

## TORIES PREPARE

BY ALEX MITCHELL

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The Tories' necessity to act ruthlessly against the working class in this period can be seen in any of the decrees made by Sir John Donaldson, president of the National Industrial Relations Court.

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Donaldson's class abrasiveness was also revealed by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, when he gave his judgement in the rail ballot case last Friday.

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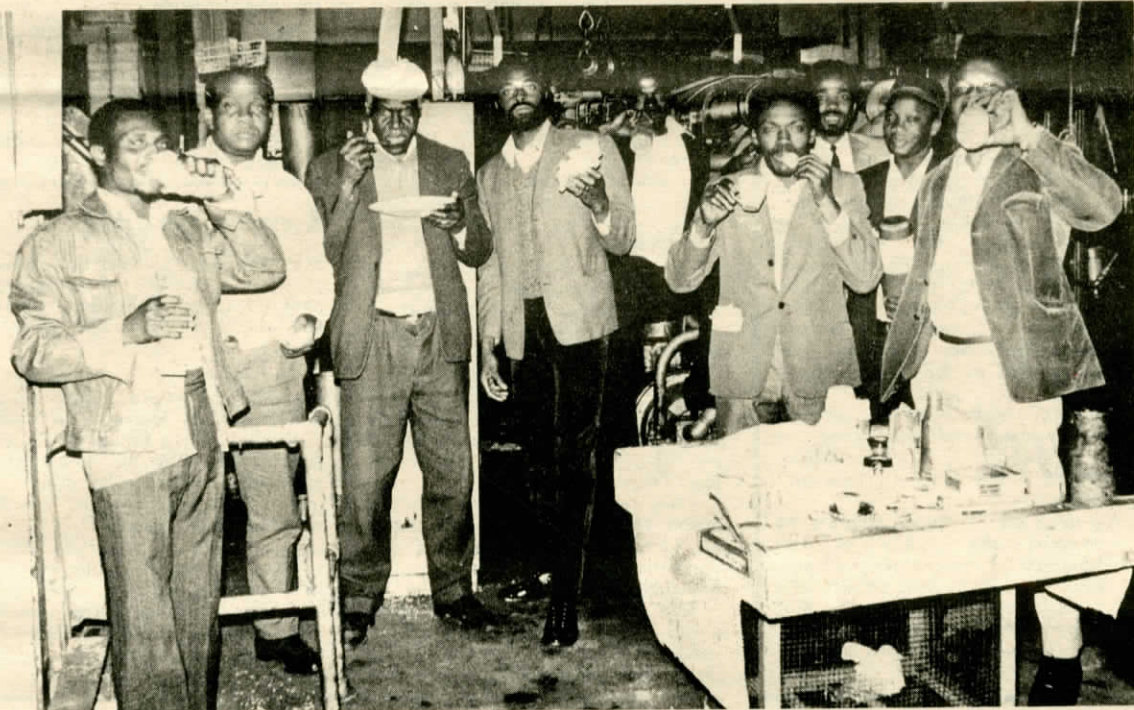
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Our industrial correspondent

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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**WHAT WE THINK****CORPORATISM:****'TRIBUNE'  
WAKES UP**

THE EXTREMELY provocative and savage judgements of the National Industrial Relations Court have sent a chill of fear through every reformist in Britain.

The reformists' complacent routine of parliamentary opposition combined with an occasional dash of extra-parliamentary trade union militancy has been irretrievably shaken by the mailed fist of Toryism.

Unlike the Stalinists, who continue to pray and hope in the 'Morning Star' for the Tories to revive full employment, the centrists in the Labour Party are seriously concerned with the growing threat of corporatism in Britain.

In this week's 'Tribune' an agitated leader writer (could it be Michael Foot?) unmistakably spells out the danger of the corporate state.

The tenor of this article, 'On to the Corporate State', is all the more significant because the centrist 'Tribune' has derided the Workers Press warnings about the danger of Bonapartism and the corporate state ever since the Tory Party's Selsdon meeting in 1970.

Before the election the 'Tribune'-ites were cock-sure that Labour would win on Wilson's policies. After the Tory election victory 'Tribune' was the epitome of political complacency.

They suggested that the Tories would have to go for a spring election in 1971 to secure a further mandate to push their repressive legislation through parliament.

Of course the Tories did nothing of the sort. Instead they decided to rule—with a vengeance unseen in post-war Tory history.

Better late than never, 'Tribune' now warns: 'An essential feature of corporatism is that trade unions are transformed into instruments of the state. They are not free to organize industrial action, and their members are not allowed to decide who they want to represent them. That is very close to what is now being attempted in this country.'

Absolutely correct. We remember warning the Labour Party—'Tribune' included—in our forerunner 'The Newsletter' when similar corporatist ideas were expressed by Ray Gunter during the tenure of the last Labour government.

Now Gunter's vultures have come home to roost in the NIRC and 'Tribune' complains bitterly:

'Sir John Donaldson, with his spine-chilling vision of "an orderly system of industrial relations"; is attempting to in-

roduce a totally alien concept into that relationship by demanding that disciplinary powers should be wielded in defence of policies determined by an outside body such as the NIRC.

'It will not work, and if the unions try to make it work then sooner or later they will end up like Franco's syndicalists.'

The court, says 'Tribune' correctly, 'is a political court through and through.'

As evidence it adduces the incontrovertible fact that the expiry of the 21 days' notice to terminate the blacking of containers coincides exactly with the expiry of the 28 days' notice of an official dock strike.

The conclusion is undeniable: 'He [Donaldson] has in effect pointed a gun at the T&GWU's head and told it that, unless it can work out some deal with the government and the employers to solve the containerization issue within the next two weeks, then it will start a dock strike with its entire funds liable to be seized by the court.'

'Tribune' is angered by the consistent refusal of 'some union leaders' to learn the lesson of this traumatic experience and who continue to seek justice in the court.

It warns 'even if the Court of Appeal were to overturn the NIRC decision on a technicality of law, that would be a one-only operation; the same mistakes would not be made again.'

However, anger and warning fingers thrust at trade union bureaucrats will not stop the Tories. And this is precisely where the centrists abandon the struggle.

They provide no socialist alternative to the reformist perspective of collaborating with the court and transforming union executives into policemen for the capitalist state.

Abstention from appearing in the NIRC is useless unless it is accompanied by an active policy of demanding the recall of the TUC and organizing resistance to the Tories by creating Councils of Action embracing all sections and tendencies in the labour movement.

The centrists have already squandered valuable time in complacent contemplation. There is no time to lose any more.

We urge all 'Tribune' readers to support the policy of the Socialist Labour League and Workers Press and ensure the resignation of the Tories and the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

**Dykes: Flood danger**

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

AS PRESIDENT Nixon conferred in Salzburg with his advisers before flying to Moscow this morning his bombers were still pounding North Vietnam's vital irrigation system.

Yesterday North Vietnam said American bombers had attacked another dyke system, causing many casualties and substantial damage. The dykes were in Thai Binh province north of Hanoi.

The US has claimed that dykes are not on its target list, but North Vietnamese sources have cited a number of attacks on the irrigation system over the last fortnight.

The waters of the Red River are rising rapidly and apart from the immediate damage, Hanoi fears the bombs will weaken the dyke structures and cause extensive flooding.

Nixon's stopover in Salzburg, Austria, was marked by big anti-war demonstrations, dispersed

with great brutality by the Austrian police. Among the demonstrators was the Prime Minister's son, Bruno Kriesky.

Dr Henry Kissinger, Nixon's right-hand man, said in Salzburg yesterday that Vietnam would figure higher on the agenda in the Moscow talks than Nixon had originally thought.

He said the mining and blockading of North Vietnamese ports had affected US-Soviet relations more than either side had wished.

**AROUND THE WORLD****US-Japanese  
trade talks:  
Clash expected**

BY AN ECONOMICS REPORTER

HIGH-LEVEL talks between the US and Japanese governments will open in the near future to discuss the growing crisis in the countries' trading relations.

Kakuei Tanaka, the Minister for International Trade and Industry, commented: 'I'm glad I don't have to attend to the talks.' There is likely to be bitter dispute over US demands for sweeping cuts in Japan's export trade.

The talks were agreed by Japanese officials who met William Eberle, the US trade negotiator, in Tokyo at the weekend.

The US has already wrung a crippling 16-per-cent revaluation of the yen and forced Japanese steel, electronics and textile manufacturers to impose tight export quotas.

Not content with these moves, however, the US Treasury has now set in motion a comprehensive probe of Japanese government subsidies to electronics exporters.

American companies manufacturing transistor radios and TV sets have been demanding such an investigation for several months.

Their Japanese competitors—whose goods are still undercutting US products, despite the yen revaluation—are reported to be 'surprised and alarmed' at the Treasury move.

They are considering a complaint to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade against the discriminatory American measures.

The Japanese government held a weekend emergency Cabinet session to review a series of 'voluntary' measures to reduce its

\$9,000m balance-of-payments surplus. Among the measures under discussion were cuts in interest rates; reduction of quotas on imports and measures to regulate the export trade.

The Americans have indicated they are tired of waiting for such action from the Japanese government and have made it clear that the trade war will be stepped up unless the Japanese come rapidly to heel.

**Costs revolt**

HUNDREDS of women demonstrated in Bilbao, in the Basque provinces, on Saturday, against the rapid rise in the cost of living.

The housewives, waving empty shopping baskets and purses called for the lowering of prices. Fascist police failed to disperse 800 women who disrupted traffic and boycotted food stalls for over three hours in another working-class district.

In San Sebastian police claimed to have arrested 13 members of the illegal Basque nationalist movement duplicating leaflets calling for general strikes, demonstrations and strikes for higher wages.

**Left wing  
attacked  
after police  
chief's death**

THE SHOOTING of the hated Milan police inspector, Luigi Calabresi, has heightened the political tension in Italy following the inconclusive General Election.

The police have so far drawn a blank in their search for the assassin who shot down the policeman in the middle of a busy street.

Calabresi's family has received a letter of condolence from the Pope's Vicar General, which speaks of him as 'a functionary noted for his probity and scrupulous sense of duty carried out with an exquisitely Christian spirit'.

Railway worker Giuseppe Pinelli, it will be remembered, fell or was hurled to his death from Calabresi's fourth-floor office window while being interrogated after an explosion in Milan's Agricultural Bank in December 1969.

This brutality continues as the search for a new governmental coalition goes on.

Anarchist Franco Serantini died in jail two days after a group tried to break up a neo-fascist rally in Pisa on May 5. He had a fractured skull.

The police are on the rampage against left-wingers—ten were arrested in Milan for distributing leaflets praising Calabresi's assassination and many thousands more are being questioned.

Meanwhile the Christian Democrats are looking for a formula which would exclude the Socialist Party and mark a shift to the right compared with previous governments.

The election has solved none of Italy's problems, but has enhanced the danger of a right-wing coup.

**Malagasy  
strike off**

TRADE union leaders called off the six-day-old General Strike in the Malagasy Republic at the weekend.

The country's new military strongman, Maj-Gen Gabriel Ramanantsoa had said he would not hesitate to impose martial law if it continued.

Appointed Prime Minister by President Philibert Tsiranana on Thursday, the general earlier refused demands by students and workers for the forced retirement of the president—a symbol of national unity.

But a strike by students, now almost four weeks old, continues.

At a meeting on Saturday there were heated clashes when student representatives accused union chiefs of reneging an agreement that all decisions be taken jointly.

The ending of the General Strike is a serious blow to the Malagasy struggle. It opens the way for General Ramanantsoa to clamp down on both workers and students under the extensive powers given him by the president.

**Kremlin status symbol—US computer**

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

AN END to trade curbs imposed during the Cold War and a big increase in US-Soviet trade is one of the Kremlin's main aims in the summit meeting with President Nixon.

The Russians are anxious to buy a wide range of American products from animal feeds to computers (every self-respecting bureaucrat now aspires to have one of his own).

Increased imports from the US could help overcome serious deficiencies in the Soviet economy. Despite ambitious boasts, the Soviet Union is very far from catching up with the major capitalist country in aggregate production or in labour productivity.

While other capitalist countries have been increasing their trade with the Soviet Union, US exports amount to a mere \$200m and imports are of about the same order.

US firms are anxious to sell in the Soviet Union if they get the all clear from Washington, and that will depend upon what political concessions Nixon gets from Brezhnev.

Last year US Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans had trade talks in the Soviet Union and attended a meeting of the Supreme Soviet where he heard an invitation to US capital to participate in the development of Soviet natural resources.

It is possible that concessions of this kind will be used as a bargaining counter by the Kremlin whose main problem is finding means to pay for increased US imports. There is not much chance of Soviet manufacturers competing in the American market and the Soviet Union's reserves of gold and foreign exchange are limited and carefully husbanded.

There is also the thorny question of the Soviet Union's wartime debts to the US following the end of Lend-Lease.

The Soviet Union has already contracted a sizable volume of foreign debt over the past decade. Increased trade may hinge on the willingness of US financiers to provide a big credit to the Soviet Union. For this some guarantee of political good behaviour would surely be required.

A loan from the US Export-Import bank would require the approval of the President himself. The Agricultural Secretary, Earl Butz, who visited Moscow recently, was told that the Soviet Union was prepared to buy feeding stuffs worth \$200m a year if credits were available.

Soviet agriculture cannot increase the output of meat and milk on a sufficient scale to meet rising consumer needs without a greater volume of imports. For the US, sales to the Soviet Union would have the advantage of disposing of otherwise embarrassing farm surpluses.

For the Soviet bureaucracy, however, the technological deficiencies of industry are still more crucial. Hence the interest in American machines and machine tools, electronic equipment and computers.

But Japanese, German, Italian and British firms have already been active in meeting Soviet requirements. The Italians are now fitting out a chain of supermarkets.

US firms are hoping to obtain a share of the contracts for the giant truck plant now being built

on the Kama River, 600 miles East of Moscow.

It seems likely that the biggest bait which the bureaucracy can offer will be a share for US capital in developing Soviet mineral resources. Even here the US will not be the first in the field; negotiations with Japanese firms for the development of Siberian oil have been going on for some time. The attraction for the US here is that Soviet supplies may help to meet their own lack of strategically-important raw materials.

A lot will depend on how badly American business needs more trade with the Soviet Union and what political advantages President Nixon believes it will be possible to obtain in return. Brezhnev has already promised a 'businesslike' approach to the summit and no doubt he meant it.

A preparatory round of trade discussions between Commerce Secretary Peter Peterson and a Soviet trade delegation led by Nikolai Patolichev ended in Washington on May 16.

Secretary Peterson said that all aspects of trade had been covered by the talks. Both sides agreed that the negotiations had been helpful and constructive.



# LABOUR BETRAY THE RENT WAR

BY PHILIP WADE HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

Three weeks ago the Labour-controlled council at Lewisham in South London voted 26-41 to implement the Tory 'fair rents' Bill if it becomes law.

The majority was made up by 32 Labour councillors who crossed over and voted with the nine Tory councillors to win the day.

The debacle followed clashes inside the Labour group, with a split between right and left on co-operation with the Tories. In the end a free vote was allowed in the council meeting, showing a desire to abdicate responsibility and leadership.

## TRAITORS

As the result was announced, bitter tenants threw fruit at the Labour councillors voting with the Tories and shouted out: 'Traitors!'

At this point Cyril Cook, Labour councillor for the Marlowe Ward rose to his feet, called out 'you ought to be ashamed of yourselves' at fellow councillors and walked out of the council chamber.

Three days later he went out to join a demonstration of tenants against the Bill. To his amazement he found Labour councillors who voted for implementation also marching.

'This was like rubbing salt in an open wound. I couldn't march alongside them. It was at that moment I made up my mind to resign from the Labour group on principle,' Mr Cook told me.

'I know what the nine Tories on the council are. But what do you do with 32 Labour colleagues when you don't know which way they're going to jump?'

'What other issue than this

are they going to fight the Tories on—lamp posts, drains and level crossings? They have stabbed us in the back and we can't trust them. In any case I feel some should be in the Tory Party,' said Mr Cook who is a cold storeman and a member of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

'As an independent I can attack the Tories and also those in the Labour group who don't fight. I will be able to speak my mind.'

Mr Cook has been asked by the Labour leadership on the council to come and talk things over with them. 'What are they going to tell me? "Trust us tomorrow"? No, I can't see anything to discuss with them.'

'Our council was re-elected last year because of the rent rebate scheme introduced by the Tories. Tenants protested against it and we went along with them.'

'Now they feel we have betrayed them...and rightly so.' He has had nothing but letters of support for the stand he has taken against the Bill.

'This issue is the most decisive one our Labour council has ever had to face in its entire history. The aim of the Bill is more than just another £1 on the rent.'

'The way I see it, it is the fourth stage of the Tory attack on the working class. The first thing they did was to disband the Prices and Incomes Board, giving industrialists a chance to put up prices without any worry.'

'Then there was the free-for-all on the Common Market and with decimalization prices went up again. This was followed by the attack on the trade unions through the Industrial Relations Act. The rents Bill is the final straw.'

'Lewisham councillors, among others, say by implementing the Bill they will help some tenants. But this is not what it's all about—helping some to get good rebates and

so on.

'They miss the whole point. This Bill will act as a wage-cutter, putting more money on the rent as you earn more by reducing your rebate.'

'The Tories are taking powers away from local councils. Implement it or else, say the Tories. Or face a £400 fine and a surcharge.'

'This is what made the majority on the council go the other way—though they won't admit this. As far as I'm concerned I haven't got £400 and if I did I wouldn't pay it.'

'These men had plenty of time to resign because they knew all this has been coming for a long time. If they had cold feet they should have gone and made way for others,' said Mr Cook, a councillor for some ten years.

'What are my Labour colleagues going to do when tenants fall behind in rents? Evict them, put them into lower-priced accommodation? What will happen to those private tenants who find their properties decontrolled and the rents doubling?'

## CUT BACK

'The tragedy is that by and large tenants will be paying for knocking down, purchasing and building. We will either have to put the rents up or cut-back on our building programme. And we tend to forget that it is one of the aims of the Bill to cut back council house-building.'

'The whole idea behind this Bill is to keep the working class where the Tories consider they belong. We have to go back to the Labour party and they have to make up their minds in a decisive way.'

'Those who are not prepared to fight must be taken out of the Labour Party,' added Mr Cook.

# APEX TRADE IN SCOTTISH JOBS

APEX, formerly the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, has been boasting in its journal, 'The Clerk', of the union's recent successes in industrial relations.

Undoubtedly, it is right to give workers an opportunity to see what it is up to.

Summing up the union's role in coping with recent redundancies at a Glasgow factory, Scotstoun engineering secretary Charles Reid concludes:

'When one considers how this situation has been handled compared with the ruthless manner of treatment in many other establishments over the past 12 months, one can be appreciative of the state of industrial relations prevailing at Albion Motors.'

The handling referred to concerns a process whereby a number of workers lost their jobs, but were assisted by the union to experience as little pain at the break as possible.

At the beginning of 1971 the service department at Albion's Yoker factory was put under the axe and the work being done there was due for transfer to Leyland Motors, Chorley.

Management were seeking to reduce the size of the establishment by retiring all those employed beyond retirement age and by filling vacancies with internal transfers. Over-time was also to end.

The one glimmer of hope was that some of those to be made redundant might be transferred to Albion's Scots-toun works as and when

vacancies arose.

Albion suggested 'that a joint management - CAWU committee be set up to supervise the day-to-day workings of the relocation exercise'.

The CAWU jumped at the chance, only laying down the conditions that all vacancies arising at Scotstoun be referred to them with a view to filling them with Yoker men, that they should be able to offer guidelines for the selection of workers involved, and as far as possible synchronize any redundancies at Yoker with vacancies at Scotstoun.

All this must have been music to management's ears. At least it indicated that there was to be no troublesome and disruptive fight against the sackings.

The affairs of the joint committee went so well that Reid could write:

'All members of the management and union committee are very satisfied with the way in which this relocation has proceeded and the almost complete lack of friction throughout the exercise.'

He added: 'Though both sides did have minor troubles with their own constituents, nothing ever loomed as a real threat to the successful conduct of the action.'

Then comes the punchline.

Writes Reid: 'Whilst one must deplore the disappearance of approximately 70 jobs to further deepen the economic gloom in the west of Scotland one must at the same time give credit in this instance to a first-class example of management and union co-operation.'

So what this great exercise was really all about was how to lose 70 jobs—quietly.

## GLASS MARKET

In concert with other big British monopolies, Pilkington Brothers, the glassmaking giant, is taking a stake in the enlarged Common Market.

A proposed deal has been outlined under which Pilkington's will buy a 'substantial equity holding' in Italy's state-owned glassmaking group.

If the deal is successful, Pilkington's will link with Societa Italiana Vetro.

SIV has 3,000 workers, a turnover of £16.4m a year, a plant on the Adriatic coast and a sales management office in Milan. The option to buy into SIV was disclosed when Pilkington's issued licences for its 'float-glass' technique to be used by the Italian company.

Licences have now been issued to 40 plants in 21 countries. The St Helens-based company received £8.6m from its licences last year. The Pilkington move into Italy follows only a few days after a report that British-Leyland intends to buy up a big car retail firm in Italy.

## BOOKS



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# A COMMUNIST AT 13



An interview with Keith Woodward (26), who works at Hopkinson's, Huddersfield. He is an AUEW member.

**The decision by Hugh Scanlon to send our wage claim back to be fought at local level has weakened the whole union.**

At Hopkinson's the union, some time ago, accepted a £2.50 increase in return for changing from piecework to Measured-Day Work. Consultants were brought in and they converted the old piecework times to PI times. We had a ceiling of 130 PI and no bonus below 80.

At first we could easily make 120 PI, but then they brought in method-study and retimed the jobs and began to knock our times down. Then, just before Christmas, they knocked off all overtime because they were getting the same production in eight hours that they used to get in nine and a half with overtime.

The men are now starting to realize what MDW is, but it's late. In May the union signed for a £2 rise, with a further 50p in September, but with a 'no industrial action' clause.

But despite this clause, there was a one-hour stoppage on May 9 because the times are being cut down again. We are a highly-organized factory, but we only got a wage rise with strings. The smaller, less well organized factories will be much worse off since the national claim was abandoned.

A man has a right to a living wage. After deductions I bring home about £23 a week, and I've got four children, from one year old to six. In addition, I get £2.90 family allowance a week.

Our weekly budget is like this:

Rent (a three-bedroomed house)	2.61
School meals (two children at school and one at nursery)	1.20
TV and radiogram rental	1.06
Coal	1.50
Food and housekeeping	12.50
Clothes (especially for growing children—a pair of shoes costs £2)	2.00
(average, sometimes a lot more)	
Electricity and gas	1.00
Fares (mainly to work)	50

That totals £22.37 out of a weekly income of £25.90. It leaves £3.53 for emergencies.

Then the rents are going up by £1 this year and a further 75p next year. That's half of my £3.53 gone. I earn too much to qualify for rent rebate, even though I've got four children.

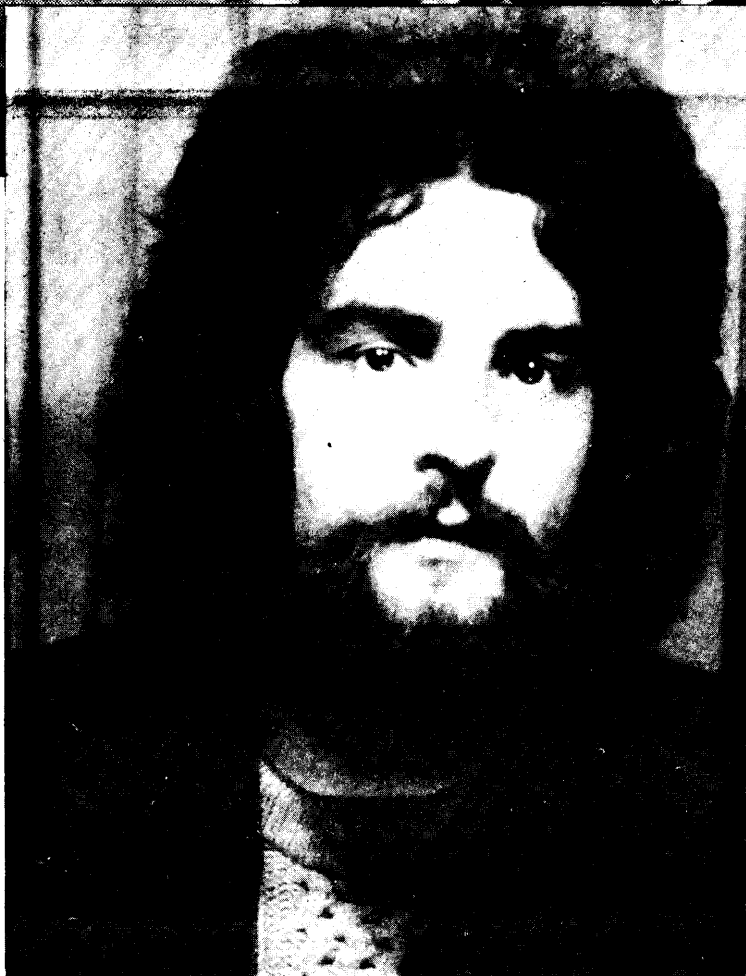
My wife has started a tenants' association to fight the rent rises. We went round with a letter demanding that Huddersfield council should not operate the government's 'fair rent' scheme and saying that decent housing is a basic right.

We got 130 signatures on the first two nights, even though some people are a bit afraid because the Tory council has evicted some families already for minor reasons like the state of the hedge. Now we've put out a leaflet for a meeting.

Housing is a scandal. There's a waiting list of between 1,000-2,000 for houses in Huddersfield, but on our estate alone (Sheepbridge) there are about 50 to 60 empty houses. On almost every street there's a house standing empty. It can only be because people can't afford the rents.

I used to be in the Young Communist League. I joined it when I was 13, and when I was 21 I joined the Communist Party as well.

I left just before the Young



Socialists' Right-to-Work marches began. I was a bit unsure of the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists after being in the Communist Party for so long, so a few days before the Empire Pool, Wembley, I hitch-hiked down and joined the Deal to London march and came to the rally.

The Communist Party allowed me to be just a card-carrying member. I used to go to the branch meetings but only four or five people would turn up, though they had a membership of 120 to 150 people on the books in Huddersfield.

They never discussed politics. They used to organize handicraft classes, I don't know why because I never went to them. The nearest thing to political activity was collecting bicycle bits for

Vietnam. People would arrive with bicycle pedals or tyres and hand them in.

So I started to look for an alternative. I'd been to a few YS meetings, so I went to the Deal march to find out for myself. I was very impressed by what the Deal marchers told me of their experiences, especially how the Labour Party and Communist Party had tried to ignore them but workers had come out of the factories and helped in every way.

I read in the 'Morning Star' that the UCS stewards didn't know what the £100 was for that they gave to the march, but when I met the Glasgow marchers it was clear that they had carefully explained what it was for. That showed me how unprincipled the Communist Party can be. I think giving

Top: Lenin addressing workers on Sverdlov Square, May 5, 1920, with Trotsky and Kamenev beside him. Left: Keith Woodward

that £100 back was a great thing to do.

I've been in the Socialist Labour League now for a month. It's the only principled party that can lead the working class to the overthrow of capitalism.

The Communist Party won't do it. That's clear from what they did in France in 1968 and from what they've just done at UCS. And the Soviet Union continues to support reactionary regimes like those in Sudan and Iraq, where Communist Party members are being jailed and hung and shot.

When I was in the Communist Party, Trotsky was a dirty word. I never knew anything about Trotsky or read anything about him. Now I am reading, I discover that it was Lenin and Trotsky who led the October Revolution in 1917.

I've learned more in the last few weeks since I joined the League than I have in the last 13 years. Definitely. I don't think the Communist Party believes in the working class. But the League showed it has confidence in the working class. It showed it to me at the Empire Pool rally, the Young Socialists' conference and the May Day rally in London.

I'm reading Marx's economic pamphlets where he answers Citizen Weston who claimed that wage increases put up prices, I've reserved Volume One of 'Capital' from the library.

In the Communist Party this was discouraged. People were told they weren't advanced enough to read such things. But in the League you're told to get these books and study. The League wants people to read the theory of revolutionary Marxism, and I feel the need to study.



## OKINAWA: JAPAN 'TAKES OVER'

After 27 years under direct rule from Washington, Okinawa and the other Ryukyu islands between Japan and Formosa were formally handed back to the Japanese government on Sunday, May 14.

Last Monday morning in Tokyo, US vice - President Spiro Agnew officiated at a handing-over ceremony witnessed by 10,000 people.

Prime Minister Eisaku Sato was seen to dab his eyes with a handkerchief during the ceremony, apparently overcome with emotion, while Emperor Hirohito sat impassive throughout.

In a brief address to the crowd, the emperor said: 'I weep for the dead of Okinawa and I express my sympathy for all the sufferings its inhabitants have known during and after the war.'

The thoughts of the rest of Japan are not recorded, but outside the Hall of Martial Arts, where the ceremony was held, a huge force of armed riot police held the populace at bay.

In the streets of Tokyo and other cities, police battled with students and youth who threw petrol bombs in protest at the Okinawa Reversion Treaty.

Their objections are thoroughly well-founded, for the Reversion Treaty is in

reality nothing of the sort. Its terms amount to an invitation to the Japanese government to station its own troops on the Ryukyu islands in addition to the huge American forces already there.

The Okinawans, who were not consulted about this arrangement, do not consider themselves Japanese anyway. They are convinced with good reason that under rule from Tokyo they will revert to the inferior status they held under the Empire before the war.

The inhabitants of Naha, capital of Okinawa, displayed no enthusiasm for the handing-over ceremony—there were no fireworks and no fanfares as the Japanese flag was run up.

Their island will remain, as it has been since the American troops captured it in 1945, a vast American base. From the Ryukyus Nixon's bombers take off day after day to pound the coasts and cities of North Vietnam. That will continue.

The Okinawans have not forgotten either the 100,000 civilians who lost their lives in the bloody battles of 1945 or the atrocities which went with Japanese rule before the war.

When the Japanese Defence Ministry announced plans last year to station some 6,400 men with F-104 jet aircraft, anti-submarine units and Hawk and Nike missiles there was an outcry on the island.

A small advance unit landed in March, but protests forced Tokyo to postpone sending the main force until the actual

reversion took place.

Okinawa's resentment against Japanese militarism has surfaced in the past few weeks with revelations of atrocities committed on the island by the old Imperial Army.

Three cases have come to light. On the first, television viewers throughout Japan saw a dramatic confrontation between a former Japanese army officer and survivors of a massacre of Okinawan civilians.

The officer justified the killings as necessary under wartime conditions as the civilians were suspected of spying for the advancing Americans.

As a result of the furore over these cases, the Defence Ministry has trimmed its immediate plans and cut the level of troops it will immediately station on the islands.

Even so, resistance against the introduction of Japanese troops continues. Local landowners have refused to allow their land to be used for military purposes and the local Municipal Workers' Union has said it will not co-operate with any deployment programme.

The left-wing Teachers' Union, which has previously preached anti-Americanism in the classrooms plans to campaign against the Japanese forces.

Japan's government is moving increasingly to militarist solutions of its economic crisis, with a vast increase in arms spending. Japan is constitutionally forbidden to re-

Top: students protesting against stationing of B-52 bombers in Japan.

arm — a provision honoured only in the breach.

The Ryukyus and the neighbouring Senkaku islands close to the Formosan coast have another big advantage for predatory Japanese capitalism. They are believed to lie over rich oil deposits and Japanese companies are already planning to prospect them.

This had led to sharp exchanges with the People's Republic of China and with the Nationalist regime on Formosa. Both governments claim the Senkakus as part of China.

The islands' inhabitants, for the most part poor peasants, are being badly hit by the changeover from dollars to yen.

Worse still, they fear the influx of metropolitan Japanese capital will be only to exploit them and force them to submit to Japanese hegemony as in the past.

They fear that under the Tokyo government, Okinawa will have even less autonomy than it enjoyed under the American military administration.

Even more Okinawans, they fear, will be driven to seek work on the mainland, where they are generally forced to take the most menial and poorly-paid jobs.

The Okinawa Reversion Treaty, hailed as a liberating move, is nothing more than an imperialist carve-up which will bring no advantages to the people of the islands.

## FALLING PRICES FORCE MINE CLOSURE

When the closing of the Santa Barbara mercury mine is announced inside of a few weeks, a chapter in Peruvian mining history will come to an end.

Mercury, considered a 'fabulous metal' in Spanish colonial times, is now obtained in Peru only from the Santa Barbara mine, in Huancavelica Department 450 kilometres and 14 hours by car from Lima, over a narrow and dangerous road.

For many years, mercury provided vast fortunes for the owners of the mines, but now the bottom has fallen out of the price. Two years ago a 76 pound container cost \$450 while now the price is \$265—and in Peru, it costs \$320 to produce it.

This is a dramatic difference, one already familiar to the 300 mineworkers at Santa Barbara. The closing of the mine will not have any important effect on the national economy, but locally it will mean a great deal.

The history of mercury in Peru goes back to the year 1560 and it borders closely on legend and myth. Tradition has it that a Spaniard named Amador de Cabrera was attending the Corpus Christi festivities in the city of Ayacucho. He was wearing a beautiful hat adorned with precious stones and at one point he gave it to be cared for to the young son of an Inca nobleman.

The boy lost the hat, and his terrified father, according to tradition led Amador de Cabrera to the mercury deposits in the Huancavelica mountains.

The mines made an immensely wealthy man out of Cabrera, because the demand for mercury increased constantly due to its use in the refining of silver. The Spaniards founded Huancavelica in 1572. They exploited the mines—and the Peruvians who worked them — voraciously, digging tunnels in all directions.

So many mineworkers lost their lives in collapses and landslides that the place became known as the 'mine of death'.

In a single accident in 1786, 200 workers were killed when the manager of the mine removed the logs shoring up the galleries in order to sell them.

The mine's total production is estimated at more than 50,000 tons of mercury. This figure indicates that Huancavelica played an important historical role.

Without Santa Barbara, the large-scale exploitation of the fabled silver mines of Potosi would not have been possible. In fact, the area which was to become Peru and Bolivia would not have attained its top level of importance under Spanish colonial rule.

Today the mercury mine, located at close to 5,000 feet above sea level, is worked as an open pit.

The mercury of Santa Barbara is highly toxic. It is being mined at the rate of 800 pounds a day, which are carefully stored in the hope that the world mercury market may improve.

But so far there is no sign of recovery in mercury prices, and Santa Barbara is closing down.

Prensa Latina





# BLOODSHED IN THE BOLIVIAN MINES

BY OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Workers in the Bolivian tin mines in Oruro, Catavi, Llallagua and Milluni have been in the forefront of the Bolivian masses' struggle for emancipation from imperialism.

Ever since they won the right to organize in the 1940s—after the bloody massacre of Catavi miners in 1942—their struggle has been betrayed by the unprincipled alliance of left-wing, nationalist trade-union leaders and bourgeois politicians and generals.

Juan Lechin, former Bolivian Miners' Union secretary general, pioneered such alliances when he swung armed miners behind the National

Revolution of Paz Estenssoro (MNR—Movement for National Revolution) in 1952. In the same year the Confederation of Bolivian Workers (COB) was formed.

Guillermo Lora, leader of the POR, (Revolutionary Workers' Party), also supported the National Revolution whose leader, Estenssoro, he depicted as the Bolivian Kerensky. Lora predicted that his POR would become the Bolshevik foil to this Kerensky as the COB was transformed into 'a workers' government under the leadership of the POR'.

In reality, the four trade union Ministers in the MNR government—with Lechin as Minister of Mines and Petroleum—channelled the growing revolutionary movement into collaboration with the bourgeois state.

After the initial euphoria in

the mines, where production decreased by 15 per cent while the payroll increased one third, the government backed moves to sack a quarter of the 28,000 labour force.

These rationalization plans became particularly urgent after Estenssoro signed an agreement with West German banks and the US government guaranteeing large capital investment.

Faced by this threat of mass sacking, miners forced Lechin's supporters to organize strike action. They, in turn, called on Lechin to return to Bolivia to lead the struggle.

Lechin, vice-President of the Republic, was also serving as ambassador to Italy. He refused the invitation to abandon the delights of Rome.

In August 1963, the indefinite General Strike called by the miners' federation was



Above left: Bolivian police on patrol in La Paz. Above right: a miners' settlement in the mountains near Catavi. Left: the graves of miners killed in the fighting in May 1964

swiftly and brutally ended by government forces.

Guillermo Lora, who had formally broken with the MNR in 1954 when it agreed to pay compensation to the owners of three mining companies which had been nationalized, showed, ten years later, that behind the left demagogic calls for 'class unity' and 'the direct action of the masses', he retained persistent nationalist illusions:

'We underline our disagreement with the economic measures of a government which has forgotten that it is Bolivian, to better serve the interests of the Yankees.'

While Lora waited for the COB to become the Soviets of the Bolivian revolution, which he had said they would become in 1952, Lechin, now back in Bolivia, swung his support in the mines behind the government takeover of the military junta of Barrientos and Ovando in November 1964.

In October, thousands of students in La Paz and miners in Oruro had marched against the repressive policies of Estenssoro. Hundreds were

killed and wounded in clashes with the army. Under the Barrientos regime, backed by Lechin, the Bolivian working class, politically disarmed, faced worse butchery.

Barrientos first demanded that the miners give up their weapons. When this received little response, he sent Lechin into exile in Paraguay, thus provoking a General Strike.

On May 18, Barrientos declared a state of emergency, calling for the military mobilization of all people and refusing to recognize union leaders. By this time, 29,000 miners in 17 mines were on strike.

On May 24, the army and airforce attacked the mining centre of Milluni, 25 miles from La Paz. The mining regions of Catavi, Telemaya and Siglo Veinte were declared a 'military area'.

Virtual civil war broke out as troops attempted to take over the mines. While miners were slaughtered in the 'military area', miners from Quechisla blew up railway bridges. They cut off traffic from Argentina after rumours that Barrientos was seeking arms from there.

Fierce fighting broke out between government troops and units of armed factory workers and miners from

Milluni on the road from La Paz to the airport of El Alto.

On June 1, fighting ceased. Eight hundred miners had been killed. The army, having occupied the mines of Oruro, Potosi and Sucre, imposed stringent new labour regulations: certain grades would receive wage-cuts; 6,000 miners were to be sacked.

The miners were not long subdued. On September 20, strikes began aimed at making the government withdraw the wage-cuts imposed in May.

Barrientos declared a state of siege. A five-hour battle raged between miners and troops in Llallagua and Siglo Veinte. After killing 32 miners and wounding 105, the army imposed a curfew.

On September 21, the miners killed four policemen they were holding as hostages. In reprisal the government closed down the mines in Catavi, Siglo Veinte and Llallagua and stated that no wages would be paid to miners involved in the disturbances.

To back up these measures, 1,000 soldiers armed with bazookas, heavy machine-guns and mortars were drafted into the mining areas. Barrientos was determined to use the harshest of measures to crush the miners. The strike was defeated.

The recent struggles against the Banzer coup have shown that the Bolivian working class is far from crushed.

Guillermo Lora showed that he had learnt nothing from the past 20 years of struggle by demanding that General Torres arm the Bolivian workers.

Lora has now assumed the mantle of Juan Lechin as a working-class leader tied to petty bourgeois nationalism; his advantage from the standpoint of the Bolivian bourgeoisie, is that he can mask this with Trotskyist phrases and international backing from the French revisionists of the Organisation Communiste Internationaliste.

The recent Latin American conference of the OCI and Lora's POR ended in absolute confusion—it was agreed not to vote on the two resolutions.

The POR and the Argentinian group 'Politica Obrera' published a separate statement condemning the 'Olympian' attitude of the French.

In this epoch of socialist revolution, leftism is thrown into crisis.

The most urgent task in Bolivia is the struggle for Marxism against those who have, for 20 years, paralysed the working class, hoping for Soviets to arise spontaneously from the Bolivian trade unions.

**OVER-POPULATION OR PROFIT? THE REAL CAUSE OF WORLD HUNGER. BY BERNARD FRANKS.**

# TOO MUCH FOOD?

## PART 1

*'The fear of over-population always appears at periods when the existing social conditions are disintegrating. The general discontent which then flares up is ascribed primarily to the excess of people and the lack of food and not to the manner in which it is produced and distributed.'*

August Bebel—1879<sup>1</sup>

In spite of drastic and deliberate cut-backs in production over recent months, many food and other commodities in Britain and the rest of the capitalist world remain 'in glut' and in 1972 menace world markets with what is termed the threat of serious over-production.

At the same time, it is being claimed that evacuation of farm workers and peasants from many rural areas is not proceeding quickly enough.

It is precisely in this situation that the advocates of population control have stepped up their campaign against 'surplus people' to hysterical levels on the basis that food, space and resources are rapidly running out for the human race.

Exactly at a time when the productive forces appear to be ready to burst from their capitalist fetters and produce enough for all, they proclaim the total failure of science and technology ever to provide enough.

This is not just a coincidence. Karl Marx long ago showed that the over-populationists are essentially spokesmen for capitalism in time of crisis and revolution. They attempt to prove that starvation and unemployment are in no way products of the contradictions inherent within the decaying system of production for profit, but on the contrary are a direct and natural result of the over-fertility and inferior abilities of the working class.

Today this concept is more sophisticated and more elaborate. Malthus's 18th century arithmetical 'proofs' that population was outstripping food production are replaced with computer analysis of economic data allegedly comparing the world's situation now with the inevitable position in a few years time. Modern birth control methods replace his 'moral restraint' as

a means of keeping down numbers.

But the theory and its counter-revolutionary message—that the most brutal action against the working classes and their organizations are justified by the exceptional circumstances—are fundamentally the same.

Certainly, the symptoms described by the over-populationists do exist. There is indeed a developing world crisis; workers are over-crowded, herded into slums; millions do go without food and basic necessities; pollution is rife; world unemployment is growing. It is by purporting to note and document these vicissitudes scientifically that they hope to buy themselves a reputation as objective examiners whose final diagnosis of the disease as a product of a high birth rate need not be questioned.

The self-evident truths of 'too many people, not enough food' are continually proclaimed through every outlet of education and information—even magazines as diverse as 'Engineering' and 'Playboy' have got in on the act. Not so widely discussed, however, are the measures taken round the world by capitalism to hold back production and destroy 'surpluses'. A few of these invoked in recent months are as follows:

### Potato Production

In Britain, aircraft are being used by the Potato Marketing Board to spy on farmers to see that 'excess' acreage of potatoes will not be grown in 1972. The amount of land to be used for this crop is strictly limited. The continual gluts stemming from improved yields led to overall acreage permitted being reduced from 590,000 in 1970 to 558,000 acres in 1971, (a 5½ per cent reduction).

In spite of this cut, bumper harvests and high yields further increased the supply and acreage has been cut a further 6 per cent (to 525,000 acres) for 1972. Altogether, the government and the Board spent £18m buying up surplus potatoes in 1971.

A letter in 'Farmers' Weekly' at the end of last year refers to 'hundreds of clamps rotting all over the country, which I understand the Board has bought from growers and was apparently unable to market'. The Board buys up surpluses and tries to get rid of the stock in any way it can, as cattle feed or for starch production, but often it is cheaper to let it rot on the farms rather than pay for collection and storage.



Dumping 130 tons of rotten onions in Soham, Cambridgeshire

When John Pardoe, a Liberal MP, asked in parliament about the 'spud spy in the sky' and commented that with 'such problems as Bangla Desh, why should one of the most prosperous nations artificially limit its potato supply?' he was told by Anthony Stodart, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Agriculture:

'The marketing scheme is necessary and good. The aircraft is one of the measures adopted by the Board to help prevent evasion of the scheme and to keep planting as close as possible to the target acreage.'

Many of the major growers are in favour of restrictions in order to try to maintain prices. Resolutions to the employers' organization, the National Farmers' Union, this year have called for 'stiffer penalties against producers who plant more potatoes than they should'. ('Farmers' Weekly', January 7.)

Action is also demanded against 'dumping' of potato granules and instant mashed potato from Canada which has its own 'surplus' problem made worse by anti-dumping restrictions imposed by the USA, which, in turn, is faced with continual gluts.

It is in this situation that the Tories actually condescended recently to 'stabilize'

—not to lower—the retail price of potatoes.

### Eggs

Over the next two years, £20,000 is to be spent by the British Egg Authority on research into ways of disposing of egg surpluses. The money is to be divided between the Paint Research Association and the British Food Manufacturing Industries Association. The paint people will be looking into ways of using egg white in household paint.

The chairman of the Egg Authority claimed at the end of 1971 that consumption must go up, or production must come down because 'at the moment there are about 1 million too many layers in the country'. A director of Egg Farms Ltd—probably the world's largest egg producing firm, controlling 20 per cent of the British market—called for a contraction of 2 to 3 per cent in overall production.

### Pigs

The national pig herd will be 1 million down within a year, according to an article in 'Farmers' Weekly' of January 21, 1972. Bacon curers are claiming that because of the current glut 'profit margins have been reduced to nil—and

below'. The chairman of the National Farmers' Union Pigs Committee stated that substantial reduction would put the industry in a more stable position by the end of the year.

Curers say that 'there is too much bacon about: we have to rectify it by somehow making less bacon. That is what we are setting about doing now'. ('Financial Times', January 14, 1972.)

It should be added here that 'over-production' and 'surpluses' are relative terms. They do not mean that there is enough for all human needs with some left over, but that all available sales and market outlets have been taken up. Capitalism is not interested in the fact that millions go without proper food, but only in acquiring profit.

As Marx showed: 'It is only interested in demand backed by the ability to pay. The surpluses' are proclaimed long before enough is produced to fulfil the needs of the world's population.

### CONTINUED TOMORROW

<sup>1</sup> German socialist associate of Marx and Engels. The quote is from his book 'Women and Socialism', the last part of which is now published in an abridged translation under the title 'Society of the Future', 20p.



# KREMLIN CHIEFS GREET THE MAN WHO BOMBS VIETNAM



President Nixon and his entourage arrive in Moscow today to what, from all accounts, will be an enthusiastic welcome from the leaders of Soviet Stalinism.

Brezhnev, Kosygin and the other Kremlin leaders have been so eager for this meeting that they have all but ignored the colossal US escalation of the Vietnam war for fear of interfering with the Moscow discussions.

In the last month, the Americans have subjected North Vietnam to its worst-ever bombardment from the air—flying up to 1,800 sorties a week against roads, railways, workers' houses, hospitals and schools.

Haiphong and the other main North Vietnamese ports are under blockade, their approaches sown with sophisticated 'unsweepable' mines.

The US has even begun bombing the river dykes of the Red River Delta—with the start of the monsoon only days away. Yet all these actions have passed with only the most formal of protests from the Soviet leaders.

White House aides were openly jubilant last week as it became clear that Nixon's visit would not be called off after all. They had good reason for jubilation—the Kremlin had just allowed them to pull off one of the biggest acts of piracy since Captain Morgan.

To try and save his bankrupt puppet regime in the South, Nixon had gambled the world close to the brink of World War III—and got away with it. It will not save his South Vietnamese allies from defeat, but it can only serve to encourage even more vicious military actions in the future.

The British Stalinists' daily, the 'Morning Star', faced with the purely platonic character of the Soviet protests, was careful not to raise the question of Nixon's visit.

Instead, it covered itself in advance for all eventualities with the statement that:

'In denouncing Nixon's escalation of the war the Soviet Union has demanded the ending of the blockade and of acts of aggression against the Democratic People's Republic of Vietnam, and pledged continued support to the Vietnamese people.

'Any actions it takes to fulfil this pledge and combat the illegal and barbarous actions of the US rulers will be completely justified, and should be backed by all progressive people.

'Nixon's apologists claim that he does not want a "confrontation" with the Soviet Union, and that he hopes that his visit to Moscow will go ahead.

'But could there be a more direct effort to provoke a confrontation than the sowing of mines in the path of ships



Nixon, Kissinger, Brezhnev, Kosygin—meeting today

engaged in lawful trade? Could any measures be more calculated to heighten international tensions and make negotiations on other questions more difficult?

'More difficult', but not apparently too difficult for the Kremlin Stalinists. As for their British counterparts, they were quick to praise the Soviet Union's forbearance in not 'allowing itself to be provoked' by Nixon's measures.

'Any action' was justified . . . but not, apparently, the cancellation of Nixon's trip. When leaders of the CP-dominated British Campaign for Peace in Vietnam were asked whether they would be demanding the visit be cancelled, they said it should go ahead.

This is the treacherous face of Stalinist 'peaceful co-existence' with imperialism. The requirements of the Vietnamese revolution are subordinated to those of the Soviet bureaucracy. The mines stay . . . but the talks go on.

Why are the Soviet leaders so eager to talk privately with the leader of world imperialism? They want agreement on such topics as strategic arms limitation and European security.

The mining of North Vietnamese waters and the escalation of the war should have indicated even to the most dedicated proponent of peaceful-co-existence that the imperialists remain as blood-thirsty as ever.

If the US can casually violate international law in this manner, what is to stop them violating any agreement on arms limitation and 'mutual security'?

What then is to be the basis of the peaceful co-existence for which the Soviet rulers are seeking? It can only be based on mutual agreement to police the world against revolution.

And it is this central fact which places the Vietnamese struggle in the greatest danger from Stalinist secret diplomacy.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## One-man

You will have waited in an endless queue for a one-man bus—spent up to 15 minutes in the rush hour while the harassed driver collects the fares and then risked breaking your neck as the vehicle jerks into action.

The whole idea of the driver-operated bus was to economize on the service at the bus-workers' and the public's expense. The main aim was to get rid of bus conductors and cut down on costs.

Well you will be pleased to hear that London Transport, who began the 'innovation', have been so successful in the campaign against the working class that they are now desperately seeking to recruit workers for the buses!

Throughout London services are undermanned by an average of 8 per cent—in central London the strength of the conductor force is 12 per cent below establishment.

This situation is likely to lead to an intensification of the campaign to introduce more one-man busses.

Conditions on these for the driver are very bad—so bad in fact that London Transport is having a singular lack of success in its recruiting drive around the Chalk Farm and Willesden areas of London.

## Finger lickin'

'It's finger-lickin' good', runs the ads on the Kentucky Fried Chicken boxes.

The US Democratic Party are doubtless saying the same about the Kentucky Fried Chicken Corporation's (US) latest intervention on their behalf in the current presidential election battle.

A long-standing headache of the Democrats has been a bill for £5m (spent mostly on airline charters and television time) outstanding since 1968, the year they ran Hubert Humphrey for President.

Kentucky Fried chairman John Brown is organizing a 'telethon' next month with 100

celebrity performers, urging viewers to donate. (Volunteers answering the phones have been told they can accept credit cards.)

One of the show themes, says Brown, will be 'Charge, Democrats! Charge!' Prices for 'finger-lickin' goodness' give one the impression that it is certainly a long-standing theme of Kentucky Fried.

## Glimber

Watch out for Colin Bass, the 34-year-old works engineer at Wilkinson Sword, Acton, London.

He was awarded the Institute of Works Managers' top prize for 1971. How did Mr Bass develop his talents? In the trade union movement.

He joined Wilkinson as an apprentice and began his



climb upwards—trade union official, works' convenor and chairman of the shop stewards' committee.

Now Bass plays boss to the 800 men he once used to represent.

'I think it's a definite advantage to have seen both sides. Our works' convenor now understands that I know what he is talking about.'

Now he's not keen to join a union. Managers fight their own battles, he says.

What do the men think about his meteoric rise to power and wealth—'. . . you get the odd guy saying I was bought off by the management.' Now isn't that terrible—you just can't satisfy some malcontents can you?

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# LETTERS



## ARRESTS QUESTIONING AND TORTURE

Dear Editor,  
 Since the Widgery report on Bloody Sunday was published the British army is making full use of its increased powers.  
 I watched in the New Lodge Rd area of Belfast a youth being arrested and taken away for questioning.  
 He was simply standing at the corner of a street chatting within

yards of his home. Two jeeps full of paratroopers pulled up, gun positions were taken and the youths were questioned as to identification.

One of them was then taken for questioning.

A crowd of people were gathering by this time. The paratroopers were unconcerned. In reply to accusations from some of the women and young girls, I saw one para mockingly bless himself. The New Lodge Rd area is a Catholic ghetto and this was meant as a deep insult.

I spoke to one woman afterwards. The people were afraid to give their names for fear of retaliation. She said that for the last three weeks the army have been lifting and torturing them constantly.

The previous week her son was lifted at the corner of his house and taken to Glenravel St barracks for questioning.

The questioning, local resi-

dents told me, consists of the most hideous tortures—stabbing on the hand with a dagger, beating on the privates, pushing a gun from behind.

As well as that, detainees are given a drug and under the influence of this are made to sign statements. It seems that with the longer days the army is using the daylight to harass and intimidate workers in the evening.

This will have an opposite effect to that intended. There is only an increase in the hatred the people of this area have for the Tories and the army.

The only answer is to unite with the English workers and force this barbaric Tory government, which is totally responsible for such crimes, out of power and to force the returned Labour government to withdraw troops from Ireland.

H. G.  
 Belfast.

Dear Editor,

The recent meeting of the Oxford All Trades Unions Alliance made clear that in the future workers may have to decide who they are going to listen to—shop stewards or officials controlled by the National Industrial Relations Court.

The government must get the trade unions into a position where the power is removed once and for all from the shop floor and put safely in the hands of top union officials whom they can control. I think this is one of the prices they want to make us pay for entering the Common Market.

The big question now is will the rank-and-file members allow the law to take away the rights of their shop stewards.

A new kind of Court has been set up which has changed British law overnight. Now a man can be judged and found guilty even without a trial. Since the Industrial Relations Act came into force the trade union movement has been shaken up.

In my area a large percentage of militant convenors and shop stewards have been made redundant and where firms were organized just before the Act the employers afterwards set about a deliberate policy of clearing out the leading union members. I know of five or six places locally where this has gone on so what must be happening on a national scale.

The real crisis began while the Labour government was still in office when they issued 'In Place of Strife'. For the first time in their history the trade unions were faced with a situation where on the one hand they were financially supporting the Labour Party and on the other being threatened by it.

A lot of Labour Party members were frustrated about this and there were one-day stoppages and threats to ban the political levy until the Labour government backed off.

But the Labour Party had lost a lot of support with people thinking they were the same as the Tories. When it came to the General Election the stage was set for the Tories to romp home because a lot of Labour voters stayed away from the polls.

The Tories rushed the Industrial Relations Act through parliament with no

real opposition because many Labour MPs wanted something similar themselves.

A new phase had come into the proceedings of parliament where we had a government prepared to go to all lengths to get what they wanted and to smash opposition by any means.

When they eventually took on the miners the working class began to see that it was not just a strike about more money, but a deliberate attempt by the government to smash the unity of the working masses.

The working class stood together and the government lost.

The government was now desperate and prepared to use the only weapon it had left—the Industrial Relations Act. Their actions began to manifest themselves as a real desperate last-ditch stand.

Once they had the union law behind them the engineering employers felt strong enough to take on the unions. The leaders of the AUEW abdicated their leadership by dropping national negotiations with the Engineering Employers Federation, allowing the procedural agreement to be scrapped and opting for plant-bargaining.

When the T&GWU was fined £55,000 for contempt of the NIRC, the union leaders decided not to fight but to pay the fine and to send lawyers into the court to fight their case.

Now the leaders of the railway unions are allowing themselves to be used as puppets while the government are deliberately trying to provoke the men into an open conflict.

The real issue now is taking on the Industrial Relations Act and the Tory government and forcing it to resign before they smash the trade union movement.



FRANK TOMANY  
 AUEW member, Slough.

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### TORIES ATTACK THE UNEMPLOYED

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# First engineers' sit-in in London



Convenor Eric Bogle: The government started this thing

LONDON'S first sit-in for the engineers' pay claim is now in its 12th day following the occupation by 120 workers at the Stanmore Engineering works.

They are demanding the original claim of a £6-a-week increase, a reduction in the working week to 35 hours and one extra week's holiday.

The sit-in by Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers members, mostly West Indian workers, has provoked a most bitter response from management at the Alperton, North London, factory.

They have cut off all electricity supplies, blocked off the lift and barricaded doors to try and pre-

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

vent shop floor workers reaching the first floor.

It is on this section that tool-makers and draughtsmen — all non-union members—are working on. If management can get new tools out of the plant, it would lessen the effect of the sit-in.

Now about 20 men from the firm's Stanmore factory have joined the Alperton sit-in after they claim they were locked out by management.

Led by convenor Eric Bogle, the Alperton men, who make pressure die-casts, submitted their claim towards the end of March. On May Day they began a go-slow after getting no reply from management.

'On May 11 the works manager came up to me and told me

I was not working the machine to his satisfaction,' Mr Bogle told me. 'He switched it off and I switched it on. This went for about ten minutes.'

'Finally he brought the electrician to switch the power off. So I brought the factory together and we decided to sit-in.'

'We think it is better to be sitting in than outside and we saw what they were doing in Manchester.'

Some of the workers sitting-in are women and they prepare the men's food.

The sit-in has been declared official by the AUEW's Southall district committee. Support has been promised from other factories in the Zenith Carburettor group.

'We haven't been offered any-

thing on our claim, not a penny,' added Mr Bogle.

'Setters are only on £20 and the operators £17.50. Some of the men take home less than £15 or £16 a week.'

Last year Zenith Carburettor's profits ran to £470,000. Investment and other income reached £175,000. Shareholders received a 9½-per-cent dividend.

'They have brought the police in here five times already and told us we were trespassing. And if they had a chance they'd lock us out. But we won't be giving them that chance.'

'It's no offence going for our rights—what sort of an offence can you commit doing that? The government started this thing, telling us what you can earn. It's a fight to the finish here and we're going to win it,' said Mr Bogle.

# Massey stewards' pay retreat angers shop-floor

WORKERS at the giant Massey Ferguson tractor factory at Coventry meet today to decide on whether to accept a £2.50 management pay offer. They had been demanding £8.

The firm has offered £2.50 tied to bonus earnings and a new guaranteed week structure. This offer is being recommended to the meeting by the shop stewards' committee.

At a previous mass meeting this same offer was decisively thrown out by the work force.

But since then, the shop stewards have completely reversed their policy because of pressure from district and national union officials.

The original claim by the shop

## shop-floor

BY A COVENTRY CORRESPONDENT

stewards was for £8-a-week increase, an additional four days' holiday at average earnings, a shorter working week, £1,000 cash award on retirement and lay-off pay at average earnings.

The decision to abandon this claim and recommend management's £2.50 offer was carried by the narrowest of margins.

There is dissatisfaction with the committee's about-face among different sections of workers.

A machine division shop meeting last Thursday spontaneously demanded a meeting with convenors.

They threatened a walk-out if they didn't get one.

At the meeting convenors and officials were heavily criticized.

There was total dissatisfaction, especially among dayworkers who, in many cases, earn far more than piecework gangs.

Ultimately the meeting decided

to await the outcome of today's mass meeting.

Assembly shop workers continually express total hostility to the offer.

Incessant short-time working has reduced fitters' wages to the lowest level for many years. They have been pressing for the lay-off pay clause.

The guaranteed week offered by the company has a built-in reducing factor. On a five-day week, 32 hours is guaranteed, on a four-day week 24 hours is guaranteed.

Internal disputes would stop the guarantee being paid.

Consequently workers fear that the company will provoke disputes in order to avoid pay out when the tractor men are being laid off by external strikes.

Despite the last year's low earnings and attacks on the assembly shop stewards' organization, the workers' fighting spirit remains intact.

After being laid off last week due to a storemen's strike, fitters imposed a seven-day ban on overtime. The company threatened that unless the ban was lifted, further lay-offs would take place.

An assembly shop meeting voted to support the shop stewards' committee and kept the ban on.

An hour later the assemblers were laid off because paint sprayers found their working conditions unacceptable.

These disputes over the past week indicate the willingness to fight is ready to express itself at the factory. Today's meeting will be a test of that strength.

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 10.20-2.33 London. 4.05 Once upon a time. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Yoga. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.15 Pursuers. 6.45 London. 11.20 Challenge. 11.45 News, weather.

**WESTWARD:** As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sports desk. 11.45 News. 11.49 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 10.20 London. 3.00 Tricks of the good cook's trade. 3.20 Bugs Bunny. 3.30 Best of Lucy. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Heckle and Jeckle. 4.25 Junkin. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 11.20 News. 11.30 Marcus Welby. 12.25 Weather. Sally Trench.

**HARLECH:** 10.20-2.33 London. 3.20 Sara and Hoppity. 3.30 Enchanted house. 3.45 Women only. 4.10 Theory into practice. 4.35 Tinkertainment. 4.50 Tom Grattan's war. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 11.20 Edgar Wallace. 12.20 Weather.

**HTV Wales as above except:** 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.22 Y dydd.

**HTV West as above except:** 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.

**HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales plus:** 8.00-8.30 Yr wythnos.

**ANGLIA:** 10.20 London. 3.15 Jokers wild. 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. 11.20 Theatre.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 10.20-2.33 London. 3.10 Afternoon. 3.35 Stars. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Nanny. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 11.00 Randall and Hopkirk.

**ULSTER:** 10.20-2.33 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Funny face. 6.45 London. 11.20 Mon-



Clive Revill (l), Geraldine McEwan and Peter Cook are in the first five Thirty-Minute Theatre plays by John Mortimer on BBC 2 tonight.

day night. 11.25 Film: 'Tall Story'.

**YORKSHIRE:** 10.20 London. 3.00 Film: 'Girl in the Headlines'. 4.35 News. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.20 Calendar special. 6.45 London. 11.20 Name of the game. 12.45 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 11.00 London. 2.30 Dr Gannon. 3.30 Yoga. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.15

London. 6.00 Newsday. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 11.20 Scotland Yard casebook.

**TYNE TEES:** 11.00 London. 1.25 Enchanted house. 1.40 London. 2.30 Common Market notebook. 3.00 Film: 'The Frightened City'. 4.35 News. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Love, American style. 6.45 London. 11.20 Time four. 11.50 Saint. 12.45 News. 1.00 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 11.00 London. 2.33

## BBC 1

9.20-9.35 Trumpton. 9.38-11.50 Schools. 12.55 Origins of Christianity. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-3.10 Schools. 4.00 Boomph with Becker. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Penelope Pitstop. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.

6.20 ENTERTAINING WITH KERR. Vacherin.

6.45 A QUESTION OF SPORT.

7.10 Z CARS. Haggard.

8.00 PANORAMA.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 THE REGIMENT. Christmas at the Cape.

10.10 TALES FROM THE LAZY ACRE. The Culchie.

10.40 24 HOURS.

11.15 CANOE. Building Your Own Canoe.

11.40 Weather.

Class of 72. 3.30 Nuts and bones. 3.45 Simon Locke. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 University challenge.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.00-2.33 London. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Lucy show. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Country focus. 6.35 Cartoon time. 6.45 London. 11.20 University challenge. 11.50 Epilogue.

## TV

### ITV

10.20-12.00 Schools. 1.10 Time to remember (London only). 1.40 Schools. 2.33 Good afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Film: 'A Ticklish Affair'. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Lassie. 5.20 Pardon my genie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.20 CROSSROADS.

6.40 THE DAVID NIXON SHOW.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.

8.30 CHEAP AT HALF THE PRICE.

9.00 PLAY: 'SEVENTEEN PER CENT SAID PUSH OFF'. By Alan Plater. Robert Powell, Malcolm Reynolds, Bill Owen, Sue Nicholls.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 INTERNATIONAL BOXING. John H. Stracey v Antonio Torres.

11.20 CHANGE PARTNERS.

12.15 ANTHOLOGY OF LOVE. Wandering Love.

### BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.37-7.00 Open University.

7.05 LET'S GET GOING. East London Claimants Union.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 BIRD'S-EYE VIEW. A Land for all Seasons.

8.50 FACE THE MUSIC.

9.20 HORIZON. Do You Dig National Parks?

10.40 THEATRE: 'MILL HILL'. By John Mortimer.

11.10 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

11.15 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.



# Lynch moves towards political internment

ENCOURAGED by his Common Market referendum and strengthened by the sectarian confusion unleashed by direct rule in the North, Eire's Jack Lynch has taken his first major step to re-introduce internment.

This is the meaning of last week's decision—emphatically denied, of course, by Justice Minister O'Malley, to transfer 40 Provisional IRA men from Mountjoy jail to the notorious Curragh military camp.

Curragh has been host to many generations of political prisoners since the 1920s civil war.

The present inmates were sent to Curragh ostensibly because they wrecked the Mountjoy jail on Thursday night.

This argument convinces few, if any, and strengthens the prevalent belief that internment has not only come to stay but is the prelude for closing the border and denying sanctuary for the Republicans.

By opening the gates of the Curragh, Lynch opens the gate to a police dictatorship in Ireland. Not only Republicans, but trade unionists and socialist and left-wing opponents to the Dublin regime are all equally threatened by this measure.

## 'NHS cash must go'

THE NEXT Labour government has to implement immediately its pledge to abolish all charges in the National Health Service and never re-impose them again.

This call went out yesterday from the annual meeting of the Socialist Medical Association. Conference also declared that the Labour Party's forthcoming health programme had to be based firmly on socialist principles.

Other motions demanded the democratic control of the NHS by staff and local authorities and the abolition of private practice.

It was necessary for Labour to nationalize the means of production to abolish poverty, said another motion.

# Small orders spark UCS union row

LACK OF ORDERS at Govan Shipbuilders on the Clyde has caused a crisis within the UCS shop stewards' co-ordinating committee.

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

order list and have been awarded to the company by the grace of the government and the liquidators.

A further six vessels in the UCS pipe-line at the time of liquidation have either been cancelled or placed elsewhere.

What is more serious there is still no prospect of new orders. The world market is at a pre-war low and the recent history of the upper Clyde does not exactly attract new customers.

Last Thursday the co-ordinating committee met Govan Shipbuilders' management and afterwards Airlie put out an alarmist statement on the orders:

'The situation is quite serious. We recognize that it would be the worst possible start to the new company if there were a shortage of orders.'

He said there would be an employment crisis at Govan if new orders were not received by the middle of May.

It is likely that at Friday's meeting Airlie called for a joint appeal to the government for extra cash. But the logic of his own Stalinist policy had caught up with him.

When they agreed to recog-

nized Govan Shipbuilders, the Stalinist-led shop stewards' committee also sanctioned the eventual break up of the labour force under separate companies.

This happened on Thursday when the stewards ratified two agreements establishing conditions of work and procedures at Govan Shipbuilders.

A day earlier a detailed agreement had been worked out at the Clydebank yard with the Texan oil-rig builders Marathon Manufacturing.

This kind of opportunism by the Stalinists has encouraged the most backward elements in the labour force.

Clydebank now has a better commercial future than Govan Shipbuilders since it will supply the oil-rig market.

The argument there is—'why should we risk our own future by making further demands on the government which may jeopardize the Marathon take-over?'

Now UCS workers in all the divisions face a future which will include an intensified drive for productivity, redundancies and possible further bankruptcy. This is what the Stalinists call a victory and their friends in the state capitalist group International Socialists call a 'partial victory'.

RANSOME, Hoffman Pollard, the ball-bearing manufacturers, who are to sack 1,475 workers because of overproduction, lack of orders and severe competition from Japanese imports, was formed two years ago by the Industrial Reorganization Corporation which merged all the major British controlled firms in the bearings market.

Production of general bearings has been kept at a high level in the hope of an industrial recovery, but the firm say no new orders have been coming in.

This has been aggravated by Japanese firms selling in some ranges at between 20 and 40 per cent below British prices.

The sackings will end 530 jobs at Annfield Plain, Co Durham, 525 at Newark, Notts, and 320 at Chelmsford, Essex. 100 staff jobs at Chelmsford and Newark will also be axed.



## Pupils' union

AN ATTEMPT by the National Union of Students to organize schoolchildren was launched this weekend. About 100 delegates from schools in London and the provinces (left) met in London and formed the National Union of School Students. Their draft policy included demands for a fully co-educational comprehensive system, the abolition of all grammar and public schools and eventual control of schools by committees of students, teachers and parents.

# Containers: T&GWU takes first step against militants

● FROM P. 1.

round again to the idea floated in secret discussions with Tonge and other employers in 1970.

This involved substitution of the statutory guarantee of dock jobs contained in the 1947 Dock Labour Scheme with a purely industrial, non-legal 'no redundancy' agreement.

Such a move would almost cer-

tainly be implied by redefinition of dockers' work, which is currently being hawked around as a solution to the jobs crisis in the ports.

And it could well win the backing of leading lights on the national port stewards' committee.

In the NIRC last week, Hull T&GWU official David Shenton spoke of a form of two-tier

registration under which dockers would gradually replace container-depot workers through natural wastage.

Such a process could never meet the scale of the problem. And it would merely transfer the redundancy problem to another section of the T&GWU.

In yesterday's 'Sunday Times', however, London shop steward Bernard Steer got himself quoted

as saying that while job-loss of this kind would be 'very distasteful', the union was 'only reaping what it has sown in its drive for a bigger and bigger membership'.

The Liverpool stewards have themselves abandoned a key bargaining-counter in the jobs fight—allowing the opening of Seaforth container dock after a promise from the employers to reduce hours.

And in Hull on Saturday, stewards' leader Walter Cunningham announced the launch of another diversion: the worker-controlled Hull Dock Labour Co.

These moves underline the urgency of a united struggle of all ports to force union action to make the Tory government resign.

Nationalization of all ports under workers' control—the only real solution to the dock jobs crisis—can only be achieved this way.

## WEATHER

EASTERN England will be cloudy with occasional rain at first, but brighter showery weather will spread from the West. Western England, also Wales, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland will have sunny spells and occasional showers, the showers at times perhaps merging to give several hours of continuous rain. Eastern Scotland will be dull and wet with extensive hill and coastal fog, becoming somewhat brighter later in the day. Temperatures will be near normal in the west and south, but rather cold in the North-East.

**Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday:** Sunny periods and occasional showers, or longer periods of rain, and near normal temperatures.

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# TORIES PREPARE EMERGENCY POWERS

● FROM P. 1

1926, three days before any official call of a General Strike by the TUC General Council.

The Act declares: 'If at any time it appears to Her Majesty that any action has been taken or is immediately threatened by any persons or body of persons of such a nature and on so extensive a scale as to be calculated, by interfering with the supply and distribution of food, water, fuel, or light, or with the means of locomotion, to deprive the community or any substantial portion of the community of the essentials of life, Her Majesty may by proclamation declare that a state of emergency exists.'

Since coming to power just under two years ago, Heath has used various provisions of the Act four times—in the docks, dustmen's, powerworkers' and miners' strikes.

But the next occasion will see the Act used on a scale reminiscent of 1926. Troops will be used on the docks and railways, militant trade unionists arrested and workers' publications closed down.

The Act allows the Privy Council to create new classes of offences overnight and to prescribe penalties of fines or prison sentences.

All traditional rights of 'justice' are instantly removed. Any comment or publication which attacks government policy can be branded as 'seditious' and the editors, publishers and printers jailed.

This is the situation we are now entering. It is a situation fraught with dangers for the working class—not the least being the trade union leaders epitomized by the TUC's Victor Feather.

At a weekend conference of trades councils, Feather pleaded for the government to 'maintain and extend' consultations with both sides of industry.

Treated honestly and fairly, the unions would do their best to help find solutions to the nation's problems, he said.

Treated 'honestly and fairly' by a government which is smashing the trade unions in its court, throwing hundreds of thousands of people out of work, doubling rents and encouraging price and property rises.

To resist the provocations of the Tory government, the labour and trade union movement must move decisively to create the conditions under which the Tories are forced out of office.

Rank-and-file trade unionists can immediately implement this campaign by demanding a recall of the TUC to affirm opposition to the Industrial Relations Act and all aspects of Tory policy.

At the same time councils of action must be built throughout the country to unite all those fighting against the government on all issues. The councils of action will become the political fighting unit of the working class in the defence of its rights and in resisting the Tory offensive in a General Strike.

When a Labour government is elected the councils will demand that socialist policies are implemented and will fight any return to the Wilson programme which only served the interests of the employers.

Every worker and his family has been summoned to action—Prepare for the General Strike!