

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY MARCH 22, 1972 ● No. 720 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Gigantic concessions to big business

TORY CRISIS BUDGET

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

STILL REELING from their defeat at the hands of the miners and facing a stiff battle with the country's 3 million engineering workers the Tories have mapped out what could be a General Election Budget to meet their political and economic crisis.

The Budget announced by Chancellor Anthony Barber in the Commons yesterday is aimed at assisting big business on the eve of Common Market entry while flinging a few sops to the working class in the form of a modest pensions increase in comparison to the real increase in the cost-of-living.

Barber claimed his measures will give a growth rate of 5 per cent, bring down unemployment and make industry more able to meet competition from abroad on entry into the EEC.

His previous attempts at reflation—in both the Budget and the mini-Budget last year—had no effect on joblessness or the galloping inflation which is driving prices to astronomical heights.

There is every indication that his latest Budget will fail just as ignominiously. There is now no fiscal or monetary escape for the British capitalist class from the effects of the international monetary crisis.

Barber was forced to admit that the December 18 agreement on international currency realignment had not solved the basic crisis: 'The US authorities have

not a sufficient stock of reserve assets at present to restore the general convertibility of US dollars held by the monetary authorities,' he said.

Barber attacked wage increases for causing inflation and stated that the 'shake out' of jobs in industry 'stemmed from the rapid rise in wage costs'.

He congratulated the Confederation of British Industry for its 5-per-cent price 'freeze' and claimed that the miners' strike had prevented the Tories realizing their aim of a 4½ per cent growth rate.

To Conservative cheers he said: 'If particular groups insist on pricing themselves out of jobs and the nation out of business, no government can secure full employment.'

As part of the preparation for British entry into the Common Market, Barber took the brakes off export of capital to EEC countries and other parts of the world.

The first £1m of investment in the Common Market will be totally exempt from exchange controls and the regulations covering investment in 'developing' countries have also been eased.

The object of these and other

measures was 'to stimulate investment and modernization and help industry to equip itself to compete more effectively in the Common Market'.

To pay for a pensions increase of 12.5 per cent (75p for single pensioners and £1.20 for a married couple) the National Insurance flat rate contribution will be put up by 10p a week from 88p to 98p.

This measure, Barber said, is aimed at raising £400m a year to pay for the pensions rises. Graduated National Insurance contributions will also rise, and the maximum level for graduated contributions has been raised from £42 to £48 a week.

Another gift to industry is free depreciation for all plant—a measure aimed at encouraging investment, according to Barber.

Firms with turnover under £5,000 a year will be exempt from value added tax (VAT), a sop to the small businessman.

Purchase tax at the rates of 45 and 30 per cent, applying to many household goods and other items will be brought down to 25 per cent—putting something like £75m into circulation.

VAT, the Common Market levy, is to be imposed at 10 per

● SEE LATE NEWS

Queuing
for flats
at £32,000
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See p.3



Lift Trafalgar Square ban

STATEMENT BY THE SLL LONDON AREA COMMITTEE

THE DECISION by the Department of the Environment to ban the Anti-Internment League rally at Trafalgar Square next Sunday, March 26, is a major blow by the Tory government against the democratic rights of the working class.

It follows close on the heels of the unwarranted early-morning raids on the homes of members of the International Socialists, the International Marxist Group and others.

By banning the rally, the political implications of internment without trial and the brutal role of the British army in Ulster has been unequivocally introduced into Britain.

The Socialist Labour

League has continually insisted that what is happening in Ulster and the reactionary role of the Tory government in Britain is one and the same thing. In both cases the main enemy is the Tory government.

That is why, on previous occasions, we have felt unable to participate in demonstrations organized by the Anti-Internment League, because the organizers advanced demands such as ending internment and the withdrawal of troops as something separate from the struggle to mobilize the working class to make the Tory government resign.

In this way correct demands were transformed into mere symbols of

radical protest, when in fact their realization depended upon the united action of the working classes in Ulster and Britain against the Tory government.

Our political differences with the Anti-Internment League in no way detract from our insistence that the AIL has every right to hold a rally in Trafalgar Square. We stand four-square with them in defence of this basic democratic right.

Irrespective of our fundamental political differences with such groups as the IS, IMG and the Communist Party and any other group in the labour movement, we will fight shoulder to shoulder alongside them to defend democratic rights.

Just in case there is wilful confusion from Stalinist sources that 'defence of bourgeois democracy' is the same as defence of 'democratic rights', let us say immediately that it is nothing of the sort.

Bourgeois parliamentary democracy is a system of capitalist rule, whereas democratic rights, such as free speech, assembly and trade union organization, are those rights gained by the working class in a long history of class struggle against the parliamentary system of capitalist democracy.

Indeed it is the conspiracy of reactionary Toryism organized within the ministries of such a parliament that lies behind

the Trafalgar Square ban.

Bourgeois democracy constitutes the rule of the capitalist class. Democratic rights constitute the gains of the working class in struggle against the capitalist class. These two irreconcilably hostile class forces cannot and must not be lumped together.

It was such class compromise that constituted the rotten theoretical foundations of the Stalinist Popular Frontism in the 1930s, which opened the door to one defeat after another for the working class.

The London Area Committee of the Socialist Labour League at its meeting on March 20, 1972, decided to participate in Sunday's demonstration

because it stands in solidarity with the AIL and all the groups on the march against the Tory ban. We will march behind the demands.

● End internment.
● Withdraw the troops from Ulster.

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● Make the Tory government resign.

Readers of the Workers Press, members of the SLL and Young Socialists are asked to assemble behind the banner of the London Area Committee, Clapham Common, on Sunday, March 26, at 1 p.m.

March 20, 1972.

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7 MILLION ITALIANS DOWN TOOLS

SEVEN MILLION Italian workers downed tools yesterday in the country's biggest ever labour protest.

They struck for periods of between two and four hours in solidarity with 1.7 million agricultural workers who were staging a one day strike in support of a 15 per cent pay rise.

The farm labourers are ask-

ing for a minimum of £1.85 a day, job security for day labourers who have worked more than 180 days in a year and a bigger say in running agricultural enterprises.

The strike comes after five months of unsuccessful negotiations and Italy's big three trade unions called out workers in metal, food, chemical, textile and construction industries.

Feltrinelli: Man held

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

DR LEOPOLDO LEON, a lawyer and member of the left-wing 'Committee for Defence and Struggle against Repression', was detained in Milan yesterday in connection with the death of publisher Giangiacomo Feltrinelli.

Leon's detention was ordered by a public prosecutor following a 90-minute interrogation. Earlier his house had been searched by police, who gave no reason for Leon's detention.

Feltrinelli was found dead in a field outside Milan last Wednesday. He had been blown apart by a bomb.

He was Italy's leading left-wing publisher and police and fascists are suspected of complicity in his death.

Smith's son

ALEXANDER Douglas Smith, Smith, 22-year-old son of Rhodesia's white supremacist premier, pleaded guilty in Salisbury to illegally possessing or acquiring marijuana.

He was said to have had almost 1lb of the drug on him when he was searched at a border post with Mozambique about 125 miles from Salisbury on December 20.

Sentence on Smith, who is not in custody, will be pronounced on Friday.

SMITH BACKERS IN WALLACE COUNTRY

SCAB labour organized by extreme right-wing groups is being used to break a dock workers' strike in New Orleans.

Members of the International Longshoremen's Association have refused to handle imports of Rhodesian chrome which are being shipped in defiance of United Nations sanctions.

Most of the dockers are black. On Monday, the Argentine vessel 'Santos Vega' arrived at the Burnside terminal, 30 miles up river from New Orleans and the ILA members refused to touch her cargo.

The terminal company brought in members of another union, the National Union of Operating Engineers, also 'casual operatives', some of whom were right-

wing students from neighbouring campuses.

The 'Santos Vega's' 25,000-ton cargo was the first consignment of Rhodesian chrome since the US lifted the embargo on chrome imports from Rhodesia two months ago.

The US sanctions-breakers are organized in a club known as the 503 Club, linking white Rhodesians, conservative Congressmen, and the Union Carbide and Foote Mineral corporations.

Their 'marching song' includes the words: 'We love the people we are with and raise a glass for Ian Smith.' New Orleans is in the centre of George Wallace country—Louisiana was one of the five states he carried in the 1968 presidential election.

Bust-up over EEC farm cash

W GERMAN farm minister Josef Ertl walked out of a meeting of the Common Market Council of Ministers yesterday after a row with his French counterpart Michel Cointat.

Ertl hurried out of the EEC's Brussels headquarters and left for Munich for urgent talks with Chancellor Willy Brandt.

The dispute blew up on Monday night when Cointat called for a time limit for the compensation W Germany would pay her farmers to offset the loss of earnings caused by the revaluation of the mark.

This is contrary to an agreement reached last week by EEC farm ministers which authorized W Germany to pay border taxes to protect its farmers without setting any time limit.

Private meetings on Monday night failed to resolve the dispute and Ertl later told journalists he thought the French government were engaged in 'Oriental carpet trading'.

AROUND THE WORLD

PHNOM PENH BLASTED BY ROCKETS

COMMUNIST troops launched a major 90-minute rocket and mortar bomb attack on the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh on Monday killing 62 people and causing extensive damage.

The city has been isolated for several months but has not been subjected to large-scale attacks since December.

The latest communist offensive, only one and a half miles from Phnom Penh's city centre, sharply reveals the growing weakness of the Cambodian regime.

Marshal Lon Nol, the country's new strong-man President, went on the radio calling on the



LON NOL

people to redouble their efforts towards a military victory.

He said that the attack was made possible by subversive elements inside the capital, but did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, the country's six-day-old political crisis continued as attempts to find a government to serve under the Marshal's new regime were shelved for a day and one name disappeared from the provisional cabinet list put out by President Lon Nol's office.

Hanoi Radio claimed last night that communist Pathet Lao forces had shot down five US planes over Laos on Sunday.

REFERENDUM CONFUSES CP

PRESIDENT Pompidou's forthcoming referendum on British entry into the Common Market is proving a serious embarrassment to the French Communist Party.

Its leaders are now seeking urgent talks with their counterparts in the Socialist Party to work out a 'common stand' on the issue.

Party secretary Georges Marchais has called the referendum an 'internal political manoeuvre' and urged

unity between the two parties against it.

The CP has yet to indicate what the basis of such 'unity' should be. The Socialist Party leaders are enthusiastic advocates of British entry and are also placed in a difficult position by the referendum proposal.

The Stalinists are angry with Pompidou because he has called the bluff of their 'opposition' to the EEC at a time when the Kremlin is openly courting Common Market leaders. Leonid Brezhnev,

Soviet CP leader, said on Monday that the Soviet Union could no longer ignore the existence of the Common Market.

Soviet relations with the EEC countries would depend on how far they recognized 'the realities existing in the socialist part of Europe, particularly the interests of Comecon member states'.

This is a major departure in Soviet policy as the Kremlin has hitherto refused to recognize the existence of the EEC.

With the enlargement of the Common Market its counter-revolutionary plans for a European security conference must involve coming to terms with the alliance of European monopolists.

Are the French Stalinists going to drop their opposition to the Common Market and British entry under the threadbare cover of 'unity' with the social-democrats?

And if they do, what are the British Stalinists, who have united with the extreme right to oppose entry, going to say?

WHAT WE THINK

US LABOUR AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

LEADERS of all the major United States trade unions meet in Washington today to discuss action against the dockers' pay cut. The Nixon Pay Board has slashed by 30 per cent the pay rise awarded to Pacific coast dockers after their 135-day strike and both docks unions are committed to strike action against this move.

If this pledge is honoured the dockers will face the full power of the US state machine. Nixon has already taken powers to drive the dockers back to work if they defy the Pay Board ruling.

In election year, with mounting recession and unemployment close to the 6 million mark, Nixon is on a collision course with the working class. This clash poses directly all the main political questions facing the American workers. The crisis in the United States is shaking all the traditional relations of class compromise between the employing class and the trade union bureaucrats. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Democratic Party, which is breaking up under the impact of the economic crisis and the growing militancy of the working class.

The union chiefs have a long-standing deal with the Democratic representatives of big business in the United States. In return for vague promises of a few crumbs from the table of US imperialism, they have backed a succession of multi-millionaire Democrats on the road to the White House. Their man this time is Hubert Humphrey, once vice-President to Lyndon Johnson, the butcher of Vietnam.

The candidature of George Wallace, Alabama's segregationist governor has the backing of every fascist and racist in the US. Wallace won an overwhelming vote at the Democratic primary in Florida and plans to mount a serious challenge to Humphrey at the Democrats' convention in June.

As a third-party candidate in the 1968 election, Wallace won 13 per cent of the vote, drawing support from frustrated sections of backward workers as well as the middle class. The union leaders bear direct responsibility for the rise of Wallace. They have long opposed the demand for an independent working-class party based on the unions and a break with the political representatives of big business.

With the aid of the US Communist Party and centrist leaders like the late Walter Reuther of the Auto Workers, they succeeded in the 1930s in postponing the Labour Party question for more than a generation. In this way they prevented the working class from realizing the full gains of the great sit-in strike struggles of 1936 and 1937 which gave rise to the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Today, the building of a Labour Party based on the trade unions is the central question facing US workers as they confront the Nixon government. The essence of this demand is to break the unions from the policies of class-collaboration with the employers and the Democratic Party. Such a Party, based on a programme for power involving the expropriation of big business under workers' control, will be very different from the British Labour Party.

It means a ruthless purge of the corrupted and treacherous leadership in the unions and the relentless political struggle against Stalinism and revisionism which want to keep US workers under the Democratic thumb.

This programme is the programme of the Workers' League, the American Trotskyist organization. It is the only way in which the US workers can oust the Nixon regime, smash the racist threat from Wallace and his fascist supporters and prepare for the socialist revolution in the citadel of world imperialism.

LUXURY FLAT SCRAMBLE



THE PRESS IS POISED IN FULL FORCE AS THE FIRST OF THE RICH FLAT-BUYERS IS LET THROUGH TO MAKE A DEPOSIT

THE ARDUOUS search for somewhere decent to live came to an end for 50 people in the elegant area of St John's Wood in N London at 9.30 a.m. yesterday. A tiny wooden gate swung open and a queue of well-heeled citizens walked self-consciously to the inquiry office of the building contractors to pay deposits on brand new luxury flats.

Self-conscious because the flat-seekers were being filmed by men from the television and photographed by the press and stared at by a group of bemused building workers.

At the inquiry office out flashed their cheque books; a quick signature—four-figure sums—and they were all but installed in a new gaff.

For the past five days this strange middle-class group has been squatting outside the building site waiting to seek a flat as soon as the builders had completed their labours.

It was on Monday that I first heard some flats were going for sale. The area was fashionable enough—sleek St John's Wood—and the view was acceptable, overlooking Regents Park.

When I arrived to have a look, it was a bitter disappointment. The flats were there, all 66 of them.

But the prices! Well, the range was from £14,000 for a one-bedroom flat on the lower floor to £32,000 for the best of them all on the 11th floor overlooking the park.

As the deposit went from £700 to £1,600 it made the £5 a week I was prepared to pay look a little sick.

Worse than that I had competition. The London rich were actually sitting in the sun queuing to grab one of the flats. What's more they'd been there since the previous Friday.

In fact it was an incredible scene. There, on the unmade pavement, was a group of some of the richest people in London, or anywhere else for that matter, camped out with beds, blankets and food. They were certainly dignified about having to queue for commodities, probably for the first time in their lives.

There was little danger of isolation or starvation. Lunch was delivered by Mercedes and Jensen Interceptors and other sophisticated vehicles. And while the sun continued to shine, it was always possible to imagine you were on the beaches of St Tropez.

But why, I asked myself, did the upper class have to resort to such non-u behaviour? Didn't money speak as loud as it used to?

'I must admit it is a little shocking to do this just to get a flat, but there you are,' said a most charming woman in her late 40s as she peered over her sunglasses. It turned out that there were no less than 600 people on the waiting list. The names had started rolling in when the builders, Wates, started work just two years ago.

The flash of a cheque-book, a quick signature—four figure sums—and you're installed in a new £32,000 gaff



BEMUSED BUILDERS WATCH THE SCRAMBLE

Then Wates announced it would be first come first served. So, whether they liked it or not, those with money just had to get up and stake a claim. And down to earth they came with a bang.

'This is undignified and degrading. It's like being a caged animal in a zoo,' emphasizing her point with a pouting of the lips and the lifting of a wrist.

I dropped a discreet, almost whispered inquiry about where the money would come from to

pay for the flat. 'I always leave those questions to my husband. That's best, don't you think?'

'And anyway you should see the finish in the flats. For the money we're paying it's not up to standard,' she added.

But why the pandemonium to live in St John's Wood? The elderly woman second in the queue provided the right answer: 'I have always wanted to live here. It is a nice district. You don't get hippies or parking meters.' Quite.

Not unnaturally the queuers were a little shy of publicity. When a photographer appeared, they either wandered off or hid behind their 'Daily Mail' (which had the appropriate front-page banner headline: 'Work when you want to').

Whether the idle rich knew it or not, there is another waiting list besides their own very special one. For tens of thousands of Londoners have their names down for council houses. And many have been waiting years for a decent roof over their head, let alone a luxury flat.

I talked to some of the building workers putting the finishing touches to London's latest luxury block.

What did they think about building flats which workers could never live in? How did they feel about the group queuing round the corner?

'These people are stupid. They're making it bad for people like us. What they're doing is putting prices up as high as a mountain,' one West Indian plasterer told me.

'I wouldn't like to live in one, even though they are luxury flats,' said a labourer, who had a Croydon bedsitter, as he shovelled gravel into a hopper.

His 55-year-old mate commented:

'I live in a council flat and the Tories are going to double my rent to about £14 a week. We'll have to go in for another wage rise.

'But it's always the same. As soon as we get a rise fares and prices go up. Something will have to be done about it.'

O'Kane remanded: Deception charge

SEAMUS O'KANE, arrested in London last week during a series of raids on homes of members of the International Socialists, has been remanded in custody in N Ireland until tomorrow.

O'Kane (25), was accused in a Belfast magistrates' court of obtaining £18 by deception. He was said to be unemployed and his address was given as Brandywell Avenue, Londonderry.

He was taken to Aldershot after his arrest and from there to N Ireland by members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary to face the deception charge.

V&G inquiry 'whitewash' — Liberal MP

FINDINGS of the Vehicle and General inquiry were described as a 'bucket of whitewash mixed by a star chamber court', in the Commons yesterday.

'We are asked to pay £150,000 for the convenient finding that an under-secretary was negligent—who had already retired from the Department,' said Liberal MP John Pardoe.

He was speaking during the Consolidated Fund Bill on the expenditure for the tribunal set up to inquire into government leaks about the imminent collapse of the insurance company.

Open meetings

PRESS reporters and the public are to be admitted to all local authority meetings, following an Opposition plea during the committee stage of the Local Government Bill in the Commons. Minister Mr R. Graham Page conceded it was 'highly desirable' that councils should inform the public of their work through open committee meetings. Only a majority vote will bar the public.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS' NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-WORK CAMPAIGN PRESENTS

'The English Revolution'



Written by Tom Kempinski

Directed by Corin Redgrave

AT THE YOUNG VIC THEATRE

The Cut, off Waterloo Rd, London SW1 SUNDAY MARCH 26 7 p.m.



ADMISSION 25p (YS MEMBERS) & 50p

Followed by a lecture: 'The English Revolution today' given by G. Healy, SLL national secretary

THE MARCH GOES ON

The five Right-to-Work marches organized by the Young Socialists have climaxed their fight against the Tory government by a massive rally at the Empire Pool, Wembley. Now a new stage of the fight opens up. All the determination and political consciousness raised during the nationwide marches is today turned towards making a huge success of the YS annual conference at Scarborough on April 8 and 9. Scarborough becomes the next signpost on the march to build the revolutionary party in 1972.

An American woman turned up her nose at Gary Jenner outside parliament on Monday March 13 and told him that the working class was too stupid to make a revolution.

It was then his feelings about the three-week kaleidoscope of the Right-to-Work march from Swansea to London fell into place.

'The main lesson of the campaign is the opposite of what she said', he explains. 'What I learnt on the road is that the revolutionary party can now really be built in this country. We can smash capitalism.'

Gary met his supercilious tourist while waiting with his fellow-marchers to lobby his MP about the Young Socialists' campaign; the lobby that was subsequently treated by the Fleet St press as a near-riot.

He told Workers Press why the lobby was somewhat heated. 'After three weeks marching and talking to all sorts of people, we had all sorts of questions. We wanted answers, but all the MPs were doing was beating around the bush.'

'A definite yes or no was asked for: are you in favour of expelling right-wingers like Roy Jenkins who keep the Tories in power?'

'They went on and on all around the houses. So everyone started shouting for an answer. Then the MPs started running out.'

'That's the sort of leadership the working class is up against today.'

Unemployed for three months before he came on the march, Gary is 22 and secretary of the Right-to-Work campaign in Swansea.

He has never found it easy to find work as a general labourer. But only once before—during the first year of Tory government—has he been out for this length of time.

'When I first heard about the campaign at the Swansea dole', he says, 'I thought it was just a demonstration for jobs lasting three weeks.'

'But in the preparatory work for it I came up against opposition from the Labour Party, the Communist Party and the International Socialists.'

'It was clear to me that what they were doing—just explaining what was happening, with perhaps just a few reformist ideas tacked on—wasn't anywhere near what was required.'

'Even so, I was still convinced even when we got on the road that talking about our policies, about revolutionary politics, to people who had been through the 1930s would be very difficult.'

'The tremendous reception we in fact got really surprised me.'

'These people know what the Tory government is and what the working class has to do. They know the Labour leaders are selling them out all the time.'

'They may be a bit dubious about Trotskyism at first, but they're definitely looking for a

new leadership.

'Revolution is a big thing. After all, workers spent many, many years building the Labour Party on the idea they could get reforms. They want to exhaust that possibility.'

'But what we saw on the road was that once we get a realization that the working class can hold the power without the Labour and trade union leaders—the Tories will be out for ever.'

Dear Editor,

With reference to the correspondence between the International Socialists and Political Committee of the Socialist Labour League as regards the Right-to-Work campaign, I would like to draw the attention of Workers Press readers to a series of incidents in W Scotland to illustrate the issues involved.

Several weeks before IS wrote to the League offering to join the march, they showed the sort of 'support' they intended by attempting to sabotage the efforts of the Young Socialists to extend support for the campaign throughout the trade unions.

At a committee meeting of the Linwood branch of the National Union of Vehicle Builders, the issue of support for the march was raised by a member of the branch. Two supporters of the 'Socialist Worker' present opposed the motion of support on the grounds that the march was a 'sectarian diversion'. The motion was defeated by three votes to two.

A few weeks later, with the march successfully on the road, the IS applied to support and join this 'sectarian diversion'.

A second incident occurred on the evening of February 4 at a meeting organized by the IS and addressed by Bernadette Devlin in the Woodside Halls, Glasgow.

At this meeting repeated attempts were made by a member of the SLL to speak on the subject of the first Right-to-Work march which began from Glasgow on the very next day. Permission to speak was refused.

Yet in the discussion, members of the Communist Party and the 'Militant' group were allowed to address the audience.

Eventually at the end of the meeting, as everyone was leaving their seats, the chairman made a series of announcements. The details of the beginning of the march were read out rapidly after a number of announcements on folk concerts and sundry meetings in the area.

At the same meeting, another SLL member who was selling Workers Press in the foyer where 'Socialist Worker' and other literature was being sold, was told that he could not do so and would have to leave the hall and sell in the street.

If this is the kind of 'support' the IS intended to give the Right-to-Work campaign, we must be thankful that their offer to join the march was rejected.

Yours fraternally,
Ian McCalman.



Top: the Young Socialist Right-to-Work marchers from all over England, leave Hyde Park to begin their lobby of Parliament. Above: leaving the lobby after confronting the Labour MP's.

WHERE THE NAME OF THE GAME IS GOLD

S Korea has become one of the most attractive places in the world for international gold smugglers.

The demand for gold has been steadily increasing in this country's growing economy in recent years. But its domestic production has been on a sharp decrease. Laws providing comparatively mild punishment for gold smuggling have also been cited as a factor contributing to the illegal influx of gold.

In one month alone, two large-scale gold smuggling cases were uncovered, allegedly involving the crew of a Panamanian freighter and two British operatives of a Hong Kong-based gold-trafficking ring.

The customs office said it had confirmed 215 kg (573 lb) smuggled during 1971, but estimated that the total amount of gold illegally brought into the country might have stood at some 1.5 tons during the year.

This amount could have covered nearly 20 per cent of the entire demand in S Korea's gold market, according to Seoul jewellers.

S Korea's 75 gold mines produced 896 kg (1,975 lb) during 1971, less than half compared with three years before and nearly a fourth of a record high in 1962.

With domestic production declining, the gold price has far surpassed other price increases to reach the present 880 won (about 8p).

The gold price in Hong Kong which is known to be the major source of smuggled gold in S Korea, now stands at around \$1.58 (about 60p) per gram. This means any gold smuggler from Hong Kong can squarely make as much as \$720 (£280) from every 1 kg (2.2 lb) gold bar he carries into the country.

But, customs officials say people who were caught while bringing gold were mostly paid couriers and the men behind them could not be detected despite international investigative efforts.

Among such delivery men were two W Germans who were arrested at Kimpo international airport in Seoul in May 1970, as they were staggering out of the terminal building each bearing some 30 kg (68 lb) of gold bars in their specially designed vests.

They were convicted under a special law concerning gold and are serving two-year jail terms.

Customs officials say that the special law with a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment and fine up to twice the smuggled amount cannot be expected to have any preventive effect on the illegal gold traffickers.

There is a law providing for harsher punishment than normal for specific crimes, under which large-scale smuggling can bring the death penalty. But application of this law for gold smuggling has been ruled out by the supreme court on the grounds that the special law on gold supersedes it.

This supreme court decision also excluded gold smuggling cases from the bounty system under a customs law which offers up to 3m won (£3,300) reward for a tip-off.

Officials fear that the customs clearance procedures, drastically eased for foreign tourists recently to increase tourism earnings, may prompt further illegal gold trafficking.



BRANDT'S COALITION STARTS TO CRACK

BY IAN YEATS

THE split in the W German bourgeoisie over the non-aggression treaties with Moscow and Warsaw threatens to cut the ground from under the Social Democratic Party's feet.

When Chancellor Willy Brandt initialled the agreement last year he claimed that the majority of the W German electorate supported his Ostpolitik. Just how wrong this assumption was is shown by a recent poll carried out by the Wickert Institute.

In a sample survey of 1,477 voters, 50 per cent indicated support for the Opposition Christian Democratic Party and its Bavarian counterpart the Christian Social Union.

The ruling coalition received only 47 per cent of their votes—44 per cent for the Social Democratic Party and 3 per cent for the Free Democrats.

Far more serious from an immediate political point of view is the way this change or misestimation has been mirrored in the W German parliament. Up to a fortnight ago the coalition held 251 of the 496 Bundestag seats, giving them an absolute majority of two and a simple majority of six.

But on February 28 Herbert Hupka who, as chairman of the Silesian refugees' association, has

consistently rejected the treaties with Russia and Poland, started the defection's ball rolling when he joined the Christian Democrats. A few days later a leading Free Democrat, Baron Knut von Kuhlmannstumm indicated that he too could not vote for the ratification of the treaties.

And on March 6 another Free Democrat, Wilhelm Helms, joined the growing chorus of dissent among the Free Democrats. According to 'Der Spiegel', two more, Georg Gallus and Richard Wurbs, are also poised to voice their opposition. Taken together these dissensions would be approaching enough to wipe out Brandt's slender majority and bring down the government.

W Germany's upper house—the Bundesrat—is already divided 21 to 20 against ratification of the treaties. Basically the treaties, due for final ratification in June, provide for the acceptance of post-war frontiers in central Europe and the permanent existence of two Germanies.

The split in the bourgeoisie rests on the arguments of those who believe there are economic gains to be had from opening up relations with the E and those who fear this can only open the door to unbridled Soviet expansion.

The issue has become very much one of national sovereignty and it is significant that when the Bundesrat threw out the treaties, it demanded replies to 12

questions from the Bundestag all related to Germany's right of self-determination.

As Christian Democratic opposition to the treaties has gathered momentum, the Soviet and Polish press have stepped up their attacks on the opposition and warn the Social Democrats about what will happen if they are not ratified.

Agreement on post-war frontiers and on Berlin is now vital to the Stalinist bureaucracies if they are to break out of their mounting economic and social crisis through expanded trade with the W.

Poland is in the midst of a bitter campaign against W Germany's opposition to the treaties and the Stalinists' desperation is reflected in their promise to try to increase economic ties with France, Italy, Britain and Scandinavia should ratification founder.

Polish attacks reached a new peak when the Communist Party daily 'Trybuna Ludu' warned that W Germany was in danger of losing the 'certificate of morality' for which Chancellor Brandt had worked for years.

High-ranking Polish officials, who were openly confident in February about ratification of the treaties, now admit privately they underestimated the strength of Christian Democratic opposition.

In the Bonn-Warsaw treaty the two nations declare their agreement that the Oder-Neisse line, which puts nearly 40,000 square miles of pre-war German territory inside Poland, represents Poland's western frontier.

They also agree to renounce force in mutual and international relations and to expand their relations in the economic, scientific and cultural fields.

Polish officials who were dismayed by the defection of German government supporters over the issue, say they now do not 'rule out' the possibility of defeat, although this would shatter for several years the prospects of detente in Europe.

Non-ratification would mean a four-power agreement on Berlin resumed last year would not be implemented by the Soviet Union.

Government sources said they had not expected the Christian Democrats, whose leader Rainer Barzel visited Warsaw a year ago, to show such unity in oppos-

ing ratification of the treaties in their present form.

Poland has ruled out completely the possibility of renegotiating the treaties if the Bundestag rejects them.

Dr Barzel has described the treaties as 'incomplete, unbalanced and ambiguous'.

Prime Minister Piotr Jaroszewicz plans to start Polish ratification proceedings after general elections on March 19, sources said.

The present campaign against the Christian Democrats meanwhile would continue in speeches by Polish leaders and in the official press.

'Trybuna Ludu' commented in a lengthy editorial that non-ratification would mean 'the whole capital of confidence accumulated over many years would be dissipated and wasted overnight'.

It asked what had happened to the 'realistic, serious and responsible leaders' of the Christian Democrats who had earlier come out in favour of improving relations with Poland and other E European countries.

Their support, it said, was needed 'for the reputation of their own party and for the political image of the Federal Republic (W Germany), whose political face we now see twisted in a repulsive grimace'.

Jaroszewicz said Germany's conservative opposition forces were 'supported by militaristic and revenge-seeking forces'.

Polish leaders consistently express confidence in Brandt's policies. But the government-allied daily 'Slowo Powszechne' recently criticized the 'ill-preparedness of the government and coalition for offensive action in defence of the government's programme'.

But it is not a simple question of preparedness. The Christian Democrats are cashing in on widespread public disappointment with the coalition's policies and would welcome a snap General Election.

The ending of W Germany's economic miracle by world slump has seen to it that Brandt has been unable to fulfill electoral expectations, particularly in the fields of tax cuts and education.

Events in W Germany in the next few weeks will be crucial not only for the Germans, but for the whole course of European politics.



Top: Willy Brandt, German Chancellor. Above: Barzel



Above: Herbert Hupka, joined the Christian Democrats

WHEN FRANCO WENT TO WAR

As General Franco's regime reels under a wave of strikes and anti-fascist demonstrations, memories of the Spanish Civil War are revived. In this article, A. ROA, Secretary of the revolutionary youth committee in Barcelona during the fighting, describes some of his experiences. In particular he discusses the film 'To Die in Madrid' just shown on BBC Television.

Mr Roa is former secretary of the Spanish Confederation of Labour (CNT) in England and an active member of the National Graphical Association. At present he represents the London region of the NGA on the London Trades Council.

'To Die in Madrid' is a vivid documentary film of the Spanish Civil War. It was first shown in France ten years ago—two decades after that compelling cry of the people: 'They shall not pass'. BBC 2 transmitted the film on March 9 with an English commentary spoken by John Geilgud and Irene Worth.

The first reel of the film captures the harshest phases of the war.

As this immense epic unfolded, it brought back immense pride. In our imprisonment, in our prolonged exile, nostalgia accompanies the consolation of having fulfilled our moral duty.

One saw again the struggles of the heroic people who confronted and fought fascism. For this very reason, it is difficult not to comment on 'To Die in Madrid' because, although it comprises absolutely authentic film shots, it only shows one aspect of the war.

I think that the film-maker, Rossif, got his facts from the Communist Party. Otherwise one cannot explain the choice of the title 'To Die in Madrid' and the fact that we are shown the University City and other parts of the Spanish capital besieged by General Mola's troops, but do not see Buenaventura Durruti once on the screen.

In the battle sequences one can see the militia men of the Durruti column in the trenches distinguished by the leather chamois caps which the anarchist leader wore himself.

To talk about the defence of Madrid without showing us the man who renounced 'everything except victory' and died in the University City on November 20, 1936 is an historic error of alarming proportions.

History cannot and must not be disguised.

On November 18, Fascist Italy and Germany recognized the Burgos junta as the Spanish government. This coincided with the rebel plans to besiege Madrid. The Republican government itself abandoned the capital on November 7 to establish itself in Valencia.

In 'To Die in Madrid' it is not said, but it should be remembered by the younger generations, that when the news reached Catalonia and Aragon that Madrid was about to be occupied by the fascists, Diaz Sandino brought together all the leaders of the columns and told them of the seriousness of the situation.

Then it was decided that Durruti should join the defence of Madrid. He was installed at 27 Michael Angelo Street with his column and 35,000 hand-grenades and faulty 'Winchesters'. Following an agreement with General Miaja, the column

went towards the Madrid district of Moncloa where the enemy was entering the city.

The news that Durruti had reached Madrid built up morale and the enemy began to lose positions and weapons. More than half the column fell there. The heroic defence of Madrid lasted from November 13 to November 19. On the following day the revolutionary leader of Madrid fell shot in the chest by a bullet from the University City.

It is because of this glaring omission and the preponderance of shots of 'La Pasionaria'—while Federica Montseny, who appears addressing the workers in the Monumental arena in Barcelona, is not even mentioned—that we can define the tendency at work in the film.

People died in Madrid, people died in every part of Spain, but we only hear the names of the Spanish Communist Party: Rojo, Modesto, Lister. We even see a glimpse of the defeat of Mussolini's troops in the Guadalupe, without a mention of Cipriano Mera, the leader of the division which defeated the Italians.

One gets the impression from what Rossif shows us that only the CP was struggling against fascism, when the reality is completely different.

Much of the popular heroism belongs to certain areas and particular periods. Any protagonist or observer of that historic movement knows what the civil war and revolution in Spain meant for George Orwell, Koestler and the rest of that generation of intellectuals: Hemingway, Malraux, Regler and others.

'To Die in Madrid' lacks the revolutionary objectivity that other graphic records of the war and Revolution in Spain have. I refer concretely to the social and political aspects of the period.

Youth will wonder whether the factories were closed and if work stopped in the fields.

No, the Spanish Odyssey was of enormous proportions. While the battle was on against the rebel army at the front, at the rear the Revolution was being carried through.

The machines and the ploughs were in the hands of the working class and the produce was for the working class. Committees of Workers' Control were in charge in the centres of production in the war industries and on the land in Castile, Aragon and Andalusia. Throughout Spain people felt that after defeating fascism, the Revolution would be an example to the rest of the world.

It was clear that the Workers' Control in factories and workshops was ample proof of the social and political correctness of the Spanish Revolution.



The people fought enthusiastically. We see that in this film. But we are not told that the enthusiasm waned as the CP tried to strangle all the revolutionary conquests of the people who had thrown themselves into the struggle against fascism.

Lister destroyed the collective farm in Aragon. Valentin Gomez 'El Campesino' (the Peasant) did exactly the same. At the rear, the workers' unions, the UGT and the CNT yielded to the pressure of the PSUC or the government in office while the struggle continued at the front. The Revolution was besieged by the counter-revolution.

That is the part which the 'Late Night Line-Up' discussion tried to bring out through four participants in the civil war who were lined up with their respective histories.

Don't Peter Kerrigan and William Alexander—two British CP 'International Brigaders'—remember or don't they know about the Russian boat which arrived in the port of Barcelona in 1936 with the guns that were all to go to the CP columns by order of Stalin, while on some

democracies, including the Popular Front of Leon Blum, with the 'Committee of non-Intervention', was shown when they interned thousands of anti-fascists in concentration camps when they crossed the frontier to France.

There was also the indifference of the English trade unions who were soon to be confronted with the problems facing the Spanish working class—with immediate consequence for the world and especially Europe.

Stalin tried to make much of his nominal material contribution; in exchange he unleashed the counter-revolution and made off with the best part of the Spanish treasury, thanks to the policies of the Prime Minister, Juan Negrin.

These political facts are irrefutable as are the privileges enjoyed by the police and troops linked to the CP while the majority of the population was suffering severe deprivation.

Hence the demoralization in Catalonia and the long painful pilgrimage of Spaniards, women, old men and children, who went to France through the snow-capped mountains of the Pyrenees.

The film captures this event magnificently. It is a real pity that the sole purpose of such a striking document, in all its human and social aspects, is to record certain names which would have been better kept silent.

I think that Rossif puts the Catholic Church into perspective and it is an excellent example of Vatican participation with fascism in those years; facts which should not be forgotten, especially by those who put their trust in conventional alliances.

The historical truth of the Spanish Civil War reveals those with real responsibility for the tragedy: the clergy, the army and the aristocracy. 'To Die in Madrid' fulfils its mission in this respect—and very vividly.

Also in the film we are shown the confinement of Don Miguel de Unamuno. This part of the documentary film is extraordinary. The English commentary follows the events truthfully. Don Miguel, the author of the work (prohibited in Spain) 'The Tragic Sense of Life' found an exact comparison with the two victims of war—Cervantes and Millan Astray. The first, although he

lost his arm in the battle of Lepanto, kept his mind intact. Millan Astray, the most repulsive of the Spanish military, head of the Foreign Legion, apart from losing his arm, lost his sanity. It is inexplicable that before Don Miguel de Unamuno he should say something as barbaric as: 'Death to intelligence! Long live death'.

The photo-montage of Unamuno and the Legion is excellent, as are the sequences of the Nazi bombardment of Guernica, Madrid and Barcelona. That was the war. International fascism was united: capitalism, the Vatican, Nazism.

While fascism was advancing on all the war fronts, the anti-fascist rearguard was victim of the Stalinist plot. For this reason, the battle sequences—offensives and counter-offensives—present certain aspects which must not go unnoticed by those interested in the problems in Spain at this time.

In the heroic sequences of the militia-men—and it is clear that they were militia and not the army since most of the fighters were wearing civilian clothes—the struggles took place in the

first year of the war before militarization, and even before the events of May 3, 1937, in Catalonia.

Without Revolution and the international solidarity which were so necessary, the war had more professional characteristics—it was less of a popular war.

And for the youth and their parents the political alternative was difficult during the counter-revolution. This is not covered by 'To Die in Madrid'. However, to see a film on the Spanish civil war on TV is a tonic for those who fought in it and a historical experience for the generations of today.

1. UGT—Workers General Union (Social-Democrats).
2. CNT—National Confederation of Labour (Anarcho-Syndicalists).
3. PSUC—Unified Socialist Party of Catalonia (Stalinists).

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Above: the anarchist leader, Durruti who was killed in the defence of Madrid, November 20, 1936. Left: Durruti's funeral which was attended by 200,000 people. In the film there is a scene from the funeral, but no mention is made of it. Below: Barcelona, July 19, 1936. Bottom: Primate of Spain Cardinal Goma y Tola with other dignitaries of the Catholic Church and Franco's army.





McCARTHY: WITCH-HUNTER IN CHIEF

Part four of a five part series by John Spencer on the rise of the right wing in America

Senator Joseph McCarthy's name has become a by-word for witch-hunting and bigoted anti-communism.

He rose to prominence quite abruptly in 1950 and for three years exercised a virtual reign of terror against Communist Party members, left-wing academics and government employees.

The Republican senator from Wisconsin was able to prosper during these years because he fulfilled a need for the US ruling class.

His witch-hunts served to purge the state apparatus, the universities and the media of left-wingers and liberals, leaving the field clear for the military and the hard-line anti-communists to exercise untrammelled sway.

Through his control of the Un-American Activities Commission, McCarthy was able to whip up an anti-communist hysteria whose effects are still in evidence today.

The early 1950s marked a major change in US policy. It was the period when its forces began to take on the role of world gendarme against the threat of revolution, particularly in Asia.

The Chinese revolution and the Korean War were danger signals which set American capitalism on this course—a course which has led to intervention in Vietnam and the strengthening of right-wing reaction throughout the world.

McCarthy relied on a watered-down version of the old con-

spiracy theory in order to carry through his witch-hunting attacks. In February 1950 he began his crusade with the announcement that there were 205 communists in the State Department. It was a figure that was to prove remarkably flexible in the years to follow.

He was backed by powerful people, including Senator Taft (author of the infamous Taft-Hartley Act and then leader of the Senate majority), General MacArthur, the Korean war chief of staff, and the bulk of the Republican establishment.

He attacked the Democratic Truman administration as part of a communist conspiracy. In 1952 he said: 'There is only one real issue for the farmer, the labourer, and the businessman—the issue of communism in government.'

He had no other programme to speak of. As one of his supporters later put it: 'Few Wisconsin farmers have ever seen a communist. Joe's Commie search is purely academic... The price of milk isn't academic.'

Having prepared the ground to entrench the Republican right, the same establishment neatly rid itself of him when he became an embarrassment. Richard Nixon, then Eisenhower's vice-president and a former McCarthy supporter, engineered a collision between the witch-hunting Senator and the military, which the army won hands down. McCarthy was 'condemned' by Senate resolution and faded out.

McCarthy appealed to some of the same forces which made

up the fascist movements of the 1930s. In protest against his censure by the Senate, an organization calling itself Ten Million Americans for Justice rallied in Madison Square Garden, New York. Among its supporters were Admiral Crommelin, described as 'a vitriolic anti-Semite' and General del Valle, another of the same type.

That some of McCarthy's most solid support should come from these sections of the military was no accident. They were to reappear behind the even more sinister John Birch Society later in the decade.

This organization was founded in 1968 by Robert Welch, a retired Massachusetts businessman. It is bitterly hostile to welfare legislation and civil rights, stressing rugged individualism and inveighing against the underground 'Insiders' (the Illuminati) who are bent on world leadership through a 'gigantic and deep-rooted conspiracy'.

The Korean and Vietnam wars, it described as 'phony wars' against communism, because the various US presidents were being manipulated by the Illuminati. Welch is on record to the effect that the 'same breed of conspirators for almost identically the same purpose' planned both the storming of the Bastille in 1789 and the 'Poor Man's March' on Washington in 1968.

On one occasion, Welch described Allen Dulles, head of the CIA, as 'the most protected and untouchable supporter of communism, next to Eisenhower

himself, in Washington'.

Among the influential supporters of the Birch Society were such people as Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles until 1969, Lt-Gen Charles Stone III, who was commander of the 14th Air Force in China, and Gen Douglas MacArthur's personal aide de camp, Col Lawrence E. Bunker.

The Birch Society has widespread support among the police in the US. It set up a special front organization, the Police Benevolent Association, campaigning on the slogan 'support your local police'. The Association is active in the campaign for restoration of the death penalty and law and order.

Others include the former police chief of Los Angeles, William H. Parker, and the sheriff of Selma, Alabama, James Clark. (Clark was elected president of the national organization of sheriffs in 1966.) It also has considerable backing from business circles, especially in areas like southern California and Texas, and from heads of second-level businesses.

The Birch Society's spokesman in the Senate is Strom Thurmond, who has long been associated with the segregationist states rights movement. Thurmond campaign against the government in 1961 for the right of military officers to make political statements.

His campaign followed the banning by the Defence Department of a campaign inside the navy under the name of Project Alert. This began under govern-

Above: planning a new offensive against the communist heresy McCarthy (right) and his first lieutenant Cohn.

ment auspices in 1958 to 'make use of military personnel and facilities to arouse the public to the menace of communism'.

It soon became a stamping ground for the radical right, including Birchites E. Merrill Root and Glenn Green, Dr Fred Schwartz of the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade and president of the Freedoms Foundation, Dr Kenneth D. Wells.

They spoke at Alert meetings set up by Admiral Goldthwaite, another military rightist. The Birchites worked closely with the Christian Crusaders, whose organization, headed by the Rev Billy James Hargis, is the successor to the pro-Nazi outfit of the Rev Gerald Winrod in the 1930s.

Before the government wound it up, Project Alert had distributed a hefty tonnage of Birchite and other rightist literature with the official imprimatur of the army.

The Birchites campaigned together with other similar groups, like the Minutemen, in support of Arizona senator Barry Goldwater. Since 1968, however, they have tended to coalesce around the campaign to make George Wallace, governor of Alabama, the President.

In the final article of this series, we will examine the Wallace movement, what it stands for and how it operates.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

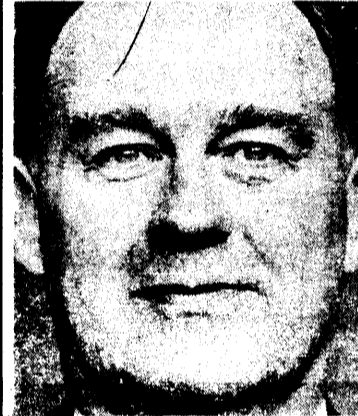
NAMES

New names for old. The latest fancy titles for ordinary jobs include: glass maintenance engineer (window-cleaner); information retrieval administrator (filing clerk); grief therapist (undertaker); road craftsman (road labourer); sanitor (official charwoman) and lady beer dispenser (barmaid).

DOSSIERS

Just for the record... William Craig was a senior minister in the governments of Captain Terrence O'Neill and Major James Chichester Clark. The ex-Stormont premiers are now both peers and are described as 'doves'.

At a mass meeting of his new Ulster Vanguard in Belfast the other day, Craig said:



William Craig

'We are going to do more than just talk. Whatever the call of duty requires we shall do. We must build up dossiers on men and women who are enemies of this country because one day, ladies and gentlemen, if the politicians fail, it would be our job to liquidate the enemy.'

DISREPUTE

The Labour Party leadership in London's local authorities seems to be falling into some measure of disrepute.

A week ago the Labour leader on the GLC Sir Reginald Goodwin was billed to speak at a public meeting at Battersea.

The meeting, to discuss aspects of GLC policy on land, roads and public transport, was advertised in the newspaper and thousands of leaflets were distributed.

Come the great night not one member of the public turned up.

VODKA

Drunkenness in the Soviet Union is a chronic problem which raises much public interest. Radio programmes constantly revert to the theme.

Listeners' letters referred to in a recent Moscow broadcast called for measures to reduce the sale of alcohol, especially vodka, which can be bought in every grocery store. Managers depend on liquor sales to fulfil and overfulfil their plans, so that, as far as they are concerned, the more drunkenness there is the better.

Rejecting prohibition or strict control over sales of spirits, the station's speaker also brushed off the claim of some listeners that the cause should be sought in the environment. 'I can't agree with that', he said. 'It is not the vodka that's to blame, but the man, who, pardon the expression, chokes himself with their accursed vodka.'

But it was the listeners who were right. How is it that 'Soviet man' in a self-proclaimed 'socialist society', and especially many Soviet youth, turn to alcohol to drown their sorrows? The answer must be sought in the actual conditions of Soviet society and the terrible strains and tensions produced by the rule of the bureaucracy.

DEFEATED

Right wing trade unionists failed to muster enough support to hold their TRU-AIM (Trade Unionists Against Immigration) demonstration in Oldham, near Manchester, last weekend.

Prominent in the organization of TRU-AIM was Danny Harmstone, organizer of the pro-Powell march on parliament of London dockers in 1969, and an ex-Mosley supporter. Harmstone works as a meat porter in Smithfield meat market.

Among those attending the inaugural meeting in November 1970 was Colin Jordan, organizer of the British Movement, successor to the National Socialist Movement. Jordan is reported to have said that at least a thousand workers would be on the streets behind TRU-AIM's banners.

Chairman of the right-wing National Front John O'Brien was another interested party at TRU-AIM's first meeting.



Above: Lord Pearce, Press Council Chairman, talking about an abuse of privilege.

'... censorship must never be the object of industrial action. And this would be in accordance with the long tradition of the British press.'

The idea that we have a 'free' and 'independent' press in Britain, uncluttered by class or sectional interests is fought for very hard by the newspaper proprietors.

They claim that the columns of their papers merely reflect the so-called 'public interest' which they, of course, find impossible to define.

But every so often workers smash straight through the mythology surrounding the newspaper industry and see clearly the class interests behind the inches of newsprint.

That was one of the lessons, for example, the miners learnt during their six-week strike. In fact, from the very first days, as determination to win quickly set in, the press was on the miners' backs with distorted stories of 'violence on the picket lines' and so on.

Throughout the strike, reporters were treated with some justified suspicion by strikers. Because whatever they told these men, the end-product, having passed through editorial surgery, was completely different.

The Press Council was formed in 1953 under the title General Council of the Press. It has just published its 18th annual report called 'The Press and the People'.

A glance at the council's constitution will show you what sort of role it is supposed to perform.

To preserve the established freedom of the British press', reads number one.

Others talk of maintaining the 'character of the British press', of reviewing developments likely to restrict 'the supply of information of public interest and importance' and so on.

All this sounds very fine and noble. But what are the results of this august body's work?

Well, the main theme of this year's report taken up by the chairman Lord Pearce (the man who headed the team in Rho-

TORY PRESS



PRINTERS, OBEY THY MASTER

BY PHILIP WADE

desia which 'assessed' African workers' opinions of a racialist sell-out deal) is censorship.

Censorship by government departments or state agencies? No, wrong again. It is the printing workers who are deemed guilty.

A whole chapter of the report is devoted to lambasting workers in the industry for stopping the presses when they objected to certain material being printed.

The most famous stoppage, of course, occurred during the powermen's work-to-rule in December 1970. 'Evening Standard' printers objected to a Jak cartoon depicting the powermen as murderers.

Publication was held up and several issues missed until an agreement was reached with the management to publish a statement from the printworkers alongside the cartoon, explaining their opposition to it and their support for the powermen.

Three more stoppages are explained in detail, together with

the Press Council's condemnation on each occasion.

'It is a principal objective of the council to defend the freedom of the press from attack from whatever quarter it comes and when it comes from within it is doubly deplorable,' murmurs Lord Pearce in his foreword to the report.

As far as he is concerned, strikes by workers in defence of their rights does not count as an act of freedom. And that is because it hits capitalism where it hurts hard—the centre of its propaganda machine.

An abuse of privilege is what Lord Pearce calls such actions by printworkers.

So the myth about a 'free' press is once again crushed. To the Tories this 'freedom' means they must be able to attack workers when and wherever they see fit. If workers reply in the only way they can, that is an abuse of freedom.

Further proof, if any was needed, of the council's role as Fleet St's lame poodle, comes on page 73 of the report, headed 'the watch on legislation'.

The main issue here was the clause in the Industrial Relations Bill later embodied in the Act, which made it an unfair practice for any persons in connection with an industrial dispute to induce or threaten to induce another person to break a contract.

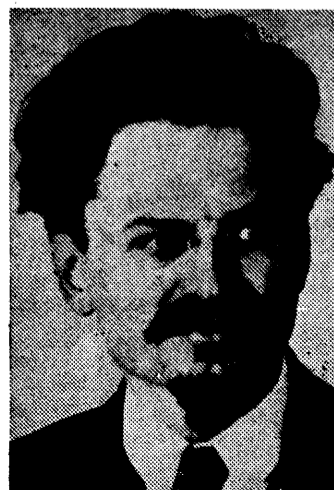
To anyone who knew anything, it was clear that this clause would embrace comment by socialist newspapers on strikes.

'The Press Council did not make any representations on the clause,' the report states. So much for the protagonists of press freedom.

Finally, and without really knowing it, the council, in its statistical analysis of the industry, makes clear the monopolistic stranglehold exerted by a few people on the production of newspapers.

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'INK' RUNS DRY

£7,000 still owing

BY ALEX MITCHELL

'INK', the underground newspaper, has informed financial subscribers that the company now owes about £7,000. Taking into account costs, overheads and advertising, the directors conclude that 'Ink' is 'not able to make enough repayments on the total outstanding debt to keep the company solvent'.

The directors then outline three possible courses of action.

The first is quite blunt: 'That the company should cease trading forthwith and be wound up by a liquidator. The newspaper "Ink" would cease publication and disappear.'

In tracing the brief but embattled history of 'Ink' the directors' statement says: 'The paper had been losing money at an average rate of £1,300 per issue during the period of weekly publication and by mid-July capital had reached a dangerously low point.'

CIRCULATION IS LOW

'The expenditure of capital was more or less as outlined in the company's original prospectus, but circulation and advertising were far below expectations... a situation which, it would seem, is sadly repeated in other underground and radical publications in the country at the moment.'

At the time of its demise, the editorial policy was 'of progressively greater commitment to the activities of "libertarian left" groups. The assumption behind the news stories is that the readers are interested in the progress of those groups in society who are seeking its reform.'

The document is signed by the directors: Felix Dennis, Andrew Fisher, John Lloyd, Richard Neville, Ed Victor and Cassandra Wedd.

'New Statesman' manager quits

'NEW STATESMAN' general manager and chief executive Derek Dyerson has resigned after being told he would be 'superseded' by a business consultant as managing director.

It follows the resignation of the editor, former Labour Minister Richard Crossman, last week.

Dyerson said today that board chairman Lord Campbell of Eskan had called him to his Whitehall office last Tuesday—the day after Crossman's resignation. The business consultant Hugh de Quetteville is now appointed managing director.

One suggestion which 'Ink' is considering is the liquidation of the present company and the launching of a new communications operation which would be registered as a charity.

But with a £7,000 debt hanging over their heads, the new staff and directors will find it difficult to raise capital whether the new outfit is a charity or not. The directors plan that the new operation should 'raise money in the interests of furthering radical communications generally'.

But if 'Ink' thinks it can profit from the radical communications industry it is mistaken.

It is an industry that is dead. It has been 'lame-ducked' by the Tory government. The worldwide economic recession ends the old class relationships when middle-class young men could 'do their thing' and be frightfully radical.

Today the two major classes are poised for combat of truly titanic proportions. The 'Ink' men simply better choose what side they're on.

Tenants demand Labour action on Rents Bill

A LOBBY organized by the Lambeth Trades Council against Tory proposals for housing and rents received no promises from Lambeth Labour councillors at their group meeting on Monday night.

Trades Council representatives were demanding that the councillors give a real lead in the campaign against the Housing Finance Bill, which will double rents, and that they link this with a political campaign to force the Tory government to resign.

Present council policy is to refuse to implement the rent increases, but only if other boroughs take similar action.

Support will be measured at a meeting of all London Labour councillors on Saturday.

Alfred Goodliffe, chairman of the Stockwell Community Association, representing 1,000 tenants, said of the councillors after the lobby:



STOCKWELL TENANTS REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED GOODLIFFE (CENTRE) CHALLENGES A COUNCILLOR

Tyres cost up

DUNLOP tyres are to cost more from April 3. Dunlop, India, John Bull and Regent brands will rise by 2½ per cent on cross-ply tyres to 5 per cent on radials.

'They haven't said enough to satisfy me. They are all waiting for somebody else to stick their necks out. Are the Lambeth Council going to refuse to implement this Bill or are they just evading it? That's what we want to know.'



GASWORKERS ON PICKET DUTY OUTSIDE THE STOCKPORT WORKS. RIGHT: SHOP STEWARD RONNIE JONES: ON 24 HOUR CALL



NW gas strike spreading

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

OVER 1,000 gas workers in N Cheshire are on unofficial strike in support of a group of Stockport gas board employees who say they have been victimized.

The dispute has halted normal repairs and servicing over a wide area which includes S Manchester, Stockport, Hyde, Macclesfield and Glossop. Now gas board workers as far as Liverpool and Blackpool, Lancashire, threaten sympathetic action.

The trouble started when management at Stockport gas works began suspending men as part of a new get-tough policy.

Frank Stafford, an employee with 21 years' service, was suspended after refusing to work overtime. He was also told that after his week's suspension he would be re-employed as a

labourer and therefore lose job status and at least £2 a week off his wages.

Mr Stafford has always made it clear that he cannot work overtime because of family reasons and in fact has not done so for the past four years.

Another worker, Dave Davenport, has been suspended for being late on a job—a delay partially caused because he was ordered to attend a works meeting called by the district engineer.

These two men work in the distribution department which has been on strike against the victimizations for over a week. Workers at gas plants throughout N Cheshire have taken sympathetic action and gas repairs in the area are now being handled by an emergency squad and teams of scabs organized by the gas board.

Other suspensions occurred in the servicing department when 16 men were ordered out of the works after being found in nearby cafes.

The workers were refused a hearing by management and informed that one more breach of discipline would lead to dis-

missal without appeal.

A spokesman for the 16 told me:

'Business is slack and I think they are trying to use this incident as an excuse to get rid of men. We don't mind discipline, but men have the right to speak up for themselves—this is not the 18th century and we are not going to be treated like serfs.'

Ronnie Jones, shop steward in the distribution department, talked about the conditions the repair squads have to work under.

'We are on 24-hour call. Sometimes you can be out on a job all night and the firm never let's your wife know. So she's up all night worrying about you. You live with the continual worry of having your domestic life interrupted by the job—it's difficult to have a family life at all.'

Supplies have been stopped entering the works.

Management has struck back by employing scab repair teams, but many gas leaks in the town have been left unattended for over a week.

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SHIP ORDERS UNLIKELY — COSTS ARE TOO HIGH

BECAUSE shipbuilders' prices are too high they cannot expect many new orders considering the present depressed state of the freight market. And according to the North of England Shipbuilders' Association annual report, many yards are also putting in

escalation clauses linked to the cost of labour. 'It is doubtful that many orders will be given on these terms unless there is an improvement in the freight market,' declares the report. The Association says 1971 was a bad year for

shipowners and that the short-term outlook is extremely bleak. The market was suffering from an over-supply of tonnage and there were no immediate remedies. The demand for ships had fallen to such an extent in 1971 that by the end of the year

rates in some trades barely covered running costs. The Association puts much of the blame on the 'economic recession in Japan'. Vessels normally employed in carrying coal and ore to Japan had been thrown on to the market.

STILL UNCERTAINTY OVER UCS

THE UNCERTAINTY surrounding the future of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders was in no way lifted by John Davies, Secretary for Trade and Industry, in the Commons on Monday night.

After listening to complaints that competitors were losing business because they didn't know what aid would be given to Upper Clyde, Davies said he would soon be

making a statement on aid to the shipbuilding industry. Would it include approval of £12m for Marathon to take over Clydebank? Would

forthcoming legislation apply only to Govan Shipbuilders Ltd or to the whole industry? Davies told Labour spokesman Anthony Wedgwood Benn he had better wait and see.

CAV men restore old pay position

LABORATORY engine testers and fitters at CAV (Acton), W London, have won a nine-month-long battle against management and their own representatives for restoration of their position in the site's wages structure.

In 1970, a works conference fixed the laboratory men's position at No. 2 on the wages scale—after a strike and lock-out, ending in a walk-out of the entire labour force.

But with the 1971 site deal, the men found themselves at No. 8 in the structure.

Before the new deal (1971) had been agreed, laboratory stewards submitted a claim to maintain their No. 2 position.

Acton AUEW convenor John Paxman attacked the claim on the grounds that it was 'unjustified' and was presented in order to 'wreck the 1971 deal'.

Now, after nine months of token stoppages and works-to-rule, Paxman has been forced to admit the men have a good case.

And management has indicated that they were willing to pay the men increases ranging from £3.50 to £5 to bring them in line with their former position.

The men will get their increases from July 1.

LAY-OFF DEAL ANGRERS MERSEY CAR STEWARDS

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

VAUXHALL shop stewards at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside are up in arms against a new lay-off, pay agreement agreed by their national union officials.

They fear that a new wage-security deal—approved in principle by the unions on January 28—will give the company the right to lay off workers and take them back at will.

A mass meeting of the factory's 7,000 workers is to be held soon. First operated a few days before the huge shut-down of industry caused by the recent power crisis, the agreement states that Vauxhall has no specific obligation to pay workers during a national emergency.

The relevant clause reads: 'The

plan makes no scheduled provision for payment in the case of a national emergency, the circumstances of which are impossible to forecast.

'The company is, however, prepared to have regard to the national pattern in such an event and may, at its discretion, make a limited payment.'

A Vauxhall spokesman claimed yesterday that this meant laid-off workers would receive terms 'not less favourable than the rest of the industry' in such situations.

That is not what it says, however. And the wording, as it stands, is clearly open to other interpretations.

Broadly speaking, the company undertakes to provide laid-off workers with 70 per cent of their personal day-shift rate for a total of 25 days each year.

During any one period of lay-off, the total time during which payment will be made is seven days.

Payment will only be made, however, in cases of company equipment or services failure; local failure of essential services such as electricity, oil or freight transport; short-time working; failures of outside suppliers.

Payments excluded

The agreement excludes payment during national supply failures—due to a national rail strike, for instance—industrial action at any Vauxhall plant in the country or redundancy situations.

Stewards at Ellesmere Port, who obtained copies of the full terms only with some difficulty, say that they are a clear violation of their own decision last September not to accept lay-offs, short-time working or redundancy.

And they feel that the exclusions from payment amount to a completely unacceptable penalty clause. The national pay claim of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, which is now being pursued locally, calls for the abolition of penalty clauses.

There is also a fear that the company is working towards a situation where they could become virtually casual labour.

With a sharp eye on current economic prospects in the car industry, one Mersey steward told Workers Press the agreement could become 'the pea-pickers' charter'.

Kaymet strike off

ONE HUNDRED and fifty engineering workers at Kaymet Co factory, Peckham, called off a threatened strike yesterday after the employer agreed to reinstate a cancelled pay and conditions agreement.

Company chief Sydney Schreiber earlier charged four workers with unfair industrial action for calling the strike and the National Industrial Relations Court banned any further action until yesterday.

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BBC-1

- 9.36 Schools. 10.45 Boomph with Becker. 11.05-11.55 Schools.
- 12.25-12.50 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 12.55 Disc a dawn. 1.30-1.25 Chigley. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.50 Schools. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Lazio's treasure. 5.20 Before the event. 5.44 Crystal Tipps. 5.50 News and weather.
- 6.00 NATIONWIDE Your region tonight.
- 6.50 TOM AND JERRY.
- 7.00 SPY TRAP. 'The Defector'.
- 7.25 STAR TREK. 'The Galileo Seven'.
- 8.00 SOFTLY, SOFTLY: TASK FORCE. 'The Easy Job'.
- 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.
- 9.20 THE BUDGET. Rt Hon Roy Jenkins, MP, for the Opposition.
- 9.30 SPORTSNIGHT WITH COLEMAN. European Soccer.
- 10.50 24 HOURS.
- 11.25 DOCUMENTARY: LONG LIVE OUR ENGLAND. 'A Tale of Black Families'.
- 11.55 Weather.

BBC-2

- 11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-7.00 Open University.
- 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.
- 8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED.
- 8.10 MAN ALIVE. Landlord and tenant. 'What Price a Fair Deal?'.
- 9.00 LOOK, STRANGER. 'He's Not a Bad Old Dog'.
- 9.20 FILM: 'BATHING BEAUTY'. Esther Williams. A song writer falls in love with a swimming instructress.
- 10.55 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
- 11.00 THE BUDGET. Rt Hon Roy Jenkins, MP for the Opposition.
- 11.10 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

- 10.20 Schools. 2.32 All our yesterdays. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Tea break. 3.40 Edgar Wallace. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Get this! 5.20 Tight-rope. 5.50 News.
- 6.00 TODAY.
- 6.35 CROSSROADS.
- 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE.
- 7.30 CORONATION STREET.
- 8.00 THE BENNY HILL SHOW.
- 9.00 CALLAN. 'Rules of the Game'.
- 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
- 10.30 THE BUDGET. Rt Hon Roy Jenkins, MP, for the Opposition.
- 10.40 MAN AT THE TOP. 'It's All Perfectly True.'
- 11.40 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.
- 12.10 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. Richard Ingrams.
- 12.25 MUSIC MATTERS.

REGIONAL TV

- CHANNEL:** 10.20 - 2.32 London. 4.05 Paulus. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Tea break. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Towards the year 2000. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 8.00 London. 10.32 Life in France. 10.40 Both ends meet. 11.10 Wrestling. 11.40 Epilogue. News, weather.
- WESTWARD:** As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 London. 11.40 News. 11.43 Faith for life. 11.48 Weather.
- SOUTHERN:** 10.20-2.32 London. 3.30 Tea break. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.40 Dick Van Dyke. 11.10 Wrestling. 11.40 News. 11.50 Weather. Discoverers.
- HARLECH:** 10.20-2.32 London. 3.50 Katie Stewart. 4.15 Tinker-tainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Tommy Cooper. 7.00 London. 10.40 Alexander. 11.10 Wrestling. 11.40 Weather.
- HTV West as above except:** 6.01-6.30 Report West.
- HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 3.50 Hamden. 4.15-4.30 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.
- ANGLIA:** 10.20-2.32 London. 3.55 News. 4.00 Tea break. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 10.40 Alexander. 11.10 Wrestling.
- ATV MIDLANDS:** 10.20-2.32 London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Stars. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Ghost and Mrs Muir. 4.40 Grasshopper Island. 4.55 Secret service. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 10.40 Alexander. 11.10 Wrestling.
- ULSTER:** 10.20-2.32 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 What's on? 6.35 London. 10.40 Tommy Cooper. 11.10 Wrestling.
- YORKSHIRE:** 10.20 London. 2.33 World in action. 3.00 Pied piper. 3.05 Jobs in the house and garden. 3.35 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.40 Alexander. 11.10 Wrestling. 11.55 Weather.
- GRANADA:** 10.18-2.30 London. 3.40 Yoga. 4.05 News. Odd couple. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. What's on. 6.25 Peyton Place. 7.00 London. 10.40 Alexander. 11.10 Wrestling. 11.40 What the papers say.
- TYNE TEES:** 10.20 London. 2.32 World in action. 3.00 Pied piper. 3.05 House and garden. 3.35 News. 3.45 Women. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 10.40 So give us that bit comfort. 11.10 Wrestling. 11.45 News. 12.00 Epilogue.
- SCOTTISH:** 10.20-2.20 London. 3.30 Pinky and Perky. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Popeye. 6.30 Plus Tam. 7.00 London. 10.40 Sport. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 University challenge. 12.05 Wrestling.
- GRAMPIAN:** 11.00-2.32 London. 3.38 News. 3.40 Smith family. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Gramplan week. 6.35 London. 10.40 Branded. 11.10 Wrestling. 11.40 Highlanders. 12.00 Epilogue.

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Rail Board's 11 p-c 'not enough'

A NEW 11-per-cent pay offer to Britain's 200,000 railwaymen met with a cool response from union leaders yesterday.

Made in resumed talks with the unions yesterday morning, the offer was described by locomotives leader Ray Buckton as 'juggling with figures'.

The British Railways Board claims the proposed improvement in its earlier £27.4m, 9.84-per-cent offer would cost it another £3.4m in a full year, bringing the rise in average earnings up to 11 per cent. The unions denied this.

Mr Buckton said members of his union the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen would get only 9.68 per cent on basic rates and less than 9 per cent on earnings.

The biggest of the three unions involved, the National Union of Railwaymen, has asked for a new minimum basic rate of £20 a week, 12.7 per cent up on the present £17.20 basic. ASLEF is claiming a 16 per cent 'negotiable' rise.

Both unions made it clear earlier yesterday that they wanted an improved offer on basic rates before they were prepared to talk about consolidated rates and bonus systems.

Consolidation of the transfer of bonus payments into the basic rate, which affects overtime premiums, was at the root of yesterday's big argument.

LATE NEWS

BUDGET

cent, with certain exceptions. This tax will be imposed on all products and is expected to lead to a massive rise in the cost of living on Common Market entry. It comes into operation in a year's time.

Food is among the items which will be 'zero rated' from VAT, together with newspapers, new construction, rents and export goods.

The Family Incomes Supplement, Sir Keith Joseph's much-vaunted scheme to help poverty-stricken families, is to be abandoned.

None of these measures will reduce unemployment though the incentives to industry are aimed at encouraging still more productivity by rationalization at the expense of jobs.

The pensions increase was described as 'Welcome' by engineers' leader Hugh Scanlon, but Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers' Union said it was 'disgracefully low'.

'The old folk have been left to scrimp again and are going to have to wait for months before they get anything at all,' Jones said.

PROMPT US recognition of Bangladesh was yesterday called for by the senate.

The resolution, already approved by the foreign relations committee, passed the senate by voice vote with no opposition heard.

Recession was blamed yesterday for British Oxygen's first quarter profits drop of £300,000 to £4,343,000 on last year's figure.

ABOUT 450 building workers at the John Laing Isle of Grain power station who have been on strike for over a week demanding a 50p fall-back bonus are holding a mass meeting this morning. Area organizers from the unions involved — T&GWU, G&MWU and the joiners' and builders' union — will be present to decide whether the strike will continue and whether it will be made official.

Bank raid Maoist jailed

THE FORMER chairman of the Workers' Party of Scotland, which claimed to be a Maoist organization, has been jailed for 24 years for taking part in three bank raids involving more than

£13,700. He was Matthew Lygate (34), who in 1969 stood as a parliamentary candidate at a Gorbals by-election.

Another of the accused, William McPherson (31) received 26 years for his part in the raids. Ian Doran (23), who was found

guilty of four charges of assault and robbery, including three bank raids, was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

A fourth man, Colin Lawson (34) was found guilty of being involved in one raid and of offences such as car theft and was sent to prison for six years.

All four had pleaded not guilty to various charges, including four armed raids on banks between June and December last year during which £18,000 was stolen.

All the sentences were the longest in Scotland for this type of crime.

AUEW BACKS STOCKPORT SIT-IN



PLAYING CARDS TO PASS THE TIME DURING THE SIT-IN

BACKING for the six-day-old occupation of the James Mills steelworks at Bredbury, Stockport, came yesterday from the executive council of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Engineering orders down

THE STEEP decline in engineering orders has, without doubt, stiffened the determination of the industry's employers to resist the current round of wage claims.

Figures out yesterday showed a 21-per-cent drop in new orders from overseas during the last three months of 1971, with a 6 per cent fall in orders from the British market.

Throughout 1971 total engineering orders fell 8 1/2 per cent compared with 1970 falling to their lowest level for four years, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Some employers are looking to an autumn upturn in orders, but if the slump worsens they will almost certainly add to the industry's already heavy redundancies.

The existing labour force is operating at between 15 and 20 per cent below capacity.

Ernest Scragg the Macclesfield textile machine manufacturers who have broken the engineering employers' tough line on wages have been told they will be expelled from the NW Regional Engineering Employers' Association and the EEF if they go ahead.

WEATHER

ENGLAND, Wales, N Ireland and S Scotland will be dry with sunny or clear periods. In N Scotland it will be cloudy with some rain at first becoming brighter. It will be warm or rather warm except in N Scotland where normal temperatures are expected.

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Showers in N districts at first, otherwise generally dry, but cooler in S.

'We're bound to support it', Bob Wright, the executive member responsible for the Stockport district, told Workers Press in London.

Earlier Hugh Scanlon, AUEW president, said the action was covered by an 'umbrella' decision of the union's national committee to support local action in pursuit of the union's national pay policy.

Meanwhile about 5,000 workers in the Stockport area continued their work-to-rule and ban on piecework in support of this policy and in solidarity with Bredbury workers.

Workers at the nearby Davis and Metcalf plant, who have been banning piecework since the end of last week, have been offered a deal by management, but this is understood to be unsatisfactory on both hours and wages.

The Metcalf men will meet today to decide on further action. They have made it quite clear that they too will occupy if management attempt to break a work-to-rule' by suspending men.

The AUEW executive is asking all its districts for a factual, up-to-date report on their progress in pursuing the national pay claim at local level.

On January 4—five days before the miners began their national action—union leaders voted to abandon national-level pressure for the claim.

Meeting in London yesterday, the seven-man executive asked to be notified of any settlements which have been achieved. They also called for information about any failures to reach settlement for which official approval has not been sought.

Both Scanlon and union secretary Jim Conway ruled out any change in the present pay policy.

The union was ready for talks with the EEF on pay if asked, said Conway. 'But it would have to come from them. They turned us down.'

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

WILLESDEN: Monday March 27, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Rd., NW1. 'Right-to-Work Campaign and the fight to force the Tories out'. CROYDON: Thursday March 23, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, E Croydon. Report back from Empire Pool, Wembley, rally.

£754.67 STILL DUE FOR MARCH FUND

OUR DAYS are running out. It is becoming a tough struggle this month to raise our Fund. Our total stands at £495.33, leaving ten more days to complete our target of £1,250.

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We must fight back now with Workers Press right in the forefront of this struggle. Go all out today. Leave no stone unturned. Collect as much as you can towards this month's Fund. Post all your donations immediately to:

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Socialist Labour League

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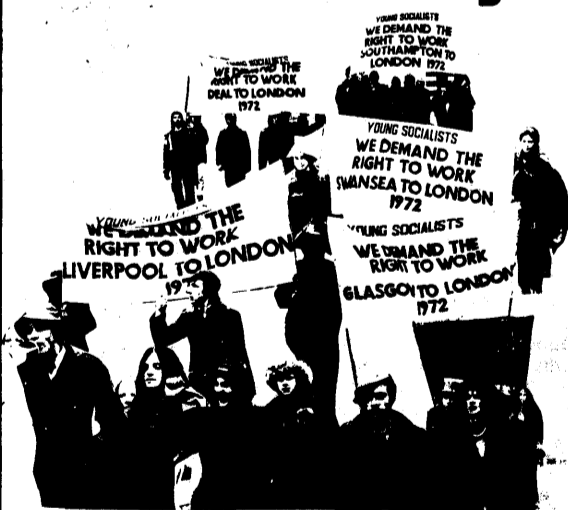
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Assemble: 1 pm Clapham Common

March with Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League contingent.

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Make the Tories resign!**



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Dance to 'BRAVE NEW WORLD' Saturday night 8 pm
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Cost approximately £4.50. For tickets apply to John Simmance, National Secretary,
186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG

Please send me details/tickets of the Scarborough Conference.

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