

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY APRIL 6, 1972 ● No 732 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

NUT blow against anti-union laws

TEACHERS TO DE-REGISTER

Sit-in No.17 as NW bosses meet

MANCHESTER:
From Stephen Johns

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They are claiming more money and better conditions.

They are also certain to be joined today by 1,200 workers at Hawker Siddeley's Woodford plant who were under threat of suspension late yesterday.

After a meeting of the Engineering Employers' Federation in Manchester, a spokesman said:

'We are still insisting that demands for shorter hours and longer holidays should be negotiated at national level.'

He said that the ban on piecework had obviously affected output, but the position was not yet desperate.

Meanwhile local Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' officials met management at GKN's Bredbury steelworks, Stockport, yesterday.

The 1,000 workers have been occupying the plant there for three weeks.

John Tocher, AUEW district organizer, said that agreement at Bredbury would be 'a tremendous breakthrough'.

But he added that he was not expecting an immediate settlement.

Bredbury workers are demanding a £10-a-week wage increase, a 35-hour week and longer holidays.

The £10 increase is to bring the lower-paid steel workers into line with wages earned by 200,000 Manchester engineers who are demanding £4.

BLACKPOOL: From our own correspondent

THE National Union of Teachers yesterday voted overwhelmingly not to register under the Industrial Relations Act.

The Blackpool conference also decided no alteration should be made to the policy of non-registration without reference to a union conference.

The decision not to register under Carr's Act ends almost 12 months of fence-sitting by the NUT leadership.

The teachers now line up with the vast majority of trade unions in a policy of non-co-operation with the Act.

Not even the appearance of Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher during the conference on Tuesday—specially arranged by the executive—could stave off yesterday's big 'No' to the Act and the Tory government.

There is no doubt that the decision by the National Industrial Relations Court to fine Britain's largest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, had a sobering effect on the NUT's 'moderate' elements.

At the conclusion of yesterday's debate, a huge majority of the 2,000 delegates voted in favour of non-registration.

Many of the speakers strongly criticized the opportunist way in which the executive's memoran-

dum to conference argued for non-registration.

Croydon delegate David Finch said the memorandum meant 'all things to all men—to weld together left and right on the executive'.

Time and again, he said, the document almost said it was not expedient to register 'at the present time'.

Finch said the Act had been used against other unions and may be used against the NUT.

Luton delegate Peter Read said that the main indictment of the executive memorandum was that it was not unambiguously opposed to the Act.

The Act is a purpose-built employers' weapon, he said, and is the first step towards a corporate state and the abolition of independent trade unions.

Read demanded that the TUC lead a fight for the repeal of the Act through forcing the resignation of the Tory government.

Executive speakers did not explain under what 'changed circumstances' they would recommend registration. Nor did they admit that relationships between the employers and employees had been fundamentally changed by the fining of the Transport and General Workers' Union last week.

Ex-NUT president Jack Jones, replying to the debate, soft-pedalled the implications of the Act. He admitted that strike action by the NUT would be an unfair industrial practice, but he based his complacency on the difficulty of local authorities in proving damage caused by a teachers' strike that could be assessed in financial terms.

He said the union was keeping its options open by saying 'at this time'. He said delegates were not being asked whether to make a decision on whether they liked or did not like the Act.

● SEE p.3. for manoeuvres by the International Socialist group of teachers.



Lewisham workers leaving their meeting yesterday

LONDON AEI STRIKE ACTION FOR CLAIM

BY SARAH HANNIGAN

WORKERS at AEI's Century Works, Lewisham, SE London, yesterday voted overwhelmingly for a series of half-day strikes in support of the national engineers' pay claim.

For the past nine weeks, 30 skilled machinists and sheet-metal workers in the plant's NCD machine shop have been on strike.

At a 200-strong mass meeting of the factory's union members yesterday, the NCD machine men—supported by NCD wirers—called for all-out strike action.

They are demanding a £6 increase, a 35-hour week and four weeks' holiday a year.

Workers in the wiring shop have been implementing a work-to-rule, overtime ban and half-day stoppages since January in

support of their own sectional claim.

The call for all-out strike was defeated but the meeting overwhelmingly turned down AEI's offer of a £2 increase for skilled men, £1.75 for semi-skilled and £1.50 for women.

Half-day strikes by the firm's 300 hourly-paid workers will start next week.

At present 160 workers at the plant are threatened with redundancy and more have been made redundant in the past year.

The Century Works is a new acquisition for AEI. Until recently the plant was managed by Elliott Automation.

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New front opened in Vietnam

FROM OUR FOREIGN DESK

N VIETNAMESE troops were reported advancing on Saigon government bases in S Vietnam's central Highlands yesterday in what could be the prelude to opening a new front in their current offensive.

N Vietnamese tanks were seen moving along the border area in Kontum province and shelling of government-held bases had intensified, Saigon military sources said.

An estimated three divisions of N Vietnamese troops backed by tanks and surface-to-air missiles are still advancing against 'crack' units of the S Vietnamese army who fled in confusion when they crossed the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

Earlier this week, the S Vietnamese landed marine detachments in the area of Quang Tri, close to the DMZ. Under the French this area was known as the 'Street Without Joy' (See 'Historical Precedent'):

The US air force is carrying out round-the-clock bombing against the N Vietnamese forces, but it has come up against heavy anti-aircraft fire and poor visibility. Another B-52 heavy bomber was brought down yesterday.

President Nixon and his military advisers are still discussing further retaliatory action, chiefly heavier bombing, in support of the beleaguered puppet army.

Saigon premier Nguyen Van Thieu claimed yesterday that S Vietnam only needed US air support to face the invading forces.

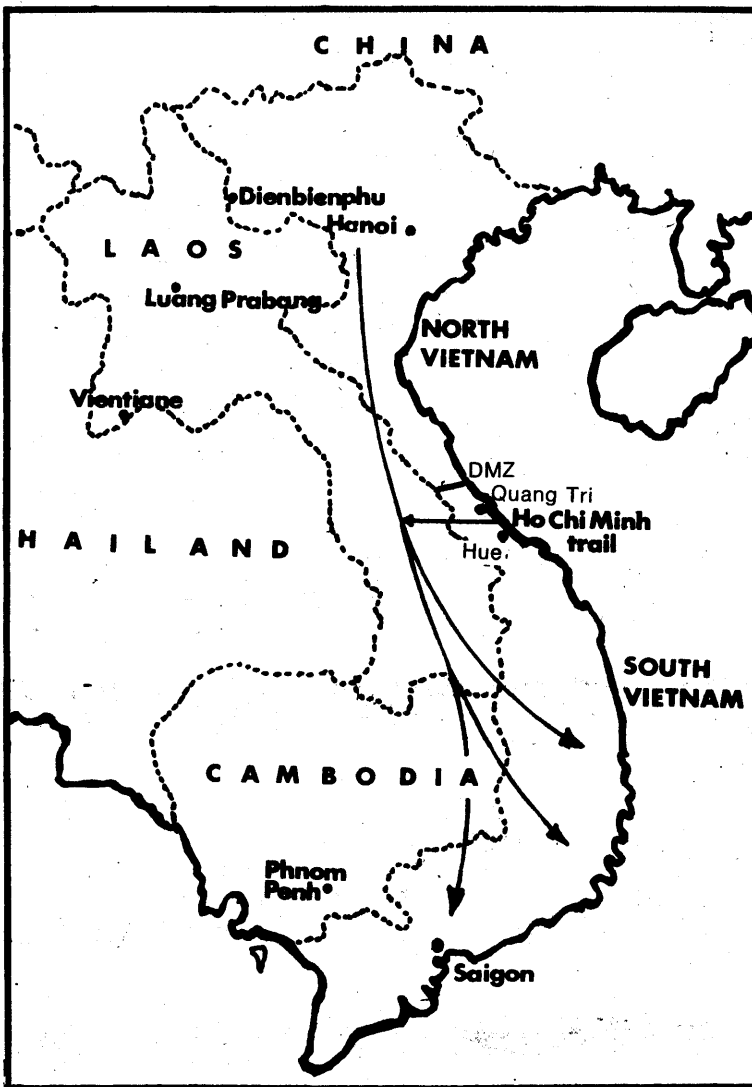
This could be interpreted as making the best of a bad job. In election year, President Nixon has no intention of embroiling his remaining ground troops in another blood-bath if he possibly can avoid it.

Thieu's position rests on making a success of the 'Vietnamization' policy, with US armed Vietnamese troops fighting under an American air umbrella.

The week-old invasion is the most telling of all evidence that the 'Vietnamization' policy will not work.

The rout of the S Vietnamese troops in the demilitarized zone has opened up at least two of the northern S Vietnamese provinces to the Hanoi offensive.

Thieu's government will now have to withstand not only a possible attack on the city of Hue, well south of the DMZ, where N Vietnamese units are already active, but the possibility of war on two other fronts—in the central highlands and the region N of Saigon.



Historical precedent

THE 25-mile strip of coast behind Quang Tri has always been a Communist stronghold.

The French colonial troops called it ironically 'Street without Joy' because many passing convoys were shelled and ambushed by Viet Minh troops. This week S Vietnam marines made an amphibious assault on the street. The battle has an unhappy precedent in 'Operation Camargue', launched by the French high command in July 1953.

This was designed to seal off Viet Minh troops with a ring of infantry and armour, supported by Vietnamese airborne troops.

The tanks bogged down in dunes. The Vietnamese paratroopers, using US parachutes designed for men twice their weight, were swept away by the

wind and not onto the Viet Minh positions.

French writer, Bernard Fall, said in his book 'Street without Joy' that the... 'major defect of Operation Camargue was one which was shared by practically all similar operations in the Indo-China war; no sealing off of an enemy force could be successful unless the proportion of attackers to defenders was 15 to one or even 20 to one, for the enemy had in its favour an intimate knowledge of the terrain, the advantage of defensive organization and the sympathy of the population.'

In 1967 Fall returned to the Street without Joy where the Communist successes of the Viet Minh still command the support of the population. He stepped on a land mine and was killed.

HARD LABOUR FOR SUPPLYING ARMS

RHODESIA: REUTER'S CORRESPONDENT

THREE young africans charged with taking arms into Rhodesia were given prison sentences ranging from ten to 12 years in Salisbury's high court yesterday. All three pleaded guilty.

The two youngest men, both teenagers, were sentenced to ten years' hard labour and the third to 12 years' hard labour.

In passing sentence, the judge, Mr Justice Beck, said it was fortunate that none of the men

had been able to use the weapons. Had they done so, then they would probably have received the death sentence.

Mr Justice Beck said that, although the men appeared to have changed their minds after entering Rhodesia, it was still obvious that they sympathized with guerrilla aims.

'You had a change of mind rather than a change of heart,' he said.

During the trial all three admitted being sent to Tanzania for guerrilla training by Chinese instructors.

They said they were instructed to return to Rhodesia and spread terror to disrupt the work of the Pearce Commission.

Justice Beck ruled that the names and ages of the young men were not to be reported for security reasons, and also forbade any mention of places concerned in the case.

Feather in Bucharest

A TUC delegation headed by Victor Feather left yesterday for Bucharest on a six-day goodwill visit—the first of its kind to Rumania.

With him were Jack Jones, head of the Transport and General Workers' Union, George Smith, chairman of the TUC general council, and Alan Hargreaves, head of the TUC's international department.

Ceylon Bill legalizes repression

CEYLON'S parliament has begun debating the new Justice Commissions Bill, which gives the government very wide repressive powers.

Justice Minister Felix Dias Bandaranaike, introducing the Bill into parliament on Tuesday, said it was designed to prevent a recurrence of last year's 'dangerous events'.

He was referring to the abortive insurrection in March 1971 led by the People's Liberation Front (JVP) in which 1,200 were killed.

Fourteen thousand young left-wingers are still being held in the island's concentration camps. Most have still to be brought to trial, or even charged.

The Bill will enable the government to by-pass the courts and establish special commissions to try cases of insurrection or rebellion, currency and foreign exchange offences big enough to endanger the national economy, as well as cases involving destruction of property.

The Justice Minister claimed it was meant to safeguard democracy and socialism and not to protect antiquated laws and imperialist systems, a statement no doubt designed to reassure his coalition partners, the Stalinists and the renegade Trotskyists of the LSSP.

These turncoats have been among the most enthusiastic supporters of continued mass internment in Ceylon. Their support for the Justice Commissions Bill is essential if the coalition is to get the legislation through parliament.

There have been protests from trade unions, the Bar Council of Ceylon and the newly-formed Civil Rights Movement against the Bill, which is an attack on basic democratic rights.

N. M. PERERA, Finance Minister in the Ceylon coalition and leader of the LSSP, has said the country is not prepared to accept the advice of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and devalue the rupee. Yet Ceylon is totally dependent on the Bank and the IMF to shore up the tottering Ceylon currency.

Perera is now in Venezuela for the conference of developing countries on the monetary situation.

IRA Provos in political crisis

BY IAN YEATS

THE Provisional IRA is in the throes of a decisive political crisis.

Their latest tactic in offering to talk about peace to 'representatives of the barricaded areas' in Derry is a desperate attempt to wrest the political initiative back from the Social Democratic Labour Party.

The SDLP will hold a meeting tomorrow in the heart of the Provisionals' Derry territory and it is understood that SDLP MP John Hume will appeal to Bog-side and Creggan people to call off their support for the IRA.

Direct rule has exposed a truth, unpalatable to the Provisionals, that Catholic support for them was always, in the main, dependent upon there being no let-up in the repressions by Stormont and the British army.

Although, in reality, direct rule changes nothing, it clearly appears to some Catholics to offer the promise of a solution to the Ulster crisis.

The absence of this in the past has driven them willy-nilly into the arms of the IRA.

While sections of the Provisionals doubtless see themselves engaged in a war of liberation, it is becoming clear that a significant number of their supporters thought of them as a kind of private police force.

This emerges from yesterday's remarks by a member of the Women Together movement:

'We are not turning our backs on the Provisionals. We need them on the estate [Andersonstown, Belfast] in case of a backlash and for law and order.'

Yesterday's statement from the Derry command, unconfirmed by Provisionals in Dublin, said:

'If the people of Free Derry will be prepared to sell out the men behind the wire and the men on the run, they are not the same people who time after time repulsed attacks on their areas by the armed might of the British army.'

Of course, not even some of the Women Togetherites have turned their backs on the Provisionals in that sense. Demonstrations by women amid confused political developments in Derry and adverts in the Republican 'Irish News' leave no doubt that large numbers of people won't be satisfied with less than an end to internment.

But this is part of the direct rule deal anyway.

Tory supremo William Whitelaw has already begun thumbing through internees' files. Some will doubtless be released further splitting the Catholic movement.

Whitelaw has relaxed the ban on parades and as the SDLP and the Labour Party rise to the bait, it seems likely that some troops might be withdrawn from the streets to barracks.

Once the SDLP and the LP start talking to the Tories in earnest, the effect must be not only to widen the split in the Catholic population, but also to isolate the hardliners among the Provisionals.

The short-term triumph of the SDLP is the pay off for the IRA's opportunist single demand for an end to the terror.

But despite the trimmings the Tories go empty handed to the working class of Ulster—Protestant and Catholic.

Direct rule is a political Trojan horse which will be used to deprive the Ulster working class of even more basic rights.

Leader of the N Ireland Social Democratic Labour Party Mr Gerry Fitt yesterday renewed his party's plea to the IRA to halt violence.

He said: 'We believe it cannot lead to a political solution and can only bring tragedy and unhappiness.'

BOOKS



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Top Tories 'stiffen' ailing Lonrho group

BY ALEX MITCHELL

TWO of the top figures in the Tory Party, Mr Duncan Sandys and Mr Edward du Cann, have been brought onto the board of Lonrho, the embattled mining and industrial group.

Sandys is an ex-Colonial Secretary and ex-Cabinet Minister and du Cann was a former Tory Party chairman.

The other key figure to join the board is Sir Basil Smallpiece, the ex-chairman of Cunard. When he ran BOAC, Smallpiece was in close touch with the then Tory Aviation Minister, who happened to be Sandys.

The company's shares have been uncertain since it was announced late last year that £10m had to be raised to reduce overdrafts in London banks.

Lonrho (whose name is an amalgamation of London and Rhodesia) has connections with some of the most reactionary states on the African continent. It has operations in S Africa, Kenya (Sandys is a very close friend of Jomo Kenyatta), Rhodesia, Ghana, the Sudan and Libya.

During the past six months Lonrho has stumbled from one crisis to the next. Last September the company's merchant bankers, S. G. Warburg, resigned because they were dissatisfied with the management structure and the group's liquidity.

The City accountants, Peat, Marwick and Mitchell, were assigned to the company to do a top-to-bottom examination. In the midst of this inquiry, several of the company's S African directors were arrested on fraud charges. At least two are still awaiting trial.

The announcement that Sandys is to become chairman forms part of the Peat, Marwick and Mitchell recommendations that the top echelons of the company needed strengthening.

For the type of ventures in which Lonrho engages, Sandys is a good choice. He is a hard-line, bring-back-hanging, anti-immigrant Tory.

As such he has very good friends in the apartheid regime in S Africa, among the Portuguese colonialists in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea and in Rhodesia.

Commenting on Sandys' appointment, the company's financial adviser, Mr Roland Franklin said: 'He is very familiar with the African scene and is a strong man. This is just what is needed.'

He is at present a senior director of Ashanti Goldfields, which was taken over by Lonrho a couple of years ago. Ashanti is well connected with members of the regime in Ghana.

Last year Sandys visited the Sudan three times and successfully negotiated a deal whereby Lonrho took over the country's sole importing rights. This meant that Lonrho now does all the Sudan's overseas buying—and charges a hefty fee for it.

The Sudanese connections took a new and more intriguing turn last year during the abortive communist-inspired coup.

It was a Lonrho executive aircraft which flew back the anti-communist army leaders from the Lebanon to carry out the butchery of trade unionists and intellectuals.

More recently Lonrho has negotiated a lucrative contract with another fanatically anti-communist regime, Libya.

It will be recalled that the Libyans forced down the BOAC aircraft which was carrying the coup leaders from London back to Khartoum.

In an arrangement between Col Gaddafi of Libya and General Jaafar Numeiry of the Sudan, the leaders were then sent to Khartoum for execution.

The choice of du Cann is also interesting. He is chairman of Keyser Ullman, the merchant bankers who were involved with John Bloom's Rolls Razor affair.



Duncan Sandys: Considered 'tough' man needed to lead Lonrho

Revisionist manoeuvres over Act angers teachers

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

TEACHERS in conference at Blackpool have hit out at the unprincipled manoeuvring of the International Socialist-dominated Rank-and-File group.

This manoeuvring has assisted the NUT leadership to maintain an equivocal attitude towards the Industrial Relations Act.

An executive memorandum recommended no registration 'at the present time'.

The Rank-and-File group withdrew their amendments to delete those four words in an unsuccessful and unprincipled attempt to reach an amendment further down the agenda.

But the later amendment—seeking to tie the NUT to the TUC's non-co-operative policy—was ruled out of order at the start of the debate.

Dick Boland (27), a junior schoolteacher, commented:

'I don't know what the Rank and File group are playing at in withdrawing their amendment to delete the words "at the present time".'

'Those words are a possible let-out for the executive in the future.'

Dick added: 'I want to see a more positive opposition to the Act in line with the TUC position. The executive are hedging their bets.'

The secretary of the Gillingham association,

Linda Williams, told me:

'I think the NUT might slide to the correct position if slowly pushed by responsible pressure groups.'

'I fail to see why Rank and File withdrew their amendments which would help to push the NUT a bit further in opposing the Act.'

Dick commented on the lack of perspective in the turgid salaries debate.

'I think we have a commitment to the trade unions — to the public sector in particular — not to tamely accept government dictat.'

'And the commitment runs both ways.'

I think there must be

runs much more co-ordination between the NUT and other public sector unions. No single union, even the miners, is going to have either the physical or psychological strength to be able to win in an all or nothing fight with this Tory government.'

Past president of Croydon NUT, Eddie Goodall, added a final word:

'In spite of the induction of a well-known CP "radical" as vice-president (Max Morris), it would now seem that the executive has abandoned all pretence at standing out for a reasonable basic scale in favour of a fragmenting and divisive salary structure.'

PROMOTION FOR 'MAD MITCH'

COLONEL Colin ('Mad') Mitchell has been dramatically elevated in the Tory Party ranks to become parliamentary private secretary to the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr Gordon Campbell.

The appointment means two things:

- Campbell, a Cabinet minister, likes Mitchell.

- Mitchell is being groomed for a ministerial office in Tory politics.

Before becoming MP for W Aberdeenshire, Mitchell led the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the repression of the working-class communities in Aden. He organized the notorious Crater invasion in which scores of people were shot, beaten up and imprisoned.

In an interview in 'The Guardian' just before the Bloody Sunday massacre in Londonderry, Mitchell said that a list of 100 suspected 'terrorists' should be compiled.

'Okay', he said, 'and you just start shooting them' . . . the weapon I should like to introduce is the machine gun built into every TV camera. You can say to the IRA "Come out and let's talk" . . . and then shoot the lot.'



Sir Basil Smallpiece



Mr Edward du Cann

and also the now-bankrupt Vehicle and General Insurance.

Although not chosen in Edward Heath's Cabinet, he is widely recognized as an influential backbench MP with strong connections in the banking and insurance world.

Du Cann's bank has already agreed to subscribe immediately £375,000 in cash for 500,000 new Lonrho shares at 75p each and has options to buy a million more.

Still on the Lonrho board is Angus Ogilvy, husband of Princess Alexandra, a first cousin of the Queen.

With the Royal Family and the Tory Party now playing a part in the reconstruction of the company, its fortunes may take a turn for the better. On the Stock Exchange yesterday, Lonrho shares rose from a low of 72p to 84p giving a net gain of 6p.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

SHEFFIELD: Thursday April 6, 7.30 p.m. New White Lion, The Wicker, Sheffield. 'Engineers' pay claim and the Industrial Relations Act: Halt the retreat'.

NOTTINGHAM: Thursday April 6, 7.30 p.m. Peoples Hall, Heathcoat St. Report - back from Wembley Pool.

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.

MARTIN REGAN

A St Helen's building worker and a long-standing member of the Labour Party. In a few weeks his latest job—building a new float glass tank at Pilkington's Cowley Hill works St Helens—will finish.

Then Martin goes 'down the road' once more. Prospects of finding a job are grim. The last time a site-job ended he was 20 months on the dole—and things have not improved since then.

One of the things I agree most with in the Manifesto is the point it makes about the pro-Common Market MPs. Their performance really disgusted me—they gave up a brilliant chance to bring this government down.

Really I think they should be expelled because it's the men like Roy Jenkins who are the disruptive elements in the Party, not the communists. But the rank and file is so apathetic. We really should have the power to con-

trol the MPs through our constituency parties and trades councils, but we never do.

Take this place—St Helens—have a massive Labour majority—it's a working-class town where people are highly exploited, but have never really used their strength.

In the union it is similar. You had the massive one day strikes and demonstrations against the Industrial Relations Bill. But they were only impressive in numbers—they did not stop the Bill.

The best thing I think we can do with the Bill now is to ignore it, like the anti-strike legislation was ignored during the war. They had to let those Betteshanger miners out of jail because the working class just would not wear it.

We have a similar battle facing us on the question of unemployment. The unions are not giving the lead they should here either. All overtime throughout

the country should be stopped. There should be no incentive schemes or productivity. This kind of speed-up only puts people on the dole.

I'm working on a case in point now. The new tank we are building for Pilks will employ 250 men, but the one it replaces employs 500. Automation under this system means the dole instead of what it should—more leisure time, shorter hours and longer holidays for people.

I suppose the most controversial section of this Manifesto is the bit on the revolutionary party. As yet I can't see this. We have to get back a Labour Party with the right policies. The Labour Party after the war began something, but it was only a beginning.

Since then Clause 4 has never been put into practice—Jenkins and the right wing don't like this. We must agitate and educate among the rank and file to break down this apathy.



ANDY WHITE

A 30-year-old engineering worker and a shop steward at Otis Elevators, Kirkby, near Liverpool. Kirkby is a new town built to take Liverpool's overflow. The houses cluster round an industrial estate where a series of closures have made this once boom area the unemployment black-spot of the NW.

The first and most important thing about this Manifesto is that it judges the Tory government as illegal. This is not just a political point. But it means to say that the government is ruling without consent of the people. It gives us the constitutional right to remove it.

But we have to remember on most of the issues, the Labour Party, when it was the government, paved the way. I got conscious of this quite early on during the seamen's strike. Wilson's bitter attack on the strike, his witch-hunt of the militants, showed what kind of level the Labour Party had sunk to. We saw that they were incapable of carrying their attack to the logical conclusion.

They came to grief over the anti-union laws introduced by Barbara Castle and the Tories were returned on the basis of lying promises to finish off the job for the capitalist class.

The drive towards the Common Market is probably the centre of the whole Tory strategy. Here is a thing that—as the Manifesto says—the whole working class is opposed to. This is quite true.

In Kirkby I would say there is 100 per cent opposition. There is a mixture of nationalism and a feeling—a correct one—that the Common Market will mean concentration of industry in the S and, of course, abroad.

But here again we see the treachery of the Labour Party. First of all you have the 69 Labour MPs who voted with Heath over the Market. They must be expelled from the movement, as the Manifesto demands.

But then you've also got to realize that many others in the

Party really are not opposed to the Market. Wilson is really pro-Market.

On the Market and Ulster we see the real dangers of a grand coalition against the working class. It is against this danger of coalition and even possible fascism that the revolutionary party must be built. This is the central aim of the Manifesto.

The greatest single problem facing the working class today is its own leadership. We have no better illustration of this than the current situation in the unions. As I speak today, Jones of the T&GWU is faced with a £5,000 fine. I recall all the brave words about fighting, about, 'know the bill and then ignore it'. These people are leading the working class into a trap.

Again there is the situation in engineering. Not 20 miles from here the lads in Manchester are fighting it out. On the Merseyside I don't think there is a proposal for any kind of action. This was the kind of confusion promoted by the AUEW leaders when they abandoned the national claim. This leadership is a great danger to every working man in this country.

We can say that if the working class does force the Tories out, it will do it with a programme, or a programme is bound to come from such a struggle. This is where the role of a firm alternative leadership would have its greatest impact. Its programme would be the Manifesto and the Charter of Basic Rights.

A most important section of the Manifesto is that bit which says the All Trades Unions Alliance must intervene in every struggle of the working class and must put forward the perspective of a fight to get the Tories out and socialist policies in.

The difficulty is taking this message of the Manifesto into the working class—onto the shop floor. If I have a criticism, it is that this is not being done enough.

The Labour Party leadership came to grief over the anti-union laws introduced by Barbara Castle (below).



Martin Regan, long standing Labour Party member: Men like Roy Jenkins should be expelled; they are the disruptive elements in the Party, not the communists.





Greek premier Papadopoulos

STALINISTS PRAISE GREEK REGIME

The Greek colonels celebrated their National Day on March 24 to the plaudits of their 'socialist' friends in the Balkans.

Albania, China's ally, sent two messages of congratulations to Greek premier Papadopoulos, who has just appointed himself Regent into the bargain.

The messages came from Haxhi Lleshi and Mehmet Shehtu, both prominent members of the Enver Hoxha regime.

The Minister of Trade, Kico Ngjela, the Minister of Communications, Milo Qirko and the deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Reis Halile, all attended a reception in celebration of the National Day at the Greek embassy in Tirana.

The Albanian regime, incidentally, is much admired by British Maoists, including the Communist Party of Britain (ML) headed by Reg Birch.

Across the border in Yugoslavia, Tito confined himself to sending a telegram of congratulations to Papadopoulos, while in Rumania the Greek ambassador addressed the nation over television on March 25 and Ceausescu sent yet another congratulatory message to Papadopoulos.

Perhaps the most servile bureaucrats of all, to judge from the extent of their congratulations, are to be found in Bulgaria.

There was the obligatory reception at the Greek embassy attended by top Stalinist functionaries, of course.

But that was as nothing compared with the outpourings of the Stalinist press.

'Rabotnichesko Delo', for example, scaled heights of mystical adoration for the colonels' blood-stained regime:

'There are many things in common in the destinies of the Bulgarian and Greek people. What links us is the contribution to and sympathy of the Bulgarian people in the struggle waged by their Greek neighbours for freedom and independence. The Bulgarian people firmly believe that the two peoples can live in peace, understanding and co-operation for their own well-being.'

(Presumably it is 'for their own wellbeing' that the Bulgarian frontier police hand back Greek political refugees to the tender mercies of the colonels' security forces.)

Another anniversary article, by G. Ivanov in the paper 'Otechestven Front', stated:

'It is to be regretted that the imperialist powers are again striving to spoil the atmosphere and increase tension in the Balkans and E Mediterranean region, involving some Balkan countries in the carrying out of their military-strategic plans and trying to set them against each other.'

'This cannot but cause alarm among the Balkan peoples who have learnt to value peace along their borders, as well as peaceful co-operation and good-neighbourly relations.'

In Stalinist parlance, this 'good neighbourly' attitude goes under the name of 'peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems'.

In ordinary language it is called making friends with the jailers of the Greek working class.

The man the Stalinists were congratulating, 50-year-old premier George Papadopoulos, had moved on the eve of National Day to fortify his already dictatorial powers by sacking the 72-year-old Regent, Gen George Zoitakis. Zoitakis, who took over as Regent when King Constantine fled to Italy eight months after the colonels' coup of April 1967, was blamed for having delayed the passage of a government Bill to expand the army and police.

The move was described in the 'Daily Express' as a bid 'to grab supreme power and rule Greece in dictator style like Gen Franco of Spain.'

Papadopoulos took over the Regency for himself and now combines the offices of Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister to the Premier with the Regency.

He went on the radio to announce the takeover and said: 'I hope that with the help of God and the support of the armed forces I will be able to fulfil my new duties.'

Papadopoulos—a short, stiff-backed former colonel with a sallow face—was backed 100 per cent by the Americans in his bid for supreme dictatorial powers.

They are busily building Greece up as a bastion of reaction in the E Mediterranean. Nixon recently awarded Papadopoulos a massive increase in military aid and is planning to base the US Sixth Fleet at Piraeus, Athens' port.

To keep Greece safe for capitalism, Papadopoulos presides over prisons filled with communists and trade unionists and operates one of the most repressive regimes in Europe.

BACKGROUND TO THE COMPUTER WAR

It is not hard to see why the Americans switched their war effort from the ground to the sky behind the smokescreen of a 'pull out'.

On March 22 communist troops overran Truc Giang, a S Vietnamese outpost in the Mekong Delta.

The attack took place in a region which, according to American forecasts, does not run a heavy risk of communist offensives.

The delta is held up by the American command as a model area of Vietnamization—the process of turning over the fighting to S Vietnamese.

Nineteen government troops were killed in the attack.

Only one of the outpost's defenders distinguished himself. He was a veteran sergeant who, unlike most of his fellows, kept his head up throughout the attack and kept firing until he was killed by a shell.

After the battle, S Vietnamese soldiers and their American advisers spoke seriously of a leadership problem, of inattentiveness and indifference among the regional and militia forces and of costly delays in bringing in artillery, air support and reinforcements to repulse the attackers.

The attack on Truc Giang which had been predicted for weeks started just before 2 a.m.

As the mortars started to fall, two US advisers in the outpost manned their radios to appeal for help. An American sergeant was wounded in the leg by mortar shrapnel as he ran towards the radio room.

BARRAGE

In less than an hour, a barrage of about 200 rounds of mortar fire had ended and communist troops were storming the camp from all sides.

'We have tried to tell the local troops to keep their heads up in a mortar barrage as this is just

the kind of thing which happens,' a US major commented ruefully.

The S Vietnamese artillery battery near Ham Long airfield several miles to the SE did not hear the call for fire support from the outpost because its radio had been damaged earlier in a short barrage of mortar fire. It took 17 minutes before contact was made through the American command in Ben Tre.

BUNKERS

The outpost requested anti-personnel artillery which would explode over the site killing fighters already in the camp grounds. Government troops were in their bunkers.

There then followed a disagreement between the advisers and the S Vietnamese over where the artillery should be aimed. The advisers wanted the shells to burst over a dependants' housing area from where most of the fighters were coming and the district chief feared it would cause government losses.

Finally, artillery was turned on the compound itself which had already been badly damaged by mortar attacks.

The liberation forces started to withdraw.

Meanwhile, as reinforcements were being organized from Ben Tre, agreement could not be obtained from a local S Vietnamese commander for the release of some armoured cars to carry troops to Truc Giang, five miles away.

When the reinforcements, including some Americans from a small US compound in Ben Tre, were finally under way, the armoured cars ran into sniper and anti-tank fire not far from the outpost and the drivers refused to go farther. The troops then had to go in on foot.

Ground troops and helicopter air support arrived about an hour after the liberation fighters had moved back into the jungle.



DISCUSSION ON INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

In preparation for the Fourth Congress of the International Committee of the Fourth International, the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League are publishing the four main documents of the International Committee covering the split with the French Organisation Communiste Internationaliste.



DOCUMENT 4

Statement by the International Committee of the Fourth International (Majority) March 1, 1972

The split in the International Committee is not something accidental, but something necessary. It flows out of a history of political differences between the Socialist Labour League and the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste.

We have fought to overcome these differences in joint work and discussion over many years. But under the impact of decisive changes in the objective situation—particularly since 1968—a split has become necessary.

The split is not the result of organizational questions or misunderstandings. And it is not about tactical aspects of how to build the Fourth International. It is a political split, going to the foundations of the Fourth International—Marxist theory.

A smokescreen

For this reason, the primary task is to explain the basic theoretical questions involved, and in this context to disperse the smokescreen of organizational inventions raised by the OCI document.

The IC meeting which adopted the October 24 statement was not valid according to the OCI because they were not invited. But the IC had already been split by the political actions of the OCI at Essen and on the Bolivian revolution.

It was the first responsibility of the IC majority to speak out for Trotskyism against this split. The OCI allege that they were excluded from the meeting as part of the SLL's avoiding of discussion on the principled questions of building the Fourth International ever since the IC pre-conference in July 1970. The meaning of the differences at that pre-conference, and their subsequent significance, are dealt with in detail below. However, we must clarify one fabrication before going on to the basic differences. According to the OCI:

"Ever since July 1970, the SLL leadership has refused to call a second session of the pre-conference. On the contrary, it

was to make approaches to the leading centres of the liquidators of the FI, to the Unified Secretariat of Mandel and company, and propose a joint conference in terms which were not only opposed to the decisions of the pre-conference, but also to the overall struggle of the IC: this was revealed in an article by its national secretary, Gerry Healy, in the Workers Press on September 8, 1970. A sharp and rapid reply from the OCI was, at this stage, to stop the development of this dangerous tendency.

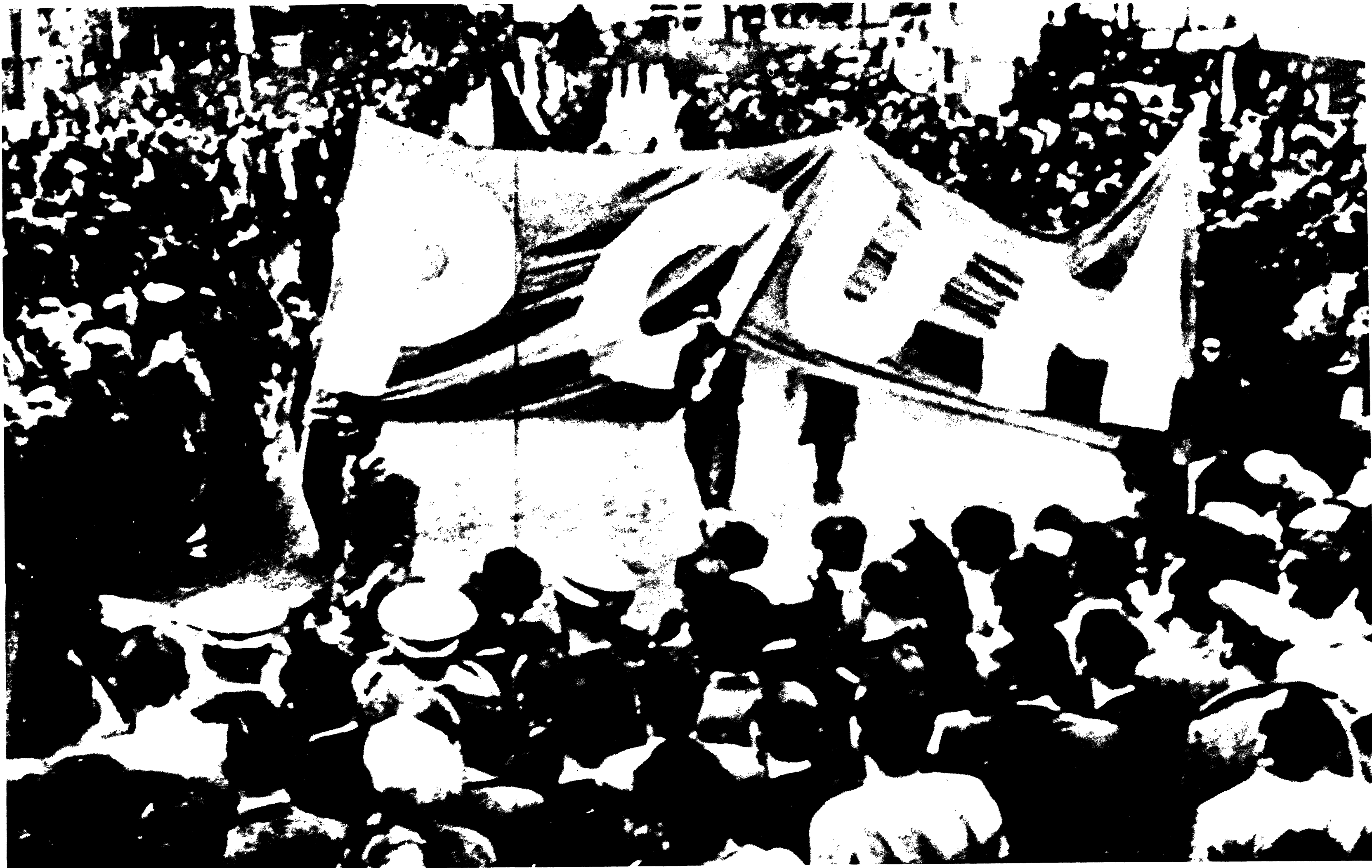
The author of these lines knows full well that Comrade Healy's approach to a representative of the Unified Secretariat was made with the full agreement of the OCI leadership. The purpose of it, like the Parity Committee for discussion with the Pabloites in 1962, was to carry the fight for the IC line into every section of their ranks.

We were convinced that the development of the capitalist crisis created conditions in which a thorough historical accounting could be made of the disputed questions in the Trotskyist movement since the split with Pablo. This discussion required the participation of all the revisionists as well as of our own forces. We also were sure that such a wide discussion was the best framework for fighting out the differences exposed at the pre-conference.

This discussion, if it had proved possible, would have given the opportunity of winning any cadres who were moving into opposition within the Pabloite organizations. Not only the revisionists themselves, and particularly Hansen, rejected such a discussion, but so did the OCI leaders.

On both sides, they sensed the dangers to the course they were pursuing. The present discussion, in which Hansen and the Pabloites publish the documents of the IC majority and of the OCI, and make their own comments upon them, is in its own way confirmation of the necessity of the scope of the discussion which was proposed. Willy-nilly, all the parties are now engaged in the discussion of fundamental questions.

As for the flimsy arguments to 'prove' that the IC majority is not a majority, they are easily disposed of. Listing eight sections of the IC, the OCI acknowledge that four support the October 24



Above: A meeting of the centrist group POUM in Barcelona in 1936

statement. But they omit the Greek section, commenting: 'At the moment there is no Greek section, for the latter which participated in the 1966 Conference split in two on the eve of the 1967 coup d'état and conditions have not allowed clarification of the reasons behind the split and an estimation of one group or the other. Consequently, on the suggestion of Comrade Slaughter, the IC decided to treat the two groups as sympathetic to the IC.'

This is untrue. The facts are these. In 1966 the Greek section was internally divided, but accepted the proposal of the IC that they would avoid a split until a Conference with IC participation. As the OCI knows, such a document of the IC is not something which can be enforced as discipline. The majority leadership considered that refusal of the minority to accept decisions endangered the section to such an extent that expulsion was necessary. After this (1967) the IC tried to bring together representatives of both groups for discussion.

If the IC was not able to take a position on the question of the expulsion of the minority by the Greek section, this is not because of the situation created by the 1967 coup, but because of the fact that the problems of the Greek Trotskyist movement were the problems of the IC itself and could therefore be resolved only through the resolution of those problems.

But there can be no question of the Greek section being excluded from IC membership because a majority of the IC want a discussion in the section opened! It is not true that Comrade Slaughter made any proposal to recognize two sympathizing sections. There remains a Greek section on the IC; and the proposal to bring together the two sides for discussion, including both their participation in an international conference if no unification is agreed beforehand, remains on the agenda.

What happened (in 1969) was that, in order to facilitate closer working relations between the sections, given the prospect at that time of growing agreement, Comrades Just and Slaughter should meet briefly and more regularly, in Paris or London, to prepare statements on behalf of the IC.

As against theory, these petty-bourgeois tendencies glorify activism and militancy. They pour contempt on those who start from the revolutionary theory and continuity of the movement built by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. They talk about combating bourgeois ideology, but refuse to take up any struggle for dialectical materialism against that ideology in the fields of philosophy and the historical and natural sciences. They revel in 'new' revolutionary tendencies, but pull back from any struggle against Stalinism.

The OCI, the LSPH, and the LOM are a centrist tendency. Behind Trotskyist phraseology and worship of the Trotskyist programme, they in fact represent the results of petty-bourgeois pressure on the revolutionary party. This is why they reject the essential continuity of the FI, represented by the IC cadres, today. They prefer the 'common-sense' formula that there was a Fourth International, but

revisionism smashed it, and we have to 'reconstruct' it. In this way they politically avoid the essential theoretical and practical struggle against those centrists who say precisely that experience has proved the correctness of their own centrist forefathers of the London Bureau who opposed the founding of the FI in the first place, on the grounds that it was premature, not rooted in an upsurge of the masses.

The formula 'reconstruction of the FI' is the weapon with which a theoretical clarification of the struggle against Pabloism is avoided. It is converted into an organizational question.

Little wonder then that the OCI found its way back to international centrism at the 1971 Essen youth conference. Outstanding amongst the centrist groups of the 1930s who rejected Bolshevism and opposed the very founding of the FI was the Spanish POUM (Workers' Party of Marxist Unification).

The utter failure of the POUM to provide any leadership or to win any independence from the Stalinists (for which they paid with their lives) was one of the most basic political lessons upon which the FI was established.

The OCI continues to exist and was represented at Essen by its youth movement. The POUM's paper, 'Adelante' (December 1971) reported the Essen conference as follows:

'In the afternoon and evening, a meeting took place of an International Conference, where amendments were debated on the initial text which had been put forward by the various organizations. Only the amendment proposed by the English delegation of the Young Socialists, on the need to discuss the problem of Marxist theory was rejected in a vote after discussion (the JCI did not participate in this vote)...

In its intervention, the JCI explained how the general framework proposed was in line with the desire for freedom in the working class against totalitarianism and the crimes of Stalin, who, at the time, was at the peak of power. On the other hand, Trotskyism can show no success in its record of activity in the different movements throughout the world, unless it is its breaking up into even more groups in all the countries where it exists, which are then enmeshed in an even more ferocious struggle against each other.'

(From the Preface to 'Los Problemas de la Revolución Española', written by Juan Andrade, a leading member of the POUM as an introduction to a selection of the work of Andres Nin.)

The OCI leaders were perfectly aware that this was the position of the POUM. Their 'reconstruction' of the Fourth International is a rallying of centrist

elements to whom they hand, as a concession, the formula: the FI was destroyed by revisionism, it must be reconstructed. They know that the centrists will interpret this to mean: in an international 'regroupment' we will all begin at the same place, with no compulsion to learn the lessons of past revolutions and past betrayals.

The OCI and its followers miscalculate. A thousand times more important than the ephemeral groupings thrown off by the crisis of imperialism is the deep-going change forced on the life and activity of the masses by this crisis. Only the independent work of the revolutionary parties, based on Marxist theory, will penetrate to these changes in the masses, and in this way carry forward the construction of the Fourth International.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

SOCIALISM AND THE STRUGGLE IN IRELAND

We are reprinting here articles by Cliff Slaughter which appeared in Workers Press on October 7 and 8, 1969. They explain the political background to the Labour government's dispatch of troops to the province in the summer of that year. They have a particular relevance today to the events surrounding Heath's declaration of Direct Rule.

PART 4

Unemployment benefit, like all welfare benefits, is the same in Northern Ireland as in Britain. In the South, an unemployed man with a wife and two children gets £7 18s. 6d.; in the North £9 4s.

In the South, old-age pension is not due until 70, and is only two-thirds of the pension in Britain and the North.

The Health Service hardly exists at all in the South. In 1965 the maternity grant was £4 (and contraception was banned). A widow with two children in the South gets £5 6s. a week, in the North £10.

New houses built in the South in 1965 reached the record figure of 8,146. The North, with less than half the population, and still with a disgraceful housing situation, built 9,516 houses in the same year.

Northern Ireland's education budget last year was £51 million. The South, with double the population, spent £49 million.

These social benefits in the North are supported by a subsidy from the British Exchequer of about £130 million annually. This is always presented in government publicity as some sort of gift from Britain.

It is of course a great deal smaller than the annual amount extracted in profits by British and international capital each year, not to mention the advantages gained by British capitalists from the flow of Irish emigrants suffering under a 7½ per cent unemployment rate in Northern Ireland.

We saw in the first part of this article that, with the growing world economic crisis, the reform programme of 'civil rights' could not solve in any way the jobs and housing problem for the workers in the North, which must get worse for the Protestant workers as well as the Catholic.

What is the prospect for any such reform in the South?

As already outlined, the Fianna Fail government is already preparing anti-union laws, let alone 'democratizing' and 'reforming'. Behind these measures are two factors.

In the first place, the low level of capital investment in southern Ireland, compared with any advanced country, cannot provide the basis for any advance in the economy.

The heritage of British imperialism, involving generations of literally wholesale destruction of people and of productive forces, ruled out any possibility of a capitalist solution.

And yet the Irish capitalists face a working class whose

historical traditions of struggle link up with the international offensive now being mounted by the working class.

Secondly, the international strength of the working class, at the centre of a profound international crisis of capitalism, compels the Irish, like all other capitalists, to seek to increase the rate of exploitation and cripple the trade unions, in order to compete internationally in more competitive conditions—but this must be done in the teeth of a rising tide of working-class struggle!

In other words, we have the same basic ingredients for revolutionary struggle, though with all sorts of historical factors which aggravate the situation still further, as we find in Britain, as reformism proves its bankruptcy and its reactionary nature under the Labour government!

One reason why the nationalist demagogy of the Southern capitalist politicians has been wearing thin in recent years is that they have begun to look for a way out of their economic problems by moving, first through closer relations (Free Trade Agreements, etc.) with the North and with Britain, into the European Common Market.

In any case, of course, the Common Market represents a forlorn attempt by the European capitalists to overcome the contradictions between modern production and the nation-state.

If that contradiction becomes stifling for the advanced countries, what a hopeless situation exists for the bourgeoisie of a backward country like Ireland.

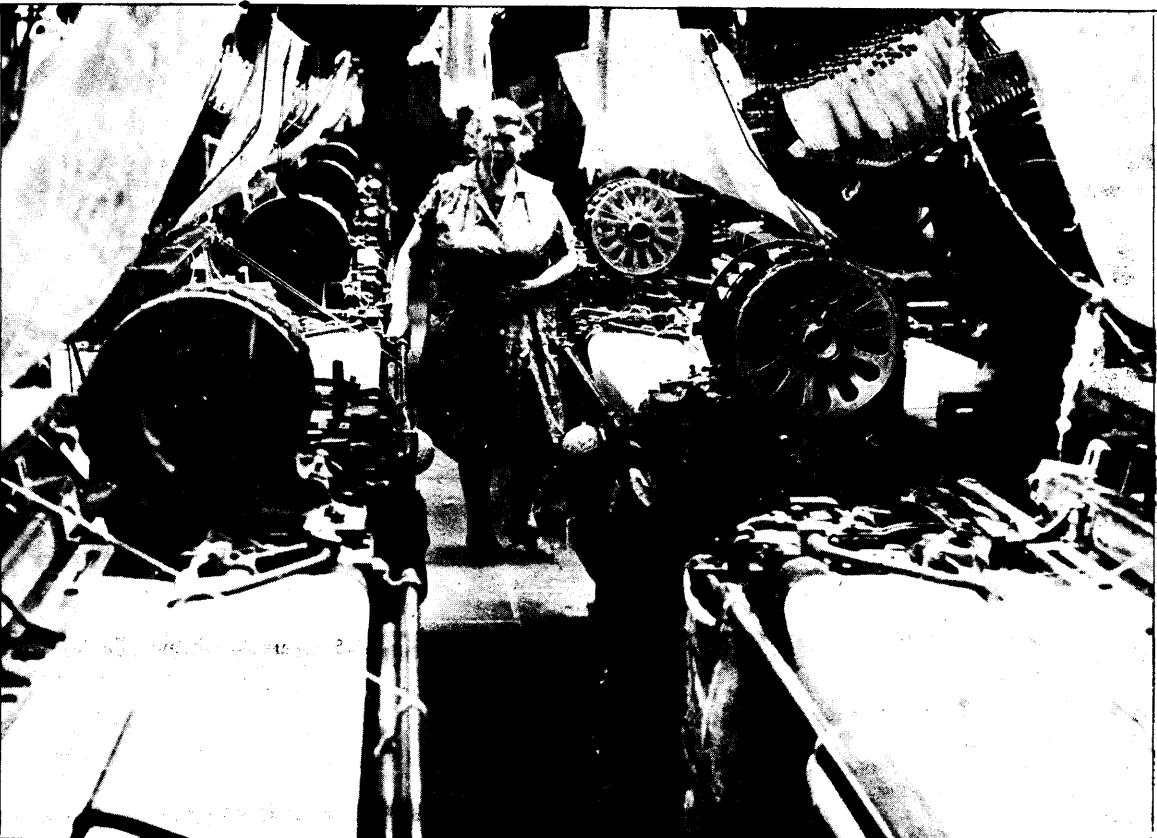
Since 1958, the Irish bourgeoisie has encouraged an inflow of foreign investment, and until 1965, as part of the last stages of the world capitalist boom, this brought a reduction of unemployment and the workers were able to increase real wages.

For Ireland, however, this could not be enough.

In every country, the expectations and strength of the working class built up during these years has intensified capitalism's crisis, and in Ireland that coincides with historical problems.

More people left the land (even with agriculture doing moderately well) between 1958 and 1965 than the number of new jobs provided by the industrial expansion.

If this was the situation during boom, what are the prospects for workers and



Housing and working conditions in Ulster: reforms will not in any way solve the problems.

small farmers in a recession?

Already the downturn in the economy in 1965 had a great radicalizing effect on the workers, strengthened by the boom, and the recent wave of strikes flows from that period.

Every section of capitalist opinion in the Irish Republic, including the government through official reports, is hitting out at the working class as 'responsible' for the growing crisis and advocating wage-freezing. This is the purpose of the proposed Criminal Justice Bill.

This wages question in Ireland is political dynamite, just as it is throughout Europe. The Irish bourgeoisie has no chance of 'getting into Europe' in time to rejuvenate itself, even if that were possible.

Since the 1967 Free Trade Agreement with Britain, Eire's balance of payments and trade have rapidly deteriorated. The editorial of the Dublin newspaper 'Irish Independent' puts clearly the dilemma of the capitalists:

'Imports have exceeded exports by more than £20 million in each month of this year—a very considerable worsening since 1968.

'It does not seem that a trade deficit of the present size can be tolerated for very much longer. The deficit will be given added impetus by the income increases which are beginning to work their way through the economy. Consumer buying and imports will both be stimulated considerably. The economy is not in a position to

withstand this added pressure which looks like developing.' ('Irish Independent', September 8, 1969.)

The fact is that 70 per cent of the exports of Eire are to the United Kingdom. Like the capitalists of Britain, those of Ireland know very well that entry into the Common Market is not just to get some dream of 'economic integration' and expansion, but to strengthen them against the working class.

In the North, the future for the embattled Catholic workers is in unity with the Protestant majority of workers against their employers, against the Unionist government, and imperialism which sustains them.

The developing world crisis will create such problems for the Northern industries that this unity will be posed in the very near future.

In Britain, the working class is faced with a struggle for socialist policies and revolutionary leadership, the Labour leaders having been exposed with the ending of the boom.

In their struggle against the Tories and their agents in the labour movement, the British workers will need unity with the workers of Ireland against the Unionists.

They will thus need to fight for the ending of imperialist control in Ireland, in order to weaken their own enemy.

These struggles will make the Irish workers in England,

Scotland and Wales a strong force in the British working class.

In the South of Ireland, the working class is being forced to recognize the illusory nature of the 'national independence' maintained under bourgeois leadership.

It is brought into battle against a government of capitalists who openly turn to their bourgeois allies in Westminster and the City of London for common policies against the working class. That same government tolerates the British presence in the North for the same reasons.

Never was it more clear that the liberation of Ireland is only to be achieved by the working-class struggle for socialism.

It is the international turn in that struggle, the great steps being taken by the European socialist revolution, which have opened up a new phase in the heroic history of the Irish workers and small farmers.

This time there will be no reliance on bourgeois nationalist leaders. This time the struggle in Ireland merges with the historic situation in which the workers of Britain must break from reformism, from imperialism and all it stands for.

The workers of Ireland, North and South, and of Britain are going to strike a mighty blow for the United Socialist States of Europe!

CONCLUDED



Students hunting for jobs in Canada, which has the world's highest rate of youth unemployment

TEENAGERS QUEUE FOR WORK IN CANADA

BY SARAH HANNIGAN

A recent Federal government report on youth states that Canada now has the highest rate of youth unemployment of any industrialized country in the world.

Youth unemployment, said the report, is now a permanent feature of the Canadian economy. In Ontario alone over 10,000 high school graduates are without jobs.

In line with this situation was

the recent Wright Report on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario which proposes that students who now pay 14 per cent of the operating costs of education should instead pay 50 per cent.

This could mean that student fees will double shortly. And after three years, students would have to pay all the costs of their education.

In order to pay for these massive increases, the Wright report, proposes a system of loans and grants.

No longer interest-free, these would tie students to as much as

15 years of heavy debts after leaving school.

Also contained in the report are proposals for massive cut-backs in educational spending. This is in line with local federal government attacks on education already carried out.

In Alberta, the Tory government ordered that all university construction projects not yet begun, should be stopped.

Just as in the US, youth and students are being made to bear the brunt of the capitalist crisis through unemployment and attacks on their right to a decent education.

JOBS CAMPAIGNS IN US AND AUSTRALIA

Youth in the US and Australia have followed the lead of the Young Socialists in Britain in taking up the campaign against growing unemployment internationally.

Last Wednesday, American Young Socialists mobilized youth in New York in a demonstration on the Federal Building against unemployment and budget cuts.

Latest unemployment figures from the State Department of Labour show a massive 6.5 per cent rate in New York itself.

The total out of work in New York State in February was 7,575,000. In the city the jobless rate of 5.7 per cent is the highest since 1966.

Increased tuition fees for State University students will affect thousands of youth who will also be joining in the search for jobs in the coming months.

The key issue posed on the demonstration was the call for an American Labour Party.

Under the slogan, 'Jobs for All. No Budget Cuts!', the youth

fought to point out that with unemployment mounting among older workers, youth stood very little chance whatsoever.

And, they said: 'The trade unions have the power to build a Labour Party to replace the Democrats and the Republicans who encourage unemployment to split and weaken the working class.'

'We the working-class youth and students are demonstrating to awaken the labour movement to these tasks.'

Support for the demonstration came in from President of the Social Service Employees 371 branch, Stanley Hill. Social service workers in New York have been badly affected by unemployment in the past year.

Representatives of Newark Teachers' Union and head of the Connecticut Union of Auto-Workers branch have also given their backing.

Also announcing support was president of Perth Amboy electricians' branch, New Jersey. He promised the full co-operation of

the branch with the YS in organizing the demonstration and pledged to assemble a delegation of striking workers to take part.

On Saturday, March 10, youth in Brisbane, Australia, assembled in the city square to demonstrate against increased redundancies and unemployment.

Youth in Australia are preparing for their first conference of revolutionary youth in Sydney in June as a basis for building a Trotskyist youth movement. The demonstration was an important part of the campaign for the conference.

It is no accident that in different countries wide and varied sections of working-class, unemployed and student youth are turning towards serious revolutionary politics.

Today, as the crisis of capitalism deepens, it is only the programme and perspective of Trotskyism, as represented by the International Committee of the Fourth International, that can pave the way forward.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

HELP

Sister Mary Annunciata of Port Hedland, W Australia, was on her knees praying for help for teaching work carried out by her colleagues.

Suddenly, she had a heavenly inspiration. She'd write to Paul Getty, the world's richest man, and get a gift of money to enable the education programme to flourish.

And just like in the movies, a few days later she received a letter all the way from America.

Yes, it was from Mr Getty. And inside was a cheque. For £3.75.

Sister Mary is believed to be back on the prayer stool.

DRACULA

In real life Enoch Powell doubtless nurses certain hopes for his political future and may even flatter himself, that his popularity is growing.

As a matter of fact it is but not perhaps altogether in the way he would like — at Madame Tussaud's anyway. The famous London waxworks, which exhibits Powell, recently staged a popularity poll.

Powell did not come first. But he did manage to make fifth place — in the Hate and Fear section, tying with Dracula.



He was beaten to the first four places by Adolf Hitler, Mao Tse-tung, President Nixon and Jack the Ripper.

Madame Tussaud's runs the poll annually among its visitors. Other section winners were George Best (sport), Tom Jones (entertainment), Eliza-

beth Taylor (beauty), and Winston Churchill (hero of all time).

STATUS

Uncle Sam tries to look after his friends when he can.

Take Rumania. It was the clandestine contacts between Henry Kissinger and the Rumanian leaders which enabled Nixon's Peking trip to get off the ground.

Last week Nixon responded generously to the Rumanian bureaucracy.

Secretary of State William Rogers is to present Congress with a bill aimed at raising Rumania to 'most-favoured-nation status'. This will mean that the country will enjoy special tariff concessions at present only conceded to US imperialism's very close friends.

US legislation dating from the cold-war period has prevented most-favoured-nation dealings with communist countries, although exceptions have been made for Poland and Yugoslavia.

Rogers noted that American exports to Rumania have increased from a value of \$6m in 1965 to \$53m in 1971, approximately four times the amount that the Rumanians sell in this country.

'Further significant expansion of our exports to Rumania is likely to depend importantly on Rumania's ability to increase its exports to the United States', Rogers said.

MERCIFUL!

So this is building the Great Society in the United States.

The Commission on Population and the American Future has just handed in its report to President Nixon and Congress.

It says that small towns in the country should be put to 'a merciful death'.

'Many places have simply outlived their economic function,' the report adds. 'The purpose of future investment in such areas should be to make the decline easier to bear rather than to reverse it.'

It should be no surprise to learn that the commission is headed by John D. Rockefeller III.

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Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

The Tory government has introduced to parliament the Housing Finance Bill which will double council rents. The hated Bill will destroy the right to decent housing at reasonable rents for millions of working-class families. Like unemployment, the Industrial Relations Act and the rising food price bonanza, the Bill forms part of deliberate Tory policy to drive down the standard of living of the working class.

UNDER THE BILL:

- EVERY local authority and new town corporation has to charge a 'fair rent' for the first time. Rents will be geared to market value—what an estate agent thinks a property is worth.
- AVERAGE RENTS will double on government's own estimate. In London rents of £3.50 (plus rates) will rise to over £7 (plus rates).
- RENTS FIXED by committee of property men and lawyers. No appeal. They have the right to inspect council houses. Penalty for obstructing them: £50 fine.
- LOCAL AUTHORITIES are obliged to begin raising rents on October 1, with a compulsory increase of £1 this year and 75p next year.
- COUNCILS REFUSING to raise rents and operate the Act can be deprived of all housing powers. These will be assumed by government Housing Commission. Refusal by councillors to supply Commissioner with information could mean fines of up to £400.
- MEANS TESTS will be imposed on tenants wanting rent rebates. Assessment will be made on gross income of the highest earner in the family. Changes in earnings must be notified every six months.
- HOUSING REVENUE accounts will move into surplus and half of this will be taken by the government. In three or four years tenants will be paying an extra £500 million in rents.
- PRIVATE TENANTS—1.3 million of them—living in controlled properties: Decontrol begins from next January and their rents will be raised to 'fair' levels.
- DISCUSSION on the Bill was cut short by the Tories on March 29. It has now finished its committee stage in the House of Commons. Three more days are left for the report and third reading stages before it goes to the House of Lords.

'Captive' tenants face giant rises

BY PHILIP WADE

IN 1959 tenants on the Regents Park housing estate in Camden, N London, were involved in a massive battle against the then Tory council over the introduction of higher rents and rebate schemes.

Police were called in from neighbouring districts and at least two families were evicted by the council after court orders for possession were made out.

Now the 1,800 families on the estate are entering a new battle—with the Tories and the 'fair rents' Bill.

I spoke to the chairman of the tenants' association, Richard Collins, who is also a Labour councillor, sitting for Camden council and the GLC.

The Housing Finance Bill is an attack on the conditions of the working class in the same way as the Industrial Relations Act and unemployment.

The Tories have got a system going here where they'll be taking off the poor and giving to the rich. I estimate that in this borough one third of the tenants might be no

worse off because of the Bill, but two-thirds definitely will suffer worse conditions.

'I think the Tories reckon if they can sell off enough houses they can kill the basis of council housing. They have shown, in the past they were prepared to sell off whole estates to housing associations and such people. But of course, it is not as easy as that—there'd be enormous opposition.

'Most tenants are captives on their estates and would never be able to afford a mortgage. In any case they say properties are going up in price £6 a day.

'If the Tories get their way, our council will find it very difficult to rehouse those people living in slums,' said Mr Collins.

Although Camden council has one of the best housing records of the London boroughs there are still over 11,000 on the housing waiting list.

'When it's a social service you might do something about it. But look at some of the flats we're building now. The land is costing us £200,000 an acre. And the economic, or "fair", rent will work out at about £25 a week. The maximum rebate the Tories will allow is £8, so the minimum rent will be £17 a week. Who can afford that?'

Mr Collins' Labour colleagues on Camden council, which they control, have taken a decision to refuse to implement the Bill if it becomes law. The council itself will soon have to make a decision and Mr



Regents Park Estate

Collins thinks they will vote the same way again.

'It's a very well sewn-up Bill—nobody really knows what the end product could be. The district auditor could obey the Tories and then many Labour councillors could be in trouble.

'I think the fight could be won, if the majority of Labour councils stuck together. Just one or two of them will be picked off one by one.

'Can the Tories be forced out? I don't know. It would take a lot to do that. The trade union leaders kick up a lot of fuss about things, but they do little about it.

'The men who run the unions are like glorified business executives. They lead such a different life that they don't think the same as the ordinary working class,' said Mr Collins.

NW engineers the 'troops' in the fight for pay

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

DAVIES and Metcalfe is one of the smaller factories in the greater Manchester engineering pay battle.

But despite their numbers and despite short time and redundancies, these 130 Stockport workers were among the first to occupy. They took action a week before others in Manchester, in solidarity with the men at Bredbury steel works who were forced into a sit-in strike when management attempted to lock them out.

Eric Woldridge (29) has been the Metcalfe convenor for a year. He served his time at the firm. He talked to me about the progress of the dispute.

'The lads have held up very well here. You have to consider how we have been hammered in the past with short time. We even had a nine-day stoppage just to establish the principle of work-sharing rather than let the load fall on certain departments. Since the New Year we've had a four-day week.

'The one danger with this kind of battle is that there is insufficient information. You depend on handouts and rumours. You hear about deals being signed, some good, some bad. It has a confusing effect.

'I myself would have been in favour of a district-wide stoppage. It may seem a bit pedantic now, but at least with a stoppage you would have got 75 per cent support. We could have maintained a strike here knowing that others were out.



Eric Woldridge: Convenor

'To be truthful I don't like action that has fancy frills on it because you don't know just what is happening throughout the district.'

Was he critical therefore of the AUEW executive's decision to abandon the national claim?

'No. I think we in the NW are the 'troops' for this claim, whatever way you look at it. We have the worst basic rates. Nationally I think what you would have found is that some of the lads in the S would have put the pressure on for accepting an in-

crease that was no good to us and then going back in to negotiate their own domestic agreement. This has always been the pattern.

'If we fight it nationally or locally we are the troops and we have got to do the fighting.

'The position in the S is not the same.

'I know you do have some militant blokes in the S where there is more money. But they tend to go for domestic agreements whereas we have got to fight for a decent rate throughout the area. Then it's up to others to follow our example. I'm happy with this.'

What about the big retreat on the claim in Sheffield?

'Well I understand that originally there was a strong possibility of a district-wide action with us. Now they have more or less accepted the plant-by-plant fights decided on by the national committee.

This is a road of junk to me.

'I think the lads at Sheffield should have taken action. They still have the chance to stick together. Of course a great deal depends on the district leadership and I think this is lacking in Sheffield, whereas we have a very good one here.

'In our claim a big threat has been redundancies. My answer to this is that we just can't consider them.

'These employers are making money now. They want to make more and shed surplus labour—that's why they are so much against the 35-hour demand.

'The whole drive for redundancy began back in 1966 when the Labour government brought in the Redundancy Payments Act.

'This was the start of the streamlining—as they call it—for the Common Market. We have to put a stop to it now. The trouble is even our union in many ways encouraged this with productivity and Measured-Day Work, we are literally at a stage now where we have nothing left to sell.'

I don't see what's 'fair' about £10-£12 a week

CAMDEN Association treasurer Robert Edwards is a member of SOGAT, one of the printing unions, and works in Fleet St.

'Many tenants have been lulled into a false sense of security about what's going to happen with this Bill. The Tories have come on and made all the so-called good points, saying you won't have to pay the higher rents if you can't afford them.

'The Tories know tenants are virtually compelled to live where they do. They know we've got no chance of owning our own houses and that we're in some sort of a trap.

'So they come along and say why shouldn't we pay economic rents. Already we've got some tenants paying £10, £11 and £12 a week in the new tower blocks.

I don't see what's "fair" about that.

'This whole Bill is certainly part of the general Tory approach to the working class. I think the confrontation will come between the trade unions and the government.

'With the fining of the Transport and General Workers' Union the Industrial Relations Act is coming to a head.

'Tenants, on the other hand, stand a chance of being fragmented. They have some power, like withholding the rent, but it's not the same as the unions.

'Although the trade unions are becoming more political, the basic function is the betterment of wages and conditions.

'Of course I'd like to see the Tories go—but I don't know if a General Strike is the answer. I was hoping something would come out of the Common Market fight. But the Labour Party veered away from that,' said Mr Edwards.

Terrible consequences for working class

MAURICE ABRAHAMS, the Camden Tenants' Association's vice-chairman, said the consequences of the Bill would be terrible for the working class and very good for the big landlord.

'As the council rents go up, private landlords will put their rents up. It'll be a vicious circle.

'I think the rents will go up so much that people won't be able to afford to pay them,' said Mr Abrahams, who already pays £6.36 a week for his flat.

'Tenants must fight with the Labour council against the Bill. But the Tories won't drop this Bill. I suppose the only thing is for a General Strike. Tenants need the backing of the trade unions.'

Miners back right-to-work strike

WOLVERHAMPTON: From our own correspondent

STAFFORDSHIRE miners are among the many sections of workers backing a seven-week-old strike at the Willenhall Radiator Company, near Wolverhampton.

Yesterday, strike leaders, who say they are fighting for the basic right to work, sought the support of British-Leyland stewards' meeting in Birmingham.

The strike is over the management bid to make 79 of the factory's 875 workers redundant. This follows a labour-load survey carried out after the factory was taken over last year.

With unemployment in the Wolverhampton area already running at 6.8 per cent, any workers made redundant would face a long stretch on the dole.

'We're not prepared to accept that,' works convenor Arthur

Tudor, a member of the National Union of Vehicle Builders, told Workers Press yesterday.

'There are 700 more redundancies already in the offing locally. The Birmid Qualcast factory is threatened with closure and the unemployment rate could soon build up to 7 per cent.

'Unemployment in Scotland is only 0.2 per cent higher—and that's considered a depressed area.'

'We want guaranteed assurances from the management about these men's jobs before we'll go back.'

The company was taken over by Howard Tenens of Swindon last year, with a guarantee that the new management would safeguard the interests of the Willenhall Radiator workers.

At a meeting with a senior director, shop stewards were told that existing agreements would be honoured.

If work schedules were reduced, stewards were assured,

the old system would operate: there would be a period of short-time working before redundancies were discussed.

Last year's pay agreements also contained a clause saying that the manning of sections or production lines would be mutually agreed between unions and management.

In November 1970, however, foremen made a unilateral labour survey and later redundancies were announced.

The joint shop stewards' committee at the factory say that if there is not enough work to go round, there should be a system of work-sharing.

They say that their struggle is receiving widespread support in the area.

Local miners, who got the backing of the Willenhall men during their own strike, have sent £190.

Convenor Arthur Tudor says that support so far from other factories has been very good and 'is building up'.

BREWERY MEN WON'T LIFT OVERTIME BAN

ABOUT 250 workers decided yesterday to return to work at the Brickwood's brewery, Portsmouth.

But they will not lift their overtime ban and work-to-rule in defence of a 20 per cent pay claim.

Whether management will accept the return to work on this basis is not known. A week ago Brickwood's locked out the

men for introducing the work to rule.

At yesterday's mass meeting Transport and General Workers' Union and Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers officials told the men that the company was prepared to offer 11.6 per cent increases.

Brickwood's was recently taken over by the Whitbread brewery which makes generous donations to the Tory Party.

10,000 SCOTTISH STEEL JOBS KILLED BY 1978

BRITISH Steel Corporation re-planning could kill off nearly 10,000 Scottish steel jobs by 1978.

Arthur Bell, Scottish divisional officer of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said the plan might be moderated if a new integrated plant was built at Hunterston.

But the heavy cutback would take place whatever was decided about the Ayrshire site.

'According to new evidence given to me the only plants which will be operating by 1978 will be the Ravenscraig-Gartcosh complex and the Clydesdale Tube Works, Mossend.

'The timing of any new project is likely to be too late to keep the skilled Scottish steelmen in the industry,' he added.

Confirmation that the government doesn't intend to revive the ailing Scottish steel industry has come from the preliminary plans for expenditure in the industry between 1975 and 1980.

They show figures of £500m for England and Wales, but nothing for Scotland, according to Bell.

Even the £120m due to be spent in Scotland between 1965 and 1975 excluded the possibilities of a new integrated steel plant.

Road hauliers want third more

SOME road hauliers need to increase their revenue by a third to cover 'steadily escalating costs', a report by the Road Haulage Association says.

The report, published today, says that costs rose by an estimated 13.6 per cent in 1971. Hauliers on general and long distance work now needed to increase revenue by 34.2 per cent to cover increased costs incurred since 1969.

TV

BBC 1

9.45 On the farm. 10.00 White horses. 10.25 Deputy dawg. 10.30 Swim. 10.55-11.00 Magic roundabout. 12.55-1.25 Tresarn. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 News and weather. 1.53 Tom and Jerry. 2.00 Harlem globe-trotters. 2.25 Racing from Aintree. 4.20 Play school. 4.45 Clangers. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Boss cat. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.50 TOM AND JERRY. 'Duck Doctor'.
7.00 SPY TRAP. 'The Contact'.
7.25 TOP OF THE POPS.
8.00 IT'S MURDER. BUT IS IT ART? 'Mr Drake and Ars Gratia Artists'.
8.30 THE FRENCH WAY. Frenchman's Holiday.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.
9.20 PLAY: 'EMMA'S TIME'. By David Mercer.
10.40 24 HOURS.
11.25 THE RAILWAY KING. The Rise and Fall of George Hudson.
11.50 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.
7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.
7.00 NEWSROOM and weather.
8.00 EUROPA. Men or Moles?
8.30 FRANCIS DURBRIDGE PRESENTS . . . The Passenger.
9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK: DAVE ALLEN AT LARGE.
10.05 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
10.10 YESTERDAY'S WITNESS. Sylvia of Sarawak.
10.50 FILM: 'THE BALCONY'. Shelley Winters, Peter Falk. A violent revolution is in progress, but in Madame Irma's bordello the girls are helping to make men's dreams come true.

ITV

11.05-12.09 Out of school. 1.15 Outlook. 2.25 Motor racing. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Joker's wild. 3.45 Marcus Welby. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Secret squirrel. 5.20 Maggie. 5.50 News.

6.00 CARTOON TIME.
6.10 NANNY AND THE PROFESSOR. Kid Stuff.
6.40 CROSSROADS.
7.05 FILM: 'THE MOUNTAIN ROAD'. James Stewart. A demolition team tries to delay the advancing Japanese in China during World War II.
9.00 MAX. Max Bygraves with Geoff Love.
9.30 THIS WEEK.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 CINEMA. Dana Andrews.
11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY.
12.00 AMERICA'S MOST POWERFUL PRIEST.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 4.05 Origami. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Nanny. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.15 Farming news. 6.20 Sports. 6.35 Londop. 7.00 Film: 'The Plunderers'. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weather. 10.32 Maverick. 11.30 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 11.05-12.10 London. 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 Report. 10.59 News. 11.03 Theatre. 11.55 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 11.05-12.10 London. 2.35 Tea break. 3.05 Mad movies. 3.30 From a bird's eye view. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Sean the leprechaun. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Richard the lionheart. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. Crime desk. 6.45 Simon Locke. 7.15 Film: 'Guadalcanal Diary'. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Drive-in. 11.40 I spy. 12.35 Weather. Inheritors.

HARLECH: 11.05-12.10 London. 2.00 Phoenix 5. 2.25 Hilda. 3.20 Common Market cook book. 3.50 Beloved enemy. 4.15 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: 'Never Say Good-bye'. 9.00 London. 10.30 The splendour fails. 11.00 Saint. 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: 11.05-12.10 London. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Randall and Hopkirk. 4.05 News. 4.10 Jimmy Stewart. 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: 'Victim Five'. 9.00 London. 10.00 Brian Connell. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Avengers.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.05-12.10 London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 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: 'The Purple Mask'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Marcus Welby.

ULSTER: 11.05-12.10 London.

4.00 Yoga. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Tommy. 6.35 London. 7.00 Simon Locke. 7.30 Film: 'Laurel and Hardy's Laughing Twentles'. 9.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Avengers.

YORKSHIRE: 11.05-12.10 London. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Sound of . . . 3.15 Matinee. 3.40 Ugliest girl in town. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Lone Ranger. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Film: 'The Knights of the Round Table'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive-in. 12.00 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.05-12.10 London. 2.30 Saint. 3.30 All our yesterdays. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.50 Make a wish. 5.15 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 I dream of Jeannie. 6.55 Sky's the limit. 7.25 Film: 'Columbo Dead Weight'. 8.50 Sylvester. 9.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.30 See our next thrilling instalment!

TYNE TEES: 11.05-12.10 London. 2.30 Time to remember. 3.00 Sound of . . . 3.15 Survival. 3.40 Ugliest girl in town. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Smith family. 7.00 Film: 'The Big Show'. 8.50 Popeye. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sporttime. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Drive-in. 12.00 News. 12.15 Revolving chair.

SCOTTISH: 11.05-12.10 London. 3.30 Once upon a time. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Fireball XL5. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.25 Stuart Gillies Ceilidh. 6.55 Film: 'Ambush Bay'. 9.00 Short story. 9.30 London. 10.30 Max. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Cinema.

GRAMPIAN: 11.06-12.10 London. 3.41 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Julia. 4.42 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Rumble jumble. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Lesley Blair. 6.35 London. 7.00 Plus Tam. 7.30 Film: 'Surprise Package'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Viewfinder. 11.30 Golf with Sam Snead. 12.00 Epilogue.

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Chile's right-wing to hold mass march against Allende

RIGHT-WING political parties opposed to the government of Chilean President Salvador Allende have called a mass march through Santiago next week to 'reaffirm their faith in democracy'.

It has been set for Wednesday, April 12 - eve of the opening in Santiago of the third United Nations conference on trade and development, at which more than 140 nations will be represented.

The decision to stage this new challenge to Allende's 17-month-old Popular Front government was taken last night by leaders of the powerful Christian Democrats, the right-wing National Party, and the smaller Radical Democrat and National Democrat parties.

The opposition hold a majority in both houses of Congress and has been blocking Allende's plans for further nationalization.

The right-wing leaders said they intended to march peacefully through the centre of Santiago even if government permission for the demonstration is denied.

They are angry about a recent government ban on a women's protest march, while a mass rally in favour of Allende was allowed to go ahead.

The right-wing parties are backed by US big business and the Central Intelligence Agency, which has openly admitted planning intervention against Allende 17 months ago.

Allende's coalition of Stalinists, Social-Democrats and bourgeois radicals is fighting in Congress against a right-wing amendment barring him from further state takeovers of industry and business.

The opposition plan to block Allende's veto on this issue and challenge him to take it to a plebiscite.

Shock quit

ARGENTINE provincial governor Senator Francisco Gabrielli has resigned after 20,000-strong demonstrations in the province against electricity price rises. The governor is thought to oppose the increases.

LATE NEWS

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CENTRAL London branch of the National Union of Journalists, representing 4,000 Fleet St journalists, yesterday passed a motion asking the NEC to give notice to the newspaper proprietors and the government that the union is not prepared to take any further contraction of the newspaper industry with the attendant closures and redundancies this entails.

'It calls on the NEC to start immediate discussions with the PKTF unions to work out a plan for a new system of newspaper financing and control including income redistribution, subsidies and, where necessary, the nationalizing of vital or threatened components of the industry.'

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Wallace in fancy dress

GEORGE WALLACE, governor of Alabama and extreme right-wing US presidential hopeful, won 22 per cent of the votes in the Wisconsin Democratic primary election yesterday.

A SINISTER RIGHT-WING GAIN BY WALLACE

He finished second behind Senator George McGovern, who won 30 per cent of the votes with his programme for pulling out of Vietnam completely and leaving the Saigon regime to its own devices.

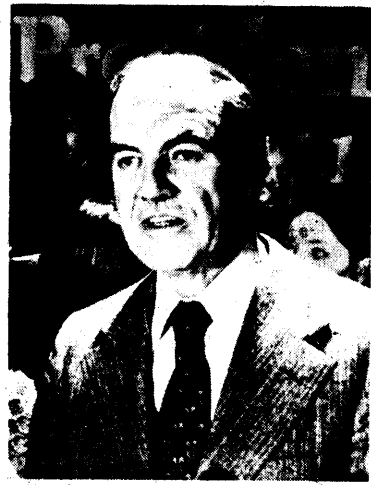
Wallace's showing, just a few weeks after winning 40 per cent of the poll in the southern state of Florida, is a sinister sign of the growing right-wing movement in the US.

The Alabama governor, a notorious segregationist and advocate of stringent 'law-and-order' measures against demonstrators, is backed by the John

Birch Society and other extreme right-wing and fascist groups.

In the last presidential election, he won 13 per cent of the vote as a third-party candidate and if the primaries are any guide he will win even more votes this time if he stands as a third-party candidate again.

He appeals to the frustrated middle-class and backward workers who reject the policies of the two main bourgeois parties. He has gained ground as a result of the treachery of the labour bureaucrats who have tied the unions politically to the Democrats, rejecting the building of a Labour Party based on the trade unions.



McGovern: Withdraw troops

The Wisconsin primary eliminated John Lindsay, the Mayor of New York, who abandoned his candidature after winning only 7 per cent of the poll.

The 1968 Democratic candidate, Hubert Humphrey, won 21 per cent of the poll, while the other main Democratic contender, Edward Muskie, finished in fourth place with only 10 per cent of the poll.

Leyland stewards unhappy with new procedure

BIRMINGHAM: From our industrial correspondent DAVID MAUDE

SHOP STEWARDS from throughout the British Leyland cars and heavy vehicles combine yesterday sent union officials back to the company for improvements in a new disputes procedure.

A total of six amendments in the proposed agreement will be sought, but many of the car workers' leaders who participated in yesterday's Birmingham meeting were pessimistic about the outcome.

There are 'no teeth in their decision. Union leaders were interpreting it afterwards as an 'acceptance in principle' of the procedure.

More than 400 leading stewards and local union officials attended yesterday's meeting which was chaired by Moss Evans, national car and engineering officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The main report on the proposed agreement the result of

months of private discussion between Leyland and the unions was presented by Hugh Scanton, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Main points of the proposed procedure which is designed to replace the 50-year-old York Memorandum torn up by the unions last year, are:

- Recognition for shop stewards, providing they are 21 and have 12 months' service in their plant.
- Drastic reduction in the number of negotiating stages a dispute has to go through.
- Company agreements that the procedure should be exhausted in 20 days.
- Encouragement of the setting up of joint works' committees which would be the final domestic stage of the procedure.
- No changes in wages or working practices without prior union-management agreement — the sought-after *status quo* principle.

In theory, there would be just one external stage to the procedure.

But many shop stewards yesterday expressed concern that this would not be the case in practice. One of the clauses referred back to the company for amendment provides for national officials to be called in after the procedure is exhausted, but before action is taken.

One of the main bones of contention in yesterday's three-hour meeting was the proposal for joint works' committees.

Many stewards expressed the view that this could prevent individual unions obtaining speedy action on disputes of particular concern to them alone. Moss Evans later told reporters that there would in fact be no interference with union sovereignty.

There was in any case a substantial amount still to be negotiated at factory level before the draft agreement was transformed in plant procedures, he said.

'This is in fact an enabling agreement which has to be built on at plant level', he said.

Reserves up

BRITAIN'S official gold and currency reserves rose by £32m during March to stand at £2,715m at the end of the month. Last month's increase, which takes the reserves to another new peak, follows a £4m increase during February.

Teachers aided tyre strike — claim

THREE girl student-teachers have been arrested and charged with aiding workers on an illegal strike at a tyre factory near Bilbao, informed sources claimed yesterday.

The girls, whose ages ranged from 20 to 22, were being held in prison at the Basque city of Vitoria on charges of distributing funds from the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions among strikers at the French-Spanish Michelin plant there in February.

Bloody clashes between factory workers and police erupted at the height of the strike, in which some 3,200 workers walked out in demand for higher pay.

The three girls are being accused of channelling some £900 to organizers of the illegal walk-out. They are expected to go on trial before the public order court later this year.

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.

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