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# 20 MILLION

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BY DAVID MAUDE

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Some alleged they had been moved to different departments and others complained that whilst scabs were allowed to go to the toilet, union members had to ask for permission.

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Their plans are now receiving a far more sympathetic hearing than ever before from the European capitalists, who face stiff American competition.

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Above all, however, the European capitalists want to come together with the British employers so that they can be in a stronger position to take on the working class in struggle.

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Such co-operation will only benefit the working class when the Common Market is smashed and the Socialist United States of Europe is built on its ruins.

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Quite apart from the poverty being endured by young teachers, the claim occupies strategic importance.

If the teachers do not win it—and to win it requires at least a full-scale national strike—the floodgates will be opened for revision of teachers' contracts, productivity deals, divide and rule by 'special payments' and rationalization of the entire educational structure.

The unprecedented wave of teacher strikes organized at local level shows that teachers want to fight.

But they must beware that these struggles are not utilized as a bargaining counter by the union leaders in a shabby betrayal and productivity settlement.

Indeed the NUT has been collaborating with the local education authorities (LEAs) on a working plan to define the contractual obligations of teachers since July.

At the October 25 meeting of the NUT executive, the representative of Northern England, John Alderson, raised the question of teachers appearing in 'The Times' that agreement had been reached in one of those sub-committees!

### Stabilization

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- Abolished maximum class sizes and called for more flexibility and mobility by teachers.
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There is enough straw blowing in the wind to see the kind of deal the employers and the teachers are manoeuvring for in the near future.

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The editorial goes on to call for increasing special allowances for teachers in 'educational priority areas'.

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**THE LAST ten years have seen four major government reports on education.**

Each one was hailed with a fanfare of publicity. Each one recommended glorious improvements.

Now, after all these, three out of every four primary schools and two out of every four secondary schools are in sub-standard buildings.

One out of every seven primary school classes and one out of every three secondary school classes is oversized. (The maximum size is supposed to be 40 in primary schools and 30 in secondary schools.)

Only 7 per cent of the age-group gets any form of higher education, and only 4 per cent gets to university. Fewer than one child in 14 gets any nursery education. 65 per cent of women teachers and 27 per cent of men teachers leave the profession within five years—which is not surprising with a starting salary of £13 a week net.

This is because education is a class question.

It is too simple to suppose that both the people who appointed these education commissions and the people who served on them were merely conscious hypocrites who knew that their recommendations would amount to nothing.

They meant it seriously and at the time the government also intended to implement at least some of their work.

The drive towards these commissions to overhaul the entire education system developed during the late 1950s. This was the boom period. British capitalism was concerned at the low standard of education affecting all levels of the labour force from unskilled workers to technicians.

**Drop out**

Substantiated reports revealed that 25 per cent of 15-year-olds were unable to read adequately. Even more serious was the drop-out of talented youngsters from secondary and higher education.

The effectiveness of established methods of organization such as the 11-plus examination, the streaming of classes and 'intelligence' testing was being questioned by wider circles of educationists.

In the colleges of education and university education departments serious attention began to be paid—both here and in the United States—to the effects of class background on educational deprivation.

Writers like Floud, Halsey and Martin established that the kind of tests given in school were not 'objective', but reflected and measured class background.

Brian Jackson in this country and people like Martin Deutsch in the United States produced studies to show that working-class children were pushed away from educational success at both secondary and primary levels.

One of the most thorough exposures of the class nature of English education came from a non-socialist but scientific researcher, J. W. B. Douglas.

**Streaming**

Douglas showed that where classes were streamed according to measured ability, middle-class children always tended to be in the upper streams and working-class children tended to be in the lower streams even when their measured ability was the same.

For instance there were 11 per cent more middle-class children in upper streams and 26 per cent fewer in the lower streams than would be expected from their measured ability at eight years of age.

When it came to entry into selective secondary schools (i.e. grammar and technical schools) Douglas showed conclusively that at the same level of ability far more middle-class children than working-class children were successful.

At the lower range of scores on ability tests almost half the children of the upper middle class gained entry to selective schools whereas fewer than one in ten of working-class children did so.

The table on this page is taken from Douglas's book, 'The Home and the School' (p. 123).

Apart from a few backwoods men who insisted that middle-class children were born with special qualities of character, most educationists took Douglas's work seriously.

This was not because they were moving towards socialism, but because they were being forced to recognise the inadequacies of the education system.

**Process**

Education is a part of the process of producing a commodity—labour power.

When there is a demand for

labour power, especially highly-skilled labour power, there is bound to be concern over the quality of education within capitalism.

This was becoming more acute at the end of the 1950s because the Russians were clearly ahead in the technological race.

It came to a head in 1961 when the Russians shook the West by sending Yuri Gagarin into space.

The cries against wastage of talent, inferior education, lack of university places, etc. became a crescendo. This was the background to the spate of educational reports — The Crowther Report, '15 to 18', dealing with all aspects of secondary education, published in 1959; The Newsom Report, 'Half Our Future', dealing with secondary modern schools, published in 1963; The Robbins Report on 'Higher Education' published in 1963; and The Plowden Report 'Children and Their Primary Schools', published in 1967.

These were serious reports intended to solve serious problems on behalf of capitalism. They were not gimmicks. The failure to implement more than a tiny fraction of their proposals reveals two things.

First, the complete inability of capitalism to solve its social problems; and second, the basic fact that with the end of the economic boom there is no longer the same demand for the commodity labour power.

Therefore capitalism is not prepared to invest the necessary finance in producing it. It does not matter if a quarter of the 15-year-olds cannot read if you do not want them in the factories anyway.

**Change of heart**

A glance at the main recommendations of these four reports and at what has been done about them will prove that there has been a change of heart about investing cash in training labour power.

**THE CROWTHER REPORT**

said that the school-leaving age should be raised to 16.

It called for extended courses in secondary schools for half the 15-year-olds by 1969 and ultimately for all of them.

It urged that half the 16-18-year-old group should be in full-time higher education by 1969 and that there should be compulsory part-time educa-

Test scores at eleven years	Middle Class		Working Class	
	Upper % at selective secondary school	Lower % at selective secondary school	Upper % at selective secondary school	Lower % at selective secondary school
54 or less	40.1	17.0	10.2	7.9
55-60	80.3	65.9	49.8	51.6
61 and over	99.0	93.9	96.3	92.3

**QUANTUM theory—the laws of motion of matter at the atomic and sub-atomic level—has probably had more impact on mankind during the 70 years since its beginnings than any other physical theory.**

The study of processes which take place in times so short and within regions of space so small that they are almost inconceivable in 'everyday' terms has been responsible for the development of techniques and commodities that are taken for granted in 'industrialized countries.

Television, fluorescent lighting, X-rays, photoelectric cells, nuclear power stations, lasers and many other discoveries all became possible as scientists began to understand the laws of motion of minute entities—the fundamental or elementary particles—travelling at nearly 186,000 miles an hour, the speed of light, in a vacuum.

**Grasped**

At the turn of the century science was clearly on the brink of major developments. Cathode rays, photoelectricity, radioactivity and X-rays were new phenomena which could not be explained by the old theories. Newton's laws of gravitation and particle motion, which for 250 years had provided the theoretical basis for bourgeois science now proved inadequate.

The mechanical materialists who believed that Newton had said the last word and that the richness of the objective world could be reduced to a few fixed building blocks and exhausted by a set of simple equations gasped like a fish out of water.

As late as 1897, Lord Kelvin, a giant in the world of physics in the latter part of the 19th century, still wrote that the idea that 'electricity is a continuous homogeneous liquid' (rather than having an atomic structure) deserved careful consideration.

**Education's**



tion in county colleges for all those not going on to full-time higher education.

In addition it recommended that there should be increased grants for third year sixth-form students, that the teacher-pupil ratio should be maintained at 1:17, or at worst 1:19, in secondary schools and that special attention should be paid to poor areas.

Ten years later, what has happened?

The higher school-leaving age has been approved but not yet put into practice. Moreover, nothing has been done about providing more teachers, equipment or buildings for these pupils.

The result is that the secondary school teachers see only the prospect of oversized classes of bored, mutinous 16-year-olds in addition to the already existing oversized classes of bored, mutinous 15-year-olds.

**Exam pressure**

Understandably many of these teachers are opposed to

by JACK GALE

raising the leaving age, seeing it as a pie-in-the-sky proposal by theorists who don't have to do the job.

All that has come out of the Crowther Report is the Certificate of Secondary Education which intensifies the examination pressure on the schools and paves the way for a return to payment-by-results, a tendency which is already beginning to assert itself, as was discussed in a previous article in the Workers Press.

**THE NEWSOM REPORT** on the secondary modern schools also recommended that the school-leaving age should be raised to 16—and set a date: September 1965.

It called for intensive research into the teaching of pupils whose abilities were artificially depressed by environmental and linguistic handicaps and for special attention to be paid to educational problems in slum areas.

It urged that slum schools should be replaced and overcrowded schools extended.

It pleaded for extended provisions for practical subjects, more television and language-teaching equipment and more audio-visual aids.

Next to nothing of this has been done.

The raising of the school-leaving age has been postponed to 1970-1971 and is likely to be postponed again.

Some local education authorities have tied this in with the changeover to comprehensive schools, so that both will be postponed together.

It is obvious that none of the proposed improvements could amount to much without an increased teacher supply. The situation here is anarchistic.

Unemployment is growing among qualified teachers at the same time as an estimated deficit of 40,000 teachers by 1972—16,000 of them in (or rather, not in) the secondary schools.

**Deficiency**

These figures—taken from the Report of the National

Advisory Council for the Supply and Training of Teachers, published in 1963—are fairly conservative.

Later figures, published in 1967 by the Economist Intelligence Unit, estimated a deficiency of 32,000 teachers in secondary schools.

**AT FIRST** sight more success appears to have been achieved by the Robbins Report on Higher Education.

Robbins demanded that 390,000 full-time students in 1973-1974 and for 560,000 in 1980-1981.

This was to resolve competition for places. The idea was that all who were able and qualified should find a place in higher education if they wanted one.

These targets for full-time students have, in fact, already been exceeded. But the 'success' is illusory. The real test is: does everybody who wants and qualifies for higher education actually get it?

The Robbins estimates were too low. There has been a greatly increased demand for higher education—and when Robbins was published 63 out of every 100 with the minimum qualifications were getting into university.

Today the figure is 55 out of every 100.

In other words, almost half the young people who qualify

and want to go to university are unable to get places.

Robbins also recommended increased capital and recurrent grants to universities to provide more places.

Fees, it said, should be increased, but 'for the time being' grants should not be replaced by loans. Since then university finances have been 'under review', but there has been considerable pressure to replace grants by loans.

This has been accompanied by sensational publicity about long-haired students 'living off grants'.

**Cannot attend**

In fact, the students who need grants and who could not attend universities and colleges without them are the children of working-class and lower-middle-class parents.

The children of the wealthy have always had higher education, and to reduce or replace grants would keep more working-class and middle-class people out and leave more places for the rich.

**BUT PERHAPS** the greatest fanfare of all greeted the Plowden Report on the primary schools.

Here was the Cinderella of education.

Classes of over 40 and even over 50, crumbling schools sometimes more than 100 years old, frozen-up outside lavatories and no hot water, classrooms having to be evacuated because the walls were falling in.

At last, something was going to be done.

Or was it?

The Plowden Report's main recommendation was that there should be positive assistance to schools in deprived areas.

No class should exceed 30 in these schools and teachers in them should get £120 salary addition.

There should be a teachers' aide to every two classes in such schools and they should get extra books and equipment.

The Report also called for improved educational facilities for the children of immigrants and for better school health and welfare services.

It said that more teachers, especially men, should be encouraged to enter primary teaching and that there should be an increase in the number of part-time teachers.

**No cane**

The Report urged that an extra £7 million-£10 million should be spent annually over seven years beginning in 1971 to provide extra buildings and equipment.

It recommended that corporal punishment—defined as the infliction of physical pain

—should be forbidden in maintained schools and that no independent school using corporal punishment should be recognized as efficient.

Nursery education, it said, should be provided full-time for about 15 per cent of children in the three to five years age range and part-time for the rest.

What has been done? The 'educational priority areas' are still rotting away.

Better books, equipment, ancillary helpers and better staffing ratios are not being provided.

The school-building programmes are being cut and part-time teachers sacked—in complete opposition to the Plowden proposals.

Far from a drive to reduce class sizes, students are qualifying in Colleges of Education and finding themselves unwanted. The record on Plowden is one of total neglect.

All of the proposals dreamed up in the boom period for all levels of education are being firmly pushed aside with the changes for the worse within British capitalism.

Education is not a 'national' problem—it is a class problem.

The children of the ruling class do not go to the schools dealt with in these reports. They go to the public schools because their parents can afford to pay.

The contrast is startling.

While working-class children sit in classes of over 40 in their primary schools and over 30 in their secondary schools, the ratio of staff to pupils in the public schools is 1: 11.8.

The educational 'economies' now taking place are at the expense of our children in order to preserve the privileges of the ruling class.

**Same action**

Schoolteachers are now beginning to realize that in order to fight back against the Burnham Committee's miserable £50-a-year offer, they will have to take the same sort of action as the dustmen, dockers, miners and motor workers.

A decent salary for teachers involves a fight against the government's incomes policy.

Similarly, to ensure a decent education for the children of the working class requires a struggle against capitalism.

In the days of boom, a Labour government could introduce educational reforms.

In capitalism's crisis, a Labour government comes down on all the working class, young and old, in the schools just as in the factories.

The era of reforms, concessions and compromise is over.

The only future for the working class and its children is to organize in revolutionary struggle against capitalism in decay.



**Fundamental particles**  
BY MARTIN ZARROP

He was proved wrong the same year when J. J. Thomson performed his celebrated experiment which determined the ratio of the charge and mass of electrons in cathode rays. The electron was the first elementary particle recognized by man.

The brilliant achievements of the classical mechanics of Newton and the Faraday-Maxwell theory of electromagnetism, elaborated in the 19th century, brought to a close the era of classical microscopic physics.

These theories were now seen not as eternal truths, but valid within well-defined limits that man had discovered in his struggle to conquer nature and grasp objective reality.

**New qualities**

Provided we deal with distances greater than the atomic radius (one hundred millionth of a centimetre) and speeds far less than that of light, classical physics suffices.

Outside of these bounds new qualities emerge and new laws have to be formulated to encompass them.

The new laws governing

atomic phenomena—quantum theory—were developed in the years 1901-1926. The basic structure of the atom—a central nucleus, one billionth of a centimetre radius, surrounded by a number of electrons—was established experimentally and with the new theoretical weapon a deep insight was gained into the nature of chemical reactions, radioactivity and ionization processes.

The development of quantum theory brought with it fierce theoretical conflict. What light did it throw on the nature of objective reality?

**Conclusions**

The orthodox reply which gained dominance during the 1920s represented a retreat into the marsh of subjective idealism.

The main conclusions can be summarised as follows:

- (a) The object of the theory is not to describe the behaviour of things but to build up a mechanism which gives the results of experiments.
- (b) Outside measurement no knowledge is possible.
- (c) Uncertainties that occur

are not due to the perturbation caused by the measuring apparatus or man's ignorance of some more detailed behaviour. Knowledge is of a probabilistic nature and represents ultimate knowledge.

The conclusion is reached that it is meaningless to talk about an objectively existing world at all.

All we can be sure of is a number on a dial when an experiment is performed.

Lenin in 'Materialism and Empirio-Criticism' (1908) mercilessly attacked Bogdanov and others in the Bolshevik Party who were embracing the same idealistic position in the period of reaction following the defeat of the 1905 revolution.

He called them 'god-seekers', for such a position was a rejection of Marxism and opened the door for some outside force always beyond man's grasp.

**Symposium**

Inevitably, the theoretical battle over quantum theory reduced itself to materialism versus idealism with the idealists performing many of the classic contortions.

Here is an extract from a discussion held at Bristol University in 1957 as part of a symposium on observation and interpretation in the philosophy of physics.

'Vigier: . . . I do not think that things which exist are things which might have been observed. This is where the split comes in a very clear form.

'Rosenfeld: I don't say that. Don't continue on that line because I do not say that things only exist in so far as they could be observed. All the statements we make about the world are necessarily des-

criptions of a state of affairs, of mind, of material, that an observer might perceive if he were placed in those particular circumstances.

'Vigier: Let us say then we agree that the world exists outside any observer. Did the laws of quantum mechanics apply to the world at a time when there were no observers present?

'Rosenfeld: Of course.

'Vigier: O.K. If you say then, that the laws of quantum mechanics did apply at that time, then the laws of quantum mechanics are real, objective, statistical laws of nature, which have nothing to do with the observer, and are verified whether there are observers or not.

'Rosenfeld: No.'

Here we see the contradiction into which the idealist is led.

**Not last word**

Professor Rosenfeld swallows it whole—in 1908 the idealists attempted to resolve it by introducing various fictitious 'observers' to make sure that the world didn't disappear before man arrived on the scene!

Today, few physicists will insist the present quantum theory has said the last word. In order to fit in with the results of experiments, the theory has been elaborated by

the addition of various rules of thumb (such as the subtraction of infinities to make certain results meaningful!).

This situation has arisen increasingly with the probing of nuclear interactions.

The years around 1930 saw the birth of the era of nuclear physics.

The basic instrument for 'smashing the atom', the cyclotron or particle accelerator, was developed in the period by E. O. Lawrence at California University. This was the big step necessary to break down the nuclear barrier.

The construction since that period of bigger and more powerful machines has produced literally scores of new particles whose masses get progressively larger as increased energy provides the possibility for the creation of mass.

Most of the particles are extremely shortlived and disintegrate in a period of time of the order of one ten-thousand-millionth of a second. The stable particles are the electron, proton, neutron, antineutrino, positron and photon while the neutron is relatively stable with a lifetime of about 16 minutes.

**New design**

In its first runs, Lawrence's machine produced energies



The mechanical materialists who believed, like Newton, that the objective world could be reduced to a few simple equations, were dumbfounded when J. J. Thomson (above), performed experiments which opened the way to the discovery of the inner structure of the atom.

around 100,000 electron volts.

In 1960, a 30,000 million volt (30 GeV) accelerator was completed at the Brookhaven laboratory in the United States that measured about a mile in circumference.

British nuclear physicists are laying foundations for a new design of 'atom smasher' that could be much smaller and yet far more powerful than anything seriously envisaged so far.

A preliminary study has been made by the Science Research Council's Rutherford Laboratory of the possibilities of replacing the ring of large electromagnets on Nimrod, its 7-GeV machine, with a ring of superconducting magnets of the same diameter.

In this way its power could be raised fourfold, to the same order as the accelerator at the European Commission for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland.

Such a project could be a pilot experiment for a much more powerful machine of perhaps 1,000 GeV.

If present plans for a 300-GeV accelerator for Europe break down—and France now threatens to follow Britain in withdrawing from participation in the £78 million machine—Europe's physicists may replace their objective on a longer timescale but far more ambitiously.

This will probably do them little good in the light of the economic crisis.

**Cannot predict**

The 1,000-GeV machine will cost over £100 million and it is virtually impossible to predict what it will produce when it begins to operate—just a profusion of even bigger particles or will some quantitative change take place which will provide the key to the present jigsaw puzzle?

Of one thing we can be certain.

The future unification of nuclear theory and its incorporation into a more comprehensive theory of fundamental particles will reveal it to be a more or less accurate reflection in men's minds of objective processes—not God playing dice.



# Palestine and the Arab revolution

... The new radicalism failed to make its mark in a big way, or rather it has so far failed to throw up the leaders it needs. Ever since the June war it had been the guerrillas who were the spearhead of a new order, gaining ground at the expense of the regimes which, whether "reactionary" or "revolutionary" represent for many Arabs the discredited old order. But for the first time, the old order, decadent but full of guile, has got the better of the new order, vigorous but naive—and not incorruptible." (David Hurst, Beirut November 7, 'The Guardian')

**LEBANON'S pro-imperialist regime has lived to betray another day. It has survived after what had looked like becoming the Lebanon's biggest crisis since 1958.**

Then the Lebanese ruling class was saved from revolution by US Marines.

This time they have been helped by the political intervention by other Arab governments—particularly by Nasser—and by the lack of revolutionary leadership on the part of those who challenged them.

After two weeks of bitter fighting between the Lebanese army and the Palestine Arab guerrilla units, and strikes and demonstrations in Lebanese cities in support of the guerrillas, Nasser succeeded in arranging an agreement between the army commander in chief, General Emile Bustani, and the Al Fatah and Palestine Liberation Organization leader, Yasser Arafat.

Less than a fortnight previously, Arafat had said in Damascus that he doubted whether there was any value in talks between Arab leaders and the Lebanese governments.

Previous agreements had not been honoured, he said, and he saw no reason why any future ones should be.

The agreement that was signed following the talks in Cairo upholds the 'sovereignty and territorial integrity' of the Lebanese 'government', while conceding the guerrillas' right

to operate from Lebanese territory, within limits, without government interference.

The details of the agreement, the precise limits which it imposes on the guerrillas are secret, but it has been reported that they will not be allowed to fire across the Israeli border from Lebanese soil, and they must keep their movements within specified corridors.

## Camp control

According to reports the Lebanese authorities are to have control over the refugee camps, which are guerrilla recruiting grounds.

**BY CHARLES PARKINS**

According to Paul Martin, 'The Times' correspondent in Beirut:

'Although its true significance will undoubtedly be drowned in political argument, the most sinister aspect of the Lebanese agreement from the guerrillas' point of view is the revelation by the Lebanese negotiating team that the secret agreement provides for the guerrilla action from Lebanese territory to be within the framework of the general Arab plan.'

In other words, although the Lebanese government has now acknowledged the right of the guerrillas to operate, it has insisted, however, that all operations be directed and controlled by the Arab governments; whereas, the whole historical significance of the guerrilla movements is that they have insisted on the Palestinian people being allowed to determine their own future, and have taken the initiative themselves rather than rely on the existing Arab governments.

For over 20 years, since the Palestine people were made

homeless in their own land by Zionist colonization and aggression, these Arab governments have failed them.

As soon as the 1948 war was over, the State of Israel came into existence in Palestine, the kingdom of Jordan—then Trans-Jordan—annexed the Palestine Arab West Bank while Egypt annexed the Gaza strip, both regimes disregarding the Palestinian people's right to a state.

As for Nasser, the champion of Arab nationalism, he has said on numerous occasions that he would recognise the 1947 partition as the basis for a peaceful settlement with the Zionist state, and more recently, the pre-1967 frontiers.

## Colonization

The Palestine problem is not just a dispute about boundaries that can be negotiated and settled between neighbouring states.

It is a national problem, the denial of self-determination, of a homeland to the Palestinian Arab people, and the imposition of a racist, colonialist, Zionist state.

The guerrilla movement arose because a new generation of Palestinians, realizing that they could not rely on governments, found inspiration from guerrilla movements in other parts of the world and took up arms themselves to wage a popular war for the liberation of their homeland from Zionism.

After the debacle of June 1967, in which the Arab governments, both bourgeois and feudal, showed a combination of boasting demagoguery with unpreparedness for any real fight, enabling the Zionists to conquer even more territory and create more refugees, people throughout the Arab countries have become convinced that the guerrillas are right.

The heroism and determination of the Arab resistance fighters in the occupied territories—Israeli losses in the occupied areas have been much higher than they were in the June war—have earned them the prestige which the govern-



After successive betrayals by Arab governments in the past, the Palestinian people took up arms themselves under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, pictured above.

ments, including Nasser's, had lost.

Now, these governments, which failed to achieve anything for the Palestinian masses in 20 years, are attempting to retain their prestige, claiming to have some 'plan' for the struggle, to which the Palestinian organizations must subordinate themselves, surrendering the initiative they have taken.

The crisis in Lebanon brought out the real relationships between the Palestinian people's struggle and the Arab

government on the one hand and the Arab masses on the other.

## Full strength

The Lebanese army, which saw little action at all in June 1967, was used in full strength against the guerrillas and their supporters.

On October 24, Palestinian guerrillas in the South Lebanon village of Majdal Salem were surrounded by 3,500 troops with tanks and artillery.

Elsewhere, guerrillas came under simultaneous fire from Lebanese and Israeli troops.

On the day before, army units had been brought into Beirut to guard against demonstrations in support of the Palestinian movement.

Police dispersed a demonstration of 500 people in the city's Bourg Al-Brajneh district, the Palestinian quarter.

A general strike broke out in the southern city of Sidon, in protest at the repression against the guerrillas.

In the city of Tripoli there were demonstrations and barricades were thrown up, with large-scale fighting.

The police were cleared out of the Bourg Al-Brajneh district of Beirut when guerrillas moved in, helping the people to put up barricades and take over the area.

It was the working masses who stood by the guerrilla fighters in their struggle.

To the support of the pro-imperialist government in Lebanon came the so-called 'revolutionary' Ba'ath nationalist army officers' regime of Iraq.

## Rejected claim

We can quote once again the comment of 'The Times' correspondent Paul Martin:

'What must have come as an even greater blow was the forthright criticism from the extremist regime, which had

hitherto managed to outdo its progressive colleagues in revolutionary fervour.'

The Iraqi government's line apparently, as set out by Lieutenant-General Ammash, the deputy Prime Minister, rejected the guerrillas' claim to bases in Lebanon, saying that all they needed was a 'corridor' for infiltration.

Which is, more or less, what the Lebanese government said.

It is not a new line for the Iraqi regime.

In April this year, as was reported in 'The Newsletter' (forerunner of Workers Press), they introduced measures to impose control on Palestinian groups in Iraq.

The Iraqi government note, signed by Chafic Al Daraji, declared that all guerrillas should be moved nearer the front, concentrated in Jordan.

'There is no room for them to be in Iraq', said the note.

It also instructed all Palestinian organizations to inform Iraqi intelligence of their movements, and to appoint liaison officers to co-operate with the authorities about such matters as distribution of literature, fund raising, radio programmes, money, and arms.

It said they must stop holding rallies without permission and must subordinate themselves to the newly set-up, government-sponsored 'Arab Liberation Front'.

According to Geoffrey Sumner, in 'The Guardian', April 13:

'Iraq's ruling Ba'ath Socialist Party apparently fears that its unpopularity is contrasting dangerously with the strong local support for the guerrillas.'

## Cairo's role

'Self-determination' and 'liberation' are, it would seem, contaminating ideas. So much for the Iraqi regime.

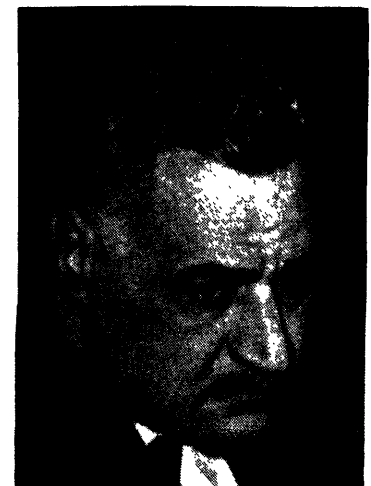
To quote Paul Martin again as to the role of the Iraqi

government in the Lebanon crisis:

'By bringing down the guerrillas a peg or two, General Ammash reassured the right of Arab governments to determine Arab destiny and paved the way for Cairo to play a more active role in the negotiations.' ('The Times', November 8.)

While the Iraqi regime was taking measures to control Palestinian political activity and was also carrying out repressive measures to crush the underground Communist Party in Iraq, the Soviet bureaucracy has been busily wooing the Iraqi rulers.

The Soviet bureaucracy has a lot to answer for to the Palestinian masses.



Nasser: Champion of Arab nationalism.

In 1947, Stalin and Gromyko supported the partition of Palestine and the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia supplied arms and aircraft to Israel.

Later, the Soviet bureaucracy expressed willingness to join the tri-partite agreement with Britain, France and America, guaranteeing the Israeli frontiers.

In 1966, they began dropping hints of a 'Tashkent'-type agreement being arranged between Israel and the Arab states, of course without the

Palestinian Arabs being represented.

Since the June war the Kremlin has engaged in talks with the United States for an imposed solution.

## Talks appeal

The Soviet Union issued a statement during the Lebanon crisis quite rightly warning the United States not to intervene, but in case their position should be misunderstood, they followed this up with a fresh appeal to the United States and Britain for talks between the great powers to impose a solution.

The Soviet Union and all the pro-Moscow Communist Parties treat the Palestine issue as the 'Arab-Israeli issue', a territorial dispute to be resolved by negotiations between states.

The Soviet newspaper 'Sovetskaya Rossiya' of April 15 this year criticised the Arab guerrilla movements for setting themselves independent political aims and stated that the idea of replacing Israel by a 'Democratic Palestinian State', in which Arabs and Jews would be equal citizens, was not a realistic proposition.

The bureaucracy does not think that solutions implemented by the masses are 'realistic'.

They place their faith in agreements with bourgeois and reactionary imperialist governments and insist that the masses do likewise.

The Palestinian people and all the Arab masses have been betrayed too often.

They cannot afford to trust the governments and classes that have betrayed them any more, nor can they afford to trust the Soviet bureaucracy.

They need to create a new, revolutionary leadership, based on the working class and the peasants. In a further article we shall look at the guerrilla movements and their politics to see what sort of leadership exists at present.

## THE MEANING OF THE MAUD REPORT

**By Adam Westoby**

IT HAS been reported ('The Times', November 11, 1969) that the Labour Party's Regional and Local Government Advisory Committee has recommended to the NEC the adoption of the major proposals of the report of the Royal Commission on Local Government (Maud Report).\*

While the Labour Government has not yet stated which parts of the report it intends to carry out, the discussion and proposals of the Royal Commission indicate the importance which the ruling class attaches to the thoroughgoing preparation of the state machine for use in its attempts to take back the gains that the working class has won, particularly in the period since the last war.

The present local government areas were set up by the Local Government Act of 1888.

The bodies then set up have become responsible for planning, transport, all education outside the universities, social and community services, housing and a large part of health services. They have come to spend very large sums of money.

In 1967 they spent £5,033 millions, raised locally from rates, provided out of taxes by the central government, and for a large part of capital spending raised as private loans at high interest rates.

Some of this spending—on transport, for example—is essential to the profits of big business. Most of it, however, represents gains made by the labour movement and is now seen by the ruling class as an unjustifiable extravagance.

It currently forms over 15 per cent of the national income

and has been rising at over 9 per cent per year.

Under the guise of seeking greater efficiency through creating larger local authorities, the Royal Commission lays the groundwork for a wholesale attack on these gains.

It estimates the proper size for 'exploiting economies of scale' (para. 523) to be a local authority population of at least 250,000.

It therefore proposes to reorganize the present 124 counties and county boroughs of England, together with the 1,086 smaller authorities, of widely differing sizes and characters, into 58 'unitary areas'.

In addition it proposes to create very large 'metropolitan areas' for the three biggest urban areas outside London—Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool.

The Labour Party's Committee backs the essence of these plans, only suggesting a slightly larger number of unitary areas and about eight instead of three metropolitan authorities.

The authors of the report do not disguise its essential purposes:

'If recent trends continue, local government services are likely to claim an increasing proportion of the gross national product.'

'If this tendency is to be held in check, local authorities will come under increasing pressure to economize in men and materials, and to increase efficiency; and there will be increased competition among the services for available resources.' (para. 510.)

'Enquiries into the future of local government services', they complain 'invariably bring demands for expansion and improvement of facilities.' (para. 509.)

These demands are to be fought.

Only by massive reorganization can the demands of the Tories for cut-backs in government spending be met.

In local government, as in industry, mergers mean sackings.

'One of the major gains of reorganization... will be the much more efficient use of local authority staff.' (para. 561.)

But this productivity deal will have no wage rises attached:

'Steps should be taken to discourage late increases by existing authorities in the status and salaries of their staff, with the object of assuring more favourable positions for them in the employment of the new authorities.' (para. 562.)

Even the most distinguished heads may have to roll:

'At the higher levels, some redundancy is inevitable; there will not be chief officer posts for all who hold them now.'

But never shall it be said that a Royal Commission has failed to look after its own:

'We have no doubt that generous compensation for loss of office is much better, both for the individuals concerned and for local government, than the creation of unnecessary posts.' (para. 564.)

The reorganization of local government is first and foremost an attack on the reforms won through the state.

As part of this process it reflects the increasing ascendancy of the biggest business interests.

The present local government bodies are closely tied to small and local business interests.

Government policy, however, is now increasingly dominated by the interests of the very biggest monopolies, whose interests are regional, national and international in scope.

They have no concern to preserve the ties of local government—only in establishing central controls to cut spending. It is these interests which lie behind the report's cant about making it 'easier for local government to speak with a united voice' (para. 574.) and giving 'communities in city and town new kinds of opportunity to speak and take action for themselves'. (para. 575.)

In the proposals for the mammoth metropolitan areas these interests show even more clearly.

Birmingham, Manchester and the Merseyside area to contain a present population of over 8½ millions, together with enormous concentrations of manufacturing industry.

In each area the overall authority would take charge of planning, transport and development, water, police and ambulances, while housing, the personal social services, education, libraries, parks and so on would be left to the smaller metropolitan district councils—the local councils within the metropolitan areas.

Since 'the cost of whatever a local council decides to do should be borne by that council' and 'What a local council does not do because it is not prepared to meet the cost, may therefore, not be done at all' (para. 393.) the way is open, under the cover of 'self-sufficiency', for working-class districts in the big cities to be separated off and progressively impoverished, while the interests of the bosses are fully protected.

The Labour Party proposals for more metropolitan authorities accentuate this threat.

## B.B.C.-1

6.30 a.m. Moon Morning Two.  
10.00-12 noon School. 12.30 p.m. Farm Management. 1.00 Moon Day Two: highlights. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45 News and Weather. 1.53 Children's Space Questions. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Preparations for Lift Off: Apollo 12. 2.50 Lift Off from the Moon (Lift off due at 3.23 p.m.). 4.20 Play School. 4.40 News Report. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Journey To The Centre of The Earth. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 National News and Weather.

6.00 London—Nationwide.  
6.15 Moon Walk Special: highlights.  
6.50 Rendezvous and Docking: Apollo 12.  
7.10 The Doctors.  
7.30 Dad's Army.  
8.00 Softly, Softly.  
8.50 The Main News and Weather.  
9.15 Sportsnight With Coleman.  
10.30 24 Hours including report from Apollo 12.  
11.17 Car Wise.  
11.47 Apollo Late Night Report.

## TODAYS TV

Regional programmes as BBC-1 except at the following times:  
Midlands and East Anglia: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Midlands Today, Look East, Weather. 12.05 a.m. News Summary.  
North of England: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Look North. Weather. 12.05 a.m. News Headlines.  
Wales: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Wales Today. 7.10-7.30 Heddiw.  
Scotland: 2.30-2.50 p.m. Around Scotland. 6.00-6.15 Reporting Scotland. 12.05 a.m. Epilogue, Scottish News Headlines.  
Northern Ireland: 2.30-2.50 p.m. For Schools. 6.00-6.15 Scene Around Six, Weather. 12.05 a.m. Northern Ireland News Headlines, Weather, Road Works Report.  
South and West: 6.00-6.15 p.m. Points West, South Today, Spotlight South-West, Weather. 12.05 a.m. South and West News Headlines, Weather.

## B.B.C.-2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School.  
7.00 p.m. Teaching Adults.



A group of Palestinian guerrillas holding pictures of Lenin.

7.30 Newsroom and Weather.  
8.00 Call My Bluff.  
8.30 The Money Programme.  
9.15 The Canterbury Tales.  
10.05 The Price Of Fame or Fame at any Price: Georgie Fame.  
10.35 News Summary and Weather.  
10.40 Line Up.

## I.T.V.

6.00-10.00 a.m. Apollo 12. 11.00-12 noon Schools. 1.40 p.m. Schools. 2.53-3.35 Apollo 12. 3.55 Face Of The Earth. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Bugs Bunny. 5.20 Maggie. 5.50 News From I.T.V.  
6.03 Today.  
6.30 Peyton Place.  
7.00 The Thursday Film: 'Donovan's Reef' starring John Wayne, Dorothy Lamour and Lee Marvin.  
7.30 This Week.  
10.00 News At Ten.  
10.30 Cinema.  
11.00 1 Sp. y.  
11.55 Music From Malinee Peris.

All independent channels as ITV London except at following times:  
CHANNEL: 4.45 p.m. Puffin's Birthday Greetings. 4.50 The Flaxton Boys. 6.00 Channel News and Weather. 6.10 Channel Sports Round-Up. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 The Thursday Film: 'On The Threshold Of Space' starring Guy Madison and John Hodiak. 8.30 This Is Your Life. 11.00 Peyton Place. 11.50 News and Weather in French, Weather.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-11.38 a.m. Schools. 4.00 p.m. News Headlines. 4.02 Pin Point. Malta. 4.15 Feyton Place. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 The Forest Rangers. 6.00 Midlands News. 6.10 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Action Movie: 'Tycoon' starring John Wayne, Lorraine Day. 11.05 Hatfield. 11.59 Pulse, Weather.

ANGLIA: 2.58-3.35 p.m. Apollo 12. 4.05 Castle Haven. 4.30 Anglia Newsroom. 4.32 Sean the Leprechaun. 4.50 As Channel. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Action Movie: 'Scaramouche' starring Stewart Granger and Janet Leigh. 11.00 Survival. 11.30 Reflection.

WESTWARD: 4.08 p.m. Westward News Headlines. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.38 The Gus Honeybun Show. 4.50 As Channel. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.20 Pett Show. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 The Thursday Film: As Channel. 8.30 This Is Your Life. 11.00 Seaway. 11.50 Faith For Life. 11.56 Weather.

YORKSHIRE: 4.00 p.m. Houseparty. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.30 Arthur. 4.55 The Forest Rangers. 6.00 Calendar, Weather. 6.30 Castle Haven. 6.55 'The Young Ones' starring Cliff Richard, Carole Gray and Robert Morley. 11.00 The Contenders. 12 midnight Weather.

GRANADA: 4.15 p.m. News Headlines, Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.25 The Short Story. 4.35 Spiderman. 6.00 The Beverly Hillbillies. 6.25 Newsview, On Site. 7.00 The Alley Cat. 7.10 The Thursday Film: 'Hot Enough For June' starring Dirk Bogarde and Sylvia Koskina. 11.00 Never A Cross Word.

TYNE TEES: 4.13 p.m. North East Newsroom. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Sara and Hoppity. 4.25 Mr Piper. 4.53 North East Newsroom. 4.55 Ivanhoe. 7.00 The Saint. 8.00 Marcus Welby MD. 11.00 University Challenge. 11.30 Late News Extra. 11.45 Yours Faithfully.

SCOTTISH: 4.20 p.m. Scotland Early. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 The New Adventures Of Superman. 6.00 Scotland Now. 6.25 High Living. 7.05 Feature Film: 'Dangerous Moonlight'. 11.00 Late Call. 11.05 Joker's Wild. 11.00 GRAMPAN: 4.15 p.m. News Headlines. 4.17 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.30 The New Adventures Of Huckleberry Finn. 4.55 Ivanhoe. 6.00 Grampian News. 6.10 The Double Life Of Henry Phayle. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Adventure. 9.00 McCue's Music. 11.00 Parkin's Patch.



## Scottish nurses demand more pay

FROM M. SHAW  
THREE THOUSAND nurses meeting in Edinburgh earlier this week passed a resolution calling on Richard Crossman, Secretary of State for Social Services, to make available the money for substantial pay increases and to ensure adequate staffing of hospitals.

Further meetings will be organized in Scotland in support of their claim. The next one will be in Glasgow on December 1.

Miss Catherine Hall, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, who spoke at the meeting said:

'Nurses feel they are being exploited, because they are expected to provide an exacting, highly-skilled service with inadequate resources of personnel, often in old-fashioned inadequate buildings with overcrowding in the wards and with inadequate equipment to do the job.'

### Action

Earlier at a press conference Miss Hall had stated: 'We have to take firm action for justice to nurses in order to safeguard the nursing profession's future.'

The RCN, she added, would not call for strike action, only for public pressure against the government.

The RCN is the largest body representing nurses, but 11 other associations and trade unions are also involved.

Nurses are becoming increasingly militant and vocal in their determination to win better pay and conditions, so the threat of strike action cannot be excluded.

The present salary agreement expires on March 31, 1970. The nurses' last increase of 9 per cent was awarded in October 1968.

### Instalment

They received a first instalment of 4 per cent.

At the same time residence charges were increased, giving in some cases an actual increase of only 6d. a week.

The remaining 5 per cent was granted in January 1969, but this time the price of meals was increased.

All nurses work a basic 42-hour week, often with compulsory overtime.

The pay scales demanded now by the RCN would give a £1,000 minimum to fully qualified experienced nurses; £1,400-£1,600 for a ward sister, now receiving £970-£1,350 maximum after nine years' service.

Staff nurses would receive £1,000-£1,250 instead of the present minimum of £785 and student nurses would receive a first-year training allowance of £525 instead of £395.

A claim of £1,950 to £2,900, according to size of hospital and degree of responsibility, is made for matrons.

# Grangemouth boilermakers say: United action needed against 'Blue Book'

INTERVENTION by the Trades Union Congress at BP's Grangemouth refinery site has brought new dangers into the eight-week-old dispute there.

## Italy

FROM PAGE ONE  
demanded firm resistance by the employers to workers' wage demands.

### Vatican

Agnelli of Fiat, also a supporter of firm action against the working class, is believed to have won the Vatican for this policy.

No doubt the government spokesmen would like to buy peace in the way Donat suggests—but they simply cannot afford to.

As the world trade war sharpens and plans go ahead for British entry into the Common Market, the Italian ruling class is forced to stand and fight.

This means continued deflation, more unemployment, low wages, continued housing shortages and poor social services. There is no other way.

### European

The Italian working class enter this decisive stage of their fight as an integral part of the European working class.

With the British employers drawing closer to France, West Germany and Italy, the British workers increasingly share and face the same problems as those confronting the Italian workers.

The Italian workers are enormously handicapped by their lack of any revolutionary leadership.

The Stalinists, the centrists and the reformists up to now have restricted the strike wave to largely union demands.

Our solidarity with the 20 million Italian strikers must be expressed by building this leadership in Britain, as part of the only world movement that can lead the Italian workers to victory—the Fourth International.

Both press and television have made determined attempts to present the dispute—which is now increasingly characterized by virtual pitched battles between pickets and police—purely as an inter-union issue.

Having heard 'both sides of the story', from the Boilermakers Society—500 of whose members have been sacked from the site—and the Constructional Engineers, the TUC now no doubt thinks the same.

We have rightly insisted in the columns of Workers Press, however, that this is by no means the central question.

Inter-union disputes have undoubtedly played a role in the development of this dispute. Grangemouth pickets give chapter and verse on this score.

But at root, the issue is the 'Blue Book' productivity deal signed by the leaders of all four unions on the site and which workers say has never been put to a vote at a mass meeting.

### Condemned

On Monday, November 17 a mass meeting of members of the Amalgamated Engineers, the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union and the Constructional Engineering Union condemned the boilermakers for breaking this agreement and endorsed the action of their national executives in rejecting the ASB's 'go it alone' tactics.

A resolution affirmed that members of the three unions would carry on—as is the deal allows—doing welding work normally done by the boilermakers.

What is more, the resolution stated:

'Should the executive committee of the boilermakers carry out its threat to withdraw labour from any constructional projects or factories . . . we would express the hope that our fellow-members employed on those projects or in those factories would close the ranks in a similar fashion as that adopted at Grangemouth.'

'This branch also calls for the resignation of John Chalmers, general secretary of the Boilermakers' Society, for accepting the abortive agreement at the BP site, Grangemouth.'

'It is further agreed that every craft union signatory to this agreement shall have equal right to submit and the employers to accept for employment any member with the necessary skills for a particular job regardless of past practices or demarcation agreements.'

'It is also agreed that when suitable labour is not available the employers may recruit members of the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers, Copper-Smiths, Heating and Domestic Engineers, although this trade union is not signatory to this agreement.'

'In the event of an unbalanced labour force occurring as a result of absence caused by non-attendance, sickness, leave, shortage of labour or any other abnormal job condition, the trade unions agree to interchangeability between crafts during the progress of the work in order to maintain production.'

### Dagger

'Welding, as one ASB steward told the Workers Press at the end of last week, 'has always been our work.'

Other bones of contention are the lay-off clause, under which workers employed on site for not less than four weeks get guaranteed hourly payment for periods when work is not available—except in cases where production is disrupted by industrial disputes on site—and the five-stage disputes procedure.

It has been claimed that Chalmers signed this purely as a local agreement, but workers on a number of other sites fear that if resistance at Grangemouth—at the moment restricted to the boilermakers—is broken, it could become the pattern for similar deals on a national scale.

A settlement sanctioned by Feather could certainly strengthen this danger.

Several Grangemouth stewards are becoming increasingly worried that unless they can

find a basis for common action against the whole deal with the members of other unions on the site, they could well be forced to an eventual compromise settlement which would leave the 'Blue Book' unscathed.

One told the Workers Press:

'It's as if there were two disputes.'

'For the executive there's no question of a principled struggle against the deal. As far as they're concerned it's an inter-union question.'

'But for the men it's definitely a question of the productivity.'

'The agreement's a bad one; the procedure's a bad one. But the others are saying, "It's a funny old time to start saying you don't like it!"'

'We have to get together with the other shop stewards and work out a common position.'

GLASGOW No. 11 branch of the Boilermakers' Society has passed the following resolution on the Grangemouth dispute:

'This branch calls for a general stoppage of members of the Boilermakers' Society in the United Kingdom until the dispute at the BP site, Grangemouth, is resolved.'

'This branch also calls for the resignation of John Chalmers, general secretary of the Boilermakers' Society, for accepting the abortive agreement at the BP site, Grangemouth.'



A worried worker peers from a bus as police tackle pickets.

BY DAVID MAUDE

### By our own correspondent

### Hardened employers

Prices have inevitably risen as a result of SET, and this is felt most heavily by the lower-paid workers and by

### Wages in the industry

are notoriously low. But the executive's statement concentrates entirely on advising the government to adopt measures which can in the long term only transfer the attack on shopworkers from their wages to their jobs.

### Secondly, says the statement,

'There is evidence to show that SET has hardened the attitude of employers towards conceding decent standards in the distributive trades.'

### Explosion

It is certainly no accident that US space scientists chose the Apollo 12 launch date to release the information that a giant Soviet rocket, designed to land cosmonauts on the moon, exploded on its launching ramp earlier this year.

### Conflict

Shopworkers must demand not only the repeal of SET but the ending of all the government's legalized attacks on jobs and wages.

### Next Wednesday's

lobby will be led by Mr Alf Allen, USDAW's general secretary, who sits on the government's Commission on Industrial Relations.

### 'MORAL SUPPORT'

The theoretical and practical bankruptcy of this faction and others like it was shown by the way in which, in their own words, they were only able to offer 'moral support'.

### Ironically the flag flying

over the Centrax factory is for the Queen's Award for industry.

### 'Will the new productivity deal win the firm another one?'

Centrax workers must take the lessons of the struggle against Measured-Day Work and productivity deals and provide the lead for workers in the South-West area.

### U.S.D.A.W. to lobby M.P.s

# Shopworkers must fight all attacks

SHOPWORKERS from all over Britain are expected to lobby their MPs at Westminster next Wednesday (November 26) to press the case against the government's Selective Employment Tax.

A statement issued by the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers executive council calls for the repeal of SET.

It points out that members of the union are hit twice by the government's policy on this question.

Prices have inevitably risen as a result of SET, and this is felt most heavily by the lower-paid workers and by

Wages in the industry are notoriously low. But the executive's statement concentrates entirely on advising the government to adopt measures which can in the long term only transfer the attack on shopworkers from their wages to their jobs.

Secondly, says the statement, 'There is evidence to show that SET has hardened the attitude of employers towards conceding decent standards in the distributive trades.'

It is certainly no accident that US space scientists chose the Apollo 12 launch date to release the information that a giant Soviet rocket, designed to land cosmonauts on the moon, exploded on its launching ramp earlier this year.

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'Will the new productivity deal win the firm another one?'

Centrax workers must take the lessons of the struggle against Measured-Day Work and productivity deals and provide the lead for workers in the South-West area.

# Teachers must win their claim

FROM PAGE ONE  
movement began to grow, the NUT wrote to the LEA to demand a meeting and on November 27 agreed to the Secretary of State's proposals for three working parties.

Just at the moment when the sanctions campaign was becoming a weapon in the salaries claim, the NUT folded up the action and settled for working parties.

Whilst they hailed the sanctions as a 'victory', salaries were still frozen.

The last salary claim began as long ago as October 1968. At that time the unions were demanding a scale of £900-£1,700 spread over ten increments. The existing scale was £800-£1,500 over 15.

6.5 per cent  
This represented a claim of about 6.5 per cent a year at a time when the earnings of all industrial employees rose by 6.9 per cent and the cost of living soared at an unprecedented rate.

So for over 18 months the NUT executive watched the standard of living of teachers fall, before eventually accepting £860-£1,600 over 14 years.

This scale was considerably less than the union had been asking for as far back as 1965! Nowadays it is fashionable for the left critics on the education to claim that the teachers' leaders were 'conned'.

But there is ample evidence to show that the executive was fully conscious of what it was doing.

At the January 31 executive meeting the Burnham offer was endorsed.

At the same meeting the 'left' quite correctly condemned the executive.

Too late  
They issued a circular to all Greater London teachers calling for strike action in support of the original claim.

But it was by then too late to rally forces against the executive betrayal. It was no more than a gesture of protest.

But why the 'left' silence today on the February sell-out?

Their role is vital for the executive, for today there is a developing movement of teachers in struggle that did not exist at the time of the February acceptance.

Today it is not a question of gestures of protest by the 'lefts', but the preparation for national strike action in which the executive can be defeated and the claim won.

Only the All Trades Unions Alliance has fought for socialist solutions to these pressing problems.

We demand suspension of all local authority interest payments to the banks and the nationalization of the major industries without compensation and under workers' control.

- No to arbitration.
- For the £135 claim in full NOW.
- No productivity deal.
- Prepare for a full-scale national strike.
- No confidence in the executive.
- Build the All Trades Unions Alliance.

# Glasgow busmen strike against new schedules

BUS WORKERS at Maryhill and Parkhead depots of Glasgow Corporation Transport Department struck work at the beginning of this week and threatened to repeat their action unless the newly-introduced Sunday schedules are changed.

The crews claim they are given less time than before to cover their routes and that longer work periods are involved.

The shop steward at Maryhill garage explained that none of the duties exceeded ten hours, but there were now double the number of long spread-over duties.

One of these involved the crew working five hours 24 minutes without a break and there were others of at least five hours.

Cut out  
The management's aim is to reduce Sunday services and at Maryhill two duties have been cut out. The crews are retained as spare.

Five of the duties start between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. and finish ten hours later. These are classed as early turns.

At Parkhead the new Sunday schedules mean a cut of four crews with a consequent loss of 30s. for the bus workers involved.

The Parkhead men say they are prepared to start work next Sunday if the management agree to the status quo.

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# Hull Tories end closed shop

HULL'S Tory-dominated council has voted to end the 'closed shop' for Corporation workers. This action is completely in line with the attacks on the unions that can be expected if the Tories win the next election.

Under cover of talk about freedom of workers to choose whom they work for, the Tories are preparing the way for vicious attacks on the trade unions.

Corporation workers, dustmen, busmen and office workers have made it clear that they will not work alongside non-union members.

Labour councillor J. Paton comments: 'If a non-union man worked

# Worried

Several Grangemouth stewards are becoming increasingly worried that unless they can

# Devon workers burn productivity deal

MANAGEMENT letters outlining productivity suggestions were burnt outside a strike headquarters this week to the cheers of Devon strikers.

The strike, by 2,000 Centrax workers at three factories in Exeter, Heathfield and Newton Abbot, is in its second week.

The men are still determined to win their pay demands with no strings attached.

They are incensed by the firm's recent proposals that a 20 per cent productivity increase could mean an average £8 bonus a month.

Deputy convenor David Ferguson said: 'They've had 18 months in which to talk productivity. We brought it up at our

negotiations at the Department of Employment and Productivity in Bristol and they rejected the whole idea.

'NO PROMISES'  
'We don't want airy-fairy promises of average bonuses, we want a decent basic wage.'

This mood of militancy was demonstrated at Newton Abbot earlier this week when the shop stewards called a meeting of 800 men to ask

them what they thought of the firm's proposals. After the meeting the men joined pickets at the factory gates with placards saying: 'A decent wage structure for workers in the South West'. There they burned the management letters.

This strike is of vital importance to South West workers as Centrax is one of the largest companies in the area.

It is significant that workers at the Exeter factory realized the adventurous nature of offers of help on the picket lines from Exeter university's Socialist Society students and rejected them.



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