

What we think We must not hesitate

NOBODY IS any longer in doubt that Heath's Tory government is very different from the previous Macmillan and Home governments. This is because the economic and political crisis is much worse.

Competition between capitalist nations is growing more acute, so the need to solve the contradictions of the capitalist system requires an all-out attack on workers' standards of living not only in Britain, but throughout the capitalist world.

The class relation of forces has undergone a considerable change over the past six months.

Every major group of employers, actively assisted by the government, is now engaged in building up the offensive against organized trade unions throughout industry.

To defeat the working class means first of all to destroy the fighting capacity of their trade union organizations.

This is the purpose of the anti-union laws.

The Tory Party is today divided into two wings, respectively led by Heath and Powell.

The former defends the interests of the big monopolies and banks whilst the latter waits in the wings to take over as soon as the struggle shifts to the extra-parliamentary plane.

There is no fundamental political disagreement between them. It is simply a question of a division of labour. Both sides must be defeated by the working class.

The time has long since passed when the British radical tradition of protesting was effective. Only major class battles can bring down this Tory government.

The urgent need of the hour is to raise workers' militancy in every struggle in which they engage.

This is the only way to establish their independence and expose those traitors who want to continue with the compromise under conditions in which the capitalist class is preparing to destroy the working class.

If, in the course of a number of strikes in the coming months, workers' militancy is raised to the point where employers are defeated, then the disintegration of the Tory government cannot be long postponed.

Powell will come forward when he and the ultraright feel Heath is failing. This, in turn, will widen the breach in the Tory Party to the extent that general election may well be the only feasible solution.

The Tory Party would undoubtedly present an even more reactionary programme in such an election, but this would serve to educate the masses and help them understand the sharpness of their factory struggles.

Ideal conditions for defeating capitalism in Britain no longer exist. It requires stepping up the class struggle and what that implies in terms of stepping up the conflict with the enemy class.

Revolutionists must anticipate periods of semi-legality and even illegality with harsh jail sentences as well.

It is time for the British working class to get rid of the flabbiness of reformist illusions.

It is high time to pay great attention to the techniques employed by the state to penetrate the working class with agents provocateur.

The Workers Press is dedicated to preparing the labour movement to repel the treachery of the class enemy and build the revolutionary party for the purpose of taking power.

Govt and CBI launch A campaign to cut wages

BY THE EDITOR

HEATH'S government has started a well-prepared mass media campaign to condition workers to accept wage-cutting, unemployment and anti-union laws as their only salvation.

This is the meaning of the dire warnings of Mr Anthony Barber and the Confederation of British Industry at the National Economic Development Council meeting on Wednesday about Britain being on a 'suicidal course' unless 'wage inflation' was checked.

relentlessly attacking shop-floor organization in the future.

On the contrary, these 'concessions' will encourage every reactionary scheme of big business to atomize the working class.

Wages and salaries never were, and are not, the cause of the economic crisis.

Even the NEDC was reluctantly forced to this conclusion.

There was general agreement that wages and salaries had not originally begun the pay and price explosion which has occurred over the past 15 months.

Devaluation was seen on all sides as the trigger mechanism, working through its effect on import prices, higher indirect taxes, restraint of real income increases and higher unit labour costs spread over stagnant production. ('The Times', January 7, 1970.)

Stunted

To these factors must be added the extremely high interest rates which stunted economic growth in 1968 and 1969.

Profit-reaping based on private property is the main cause of the crisis and this accumulation is irreconcilably opposed to any wage rises.

Even the TUC says pay—despite the so-called 'wages explosion' has fallen far short of expected levels.

In 1969 Britain had the lowest rate of wage increases in Europe. It is obvious that a tolerable—leave alone a big—standard of living is either impossible under capitalism or is a very short-lived exception.

The TUC demand for a cost-of-living clause in wage agreements itself shows the extremely serious position of the working class menaced by the disintegrating tendencies of capitalism.

The employers' and government's rejection of this demand is even more eloquent proof of this trend within capitalism.

Perish

All talk of halting inflation by voluntary wage-freezing, sacrifice in the 'national interest' and 'monetary stabilization', is a monumental deception of the working class

Coincidentally, the statement of Lord Stokes on British Leyland's profits—down from £40m in 1969 to £3,932,000 in 1970—was also designed to whip up anti-union hysteria amongst the middle class and persuade less class-conscious workers that profits, not wages, are of paramount importance.

The employers' representatives at the NEDC went



Lord Stokes

further than even the Chancellor dared to by evoking the spectre of 800,000 unemployed and gigantic bankruptcies in 1971.

This was a bit too much even for the government.

According to Peter Jay of 'The Times':

'The government seemed to think that the CBI's fears about mass bankruptcies and resulting unemployment were a little exaggerated.'

Insidious

Exaggerated or not, the fact is that this insidious campaign to make workers 'profit conscious' is being helped along by the class collaboration policies of Stalinism and the trade union bureaucracy and is meeting with a certain measure of success in industry.

By ex-Stalinist convenor Devey in Sheffield and the decision of British-Leyland's Bathgate workers to delay a £3-a-week pay claim for six months in return for a guaranteed working week, are ominous precursors of a sinister trend which must be combated uncompromisingly.

The foregoing of a wage increase will not save the 5,000 jobs being chopped in the Austin-Morris division.

Nor will the £3,000 to Devey prevent the government from introducing their anti-union Bill nor the employers from

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New recruit for Keynes

BY JOHN SPENCER

PRESIDENT Nixon may adopt 'New Deal' policies to cope with the growing US unemployment and economic recession.

Widespread speculation along these lines follows his statement after a broadcast interview that 'I am now a Keynesian in economics'.

On the lips of a Republican president this remark sounds like a Christian saying 'All things considered I think Mohammed was right'.

Nixon wants to win the 1972 presidential election and must bring down the present 6 per cent unemployment level in order to do so.

Traditional Republican policy has been to reduce inflation by holding down public spending.

By during his television interview, Nixon said he would rely in future on an expansionist economy and deficit financing—as proposed by the British economist Lord Keynes.

Keynes, who died in 1946, advocated large public spending to prevent the growth of unemployment and stimulate the expansion of privately-owned industry.

TVA SCHEME

His theories formed the basis of Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'New Deal' policies in the 1930s, when millions of dollars were poured into government schemes like the Tennessee Valley Authority to drag the economy out of slump and set US capitalism back on its feet.

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Stand firm on our rights—garment workers

LEEDS clothing workers have issued a call for their union to stand firm in defending its members' basic rights against the Tory attack.

The call was contained in a resolution passed unanimously at the Leeds No. 1 branch of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers.

It will be submitted to the Union's national conference later this year.

Conference believes that all members have basic rights:

- 1) Full employment is not a privilege, but a basic necessity of life, an elementary right. To support this no Measured-Day Work, no intensification of working conditions, full support for any section of workers engaged in a wages struggle.
- 2) No sackings, any firm which cannot give security to its workers must be nationalized without compensation under workers' control.
- 3) The right to strike and organize.
- 4) The right of the working class to retain the gains they have made.
- 5) The right to fair prices for our necessities.
- 6) The right to high welfare benefits and decent housing at reasonable rents.

£1,250 January Fund reaches £114 5s 0d

Our biggest campaign, to mobilize all the anti-Tory forces for a mass rally at Alexandra Palace on February 14, is under way. The Workers Press is right out in front demanding this government be made to resign.

Go into action today. Give a big boost to the fund this month and help us collect an extra £1,000 for the publicity and arrangements for the Alexandra Palace Rally. Raise all you can. Post your donations to:

Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.



Top: Some of the pickets outside the Fulham, London, depot. Above: Ensuring essential services.

Oil strike snowballs

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

THE OIL tanker drivers' strike snowballed yesterday when 500 Esso men and 50 Mobil drivers walked out over the use of 'cheap labour' by outside distributors.

Scottish breadmen return

SCOTTISH breadvan drivers voted to call off their bitter eight-week strike yesterday after union officials persuaded them to accept the employers' original offer.

They returned with a wage increase of between £2 4s 6d and £2 9s 6d pending negotiations on their original £4 claim.

At yesterday's meeting over a quarter of the men voted against the officials' recommendation.

The Scottish Commercial Motormens' Union assistant general secretary Peter Talbot said the Scottish TUC would re-open negotiations with employers on working hours, overtime rates and productivity deals.

So far, 19 distributors have paid the extra money to bring their T&CWU drivers up to the level paid by the oil companies. Seven are still holding out.

About 1,500 drivers are involved in the strike, which affects all major oil companies.

Shell Mex- BP drivers at two terminals—Walton-on-Thames and Northfleet—voted yesterday afternoon to return to work.

Coventry Jan 12 meeting

A 250-STRONG meeting of Coventry convenors and senior stewards urged rank-and-file members to attend a city-centre meeting at noon next Tuesday against the Tories' anti-union Bill.

● See Late News.

Closure bluster by Corby steel chiefs

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

OVER 12,000 Steel Corporation workers at Corby were told yesterday that they may all face the dole if they oppose a productivity deal or stage strikes.

In a New Year message to workers in the Corby steel and tube works and its associated ore quarries, resident director, says that the entire works may close if costs are not cut and more efficiency introduced during the coming year.

This threat of mass unemployment comes at a key stage in the negotiations over a major productivity and job-evaluation scheme, known locally as the Corby-Wide Productivity Programme.

DEADLOCK

Talks on the scheme, which have taken consultants Urwick Orr seven months to complete, are now in deadlock with the works' 2,100 craftsmen insisting on a guaranteed 3 1/2 per cent pay increase staggered over three years.

George McCart, Corby district secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineers, and Foundryworkers, told the Workers Press yesterday that on no account would his members in the steel works accept the deal in its present form.

In the deal they are proposing the breakdown of all demarcation and one pool of labour. For this is just not on at our time especially as they are not prepared to guarantee any rise in our rates,' he said.

We are not intimidated by the blind threats of redundancies,' added Mr McCart.

A spokesman for the Corporation said yesterday that they could not 'talk money' with the men until the new programme, which involves a re-vamped wages structure, was settled.

'We must make Corby more efficient and reduce costs. We feel that if this is done there will be more money for the work force and more money for the tax payer,' said the spokesman.

FIRST NAIL

So the first nail is firmly driven in.

This pay-off settlement, inspired by a government department, in absolute accordance with Tory anti-union laws, was initiated by the leading CP union official in the Sheffield area, by his running to the DEP without informing, let alone consulting, the men on strike.

Yesterday's pathetic CP 'reply' to Devey, and the silence of their industrial organizer Bert Rarnelson, cannot erase the question: what are you going to do about George Caborn?

The CP has denounced the settlement as a capitulation to the same forces which are behind the Industrial Relations Bill.

But what about Caborn's responsibility, his capitulation? Nothing can be said, because the facts make clear that Caborn's capitulation was the CP's capitulation.

ADVICE

We return to Devey's account:

'Barry Bracken, secretary of the Sheffield Communist Party, agreed that I should accept the decision of the strike committee, but later Howard Hill, Communist Party York-shire district secretary, told me that I should refuse the money at all costs.

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Hire-and-fire threat sparks docks row

BY DAVID MAUDE

HIRE-and-fire discipline will now be seen by many portworkers as their employers' next objective under Phase Two of the Devlin docks 'modernization' scheme.

A major battle with rank-and-file dockers can be expected over the influential London Ocean Trades Employers' demand for powers to sack workers they think are unfit.

It will certainly strengthen the Merseyside men's determination to resist Phase Two terms proposed by employers there.

The attitude of top union chiefs nationally, however, is by no means so certain.

'No attack'

A London port employers' spokesman claimed yesterday that the severance claim implied no attack on the 1947 national dock labour scheme.

The employers' argument is that a ruling allowing compulsory severance of the 22 per cent of London dockers they describe as unfit should be made by the National Dock Labour Board 'for their own sakes' and could be done without interfering with the scheme.

It is difficult to square this, however, with the context in which Ocean Trades Employers' chairman C. M. J. Dermot Jewitt chose to present his Wednesday night call for 'some form of compulsory severance'.

'Discipline'

Introducing a report on the first three months of Phase Two in London, Jewitt claimed that shiploading and discharge speeds have dropped by 2 1/2 and 3 1/2 per cent respectively.

Some 24 hours of each 6 1/2-hour working shift were being entirely wasted, he said.

He insisted that no form of 'disciplinary severance'.

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YOUNG SOCIALISTS

MAKE THE TORY GOVT RESIGN!

MASS RALLY FEBRUARY 14
ALEXANDRA PALACE
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For more details or a ticket please write to YS national secretary John Slimence, 186a, Clapham High Street, London SW4.
Please send me more details/a ticket. I enclose cheque/postal order for £1.

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BOOKS

Les Anarchistes Espagnols et le Pouvoir 1868-1969
by CESAR M. LORENZO
Collections Esprit, 28 NF

ANARCHISM IN SPAIN

CESAR LORENZO sets out to explain the paradoxes of anarchism in Spain: why on November 4, 1936 did the CNT (the anarchist trade union federation), which was apparently so opposed to bourgeois politics, join a bourgeois government and why did they envisage from 1937 the need for a political party?

With the possible entry of Spain into the Common Market, he sees room for an anarchist movement, pledged to defend the dignity of the worker, provided that it learns from its experience the need for a positive approach to politics . . . of a reformist variety.

These conclusions are the real fruits of anarchism's rejection of the scientific analysis of the crisis of capitalism and the revolutionary role of the working class. The Spanish working class has twice had its trade unions destroyed—in 1874, when a military coup put an end to the Catalan insurrections, and in the Civil War of 1936-1939.

In the 1870s international capitalism was expanding and the working class was small in Spain; in the Civil War, capitalism was in absolute crisis, but Stalinism dominated the international working class.

In both cases, the anarchists acted empirically, using trade union militancy as a pressure on bourgeois politicians, even though many anarchist workers wanted revolution.

In May, 1936, three months before they controlled the most important industrial sectors of Spain, Lorenzo correctly describes the confusion of the CNT.

'The men of the CNT were to become the great protagonists of the drama . . . They had no plan of struggle, no orientation, no clear philosophy, no views on what should or should not be done in a revolutionary situation.'

When, six months later, they entered a bourgeois government, they showed they were clear on



CNT leader Garcia Oliver.

at least one thing—their opposition to the working class taking power.

This clarity in confusion was apparent in the early days of anarchism in Spain.

After the Liberal Revolution of 1868 had failed to give workers and peasants the freedom and wages they had hoped for, there

was a big turn towards trade union organization.

The anarchists were able to get considerable influence in this movement and spread the ideas of Bakunin. 1873 saw Paris Communes established in several towns in southern Spain, general strikes in Barcelona and many confrontations between the

peasantry and the army.

The anarchists were unprepared for this and completely atomized the struggle: anarchists would not support peasants and workers who had taken over towns because they had a Republican leadership, although the anarchists in these towns had, of course, liquidated them-

selves into the Republican movement and participated in revolutionary Republican juntas.

These defeats led to the decimation of workers' organizations and the emergence of a series of anarchist acts of terrorism, until the turn of the century when trade unions were again being constructed.

In 1910 the CNT was formed and grew rapidly compared with the reformist union the UGT, the trade union arm of the Spanish Social Democratic Party which had its origins in the fight of Marx and Engels against Bakunin, but was now a bureaucratized party of the Second International. (CNT: 1915,

15,000; 1918, 345,000; 1920, 1 million; the UGT: 1915, 100,000; 1919, 150,000.)

This expansion was based on the wages movement during the First World War when there was a boom in the Spanish economy.

Despite sympathy in the ranks and sections of the leadership for the Bolshevik Revolution, the leadership opposed the construction of a revolutionary party.

Their strikes in 1917 were put at the disposal of such dubious bourgeois politicians as Lerroux and Cambou, who called for a Republic.

Long before 1937 their anarchist principles were confined to the conference room.

Lorenzo's complaint is that, although a national political force, they had no political strategy. In fact, their strategy was to occupy themselves with day-to-day problems and leave politics to the bourgeoisie.

When in July 1936 they controlled the whole of Catalonia, the CNT decided to leave the bourgeois state intact and form an alliance of the left to rule behind this façade.

The CNT leadership was very conscious of what was at stake; they stated there was a risk of installing a dictatorship against the middle class and the peasantry, of not being followed in the rest of Spain and of meeting the hostility of international capital.

So when workers and peasants had set up workers' councils and had initiated a period of dual power, the CNT leadership consciously turned this movement away from the dictatorship of the proletariat to an opportunist collaboration with the bourgeoisie.

As Garcia Oliver put it in August 1936: 'Either we collaborate or we impose our dictatorship.'

Thus, they prepared their entry into the Popular Front and their alliance with the Stalinists. This opportunism again expressed itself when the CNT refused to defend the POUM against the

Stalinists for fear of losing Soviet arms.

Despite anarchists' constant criticism of Stalinism as responsible for the Franco victory, they shared, and still share, Stalinism's fear of the independent movement of the working class, and its love of gradualism and reformism.

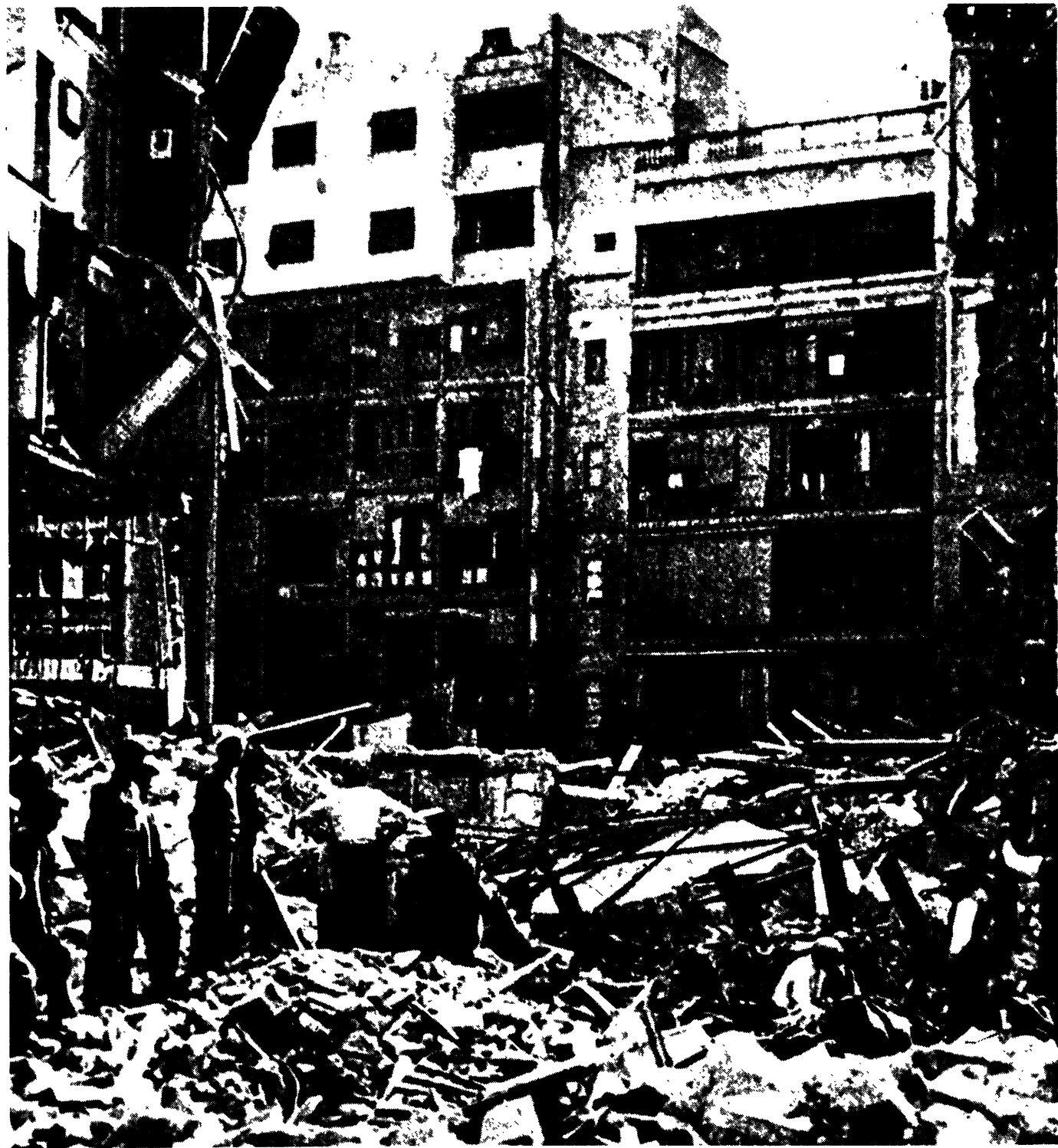
After the Civil War, with all the debate proceeding on whether the CNT needed its own party or not, the degeneration continued: at one moment they made agreements with the Royalists for workers to give up the right to strike during the period of national reconstruction under a constitutional monarchy after the disappearance of Franco; at the next, they attempted to reform fascism from within.



Bakunin

We can draw one lesson from Lorenzo's book: if the CNT had constructed a party, it could only have reflected its own reformism and opportunism and opposition to Bolshevism.

In the struggles of the Spanish working class to build their independent organizations once again, a section of the Fourth International must be built for the success of the Spanish Revolution.



THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR: Barcelona after fascist air-raids.

REVIEW
BY
PETER
BUSH

COMPANY TOWN

Seattle unemployed queue for food stamps

LAST WEEK'S Seattle trial of the seven Weathermen had a fitting backdrop in the city's long dole queues—the longest in any major city.

Seattle's workers face a grim winter with unemployment hitting a 10.9 per cent high—nearly double the national 5.8 per cent rate.

More than 71,500 are unemployed out of the area's 1,400,000 population. Seattle's depression can be attributed to cut-backs at the Boeing company which in boom times employed nearly 10 per cent of the region's labour.

Caught in the aero-space industry crash, Boeing's labour force has been halved over the past two years to just over 40,000 at present. The darkening cloud over the future of Boeing's supersonic

airliner threatens a further 5,000 jobs.

Boeing has already sold one factory, closed another and reduced output of jumbo jets from seven and a half to five a month.

So Seattle's unemployed have come to include many skilled technicians and engineers who are unlikely to find comparable employment.

One took work at Christmas as Santa Claus in a department store. He was lucky to get even that out of the ten applicants for the job.

Every job vacancy brings hundreds of men desperate for work. 280 men took exams for 20 police vacancies.

The Unemployment Compensation Services have had to take over more office space to cope with the dole queues which begin before 8 a.m.

And by March another 10,000 are expected to swell the ranks.



Trust thy neighbour

INDIANA'S law - and - order lobby have come up with a simple but all - the - more sinister plan, worthy of their White House mentors.

Indiana is asking for £5,000 federal aid towards a scheme for civilians to be paid for monitoring conversations and rumours about possible subversive or criminal incidents in their neighbourhoods.

The 'rumour-control monitors' would, of course, work secretly and operate best in areas where they had lived for years.

Director of Indiana's Criminal Justice Planning Agency Mr William Greenman was asked if the system would turn out to be a civilian spy network.

Greenman admitted: 'That's what it could amount to. We might not be able to trust our neighbours after a while. But as long as we're not doing anything

wrong, we shouldn't have to worry!'

Later realizing this reassurance would have precisely the opposite effect to that intended, Greenman retracted his admission claiming he had been 'talking off the top of my head'.

In the Indiana city Fort Wayne the scheme is already under way with 12 youths being hired by police at £1 an hour 'to attend gatherings'.

The state police chief indicated the nature of the monitors' work.

Although they would not be involved in 'political harassment' (provocations), he said, they were to eavesdrop on 'subversive' conversations.

MINERS DIE

RESPONSIBILITY for the deaths of 38 Kentucky miners in last week's pit explosion is to be laid at the doors of the government and mine-owners.

For both have long blocked implementation of the Mines Safety Act.

Eye witnesses said when the Finlay Coal company's mine exploded, a cloud of smoke and dust 'as big as a mine hole roared out of the mine like a tornado' covering nearby trees with debris.

The explosion was caused by a blasting operation leading to

combustion of loose coal dust.

A spot check in November revealed five infringements of the Federal safety laws at the mine, just on a 'walk-in, look-around' type of inspection.

The mine was also closed for three days in June because of violations of the same law.

Miners in many states struck last year in an attempt to get the rudimentary standards of the Safety Act put into practice.

They faced concerted opposition. The government had proposed to slash the mines' safety budget.

The Bureau of Mines already has only a fraction of the necessary inspection staff and has long

been suspected of allowing mine-owners to proceed with few restraints.

The extremely corrupt miners' union leadership under president 'Tony' Boyle negotiated a contract outlawing strikes over safety questions!

Union leaders have a direct interest in boosting production—inevitably at the expense of safety.

For each ton of coal mined employers pay 40 cents into the union's pension fund which is used as an open till by officials.

Union chiefs, politicians and pit owners—all will be brought to the bar by the working class for their crimes against the miners.



Rescue workers deliver bodies from the Finley mine, Kentucky

Private care

THE STATE of health care has sunk so low, one senator said recently, it 'threatens our vitality as a nation'.

For the richest metropolitan country in the world, the US does not do too well in the international tables: 13th in infant mortality; 7th in the proportion of mothers who die in childbirth; 18th in the life expectancy of males.

Congress will soon be grappling with a plethora of proposals for tackling the near-chaotic state of the health services.

There is the widest agreement on the need for state-run health insurance, but none of the form it should take.

As the Tories in Britain prepare to introduce health charges, it is timely to look at some effects of the absence of state health insurance and operation for profit across the Atlantic.

US experience shows that private insurance schemes cannot replace a state scheme, except for the richest people.

Out of the 1968 US health bill only a third was paid by insurance companies.

The patients or their families paid the rest.

The £28 daily cost for a patient's hospital care throws a crippling burden on to workers who need treatment there.

Private health insurance schemes are patronized by the middle and upper classes, while the poor

have to live in constant dread of illness and consequent monstrous hospital bills.

Two-thirds of families with incomes below £1,250 cannot afford hospital insurance.

Figures for 1968 show that 20 per cent had no hospital insurance, 57 per cent no insurance for doctor's fees and 97 per cent no dental insurance.

The only state provision is 'Medicare' for the over 65s and the destitute.

Private health insurance schemes provide rich pickings. Two years ago insurance companies garnered \$12,500m in premiums, yet paid out only \$10,800m—20 per cent swallowed up in administration and the pockets of the operators.

Medicare's administrative costs were a quarter this rate at 5 per cent. Private health schemes are very inefficient.

For example, millions only have insurance coverage for hospital treatment.

So doctors send their patients there when treatment at home or in the surgery would be just as effective.

Nixon has said he will submit his own health programme to Congress early this year and give it high priority. But it is likely to be directed towards meeting only the cost of catastrophic illness.

Reports indicate it will be far removed from the Bill endorsed by United Auto Workers' Union which covers every US resident for all health services, with no charges to patients.

Doctors, hospitals and manufacturers would be paid directly by the government.

IMPORTANT READING

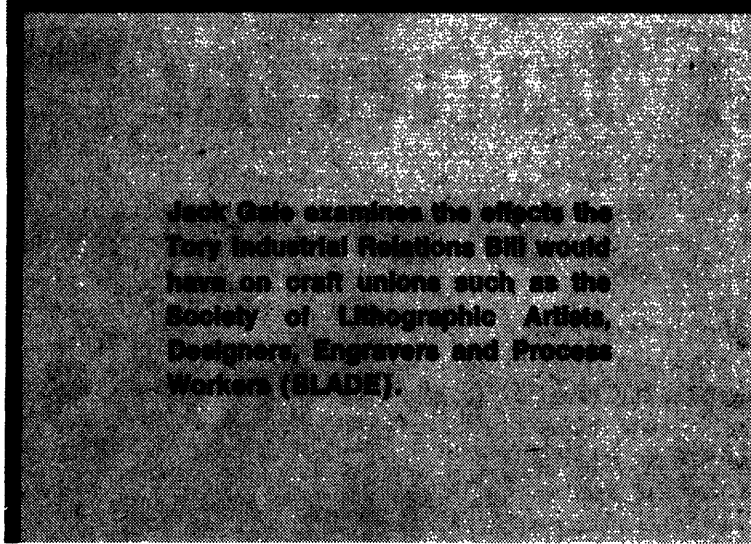
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Jack Gale examines the effects the new Industrial Relations Bill would have on craft unions such as the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers and Process Workers (SLADE).

CRAFT UNIONS IN DANGER



Democracy of the members will clearly have to take a back seat, and in future our rules and all our actions in representing the interests of you and your colleagues will be made legal or illegal according to the law as it may be amended from time to time by a political party sitting at Westminster, and as it will be interpreted by the government agencies set up by the new law.

The SLADE general secretary concludes:

'The fact is that it will be impossible or extremely difficult for you, your Chapel or anyone else in the Society to carry on doing the majority of the things which we now do.

'Many of what we regard as normal procedures and policies will be illegal, and the whole of the Chapel, branch, and Society activities will be in the melting pot.

'Obviously, the Society will continue to devote itself to finding ways and means to progress the interests of the members whatever happens, but the ability of you and everyone else to maintain present employment standards seems doubtful once the Act is passed.

'The total effect of the Act is to dramatically weaken our personal rights with your employer, either as an individual or as a member of the Society.

'It is a bosses' charter!'

However, this very clear exposure of the effects of the Tories' intentions on the membership of this union is weakened by the total absence of any strategy to defeat the Tories.

Like the rest of the trade union leaders, Knapp wants to confine all action to protest:

'Please raise your voice in protest before it is too late! In particular the executive committee should have full representation at the local meetings and should be organized by the TUC and the Trades Councils; fullest possible representations at the TUC's Albert Hall demonstration in London on Tuesday, January 12, and at all the local protest meetings being organized for lunch-time on January 12.' (Our emphasis.)

Future

Everything is to be tailed behind the TUC and no indication whatever is to be given of any future action:

'The TUC is arranging a special Congress to be held in March, at which the trade union movement will no doubt decide what there is next to be done.' (Our emphasis.)

This is insufficient and lays the movement open to defeat.

Throughout this document, which clearly exposes the Tories' intentions, there runs a fatalistic acceptance that the Bill will become law.

Only the policy of the Socialist Labour League and the All Trades Unions Alliance — now taken up by the S Wales miners and Liverpool Trades Council — for a General Strike to stop the Bill can ensure any secure future for the members of SLADE.

A CIRCULAR to members from the general secretary of the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers and Process Workers (SLADE) underlines how the government's proposed Industrial Relations Bill would practically destroy a craft union such as this.

Craft categories and apprenticeships would cease to have any meaning. The secretary, Mr L. Knapp, points out:

'Your employer will be able to employ any person he chooses to employ, provided only that he is satisfied he can do the job. Camera operating, planning, powderless etching, re-touching — you name the job (or part of a job) and the employer can engage anyone to do it.

'And he will not have to be a Society member — or a member of any other union. Your employer will be able to do this regardless of any members who may be unemployed and desperate for employment.'

Any attempt to keep out such a non-unionist would be what the

government calls 'an unfair industrial action'.

Any SLADE member, or Chapel, or the Society itself would be acting illegally in trying to keep out non-unionists if the government's Bill is passed.

They could be subjected to a court order for bringing 'unfair' pressure on either the man or the employer and would be liable to punitive damages or even prison.

Action

Mr Knapp goes on to explain how the bargaining power of the union and its members would disappear:

'You, as a Society member, will not necessarily be able any longer to effectively influence your wages or working conditions, or even to bargain for them.

'The decisions as to who shall negotiate and determine your conditions of employment can be taken over by the Commission of Industrial Relations, which is one of the official state agencies given enormous power under the new Bill.

'It will only need an employer or a group of workers to initiate such an action. The Commission can recommend one bargaining "agent" for each bargaining "unit", the bargaining unit being the specified group of workers whose wages and conditions are to be covered.'

A particular threat to small craft societies such as SLADE would be the disappearance of the closed shop, which would become illegal, and its replacement by the 'agency shop'.

This requires that more than 20 per cent of the employees in a shop, or the employer himself, may ask the National Industrial Relations Court (another of the new state bodies to be set up) to conduct a secret ballot.

The union gaining the majority in this ballot would then be responsible for the wages and

conditions of all employees in the shop, including those in other unions.

But the danger is even more than this. The National Industrial Relations Court (NIRC), which will have High Court powers, will be able to decide and impose decisions on workers and unions in a whole variety of situations.

That is, it will be able to impose a procedure for determining wages and working conditions in any given situation, quite regardless of the wishes of

the unions themselves or their members.

The NIRC could decide, without having to consult anyone, that the state of industrial relations in any situation required investigation by the CIR.

The Commission would then make its recommendations and the NIRC would have power to decide whether a particular scheme for dealing with disputes or for negotiating wages and conditions should be legally imposed, irrespective of what trade union members thought.

Weaker firms will go to wall in Tory drive against wages

BRITISH industry is facing 1971 in a mood of unbroken gloom. Nearly every giant firm recorded a drastic downturn in fortunes last year and expectations have been further depressed by the slump in British-Leyland profits from £40m to £4m.

The Confederation of British Industry predicts even grimmer times ahead and it has warned the government and the National Economic Development Council that there will soon be massive bankruptcies among both big and large concerns unless something is done to stop wages rising.

After Wednesday's NEDC debate on cost inflation, Sir Fred Catherwood, director general of the Economic Development Office said the CBI had given notice of 'acute anxiety' on the part of many of their members.

Eroding assets

'Many firms', said Catherwood, 'are eroding their assets to pay dividends and higher wages. This means that the possibilities for investment on which future growth depends are being eroded.'

Average pay rises, he said, had risen from 6 per cent in 1969 to more than 11 per cent by the end of 1970.

In the last two years many firms had been buying industrial peace by conceding wage claims. As a result many had been threatened with bankruptcy and pressure had mounted on the Bank of England to soften its tight money policy.

The Bank did this in the three months prior to the June election when it boosted the rate of money supply to the exorbitant annual 17 per cent level.

This money, say the pundits, was fuel for further wage increases and promoted laxity on the part of managements faced with strikes; hence inflation went rocketing on.

A new crisis is expected by the Treasury in the spring when the pressure will be again on the Bank to relax on monetary supply.

But this time the camp of the hard money men, now swollen with fresh allies (not least Enoch Powell) will be better prepared and the Bank may be forced to stand firm.

If it does, a number of companies will go to the wall.

Firms in the home engineering market are expected to have a particularly thin time; home machine tool orders are, for example, at a particularly low ebb and results for the final quarter of 1970 are likely to show results even worse than the 12 per cent drop recorded in the preceding three months.

Shipbuilding too will suffer casualties and robbed of its Airbus contracts the aerospace industry can only count on Concorde for survival.

Hawkish

The government may well swing over to a hawkish position on money supply and add this to its extensive armoury of plans to deploy against the working class.

Such a policy for industry will be an ordeal by fire, but for the Heath administration the lure of the eventual goal is overpowering — mass unemployment and the final solution to the power of the organized working class.



Brixton garage busman Len Scholey (wearing hat) and some colleagues talk to a Workers Press reporter after Wednesday's meeting.

Busmen furious at strike vote reversal

MANY rank-and-file London busmen are becoming furious with their leaders' obstruction of the fight against the Tories. The fruits of this obstructive policy were repeated at a busmen's delegate conference on Wednesday night.

On a Transport and General Workers' executive recommendation, a previous Region 1 delegate conference decision to strike next Tuesday was reversed and brought in line with the TUC's inaction programme for the day.

By a card vote of 51 to 15, the strike decision of December 29 was nullified, to the disgust of a number of delegates.

As one said: 'If Jack Jones, who controls 1,750,000 men, was to stand up tomorrow and say we're going on strike against the Bill, it would get 100 per cent support.'

Brixton busman Len Scholey told Workers Press: 'We are furious about this. There is a lack of generalship in the Transport and General Workers' decision to support the TUC's decision to support the day of action — to castrate the movement against the Tories on the pretext that more "understanding" is necessary.

Yet, reporting the executive decision on December 12, the Stalinist "Morning Star" provided the usual cosmetics for Jones: "But in doing this [supporting TUC action] it [the T&G executive] is also pressing for more militant action to be called on the day and in the campaign to get the Bill defeated."

This militant action involves meetings outside working hours and a national indoor rally.

Of course, every action against the Bill next Tuesday must be supported to the hilt, but to use the "national day of action" as a means of crushing any independent action of the working class is the surest way of smoothing the Tories' path.

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BBC 1

12.55 p.m. Drosodd at Alun Williams. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45 News. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Double deckers. 5.15 Abbott and Costello. 5.20 Ask Aspel. 5.44 Magpie roundabout. 5.50 News.

6.00 YOUR REGION TONIGHT, weather. 6.45 THE VIRGINIAN, 'A Bad Place to Be'. 8.00 STANLEY BAXTER SHOW. 8.30 THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL, 'Last Tribute'. 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 HOLIDAY 71. 9.45 24 HOURS. 10.15 INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS. 11.00 FILM: 'Duck Soup', Marx Bros. 12.05 a.m. Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except: Midlands, E. Anglia: 6.00-6.20 Midlands today, Look East, weather. 12.07 News, weather. North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.20 Look North, weather. 12.07 News, weather. Wales: 1.30-1.45 Ar lin mam, 6.00-6.20 Wales today, weather. 6.45 Heddiw. 7.05 O lein i lein. 7.30-8.00 Liver birds. 12.07 Weather. Scotland: 6.00-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 8.30-9.00 Current account. 12.07 News, weather. N Ireland: 6.00-6.20 Scene around six, weather. 8.30-9.00 Speak your mind. 12.07 News, weather. SW South, West: 6.00-6.20 Points West, South today. Spotlight SW, weather. 12.07 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 6.30 p.m. MONKEYS WITHOUT TAILS. Lecture. 7.30 NEWSROOM, weather. 8.00 EUROPA. 8.30 TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT. 9.00 GEORGE THE FOURTH. George Hamilton IV with the Hillsiders. 9.20 THIRTY-MINUTE THEATRE. Waugh on Crime. 9.50 REVIEW, 'L'Inleines'. 10.40 NEWS, weather. 10.45 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

2.55 p.m. Ideas in print. 3.40 Living writers. 4.10 Zingalong. 4.25 Jesse James. 4.50 Road Runner show. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 News. 5.55 TODAY. 6.30 PEYTON PLACE. 7.00 WHEEL OF FORTUNE. 7.30 SIX DATES WITH BARKER, '1937: The Removals Person'. 8.00 HAWAII FIVE-O. 9.00 HADDEIGH, 'Invasion', New series. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 POLICE 5. 10.40 HALF HOUR STORY, 'Shelter', Wendy Craig and Colin Blakely. 11.10 FILM: 'THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE', Burt Lancaster, Laurence Olivier, Kirk Douglas and Janette Scott. Film of Shaw's play based on the American War of Independence. 12.20 a.m. STATE OF THE NATION.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 3.55 Zingalong. 4.05 Puffin. 4.15 Ghost and Mrs Muir. 4.50 Lost in space. 5.45 London. 5.55 News, weather. 6.10 What's on where. 6.15 Chesters. 6.55 Crossroads. 7.00 Report. 7.30 Film: 'Canyon Pass', Patricia Neal, Steve Cochran. 9.00 London. 10.30 Darts championship. 11.05 Six dates with Barker. 11.35 Champions. 12.20 News, weather. SOUTHERN: 3.25 Zingalong. 3.30 Women today. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.12 Zingalong. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Bush boy. 5.15 London. 6.00 Day by day. (Channels 6, 11 and 27 only). 6.00 Scene South-East. (Channels 10 and 66 only). 6.36 Out of town. 7.00 London. 7.30 Weekend. 7.35 Department 5. 8.30 Nearest and Dearest. 9.00 London. 10.30 Conceptions of murder. 11.00 News. 11.10 Prisoner. 12.10 Weather. It's all yours. HARLECH: 4.09 Moment of truth. 4.34 Women only. 4.50 Bugs Bunny. 5.15

Big power pressure for Mid-East talks



Golda Meir

UNITED NATIONS Middle-East envoy Gunnar Jarring was in Jerusalem today for urgent talks with Israeli leaders.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

British to the last back axle

TORY MP Sir Gerald Nabarro yesterday leaped to the defence of the British motor industry and decried as "drivelling rot" the latest "Which?" conclusions on the superiority of foreign cars.

WEATHER

E AND NE England and Scotland will start dry and bright, but rain soon reaching the W will spread E to all parts during the morning and afternoon, with hill fog.

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LATE NEWS

POST OFFICE workers' leaders will meet officials of the Post Office today in crucial talks on the union's 15 per cent pay rise demand.

New recruit for Keynes

At that time US capitalism was strengthened by the complete prostration of the European working class.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

SHEFFIELD: Thursday, January 7, 7.30 p.m. The Artichoke Nursery St. 'Butcher's and the future of the AEU in Sheffield'.

Miners and the Charter of Basic Rights

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

LATE NEWS

week, was right to criticize a succession of governments for consistently refusing the money to combat the epidemic by prolonged action, says the BMJ.

He was joined by Israeli UN ambassador Yosef Tekoah, who, with Foreign Minister Eban, has been delegated by the Meir cabinet to conduct all talks on a Middle East settlement with the Arab states.

Call

The Soviet Union and Britain are putting pressure on both sides to begin the talks and to this end UN delegates Jacoby and Sir Colin Cocks called on Jarring in New York before he set out for Jerusalem.

In line with these steps towards a deal between Arab leaders and the Zionists, new moves are being made to implement the 'reconciliation' agreements signed by leaders of the Palestinian guerrillas and the Jordanian government.

It was reported from Amman yesterday that an urgent report on the negotiations will soon be submitted to Arab leaders, possibly in time for the Cairo 'summit' of the new Arab federation of Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Syria, which is scheduled to begin on January 20.

All the authority of these four regimes is now being thrown behind the deal with Israel, a policy that will inevitably lead to new clashes with the Palestinian Liberation movement in Jordan.

FRANCE has decided on rapid development of an H-bomb system expected to be operational within five years, official government sources said yesterday.

The decision means the French thermo-nuclear strike system will be more primitive than those developed by the US and USSR, but operational sooner.

Hire-and-fire threat sparks docks row

the Ocean trades employers' statement.

They are determined to resist any attempt to compulsorily cut back labour and introduce hire and fire.

In tomorrow's Workers Press, we publish the results of an exclusive investigation into the employer-union-government plans for a major shake-up of Britain's ports organization.

Skating over the Kremlin's cordial relations with Hitler at this time, 'Pravda' London correspondent pointed out that in 1940, the British Cabinet considered proposals to make peace with Nazi Germany, using the Italian

But the plan, which involved British surrender of Malta and Gibraltar, was turned down.

Buy off 'Pravda' comments: 'Having started by encouraging the Nazi aggressors in their seizure of other countries, the Munichites went so far that they were prepared to buy off the Nazis with their own territories.'

These evasions are identical to those of the 'Morning Star', which, in its coverage of the 1940 papers, also avoided any mention of the Stalin-Hitler Pact.

Closure bluster by Corby steel chiefs

In his message Mr Crawford claims that to concede a 10 per cent wage increase during the next year would mean profits of £600,000 which are well below the £2m target level.

Management feels the works are threatened by cheaper Japanese steel and the coastal steel works in Britain which make use of richer foreign ores.

Corby is a major producer of steel tubes—annual output amounts to some 18,000 tons—and together with the quarrying, blast furnaces and steel plant, closures would virtually mean the economic destruction of the town.

In June and July last year Corby craftsmen struck for better bonus rates and reluctantly accepted certain productivity strings for a £1-a-week increase.

Clearly redundancy threats are being used now by management in a crude attempt to force through a major productivity deal which would undoubtedly reduce the labour force and mean speed-up for those that remain in the plant.

Similar deals are being implemented by the Corporation's steel works as part of the 'green paper' reorganization of works practices.

A drive for profitability would also fit in with the government's plans to carry through some form of de-nationalization of steel.

One of the schemes being considered by the Cabinet is the so-called 'BF solution', which would leave the Corporation intact, but allow half the shares to be held by private investors and under the Tories only the profitable sectors would be open to private finance.

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Devey affair

does Hill explain Devey's action? Hill advised Devey not to accept.

After acceptance he denounced the settlement.

But what were he and the members of his organization doing to stop the settlement?

The Workers Press has maintained from the start that this could have been done, and this is now conclusively proved by the statement of the Batchelor's strike committee members, worth quoting in detail.

As the talks went on we became more and more convinced that we were going to win, but when the full-time officials told us about the cash offer we did not know what to think.

They told us that we had no chance of getting Terry his job back, and that the best we could do for him was to accept the money to give him and his family the chance of a fresh start.

The full-time officials—Mr Caborn, Mr E. W. Johnson of the EETU, Mr Charles Nutton of the sheet metal union, and Mr W. Moffatt of the plumbers' union—used our loyalty to Terry Devey to get this settlement.

What now, Mr Howard Hill? What about Caborn?

Years of work by rank-and-file Communist Party members and others in the factories have assured that the right wing in the AEU has been reduced over the years to a minority on the district committee.

What did the CP majority on the district committee do about the sell-out?

It met on the crucial evening of December 15, the eve of the mass meeting on the settlement. Let the stokers' committee members continue:

REPORT 'That evening the AEUW district committee accepted Mr Caborn's report of what had happened, but made no recommendation to the strikers who were to meet next day.

'If they thought that there was any alternative to the settlement, why did they not say so when they stood a chance of changing the decision?'

This question is directed straight at the Communist Party and Howard Hill.

Devey's resolution at last Tuesday's district committee of the AEUW, condemning CP interference in the union, shows that he is moving even further to the right.

Like the notorious development of the Electrical Trades Union leadership and of Paynter in the NUM, this is the reactionary product of Stalinism itself.

NLF battering puppet regime's forces

NATIONAL LIBERATION Front fighters are hammering forces of the pro-US regime in a battle South of Saigon in the Mekong Delta's U Minh forest.

With US troops either refusing to undertake or being withdrawn from 'search-and-destroy' missions, the brunt of the ground fighting is now being borne by units of the Saigon regime.

After five weeks of combat against crack NLF guerrillas in the swampy bamboo grove region known as the 'forest of darkness', the 7,000-strong puppet force has suffered at least 300 casualties.

In the extreme NW of S Vietnam, US B-52 bombers launched raids yesterday on guerrilla supply routes for the third time in four days.

Many of the bombs fell within a mile of both the demilitarized zone bordering on N Vietnam and the frontier with Laos, where liberation fighters are also active.

The failure of the Saigon offensive underlines the bleak future facing the puppet regime if US forces are completely withdrawn from S Vietnam, which is Nixon's declared policy.

DEEP-WATER PORT NEXT CAMBODIAN TARGET

LIBERATION forces were reported to be approaching Cambodia's only deep-water port at Kompong Som.

They are already dug in on the outskirts of the capital, Phnom Penh.

A party of Saigon officers which arrived at the city's airport announced they were the advance contingent of an S Vietnamese force sent into the area.

They will be used to shore up the tottering and demoralized

Los Nol army, which last week had two of its battalions wiped out in a clash with guerrillas 33 miles North of the port near Veal Reab.

More than 100 puppet troops were killed in the rout.

Wages which leads to unemployment and the pit of pauperism.

As the Transitional Programme of the Fourth International states unequivocally: 'The question is not one of a "normal" collision between opposing material interests. The question is one of guarding the proletariat from decay, demoralization and ruin.'

'The question is one of life and death of the only creative and progressive class, and by that token of the future of mankind.'

'If capitalism is incapable of satisfying the demands inevitably arising from the calamities generated by itself, then let it perish.'

We have nothing to add to this prognosis except to demand that the proletariat, in a socialist government in 1971.

The All Trades Unions Alliance conference on December 19 showed through the Charter of Basic Rights that the SLL is the only tendency which fights resolutely for class consciousness to fight monopoly capitalism and against 'profit consciousness' which serves capital in its hour of crisis.

Now we appeal to all sections of the trade union and labour movement to take another step forward in the struggle to expropriate monopoly capital by supporting the Young Socialists Alexandra Palace anti-Tory rally.

This is our answer to the threat of imperialist dictatorship and capitalist dictatorship.

Forward to February 14—Alexandra Palace Rally.

Same prices despite potato glut

HOUSEWIVES are unlikely to find any reduction in potato prices despite the biggest surplus for many years.

Record yields have produced nearly a million tons over and above market requirements.

Yet the Potato Board has not had sufficient support funds to buy up this excess from the farmers and the government has lent most of the total £10m cost.

Debray becomes Allende's PR man

REGIS DEBRAY, the French intellectual recently released from prison in Bolivia, is to work in the press office of Chile's Popular Front president Salvador Allende.

This was announced yesterday by a spokesman for the president's chief press officer, who offered a 30-year-old Debray the job when he arrived on Wednesday in Valparaiso, where Allende is based during the summer.

Debray said yesterday he intended to work on an analysis of the Chilean political situation and that president Allende's election 'signifies a change in all of Latin America'.

At present Debray, who served 44 months of a 30-year sentence for his part in Che Guevara's abortive Bolivian guerrilla uprising, is staying at the summer home of leading Chilean Stalinist Pablo Neruda, a poet.

Deadly gas 'lost' for two years

THE CRIMINAL nonchalance with which the US military machine handles the most lethal weapons is nowhere more vividly illustrated than in 'the case of the missing nerve gas'.

The US Defence Department has admitted that the army lost a supply of deadly nerve gas for over two years after it sank unnoticed to the bottom of an Alaskan lake!

The canisters of the gas—a mere drop of which would be fatal—were placed on the frozen lake in January and February, 1966.

'For reasons unable to be determined, the order to destroy the munitions was not given and, with the advent

Deadly gas 'lost' for two years

of the spring thaw, they sank to the bottom,' admits the Pentagon inquiry.

No one at the US army test centre in the remote Gettle River area apparently noticed that the 200 canisters were missing. They lay on the lake bottom until August, 1968.

After a tip-off the Army drove to the lake for 'something' at the bottom.

A Pentagon spokesman insisted that all the canisters were recovered and destroyed and analysis showed there was no contamination of the lake.

There was now a strict accounting system of where toxic munitions are stored, insisted that all the canisters being that there had been no real check previously on the whereabouts of some of the most deadly substances on earth.