

# TORY CABINET ON CLASS-WAR FOOTING

**THIS PART OF  
THEIR STRATEGY**

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BY ALEX MITCHELL

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The Tories have deliberately provoked this showdown with the unions and they have been preparing in secret to deal with it.

Their plans include the introduction of the Emergency Powers Act to arrest and jail trade unionists, the suppression of workers' publications and the use of troops to move fuel supplies and maintain communications.

A further stage in their campaign will be a press and television witch-hunt against trade unionists. In this hysteria-charged atmosphere the Tories hope to mobilize large sections of the middle class behind their vicious policies.

Yesterday 'The Times' became the first capitalist newspaper to acknowledge the existence of the government plans to attack the unions. In a front-page lead story, John Groser, of the paper's political staff, unveiled the thinking at No 10 Downing St.

Groser wrote what Workers Press has been warning for weeks: 'The government has decided to "sit it out" in the dispute with the rail unions over their pay claim. This will mean an all-out trial of strength.

'In the belated realization that the result of the railwaymen's ballot will probably be an overwhelming "yes" for further industrial action, the government has accepted that it is involved in a political battle in which there is going to be no compromise.'

It has been 'brought home to the government that it is in the middle of industrial war.'

These words like 'no compromise' and 'industrial war' are not the words of the sedate quill-and-ink men of 'The Times'. They seem more like the words of Edward Heath.

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But if Groser thinks the

Cabinet has only just arrived at this policy, he's wrong.

The Tory attack has been carefully co-ordinated during a series of ministerial gatherings which culminated in the Chequers meeting last Monday. This is the timetable for next week's clash between the government and the unions:

**MONDAY:** Rail ballot will be declared in favour of the country's 230,000 railwaymen who will vote 'yes' to further industrial action to get a decent living wage.

**TUESDAY:** The National Joint Council between dockers and port employers holds an emergency session in London in a utopian attempt to get the national docks strike called off.

**WEDNESDAY:** Liverpool dockers will hold a mass meeting at which they will certainly decide to join dockers from London, Manchester, Hull, Tilbury and Preston in defying the court, their union and the government by continuing to black container traffic.

**FRIDAY:** The National Industrial Relation Court's deadline on the T&GWU and the Mersey

dockers to lift their black on two firms expires. The firms are Heatons Transport (St Helens) Limited and Craddock Brothers of Wolverhampton. The T&GWU has previously been fined £55,000 for defying the court's orders.

**SUNDAY:** The 28-day national docks strike notice expires.

This is a calendar of events carefully contrived by the Tories. To resolve the crisis in their barbaric capitalist system, the Tories want to deliver a body blow to the working class. The demands of the hour are these:

- Recall the TUC to plan a political and industrial strategy to force the government out of office.
- Call a special Labour Party conference to expel the right-wing traitors who continue to vote with the Tories and prepare a socialist programme on which to fight the Tories in the event of a snap election.
- Build Councils of Action throughout the country made up of all tendencies in the trade union and labour movement. These councils will become the focal point of local organization in resisting the Tory offensive and preparing for the defeat of this hated government.



Socialist Labour League

Public meeting

SUNDAY MAY 28 7.30 pm

RECALL THE TUC!  
DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS!  
BUILD COUNCILS OF ACTION NOW!  
MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!  
RETURN A LABOUR GOVERNMENT PLEDGED TO  
SOCIALIST POLICIES.

Beaver Hall, Garlick Hill (nr Mansion House tube)

Speakers: MIKE BANDA (SLL Central Committee)  
LARRY CAVANAGH (Liverpool docker)  
JOHN SIMMANCE (YS national secretary)

# workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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# WHAT WE THINK

## PRIESTS, WOMEN NOW REFORMISTS

THE MODERN sisters of Lysistrata in Ulster are meeting with a predictable response. The Catholic Church and the British establishment are, if not overjoyed, certainly optimistic.

Take William Whitelaw, for example. To opposition cheers he told a depleted Commons on Thursday: 'The Commons will have noted with some hope, the clear, determined and courageous expressions of a desire for peace which have come from the Bogside and Creggan districts of Londonderry.'

The 'Daily Telegraph' endorsed this sentiment: 'The popular protest in Bogside and the Creggan estate against the more recent manifestations of IRA brutality is certainly the brightest star in a generally dim firmament.'

The 'Telegraph' and Whitewash Willie have some reason to be optimistic because yesterday the Social Democratic Labour Party crept out of its reformist hole and advised everyone who withdrew from local government and public service to return to their posts.

To prove the unconditional nature of its capitulation the SDLP statement urged all Catholics to give 'fullest co-operation' to Whitelaw's administration in all matters related to the positions they hold, and to the new Advisory Commission 'which we hope will be further strengthened and made more representative'.

The sinister statement commends Catholic workers to what is essentially a non-elected Bonapartist regime handpicked by Whitehall.

The Advisory Commission consisting of four Catholics and seven Protestants is totally non-representative. There is one trade unionist, Norman Kennedy, and at least three businessmen (two of them from the CBI) who have a vested interest in smashing the IRA and perpetuating imperialist rule.

The rest of the Commission are nonentities. The SDLP statement restores to some extent the fast waning credibility of Whitelaw's 'political initiative' and enables Whitehall to secure a foothold in the Catholic ghettos without withdrawing a single British soldier. It has also weakened the fight against internment and the Special Powers Act.

The SDLP reference that 'meaningful peaceful progress is now possible' is immediately belied by Whitelaw's latest decision to knock down several derelict houses—under the Special Powers Act—to facilitate operations against the IRA.

The appointment of the Commission and the wooing of the so-called 'moderates' with a mixture of tea, biscuits and

worthless assurances is all part of a gigantic political manoeuvre to undermine the IRA in preparation for an assault on the Creggan and other Republican strong holds.

This plan is synchronized with the attempts of the Lynch regime to stamp out IRA activity through special courts and the increased activity of the Garda on the Donegal border.

'Fear of a pre-emptive strike by the Army, prepared behind the facade of a phoney 'peace offensive' and a 'meaningful dialogue' with the SDLP, is compounded by the new threat of a Loyalist invasion of Londonderry around the June 3 Orange Parade.

These sinister moves speak more stridently about imperialism's policies than all the parliamentary cooing of Whitelaw and the reformist wooing by Gerald Fitt, Hume and Currie.

That is why, with certain critical reservations, we support the statement of the Provincial IRA. Martin McGuinness, commander of Derry Command, said there is no need to go before anyone and ask for a mandate 'in this just war' or put their trust 'in the word of an English puppet'.

The 'peacewomen' would do well to heed McGuinness' advice to the embattled people of Creggan and Bogside.

'We will support any call for peace, but it must be a just peace, which must be lasting and peaceful.

'People claim to have been organized into action by the death of an unfortunate member of the British army. Can this action not be directed against the people responsible for the murders of over 30 of our kinfolk?

'All we ask is that they get their priorities right and go and demand from their murderers the justice that their souls cry out for and the peace that the people deserve.'

We support the demands of the IRA for the unconditional release of political prisoners and an amnesty for men on the wanted list but we cannot agree at all with their demand for a return of troops to the barracks and a 'declaration of intent of eventual withdrawal of troops from Irish soil'.

If it is wrong to trust the word of an English puppet it is just as reprehensible to put faith 'in a declaration of intent' from a government which is hell bent on destroying workers' rights and establishing a corporate state in Britain.

Only the joint struggle of Irish and British workers under a revolutionary socialist leadership can defeat and bury imperialism. Otherwise the IRA—despite its heroism—will go the way of the Palestinian guerrillas in Amman and Irbid in September 1970.

# 3-prong attack on Kontum

NORTH VIETNAMESE troops and tanks have launched a three-pronged attack on the Central Highland city of Kontum. Helicopters could not land to supply the besieged defenders and ammunition was being parachuted in. The roads out of the town have been cut for the past month.

Fierce fighting was reported on the outskirts of the city and 1,700 men and some tanks forced their way inside. Saigon forces were making counter-attacks in an attempt to dislodge them.

American planes have kept up heavy raids on the attackers.

The threat to Hué is also growing and fierce attacks behind the defenders' lines are seen as the prelude to an all-out offensive.

More of the giant eight-engined B-52 bombers have been moved to the war zone to join the existing force of about 140 planes. The aid is to widen and intensify computer-controlled dense pattern bombing which is steadily laying waste huge areas of Indo-China.

Six B-52s can flatten everything over one and a half square miles.

About ten such missions are taking place every day, which means 3,000 tons of bombs and hundreds of lives of innocent people.



Wedding bells!

## Rubbing SALT into the Vietnam sore

PRESIDENT Nixon and Kremlin leader Leonid Brezhnev were expected to sign a treaty on the limitation of strategic nuclear weapons yesterday following what was described as a political breakthrough in their Moscow talks.

Their advisers were putting the final touches to the SALT deal before it was submitted to the two leaders for signature.

Ronald Ziegler, White House press secretary, said there were

two documents almost ready for signature.

One is a formal treaty placing limits on the number of anti-ballistic missiles for defence, thus ensuring—it is claimed—that neither side could be invulnerable to attack and tempted to launch a surprise offensive.

The other is an executive agreement under which the two sides will place limits on numbers of certain types of offensive land-based and submarine-based missiles.

# CP contradictions over Sudan

A LENGTHY statement condemning the repression in the Sudan has been published by the British Communist Party journal 'Marxism Today'. The statement, issued by the central committee of the clandestine Sudan CP, appears in the same week as the latest Soviet greetings to butcher Numeiry's regime.

Describing the conditions in the Sudan since the suppression of the left-wing coup attempt last July, the Sudan CP says:

'The recent period has been marked by active efforts to liquidate the revolutionary movement and at the same time to legitimize fascist methods in government and in political activity:

- Executions, tortures, life sentences, sham tribunals, unlimited detentions, dismissals and expulsions.
- The sham plebiscite which misrepresents the popular will.
- The imposition of the presidential system and personal rule.

● The President's decisions and laws and Republican orders.

● Anti-communism as a policy and a method.

● The open door to all neo-colonialist bodies and institutions, in particular the World Bank and the monopolies to which it opens the way.

● The closing down of all democratic organizations, the imposition of the single political party, the liquidation of the trade union movement and the suppression of the working-class movement to remove the obstacle to capitalist development and to the return of foreign capital.'

The statement does not mention the position of the Soviet

and Chinese leaders who continue to support the Numeiry regime. Moscow Radio, in a broadcast earlier this week, welcomed the third anniversary of the May 25 coup which brought Numeiry to power.

The July repression was referred to in passing simply as 'the tragic events of July 1971' and the Radio cynically wished 'the people of the Sudan further successes in the stubborn struggle against imperialism and reaction and in achieving the hopes and aims reflected in the documents of the programme "May 25, 1969".'

The programme referred to is the founding document of the Numeiry regime.

The British Communist Party, which claims to support the Sudanese CP against Numeiry, maintains a persistent silence about the Soviet government's relations with his butcher regime.

# Stalinists bolster corrupt Gaullists

FRENCH Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas thumped the Bonapartist drum of law and order at the start of this week's debate on his government's policy.

'No society can survive', he began 'if order is not assured and thus if the authority of the state is not respected.'

'Political institutions must decide the great question of public interest above the necessarily divergent interests of the various social groups.'

Gaullist deputies were well pleased with the final much-needed 368-96 vote of confidence.

For the past year the government has been rocked by a series of scandals. One cabinet minister involved in the property scandals has just been dropped. Gaullist deputy, Rives-Henry, has been forced to resign.

Guizot, a famous prime minister of the 19th century, called on the bourgeoisie to 'get rich'.

Chaban-Delmas does it himself, using every 'legal' tax dodge to augment his income.

The government has also been writhing under criticism of the state-run TV, where programme-makers were getting a rake-off for 'clandestine advertising'.

And under the political surface Chaban-Delmas is by no means secure. His job is coveted by Finance Minister Giscard d'Estaing, whose Republican Independents are in coalition with the Gaullists. Relations with President Pompidou also are believed to be strained.

Deputies of the majority, elected after the May-June 1968 events, were relieved that these conflicts did not come to the surface within a year, at the most, of the next General Election.

Their supporters want a continuation of the present bonapartist-style rule with reinforced and heavily-armed riot police always on standby.

Everybody knows that the

massive vote and the assurances of Chaban-Delmas and his ministers concealed the growing popular hostility and indifference to the government. This was shown in last month's referendum on the Common Market when only 39 per cent of the electorate gave a 'Yes' vote.

Nothing has been the same in France since 1968. The working class is still being held back by the Communist Party and its trade union federation, the CGT. A one-day General Strike has been called for June 7 to permit hostility to the government to express itself, but under strict control.

Communist deputies did not put up a fight against the government, although the proceedings were suspended for an hour when one of them referred to the government scandals.

The seasoned Stalinist, Francois Billoux, began his speech by saying that the fundamental question was the sovereignty and

independence of France.

France had a role to play, he said, in replacing the 'Europe of blocs by a Europe of co-operation', thus paving the way for approval of the Common Market.

It was the same Billoux who defended the Communist Party's support for de Gaulle's foreign policy in the weekly organ 'France Nouvelle' when it came in for criticism. Now, as then, the Party supports the government's foreign policy and only wants to push it faster along the road of agreement with the Soviet Union.

For all the insults which other CP speakers shower on the Gaullists, and the attacks they received in exchange, the Party has no intention of leading a fight and is united with the Gaullists in preventing a repetition of the events of May-June 1968.

Contemptuous of these parliamentary antics, now transmitted live on TV, the French working

class is on the move against the discredited Bonapartist government.

In 1969 Chaban-Delmas made the demagogic promise that his government would bring a 'new society'. In fact, while opening up fabulous opportunities of enrichment for its friends, it has meant growing hardship for working people.

More sackings are on the way to add to the 'official' 500,000 jobless, the cost of living is soaring, speed-up and private police drive on the rate of exploitation in the factories and the government prepares to take on the working class with its huge security apparatus.

The Communist Party and the other working-class organizations must be forced to lead a real struggle against a rotten and discredited government. They can be stopped from, once again, dissipating working-class militancy in a series of separate and limited actions.

# Tense picket line as 200 police turn up

**POLICE TURNED** out in force yesterday at the trouble-torn Shell Stanlow refinery site at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

A force of about 200 uniformed officers warned pickets at the site's five gates that interference with traffic which blocked the main highway would not be tolerated.

The atmosphere remained tense during the two-hour morning picket but there were no incidents. The complex is near the Burmah Oil refinery where 45 pickets were arrested and handcuffed last year.

A total of 400 men from various craft unions are on strike over what they claim is a bid by the American contract engineers FLUOR to break up union organization on the site.

Men have been dismissed for refusing to work on undermanned gangs and riggers have been asked to do jobs which belong to scaffolders. The strike has won support from workers from other sections of the giant site.

On Wednesday the police read the clauses of the Industrial Relations Act relating to picketing to workers at the site gates. The police say that by stopping site traffic there is a danger of obstruction on the public highway.

A leaflet handed out by the strikers, however, does not ask transport to turn back from the site, but simply states that all support for the strike would be welcome.

The Transport and General

Workers' Union is discussing the men's grievances with the scaffolding firms on the site, but Mick O'Hare, the union area organizer has refused to say if the dispute will be declared official if the talks break down.

He also warned that under the Industrial Relations Act the scaffolders were required to give one month's notice of strike action.

The scaffolders say the attempt to use other craftsmen to do

their work is part of a bid by FLUOR to cut down on the total number of workers on scaffolding.

Other crafts involved in the dispute are boilermakers, riggers, pipefitters and mechanical fitters.

## Conway acting worse than a boss say HQ strikers

STAFF at the headquarters of the engineers' union are accusing management of using arbitrary dismissal procedures against them.

The charges came after an attempt by Jim Conway, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers to sack one of his employees in the union's technical production studies department at Peckham, London.

Trouble began two weeks ago when the department's office manager told the employee to find another job.

Talks with Conway failed to solve the issue and the staff went on strike on May 15.

A bulletin put out by the strikers says: 'We do not dispute the right of the general

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

secretary to decide who will be employed at the general office, but we cannot accept that members of staff be subjected to arbitrary dismissal without proper consultation of charges made against them.'

They say they want a dismissal procedure which gives them an element of mutuality over sackings.

They add: 'The general secretary has made it clear that his idea of procedure is one under which he does not have to substantiate any charges and which

leaves him the undiminished right to "fire" anyone—an assertion of management power which would not be tolerated by employees in private industry.

'All we are asking is that AUEW employees are treated with the same respect and consideration that the AUEW requires private employers to apply to union members in industry.' All the strikers are members of the AUEW.

In a letter to the strikers, Conway refused to withdraw the threat of dismissal. He argued that in view of the employee's sickness record over the last few years it would be in interests of his health and the staff if he looked for another job.

No one was available for comment at AUEW headquarters yesterday.

## Thamesmead committee men back for talks

SIX HUNDRED men employed by Holland, Hannen and Cubitts (Southern) at Erith's giant Thamesmead housing site returned to work yesterday.

The six-man works' committee, sacked with three days' suspension last Friday, was re-instated after a promise to call off an overtime ban and guerrilla strikes in return for talks with management on wages and hours.

Communist Party site convenor and Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians member Bob Gordon said after a mass meeting of the men yesterday:

'We are starting discussion with Cubitts today, but meanwhile we have agreed to call off our overtime ban and one-day strikes.'

'When we report back to the men next week, if these discussions have not been acceptable, we may have to consider further action.'

They have waged a four-month campaign for shorter hours and higher pay. On average, men work up to 50 hours a week and take home £25.

Last Friday, after extensive lay-offs Cubitts issued an ultimatum to the works' committee to call off their campaign or face sackings. The threat was carried out and the men retaliated with a complete stoppage on Wednesday.

Said Mr Gordon: 'Cubitts felt confident with the Industrial Relations Act in the background. They used the language of the Act on us saying we had induced men to break their contracts.'

'But there was tremendous solidarity on the site around the campaign for hours and wages. Also the Greater London Council was putting pressure on Cubitts to speed up construction because of the rent they were losing.'

'Until last Wednesday Cubitts refused to discuss our claim. But now they have agreed to talk we are hopeful something will come of it.'

## Container contempt case due this week

PANALPINA (Northern) Limited, the Bradford-based container firm, is expected to take contempt of court proceedings against the Transport and General Workers' Union and Hull dockers' leader Walter Cunningham next Tuesday.

In the past week the Hull dockers have voted to continue blacking Panalpina lorries at Hull docks.

This leaves the way open for Panalpina's application to the National Industrial Relations Court and for the fining of the union and Mr Cunningham. In the event that Mr Cunningham refuses to pay the fines, he could be jailed for contempt.

In a recent judgement, Court president Sir John Donaldson decreed that shop stewards who disobeyed union and court instructions should be disciplined or dismissed.

MEANWHILE Lew Lloyd, docks district secretary at Liverpool, has called a mass meeting for Wednesday, May 31.

He will pass on an instruction from the union to lift the blacking. The meeting takes place only two days before the NIRC deadline calling on the union and Mersey dockers to lift blacks against Heatons Transport (St Helens) Limited and Craddock Brothers of Wolverhampton.

Lloyd's plea is expected to cut very little ice with the Liverpool men. On Tuesday the shop stewards' committee voted unanimously to continue the sanctions, which means that a full-blown confrontation with the Court and the government is now on the way.

Coupled with the legal action is the threat of a national docks strike on June 4, Sunday week.

None of this week's feverish round of talks between unions, the employers and the government brought a settlement any closer.

## Actors' basic rights under attack—from within

THE 20,000 members of Equity, the union of actors and actresses, are currently voting on two crucial issues which will determine the future of their union.

First, they are voting in a referendum to decide whether to register under the Industrial Relations Act. Secondly they are voting to elect a council to serve as the union's leadership for the next 12 months.

The membership is voting in the full knowledge that the union is in considerable crisis.

Unemployment has now reached an almost unbelievable 92 per cent and the theatrical companies are about to launch a round of wage cuts. Already the BBC has started to slash wages — thus taking advantage of the huge unemployment and the weaknesses in the union leadership.

A look at the resolutions for discussion at this year's annual conference—at the Victoria Palace on Sunday, June 11—gives the clearest indication of what the right wing is proposing.

Two resolutions put down by Marius Goring give the key.

The first states: 'This AGM deplores the recent intrusion of party politics into the non-political association of Equity' and goes on to

spell out amendments to the rules.

One amendment inserts the words 'and to maintain its complete freedom of artistic, ideological and political expression by the association itself remaining strictly non-sectarian, impartial and non-political in its activities on behalf of the membership'.

But more sinisterly, it alters the duties of the president.

It adds: 'It shall be the duty of the president to uphold the constitution and maintain the objects of the association.'

The full implications of this alteration are not appreciated until a second resolution by Goring and his friends is studied. This covers the subject of special general meetings.

In the past year or so Equity has held two—both called by the rank and file to demand that Equity opposes the Industrial Relations Act.

If Goring's resolution is successful, the chance of summoning such meetings is greatly diminished. His resolution states:

'The president shall have the power to veto the calling of such a Special General Meeting if, in his opinion, the

motion is frivolous, vexatious, unnecessary, or is a matter properly for consideration at the next AGM.'

All now becomes much clearer.

The President becomes the supreme interpreter of the constitution and the most powerful man in the union—not the membership.

He also becomes the sole arbiter in whether the membership can hold special meetings to discuss urgent topics which may affect the livelihood of tens of thousands of actors and actresses.

Not content with the power of veto, the Goring resolution also places big financial burdens on members wanting to call conferences.

The movers of the resolution at any future special conference must undertake to bear the whole of the costs incurred in the calling of it—which could mean up to £2,000.

In addition they have to deposit the sum of £500 with the treasurer.

It is patently obvious what Goring wants—to register the union, to install a president with arbitrary power over the membership and the annihilation of the

Marius Goring wants president to have absolute power.

democratic rights of the rank and file to express itself through special meetings.

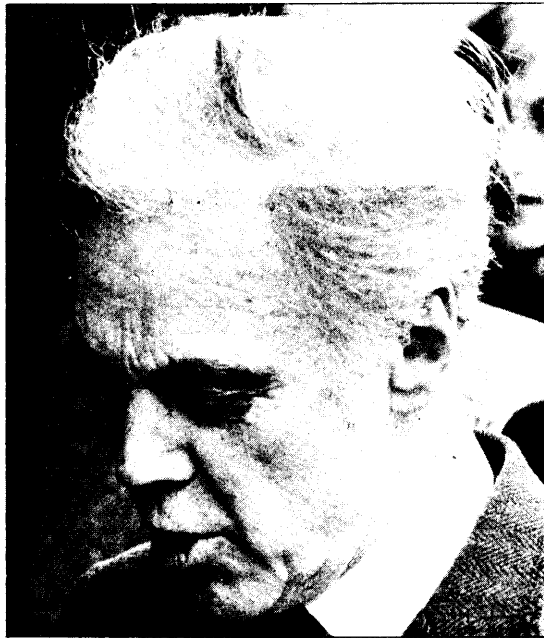
Whether the right wing can bluff these resolutions through the annual conference next month is another question.

Equity members are in ferment. At a special conference only a few weeks ago a very sizeable group of actors voted against the council's decision to register under the Act.

These union members are responding dramatically to the political and economic changes in Britain brought about by the advent of the Tory government.

They will not tolerate the smashing of their union's democratic rights by the Tory government or by the Tories in their own midst.

Goring may get great acreage of flattery in the gossip columns of 'The Times' and the 'Daily Mail', but in a show-down today, with all the implications of the present economic crisis, his attempted putsch faces bigger odds than he can see.



## Pits: Strikes on closures rejected

A STRIKE call to prevent pit closures was made yesterday at the National Union of Mineworkers South Wales area conference at Porthcawl.

Ron Saint, secretary of Coedely lodge, said: 'Let us make sure that if one pit is closed in the British coalfield, we as the British miners, stand up and be counted and every pit in the coalfields grinds to a standstill until the Coal Board and the government reverse the decision.'

But the conference rejected this hard line and passed a resolution instructing the union's executive to oppose all closures where pits had not exhausted their coal reserves.

Mr Saint said it would be an indictment of the union if pit closures continued.

'We have made mistakes in the past by not fighting pit closures. Make the same mistake twice and there is no excuse whatsoever. Don't let this resolution before us today be a pious one. If we are sincere we will fight all future pit closures.'

Ten years ago in the industry there were 750,000 miners and 700 pits. Now there are 280 pits with 30,000 miners.

JOHN DAVIES, Minister for Trade, is visiting Iran for talks to boost Britain's exports to the country. He will have talks with the Shah and his prime minister. The Iranians want Britain to buy more of their goods to redress an unfavourable trade balance.

# MONTY JOHNSTONE

Michael Banda replies to an article by Monty Johnstone in the 'Morning Star' of April 18, 1972.



Airlie, Stalinist shop steward at UCS, confronts Stenhouse and Gilchrist at the yard gates and refuses them entry. A week later Airlie met Stenhouse to prepare to carve-up the yards.

## THE CASE HISTORY OF A STALINIST HUMBUG

### PART 5

The £35m grant to the ex-Upper Clyde Shipbuilders' yards could have been defined as a victory if the Tories were seriously determined all along not to subsidize the new company on any condition.

This however was not the government's position. On September 23, when John Davies issued his infamous ultimatum to UCS workers, he made it plain that 'the price of government "help" on the Clyde would be that workers would have to accept new wage rates and work practices.' ('Morning Star', August 24, 1971.)

This is precisely what happened.

What encouraged Davies to make these remarks was the obvious retreat of the UCS stewards from an all-out fight on UCS—i.e. to retain it as one unit, by agreeing to meet Stenhouse, the late boss of Govan-Linthouse in September 1971.

The meeting with Stenhouse was a symbolic act of betrayal because a week before (September 22) the UCS stewards prevented Stenhouse and Gilchrist from entering the Govan-Linthouse shipyard on the grounds that there would be no dialogue with the new company until certain conditions were met.

Recognition of Stenhouse was recognition of Govan-Linthouse and the abandonment of the original demand for the retention of four yards in one unit. With tongue firmly in cheek, Arthur Milligan reported the retreat of UCS stewards, led by McGarvey, the boilermakers' president:

'When it came to the final press conference today both Mr Stenhouse [sic] and Mr McGarvey expressed the view that good progress had been made.

'Mr McGarvey said: "I be-

lieve the first steps have been taken toward a final solution to keep the three yards open."

It was announced that consideration will now be given to the inclusion of Scotstoun Division in the proposed Govan-Linthouse unit, and the position of Clydebank division is to be the subject for further discussions with the government. Both Scotstoun and Clydebank yards are threatened with closure. . . .

'The descriptions of today's talks range from comments of "very helpful" to the stewards' "useful".

'Taking part were Mr Hugh Stenhouse and Mr A Gilchrist, respectively chairman and chief executive of the proposed Govan Shipbuilders Ltd. Mr Dan McGarvey and other officials of the shipbuilding and engineering unions and UCS shop stewards led by their chairman, Mr James Airlie. [Our emphasis.]

The meeting with Stenhouse, and the retreat from the four-yards policy, was supplemented by a similar somersault on the question of releasing ships even before the £35m had been paid and any agreement about the future of UCS had been reached. The retreat was turning into a rout and the rout into a farce.

This was exactly what Ridley wanted in his secret report: 'Detach Yarrow from UCS and allow it to be independent . . . bail out the rest of UCS . . . close one or even two of its three yards, appoint a new chairman and let it stand or fall on its own.'

The £35m was the reward the Tory government paid for this shameful retreat. What with the revaluation of the yen, the Industrial Relations Act, and the kind of discipline that Reid and Airlie were able to impose on UCS workers there was every prospect that not only Govan Shipbuilders—but also Marathon Manufacturing could look forward to a profitable year ahead.

The UCS grant was also

motivated by Tory desires which had nothing to do with the so-called 'substantial concessions' referred to by Johnstone. Once entry into the Common Market was secured by the renegacy of Jenkins and company in parliament the Tories realized that they could no longer delay with the subsidy to UCS. As E. V. Francis commented in a recent article in the 'Daily Telegraph':

'The government has also been concerned however to make the most of the opportunity to strengthen Britain's stake in shipbuilding before entry into the Common Market, when its freedom to subsidize, at least in the form of direct grants, will be curtailed.'

The author goes on to analyse the causes for the dramatic drop in Britain's share of world shipbuilding (from 40 per cent to 6 per cent in 20 years) and reveals the reasons for the Tories' last-ditch attempt to reorganize UCS.

'Britain's entry into an enlarged European Community opens up new possibilities. One is that British shipbuilders will be put on a footing similar to but more systematic than the rest, in the matter of subsidies and other forms of aid.

'Another is that the European Community will move towards the formulation of a common shipbuilding policy aimed at harmonizing investment programmes, price policies and rates of competition.'

It is obvious from this that the only answer to the Tories' policy of integrating British and European shipbuilding is to force the Tories to resign and get a Labour government which will nationalize without compensation and integrate shipbuilding with the associated steel, engineering and equipment suppliers' industries.

It is also obvious that Reid, Airlie and the Stalinist promoters are totally opposed to such a policy, and are prepared to go along with the Tories' plans.

Why should Reid oppose Tory policy anyway while Brezhnev supports the EEC and while the Italian Communist Party is represented at Brussels?

And, we might as well ask what about the workers? Didn't Reid say in Trafalgar Square that 'defeat' was not a word in the UCS vocabulary and that, 'you cannot negotiate redundancies'?

Reid is presently eating his own words. On Tuesday he said, when speaking about the takeover of Clydebank by Marathon: 'The real talks on the vital issues start tomorrow. These issues are redundancies

and dispute procedures.' ('Daily Telegraph', May 10, 1972.)

Marathon has said that it needs only 2,000 out of the 2,300 men left in Clydebank. (A year ago there were 3,200 men in the same yard.)

Even more ominous are the conditions being demanded by Marathon and the response of Reid and company.

Reid and Airlie have now set a new precedent in labour relations by signing a four-year labour agreement in Marathon (ex-Clydebank) which, while omitting to include a four-year, no-strike pledge and a legally-binding clause, nevertheless accepts the hated and reactionary principle of arbitration.

Nowhere in the agreement is there any guarantee that the present labour force of 2,200 will be maintained under the new company.

Mr Eldon Nuss, senior vice-president of Marathon Manufacturing, praised the co-operation of the unions and added:

'Extended conversations with union representatives and shop stewards have convinced us they are honourable men who will live up to their agreements. . . .'

Mr Nuss has no need to worry at all. The men of 'peaceful co-existence' will see him through. If the Stalinists are allowed to proceed unchallenged, then Clydeside will soon become the centre of the most profitable and most intensively exploited ship and rig yards in Europe.

[A comprehensive analysis of this subject is contained in a forthcoming pamphlet written by Stephen Johns.]

No account of Reid would be complete or truthful without a comment on his incredibly reactionary beliefs—(no doubt shared by the party and Johnstone)—on morality and religion expressed in his Rectorial address. (See last Thursday's Workers Press, pp. 6 and 7.)

The essence of his speech was an appeal to both sides of industry to uphold so-called Christian virtues so that the capitalist system could be made more humane, more 'decent'.

It was a plea for the reconciliation of the irreconcilable interests of hostile classes and an attempt to transcend alienation not through conflict and revolution as Marx predicted, but through its opposite—capitulation and fatalistic resignation. Like every good Christian, Reid believes that the meek shall inherit the earth and that the workers must render unto Caesar what is Caesar's.

It is not surprising that vir-

tually every reactionary cleric in Britain supports the UCS leader. Here is but one example from a letter to 'The Guardian' from the Reverend K. Wood of St Boniface Vicarage in Plymouth:

'Mr L. J. Christie is right when he says that Mr J. Reid's Rectorial Address might have been spoken by a bishop, but he is wrong when he says that it is not. It is a fact of our age that when bishops speak few notice or listen, but when union men speak they do. However I am quite content that the Holy Spirit should use James Reid to speak for him and I would think that the bishops are not complaining.' (Nor are the bankers!)

Johnstone, it seems, is not the only Stalinist who has found his vocation!

The vicar's letter of appreciation of Reid's Calvinist revivalism is a timely reminder of the correctness of Marx's judgement of Christianity—and its present day apostles:

'The social principles of Christianity preach cowardice, self-contempt, abasement, submission, dejection, in a word all the qualities of the canaille; and the proletariat, not wishing to be treated as canaille, needs its courage, its self-feeling, its pride and its sense of independence more than its bread.' (Marx and Engels 'On Religion', p. 84.)

The duty of every Marxist today is to combine the implacable defence of historical truth and the scientific principles of the class struggle with a ruthless struggle against every expression of mysticism and the religions sanctification of compromise.

In this sense the refutation of Johnstone is an integral part of the struggle to smash Stalinism and liberate the British working class, from reformism so that it will fulfil its revolutionary tasks.

In conclusion: On the strength of this evidence, we should like to appeal to the Isaac Deutscher Memorial Prize Jury seriously to reconsider Johnstone's political credentials.

Whatever disagreements we may have had with the late I. Deutscher, the Trotskyists always respected the integrity and conscientiousness of his scholarship.

Mr Johnstone's method is the negation of this tradition within the labour movement. It is the method of the political counterfeiter, distorter and unprincipled calumniator.

It is high time that the British labour movement settled its account once and for all with this political hack.

CONCLUDED

# HOPELESS LIBERALISM IN ANGELA'S DEFENCE CASE

The Angela Davis trial will be wound up next week and a verdict by the San Jose jury is expected by Thursday.

The defence came abruptly to an end two days ago when Miss Davis and her lawyers decided to call only 11 of their possible 30 witnesses.

For the working class in the United States and internationally the defence of Miss Davis has taken a disturbing turn in the past week.

It began when the Chief Prosecutor Albert Harris, Junior, ended his case with the words: 'The people rest.'

Miss Davis's lawyer was immediately on his feet demanding that the charges of murder, kidnap and conspiracy be immediately dismissed by Judge Richard E. Arnason, Junior. Her lawyer, Leo Branton, was quite right to enter such a plea—because the state has completely failed to bring any hard evidence to prove she committed any of the alleged offences.

But in seeking dismissal of the charges Branton made not a single political point. He made not the slightest attempt to expose the real nature of the state case—that it is a cynical frame-up aimed at black militants, communists and the working class.

When the prosecution ended, Branton got to his feet and said: 'My initial reaction when the prosecution ended its case was to say, "What, you have kept this woman in jail for 16 months, subjected her to the agony and terror of these criminal charges and that is your case? You mean that's all you have?'

'After seven weeks of trial, 100 witnesses and 200 pieces of evidence. You've proven a hell of a case against Jonathan Jackson. . . .'

(Miss Davis, the 28-year-old university lecturer and Communist Party member is accused of conspiring with Jonathan Jackson to seize hostages in Marin County courtroom of Superior Court Judge Harold Haley planning to exchange them for San Quentin convict, George Jackson, Jonathan's elder brother. Instead, four people were killed in a shoot-out with police outside the court during which Jonathan, Judge Haley and two other prisoners were killed. George Jackson, one of the Soledad Brothers, was shot dead by his warders a year later.)

Having opened his attack in this limp vein, Branton then proceeded to crusade against the nasty behaviour of the prosecutor.

It's the responsibility of the prosecution to see that justice is done and for justice to be done, he declared. This being the case, the prosecutor should move for the dismissal of the case and thus 'return some dignity to the office of prosecution'.

He then railed against Harris for 'subjecting the people of California to millions of dollars in costs and this defendant and everybody else to all the worry and aggravation of a useless prosecution'.

The theatrical Branton then placed himself in the jury box where he announced: 'If I had been in the jury box, I would have wanted to turn to the prosecution to say: "That's all you have? Against Angela Davis all you have proven is she is a warm, articulate human being and she has love



and compassion, yes, for George Jackson, for all humanity and for black people particularly'.

This is a defence Stalinist-style! This mawkish statement capitulates completely to the state's supposition that Miss Davis was involved in the Marin County kidnapping as a means to free George Jackson, 'the man she loved'.

This 'crime of passion' theory, which the California press is lapping up, is contemptible. Any political defence of Miss Davis would make no concessions whatsoever to this grotesque distortion of the truth.

Yet on another occasion in the past week Branton has made concessions to the state by allowing himself and his client to be drawn into this romantic flytrap. Referring to the letters from Miss Davis to George Jackson, Branton said:

'It becomes more incredible each time I hear it that Mr Harris should base his case on these letters. There is no mention anywhere in these letters of any criminal act whatsoever,

either in the early letters or the later diary. Not one word.

Then he goes on: 'All the letters show is a deep-warm, personal, moving relationship between one human being and another. I wish all human beings could show such love for each other.'

It took the curt words of Prosecutor Harris to put an end to the flabby blusterings of the defence. When asked to reply to the defence submission he came swiftly to the point:

'We think our case is not only sufficient to sustain a conviction on appeal, we think that the evidence compels a conviction.'

Miss Davis, he said, is charged with 'a crime that, in damage to human life and the system of administration of justice, has no parallel'.

When Harris resumed his seat, Judge Arnason told Branton: 'Be prepared, Mr Branton, to call your first witness Thursday morning.'

When the court adjourned, observers got their first real indication of the paralysed state of the defence case.

Asked if he could name his first witness, Branton replied: 'No, I still don't know what the order of proof will be. If you're asking me do I think we have to put on a case, my answer is no, I don't know. If you're asking me if we will put on a case, my answer is that I do not know.'

When the court resumed another defence counsel, Howard Moore, asked for an adjournment over the weekend. Reluctantly Judge Arnason agreed.

Outside the court Moore explained to the press: 'We have reached the position after careful analysis that if we alter our trial position we will have a substantial amount of time—and save the state some of the millions of taxpayers' dollars?'

'There is a substantial possibility we won't go forward with any witnesses.'

At another press conference Branton was asked whom he intended to call.

'I can't tell you. 'Are you going to call Miss Davis to the stand?' he was

asked.

'I don't know—because we have to decide if we want to put her on in her own defence.'

'Have you decided?'

'No,' Branton replied.

Branton and Moore's lethargy about the defence is conscious and deliberate. Although they did eventually put 11 people into the witness box—but not Miss Davis—they largely regarded the defence case as irrelevant. This is because they are basing themselves on the wholly optimistic vision that because the state's case is so flimsy no court will convict their client.

In other words these legal gentlemen and their friends in the Communist Party are operating under the well known Stalinist delusion that there is fairness in the courts of 'justice'.

The defence does have a responsibility, legally and politically to the working class to use every opportunity to conduct a political defence, exposing this trial as an attack on the basic democratic rights of the working class.



# NEW BREED OF ARMY POLITICIANS

BY IAN YEATS  
The voice of the army is being heard increasingly in British politics.

Colin ('Mad Mitch') Mitchell, ex-Colonel of the Argyles, changed uniform openly and got himself elected to parliament as Tory MP for Aberdeenshire West.

issues far removed from the constitutional perspectives of the standing army. And they do so with the approval of the Tory press. 'Mad Mitch' is always good copy for Fleet St and press and radio were all but falling over themselves last week to provide potted profiles of Gen Sir Walter Walker, ex-C-in-C NATO, North Europe. Since the Tories came to power in June 1970 the services have enjoyed access to

the ear of government far more early and sympathetically than under Labour. Although there has been little change in the overseas role and strength of British troops, all three services have benefited from a partial re-equipment boom. As slump has deepened the army has expanded recruitment in every branch, and corps and regiments Labour put under the axe have blossomed.

In many employment offices from Glasgow to South-East London often the only jobs advertised on the vacancies posters are in the services. Desperation forces a number of unemployed working-class youth to join 'the professionals'. Taken together with the build-up of the armed forces and the unprecedented incursions of certain officers into politics, Gen Walker's views are of interest. He published a long article in the May issue of the anti-communist 'East-West Digest', reprinted from 'The British Army Review'. The 'Digest' is circulated gratis to all MPs. The article purports to look forward on the world political situation until the mid-1980s and it almost certainly reflects the thoughts of others among the army's top brass. Indeed Christopher Walker noted in 'The Times', May 23, 'The evidence points to a growing consensus among senior ranks that the army will devote more attention towards countering subversion of one form and another. On this

there is widespread agreement on the ideas of Brig Frank Kitson, soon to take over as head of the influential School of Infantry at Warminster. Maj-Gen Administration Ronald Buckland at the new UK land forces HQ at Wilton told 'The Times' reporter: 'The most discerning of us are extremely depressed about the way things are going. We seem nearer and nearer to anarchy all the time.' There is no doubt that more than at any other time in its history the military bureaucracy is identifying closely with the fortunes of the bourgeois state. Added to the list of requirements for military readiness to deal with an enemy—training and equipment—Walker significantly adds 'mental preparedness'. He makes it clear that in his view it is not merely other

## IDEOLOGY

states which are today's enemy but ideology—without and within—capable not merely of defeating the bourgeois state, but of destroying it. In this context his phrase 'We are paid to defend our country and are the professional advisers to the government on all defence matters' assumes an ominous ring. The 'Digest' article appears simultaneously with Walker's comments on the 'no-go' areas of Ulster. He makes it plain that what is at stake in these areas is the bourgeoisie's very right to rule. declared aim was to subvert Ireland and convulse Britain'. Walker is as much obsessed with communist subversion—the enemy within—as with what he claims to be the mounting communist threat from abroad. Co-existence and force are seen as but different facets of the USSR's single intention of colouring Europe red and by 1985 Walker visualizes Scandinavia neutralized by Soviet influence and central and western Europe surrounded by a ring of communist steel from the Balkans to the Atlantic. Typical of the explanation for all Franco-type take-overs Walker notes: 'Western governments, according to their political position and standards of integrity, concealed this awful situation from their people in varying degrees because it would have been political suicide to have been anything like frank.' Walker—and probably many others in the army—slip into the classical military belief that they alone are untainted by the corruption of politicians and can therefore save the nation

## SUBVERSION

from the evil which seeks to destroy it. As in the case of Weimar the alleged corruption of politicians becomes all the more apparent as the effects of slump chop the middle ground from under the bourgeois politicians' feet and they thrash about more or less helplessly in mid-air. At this point the masters of capital have only one path to tread, but only the military can follow it. The hypothetical encirclement of Europe by overwhelming Soviet military strength leads Walker to some interesting conclusions about the Common Market. Once the USSR's intentions were made clear to governments—Berlin treaties notwithstanding—France rejoined NATO and Spain was admitted to turn Europe into an integrated anti-communist fortress. One effect of these warlike preparations against the Soviet Union was that '... a common conscription policy helped Britain to solve the problem of its wayward youth for whom a variety of optional services to society were open as altern-



Far left: 'Mad Mitch' of the Argylla plays war games on a street corner in the Crater, Aden. It was the night this regiment was forced to leave the district by Aden's guerrilla fighters. The Argylla had held this centre of nationalist rebellion for five months in 1967. Top: Mitchell. Above: an ecstatic Enoch Powell meets the new hero of British Imperialism. It was 1970 and 'Mad Mitch' was now an addition to the Tory back bench. The two 'comrades' are pictured at the Savoy before the 'Man of the Year' luncheon. Left Gen Sir Walter Walker.

atives to military service'. Although Walker's attention is centred on Europe, the spread of communism there operates in tandem with massive Chinese communist gains in Asia only checked by a rejuvenated Japan. Europe—with Japan in the east—is to be built up as the 'custodian of western civilization wherever [communism] seeks to spread its evil influence'. In line with this objective it is worth noting that the fascist regime of the colonels in Greece acceded to power with the open connivance of NATO. Walker's most important point comes at the end of his article—a point which springs the military squarely into the centre of the political stage. How can the capitalist class, which is a minority in any population, develop these

## SUPPORT?

policies against communism and for the defence of the bourgeois order without mass support? Walker says: 'NATO and the nations of the West have allowed the gap to widen between the tiny minority of the public who do study defence problems and the vast majority whose minds are centred exclusively on their own day-to-day business. Is it not a fundamental democratic principle that people must know the truth if they are to support a cause? If the voters were to be told the truth they would then certainly talk to the politicians in the language they best understand—votes on election day.' But if, by Walker's own admission, the politicians will not tell 'the truth', then who will—the military? The career of Italian Admiral Gino Birindelli, ex-commander of NATO's Mediterranean fleet, almost certainly points to the shape of some of the things to come. Birindelli left NATO and immediately joined the MSI—the Italian fascist party.

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

# FOOD AND POPULATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

## PART SIX

**In the years up to the 1914-1918 war, there was an unprecedented leap forward in United States' agriculture and heavy industry.**

Millions of acres were opened up for farming through irrigation and reclamation projects. But little enough of the new wealth accrued to the working class. Jack London wrote in 1910 of the contradiction between the enormously high labour productivity of workers and the poverty of their condition:

'If modern man's food and shelter-getting efficiency is a thousand times greater than that of the caveman, why then, are there 10 million people in the United States today who are not properly sheltered and properly fed? If the children of the caveman did not have to work, why then, today, in the United States are 80,000 children working out their lives in the textile factories alone?' ('Revolution')

In 1915 North Dakota farmers denounced millers and railroads as thieves and demanded state ownership of the grain elevators, mills and packing houses.

Four years later, in 1919, the capitalist economist J. M. Keynes explaining in the aftermath of the death and destruction of World War I, that rapid depression of the standard of life in Europe to the point of starvation would follow because of its high density of population!

In fact, it was during the war that food production had been made a priority in Britain, Canada, USA, South America and Australia. Millions of pounds and dollars were invested in developing and producing new methods and machinery. It was the continued operations of these new forces of production which, after the war, rapidly lead to gluts of food products, flooded world markets, and caused the collapse of farm prices.

Between 1917 and 1924 3 million acres were withdrawn from cultivation in the USA and farm population fell by 1.2 million farmers and workers.

Food Aid, loans and credits were sent by the United States government to alleviate some of the starvation in Europe following the war, a process which helped to cut the US surpluses. President Wilson told the US capitalist class, frightened by the Russian Revolution: 'Food relief is now the key to the whole European situation and to the solution of peace. Bolshevism is steadily advancing westward . . . it cannot be stopped by force, but it can be stopped by food.'

To deal with the 1920-1921

agricultural crisis the Macnary-Haugen plan for buying up surpluses was devised in the United States but voted down by Congress. A record cotton crop in 1926 and continued wheat over-production led to the plan being voted by Congress in 1927 and 1928.

It was vetoed on both occasions by President Coolidge as 'impractical, unconstitutional class legislation'.

In 1929, a Federal Farm Board was set up to try to solve the over-supply problem which, however, continued over into the next decade and became even worse.

By the late 1920s a leading English agriculturalist could state: 'In the nine years of peace the efforts of the government have made England a dumping-ground for surplus products of the primary producers of the world.' (Address to the Royal Society of Arts, 1927.)

Thus the subsequent 'depression' of the 1930s was not built on insufficiency of goods or means of production to meet the needs of the population. On the contrary, hunger and unemployment existed side by side with jam-packed warehouses and rusting machinery. However, here was a sure period for the dusting-off of the Malthus theory once more. This time none other than the 'Daily Herald', official organ of the Labour Party, laid the cause of starvation and misery in Asia not at the door of capitalism, of imperial domination and plunder, but at that of population:

'There is only too much evidence in India and China, for example, that the overcrowding of a too big population brings with it appalling conditions of misery. Either an unendurable suffering or the "natural checks" of famine and pestilence and a high death rate.

'Or, on the other hand, a deliberate and conscious lowering and controlling of the birth rate. These are the alternatives that face humanity.' ('Daily Herald', August 8, 1932.)

In the USA the 1929 Wall St crash had caught many farmers with unsold crops. The situation was made worse by a bumper world harvest in 1930. The US Farm Board pleaded with farmers to cut acreages by 30 per cent, but, believing that the government was buying up surpluses at some sort of price, farmers actually increased output to try and improve their incomes.

A drought in some of the Southern States did little to reduce surpluses but considerably worsened the position of the small farmers who were impoverished and ruined. Bar-



ricades were put up in farm districts and lawyers who tried to serve foreclosure notices got short shrift from the local population.

The US Senate donated \$25m to the American Red Cross 'for the relief of human starvation'. This was blocked by the government Administration. Eventually, on December 20, 1930, a \$20m fund for 'agricultural rehabilitation' was set up to give loans to farmers. The loans only went to people who owned property. Farm tenants and others got nothing.

In 1933, massive dust-storms stretching from Texas to Canada wrenched the topsoil from the over-worked land and impoverished thousands of small farmers. In the South, black and white sharecroppers united in the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union to fight for better living standards and against mass evictions. Banks taking over from ruined farmers often put in machines and managers to tear a few last harvests from the soil, so contributing to its final collapse.

In his novel 'The Grapes of Wrath', John Steinbeck wrote of this period and of the tenant farmers who tell the men from the land-owning banks and finance companies: 'But you'll kill the land with cotton. We know. We've got to take cotton quickly before the land dies. Then we'll sell the land. Lots of families back East would like to own a piece of land.'

The tenant men looked up alarmed. 'But what'll happen to us? How'll we eat?' 'You'll have to get off the land. The ploughs'll go through the door-

yard.'

But, in other areas, mechanization and hybrid grains used by the rich farmers produced 'sensational' increases in yield.

Eventually, an act was passed replacing the buying of surpluses with crop restriction as a basis of payment. An army of agricultural agents drove through farm counties to persuade farmers to plough up crops and cut production of wheat, cotton, maize, hogs, rice, milk and tobacco. Out of 40 million acres of cotton alone, 10½ million acres were ploughed under in 1933. World War II finally helped to cut down the over-supply, and the Malthusians got into gear once more.

In the early 1940s a book appeared in the United States advocating sterilization for people on Poor Relief. William Vogt maintained in 1948: 'One of the greatest national assets of Chile, perhaps the greatest asset, is its high death rate . . . the greatest tragedy that China would suffer, at the present time, would be a reduction in her death rate.'

In Britain, at this time, another consideration was being debated. A Royal Commission of 1949 was set up to look into the dangers of population decline and ended up advocating family allowances, tax concessions and special social services to mothers as an encouragement to have larger families.

In both world wars and in economic periods when workers were for a time in short supply, 'experts' have written works proving that population was in serious decline. A Penguin book published in 1940, written by a banking and cur-

**An impoverished Californian migrant farmer leaves his dust-ruined homestead in 1935.**

rency academic, explained that a fall in the birth rate in Britain would 'inescapably' bring about changes leading to a fall in population from 48 million in 1940 to 46 million in 1960 and down to 40½ million in 1980.

Prime Minister and Tory leader Winston Churchill made a radio broadcast in 1943 about the widespread alarm over the declining birth rate. The need was 'to encourage our people by every means to have large families' and to arrive at 'well-thought-out plans for helping parents to contribute this lifespring to the community'.

The predicted falling birth rate trend did not come about, but neither did a fall in production. By 1955 heavy surpluses of wheat, butter, rice and wine were once more plaguing the United States, Canada and Western Europe.

In 1961, surplus food from USA was being diverted into a 'National School Lunch Programme' and Congress offered farmers incentives to invest in 'recreation' for city holiday-makers.

In 1966, one American professor of history commented: ' . . . almost every other year up to 1960 at least seemed to be cursed with record-breaking harvests due to new scientific methods which make each acre much more productive than before.' ('Contemporary America', by Harvey Wish.)

CONTINUED ON MONDAY





Two survivors of the Sunshine silver mine disaster, who were rescued after being trapped for seven days

# MINERS TRAPPED IN A SMOKE-FILLED TOMB

## US ROUND-UP

**'The only thing we propose in the line of safety laws is that they provide penalties for employees.'**

This was Robert Launhardt's callous verdict on the mining disaster at Kellogg, Idaho, which killed nearly 100 of his workers.

The tragedy occurred when the Sunshine Silver Mine caught fire and became a smoke-filled tomb for the workers. But the facts show that the deaths need not have occurred if the company had kept to a minimum safety programme.

The blaze was caused by the spontaneous combustion of a stack of old timbers stored in an unused underground cavity. Company officials say the fire could have been burning for a number of days but was undetected until pressure collapsed a bulkhead, gusting deadly smoke and poisonous carbon monoxide into the shaft and escape routes of the mine.

This cloud of gas was a killer because the men had inadequate breathing equipment and had not been taught how to use the apparatus.

Now there is widespread anger among the surviving miners and their families. One, Del Kitchen, who lost his father and brother, says when the disaster occurred the men did not know where the evacuation routes were since the management had never drilled its workers in fire procedure.

But the biggest cause of death was the lack of resuscitators, plus the fact that the men had never been shown how to operate the few that were available.

Del was lucky. He managed to get hold of one and find out how it worked. This, however, was small comfort—the resuscitators only lasted for ten minutes.

Other men died in the hoist that was carrying them from the lower part of the mine.

But there was no breathing apparatus in the hoist and most of the operators died from smoke inhalation.

Ira Sliger, a hoist operator who did survive, commented: 'Oxygen was one thing we didn't have. If we had air running into that cab where the controls are located the men would be alive yet.'

The United Steel Workers of America has sent in a team of safety men and attorneys to investigate and a meeting of this task force and the local union officials have decided to press for a Congressional investigation. They are wary of the Interior Department's investigation since this government agency had close links with big business.

R. M. Helm, a Federal Bureau of Mines official, said that inspection of Sunshine Silver Mines revealed that the safety precautions were average if not a little better than average.

He's probably right — so illustrating the appalling disregard for human life in the race for profit.

The company's own statement on the disaster are tribute to their brutal and callous outlook.

Launhardt dismissed protests over the lack of safety drilling with cavalier explanation:

'We haven't tried to teach our hourly employees how to use them [the resuscitators], but if we did we would have to train them again a couple of months later.'

Carl Burke, another company official, summed up the extent of the management's concern over lives. He said he was sorry about the 'unexpected' disaster and that the company was interested in safety: 'We don't like to see persons injured. Besides a mine can't operate effectively with too many accidents.'

## HIGHER RISK OF CANCER

**Howard University scientists have found that blacks in America run a much higher risk of cancer than whites. They blame this on their environment, which exposes them to carcinogenic substances.**

Federal health officials have backed the findings with their own findings based on a nine-area cancer survey.

The Howard scientists found from 1949 to 1967 that the death rate through cancer among non-whites rose from 138 to 182 per 100,000 of the population—a 32-per-cent increase. In comparison the death rate among whites rose a tiny 3 per cent.

The National Cancer Institute's third national survey made last year supports these findings. It found that the cancer incidence among blacks was 'substantially higher' than among whites.

The federal study also found that black women suffered from cancer of the cervix more than white women, but that they had a lower rate of cancer of the breast and uterus. Whites in general had more leukaemia, skin cancer, brain cancer and cancer of the ovaries.

According to the Howard finding, the higher cancer rate should be attributed to the more deprived and polluted environments of the blacks.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## 'Think tanks' in the unions

Further item on the journalistic career of Monty Meth, former member of the Communist Party, now industrial editor of the right-wing 'Daily Mail', owned by the Rothermeres.

Meth tells us in his column this week: 'Almost unnoticed amid the clamour and recrimination over the Industrial Relations Act, a quiet revolution is taking place in the back rooms of Britain's most powerful unions. Already, in four major disputes, the bosses have noticed a tremendous change in the negotiating room.

'For the unions, fast losing their old cloth cap image, have started tapping Britain's traditional resources of top intellectual talent—the "think tanks" of our universities.'

Who does Meth unveil to stand up this cliché-ridden notion. Read on:

'Leif Mills, 36, is an example of the new breed of union official.'

The obscure Mr Mills is the only name cited in Meth's column. And what union does this abrasive, boy genius work for?

'An ex-Balliol man, he [Mills] takes over the £4,000-a-year job as leading the National Union of Bank employees this week.'

Trade unionists will note that NUBE is one of the few unions to rush to register under the Industrial Relations Act.

Other ex-Balliol boys are Edward Heath and Roy Jenkins. They are also old Balliol boys the trade union movement can well do without, Mr Meth.

Below: Heath and Jenkins



## BOOKS

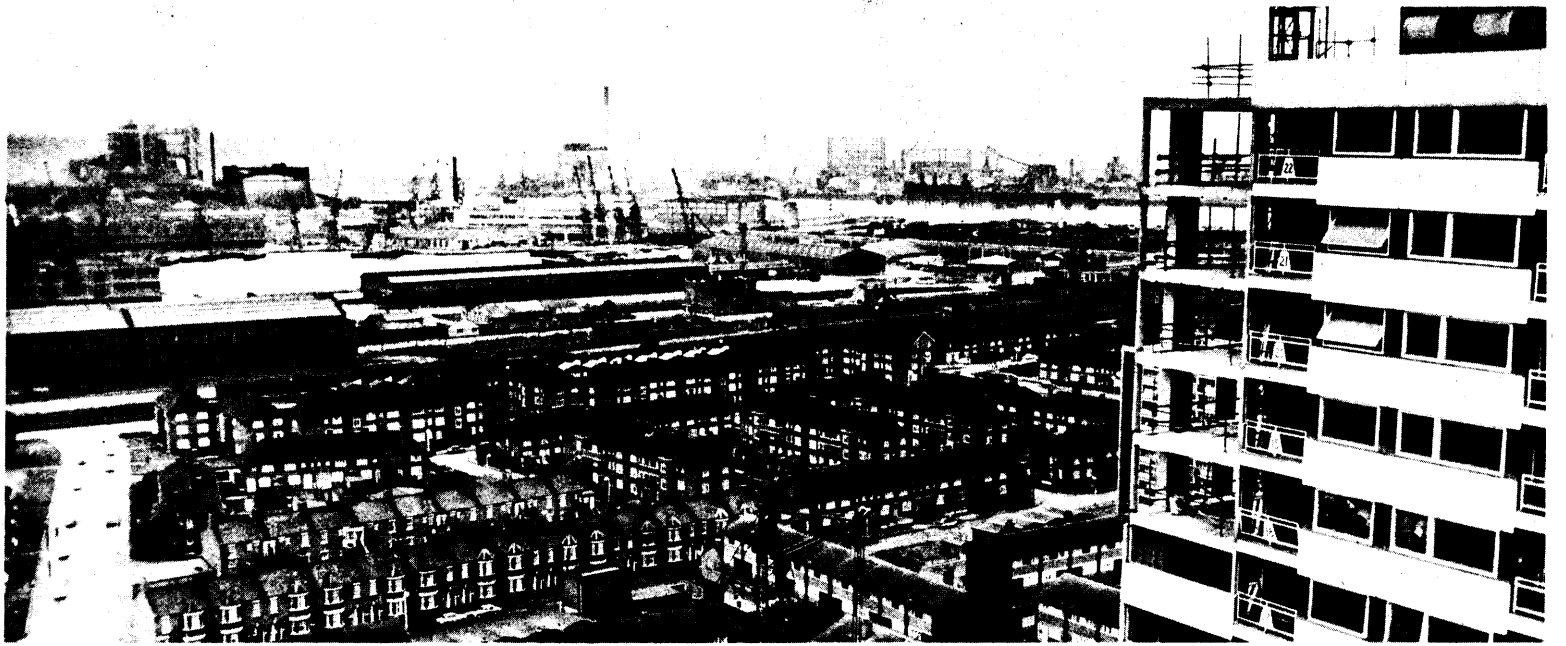


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# Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

Reconstruction on the upper floors of Ronan Point tower block in Newham. In the background are the docks where many of the tenants already in struggle face a day-to-day fight in their jobs



## Newham docked in two major struggles

# Labour can't 'minimize' effects of £12-a-week rents

BY PHILIP WADE Our Housing Correspondent

**BILL CHAPMAN** is involved in two major struggles to defend his basic rights. As secretary of the Newham Tenants' Action Committee he is fighting against the Tory 'fair rents' Bill. And as a dock shop steward he is facing the Tory onslaught on the trade unions.

The action committee was formed on the initiative of West Ham Trades Council in East London, of which Mr Chapman is secretary. It includes delegates from three constituency Labour Parties, trade union branches and various tenants' associations in the area.

Just over a month ago the Labour-controlled council voted to implement the Tory 'fair rents' Bill. Twelve Labour councillors and one alderman voted against.

On May 8 these 13 were disciplined by the Labour group. They refused to go in one by one so the 13 were told together that they were suspended from the Labour group for defying the whip. The action committee demonstrated in their support outside.

Said Mr Chapman: 'These 13 got out and spoke to their constituents and found everyone was against the "fair rents" Bill. Now we're asking all the trade union branches and so on to support the action of these councillors.

'Did the majority vote for implementation because they wanted to keep in with the hierarchy? In any case, we had been hoping all along that the other 21 Labour councils in London would refuse to implement. But they haven't.

'The majority are saying that they will minimize the effects of the Bill when they implement it. I've asked Labour MPs if that could be done and haven't got an answer. And I don't believe you can minimize the thing.

'The Bill will put council housing on a profit basis. It brings in market value,' said Mr Chapman, a Transport and General Workers' Union steward on the Victoria dock, London.

'In 1921 local authorities embarked on providing homes for those in need. The Tories want to abolish this. Properties will be assessed as a means of investment.

'And bearing in mind the maximum rebate is £8, what sort of rents do they have in mind? I think they are talking about rents in the region of £12 or £14 a week.

'It is a vicious attack on our standard of living by the Tory government. As these vital issues are raised we're beginning to rouse the people.'

What are the issues involved in fighting the Bill and the Tories? Can the law of the land be defied?

'The argument I would use is this. During the Nuremberg trials after the war we asked the Nazis why they obeyed the law. Yet now we are told we mustn't fight bad law.

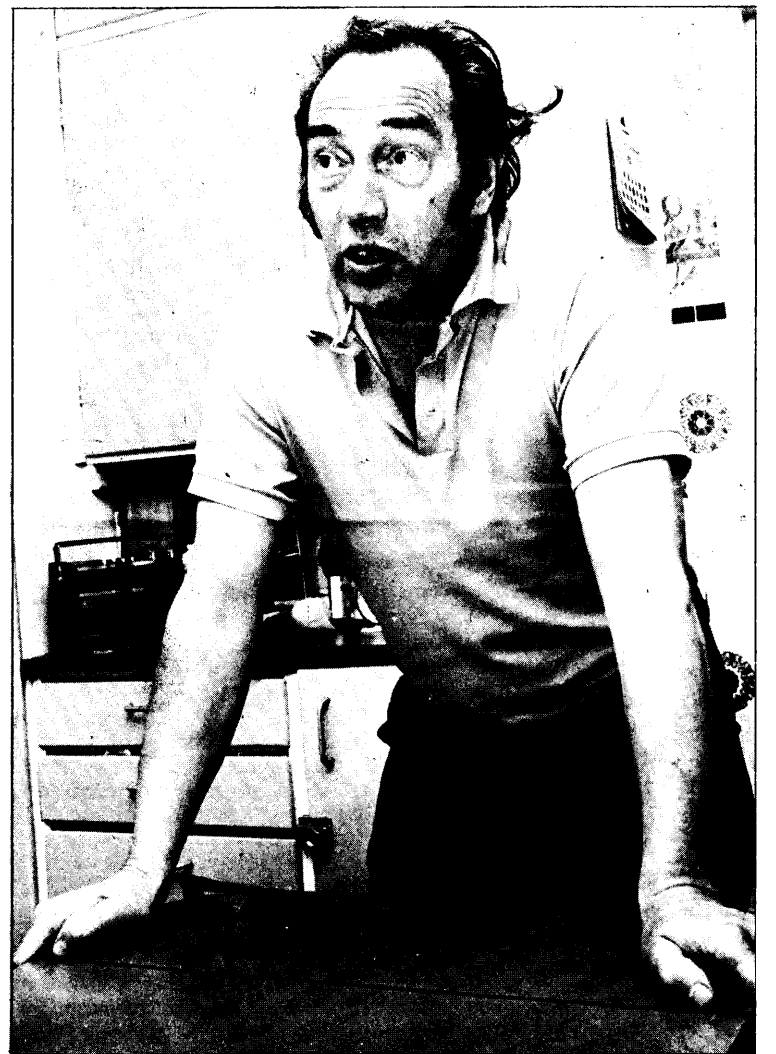
'We have got the position in reverse now. The view of the working man is that we must fight bad law and I support that.

'Look at the Tories with the Industrial Relations Act. The Tories say there has to be a ballot on a decision taken by a properly-constituted executive committee.

'Yet when we ask for a referendum on the Common Market that is out of the question they say.

'Donaldson sees the law in the way the Tories want to see it. What he says, every single word, is the gospel.

'We thought all these struggles we had in the past, like those on the docks, were behind us.



BILL CHAPMAN secretary of the tenants' action committee

One could never have dreamt of so many things the Tories would take away in the short time they've been in.

'Now the Rent Bill aims to make people jump into buying their own property. But when those earning £3,500 a year can't get a mortgage, what chance do we have?

'The working class is faced with many issues which are all a single fight. Let's remove this government as soon as possible. It is the most reactionary one we've ever seen.

'Non-implementation of the Bill is our first line of defence. Of course the Tories won't concede on it even if that does happen.

'But parts of this borough have been Labour for 50 years and they should take a stand on the question.

'The rebels are not those 13 who voted against the Whip, but the others who are against the

party line and the whole labour movement.

'Of course the Labour government will have to repeal the Bill. But the Labour Party doesn't take too much notice of conference decisions.

'Nevertheless they absolutely have to nationalize land, the banks, insurance companies and building societies.

'We know two-thirds of rent income goes in interest charges. If we can eliminate this we could put housing on the basis it should be—providing homes for those who need them.

'If they don't carry out these pledges we will have to pull our sponsorship out and put in others who will do these things.

'As far as our action committee goes we will carry on the fight even if the Bill does become law. It's a bad law and we have the democratic right to fight such law,' said Mr Chapman.

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## Scottish paper mill closes

ABOUT 450 workers in a northern Scotland paper mill lost their jobs yesterday when the firm announced it would not reopen after the Witsun holiday.

The Devonvale mill, run by Samuel Jones Ltd, is part of the giant Wiggins Teape Group and was the largest employers in Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire.

As the recession hit the paper trade last year, Devonvale ran into difficulties and sacked 200. Only two weeks ago Clackmannanshire job prospects slumped with the NCB announcement of plans to close its Scotland (North) area HQ at Alloa.

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 12.45 London. 9.00 Film: 'Dark Eyes of London'. 10.30 London. 11.25 University challenge. 11.50 Weather.

**WESTWARD. As Channel except:** 11.40 Gus Honeybun. 11.45 Rupert Bear. 11.55 Lone Ranger. 12.20 Lidsville. 11.50 Faith for life. 11.55 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 11.15 All our yesterdays. 11.45 Thunderbirds. 12.42 Weather. 12.45 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Homicidal'. 10.30 London. 11.25 News. 11.35 Strange report. 12.30 Weather. Epilogue.

**ANGLIA:** 11.00 All our yesterdays. 11.25 Film: 'Tarzan and the Leopard Woman'. 12.45 London. 5.10 Flintstones. 5.40 London. 5.45 London. 9.00 Train now standing. 9.30 Jason King. 11.30 London. 11.25 Film: 'Witchcraft'.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 12.10 Stars. 12.15 Captain Scarlet. 12.45 London. 5.10 Sale of the century. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Highway 301'. 10.30 London. 11.25 University challenge. 11.55 Who knows?

**ULSTER:** 12.30 Enchanted house. 12.45 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.05 Film: 'The Tinger'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Theatre.

**YORKSHIRE:** 11.00 All our yesterdays. 11.25 Make a wish. 11.50 Skippy. 12.15 Lidsville. 12.45 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'McCloud'. 10.25 If it moves . . . 10.30 London. 11.25 Edgar Wallace. 12.20 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 11.50 Woobinda. 12.15 Secret service. 12.45 London. 5.10 Will Sonnett. 5.40 News. 5.45 London. 11.25 Danger man.

**TYNE TEES:** 11.00 All our yes-



'Sounds for Saturday' on BBC 2 tonight are provided by the multi-racial group Osibisa, who play mainly African tribal music combined with rock. Drummer Teddy Osel leads the group.

terdays. 11.25 Bushboy. 11.50 Arthur. 12.15 Lidsville. 12.45 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 London. 9.00 Film: 'McCloud'. 10.25 If it moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Strange report. 12.20 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 11.40 Beagan gaidhlig. 1.55 Clapperboard. 12.15 Tom Grattan's war. 12.45 London. 5.10 Roadrunner. 5.40 Lon-

don. 11.25 Late call. 11.30 Man in a suitcase.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.55 Coastguards. 12.15 Yoga. 12.45 London. 5.10 Rovers. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Fifth Man in a String Quartet'. 10.20 If it moves . . . 10.30 London. 11.25 University challenge.

# TV

## BBC 1

10.00-10.30 Wie bitte? 11.20 Weather. 11.25 Cricket. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 International football preview. 1.20, 1.55, 2.20 Racing from Haydock Park. 1.35 World heavyweight championship. 2.10, 4.50 Cricket. 2.35 International football. Scotland v England. 4.50 Final score. 5.05 Whale safari. 5.35 News and weather. 5.50 Dr. Who.

6.15 **WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY.** The Boy Who Stole the Elephant.

7.00 **FILM: 'THE PRISONER OF ZENDA.'** Stewart Granger, Deborah Kerr, James Mason. An Englishman's striking resemblance to a king involves him in a plot against the throne.

8.35 **THE TWO RONNIES.** Ronnie Corbett, Ronnie Barker.

9.20 **A MAN CALLED IRON-SIDE.** Backfire.

10.10 **NEWS and weather.**

10.25 **INTERNATIONAL MATCH OF THE DAY.** Scotland v England, Wales v N Ireland.

11.55 **Weather.**

## ITV

10.45 Joe 90. 11.15 Sesame street. 12.15 Jackson five. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of sport. 12.55 On the ball. 1.20 They're off! 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 Racing from Newmarket. 1.45, 2.15 Racing from Doncaster. 2.35 International football. Scotland v England. 3.00 Kick-off. 3.45 Half-time. 3.55 Second half. 4.40 Final whistle.

4.55 Results service. 5.10 The train now standing. . . . 5.40 News. 5.45 Sale of the century.

6.15 **THE ROLF HARRIS SHOW.** Guest Buddy Greco, Christine Holmes, New World, Rod Hull and His Emu, The Veterans.

7.00 **NEW SCOTLAND YARD.** Shock Tactics.

8.00 **SATURDAY VARIETY.** Kopykats with Tony Curtis.

9.00 **FILM: 'SEVEN WOMEN FROM HELL.'** Patricia Owens, Yvonne Craig.

10.30 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

10.40 **THE SCIENTIST.** Mars—Now That The Dust has Settled.

11.25 **OUT OF THE SHADOW INTO THE SUN.** Patrick Allen.

12.10 **ANTHOLOGY OF LOVE.** Love Bade Me Welcome.

## BBC 2

9.55-1.00 Open University. 3.00 Film: 'Treasure of the Golden Condor'. Cornel Wilde. A French nobleman looks for treasure in South America. 4.30 Conquest of Annapurna. 5.20 Tutankhamun's Egypt. 5.40 Look: fiddlers and skippers.

6.05 **TELEVISION DOCTOR.**

6.20 **MAN ALIVE.** Alive and Well and Living in Malta.

7.10 **WESTMINSTER.**

7.30 **NEWS, SPORT and weather.**

7.45 **PEOPLE OF THE SEAL.** Eskimo Summer.

8.35 **HAZOR, CITY OF THE BIBLE.**

9.20 **SOUNDS FOR SATURDAY.** Osibisa.

9.55 **PETS AND VETS.**

10.10 **THE GOLDEN BOWL.**

10.55 **BY, WITH AND FROM BENTINE.** Michael Bentine.

11.25 **NEWS ON 2 and weather.**

11.30 **FILM NIGHT.**

11.55 **FILM: 'WILL SUCCESS SPOIL ROCK HUNTER?'** Jayne Mansfield, Tony Randall, Betsy Drake, Joan Blondell. Satire on the advertising industry.

## BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30-10.00 Wie bitte? 11.00 Seeing and believing. 11.30 Boomph with Becker. 11.45 Mistress of Hardwick. 12.10 Bellamy on botany. 12.35 Profit by control. 1.00-1.25 Farming. 1.30 Hammer it home. 1.55 Tom and Jerry. 2.00 Going for a song. 2.30 Billy Smart's circus. 3.25 Film: 'The Glass Menagerie'. Jane Wyman, Kirk Douglas, Gertrude Lawrence. A middle-aged woman lives in constant fear of her son and daughter leaving home. 5.10 British Empire.

6.05 **NEWS and weather.**

6.15 **ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY.**

6.50 **SONGS OF PRAISE.**

7.25 **BRUCE FORSYTH AND THE GENERATION GAME.**

8.15 **FILM: 'THE IPCRESS FILE.'** Michael Caine. An ex-Army officer finds himself the centre of a web of treachery and intrigue.

10.00 **NEWS and weather.**

10.10 **OMNIBUS.** Peer in Focus. Earl of Lichfield.

11.00 **INGRID BERGMAN REMEMBERS.**

12.00 **Weather.**

## BBC 2

9.00-1.00 Open University. 1.50-6.30 Cricket. John Player League, Yorkshire v Derbyshire.

7.00 **NEWS REVIEW and weather.**

7.25 **MUSIC ON 2.** A Brahms

# TV

## ITV

10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00-12.00 Morning service. 12.30 Thunderbirds. 1.25 Out of town. 1.45 University challenge. 2.15 Sportsworld 72. 3.15 Jason King. 4.10 Catweazle. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Follyfoot.

6.05 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

6.15 **PRIVATE VIEWS.**

7.00 **STARS ON SUNDAY.**

7.25 **DOCTOR IN CHARGE.** Climbing the Ladder.

7.55 **A ROYAL GALA VARIETY PERFORMANCE.** Hosts Rowan and Martin.

10.15 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

10.30 **THE ORGANIZATION.** Mr Pulman and Mr Pershore.

11.25 **MUSIC IN THE ROUND.** The Tinkling Cymbal.

11.55 **SHORT STORY.**

12.10 **ANTHOLOGY OF LOVE.** Eternal Love.

8.25 **THE WORLD ABOUT US.** The Sunshine Game.

9.25 **CLAUDE FRANCOIS.** French singing star.

10.10 **THE LOTUS EATERS.** A Tiger in Bristol Street.

11.00 **TUTANKHAMUN'S EGYPT.** Science and Technology.

11.20 **NEWS SUMMARY and weather.**



Apparently it was a toss up between Christopher Plummer and Michael Caine who should take on the character of Len Deighton's cheeky, Cockney secret service 'hero' Harry Palmer. Plummer decided to opt for 'The Sound of Music'. Caine became Palmer and 'made his name' after eight years doing 'bit' parts in films and TV and taking on anything that repertory theatre provided. You can see how much that experience paid off when 'The Ipcress File' is screened on BBC 1 on Sunday.

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 11.00-12.00 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 Soccer. 3.15 Film: 'The Boy Who Stole A Million'. 4.35 Date with Danton. 4.40 London. 11.30 UFO. 12.20 Epilogue. Weather.

**WESTWARD. As Channel except:** 12.05 Other Lindisfarne. 1.50 Farm and country news. 12.10 Faith for life. 12.15 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 11.00-12.00 London. 12.52 Weather. 12.55 Farm progress. 1.25 Training the family dog. 1.45 Stingray. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Rock Round the Clock'. 4.35 News. 4.40 London. 11.30 Something to say. 12.30 Weather. Epilogue.

**ANGLIA:** 11.00-12.00 London. 1.20 University challenge. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming. 2.30 Film:

'School for Scoundrels'. 4.10 Dr Simon Locke. 4.40 London. 11.25 Saint.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 11.00-12.00 London. 1.40 Stars. 1.45 All our yesterdays. 2.15 Soccer. 3.15 Film: 'Heiter Skelter'. 5.40 London. 11.30 Sptforcr.

**ULSTER:** 1.45 London. 3.15 Film: 'Lad: A Dog'. 4.40 London. 11.25 Saint.

**YORKSHIRE:** 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 London. 12.05 Arthur. 12.30 UFO. 1.25 Farming outlook. 1.55 Survival. 2.20 Snooker. 3.15 Film: 'The Break'. 4.40 London. 11.30 Division 4. 12.30 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 11.00-12.00 London. 12.25 Thunderbirds. 1.15 Cartoon. 1.20 All our yesterdays. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Odongo'. 4.40 London. 11.30 Man in a suitcase.

**TYNE TEES:** 10.20 Farming outlook. 10.45 Talking hands. 11.00 London. 12.05 Felix the cat. 12.30 Land of the giants. 1.25 Farming outlook. 1.55 Out of town. 2.15 Where the jobs are. 2.20 Snooker. 3.15 Film: 'Sword of Sherwood Forest'. 4.40 London. 11.20 Randall and Hopkirk. 12.15 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 11.40 Beagan gaidhlig. 11.55 Clapperboard. 12.15 Tom Grattan's war. 12.45 London. 5.10 Roadrunner. 5.40 London. 5.45 Train now standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'The Night Caller'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Late call. 11.30 Man in a suitcase.

**GRAMPIAN:** 1.20 All our yesterdays. 1.45 Farm progress. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad'. 4.40 London. 11.30 SNP conference. 11.50 His and hers. 12.15 Job look.

## Tilbury black stays

SEVERAL hundred Tilbury dockers yesterday voted to defy union policy and continue blacking container firms. Only three hands went up in support of the union appeal to end the black.

## Attack on Wilson 'scurrilous'

LABOUR MPs hit back at the 'New Statesman' yesterday accusing it of a 'scurrilous' attack on Labour leader Harold Wilson.

Tom Torney, MP for South Bradford accused the magazine's editor, Anthony Howard, of using devious means to boost the sale of his 'funny little paper'.

In a front-page editorial Howard, who once wrote an adulatory book on Wilson, accused his ex-hero of 'polluting the atmosphere of politics.'

Howard called for Wilson's removal, but did not explain who should replace him.

## 8,000 dole

MORE than 8,000 workers at Vickers' Barrow in Furness shipyard and engineering works will go on the dole after their Spring holiday instead of returning to work.

Twelve hundred boilermakers who have been on strike for seven weeks over a pay claim voted overwhelmingly to stay out yesterday — less than five hours before the start of holiday week. Vickers say they will temporarily close production after the holiday, on June 5, because of the strike.

Vickers chairman, Lord Robens, is a former Labour minister and ex-chairman of the National Coal Board.

A STRIKE by BEA and BOAC ground staff at London's Heathrow airport was averted yesterday when management agreed to pay out a £1.65 wage rise they had earlier insisted in withholding until agreement on the offer was reached with stewards and stewardesses.

THE PRESERVATION of the Rights of Prisoners yesterday claimed responsibility for Thursday night's sit-in at Walton jail, Liverpool, and warned of a national jail strike in mid-July. More than 320 prisoners at Walton ended their ten-hour sit-in peacefully early yesterday morning.

# UPW militants attacked for opposing productivity deals

FROM DAVID MAUDE in Blackpool

POST UNION leaders yesterday defended their productivity dealing policies by launching an angry witch-hunt against the 'lunatic left'.

Attempts by militants to scrap all speed-up agreements and negotiations with the Post Office were heavily defeated by Union of Post Office Workers delegates at Blackpool.

So the conference, which earlier this week delayed UPW leaders in implementing several important aspects of their policies, broke up without decisively stopping them trading jobs for wages.

Dundee postman Sam Cameron urged the 1,450 delegates to end all productivity agreements with the Post Office and put in a claim for a substantial pay rise 'without trading many jobs for paltry wage increases'.

He said that an extremely high proportion of the present unemployed had been sent there

by productivity deals. Union leaders who peddled productivity were in the long run consigning their members to the dole.

Only under workers' control of industry could mechanization and productivity show real benefits for the working class.

The whole basis of productivity bargaining was to cut the wage bill and make a path to the dole, said London Overseas Telegraphist Al Reed.

'This is a philosophy which is backed by the Tories through their National Industrial Relations Court,' he said. 'Its purpose is to take us back to the 1930s.'

Cardiff postman Derek Hodgson opposed breaking off productivity talks because it would prevent the executive using this argument in their negotiations.

Jackson's outburst answering the movers provoked several delegates to challenge his right to raise the issue of speakers' political views.

At one point he had said: 'I am prepared to lay my party card on the table if he will put his there.'

He claimed the executive was not in business to put people on the dole and that in the long term it was the opponents of productivity who would be responsible for loss of jobs.



UPW secretary Tom Jackson

'We will not be used as political battering rams for any small political group,' he concluded. 'This conference is going to turn you down flat.'

A second motion from Overseas Telegraphists at London's Electra House, Cable Headquarters, wanted the breaking off of all productivity negotiations, except for past deals on which money was due. A national policy for all grades in the union was also called for.

Jim Kane, one of the branch's delegates, pointed out that overseas telegraphists faced a 40-per-cent cut in their grade by 1973 as a result of mechanization.

'We cannot face this prospect under this system of society with anything but fear,' he said. Mechanization could only be used to take men forward under a system of society they controlled.

What faced the working class was the struggle for social change, he said, urging support for a General Strike to force the resignation of the Tory government.

The executive, said telegraphist Ken Pearce, had claimed their policies would not result in sackings. He pointed out that even if this were true they would take away 'thousands and thousands of job opportunities for our children'.

The unions had the strength to obtain pay increases without the 'blood money' of productivity deals. Although these floor speakers were continually interrupted by conference chairman Alec Reid, allegedly for making political statements, Jackson was again allowed to return to the political attack.

He claimed their main objective in the debate had been to win support for a General Strike.

'Carriage of this would be hailed by every lunatic left-wing fringe as a victory for their point of view,' he said.

## Drivers want new rate

MORE THAN 6,000 assembly workers at British Leyland's Austin Morris plant at Cowley have been laid off as a result of a strike by 120 transport drivers.

The drivers are demanding special payments for driving heavy goods vehicles in line with the national policy of the Transport and General Workers' Union. The company has warned that lay-offs may reach 20,000 if the dispute continues.

At the Austin Morris factory in Longbridge, Birmingham, production halted yesterday after 200 crank shaft machinists walked out over a work-pricing dispute. Three thousand workers were made idle.

EDWARD HEATH has accepted an invitation to pay an official visit to Japan. No formal announcement has yet been made in London, but the details have been under consideration for several months. It is understood the Prime Minister will probably be going in September but the actual date and the length of the visit have not yet been agreed.

## Cooks hived-off to consortium

THE TORIES have hived off Thomas Cook and Son Limited, the worldwide travel firm, to a powerful consortium of financiers made up of the Midland Bank, Trust Houses Forte and the Automobile Association.

The consortium is paying £22.5m for the former state-owned firm.

John Peyton, the Transport Minister, told the Commons yesterday that Cooks 'have been condemned to the langour of public ownership for too long.'

The buyers won against opposition from BOAC and Barclays Bank.

They are an interesting group. Sir Charles Forte, head of Trust Houses, was knighted by the Tory government and recently won approval for a plan to close the Criterion Theatre at Piccadilly and redevelop the site.

He has just joined the London subsidiary of an Italian bank along with Lord Cobbold, a former governor of the Bank of England.

The head of the AA is Lord Brentford, a former Tory minister and a close friend of Reginald Maudling's. They both served as directors of the ill-fated Real Estate Fund of America which crashed leaving bad debts around the world.

## Sit-in work-on

ABOUT 1,000 engineering workers have occupied the Sunderland factory of Hepworths and Grandage. The sit-in began on Thursday when 450 men were laid off for taking part in a ten-day-old work to rule and overtime ban in support of the engineers' pay claim.

The management had earlier threatened that it might close down the works if sanctions were not lifted immediately.

WORKERS under threat of redundancy and Ransome Hoffman and Pollard in Anfield Plain, Co. Durham, have decided to hand back their redundancy notices and 'work on'.

Many of the 2,000 workers want strike action, but the shop stewards' formula to 'work on' was finally accepted.

Consultations have begun with management over introducing a four-day week as an alternative to the redundancies.

SCHOOLCHILDREN, supporters of the Schools Action Union, marched 70-'strong' through London yesterday. It was the third strike called by the SAU. Later they handed in petitions at the education authority's HQ at County Hall demanding the abolition of school uniforms, free school milk and dinners, jobs for all leaving school and an end to corporal punishment.

MOSCOW Dynamo officials football team have conveyed regret to the organizers of their Barcelona match with Glasgow Rangers over the injuries sustained by a number of policemen. The message of regret came from Konstantin Beskov, the senior coach, and Lev Yashin, the team manager. Thirty-two of the fascist police were admitted to hospital after clashes with Rangers' fans.

## WEATHER LATE NEWS

Central and eastern districts will be mainly dry and sunny at first but frequent squally showers in the west of the British Isles and near the south coast of England will soon spread into remaining areas. The showers will be heavy at times but there will also be clear or sunny intervals.

Later in the day increasing cloud and rain are likely to spread east into South Wales and south-west England. It will be rather cool in all districts. Outlook for Sunday and Monday. Sunny periods. Occasional showers, perhaps more general rain in west later. Cool at first but becoming warmer in the south and west.

SOVIET culture Minister Ekaterina Furtseva has attacked Nobel prizewinning novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn at a press conference for US and Soviet journalists as 'opposed to our entire society'.

JANOS KADAR, the man who pretended to support the Nagy government during the Hungarian revolution in November, 1956 and then went over to support for the bloody suppression has been awarded the Order of Lenin on his 60th birthday.

THE FIRST inter-state treaty between East and West Germany was signed yesterday. It regulates road, canal, rail and sea transport between the two states. A declaration by East Germany speaks of easing travel between the two states 'over and above the hitherto usual limit'.

## FIVE MORE DAYS TO GO: £372.43 STILL TO RAISE

THE FINAL days in the campaign for our May Fund are proving to be a tough struggle. Our total so far reached £1,377.57 for which we do thank you all very much indeed.

This month, however, we aim to raise an extra £500 over our £1,250 target to help us cover greatly increased costs.

We know that all your support is behind Workers Press. Let's make a really big effort for our Fund over these next five days. This weekend there must be a special effort. Collect as much as you can and post immediately to:

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