

What we think

A most dangerous fraud

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We also pointed to the way discussion at that conference was controlled in order to avoid criticism of either the Trades Union Congress or the Labour 'lefts'.

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The executive according to the former article 'agreed to give full support to the discussions of Saturday's Liaison Committee conference'.

Just what kind of support this is becomes clear in the latter piece.

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And it is this style which is carried over into the 'Star's' conference reportage.

Workers Press reporters have already heard complaints from leading trade unionists in several areas about the blatant predominance of old CP stalwarts on the rostrum of the conference.

But even in its reporting, for instance, of Tottenham MP Norman Atkinson's speech, the 'Star' combined political dishonesty with myopia and deafness.

'Labour MPs Sid Bidwell and Norman Atkinson,' we were told on page one yesterday, 'said that all sections of the movement should be united in the campaign so that industrial action outside parliament would find backing among Labour MPs inside.'

On page five, Atkinson is quoted—accurately enough—as saying that the Labour leaders should be pressed to promise repeals of the Tory legislation were it enacted.

But then, we are told, he said that 'mass action on December 8 would show the employers that they hadn't found an easy way of controlling workers. The campaign was not just directed against the government, it was also directed against the employers'.

Now this is not the case at all.

As yesterday's Workers Press reported at some length, uproar broke out when Atkinson claimed that

BRITISH troops in Ulster are to be trained in a form of Japanese unarmed combat called aikido—a cross between judo and karate—used in Tokyo against student demonstrations. An army spokesman said: 'I hear it is an efficient means of making an arrest.'

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## A small trade surplus, but

# Inflation crisis worsens

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S TRADE SURPLUS of £27 million this October will do little or nothing to dissuade world money controllers from abandoning their suspicions about the health of British economy. Their scepticism about Heath's inability to control inflation without severe deflation will remain intact.

Mr Emile van Lennep, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development secretary general, has declared that conventional taxation and monetary policies can no longer hold down the rate of inflation which has leaped from 2.5 per cent per annum in the period 1960-1965 to 5 and 5½ per cent in 1969-1970. This applies not only to Britain, but to all the major industrial countries of the West and Japan.

Behind this escalating rate of inflation lies the massive upsurge of the working class, a factor which has bewildered and stunned every economic analyst on the 'left' and the right.

It is in every sense an unprecedented situation. It has now been further aggravated by developments in the US which is the major source of the inflationary explosion.

The size of the problem is only partly defined in Monday's 'Times'.

'The outcome of the General Motors strike, with a settlement that could amount to a 30 per cent earnings increase over the next three years and the acceptance of an unlimited cost-of-living increase clause built into the terms, plus the similar threat now hanging over the steel industry, are not harbingers of any marked slowing down of labour cost increases in the United States.'

Rather the contrary. As the economy picks up again it is a fair guess that the rate of wage inflation will be faster than in the past.'

Writing on Germany—until now the paragon of price and wage stability—'The Times' remarks:

'The rate of increase of hourly wage rates in Germany in the last year has been greater even than in the United Kingdom. By this autumn they stood some 17 per cent higher than the same period in 1969.'

### Worrying

What is worrying the capitalist economists more than anything else is the unpredictable working of the business cycle caused by the class struggle.

Despite a continuing increase in the margin of spare capacity in the economy and a noticeable fall in corporate profits, according to 'The Times', there appears to be a new self-sustaining acceleration of prices and wage claims.'

The same theme is taken up by the right-wing Tory Nigel Lawson in 'The Sunday Times' (November 15, 1970):

'The official figures (of unfilled vacancies) show that throughout the 1950s and 1960s it was industry's demand for labour that basically determined the rate of wage increases: this year, for the first time, the mould has been broken.' (Our emphasis.)

Mr Lawson blames this on the trade unions—like Lord Balogh in 'The Guardian'—and demands the curbing of what he deems 'union monopoly power' by the use of deflation, rather than the exercise of compulsion.

Compulsion going beyond

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The Board said: 'Arrears of imports are probably small and less than the remaining backlog of exports.'

September's £8 million visible trade surplus followed the huge £228 million August deficit, itself preceded by a run of deficit figures broken only by the July surplus brought about by the dock strike.

## Fire-drill stunt against Vauxhall sackings

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

DRAUGHTSMEN and engineers at Vauxhall's Luton plant yesterday again staged a day of protests against the management's plans to make 325 men redundant by the end of the year.

Several hundred staged continuous fire drills while the rest of the 2,000 workers taking part in 'disruptive tactics' were observing a 'day of silence' and doing little work.

Management had refused to discuss the redundancies, but yesterday were meeting officials of the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association.

Dave Ryland, for the General and Municipal Workers' Union, told the men that though the unions so far backed them, there was not much point in staying out and losing more money.

But he was stopped in mid-speech by Len Miller, a Chelsea dustman, who said their local strike was one of principle.

'We came out eight weeks ago and this is a fight to the death. I will stay out until Easter if necessary. Let's stick it out and show this council that we are men and have got to be treated like men,' he said.

He called for and received unanimous support for continuing the strike.

## DUSTMEN in Kensington and Chelsea who distinguished themselves in bitter battles with scab refuse drivers in the national council workers' stoppage are still out on strike.

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

The council, which has offered £10 bonus payment, claims there is no great backlog of refuse to clear in their area—a claim that can readily be proved false; even the briefest investigation of the Chelsea streets will reveal mounds of soaking rubbish on every corner and doorstep.

The authority will pay if fought. It was this same council that spent thousands of pounds of tax-payers' money on employing private contractors at inflated rates to clear refuse during the council workers' strike.

### Stay out

At a mass meeting yesterday they told union officials who said they ought to return and work normally that if no settlement could be reached, they would stay out until Easter if necessary.

'If we can smash the Tories' wages policy nationally I am damned sure we can smash the policy of this Tory council here,' Tony Sweeney, a member of the strike committee, told the dustmen and sweepers.

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## Meir and Hussein in secret talks

BY ROBERT BLACK

ISRAELI Prime Minister Mrs Golda Meir and King Hussein of Jordan are conducting secret negotiations, it was revealed yesterday by the New York magazine 'Time'.

Together with Israeli Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, the two leaders attacked the Palestinian guerrillas as 'a nuisance to both countries' and agreed on a common strategy of fighting them.

Economic collaboration was also agreed between the two regimes. And, according to 'Time', 'broader peace negotiations with representatives of other Arab states can be expected to follow'.

When the talks were debated in the Israeli parliament last week, all mention of them was erased from the records and press references were censored.

### CRISIS

Behind the talks is the growing crisis in both the Arab states and Israel, and the joint pressure of US imperialism and the Soviet bureaucracy for a Middle-East deal at the expense of the Palestinians.

The regimes of Egypt, Libya and Sudan have just joined forces to co-ordinate their approach to the Zionists, while Saturday's military coup in Syria also marks a turn towards a

settlement with Israel along the lines of the US 'peace plan'.

All of these regimes fear their own workers and peasants more than either Zionism or imperialism.

They seek a deal with both, precisely to free their hands for action against the masses at home.

This is seen most clearly in the case in Jordan, but it applies to every Arab regime from Algeria to Iraq.

Meir and Dayan are also faced with a growing economic and political crisis.

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## 'Leaders' urge pit return

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MILITANT MINERS were being urged by their 'left' leaders yesterday to return to work.

In Scotland the retreat was led by miners' president Michael McGahey, a Communist Party member, who said that he anticipated normal working on the coalfield by Wednesday.

## Rolls polishers strike

TURBINE-BLADE polishers at three Midlands Rolls-Royce plants began an indefinite strike yesterday against a proposed new Measured-Day Work pay structure.

Members of the National Society of Metal Mechanics, the men claim that the scheme would give them lower status and lose them between £5 and £7 a week.

Lay-offs are anticipated at the plants affected—Derby and Hucknall in Nottinghamshire and Mountsorrel in Leicestershire.

Proposals to implement a similar scheme at the crisis-ridden Coventry company's Coventry plants were blocked at York on Friday when NSMM officials failed to attend discussions.

## More bread up 1d

ANOTHER major bread-baking company yesterday announced a penny rise on large and small loaves.

British Bakeries Ltd, the bread subsidiary of Rank Hovis McDougall said the new price would operate from November 30.

The new British Bakeries prices—in line with Allied Bakeries—will be 1s 11d for a large white wrapped, and 1s 10d for a large unwrapped, 1s 1d for small wrapped and 1s unwrapped.

### CANCELLED

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Large numbers of miners are still fighting on.

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But in Durham the big Westoe pit voted to return against the recommendations of the lodge committee and in Kent all the coalfield's 3,500 miners were back at work.

### ALLIANCE

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The miners need a new general staff that will battle to the end and face all the political consequences involved in such a fight.

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The committee supported the strike call of the Liverpool Trades Council as the first step to bring down the Tory government.

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Mr Jim Duffy, convenor of the Priestman's plant, which was strikebound for 13 weeks earlier this year, said that the campaign had

to be broadened into a fight to bring down the Tory government and this demanded a general strike.

'Those of you that don't like this might as well get out now because you will live with this government,' he said.

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But the chairman refused to accept a resolution calling on trade union leaders to begin a real mobilization of the working class against the Tory government.

Few leading officials at the meeting mentioned the TUC's role except to criticize its 'slowness'.

Only a railwaymen's union member (docks section)



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

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### 'Secret US bases in Morocco'

MOROCCAN opposition leaders in Rabat yesterday demanded immediate evacuation of three secret American bases.

The existence of the bases—at Kenitra, Sidi Bouknadel and Sidi Yahia—was confirmed by the US Senate Foreign Affairs sub-committee on October 31.

Support for the evacuation call comes from student and trade unions, the socialist National Union of Popular Forces and the Istiqlal Party, which have united to form the 'Koutlah Watani' ('National Front').

The Front claims the bases are staffed by 1,700 US 'technicians', and are being used to give logistic support to the US Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.



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DUSTMEN in Kensington and Chelsea who distinguished themselves in bitter battles with scab refuse drivers in the national council workers' stoppage are still out on strike.

With the Kensington and Chelsea road sweepers, they are believed to be the last group of local authority workers in the country who are still in dispute.

They say they will stay out until they get £60 bonus money from the council for clearing the massive eight-week backlog of rubbish in the London borough.

The authority will pay if fought. It was this same council that spent thousands of pounds of tax-payers' money on employing private contractors at inflated rates to clear refuse during the council workers' strike.

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In Scotland the retreat was led by miners' president Michael McGahey, a Communist Party member, who said that he anticipated normal working on the coalfield by Wednesday.

The Scottish miners' delegates' decision to call off the strike was taken in view of last week's refusal by the national executive to cancel the ballot on the £3 pay offer, and the 'obvious signs' of a break up of the strike in other areas, said McGahey.

'We always warned that there would be unofficial action, but at the same time we were not prepared to isolate the Scottish miners and have unnecessary sacrifices,' added McGahey, who must know that the only way to break out of isolation is to campaign for the stoppage on other fields and destroy the grip of the right wing in the union.

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# TUESDAY'S FILMS

THE LIBERATION OF L. B. JONES  
DIRECTED BY WILLIAM WYLER  
PRODUCED BY RONALD LUBIN  
SHOWING IN LONDON AT  
THE COLUMBIA, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

Oman Hedgepath (LEE J. COBB) questions Willie Joe (ANTHONY ZERBE) about the murder of Lord Byron Jones.



BRIAN MOORE

## Police force

WILLIAM WYLER'S 'The Liberation of L. B. Jones', is a surprising film.

Its form is conventional enough, a direct Hollywood exposition, with a tendency in the performances to melodrama. There are few nuances of detail and a scarcity of imaginative insight.

It is a broad, bludgeoning film, in many ways a pedestrian work.

Yet what is genuinely surprising is the sheer intransigence of the position it adopts, which is rare in the average Hollywood product.

It is certainly no palliative, it offers no reassurances. It presents merely the brutal outcome of a social situation.

For its director, a highly-thought-of film-maker working always within the limitations of the commercial system, it represents a new turn, for there is a sense of outrage, of passion to the point of violence, which he thrusts uncompromisingly at the audience.

The story is set in a small town in Tennessee. There are deep racial divisions and ten-

sions between black and white.

L. B. Jones is a black undertaker — prosperous, middle-class, a mild and respected man among the black community. He is married to a restless wife who holds him in contempt. She is having an affair with a white policeman, and L. B. Jones wants a divorce.

But the naming of the white co-respondent in court is not in the interests of the white community and ruling apparatus and the undertaker is subjected to, first, persuasion — then intimidation, beatings and finally brutal murder at the hands of the police.

### Uncompromising

As an exposé of police methods: of their racialism, their brutality, their corruption and murderousness; their frame-ups, their intimidation of witnesses, their cynical arrests—all of which are ultimately hushed up by the local lawyer and mayor — it must stand as an extraordinary and uncompromising film.

It is hard to imagine that a film which exposed British police methods with this out-

spokenness could ever be made in this country.

The chief of police gets confessions out of innocent victims by giving them electric shocks.

The sergeant and his buddy on patrol arrest an innocent black on a drunk charge, then rape the victim's sister in the back of the patrol car as part of the deal to get him off.

L. B. Jones is beaten up by the same two officers, his mouth gagged with sticking tape and shot through the head.

The sergeant slits his throat with a knife, removes his shoes and strings the dead body up to make it look like a ritual murder. They arrest two innocents as the murderers.

It is an ugly, bigoted, corrupt administration and the film exposes bourgeois justice for the fraud that it is. In this it reflects the shifts and realignments taking place in American society and it is all the more remarkable that a man like Wyler should have made it.

It is a film that is well worth seeing.

L. B. Jones (ROSCOE LEE BROWNE) is roughed up by Willie Joe (ANTHONY ZERBE).



# THEATRE

## Joan Littlewood



JOAN LITTLEWOOD'S FORWARD UP YOUR END SHOWING AT THE THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD

### on stage

JOAN LITTLEWOOD stands out among the bleak English theatrical landscape like a giant of imagination and invention.

There is absolutely nobody directing in the theatre who remotely approaches her skill, her verve, her wit, her sense of the theatrical.

**Defiance**

She is back at the Theatre Royal Stratford after several years' absence with a whole new company and season of plays.

Stratford East seems to be in the process of demolition, for the theatre stands as the only living thing amongst empty boarded up shops and houses, and there is more than

an edge of defiance in her latest production of 'Forward Up Your End'.

It's a satire set in Birmingham on the town council bureaucrats and their petty-bourgeois vulgarity and aspirations.

The fiddling, the racialism, the vanity, the self importance, the money-grabbing and the wheeling and the dealing, parade on stage in the brash extravagant style of music hall, from which she has always drawn a strength.

**Debunking**

And if there is something random and electric in her choice of targets, which sometimes only reflect a petulance and over-triviality, this is well compensated by the sharpness of her debunking humour.

She has a marvellous eye for

the pretentious—the vulgarity of monopoly taste that is inflicted on us with all the neon-lit new restaurants and plastic bric-a-brac, the new pubs with cabarets and phoney French waiters, strip clubs and provincial orgies—but there is at the same time a sentimental nostalgia in her which can blunt her cutting edge.

**Immediate**

What she has fought for all her theatrical life is that the theatre can be a meaningful and immediate experience. She has tried to bring workers into the theatre to communicate—with all the skills she has derived from music hall and pantomime — contemporary critiques of society, drawing for material on sources that are as immediate as a newspaper.

There is nothing mystifying

in her theatre, none of that deadening bourgeois formality that masquerades under the name of 'art'.

**Heightened**

Her theatre is raw and direct and stylish, not earth-bound by a plodding social realism — but something heightened, compressed and vaudeville.

In her style of exposition, on her insistence on direct communication with an audience, there is a great deal that the revolutionary movement can learn in the propagation of ideas. She combines vigour and enjoyment—entertainment in the best sense of the word—with a sharp vision of the world. She has made the theatre a meaningful art again.

It's good that she's back from exile.

Approved by Trotsky during discussion May 9, 1924 at a meeting called by the Press Department of the Central Committee of the CPGB on Party Policy in the Field of Imaginative Literature.

## Class & Art

PROBLEMS OF CULTURE UNDER THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT

Leon Trotsky

Available from New Park Publications 186A Clapham High St., SW4.

# De Gaulle's death confirms Stalinist strike-breaking

## behind THE NEWS

### Up to its old tricks

THE SO-CALLED Militant Trade Union Committee is a shadowy body specializing in blood-and-thunder manifestos published anonymously and without imprint and written in the language of Victorian melodrama.

The intelligent reader's first thought on seeing MTUC's handbills and manifestos is that they are a particularly crude provocation, and the impression is not lessened by the use to which they are put by the Tory press.

S Wales' local Tory newspaper, the 'Western Mail', is the latest grateful user of MTUC's outpourings, in an article designed to give the naive reader the impression that MTUC is tied up with the December 8 strike call.

The article, headed, 'TUC warns about strike inciters' starts with the news that the TUC has warned members against 'getting involved in attempts to incite a general strike'.

'This was confirmed', the 'Mail' adds with forced melodrama, 'after reports that circulars had been sent to workers in S Wales asking them to organize a general strike followed by a revolution in which they could take over the factories'.

A copy of the poster, which 'turned up' at the factory of Risa industrialist Geoffrey Howells, is reproduced alongside.

Headed 'General Strike and Revolution', it bears the legend 'prepare for Revolution, Prepare to occupy your factory'.

It is issued by the retiring clandestine MTUC.

The 'Mail's' most scurrilous touch, however, is to try and link the poster with plans for a one-day strike against the Tory anti-union laws. Directly after informing its readers that

IN THEIR letter of condolences to President Pompidou on the death of General de Gaulle, Soviet leaders Brezhnev, Podgorny and Kosygin help to throw fresh light on the counter-revolutionary role of the French Stalinists during the great sit-in strike of May-June 1968.

After standard references to the man who 'did much to revive the greatness of France', the letter goes on:

'Our talks with him during his visit to the Soviet Union in 1966 marked the beginning of an important stage in the history of Soviet-French relations...'

Then in a reference to President Pompidou's visit to the Soviet Union last month, it concludes:

'The results of your visit to the Soviet Union confirmed most convincingly the vitality and effectiveness of the course chosen by our countries for putting into effect the great possibilities inherent in the policy of peaceful co-existence between states with different social systems.'

The secret diplomacy of the bureaucracy ensured that the French and Soviet working classes knew very little about the subjects discussed and decisions taken at those 1966 talks.

But midway between these two Presidential visits, there broke out in France the largest, longest and most powerful general strike in the entire history of world capitalism which created a revolutionary situation.

In fact, Pompidou would never have been able to follow the Moscow trail in the footsteps of his master had it not been for the conscious, counter-revolutionary strike-breaking of the French Stalinists, who collaborated with de Gaulle in securing the evacuation of the occupied factories and the holding of elections.

Strike-breaking — as the Polish Stalinists have discovered — was essential for realizing 'the great possibilities inherent in the policy of peaceful co-existence'.

So anxious are the Stalinist leaders to pay their last respects to their strike-breaking ally, they raise just a tiny corner of the curtain behind which they conduct their secret dealings with the enemies of the working class.

## PUFF OF DEATH

THE USE of aerosol sprays to relieve the symptoms of asthma has increased tremendously since their introduction some ten years ago.

Undoubtedly, their appearance on the market—at first completely unrestricted—was considered an unqualified boon to the millions of sufferers from this debilitating disease.

However, it soon became apparent that all was not well and to date many hundreds of asthma sufferers have died from using the sprays.

This was a phenomenon which has remained inexplicable until now, but finally—since December 1968—resulted in these aerosols becoming unobtainable in Britain except on a doctor's prescription.

However, according to the current edition of 'New Scientist', the results of research carried out by scientific workers at a Chicago hospital indicates that the dangerous component in the sprays is not the active drug (which aids breathing during an asthma attack by widening the bronchial passages) but the high-pressure gas which forces the drug through the aerosol nozzle in the form of the spray.

Naturally, this gas was supposed to be inert, that is, taking no part in the main function of the drug.

If the results obtained are correct, the implications go much further than asthma-relieving sprays, for the propellant gas is inhaled to some degree by all users of aerosols, whether they contain pesticides, polishers, hair sprays or windscreen de-icers.

The research workers —

George Taylor and Willard Harris of the University of Illinois Hospital — were attempting to find out why those who get their kicks by sniffing aeroplane glue among other substances occasionally and unexpectedly drop dead.

They discovered that mice which were first exposed to the vapour emitted from glue made them highly susceptible to heart failure if they were then placed in situations of near-asphyxiation, as would be encountered by asthma sufferers.

The experiments were then conducted using the aerosol propellant gas.

Twelve mice which were untreated survived four minutes in a plastic bag without any ill effects, while nearly half of a treated group of 22 mice died of heart failure after only one minute.

The rest died when the experiment was repeated up to 160 minutes later.

As Taylor and Harris point out, it is no longer possible to label such aerosol propellant gases as 'inert'.

They say that the sensitization of the hearts of mice is 'rapid in onset, long-lasting and potentially lethal'.

Similar studies carried out on cosmetic sprays and various household aerosols support their original findings.

Naturally, it is not possible to do similar controlled experiments on humans, but they conclude that 'studies are urgently needed to determine the amounts of these propellant gases inhaled by and entering the blood of patients with asthma, housewives and others who use pressurized dispensers many times a day.'

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# A most dangerous fraud

● FROM PAGE ONE

December 8 was 'not a strike against the government at this stage... that has to come later'.

Phil Ballard, who was last year expelled from the National Union of Seamen for his part in distributing anti-junta leaflets in Greece, is quoted as saying that 'penal clauses' had been included in the Merchant Shipping Act because the union had not organized strongly enough against them.

'The Labour movement must not make the same mistake on Carr's proposals.' In fact, Ballard made quite a different point.

Both the TUC and the Labour Party, he said, had expressed sympathy with the seamen's requests for help in eradicating the penal clauses in the new legislation—but nothing had been done.

The 1966 seamen's strike could have been won but the TUC didn't provide the leadership', he said.

'Learn by our example. The TUC are not going to be able to provide the leadership this time—it must come from the rank and file.'

Even the speech of TUC Youth Award winner Janet Harkness, a member of the SOGAT Division 'A' executive, was cut down to political size.

The 'Star' failed to report her loudly applauded remarks, that:

'I can't see the Joneses and the Scanlons and the Dalys on this platform, giving the message on your behalf. No, no—they are not there at all.'

'When you come out on December 8 you are going to come out unofficially, because your leaders have not given their right to strike officially. It's up to you to demand it from them!'

It would be difficult to find a more concise argument for the campaign waged by Workers Press to make the union leaders fight the Tories with all-out official action.

But the 'Star' is forced to chop and slash its reporters' copy because it is hell-bent on keeping opposition to the government's legislation plans down to manageable, Feather-style, protest proportions.

The Communist Party's 'counter-confrontation', in other words, is not only a sham—it is a dangerous fraud as well.

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

'Victory to the Miners!' 'Force the Tories to resign!'

DAGENHAM: Wednesday, November 18, 8 p.m.: Mash Green School, New Road.

CARDIFF: Wednesday, November 18, 8 p.m.: Marchioness of Bute public house, Little Frederick St.

MANCHESTER: Wednesday, November 18, 8 p.m.: Wisniewski Hotel, High St., off Sude Hill.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday, November 24, 8 p.m.: Community Centre, Bridge Road.

NORTH LONDON: Wednesday, November 25, 8 p.m.: Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road.

WILLESDEN: Wednesday, November 25, 8 p.m.: Labour and Trades Hall, High Road, N.W.10.

WEST LONDON: Wednesday, November 25, 8 p.m.: Prince Albert Pub, Balfe Street, Kings Cross.

SE LONDON: Thursday, November 26, 8 p.m.: Artichoke Pub, Camberwell Church Street, Camberwell Green.

LUTON: Friday, November 27, 8 p.m.: AEU House, 396/398 Dunstable Rd. 'The Charter of Basic Rights'.

SW LONDON: Tuesday, December 1, 8 p.m.: Princes Head, Falcon Road, Clapham Junction.

ACTON: Tuesday, December 1, 8 p.m.: Rocket Pub, Birkbeck Road, W.3.

## LATE NEWS

ROME STUDENTS MARCH Students staged demonstrations, strikes and sit-ins in Rome and other Italian cities yesterday in scattered protests against police actions and classroom conditions.

In Rome hundreds of students marched through the city centre, smashing windows and stoning buildings to protest against alleged brutality by police who broke up a sit-in at a Rome high school last Friday.

In Verona, 1,000 technical students kept up a four-day strike and staged a mass demonstration in the streets to demand cheap meals and reduced fees.

DAVIES-FEATHER 'CONSULTATION' Trade and Industry Secretary Mr John Davies met TUC

## Pilkington Conference LONDON

THE SACKED Pilkington's glass-workers were fighting for two basic workers' rights, the right to work and the right to strike, John Potter, secretary of the Pilkington's rank-and-file committee told a meeting of the All Trades Unions Alliance in London.

The Tory government was trying to apply Lord Harry Pilkington's medicine on a national level and deprive the whole of the working class of these rights, he said.

'This is why the fight for our re-instatement is central to the campaign to defeat the Tory legislation on unions, housing and social services.

'At St Helens we were just the first to feel the lash,' John Potter told a meeting of 200 London trade unionists on Sunday night.

He outlined the story of Pilkingtons, how after a strike that won a £3 wage increase, the management had sacked and blacklisted 250 men in an attempt to destroy the new militancy spreading to their six St Helens factories.

Despite his personal guarantee of no victimization, Victor Feather, the general secretary of the TUC, had done nothing to defend the sacked men or fight for their rights, he added.

'But we don't just want your verbal support. We want you to get your factories to



John Potter black Pilkington's glass. We want money each week so we can keep our struggle going and we want you to take the matter up with your own union leaders to demand they do something.

## Campaign

'This fight cannot be separated from the great campaign that must be waged against the Tory government and the anti-union laws.

'First workers must support the December 8 strike against the laws, but only as a campaign for a general strike organized by the TUC.

'No amount of protest and demonstration will make this government move. The only thing that scares them is the mobilization of the entire working class.

Another rank-and-file committee member, Brian Woodward, told the meeting how much his struggle at Pilkingtons had changed him.

'The things that have happened in St Helens, or "St Pilkingtons" as we now call it, have made me convinced that we must fight with all we have got against the diabolical system of capitalism that deprives a worker of all his rights at will, and discriminates against our black brothers all over the world,' he said.

'We have been out of work for six months.

## Not down

'We are blacklisted by employers on Merseyside, we are battered and belted, but we are not down on the ground.

'Pilkingtons would like to see us all nailed to the wall.

leaders yesterday to discuss improving 'consultative processes' between the unions and his Department—the first of a series of consultations at Mr Davies' invitation.

The meeting discussed procedure for exchanging views and the Department's policies. The TUC delegation was led by its general secretary Mr Victor Feather.

## SOTON BUSMEN RETURN

Southampton Corporation busmen yesterday decided to end their five week-old strike and return to work tomorrow.

In Verona, 1,000 technical students kept up a four-day strike and staged a mass demonstration in the streets to demand cheap meals and reduced fees.

DAVIES-FEATHER 'CONSULTATION' Trade and Industry Secretary Mr John Davies met TUC

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Part of the 200-strong audience at Sunday's Pilkington conference

# Union laws part of Pilkington fight

But we have pledged ourselves to fight it out at St Helens, and fight it out until we win!

The story of the Pilkington struggle brought forward a great response from engineers, council workers and other workers in the audience.

They all spoke of their own battles and proved the truth of John Potter's words when he said Pilkington's sackings were only the start of a general campaign to destroy the power of the working class.

John Potter closed the meeting by thanking ATUA members and sympathizers who contributed to the fine collection of over £61.

'We now need money every week. Our members who are sacked are now losing their earnings-related dole benefit. Christmas is coming and we want to give the children a party. So keep the money coming for the fight,' he said.



London dustman Tony Sweeney speaking to the conference.

## Inflation crisis

● FROM PAGE ONE

Carr's anti-union measures he admits, 'could well lead to something akin to revolution' and would place too many strains 'even with a greatly expanded police force'.

## Million out

Professor Alan Day of London University also agrees with Lawson.

'If, as I think quite likely, an unemployment level approaching a million for a year or two would do the trick, Mr Heath could slow the inflation down again to a tolerable rate...'

Despite the attractiveness of the deflationary stick for some Tories, there is little doubt that more politically astute, but hardly less ruthless, groups in the ruling class will not be slow to take advantage of the biggest ship ever built in the city.

The 200 men want parity with steelworkers—a £7 increase—and have rejected management's offer of £3 this year and £2 next.

The demand has been discussed for several years, but, as one striker commented, when union officials go South to negotiate, they seem 'to forget about it either in Stonehaven or Montrose.'

The AEF district committee has backed the strike, but the attitude of union officials has been unclear.

## 'Re-examine' Quebec liberties

GOADED by the conspicuous failure of police efforts to trace Quebec Liberation Front (FLQ) kidnappers, Quebec premier Robert Bourassa called on television yesterday for a 're-examination of liberties.'

'We are not going to tolerate this terrorism... and we will not cede to blackmail,' he told viewers. 'This new element of terrorism means that we should re-examine our liberties in Quebec... since the government must protect itself.'

If the government had bowed to FLQ demands, he added, 'a precedent would have been set which would have undermined our democratic system and paved the way to anarchy.'

## Meir

● FROM PAGE ONE

With Israel's 'defence' budget expected to reach £750 million in the next financial year (an increase of 50 per cent over the current figure) economic strains are driving the Jewish working class into action against the Zionists.

Strikes for higher wages have broken out in the docks, power stations and in the schools, with increases of up to 40 per cent being demanded.

This is the force creating the open rift between Meir and Dayan in the Zionist leadership, and not just the question of Soviet missiles.

The joint crisis of the Arab and Israeli regimes creates, with the building of revolutionary leadership, the conditions for united action by Jewish and Arab workers against Zionism and imperialism.

This is just what Meir and Hussein fear.

## Acton Weakness in redundancy fight

MANAGEMENT at the Acton electrical plant of Evershed and Vignoles has issued a lengthy memorandum in a bid to quell growing anger in the factory about redundancy prospects.

## ITALY Social democrats split on centre-left

AS THE Italian parliament resumes its debate on the amended economic 'decree' this week the labour movement's political 'leaders' are engaged in a desperate search for new forms of class collaboration to prop up the regime.

Mancini, secretary of the Italian Socialist Party (largest of the social democratic parties), presented a report to last week's Central Committee meeting at which he proposed a 'wait-and-see' attitude to their participation in the centre-left government.

Like many of the Christian Democratic leaders, these men realize that the centre-left formula is now worn so thin as to be transparent.

They seek new camouflage—in the form of participation or formal support for the government by the Stalinists.

For their part the Stalinists go out of their way to demonstrate that they are prepared to collaborate in the same programme—attacks on wages and employment sagged with promises of reform—that has been the stock-in-trade of centre-left governments for six years.

Vice-Secretary of the Communist Party Berlinguer explained to the Central Committee last week that there 'are signs of... the beginning of a new phase in the political struggle, more open and closer'.

These were the result, as he put it, of the Party's struggle against 'adventurists' who seek to 'isolate the most advanced elements of the working class'.

Quite explicitly, the Stalinist leaders' plans for parliamentary collaboration require a drive against the Party rank and file and the trade unions who put forward class demands and show themselves ready for a fight to the finish on wages, conditions and trade union rights.

In the metal and rubber industries of the North hundreds of thousands of workers face struggles to establish their labour contracts.

And in Reggio Calabria 3,000 youth and high-school students demonstrated in the main streets on Friday against the government's failure to give reforms in the area following the general strike and riots last month.

## EXPLICIT

These movements make demands on the Socialist Party chiefs which force them to make left statements and force some of them more openly to the right.

Nenni, the aged ex-leader of the party (who used the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956 to break from the post-war political bloc with the Com-

## NOT POLICY

Management representative David Simpson claims in his memorandum that redundancy is not part of Evershed and Vignoles' policy.

But he adds: 'In our profit forecasts, we have not included any cost savings by sudden staff reductions, but we do intend to allow natural wastage, retirements and voluntary redundancies to continue in order to trim our total number to a level where higher wages and salaries can be paid from higher profits.'

'Anyone who is not dedicated to the success of E&V and is not fully pulling his weight should not be with us,' he warns ominously.

Despite last week's one-day stoppage, many workers at the plant are dissatisfied with the stewards' response.

They point out that though leading stewards claimed a 100 per cent turn-out on last week's strike, 300 engineers at the plant's Devonshire Works stayed inside.

Many of the factory leadership accept the idea of 'voluntary redundancy'—indeed, one leading steward is believed to have put himself top of the list of volunteers.

This creates a dangerous situation, especially where management is talking in terms of what Simpson calls 'substantially increased factory output with the same labour force as we have today.'

# Did Nixon stone himself?

STALINISTS and revisionists have joined forces in the United States to play down the significance of the recent mid-term elections there and pooh-pooh the idea that Nixon's campaign heralds a turn to the right.

BY JOHN SPENCER

embark on out-and-out repression. Hansen and the Stalinists want above all to avoid drawing revolutionary conclusions from Nixon's campaign. They do their best, for example, to play down the San Jose stoning, claiming it was all a put-up job.

The San Jose stoning was a Nixon 'fake' claims the 'Militant', the SWP's weekly. It is simply echoing the Stalinist 'Daily World' which eight days previously claimed a 'Nixon Hoax at San Jose'.

## Highlighted

When the unemployed workers and the students of San Jose stoned Nixon's campaign car they highlighted the tremendous class conflicts generated by growing unemployment, inflation and the Vietnam war.

But Hansen doesn't agree. 'The "law-and-order" issue on which Nixon and Agnew concentrated proved,' he says, 'to have been a bad choice.'

But why did Nixon and Agnew campaign on law and order? Is it—as the Workers Press maintains—because they are preparing further attacks against the working class, just as the Tories are in Britain?

On this question, Hansen is unaccountably silent.

According to his theory, Nixon is the first president to stone himself. Perhaps Hansen will now re-open the Kennedy case and discover that it was really Kennedy who hired his assassin.

## Serious issue

A much more serious issue is involved here, however. Hansen undertakes an elaborate detour in an effort to show that the elections really mean nothing for the working class.

He claims a radicalization of 'wide sectors of the populace, beginning with the blacks, travelling to the youth, then to the Puerto Ricans, Chicanos and other minorities, and now the women.'

The main sectors of the working class have not yet begun to move in a massive way, he claims, ignoring the very big wages movement building up in the US—the eight-week General Motors strike of 400,000 workers, the teachers' strike and the railway workers' wages struggle.

The class struggle nowhere enters Hansen's calculations, which are entirely concerned with the surface of US events.

He is unable to explain why Nixon and Agnew campaign for 'law and order' because he sees the class struggle in terms of 'social protest'.

## Consequences

'War, inflation, high taxes... unemployment, poverty... these are some of the palpable consequences of the policies of the American ruling class that in turn touch off social protest.'

His complacency in the face of the ruling-class demand for laws against the working class is a clear index of the extent to which the SWP has turned away from the working class.

## Just off the press

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