

# Workers Press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY MAY 8, 1972 ● No 759 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY OUR OWN REPORTER

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He said the only force capable of defending the working class against the Tory onslaught was the Socialist Labour League and its daily paper Workers Press.

'Four years ago, in this very hall we warned that the Tory government if elected would be an entirely different kind of government than those which followed the end of World War II,' he said.

'It would, we said, be more in the nature of a Bonapartist government—that is a government balanced between the extreme right and the repressive powers of the state.'

'The reformists and the revisionists sniggered at these remarks, claiming that we had exaggerated the serious nature of the economic crisis.'

'These gentlemen, as always, do everything in their power to disarm the working class in its hour of need. But we were right and we are right now when we say that Heath and his clique are out to smash the working class because their economic crisis is much worse now than in 1968 when we issued our warning.'

'Political crisis today is more and more directly determined by the economic crisis.'

Comrade Healy warned that the Tory government had no illusions over the task that lay before it.

They knew the price for entrance into the rich men's club of Europe was an all-out attack on the working class.

Once entry was achieved, the

monopolies would move their capital from Britain to European countries where the trade unions were weak or suppressed by dictatorships.

'This will rapidly transform Britain into a depressed area with all the suffering that was the hallmark of the 1930s. That is why this government is getting ready for a showdown.'

The railwaymen, engineers, dockers and the overwhelming majority of the electorate had served notice on the government to quit.

But the Labour and trade union leaders refused to mobilize the working class, using the fraudulent excuse that the Tories' term of office must 'constitutionally' run for another three years.

'We see here the real treachery of the reformist leadership. At the moment when the working class faces its most critical challenge from the Tory enemy, it is deserted by the reformist class-collaborators,' said comrade Healy.

'This was the case in 1926, and in those vital years of the early 1920s and 1930s, before Mussolini and Hitler came to power.'

The most vital task before the labour movement today was to mobilize the organizations of the working class against the Tory enemy.

This was why the SLL and the Young Socialists were in the forefront of a massive campaign to recall the TUC—a campaign already supported by 3½ million trade unionists.

He said the League demanded the TUC reaffirm its September policy on non-cooperation with the Industrial Relations Act and go forward with the preparation of a General Strike. This would create the conditions to make the Tory government resign.

Within this context, the SLL saw the possibility of electing a Labour government whose right-wing leaders would be thoroughly exposed under pressure from the masses.

'The fight to force this Labour government to carry out socialist



Banners and flags flutter in the breeze as the march moves through London's West End

policies would draw tens of thousands of workers and youth in behind the leadership of the revolutionary party.'

It was in preparation for these very events that the campaign to transform the League into a revolutionary party this year had been launched.

He ended with this appeal:

'On this May Day we ask every single member of this audience to join with us in fulfilling this historic task.'

### MAY FUND NOW £190.25

A BIG effort is needed to push the figure for our May Fund right up. We have set our sights high. Once again we are trying to raise an extra £500 over our usual £1,250 target to help with increased overheads.

In a situation where the Tories are ready to meet railwaymen and dockers head-on, the build-

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We are sure that you, our readers, will do everything possible to develop our paper. Therefore make it our best effort so far. Go all out today. Collect as much as you can. Post all donations to:

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

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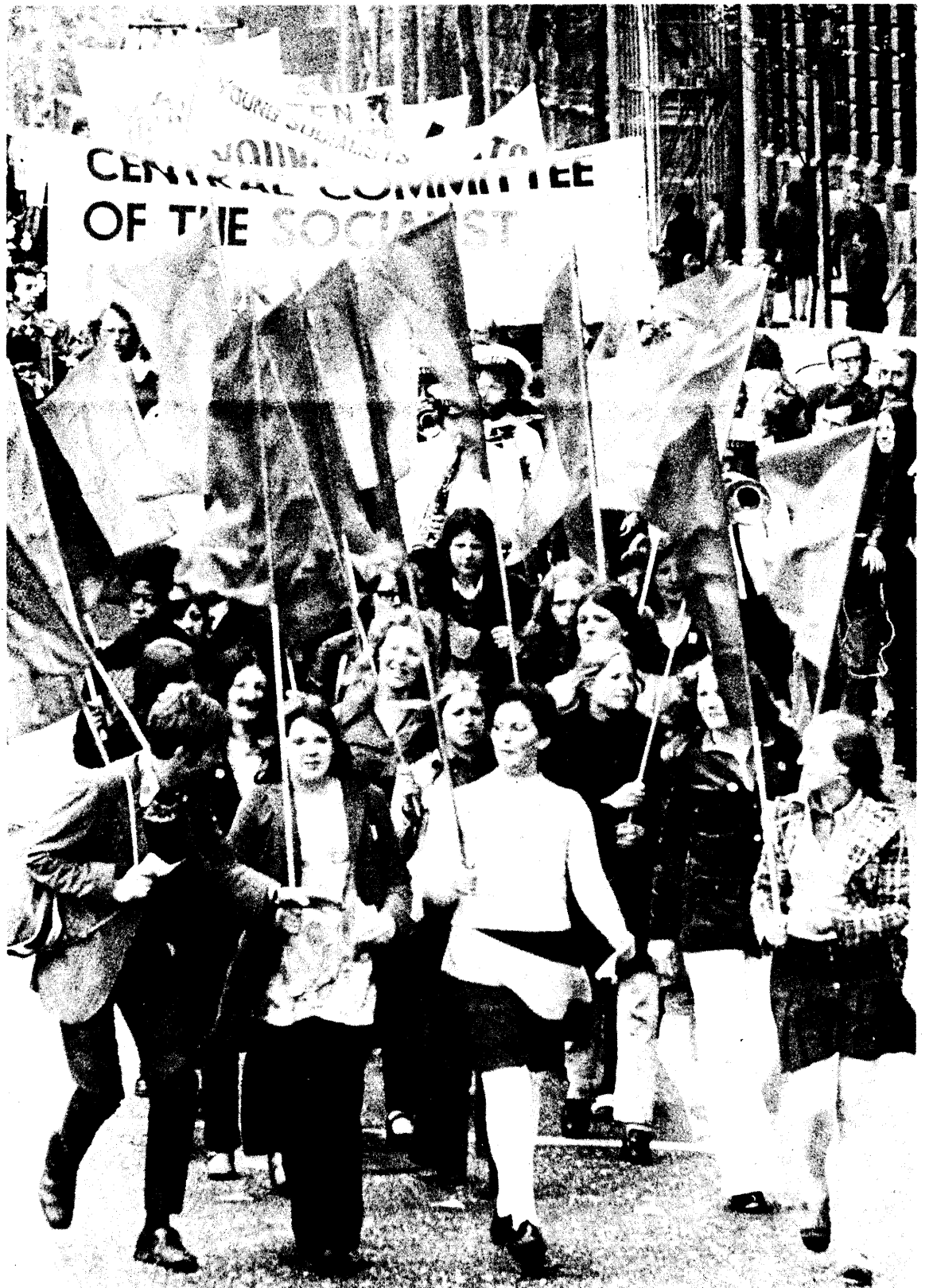
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# 'OSTPOLITIK' COMPROMISE LOOKS DOOMED TO FAILURE

ATTEMPTS to reach a compromise between the parties in the West German Bundestag over ratification of eastern treaties appeared to be on the verge of breakdown yesterday.

The right wing of the opposition Christian Democrats is making determined attempts to undermine the proposed compromise.

It will only be satisfied if the Soviet Union publicly commits itself to what amounts to a revision of the treaties.

Three commissions composed of government and opposition representatives have

drawn up a draft note to be sent to Moscow and Warsaw on the treaties.

The note is intended to indicate that West Germany retains the right to struggle for the unification of Germany.

The right wing of the opposition, including a number of former inhabitants of East Prussia expelled after the war, is now demanding the Soviet government indicate its approval of the note before the treaties are ratified.

This group has won support from the Bavarian-based Christian

Social Union, led by deputy opposition leader Franz-Josef Strauss.



Strauss: Backs note to Moscow

Strauss had previously backed shadow chancellor Dr Rainer Barzel in the negotiations with Social-

Democratic chancellor Willy Brandt.

Neither side of the Bundestag is sure of an absolute majority on the treaties. Everything now hangs on the Soviet government, which is likely to be asked to indicate approval of the note before the treaties are ratified.

Moscow is desperately anxious to ratify the treaties, which are crucial to its drive for a European Security Conference.

It has already made considerable concessions to West German capitalism in the treaties themselves.

## AROUND THE WORLD

# Vietnam: Dien Bien Phu spirit revived

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

**THE NORTH Vietnamese division which defeated crack French troops at Dien Bien Phu 18 years ago yesterday celebrated the occasion with a fierce attack on an artillery base between Kontum and Pleiku.**

Meanwhile US Secretary of State William Rogers was ordered to abandon his nine-day tour of Europe yesterday by President Nixon and fly back to America immediately for urgent discussion on the war.

North Vietnamese forces are preparing for the final onslaught on Hué, which is expected to be one of the decisive battles of the war. A pincer movement by tanks and infantry from the North and South is expected with heavy artillery support.

The North Vietnamese Command claims that it has killed, wounded or captured 90,000 enemy soldiers in the first month

of the present offensive. Among the 10,000 prisoners taken were hundreds of officers of the Saigon puppet forces and US advisers.

Among other successes claimed were the destruction or capture of 750 tanks, 2,300 trucks and 460 guns. A total of 530 aircraft were shot down or destroyed on the ground.

With Hanoi bargaining from a position of strength there could be no place for an American presence in Indo-China.

Confronted with this possibility, the 'hawks' in the Pentagon are pressing for drastic action. This could mean mass area bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong, the use of tactical nuclear weapons in the field or the destruction of dams and dykes to lay waste whole areas of the country.

The Nixon Administration is now faced with the total collapse of the Saigon regime as the failure of 'Vietnamization' is admitted.

It is recognized in Washington that the Thieu government could not withstand a shattering defeat at Hué which could lead to the demand for a negotiated peace.

The build-up for a huge naval

and air offensive has been taking place in the past five days. More planes have been sent to Thailand and Guam and a fleet of about 60 vessels is operating off the Vietnamese coast.

While marines go in to cover a Dunkirk-style evacuation of US forces from Vietnam, Nixon could order a total destruction operation against the North. This threat could also be used to induce Moscow to bring the North Vietnamese back to the Paris conference table.

A North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry statement accuses Nixon of wrecking the Paris peace talks because the US had failed to secure a position of strength from which to bargain. It said that the US was 'spreading unfounded rumours of private meetings in order to further obstruct and spoil' the negotiations.

In an editorial commemorating the Dien Bien Phu victory the North Vietnamese paper 'Nhan Dan' accused the US of escalating the war. 'The frantic military adventures of the enemy will only lead them to new defeats,' the paper said. 'The Vietnamese people will struggle to the end.'

# Main steel exporters cut supplies to the US

THE European Common Market, Britain and Japan have agreed 'voluntarily' to limit their exports of steel products to the United States over the next three years.

The agreement, announced in Washington at the weekend, is a victory for the big American steel combines, who had demanded stiff tariffs against foreign com-

petitors if they failed to accept quotas.

The deal—the first in which Britain has participated—will cut US steel imports by about 10 per cent, with a corresponding reduction in imports of stainless steel and alloy products.

Under the pact, exports from Britain and the Common Market will be limited to just over 8 million short tons, rising at a yearly rate of 2.5 per cent.

Nathaniel Samuels, deputy

under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, said foreign exporters were 'rather resistant at first' until they realized Congress might take action to protect the home industry.

This is calculated to save jobs in US steel plants.

At the same time it represents another stage in the growing trend towards trade war between the capitalist states and must increase unemployment in Britain, the Common Market and Japan.

## BRIEFLY

**KGB** swoopers searched the homes of 14 leading oppositionists on Friday night in a drive to suppress the underground 'Chronicle of Current Events'.

Among those arrested was Pyotr Yakir, a historian and leader in the fight against Stalinism, whose father, a Red Army general, was shot with seven others on Stalin's orders in 1938. Also concerned was Stalyona Armand, a granddaughter of Inessa Armand, a close friend of Lenin.

Only the astronomer Kronid Lubarsky is known to have been arrested in Moscow.

**ARAB** heads of state from Egypt, Algeria and Libya meeting in Algiers have pledged to mobilize all their energies 'to wage the inevitable battle of destiny' against Israel. They agreed to supply the Palestinian Resistance Organization with 'everything which can strengthen its liberation war.'

**IN TUNIS**, after the summit, President Sadat said he was convinced that Egypt could recover every inch of Arab territory captured by Israel. He claimed that the responsibility for

the present situation in the Middle East rested with Israel, which was blocking Egypt's peace moves.

**ISRAELI** sources declared themselves satisfied with the results of Mrs Golda Meir's talks in Bucharest, but have given no details of what agreement has been reached.

Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu had ten hours of talks with her on the Middle East situation. Both sides agreed to work for a peaceful settlement on acceptable political lines.

**CZECH** chess champion and Dubcek supporter, Ludek Pachman walked out of a Prague court a free man after having been found guilty of subversion and other charges. He received a two year sentence but was released in consideration of the 18 months he had already spent in jail and his poor state of health.

**MADRID** police have arrested seven leaders, including an 18 year old girl, of the illegal 'United Revolutionary Action', a splinter group of the illegal Maoist Marxist-Leninist Communist Party.

# WHAT WE THINK

## UNIONS AND THE STATE

THE 14-day 'cooling-off' period imposed on 200,000 railwaymen ends at midnight tonight, with the Jarratt arbitration offer of 12½ per cent still rejected by the unions.

This reflects the determination of the working class to fight for wage increases to keep up with the soaring cost of living.

The union leaders are haggling over details. They are prepared to accept the offer with effect from May 1, or even—as in the case of NUR leader Sir Sidney Greene — from mid-May, while the Railways Board offers the increase from June 5.

But whatever the outcome of today's brinkmanship, the government is preparing a showdown with the working class. The Tories and their agents have reacted to this dispute in a highly political way. Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan's claim that the Railways Board was being 'gazumped' reveals the class hatred felt by the Tories for the entire working class.

He equates a legitimate wage claim, with the most blatant profiteering and exploitation of people's needs!

If a Tory minister can say this openly, what is being said behind the scenes? It is obvious that the ruling class is becoming more and more frenzied as union after union moves into action against it

Ex-Labour Minister Richard Marsh, the Railways Board's chairman, expressed his masters' fears when he declared: 'The unions have decided to take on the state. This has not been a negotiation, it has been a hold-up. We are in a very dangerous situation.' The Tories know this.

The meeting over the weekend between Prime Minister Edward Heath, Transport Industries Minister John Peyton, the Minister for Industry Tom Boardman and Solicitor-General Sir Geoffrey Howe was clearly concerned with what measures the state could now take against the unions.

**This is a dangerous situation for the working class. What is at stake is not a few pence or a few days, but the entire future of the trade unions. This government is determined to smash the working class.**

Whatever the Tories decide today, a decisive confrontation cannot be long postponed.

The building of a revolutionary leadership in the unions and the launching of the revolutionary party to fight for a General Strike by the unions to force this government to resign, are becoming ever more urgent tasks with every passing day.

## 'Big Brother' probation officers

NEW TORY laws are turning probation officers into 'Big Brothers' instead of the 'caring' guardians.

The probation service is being transformed into 'a symbol of controlling rigid authority over wrongdoers', says L. F. Soften in the journal 'Justice of the Peace'.

Mr Soften said the stated duty of probation officers was to 'advise, assist and befriend' offenders. But officers were now required to see that offenders are keeping to their parole conditions.

The situation may get worse. The Criminal Justice Bill before parliament 'will cast the probation officer in a more authoritative and controlling role, allied ever more closely with the fear of punishment'.

Many probation officers, he said, 'view the future development of the service along these lines with misgiving'.

## Narrow Rolls vote on deal

A MASS meeting of manual workers at Rolls-Royce Ansty, Coventry, has voted by a narrow majority to accept the company's latest wage structure document. About 100 men in the tinsmith and semi-skilled cleaning sections walked out of the meeting because, they said, they would not be bound by the document's productivity and penal clauses.

## Record rise in teenage jobless

UNEMPLOYMENT among 18 year olds is rising at a record rate—it has more than doubled from the October 1968 high of 28,000 to 64,000 last October.

Figures released over the weekend also show that more young people are staying on the dole for long periods. The number of boys and girls unemployed for over eight weeks was 6,774 in October 1968. This total has increased three times to 23,388 by October last year.

A warning that the outlook is 'grim' for school leavers comes from Ray Hurst, writing in the National Union of Teachers' 'Guide to Careers', to be published today.

Mr Hurst, a careers officer for Teesside, warns that unemployment means youth develop 'unacceptable attitudes to society generally'.

All the experts were agreed on one thing, he says. This was that 'irrespective of the pace of improvement in the rate of economic growth, the overall levels of unemployment are going to continue to remain much higher than those previously experienced in the 1960s'.

THE 1,400 members of the technical section of the AUEW (TASS) working-to-rule at C. A. Parsons, Newcastle, are expected to ignore a request from officials of the Commission on Industrial Relations to take part in a confidential postal survey into bargaining rights at the firm.



# WORKING TOGETHER WOOS UNIONS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

The Working Together Campaign, backed by a number of right-wing employers, is finding advertising space in no lesser journal than 'Record', the newspaper of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The campaign has taken a half-page advertisement in this month's issue urging workers to get together with the employers so that 'we'll make it together'.

A similar advertisement for the campaign appeared in a recent issue of 'Tribune'. Many of the main people behind the campaign are very reactionary.

The chief publicity men are Geoffrey Tucker, former Tory press officer, and Sir Trevor Lloyd Hughes, Wilson's press liaison man at No 10 Downing St. Industrialists supporting the organization are Sir John Reiss

of Associated Portland Cement, Frank Taylor, chairman of Taylor Woodrow, Sir Joseph Kagan of Gannex, Sir Nathony Bowby, former GKN director, and Michael Ivens of Aims of Industry.

It is Ivens's association with the campaign which provides the overt political flavour.

Aims of Industry is an avowedly right-wing group which fights against nationalization and shop-floor militants.

At the launching press conference at the Savoy Hotel on April 10, Ivens confidently predicted: 'I believe we are going to get some really good, brisk, trade union leaders on the committee fairly soon.'

The fact that the campaign's advertisement appears prominently in the 'Record' does not mean Jack Jones is necessarily lining up for membership.

In fact, above the advertisement, the union's assistant general secretary, Harry Urwin,

contributes a 'disclaimer' to the campaign.

Urwin is quoted as saying the campaign is 'making a nonsense of the very complicated business of industrial relations, and the motives of those financing the campaign are highly questionable'.

Urwin admits that backing for the campaign is coming from big firms who gave record amounts to the Tory Party to help them win the last election and impose the Industrial Relations Act.

But all these admirable points still don't explain why the 'Record' chose to publish the campaign's nauseating publicity material—and probably charged the appropriate advertising rates, too.

The 'Working Together' people. Left to right: Sir John Reiss, Sir Joseph Kagan, Sir Anthony Bowby, Frank Taylor, Michael Ivens. Below: Geoffrey Tucker and Sir Trevor Lloyd Hughes



# MISERY OF RENTS BILL

The Tories' 'fair rents' Bill could increase the miseries of multi-occupation of accommodation.

This is the view of Dr Carl Burns, Islington's director of Public Health in North London. Dr Burns has expressed his fears in a report on how the Bill will affect the private sector.

Dr Burns pointed out that the main demand for multi-occupied accommodation came from 'members of the community who would otherwise be unable to afford any accommodation at all.'

He said: 'Into this situation the new Act will introduce a general increase in rent which irrespective of rebates is likely to put the greatest pressure on

those people seeking multi-let accommodation because of their financial resources.'

Dr Burns believes controlled tenants could suffer because with the prospect of the Bill becoming law in the summer, there is no incentive for landlords to carry out improvements to obtain a higher rent.

At present a landlord wanting to increase a controlled rent has to carry out improvements. But under clause 35 of the Bill, properties will become decontrolled automatically at a certain date.

Dr Burns said: 'This therefore means that if an owner of a controlled property wishes a higher rent, but does not wish to carry out improvements, he may be content to wait until the qualifying date under clause 35.'

# TORIES' TUNNEL SCHEME

Transport Minister John Peyton has promised parliament an early statement on the proposed Channel tunnel.

Peyton has been keeping parliament in the dark about the project for some time. Recently British Rail sent a circular to top executives setting out precise details of the scheme. The blueprint included such details as the location of the termini, the costs and the freight possibilities.

But perhaps most interesting of all is the news concealed in the confidential circular that it will not be a government-



only project. A private consortium headed by Rio Tinto Zinc is to provide most of the finance and 'know-how'.

If the consortium's plan is accepted, it seems that British Rail will use the facilities and pay a fee to the private backers. If this is the Tory government's privately agreed scheme, it's no wonder Peyton is reluctant to make a full statement to the House.

# CHEAP LABOUR

Britain's industrialists are being asked to employ graduates in more menial jobs to help ease the growing unemployment amongst university students.

The Standing Conference of University Appointments Service has announced that of 50,555 first degree graduates in 1970-1971, 8,840 were believed not to have permanent jobs by the end of 1971.

Of these, 1,464 were in tem-

porary employment; 2,463 were believed unemployed and the destination of 4,912 were 'unknown'.

The conference has written to 100 industrial concerns asking them to employ graduates in jobs not previously considered as traditional university fields—cost clerks, buyers, computer programmers, salesmen and foremen.

Firms have been told that there has been a massive increase in the number of 18-year-olds who now go in for full-time higher education, from 6 per cent in 1955 to 19.2 per cent today. And university career heads have pointed out that industry can benefit with better-trained minds at the lower levels.

# BOOKS



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# LIKE LIVING IN A FILING CABINET

By Sarah Hannigan

Mrs Daphne Cook's reaction to the four new tower blocks off Woodpecker Rd, New Cross, South East London, is the same as that of the majority of tenants in the area: 'I wouldn't move into one of them. If you have children it's like a prison for them.'

'It's not fair on the children and I don't approve of these flats anyway,' Mrs Cook went on. 'I don't like them being built here and we're trying to get out. But then you can't pick and choose where you want to live nowadays.'

The 24-storey flats off Woodpecker Rd are part of £5m development scheme for the area by the local Lewisham council.

But the council has now tactically admitted that people are not in the least enthusiastic about moving into the new blocks. They said as much when they waived the one-year waiting-list rule to try to encourage young married couples and single people to take the one-bedroomed flats.



Above: Mrs Cook. Right: the New Cross tower blocks which no one wants to live in

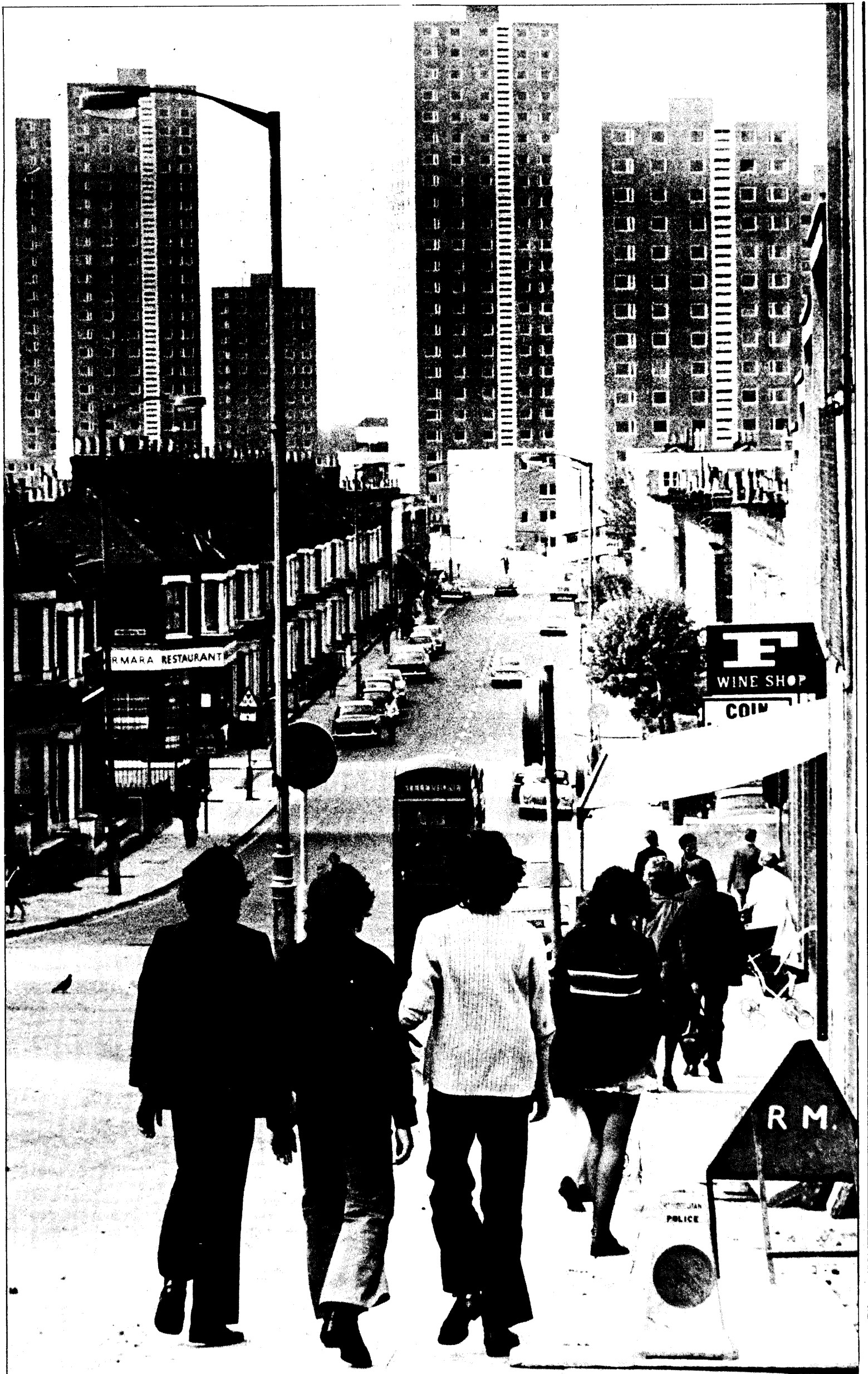
Workers Press spoke to other local residents, all of whom shared Mrs Cook's feelings about the flats.

Mrs Maureen Cowley, who lives in a new maisonette across the road from two of the 'towers' said she 'wouldn't give them a penny for them'.

Her friend Mrs Lorraine Dwyer pays £6.50 a week for her two-bedroomed maisonette. The rent has already gone up once since she moved in five weeks ago!

She pointed out that with the long waiting list for houses in the area it was nonsense for the council to decide to build blocks which were useless for families.

Both she and some of her friends had had to wait for as long as five years before they were entitled to a council house, she said. Yet now single people and childless couples could move in without any delay at all.



Mrs Margaret George will be 65 in June. At present she pays £12.80 a fortnight for her two-bedroomed maisonette. When she moved in six years ago the rent was £3.40 a week.

She wasn't happy about the rent, but she wasn't prepared to move into one of the tower blocks.

'You're boxed in', she said. 'That's why people don't like them. They might be all right inside, but what if the lifts broke down. Who's going to carry little children all the way up to the top of that?'

'I sent my granddaughter after one of them, but she said "No thanks". They told her she would have to pay £7 a week to live right at the top

of one of those things. She has one kid and would only have been prepared to live on the ground floor.'

'There's only corridors up there. And there's no facilities for the kiddies or for anyone. We need a club for the children and a hall for bingo. They've already taken all our shops away.'

'The kids have nowhere to play and that is why the windows get smashed. They say that there's a new building round the corner there that's going to be a church. We've got one church here already. That's enough churches.'

A curate who lives on the centre of the estate surrounded by the 'towers' calls them

'vertical prisons'. The Rev David Everett (27) says:

'I feel strongly about tower blocks. I was working for the social service just about quarter of a mile from Ronan Point when it blew up and I helped deal with all the families who were affected.'

He went on: 'However, I don't think that it's because of Ronan Point that people don't like living in these blocks. It's the feeling of being trapped. It's the new way of living that people have to evolve.'

Why did he call them 'vertical prisons'?

'You only have to look at them. The most obvious thing is that they have no balconies.

Nowhere you can get air or dry washing or anything like that.

Over the next 12 months upwards of 2,500 people are due to move into the four tower blocks and the four smaller towers on the estate. Social amenities at the moment are confined to one community centre.

Plans for others are in the pipeline. This, however, is no help to the children of the area who are now being accused by some people of 'vandalism'.

As Mrs George said: 'If the kiddies had somewhere to play, then they wouldn't have to hang around smashing windows.'

# HISPANIOLA: UNDER THE US BOOT

## 'BABY DOC'S' HAITI

Haiti, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, is ruled by an even more dictatorial regime.

It is the fiefdom of 'Baby Doc', youthful, overweight Jean-Claude Duvalier. A year ago he inherited the dictatorship on the death of his father, Francois.

Now 'thanks to the oppressive regime built up during 14 years of terror by Francois Duvalier with support from the United States', the dictatorship rolls on.

Our quotation is taken from a clandestine communique published in the capital, Port au Prince, by the 'Jacques Heannot Committee for Patriotic Action', an anti-Duvalier group.

The document analyses the first year of Jean-Claude's rule as lifetime President.

'Jean-Claude's play boy character has not been changed by government leadership. He still loves the "dolce vita", fast cars and motorcycles', the document says.

'Real power continues to lie in the hands of the big men of the "crime syndicate": Interior Minister Luckner Canbronne, former head of the secret police; the brothers Adrien and Claude Arymond Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chief of the Army High Command respectively; Luc Desir, present head of the secret police; Gracia Jacques and Breton Claude.

The military chiefs who were most hated by the people and most loyal to 'Papa Doc' took over control of the police apparatus.

'Hundreds of political

prisoners are rotting in prison without ever having been brought before a court, not even their families are allowed to visit them.

'Some exiles who came back to the country on the strength of the government's so-called amnesty, were arrested and submitted to terrible torture'.

The document states that 19 peasants from Valle de L'Artibonite were shot at the end of January, after they protested that their lands were being plundered by a rich landowner.

'The massacre was carried out by the Tontons Macoutes and The Leopards, a new terror team created by Jean-Claude,' the document says.

It adds: 'American support for the Haitian regime is stronger than ever'.

Clinton Knox, American ambassador to Port au Prince is 'the *eminence grise* who hands out orders to the gang in power'.

The communique recalls that on March 15 American Secretary of State William Rogers and assistant Defence Secretary Warren Nutter 'received in Washington a government mission from Duvalier's dictatorial regime, and they received them with embraces, smiles and tributes.'

Duvalier's representatives were Luckner Canbronne, Foreign Minister Adrien Raymond, and Finance Minister Eduard Francisque.

'The State Department and US Defence Secretariat ratified its unconditional support for the Duvalier clan', the document states.

'Despite police state repression, illiteracy, and growing poverty in Haiti, resistance to the dictatorial regime is growing too.'

'The people are beginning to realize that the gangsters at present in power aim to go even further than "Papa Doc" in internal repression and the handing over of national territory and resources to American imperialism', the document concludes.



## ARMY ON THE CAMPUS

The military have moved onto the campus of the University of San Domingo and look set to stay there after driving the students off the university premises.

They moved in last month on the pretext that they were looking for a bank robber. They blocked the university entrances in a rapid manoeuvre which surprised even the rector, who was at that moment in conference with UN officials.

The students were promptly ordered off the campus and many were arrested on the spot and taken into nearby black marias.

Meanwhile the rector called a hurried meeting of the university council and advised the students not to leave the university until the military had

given guarantees about their safety.

On the campus itself, students gathered to shout slogans against the regime. Suddenly, the police opened fire on the crowd, hitting a girl student in the head and wounding ten others.

The students flung themselves onto the ground and the army moved in as if they were storming a fortress.

Everybody, including the UN officials, soon found themselves lined up against the wall with armed soldiers standing menacingly behind them. The police took them away in trucks.

Since the occupation, the army has set about systematically wrecking the university, the oldest in Latin America.

They are said to have caused thousands of pounds' worth of damage, smashing typewriters, destroying files and library books and stealing what they can.

The rector is now out of prison, but 50 others are still held. The girl who was wounded is still in a critical condition. If she lives, she will be permanently disabled.

The 'robber' they were looking for is still at large.

This is not the first time the university has been viciously attacked in San Domingo. In 1970, tanks were brought onto the campus and

the university was shut down by decree for three months.

Then the police at least had the 'excuse' that there were demonstrations among the students. Nothing of the sort happened to provoke the latest assault.

But for President Balaguer and his henchmen, the students are 'communist brigands' and enemies of society.

He faces a growing popular movement against his regime. Textile workers are on strike demanding higher pay and elementary trade union rights, while in the countryside the peasants in many areas have demonstrated demanding the land to the tiller. They too have felt the weight of Balaguer's mailed fist.

Balaguer is simply a mouth-piece for United States interests in the Dominican Republic. He has already sold at least a tenth of the country to various US interests. On the east of the island, the Gulf Western Company is a virtual state within a state.

It is buying up one after another of the best beaches to construct tourist resorts—from which the Dominicans are strictly excluded.

Such a regime cannot tolerate protests or even the threat of protest. And that is the explanation for the actions of the army on the campus.



Top right: 'Baby Doc' and Luckner Canbronne. Above: William Rogers

# AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY ...

## 7 DAYS

'Throughout the whole history of the British labour movement is to be found the pressure of the bourgeoisie on the proletariat by means of radicals, intelligentsia, drawing-room and church socialists, Owenites, who reject the class struggle, put forward the principle of social solidarity, preach co-operation with the bourgeoisie, curb, enfeeble, and politically debase the proletariat. This consciously diffuse formula has as its object the mollifying of the class character of socialism.'

Trotsky in 'Where is Britain Going?'

'Seven Days', the much-vaunted photo-weekly, was launched five months ago amid a shower of free publicity in the capitalist press and on television. Now—£15,000 later—the directors have announced that the magazine is to cease publication.

News that the magazine has gone broke so abruptly makes the early press releases seem embarrassingly optimistic. Take, for instance, this item: 'The working party has decided that "Seven Days" should run with workers' control, economic equality and sexual parity. The aim is to make the paper commercially viable, without being capitalist—any surplus will automatically be ploughed back.'

The shut-down of 'Seven Days' coincides with the extinction of the anarchist paper 'Ink', the sacking of Richard Crossman as editor of the 'New Statesman' and the plans to kill off 'Race Today', the journal of the Institute of Race Relations.

### ANXIETY OF THE MIDDLE CLASS LEFT

The collapse and crisis in these publications is causing considerable anxiety in middle class 'left' circles in London. The wine bars and drawing rooms echo with chat about whether everyone came to grief because of printing costs or distribution problems or advertising revenue.

Such contemplation, however, is a complete evasion of the real reason behind the crisis in these publications. The reasons are political; and the politics of centrism and

reformism epitomized by these middle-class writers and foot-loose people are totally bankrupt in this period of the polarization of class forces.

They are bankrupt because they do not base themselves on Marxism, they do not base themselves on the working class. Indeed, one could quote example after example where they show utmost contempt for workers and their problems. If it is not contempt, then it is mindless patronage of the working class.

They have made no analysis of this period of capitalist crisis; to them the world monetary chaos, the international slump and the rise of unemployment in all the major capitalist countries, is just an interruption in capitalism; a sort of hiccup which will be remedied if you stand in the corner with a paper bag on your head and drink a cup of water backwards. And politically, that is just what all of them are doing.

Of all the publications, 'Seven Days' is the one most deserving of specific study simply because it declared itself to be 'revolutionary'. One of the main publicity brochures carried this advertising gimmick:

'You mean to say we can have a revolutionary weekly in Britain with ideas of vibrant clarity, fresh incisive prose, pictures of brute immediacy from the corners of the globe, available at every bookstall, at the modest price of 15p? And then, underneath the reply: 'Take a look for yourself.'

Inside the brochure, the 'Seven Days' promotion experts proclaimed that the magazine would 'help to build a coherent critique of British society'... which is scarcely 'revolutionary'.

The brochure revealed in other ways that the overriding ethos of the magazine was anti-Marxist. The key paragraph boasted: "'Seven Days' has its own perspectives and is



independent of any existing group, party or organization.' It went on to state that its 'aim' was 'to help people to discover the truth of capitalism for themselves (!), and to realize their own ability to take political power.'

How 'Seven Days' arrived at these aims and objectives is readily understood when one reads the paragraph headed: 'How it started.' This reveals that the inspiration behind the magazine's policies came from a working party comprising people from the Free Communications Group, Women's Liberation Workshop, 'Black Dwarf', 'New Left Review', 'Cinema Action', 'Idiot International', 'Gay Liberation and the 'Cambridge Shilling Newspaper'.

In fact, every revisionist, reformist, liberal number in the book was drawn into the 'Seven Days' milieu. This aspect of the paper was most glaringly demonstrated in the presence of the Cockburn family.

Claude Cockburn, ex-Stalinist and contributor to 'Private Eye' was one of the four directors; his son, Alexander, of 'New Left Review' and the 'New Statesman', was listed as editing the 'capitalism' page, though no signed articles appeared by him during the magazine's brief lifetime; Alexander's wife, Emma Tennant, who was formerly Mrs Christopher Booker (Booker was a founding editor of 'Private Eye') contributed articles; and towards the end the paper also carried articles by Andrew Cockburn, Alexander's younger brother, who came to 'Seven Days' via 'Ink'.

Without a vestige of political principle, the 'Seven Days' venture was launched in an almost champagne atmosphere. Potential subscribers and journalists thought to be sympathetic were invited to a cocktail party in Hampstead while others received a leaflet saying: 'This document asks you to take out a £100 foundation subscription to "Seven Days".' It went on: 'The second stage of the fund raising is known as the "Hundred Hundreds".'

'Those donating £100 to this scheme become "Foundation Subscribers".' They will receive "Seven Days" until a full £100 worth of copies has been sent to them.'

### DOING THEIR LIBERAL THING

Throughout this public relations drive 'Seven Days' presented itself as part of the 'alternative' press. It was no such thing. It was simply a diversionary playground for a number of young men and women with some journalistic ability to 'do their own liberal thing'.

IPC, publishers of the 'Daily Mirror' and probably the world's largest newspaper and printing monopoly, patronized these people by placing advertisements in their publication. Isn't it a perfect tribute to 'Seven Days' 'alternative' politics, that it received subsidies

from one of the biggest bourgeois in publishing?

The other hallmark of its launching was the flattering and extensive coverage in the national press and on the late-night trendy discussion programmes.

David Triesman told 'The Times': "'Seven Days' will be both informative and propagandist. It will be a long way to the left, but will try to avoid the hysterical ghetto language of some left-wing groups.'

The scholarly Mr Triesman, who is such a 'long way to the left', became the paper's sports writer informing the 'Hundred Hundreds' (and 'Fighting Fivers') about greyhound racing and pigeons. By the time of the 'emergency issue' of the magazine last week, Mr Triesman was no longer listed as 'sports editor' but as a 'contributing editor'.

There were other editorial 'plugs' in 'The Times', 'The Guardian', London 'Evening Standard', 'New Society' and 'Campaign'. And now the magazine has gone out of business, who rushes forward with notes of mourning? Why, the bourgeois press.

'The Guardian' has just given one of the directors, John Berger, a whole column to plead the case of his defunct magazine. 'The Times' diary, the sump of middle-class prattle, also pleads for the retention of the paper.

And the chorus was joined by the 'New Statesman': 'The very appearance of "Seven Days" constituted a certain triumph.' Ironically, underneath this ludicrous praise appeared an advertisement for the job of editor of the 'New



Space in 'Seven Days' was more consistently given to Women's Lib than any other subject. Editorial board meetings were frequently frustrated by rows between the male and female members.

Statesman' which is itself wracked with political confusion following Crossman's dismissal and the ending of the paper's traditional adherence to Labour reformism.

Perhaps the most revealing aspect of the magazine's whirlwind appearance on the bookstalls, was its claim about readership. The brochure declared that the readers would be:

- students in higher education, sixth formers and apprentices;
- young people in creative arts and design and technicians;
- semi-professional teachers, librarians, researchers;
- working class activists;
- housewives and mothers;
- people in the middle professions: medicine, planning, technology, the media

In fact, of course, they were writing for and to each other. The readership profile consciously and deliberately turned its back on the working class—indisputable evidence of its non-Marxist political approach.

### THE SHARPENING CLASS STRUGGLE

From the brochure it can be easily seen to whom the sales pitch was directed—the disaffected middle class. This was reflected time and again in the columns of the magazine, particularly in its

absurdly disproportionate coverage of such subjects as 'Women's Liberation and Gay Liberation.'

The succession of political crises to hit these journals is a direct reflection of the sharpening class struggle which has characterized the political situation since the Tory government came to office in June 1970.

The rise of 'Ink' and 'Seven Days' reflected a mood among a section of middle-class people who moved in a confused way to protesting as the Tories began their offensive in Britain and Ulster.

Now that their protest is over and their moods dashed, where will these people go as the working class gathers ascendancy?

After spending a lifetime, albeit 29 years, of lampooning the 'straight' press, Mr Richard Neville of 'Ink' has gone off to join it. He now has a regular full-page column in the 'Evening Standard' owned by the Beaverbrook group, historically the most hostile anti-union newspaper corporation in Britain.

Another 'Ink' director, Ed Victor, who dropped out of the English publishing business, has dropped back in to Random House publishers in New York. The 'Seven Days' personnel haven't shown such a blatant retreat into the folds of the bourgeoisie.

But in this period of extreme capitalist crisis, it is unsafe to make any exact judgments on the shifts and turns among the petty bourgeois idealists. In describing this group in 'Left-Wing Communism—an Infantile Disorder', Lenin says they 'easily go to revolutionary ex-

trêmes' but they are 'incapable of perseverance, organization, discipline and steadfastness.'

'A petty bourgeois driven to frenzy by the horrors of capitalism is a social phenomenon which, like anarchism, is characteristic of all capitalist countries.'

Lenin describes the 'instability of such revolutionism, its barrenness, and its tendency to turn rapidly into submission, apathy, phantasms, and even a frenzied infatuation with one bourgeois fad or another.'

Those 'Seven Days' writers, designers and researchers who do have a genuine interest in revolutionary politics should study the lessons of the 'Seven Days' debacle. They must examine the Utopian and bourgeois idealist character of their recent political protesting and reject this reformist school.

Their talents can contribute to the struggle for socialism only in so far as they subordinate themselves politically to the requirements of the working class.

This can only be done by joining the one organization in Britain today which bases itself on Marxism and fighting for the emancipation of the working class—the Socialist Labour League.

# THE GLASGOW RENTS FIGHT

## PART ONE

The Tory government has two Rent Bills before parliament, one for England and Wales, the other for Scotland. Both have the same intention—to enforce the largest increase in council rents in history. No soothing words about rent rebate schemes, nor about directing resources where they are most needed, can conceal this.

For Scottish workers this aspect of the Tory attack is especially significant. Since the early days of the Industrial Revolution, working-class housing in Scotland has impressed even bourgeois commentators with its awfulness.

From the observation of Benthamite reformers of the 1830s and 1840s to the statistics of the modern census, every type of evidence suggests that Scottish housing conditions have been consistently worse even than those of the major industrial centres of England.

No objective observer surveying even relatively recent housing estates in Glasgow or Dundee could support the contention of the White Paper, 'The Reform of Housing Finance in Scotland' (Cmd 4727, 1971), that the problem of bad housing 'is no longer general and widespread but is increasingly concentrated in fewer areas'.

The working class has not, and does not, accept any aspect of capitalist oppression passively. The historic struggle for, and defence of, the right to decent housing has a very special relevance in Scotland. In the 20th century particularly real gains have been won—gains which the Tories now seek to destroy.

## Unrealistic

This is the meaning of the often-heard complaint of the capitalist politicians and their press that Scotland's housing problem is caused by unrealistically low rents. The White Paper's version of this fatuous argument is that:

'The artificially low rent level in the public sector discourages the supply of modern houses in Scotland for purchase or for private letting. There has therefore been increasing dependence on public sector housing, which is distorting the housing pattern and is a discouragement to new firms and new industry...'

It's all so beautifully logical, isn't it? High rents, full employment, so what's everyone carping about!

The working class, now facing in earnest the struggle to defend its living standards, will not be coned by the bland reasoning of the capitalist economists.

It was the Scottish working class that led the struggle against rent profiteering in

World War I. And a high point of reformist politics in Scotland came when, after the war, the workers of Shettleston in Glasgow returned Independent Labour Party member John Wheatley to parliament, and Ramsay MacDonald, against his better judgement was forced to include him in the first Labour government of 1924.

None of the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work marchers who came from the vile Shettleston slums of today would be sympathetic to the suggestion that Wheatley's parliamentary manoeuvring abolished the housing problem.

Nevertheless the Wheatley Housing Act of 1924 was one of the few real reforms which the first Labour government carried through. It established the responsibility of the local authorities for providing sufficient housing, of a decent standard, at reasonable return.

The Tory government is quite explicit in its intention to reverse this gain. Its White Paper on Scottish housing finance clearly states its intention to withdraw all the concessions won by the working class in the period following the report of the Royal Commission on Scottish housing which sat from 1912 to 1917.

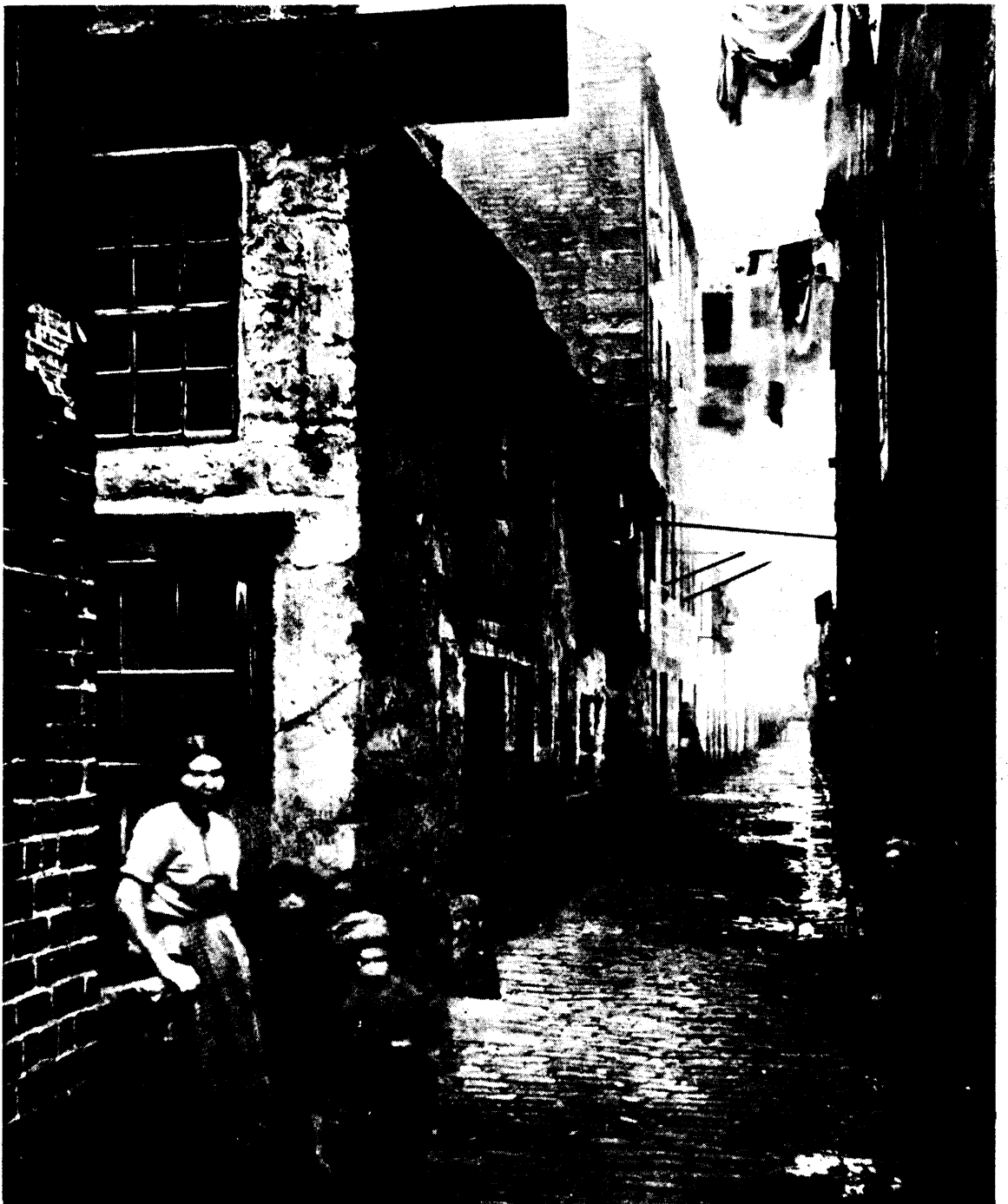
## Minorities

According to the Tories the problems which that commission uncovered have all been substantially dealt with. Now it is only small minorities which require 'help'. The great majority of workers must pay 'economic rents' and the main emphasis in housing should be shifted into the hands of private enterprise.

In proceeding with their usual arrogant confidence in their ability to reverse the historic gains of the working class, the Tories forget one thing—the working class itself. Accustomed to identifying the working class with the toadies of the trade union bureaucracy whom they meet over cocktails, they rest on the theory that subsidized rents, etc., were the products of ruling-class benevolence which can be removed with the stroke of a pen.

They are mistaken. The 1912 Royal Commission on Scottish housing itself was set up in the face of massive 'industrial unrest', when the employing class was desperately seeking ways of heading off working-class militancy. The first Rent Restrictions Act was passed under war-time conditions when the whole of British capitalism's 'war effort' was threatened by workers' determination to defend their basic rights, no matter how much patriotic rhetoric was hurled at them.

In 1915 the Clydeside was the cockpit of this struggle. It centred on the key engineering factories which had been converted to munitions production with the outbreak of war. The defence of basic rights against



Working-class housing in the late 19th century: the Old Vennel in Glasgow

the vicious speed-up and discipline of the infamous Treasury Agreement and the subsequent Munitions of War Act, which the reformist trade union bureaucracies cooperated with, was the main issue.

As always in periods of sharp conflict between the classes, however, the struggle took a multiplicity of forms.

As the engineers of firms like Weir's of Cathcart, Barr & Stroud, Beardmore's and Albion Motors threw forward a workshop leadership to fight against the betrayals of the bureaucracy, so the housewives of the main working-class areas of Glasgow took up the fight against rent-profiteering. The requirement of the munitions industries for labour had given the landlords their opportunity to do well out of the war.

In the late summer and early autumn of 1915 notice of rent increases was given to many tenants in areas such as Parkhead and Partick. In both areas rent strikes were decided on.

When a factor visited houses in the Partick area to collect the additional rents at the end of September, the local paper reported: 'He was pelted with bags of pease meal and chased from one of the streets by a number of women, who upbraided him vociferously.'

Soon hundreds were participating in the strikes and large meetings were being organized in most of the working-class areas of Glasgow.

By early October, six districts were on strike, and a mass demonstration was held in central Glasgow. 'We are fighting the Prussians of Partick' and against 'The Huns at Home', declared the banners. Determined now to press ahead with its munitions drive, which required the 'dilution' of labour and a ruthless attack on hard-won protective practices

the government adopted a conciliatory policy on the rents question and set up an inquiry.

Meanwhile private landlords attempting to evict rent-strikers were met with the organized resistance of the Women's Housing Association, led by Mrs Barbour. The ejection officers got the flour and whiting treatment again.

At a meeting called by the Glasgow Labour Party Housing Committee, I L Per and committed reformist Patrick Dollan (many years later to be Lord Provost of Glasgow) declared: 'The law of eviction is the law of the property class. We of the working class will respect no law which sanctions the eviction of working-class families.'

But despite militant statements the leaders of this struggle saw it essentially as a single-issue campaign. They suggested reformist 'solutions' to the 'housing problem' such as diverting tramway profits to build municipal housing. They did not see the rents question as part of the whole ruling-class attack on the working class which the war necessitated. One leading rent-striker, Helen Crawford even declared that the rent battle was 'essentially a woman's fight'.

## Class fight

In reality it was a class fight—and more than that, it was a political fight. Government tactics on the rents question were part of their strategy to contain the militancy of the whole working class and to defeat its most advanced sections. Much against the prejudices of many of its own members and supporters, it introduced the first Rent Restrictions Bill.

When the Bill was introduced late in November, the 'Glasgow Herald' commented

sadly: '... pity it is that we should have to acquiesce in so much unfairness in order to persuade men to help to win this war, which is their concern as well as ours.'

The ruling class was well aware of the political nature of the struggle. For the government the concession wrung from them on rents was also the cover behind which they launched a campaign over the winter of 1915-1916 to break up the Clydeside shop stewards' movement on the key dilution issue.

The Clyde Workers' Committee of shop stewards in the leadership of the fight in the engineering factories—enmeshed in the critical theoretical limitations of the socialist parties to which they belonged—were unable to broaden the fight of the skilled engineers out into the working class as a whole. An important aspect of this failure was their inability to take over the leadership of the rents movement.

To have forged the policy to unite the whole working class against the government would have required a ruthless stand against the imperialist war on the basis of Lenin's theory of 'revolutionary defeatism'—that workers should stand for the defeat of their 'own' capitalist class to create the most favourable conditions for revolution.

This required a complete break from the opportunism of the Second International of Social-Democracy, which had deserted to the side of the bourgeoisie and supported their respective national governments when war broke out in 1914.

Lenin was almost alone at this period in grasping the implications for the working class of what had happened in 1914. No tendency in Britain approached his position.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



# AN ITALIAN ROY JENKINS

BY JOHN SPENCER

Italian Stalinism is fully prepared to see the country remain in both NATO and the Common Market, even under a government with Communist Party participation.

This is clear from statements by leading CP member Giorgio Amendola in an interview with 'Times' correspondent Edward Mortimer last week. The interview was given only a few days before the Italian General Election on Sunday.

Amendola's own position makes it clear that the Italian CP is prepared to co-operate in the operation of the Common Market. He sits as one of the Italian delegation to the European parliament — a rubber-stamp body composed of representatives from the six national parliaments of the EEC.

He says: 'We find this participation in the European parliament useful, even though it has few powers. We have learnt a lot from it.'

In contrast with his British counterparts, whose propaganda is full of references to the loss of sovereignty entailed in the Common Market system, Amendola looks forward to a single European electoral law allowing uniform election to the European parliament.

In the meantime, he says: 'All national parliaments should elect their delegations with uniform criteria which would let in all political groups whether of the majority or of the opposition.'



Berlinguer, present general secretary of the Italian Communist Party

At the moment each national parliament chooses its own system of election. Under this system the Italian Stalinists have only recently gained admittance and the French CP is still kept out. What Amendola wants is a kind of 'Popular Front' regime on an international scale.

'We are not for Italy leaving the EEC', he says. 'We are for the transformation of the EEC's institutions. Until now power has been held by the national governments, by the bureaucracy of the community and by multinational com-



The European Parliament in session. Amendola finds it 'useful' to participate in this rubber stamp body of European capitalism

panies. We want an active and real presence of the popular forces: the trade unions, co-operatives, youth movements and all political parties.'

This perspective is a Europe-wide extension of the Italian CP's domestic policy of 'structural reforms'.

Nor is Amendola opposed to British entry to the Common Market, unlike both the British and French CPs. He says: 'We understand the motives of Labour and communist opposition in Britain, but in spite of this if Britain does come in, I shall rejoice that the British working class will come and bring its contribution to the democratic transformation of the community.'

Readers will recognize the familiar siren-song of the Jenkinsite pro-Market. This policy is a deceptive trap because, as Amendola himself admits, there is precious little 'democracy' in the Common Market, which is dominated by the 'multinational companies'.

Amendola is quite specific about his party's commitment to the continuation of capitalism in Italy. He stressed that the Italian CP did not want to move Italy 'from one power block to another'. They wanted to 'go beyond' the division of Europe into two blocs.

All they want really is to change the direction of Italian foreign policy—along the lines required by the Kremlin. 'We think Italy has a geographical position which requires a foreign policy of peace and detente in Europe.'

This corresponds to the letter with the Soviet bureaucracy's plans for 'European

Security'—joint policing of Europe against the working class by a deal between the capitalist powers and the Soviet bloc.

Amendola quite blatantly subordinates the requirements of the Italian working class to this counter-revolutionary aim. He and his Party are prepared to take posts in a government which is part of a military pact directed against the Soviet Union and the conquests of the October Revolution. Amendola does not even want a 'left-wing' government. He is quite prepared to support what he terms a 'government of the democratic turning point' (sic) based on a majority composed of the 'three historic currents'—the CP, social-democracy and Catholics.

No one could accuse Amendola of excessive ambition. He says the CP would support such a government without even taking posts in it. They would be content to remain in the 'area'.

The purpose of such a Popular Front, as Amendola himself implies, is to tie the working class even closer to the capitalist state. He says that if the Christian Democrats succeed in their plan to have a 'centre' majority, in effect accepting fascist support, 'there will be a period of great social tensions'.

The alternative is 'a new majority with communists participating in the majority though not in the government'. Such a regime, with Stalinists officially 'in the area of government' would, he implies, enjoy the backing of the Stalinist trade union leaders who would undertake to keep the masses quiet.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## Problems

Duncan Sandys, Tory MP for Streatham, South London, has just taken over as chairman of Lonrho, the mining and trading company which has been embarrassed by a £10m overdraft with merchant banks.

Curiously, however, the £10m materialized the other day from an unspecified deal which the company has just carried out. No sooner had he got one major problem off his plate, than another arose. A few days ago three of his directors in South Africa appeared in court on fraud charges.

## Bottled money

'A disappointing £1,150 was paid for a jeroboam (equivalent to six bottles) of Château Mouton Rothschild 1929 at a Sotheby's wine auction recently. A few weeks earlier £2,800 had been paid for a similar bottle of the same wine.'

This item on how the rich live appeared in the London 'Evening Standard' the other day. Labour Research Department has calculated the amount of money spent on these two bottles of wine could have provided a bottle of milk for almost a quarter of a million children.

## Co-existence

The man who has astonishing amounts of dirt on FBI chief Edgar Hoover is Soviet spy Kim Philby.

When Philby was stationed in Washington as Britain's top anti-Russian spy he regularly dined with Hoover. They would meet at Hoover's club and discuss the latest rounds in the Cold War.

Hoover was always boasting how he could smell a 'Commie' miles away—which must have caused Philby to almost choke

with amusement. In his memoirs, Philby describes Hoover as one of the most objectionable men he ever met. He had many great anecdotes about the intelligence he used to deliberately 'plant' on Hoover.

Unfortunately these stories do not appear in his book presumably because the Soviet bureaucrats did not feel happy about making a complete monkey of Hoover while he was alive and while they were busily pursuing their policy of 'peaceful co-existence'.



Kim Philby



Edgar Hoover

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# TOP COP TO MORAL REFORMER

Lancashire's former Chief Constable Mr William Palfrey, has, over the years, earned himself a special place in the hearts and memories of Lancashire folk.

Many trade unionists will undoubtedly not forget the scenes in St Helens when his boys in blue went into action during the Pilkington glassworkers' strike.

And Anti-Apartheid campaigners will always remember the fine performance of his mounted police during demonstrations at Old Trafford.

Recently much-publicized in one of the more sensational Sunday papers for his advocacy of bringing back the noose, Palfrey is also, of course, a keen Christian.

Along with his friend the Bishop of Blackburn, the then Chief Constable was one of the original pioneers of the movement of militant Christians that has emerged in the Festivals of Light.

Through the grim Lancashire streets, the Man of God and the Lawman led their cohorts — parsons, local councillors, the men's associations, and large numbers of 'off-duty' policemen, crusaders all, in their 'Act of Witness' (not to be confused with a demonstration, of course) against the 'Permissive Society', finishing up at the altar of Blackburn Cathedral.

Many people will treasure their own little memories of things that Palfrey has done or said at various times. Like that time when he was asked to explain why some of his men had, allegedly sworn at young girl students in a demonstration, and called them 'something-whores'.

'Well,' the Chief Constable was quoted as saying, 'when you hear that the boys and girls at Lancaster University like to sleep together, what do you expect!'

Although he has now retired as Chief Constable, he is still a

very active man. True, he turned down the invitation from the Ardwick division Conservative Party to become their prospective parliamentary candidate. But he is still determined to do his bit for the security and moral welfare of the people.

## Special post

Lancashire County Council has created a special post for an officer to look after the problems of unemployed youth in the county. Since there are a lot of them, and the officer is supposed to help them get work, he will obviously have to be quite a busy fellow.

The job created, ex-Chief Constable Palfrey was contacted straight away, and invited to take it at a salary of £13,000 a year.

But the appointment has run into some opposition.

Trade unions representing local government, clerical and administrative staff asked why a policeman was being appointed to this post, particularly when there were an increasing number of people with better experience and qualifications who were being thrown on the dole in Lancashire and would have been glad of the job.

A number of people wrote letters to the 'Lancashire Evening Post' criticizing the decision to appoint Palfrey and questioning whether there was any point in the post being created at all.

'Disgusted Ratepayer' of Longridge, near Preston, says:

'When I read your account of the salary and "perks" this post carried, I was horrified at the waste of ratepayers' money.

'I do not wish to question Mr Palfrey's qualifications as a policeman... However, I do know he has no qualifications for the post he is now taking up.'

He goes on to say:

'This is a blatant case of "Jobs for the Boys", with both Labour



St Helens police 'in action' against the Pilkington glassworkers—escorting scabs to work

and Conservative councillors creating a job, not advertising the post, and filling it with "an old pal".

'The ratepayers are being "conned" and a sum approaching £25,000 — when administrative costs and other officers' time are included—is being poured down the drain. Well gentlemen, my rates won't be paid promptly this year.

'Everyone knows why there is a shortage of jobs and both this administration and the previous one must take some responsibility, for this is a direct result of government policy. Add to this other factors such as automation and lack of investment, and we have the main causes of today's situation.' ('Lancashire Evening Post', Tuesday April 25.)

Another person signing himself 'Ratepayer' from Penwortham, has a suggestion to offer Mr Palfrey:

## Unnecessary

'The unanimous view of many people with whom I have discussed this is that it is an entirely unnecessary appointment.

'If, however, Mr Palfrey considers he can produce a partial solution, however small, to the youth unemployment problem, it would indeed be a Christian action to offer his services on a free and voluntary basis. As a retired business executive on a considerably lower pension than Mr Palfrey I would be pleased to support such an offer with my own free services in a clerical or any other useful capacity.' ('Lancashire Evening Post' Tuesday, April 25.)

On the other hand, the Longridge reader says:

'Really, Mr Palfrey—prospective MP, "Festival of Light" walker, broadcaster, chairman of Lancashire Youth Clubs Association, now troubleshooter for unemployment—please draw your pension, sit back and enjoy it and forget the gimmicks.

'If the county council has any money to spare, forget the "old pals act" and give it to the people who are out of work.' ('Lancashire Evening Post', Tuesday April 25.)

It now appears that Labour councillors are also expressing

opposition to Palfrey's appointment.

But much of the opposition is missing an important point. Not only is the appointment an attempt to obscure the real nature of the problem of youth employment, and its causes. The appointment of a former Chief Constable to deal with this problem may be indicative of the attitude of Tory councillors towards unemployed youth.

## Pioneer

It should also be borne in mind that for former Chief Constable Palfrey—as a leading spokesman for the Forces of Darkness represented by the Festival of Light, and as a pioneer for the policeman and a vociferous authority on the nation's political and moral life—this appointment must mark an important step. If he intends a further political career, then the selection as Tory candidate for Ardwick is not half so useful as being appointed to a post concerned with youth unemployment.

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# GEC strikers angry over plant-bargaining

BY IAN YEATS

THREE HUNDRED workers at two GEC factories made a blistering attack at the weekend on the engineering union executive's decision to abandon a fight on their national pay claim in favour of plant-bargaining.

At GEC Osram, Erith, Kent, the leaders of 200 mainly women workers locked out for three weeks for working-to-rule in support of the AUEW national claim are demanding a strike throughout the GEC empire in a bid to strengthen their position.

And at GEC (Elliott's) Lewisham, South East London, 20 machine-shop workers on strike for three months in support of the £6-a-week claim say that one effect of plant-bargaining is that men still at work in other GEC plants are scabbing on them.

GEC Osram AUEW convenor Mr Len Foley said:

'The employers can do what they like with one factory at a time, but we have put up a resolution to Erith AUEW district committee calling on our members at all GEC factories to come out.'

'I think there is a fair chance they will because there is trouble in GEC all over Britain at the moment.'

He added: 'We would not be in this position if the AUEW executive had not taken away our collective fight for the national wage claim.'

Mr Foley said acidly: 'With plant bargaining Scanlon [AUEW president] has just left us to get on with it and we are sitting ducks.'

Men earn about £18.40 and women £14 a week at the street-light components factory where there has not been a strike for two decades.

Said Mr Foley: 'GEC are making fantastic profits out of our pockets—£80m last year compared to about £16m three years ago—and none of it is being ploughed back to us workers.'

'I think it is wrong where a few people exploit the majority and keep all that money to themselves. Why shouldn't it be ploughed back to the workers?'

GEC management has refused to even negotiate on the £6-a-week claim. But, said Mr Foley: 'Our people are on the bread-line. Yet the vote at last Thursday's mass meeting again was



AUEW convenor at Osram, Len Foley

British industry to feel some of the less well publicized affects of the Common Market. Mr Foley told me that components they normally supplied to a GEC factory in Birmingham were being brought in from the continent.

He said: 'We are sending a delegation to Birmingham this week to ask them to black components if they come in from abroad or other GEC factories.'

'I think we will go back victorious, but we will need assistance from other GEC factories.'

'I am told the Engineering Employers' Federation has issued instructions to all their members not to negotiate on the national wage claim and the government is behind them. We are fighting the companies and the Tories.'

'There is only one way workers can win these days. As I see it, all the trouble in this country is leading up a to General Strike and then this government will have no option but to resign.'

'I am not going to say Labour is a wonderful party, but they are the lesser of two evils at the moment.'

'We've been out for almost 15 weeks now and we will stick it out,' says machine shop worker Fred Chapman (second from left) at the Lewisham picket line.

AT LEWISHAM, EPTU branch secretary Phil Howlett told me: 'We have been told they are sending our work up to Leicester. They are taking the bread and butter from our mouths to try and frighten us.'

Mr Howlett said that abandoning a collective fight on the national pay claim meant that one section of workers in GEC was scabbing on another.

He added: 'The unions should get on to Leicester and tell them not to take any of our work up there.'

And machine shop worker Fred Chapman told me: 'It is GEC policy to threaten you with redundancies to try to keep the wages down, but this time they have come unstuck.'

'We have been out almost 15 weeks now and we will stick it to the end. We are stopping as much as we can going in and out of the factory and eventually

they will have to lay everyone off.'

Thirty wire room workers have already been laid off and about 50 others struck in sympathy.

Communist Party AUEW convenor Harry Johnson has refused to call out the 1,000-strong workforce on the grounds that the action of the machine shop men will eventually force the works to a halt.

Mr Chapman told me: 'We would have been stronger in numbers and got a settlement a lot quicker if the AUEW executive had not decided on plant-bargaining.'

'It has put firms like ours which are not 100 per cent unionized out on a limb. We have complained to AUEW local officials about it, but they just tell us they have got to carry out national executive policy.'

## BBC 1

9.28 Trumpton. 9.38 Schools. 12.55 How Can You Be So Sure? 1.30 Fingerbobs. 1.45 News, weather. 2.05 Schools. 4.00 Boomph with Becker. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Aeronauts. 5.44 Hector's House. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK. 6.20 ENTERTAINING WITH KERR. 6.45 A QUESTION OF SPORT. 7.10 Z CARS. Operation Ascalon. 8.00 PANORAMA. 9.00 NEWS, Weather. 9.20 THE REGIMENT. A Gentleman from Europe. 10.10 TALES FROM THE LAZY ACRE. 10.40 24 HOURS. 11.15 CANOE. 11.40 Weather.

## TV

### ITV

10.20 Schools. 1.10 Remember. 1.40 Schools. 2.33 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Film: 'Girls at Sea'. 4.40 Enchanted House. 4.55 Lassie. 5.20 Genie. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.20 CROSSROADS. 6.40 DAVID NIXON. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 WORLD IN ACTION. 8.30 BLESS THIS HOUSE. 9.00 SIX DAYS OF JUSTICE. With intent to Deceive. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 MCMILLAN AND WIFE. Husbands, Wives and Killers. 11.55 ONE POINT OF VIEW.



Those dastardly French have been selling guns to the Boers! Lt Richard Gaunt (Christopher Cazenove) discovers in 'A Gentleman from Europe' in 'The Regiment' series on BBC 1. Roger Nott plays Gaunt's sergeant.

## REGIONAL TV

All regions as BBC 1 except: Wales: 1.30 Ar Lin Mam. 6.00 Wales Today. 6.20 Mynd a Dod. 6.45 Heddiw. 10.10 Trouble-spot. 11.42 News.

Scotland: 1.00 Christianity Grounded. 6.00 Reporting Scotland. 6.20 Se Ur Beatha. 11.15 Scope. 11.50 Canoe. 12.15 News, weather.

Northern Ireland: 6.00 Scene Around Six. 11.42 News, weather.

England: 6.00 Look North, Midlands Today, Look East, Points West, South Today, Spotlight South West. Weather. 11.42 News, weather.

SOUTHERN: 2.30 London. 3.00 Good Cooks. 3.20 Cartoon. 3.30 Lucy. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.25 Junkin. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Afloat. 11.00 Film. 12.10 News. 12.20 Weather. Matter of Life and Death.

HTV: 10.20, 1.40 Schools. 3.20 Sara and Hoppity. 3.30 Enchanted House. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Theory into Practice. 4.35 Tinkertainment. Tom Gratton. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Curse of the Werewolf'. 12.10 Weather.

HTV Wales as above except: 4.35 Cantamil. 6.01 Y Dydd. 10.30 The Other Half. 11.15 Edgar Wallace. 12.10 Weather. HTV West as above except: 6.22 This is the West This Week. HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales plus: 8.00 Yr Wythnos.

ANGLIA: 2.30 London. 3.15 Jokers. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoons. 4.25 Romper room. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Aquarius. 11.30 Theatre of stars. 12.25 Big question.

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Nanny. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Challenge. 11.00 Randall and Hopkirk.

## BBC 2

11.00 Play school. 5.35 Open University. 7.05 Children growing up.

7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather. 8.00 FILM: 'UNTAMED FRONTIER'. Joseph Cotten, Shelley Winters, Scott Brady. Western. 9.15 HORIZON. Rail Crash. An examination of safety-measures taken by railways. 10.10 FACE THE MUSIC. Musical quiz. 10.40 THIRTY-MINUTE THEATRE. Gun Play. 11.10 NEWS, Weather. 11.15 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 Schools. 2.32 Good afternoon. 3.00 Matinee. 4.35 News. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.25 Under these roofs. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Yesterdays. 12.25 Weather.

TYNE TEES: 11.00 Schools. 2.30 Common Market Cookbook. 3.00 Film: 'Sleeping Tiger'. 4.35 News. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 Under these roofs. 6.45 London. 10.30 Times four. 11.00 Saint. 11.55 News. 12.10 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 11.00 Schools. 1.40 Schools. 3.30 Nuts and bones. 3.45 Dr Simon Locke. 4.10 Date-line. 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Marty Feldman.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Schools. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Lucy. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Country focus. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Mannix. 11.55 Epilogue.

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## Tories ready for rail emergency

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to declare a state of national emergency if the rail unions do not capitulate and accept the latest wage offer when they meet this afternoon.

Tory Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan made it clear yesterday that he would not intervene in the dispute.

'He considers it is now up to the trade unions to decide their policy. The government will decide what action is necessary to protect the public in the light of the union's decision,' said a spokesman for Mr Macmillan yesterday.

In all circumstances the government is now ready to take the unions to the brink and beyond to force them to surrender.

An extension of the cooling-off period is ruled out because it would have to be clear that a settlement of the dispute was likely if this was ordered. A ballot is also considered unlikely.

The National Industrial Relations Court could order one only if it thought a majority of the membership were against the decision of their leaders.

The most likely outcome is therefore a state of emergency which would be the fourth in the life of this government. (See What We Think, p. 2.)



A highlight of the march was the seven floats mounted on lorries with the themes against the anti-union laws; for a victory of the Vietnamese workers and peasants; withdrawal of troops from Ulster; unemployment and the standard of living; defend basic rights of housing, health and welfare services; no return to the 1930s; kick out the Tories; build the revolutionary party in 1972.

## ASTMS two-thirds card trick

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

AMID enormous procedural confusion Britain's top white-collar union yesterday failed by a tiny margin to deregister under the Industrial Relations Act.

The 800 delegates at the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs conference in Bournemouth voted overwhelmingly for deregistration.

But then they were told by conference chairman, Ian Mikardo, MP, that a card vote was needed to remove from the union's rules the words, 'it shall be registered as a trade union'.

This showed a 66 per cent majority for the rule change—two-thirds of a per cent below the majority needed.

When they heard the result yesterday, angry militants demanded a new vote, but Mikardo refused.

'It would establish a precedent,' he said. 'The vote might go just the other way, and we would get a demand for a re-vote from the other side.'

After the result, ASTMS general secretary Clive Jenkins, claimed the union would act as if it was deregistered.

'We shall not use the protection of the Act, though we reserve the right to defend our members if attacked,' he said.

On Saturday, when the deregistration vote was taken, delegates also passed a motion demanding the recall of the TUC and referred back documents

from ASTMS national executive on the grounds it allowed for appearance before the National Industrial Relations Court and discussions on new forms of trade union legislation.

Jenkins assured the delegates that the union's leadership would, 'work in accordance with the principles and policies which have been adopted by the conference this weekend'.

He said the union would not make any references to the Court, but would defend members if attacked.

He condemned Roy Grantham—general secretary of the re-named clerical union APEX—who had accused ASTMS of remaining a registered union in order to recruit new members.

'We shall be complaining to the TUC about Mr Grantham's statement,' said Jenkins.

Militant delegates condemned the attitude of the leadership which was defeated at last year's conference when it recommended ASTMS remain registered under the Act.

Sandy Wilson of Edinburgh said the Act was an attempt to 'smash the organizations and independence of the working class'.

The working class was not in retreat, but its leadership on the TUC were.

Michael Hunt from Waterloo said the TUC had sold out the working class in 1926 and this had led to the defeats of the 1930s and World War II. He said the TUC was about to do the same things today.

## Collision course over containers

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

MERSEYSIDE dockers set themselves on a collision course with the government yesterday when they refused to operate Liverpool's Seaforth container dock unless a series of demands were met.

A mass meeting of 5,000 dockers, in Liverpool's boxing stadium yesterday adopted a six-point charter which they will demand today. This calls for:

- An increase in the port's present £26 basic rate.
- A five-hour reduction in the present 40-hour working week.
- One week's extra holiday.
- Better sick pay.
- Fall-back pay fixed at average earnings for the whole port, instead of the present £20—and no redundancies.
- All stuffing and stripping of containers to be carried out by registered dock labour.

If they don't get what they want they will bring Seaforth—a new container dock due to be opened officially on Wednesday—to a virtual standstill.

Militant dockers pointed out after the 90-minute mass meeting that the employers would certainly reject the demands.

I understand that the Mersey port bosses are ready to make Seaforth the major issue in the container row. The port's future is tied up with the success of the £60m dock and there is a possibility that they want to split the Merseyside men from the rest of the country's dockers by getting them to strike in advance of the national stoppage planned in under a month's time.

Paddy Doherty, a Gladstone container terminal shop steward, told the meeting that the promised review of the port's recent Devlin Phase Two pay deal was nearly four months overdue.

Reporting back from Friday's meeting of the national port stewards' committee in London, he said that a joint list was currently being drawn up of all the firms which are being blacked in the container battle on the docks.

Every port would be blacking all the firms on the list.

Earlier the meeting heard a report from Lew Lloyd, Transport and General Workers' Union district secretary, on Wednesday's meeting with the National Association of Port Employers. They had claimed, he said, they were not responsible for the row which has led to fines of £55,000 on the union.

But, he said, many port employers were road hauliers. He pointed out that George Tonge, NAPE chairman, was a director of Hay's Wharf, which had sold up all its dock interests and now operated solely in haulage and warehousing.

Tomorrow the National Industrial Relations Court will hear the defence of the T&GWU to further contempt charges over the continued blacking of lorries on Liverpool docks.

## Tolpuddle contemporaries claim 50 p.c. rise

CALLS for a 50-per-cent increase in the basic farm wage will be made at conference of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers which opens in Weymouth, Dorset, today.

One resolution demands that wages be raised from £16.20 for a 42-hour week to £25 for a 40-hour, five-day week. Other delegates seek minimum rates of £22 and £20 a week. The 110 delegates represent 100,000 farm and countryside workers.

Their conference is being held in the county where the Tolpuddle Martyrs tried to start one of the first unions 140 years ago—but were transported in chains to Botany Bay. This year is the centenary of the founding of the union by Joseph Arch.

## Electric torture in Ulster

THE BRITISH army in Ulster is continuing to torture innocent civilians at barracks and the internment camps.

The 'Sunday Times' Insight team reported yesterday that not only was the torture still being carried on, but more barbaric methods used.

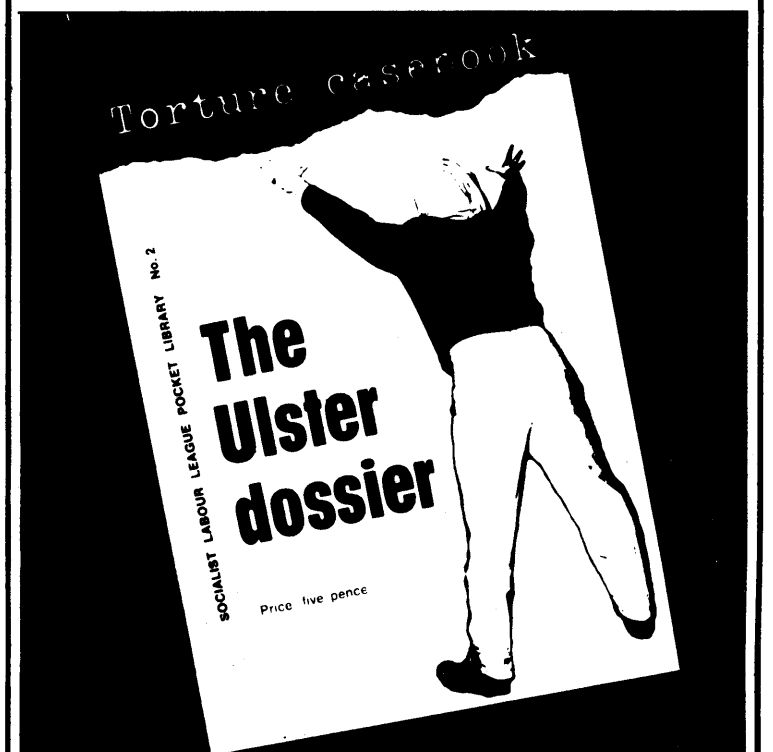
It is now clear from three independent witnesses that the interrogators are using electric shock torture.

Patrick Fitzsimmons (22) received the electric shock treatment at Girdwood Barracks in January. 'I felt an electric shock going through my arm.' He

heard a voice say: 'I think he has had enough.' Another voice replied: 'Electrocute the bastard.'

Other men have complained that soldiers have beaten them in the genitals while a further detainee has reported that a broomstick was shoved in his anus. Doctors have corroborated all these statements with medical evidence.

Mr Paddy McClean of Co. Tyrone, who was released from Long Kesh last week, has complained that two internees are suffering from severe mental disorders caused by army torture. The two men had hoods put over their head to make them 'break down'.



This Socialist Labour League pocket library pamphlet came out last year after evidence of tortures emerged following the August internments. Now more reports reveal that, despite the Compton Commission, the suspension of Stormont and the appointment of a Westminster Minister for Ulster, the army continues its cruel rituals. The SLL pamphlet is still available from: 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG. (7½p inc. postage.)

### LATE NEWS WEATHER

NEWS DESK  
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MOST places will have a bright day with sunny spells and some scattered showers. The showers will be more widespread and perhaps heavy at times in the west and sunny periods of longer duration in the east.

In northeast Scotland, however, it will be rather cloudy with some rain or drizzle for much of the day before an improvement spreads from the south.

Temperatures will be near or marginally above normal. Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: sunny spells and occasional showers. Rather warm.

## NALGO raps rent Bill

THE EXECUTIVE council of the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) has condemned the government's 'fair rents' Bill as 'a blatant attack on the living standard of wage earners'.

The half million-strong union said the Bill was an 'attempt to end the social service element in housing and to apply strict market principles to it'. The resolution rapped its 'requirement that tenants unable to pay the increased rents be subject to a means test every six months'.

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