

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY MARCH 23, 1972 ● No. 721 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

BUDGET WILL CREATE MORE UNEMPLOYMENT

TORY REFLATION WILL FAIL

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE HUGE BUDGET handouts to industry will make little impact on the growth of mass unemployment in Britain. By allowing the free export of capital to the Common Market countries and other areas of cheap labour, the Budget may, in fact, eventually increase unemployment considerably.

March jobless figures out today are almost certain to be over the million mark and nothing Tory Chancellor Barber has done will bring them down.

Unemployment in Britain is part of the growth of recession throughout the capitalist world. It is the direct result of the international capitalist crisis and the breakdown of the post-war Bretton Woods monetary arrangements which tied the dollar to gold.

The possibility of reflating the economy through fiscal and monetary manipulations has ended as a result of President Nixon's August 15 decision to cease selling gold for dollars at the rate of \$35 an ounce.

The 'stop-go' cycle of the 1950s and 1960s could take place because there was an expanding international market and the value of paper money was, in the last analysis, guaranteed at the US Treasury.

But the enormous export of dollars which fed the boom finally devoured the US gold stock and Nixon was forced to cease gold sales.

In fact, it was Nixon's 1970 budget—a desperate attempt to inflate the US economy by running an unprecedented deficit—which finally brought the dollar down.

There is no longer any certainty in the value of paper money, with the result that profits are falling or non-existent and far from increasing their investment employers are cutting it back.

Tuesday's Budget only makes it more certain that Britain will face a severe sterling crisis as the increased consumer-spending attracts more imports and the balance of payments and the foreign currency reserves are pushed into deficit.

This provides the Tories with an additional reason for contemplating an election in the next period. In order to win over sections of the middle class, Barber has adopted the traditional Tory stand-by of tax cuts.

But big-business circles remain sceptical about the prospects of economic recovery—a scepticism which is clearly



reflected in the columns of the capitalist press.

'The Guardian's' Victor Keegan wrote: '...the last two Budgets, which were similarly welcomed by industry, have failed so far to bring about a significant increase in capital expenditure.'

He adds: 'With industry generally... still faced with substantial surplus capacity, it is still an open question whether companies will find it in their shareholders' interests to lay down more investment...'

'The balance of payments outlook is deteriorating, the international situation uncertain and the possibility of a stop period after the present go is still real. Industry has never had a greater incentive to invest. It remains to be seen the extent to which it will be taken up.'

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The international crisis is also behind the desperate urgency of Tory preparations to enter the Common Market and gang up with the monopolists of W Germany and France against the workers of Europe.

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forward-looking' in order to compete in the EEC.

He laid heavy stress on the need to increase productivity to meet the Common Market.

'Our potential growth in productivity is greater than it was on any of those earlier occasions,' he said.

Perhaps the most important part of the Barber package is the virtual abolition of controls over investment overseas. This will give British capitalists free access to the low-wage countries of the Mediterranean, the Common Market, S Africa and other extremely lucrative capital outlets.

British employers will now join the stampede to take advantage of cheap labour in these countries, using the threat of capital movement to intimidate the workers in Britain through the creation of more unemployment.

ENGINEERS at the Birmingham Battery factory have entered the second week of a strike in demand of the abandoned national claim. The 300 men walked out at lunch time last Wednesday when management failed to come up with an answer to their demands for a £6 a week rise, a 35-hour week and improved holiday and overtime payments.

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Square ban
a trap—
AIL**

AIL organizer John Gray, press officer Eamonn McCann and Kate Hoey at yesterday's press conference.

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The reason for the decision not to become involved in a confrontation with the police is because the AIL believes that the Ministry of Environment's ban raises much broader issues than just the Irish question.

The fact that the government had given only nine days' notice of the ban was a crude attempt to lure demonstrators into a trap, Gray said.

Eamonn McCann, AIL press officer said: 'This is part of the growing pattern of repression under the Tory government.'

He added that he could see a situation in Britain in the future where the Tory government would be initiating a ban not just on Irish organizations, but on other anti-Tory organizations.

● SEE DEMO ADVERT, p. 12.

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£706.67 IN
NINE DAYS**

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One thing remains clear about Barber's budget. Nothing is offered to assist the over a million unemployed. The Tory government continues to launch its attacks against the working class.

Workers Press becomes more vital than ever in this fight. Help us therefore with a great effort to raise our March Fund. We know you have never let us down, so go all out today. Raise as much as you can. Rush all your donations to:

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186a Clapham High St
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**ROBENS'
BOOK
ATTACKS
WILSON**

Lord Robens, the former Labour minister who presided over the wholesale pit closures of the 1960s, attacks Harold Wilson and other leaders of the last Labour government in his book out today on his ten years as NCB chairman. Robens, who has now moved into big business as director of a number of firms, says: 'When the knives are out in the labour movement they are used with some force and that is when you need friends to protect your back from your supporters of yesterday.' A review of his book—'Ten Year Stint'—turn to the centre pages.

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AROUND THE WORLD

Foreign cars win 25 p.c. of UK market

CARS PRODUCED abroad accounted for just under a quarter of all car sales in Britain in February—a record share of the home market.

Figures issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders today show a total number of new registrations for the month of 120,588, with 29,477 foreign cars amongst them.

The largest single slice of this 24.44 per cent share was taken by the French state firm Renault.

British-Leyland—the only British-owned firm in the 'big four' home manufacturers—achieved a sales increase over last February, but its market share dropped back 5.24 per cent to 35.42 per cent.

ALLENDE SUSPENDS CONGRESS

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

RIGHT-WING opposition has forced Chilean President Salvador Allende to suspend sittings of both houses of Congress until next Tuesday.

The order was delivered to parliament by Justice Ministry under-secretary José Antonio Viera-Gallo, who explained that Dr Allende had acted to facilitate secret conversations he is having with leaders of the main opposition party, the Christian Democrats.

Chile's opposition parties—with a congressional majority—have consistently voted down legislation proposed by the President's Popular Unity coalition.

Allende is also faced with a demand by the Chilean supreme court that his government take immediate action to end land seizures by peasants in the southern province of Nuble.

A supreme court statement said a state of anarchy prevailed in the province, where more than 50 occupations of farmland and buildings have been reported in the past four days.

The takeovers appear to have been planned by cadres of the left-wing MIR, which accuses Allende's government of dawdling in its efforts to transform Chile into a fully Socialist Republic.

The MIR claims that socialism will never be achieved by democratic means and advocates armed struggle against the bourgeoisie.

Women supporters of the right wing confirmed that they will hold a protest march through Santiago tomorrow.



ALLENDE

A similar march last December sparked violent clashes between left and right-wing militants, leading to martial law and a state of emergency throughout Santiago province.

The order suspending congress came only a few hours before the deadline for presentation of a presidential order vetoing a constitutional amendment, passed by congress, which would stop the government nationalizing industries and business without prior congressional approval.

Blocked at every turn by the bourgeoisie from implementing a genuine socialist programme in Chile, the country's ballot-box 'Marxist' President is now faced with the stark political fruits of his policy of 'peaceful road' in Chile.

being given careful consideration by authorities.

Anderson wrote that ITT—which he labelled as a virtual corporate nation unto itself, with vast international holdings, access to US government officials and an intelligence apparatus of its own—had considered starting a military coup in Chile to block Allende's take-over in 1970.

According to the documents released yesterday, J. D. Neal, of ITT's Washington office, wrote that he told an aide to Dr. Henry Kissinger, national security adviser to President Nixon, that ITT hoped the White House would remain neutral if there were any attempts to deter Allende's election victory.

The columnist asserted that the documents in his possession show that 'the huge international conglomerate was trying to keep a Marxist government under Allende from seizing its Chilean investments, which included 60 per cent of the Chilean telephone company'.

Anderson said: 'The company's effort, and its fervent hopes for a military coup, are spelled out in a remarkable set of secret documents from ITT's Washington office.'

'We got the papers despite the wholesale shredding of files, which the company has admitted took place in the Washington office February 24 in an attempt to keep "embarrassing" documents out of our hands.'

ITT tried to stop Allende being President

US COLUMNIST Jack Anderson yesterday made public International Telephone and Telegraph corporation documents, some stamped 'personal and confidential,' to support his claim that the giant firm tried to stop President Salvador Allende coming to power.

The allegation, made by Anderson in his widely-circulated syndicated newspaper column, has been denied by ITT as without foundation.

The Chilean Embassy in Washington said the charges were of such seriousness they were

El Ferrol backlash

WORKERS at the 5,500-man General Electric factory in Bilbao, Spain, yesterday went on strike to protest against the suspension of ten workmates.

The ten received letters on Tuesday informing them that seven of them had been suspended for two months and three of them indefinitely for taking part in a one-day strike last week in protest against the killing of two workers in the NW port of El Ferrol three days previously.

The entire factory was at a standstill as a result of the one-day stoppage.

WHAT WE THINK

CLASS JUSTICE

THE JAILING of 34-year-old Matthew Lygate, the former chairman of the Maoist organization in Scotland, for bank robbery was a vicious act of class justice.

The Socialist Labour League does not condone adventures such as bank robberies, because they tend to separate and isolate leadership from the mass of the working class and thus play into the hands of the class enemy. We couldn't care a moral hoot, however, if every bank in the country were robbed tomorrow, because the essence of all banking, like capitalism, is legal robbery. But such robbery wouldn't solve a single basic question so far as the struggle of the working class against capitalism is concerned. That requires the building of a revolutionary leadership integrated in, and enjoying the support of the working class.

There is absolutely no evidence that Matthew Lygate or his colleagues used a penny piece of the money for themselves. However mistaken, it was a politically dedicated act, and that is the reason for this reactionary demonstration of capitalist justice.

The sum of £13,700, considered in the light of inflation, is not a large sum. Much larger sums have been thieved with those responsible, when caught, receiving four or five years in jail.

We repeat, those Maoists so harshly sentenced, regardless of our political differences with them, are class-war prisoners. The labour movement should condemn the sentence and actively assist in the arrangement of appropriate appeals.

Nixon steps up Yugoslav trade

PRESIDENT Nixon has authorized the United States government to insure private American business investment in Yugoslavia and Rumania, the White House announced yesterday.

OPIC, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, is for the first time empowered to extend investment insurance to European countries under this measure.

The Corporation offers protection to private investors against the risks of expropriation, convertibility of local currency holdings and war damages.

Nixon's move must mean he has received assurances that the Yugoslav and Rumanian Stalinists will protect the interests of American investors and prevent them being damaged or expropriated.

Tito's government recently relaxed its restrictions on foreign

capitalists investing in Yugoslav enterprises. Foreign employers can now hold majority shareholdings in Yugoslav business and their profits are freely convertible into the currency of their choice.

Rumanian vice-president Manea Manescu is currently in Washington for talks with Nixon on improved economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Manescu heads a Rumanian delegation invited by Herbert Stein, chairman of the President's council of economic advisers. They will be meeting businessmen in New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Uruguay General Strike for 40 p.c. rise

URUGUAYAN workers' leaders organized a major show of force in an attempt to nudge newly-installed President Juan Maria Bordaberry into authorizing a massive all-round pay increase.

The National Workers' Confederation (CNT) called a nine-hour General Strike in support of a demand for a 40-per-cent rise.

The cabinet is due to meet today to finalize details of an offer which is unlikely to exceed 20 per cent.

Union leaders have made it clear anything less than 40 per cent will be unacceptable and indicate they are ready to step up their militancy with subsequent and longer strikes if they consider it necessary.

The present labour unrest is an immediate consequence of a congressional decision earlier this month to repeal many of the country's tough emergency laws, which included a ban on politically-motivated strikes.

But congress is currently considering government proposals for a replacement package of security measures.

To back the government's case, Interior Minister Alejandro Rovira told congress that six known subversive groups—of which the Tupamaros are the best known and by far the best organized—are active at present.

The Tupamaros have so far killed at least 20 policemen, the Minister said.

Almost as he spoke, a band presumed to be Tupamaros—six men and a girl—raided a bank in the capital and got away with cash totalling £42,300.

CONVENTION CASH SCANDAL RAGES

THE UNITED STATES International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation has produced what it claims is new evidence to show that it made no political pay-off to the Nixon Administration.

A settlement granting ITT a favourable decision in an anti-merger case has been linked to an alleged pay-out of £150,000 to this year's Republican Party convention in San Diego.

Now a former secretary of ITT employee Mrs Rita Beard

has denied that Mrs Beard wrote a memorandum published by columnist Jack Anderson implicating ITT in a government pay-off.

The purported Beard memorandum, published three weeks ago by Anderson, was disowned by Mrs Beard last Friday as a hoax.

Mrs Susan Lichtman, who was Mrs Beard's secretary at the time the memorandum was dated last June, said in her sworn statement she did type a memorandum for Mrs Beard containing portions of the one published by Anderson.

But she said that to the best of her belief and know-

ledge the memorandum she typed contained no connection between the settlement of ITT anti-trust cases and the Republican Convention.

The senate has delayed confirmation of President Nixon's choice for Attorney-General, Richard Kleindienst, the former head of the justice department, while it investigates allegations that ITT bought off the administration. He was deputy Attorney-General while the anti-merger case against ITT was pending.

But simultaneous with ITT's claim to have new evidence, 'Life' magazine has accused the Nixon Administration of

having 'seriously tampered with justice' in San Diego.

The magazine claims steps were taken to protect highly-placed campaign distributors and friends of President Nixon from criminal prosecutions over the last two years.

It is a violation of the Corrupt Practices Act for a corporation to contribute to the campaign of any candidate for federal office.

Three cases cited by 'Life' all involve alleged contributions of this type and the magazine says that administration officials acted each time to kill investigations or delay prosecutions.

Muskie bounces back

SENATOR Edmund Muskie bounced back into the forefront of the Democratic presidential nomination race yesterday, capturing 63 per cent of the vote in the Illinois preferential primary.

It was a popularity contest without significance in the selection of delegates at the democratic nominating convention at Miami Beach on July 10, but was essential for Muskie if he is to remain a major contender following his shattering defeat by extreme right winger George Wallace in Florida last week.

Engineers claim begins to boil

SPECIAL REPORT FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

THE NEXT big test of the government's battered pay policy will start in greater Manchester on Monday, when 1,000 employers will lock themselves in battle with 200,000 workers in the engineering industry.

The issues involved are enormous. The workers can only win by driving a tank through the Tory pay policy. With the demand for a 35-hour week, the claim for £4, plus special consideration for women, is estimated at 20 to 25 per cent.

Some employers are already circulating rumours about more redundancies and even closures. The talk is not all bluff. Some of the smaller engineering shops work very close to the margin of profitability and the whole area is working on short time because of the slump in orders.

But this threatening atmosphere (suitably darkened by the local Tory press) has not dampened the spirit of the workers as the militant Stockport curtain-raiser to the general offensive has shown.

The Stockport experience has been important. It has revealed a great deal about the employers, the workers who are fighting the battle and has tested the tactics of the unions—led by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Trouble in Stockport began last Wednesday when workers at Bredbury steelworks—part of the Guest, Keen and Nettlefold (GKN) empire—occupied their plant after the management attempted to lock them out.

The 1,000 steelworkers had brought forward Monday's district-wide work-to-rule and overtime ban when management began moving stock in preparation for the big dispute.

This rapid and militant action by the Bredbury men was backed at the AUEW shop stewards' quarterly the same night and all of Stockport was supposed to back the steel workers last Monday.

As it was, only 5,000 out of 15,000 workers in the town stood by the original stewards' pledge to start their ban on piecework a week early.

This is largely due to the way the local AUEW leadership handled the issue. Officials admit that the decision of the shop stewards' quarterly embarrassed them. They did not mind factories taking early notice on an individual basis to back Bredbury, but officials were not prepared to go out and organize it.

Hence, when Stockport shop stewards asked whether they were to start the action on March 20 or wait for greater Manchester on March 27, they got this kind of reply: 'Your firm has up until March 27 to come forward with a deal on all parts of the claim—after that the work-to-rule must begin.'

The occupation—and the way it has been backed by workers in big plants like Mirrlees engineering—has opened up a breach in the employers' front. Employers who can least afford a pro-

Tories keep close watch on moves in Manchester

longed dispute, like the Macclesfield-based Scragg and Son, have settled and incurred the displeasure of the employers' federation.

On the debit side are the fears at Bredbury that they will be isolated. Men are asking why was there no strong district move to get other plants to come out as promised.

This question strikes at the heart of union tactics. The rot set in on the great engineering pay claim when it was abandoned at national level by the AUEW national committee on advice from the executive. This was



AUEW Divisional Organizer, Manchester, John Tocher: Critical of national decision.

backed by the national Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions who then passed on the fight to plant level.

The AUEW in the Manchester area, which is dominated by the Communist Party, was critical of this step.

AUEW divisional organizer and leading CP member John Tocher put it this way:

'If there had been a development of the struggle on a national basis, I think we would have made big inroads, especially with the situation current in the mines at that time. We were very critical at divisional committee. I am not suggesting—like some are—that there has been a sell-out, but that men, like



Men outside the Davis and Metcalf plant in Stockport, which has already begun the work-to-rule.

brothers Scanlon, Bob Wright, Birch and others, have miscalculated. If the economy had been booming it would have been a marvellous tactic, but as it is we should stand together.'

The Manchester area Confederation therefore stepped over the line and recommended what appears to be district-wide action.

But how this is working out in practice we can see from the Stockport example.

There is, in fact, a grave danger that the claim could further disintegrate. Some firms will settle, workers in others will accept less than the claim, others will face lock-outs and occupations will occur.

But Tocher defends the decision. For the strike to be official, he argues, a ballot of all members would have to have been held under AUEW rule 13. The alternative—an unofficial strike—might have got the unified support of all the members.

But then the rule book cannot prove a complete framework for the kind of fundamentally political struggle the Manchester working class is now facing.

An important section of the employers are preparing for war. The firms with most money and profit to lose (GKN made a staggering £43m pre-tax profit in 1970 and £22m in the first half of last year) are urging their weaker brethren into the fight.

These employers are ready for a show-down with the unions. The words of GKN boss Sir Raymond Brookes (who gets £47,000 a year for his efforts) captures the mood of some boardrooms. In his annual report for 1970 he said of the GKN performance:

'All in all not bad, particularly when related to the back cloth of industrial irresponsibility and economic palsy against which management has had to perform.'

'For the United Kingdom as a whole, it is prudent to assume modest industrial growth, continuing diminishing inflation, in the short term a high level of international inspired industrial unrest.'

This kind of naked challenge cannot be met by creeping round procedure and hoping that the right wing in the unions do not act against you.

Neither does class struggle conform to rule or the best-laid plans, as the Bredbury workers have demonstrated. The most serious criticism of the local leadership so far is that it did not build on this initiative at the steel works and encourage a fighting unity among workers in the engineering industry. Instead the occupation has been used primarily as a lever to get a concession out of other employers.

The Manchester Confederation has already come under attack from the extreme right in the unions at national level, but this is surely to be expected and must be faced with a counter challenge—no better method of attack than to point to the fighting unity of workers under your charge.

The alternative to an open fight could well be a series of unsatisfactory deals—and in

some factories—no deal at all. This chaos would be to compound the national retreat at local level and open the door for redundancies and closures. What might have been the first move to revive the claim nationally will then have been turned into its opposite.

The Scragg's deal has created considerable euphoria, particularly in the AUEW offices. But Scragg's is only one employer. Others with bigger reserves are determined to give nothing.

One thing is certain. The

Tories will be lobbying among the Manchester boardrooms. They do not want another defeat on pay.

One small incident summed up the keen interest of government in the Manchester battle.

It occurred during my half hour interview with John Tocher at his Salford headquarters.

The phone rang. A brief conversation.

'The conciliation officer from the Department of Employment. They're fishing around you know,' said Mr Tocher.

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

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NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG.

BUILDING THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Have you read the Draft Manifesto adopted by the All Trades Unions Alliance at the national conference at Birmingham last November? Have you expressed your views on the document in a letter to the Workers Press?

The Manifesto calls for the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. This historic and vital task must be fully discussed and understood throughout the workers' movement: trade unionists, their families, students, the unemployed and people in the professions are invited to express their views on the Manifesto.

If you want a copy of the Draft Manifesto write to the Workers Press or contact your local ATUA branch. Today we present further correspondence in the Manifesto discussion.

REES DAVIES

A 21-year-old National Union of Railwaymen member, Swansea.

It's the best Charter I've ever seen. It's for the working class. There's no ifs and buts.

The Socialist Labour League is the only party in this country that is giving the leadership. It's the only party that fights wholeheartedly for the working class. You've only got to read the Workers Press to see that.

There's no way out except through the building of a new leadership, otherwise we'll end up in a third world war. People say it could never happen, but

it will. People will be suffering and there will be starvation and poverty across this country. A lot of people, especially the youth, have heard from their parents and grandparents about the old times and they are not prepared to go back to them.

The Tories will definitely get tougher on the working class if they are allowed to get away with it, especially now the Industrial Relations Act is in force and with all this unemployment.

The Tories are taking away the rights the working class have fought for, the right to a higher standard of living, to a job, to decent housing.

Rich men exploiting the worker. That's the Tory govern-

ment. They're taking away our rights to keep their own standards of living up because their profits are falling. They don't care a damn so long as they keep the money coming in.

If the Common Market was for the working class, they'd let the working class vote on it.

The Labour Party are ganging up on the working class as well as the Tories. Look how many of them voted for the Common Market and look how many Labour MPs have just sat back and let the Tories get on with their policies.

They are traitors. Take the miners. The TUC could have ended the strike and defeated the Tories, but they wouldn't mobilize the working class.

OPEN LETTER TO FLEET STREET

This letter was written by a group of people who attended the Empire Pool, Wembley rally on March 12 after seeing the attacks on it in the 'Daily Express'. In a statement on their letter they say:

'We say that we are not so interested in seeing our letter printed in the "Express"—which we doubt very much—but in exposing before the whole working class how the "free" press deals with a force of which it is mortally afraid.

'We take pride that the "Daily Express" has to stoop to lies to discredit this rally where over 8,500 people gathered in a completely disciplined and well-organized manner preparing the ground to deal with all traitors in the labour movement and put paid to this Tory government for once and for all.

'We know that Workers Press—our paper—will publish this letter and show with what disgust we treat the Fleet St press.'

Dear Sir,

As four of the 'Hard-up Young Socialists' you spoke of in your article on the 'Right-to-Work rally' at the Empire Pool, we felt duty-bound to answer your cleverly-written but poorly disguised attempt to discredit our rally.

Apart from the fact that you felt it necessary to distort the numbers attending, you deliber-

ately refused to mention any of the personalities from 'show business' who felt it necessary to take part in the tremendous concert and to make it a really fitting welcome to the 200 or so youth who marched 1,300 miles altogether to spread the campaign for the defence of our Right-to-Work throughout the length and breadth of Britain.

We fought to attend the rally not to hear sad speeches about unemployment, but to prepare the basis for destroying it.

We, like the vast majority of people throughout Britain today, realize that nothing can be gained from the arrogant and totally undemocratic Tory government.

The only way that even the most basic right of the working class—the Right to Work—can be won is by organizing throughout the labour movement in England and Ireland to unite all workers in a life-or-death struggle to force the government to resign and to replace it with a Labour government pledged to socialism.

The rally was organized as the culmination of the five marches from all over England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. These marches were virtually blacked out by all the newspapers, apart from your usual snide attacks.

The youth left, like we did, determined to carry on this campaign, the only alternative to the return of the 'Hungry Thirties'.

Print this if you dare.

Yours sincerely,
Anne McCluskey, Selina McAlamney, Jim Doherty, Gerry McLaughlin, Belfast.



Rees Davies on the Young Socialist Right-to-Work march from Swansea



Empire Pool: 'We left it determined to carry on this campaign'

JIM BEVAN

A 28-year-old AUEW member of British Steel Corporation's, Margam Abbey Works, Port Talbot.

The building of the revolutionary party is essential for the working class to go forward and maintain and regain its basic rights which the Tories are taking away.

Unless we go forward on the basis of Marxist theory, society will go back into barbarism.

As the Draft Manifesto says, by their very inactivity the leaders of the TUC and the Labour Party are traitors to their own class—to the people they are supposed to represent.

They should do the same thing as Ray Gunter and resign. Then they should go over to the Tories.

The Charter is all the basic rights of the working class. Without them a worker can't live. It would mean destitution and starvation.

If you take the right to a job

away from a worker what's he got? He needs food, light and heat, but he's got no means of sustaining himself.

And if he hasn't got the basic right to withdraw his labour by striking—which is all workers have—then there's no way out at all of forcing concessions from the employers.

Certainly the Tories are carrying out illegal policies. The only reason they got in was because of their pledge to cut unemployment and drastically reduce prices at a stroke. But they've done none of this.

They've put us on the dole, attacked welfare services and attacked trade union organizations with a view to smashing them completely.

The unions that go on the register will become part of the corporate state, taking orders from the bosses.

The miners' strike brought out all the details of the Draft Manifesto, especially about the rotten leaders in the Labour Party and the trade unions.

AMERICA'S LAST STAND OVER MICRONESIA

The future of 100,000 inhabitants of the United States Pacific trust territory known as Micronesia may finally be settled in talks beginning on the tiny island of Koror next month.

The territory's far-flung islands — the Marshalls, Carolines and Marianas — have been administered by the US Department of the Interior since 1947. They are one of only two of the 11 trust territories created by the United Nations at that time which are still in trusteeship.

US and Micronesia representatives will sit down at the negotiating table on April 2 to try and work out a settlement.

At the last round of talks on the territory's future status, held in Hawaii in October, the Americans made it clear that they wished to maintain control over the islands for long-term strategy reasons.

They need them for missile testing, for the construction of a new air force base and for military storage and training facilities.

Representatives of the Marianas, speaking for 10 per cent of the population, want the territory to become a bona fide US possession. But many of the islanders would prefer independence to virtual annexation by the US.

Foreign military presence has been a basic fact of life for the Micronesians since the mid-1930s when the Japanese began to fortify their then Pacific League of Nations mandate in anticipation of war. Since World War II American military interests have been a dominant influence.

The islands, with names like

Truk, Saipan and Kwajalein, made headlines as a bloody battleground from which the Americans dislodged the Japanese during the Pacific war.

From another of the islands — Tinian in the Marianas — the B-29 bomber 'Enola Gay' took off to devastate Hiroshima in August 1945.

It is on Tinian that the US now wishes to build a major new air force base.

Nuclear tests on Bikini and Eniwetok kept the islands in the news periodically throughout the 1950s.

The UN trusteeship agreement under which the territory is administered by the US promises to 'promote the development of the inhabitants . . . toward self-government or independence'.

While acknowledging the islands' rights to self-determination, however, the US established veto powers over that right by having the area designated a 'strategic trust'.

Unlike the other ten UN trust territories, Micronesia was placed under the jurisdiction of the UN Security Council where the US has permanent veto power.

During the first generation under trusteeship few Micronesians questioned that US military interests were inconsistent with its trust obligation.

In 1967, however, two years after the creation of a territory-elected legislative body, the congress of Micronesia. The congress petitioned, then President, Lyndon Johnson to appoint a commission to investigate the islands' future political status.

The petition was not acted upon, so the congress appointed its own commission and drafted a demand for a unilaterally terminable political status in free association with the US.

The US countered with a pro-

posal that the islands enter into a commonwealth agreement whereby the US would retain control over Micronesia's internal affairs, including land, law and future status.

The representatives of the Mariana Islands accepted the proposal, but it was rejected by the majority of Micronesian representatives as a 'camouflaged offer of outright territorial status'.

Some Micronesian leaders were similarly suspicious of the motives behind a £118m grant in US funds designed to be spent over the next five years in the trust territory.

Early last year some of Micronesia's unity went up in smoke when the meeting chambers of the congress were burned to the ground by arsonists.

At the same time, threats of secession from the territory 'by force of arms if necessary' were made by the Marianas district legislature in protest against a territory-wide income tax and the congress's rejection of the American commonwealth offer.

In May last year, the Marianas delegation boycotted a special session of the congress at which a coalition favouring independence from the US, composed of one-third of the membership, was formed.

At the Hawaii talks last October, the Americans dropped their demand for full internal control of land and laws.

On the agreement over future status, however, the US still insisted on mutual termination rights while the Micronesians demanded that the agreement be terminable by either party at any time.

The key to settling the future status of the territory in the next round of talks appears to lie in this issue.

HAITI GETS PRIVATE ARMY

It is not only the US government that finances and trains puppet armies all over the world; American corporations also want to share in the action.

A Miami-based company that is reported to have a link with Haiti's defence and interior minister, is employing former US marines to train the Haitian militia.

In the last 18 months, under licences granted by the State Department's office of Munitions Control, Aerotrade has exported to Haiti about \$200,000 worth of arms, including armoured personnel carriers.

All were said to have been purchased from private US dealers.

The whole operation came to light when discreet inquiries were made. State Department officials, who had obviously known and indeed supported the scheme, had to let a few details out of the bag.

They have asked the Bureau of Customs to look into the training operations of Aerotrade. But the only quibble seems to be the fact that the firm failed to get a licence for its military training activities. And this may have violated the law prohibiting unauthorized technical military assistance to foreign governments.

Aerotrade, according to the officials, is linked through Air Haiti, an unscheduled airline, to the Haitian Minister of National Defence and Interior, Luckner Cambronne.

He is widely considered to be Haiti's most powerful leader and key adviser to the new dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Col Cambronne is the majority stockholder in Air Haiti, which flies between Miami and Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital. The airline's station chief in Miami is said to be James O. Byers, who also happens to be Aerotrade's vice-president.

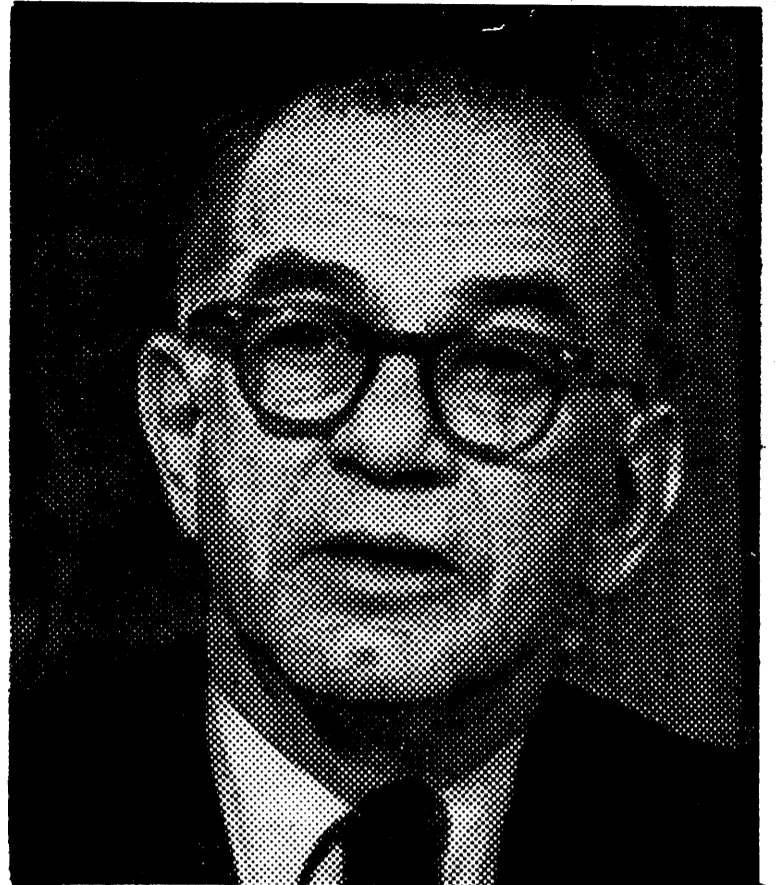
But perhaps the main reason



Old and new dictators: Papa Doc, and son Jean-Claude.

why the State Department moved against the company is that the US government itself is once more actively engaged in training and financing the Haitian dictatorship.

For the officials also revealed that President Nixon moved late in 1970, without announcement, to lift the ban imposed by the late President Kennedy in 1962 on the sale of arms and equipment to Haiti. Last month, six 65-foot patrol vessels, valued at \$1.2m were sold to Haiti.



Senator Fulbright has succeeded in deadlocking the Congressional Committee that was to have decided the future of radio stations.

CIA RADIO GOES BROKE

The Munich-based propaganda stations Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty have now run out of money. The staff of both say they were 'working for nothing', though they are confident that the Nixon Administration will eventually come through with some sort of pay settlement.

The stations are funded by the US Central Intelligence Agency to the tune of £15m a year. Although the source of this money was publicly revealed in Washington last year, the Director of RFE, Ralph Walter, replies 'no comment' when asked about it.

Then he adds: 'The source of our money has no influence at all on our broadcasts.'

Like its sister station Radio Liberty, RFE is in business to stir up counter-revolution in the E European countries. It broadcasts an average of 16 hours a day to Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary.

Political commentaries

About 30 per cent of its programmes are political commentaries, praising the capitalist way of life and pouring scorn on the leaders and the parties in the countries to which they broadcast. The rest are pop music, cultural reviews, sport and news.

RFE's propaganda nowadays is more subtle than it used to be. In 1956 its Hungarian department broadcast details of how to make Molotov cocktails, and told the insurgents in Budapest to 'keep fighting to throw off your communist shackles' because the US and its allies would intervene to help them.

But the W stayed on the sidelines, and RFE lost face badly. Having learnt this lesson, the station's broadcasts don't make promises any more. But the propaganda continues, although the E European countries don't bother these days trying to jam its short and medium wave transmissions.

Radio Liberty, a mile away across Munich's Isar River, throws out a much harder line. It broadcasts to the Soviet Union in 19 dialects, and is on the air 24 hours a day. No expense is spared. It has 17 shortwave transmitters in the W German Rhineland, the Spanish Costa Brava and on Taiwan. The Spanish transmitters are the most powerful in the world, mustering 2,000 kilowatts.

And there's nothing subtle about its broadcasts. A Radio

Liberty spokesman said last week: 'We broadcast a lot about the riots in December, 1970, in the Polish Baltic ports.'

'We wanted to plant seeds in the minds of our listeners. If the Polish workers could riot, why couldn't those in the Soviet Union.'

'We all live in hope of revolution here.'

Overthrown regimes

The bulk of the 1,200 people employed by RFE and the 800 by Radio Liberty are monarchists, formerly landlords, reactionary politicians and other remnants of regimes overthrown by the working class in the Soviet Union and E Europe.

For the last 21 years they have thrived on inflated salaries and conditions provided by CIA budgets.

All non-German staff (Germans are employed only for routine administrative tasks) live rent-free in flats provided by the two stations. Some of these flats have three and four bedrooms and would be worth £30 and £40 a week on the open market in Munich.

Additionally the staff are paid in US dollars. The dollars are exchanged for W German marks by RFE and Radio Liberty cashiers at an artificial rate of four to one, compared to the market rate of 2.2 marks to one dollar.

With such a profitable rate of exchange on salaries that are high anyway (£3,000 to £5,000 a year), plus free flats and low tax (they don't have to pay W German social security), the Munich émigré can afford to live in high style.

The two car parks beside the RFE building are full of Mercedes, Opels, BMWs and other expensive makes. Only the German staff drive Volkswagens.

Now the dream life is ending. To stave off penury, Radio Liberty has already sacked 70 people, and its associated Institute of Russian studies has had its contract with the station terminated.

In Washington, Senator William Fulbright has succeeded in deadlocking a joint Congressional Committee that was to have decided the financial future of both stations.

RFE's budget is believed to have run out on March 11, and Radio Liberty's Executive Director, Walter K. Scott, expected 'financial embarrassment' after March 15.

The Munich servants of the CIA are finding that the spoons which fed them were not quite long enough.

I COULD HAVE BEEN PRIME MINISTER

BOOK REVIEW



'TEN YEAR STINT'. An episode in autobiography by Lord Robens. Cassell, London. £3.55. Review by Stephen Johns.

Lord Alfred Robens, boss of the mining industry for a decade, was never popular among miners.

Miners saw Robens as a man who had crossed the class lines to the other camp; and when he announced a few months ago that he was no longer a socialist, it was confirmation of what they had been saying for years.

They watched him ascend the trade union bureaucracy, switch to politics, and then to government and finally, under the Tories, he became head of the National Coal Board and presided over a gigantic cut-back in pits and miners' jobs.

The hallmark of his character throughout this period was a gross haughtiness which he never attempted to disguise.

Sample this throw-away passage from his book 'Ten Year Stint'.

... in his memoirs ... George Brown, after describing me as an "outstanding chairman of the National Coal Board", goes on to say that he always thought it a tragedy that I left the party political life when I did. George continued: "Had Robens stayed in the Parliamentary Party there is little chance that Harold Wilson would ever have been Prime Minister."

Robens' bland comment is: "It is hypothetical, but George would have been proved right if I had stayed in party politics. I would have had the support of most trade union MPs, of the 'sensible centre', as Ray Günter used to call it, and perhaps some of Gaitskell's Hampstead set."

But Robens' personality is not the most important thing revealed in his book. Of great importance to trade unionists is the development of his philosophy during his period of office.

He began in 1960 steeped in right-wing social democracy. His job was quite simple, close pits—throwing hundreds of thousands of miners out of the industry—drive down relative wage rates and increase productivity.

He was very successful. In the first eight years the number of pits shrunk from 698 to 292 and the labour force was halved to 283,000. Meanwhile output per man-shift almost doubled.

Robens started with a salary

of £10,000 a year and finished at £20,000 a year. And the miners—who were continually warned that greed would destroy the industry—slipped from first to 16th in the pay league.

In the course of this offensive the 'socialist' Robens developed a fully-fledged corporate-state philosophy.

This is best expressed in one passage from his chapter on the dialogue with the unions. He says:

... the really important thing is to get the rewards right. I have long believed ... that the sensible thing was not to wait for wage applications at all. Management and the unions should agree in a particular industry that every year they would sit down, look at what the industry had paid in the year, say roughly what might be done in the following year, define what level of production might be achieved, apply work-study methods and then agree next year's wages could be raised X per cent. This ... would be a sensible and civilized method, provided both sides went into it with complete honesty.

He adds that though the Board achieved many ambitions it did not achieve this one.

Robens' scheme—later elaborated on a national level with his ill-fated Great Britain Ltd idea—is, of course, a blue-print for corporatism where trade unions lose all independence and become a state cog in some vast 'national plan'.

The astonishing thing is just how far the National Union of Mineworkers, led by Communist Party member Will Paynter, went along with Robens.

Robens, in fact, pays tribute after tribute to Paynter. He makes the shattering point, for example, that between the years when the miners saw their industry and pay decimated, hardly a ton of coal was lost through strikes.

Paynter's position, too, was one of incipient corporatism. This ex-Stalinist, who left the union and the Communist Party to join the Industrial Relations Commission, always argued from the standpoint of the industry.

Robens knew well his man. He regards Paynter and his predecessor, Stalinist Arthur Horner, as two of the outstanding figures in British industry since the war.

It was Paynter who pushed the new wages structure through its executive. This abolished piece rates and introduced a day-wage structure. For many miners at the face it meant a wage-cut. Robens praises his ally for this.

"I do not believe any other union in the country has given its members such a proposition. But the NUM, and particularly Will Paynter, did do this. It was not easy to persuade some of their members to give up maybe £5 or even £7 so that their colleagues in unprofitable coalfields could have an increase. But this is what they did."

Of course what they really did is only too well known to every miner. This appalling abandonment of even the most basic trade union duties caused the rapid decline in the miners' relative (and in some cases

absolute) living standards.

Towards the end of his period of office Paynter espoused a more-or-less open corporative concept. Robens recalls a speech made by Paynter at a Lancashire miners' gala where he defended his acceptance of a 9s 6d-a-week wage offer 'because the industry could not afford any more'.

The reasons for this collaboration are easily uncovered and even Robens exposes them:

'There are some Communists who are far-sighted enough and see that their members will benefit only if the industry that employs them is efficient and prosperous. Arthur Horner and Will Paynter were obvious examples of this. They were both trade unionists first and Communists second. Paynter remained a nominal member of the Communist Party until he retired, though in the last few years he played very little active part.'

Paynter, of course, is no exception among Communist Party leaders who obtain high rank in the trade union movement. They are brought up in the Stalinist school of 'peaceful co-existence' even to the point of never calling an official strike of miners on pay or conditions.

Of course the honeymoon in the mines is well and truly over and Robens admits even he heard the rumbling of discontent (or the snarls of the 'yarling mob' as he prefers to call militants).

The upsurge of militancy, which dates from the 1969 surfacemen's hours strike, is dismissed by the author as the machinations of the militants, who strive continually to exploit the loyalty of the thousands of happy toiling miners.

It would be interesting to sound Robens out now after the recent victory on the coalfield, when even the beloved and 'docile' Nottingham miners displayed such fighting spirit.

It was, of course, the general break-up of the boom and the sharp successful strike of the council workers that lit the fire in the coalfields. The miners—though it took them two years—were transformed from the tail-enders to the vanguard of the labour movement. And there, with their rich history of class struggle, they will remain.

This is Robens' fatal weakness. Despite his power, money, intellect and experience, he cannot understand the working class. His cameos of pit life are patronizing and mistaken (he has a chapter called 'Mining Folk'). They occasionally border on the hypocritical—miners are, did you know, 'prone' to lung disease.

Nevertheless he got where he did. This fact alone is an indication of the level of reformism in the upper echelons of the Labour Party.

The awful truth is that his boast about the premiership is not entirely unfounded. He could have succeeded Gaitskell, just as Jenkins could succeed Wilson.

This book should be very instructive to trade unionists, particularly miners. Learn to recognize where social-democratic reformism can lead. And prepare to meet it politically, particularly when it takes the reins of power.



Top: The 1966 Aberfan disaster in which 116 children and 28 adults were killed. The tribunal 'discounted' Robens's evidence. Above: One of the 300-odd pits Robens shut down in his 'Ten Year Stint'. Right: Lord Robens dressed as a miner. Below: Welsh miners march against pit closures.





THE MEN BEHIND WALLACE

Final part of a five-part series by John Spencer on the rise of the right wing in America.

George Wallace began his political career as a member of the Alabama assembly with a reputation as 'downright pink'.

He owed it to his support for liberal economic and social welfare policies in this exceptional backward US state. He first ran for state governor in 1958, and was roundly beaten by Ku Klux Klan candidate John Patterson. It was a lesson Wallace did not forget. 'They out-niggered me that time, but they'll never do it again,' he told his closest supporters after the election was over. At the next election for governor, he promised: 'I'm going to make race the basis of politics in this state. I'm gonna make it, the basis of politics in this country.'

He won. At the inauguration ceremony, he promised: 'Segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation for ever.' One of his first actions was to send state troopers to industrial Birmingham to put down civil

rights marches led by Martin Luther King.

He rocketed to international notoriety the next year, when he stood on the schoolhouse steps in Tuskegee to stop two black schoolchildren from entering. The schoolchildren went in anyway, because they had the backing of the US Supreme Court. But Wallace's gesture was calculated to win him support among the white supremacists.

To keep his rural supporters happy, Wallace implemented a number of welfare programmes which sounded good, but which did little or nothing in practice to alleviate the chronic poverty of most of the Alabama population.

Meanwhile, he was winning more influential and sinister backers. When he decided to stand for President in the 1968 election, he was to assemble at his first campaign meeting a choice group of extreme rightists. They included Ned Touchstone, editor of the virulently anti-Semitic magazine 'Councilor', Judge John Rarick of Louisiana, another avowed anti-Semite, and Richard Cotton, a right-wing radio commentator and opponent of the 'Zionist-Jewish' conspiracy.

Others who backed Wallace included 'Ace' Carter, a Montgomery racist who had distributed copies of the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion', Vance Beaudreau, an American Nazi activist who was once bodyguard to Lincoln Rockwell the Nazi leader.

These men were not a whit perturbed by the elements of Wallace's election programme, promising such radical measures as the improvement of Medicare; guarantees to protect trade union rights against government interference; and improved pensions services.

They recognized these

promises for what they were, measures designed to trap backward workers into voting for Wallace's American Independence Party. Wallace frequently attacked big business and the banks in his speeches. This was also aimed at attracting support from poor whites.

Despite this populist 'icing', the Independence Party won wholehearted support from the John Birch Society, the KKK and virtually every other racist organization in the US. He said of the Birchites: 'I am glad to have their support. I have no quarrel with the Birch Society.'

Indeed, the AIP chairman in Texas, Bard Logan, dismissed several of Wallace's campaign staff in the state when they protested against the Birchites' involvement in the campaign.

One of Wallace's biggest national campaigning points is law and order. He believes in a police state directed against 'the scum of the earth' and the 'trash' who demonstrate round the country. The police should be allowed to 'run the country for a year or two and then there wouldn't be riots'.

If a demonstrator should lie down in front of a Wallace motorcade, he said during the 1968 campaign, 'That will be the last car he ever lies down in front of.' Students who supported the Vietcong would be 'dragged in by their long hair', if he were President.

As governor of Alabama, Wallace decreed that all car licence plates should carry the Birchite slogan 'Support your local police'. His campaign meetings always concluded with a round of applause for the men in blue.

Naturally, Wallace won overwhelming support among the police. A 'New York Times' reporter wrote in 1968 that

'Reporters who have interviewed scores of policemen [at Wallace meetings] have failed so far to find one who was not a committed Wallace supporter.'

Wallace also won considerable backing among right-wing trade union bureaucrats for his law-and-order policies. Albert E. Hutchinson of the International Union of Asbestos Workers openly endorsed his candidature, while a poll among delegates to the conference of the International Machinists and Aerospace Workers, revealed 26 per cent favoured Wallace.

The president of this association, P. L. Siemiller, told the conference: 'Union members who have worked so hard to build this country are pretty sick of rioters, looters, peacenicks, beatniks and all the rest of the nuts who are trying to destroy it.'

Wallace's ability to attract backward sections of workers relies heavily on the crisis of leadership in the American workers' movement. The trade union leaders' ties with the Democratic Party of big business betray the white workers into the hands of demagogues like Wallace. Some workers even saw in the American Independence Party the germs of a new Labour Party in the US, according to a report in the left-wing periodical 'Guardian'. This dangerous development can be directly attributed to the bureaucracy's criminal collaboration with capitalism through the Democratic Party.

At the polls, Wallace won 13.5 per cent of the vote—almost 10 million votes. He carried five states—Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana and Arkansas—all of them in the deep South. His vote undoubtedly reflected the support of sections of workers, including trade unionists.

Since 1968 Wallace has been busy preparing for his next shot

at the presidency this year. Among the new organizations which have mushroomed under his banner is the National Youth Alliance, composed of young people from his 1968 campaign staff.

This movement trains its members in the 'martial arts' and a typical sample of its propaganda reads: 'Now is the time for the Right Front terror to descend on the wretched liberals. In short the terror of the Left will be met by the greater terror of the Right . . . Soon the NYA will become a household word and the Left will be forced to cower in the sewers underground as they hear the marching steps of the NYA above them.'

Wallace's appeal to racialism in the present election centres around the issue of 'bussing'—desegregation of schools by transporting children from one area to another. Following Wallace's victory in the Florida primary, where he was nominated on the Democratic ticket, President Nixon has issued an order stopping bussing pending an act of Congress.

This move is a major concession to Wallace and can only strengthen his present campaign. Clearly the threat which he poses to the working class cannot be fought by relying on either of the main bourgeois parties, or on the conservative and reactionary leaders who dominate the trade union movement. The campaign for a genuine Labour Party, based on revolutionary principles, in the United States, is the only way the rightist menace can be fought.

CONCLUDED
 Much of the information for this series of articles was taken from 'The Politics of Unreason' by S. M. Lipset and Earl Raab, published by Heinemann, £3.80.



Wallace (top) sent troops to put down civil rights marchers led by Martin Luther King (above).



Timothy Bottoms (left) and Jeff Bridges in 'The Last Picture Show', directed by Peter Bogdanovich.

'The Last Picture Show' (Curzon Cinema) has been acclaimed in America as the best picture since 'Citizen Kane'. English critics have agreed that while it may not be quite as good as that, it's still pretty great.

Its director, Peter Bogdanovich, the new boy wonder (he's 31), has been giving a lot of interviews lately. When asked on TV by an unctuous interrogator: 'I believe you're one of the few American film critics to become a director?' he replied firmly: 'I'm the only one.'

Another interview, published in 'Time Out' (March 10, 1972) is prefaced by this explanation: 'Bogdanovich was one of the first *auteur* film critics in America, following the lead of Truffaut and Godard in France, in that he viewed film history in terms of personal expression by film directors. He broke away from the prevailing sociological film criticism—concerned with 'content' and 'relevance to social issues'—in favour of the study and analysis of the careers of film directors as a meaningful and coherent whole, representing the expression of the director's vision through his visual style, attitudes, themes and preoccupations.'

The influence of the 'auteur theory' has resulted in some beautiful and unusual films being made over the past ten years or so, but it has also helped to bring the cinema to an artistic impasse.

It's all very well to jettison 'content' and 'relevance to social issues'—but the inconvenient fact remains that a film has got to be about something.

So the *auteurs* made films about films. The trend started in 1959 with Godard's 'Breathless' and its nostalgic references to Humphrey Bogart. Since then it has spread outside France and the auteur movement itself to a point where it is almost impossible to understand a new movie without a thorough groundwork in cinema history.

Current examples include 'Gumshoe' (Bogart again) and 'The Boy Friend' (Bushby Berkeley) as well as 'The Last Picture Show'.

Self-consciousness, however brilliant, is fatal both to art and to entertainment. It inevitably

FILM REVIEW

MAKING FILMS ABOUT FILMS

BY FRANCIS WYNHAM

leads to intellectual emptiness and emotional superficiality—in a word, to sentimentality. The auteurs are revoltingly sentimental about the magic of the movies.

Godard: 'I can despise John Wayne when he supports Barry Goldwater at the Republican Convention, but I love him when he takes Natalie Wood in his arms at the end of "The Searchers".'

Bogdanovich (also on Wayne): 'I mean, if you don't know him and you read about his politics you get offended, but he's absolutely disarming as a person, he's like a kid. And he really enjoys making movies—you see him on the set and he twirls that gun—he's a great movie personality and there's very few of those.'

The truth is that Wayne's romantic right-wing politics are inseparable from his performances in the Ford and Hawkes westerns, which sentimentally celebrate an authoritarian and mindless brutality and give a spurious glamour to one of the bloddiest episodes in America's past.

'The Last Picture Show' is sentimental too, full of deep but inarticulate male friendships. The setting is a dusty, windy, decaying town in Texas, and the time is 1951. The dominant mood is nostalgia—and it's forced to a pitch that excludes any other, so

that the total effect is one or insistent monotony.

Bogdanovich has self-consciously shot the film in grainy black and white, to resemble an old movie that might be playing at the Anarene Royal—the crumbling cinema which is presented as a metaphor for the town itself and shows a lot of auteur movies starring John Wayne. (The boy wonder may be too young to remember that there was plenty of technicolor around in 1951.)

Nearly every scene is accompanied by a hit tune of the period played over a radio. This is certainly evocative ('Whatever happened to Kay Starr?') but it is evocative in a void: what exactly is being evoked? A lament, it seems, for America's 'lost innocence': the film ends with the movie-house closing down and one of the characters leaving for the Korean War.

The soul of Anarene—of small-town America—has died, killed off by TV. After Korea (I think we are supposed to think) came Vietnam. All the sads, teenage sex—the nude bathing parties, the backseat petting, the frigid girls and frustrated boys—was doomed to make way for the drop-out, the hippie, the Easy Rider and the Midnight Cowboy. But why be so gloomy about it? Was the cinema really more innocent than TV? What was so hot about Ike?

There's no humour in this film, and a great deal of weeping. Nostalgia tends to be a solemn and tearful emotion—but should the people in this film be shown as already nostalgic? After all, the action is supposed to take place 21 years ago, when Bogdanovich was ten and couldn't yet know how nostalgic we were going to feel about it all in 1972.

The trouble is that all this nostalgia and evocation is directed towards movies and dance tunes instead of towards human experience. The film itself may well be, as claimed, a loving recreation of the styles of Bogdanovich's Pantheon directors, John Ford and Howard Hawks, but the story and the characters belong to the eternal fantasy-world of soap opera.

'The Last Picture Show' reminded me of other films, but not the ones intended: it's a return, slightly more sophisticated, to 'Return to Peyton Place'.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

HANGOVERS

Mounting unemployment, poverty and deterioration in diets, is having a cruel effect on the young people in the Republic of Ireland.

The Cork Council of Trade Unions has just learned that schoolboys are turning up for classes on Monday with hangovers.

The council was told that children of 14 were freely getting drink at local pubs. One member of the council, Mr D. Nolan, said that when he complained about under-age drinking in a certain bar, he was told children were the best customers.

Society where he was president for a number of years. He was finally unseated in 1966 by a faction calling itself the 1960 committee.

SHAME

The Mao-Nixon get-together proved too much for the American ambassador to France, Arthur K. Watson, designated to handle diplomatic contacts with the Chinese in Paris.

The Washington columnist Jack Anderson, who specializes in syndicating reports from government security meetings, said Watson 'got gloriously drunk' on the plane taking him to Washington for

EXPERTISE

John Stonehouse, MP, former Minister in the Wilson administration, has joined a Lonrho executive in forming a trade promotion company.

The company, Global Imex, was launched at—where else?—a dinner at the House of Commons last week.

Full-time director of Imex is Andrew Scott, who has just resigned as managing director of Lonrho Exports, the international trade subsidiary of the troubled Lonrho group.

Stonehouse is said to be able to bring certain expertise to the company because of his close connections with Africa. He was also Wilson's Minister of Posts and Minister of Aviation which gives him some knowledge of the technological industries.

Apart from this, Stonehouse is already chairman of an outfit called Export Promotion and Consultancy Services which he set up in 1970, immediately after Labour's defeat. Stonehouse's agent for Global Imex in Lima, Peru, is Prince Emanuel Galitzine, a member of the ex-Russian family which now wields considerable power in western diplomatic circles.

Another area where Stonehouse will be concentrating his company's attention will be Bangla Desh where he has been a frequent visitor over the past few months.

Stonehouse is well remembered for his association with the London Co-operative



Nixon

a meeting with Nixon.

'A number of witnesses have told us the slim, grey-haired ambassador, normally the picture of dignity, kept shouting for more scotch, grabbing the stewardesses and trying to stuff money down the front of their blouses,' wrote Anderson.

The ambassador, the former president of IBM, 'finally passed out, his arms and legs sprawled across the first-class lounge. . . .

'They say he appeared to be foaming at the mouth from white tablets he had been chewing,' he wrote.

With tongue-in-cheek Anderson warned that the ambassador's behaviour could jeopardize the Nixon-Mao detente.

In Chinese eyes, drunken behaviour is considered disgraceful. The Chinese love good liquor and even playing drinking games. But the man who gets drunk loses the game and brings shame upon himself.'

The State Department has since issued a declaration of confidence in Ambassador Watson.

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The miners proved they could take action and win We'll have to do the same—railwaymen



BY PHILIP WADE

RAILWAY union executives yesterday formally rejected British Rail's latest 11-per-cent pay offer. British Rail head of industrial relations Herbert Farrimond has been instructed to ask the board for more money.

The government's wage 'norm' of 7½ per cent has already been broken by the railwaymen. But the unions are demanding another £8.5m out of BR.

The determination to win the claim was clearly shown on Monday when 400 National Union of Railwaymen members attended a special meeting called by the N London District Council to discuss the situation.

They left the 24-man NUR executive in no doubt that they wanted the full claim to be met, by strike action if necessary.

After listening to Sid Weighell, NUR assistant general secretary, speaker after speaker got up and made the central point: the fight is on, there can be no compromise this time.

'There is a changing mood among railwaymen. We took part in assisting the miners and they won. Now we're looking to that situation,' one told the meeting at the NUR's Euston headquarters. 'We've sold our jobs by the thousand and it was disgusting. Now we have to stand and fight.'

The meeting went on to unanimously pass a motion from the N London District Council calling on the NEC to stand firm on the claim for £20 minimum basic rate and to use the full industrial power of the union to back the demand if no satisfaction was gained in negotiations with the employers.

Earlier they had heard Weighell say the



gap between BR and the union was only £8.5m.

'It is the gap between peace and war. There should be no need for industrial action because we hope the matter can be sorted out intelligently.'

'We will go flat out to raise the £30.8m offer as high as we can,' he added.

But some railwaymen later told Workers Press that it was the full claim that had to be met and nothing less.

'Of course the latest offer should be rejected. Compared to

others, our claim is a modest one and quite justifiable,' said Cricklewood guard Jerry Williams.

'The miners proved they could take action and win. If need be we'll have to do the same and take on the government if necessary.'

Over 350,000 jobs have been lost on the railways since 1957 through one productivity deal after another.

'Once I used to do a guard's duties and nothing else. Now I'm running around all over the place doing things like shunting.

All that's got to stop,' said Mr Williams.

The mood to fight is also present outside London as was made clear to me by Cliff Moryarti, sectional council member from S Wales.

'The point is this. I've been 35 years on the railways and now I am a grade A chargehand and all I get is £21 a week.'

'My branch members have said the executive must stick by the full claim. If it involves a struggle against the Industrial Relations Act—well, someone has to be first in that fight.'

Top: Cricklewood guard Jerry Williams. Above: The vote for action. Below: S Wales rallian Cliff Moryarti.



BSC in wages talks

TALKS have begun with British Steel Corporation about a new wage and conditions agreement with 67,000 steel production workers.

A BSC spokesman said the details of the claim were not defined. The preliminary talks simply covered the sort of agreement which the steelworkers want.

Officials of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation are wrangling with BSC over the length of the agreement. The last three-year deal signed in 1969, was shattered last year when the soaring cost of living forced BSC to 'top up' salaries by about 6 per cent.

Tomorrow representatives of the 14,000 blastfurnacemen will make a claim for a 'substantial' increase and on Friday leaders of the 10,000-strong craftsmen will present their demands.

Before the Wilberforce settlement, the craftsmen were seeking 12 per cent, but this is now expected to be raised.

The pay claims with BSC represent the last major wages struggle in the nationalized industries.

Power station bonus fight

CONSTRUCTION workers at Laing's Isle of Grain power station site voted overwhelmingly at a mass meeting yesterday to continue their two-week-old strike for 50p an hour fall-back bonus.

This was in spite of an impassioned plea from Frank Byrnes, Transport and General Workers' Union official that they return to work.

Site convenor, Jim Duffy, T&GWU member told Workers Press:

'We've been negotiating for 12 months and we've had negative replies all along. The bonus scheme offered is completely unsatisfactory.'

A further mass meeting will be held next Monday.

'Pop' Bill outcry

PARLIAMENTARY debate on the Night Assemblies Bill was interrupted by angry scenes yesterday. Mr James Wellbeloved, Labour MP for Erith and Crayford, said: 'It is beyond question that with government backing and full support this Bill is an outright attack upon pop festivals and young people.'

He said the Bill had 'restrictive and repressive implications'.

Mr Graham Page, Minister of Local Government, interrupted: 'These are utterly ridiculous remarks which have been dragged in for the purpose of political agitation. You should not think that just because you have managed to acquire a few pubic hairs on your chin, you have a monopoly to speak for young people.' There were Labour shouts of 'Obscene'. The committee adjourned.

READING STANDARDS HAVE DROPPED SINCE 1964

BY AN EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

READING standards among school children are no better today than they were a decade ago and, in one respect have declined since 1964.

These are the shock findings of a nationwide survey published yesterday conducted by the National Foundation for Educational Research in 1970 and 1971 for the Department of Education and Science.

One test used in the survey shows that there is a high probability that reading comprehension standards of juniors have declined since 1964. And both the tests used show that the average reading scores of juniors and seniors have undergone no

significant rise or fall since 1960-1961.

After 1948 the reading standards of all children began to develop year by year. On average 11-year-olds in 1964 matched the standard of pupils aged 12 years five months in 1948.

But the report finds that if the whole 1970 junior population had been tested they would not have performed better than the juniors in 1964.

As for seniors, their reading standards improved by nearly 20 months' reading age between 1948 and 1961. This trend has ceased.

The two silent reading comprehension tests used in the survey were both of the 'sentence completion' type. Each item consisted of a sentence with one word missing, and the pupil was asked to pick the one word out of a choice of five that made the sentence 'sensible'.

Over 7,150 children in 300

schools were involved. The schools covered junior, middle, secondary modern, grammar technical, comprehensive and direct grant.

A further, more detailed analysis of the findings confirms the levelling out and in some cases the falling off of reading standards.

The 11-year-old who scored halfway between the higher and lowest scores in 1970 is six months behind his 1964 equivalent. The very bright 11-year-old is three months behind and the weakest 10 per cent are three-and-a-half months behind.

The top 30 per cent of 15-year-olds were nearer the maximum of the test in 1961 than they were in 1971. The middle of the ability range has remained constant, but the upper 30 per cent and lower 40 per cent had lower achievements in 1971 than in 1961.

As the report aimed at recording trends it offers no solutions or answers to the problem of declining reading standards.

But it does draw attention to those who emphasized the importance of primary teachers who have training in the teaching of reading.

'If one makes the not unreasonable assumption that a training in the teaching of reading should be valuable in teaching children to read, the figures revealed in these reports are disturbing, particularly if, in the light of the findings of this survey, the number of teachers with such a training has fallen in the last decade,' the report says.

The results obtained raise certain questions, concludes the report. Has the amount of curriculum time given to reading changed? Has the method of instruction changed? Has there been a change in what is understood by reading comprehension?

Are infant and junior teachers less well versed in the teaching of reading than they were 15 years ago? And would such changes affect the reading scores of children?

Having posed the questions, the report rushes to the defence of the changes that have taken place in schools over the decade. In that sense it comes out strongly against the protagonists of a more disciplined educational system grouped around the authors of the so-called 'Black Papers'.

'The less formalized methods that have been introduced into the school in the last two decades would not necessarily mean that less time was devoted to reading,' it says (emphasis in original).

'Presumably, all methods might have lost a little of their rigidity in the healthier classroom atmosphere that has become the notable development.'

Pilkington deal not all it appeared at first

AN ANTI-STRIKE disputes procedure agreed between the Pilkington glass monopoly and leaders of the General and Municipal Workers Union has been headlined as a major surrender of management rights.

Not surprisingly, the truth is a little more complex.

The company has granted a clause agreeing that prior union-management agreement must be reached before changes in pay or working practices are implemented—the sought-after *status quo* principle.

But this is done in the context of the Industrial Relations Act, and of a deal in which shop stewards and union-officials are at all six stages simply appellants against management decisions.

There is a blanket clause opposing industrial action until the procedure is exhausted. And, although this could theoretically happen within three weeks of an issue being raised, the final stage of arbitration can be prolonged almost indefinitely.

The procedure gives the G&MWU full negotiating rights at its St Helens, Birkenhead, Pontypool, Doncaster, Queenborough, St Asaph and Glasgow factories.

Shop stewards, it says, 'shall, in trade union matters, be subject to the control of the union and shall act in accordance with agreements between the union and the company, so far as these affect the relations between the company and the workpeople'.

It is agreed that the number of stewards and the area they represent shall be a matter of agreement between the company and the union at each works—a concession unions refused to make in recent procedure talks with British-Leyland.

The procedure does contain a 'not legally-binding' clause, in line with TUC policy for circumventing the anti-union Act.

However, 'the parties concerned undertake to take all such steps as reasonably practicable to prevent any persons covered by it from acting in breach of its provisions'.

A four-stage disciplinary and dismissals procedure is not subject to any *status quo* provision. In fact, it allows unilateral management suspension of a worker while investigations into any alleged misconduct proceed.

at first

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

As with the disputes procedure proper, G&MWU stewards and officials are allowed at each stage only to express dissatisfaction with management decisions.

No real negotiation takes place. What happens if the union does not agree with the decision of the works' manager, who appears to be the final judge and jury of any appeal, is not clear.

Shop stewards are only involved up to stage four of the disputes procedure itself; from then on, G&MWU rank-and-filers are at the mercy of their full-time regional and national officers.

The bureaucratic flavour of the deal as a whole is well suggested by the wording of stage four:

'If the shop steward or branch secretary is not satisfied with the answer given by the works' manager, the works' manager will refer the matter, as soon as possible, to the divisional director concerned.

'The branch secretary will refer the matter to the regional officer.

'The divisional director will discuss the matter with the regional officer and will give his answer within three working days of the matter being raised with him (i.e. within 12 working days of the matter being raised initially).'

The word negotiation does not appear in the agreement until



G&M's DAVID BASNETT

much later, after a dispute which cannot be resolved between the G&MWU national officer concerned and Pilkington's personnel director has been referred to arbitration.

Arbitration is neither final nor binding, says the agreement, but both parties will use its findings as a basis for negotiation.

All stages up to arbitration are supposed to be completed within 17 working days, but thereafter no time limit is set.

So the clause banning stoppages of work could apparently operate almost indefinitely.

For G&MWU national officer David Basnett—according to Fleet St, the architect of the agreement—its jewel is the *status quo* clause. Its setting, however, is singularly tarnished.

SIT-IN GOES ON FOR RIGHT TO WORK

A SPOKESMAN for the Occupation Committee at St Helens Plastics, Lancashire, said yesterday the sit-in strike would continue 'until we have a firm guarantee of the right to work'.

The plastic products factory was occupied on March 3 by 32 men belonging to the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The occupation is receiving wide support in the Merseyside area. Donations have come from Bold colliery miners, car workers at Standard Triumph, Speke, Leyland Motors, Fisher-Bendix

and building sites in St Helens and Liverpool.

The men have organized a 24-hour shift system so that the whole factory — shop floor and office—is occupied.

A committee spokesman said the management had sent a letter to local T&GWU officials requesting the evacuation of the building.

'We won't leave until we have established the right to work for all of us in the factory,' he added.

Queen's pay: 'Mail' contempt

THE 'DAILY MAIL' and its political correspondent Gordon Greig committed a contempt of the House of Commons by publishing a story about the Queen's pay, the Commons committee of privileges reported yesterday.

The story was about proceedings of the Commons select committee which was looking into the Queen's pay.

It contained figures said to be in many, but not all respects, identical with figures contained in the draft report subsequently published by a special parliamentary committee.

The 'Daily Mail' story, published last October 21, was entitled 'The Million Pound Queen' and headed 'Mail Exclusive'.

The committee found that the principal offender—undetected because Mr Greig refused to name his source—was the person who provided the information on which the story was based and who 'committed a deliberate and flagrant contempt of the House'.

TV

BBC-1

9.38-11.38 Schools. 12.55-1.25 Tresarn. 1.30 The Herbs. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 3.45 Conflict at work. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Boss cat. 5.44 Crystal tips. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. Your region tonight.
6.50 TOM AND JERRY.
7.00 SPY TRAP. 'The Defector'.
7.25 TOP OF THE POPS.
8.00 IT'S MURDER BUT IS IT ART? Comedy-thriller series with Arthur Lowe.
8.30 MOUNTAIN HIGH, DANGER HIGH. Mountain rescuers.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.
9.20 PLAY OF THE MONTH: 'ACT OF BETRAYAL'. Zena Walker.
10.35 24 HOURS.
11.20 DOCUMENTARY: LONG LIVE OUR ENGLAND. 'Young and Black'.
11.50 Weather.

BBC-2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-6.30 Open University.
7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.
7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.
8.00 THE SHADOW OF THE TOWER. 'The Fledgling'.
8.50 EUROPA.
9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK: DAVE ALLEN AT LARGE.
10.05 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
10.10 FILM: 'POWERED FLIGHT'. Stuart Legg's film about the development of the aeroplane.
11.00 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

10.20 Schools. 2.32 Racing from Doncaster. 3.10 Tea break. 3.40 Marcus Welby. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Roadrunner. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.
6.00 TODAY. Eamonn Andrews.
6.30 CROSSROADS.
6.55 FILM: 'THE VIKINGS'. Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis, Ernest Borgnine, Janet Leigh. 10th century adventure.
9.00 MY GOOD WOMAN.
9.30 THIS WEEK.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 CINEMA.
11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY.
12.00 MUSIC MATTERS.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20-3.35 London. 3.50 States of Jersey lottery. 4.05 Origami. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Nanny and the professor. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 What's on where. 6.15 Farming news. 6.20 Sports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Curtain raiser. 7.05 Film: 'Revolt at Fort Laramie'. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 11.02 Theatre. 11.55 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 10.59 News. 11.55 Faith for life. 12.00 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 10.20 London. 3.35 Tea break. 4.05 Houseparty. 4.21 Flipper frolics. 4.30 Crossroads. 5.20 Superman. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Junkin. 7.15 Film: 'Promise Her Anything'. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Drive-in. 11.40 I Spy. 12.3 Weather. Discoverers.

HARLECH: 10.20-3.40 London. 4.15 Beloved enemy. 4.30 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Huckleberry Finn. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.10 Film: 'Diamond Head'. 9.00 London. 10.30 The splendour falls. 1.00 Marcus Welby. 12.00 Weather. HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Sport West.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15-4.30 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.

ANGLIA: 10.20 London. 3.40 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Tea break. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 London. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 Film: 'Bushfire!'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Jesse James. 11.30 Avengers.

ATV MIDLANDS: 10.20 London. 3.35 Stars. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Family affair. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 Get this. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Film: 'Odongo'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Marcus Welby.

ULSTER: 10.20-3.40 London. 4.00 Yoga. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 UTV Reports. 6.15 Tommy. 6.35 London. 7.00 Simon Locke. 7.30 Film: 'Holy Matrimony'. 9.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about. 11.20 Get Smart.

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 London. 3.40 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Lone Ranger. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 Film: 'The Luck of the Irish'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive-in. 12.00 News. 12.15 Epilogue.

GRANADA: 10.58 London. 3.40 Another world. 4.05 News. Odd couple. 4.35 Once upon a time. 4.50 Arthur. 5.15 London. 6.00 News. Police file. 6.25 Peyton Place. 7.00 Film: 'Woman of Straw'. 9.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.30 Monty Nash.

TYNE TEES: 10.25 London. 3.35 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Popeye. 7.05 Film: 'The Luck of the Irish'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive-in. 12.00 News. 12.15 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 10.20-3.15 London. 3.30 Once upon a time. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.50 Fireball XL5. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Cartoon. 6.30 Stuart Gillies Ceilidh. 7.00 Film: 'The Pleasure Seekers'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Gideon's way.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 3.38 News. 3.40 Dick Van Dyke. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Lesley Blair. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Let's Dance'. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 11.00 Survival. 11.30 Sam Snead. 12.00 Epilogue.

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TUC SUSPENDS SEAMEN

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

TUC LEADERS yesterday decided to suspend the National Union of Seamen from membership, but then came close to deferring this disciplinary move for two months.

The recommendation to suspend the NUS—placed before the General Council by its Finance and General Purposes Committee—was carried without dissension.

Earlier, however, an amendment to defer implementation until after the union's annual conference in May was only defeated by 20 votes to 15. Three votes the other way would have carried it.

This would have left the seamen's leaders sitting in the TUC despite their action in applying with the employers, the British Shipping Federation, to the hated National Industrial Relations Court for an approved closed shop.

Another amendment to defer consideration of the F&GPC report until after the May conference—was defeated 28-4.

Yesterday's move leaves the NUS open to expulsion when it comes before the full TUC in September.

NUS secretary Bill Hogarth was 'disappointed' by the suspension, but undeterred from the course he and his executive have chosen.

He said: 'We were on our own in 1966 [the year of the seamen's strike]. If we are going to be kicked out of Congress we are alone again.'

The seamen have the right of appeal in September, when the TUC conference can continue the suspension, readmit the union or expel it.

Mr Hogarth will remain on the General Council for the present, and attend its next meeting.

More rail talks

RAIL union leaders yesterday called for new pay talks less than 24 hours after rejecting an improved pay offer to their members.

A move to ban overtime and rest-day working from Sunday was only defeated by the casting vote of the president on the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

Locomotion's leader Ray Buckton said after a meeting of his executive that he had been in touch with the British Railways Board asking it for an early date for talks.

Commenting on the executive vote, he said: 'It just shows how impatient our people are becoming.' ● See p.10

LATE NEWS WEATHER

Two Parachute Regiment soldiers stationed at Palace Barracks, Holywood, Co. Down, went on trial yesterday charged with armed robbery. They are Privates John Verbeek and Stephen Peter Kirby, both 21.

IN STOCKPORT talks between management and workers at Davis and Metcalf broke down yesterday and the men re-imposed their ban on piece work. A spokesman for the workers said that the firm had indicated that a return to day rate would mean suspensions.

'We are working a four-day week already and we're expecting a move from management tomorrow night. But one thing is certain—if they try to lock us out, no one will be going home.'

● SEE pp. 3 and 12.

Race Institute chief fights sack

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

PROFESSOR Hugh Tinker, the sacked director of the Institute of Race Relations, will fight the decision through to the end. And with the support of the staff he will also stand out against the proposal to close the Institute's magazine 'Race Today'.

Their anger at both decisions is backed by a minority group of six members of the Institute's council who voted against Monday's decision to sack the director. At a press conference yesterday which he called 'to blow the lid off everything', Tinker said:

'I'm as middle of the road as you could get—most of us are just liberal reformers. But we're not going to take what's been handed out,' he said.

'We tried to play ball with the Institute's council—maybe we shouldn't have—but we're doing something about it now.

'They have asked me to quit immediately because I made it clear that I would not be the instrument of repression and extinguish "Race Today".'

The trouble appeared to come to a head with the February issue of 'Race Today'. Its front cover showed Lord Goodman who helped achieve the Smith-Home deal alongside a caption stating: 'Five million Africans say No.'

Several council members objected and one was reported to have said it cost his firm £20,000 in lost business.

The magazine's editor Alexander Kirby also revealed yesterday that he had withdrawn two articles in recent months at the council's request. Both criticized companies with which certain council members were connected.

The decision to sack Professor Tinker and close 'Race Today' will have to be ratified by an extraordinary general meeting of Institute members on April 18.

S Yorks engineers to act?

ENGINEERS in Sheffield are threatening to take action against firms who will not negotiate on the national pay claim.

Employers have been circulated with a request to see Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' district secretary, George Caborn, for talks on the Sheffield demand for a 'substantial' wage increase and extra holidays.

Already some employers have snubbed Caborn—a leading Communist Party member—by referring him to the local employers' federation.

At next Tuesday's district committee meeting joint action against these employers will be worked out.

The Sheffield situation however represents a massive retreat from the claim.

This began when the demand for a 35-hour week was dropped and any figure on the wage increase abandoned.

Since then the CP-dominated district committee has backed down under pressure from the union's national leadership.

A proposal to call a mass meeting of shop stewards throughout the district was abandoned because it broke the 'plant-by-plant action only' instruction from the national committee.

Then, at a key district committee meeting on March 14, a proposal to back the greater Manchester work-to-rule which begins on Monday, was narrowly defeated.

The Sheffield committee split

50-50 on the proposal, which would have united engineering workers on both sides of the Pennines.

The casting vote against came from Herbert Howarth, a Stalinist and the Sheffield National Committee member. This is despite the fact that his fellow Party members in the Manchester area were organizing district-wide action.

These retreats have led to inevitable results. Workers in the Sheffield factory of Mathias and Sons have accepted a paltry £2 increase with five days' extra holidays.

Next Tuesday the Sheffield district committee will have an opportunity to recover lost ground and join in action with the Manchester engineers.

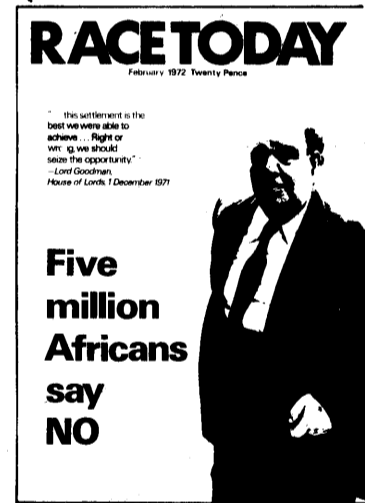
● For a report of the Manchester situation, see p. 3.

Dockers discuss redundancies

DOCK stewards from London yesterday met union chiefs to discuss the growing threat of redundancy in the industry and their plans for fighting it.

At London's Royal group of docks today, dockers will hear their stewards' views on the encounter.

Up to yesterday, the stewards planned a prolonged stoppage from April 7 if this happens.



February's 'Race Today'

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

CROYDON: Thursday March 23, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, E Croydon. Report back from Empire Pool, Wembley, rally.

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'.

W LONDON: Tuesday, March 28, 8 p.m. Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, off York Way, Kings Cross, N.1. 'Report back from Wembley Pool'.

SOUTHALL: Wednesday, March 29, 8 p.m. Southall Community Centre, Bridge Road. 'Report back from Wembley Pool'.

N LONDON: Thursday, March 30, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, Tottenham High Rd, N. 17 (off White Hart Lane). 'Report back meeting from Wembley and the Scarborough conference'.

S. EAST: Thursday, March 30, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, nr. New Cross Station. 'Report back from Wembley Pool'.

SHEFFIELD: Sunday, March 26, 7.30 p.m. YS premises, Portobello, near Jessop Hospital. 'The engineers' pay claim'.

SLL MEETING

LIVERPOOL: Thursday, March 23, 8 p.m. The Common Hall, Hackins Hey, off Dale Street. 'The Right-to-Work campaign—what next?'

Socialist Labour League
ULSTER AND BRITAIN
Defend Right of Assembly!
Against Internment!
Withdraw British Troops!
Force Tory Government to Resign!
DEMONSTRATE
SUNDAY MARCH 26
Assemble: 1 pm Clapham Common
March with Young Socialists and Socialist Labour
League contingent.

**We demand the right to work!
Make the Tories resign!**

**YOUNG SOCIALISTS 12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SCARBOROUGH**
Saturday & Sunday April 8/9 Grand Hall, The Spa

Dance to 'BRAVE NEW WORLD' Saturday night 8 pm
also see a star-studded show
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.

I enclose

NAME

ADDRESS