

TUC VIOLATES CONGRESS DECISION

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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It reverses the earlier decision under which unions who wanted to make a court appearance were instructed to see the TUC to explain why.

The surrender came at a half strength meeting of the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee attended by transport workers' leader Jack Jones and Sir Sidney Greene of the railwaymen.

The changes will have to be ratified by the TUC General Council which meets on Thursday. But TUC General Secretary, Victor Feather, explained that if any union, such as the Transport and General Workers, wished to appear before the court, it now had the right to do so.

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'It is, however, aware that the relationship between the court and the trade union movement had been under intensive study during the last few days. In the circumstances we are content at this stage to leave the question of representation of the union and its officers to their own sense of responsibility.'

After the TUC meeting, secretary Victor Feather claimed the turn-about was not a change in policy, but merely a 'clarification of procedure'. He said that no vote had been taken, but that the consensus of opinion was unanimous.

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● Among those first will be Clive Jenkins of ASTMS and postmen's leader Tom Jackson.

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First leader in Court

'I shall be taking a major case of principle on unfair dismissal next Wednesday and it is clear that there is going to be a massive corpus of new case law established in this field.'

By taking this action, Jenkins will gain the dubious distinction of being the first trade union leader to appear before the Tory court. Jenkins is a Labour Party member and described as a 'left'.

● The following week Jackson will appear before the court to fight an application by the newly formed Telecommunications Staff Association which wants to bargain with the Post Office on behalf of telephonists.

The TSA application was handed into court by John Butt, a former telephone operator from Southampton, who is now one of two full-time officials at the Croydon headquarters of the 'union'.

● The next in line before the Court is almost certainly Frank Chapple, the electricians' leader, who is opposing an application for bargaining rights from a Yorkshire-based organization called the Electricity Supply Union. The outfit wants to represent power men at the Ferrybridge 'C' power station.

These union leaders continue the rout begun two weeks ago by railmen's leaders when they called off their work to rule after the court imposed a 14 day 'cooling-off' period on the dispute.

Yesterday's events mean the campaign for the recall of an emergency TUC Congress must be intensified. The Congress should outlaw the union leaders who want to surrender and reaffirm the democratic decision on non co-operation.

● See T&G 'green light' p. 12.

General Strike call on Merseyside

THE POLITICS OF 'PRIVATE EYE'

By Stephen Johns pages 8 & 9



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Registration rebellion

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

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This follows Sunday's decision to allow the union to stay on the Tory register.

The decision has split the conference down the middle;

delegates are confused and bitter about the lack of leadership from the executive committee which is itself divided by nine to seven on the registration issue.

Will the TUC now take action against USDAW? Victor Feather is himself a member of the union. A demand for a statement on registration has been made

by the 11,000-strong London Co-operative Society branch.

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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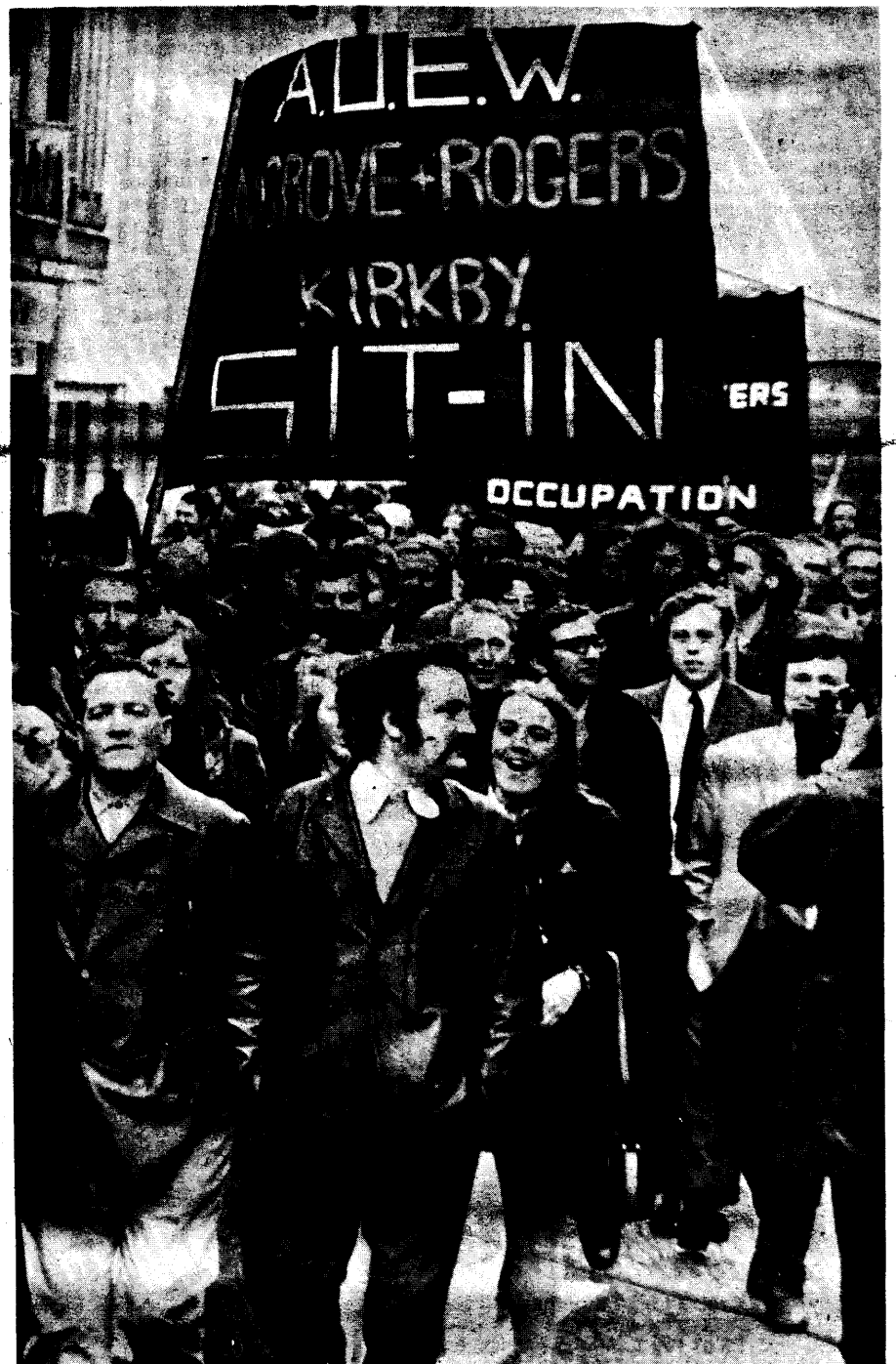
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Scores injured in Madrid's May Day

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

TRUNCHEON-SWINGING riot police charged into crowds attempting to stage an illegal May Day rally in Madrid yesterday. First reports indicated scores had been detained and several injured.

One group of about 200 demonstrators, mostly students, began a march down the wide Atocha St in a working-class suburb of southern Madrid, waving a red flag and shouting anti-fascist slogans.

But jeep-loads of armed police who had been patrolling the area in force since early morning charged into the group. Eyewitnesses said some of the marchers fought back with chains during the ten-minute running battle with police.

All passers-by were stopped and asked to produce identity documents. Students were lined up against walls and taken away in police trucks if they had no papers on them.

Several girls were involved in battles with the grey-uniformed helmeted police and there were shouts of 'assassins' as girls were dragged screaming to police vans.

Opposition groups had called for a mass rally at Atocha yesterday, but although there were hundreds of people in the area the police action prevented it.

Yesterday's action was the culmination of a week of strikes and anti-government meetings to show the strength of working class and student opposition to General Franco's fascist regime.

Portugal bans all demos

ALL May Day demonstrations were banned in Portugal yesterday. The authorities said marches and demonstrations were to have been led by subversive elements infiltrated from France.

Security police claimed to have discovered plans for anti-government demonstrations and to have arrested some of the 'ringleaders'.

They claimed demonstrations and 'sabotage' were to have been organized by the Communist Party, and its Armed Revolutionary Action Group and by Revolutionary Brigade groups, linked with Algerian dissidents.

BRANDT JOINS IN SURVIVAL TALKS

TALKS between the government and opposition leaders to try and break the West German parliamentary deadlock are due to re-open in Bonn today.

Chancellor Willy Brandt is seeking an agreement with Rainer Barzel, leader of the Christian Democrats, which will allow ratification of the controversial treaties with the Soviet Union and Poland.

The two men held four-hour talks on Friday but failed to finalize a common declaration on the treaties. Barzel claims that in their present form the treaties make permanent the division of Germany.

At the moment neither party can command a firm absolute majority in the Bundestag, Brandt needs such a majority to get the treaties through.

The Christian Democrats have

been campaigning strongly to try and bring the government down.

Brandt said on Sunday that unless the deadlock was resolved; 'We will have to take the first opportunity offered to allow the voters to decide anew'—a hint at the prospect of a General Election.

Divisions in parliament reflect a growing polarization of class forces in the country as a whole. On Sunday, 3,000 extreme right-wing demonstrators, many wearing jackboots and steel helmets, clashed in Bonn's Market Square with supporters of Brandt's Social-Democratic party.

The right wingers, including former Nazis, were demonstrating against the treaties and demanding reunification of Germany under capitalist rule.

● **TOMORROW'S Centre pages:** How long can Brandt survive?

Nixon wallows in his own bloodbath

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Nixon yesterday warned N Vietnam it faced 'grave risks' from American bombing unless the liberation offensive in S Vietnam was called off. 'We are prepared to use our air and naval strength against military targets in the North,' he told 200 Texas businessmen at a dinner party in Floresville.

'The N Vietnamese are taking a very great risk if they continue their offensive in the south. I will just leave it there and let them make their choice,' he said.

If he allowed a communist takeover in the south, the office of the President of the United

States would lose respect throughout the world 'and I will not let that happen'.

With typical hypocrisy, Nixon said there had been bloodbaths in the past following communist victories in Vietnam 'and if there is a takeover now there will be a bloodbath that would stain the hands of the United States for time immemorial'.

Apparently Nixon considers the US will not be 'stained' with the blood of the victims of his bombs in the north. His statement foreshadows an even more concentrated bombing offensive against Hanoi and Haiphong.

This is unlikely to deter the Vietnamese on the eve of their greatest victories. The Saigon government is shakier than it has ever been, its currency is spiralling out of control and its troops are being defeated in battle after battle.

S Vietnamese forces were yesterday driven out of the big Aitu combat base outside the besieged city of Quang Tri, which is now cut off from the rest of S Vietnam. Convoys of trucks were unable to get through to the S Vietnamese garrison and helicopter flights were made impossible by heavy ground fire.

Further south, in the coastal province of Binh Dinh, liberation forces have seized Tam Quam, a district capital and the third town in the area to fall to the communists in the past few days.

The capture of positions in the coastal area is linked with the attack on Kontum and Pleiku further west. Capture of these could completely sever South Vietnam along its vulnerable 'waist'.

Cooling-off does us no good—Bonfield

JOHN BONFIELD, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, has made an attack on the executives of the three rail unions.

Writing in his union journal, 'Print', Bonfield scathingly refers to the rail unions' decision to abide by the 14-day cooling off period imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court:

'But this much can be said. The three rail union executives have done the rest of us no good at all.'

To have rejected Victor

Feather's call for a resumption of normal working to get negotiations going again was something they were perfectly entitled to do—as was the earlier rejection of the Jarratt formula. But to have scorned the TUC's call only to climb down immediately afterwards in face of the NIRC's edict is hardly excusable.'

Bonfield said the rail climb-down meant 'that the floodgates have been opened to the full rigours of the Industrial Relations Act with very obvious and serious implications for us all'.

Tarnished jewel

AUSTIN and Pickersgill, once the jewel of British shipyards, is suffering some nasty financial setbacks.

The Sunderland-based firm has just announced the loss of orders worth £8m.

The orders, arranged six months ago, were for six of the group's standard dry cargo vessels.

At the time of the announcement it was stated that the orders marked 'another milestone' in Austin and Pickersgill's history. It has now been revealed that

the agreement with Greek ship-owner Michail A. Karageorgis has collapsed.

Mr Charles Longbottom, the group's chairman, has recently been in Cairo trying to drum up fresh orders. If no new orders are forthcoming, at least one of the yards will be without work in 12 months' time.

STRIKERS at the D & E Plastics components firm, Coventry, are to carry on their three-week-old strike for higher pay and proper shift and overtime rates.

'Unity' forum abandons all principles

THE Communist Party is no longer a Stalinist party but 'stands where the lefts who refused to enter the Communist International stood in the 1920s', Duncan Hallas, a leading member of the International Socialist group said on Saturday.

He was speaking at forum organized by the London University Communist Party alongside representatives of the Party, the International Marxist Group, 'Tribune' and the pro-Chinese Communist Federation of Britain.

The purpose of the meeting was to reach 'a substantial common ground'. The chairman announced in opening the meeting it would inaugurate a series of discussions aimed at achieving closer unity of the organizations involved.

The Socialist Labour League had refused to have any part in the forum, the chairman said. This unleashed a series of attacks on the SLL from the platform speakers.

Sam Major, representing the Communist Federation of Britain, said he found it 'difficult to conceive any organization calling itself socialist refusing to take part'.

This supporter of Chairman Mao Tse-tung attacked the idea of 'peaceful transition to socialism' as the cause of 'the greatest danger, suffering and murder'—but did not explain how this squared with support for China's actions in Indonesia, the Sudan and Bangla Desh!

John Jennings of the 'Tribune' editorial board launched a sustained attack on the fighting capacity of the working class. The first thing that would happen given a development of the class struggle would be 'that we would find ourselves denouncing as fascists many of the dockers who are today fighting the Industrial Relations Act', he said.

Bolshevism had not achieved what it set out to do, he said. 'Lenin failed to deliver the crucial essence of what makes socialism so different from capi-

talism. And don't forget that Stalin was a Bolshevik.'

IMG speaker John Ross made no attempt to answer these reactionary remarks. 'Being British and therefore pragmatic I only want to spend a few minutes in defence of the Transitional Programme and all that,' he said. He attacked the idea that Irish workers should fight for the downfall of the Tory government.

'This is reformism, to say that you should not be fighting the national struggle you should be forcing the Tories to resign. It is a different from the one you are actually engaged in Ireland.'

Brian Filly, editor of the Stalinist youth paper 'Challenge', defended the British road to Socialism and the Upper Clyde work-in. If the Upper Clyde workers had been sitting in instead of taking their wages from the liquidator, there would have been a lot more unemployed he said.

Hallas, speaking last in the debate, did his best to whitewash the Stalinists. On the 'fundamental questions' he agreed with the IMG and the Communist Federation of Britain, he said. The Communist Party was not Stalinist, but a cover for 'the Labour lefts and left trade union leaders'.

'Though we must fight for common ground, we cannot possibly gloss over the fundamental differences,' Hallas said. In the next breath he announced that he did not intend to take up the questions of what happened in Russia and China. 'This is not our primary concern,' he said.

Involved in this 'unity' forum is the attempt to create a centrist alliance against Trotskyism in which the revisionists of all shades sink their differences with the Stalinists.

Terrified of the independent movement of the working class and the growth of the Socialist Labour League, these middle-class political groups seek shelter under the wings of the Stalinists. Their search for 'common ground' is thoroughly counter-revolutionary because it involves an onslaught against principle and theory at a time when the working class is in mortal struggle with the class enemy.

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An army of sordid spies

AN INCREASING army of state 'spies' is now on the watch for deserted wives claiming Social Security benefits while having affairs, an MP has claimed.

Labour MP for Hackney Mr Stanley Clinton Davis has announced he will ask Sir Keith Joseph, Social Services Secretary in the Commons why the number of special investigators has increased from 97 in 1964 to 286 now.

Said Davis: "These people snoop about getting tittle-tattle from local pubs and other places, finding out who is sleeping with whom. If they come across a deserted wife who is having sexual relations with a man they make the tremendous assumption that he is providing her with financial support."

'These people snoop about finding out who is sleeping with whom'

'Nothing could be further from the truth in the vast majority of these cases.'

And he added: 'It looks as though the number of investigators has increased very substantially under this government. It is deplorable. Most of their actions are dedicated to the task of rooting out poor women who are thought to be living with men'

'Why should a woman be denied her rightful benefit by people who intrude into her life in this way? And why should not women who have lost their husbands indulge in sexual inter-

course if they want to?'

As was pointed out in the Socialist Labour League pocket library pamphlet No 3, 'The Social Security Swindle' (p.7) these spies pry into the lives of thousands of people near the poverty line.

It points out:

'For three days and nights they will watch a woman living alone, just to make sure she is no "co-habiting" and, perhaps, taking money from a man she might live with. They don't even have to prove the cash angle only the co-habitation to stop her

receiving a supplementary benefit.'

The pamphlet explaining instructions to these 'special investigators' (SIs) under the Social Security secret codes says (page 5):

'A section states that if a man is seen to enter or leave the house, the woman is questioned about this.'

'The instructions say that if suspicion remains in spite of questioning, then: "On the morning of the third day follow the man to his place of employment. There tactfully check his identity and address with his employer.'

'After this the SI may "with the agreement of the employer interview the man and ask him to sign any statement made".'

The pamphlet makes clear that, as Mr Davis says, it is the 'undisclosed temporary or permanent presence of a man, even though he contributes nothing to the woman's upkeep, is the crime'.

● Pamphlet details see below.

One day dock strike in So'ton

ABOUT 2,000 dockers at Southampton yesterday staged a one-day strike against the fine on their union, the Industrial Relations Act and the TUC climbdown on the boycott of the Act.

The decision was taken against the advice of a local official, who said the executive had asked them to work normally.

Moving the resolution at a mass meeting, steward John Bolland said the men had to strike to make the TUC stand firm and show the T&GWU national executive the feeling of Southampton dockers.

There was a strong feeling at the meeting that a one-day stoppage was totally inadequate. And a speaker who called for an all-out strike was cheered.

The meeting also carried a resolution calling for the blacking of all goods in and out of the Dagenham complex of Hays Wharf until such time as registered labour was employed there.

Dock stewards will meet today to discuss blacking local containers firms which use non-registered labour.

Stop the rot by recalling TUC—Cooley

A RECALLED TUC to 'stop the rot' started by the National Industrial Relations Court was called for yesterday by a leader of the technical and supervisory section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Mike Cooley, president of TASS, formerly DATA, said that such a Congress should mobilize the whole trade union movement to fight for the policy of no co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act.

'We are frequently told how fortunate we are in Britain that we have one united TUC', he told the opening session of the TASS conference in Scarborough.

'If having in this country a united trade union movement means we all work together to dig a grave for free trade unionism, through these courts, then I do not believe that our

union should be a part of this.'

The rights of the unions were never established in the courts 'but by using our industrial strength, where necessary in defiance of the law', he said.

Unions existed in spite of—not because of—the law. Where bad laws existed, union members had a responsibility to break them.

'History will now condemn us if we do not break the laws which are being imposed upon us', he said.

Cooley reported that the TASS executive, which met in Scarborough on Sunday, had studiously ignored the Act and involved members at the North-East factory of C. A. Parsons Ltd in industrial action in the usual manner.

The executive yesterday recommended continuing defiance of the Act in a resolution which said that it should not instruct members to stop acting in defence of their closed-shop agreement at Parsons.



TASS president Mike Cooley

Homesell

MORE than 20,000 homes owned by local authorities and new towns in England and Wales were sold last year, the Department of Environment reveals today. Nearly half of these were in the south-east region—4,900 in the Greater London Council and London boroughs areas and about the same number outside greater London.

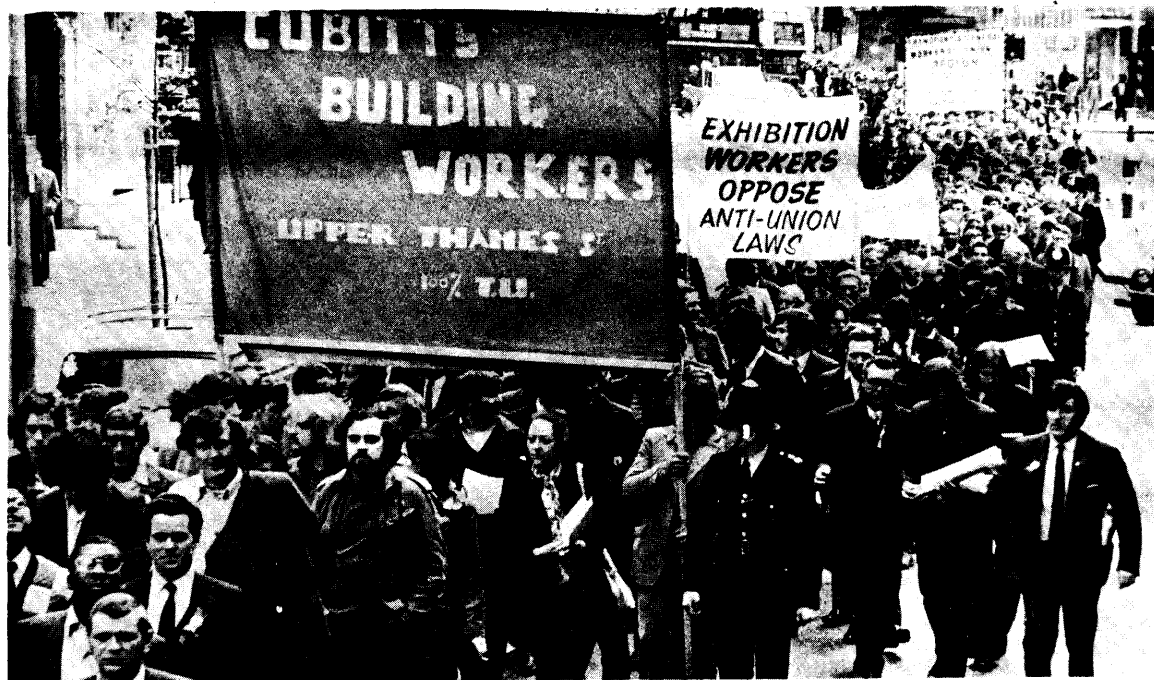
TORIES ATTACK THE UNEMPLOYED

The Social Security Swindle



'The Social Security Swindle' by Bernard Franks. A useful handbook in the SLL pocket library series on state restrictions on social security. 5p. (Post 2½p) Available from: New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

Builders march for £30



ABOUT 2,000 trade unionists marched on the headquarters of the building employers in London yesterday demanding a £30-a-week basic in place of the present £20. They also petitioned for a 35-hour week. Police stood

by as the marchers left Lincoln's Inn Fields for New Cavendish St. Later the marchers held a rally at Central Hall, Westminster. Jack Henry of the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians, one of the men's

leaders, told them outside the headquarters: 'We will no longer tolerate the iniquitous conditions of this industry.' He demanded better basic pay and conditions and an end to 'the lump'.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

E LONDON: Tuesday May 2, 8 p.m. (Note change of venue): 'Three Wheatsheaves', Upper St, N1 (nr Angel tube), N Ireland.

W LONDON: Tuesday May 2, 8 p.m. Shaw Theatre and Library, Euston Rd, WC1. Force the Tories to resign.

COTGRAVE: Tuesday May 2, 7.30 p.m. Cotgrave Miners' Welfare. The 'fair rents' Bill.

OLLERTON: Wednesday May 3, 7.30 p.m. White Hart.

COVENTRY: Wednesday May 3, 7.30 p.m. Elastic Inn, Cox St.

COALVILLE: Wednesday May 3, 8.00 p.m. Barden Rd Working Men's Club. The 'Fair Rents' Bill and the fight against the Tory government.

SLOUGH: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Slough Community Centre, Farnam Rd. Speakers, Frank Tomany, ex-convenor Omes Faulkner, Brian Bailey, AUEW (in a personal capacity). The Industrial Relations Act.

Recall the TUC
Expel the traitors
Make the Tories resign

CROYDON: Thursday May 4, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd.

SW LONDON: Tuesday May 9, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4.

N KENT: Tuesday May 9, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 9, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Ave, Barking.

LUTON: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. St John's Ambulance Hall, Lea Rd.

N LONDON: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane).

SE LONDON: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, New Cross Rd (opp New Cross station).

PORT BOSSES TIGHTEN THE SCREWS

The second in a series of articles in which David Maude, our industrial correspondent, shows how the dockers' leaders, official and unofficial, allowed the Devlin 'modernization' scheme to destroy jobs and conditions.

Jack Dash chose to unburden his soul in early 1968 to an unexpected audience — NE television viewers.

Influenced, no doubt, by the thought that few dockers from his London stamping-ground would be watching Tyne-Tees Television, he declared that he had never opposed the Devlin scheme.¹

What about all the agitation on the docks? asked interviewer Ludovic Kennedy. Isn't the Communist Party trying to disrupt the economy of the country?

No, no, Dash, protested earnestly. 'I've never stopped the job yet. The last strike was brought to me.'

And of course this is absolutely true.

The London docks stopped in 1967 because men from Liverpool went up on October 3 to make sure a strike resolution was moved. They had to grab the microphone out of Dash's hand to do it.

Early on October 4, 1967, Dash's portworkers' liaison committee moved a resolution that the Royal group of docks strike immediately over the 'continuity rule'.

The employers have tried to abolish this rule—giving men the right to stay on a particular job until completed—for men temporarily transferred from one employer to another. But this meant the London men were now striking on different issues from their Mersey brothers.

Dash was soon echoing calls from Jack Jones and the T&GWU leadership that the government intervene to end the strike.

When the Labourites appointed Jack Scamp, a director of General Electric, to inquire into the causes of the dispute the CP supported some members of the strike committee in welcoming the move.

Yet when Jack Jones again tried to persuade dockers to return to work on October 13, he was booed and jeered. Four thousand dockers walked out of the meeting after a few minutes of his speech.

Scamp, a 'red scare' launched by Gunter and an all-night vigil by Labour premier Harold Wilson at Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel, all failed to shift the Liverpool men.

When they did vote to return, on October 27, it was only after a promise of substantial concessions: £4-a-week guaranteed piecework minimum, plus consideration of their claim for an extra £1 a week fall-back pay.

Even then there was a large minority against. Thirteen out of 29 members of the strike committee were prevented from speaking to the crucial mass meeting because they were opposed to the back-to-work motion.

The Monday after Liverpool's vote to return, October 30, Dash had a 40-minute interview with Cousins. Two sets of peace proposals were discussed and Dash agreed to put both to the men at the Royals.

Neither proved acceptable, but Dash used the meeting to shift the emphasis of his demands.

He was now asking only that transferred men should be put on 'non-continuity' work like loading lorries. Continuity jobs would be left for men working at their home base.

On November 13, the liaison committee also began to split the London men between themselves

Separate meetings were called at the Royal and West India docks. Meetings had been held jointly right from the beginning of the strike.

Two days later, with 'scabs' in full force at the meeting, a surprise vote showed a majority in favour of a return to work. The liaison committee called on everyone to accept this 'democratic decision'.

On November 27, despite considerable bitterness among the younger dockers, a similar vote was taken at the Royals.

But the settlements did not, as the employers had hoped, mean uninterrupted progress towards a trouble-free dockland.

Towards the end of January 1968, the Fleet St press began screaming that cargo throughput in Liverpool had fallen by 10 per cent since the strike. Devlin Phase One had been costed on the basis of a 20-per-cent increase.

Implementation of Phase Two was postponed.

The Labour leaders, meanwhile, began to argue that they could not afford their election pledge to nationalize the docks by 1970. Their initial calculation that £400m would be needed to compensate the port employers was proving an underestimate.

In Liverpool, the employers offered an incentive-bonus scheme based on tonnage in an attempt to get things moving.

But the offered rewards were only £5 over the existing £17 basic. Later in the year in London they were to offer a new basic rate of £29 10s.

The dockers were becoming anxious about the future of their jobs.

Containerization began to become a visible threat. In July, 13 men unloaded 4,000 tons of cargo from the container ship 'American Lancer' in less than 12 hours. The same tonnage would have taken 130 men five days from a conventional vessel.

The same month Jack Dash received a rare suspension for supporting a ban on weekend working by 4,000 London members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers 'blue' union.

Yet by November his liaison committee was back to its usual opportunist stance.

On November 12, the national docks modernization committee had given the go-ahead for the negotiation of local agreements on Devlin Phase Two.

A leaflet issued by the liaison committee in response continued the committee's equivocation towards the Devlin report.

Most portworkers would be opposed to negotiating around a package deal that 'inevitably results in drastic reductions in the labour force', it said. But 'by all means' let the union officials discuss higher basic pay, sick pay, pensions and longer holidays.

The 'sweeping changes' proposed by the employers, the leaflet continued, merited, not nationalization, but 'the full participation of every portworker'.

By the end of the year, however, it was clear that the implementation of Phase Two in Liverpool would have to be further delayed.

The dockers had exacted a high enough price in impudence and dirty-cargo awards for Phase One. And most of its conditions remained unfulfilled.



1967: Jack Dash addresses dockers during the October strike.

Labour's nationalization White Paper, which appeared early the following year, was designed to change this situation . . . in the employers' favour.

Significantly, even its title was neutral: 'The Re-Organization of the Ports.'

Not a mention of the dirty, dangerous, back-breaking work of the dockers found its way into the White Paper.

Its sole concern was to streamline, rationalize and modernize the ports in the interests of bigger and bigger profits.

'The re-organization', it said, 'will ensure that there is a central body with the responsibility and power to formulate and execute plans for the future which will enable the industry to meet the challenge of technological development and provide a more efficient service to users.'

Although making a single nod in the direction of 'workers' participation', it was clear that the proposed National Ports Authority would have been entirely on the lines of the existing state-industry boards, with the big employers who had already been handsomely compensated continuing to call the shots.

Lord Devlin and his committee of inquiry came in for extravagant praise.

Their report, the White Paper noted, had 'led to a considerable reduction of employers' and provided 'an improved basis for the development of better industrial relations and for increased productivity and efficiency'.

It continued: 'Work has already started on the Devlin committee's recommendations for the rationalization of the pay structure of the industry and the elimination of restrictive practices.'

'It is of great importance that all these processes be continued.'

The employers' first offer for Devlin Phase Two in London—£21.25 plus bonus—came early in January 1969 and was immediately and scornfully rejected.

Union leaders let it be known



October 1967: Jack Jones was booed and jeered for calling a return to work.

that they might be prepared to consider something in the region of £29. At the end of January 1969 the employers obligingly offered a 37-hour week, £29 plus 50 per cent guaranteed bonus for shipworkers and £24 plus £8 guaranteed bonus for clerks.

Shore-working dockers were still offered only £21.25 plus bonus of up to 50 per cent. This bonus was unguaranteed and based on output. The offer was a splitting tactic—and behind it lurked a whole network of productivity strings.

On January 17, the Labour government had produced its blueprint for legislation which could police such strings—the White Paper 'In Place of Strife'.

The response of Dash and his portworkers' liaison committee in this situation was to plan a campaign of half-day strikes in London, purely on economic demands.

At a mass meeting of men from the Royal group of docks on February 4, the committee won support for the campaign. The demands were: £30 basic for 40 hours piecework, plus £10 for ten hours overtime. The first strike took place on February 6.

During the two months its campaign lasted, the liaison committee maintained a consistently ambiguous position towards Devlin Phase Two.

Bernie Steer, a member of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers, who was widely regarded as Dash's understudy, warned at a mass meeting on March 5 against the dangers of split shifts, mobility of labour and other concessions the employers wanted.

On occasion, Dash himself would talk darkly of 'if they get their Phase Two'. More often it was 'when'.

But in an interview about his forthcoming book, 'Good Morning, Brothers!', Dash told the weekly paper 'The Port' that 'all the advantages the trade union officials win for us in Phase Two will be accepted by the men.'

'What we will make certain,

however is that the employers don't get Phase Two on the cheap.'

One leaflet put out by his committee said union officials should stop negotiating Phase Two until the improved conditions promised under Phase One were met.

Communist Party members on the Liverpool docks, meanwhile, were actually sitting on the modernization committee which the employers were using to plan tactics for their schemes.

Neither is the record of the so-called 'International Socialism' group any better.

Terry Barrett, a Tilbury shop steward who professed IS membership, said in February 1969 that official inquiries had in the past agreed with union officials and militants that all dockers should in future be employed by one employer.

'Until the government agrees to this demand', he said, 'dockers should refuse to work Phase Two of Devlin.'²

Contrast the role of the Trotskyists.

In a mass-distribution leaflet issued towards the end of February 1969, the All Trades Unions Alliance warned that under its proposed National Ports Authority 'the government plans to . . . proceed to a massive programme of rationalization and modernization' based on vastly increased use of the container.

'This', the leaflet said, 'is the real purpose of Devlin Phase Two.'

The ATUA warned that neither the T&GWU leadership nor Dash were prepared to fight Phase Two.

The T&GWU leaders were opposed to a fight against the Labour government, while Dash refused to break from the union chiefs. Both were hostile to a united struggle with the northern ports.

The reformists' and Stalinists' vacillation served only to encourage the employers. Realizing that Dash and the CP were desperate to avoid a real clash with the union and Labour leaders, they began tightening the screws on the dockers.

On April 2, Hay's Wharf Ltd took the bull by the horns. They issued sack notices to 300 men. The dockers, they said, were refusing to accept the mobility and flexibility provisions of Phase One.

The following day Dash took the microphone outside 'The Connaught' public house, opposite Albert dock.

It had been decided to wind up the liaison committee, he said. The campaign of half-day strikes the committee had organized was suspended. All pay questions would in future be handled by the shop stewards who were to be elected the following week.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

¹ 'Face the Press', Tyne-Tees Television, March 5, 1968.

² 'Socialist Worker' interview, February 15, 1969.



US DOUBLE-TALK ON CAMBODIA

Officials of the Nixon administration have indicated to the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that the US will continue military support to the Lon Nol dictatorship in Cambodia even after all American troops are withdrawn from Vietnam.

This position, detailed in testimony made public last week by the committee, marks an important change in the publicly-declared policy of the Nixon government.

Until now the administration has tried to justify its intervention and aid for Lon Nol on the grounds that it was helping to safeguard the withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam and maintaining Cambodian 'neutrality'.

The new and more sweeping 'justification' for American aid to the Cambodian government was given on March 22 and 23 by Lt-Gen George Seignious II, director of the US security assistance programme, and by Marshall Green, assistant Secretary of State for E Asian Affairs.

'I think we may have a US interest and policy reasons that would indicate that it was prudent and in our interest to continue some form of support to Cambodia after the US forces have withdrawn from S Vietnam,' Gen Seignious said under questioning.

He also asserted: 'We do not have any formal obligation or a commitment to Cambodia that I know of.'

Green echoed this position. Once all US forces are out of S Vietnam, he said: 'I still think we have an interest in the Cambodians being able to have a government of their own choosing, that we could still be opposed to aggression succeeding and taking over Cambodia.'

This last statement is typical of US government double-talk. Through the Central Intelligence

Agency Nixon overthrew the previous Cambodian government, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, in 1970. Sihanouk was forced out precisely because his 'neutralist' policies cut across American plans for establishing a firm anti-communist base in Phnom Penh.

The statements of Seignious and Green differ from comments on May 14, 1970, by Secretary of State William Rogers, who said the defence of the Cambodian government (ie the Lon Nol regime) 'is not our primary purpose and will not be our purpose in the future'.

Since then the Nixon administration has begun military and economic aid programmes which gave the Phnom Penh government \$314m this year alone.

This is rather steep for a government which controls an area not much larger than the District of Columbia. The rest of Cambodia is in the hands of the National Liberation Front under Prince Sihanouk.

Green disclosed in his testimony that the US was seeking to help build the Cambodian army up to 220,000 men in fiscal

1973. The present level envisioned in the military aid programme is 200,000. Last year, the US was seeking to support a 150,000-member Cambodian army and in 1970, when Prince Sihanouk was deposed by Lon Nol, the army numbered about 30,000.

It was disclosed during the questioning of Gen Seignious that the staff of the Foreign Affairs Committee had prepared a draft report that was severely critical of the performance of the Cambodian military.

Wayne L. Hays, (Democrat, Ohio) told Gen Seignious that the report found that 'a good part of the 200,000 army you are talking about is a phantom army, that they are not there'.

Hays also questioned the planned delivery to Cambodia of C-119 transport planes. Speaking of assistance to the Lon Nol government, he added: 'I don't know how they are going to use this stuff except as this report indicates, to buy Mercedes and television sets and what-have-you.'

Top: General Lon Nol. Below: Prince Sihanouk with Mao



TUNISIAN PLAN TO DEFUSE STUDENTS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the backwoodsmen in the Tory cabinet are attempting to deal with student militancy by trying to hand over control of student financing to university and college authorities.

President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, however, has other methods of dealing with the problems of student unrest.

He plans to 'diffuse' permanent student unrest at the university of Tunis. As a result some 400 students may soon find themselves housed in a luxury Mediterranean hotel complex.

Student unrest in Tunisia in the last four years has followed the pattern of other countries. There have been strikes, disturbances and frequent boycotts of classes, sometimes over academic grievances and sometimes over broader issues.

The detention of a former university teacher and his wife on charges of subversion and plotting against the state also sparked off a students' protest strike early in February.

The strike ended with the government lock-out of arts and law students and an eventual return to work by scientists and medical students.

President Bourguiba has now reopened the faculties.

His latest decision means that the students will not after all miss classes for the remainder of the year. But the search for a permanent solution to the strikes and unrest at the university continues.

The latest suggestion being studied by the Tunisian authorities is to divide next autumn's intake of first-year students into two halves, allotting only 1,500 places in Tunis, and moving the other 1,500 students to new university centres in the cities of Sfax, Bizerta and Sousse.

This plan would split up the first-year students and keep them away from the 'agitators' in the capital. They would be given exactly the same courses as before, with senior lecturers commuting regularly from Tunis, and junior teaching staff recruited locally among schoolteachers with higher degrees.

The plan would mean housing about 400 students in part of a luxury hotel complex at Bizerta, where they would pursue their introductory courses in law or French literature alongside tourists bronzing in the Mediterranean sunshine.

This particular aspect of the plan has raised doubts among those who question the wisdom of transplanting several hundred volatile students into one of the citadels of the consumer society.

Below: Habib Bourguiba.



ILLEGAL TROOPS IN LAOS

The Nixon administration's contempt for parliamentary procedure, already evident in the International Telephone and Telegraph scandal, is underlined by the latest news from Laos.

There, US army officers and equipment are operating in direct support of Loatian anti-communist irregular forces in the northern part of the country. This is a direct violation of US congressional prohibitions on such use of American troops.

It came to light last week after US spokesmen in Vientiane had tentatively confirmed press reports that a US army Flying Crane helicopter piloted by two US army officers had been shot down some days previously in the Long Cheng area, 80 miles from Vientiane.

The two pilots were reported to be seriously injured in the crash and flown to a US military base in northern Thailand.

According to unconfirmed reports, one of the pilots died of his injuries.

US spokesmen in Laos were unable to positively identify the fliers as US army personnel, but said there is reason to believe so because such aircraft are normally operated in N Laos by the army rather than the air force. Specific information on the crash, including identity of the pilots, would have to come from their 'parent' organization, either

in Thailand or Vietnam, the spokesmen said.

US spokesmen have never denied the presence of Flying Crane helicopters in Laos. Their operations have frequently been observed by newspaper reporters there, but without knowledge that they were operated by army personnel.

The only US army presence in Laos acknowledged by the Vientiane embassy in the past has been the normal, if bloated contingent of military attaches, believed to number about 100 men.

When questioned about the possibility that the presence of the soldiers could be in violation of the Cooper-Church Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act, US spokesmen suggested that Cooper-Church did not cover such activities since they are a part of the air war in Laos. The cost of such operations, however, would be covered by budget appropriations to the army, which are covered by Cooper-Church.

The amendment, passed by Congress after the invasion of Cambodia, specifically prohibits the use of American army personnel in Laos.

US spokesmen suggest further that army helicopter operations do not come within the meaning of US ground combat forces in Laos since their operations are logistic, transporting material.

There is no denial, however, that the Long Cheng area where the helicopter crashed is a combat zone, that the pilots were being paid combat allowances during their mission, or that they were carrying militarily useful cargo when they crashed.

Quibbles aside, the US army is clearly violating the express wishes of Congress in its Laos operation and has once again demonstrated the impotence of the US system of bourgeois democracy faced with a powerful military-bureaucratic machine.

TIGHTENING GRIP ON THE BBC

The BBC has just published a 28-page booklet entitled 'Principles and Practice in Documentary Programmes', authorized by Huw Wheldon, the corporation's managing director. The document is the product of a senior internal committee comprising Richard Cawston, head of documentary programmes (who was chairman); Stephen Hearst, head of arts features; Robert Reid, head of science features; Anthony de Lotbiniere, producer, documentary programmes; and Antony Jay, author of the recently-published 'Corporation Man'.

In his introduction Wheldon says: 'The note is not a charter, nor a book of rules, nor a set of standing orders. It represents what the group believes are or should be the principles and practices that guide them and their work for the BBC.' In this article LESLIE STEWART describes what the 'non-book of rules' prepared by the 'group' is all about.



Huw Wheldon

'The ideas of the ruling class,' says Marx in 'The German Ideology', 'are in every epoch the ruling ideas, i.e. the class which is the ruling material force of society, is at the same time its ruling intellectual force. The class which has the means of material production at its disposal has control at the same time over the means of mental production.'

In our society, television counts as one of the most important means of mental production, closely controlled by the ruling class and used by it to project into millions of homes that class's version of current affairs, news, and entertainment. There is nothing in television, from situation comedies to quiz shows, which is not used to project a specific view of society;

but naturally it is in the field of current affairs and of 'factual' documentary programmes that the ideology of the ruling class is most explicit.

Control over the men and women who make them must, therefore, be effective. The fact that the BBC has recently issued a code for documentary producers is a sign of the anxiety felt in the BBC—one of the most powerful ideological weapons of the ruling class—lest control should not be strict enough at this moment of economic and political crisis for the Tory government.

'There is,' Marx goes on in the same passage, 'a division of labour which manifests itself in the ruling class as the division of mental and material labour, so that inside the class one part appears as the thinkers of the class, its active conceiving ideologists, who make the perfecting of the illusion of the class'



Richard Cawston, Royal film-maker in the Queen's study at Buckingham Palace.

itself their chief source of livelihood. It is difficult to think of a more precise definition of the role and function of broadcasters in radio or television, whether BBC or ITV.

REBELLIONS

Admittedly from time to time the broadcasters have their outbursts and pocket rebellions, which flutter the bourgeois press and make reactionary politicians and editors see reds behind every camera; but these are passing disagreements, examples — to quote Marx again—of 'a certain opposition and hostility between the two parts (within the ruling class) which, however, in the case of a practical collision, in which the class itself is endangered, automatically comes to nothing'. If we does the BBC see the documentary producers, one of the men who are employed to do the job of perfecting the

illusion of the class about itself: He is in a unique position; he does not represent a government or a Royal Commission, or a commercial interest, or any organization which might cause people to guard their words, or tempt them to make a case for this or that. He is simply a man from the BBC who is gathering information. The fact that he is from the BBC credits him with a trust that is something to be cherished. The doors of Buckingham Palace or the White House, the Bank of England or the Vatican, a top security prison or a private home, may be opened to him. The most eminent or the most lowly will pour out their hearts to him. Two things are interesting about this passage: the insufferable tone of paternal condescension towards 'the lowly' on the one hand and, on the other hand, the precision with which it pinpoints not only the centres of ideological mystification—the monarch, the church. As for the secular prisons, naturally they will open their gates gladly to an organization which in 'Z Cars', 'Softly', and 'Dixon', has done much to boost the image of the police.

When all the gates have opened magically before him, the producer, who enjoys—says the code — 'a journalistic freedom which is envied all over the world', is promised the utmost liberty: He must feel free to report what he finds without fear of political consequences. But he must not use this freedom to imperil freedom itself; he has a duty to preserve it. Thus he has certain basic obligations, which often amount to little more than a need to fulfil the principles of truth, balance and fairness.

FREEDOM

The freedom he has to preserve is naturally the freedom of bourgeois society and does not extend, for instance, to the freedom the British working class has won in the trade union movement in the last century and a half, a freedom now under direct attack from the National Industrial Relations Court. The producer is expected, we

are told, to have a thorough knowledge of his subject, on the basis of which he 'must make proper editorial decisions and selections and present accurate facts'. Notice the question-begging word 'proper' which is to be read as meaning 'not challenging the political consensus or the ideologies of the ruling class'. In order to make these 'proper' decisions he has to fulfil other requirements.

He must develop a mature understanding of the personalities involved, in order that he invites the most appropriate people to take part in the programme and avoids inviting the wrong ones through ignorance or naiveté.

What is important to understand is that, in terms of politics, anything that lies outside the Labour-Conservative consensus is 'lunatic fringe'. However, some people who, as the document says, 'are known to have bees in their bonnets about a wide range of topics and views' are allowed to appear—men like Malcolm Muggeridge and James Cameron, who qualify as contributors 'with shoulders broad enough to carry a personal viewpoint'. Religious lunacy is all right expressed in the form of the Festival of Light.

So is the sentimental socialism of James Cameron.

Who decides that James Cameron or Malcolm Muggeridge will be given a platform and allowed programme space in which to express their opinion? . . . The answer . . . is that the editorial decisions must remain firmly in the hands of the BBC's producers, right across the board, through a line of authority that tends with the Board of Governors. In this way a vast number of speakers of all kinds, chosen as the result of objective research, are invited to take part in programmes.

'Objective research' interprets the requirements of the Board of Governors who are the representatives of the ruling class—with the odd trade unionist thrown in for good measure—picked by the government of the day to represent its interests and to see that programmes do not stray beyond the limits and to see, above all, that a producer does not commit the ultimate sin (unless he is on the list of licensed wags like Muggeridge and Cameron) of allowing 'his own views to dictate the nature of the programme'.

To express his views would be a total abuse of the powerful



Lord Hill, ex-Tory MP, made BBC chairman by Harold Wilson.

platform he controls. There are many people, including the Prime Minister, who are constantly denied access to such a platform, and just because a man works for the BBC certainly gives him no right to it. If the producer still feels intent on expressing his views, he should leave the BBC and make his name in some other field. Perhaps one day he will be invited back in his own right to express his views as a contributor.

The threat behind these words is only slightly veiled and makes a nonsense of that passage which talks about the producer being 'free to report what he finds without fear of political consequences'. As for the theory that the Prime Minister is denied a platform on television, that is something worth remembering the next time Heath addresses the nation on BBC TV.

The fact is that he can get a platform any time he likes under the BBC's licence, which states that the Corporation 'shall, whenever so requested by any Minister of Her Majesty's Government . . . at the Corporation's own expense, send from all or any of its stations any announcement' which such a Minister may request the Corporation to broadcast.

If Heath is not often on telly it is because he feels he doesn't need to use it.

PROPAGANDA

Clearly a producer has to watch his step when making a programme—he would fail, says the code, 'if he allowed a programme to contain concealed public relations or propaganda, and thus betray the confidence of the audience'. So, except in cases like those documentaries which do public relations for the army, navy or air force, the Royal Family, the church, and the political consensus, he is expected to practice self-censorship; if he still has doubts 'a Head of Department or executive producer, or series editor, or senior colleague, may be asked to view the programme and give a second opinion and a more detached view—both on its merit and impact as a programme and on any policy matters arising'.

But with some subjects, there are more clearly defined policies that must be observed. For example . . . documentaries about Ireland, or racial intolerance, or the nation's defence policy or the taking of drugs. . . . A simple system of reference upwards through Heads of Departments makes it possible for producers to get guidance on these matters. There is no absolute ban on anything. . . .

There is no absolute ban on anything provided that nothing is filmed, reported or said that breaks the taboos, exposes the realities of class domination or suggests that there is a revolutionary alternative to the kind of democracy we enjoy under the present government. The authors of the code complain because some people suggest that there is no such thing as an 'objective' documentary. They think they are objective. By that they mean that they interpret society to the television audience in terms that are acceptable to the ruling class and that the ideas they put forward are what Marx called 'the ruling ideas' which 'are nothing more than the ideal expression of the dominant material relationship' embodied in capitalist society.



BY STEPHEN JOHNS PART 2

ORIGINS OF THE 'EYE' PHILOSOPHY

The second part of our investigation of 'Private Eye', examines the philosophy of a key man in the 'Eye' team—Christopher Booker.

Behind 'Private Eye's' attacks on anything new or 'trendy' lies a deep hatred and fear of change.

Men like editor Richard Ingrams and staff man Christopher Booker observed the collapse of traditional Tory values which gave rise to a rebellion among a section of the intelligentsia.

The greater experimentation in the arts, film and so-called life-style that gathered pace during the late 1950s and early 1960s, was an indication that the obviously corrupt values of the ruling class could no longer satisfy or contain the creative urge or aspirations of intelligent people.

This turmoil on the surface of society was rooted in a more fundamental weakening of Britain's position in the world economy and in consequence of her political influence.

British capitalism which existed on the privilege of Empire, escaped annihilation during the 1930s because World War II destroyed the economies of powerful rivals like Germany and Japan. But in the late 1950s these nations began to reassert themselves and Britain's decline began afresh.

The Suez fiasco in 1956 was the first proof that British capital was no longer great and it is significant that this political trauma resulted in the first real mass protest since the war.

The 'Eye' team, and particularly a man like Booker, picked up the impulses of this change as it appeared. It filled them with unease and injured their desire for order.

Booker, born in middle-class Eastbourne and educated at Shrewsbury public school and Cambridge, devoted a book, 'The Neophiliacs', to these phenomena. It is a most explicit statement of the reaction that lies at the base of the 'Eye's' approach to events.

Booker's mentor was Malcolm Muggeridge, himself a contributor to 'Private Eye'. He too had conceived a keen dislike for the progress of mankind whom he compared to the Gadarine Swine rushing over the cliff.

In his old age, Muggeridge had turned his back on earlier flirtations with socialism and convinced himself that the 'spirit' was superior to man's fleshy world.

Hence he believed adultery was biologically alien to man's nature and maintained he had witnessed a miracle when he visited a nun in India who specialized in dragging starving people into her hotel so she could watch them have a 'beautiful death'.

Muggeridge openly embraced reaction when he became the leading personality in the 'Festival of Light' crusade. But this was no surprise. The man had already 'noted with some despair that voting and the demo-

cratic process invariably seems to throw up the worst not the best and that the wider the franchise the worse the result.'

And 'Practically everyone, irrespective of party, recognizes . . . that they accept the notion of some sort of restriction in Asian and African immigration. Mr Powell like any other citizen is fully entitled—indeed as an MP is duty bound—to offer his views . . . knowing him as I do . . . I am quite satisfied he does so not as a crazed racist, or a power hungry demagogue,



Nucleus of the 'Eye' today: (l. to r.) cartoonist Barry Fantoni, Paul Foot leading member of the International Socialist group, 'Intellectual' Christopher Booker and editor Richard Ingrams



but as a serious thoughtful and honest man.' And that:

'The catastrophe of life is being imprisoned in oneself. Christianity offers an escape from that.'

Booker performed true to the teaching of his master.

His book is an attack on change and clearly is inspired (though Booker never admits it) by Plato's 'Republic'—one of the most powerful polemics for absolute order in society and an attack on change.

Booker 'borrows' Plato's own description of political change—from democracy to ultimate tyranny—to describe the progress of what he calls the mass neurosis of the 1950s and 1960s.

On this he quotes with approval C. G. Jung, the mystic and psychologist: 'It is becoming more and more obvious that it is not starvation, not microbes, not cancer, but man himself who is mankind's greatest danger, because he has no adequate protection against psychic epidemics which are infinitely more devastating than the greatest natural catastrophes.'

Booker goes on to describe the 'revolution' or 'psychic epidemic' that occurred during the 1950s and 1960s in 'The Neophiliacs'.

He divides this 'fantasy cycle' into an anticipation stage, a dream stage, a frustration stage followed by an awakening into reality and a death wish stage.

No evidence is offered to support this amazing interpretation of events save a totally impressionistic investigation of the Romantics and arbitrarily selected works of art, like Ravel's 'Bolero', which he claims illustrates the truth of his thesis.

The whole 'analysis' descends into near lunacy when he suggests that natural phenomena like floods, accidents and plane crashes are somehow connected with the general disaster.

On page 274 a hysterical Booker writes: 'During that winter a violent psychosis seemed to seize the whole world. On January 15 there took place the first of the most concentrated series of air disasters in history—15 major crashes, they were to kill nearly 750 people.'

Of 1961 he writes: 'The extraordinary nature of the year was heralded and heightened in Britain by three months of the worst winter recorded in over 200 years bringing havoc to the field of human activity. Over London the fog hung like a shroud . . . etc. etc.'

The general psychological malaise accounted for the increase in violent crime, venereal disease, and rise in illegitimate births and the Beatles.

Everything Booker views with distaste except, of course, the death of Churchill. This event, he argues, momentarily stopped the mad process.

'The nation found itself gathered up in a great ritual that was much a remembrance of its own . . . distant past as it were for the career and stature of the man whose passing was its occasion . . . Churchill had stood out like a Justinian in the twilight of Rome, as a man who derived his majesty from a sense of the imperial and military splendours of the past.'

This is Booker's swan-song for the British Empire, its vigour and malevolence that Churchill symbolized. Now capitalism in this country is a squalid and declining outpost of the world economy and it upsets Booker.

After a lengthy and ultimately tedious narrative culled from newspaper clippings, the author gets finally to his point.

Man, he says, has two impulses, one for 'order', which promotes 'automatic harmony' displayed by animals, and another for 'life', which pulls him in an opposite direction away from his 'basic core'. This 'life impulse' is—'contrary to the basic instinctive harmony of [man's] inner sense of true organic order.'

The 'life impulse' leads down, 'the path of defiance, the path of illusion, leads inevitably to frustration . . .'

We are back to Plato, the Greek philosopher, who designed a society of absolute order ruled by a dictatorial 'philosopher-king' (Plato). Booker alludes to this most reactionary ideology at the end of 'The Neophiliacs'.

He states: '. . . ultimately, as with all great art, without perfect order, there cannot be true life, and without the pulse of life there cannot be true organic order—this begins the supreme guiding principle of nature, and the balance between the two being upset only by human fantasies.'

When one adds that Booker

Malcolm Muggeridge (right), one of the avuncular figures around the 'Eye'. This man, who flirted with socialism during the 1930s, is now a religious fanatic who says he witnessed a miracle in India.

includes the Russian Revolution as one of man's 'fantasies', we can see the drift of his ideas

To round off the exercise, he brings in Jesus, a man who went through the 'five stages' but was resurrected.

The whole theory is, of course, the most reactionary idealist nonsense. All scientific inquiry is a rejection of such mysticism. Change is an absolute in society and nature, an infinite process. Change and conflict is the origin of all knowledge, since man first began to develop his skill and science by producing primitive tools to aid his struggle with a hostile environment.

But it is this very change and conflict that Booker and the men of 'Private Eye' so fear and despise because it jeopardizes the society they love.

Their radicalism is skin deep. Beneath it lurks the attitudes and ancient apologists of exploitation—from Plato to the crude and braggart rhetoric of Churchill. This philosophy is needed by the ruling class to explain the necessity of oppression.

The ruling class always need those like Muggeridge who preach that wealth in heaven is superior to wealth on earth, men like Booker who sneer at experiment and worship the fantasy of 'organic order'. It's all another way of saying: 'Lie down, accept poverty, wage slavery; do not disturb our order and God will reward you when we finally murder you.'

This is the core of reaction beneath the big joke at 'Private Eye'.

Tomorrow. The man who gives the 'Eye' its radicalism—Paul Foot.



For Booker, Churchill was like a Justinian in the twilight of Rome.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

The priest industry

Visitors to the Republic of Ireland will know that this country is the most priest-ridden in the world.

Out of a population of 2½ million, a total of 25,200 are either in the priesthood or walled up in convents. In addition, there are 7,891 clergy abroad.

But things are not bright for the Republic's largest industry and the biggest drain on the common people.

A report by the Research and Development Unit of the Catholic Communications Institute of Ireland shows there has been a 58 per cent fall-off in entries to convents and a 30 per cent drop in male vocations since 1965.

During the past five years, in fact, 37 of the religious orders have not received a single recruit—in short they are dying off. The male drop-out rate is also climbing; over the period one in ten aspiring holymen failed to stay the course.

Commenting on the steep decline, the Rev Dr Liam Ryan, Professor of Sociology at Maynooth, said the real question was not why vocations were falling, but why they were so high in Ireland in the first place!

Alarm

Workers in Sussex watch out! Your employers have been warned to look out for 'subversives' trying to promote 'capitalist bankruptcy' and overthrow managements.

The man who sounded the alarm was Edward Wells, a director of the Economic League. He told members of the Federation of Sussex Industries at the Royal Pavilion Hotel Brighton: 'If someone drops a lighted cigarette these people will be along with a can of petrol.'

He urged everyone present to adopt selection techniques and to try and keep the subversives out of industry.

The danger men include

members of the Communist Party, Maoists and Trotskyists and 'so-called respectable trade union officials'. Some of the subversives were viciously militant and their techniques included 'sabotage of machinery', go-slows, working to rule and generally exploiting economic difficulties or creating them.

Brave words, brave words

Victor Feather, before the rail unions were ordered to end their go slow by the Industrial Relations Court:

'Mr Macmillan [Tory Employment Secretary] will find he will not have enemies inside the movement provided he endeavours honestly and with integrity, as I know he will, to try and bring about conciliatory processes despite the policies of the government in the field of industrial relations.'

Victor Feather, before the TUC decided to an about-turn and co-operate with the Industrial Relations Court:



Macmillan, Employment Secretary

'Those cynics or wishful thinkers who mislead so many people about the seriousness of the movement's opposition to the Industrial Relations Act or the ability of the Act to solve industrial problems have been shown to be miserably wrong.'

Brave words, brave words.

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Shameless Stalinist betrayal of Scots workers

2,200 jobs

'The Americans are bringing new industry. They are modernizing and re-equipping the yards. If they can make a profit and our members can get a share of it, then long live profit.'—Danny McGarvey, leader of the boilermakers, at a Glasgow seminar on shipbuilding.

The determination of the UCS workers and many thousands of other workers to save Clydebank jobs and safeguard basic conditions has been betrayed by the Communist Party stewards' signatures on two new deals for the yards.

LAST FRIDAY in one of London's plush hotels an agreement was reached which will eventually mean the end of the work-in at the upper Clyde shipyards.

Marathon Manufacturing will become the new boss of Clydebank yard and farther down the river Govan Shipbuilders will hope to begin trading at the Govan, Scotstoun and Linthouse divisions.

The agreement is hailed as a victory in the Tory press for the Stalinist leadership of the shop stewards' coordinating committee. But what does it mean for the working class of Clydeside?

In short, the two agreements will mean redundancies and a ferocious increase in productivity.

The statistics tell part, but only part of the story.

When UCS went into liquidation, there were 8,500 workers in the yards. Now the labour force is down to 6,900.

Marathon want to employ 2,000 and Govan Shipbuilders 4,300. In total therefore the new Clydeside labour force will equal 6,300—2,200 less than when the 'work-in' began last June beneath the banner 'not a man down the road'.

This denuded labour force will be driven to meet enormously increased productivity targets. The Maynard report on Govan Shipbuilders estimated that productivity would have to increase by 125 per cent, and the number of ships built in two years would have to double, if the company was to become viable. Archibald Gilchrist, head of the firm, intends to get just such a speed-up and he has an agreement already negotiated by the shop stewards and unions to prove it.

But these figures only allow a glimpse of the real UCS story.

We have seen on the Clyde over the past ten months the most shameless and conscious betrayal of the interests of the working class. A movement which mobilized 200,000 Scottish workers in strike action last year behind the slogan 'Heath out' has now been broken down to the foulest of agreements with the Tory government.

The Stalinist leadership of these yards, together with the union leaders have persistently manoeuvred over the last ten months of work-in to do two things.

One was to prevent an important section of the working class taking up a political struggle against the Tory government.

The other is to get the shipyard workers to accept a plan for their future which embodies the twin objectives of government strategy:

- to sack thousands of workers, and
- to make the rest work harder and harder to produce profit.

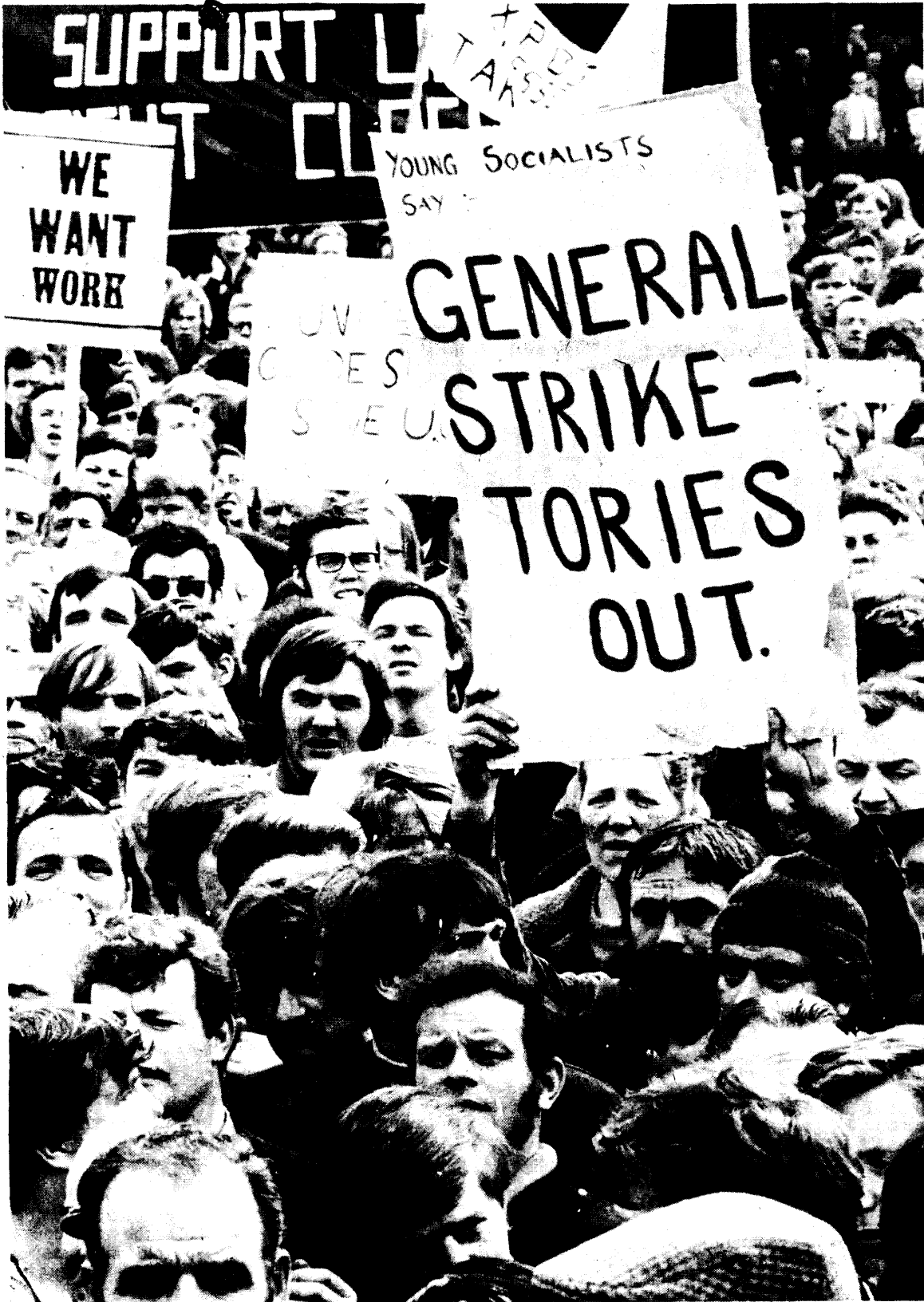
If this is hard to believe then observe this agreement the UCS shop stewards have negotiated and presumably will sign, with Govan Shipbuilders.

It states:

ON PRODUCTIVITY:

Stewards have agreed to implement fully existing agreements on interchangeability with the steel trades. Interchangeability and flexibility will also be introduced within the finishing trades group.

The document defines interchangeability as 'the transfer of a journeyman of one craft to



operate as a journeyman of another craft'.

The extent of this change is illustrated by a comment by one leading Clydeside union official who told me:

'It is not an easy job for a fitter to do a boilermaker's work in an atmosphere of redundancies. But if you have a four-year job guarantee it will be possible.'

ON WAGES:

Existing rates and bonuses will continue up until August or September this year. Then Govan want to negotiate a new agreement which will be signed not later than January 1973.

The document states that between the two dates it may be necessary to impose a 'ceiling on earnings'.

ON STRIKES:

The stewards have guaranteed to deliver on time four ships for the Irish Shipping Company.

This has now been extended to cover two ships that the liquidator is 'expected to release from his list of orders for construction at Scotstoun.

In addition unions have recognized the importance of avoiding what the document describes as 'unconstitutional disputes'.

This is a reference to any unofficial strikes or work-to-rules

which may break out while a grievance is going through procedure.

ON WAGE CLAIMS:

Negotiations will take place between management and all the work force.

This is a change from the present practice when unions like the boilermakers' usually insist on going it alone—a practice which allows for leap-frogging by less well-paid workers.

The two documents have been sent to the National Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions for ratification.

Then it will be returned to the UCS stewards for final approval, providing the Marathon bid is successful.

Stewards have also undertaken to end the 'work-in'. But they are against compulsory redundancies. They claim that there are enough volunteers for redundancy to avoid this.

This, however, is not the case. The number of men working-in now stands at about 180, 150 of whom are hourly-paid workers. But only 100 want to leave the yards.

Latest reports indicate that the agreement negotiated so far with Marathon is even more savage than this.

Trade union leaders are re-

ported to have agreed to a 'no-strike clause' and fierce legally-enforceable penalties on the men. On productivity and mobility it follows closely the Govan Shipbuilders deal.

Reid has said that if the employers join the National Confederation of Shipbuilding Employers and adhere to long-standing procedure agreements, so would the workers.

But if the company wanted different procedures, this would have to be discussed with the UCS labour force.

According to press reports Marathon chairman Wayne Harbin is said to have wanted fines of £50 per man per strike day. The proposal has not been abandoned, but it is believed the idea of a fine is still under consideration.

It is a measure of the counter-revolutionary role of Stalinism that they can be a party to such wage-slave charters and declare them 'victories'.

The trained observer, however, is not shocked or surprised. Was it not James Reid, the head Stalinist at UCS, who stated in 'The Times': 'I can only applaud the government's courage in taking these initiatives. They make social and economic sense.'

Reid, remember, is a Communist Party councillor for

Clydebank—a town where Tory 'initiative' and 'economic good sense' has pushed 15 per cent of the male labour force onto the dole.

Reid's open support of Tory reaction is about the measure of the Communist Party on the Clyde and throughout Britain. This last and most abysmal chapter of the UCS story began in November.

The shop stewards had just abandoned their policy of fighting to keep the four divisions 'intact' under one owner or consortium. Instead they had recognized Govan Shipbuilders who intended to buy the Govan and Linthouse divisions. They would add Scotstoun to their list if two feasibility studies recommended this and if the government put up the cash.

This change of policy meant that the stewards were not in total accord with the unions, led by Danny McGarvey of the boilermakers, who had always been ready to accept separate solutions for the yard.

Two major problems remained, however. First, between November and the time Govan could begin trading, and some deal over Clydebank reached, all confrontation had to be avoided. Primarily this meant that ships nearing completion in the yards had to be delivered and the promise to hold vessels somehow broken before the UCS workers.

The second headache facing the Stalinists was how to get negotiations going with Govan Shipbuilders over future wages and conditions. Again they had pledged no 'meaningful discussion' until the future of Scotstoun and Clydebank was secure. Somehow they had to get round this formula and begin talking.

The first betrayal happened on November 3 when Reid got a mass meeting to agree to let three ships out of the yards.

As usual the retreat was garbed in the most militant phrases. 'These vessels would leave the yards, but they would be the last,' warned Reid.

The Communist Party daily, 'The Morning Star', proclaimed the policy as 'the mightiest UCS government confrontation since the historic work-in began five months ago.'

In fact the whole manoeuvre was a fraud. At that time Govan was hoping to begin trading by January 5 and the Clydebank problem was also expected to be solved by then.

The last of the three ships would not be out of the yard until after the New Year and the next delivery was not expected until mid-January. In other words the 'mighty confrontation' meant nothing. It would merely stave off confrontation for two months—by that time the Stalinists hoped the deals on the Clyde would be signed and sealed.

Unfortunately that turned out not to be the case. The Govan issue dragged on and in late January another ship, the 'New Westminster City' was due for delivery.

This time the Stalinists had no excuses. They called the stewards together and explained the release had to be made for 'tactical' reasons. They argued that if they stood firm, the Tories called them 'saboteurs'.

For the first time it seemed that the compromise would not find favour with the shop stewards (always a more difficult body for the Stalinists to deal with than the smaller co-ordinating committee). The meeting was evenly divided for and against the retreat.

What further perturbed James Airlie was that a majority of speakers from the Communist Party spoke against delivery of the vessels.

UCS go



BATTLE ON THE CLYDE—FINAL PART—BY STEPHEN JOHNS

A decision was postponed and the next day in the yards the CP called its faction together.

The more observant non-Party shop stewards noticed that a day after this the Stalinists who had deviated from 'the line' of compromise had 'reconsidered'—perhaps they were being too hasty after all.

Finally, on Thursday January 25, James Reid was called in to report that the co-ordinating committee had agreed to release the ship, with only one vote against.

Despite some bitter dissent the stewards agreed and on the following Monday its decision was approved by a mass meeting. Again the promise was added that these would be the last ships out of the yards—and again the promise was broken.

This is a most important episode because it shows clearly that the Communist Party operated as a conscious political force in the yard, with a policy of avoiding any intensification of the UCS struggle that might upset a deal with the government. Many unsuspecting militants at UCS put Reid's twists and turns down to more or less spontaneous tactical considerations. This is not so; the Stalinists had a plan at UCS and they consistently carried that plan through, using the powerful Party membership in the yards as instruments.

The final betrayal over ships came on April 3 when Reid persuaded the work-force to release two more vessels.

He called one shipyard worker who vehemently spoke up against more compromise 'a political nincompoop'—fine words from the

man who two months ago was greeting the Tory government as 'courageous'.

Again there was some 'left' window-dressing to the recommendation. Reid announced the committee's intention to withdraw from talks with Govan because of delays over a solution for Clydebank.

But again this meant nothing, and certainly did not perturb Archibald Gilchrist—negotiations on the agreement (quoted above) had already been closed. Only the shop stewards' signatures were needed—and those would not come before Clydebank was settled anyway.

Once more the UCS liquidator, who had by now developed a keen understanding of Stalinist tactics, got his ships.

Throughout this period a series of secret meetings were being held between a delegation from the shop stewards, a team of local union officials and representatives of Govan Shipbuilders.

Originally the Stalinists had insisted that talks on Govan's future could only begin if there were 'cast-iron guarantees' over the four yards and all the labour force.

This pledge was made by Reid at a mass meeting on October 16 when he said:

'So far as I am personally concerned there will be no recognition of Govan Shipbuilders. They will not be allowed to assume management responsibility in these yards until there are cast-iron guarantees regarding all four divisions and all the men in them.'

In December, however, the

line had noticeably softened. Reid was quoted in the 'Morning Star' as saying:

'If early in the New Year people want firm agreements for two or three of the yards, there will be delays in any settlement unless there are reasonable negotiations and guarantees concerning the fourth yard.'

By the New Year the situation was getting desperate. There was no bidder at all for Clydebank. To solve the problem and get the Stalinists and the unions off the hook, McGarvey led a team of negotiators to Texas. The idea was to persuade Breaksea Tankships—a rather mysterious organization with no tangible assets and un-named backers—to make a bid for the yard.

As far as Breaksea was concerned, the trip in mid-January was a flop. Ken Arkwright, Breaksea president, labelled Clydebank 'the worst yard in the world'. McGarvey however, flushed out a new prospect—Marathon Manufacturing—a Texas firm that builds 60 per cent of the world's oil rigs.

Marathon eventually visited Clydebank, declared the yard was indeed ancient, but that they were interested in 'buying the labour force'. Everyone was very pleased, most of all Wayne Harbin, the Marathon chairman, who was already calling the boilermakers leader 'Danny' and lavishing praise on Reid and Airlie.

He indicated that a four-year-no-strike contract would be necessary and the stewards and local officials replied that if employment was guaranteed, this would be 'no problem'.

Marathon went back to Texas and submitted their proposals to the Department of Trade and Industry.

On this basis—and after Scotstoun was included in the Govan Shipbuilders plan—negotiations on wages and conditions at Govan began on February 21.

This was the final capitulation of the shop stewards to the original plan devised by McGarvey to get separate solution for the upper Clyde and break up the yards.

Donald Tonner, secretary of the Clydeside Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said the discussions had begun in a 'warm atmosphere'. A sub-committee to work out the agreement was appointed—three of the four stewards on it were—naturally—Reid, Airlie and Sammy Barr, the Stalinist trio.

In the meantime, the crisis of work at the yards was staved off by more treacherous agreements by the co-ordinating committee leadership.

At Govan Airlie and a group of shop stewards met P. H. Greer of the Irish Shipping Company to persuade him to allow four ships to be built at the Govan division where work was running out.

Greer agreed, but not before Airlie had promised:

'We have given a guarantee that whatever happens they will get their ships whatever disputes take place in relation to the labour force. Whatever happens the Irish Shipping Company will get their ships.'

No wonder the 'Daily Record' enthused that with such decisions 'there is no need for legal interference in negotiations. Certainly

if we had more deals and more decisions of this kind the need for sanctions would seldom if ever arise'.

The co-ordinating committee has now extended these guarantees to cover two ships released for construction at Scotstoun. The serious nature of these concessions can be gauged by the fact that all six vessels provide work for a year—a year that will be apparently strike free no matter what happens to the men at Clydebank.

We are now nearing the end of this episode of struggle on the Clydeside. On May 9, Harbin will come back to meet the stewards and unions to thrash out in detail the kind of deal he wants at Clydebank—the prospects have already been described.

Govan Shipbuilders will hope to collect their signatures, pick-up the £35m from the government and begin trading. This will signal the close of the work in at the three divisions the company hopes to inherit.

But whatever the outcome, the Clydesiders have suffered massive redundancies. The men who remain in the yards will face a vicious campaign for more and more productivity.

While it is important to trace in detail how the Stalinist leadership brought about this situation—a situation where only 180 men out of a possible 1,600 remain in the work-in—the manoeuvres of the Reids and Airlies are only part of a broader pattern.

It is the aim and intention of the Communist Party to take struggles like the Clyde and destroy all their political and revolutionary potential.

Their work against the objective need of the working class to get rid of this government with its strategy of sacking and more productivity. They substitute in place of such a fight for politics a long campaign to get workers to accept a Tory plan.

Their method is to confuse and demoralize workers in struggle and keep them firmly wedded to the bankrupt reformist leadership of the trade union movement. This is why the Communist Party is a conscious, counter-revolutionary force in the labour movement—the UCS struggle proves this.

They have done this in the shipyards as they have done it on the docks—Reid's counterparts, like Jack Dash, were the men who got dockers to accept the Devlin proposals and containerization and now the dockers are fighting for their jobs against such measures.

The fight, however, is not over. On the Clyde all the issues remain. There are still 6,900 workers who will not accept the dole and will fight attempts to drive them back in the yards.

They fight now in a period of extreme danger—under a Court which has dictatorial power and will use those powers against workers on the upper Clyde if they break their contracts so glibly negotiated by the yard leadership.

This is why now, more than ever before, the campaign for revolutionary politics must begin in the yards. A new leadership must be built in total opposition to the Stalinists. A leadership that does not shrink in cowardice from the great political task before it a leadership that will be prepared to resist Tory plans for productivity, that will defend every established trade union right and not abandon them with a signature.

But above all a leadership that will make the fight in the yards a political rallying point for workers everywhere—as it was at UCS in the early days of the work-in. The aim of this movement must be the central task facing the whole working class—the removal of this government by mass industrial action. This is the only future for the Clyde.

BBC 1

9.20-9.35 The herbs. 9.38-12.30 Schools. 12.55-1.25 Fo a fe. 1.30 Along the seashore. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Chester races. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Animal magic. 5.20 John Craven's news round. 5.25 Motor mouse. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 TELEVISION TOP OF THE FORM. Banbury v Oadby.

7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD.

7.20 HOLLYWOOD PREMIER: 'THE GRATE MAN'S WHISKERS'. Dean Jones, Ann Sothern, John McGiver, Harve Presnell, Dennis Weaver. A small girl writes to US President Abraham Lincoln asking him to visit her.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 A MONTH OF SUNDAYS. Portrait of a Durham Mining Village.

10.10 FILM 72.

10.40 24 HOURS.

11.15 THE BITTER SANDS. Patrick Garland reads from The Desert Fathers.

11.22 MEDICINE TODAY. The investigation of urinary infection.

TV

ITV

10.20-12.00 Schools. 1.15 Time to remember. 1.45 Schools. 2.33 Good afternoon! 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Let's face it. 3.45 Danger man. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Junior showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.30 CROSSROADS.

6.55 ALBERT! A Ghost Story.

7.25 FILM: 'HIGH FLIGHT'. Ray Milland. Story of three RAF recruits.

9.00 CRIME OF PASSION. Lina.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY. Twelve children from different backgrounds spent a week's holiday together.

11.30 DRIVE-IN.

12.00 THE GEORDIE BIBLE.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 1.15-1.40 Medicine today. 5.35-6.30 Open University.

6.35 COMPUTERS IN BUSINESS. Stock — Optimum or Problem?

7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 RICH MAN, POOR MAN ... Industry.

8.50 WHEELBASE.

9.20 THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII. Catherine of Aragon.

10.50 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

10.55 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. Linda Hoyle, Jackson Browne.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.10 Enchanted House. 4.20 News. 4.22 Simon Locke. 4.55 London. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Lion in the Street'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 London. 11.40 News. 11.44 Faith for life.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.40 News. 11.44 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 10.20 London. 3.00 Man from Uncle. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Grasshopper island. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Sale of the century. 7.00 Film: 'Stage to Tucson'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 London. 11.15 News. 11.25 Farm progress. 11.55 Weather. Voyage to discovery.

ANGLIA: 10.20 London. 3.15 Bygones. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 News. 4.15 Mr Piper. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'McMillan and wife'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 London. 11.45 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 10.20-2.33

London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Simon Locke. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Kid Rodelo'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 London. 11.20 Who knows? Weather.

ULSTER: 10.20-2.33

London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Daws explores. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Terror in a Texas Town'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 London. 11.30 White line.

GRANADA: 10.20

London. 2.35 Randall and Hopkirk. 3.30 The messenger — on camera. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 London. 11.30 Monty Nash.

TYNE TEES: 10.20

London. 2.30 Taste and style. 3.00 Master chefs. 3.15 Danger man. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'Law and Order'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 London. 11.30 No small change. 12.00 News. 12.15 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 10.20-2.33

London. 3.30 Foo foo. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Cartoon. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'Scarlet Angel'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 London. 10.30 Election 72. 12.30 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00-2.55

London. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Nanny and the professor. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Strictly Scottish. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'East of Sudan'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 London. 12.00 Epilogue.

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NIRC judge adjourns Heaton case

T&G 'green light' to attend Court

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

PRESIDENT of National Industrial Relations Court Sir John Donaldson revealed yesterday that the leadership of Britain's biggest union narrowly escaped being legally summonsed to answer contempt charges. Donaldson adjourned until tomorrow further contempt charges against the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Parsons' order defied

THE 1,400 workers at C. A. Parsons, Newcastle, have defied Friday's order from the Industrial Relations Court to call off their work-to-rule.

All members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' technical section they are claiming exclusive negotiating rights at the factory and are refusing to work with members of the UK Association of Professional Engineers.

The NIRC's injunction lasts

until today, when union representatives are due to appear before the court.

Six hundred of the men have been sacked by their action and are working-in with financial aid from the union.

At the Reyrolle factory at Hebburn—part of Parsons' group—4,000 workers have been on strike since Friday in protest against suspension of two welders.

He told the court, however, that consideration had been given to compelling the union's leaders to be present in court.

(The NIRC has the legal status of a high court and has thus the power to subpoena witnesses.)

An hour before Donaldson gave his judgement, the TUC issued an announcement giving Jack Jones the 'green light' to appear before the Tory court when it resumes on Wednesday.

Donaldson yesterday heard further evidence of contempt submitted by Heaton's Transport (St Helens) Limited.

The court has already fined the T&GWU a total of £55,000 for contempt and there is a permanent order against the union to restrain it from blacking Heaton's container lorries.

Donaldson said the Heaton's application appeared to reveal a continued and more extensive disobedience of the court's orders by the union and therefore raised issues of the greatest gravity.

'We say "appears" because it would be quite wrong for us to form even a provisional view unless and until the union has had an opportunity of being present and offering an explanation. This it has not had.'

He said the court had seriously considered whether it should not exercise its power to require the attendance on Wednesday of the union's principal officers.

'In the circumstances, we are content at this stage to leave the question of the representation of the union and attendance by its officers to their own sense of responsibility.'

Only 15 minutes' notice was given of the convening of the court.

Mr Richard Yorke, QC, for Heaton's, said that since the second fine—of £50,000—on April 24 the firm's lorries had been turned away at Liverpool, Royal Albert Docks in London and, last Friday, a third was turned away at Liverpool.

Affidavits from the drivers concerned—one of which took place at a Liverpool glass firm, W. W. Glazing—were not available.

But the sworn statements from managing director Robert Heaton senior gave brief details and called for 'further replies as the court may see fit'.

The T&GWU had not been given notice of the application. Sir John said that the court could not examine the matter until the union had been given an opportunity to attend.

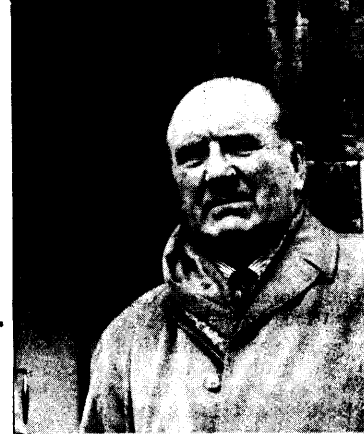
Yorke said the company had come to court under the 'liberty to apply' given by the court to all parties when the company was granted a permanent ban on all blacking on April 12.

The 'liberty' was for either side to ask to have the order cancelled or altered.

Yorke read a letter written by the firm to Douglas Farrar, regional secretary of the T&GWU, warning him that its losses were now escalating rapidly and that it was holding the union responsible for this. IN MANCHESTER yesterday dockers turned away lorries belonging to Springfield Transport of Trafford Park.

'We were told we were blacked,' a spokesman for the firm said.

Apart from Manchester and Liverpool, blacks against container firms, are now operating at London, Preston, Hull, Tilbury and Southampton (see p.3.)



Heaton, senior

APRIL FUND FINAL TOTAL £2,105.50

A MAGNIFICENT total—£855.50 over our target and well over the extra £500 we asked you to raise. Our many, many thanks to you all for your generous support.

As we enter the month of May, the Tories step immediately into the attack. Dockers, railmen and the T&GWU all face the Industrial Relations Court. The Tory government is preparing a show-down with the working class.

We must fight back now in every way we can. Start the campaign for our May Fund today. Show the Tories that the fight is on. Collect donations wherever possible. Make it an early start this month. Post your donations to:

Workers Press May Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High St
London, SW4 7UG.

Two thousand join Preston BAC march

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 3,000 trade unionists yesterday marched through Preston in Lancashire in response to a one-day strike called by the local No. 30 branch of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Delegates from Brannon's in Cumberland, British-Leyland Motors, Goss Engineering, Preston dockers and English Electric were present.

They were joined by delegations of Young Socialists from Lancaster, Preston and Leyland. David Creighton-Smith, convenor at the Preston division of the British Aircraft Corporation said at the mass meeting after the march:

'We are not just fighting for ourselves, but for self-preservation throughout the district. Management must realize that if they to buy our labour, they must pay for it.'

George Elliott, chairman of the BAC combine shop stewards, said that the executive had voted against a strike of the combine in support of the Preston division.

Len Brindle, convenor of

British-Leyland workers, told the meeting he had brought £2,700 from Leyland Motors saying more was to come.

He told Workers Press the Preston area had not been used to marches in the past. But this was the third BAC march which demonstrated the strength of feeling behind the convenors.

Perera's belated discovery

CEYLON'S Finance Minister N. M. Perera has suggested that the US Central Intelligence Agency may have been involved in the abortive left-wing revolt which was bloodily suppressed a year ago.

Perera, who heads the renegade revisionists of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party in Mrs Bandaranaike's Ceylon coalition government, said:

'It is difficult to believe that the American imperialists who have been so closely connected with an attempt to overthrow a progressive government in Chile would not have tried their hand at defeating the masses in Ceylon.'

Perera's belated 'discovery' is on the same level as the government's attempts last year to blame North Korea for the uprising. These attacks were quietly dropped when it became obvious they were a pack of lies.

The Ceylon government is planning to try several thousand young fighters before special tribunals and the Finance Minister's statement is obviously aimed at creating a witch-hunt atmosphere before the trials open.

Retreat from claim at Battery plant

BIRMINGHAM Battery workers at a mass meeting yesterday abandoned their fight for every point of the original engineers' national pay claim.

At the suggestion of local union officials they decided instead to demand £3.50 as the minimum they would accept before a return to work.

According to one angry worker who walked out before the end of the meeting, AUEW divisional organizer P. Cresswell told the men that their original claim for a £6-a-week increase was 'unrealistic' and that no management would concede such a figure. He made no mention of the demands for improved holidays and shorter hours on the original claim.

The officials are now mandated to put the revised claim to management and report back to a recalled mass meeting. The firm has yet to make any offer to the men.

EE clerks return

CLERKS at English Electric, Liverpool, will return to work today, ending their six-week pay strike. They voted yesterday to accept a management offer of £1.80 immediately with a further 60p increase in August. The offer was recommended to the 450 clerks by union officials and the strike committee.

Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists

MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION

Sunday May 7

We demand the Right to Work!

No retreat from the fight against the Industrial Relations Act!

Hands off the trade unions! Defend democratic rights!

Withdraw troops from Ulster! Release all internees!

Victory to the Vietnamese workers and peasants

For the military defeat of US imperialism!

MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!

ASSEMBLE: 1.30 p.m. The Embankment, Charing Cross

MARCH: via Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly, Regent Street, Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road, Euston Road

MEETING: 4 p.m. St Pancras Town Hall.

G. Healy (Socialist Labour League National Secretary)

J. Simmance (Young Socialists National Secretary)

M. Banda (Socialist Labour League Central Committee)

In a personal capacity:

Frank McCabe (NUM)

Roy Battersby (ACTT)

A. Thornett (Deputy Senior Steward Morris Motors)

CHAIRMAN

C. Slaughter (Socialist Labour League Central Committee)

I would like to come to the May Day Demonstration

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....

Please send me details of transport arrangements.

Complete form and send to J. Simmance, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

WEATHER

INLAND areas of central and eastern England may have some mist or fog patches with some ground frost in places at first. Otherwise the day will be dry and sunny.

Eastern Scotland may have a few showers at first but will become mainly dry with clear or sunny periods.

Western Scotland, N Ireland, Wales and western England will have occasional showers with clear or sunny intervals.

Temperatures will be near normal in most districts, but it will become rather warm in the Midlands and south east England.

Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: Mainly dry with sunny periods but perhaps occasional showers in the south west.

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