers press

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
Poplar Civic Hall, Bow Road, E.3

7.30 p.m.

Adm 2s

SPEAKERS

G. Healy (SLL National Secretary)
G. Caughey (Chairman Pilkington's Rank and File Committee)

Roy Battersby
John Sillman (YS National Secretary)

Chairman: C. Slaughter (SLL Central Committee member)



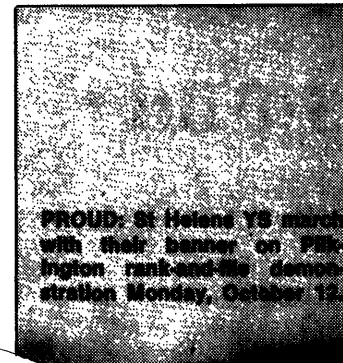
We have come to a time when



FLASHBACK to last May: Glassworkers unanimously decide to continue strike action.

Thursday's

INTERNATIONAL
youth
NEWS



PROUD: St Helens YS march with their banner on Pilkington strike Monday, October 12.

REFORMS WON'T WORK

says
St Helens
YS member

ST HELENS in Lancashire is the heart of the British glass industry.

Take any family, say the townsfolk, and you will find at least one person working at the Pilkington glass company whose tall chimneys dominate the smoky landscape.

The town grew out of the mining industry, much of which is now closed.

Since the 1850s St Helens has been dominated by glass making and Pilkington's.

Three of the town's mayors over the past century have been members of the Pilkington family, the local station was opened by Lord Pilkington and a statue of Queen Victoria by the town hall was founded by the late Colonel Pilkington.

MILITANT

Against this almost feudal hold on the town, 8,500 workers came out on strike in April this year in the biggest, most militant movement in St Helens' history.

The lives of almost everyone in the course of this seven-week-long struggle were quite radically changed, especially amongst the youth.

The Pilkington workers' struggle did not end when the

workers returned after their seven-week strike.

Two hundred and fifty men were later sacked following a dispute over the right of representation to the management and their fight continues today on the basis of a struggle for the basic trade union right to representation and to withdraw labour.

The Young Socialists' national recruiting team found that many of the youth sharply reflected the determination of the sacked Pilkington workers to fight it out with the Tory-backed Pilkington employers.

POURED OUT

Young people at the local technical college — amongst them apprentices from Pilkington's and other local factories — poured out to listen to a YS college-gate meeting.

Having spoken at a St Helens YS branch meeting, National Secretary John Simmance was enthusiastic about the response.

Item number one on the branch's agenda had been plans for a campaign in support of the Pilkington Rank-and-File Committee's demonstration through the town on October 12.

Many of the new YS members are young workers who

were involved in the Pilkington strike. They expressed in their own words why they want to build the Young Socialists into a mass youth movement to fight Toryism.

Committee member Ian said he thought they had made a good start with the YS branch.

'It's what St Helens young people have been crying out for.'

Sacked Pilkington worker Alan explained:

'St Helens was a pretty dead town politically until the Pilkington strike shook everybody up.

RUTHLESS

'What really shocked people was the completely ruthless attitude of the employers towards the strike and the way in which a whole number were sacked for withdrawing their labour.'

'Pilkington's were the first to carry out Tory policy into practice. This is an example of what the Tories are preparing to do under the new anti-union legislation.'

All the young lads on the branch committee said that no one had expected such a big strike to break in St Helens. But, they said, the dispute became an outlet for 50 years of suppression.

They expressed anger over the trade union leaders' role in the strike.

In their opinion the men were betrayed into going back and when the 250 were later sacked the union leadership gave them no support.

'It was a principle involved at Pilkington's—the right to work and the right to strike. They wanted to take both things away from us,' said a committee member.

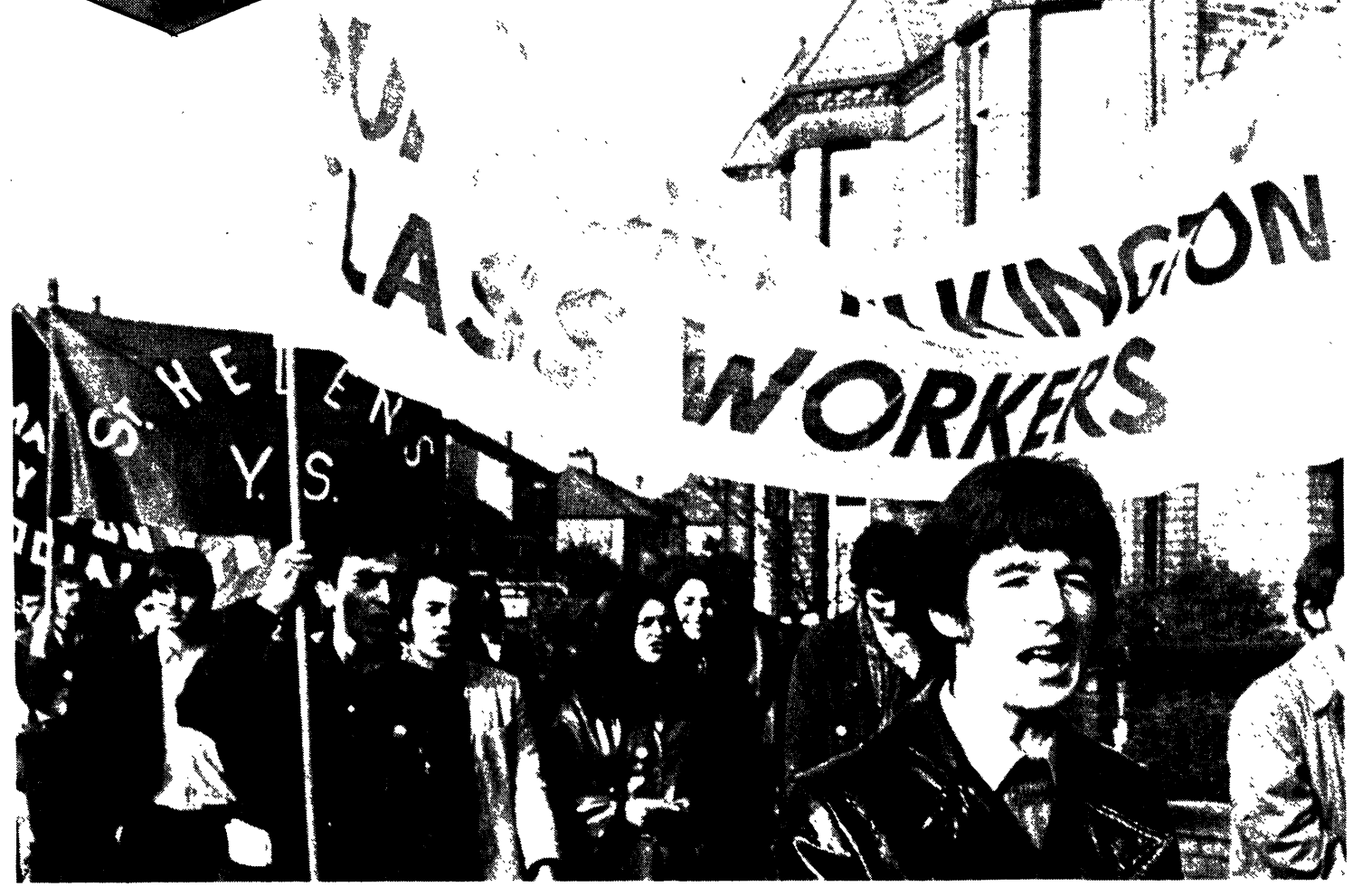
MAJOR ROLE

The Young Socialists, they feel, can play a major role in the town because it shows that the youth do care about what is happening under the Tory government.

'The Pilkington's dispute has forced a lot of young people to think about politics. Before the seven-week strike we always considered ourselves militant, but I had never joined anything political,' commented Alan.

'But for me the YS is a serious organization which concerns itself with the main issues.'

'We have come to a time when reforms won't work. We have got to the point where the only thing you can do is fight to replace the present form of society.'



Wishful thinking!

SPARE A thought today for Hilary Eccles-Williams.

You may never have much time for his problems... but he's been thinking about you!

In fact Hilary, fulminating away at Dudley, in the county of Worcestershire, yesterday, showed himself a very thoughtful sort of guy all round.

He thinks Edward Heath and his sidekick Robert Carr are going soft; their draft Industrial Relations Bill, he told the lugubriously-titled Association of British Chambers of Commerce (of which Hilary is president), proposes no changes in the present system of 'feather-bedding strikers at the taxpayers' expense'.

The real point about Hilary Eccles-Williams, you see, is that he's no joke.

Deadly currents

Beneath the heavy-handed irony of his Dudley speech yesterday (is it really necessary to be quite so solicitous to apply salve to self-inflicted wounds?) he asked, swirl the deadly currents of Tory thinking whipped closer and closer to the surface of politics by the class-war maelstrom that is the Heath-Carr plan.

What Williams wants to do is make supplementary benefits to strikers' families repayable:

'Should not such disbursements be loans, to be repaid in reasonable instalments after return to work, rather than a free gift from the taxpayer, who

is often himself an innocent victim of the strike?' he asks.

Part of such repayment should come from tax rebates, he told his Association.

'While there is certainly an entitlement to refund of income tax,' he said, 'is it either necessary or desirable to make special arrangements for speedy disbursement of such refunds rather than let them be made after return to work?'

'Such refunds could then help to facilitate the repayment of loans taken as supplementary benefits.'

Starve strikers

In other words, starve strikers—their wives and their children—into submission and then saddle them with a burden of debt which will make it impossible for them to defy their class masters again.

Yes, Hilary's really thoughtful.

If he and his Association had their way, maybe Heath could really start to carry out his pre-election tax-cutting pledges—and screw down the working class at the same time!

So spare a thought for Hilary Eccles-Williams.

And while you're about it, spare a thought for Victor Feather and his friends on the TUC General Council who—it is said—will try to convince themselves at their meeting today that the Tory plans can be wished away by a 'big education programme' in the trade union movement.

The rise and fall of Tasminex

THE GREAT Antipodean Nickel Fever, which went the way of the South Sea Bubble, the Florida Land Boom and the 1929 Wall St bull market, has left not a few speculators considerably out of pocket.

Among these unfortunates are holders of shares in Tasminex NL, whose misfortunes are the subject of an official government report tabled in two Australian state parliaments this week.

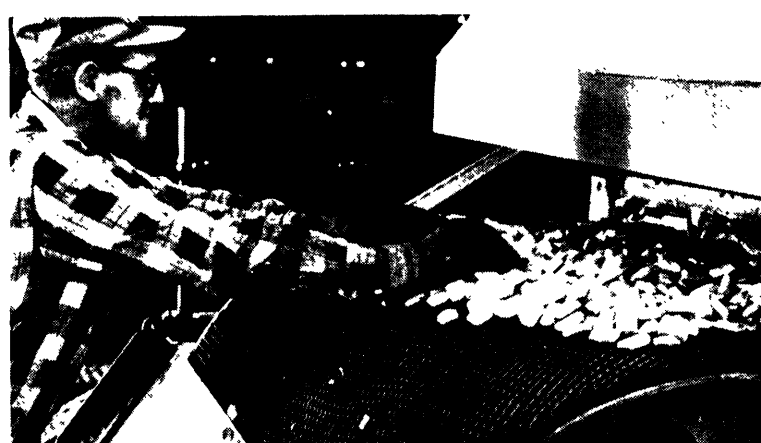
The report comes from barrister J. W. Wilson, appointed by the Tasmanian government to look into the rapid rise and even more spectacular fall of Tasminex shares on the Australian stock market.

You can now buy Tasminex

the Tin Creek Mining Corporation, offloaded very large quantities of Tasminex shares when the price was at its height.

Singline's wife and two companies of which he and his wife were directors made sales of Tasminex shares totalling about £479,000 between January 27 and 30, the report claims.

And the leading lights in the consultant geologists' company made a net profit of about a third of a million pounds by much the same method.



Nickel: But not quite another Poselidon.

shares for the bargain basement price of £1 17s each. But it wasn't always like that.

Prospects

On January 26 the shares stood at £7 18s on the Melbourne Stock Exchange. Then the company's chairman, William Singline, took it into his head to announce the company's nickel prospect at Mount Venn, W Australia, could be 'bigger and better than Poselidon—the company that was leading the nickel share boom.'

Singline's statement generated great excitement in the already over-heated nickel market. The price soon reached a peak of £44—an increase of almost 600 per cent.

By March 18, however, the price had dropped to about its present level, where it has stayed ever since, leaving a lot of speculators' pockets a good deal lighter.

Offloaded

Now, so Wilson alleges, directors of Tasminex, not to mention its consulting geologists and

Law officers are reported to be urgently scanning the report to see whether criminal proceedings should be taken.

Which might be some consolation to all those who got their fingers burned...

POST-WAR BAN LEAVES INDUSTRY LAGGING

JAPANESE industry is breaking into the international commercial aircraft market for the first time, but still faces difficulties in catching up with established aircraft industries like those in the United States and Britain.

Plans have been approved for marketing a new jet airliner overseas, to be manufactured by the Nihon Aeroplane Manufacturing Company (NAMC).

With five other local companies NAMC made the first all-Japanese medium-range turbo-prop commercial transport and sold a number to different countries, particularly to smaller airlines.

That was in 1965, and the 60-seater YS-11 has now sold 150 models, almost half of them overseas.

This is still a far cry from the production levels achieved in the Second World War, when the Japanese aircraft industry employed a million workers and turned out 5,000 planes a year.

BROKE UP

Under United States occupation, the potential competition of the Japanese aircraft industry was removed by breaking up the industry, and the manufacture of aircraft was banned in Japan for ten years. The Americans were still smarting from Pearl Harbour.

Once the ban was ended, however, re-investment in aircraft began.

The obsolete DC-3s and DC-4s used by Japanese airlines had to be replaced, and the YS-11 was designed and built.

Big-time plane production holds snags for Japanese

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

But Japanese industry, not naturally, lagged well behind the United States and Europe.

Proposals for the new jet plane (the YX) were put forward by the Ministry of International Trade and Development some three years ago.

But the development of the industry has come very late, and at a time of crisis throughout the international air transport industry.

MONEY SNAGS

Development costs have skyrocketed, and markets for aircraft are hard to find, with stiff overseas competition.

So the YX has hit financial snags even before it gets off the ground. Development funds are likely to total at least £58 million and with uncertain prospects of sales, manufacturers are reluctant to put up the capital for the project.

Mitsubishi, Fuji and Kawasaki Heavy Industries, NAMC and Shin Melya Kogyo—the industrial giants mainly concerned in the operation—are reluctant to go further with the plans for the jet, even though the government has offered generous terms.

They remember with some bitterness that the YS-11, a much less complex plane, left a £3.5 million development bill.

Japan's conservative government has offered to pay 55 per cent of the development costs, leaving the manufacturers to stand the rest.

But even on these terms, companies are reluctant to bite.

NO HEADWAY

Plans for joint development with the Dutch Fokker aircraft concern have made little headway. To cut development costs, NAMC now plans to break into the world jet market by fitting its turbo-prop YS-11 model with jet engines and making a few modifications to bring it up to date.

Whether this will solve the Japanese industry's problems in a period of mounting world crisis is another matter, however.

Rose-tinted tour of Egyptian economy

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

EGYPTIAN labour leader Abdul Moghny Said, presently on a visit to Europe, exposed with crystal clarity the dangers which face the Arab masses from a leadership dedicated to compromise with imperialism.

Addressing an audience of pro-Arab Fabians and retired Tory colonial officials of the Council for Arab-British Understanding in London's plush St Ermine's Hotel last Monday, he strained every muscle to make it clear that Arab 'socialism' represents no threat to the world-wide interests of capitalism.

Said, who edits the semi-official publication 'Labour' and formerly wrote for the daily paper of the extreme right-wing Moslem Brotherhood, treated his hearers to a rose-tinted guided tour of the Egyptian economy under the title 'Trends towards socialism in the Arab World'.

Not once, either in his speech or the many replies to questions, did he so much as mention Hussein's massacre of the Palestinian revolutionaries or imperialism's bloodthirsty plans for all sections of the Arab labour movement.

Lest any doubt should remain as to his respectability, he concluded by saying:

'We do not believe in the dictatorship of the proletariat. We believe this slogan is obsolete. Too many people have suffered under the dictatorships of Nazism and Fascism (l) . . .

'I want to make it clear that we entirely reject the materialistic aspect of Marxism. We respect its scientific side, but we have faith, we are believers.'

Reassured that they were brothers under the skin, his reactionary audience willingly joined him in standing in sanctimonious homage to the late President Nasser.

Yugoslav bureaucracy fears further strikes

DUSAN PETROVITCHSAN, head of the Yugoslav trade union movement, has publicly warned the Tito regime against present inflation of prices and consequent cuts in real wages.

In a recent statement he points out that the standard of living of half the working class, and particularly in the main industrial centres, has fallen in absolute terms during the last year.

The fear of further strike action by sections of workers has produced an open split in

the Yugoslav bureaucracy. Riblicich, head of the Federal government, warned that unless inflation was immediately brought under control, further 'social troubles' would develop.

'Social troubles'

Despite these dangers, the authorities are quite unable to resolve their economic crisis—in large measure the result of gross mismanagement under the guise of 'decentralization'.

The 1971-1975 economic

plan, due to be presented at the end of June, is still not prepared.

But the government has recently said it cannot grant significant wage claims due to 'contradictory pressures'.

When Serbian miners struck this summer against short-time working and earnings cuts one of their central demands was for an end to maladministration on the railways, where a shortage of rolling stock had made it impossible to transport coal, and produced the stagnation in the mines.

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

Name

Address

THE PROFITABLE possibilities of automation and the necessity of firms computerizing to take on their competitors is leading to a veritable orgy of computer installation throughout industry.

Despite the huge expense involved, automation — in combination with the application of productivity deals to impose a rigid discipline on the work-force—can be a very attractive proposition for management.

One has only to look at the numbers of large computers installed or on order as part of automated machinery in major British industries.

Chemical and petroleum factories top the list with 34. Metallurgical, 29. Paper and printing have six, rail transport three, and 28 other large computers have been installed in other industries.

The total investment involved runs into hundreds of millions of pounds.

The enormous attraction of computers is not as some people think their great intelligence, but their absolute stupidity. They do — at least in theory—exactly what they are told, no more no less.

And they do it a great deal faster and more reliably than human operators, who have the added disadvantage that they ask for wage claims, demand frequent rests and comparatively often make mistakes.

Of course, computers provide the possibility of ridding mankind of the menial tasks necessary for production, but under private ownership, this simply means another opportunity for making more profit from fewer workers.

The manual setting of, say, a lathe or a dial on a piece of machinery involves a series of actions that can be generalized. The actual position of the dial is relayed visually to the brain, which then compares the present position with the one required and actuates the hand to turn it to its new position.

This series of operations can be simulated (imitated) using electronic and mechanical devices to produce an automatic control system.

Here is where computers come into their own. The

Giant SCIENTIFIC WORLD computers in industry

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

required position can be calculated by computer, from information fed into it beforehand by sensors (thermometers, gauges, computer programmes, and so on).

This required position can then be compared with the actual state of affairs and the error or difference signal used to operate an electric motor and correct the dial setting.

With a large computer such a system can be used to control an entire plant. In industries like chemicals, where processes and operations can be expressed mathematically, such advanced computerization is entirely feasible.

The valve is used to regulate the amount of raw material flowing into the process and must be opened and closed in accordance with varying product requirements and plant conditions.

FED

Information concerning valve position, amount and quality of the product etc. are fed into the computer.

A control unit is used to schedule the flow of information which in conjunction with data previously obtained and held in store is processed in the arithmetic unit. An output signal can then be sent to regulate the valve position. A computer can perform many of these operations.

In a similar way automation is being used in the field of machine tools. Eight centre lathes requiring eight skilled operators can now be replaced by eight single spindle auto lathes using one setter and one operator both unskilled. Programme can be written directly from engineering drawings to machine components in three dimensions, using one computer to control several machines.

Of course, it is not very difficult to see who benefits from the automation of factories. The crisis in capitalism has made it essential for the

ruling class to get maximum production for the minimum wage bill.

Automation provides one answer but the cost of many control systems is so high that only the large monopolies can afford to implement them and productivity deals offer a cheaper alternative.

ADVANCE

It is impossible for technology to advance without the development of control systems. James Watt realized in 1788 that manual control in the opening and closing of steam valves was not the best way of keeping the speed of his steam engine constant.

So the Watt governor was developed which used the 'lift' of rotating balls as a speed monitor, automatically shutting off steam as speed tended to increase and vice versa.

Man's physical limitations, in terms of speed and accu-

racy, have necessitated these advances in automatic techniques. However, capitalism may provide the money to solve a specific automation problem but, little is available for fundamental research into analysis of systems.

It is here that automation is held back because before control techniques can be applied a detailed analysis of just what you are trying to control is needed. These systems are often complex and analytic mathematical methods invariably fail to provide completely satisfactory solutions.

Idealism and empiricism play their role here. The engineer often tries to see a problem as he would like to see it, i.e. by reducing it to a much simpler one, usually considering each component in isolation and ignoring the numerous interactions between them. Such methods can of course have disastrous consequences.

SOVIET and United States space engineers are to meet to work out ways in which future space travellers can rescue each other, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced in Washington last week.

Though no definite date has yet been fixed for the meeting, plans are well under way and are expected to be announced shortly, NASA said.

Topics for discussion are likely to include standardization of portholes to facilitate rescue in flight—by making it easy for ships to dock one against another—and a standard system of fittings to allow oxygen and water replenishment in space.

RATIONALE

If the talks are successful, Soviet and US spacecraft would in future be fitted with inlets which could be linked up in space. At present designs are not standardized between the two countries and any US-Soviet space rescue could be extremely hazardous.

The rationale of the plans is that because of the colossal expense involved in a single manned spaceflight neither

International space rescue discussed

Standardized docking devices top the list

country would be likely to have a 'back-up' craft available on the launching pad ready for take-off while a manned flight is actually in progress.

But in some cases, Soviet off while a US ship was in craft might be ready for take-difficulties, or vice versa.

Under these circumstances, the astronauts' slim chances of recovery might be improved by a rescue shot.

It is even possible to envisage emergency robot 'lifeboats' which could be sent up to intercept astronauts in diffi-

culties. The Apollo flight made it starkly clear that once astronauts are in trouble, they are virtually on their own.

The dangers of manned flights have undoubtedly played a major part in determining the direction of the Soviet lunar and planetary exploration programme.

While the US took terrible risks to get a man on the moon, the Soviet Union seems to have been more cautious and, in the long run, quite as successful.

A comparison of the Apollo manned programme with

Soviet robot flights is now possible after the safe return of the first Soviet moon samples, drilled out on the satellite's surface by remote control.

The space craft which carried out this sample collection—Luna 16—was far smaller than the US Apollo moonship which preceded it. And, in space terms, smaller means less expensive.

Every additional pound in weight requires more sophistication in the rocketry, more fuel, and adds thousands of pounds to the bill for the flight.

TWO TONS

'Soviet News'—which published details of the Soviet flight last week—says the craft weighed only two tons compared with the seven-ton American craft which landed on the moon. Its launching rocket was perhaps only an eighth the size of the Saturn rocket which put Apollo on the moon.

The Soviet craft left the moon's surface directly for earth, without going into Lunar orbit, as the Apollo did. This did away with any necessity for the complicated arrangements of back-up craft in orbit round the moon used on the Apollo flight.

The forces generated by its rapid acceleration, of course, would have been fatal for any human cargo. But it achieved comparable results to Apollo at a fraction of the expense and with none of the danger.

BBC 1 TV

9.38 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.00-1.45 p.m. Swyn y gleo. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Scooby-doo, where are you? 5.44 Magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE, London. 6.45 THE DOCTORS. 7.05 TOP OF THE POPS. 7.45 BACHELOR FATHER. 'Birthday Boys'. 8.15 MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW. With guests Diane Cilento, Vince Hill and The Pattersons. 9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 PLAY FOR TODAY. 'The Long Distance Piano Player'. By Alan Sharp. With Ray Davies, Lois Daine, Norman Rossington and James Hazeldine. The story of one man's obsession to win the world long distance piano playing record. 10.40 24 HOURS. 11.25 CHILDREN GROWING UP. 'Mother and Child'. 11.50 Weather, including long-range forecast.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except: Midlands, E. Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today. Look East, weather. 11.52 News, weather. North, NW, NE, Camberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North, weather. 11.52 News, weather. Wales: 2.30-2.50 Gwlad a thref. 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. 7.00 p.m. KNOW HOW. 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 FIRST ELEVEN. 'The Kick'. 8.15 THE MONEY PROGRAMME. 9.00 LOOK, STRANGER. 'Nuneham Country—near Oxford'. 9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK. Johnny Cash Show. With guests The Eury Brothers, Dusty Springfield and Rod McKuen. 10.05 CONVERSATIONS AT CRANBORNE. Lord David Cecil. 10.50 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.55 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

11.00 a.m. Schools. 2.55 p.m. Newmarket racing. 4.17 Origami. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Flipper. 5.20 Magpie. 5.20 News. 6.02 TODAY. 6.25 PEYTON PLACE. 6.55 ON THE HOUSE. 7.25 THURSDAY FILM. 'Knights of the Round Table'. With Robert Taylor, Ava Gardner, Mel Ferrer, Anne Crawford and Stanley Baker. Arthur Pendragon's attempts to gain the throne of England. 9.30 THIS WEEK. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 CINEMA. New releases. 11.00 THE AVENGERS. 12 midnight THE GLORY OF LOVE.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 11.00-3.45 London. 4.00 Fulham'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: 'Onion Head'. With Andy Griffith and Walter Matthau. 9.00 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.25 News, weather. WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.58 News. 4.00 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 11.30 Faith for life. 11.35 Weather. SOUTHERN: 11.00-3.40 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Ivor the engine.

THE FAROUK monarchy

fell in 1952, as a delayed action effect of the failure of the feudal regime to cope with Israel in the war between Zionism and the Arab states in 1948.

Although the Egyptian government was monarchic and feudal, the war was a 'just war' on Egypt's side. Egypt was a semi-colony of mainly British imperialism.

For all practical purposes, although nominally independent since 1922, Egypt was more like a British colony because of the British occupation and ownership of the Suez Canal.

The struggle against Israel was also a struggle against British domination and, as such, part of the anti-imperialist struggle.

On Israel's side the war was wholly 'unjust' and revolutionary defeatism the only policy to adopt inside Israel and the war-machine.

It was during the 1948 war that the Free Officers, in which Nasser was a main figure, be-

Renewed

links with imperialism struck at the roots of any agrarian reform programme.

In the year of the anti-monarchy coup by the Free Officers a land reform law was passed. Its extremely limited nature was shown by the fact that it restricted land holdings to 200 feddans (about 200 acres).

This preserved most of the old feudal estates, because a 200-feddan farm was worth over £100,000 and represented considerable value.

Moreover, those who had land removed were compensated and this imposed a further drain on the peasants who had to pay for the compensation with their taxes.

In theory the redistributed land was parcelled out in two to five feddan lots to landless peasants, but in practice this led to illicit land-speculation which the government had to declare a further 'problem'.

This speculation was the result of the law, which did not distribute the land free to the peasants, but made it purchasable. The peasants could not afford to buy even the bare minimum, two-feddan farms.

Mono-culture

Moreover, the peasants who did get land were drawn into the mono-culture of cotton—the one-crop primary industry of Egypt when it was a direct colony of Britain.

So the essential semi-colonial nature of Egypt—as a primary producer of cotton for imperialism—was preserved by the first land law of the Nasser regime.

The peasants producing cotton were paid a small fraction of the world market price and this constituted the means of their super-exploitation.

This had the added advantage that the imperialists that they were not responsible for the upkeep of their labour force.

In 1952 there remained two million fellahin families with less than one feddan of land,

CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

Nasser's financial link with imperialism

of the Canal by Ferdinand de Lesseps in the 1860s.

The national bourgeoisie arose largely out of this feudal class and the compensation paid, plus loans from the US, W Germany, Italy, etc., re-established the links with foreign capital. The same capital which had dominated agriculture in the interests of cotton production for the imperialist manufacturers.

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BERNARD FRANKS

Automation leads to tele-control

WIDE extension of automation in industry must lead to increased computer monitoring and control of production, according to the head of GEC-Elliot Automation writing in the current issue of 'Computer Weekly'.

He states that new, cheaper computer techniques will mean for the first time that thousands of manufacturers, many of them quite small, will be able to benefit from on-line automation.

However, this can only be effective if the computer systems are directly linked to plant.

'In most industrial automation schemes, data transmission and telemetry systems are vital, and over the next decade closer and more effective relationships will develop between computer and communications specialists.'

Telemetry is the system by which monitoring, or operation of production, is conducted from a control centre via telephone cables.

The article gives an example of the Heinz soup-blending plant at Kitt Green, where a complete materials-handling scheme for five production lines is now under computer control.

Another example in the same issue of 'Computer Weekly' is a W German Grundig plant where quality control of television and radio set manufacture is conducted by a Honeywell 316 computer directly connected to instrumentation on the production line.

In the early days of mechanization, automation and flow-line production methods, capitalism fought to incorporate workers into the speed-up processes by developing time-and-motion systems.

As far as the employers were concerned, a worker could not be allowed to take

minutes to feed a machine which carried out its operation in seconds.

Now, with the development of computers, the employers say that workers, as part of the productive process, simply cannot be allowed to work in their own way when equipment costing thousands of pounds an hour to run is in use.

Workers who cannot be eliminated by automation must be entirely incorporated into the computer-controlled process.

Just as with work study, the 'experts' will claim that there is no process where such a system cannot be adopted.

For example, the use of permanent radio contact systems between managements and drivers in all manner of vehicles, dockers on the container berths and building workers on the sites, is the first step in exerting an iron control over every man's move.

Eventually these systems could be directly linked to a computer so that the information the worker gives can be directly processed and working instructions issued.

In factories control is far more direct.

This is certainly the case with tele-control where automatic sensors on the machines are linked directly to a computer which registers every aspect of the machines' and the machinists' working operations.

In this situation it is important to understand that tele-control is not some isolated experiment by an individual employer.

Faced with a severe crisis of falling profits, enormous cost of capital equipment and the build up of a trade war, the employers in every case must see to it that not only automation—but also the worker is computer controlled.

The remarks by the head of GEC-Elliot Automation almost certainly indicate that attempts are about to be made to spread the tele-control system on a large scale, particularly in the engineering industry.



NASSER



FAROUK

What the fight against Tory govt means

FROM PAGE ONE

This is a dangerous diversion which, in practice, assists the Tory government no matter what may be the 'left' claims of its advocates. What is needed is not so much 'local information' as revolutionary leadership with a programme and strategy to defeat the combined assault of the employers and the government. Pandering to the backwardness and limitations of the working class is to make sure they never learn anything that will be of use to them in fighting the main enemy.

WEATHER

General situation: An anticyclone over southern Scandinavia is moving slowly south-eastwards while pressure remains low to the west of Ireland. N Ireland and W Scotland will be mostly cloudy with rain at times but also some bright intervals. Wales and western districts of England will be dull and misty at first but with some bright or sunny spells during the afternoon. It will be rather warm. Eastern districts of England and Scotland will be mostly dull and misty with some bright spells away from the coast. Temperatures will be near normal.

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Dry in all areas except North and West. Mist or drizzle at night. Near normal temperatures.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

OLLERTON: Saturday October 24, 12 noon. 'The Plough', Ollerton. 'Miners and the ATUA'. Speaker: Mike Banda, Editor Workers Press. London 'How to defeat the Tories' CROYDON: Thursday, October 15, 8.00 p.m. Prince of Wales, Thornton Heath Clock Tower.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 6-DAY WORKERS PRESS

The Workers Press is now being published on six days a week. The production of the extra Monday issue will be decisive at this time when the Tories are planning an all-out onslaught against the working class with their anti-union laws and attacks on wages and living conditions. Only Workers Press has fought for revolutionary leadership inside the working class in order to force the Tories to resign.

Fill in the form below NOW and send to: Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4. I would like to take out a subscription/extend/change my present subscription to Workers Press.

LATE NEWS

Government assistance to industry totalling about £231 million at the end of March 1967 had provided 319,000 new jobs in the 'development areas' by March 1970, says a Ministry of Technology report published yesterday.

The Common Market Behind the latest entry bid

A SUBSTANTIAL majority of Tory Party conference delegates backed the government's policy of seeking entry to the Common Market 'if satisfactory terms can be obtained'.

Pressure from the platform was clearly very considerable and, as Mr Geoffrey Rippon's speech showed, the government is now determined that this third attempt at entry should succeed.

What remained unclear in the debate were the costs of admission which the British ruling class is willing to pay and what advantages it hopes to obtain if the bid succeeds. General de Gaulle's newly-published volume of memoirs recalled that in discussions in 1958 on the Common Market Tory Prime Minister Harold Macmillan begged de Gaulle to abandon the Common Market.

Britain certainly had a balance of payments problem and weak currency, and was regarded by de Gaulle as a US ally seeking entry to the Community in order to control it. The French really feared having to take on a further industrial competitor within the EEC.

As the French president reflected, with the concessions which the British government sought, 'what would be left of the European Community'. The first series of negotiations, conducted by Edward Heath, came to an end when de Gaulle himself imposed a permanent veto in January, 1963.

Three years later the Wilson government made its bid with similar results. As the French president reflected, with the concessions which the British government sought, 'what would be left of the European Community'.

BY TOM KEMP

De Gaulle remained implacably opposed on the grounds that the British economy was in too weak a state. This was not the main reason although it may have accounted for the other five member countries not pushing Britain's case more vigorously.

Lengthy negotiations over agricultural policy provide the most expressive example. The logic of integration means a common currency, co-ordinated banking policy and, indeed, a single economic policy.

But such sweeping changes are incompatible with the national state and require political unification. Capitalism will be unable to realize such a goal. Nor would the American ruling class be likely to accept the threat which a politically unified Europe would represent.

Unable to contain the forces released by modern technology, the bourgeoisie seeks, in its own way, to rid itself of an anachronism—the national state. In a deformed and pitifully inadequate manner a section of the European bourgeoisie has shouldered a task which properly belongs to a socialist Europe in which the working class has taken power.

Re-shuffle

PRIME Minister Heath today announces his plans for dismantling some government departments and reorganizing others. Details will be contained in a White Paper out this afternoon. A ministerial reshuffle is also expected.

Small surplus

LAST July's dock strike continued to affect Britain's import-export trade figures last month and the Board of Trade yesterday announced a September visible trade surplus of £5 million.

But this figure follows the huge August deficit of £228 million, itself preceded by a run of deficit figures broken only by the July 'freak' surplus of £134 million, again caused by the effects of the dock strike.

Key role

FROM PAGE ONE of revolutionary working-class struggles. Their collaboration is aimed at policing Europe, just as Stalin and Churchill policed Europe under the Yalta and Potsdam agreements from 1944 onwards.

The key role in the Franco-Soviet agreement is assigned to the French Communist Party, which has, of course, given an ecstatic welcome to the friendly contacts between the Kremlin and its 'own' exploiters.

Hero

Pompidou, a former director of the Rothschild Bank, is greeted like a hero, while at home prices sky-rocket, education is systematically slashed to ribbons, unemployment mounts and militants face long jail sentences for circulating 'illegal' literature.

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As Motor Show opens Prospects of Fiat B-Leyland merger

THE RUMOURED merger of British-Leyland (BLMC) and Fiat (see London 'Evening Standard' City column, October 13) might do more for BLMC shares than the topless models in Earls Court, but it will certainly not mitigate the fear and insecurity of the 70,000 BLMC workers who are still feeling the first deleterious effects of Lord Stokes' integration plans.

Most workers in BLMC now know that the decline of the British motor car industry is a fact and that it will continue to grow worse, integration notwithstanding, so long as it continues under private ownership and so long as cars are made for profit and not to fulfil human needs.

He said that BLMC planned a big increase in potential output in cars and commercial vehicles over the next few years and then quickly added that plant and machinery cost 'a lot of money' until the month and the Board of Trade yesterday announced a September visible trade surplus of £5 million.

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Cost of living

FROM PAGE ONE wear down resistance to these deals and force through corporatist productivity plans in every industry.

At the same time the big stick of unemployment is being wielded in industry. Since the Pilkington sackings in the summer, employers all over the country have begun hounding out militant workers onto the dole queues.

And the Tories are howling for cuts and restrictions in the dole, especially for strikers. (See 'Wishful thinking' page 2.)

This is Toryism with the mask off, open class war policies aimed at the systematic destruction of working-class conditions. Now more than ever before, the working-class needs a leadership which is prepared to wage war to the end against the employers and the Tories and their agents in the labour movement.

PUBLIC LECTURES Elements of Marxism The importance of Marxist philosophy in the building of the revolutionary party. Three lectures by G. HEALY (National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League)

SHOPS DEMONSTRATION



A Paris shopworkers' demonstration in the Rue de Rivoli.

MORE THAN 3,000 employees of the expensive shops on Paris' exclusive Rue de Rivoli struck and demonstrated on Tuesday in the latest move in support of their claim for improved pay and conditions and a lower retirement age.

The employers have asked the Ministry of Labour to intervene in an attempt to settle the dispute. And on Tuesday Marseilles was shut down by a 24-hour strike of dockers, also claiming earlier retirement, along with an increase in fall-back pay.

Socialist and Catholic union officials representing a minority of Paris public transport workers have signed an agreement giving a total 4 per cent wage increase.

But representatives of the CP-led General Confederation of Labour (CGT), which includes about 60 per cent of the workers, have not agreed.

CANNOT COMPETE

If all this is true, then why all the rumours about mergers with Fiat? Sceptics point out that the British car industry cannot compete with the 'European car' makers. The industry is too fragmented and it has been starved of capital investment for too long—thanks to the balance of payments crises and the credit squeeze—and that its research and development programmes are inadequate.

The £47 million compares very unfavourably with, for example, the £200 million spent by the state-owned Alfa Romeo on one factory alone in 1968 at Pomigliano d'Arco, near Naples. This factory, when completed, will have an annual capacity of 300,000 cars.

Because of the state of their investments, these state-owned car manufacturers are able to reduce production costs and increase per capita production considerably more than British car barons.

The Tory Minister of Technology, John Davies, was forced to draw a different picture from Lork Stokes: 'The industry faces real problems. Car production has been stagnant for years, the home market is still lower than six years ago, profits are too low [sic], foreign competition is getting fiercer every day, import penetration is going up, our share of world exports is going down, and, sad to say, the industry has become a byword for labour disputes and strikes. It is a dismal picture. And it is the lack of adequate profits that is really the essence of the problems.'

Counterweight

The situation in 1970 is different from what it was when the Wilson government sought admission. There is, for instance, the departure of de Gaulle and the fact that the present French government has declared no objection 'in principle' to Britain's joining.

'Keep wife and five children on 25s'

STRIKING cotton mill workers in Paisley claim they are not receiving money due to them from the Department of Employment and Productivity. One worker was offered 25s a week 'Social Security' to keep himself, his wife and five children.

The company's offer of £18 15s is graded and would mean one man operating five machines which have in the past been operated by two men.

Assaults

In Paris yesterday the French Confederation of Labour (CFT), the so-called 'independent trade union' encouraged by the employers in many plants, held a demonstration in support of its claim for national recognition.

Motivated The company's offer of £18 15s is graded and would mean one man operating five machines which have in the past been operated by two men.

Encouragement Mergers Not even Marx could have put the problem more succinctly. The employers' and government's answer is to encourage rationalization and international mergers, like Pirelli-Dunlop, on the one hand, and to hamstring the unions and shop stewards' movement on the other.