

Workers press

The daily paper
that leads the
fight against the
Tory government

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • FRIDAY JANUARY 1, 1971 • NUMBER 341

PRICE 6d (21p)

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

Forward to Alexandra Palace anti-Tory rally Feb 14!

Return a Labour government with socialist policies!

Prospects for 1971

What we think

Relief tempered with contempt

MILLIONS of workers in Britain and throughout the world will be overjoyed that the six Basque revolutionaries are not to die.

They know that Franco was forced to retreat only through the massive wave of demonstrations and strikes which swept round the world from Australia right into the heart of fascist Spain itself. But our relief and joy must surely be tempered by contempt for all those British trade union leaders who did absolutely nothing to mobilize their members in solidarity with the Burgos 16.

In France and Italy, the trade unions called official strikes in support of the Burgos 16, and won an immediate and overwhelming rank-and-file response. Dockers in Genoa refused to handle cargoes going to or from Spanish ports.

The fact that all 16 Basques are alive today is solely due to these splendid examples of international working-class solidarity.

But to their everlasting shame, the leaders of the British trade unions cut their members off from this magnificent campaign.

How can the next step—the release of all 16 prisoners—be achieved?

Here the really principled issues, shrouded over by the 'protesters' in their appeals to Franco's mythical 'humanitarianism', can no longer be avoided.

To save the Burgos 16 from a lingering death in Franco's jails, it is necessary to bring down his entire fascist regime, and with it, the rule of the Spanish capitalist class which it defends.

Already we have seen that international action was needed to stay the firing squads at Burgos.

How much greater then will be the scope and depth of the struggle when it comes to the revolutionary overthrow of Spanish fascism and the establishment of a government of workers and poor peasants.

Franco's regime is a creature not just of Spanish, but international capitalism. When his main patrons, Hitler and Mussolini, vanished from the scene, he turned to Britain, France and the United States for economic, military and political support.

And he was not disappointed. The Tory Party is still behind Franco to a man, especially its right wing.

In a letter to yesterday's 'Times', Enoch Powell even takes Heath to task for his request to Franco to spare the Burgos six.

Under a similar banner of 'non-intervention', the Tories cleared the way for the 1939 fascist victory.

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1970 WILL BE remembered as a year of great class conflict and shameful retreat by the traditional social democratic and Stalinist leaderships of the working class and colonial peoples.

It showed how imperialism relies on Stalinism, social democracy and bourgeois nationalism as the only way—to sustain itself against the hammer blows of the working class and colonial peoples.

Without these ancillary supports the death-rattle of imperialism would have been heard in every corner of the imperialist world in 1970. Instead of this we saw the defeat of the third round of the PALESTINIAN revolution, extension of the INDO-CHINA war and the resumption of the bombing of N VIETNAM.

Thanks to the diplomatic, political and—in the case of CAMBODIA—even military support of Stalinism, US imperialism is able to continue and enlarge its genocidal war against the Vietnamese people.

Recovery

IN FRANCE and ITALY counter-revolutionary Stalinism enabled the ruling classes of those countries not only to stay in power, but also to recover much of what they had been forced to concede to the workers in an earlier period.

French capitalism, which was reeling in 1968, was able to attack and even imprison left-wing militants because of the political complicity of Stalinism in 1970.

In GERMANY the failure—or rather refusal—of the Social Democratic Brandt regime to attack monopoly capitalism has greatly encouraged the extreme right-wing around Strauss to make a political comeback.

In SPAIN and GREECE the capitalist dictatorship was—and is—maintained by the economic, technical and diplomatic support of virtually every Stalinist regime in E Europe, and the Soviet Union of course.

In E EUROPE, and the SOVIET UNION the last year was one of intensive persecution of the anti-Stalinist opposition, which began with the persecution of Gligorenko and culminated in the brutal suppression of the GDANSK uprising.

'Socialism in a single country' means increasingly, low living standards, high prices, greater reliance on imperialist finance capital, the virtual abandonment of planning and the massive use of state force to keep the bureaucratic parasites in power.

But it was in BRITAIN that imperialism—relying on the labour bureaucracy—was able to make its biggest gain in the return of a

Big threat

Now the return of the Tories poses the biggest threat and challenge to the working class—and raises in an extremely sharp way the question of the crisis of leadership in the working class.

Nowhere is this more forcefully revealed than in the series of shameful retreats made by the trade union leaders in one wage dispute after another and the manifest refusal of the TUC to take up the counter-revolutionary anti-union challenge of Heath.

From GKN-Sankay to the Devey settlement in Sheffield, the Stalinist and reformist trade union leaders are in full retreat before the government-employer offensive. No wonder the Tories are crowing.

The retreat of the bureaucracy is assisted by the revisionists and state capitalists who, by their support of productivity dealing and the fraud of 'workers' control', as well as their opposition to a campaign to force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government in 1971, are trying to smuggle in the politics of petty-bourgeois 'protest' into the trade unions.

The Tories' counter-revolutionary attack has completely cut the ground from under their feet.

But for the same reason it has driven them closer still—if such a thing is possible—to the Communist Party reformists.

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Leningrad reprieve for Jewish 'hi-jackers'

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Three labour camp sentences were also reduced.

COURAGEOUS

Inside the Soviet Union the case of the Leningrad 11 (nine of them Jewish) was courageously taken up by leading scientist Andrei Sakharov, the founder of the recently formed Soviet 'human rights' committee.

He made a personal plea on Wednesday night to President Podgorny to spare the two men. Yesterday he was present



Workers' confidence in their united strength—a strength that can be mobilized to force the Tories to resign—was nowhere better expressed in 1970 than in the council workers' strike. It gained the support of many other workers throughout the country, like these Swindon youth on a solidarity march through the town.

Miners want Jan 12 strike

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The offer comes from members of the committee which led the seven-week strike for reinstatement of dismissed convenor Terry Devey.

Shop stewards at Batchelor's have sent a resolution to the AEF district committee condemning the handling of the dispute by paid official George Caborn, a leading Communist Party member.

Our own investigations prove that responsibility for this now notorious affair rests squarely with the so-called Communist Party of Great Britain.

If it has been belatedly seized on by Tory spokesmen and the mass media, it is because they recognize that the CP's conduct over Batchelor's has provided them with a useful weapon in their campaign for legislation against the trade unions.

Recognized

In a statement published during the afternoon of December 22, the CP's Yorkshire district committee laid claim to recognizing this danger.

It condemned the settlement as 'a retreat before the same forces which are behind the Industrial Relations Bill'.

On Wednesday night of this week, CP district secretary Howard Hill took advantage of a Yorkshire television interview to single out Devey—now resigned from the CP—as an attack him for accepting the £3,000 pay-off.

As we reported both in yesterday's Workers Press and in our original exposure of the Devey affair eight days ago, Stalinists both inside and outside the Sheffield AEF district committee are attempting to whitewash the men really responsible for this retreat.

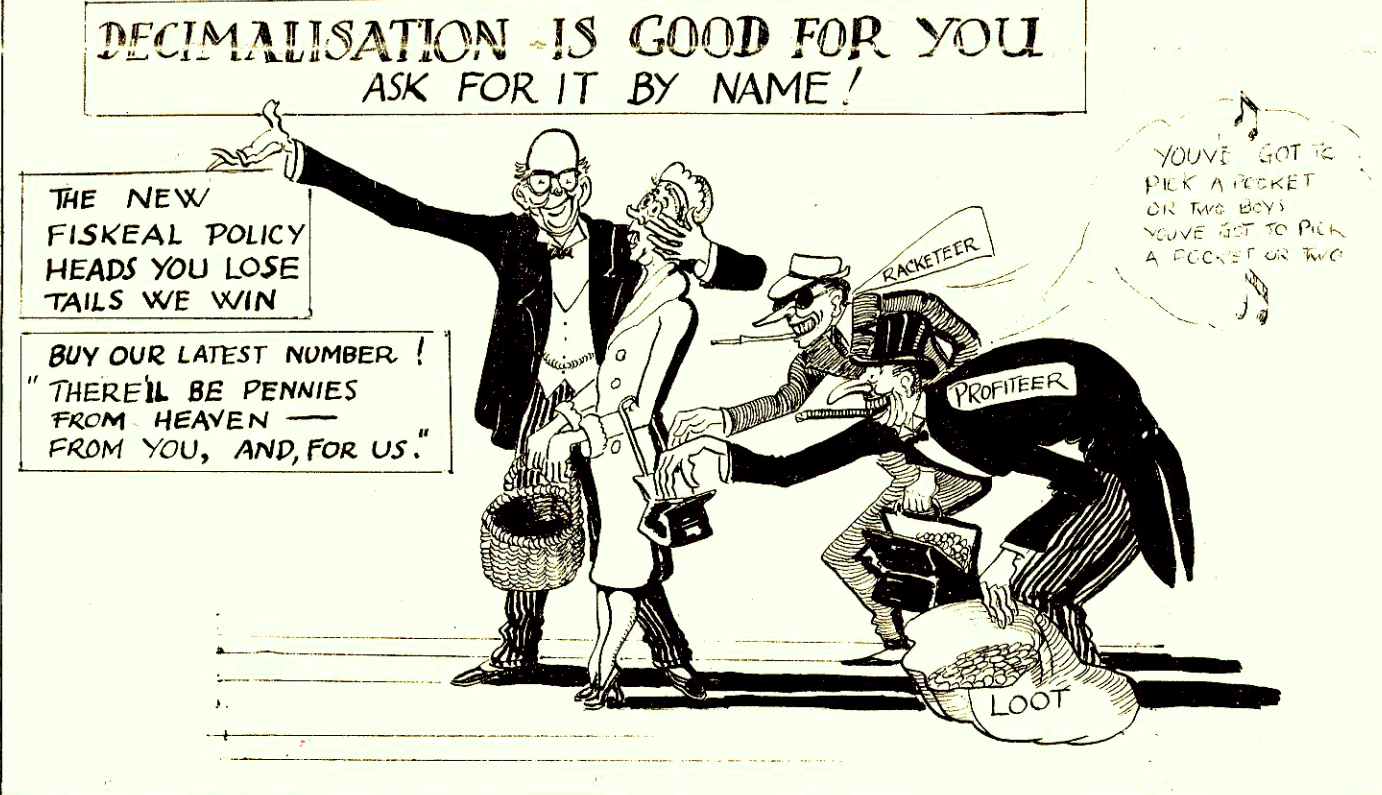
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Two points

Our continuing inquiries into the Devey affair have established two points beyond question:

● When AEF district secretary Caborn reported the proposed terms of settlement to the union's Sheffield committee on December 15, no

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Merger threat to paperworkers' jobs

THE JOBS of 20,000 workers in 15 paper mills are threatened by the pulp and paper monopoly planned by the Reed and Bower groups who produce 86 per cent of Britain's newsprint.

Announcing the merger of the two groups' manufacturing operations, chairman of the Bower Paper Corporation Martin Ritchie made clear its main aim would be 'to cut the fat' out of British paper manufacture to meet increased foreign competition.

'The government has made

it clear that it is now a question of the survival of the fittest', commented Ritchie, 'we think this is right.'

For Reed, chairman Don Ryder said that the two giants should not compete among themselves since the main threat was now from overseas.

Sectors for rationalization are thought to be pulp, newsprint, coated papers, packaging products and papers for wall-paper conversion.

With joint sales of £600m Reed-Bower would dominate the UK industry.

NLF steps up activities

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The outpost stands beside Highway one, the main road from Saigon to Phnom Penh. About 20 guerrillas threaded their way through the rings of barbed wire and booby traps that surrounded the outpost and blasted the square sandbag bunker complex with satchel charges, grenades and small arms fire.

Guerrilla units in the area around Saigon have been carrying out an extensive

BY A WORKERS PRESS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

training programme in sapper tactics. The United States command yesterday reported the loss of two helicopters with a casualty toll of five Americans wounded.

One helicopter was brought down by ground fire and crashed near the city of Dalat in the central highlands. A second craft was hit in Northern Quang Ngai province earlier this week.

The losses bring the total number of US helicopters shot down in S Vietnam in ten years of war to 1,838. But the total number of helicopters lost through operational and non-operational causes, is now 4,171 a US spokesman said.

Despite the slow-down over Christmas and the three-day New Year truce the guerrillas have dealt strong and effective blows against US forces and the Kremlin-backed regime of Lon Nol.

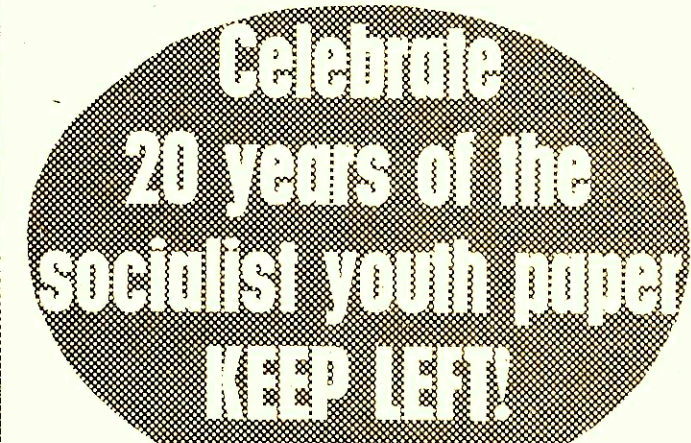
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



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East India Dock Rd, London E14

National Speaking Contest

Special Photo Competition

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Dance to 'the Uprights' in the evening

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Recovery

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Tory government in June 1970. Having failed to drive back the mounting offensive of the working class in 1969-1970, and scared of its potential, Wilson and company deliberately opened the door to the Tories by the policies of 'freeze and squeeze'.

Big threat

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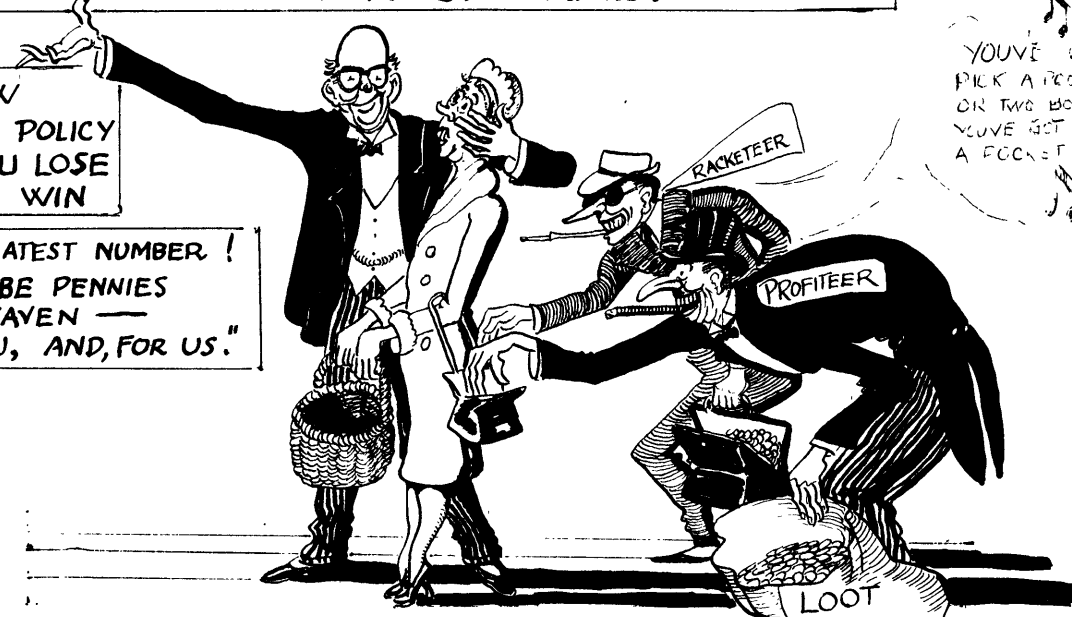
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DECIMALISATION IS GOOD FOR YOU
ASK FOR IT BY NAME!

THE NEW FISKEAL POLICY HEADS YOU LOSE TAILS WE WIN

BUY OUR LATEST NUMBER! "THERE'LL BE PENNIES FROM HEAVEN—FROM YOU, AND, FOR US."



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to hear the appeals being made—a concession which reveals the force of his group.

Last June, Sakharov secured the release of the arrested geneticist Zhovs Medvedev, who was being detained without charges in a psychiatric clinic.

DIVERSION

The reprieve, however welcome, does nothing to answer the charge that the Soviet bureaucracy is following Stalin's tradition of using anti-Semitism to

divert attention from economic, social and political problems. Other trials of Jews are reportedly scheduled for the near future.

Presumably the 'struggle against Zionism' will again serve as the legal and political pretext for more repressions against Soviet Jewry.

This happens despite Kremlin pressure in the Middle East to ensure the Arab regimes accept a deal with Meir and Dayan based upon a permanent Zionist occupation of Palestinian territory!

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THIS HISTORY of a five-and-a-half month long strike in the Basque provinces gives ample evidence that the Spanish working class is joining in a very forceful way in the revolutionary struggle of the European working class against imperialism.

The revisionists and Stalinists in Spain, as elsewhere, have been driven into enormous crisis by this struggle, trying to cling to illusions of neo-capitalism and peaceful co-existence.

The Spanish capitalist class was well aware of what threatened when, at a meeting of 65 capitalists in Bilbao in May 1967, Count Zubiria, the President of Spanish Firestone warned:

'To restrain the strike, we must demand that the government take drastic measures to stop any possible extension of the conflict which threatens to spread to other firms, with unforeseeable consequences.'

The author of this history—in fact, not the workers in the factory as claimed, but a Cuban student and member of the centrist organization, Organizaciones Frente, who was working in the factory—shows that the Spanish working class is able to build factory-level organizations that are independent of the fascist vertical unions.

Idealization

However, this fight for independent trade unions has been severely limited by the idealization of this movement by the centrists and the Stalinists, for it is a fight that poses the question of state power and the construction of a Marxist party in Spain.

The fight for independent trade unions can be no peaceful one. The statement of the political committee of Organizaciones Frente published in July 1966, that is, two months before the strike of metal workers and two years before the May-June events in France shows the complete bankruptcy of centrism:

'The greatest danger facing the proletariat in our country is its integration in the neo-capitalist society which is now developing.'

As the stability of capitalism is the greatest danger, and not the false leadership of the working class, collaboration with Stalinism is both possible and necessary; it is evident that it galvanizes the aspirations of broad sections of the working-class, for that reason

BOOKS

'NUESTRA HUELGA—Los trabajadores de Laminacion de bandas Echevarri' Editions Ruedo Iberico. 9NF. Reviewed by Peter Bush

THE BASQUE STRIKE

any policy which is based on non-collaboration with the Communist Party is negative, for, despite differences, we are on the same side of the struggle.'

The deepening of the crisis of international capitalism and Stalinism with the movement forward of the masses has thrown the Spanish Stalinists and the centrists into crisis and provides a basis for the intervention by the Fourth International which, built on the fight for Marxist principle, has alone in the international working class prepared for the revolutionary struggles now on the agenda.

The factory of Echevarri forms part of a new industrial complex of 20,000 workers near to Bilbao. It is in many ways typical of the industrial complexes built up in Spain when the economy was opened up fully to foreign capital at the end of the 1950s.

The property was co-owned by two companies, Altos Hornos, and S. A. Basconia. US capital had a 28 per cent holding in Altos Hornos, and all the machinery in the factory was imported from the US.

However, the main holdings in the company belonged to Basconia whose President, Gondra Lazartequi, had made 30 million pesetas a year since the Civil War.

With the emigration of millions

of Spanish workers, the Spanish capitalist class has had to make more and more inroads into the poor and middle peasantry, hoping, of course, that the more conservative peasantry would provide a peaceful labour force, since it had been one of the supporters of Franco during the Civil War. Seventy per cent of the Echevarri workforce came from Galicia, a completely agricultural province.

Whilst these workers provided profits, they were submitted to the low wages and bad conditions that are the lot of all workers in fascist Spain.

Wine bottle

In 1962, with bonus, workers were earning £18 a month. Despite this, they did not join in the strikes of that year.

An example is given of the victimization of workers for drinking in working hours when a personnel manager found a half litre wine bottle in a worker's clothing in a dressing room. Victimization for having what would be the equivalent of a tea-break in Britain!

This 'new' proletariat soon began to organize factory assemblies which decided in 1966 to join in union elections for local posts.



LONDON MARCH AGAINST SPANISH JAILINGS

These were intended to give a legal cover to the illegal fight for better conditions.

In September shop floor leaders were elected. In October the management went onto the offensive with a reduction of bonuses and the beginning of intensive time-and-motion study in the plant.

When sections threatened strike action, government inspectors threatened to sack militant workers.

After various short actions it was decided to strike and stop the whole factory on November 30.

In the first two days workers went to the factory, but refused to work. On December 1 the afternoon shift was given the sack; the decision was taken to occupy the factory.

Women bringing bread and food were attacked by the police on the following day and in the evening the Civil Guard forced the workers to leave the factory at bayonet point.

In response to police brutality 200 women occupied the offices of the union in the town.

During the first month of the strike, regular strikers' meetings were held and a news bulletin was distributed daily during the whole of the strike.

continue and on the 31st, 494 voted in favour of continuing the strike.

In February, the management and the government stepped up their attacks. The Home Affairs Ministry passed an order against the holding of meetings, and Gondra began the drive to recruit new labour in Galicia and León.

This new labour entered the factory in buses escorted by jeeps of armed police and lived in two blocks of flats in Echevarri.

They were not allowed to use the local bars for fear of solidarity action and attacks on scabs. Very soon, many of the new workers decided to return home. During April 40,000 workers were involved in solidarity action which led to the declaration of a state of emergency in the Basque provinces.

Sack

Immediately, 150 militant workers were imprisoned and 15 were deported to other parts of Spain. On May 5 a further 40 were deported. This action broke the back of the strike, and a return to work soon followed. Gondra proceeded to sack 32 and reduce bonuses by up to 70 per cent.

'Nuestra Huelga' shows that the new generation of Spanish workers will certainly surpass past struggles of the class in combativity and organization.

The danger is that this combativity will be betrayed by its political leadership. The centrist and Stalinist leadership did everything to limit the strike which was, as the capitalist class realized, revolutionary in content.

And the limitation of this book is its lack of analysis of the politics of the strike.

The author concludes at one point: 'In Bandas, there was unity of all clandestine groups in concrete action against capitalism, although some groups did not realize the possibility of generalizing the strike, and put pressure on so that solidarity did not pass beyond symbolic acts.'

Yet if capitalism was 'developing', all that was possible was a symbolic act, or pressure on the fascist state through liberals.

The real lessons of this strike are that the Spanish working class does not need to be told that the state machinery is repressive, but needs a revolutionary party that can fight to build a body of Marxist theory through intervention in the clandestine trade union organizations and all wage movements of the class.

'CLASS STRUGGLE IN THE PALE'

By Ezra Mendelsohn Cambridge University Press, 1970. 50s. Reviewed by Tom Kemp

JEWISH 'UNIONS' UNDER TSARDOM

ALTHOUGH BRINGING together much useful material on the Jewish workers' movement in the Russian Empire, this study suffers from a narrowly academic conception.

While dealing with the immediate background to the 'General Jewish Workers' Union', or 'Bund', whose policy of national cultural autonomy brought it into conflict with Lenin and the Bolsheviks, it stops short at a consideration of its ideology and role and does not include the revolutionary events of 1905-1906.

What remains, therefore, is a factual study of the conditions of life and work of the Jewish community in the western parts of the Russian Empire ('the Pale'), in which it made up about half of the urban population, and the early history of the mass labour movement.

The bulk of the Jewish population eked out a miserable existence as artisan workers in small shops: wages were low and unemployment common. With the spread of factory industry conditions tended to deteriorate.

For various reasons discussed by Dr Mendelsohn in detail, few employers, even Jewish ones, took on Jews as factory hands. Apart from a few fields, such as bristle-making and cigarette and match factories, at the end of the 19th century there was not yet a Jewish factory proletariat.

The Jewish artisans had a long tradition of organization of a friendly society type. Basing themselves on this tradition, revolutionary socialist intellectuals began to establish propaganda circles from groups of students and workers.

By the 1890s, under the leadership of certain of these intellectuals, an organized labour movement carrying on mass agitation began to appear but not without bitter conflicts with those who still adhered to the old circle conceptions.

Revolutionary socialist work was confronted with the peculiarities of the position of the Jewish workers at this time. Being mainly artisans, many sought individual advancement by becoming small employers or petty traders. Others emigrated to the United States, while their sons acquired some education and passed into the professions.

Primitive conditions

Meanwhile, the spread of factory industry was worsening the lot of the workers in the small workshops, while the spread of anti-Semitism and Tsarist oppression formed an ominous background.

The Bund was founded in 1897 as the result of a union of local social democratic organizations. At the base of the movement were underground organizations of a trade union type.

The leaders hoped to convert the economic struggle against the employers into a political struggle to overturn the regime. Dr Mendelsohn describes in some detail the forms and problems of Jewish labour organizations at this stage, but without relating them to the wider problems of the Russian revolutionary movement.

The very primitiveness of the conditions under which most Jewish workers in Russia were employed gave the labour movement its special character.

The main demands of agitation and strikes were, as Mendelsohn puts it, 'aimed at instituting "modern" relations between employer and employed, relations based on contract, not on habit and whim'. He describes some of the struggles in detail.

While in some cases there was solidarity between Jewish and Christian workers, it was more frequent for the latter to be used as black-legs against the better-organized and more militant Jews.

Trade unions, under police supervision, were set up among Jewish workers in the Pale under the inspiration of Zubatov, head of the secret police. Mendelsohn deals with these unions, as well as with the influence of anarchism and terrorism.

The Bund

The self-imposed limitations and academic nature of this study prevents it from dealing adequately with the main questions relating to the role of the Jewish labour movement in Russia and the policy of the Bund.

By emphasizing Jewish distinctiveness the Bund turned away from revolutionary tasks and inevitably took a reformist path.

The fact that the Jewish proletariat was and remained predominantly artisan can only partly explain the ideology of the Bund.

The problem of the Jewish labour movement in Russia cannot be adequately dealt with by the method adopted by Mendelsohn which isolates it from the history of the Russian revolutionary movement and from the great economic and political changes going on in the Russian Empire with the development of capitalism.

In sum, his book is mainly a collection of interesting facts with a few partial explanations. The field needs to be completely re-worked from a different point of view carrying the story forward through the 1905 Revolution and down to 1917.

Case of the legless veteran



KUTCHER

'US ROUND-UP' pointed out recently that the refusal of the American CP to sponsor the Juan Farinas Defence Committee is very much in the tradition of that Stalinist organization.

Farinas, a young supporter of the Trotskyist Workers League, faces a possible five years' jail and enormous fines when he is sentenced next month after a frame-up trial on charges of violating the military conscription law.

The Farinas case brings to mind the similar refusal of the CP to back the Trotskyist James Kutcher in his celebrated fight against government victimization during the McCarthy witch-hunts.

Kutcher gained support from literally hundreds of unions, academics, intellectuals and minority organizations and became a national figure through a speaking tour and many broadcasts.

A member of the Socialist Workers Party, Kutcher lost both legs while fighting as a soldier during the Second World War.

Eventually, in 1946, he found work as a clerk doing routine office work in the Veterans Administration.

But these were the years of the McCarthy witch-hunts and the reign of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which included a purge of government workers.

In March 1947 President Truman issued Executive Order 9835, setting up the 'loyalty' programme and shortly afterwards the Attorney General published a list of 'subversive' organizations

to guide the 'loyalty' boards. Kutcher was fired from his job on grounds of his membership of the Socialist Workers Party which was included on the 'subversive' list.

He was hauled before a board and dismissed without any legal procedures. Under the 'loyalty' programme the onus was on the defendant to prove he was not disloyal.

No assumption of innocence until proved guilty here! Worse still, organizations were designated 'subversive' simply on the Attorney General's say-so.

They were refused hearing and did not even know the charges against them or on what evidence they were based.

Blacklist

A further rule made membership of five organizations, including the SWP, grounds for mandatory dismissal from government service.

As if this were not enough, Kutcher was on Stalin's blacklist as well as Truman's. Forerunner to the Kutcher case was the 1941 Minneapolis trial of 18 Trotskyists, the first defendants under the anti-labour Smith Act.

The labour movement rallied en masse to their defence, despite political differences with the defendants.

Yet the Stalinists applauded the convictions, and carried on a virulent campaign to isolate the defendants' supporters and to prevent unions giving financial support.

The Stalinists' action has never been forgotten. Seven years later, when their own leaders were indicted under the same Smith Act, their record on the rights of their opponents

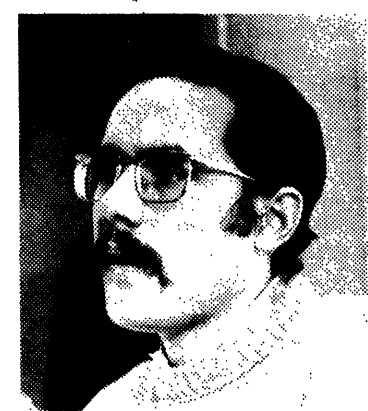
was thrown in their faces by many organizations who were asked for help to fight the indictments.

For the first few weeks after the news of Kutcher's case broke the Stalinist press was silent.

Then fire was opened in a United Auto Workers magazine column in which the Stalinists wrote: 'A Trotskyite... believes in force and violence as the first and last step in attaining a socialist state' and 'advocates bomb-throwing'.

The first lie was precisely the lynch pin of the administration's charge against Kutcher while the second went far beyond the prosecutors' accusations.

A month later the West Coast Stalinist paper 'Daily People's World' mounted a poisonous attack.



FARINAS

It claimed the Socialist Workers Party 'has not cavilled to co-operate with the most reactionary anti-labour forces... It has been praised by the Chamber of Commerce, and has been useful to the FBI... it is an oddity that he should lose his job'.

As Kutcher said in his book, 'The Case of the Legless Veteran', it would be the eighth wonder of the world if the Truman Administration fired a member of a party which was that co-operative.

In an effort to explain this contradiction, the writer suggested the dismissal was a 'bribe' by 'hard working FBI officials' and that a 'friendly hint to the Department of Justice' would no doubt be sufficient to secure Kutcher's reinstatement.

Knowledge that the Justice Department had heard of Kutcher's case in far-from-gentle terms from scores of organizations did not, of course, deter these graduates of the Stalin school of falsification from peddling such a lie.

Such a policy rebounded on the Stalinists in the unions and

in the fight against McCarthyism as two episodes illustrate vividly.

Kutcher was speaking to a meeting of Local 10 of the CIO International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union which had previously endorsed his case.

Since then the Stalinist 'People's World' had laid down the line.

Kutcher declared his opposition to the persecution of anyone for his beliefs including CP members and fellow-traveller Harry Bridges, president of their international union who faced repeated deportation attempts.

Kutcher was speaking at Bridges' own local and Bridges was sitting on the platform.

After Kutcher's speech a well-known staunch Stalinist attacked him and his party, calling them 'vernal pigeons, agents of the bosses, etc.'

But the meeting shouted the speaker down before he had finished and he sat down to a chorus of boos.

Not satisfied, the Stalinists insisted on a vote on a resolution to make a donation to Kutcher's fighting fund.

Proceedings

Out of 2,800 union members present about 12 stood up to vote against the motion.

Bridges remained silent throughout the incident which lost his party much support.

The second episode concerns a proposed national organization to defend the Stalinists, the Conference to Defend the Bill of Rights, which took place in New York in July 1949.

A considerable number of liberals and other non-Stalinists sponsored the Conference on the basis of free speech and press and assembly 'have meaning only where they apply also to minority and dissident groups with whom the majority are in disagreement'.

The Stalinist majority rammed through their line, voting down a resolution calling for support for the SWP's rights as well as those of the CP.

Kutcher succinctly sums up the result: 'These proceedings disgusted so many of the non-Stalinist elements that they withdrew and the Conference to Defend the Bill of Rights, instead of becoming a permanent organization, died an immediate death.'

The Stalinists had known that this would happen, but with them it was rule or ruin when it came to the rights of their revolutionary socialist opponents. In this case it proved to be rule and ruin of the organization they originally expected to help defend their own rights.'

US Round-up

Phasing out

LAST SATURDAY President Nixon ordered an 'orderly but rapid phase-out' of all defoliants used in Vietnam.

Presumably this year's plans for dropping over a million gallons of defoliants are to go ahead.

In opposing the \$8m allocation for this, Senator Nelson said: 'The US has sprayed enough chemicals to amount to six pounds for every man, woman and child in Vietnam.'

This, he commented, 'may well have set an ecological time fuse in Vietnam that will reverberate down the life chain causing widespread destruction by wiping out forms of plant, animal and aquatic life that can never be replaced.'

Chemical warfare has irremediably stripped the Vietnamese countryside.

S Vietnam exported a quarter of a million tons of rice in 1959. Ten years later three times this quantity had to be imported, most of it coming from the US.

It is conservatively estimated that since 1962 an eighth of the country has been doused with chemicals at more than ten times the rate allowed by the US government for agriculture at home.

Arsenic

A paper presented to a scientists' conference in Paris last month described the plight of 179 S Vietnamese refugees from areas which had been sprayed for from two months to five years.

Short-term effects a few hours after spraying included sickness, vomiting and headache.

Last laugh

VETERAN COMEDIAN and veteran right-winger Bob Hope opened his annual Christmas tour of Vietnam last week but had evidently changed his act in line with the mood of his servicemen audiences.

Last year his patriotic remarks drew boos from troops.

This time Hope's welcome at Camp Eagle, 400 miles NE of Saigon, was mixed with thousands of hands raised in the peace sign.

Long-term effects were prolonged illness and the birth of deformed children.

The US has used three main herbicides in S Vietnam—called orange, white and blue.

Blue is used mainly to destroy rice crops and it is planned to drop 700,000 gallons this year.

As blue is largely arsenic, it is particularly dangerous to human beings as arsenic poisoning can take place through gradual building up of small doses in the body until fatal concentrations are reached.

Orange

Senator Nelson was probably thinking of orange when he made his 'ecological time fuse' remark.

Mangrove forests sprayed with it nine years ago have shown no recovery.

Orange contains defoliants 2, 4, 5-T and 2, 4-D, which are known to have been responsible for the births of thousands of deformed babies throughout the countryside.

The US government was aware of the terrible effects of these chemicals for many months before it banned 2, 4, 5-T last spring.

S Vietnamese papers carried reports of such births while, the Saigon Health Ministry kept all statistics about them secret.

But orange was still being used late into the summer and the US army is dropping charges against officers for ignoring the cancellation order.

Last Saturday's move will probably take just as long to implement. After all, stocks have to be used up.

'I believe a lot of you are interested in gardening—security officers said a lot of you were growing your own grass,' Hope told the soldiers.

If Hope had been on a slightly later schedule, his remark that it would be the last visit of his Christmas tour to Vietnam could have been immediately and irrevocably confirmed.

Five days after the show National Liberation Forces fired about eight rockets into the camp in the first attack on it for more than two months.

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part four
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COMPULSORY cultivation in the Congo was extended in 1935. It enabled Belgian businessmen to buy cheaply, so that at a time when world markets were depressed they could continue to make their profits.

Forced labour practices were further intensified during the war, when under the Anglo-Belgian Agreement of 1940, the Congo became (particularly after the loss of S E Asia) an important source of raw materials to the Allies.

them out, the bullying, the pestering by every kind of authority—European as well as traditional and their subordinates, monitors or policemen, before whom they are defenceless; the excessive punishments inflicted without discrimination by the European agent, the *juge de police*, and also by the *tribunal indigène*.

'These improper annoyances, which in large measure have their origin in our policy of production, inevitably result in the discouragement of the native, in making him live in an atmosphere of insecurity and uneasiness; they bring him to hate his environment and to flee from it, breaking thereby the bonds, customary and social, which bind him to it and which our civilization has already rendered fragile.'

tween 1929 and 1933, in N Katanga, there was a 70 per cent drop in the number of wage earners.

However, with the recovery in world trade, production began to expand again, and in 1937, exports stood at £16,976,075—three times their value in 1932.

The Second World War provided a further impetus to production, and a new importance to the Congo as a source of materials. Uranium from the Congo was used in the first atomic bomb.

In 1923, over 8 per cent of the African population were living in mining camps and towns. In 1940, the percentage of able-bodied adult males who were working for wages was 19.23 per cent. By 1956 it had grown to 38.95 per cent.

A survey in 1956, carried out in Luluabourg, showed that for a family of four, an income of between £7 17s and £8 11s a month would be the minimum desirable to maintain a reasonable standard of living.

The actual minimum wage, together with allowances at that time, amounted to only £4 14s a month.

An inquiry showed that during the 1950s, between 30 per cent and 50 per cent (varying according to town), of wage earners received only the minimum wages.

Between 1950 and 1957 there was a 60 per cent increase in national production; but African buying power, during the same period, declined by 13 per cent.

There could be little development of an indigenous middle class in the Congo. Business was kept almost en-

CONFLICT IN THE CONGO

tirely in European hands. The Tshombe family, which made its money in trade, was an exception. Generally speaking, insofar as an African political élite developed, its membership was drawn from among the salaried civil servants, the Army, the political and trade union organizations.

Although educated Africans were supposed to be better treated than the masses under Belgian rule, they still experienced racial discrimination, oppression and humiliation.

An African technician would receive lower pay than a European who was doing the same, or even a less-skilled job.

Until the last few years of Belgian rule, Africans in the civil service were confined to the lower grades, even if they qualified for higher positions.

According to Lumumba, in his book 'Congo, my Country', flogging was still inflicted on educated Africans who got in trouble with the law, although legally they were supposed to be exempt from such forms of punishment.

Africans were not allowed in a number of establishments frequented by Europeans. Both Mobutu and Lumumba had personal experience of racial insults from the whites.

The evolution of the Congo-

lese people's struggle against Belgian colonialism at first took the form of popular religious movements of a prophetic and Messianic character, which had their appeal to the most oppressed workers and poor peasants.

In the post-war years, the Belgian trade unions extended their activity to the Congo, initially to the privileged European workers, but later coming to influence some of the African working class.

As reformist organizations, tied to imperialism, these unions could not meet the needs of the oppressed Congolese masses; and the Congolese trade union movement to which they gave rise remained comparatively small.

But it was the training ground of a number of Congolese political leaders, such as Cyrille Adoula.

In the late 1950s, after becoming disillusioned with the Belgian parties with which they had been associated, a number of educated Congolese began organizing their own political parties.

The Belgian authorities always tried to retard the development of the Congolese people, and brought in repressive measures to keep them down.

In 1937, a law was intro-

duced restricting the right of association, and measures were taken to discourage Africans from visiting Europe or studying there, or from travelling within the Congo.

In January 1958, during demonstrations in Leopoldville, the security forces opened fire on crowds, and, according to the authorities' own figures, 49 Africans were killed and over 240 injured.

Faced with the development of a national movement, however, and the probability that neighbouring French Congo was shortly to become independent, thus encouraging it, and with a recession in the economy throwing many Africans out-of-work, onto the streets where they were showing increasing readiness to be

25 years of the United Nations

BY CHARLES PARKINS

Antoine Gizenga, Pierre Mulele, and C Kamitatu also nationalist, and prepared to form an alliance with Lumumba.

Both MNC and PSA were for maintaining the unity of the Congo as a state; whereas the election also showed the

became an independent African state.

During the preliminary negotiations, when the Belgian government had first declared its willingness to grant independence, Congolese leaders had been suspicious as to just what the Belgians' real intentions were.

It all seemed just too easy—what was the snag?

What did the colonialists have 'up their sleeve'?

Observers abroad were surprised at the rapidity with which the Belgian government had moved—two years after the Leopoldville clashes, the country was to be independent.

Belgian colonialism appeared to be giving up without a struggle at all, let alone the prolonged one that might have been expected.

In fact, the real struggle was to come after 'independence', after the African nationalists had found themselves in office.

Only then would Belgian colonialism show its hand, and the struggle that was to develop would make the Congo a battlefield, in which not only Belgian imperialism would be engaged.

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MOISE TSHOMBE

mobilized in a popular movement, the Belgian government began to discuss independence for the Congo.

Elections were held in May 1960, resulting in the success of Patrice Lumumba's Movement Nationale Congolaise, nationalist, anti-tribalist, anti-colonialist, and a reasonable showing also for the Parti Solidaire Africaine, led by

strength of regionalist and tribalist tendencies. Lumumba was pressed by the Belgians to make a compromise with the ABAKO party—a federalist party which originated from an ethnic association of the Bakongos—under which its leader, Kasavubu, became Head of State, while Lumumba himself became premier.

On June 30, 1960, the Congo

BBC 1

11.00 a.m. Film: 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer'. Tommy Kelly, May Robson and Walter Brennan. Mark Twain's classic. 12.15 p.m. Debbie Reynolds. 12.40 'Engines Must Not Enter the Potato Siding'. Documentary. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45 News. 1.50 Winners at the wheel. Review of motor racing. 2.35 'Royal Family'. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Double deckers. Seven London children make their headquarters in an old bus. 5.20 Abbott and Costello. 5.25 Ask Aspel. 5.44 The magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 YOUR REGION TONIGHT. 6.20 THE VIRGINIAN. 'Bitter Autumn'. 7.35 'THE CAPTAIN'S PARADISE'. Alec Guinness, Yvonne de Carol and Celia Johnson. Steamer captain has a wife in each port. 9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 GALA PERFORMANCE. Michael Flanders introduces Rudolf Nureyev, Natalia Makarova, Sherrill Milnes. Itzhak Perlman, Margaret Gale, Catherine Wilson, Dorothy Nash, Shirley Chapman, Emile Belcourt, Eric Shilling, Geoffrey Chard. 10.20 HOLIDAY 71. 'Algarve Villas'. 10.45 'ANNIE, THE WOMEN IN THE LIFE OF A MAN'. Anne Bancroft sings and dances. Guests Lee J Cobb, Robert Merrill, Dick Smythers and John McGiver. 11.30 JOHN WAYNE AND HIS FILMS. 12.05 a.m. Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except: Scotland: 12.40-1.30 Bird's eye view. 4.20-4.35 Jackanory. 4.35-5.20 Ne'er-day aviometer. 6.00-6.20 News, sportsrel. 10.20-10.45 Sportsrel. 12.07 News. Midlands: E Anglia: 6.00-6.20 Midlands today. Look East, weather. 12.07 News. North, NW, NE: Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.20 Look North, weather. 12.07 News. Wales: 6.10-6.45 Ar lin mam. 6.00 Wales today. 6.20 Golden silents. 6.45 Heddidi. 7.10-7.35 Ieiri i leiri. 12.07 News. South: 6.00-6.20 Point West, weather. 12.07 News, weather. 12.07 News. South, West: 6.00-6.20 Point West, weather. 12.07 News, weather. 12.07 News. SW, South, West: 6.00-6.20 Point West, weather. 12.07 News, weather. 12.07 News. ULSTER: 2.05 London. 4.15 Enchanting house. 4.30 Report. 4.50 News. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 'UT' reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 6.50 'Wendy and me'. 7.00 London. 9.00 Department 5. 10.00 London. 10.30 Deadline. 11.00 Film: 'The Secret Fear'. Thriller. YORKSHIRE: 10.25 Royal family. 12.15 Vienna concert. 1.25 London. 2.25 Pinksy and Perky. 2.40 London. 4.15 Film: 'Zebra in the Kitchen'. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Wendy and me. 7.30 On the buses. 8.00 'Ferry to Hong Kong'. Curt Jurgens. 8.00 'Elites'. Sylvia Syms. An exile wanders in the Far East. 10.00 London. 10.30 Yorkshire. 11.00 Beowulf and Johnson. 12 midnight Weather. GRANADA: 10.15 Film: 'Words and Music'. Mickey Rooney. 12.35 London. 3.40 Shenandoah. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 'Get Smart'. 6.30 Time tunnel. 5.50 London. 6.01 Newsday. 6.25 Put it in writing. 6.35 Film: 'Mysterious Island'. Michael Craig, Joan Greenwood and Herbert Lom. 8.00 'Escape story'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Strange report. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Facts of Life'. Bob Hope, Lucille Ball. TYNE TEES: 10.25 Royal Family. 12.15 Vienna concert. 1.25 London. 2.25 Pinksy and Perky. 2.40 London. 4.15 Film: 'Zebra in the Kitchen'. 5.50 London. 6.00 Get Smart. 6.30 Avengers. 7.30 On the buses. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 Tom Jones. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Roman Spring of Mrs Stone'. Vivienne Leigh. 12.20 Year ahead. BORDER: 10.00 Cartoon. 10.30 Nanny and the professor. 11.00 Film: 'Hue and Cry'. Alastair Sim, Jack Warner. 12.15 Concert. 1.25 Wrestling. 2.25 Pinksy and Perky. 2.40 Sandown Park racing. 4.10 News. 4.15 Film: 'Zebra in the Kitchen'. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 On the buses. 8.00 Man in a suit. 9.00 Human jungle. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Children of the damned'. 12 midnight News, weather. 12.03 Epilogue. SCOTTISH: 11.15 Joe 90. 11.45 Charlie Brown. 12.15 Vienna concert. 1.25 London. 2.25 Pinksy and Perky. 2.40 London. 3.45 Cartoons. 3.49 Horoscope. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Skippy. 4.40 Crossroads. 5.05 Cartoon. 5.30 London. 6.00 Film: 'Mr Moses'. Robert Mitchum, Carroll Baker. 8.25 London. 9.00 Brass are coming. 10.00 London. 10.30 Guid New Year. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 Film: 'The Man Who Watched Trains Go By'. Claude Rains, Marius Goring. 12.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Children of the damned'. 12 midnight News, weather. 12.03 Epilogue. GRAMPIAN: 10.25 Royal Family. 12.15 Concert. 1.25 London. 2.25 Pinksy and Perky. 2.40 London. 4.15 Cartoons. 4.35 Rumble jumble. 5.00 Cowboy in Africa. 5.50 London. 6.00 George Kild. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 On the buses. 7.55 Film: 'From Here to Eternity'. 10.00 London. 10.30 Scotsport. 11.00 London. 11.55 Epilogue.

ITV

10.30 a.m. Pinksy and Perky. 10.45 Jungle boy. 11.10 Skippy. 11.35 Laurel and Hardy. 11.40 Fastest man on earth. 12.35 p.m. Wrestling. 1.30 Racing from Sandown. 3.30 Film: 'The Black Sheep of Whitehall'. With Will Hay and John Mills. A bumbling professor thwarts a Nazi plot. 4.55 'The Ugly Duckling'. From the Hans Christian Andersen story. 5.20 Timeslip. 5.50 News. 6.02 TIME TO REMEMBER. '1930-1932—A New Era'. 6.30 PEYTON PLACE. 7.00 WHEEL OF FORTUNE. 7.30 THE BOLD ONES. 'One Small Step For Man'. 8.30 ON THE BUSES. 'The L Buis'. 8.00 MANNIX. 'Coffin For a Clown'. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 POLICE FIVE. 10.40 THE FRIDAY FILM. 'Casanova Brown'. Gary Cooper and Teresa Wright. A small-town teacher is about to get married when he receives a letter from a Chicago maternity home. 12.05 a.m. STATE OF THE NATION. Archbishop of Canterbury.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 12.35 London. 3.30 Saint. 4.22 Puffin. 4.40 Pinksy and Perky. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Cheaters. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Report. 7.30 Dangerman. 8.30 London. 9.00 Heddidi. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Fanny'. Leslie Caron. 12.45 a.m. Weather. WESTWARD. As Channel except: 10.35 Holiday in Switzerland. 11.15 Give a dog a bone. 4.22 News. 4.24 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 7.00 Miss Westward final. 12.45 Faith for life. 12.50 Weather. 12.50 News. 12.15 Weather. Action 70. HARLECH: 11.05 Pinksy and Perky. 11.20 Skippy. 11.45 Superman. 12.10 Forest rangers. 12.35 London. 3.35 Film: 'Treasure Island'. Wallace Beery and Jackie Cooper. 5.20 Is that a fact. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Texas'. William Holden and

Continued from yesterday

After the war, reporting on the situation at the end of 1946, the Belgian authority Father J. Van Wing, speaking from experience in Leopoldville and Equateur provinces, wrote that 'in general compulsory labour continues as in the past.'

Another Belgian writer, Malengreau, quotes a magistrate telling him in 1947:

'What makes the life of the natives in the bush unhappy is above all the *corvées*, the multiple and diverse burdens which are imposed upon them and which leave them no respite; the innumerable prescribed obligations and prohibitions, with a severe penalty always attached, which wear

'To flee from it'... to the towns and the mining areas, to become an industrial working class.

Production in the Congo expanded considerably between the wars. Katanga retained the position, attained in 1923, of the world's third largest supplier of copper.

The Kilo-Mito mines in Orientale province became a major gold source. Diamond output grew from 318,979 carats in 1920 to 2,518,258 carats in 1930.

In common with the rest of the capitalist world, the Congo was hit by the Depression in 1932, some 72,000 African workers were sacked, and be-

LETTER

Carrillo's dangerous reformism

SANTIAGO CARRILLO travels around Europe peddling his charlatan Communism and now he presents himself to the public advocating a close alliance with fascist Spanish capitalism.

We don't think that this language, whose basic mission is to serve the Spanish working class on a silver plate to Moscow, will succeed in con-

solidating his fraud, although in order to achieve this he tries to sweeten the bitter pill of betrayal of the Spanish workers with the word REFORM.

The attitude of Spanish workers must be one of firm and decided opposition to reform in Spain.

If it does not do so it would, with certainty, find itself trapped in the stinking rotten Spanish capitalist environment. It would be forced to collaborate in the capitalist development which has spread in such an insidious way amongst the Spanish people.

Reform in Spain is aimed at prolonging the capitalist regime, to ensure its survival.

In order to save its real position, in order to stabilize and to consolidate its power this is the last trump which capitalism presents in the game and the slogan which it propagates: Reform of the Spanish state.

Through the reform, through some economic if not political concessions it intends to brainwash the minds of the Spanish workers, to eliminate from his lungs all the breath which animates the Social Revolution; to destroy, together with the revolutionary consciousness, all possibility of the materialization of socialism.

Francoism has been defeated; its system has fallen into pieces and its immediate accomplice—capitalism—is on its last legs.

Those who represent the Spanish liberal bourgeoisie are

those who have decided for the reform.

They feel responsible for the chaotic political and social situation of Spain. They are the same class who for more than 30 years have collaborated directly in the extermination of the advanced human values of the Spanish proletariat.

They actively participated in the execution of more than a million murders.

They now improvise and present themselves to us as liberators of the people through the reform. They seek for a reform in accordance with and directly linked to the fundamental principles of the Francoist-capitalist-Falangist-clerical movement, a movement which dissected the democratic body of the Republic which had been established by the people as a strong ground for socialism.

Those who know they are guilty do not ignore the imminent and necessary purifying action of the people for the nation and try to submerge this action by conditioning the workers and peasants to acquiesce to the word reform.

If the Spanish people allow their aspirations to be caught up in the trap laid out by capitalism, if the people in their desire for liberty unconsciously participate in this fraudulent manoeuvre, then we can be certain that the struggle for the road which leads to victory against the capitalist class has been abandoned.

This is a struggle without which the victory of socialism, we affirm, will never be possible.

The rotten capitalist system intends through the reform to place its representatives in the highest administrative and commanding posts of the Francoist dictatorship.

This will be achieved if there is any sign of weakness in the Spanish people. On the other hand if the working class understand that the decisive moment has now arrived for intensifying the struggle to beat the regime, to sweep out all its rubbish, then the overthrow of Francoite capitalism will have been accelerated.

Santiago Carrillo, Moscow, Francoism, the dictatorship of Nixon and together with them the whole capitalist world must be made to realize that, today, in Spain everything depends on the working class which has nothing to gain by means of talks and meetings. To rely on these methods would be to lose all.

It is no longer possible to wait, because the people have the right and the obligation to solve the problem even by force, if that is what it is compelled to resort to.

Long live socialism!

D M Cantos.

Strategy and Tactics in the Imperialist Epoch

by LEON TROTSKY



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



SANTIAGO CARRILLO

ADVANCE NOTICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1971. 11 a.m.

ALEXANDRA PALACE Young Socialists and All Trades Unions Alliance GREAT NATIONAL RALLY AGAINST TOURISM

BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

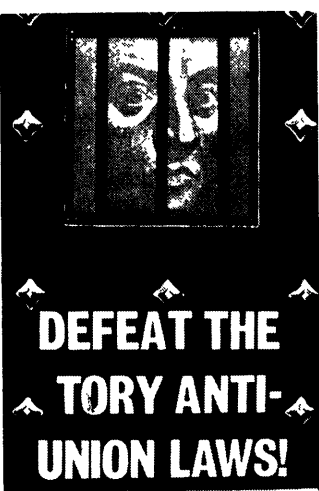
Relief tempered with contempt

FROM PAGE ONE This class solidarity should surprise no one. The Tories plan to do to the British trade unions what Franco was able to do in Spain—destroy them, and tie the working class completely to a state-controlled 'labour front'.

Ba'ath opposition arrested

SYRIA'S new government has jailed several prominent members of the Ba'ath Party faction ousted in the right-wing coup on November 13.

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BRIEFLY

BRITISH European Airways yesterday used a mass sackings threat in an attempt to weaken the overtime ban and work-to-rule by 20,000 of its employees.

Seven-week strike over £7 pay loss Rolls polishers to present case to TUC

A MASS meeting of the 170 polishers at the Rolls-Royce Derby group factories will today hear from their officials the case they intend to put to next Monday's TUC inquiry into their seven-week-old strike over a new Measured-Day Work pay structure.



Some of the Rolls-Royce polishers' strike committee at their Derby headquarters

POST union leaders said yesterday that they would not follow the gas and water-supply unions in waiting for the power court of inquiry.

CORRECTIONS

IT HAS been drawn to our attention that a phrase in our 'G&MWU sets up "watchdog" body' story yesterday could be misinterpreted.

IN yesterday's 'Scientific World', replace 'deaths' in third paragraph with 'birth'.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Miners and the Charter of Basic Rights

CASTLEFORD: Saturday, January 9, 12 noon, Ship Inn, Speaker: Sid Hinchliffe (Glasgoushoughton Colliery).

WEATHER

E and central Scotland will be cloudy at first with snow but brighter weather with snow showers over N Scotland at first will spread S during the day.

BRIEFLY

day afternoon. Most of Merseyside's 10,000 dockers walked out and brought work to a standstill over 70 ships.

The men say that the new structure would give them lower status and between £5 and £7 less a week.

Strike committee members, meeting last Tuesday, attributed a good deal of importance to the inquiry, and a large delegation is being organized to lobby Monday's meeting.

Long talks

He explained that shop stewards have been in negotiations over the polishers' status and pay for over six months.

Confident

Armed with the daily paper and our understanding of Marxist theory we are confidently determined to exploit the radicalization of the working class to build the new revolutionary leadership and sweep into the dustbin of history every reformist traitor and revisionist apologist.

Rejected

These terms were firmly rejected and there were indications that the firm's goods would be subject to a blacking campaign.

Hope

'We hope the TUC inquiry will bring us the fair play we failed to get at York.

Prospects

FROM PAGE ONE the revisionists and state capitalists are now content to play second-fiddle in the Stalinist orchestra.

Redundancy pay

However, shop-floor workers fear their sackings will mean losing redundancy payments which could run up to £800 a man.

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Rolls men want sliding scale

OVER 1,000 production workers at Rolls-Royce's Ansty plant Coventry voted to strike yesterday if the company does not agree to a new wages structure which takes cost-of-living rises into account.

Dec 8 sacking firm meets creditors

THE BIRMINGHAM firm of Silas Hyde, which sacked its entire workforce for participating in the December 8 strike action, meets its creditors in London today to discuss possible closure.

Redundancy pay

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Discussion after Stalin supplied Hitler led to Anglo-French plan to bomb Soviet oilfield

DETAILED plans for an attack on the Soviet Union were drawn up by British and French governments in the early months of 1940.

The plans were dropped because of Turkish opposition, despite the enthusiasm of the French Premier Pierre Reynaud.

The Chamberlain-Reynaud plan to attack the Caucasus oilfields is revealed in confidential government papers published today by the Public Records Office.

Records show that the supreme war council, on which Chamberlain and Reynaud sat, together with Winston Churchill and military leaders, discussed possible attacks on the USSR on a number of occasions.

UNION officials are to make a fresh attempt next week to persuade 600 W Scotland bakery van drivers to end their seven-week strike for a £4 rise and accept the employers' pay offer of rises from £2 4s 6d to £2 9s 6d.

Scottish Commercial Motor-men's assistant general secretary Peter Talbot said: 'We will be strongly recommending the formula.'

He will address a mass meeting in Glasgow next Wednesday and expects a favourable reaction.

NLF

FROM PAGE ONE reported that 301 government soldiers were killed. In a year-end review the New China News agency yesterday warned the US against the 'bastion of iron' formed by the Indo-Chinese people.

The agency referred to the latest call by Hanoi to the N Vietnamese to prepare for any American attack on the country and said: 'The Laotian and Cambodian people firmly stand with the Vietnamese people in determination to defeat US imperialism thoroughly and drive it out of Indo-China.'

Devey

FROM PAGE ONE attempt was made by the committee to stop a mass meeting of strikers the following day accepting them. Yet CP members and their supporters had a clear majority at that meeting and could have moved for a recommendation to the strikers that they should reject the pay-off and continue their fight for reinstatement.

The AEF district committee did not come out against the Batchelor's settlement until its meeting on the evening of December 22, after publication of the Yorkshire CP's condemnation.

Devey is said by CP members in Sheffield to have telephoned Hill for advice about whether he should accept the £3,000 during the evening of December 14.

To claim that acceptance was simply Devey's responsibility begs the question asked in yesterday's Workers Press: if Hill was opposed to the settlement why did he not issue an immediate instruction to his members on the AEF district committee to oppose it?

Evidence There is already evidence that besides fueling the Tory propaganda campaign in support of the Industrial Relations Bill the Devey affair has helped to weaken the fight against it at shop-floor level in the Sheffield area, and may well have similar effects elsewhere.

B'ham motor plants shut down Big response to union law march

TENS OF thousands of West Midlands workers will strike today against the Tory Industrial Relations Bill in their biggest action since the 1926 General Strike.

Despite the retreats of the trade union leaders and the howls of the car employers, thousands will march through Birmingham in a massive demonstration of hatred for Toryism and their intention to fight this government to the end.

Mr George Evans, Midlands secretary of the National Union of Vehicle Builders and a chief marshal, said that the 'vast majority' of workers in local car plants would be joining the demonstration.

'We are not instructing our members on this', he added, 'but we know the response will be enough to make it a magnificent success.'

British-Leyland, Dunlop, Lucas and Rover factories are expected to be shut down despite warning notices from management.

Longbridge workers were told that the corporation could not survive unless production targets were achieved.

The notice said: 'To stop vital production in a plant that is not involved in any way in a political question will only injure the livelihood and security of everyone working here.'

However, thousands of Birmingham's British-Leyland workers already face the sack through the combine's rationalization plans and they are in a fighting mood.

They will be joined by ten thousand drivers from 220 of the city's firms, called out on strike in support of the demonstration which ends in a mass rally at Birmingham Town Hall.

Workers from British-Leyland's Tractors and Transmission Division—one of the few Birmingham factories which gave 100 per cent support to December 8 strike—will be out in force.

Two members of the plant's joint shop stewards' committee—Arthur Harper and Ernie Smith—told Workers Press:

'This working class is not going to be pushed back to the 1930s.

'Having had a small taste of some luxuries, they are not going to pass shops full of goods and go hungry.



Ernie Smith (left) and Arthur Harper, tractor and transmission joint shop stewards' committee members. Working class will not be pushed back to 1930s.

Elements of Marxism

Lecture by G. Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League

BEXLEYHEATH: Roberts Hall, Christchurch, Broadway. Tuesday, January 5, 8 p.m.

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