

HOOPER
MAY 3 1972
INSTITUTION

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

WHY a Labour government

BY CLIFF SLAUGHTER

IT HAS taken only seven months for the Tory government of Heath to arouse greater hatred and opposition to its Ministers and policies than any government in the experience of the vast majority of the people.

Every working-class family is now seriously affected by the runaway price increases in every type of product and in all services. Soon the cuts in the National Health Service, together with the ending of supplies of school milk and meals, will redouble the hardship for the millions of lower-paid workers.

Decimalization will be made the excuse for new price increases in every single field. Next will come the Common Market, with steep food price increases. And like a great black cloud in the background looms the threat of unemployment. The Tories are pursuing ruthlessly their policy of letting unprofitable firms go to the wall. One factory after another is closing down, thousands more workers go on the dole every month and soon the government will no doubt announce cuts in redundancy payments.

Young married couples are being hit by a more and more impossible situation. Fewer houses are being built, rents are increasing and hire purchase credit is restricted by government policy.

Meanwhile, through the Treasury evidence submitted to the power workers' court of inquiry, the government announces its intention of imposing severe wage restraint, with the main aim of ensuring higher profits. Now everybody knows what the Tories mean by the 'national interest'.

The anti-trade-union laws are the chosen instrument for disarming the working-class movement for these and even more severe attacks in the immediate future. Now the Post Office workers are going into battle against the Tories for a wage increase which, even if won in full, would provide 106,000 postmen with less than £18 a week. At stake in the Post Office strike is not just the wage of the postal worker, but the future of the anti-union laws and the future of every working-class family in Britain. With support from the working-class movement, the Post Office workers can defeat the government and this would give the signal for a great leap forward in the fight to bring them down.

The Labour Party leaders, the trade union leaders of the right and the left, and the Communist Party, all ignore this pressing question. They will not raise the issue of bringing down the Tory government and replacing it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. Why? Why is it only the Socialist Labour League which has always insisted that the essential fight to force the Tories to resign? According to Wilson, we should wait four-and-a-half years and then vote. According to Feather, we must persuade Heath and Carr to withdraw their Bill and co-operate with the TUC. According to the Stalinists, we can force the Tories by pressure to change their minds about bringing in the Bill.

All this is dangerous nonsense and it helps the Tories to hammer through their plans. They will ignore all appeals and mere protests. They will have to be brought down. The only solution to the problems of British capitalism is to break the working class as an independent trade union and political force.

It is either that, or a workers' government which introduces socialism. The Tories and Stalinists do not raise the question of bringing down the Tory government, because they cannot face these choices. They are parties of reform, of collaboration between classes. The last Labour government tried to impose a capitalist solution through anti-union laws, and failed in June 1969.

Not a single worker, not a single working-class housewife, can entertain the idea of leaving the Tories in to last their full term till 1975! This is also the growing opinion among lower-middle-class and professional people, as they experience Tory reaction on all fronts. The mass movement will have to force the Tories out and a Labour government in.

Only a Labour government, and not just trade union struggle, will be able to do what is necessary, i.e., to restore every one of the cuts made by the Tory government, to ensure to every worker the right to a job, to stop all factory closures, and to repeal the anti-union laws immediately.

By nationalizing the banks, insurance companies and building societies, abolishing the stock exchange and establishing state control of all exports and imports, a programme of stabilizing prices would begin immediately. A mass movement strong enough to bring down the Tories will insist on the carrying out of these policies.

The Labour Ministers would either carry them out and break from the capitalists they have always served, or make way for a new leadership. That is the way it will be posed. A Labour government imposed by a mass movement of the working class, with definite class objectives, is a totally different proposition from past Labour governments which have served capitalism.

The mass movement strong enough to remove the Tories will itself prevent factory closures and impose nationalization under workers' control and without compensation. As the Tory upper and middle classes try to organize against these necessary measures, the trade unions and factory committees, housewives and tenants' organizations, will have to work out methods of self-defence. The youth will be ready in hundreds of thousands to fight the employers, just as they were in France 1968.

Will such a movement tolerate a treacherous government of the type led by Wilson from 1964 to 1969? The state power cannot be left in the hands of the Tories and the employing class. They use it only to impose historic defeats on the working class. They are rich upper-class businessmen completely remote from the mass of the people. They use their power to treat ordinary people as pawns in their game of increasing the millions of pounds profit made every day by their class. They are attacking every basic right won by the British working class for the sake of these profits.

The British working class needs a Labour government as an instrument to defend itself against the enemy, and to turn on to the attack. Through the experience of such a government, brought into power by the strength of the working class itself, the workers will build the new, revolutionary leadership necessary to put an end to the capitalist system. Marxists in Britain have always advocated the election of a Labour government, in order to hasten the final rejection by the working class of their rotten reformist leadership.

It is in the fire of struggle that such lessons are learned by the masses. We are now in that struggle. A decisive stage in it will be the bringing down of the Tories and the bringing in of a Labour government, with the mass movement insisting that it carry out the socialist programme contained in the Charter of Basic Rights adopted by the All Trades Unions Alliance second annual conference on December 19 and an inspiring spur to make the February 14 Alexandra Palace anti-Tory rally an enormous success.

Defend postmen's anti-Tory battle

THOUSANDS of Post Office workers eager to join battle with Tory wage-cutting pledged full support for strike action at rallies called by their union throughout Britain at the weekend.

BY DAVID MAUDE

No such enthusiasm for the fight was shown by their union leaders.

With only two days to go before all 230,000 postmen, telecommunications workers, clerical and other staff stop work to press their £3 pay claim, UPW top brass were desperately playing down the political implications of the strike call.

It was 'sad and repugnant' to have to take strike action, union secretary Tom Jackson told at least 2,000 W Midlands members in Birmingham yesterday.

He would 'go anywhere and talk to anybody' in a bid to settle the dispute. More than 3,000 NW members heard UPW assistant secretary Norman Stag bewail the fact that a strike was 'the only effective course of action left open', and would be the severest test in the union's history.

Pattern

Other rallies followed the pattern set at the 10,000-strong White City stadium meeting in London on Friday night, with militancy strong but union leaders carefully avoiding any statement or implication that their fight was against the government.

Yet the Tory front bench and its loyal supporters in the Fleet St press are already whipping up the middle-class and unorganized workers against the strike.

In the apparent hope of softening the collective Tory heart, union leaders are even tiptoeing around rank-and-file demands for a firm commitment to the £3 claim.

In Birmingham, a spokesman for workers at the city's Post Office headquarters was enthusiastically applauded when he told the rally that if Jackson and the UPW executive came back with less than £3 'they will get the same sort of reception here that Ian Paisley would get in Dublin'.

Silence

Although Jackson's appeal for conciliation to Employment Minister Robert Carr claims differences between the UPW's £3 claim and the Post Office's £1-£1 13s offer are 'very small', there was no breaking the government's stony silence yesterday.

None is likely, even if Jackson adopts a well-publicized round-the-clock vigil by his Clapham office telephone until midnight tomorrow.

The government clearly intends 8 per cent in the Post Office to be the follow-up to the 10 per cent at which it is confident the Wilberforce inquiry, meeting in public for the first time today, will hold the power workers' increase.

The Post Office pay fight thus concerns the whole working-class movement. Already the campaign against the Post Office workers is developing along almost identical lines to that against the power workers. With editorial unanimity against the strike already guaranteed, news columns of

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Don't blame workers for 10d letters

A third are below TUC 'minimum' wage

THE 230,000 post workers are certainly not overpaid and cannot be blamed for rising postal costs—a third of them earn below the TUC's £16 10s 'minimum' pay scale.

Post Office chiefs have estimated that revenue in the five-year period 1968-1973 is to fall short of expectation by some £50m—exactly equal to the UPW claim!—because of heavier capital borrowing and higher interest rates.

This has resulted in the massive 40 per cent increase in postal rates—to be introduced on February 15 along with decimalization.

By blaming these rises on the latest outbursts of settlement and warning that even an 8 per cent deal now will mean a 10d first-class mail in the near future, the Tories hope to whip a witch-hunt against the postal workers and load the burden of inflation onto their backs.

Statements to the effect that 'average' wages lie in the £15 to £27 10s range distort the real position of thousands of postal workers, particularly those with jobs outside London, who have to face a soaring cost of living on weekly wage packets that can only be described as derisory.

No Bahamas

Even if the present 15 to 20 per cent claim is won in full and we ignore raging inflation—now running at 8 per cent a year—few Post Office employees will be retiring to the Bahamas. The claim gives 55s to postmen on £18 8s 50s to telephonists on £17 8s 6d; 73s to counter clerks on £24 5s; and 62s to sorters on £20 16s.

However, these are 15 per cent increases on maximum wage levels. Large sections of the 106,000 postmen, 47,500 telephonists, 22,000 counter clerks and 20,000 sorters fall far below these maximums.

At 20, a postman's rate is £13 18s a week and he will only reach his maximum two years later. Telephonist of the same age will get £12 1s, not attaining top rate until age 28!

Counter clerks need even greater stamina. Earning £7 10 a year at 20, they must wait another ten years before earning the maximum.

By taking on and defeating the postmen, the Tories hope to strike another blow against the working class and take another step towards imposing anti-union laws.

Such a victory would also soften up sections of public employees in preparation for hitting off profitable sections of the state-owned industries to private enterprise.

Private employers can hardly wait to get their hands on the lucrative telecommunications section.

10pc return

In the ten years up to 1973, over £3,000m of public money has been poured into it, yielding an annual return on capital investment of near ten per cent.

In 1969, this section made a £10m profit, while productivity has soared at four times the national average. This is in contrast to the labour-intensive postal services, where productivity has sagged, leading to a loss of £25m in the same year.

While the succulent morsels will be devoured by courtesy of the Heath gang, postal services will become the arena for productivity speed-up, redundancy and savage resistance to any improvement in the abysmal wage levels.

It is little wonder that postal workers are furious that their modest wage claims have been and continue to be blamed for rocketing postal rates.

Ulster slump causes new troubles

ULSTER'S premier, Major James Chichester-Clark is to meet Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling to discuss the week's rioting in N Ireland.

Buildings were set alight and a burning car pushed through a shop window in Londonderry yesterday as rioting spread to the city from Belfast, where there has been a week of violence.

Armoured cars roared into Belfast riot areas after troops had been bombarded with stones and petrol bombs for an hour-and-a-half.

Nineteen people including one juvenile were arrested after fierce fighting on Saturday night and Sunday morning. Yesterday's outbreaks were the culmination of the worst mid-winter rioting seen in N Ireland for two years.

TROOPS OCCUPY

Over 700 troops now occupy the Ballymurphy estate and the government has sealed off one mile of the Catholic Crumlin Rd area of the city.

Commentators blame the latest outbursts on the efforts of the 'provisional' faction of the IRA to intimidate moderate Catholics to violence. But this cannot explain the widespread and spontaneous fighting clearly caused by the intense hatred for the army of occupation and the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Frustration has reached a winter peak due to the continuing slump in the Ulster economy. One man in ten is without a job and the Londonderry percentage of male unemployed has reached the incredible 30 per cent.

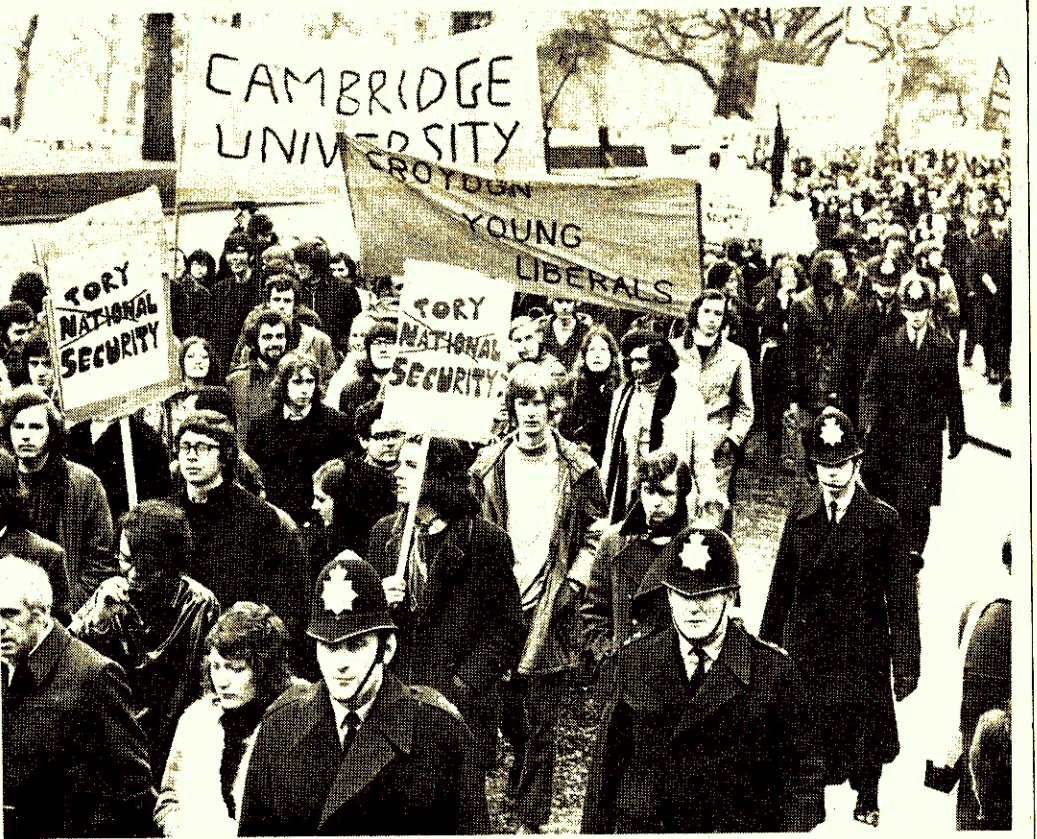
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N London engineers back rally

N LONDON engineers are the latest to declare their support for the anti-Tory rally at the Alexandra Palace on February 14.

Tottenham No. 7 branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineers and Foundryworkers has passed a resolution backing the rally and the Charter of Basic Rights of the All Trades Unions Alliance. They have also called on the AEF N London district committee to support the rally.

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Some of the 3,000 demonstrators in London.

£1,250 January Fund now needs £883 12s 2d

FOURTEEN days to the end of the month and the fund stands at £366 7s. 10d. It is urgent that we step up the fight to complete the target.

Workers Press plays an enormous role today, a principled stand against Measured-Day Work has strengthened the car workers in their battle at British-Leyland.

Our demand for a General Strike to defeat the Tories is seen by more and more trade unionists as the only way to force the Tory government to resign. The postmen are now posed with taking a lead in this fight.

We must keep this paper right out in front. Help us go all out for January's Appeal Fund. Collect extra this month for the special fund of £1,000 needed for the Alexandra Palace Rally.

We are relying on you to raise everything you can. Immediately, post all your donations to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

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POEU members fear for jobs

MORALE amongst Britain's 112,000 Post Office engineers has been badly hit by Tory denationalization plans, says union chief Lord Delacourt-Smith.

In a letter to Post Minister Christopher Chataway, Smith says the 'dismissal of Lord

Lectures boycott after Dutschke demonstration

SEVERAL thousand students from a dozen universities and colleges marched through London yesterday afternoon protesting against the Tory decision to expel former W German student leader Rudi Dutschke from Britain.

Chanting 'Rudi in, Maudling out!', the demonstrators—hemmed in by a large force of police, placed every three yards along the route—toured government offices in Whitehall before rallying at Trafalgar Square.

The meeting was addressed by Labour front-benchers Michael Foot and Judith Hart, 'Private Eye' satirist Paul Foot and the Rev. Paul Oestreicher.

Cambridge students, 400 of whom travelled to London for the National Union of Students-backed march, will continue to demonstrate against the Home Office decision on Dutschke today with a complete boycott of all normal lectures.

Instead—supported by many lecturers—they will engage in extended discussions of the Dutschke case, or in a teach-in sponsored by the Cambridge Students' Union.

Hall brought to a head a number of anxieties about the future which have been increasingly affecting morale of the staff.

The POEU, he says, is 'opposed to "hiving off", particularly of profitable activities'.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS

MAKE THE TORY GOVT RESIGN!

MASS RALLY FEBRUARY 14 ALEXANDRA PALACE Wood Green N22 at 11a.m. £1

For more details or a ticket please write to YS national secretary John Simmonds, 186a, Clapham High Street, London SW4.

Please send me more details/a ticket. I enclose cheque/postal order for £1.

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IN SIX PARTS

AN OPEN LETTER TO

JOSEPH HANSEN



BY ROBERT BLACK

PART ONE

IN AN 'open letter' published in Workers Press, April 18 and 21, 1970, we addressed the following questions to Joseph Hansen of the Socialist Workers Party (US).

What is Castroism? Who will build the revolutionary leadership to defeat imperialism and Stalinism? What is the future of Trotskyism? Hansen—a leading apologist for Castroism since 1960—refused to answer these questions, or any of the points raised in our 'open letter'.

served as a cover for an unprincipled re-unification between the SWP majority and the European supporters of Pablo. The SWP had been one of the parties which broke with Pablo in 1953. Considerable documentary material relating to your position over the last decade was marshalled to prove that you had renounced vital questions of Marxist theory and principle in your anxiety to break from the International Committee and link

wonder about the monolithism in their own organization. By attempting to turn the discussion away from politics, perspectives and history to innuendo about the internal 'regime' of the SWP you emulate the spokesman of the petty bourgeois opposition to Trotsky and Cannon in your own party in 1939-1940.

Healy still holds that Cuba's economy is state capitalist and that Castro is another 'Batista'. We hope your readers will carefully note the use you make of quotation marks in this sentence. Putting the name of the former Cuban dictator in quotation marks suggests we said that Castro and Batista were identical. You know this is a downright lie. Yet you develop this lie further, saying:

majority resolution on reunification. You say, 'It was accepted by an overwhelming majority on each side and this became the statement of principles on which the two sides carried out a fusion at the subsequent Reunification Congress in 1963.

We did not oppose a principled unification then, and we do not do so now. But the type of fusion you were advocating was one where the theoretical and historical questions would be obscured—hence the emphasis that the SWP leadership placed on the organizational nature of Pabloism, and the neglect of its idealist, middle-class roots.

Revises

We took up this point in our reply to you: 'We believe that the reasons for the split in 1953 were not of a tactical nature... In effect Pabloism revises the whole concept of the Marxist party...'



Fidel Castro

Castro has on several occasions praised this military regime, despite its repressions of students, workers and peasants.

This second open letter deals with Hansen's evasions and answers his recently repeated slanders that the Socialist Labour League has been the main opponent of a principled unification on a world scale of genuinely Trotskyist forces.

Since 1963 the SWP has supported the revisionist United Secretariat of the Fourth International. Before that it had maintained fraternal relations with the SWP and the International Committee of the Fourth International. (The repressive Voorhis Act prevents any party in the US having international affiliations.)

The record of the SWP and of you in particular, on the Cuban Revolution was the subject of our first 'open letter' to you.

That letter showed how the emergence of the Castro leadership and the discussion on the class nature of the Cuban state

up with Pabloite International Secretariat.

But in your journal 'International Press', May 11, 1970, you once more evade the issues raised by both the crisis in your ranks, and the further drift to the right of the Castro leadership (which, as you know, faithfully endorses the Kremlin policy of supporting the reactionary military junta in Peru).

Slanders

In this article 'A note on Healy's Current Slanders' you refer to our publication of material relating to the congress of the 'United Secretariat' last summer. These are to be found in 'Fourth International' (Vol. 6 No. 2, Winter 1969-1970).

Our publication of these documents obviously causes you some political discomfort, for you make the cynical remark:

'Shocking as it may seem to a good many members of the SWP that such a free discussion could be held, others may begin to

Burnham and Shachtman, we refer to be diverted by such petty-bourgeois tactics.

Your political case rests with the reproduction of the SWP resolution of March 1, 1963: 'For the Early Reunification of the World Trotskyist Movement'. But even this resolution is introduced in a sick style, a style that betrays a whole political method:

'In his list of further documents to be "exposed", we should like to suggest that Healy gives top priority to the one reprinted below (i.e. For Early Reunification). It should be of special interest to members of the SWP since it can be safely asserted that 99.9 per cent have never heard of it and the remaining 0.1 per cent probably had to turn their numbered copies back in to Healy personally.

'What did Healy object to in this document? He has never stated his objections but they are hardly any secret. In my considered opinion, Healy was motivated primarily by dead-end factionalism. What does this explain? Are political tendencies and splits to be explained on the basis of guessing at psychological motives? What has this to do with Marxism?

Abandon

You continue, 'In the years since the Reunification Congress Healy has covered up his differences on these points with an immense amount of verbiage about the importance of theory.'

Here indeed is the heart of the question. The SWP did not simply talk about the importance of theory, but demonstrated in minute detail that yours and the SWP line consisted of the abandonment of Marxist theory, a capitulation to the so-called 'facts'—a substitution of empiricism for Marxist theory.

As you once proudly announced: 'I start with the empirical fact of the Cuban Revolution'. And, on another

occasion, 'Dialectical materialism is empiricism consistently carried out.'

In order to cover up your thoroughly opportunist record on Cuba over the last ten years, you have to resort to a total distortion of our position. For example, you write:

'... Healy still holds that Cuba's economy is state capitalist and that Castro is another "Batista".

We hope your readers will carefully note the use you make of quotation marks in this sentence. Putting the name of the former Cuban dictator in quotation marks suggests we said that Castro and Batista were identical. You know this is a downright lie. Yet you develop this lie further, saying:

'... it is sad that a person who shouts so much about the importance of theory should have found so little time to attempt to make at least a small contribution to the economic theory of state capitalism and the political theory of Castroism as a synonym for "Batistaism". (Again, the unexplained quotation marks.)

In our first 'open letter' to you, we were scrupulously careful in quoting from your writings on Cuba.

The bulk of our case rested on what you have said in the past about the 'unconscious Trotskyists', (e.g. Castro) who endorse the most reactionary aspects of Stalinism and defend the military junta in Peru which held Hugo Blanco and his comrades captive.

Accepted

But before checking over our position on Cuba, we will deal with the issues raised by your reproduction of the SWP

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BBC 1

- 9.38 a.m.-12.25 p.m. Schools. 12.55 In defence of the stork. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.10 Schools. 4.10-4.35 Computer education in schools. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Barrier reef. 5.44 Magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK. Weather. 6.20 ENTERTAINING WITH KERR. 6.45 A QUESTION OF SPORT. 7.05 Z CARs. 'Nobody Wins, Nobody Loses'. Part one. 7.30 NOT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN. 'Domestic Help'. 8.00 PANORAMA. 'Other People's Babies'. Report on unmarried mothers. 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 DOOMWATCH. 'By the Pricking of my Thumbs...'. 10.10 COME DANCING. 10.40 24 HOURS. 11.15 ROAD SENSE. 11.40 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

- All regions as above except: Midlands, E Anglia: 6.00-6.20 Midlands today. Look East, weather. 11.42 News, weather. North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.20 Look North, weather. 11.42 News, weather. Wales: 1.30-1.45 Ar lin mam. 6.00-6.20 Wales today, weather. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. 7.30-8.00 Gwymer di ngŷnall. 11.42 Weather. Scotland: 12.55-1.30 Sunday set. 6.00-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 6.20-6.45 News, weather. N Ireland: 6.00-6.20 Scene around six, weather. 6.20-6.45 Cross country quiz. 7.30-8.00 Day at night. 11.42 News, weather. SW, South, West: 6.00-6.20 Points West. South today, Spotlight SW, weather. 11.42 News, weather.

BBC 2

- 11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 6.35-7.00 p.m. OPEN UNIVERSITY. Social Sciences 2. 7.05 CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL. 'Types'. 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 THE HIGH CHAPARRAL. 'The Badge'. 8.50 CALL MY BLUFF. 9.50 HORIZON. 'Great Ormond Street'. Hospital for Sick Children. 10.10 THEATRE: 'FAITH'. Robert Lang. A former high ranking minister in an E European country is now a political prisoner condemned as a revisionist. 10.40 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.45 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

- 3.45 p.m. Yoga for health. 4.10 Once upon a time. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Lost in space. 5.45 News. 5.55 Today. 6.40 DAVID NIXON'S MAGIC BOX. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 WORLD IN ACTION. 8.30 MAN AT THE TOP. 'Join the Human Race'. 9.30 MR DIGBY, DARLING. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 FILM: 'ODONGO'. Rhonda Fleming, MacDonald Carey. African adventure story. 12.00 EDITORS. Leonard Parkin talks to Larry Lamb, editor of 'The Sun'.

REGIONAL ITV

- CHANNEL: 11.00-2.58 London. 3.55 Once upon a time. 4.05 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.15 Moment of truth. 4.45 Forest rangers. 5.10 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 News. 5.55 Day by day. Complaints box. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 News. 11.10 Tom Jones. 12.10 Weather. It's all yours. SOUTHERN: 11.00-2.58 London. 3.25 Once upon a time. 4.05 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.15 Moment of truth. 4.45 Forest rangers. 5.10 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 News. 5.55 Day by day. Complaints box. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 News. 11.10 Tom Jones. 12.10 Weather. It's all yours. HARLECH: 11.00-2.58 London. 4.09 Moment of truth. 4.34 Women only. 4.50 Magic boomerang. 5.14 Timeslip. 5.50 London. 5.56 Report West. 6.20 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'On the Town'. Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra. Musical about the adventures of three sailors on a 24-hour leave in New York. 12.15 Weather. HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.07-4.09 Report West. 6.15-6.45 This is the West this week. HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 as above except: 5.56-6.20 Y dydd. HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 5.56-6.20 Y dydd. 8.00-8.30 Yr wythnos. ANGLIA: 11.00-2.58 London. 4.35 Granny gets the point. 4.00 News. 4.05 Women today. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 Felix the cat. 5.10 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 About Anglia. 6.40 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 NYFD. 11.30 Living and growing. 11.55 Farming. 12.20 News voices. ATY MIDLANDS: 11.00-2.58 London. 3.10 Houseparty. 3.20 Horoscope. 3.25 News today. 4.00 Peyton Place. 4.30 Peace on earth. 4.35 Once upon a time. 4.50 Showtime. 5.10 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 University challenge. 11.02 Personally speaking. Weather. ULSTER: 11.00-2.58 London. 4.25 Romper room. 4.45 News. 4.50 Phoenix five. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 Today. 6.25 Calendar. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Film: 'The Devil's Disciple'. Burt Lancaster, Laurence Olivier, Kirk Douglas, Janet Scott. American Revolution. YORKSHIRE: 11.00-2.58 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.10 Once upon a time. 4.25 Matinee. 4.50 Rovers. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 University challenge. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Weather. GRANADA: 11.00-3.00 London. 4.05 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.50 Skippy. 5.10 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 Newsday. Put it in writing. 6.20 Beverly hillbillies. 6.40 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Human jungle. TYNE TEES: 11.00-2.58 London. 4.00 News. 4.05 Women today. 4.35 Paulus. 4.50 Stingray. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 Today. 6.25 Sports-time. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the press. 11.00 Policeman and the cook. 12.00 News. 12.15 Epilogue. BORDER: 1.38-3.00 London. 3.50 Houseparty. 4.03 News. 4.05 High living. 4.35 Once upon a time. 4.50 Joe 90. 5.10 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 Today. 6.25 Sports-time. 6.45 University challenge. 6.40 London. 10.30 Edgar Wallace. 11.35 Danny Doyle. 12.05 News. SCOTTISH: 10.35 No easy answer. 11.00-2.58 London. 4.00 Dataline. 4.10 Once upon a time. 4.25 Captain Scarlet. 5.10 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 Dataline. 6.40 News. 6.15 University challenge. 6.40 London. 10.30 Debate. 11.20 Conceptions of murder. 11.50 Late call. GRAMPIAN: 10.58-2.58 London. 4.05 News. 4.10 Once upon a time. 4.25 High living. 4.55 Rumble jumble. 5.15 Timeslip. 5.45 London. 5.55 News. 6.05 Cartoon. 6.15 Junkin. 6.40 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Live and growing. 11.55 Evening prayers.



Hugo Blanco

Committee—with the same lack of response. The questions raised by us for discussion were finally tabled for examination by the SWP National Committee for its plenum in the middle of June, 1962, almost 18 months after we had opened up the discussion.

In a letter dated March 12, 1962, we commented: 'We have waited almost eighteen months and the record of correspondence between us speaks for itself. What does international collaboration mean if it does not imply discussion between sections? What is the purpose of drafting an international resolution as you have done and talking about the need for discussion upon it if you have not presented to your membership our contribution to that discussion.'

But despite your flagrant violations of these comradely norms, we still held out hopes that the discussion could begin in a way that would bring together our two movements for a common fight for Trotskyist principles within the international movement.

In conclusion we would like to emphasize something we have stressed on a number of occasions. We feel proud of the work which our comrades of the SWP have carried out under the most difficult circumstances.

'As internationalists, we feel that the close association between our two sections can continue under conditions where the present discussion may well draw us even closer together. We look forward to your political contribution to the discussion.'

Continued tomorrow

PART ONE

AS EACH DAY passes the real nature of this Tory government is becoming clearer to millions of workers.

Backed by all the great monopolists, it is dedicated to the task of taking all the rights and gains achieved by the workers in struggle against capitalism since its emergence in the period of the Industrial Revolution.

All its plans: to shackle the unions to the state and take away rights of free collective bargaining; to destroy the Health Service established by the post-war Attlee government; and to increase unemployment through deliberately created bankruptcies and closures, thus denying millions the right to work, are all designed to reduce the working class to a class stripped of all rights and defenceless against enormously intensified exploitation.

It is now vital, in this period of growing crisis, that class-conscious workers turn to a real study of their movement's history. For the Heath government's plans go far beyond attempts to reduce living standards: they aim to overturn more than 200 years of struggle and advance.

How can all the rights which the working class have won over this long period be preserved? This is the question which will face millions of workers as the crisis deepens, a question which will drive them to seek political answers for which the revolutionary movement must consciously prepare.

The reactionary Tory plans are no accident. They do not flow from any malevolence of Mr Heath; they are the product of a deep international capitalist crisis which drives the system to take back all the concessions which it has been forced to yield to the working class in the past.

For the British capitalist class the crisis is particularly acute, coming as it does at the end of a long-drawn-out process of economic and financial decline.

Rivals

Facing entry into Europe, it now lacks completely the resources, either at home or abroad, to fight successfully in world markets against its stronger rivals, particularly US imperialism.

But the crisis facing British capitalism is reflected above all in the need to settle accounts with its own working class. For it is the strength of this class and the powerful organizations which it has established that ultimately stand in the way of the realization of the Tories' plans.

The British ruling class can no longer allow the working class to retain any of the rights and gains which were reluctantly yielded to it in the Golden Age of British imperialism.

But if the sharpening contradictions of capitalism pose the British ruling class with a crisis, they do so with even greater sharpness for the working class.

For neither the Labour and trade union leaders, nor the Stalinists who support them are capable of preserving any of the gains achieved by the past industrial and political strength of the labour movement.

They openly line up with the Tories and the capitalist class in preparing to defeat the working class and prevent it from launching a successful counter-offensive against this government.

In the past, resting on imperialism, the reformists were able to use the strength of the labour movement to win some concessions from the employing class. But their continued dominance could now only lead to the movement's destruction.

Only a new leadership, which is now being built and strengthened in struggle against Stalinism and social democracy, basing itself on the depth of the present crisis and the revolutionary role of the working class, can now defend and extend the historical gains of the working class.

Such a revolutionary party can be built only on the perspectives of leading the working class to take power.

Response

The great leap in British workers' consciousness, now being prepared by capitalism's deepening crisis, will take place when millions of workers become convinced that the basic rights which they and previous generations have established can be defended only by revolutionary means, through the building of the revolutionary party.

Just as the demands for 'Land, Peace and Bread' were the ones around which the masses in the Russian Revolution were successfully mobilized, so the defence of the basic rights of the British working class in a period of rapidly mounting crisis can now find a deep response from

the oldest working class in the world. The historical development and thinking of this class has been intimately bound up with the achievement of these rights.

For class-conscious workers, then, the study of the working class's rights, how they were won and how they affected the thinking of the working class, is not an academic, but a revolutionary task. This study must become an integral part of the conscious preparation of the revolutionary party to mobilize the great historical forces which the crisis is bringing forward.

Continuity

It would be a mistake to think, however, that the consciousness of the British working class has been shaped only by its experiences under capitalism. The question of 'rights' goes back hundreds of years in English history—to the struggles of the peasantry against the oppression of the feudal lords, through the period of the Civil War to the emergence of the modern working class in the years of the Industrial Revolution.

This long chain of struggles

A NEW SERIES BY PETER JEFFRIES

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO

THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS

A 15th Century picture of the Peasants' Revolt in 1381 showing leaders John Ball (on horse) and Wat Tyler (left of picture).



The Peasants Revolt 1381 (1)

does have a real continuity. It is no accident that leading Chartists such as Ernest Jones spoke many times in the 1840s of the lessons and experiences of the 14th century peasant uprisings and of the lessons which they held for the movement in the 19th century.

It is the great responsibility of the revolutionary movement to re-establish this continuity in the consciousness of those millions of workers who will enter politics in the midst of this crisis for the first time.

In these articles we draw some of the lessons of the great peasant uprisings which reached their height in England in June 1381, when thousands took up violent struggle against the great feudal landowners, church leaders, local justices and other government officers.

SOME READING MATERIAL

- The best interpretation of the peasants' movement of 1381 is to be found in R. H. Hilton and H. Fagan, 'The English Rising of 1381'.
- Marx discusses some important features of feudalism in parts of 'Capital', Volume III, notably Chs XX and XLVII.
- For the general background to 1381 any general history of the period can be read, amongst which are:
 - M. McKisack, 'The Fourteenth Century'.
 - G. Holmes, 'The Later Middle Ages'.
 - A. R. Myers 'England in the Late Middle Ages' (Penguin).

Although ruthlessly put down, this movement had the profoundest impact upon the break-up of feudalism and the development of capitalism in England.

Like all great periods of social crisis, the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, led by Wat Tyler, was the product of deep-going economic changes which had been at work for many decades.

International

It was also part of a European movement which engulfed France, Italy and Germany.

Marxists have always stressed that periods of revolutionary change are never national in scope, they are

always the product of much deeper social forces which transcend state boundaries. The English Civil War of the 17th Century occurred as part of a general European crisis in which radical changes took place in economic and political relationships throughout the Continent.

Powers

In the same way, Chartism, the first revolutionary movement of the English working class reached its peak (1848) as part of a revolutionary crisis which affected all the major European powers.

The intensified struggles of the European peasantry which mark the beginning of the 14th Century also coincide with the onset of the first stages of a deep crisis for European feudalism.

This crisis was only finally to be resolved in the series of bourgeois revolutions which started in England in the 1640s and were not to be completed until the 19th Century.

● Part Two, next Monday, will deal with the Peasants' Revolt of 1381.

Jobs eliminated by low-cost automation

BY BERNARD FRANKS

EXAMPLES of how automation and work-measurement are increasing output while cutting back on jobs are outlined in the latest issue of 'Target', bulletin of the British Productivity Council.

Some of the industries examined are:

Food manufacturing

A COMPUTER - controlled automatic materials-handling system has been installed by H. J. Heinz & Co. Ltd, at its plant at Kitt Green, Lancashire.

This has enabled production of 15,000 gallons of soup an hour to be carried out by 22 operatives. Using traditional methods 70 workers would be needed.

The new system 'selects raw materials for 40 soups in the required quantities and combinations from 44 ingredients—18 in powder form (flour, sugar, etc.) 18 of pulse type (peas, beans, barley, etc.) and eight liquids. It controls delivery to the cooking point—one batch to one of the 12 mixing vessels every two minutes.

'Each ingredient is measured to an accuracy of + 2 per cent: most are within + 1 per cent.'

Plant troubles are detected automatically by the computer which scans 1,500 input and output points every 20th of a second. The computer also checks stock levels in storage bins and the number of batches produced each shift.

Operations are controlled from a central panel which is also linked to all sections of the plant by an intercom system. The management

explained that 'there has been no resistance because we stressed there would be no redundancy'.

Engineering

A WEST COUNTRY engineering firm which makes oil burners for makers and converters of heaters has increased its size 25 per cent annually over the last five years, but the work force has been increased by only 7 per cent annually over the same period.

The firm, Don Engineering (Southwest) Ltd, has avoided the recruitment of more workers by introducing modern techniques including low-cost automation.

At one time wicks were cut and notched (to ensure correct fuel flow) by two workers using tin shears. With the growth of the firm six operatives would have been needed. Instead, a machine has been introduced which notches and cuts to length automatically, feeding out two completed wicks every ten seconds.

It is operated by one worker on a part-time basis who spends the rest of the time doing packing and other jobs.

The machine, which cost £1,000, paid for itself in less than eight months.

On the office side of the same firm the use of automatic accounting equipment 'has cut paper work and allowed existing staff to handle an almost quadrupled work load'.

The report adds that the office equipment cost £2,500 and has already paid for itself.

Light engineering

INTRODUCTION of low-cost automation into the engineering shop of the Liverpool firm Harry Irving & Co. Ltd, is enabling large increases in production from the same number of workers.

The company's main products are dog collars, leads and grooming combs and employs 70 workers. A semi-automated machine now handles drilling operations previously carried out by three machines.

Two operatives were redeployed 'without loss of earnings'. Conversion of a machine for pressing the teeth into combs from manual to pneumatic operation cost £30 and raised productivity by 30 per cent.

Another machine for fixing handles on combs was converted for £50 and yields a 50 per cent production increase.

Conversion of a fly press for £40 enables the stamping of combs with the company's name to be carried out by a spastic employee.

Component manufacture

INTRODUCTION of work-study and new machinery by a firm making metal and plastic components has increased output by 50 per cent while cutting the labour force from 680 three years ago to 500 at present.

The company, United-Carr Ltd, which has factories at Uxbridge and Aylesbury, used time-and-motion methods to measure the work of selected departments.

In one department an individual bonus scheme and a merit rating scheme were introduced.

According to the report:

'The department, which has been only 42 per cent effective, lifted its performance by 120 per cent of standard, yet the labour force fell to 16 (from 47) and earnings rose by 60 per cent.'

It adds that all changes have been achieved without redundancy — by retirement and 'natural wastage'.

The British Productivity Council, an organization in which employers collaborate with trade union leaders to promote any productivity measure which can lead to more output and fewer jobs, is itself facing a cutback; the Tories have threatened to reduce its state grant of £630,000 a year by a third.

According to the 'Financial Times', this could lead to the replacement of the BPC's head office staff of 80 by a small secretariat 'of three or four people by middle 1973'.

The Tory government is less concerned with 'persuasion' and 'encouragement' of workers to accept faster working and loss of jobs than with the direct enforcement of these measures through the operation of the Industrial Relations Bill.

Fewer workers but farm deaths are up

A RISING TOLL of death and injury on the land is recorded in the latest Ministry of Agriculture report on farm safety, health and welfare.

Dealing with figures for 1969, the report shows that 115 agricultural workers—including 17 children under 15 — were killed in farm accidents during the year.

The biggest killers were tractors turning over.

Although the 1969 death toll was an increase of only one over those for the previous two years, the total number of farm workers was 14,000 down on the 1968 figure and 43,000 less than that for 1967.

13p.c. rise

Fatal accidents among Britain's 353,600 agricultural workers have thus risen by roughly 13 per cent in two years.

Safety regulations requiring the fitting of tractor cabs came into operation on September 1 last year, but apply only to machines sold after this date. Old tractors will not be affected until 1977.

Yet the Ministry has had reported to it no less than 16 accidents 'in which tractor cabs undoubtedly saved the drivers' lives'.

No comment

The report puts the total number of non-fatal farm accidents in 1969 at 7,387.

There were 173 prosecutions for failure to comply with regulations, including five under the avoidance of accidents to children regulations.

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Powell's

FROM PAGE ONE
economy, 'sovereignty of parliament' to efface the class character of the Common Market.
The refusal of Gollan and the W European CPs to raise the alternative of a Socialist States of Europe to the reactionary Utopia of the Common Market plays straight into Powell's hands.
In the same way that Mr Powell wants people to believe that jobs and wages are threatened by overseas immigrants, so too his opposition to the Common Market is based largely on an antipathy to 'foreigners'.

All set for a head-on collision with the Tories

Why the postmen will strike



Some of the London postmen who attended the giant Friday night rally in the White City stadium.

WORKERS PRESS REPORTERS

LONDON postmen gave ample evidence of the militant feeling which is driving them into head-on collision with the Tory government when they rallied 10,000 strong at the White City last Friday.

Again and again, the workers spoke to three stressed that they will no longer tolerate the low pay that has put them close to the bottom of the wages table over the past ten years.



Counter clerk Desmond Taylor, from Jamaica. 'Our claim is just,' he says.

Add to this the burning issue of incremental scales — which can keep young workers waiting up to ten years before they receive full adult rate for their job — and the growing threat of being handed over to private industry by the Tories, and there are all the materials for an explosion.

That is why, on Wednesday, 230,000 postmen, clerks, telephonists and cleaners will walk out, bringing mail and telephone services to a virtually complete halt apart from emergency calls, and closing down post offices all over the country.

Postmen have seen other groups of low-paid workers struggle for and win big wage rises. Their own pay has remained close to the bottom of the table for years now, thanks to a union leadership which prides itself on its 'moderation' and has consistently accepted pennies from the management after putting in demands for pounds.

Indeed, at Friday's rally, the UPW's assistant secretary Dick Lawler boasted that between 1949 and 1969 the average postman had lost a total of £5,000 because of wage claims which were not pressed through to a finish by the leadership.

Post Office work is a grinding round-the-clock machine which takes little account of workers' social lives and frequently burdens them with a heavy load of responsibility.

Even the traditional job security which attracted many men into the Post Office after the war is threatened by Tory plans to hive off its profitable sections into private hands, with the possibility of large-scale redundancies as quick profits are pushed to the fore.

It is forced to rely completely on its members' willingness to stand out without pay for a decent wage and an end to the hated system of scales which ties young postal workers to years of super-exploitation before they get full rate.

RICHARD CHAMBERS is a typical victim of the incremental system. Married, with one small child, he has worked for five years as a postman, ever since he left school. His basic wage is still only £16 16s for a 43-hour week.

After stoppages—unless he works long hours of overtime—he takes home £12. 'I just have to work overtime to make ends meet,' he told Workers Press at Friday's rally.

'In order to take home £20 in my pay-packet, I have to work an extra 20 hours—and it's not very often I can do that.'

Up at 4 a.m. every day, he finds his job 'the most unsociable job you can do. When you're constantly trying for more overtime, you can't call any of your time your own.'

Richard's fellow-workers at the N London District Office clustered round to demonstrate just how badly paid they are. They thrust pay-slips in front of my face to prove their point.



Harry Chapman, W Ealing postman (left) and Dave Percival, who works at the PO Croydon depot. 'There has been a terrific increase in the work load,' he says.

L. A. POWELL, his friend, joined the Post Office at the same time as he did, and earns a basic £17 10s 3d (with London rating).

'I've got two children and I'm the family's only breadwinner,' he says.

'We've always been easy going up to now,' he says, 'but we're just beginning to wake up. Even if we can't get strike pay, we'll hang out as long as we can—and that's a lot longer than they can go without a postal service. The general feeling at our depot is that the men are determined to stay out until they get their demands.'

'We're not really getting a living wage compared to other people. I'm certainly in favour of this strike, though we won't be getting strike pay. I'll just have to manage, it's all in a good cause.'

'Yes, this is an action—a just action—against the Tory government. I think a few more workers should take a stand against these Tories.'

HARRY CHAPMAN has been a W Ealing postman for four-and-a-half years. He considers himself lucky because early shift means turning out of bed at 4.45 a.m. and not the 4 a.m. rise for some postmen who live far away from the depot.

In common with all other postmen he has to grab every second of overtime not through choice, but because his basic just isn't enough to live on.

'We don't see this as a political strike, it would have happened under Labour. All we want is a decent wage for fair work. It will only be political if the government wants it to be and stands in the way of this.'

For the flat week of 43 hours Harry gets £19 17s before stoppages, this compares with £18 17s paid to postmen in the previous week.

'The postmen never go on strike like this. So when they do you can be sure they are really upset. They have more or less been forced to take this step because of the government.'

'The Hall thing was an indication of the mood of the men. Most people felt that if the government could sack Hall at the top what would they do to the bottom of the industry.'

'I think people in the Post Office are very much opposed to the Tories' plans for the nationalized industries and the Post Office. If they want to fight we are set to give them one.'

DAVE PERCIVAL is a young Croydon postal worker. To make enough money for his wife and two children to live on he has to put in 58 hours a week which brings in a take-home pay of £23.

'At Croydon,' he says, 'the work load is terrific.'

'This union has a long history of docility. There was this image in the past that you were a civil servant. At one time many of the workers were ex-army pensioners and therefore not militant.'

'They were attracted to the job because of the security and the pension it offered, but these things have declined in relative importance. All you have now is a job that is low paid and a lot of workers who quite rightly won't stand for this.'

'It's great to see all the lads so militant at last.'

'We don't want to hurt the public, that's why we will be working free for the pensioners and to maintain other vital services. It's the businesses we would really like to get at. But you have to pay with some inconvenience when workers strike—their labour is all they have got.'

'It could happen that the Tories launch an attack on this. There are wavering elements, of course, but these boys will soon be whipped into line when the strike gets under way.'

'I for one am prepared to stay out until Christmas for the 15 per cent.'

Al Fatah charge a cover for betrayal Move to disarm guerrillas

'AL FATAH' leaders yesterday accused the more radical 'Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine' of working with King Hussein to liquidate the resistance movement.

Kamal Adwan told a Beirut press conference that PFLP leaders were trying to give the Jordanian government an excuse to break recently-signed agreements with the guerrilla Central Committee.

But after making these entirely unsubstantiated charges, Adwan himself called on Palestinians to support the Hussein government!

'We are,' he said, 'fighting the same war.' Al Fatah is using the obvious weaknesses of the more radical guerrilla groups to divert attention away from its own betrayal of the liberation struggle.

NEGOTIATING Far from fighting Israel, Hussein is at this very moment negotiating with its leaders via United Nations envoy Gunnar Jarring for a Middle-East settlement that leaves the Zionist state intact behind frontiers guaranteed by the 'Big Four' powers.

The Al Fatah leadership is playing its part in this conspiracy against the Arab Revolution by once again attempting to disarm Palest-

'MANIFESTO' — the group headed by the five Communist parliamentarians expelled by the Italian CP over a year ago is to publish a daily paper.

Up to the present the tendency, criticism of the CP's reformism and parliamentary manoeuvres, have centred round a monthly journal.

The paper, carrying only political news, will be edited by the parliamentarian deputy Luigi Pintor. It is planned to raise a subscription of 50 million lire (£33,000) to guarantee publication for two months starting in March. Thereafter the paper must be self-financing.

'I for one am prepared to stay out until Christmas for the 15 per cent.'

Austria is go-between for all-European security

A CALL for the projected European Security Conference to be held as soon as possible was issued after three days of talks between Austrian Foreign Minister Rudolf Kirchschlaeger and his Polish counterpart Stefan Jedrychowski.

The talks, which ended in Warsaw on Saturday, are the first official contact made by the Polish regime with a capitalist power since the downfall of Gomulka during last December's strikes.

It was also the first visit by an Austrian minister to Poland for more than ten years.

COMMUNIQUE The desire of the Gierek-Moczar leadership to strengthen its links with the West was evident in the communiqué issued at the end of the talks, which emphasized that Austrian-Polish relations were 'developing successfully'.

The two ministers agreed that cultural, scientific and technical co-operation should be expanded between the two countries, together with an increased volume of trade.

Jedrychowski also accepted an invitation from Kirchschlaeger to visit Austria in the near future.

GO-BETWEENS The so-called 'neutral' status of Austria enables its leaders to act as go-betweens for the imperialist powers and the bureaucracies.

The visit to Warsaw suggests that the Kremlin is very anxious to press ahead with its plan of establishing a 'collective security' force to maintain law and order throughout Europe.

Ulster FROM PAGE ONE This can only get worse especially as the Tories in Westminster have instructed their Stormont allies to cut back on state aid to industry.

With the festivals to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of Ulster only a month away many back-bench Ulster Unionist MPs are clamouring for greater repressive measures by the army and the police, who cannot yet go safely into Catholic areas.

'Unless the government stops seeing the situation through rose-tinted glasses we're in for a hell of a year,' said one MP.

POSTMEN

FROM PAGE ONE

The weekend press were filled with stories about old-age pensioners being prevented by Post Office counter staff from collecting their money — already eaten into by Tory-style inflation — in advance of the Tuesday deadline.

The pensioners had been encouraged to turn up early by official advice issued on Friday afternoon, but investigations on Saturday showed that the directive had not reached counter staff.

'It takes time to get down the pipeline,' said one Post Office spokesman.

Such incidents are all grist to the strike-breaking mill, of course. We can expect more of them.

Every class-conscious worker must rally the fullest possible support for the Post Office workers.

Any attempt to break the strike with the use of the Army must be met by massive solidarity action.

They are now in the front line not only of the fight for wages, but of the struggle to scotch the Tory Industrial Relations Bill — under which the publication of this article would be illegal — before it reaches the Statute Book.

Both prongs of Tory strategy here are equally obvious.

'Never again,' said premier Edward Heath after the Scamp inquiry awarded the council workers an 18-per cent increase.

So the electricity-supply union leaders were intimidated

BRIEFLY FRANCO'S regime is holding two of about 300 Catalan artists and intellectuals who staged a sit-in last month at Monserrat Abbey in protest against the Basque trial. Several of the demonstrators have had their passports confiscated.

MORE than 1,000 civil servants are expected to be 'axed' over the next three years in moves to cut between £12m and £16m a year from Ministry of Agriculture budget. Mr James Prior announced in a White Paper today.

Young wives High St protest over govt cuts

YOUNG MOTHERS with their children from the Clapham Old Town group staged a spirited demonstration along Clapham High St on Saturday afternoon.

They waved banners and distributed their Newsletter protesting at the effects the Tory mini-budget would have on young families.

The purpose of the march, one of the organizers said, was to 'get in contact with other Clapham people'.

The general slogan, she said, might be 'how mean can the Tories get?'

They were backed by Britain, France and the US in refusing to negotiate separately with the individual oil-producing and exporting countries.

The oil monopolies want a fixed five-year 'overall and durable price settlement'.

They are prepared to offer Libya a price differential because her nearness to Europe cuts transport costs. But the differential would be cut if shipping costs rise.

Once the agreement is reached, the oil barons say, no further tax rises, retroactive payments or new compulsory reinvestment of profit must be imposed.

ANTI-UNION laws will be beneficial to English, Scottish and Irish workers, it appears. Welsh nationalist Plaid Cymru yesterday said that they intend to call on Welsh MPs to fight for the exemption of Wales from the provisions of the Tory Industrial Relations Bill, because the 'overwhelming majority of the people of Wales rejected the Tories' mandate in the General Election.

WEATHER OCCASIONAL rain or showers in most districts. E and central England, however, will be dry for much of the day with bright periods, though there will be some rain later.

Temperatures will be near normal for mid-January in the E but in the W it will be mild.

Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Changeable with rain at times and near normal temperatures in most places, but becoming colder in the N later.

Oil monopolies stand against 1d rise

MAJOR international oil companies have adopted a common front against demands for a 1d a gallon increase in oil prices from the Middle Eastern countries which supply 90 per cent of Britain's oil.

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Australian LETTER

SYDNEY. — A new level of action against organized labour and the working class has been reached here with the arrest of a building workers union organizer charged with remaining on a building site.

The arrest took place when a Builders' Labourers Federation official was investigating reports that 'fly-by-night' subcontractors' labourers were being used following strikes of union labour in the Sydney area.

The action appears to have been taken under the new Summary Offences Act passed last year by New South Wales parliament.

It is an obvious warning of things to come for the working class. Everything must be done now to organize and muster behind resistance to such acts.

Acting secretary of the union Mr H. Cook has said that the members will not accept interference from police or politicians in their industry.

Mr Cook said he is going to seek the support of all other unions by taking the case to the Australian Council of Trade Unions. He rightly sees the move as further action by the state government to restrict unions in NSW and move further in the direction of a police state.

It is the duty of all trade unionists to back the building workers in their attempts to have the charges dropped and to go on from there to fight for the repeal of anti-trade union legislation.

The fact that the builders' labourers' union has been the first to feel a blow under the new Act is hardly likely to be coincidental.

The labourers have recently shown themselves amongst the most militant of workers in NSW and other states.

In Sydney they have completely destroyed work by scab labour on a number of sites, and in Melbourne strikers attempted to drive scab workers from a site by wrecking and burning equipment.

The capitalist press likes nothing better than attacking workers on strike for more money and better conditions — nothing that is except attacking those engaged in a political strike.

Australian LETTER

Members of maritime unions have recently blacked the Greek passenger liner 'Patriis' in protest against the jailing of unionists by the Greek military dictatorship.

How could this 'ridiculously petty action' affect the Greek junta? asked the Sydney 'Morning Herald', claiming the only people inconvenienced were the good-humoured (middle-class) passengers who were returning from a Christmas cruise or embarking for the Gulf of Aden.

The paper reflects the view of the Australian government and ruling class, both on trade unions and the Greek junta and other reactionary governments throughout the world. The Australian government's support of Greece, like that of Rhodesia, is concealed only by the thinnest of veils.

The 'Herald' felt that the action was a 'deplorable case' of a strike being used as a political rather than an industrial weapon.

Elements of Marxism

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

MANCHESTER: Milton Hall, Deansgate. Wednesday, January 20, February 3, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 2s, from Workers Press sellers or at the door.

PUBLIC LECTURES

Marxism and the struggle against the Tory government

Monday January 18, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Whitney Chambers, Fanshawe Avenue, BARKING

Thursday, January 21, 8 p.m. Balham Baths, Elmfield Rd (nr. Balham tube station)

Both lectures given by G. Healy (national secretary of the Socialist Labour League)

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