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BY DAVID MAUDE
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In two debates—on a composite motion on the 'World Communist Movement' and on the party executive's resolution on 'The National Future of Wales and Scotland'—all pretence was dropped.

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Endorsement was given to the executive's position on both this and the national question.

Respectively, 52 and 11 votes were cast against. On the national question, the executive's resolution claimed, their campaign for Welsh and Scottish national parliaments would 'meet with wide understanding and support among people (l) in England'.

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It is all very well to engage in a little mild breast-beating about how 'nobody told us', like George Matthews, the editor of the 'Morning Star', but surely you cannot believe this to be adequate.

Consider for a moment, the implications of Stalinism. It was not just that Stalin was a tyrant who tortured, assassinated and executed the majority of Lenin's Central Committee which led the Russian Revolution to victory in October 1917.

You must explain the political forces which motivated these terrible deeds.

That is the main question which the Gollan leadership of the Communist Party leaves unanswered.

That section of the leadership under Palme Dutt's influence maintain that the Moscow Trials were absolutely justified.

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Continuation

They know that the history of our movement is an inextricable continuation of Marxism and Bolshevism.

We are proud of that history because it upholds the objective truth of the international class struggle, including what happened in the Soviet Union.

Our policies today flow from the principles derived from such a history.

Your leaders long ago sold their principles—lock, stock and barrel to Stalin.

They now refuse to re-educate the Party as to the political nature of the false policies which have emerged from such treachery.

Instead they use such words as 'sectarianism' and 'ultra-leftism' in order to avoid facing up to the implications of Stalinism.

It cannot be done. History will not be cheated and as long as you think it can then you will be forced to accept the awful responsibility for the political crimes of Stalin and your leaders.

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The Presidium also insisted that the 10,000 members of the academy examine their political records since January 1968—the beginning of the Dubcek era—and derive from their eventual mistakes, whether personal or collective, all the necessary conclusions as soon as possible.

Retrace

Step by step, the Husak regime, under steadily increasing pressure from the Soviet bureaucracy, retraces its steps to the dark years of the Nowotny era.

These new measures and threats are a sign of acute weakness and isolation, not confidence or strength.

Young Socialists

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Help us raise the money for our daily paper—

THE WORKERS' PRESS



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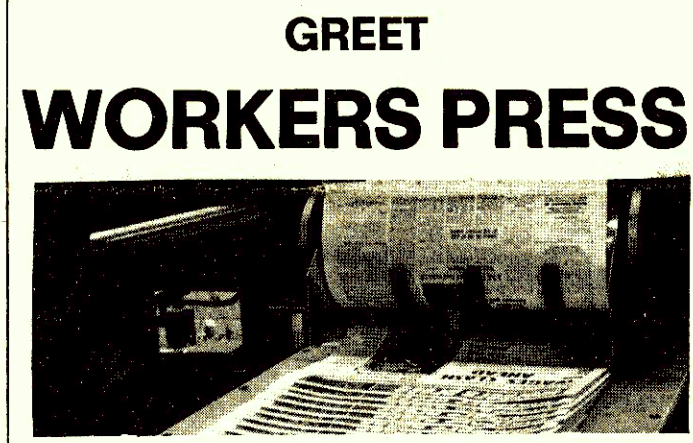
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'WITHOUT THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

BY JACK GALE

PRIOR TO LABOUR'S election victory in 1964, there had been two important attacks on the trades unions through the courts—Rookes v. Barnard and Stratford v. Lindley.

Rookes was a draughtsman employed by BOAC. He resigned from the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen. The union threatened action and BOAC dismissed him.

Rookes then sued the union for damages and—after a long battle in the courts—he won his case in the House of Lords.

Stratford's were a firm of barge hirers and repairers. They sued the Watermen's Union which had blacked Stratford's and obtained a High Court injunction restraining the union from carrying out its ban.

The Labour leaders promised the unions that they would take action to restore their legal position. But the Trades Disputes Bill—given its second reading in February 1965—far from legalizing the closed shop, led to the proposal for a Royal Commission to examine the trades unions' role.

This followed shortly after George Brown's famous 'Declaration of Intent'. In December 1964 Brown got employers and union leaders to agree on the outlines of an incomes policy which involved increased productivity, mobility of labour and a reduction of 'restrictive' practices. The government then announced its intention to hold down wage increases to 3 1/2 per cent.

HYSTERICAL

As 1965 went on, there came increasingly hysterical attacks on the unions from Tories and Labour right-wingers such as Desmond Donnelly, accompanied by threats from Wilson and Brown of legal action against the unions to impose a wage freeze.

Instead of fighting back, the TUC proposed to introduce its own 'early warning system' to hold back wage increases. At the Labour Party Conference in September 1965, an emergency resolution to reject legislation against the unions was defeated by 3,635,000 to 2,540,000 votes.

The campaign against anti-union laws was not begun in those quarters, but by the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League. We demanded a fight back against the constant press attacks on 'selfish workers'.

The Queen's speech in November 1965 made it clear that anti-union laws were on their way and it was after this that the Lambeth Trades Council called a lobby for January 26, 1966.

LABOUR GOVERNMENT ATTACKS THE UNIONS

The government's Bill had not yet been published. Yet something had to be done, for the strength of the working class had pushed up wages by 8 1/2 per cent in 1965.

MacNamara because they hoped Wilson would tame the unions.

Many of these people were filled with fear of striking workers by press witch-hunts

reflected both the confidence of the working class and the hopes of the middle class for firm action against the unions.

But it also removed the excuse of Labour's 'lefts' that they could not oppose Wilson because of his small parliamentary majority.

The fight against anti-trade union legislation was the main question at both the Young Socialists' 6th Annual Conference at Morecambe and at the May Day demonstration in London.

The YS then called for a demonstration and lobby of parliament against anti-union laws and the Devlin Report on May 25.

This was supported by Merseyside dockers; 7,000 struck work and made 63 ships idle.

1,100 people marched through London, despite the splitting tactics of the Communist Party, which worked night and day to stop dockers in other ports from joining the Merseyside men.

REJECTED

Then, in May 1966, the seamen struck work for a 40-hour week. They rejected the Pearson inquiry which proposed reducing hours from 56 to 48, with a 40-hour week to come later.

The Labour government saw this as a test case for their entire incomes policy and brought in Emergency Powers against the seamen. Not a single 'left' MP voted against these powers.

Meanwhile the Communist Party had issued a call for a lobby on June 22. This came a few days after the call for May 25 and was clearly intended only as a diversion.

Needless to say, it was supported by the anti-Marxist 'state capitalist' group.

After May 25 the Communist Party did practically nothing towards a campaign for June 22.

The SLL and the Young Socialists offered a united campaign to the Communist Party rank and file and brought 1,000 people to the lobby under the slogans: 'Victory to the Seamen', 'Against the Devlin Report', 'Against anti-trade union legislation'.

This time the Communist Party was unable to repeat the strategy of its March 1 demonstration when they had tried to force the Young Socialists off the march for bringing in political questions.

After the June 22 lobby, the Socialist Labour League called for a mass action on July 20—the date of the second reading of the anti-trade union bill—and the YS announced a mass demonstration at Brighton on October 2, the eve of the

Labour Party Conference.

Throughout all this activity we campaigned for the independence of the trades unions from the capitalist state.

We said the purpose of trades unions was to improve wages. If they gave up this right to the capitalist state, what was the purpose of trade unionism?

Voting to accept Wilson's proposals amounted to voting the trades unions out of existence—and we pointed to the grim warning of the German trade union leaders who had accepted similar measures prior to Hitler.

For this reason we strongly opposed the 'left' Frank Cousins (then general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union), who advocated that unions should give up their bargaining powers to the TUC.

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1,200 people took part in our October 2 demonstration at the Labour Party Conference which endorsed the government's right to take legal powers to enforce the Prices and Incomes Act.

Despite the TUC's voluntary wage freeze, the militancy of the working class over wages was such that the government could not rely on these leaders and wanted to have powers in reserve.

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In March 1967 the government published its 'Statement on Prices and Incomes' which was its strategy for holding down wages after July when Part 4 of the Prices and Incomes Bill lapsed and the 12 months of 'severe restraint' was due to end.

Part 2 was to be activated, which involved the TUC vetting wage claims—that is, doing the dirty work on behalf of the government.

ELECTIONS

In April and May the local elections showed a big swing against Labour, which we said showed that the 'left' MPs had to fight Wilson in order to save the Labour Party.

This was the theme of the SLL/YS May Day demonstration in London: 'Halt government action against the unions; make "left" MPs fight Wilson'.

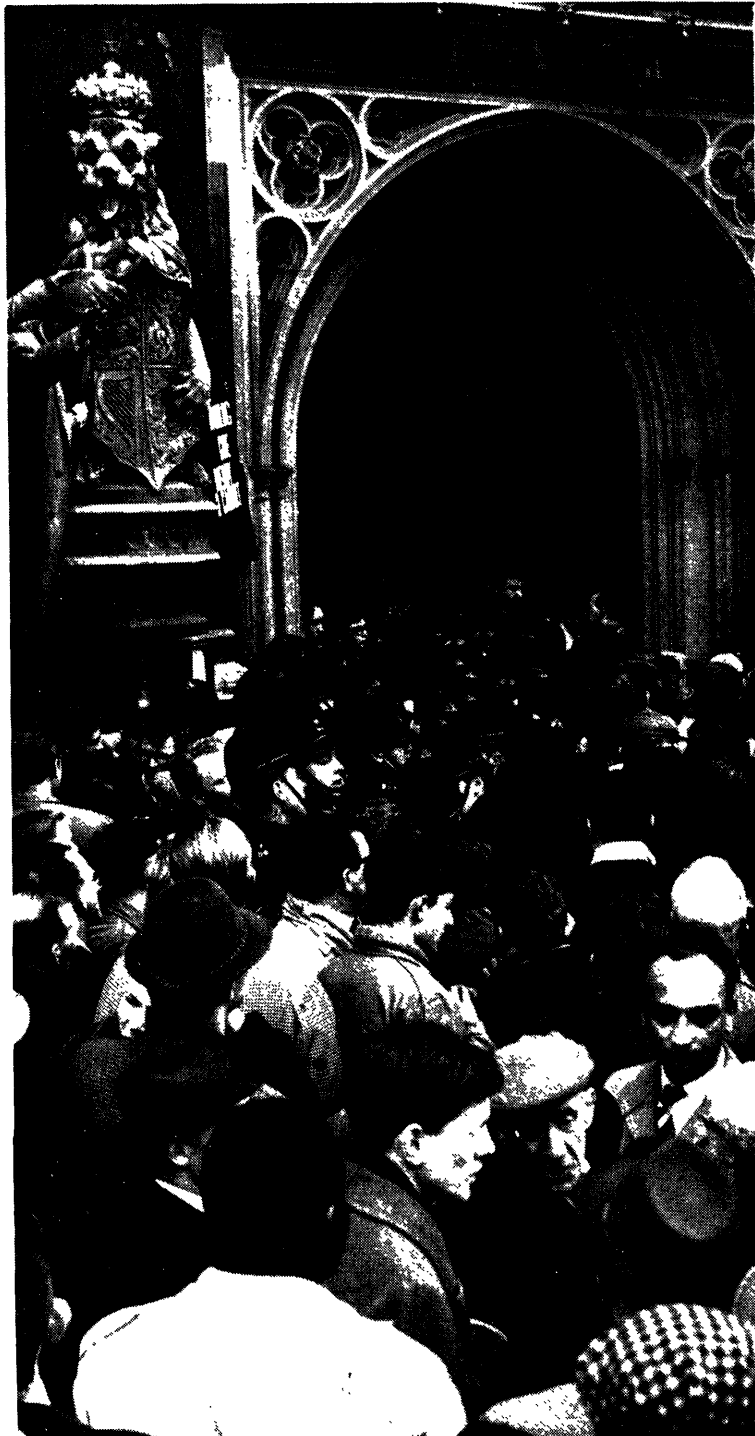
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The end of 'severe restraint' led to big pressure on wages and the Oxford Committee for the Defence of Trades Unions called a conference on September 2.

The main resolution at this conference demanded: Repeal the Prices and Incomes Act;



In March 1963, 30,000 trade unionists, Young Socialists and unemployed turned out in force to lobby the Houses of Parliament. Clashes took place for the first time since the Second World War between workers and police. The Lambeth Trades Council played a large part in the preparation of this lobby, organizing meals for workers who had travelled from all parts of the country.

Already it was clear that the TUC would not defend the working class—on December 22 its General Council voted by 23-12 to accept legislation to restrict wage claims.

It followed this up by withdrawing recognition from the Lambeth Trades Council. Despite this, and despite a boycott by the Labour 'lefts' and the Communist Party, 1,500 people went on the march.

On February 24 the government's White Paper—threatening heavy fines for trade unionists fighting for wage increases and imprisonment if they couldn't pay—was given its first formal reading.

On February 26 the Socialist Labour League called for a one-day strike and lobby of parliament, and published a pamphlet 'No Laws against the Trades Unions' by G. Healy.

The Prices and Incomes Bill gave the government power to demand notification of any wage claim or any wage settlement or price increase.

The government was also given powers to forbid implementation of any increase for up to four months.

Failure to comply meant fines of £50 to £500. This was a step towards corporate state control over wages and the unions.

Wilson had, in fact, made an appeal to many middle-class voters who feared the unions in the Hull by-election in January 1966.

Many of them voted for Labour candidate Kevin

like the famous 'Noose Trial' hoax—a fantastic press smear about threats and violence at BMC, Cowley, following two one-day strikes on February 24 and March 3.

As the General Election approached, the Socialist Labour League called for a Labour victory in order to keep out the Tories and to expose the right wing. Labour's landslide victory

B.B.C.-1

- 7.00 a.m. Men On the Moon; Apollo 12, 9.00 The Moon and Man, 11.30 Moon Walk, 3.30 p.m. World News and Reaction, 4.00 The Watching World; Apollo 12, 4.20 Play School, 4.50 Latest News From 'Intrepid', 4.55 The Singing, Ringing Tree, 5.15 Wild World, 5.44 Hector's House, 5.50 National News and Weather.
- 6.00 London.
- 6.15 Moon Walk Special.
- 6.45 The Doctors.
- 7.30 The Laugh Parade: 'All For Mary'.
- 8.50 The Main News.
- 9.15 The Wednesday Play.
- 10.15 24 Hours.
- 10.50 Grandstand Special.
- 12 midnight Apollo Midnight Report.
- 12.30 a.m. Weather.

All regions as BBC-1 except at the following times: Midlands and East Angles: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Midlands Today, Look East, Weather, 12.32 a.m. News Summary, Weather. Northern England: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Look North, Weather, 12.32 a.m. Northern News Headlines, Weather.

TODAYS TV

- Wales: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Wales Today, 6.45-7.15 Heddidi, 7.15-7.30 Autumn Kiraids, 10.50-11.20 Springboks in Wales.
- Scotland: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Reporting Scotland, 11.05-11.30 Sportsreel, 11.30-12 midnight International Tennis.
- Northern Ireland: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Scene Around Six, 12.32 a.m. Northern Ireland News Headlines, Weather.
- South and West: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Points West, South Today, Spotlight South West, Weather, 12.32 a.m. South and West News Headlines, Weather.

B.B.C.-2

- 11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School.
- 7.00 p.m. Expecting A Baby.
- 7.30 Newsroom and Weather.
- 8.00 Man Alive.
- 8.55 Know Your Unions.
- 9.15 Show of the Week.
- 10.00 My World . . . And Welcome To It: series based on a selection of James Thurber's cartoons.

- 10.25 Doubts and Certainties USA.
- 10.50 News Summary and Weather.
- 10.55 Line-Up.

I.T.V.

- 11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools, 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. (Due to Apollo 12 the above programmes may not be transmitted.) 4.15 News Headlines, 4.17 The Tingha and Tucker Club, 4.30 Crossroads, 4.55 Lift Off, 5.20 Sexton Blake, 5.50 News.

- 6.03 Today.
- 6.30 The Ghost and Mrs Muir.
- 7.00 This Is Your Life.
- 7.30 Coronation Street.
- 8.00 The Benny Hill Show.
- 9.00 Special Branch.
- 10.00 News At Ten.
- 10.30 Sez Les.
- 11.00 Professional Wrestling.
- 11.45 The Papers.
- 12.00 midnight Music From Malinee Peris.

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WESTWARD: 6.00-9.00 a.m. Apollo 12, 11.00 Schools, 11.40 a.m.-3.40 p.m. Apollo 12, 4.01 Hatty Town, 4.13 Westward News Headlines, 4.15 Open House, 4.40 The Gus Honeybun Show, 6.00 Westward Diary, 6.35 Crossroads, 7.00 Treasure Hunt, 11.45 Faith For Life, 11.51 Weather.

ATV MIDLANDS: 6.00-9.00 a.m. Apollo 12, 11.00 Schools, 11.40 a.m.-3.40 p.m. Apollo 12, 4.00 News Headlines, 4.02 Houseparty, 4.15 Halls Of Ivy, 4.40 The Tingha and Tucker Club, 6.00 Midlands News, 6.10 ATV Today including Police Five, 6.35 Crossroads, 11.45 Pulse, Weather.

YORKSHIRE: 6.00-9.00 a.m. Apollo 12, 11.00 Schools, 11.40 Apollo 12,

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George Brown: Got employers and union leaders to agree on incomes policy.

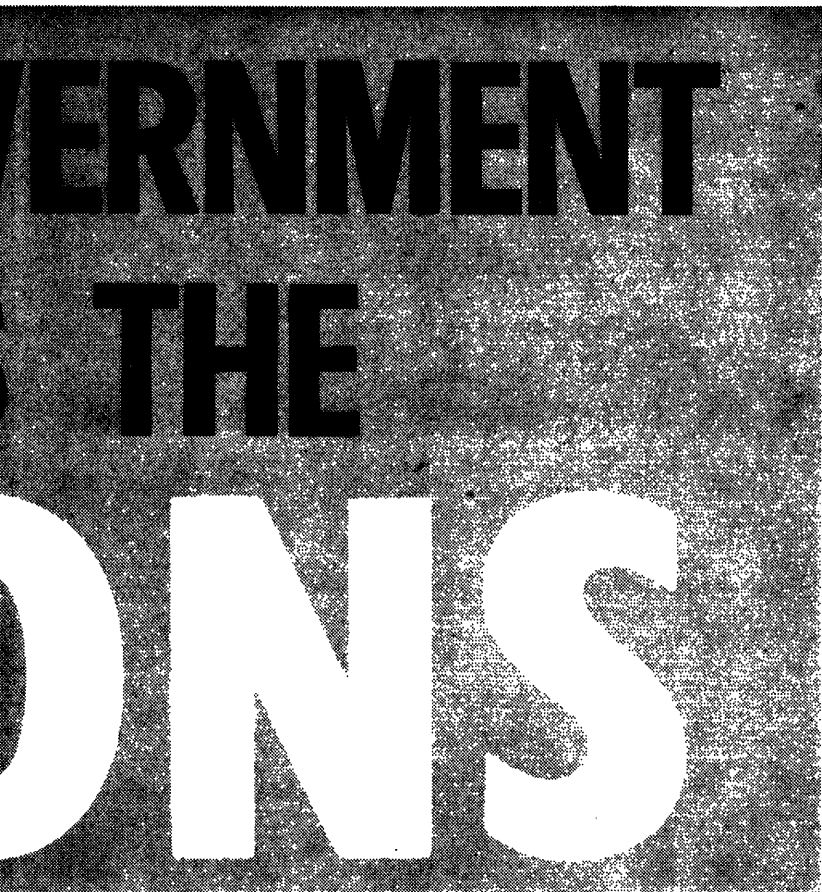
Lobbies of parliament were changing. During the booming 1950s lobbies had been commonplace. They were always very sedate, polite affairs.

But 1963 saw the first dose of unemployment since the war. March 1963 saw a mass lobby in response to a call from the North East Region of Trades Councils.

Trade unionists and Young Socialists turned out in force. There were clashes with the police, a red flag was hung over the entrance to parliament, and respectable MPs were frightened out of their wits.

Now, here was another lobby.

LEADERSHIP OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL THE INDEPENDENCE OF TRADE UNIONS



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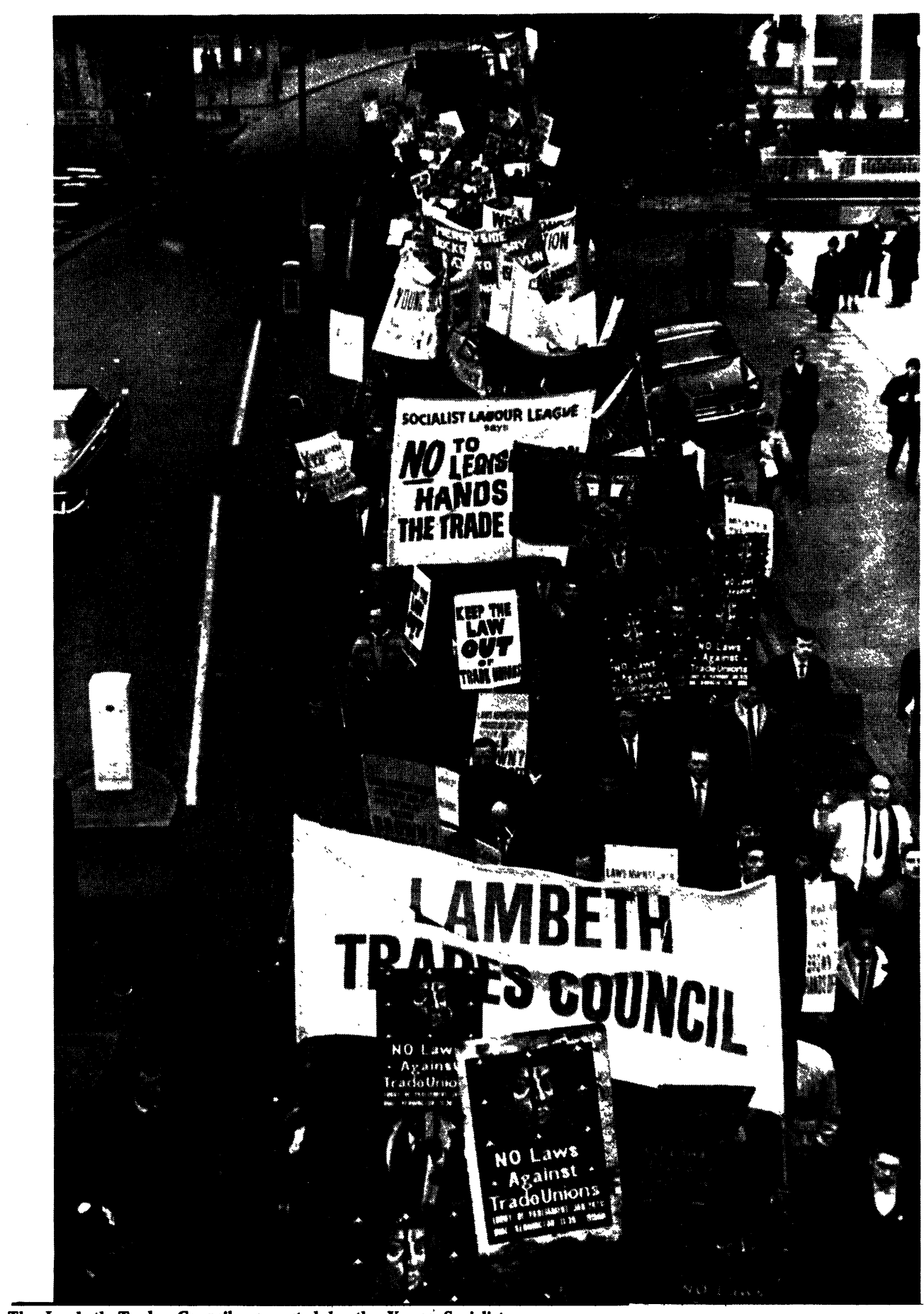
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On October 21 the Oxford conference was recalled at the request of the striking Merseyside dockers.

Links were forged between car workers and dockers at a conference attended by 368 delegates.

A joint fight was undertaken against speed-up, unemployment, prices and incomes legislation, Measured-Day Work and Devlin.

Meanwhile the Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists supported the call for the December lobby but said it would achieve nothing unless it demanded that the 'left' MPs quit stalling and fight Wilson.

On December 2, 1967, we printed our 'Socialist Policy for the Crisis' demanding: 'Independence of the trade unions from the state; a sliding scale of wages; no sackings; workers' supervision and control; nationalization of the banks; suspension of interest payments on housing; nationalization of steel; repeal of the Immigration Act; scrapping of Labour's foreign policy; sack the Wilson leadership.'

By contrast, the TUC and the National Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions banned the December 12 lobby and it was immediately sabotaged by the Communist Party, which would not oppose the official trade union leadership.

LOBBY

The Young Socialists worked for a mass lobby, but the Communist Party strove to turn it into a mere token.

Following the lobby, the Oxford Liaison Committee called a national conference of trade unionists for February 3, 1968, to centre on the effects of devaluation and the economic crisis in the USA.

At the beginning of 1968 the government increased health charges and intensified its efforts to hold back wages.

The busmen's £1 increase was frozen and the Transport and General Workers' leader, the 'left' Cousins, failed completely to lead any fight, despite mass meetings all over the country demanding strike action.

The 'left' MPs restricted their fight to a call for a special meeting of the Labour Party NEC. We demanded a special conference of the Labour Party and said that no cuts should be implemented until it was held.

It was at this time that the government provided a cheap loan of £25 million for the BMH-Leyland merger.

The Communist Party called a national conference of its Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trades Unions on February 17.

This conference was supported by the 'state capitalist' group.

Its aim was to canalize workers' dissatisfaction with the Labour government behind the union bureaucracies. At their previous conference on December 3, 1967, they had refused to consider a resolution from Lucas/CAV for the 'left' MPs to fight Wilson.

'Tribune' was taking a similar line.

When the economy cuts were announced, this paper of the 'left' gave prominence to an article by Jennie Lee calling on the left to rally behind Wilson in order to keep out the right wing.

The February 17 lobby called for the TUC to implement its policy—though the TUC had already demonstrated clearly that it was not prepared to fight the government.

The February 3, 1968, conference called by the Oxford Liaison Committee was banned by Woodcock, then general secretary of the TUC, but was attended by 550 delegates.

By contrast with the Stalinist conference a real fighting organization was launched—the All Trades Unions Alliance.

(The Stalinist conference even barred delegates on strike at Linton and Hirst, Swindon, and Lucas/CAV, Liverpool, on the grounds that strike committees were not official bodies!)

Meanwhile, the struggle was hotting up.

The Confederation of British Industries demanded an 18 month wage freeze and the engineers held a one-day national stoppage in support of their £2 wage demand.

The May Day rally of the Young Socialists called for support for the engineers and the implementation of the official policy of the AEF.

The AEF leaders, however, saw a one-day token strike as a substitute for a fight, not a prelude to one.

In June 1968, the Royal Commission on Trades Unions (Donovan) presented its report to parliament.

The idea of making unofficial strikes illegal was shelved for the time being.

The employers were still cautious.

Instead the Report attacked shop stewards' factory negotiating rights and said wages should be negotiated with the employers by national officials on a factory-to-factory basis, in line with the government's prices and incomes policy.

Its aim was to eliminate shop stewards' power prior to an attack on wages.

AUTHORITY

It was at this time that Mrs Castle appointed Mr Cattell, the employers' main authority on Measured-Day Work, to advise the government on wages.

A further conference of the Communist Party's Liaison Committee, again supported by the 'state capitalists', attracted only 120 delegates to the Beaver Hall.

The right-wing leaders were doing their best to put a brake on wages and to drive through productivity deals—for example, when the railwaymen's militancy had broken through the prices and incomes restrictions, the NUR leaders accepted a deal which included massive speed-ups and redundancies.

The workers were still militant, however, and a lobby of the AEF National Com-



On May 1, 1969, throughout Britain of anti-union legislation. In Liverpool for a General Strike.

mittee on August 30 forced through a resolution to strike on October 21 for the £2 claim.

But there was a warning signal at the end of September when Scanlon accepted Measured-Day Work at Rootes, Linwood, Scotland.

The mood in the ranks was for a fight.

The 100th TUC Congress in October 1968 voted overwhelmingly (seven million votes) against the government's incomes policy and demanded the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act.

The General Council got only a tiny majority for its own wage-vetting proposals.

The employers were also preparing, and the end of September 1968 saw the biggest merger in British industrial history—GEC/English Electric.

The Labour Party Conference also demanded the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act—by a four million majority.

The very threat of strike action forced the engineering employers to make concessions and as the strike date approached the Socialist Labour League proposed to bring out 'The Newsletter' three times a week. But Scanlon began to make concessions on productivity, failed to get equal pay for women, and called off the strike.

The All Trades Unions Alliance held a national conference on October 26, issued the pamphlet 'Your Wages in Danger' and called for a mass lobby of the AEF National Committee on November 22.

On December 7, under the leadership of the Young Socialists, 150 apprentices and junior workers attended a conference in Manchester and called a mass demonstration and lobby in London for February 23, 1969.

In December the building union leaders agreed to a wage-cut for their members.

restore full employment; implement a policy of paying full wages whilst working short time; nationalize the basic industries, including the motor industry. It was also decided to reconvene the conference in the event of attacks by the government on any section of workers on questions of mass sackings, implementation of the Devlin Report or wages policy.

On September 19 the Tyne-side and Blythe Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions called for a December 12 lobby of parliament on unemployment.

The Labour Party Conference in October endorsed Labour's economic policies.

CINEMA

By Brian Moore

Pale carbon copy of D.H. Lawrence

They erupt like smouldering scars out of soft green landscapes, smoke hanging in the air like a yellow shroud. Coal dust blackens the faces, penetrates the lungs, darkens the squat houses. Nature is violated and men are violated by the plunder. Some 50 years on from the historical placing of the film perhaps the miners' faces are less grimed in coal dust or the showers wash away what the bowels of the earth release; the formal black suits and white collars of Sunday best have given way to jackets and terylene; the brass bands have been replaced by electric guitars.

But the violation still remains. And it is this violation of man that underlies this film.

Passionate anthems

D. H. Lawrence, the author of the novel 'Women in Love' is possibly the last great English novelist. The son of a Nottinghamshire miner, his books are passionate anthems against the stuntedness of life. Much of his work is haunted by the blackened images of industrial rape, the tearing apart and encroachment by the machine of all that is natural. Men are divided from men, women reduced to objects, and Lawrence is the individual voice struggling to break the

bonds of alienation, to find a way through the humiliation of industrialization, to fight for a rebirth from the ashes of deprivation and puritanism to a highly personal and physical authenticity through the love of one woman.

His whole life was a striving towards a oneness with a physical and natural world that has been lost.

He paid dearly for it. Ostracised by society, he had to take the path of exile and wandering with the woman he loved.

True to form the English bourgeoisie hated him, banned his books, sent him packing.

The catalogue of such treatment is long; Byron, Keats and Browning are a few English writers who fell foul of the bourgeoisie's vindictiveness.

Blunt weapons

And it is a heritage of puritanism that is deeply scored into English culture

that as Marxists we must become aware of. Its roots are deep and the bloom is Philistinism, suspicion, guilt, which the ruling class have wielded as a blunt weapons for generations.

When we smash capitalism, we tear out all its tentacular roots and institutions, its barbarism and its repression. That is the great task of the workers' revolution.

But for Lawrence there seemed no such way. He had a suspicion and a hostility to socialism.

Much of his passion led him to openly reactionary views; he substituted privilege and aristocracy for an aristocracy of the blood, as he called it.

His involvement with individual salvation made him suspicious of the institution and the mass.

But aspects of his work do not invalidate the central core. What burns behind every word on the page is the constant striving for man to achieve his own humanity, to grasp the

infinite richness of the relationships between men and women and women and men.

His books speak as constant and nagging reminders of what life could be, of what the future can hold. It is the voice that all great artists remind us with, the struggle for something else, a higher quality of experience.

More alienated

What Lawrence could not see, but paradoxically seemed only to be aware of, is that struggle for interpersonal relationships is not separated from the struggle against the imprisoning social system that ensnares them.

In his fight against alienation, he himself became more alienated, forced into exile from the society that he hated, but could never relinquish a passionate concern for.

He was compelled into isolation. As Marxists we fight in



The Labour government saw the seamen's strike in May 1966 as a test case for their entire incomes policy and enacted the emergency powers against the seamen. The Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League participated in all the seamen's demonstrations and offered a united campaign with the Communist Party rank and file which brought 1,000 people on a lobby under the slogans, 'Victory to the Seamen', 'Against the Devlin Report' and 'Against the anti-union legislation'.

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I.T.V.

11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. (Due to Apollo 12 the above programmes may not be transmitted.) 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 The Tingha and Tucker Club. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 News.

WESTWARD: 6.00-9.00 a.m. Apollo 12. 11.00 Schools. 11.40 a.m.-3.40 p.m. Apollo 12. 4.01 Hatty Town. 4.13 Westward News Headlines. 4.15 Open House. 4.40 The Gus Honeybun Show. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure Hunt. 11.45 Faith For Life. 11.51 Weather.

ANGLIA: 6.00-9.00 a.m. Apollo 12. 11.00 Schools. 11.40 a.m.-3.40 p.m. Apollo 12. 4.05 Katie Stewart Cooks. 4.30 Anglia Newsroom. 4.35 The Romper Room. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 11.45 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 6.00-9.00 a.m. Apollo 12. 11.00 Schools. 11.40 a.m.-3.40 p.m. Apollo 12. 4.00 News Headlines. 4.02 Houseparty. 4.15 Halls Of Ivy. 4.40 The Tingha and Tucker Club. 6.00 Midlands News. 6.10 ATV Today including Police Five. 6.35 Crossroads. 11.45 Pulse. Weather.

6.03 Today.
6.30 The Ghost and Mrs Muir.
7.00 This Is Your Life.
7.30 Coronation Street.
8.00 The Benny Hill Show.
9.00 Special Branch.
10.00 News At Ten.
10.30 Sez Les.
11.00 Professional Wrestling.
11.45 The Papers.
12.00 midnight Music From Malinee Peris.

NATIONAL THE INDEPENDENCE OF TRADE UNIONS IS IMPOSSIBLE—TROTSKY



On October 21 the Oxford conference was recalled at the request of the striking Merseyside dockers.

Links were forged between car workers and dockers at a conference attended by 368 delegates.

A joint fight was undertaken against speed-up, unemployment, prices and incomes legislation, Measured-Day Work and Devlin.

Meanwhile the Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists supported the call for the December lobby but said it would achieve nothing unless it demanded that the 'left' MPs quit stalling and fight Wilson.

On December 2, 1967, we printed our 'Socialist Policy for the Crisis' demanding: 'Independence of the trade unions from the state; a sliding scale of wages; no sackings; workers' supervision and control; nationalization of the banks; suspension of interest payments on housing; repeal of the Immigration Act; scrapping of Labour's foreign policy; sack the Wilson leadership.'

By contrast, the TUC and the National Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions banned the December 12 lobby and it was immediately sabotaged by the Communist Party, which would not oppose the official trade union leadership.

LOBBY

The Young Socialists worked for a mass lobby, but the Communist Party strove to turn it into a mere token.

Following the lobby, the Oxford Liaison Committee called a national conference of trade unionists for February 3, 1968, to centre on the effects of devaluation and the economic crisis in the USA.

At the beginning of 1968 the government increased health charges and intensified its efforts to hold back wages.

The busmen's £1 increase was frozen and the Transport and General Workers' leader, the 'left' Cousins, failed completely to lead any fight, despite mass meetings all over the country demanding strike action.

The 'left' MPs restricted their fight to a call for a special meeting of the Labour Party NEC. We demanded a special conference of the Labour Party and said that no cuts should be implemented until it was held.

It was at this time that the government provided a cheap loan of £25 million for the BMH-Leyland merger.

The Communist Party called a national conference of its Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trades Unions on February 17.

This conference was supported by the 'state capitalist' group.

Its aim was to canalize workers' dissatisfaction with the Labour government behind the union bureaucracies. At their previous conference on December 3, 1967, they had refused to consider a resolution from Lucas/CAV for the 'left' MPs to fight Wilson.

'Tribune' was taking a similar line.

When the economy cuts were announced, this paper of the 'left' gave prominence to an article by Jennie Lee calling on the left to rally behind Wilson in order to keep out the right wing.

The February 17 lobby called for the TUC to implement its policy—though the TUC had already demonstrated clearly that it was not prepared to fight the government.

The February 3, 1968, conference called by the Oxford Liaison Committee was banned by Woodcock, then general secretary of the TUC, but was attended by 550 delegates.

By contrast with the Stalinist conference a real fighting organization was launched—the All Trades Unions Alliance.

(The Stalinist conference even barred delegates on strike at Linton and Hirst, Swindon, and Lucas/CAV, Liverpool, on the grounds that strike committees were not official bodies!)

Meanwhile, the struggle was hotting up.

The Confederation of British Industries demanded an 18 month wage freeze and the engineers held a one-day national stoppage in support of their £2 wage demand.

The May Day rally of the Young Socialists called for support for the engineers and the implementation of the official policy of the AEF.

The AEF leaders, however, saw a one-day token strike as a substitute for a fight, not a prelude to one.

In June 1968, the Royal Commission on Trades Unions (Donovan) presented its report to parliament.

The idea of making unofficial strikes illegal was shelved for the time being.

The employers were still cautious.

Instead the Report attacked shop stewards' factory negotiating rights and said wages should be negotiated with the employers by national officials on a factory-to-factory basis, in line with the government's prices and incomes policy.

Its aim was to eliminate shop stewards' power prior to an attack on wages.

AUTHORITY

It was at this time that Mrs Castle appointed Mr Cartell, the employers' main authority on Measured-Day Work, to advise the government on wages.

A further conference of the Communist Party's Liaison Committee, again supported by the 'state capitalists', attracted only 120 delegates to the Beaver Hall.

The right-wing leaders were doing their best to put a brake on wages and to drive through productivity deals—for example, when the railwaymen's militancy had broken through the prices and incomes restrictions, the NUR leaders accepted a deal which included massive speed-ups and redundancies.

The workers were still militant, however, and a lobby of the AEF National Com-



On May 1, 1969, throughout Britain, tens of thousands of workers struck demanding the withdrawal of anti-union legislation. In Liverpool, workers from all sections of industry voted in favour of a call for a General Strike.

mittee on August 30 forced through a resolution to strike on October 21 for the £2 claim.

But there was a warning signal at the end of September when Scanlon accepted Measured-Day Work at Rootes, Linwood, Scotland.

The mood in the ranks was for a fight.

The 100th TUC Congress in October 1968 voted overwhelmingly (seven million votes) against the government's incomes policy and demanded the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act.

The General Council got only a tiny majority for its own wage-vetting proposals.

The employers were also preparing, and the end of September 1968 saw the biggest merger in British industrial history—GEC/English Electric.

The Labour Party Conference also demanded the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act—by a four million majority.

The very threat of strike action forced the engineering employers to make concessions and as the strike date approached the Socialist Labour League proposed to bring out 'The Newsletter' three times a week.

But Scanlon began to make concessions on productivity, failed to get equal pay for women, and called off the strike.

All Trades Unions Alliance held a national conference on October 26, issued the pamphlet 'Your Wages in Danger' and called for a mass lobby of the AEF National Committee on November 22.

On December 7, under the leadership of the Young Socialists, 150 apprentices and junior workers attended a conference in Manchester and called a mass demonstration and lobby in London for February 23, 1969.

In December the building union leaders agreed to a wage-cut for their members.

In January 1969, the All Trades Unions Alliance issued a statement warning of the employers' determination to force through legislation to make unofficial strikes illegal and to virtually destroy the unions.

The statement called for restoration of full wage bargaining rights to the unions and their independence from the state, repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act, nationalization as the answer to mergers, and the removal of trade union leaders who refused to fight.

We warned that the TUC's opposition was worthless.

In February this year the Socialist Labour League issued a call to Communist Party members for unity in action to smash anti-union laws.

STOPPAGE

We proposed a joint campaign for a national stoppage and suggested April 21 1969 as a date. The urgency was underlined by the action of Powellite councillors who went strike-breaking against the Lambeth dustmen.

On February 23, over 3,000 trade unionists, youth and students demonstrated against Wilson's attacks on the unions. For the first time all Ford plants in Britain were involved in a strike.

And Will Paynter joined the Commission on Industrial Relations, at £6,500 a year!

In March, the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists called for a national strike on May 1 in defence of trade unionism and against the attacks on wages and conditions that were accompanying re-organizations like that taking place at British-Leyland.

Also in March, the engineering leaders reached a settlement at Ford.

The Communist Party hailed this as a victory but, in return

for small wage increases, these leaders accepted the right of the employers to withdraw bonuses for interrupted or disrupted production—and to relate bonuses to 'good behaviour'.

We said these union leaders would not fight against anti-union laws.

The 'left' MPs also had shown that they would not fight.

Only a general strike could stop Wilson.

'Left' trade union leaders had refused to submit a new wage claim, refused to take any action for equal pay for women; defended the 1968 productivity deal and said the strings must be honoured; refused to support even token strikes against Mrs Castle's White Paper, and handed all responsibility to the TUC.

We warned that the TUC would betray, and when a special congress of the TUC was called at Croaydon on June 5, we called for a one-day strike and lobby.

Tens of thousands had struck on May 1 and 2,500 marched with the YS May Day 'Hands off the Unions' demonstration.

But the TUC, by offering to control the workers itself, was half-way to Wilson's position.

Our call for a strike on June 5 was part of a campaign for a general strike to defend the unions.

The Communist Party also issued a call for a strike and lobby—but in order to support the 'lefts' and to keep the movement in 'official' channels.

Since the 'lefts' went along with the TUC's self-discipline proposals, the Communist Party was placing those workers who followed it in a position where they could not fight the right wing.

To struggle against this, the All Trades Unions Alliance called a conference in Birmingham for July 5.

Just before this, Mr Dan McGarvey, the Boilermakers' leader, agreed to a wage-cut for shipbuilders.

At the end of June the government decided not to proceed immediately with anti-union laws.

The strength of the working class made Wilson hesitate.

We called this 'an unstable class truce'.

The Prices and Incomes Act had been broken through by a powerful wages movement.

The Tories and the employers were not confident.

But complacency would give them time to prepare.

The breathing space gained had to be used to build up a revolutionary leadership in the working class.

Over 600 people attended the July 5 All Trades Unions Alliance Conference in Birmingham and declared their total opposition to the TUC decision to accept the principle of disciplining workers on behalf of the employers.

The conference called for a socialist policy to hit big business, defend the unions, stop rises in the cost of living, introduce nationalization under workers' control and without compensation, stop anti-union laws, and for an emergency Labour Party conference and a Labour government with a socialist policy.

In July 1,000 men were sacked on the Clyde.

The TUC last September demanded the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act in its entirety, but it was clear by now that mass action by the working class was necessary to make such decisions mean anything.

MILITANCY

Working-class militancy was shown by the wage increases won by the strike of 1,300 blastfurnacemen at Port Talbot—but the union leaders accepted a productivity deal which could mean future redundancies.

It was shown by the struggle of the GEC-English Electric workers against redundancies—but the lack of a revolutionary leadership enabled the right wing to make a comeback and destroy the plans to occupy the factories.

It was shown again and again by the strikes of dustmen, bakers, miners.

Meanwhile the growing militancy in the working class and the mounting economic crisis produced a swing to the right in the Tory Party, which resulted in the real victor at the Conservative Party Conference being Enoch Powell.

But the September 28 1,500-strong rally at Brighton on the eve of the Labour Party Conference heralded the greatest weapon yet forged in the working-class movement—the first daily Trotskyist paper, the Workers Press.

This paper came just at the right time.

The agreement with the CBI signed by trade union leaders—including the 'left' Jack Jones—bore early fruit when

Vic Feather intervened to end the miners' strike.

The record is clear.

The Labour leaders are sticking to their prices and incomes policy.

The TUC is lining up openly against strikes, preparing for an even more blatant betrayal than in 1926.

The 'left' MPs refused to fight.

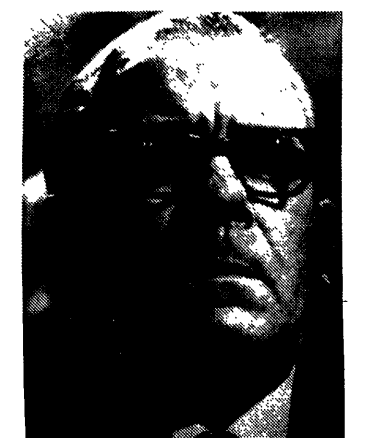
The 'left' trade union leaders have been exposed one after the other—Cousins, Scanlon, McGarvey, Jones and now Daly. The Communist Party covers up for these 'lefts', who in turn trail behind the TUC, which backs Wilson who carries out the wishes of the international bankers.

At each step along this road the revisionist 'state capitalist' and Pabloite group supported the Stalinists.

The issue facing the unions is that posed by Trotsky in 'Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay':

'In the epoch of imperialist decay the trade unions can be really independent only to the extent that they are conscious of being, in action, the organs of proletarian revolution....

'The trade unions of our time can either serve as secondary instruments of imperialist capitalism for the subordination and disciplining of workers and for obstructing the revolution or, on the contrary, the trade unions can become the instruments of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat.'



The Communist Party has consistently covered up for the 'lefts' Cousins, Scanlon, McGarvey, Jones and Daly who have at each stage betrayed the fight against the anti-union legislation.

An examination of the record of all political tendencies on the question of the independence of the trade unions since the Labour government came to power has shown that all of them—with the single exception of the Socialist Labour League—have taken the path that would tie the unions to the capitalist state and turn them into instruments for controlling the working class.

This bears out Trotsky's conclusion:

'Without the political leadership of the Fourth International the independence of the trade unions is impossible.'

BROODING in the background of 'Women in Love' (Prince Charles Theatre, Director Ken Russel) are the pits.

They erupt like smouldering scars out of soft green landscapes, smoke hanging in the air like a yellow shroud.

Coal dust blackens the faces, penetrates the lungs, darkens the squat houses.

Nature is violated and men are violated by the plunder.

Some 50 years on from the historical placing of the film perhaps the miners' faces are less grimed in coal dust or the showmen wash away what the bowels of the earth release; the formal black suits and white collars of Sunday best have given way to jackets and terylene; the brass bands have been replaced by electric guitars.

But the violation still remains.

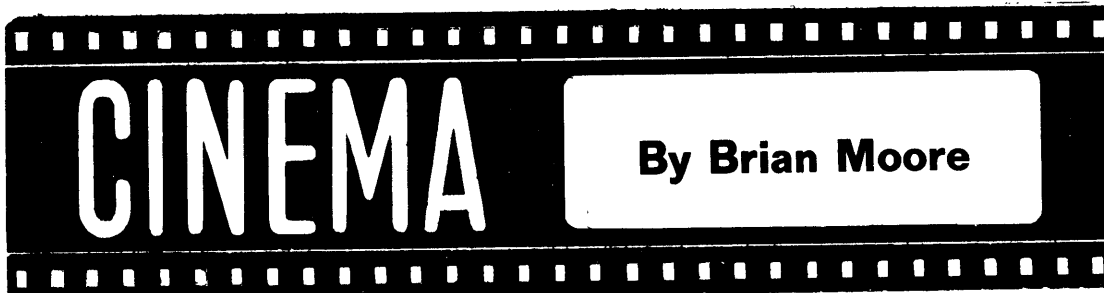
And it is this violation of man that underlies this film.

Passionate anthems

D. H. Lawrence, the author of the novel 'Women in Love' is possibly the last great English novelist.

The son of a Nottinghamshire miner, his books are passionate anthems against the stuntedness of life. Much of his work is haunted by the blackened images of industrial rape, the tearing apart and encroachment by the machine of all that is natural.

Men are divided from men, women reduced to objects, and Lawrence is the individual voice struggling to break the



Pale carbon copy of D.H. Lawrence

bonds of alienation, to find a way through the humiliation of industrialization, to fight for a rebirth from the ashes of deprivation and puritanism to a highly personal and physical authenticity through the love of one woman.

His whole life was a striving towards a oneness with a physical and natural world that has been lost.

He paid dearly for it. Ostracised by society, he had to take the path of exile and wandering with the woman he loved.

True to form the English bourgeoisie hounded him, banned his books, sent him packing.

The catalogue of such treatment is long; Byron, Keats and Browning are a few English writers who fell foul of the bourgeoisie's vindictiveness.

Blunt weapons

And it is a heritage of puritanism that is deeply scored into English culture

that as Marxists we must become aware of.

Its roots are deep and the bloom is Philistinism, suspicion, guilt, which the ruling class have wielded as a blunt weapons for generations.

When we smash capitalism, we tear out all its tentacular roots and institutions, its barbarism and its repression. That is the great task of the workers' revolution.

But for Lawrence there seemed no such way. He had a suspicion and a hostility to socialism.

Much of his passion led him to openly reactionary views; he substituted privilege and aristocracy for an aristocracy of the blood, as he called it.

His involvement with individual salvation made him suspicious of the institution and the mass.

But aspects of his work do not invalidate the central core. What burns behind every word on the page is the constant striving for man to achieve his own humanity, to grasp the

infinite richness of the relationships between men and men and women and women and men.

His books speak as constant and nagging reminders of what life could be, of what the future can hold. It is the voice that all great artists remind us with, the struggle for something else, a higher quality of experience.

More alienated

What Lawrence could not see, but paradoxically seemed only to be aware of, is that struggle for interpersonal relationships is not separated from the struggle against the imprisoning social system that ensnares them.

In his fight against alienation, he himself became more alienated, forced into exile from the society that he hated, but could never relinquish a passionate concern for.

He was compelled into isolation.

As Marxists we fight in

another way, but that fight does not seal us off from the vision of his experience and pen.

'He surveyed the rind of the world; houses, factories, trams, the discarded rind; people scurrying about, work going on, all on the discarded surface. An earthquake had burst it all from inside. It was as if the surface of the world had been broken away entire: Ilkerton, streets, church, people, work, rule-of-the-day, all intact; and yet peeled away into unreality, leaving here exposed the inside, the reality; one's own being, strange feelings and passions and yearnings and beliefs and aspirations, suddenly become present, revealed, the permanent bedrock, knitted one rock with the woman one loved. It was confounding. Things are not what they seem. When he was a child, he had thought a woman was a woman merely by virtue of her skirts and petticoats. And now, lo, the whole world could be divested of its garment, the garment could lie there shed away intact, and one could stand in a new world, a new earth, naked in a new naked universe. It was too astounding and miraculous. 'This then was marriage!' 'The Rainbow'.

Carbon copy

The film of 'Women in Love' is inevitably a pale carbon copy of the novel.

I say this not to demean the film as art form, as though there were some hierarchy operating, but simply that Lawrence's very style of writing, whereby he captures all the turns and changes of moods, feelings, sensations of an experience, describes what



Ken Russel's direction brings out a feeling for the original book by D. H. Lawrence, and is matched by performances of Oliver Reed as Gerald and Glenda Jackson as Gudrun.

is going on inside his characters, and internal life, is extremely difficult to translate to the screen, which relies on a more external form of expression.

The physical aspects of the book are beautifully realized. The wrestling match where

the two central male characters, Birkin and Gerald, strip, has a marvellous sense of contact and release that Lawrence strives for in the book.

Throughout the film there is a delicacy and feel for the original in Ken Russel's direction, matched by the

performances, particularly of Oliver Reed as Gerald and Glenda Jackson as Gudrun, though Alan Bates' Birkin is too lightweight to convey the brooding and restless character of the novel.

And it is this last quality which is missing from the film and ultimately reduces it. Birkin's outrage is lacking.

The conflict within himself is concealed by the too charming smiles of the actor; his recoil from the barbarism and oppressiveness of English society never transcends a mild irony.

Conflict

For Birkin is at war with himself, wrestling for a meaning to his relationships and experiences. This is the centre of the conflict of the novel which is echoed in the strivings of the other characters.

The violence and the passion in the book somehow appear as mere incidents, set pieces held within the frame, but not really integrated into the total struggle of conflicting opposites, of love and hate, creation and destruction, ardour and coldness.

It is rather like watching a facsimile; the ingredients appear to be there and they are present with skill, respect and artistry, but the living pulse has been removed, the ragged edges smoothed, it is all too resolved.

For without the anguish we have merely a reproduction. And Lawrence's anguish still has a meaning.

And the roots of his anguish are still there.

The pits still puncture the earth, the plunder continues, grinding wheels of exploitation violate us all.

Miners eight-hour day ballot New leadership vital in Kent coalfield

Wage cuts ahead for S. Yorks pits

A COMBINATION of outside contractors and the third day-wage structure must mean future wage cuts for miners in the Doncaster area.

As forecast in the Workers Press, miners at Bentley colliery have again rejected the management's request to allow outside contractors to do development work in the pit and to tender for work.

Many Bentley men are convinced, however, that the management will bring in these tenders, probably shortly before Christmas, which is the most difficult time for a strike.

The most significant statement at the meeting, however, came from Mr Bill Kellner, NUM, area agent, who said that, in view of the third day-wage structure, he could not recommend the branch to admit outside contractors.

Three grades

The new wage structure includes three grades; in Yorkshire this is grade A at 89s 2d a shift; Grade B 76s.; and Grade C 68s 6d.

Men employed by outside contractors get substantially more than this.

At Bentley this would mean miners working at one end of a development road for 89s 2d and outside contractors doing identical work at the other end for at least twice as much.

Moreover, as we pointed out in Workers Press on November 15, many miners fear they would be pushed down to Grade B once outside contractors were in.

But why this change of heart by Mr Kellner who has been in favour of outside contractors in the past? Several pits in the Doncaster area already have outside contractors.

Persuaded

In at least two pits—Highgate/Goldthorpe and Rossington—there were short strikes against outside contractors, but the men were persuaded to accept them in return for favourable contracts.

In many pits with outside contractors, the miners are on higher contract rates than they would get under the third day-wage structure.

The new structure, however, means that these higher contracts can no longer be negotiated.

Moreover, under the new scheme, men on contract rates stand on those rates until the contract ends, or it can be extended for a limited time—then they come back to the third day-wage rates.

This means, therefore, that if outside contractors are admitted to more pits, the men there cannot get the higher rates previously awarded.

It also means that eventually men who accepted outside contractors in return for high contracts will be dropped to 89s. 2d., if not 76s.

There is clearly more trouble ahead in the Yorkshire coalfield.

Road danger walk-out at Lucas-C.A.V.

1,500 workers from the CAV and Lucas Industrial factories at Fazakerley, Liverpool, were planning to stop work for an hour yesterday afternoon. They planned to demonstrate and block the busy road which runs alongside the site

TODAY'S ballot in the pits will decide whether the National Executive will be forced to call strike action over the surfacemen's claim for an eight-hour day.

All miners know that the recent national strike was only a prelude to an all-out conflict with the government and union leadership over pit closures which, as in the 1926 General Strike, raises the question of power.

Miners went back to work after the recent strike because they very quickly recognised that, at this stage, there was not the leadership prepared to fight it to its conclusion.

Even though there was a great desire to stay out and fight it out, the 'left' NUM secretary, Lawrence Daly, and the Stalinist leadership of the Communist Party that covered up for him, were exposed within a few days.

There has for many years been an unholy division of labour in the NUM between the right wing and the Communist Party.

Betrayal

At local level this division has also operated. Indeed in the Kent pits it is not so much a division of betrayal as a monopoly by the Communist Party.

The closure of Chislet pit earlier this year was engineered by the NCB and Wilson's government, but it could never have been imposed without the Communist Party's connivance in supporting the management's demand for maximum productivity.

First out

Tilmanstone was the first pit to strike in support of the Yorkshire miners.

Betteshanger miners were recommended by the union executive, which includes a number of Communist Party members, to stay in.

During the week the men walked out despite the leadership. What the NUM leadership fears above all is the emergence of the new leadership in the coalfields around the All Trades Unions Alliance and the daily Workers Press.

The report from the area council that was given by the union leaders at the Tilmanstone pit during the first week of the strike contained at the centre an attack on the ATUA and Workers Press, which day-by-day had analysed the course of the strike and fought for leadership in it.

Miners were told that 'there was no place for Trotskyists in the pits' and that force would be used to remove those distributing ATUA leaflets and Workers Press.

A number of miners protested against this—but were called to 'order'.

100 per cent

One young miner said later that what union officials feared was that, although many miners didn't yet support Trotskyism all down the line, nevertheless the ATUA was the only organization that supported them 100 per cent.

The special projects group produces generating and de-icing systems and other aircraft components. It has links with the French firm Auxilec SA, and has been working with them on projects such as the Anglo-French Concorde and Jaguar aircraft.

Its net profits averaged £516,000 over the past five years, and are expected to increase in 1970 and 1971. English Electric, part of the Weinstock empire, has already carried out a large-scale programme of sackings in its 'rationalization' efforts since the merger with GEC.

The demonstrators want pedestrian crossings on adequate traffic control to protect workers' lives.



Kent miners leaving the face. Betrayed for years by the Communist Party.

This fear was also exposed at Betteshanger where the miners were pulled away by union officials from speaking to Workers Press sellers. The 'East Kent Times' ran a front-page article headed 'Are the Communists Brainwashing Our Children?' attacking the Ramsgate Young Socialist branch.

The conflict for political leadership is extremely sharp today. Miners know that the last stoppage solved absolutely nothing. The decisive task now is the building of the ATUA and YS in the coalfields of Britain, and sections of the Socialist Labour League.

Wall Street

Approval is conditional on the companies taking measures to preserve a competitive retail situation in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania.

For example, in western Pennsylvania, where the two companies' retail outlets overlap, it is estimated that 100 to 125 petrol stations will have to be sold or exchanged to comply with the Justice Department's requirements.

The merger has only taken place after some anxious exchanges between the US and British governments.

Concern

(The Labour government is directly involved through its holding of just under 50 per cent of BP's share capital.)

Lucas in £8 million E.E. deal

THE Industrial Re-organization Corporation is lending £3 million to Joseph Lucas Ltd to assist the purchase of the English Electric Company's special projects group.

Lucas is paying a total of £8 million for the group, which will then belong to its Rotax subsidiary. The IRC claims the deal will open new opportunities abroad and ensure the full use of research and development efforts.

English Electric factories at Luton, Bradford and Nether-ton, near Liverpool, are affected by the deal.

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Secretary Michael Stewart expressed his concern at the State and Justice Departments' opposition to the deal. Stewart asked for 'fair treatment for BP, as US oil companies have been free to invest and expand in the British oil market on a very large scale and also to bid for the North Sea Gas development contracts.

The Labour government's request raised the whole question of the relation between the US and European economies. The last 10 to 15 years have seen a vast influx of US capital into Europe, with the incoming US firms usually very large and powerful in relation to their European competitors.

Similar

Other British firms such as ICI were reported to have been watching the deal closely because of similar plans for expansion in the US. The hesitations over the BP-Standard Oil merger make it clear that the door for European capital to enter the US will soon be closed as the US economic crisis continues to deepen.

Arms talks

That is why the Stalinist plan of an all European 'security' pact threatens to disarm the workers' states, just as Stalin's pact with Hitler opened the gates to the fascist armies in June 1941.

Imperialism has not changed. Only when it has been overthrown can disarmament become a practical reality. The talks in Helsinki will solve nothing.

Angry nurses march for higher pay

ONE thousand angry Scottish nurses blocked traffic and fought with police in Edinburgh on Monday night as they marched along Princes Street chanting 'More pay for nurses'.

They were the overflow from a crowded meeting of nurses' pay held in a George Street hall.

Three thousand had already packed into the meeting, but a large number were unable to get in.

Dozens of police were called in as the march got under way. A banner was snatched from one demonstrator and thrown into a police car.

WEST GERMANY

Nuclear challenge to U.S.

THE DEVELOPMENT of capitalism in western Europe since the end of the Second World War has been inextricably linked with that of US imperialism.

This has been the case particularly for West Germany.

The German 'economic miracle' was only possible with the beheading of the proletariat by Hitler's fascist dictatorship, the betrayals of Stalinism and Social Democracy and a massive injection of dollars.

Despite the enormous speed with which technological development has surged forward, it has lagged behind the US and other European countries in two vital areas: computers and nuclear power stations.

The giant American corporation, International Business Machines (IBM), gained a stranglehold on the market at an early stage, but Siemens is now spending vast sums on research and development of a range of machines aimed at the process control market, as this promises the easiest path into computers from the point of view of winning markets.

Under licence

This challenge to the United States is strongly reflected in the German programme for nuclear power stations. These are at present being manufactured by Siemens and AEG under licence from Westinghouse and General Electric.

However the German companies are now successfully undercutting the US companies. Siemens and AEG have united their power station construction interests in a new company, Kraftwerk Union, which is now building up a position of immense strength in all aspects of the nuclear power industry.

ITALY To-day's strike a trial of strength

By a foreign correspondent
A CRUCIAL stage has been reached in the current Italian strike wave. A general strike has been called for today in support of the demand for improved housing conditions.

Together with low wages, unemployment and poor social services, housing is one of the main problems of the Italian working class and peasants.

On the eve of today's strike, the Italian cabinet approved emergency measures costing £786 million for the improvement of working-class accommodation.

The three main trade unions which have called today's general strike rejected the government's plan as a weak and fragmented attempt to face a situation which calls for an organic policy.

The strike is the third nation-wide stoppage this year on questions of social policy. But while this massive power of the working class remains tied to the policies of the Stalinists and the reformists, it will continue to dissipate itself in strike actions without a clear political goal.

The constant influx of workers into the main cities has aggravated a problem that was already acute.

The demand in Italy must now be for a workers' government on a socialist programme, embracing not only the social services and housing, but the nationalization of all basic industries and the banks.

Pressure on the ruling Christian-Democrats may force very small and temporary concessions, but it will resolve none of the basic problems that have brought 20 million workers into action over the last three months.

U.S. Vice-President raises McCarthy witch-hunt spectre

THE RECENT attacks by the US vice-president Spiro Agnew on the presentation of television news programmes has caused great concern in broadcasting and legal circles.

Agnew alleged that news programmes were biased against government policy and reflected the opinions of radicals.

This attack, which revived for many the memory of Senator McCarthy, was answered by the Deans of eleven leading law schools.

They insisted that the First Amendment to the US constitution guarantees all persons the right to express their political opinions. Agnew, noted for his extremist views, was not speaking for himself alone.



Agnew

White House spokesmen stated at the time of Agnew's attack that these were the views of the whole administration.

Another ominous sign is the appointment of Dean Burch as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Burch was a senior adviser to Barry Goldwater during his 1964 election campaign.

B.S.R.

FROM PAGE ONE
On Monday Mr England stated:

'If there is any attempt to coerce employees into joining the AEF, this will be interpreted as victimization.'

Mr William Donald, Mid-Lanark AEF district secretary, said:

'We have won the main object of the dispute—to have the right to represent our members recognised.'

'Our next object is to make the plan efficient because only in this way will we win good wages.'

This raises the question of whether some tacit agreement has already been made with the BSR regarding some future productivity deal.

Letters which have been sent to employees telling them to start work say that they should report at the normal starting time for their normal shifts.

They will then be told in detail of the re-allocation of work. This indicates there is no guarantee of resuming their former jobs.

Canadian and British disputes deepen nickel crisis

THE STRIKE at the Sudbury, Ontario plant of International Nickel, which lasted 128 days and crippled world nickel production, ended over the weekend when the strikers agreed to accept substantial wage and fringe benefit increases.

The settlement works out at an average increase of 1.45 dollars (about 12s.) a hour—a rise of about a third on previous rates.

The settlement was accepted by a narrow majority of the 15,600 workers at the Sudbury plant, but rejected by the 1,600 workers at Inco's Port Colborne refinery.

The Sudbury plant can produce nickel oxide and sinter—the form in which nickel is used by steelmakers. But it could be seriously hit if the strike at Port Colborne is further prolonged.

Swansea dispute

Inco is involved in another prolonged dispute at its Clydach, Swansea, refinery, where 800 workers have been on strike for six weeks against a 'penal clause' productivity deal.

It is estimated that as a result of the Canadian settlement, the price of nickel charged by producers will rise from £980 to £1,250 a ton.

The price of nickel on the free market has risen to £7,000 a ton since the strike began. It is expected to remain high for some time, as the shortage of nickel is likely to continue.

Japan govt. consider motors link

THE JAPANESE government is still considering the proposed link between Mitsubishi and the US motor giant Chrysler.

Ranking third behind General Motors and Ford, Chrysler are struggling desperately to combat a sudden fall in their profit rate.

If successful in acquiring a 35 per cent holding in Mitsubishi, Chrysler hope to break into what has been a highly-protected Japanese market.

Mrs Gandhi to lead minority coalition

HAVING lost her majority in both houses of the Indian parliament, Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi will now lead a minority government in a coalition between her own Congress Party supporters and Stalinists, independents and various left-wing splinter groups.

This tactic has been forced on Mrs Gandhi after 111 Congress MPs defected to the right-wing parties.

She now commands a maximum of 210 seats out of a total of 523 in the Lower House.

By providing Mrs Gandhi with a left cover for continued attacks on the working class and peasantry, the Stalinists consciously work against a socialist solution to the problems of the Indian masses.

By our science correspondent

Even though Germany currently has less than 900 megawatts of nuclear generating capacity actually in operation—as against Britain's 4,100 megawatts—the UK's attempt to win a dominant position in Europe's nuclear markets is now threatened.

Kraftwerk Union has a near monopoly of commercial nuclear power stations in Germany.

With its latest order—a station near Hamburg—it now has five nuclear stations at various stages of construction at home and two more abroad, in Holland and Argentina, worth a total of £250 million.

The only challenge to Kraftwerk Union's monopoly on its home territory comes from the gas-cooled line of reactors developed in Britain.

Brown Boveri, the Swiss-owned electrical engineering group, has put in bids for four nuclear tenders in Germany costing about £180 million.

If successful they will be constructing four stations having three-quarters of the capacity of all the stations working in Britain today and using gas-cooled reactors, under licence from British Nuclear Design and Construction, one of the two British consortia in the nuclear sector.

If none of the four bids succeed, Britain's export prospects for the current generation of Mark II gas-cooled reactors look dim.

In one major area—the supply and processing of nuclear fuel—the Atomic Energy Authority has gained a strong international position.

But this cannot last without the selling and licensing of British reactor designs. Even after its belated re-organization, the British nuclear industry has nothing to match the massive commercial strength of Kraftwerk Union and faces big problems in the struggle for markets.

The United States is the only country in the west with larger, economically-working uranium-enrichment plants and it is calculated that by 1980 the cost to Europe will rise to £162 million a year.

The enrichment process accounts for about a third of the cost of nuclear fuel per kilowatt hour of electricity generated.

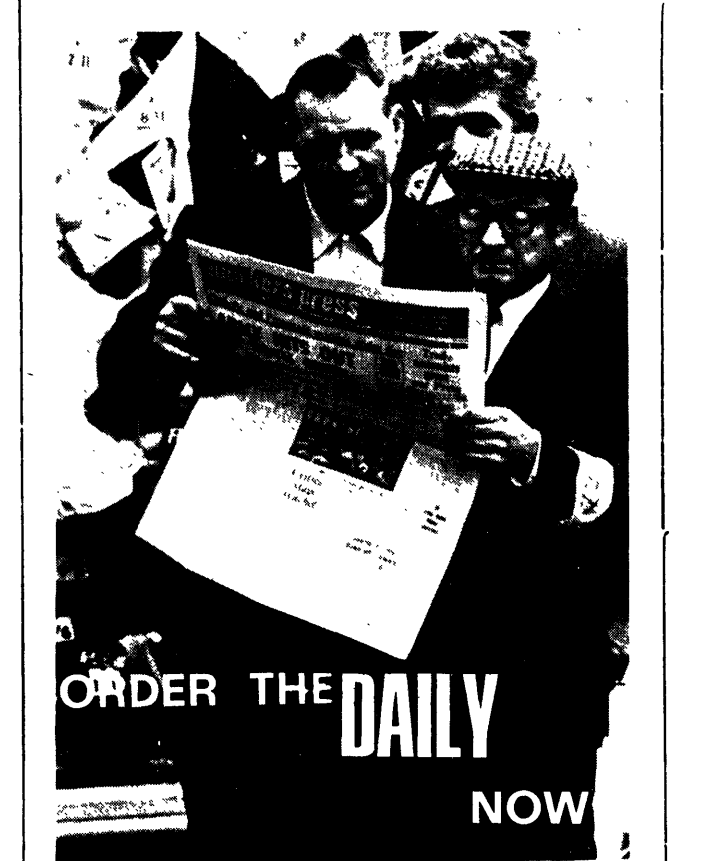
Discussions

With the projected growth by 1980 of European generating capacity to between 70,000 and 90,000 megawatts, the Common Market countries will need 15 million kilograms of enriched uranium a year by this date.

In order to combat the US, discussions are now taking place between the UK, the Netherlands and Germany to construct a £625 million European uranium-enrichment plant.

The development of the economic conflict between the United States and western Europe now means that West German capitalism will hold an increasingly dominant position.

The current developments in the German proletariat, after 20 years of boom, can therefore hold the key to the European socialist revolution.



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