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By our political correspondent

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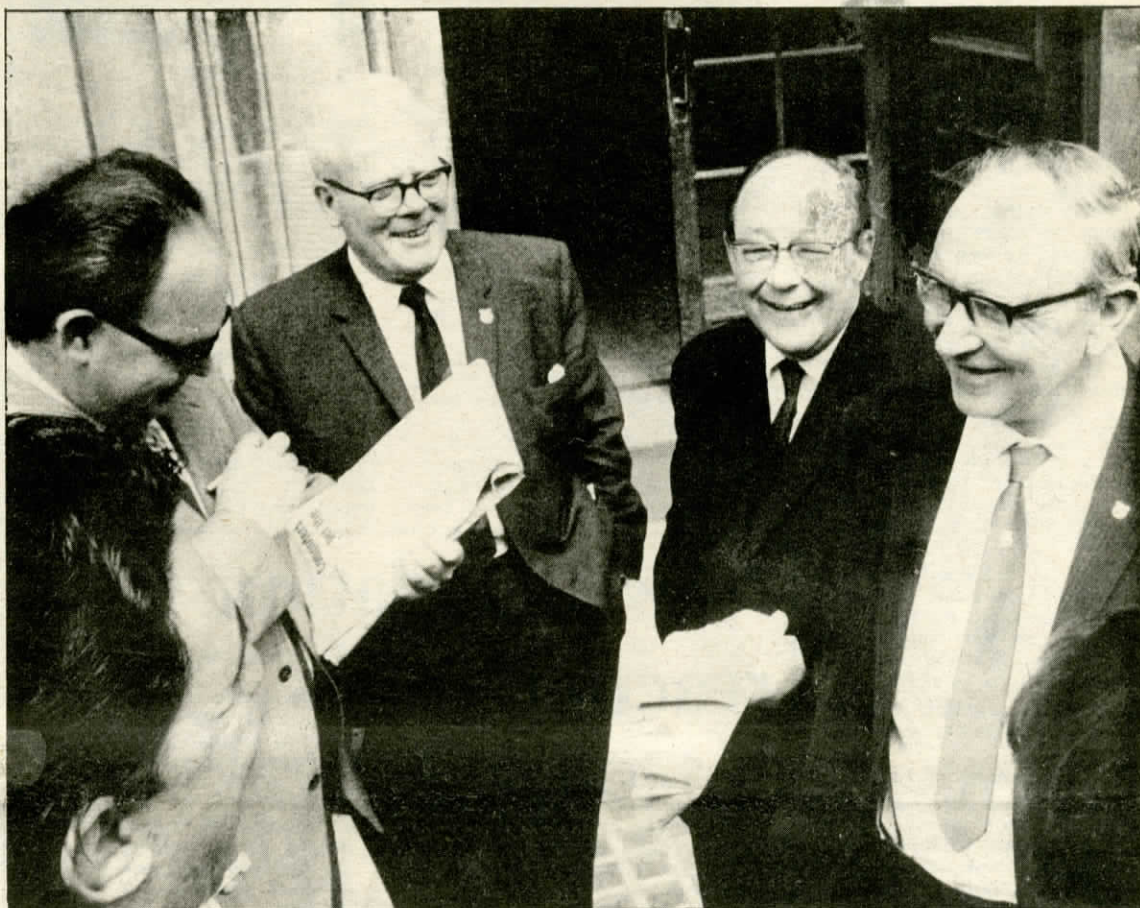
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The Tories have no formula for peace on the docks.

The formula which is that of the shipowners and port employers is the same as it has been for the past ten years—to destroy thousands of jobs and to drive up productivity.

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T&GWU leaders Tim O'Leary and Jack Jones sharing a joke with the press outside the Department of Employment yesterday.

rails and docks fight can be completely disrupted by the shop stewards continuing their blacking action and calling for no postponement to the docks strike.

Hull docks leader, Walter Cunningham, makes this clear in

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Walter Cunningham

'No compromise', says dockers' leader

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'Both are in opposition to the government and the National Industrial Relations Court,' he explained.

'It's a fight of both against the Industrial Relations Act. The local National Union of Railwaymen's branch in Hull has supported our refusal to co-operate with the Act.'

Referring to today's meeting of the national port shop stewards' committee, he said: 'If the docks delegates should accept a compromise, it would be looked at very severely by the shop stewards.'

'And in my opinion the only reason they could have postponed the strike is because they wanted to accept a compromise.'

Walter Cunningham went on: 'It's possible the employers may offer a bit on the fallback pay.'

'That's unacceptable because there shouldn't be anybody on it. Every man should be fully employed. The unattached register should only be for a transitional period between jobs—14 days at the most.'

WALTER CUNNINGHAM, chairman of the Hull docks shop stewards, said yesterday that there is no basis at all for calling off the national docks strike.

In an exclusive interview with Workers Press, he said: 'I don't think the docks delegates' conference in London on Thursday should have called it off.'

'The employers have offered us nothing. Therefore there was nothing for us to discuss. The strike should have gone ahead.'

'During these 14 days there should be no loss of pay.'

'The employers might come across with two days extra holiday, but the men won't accept it because the main issue is full employment. This means an attack on unregistered ports and on containerization.'

He added that the Merseyside dockers' vote to continue 'blacking' action was exactly as expected and it was in line with the decision of the national shop stewards. It proved there was no compromise as far as the men were concerned.

Walter Cunningham is currently facing charges of contempt brought by the container firm Panalpina (Northern) Ltd. He has boycotted the NIRC on three separate occasions.

What about the future? 'I still have no intention of going to court,' he says.

'I should attend on Monday. But I won't be there.'

'Nothing that has happened has changed my mind at all. Workers Press has explained the workings of the NIRC very clearly and in a way that people can understand.'

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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Paperbacks Centre is now open at 28 Charlotte St, W1.

FINANCE MINISTERS FACE BIG TRADE CRISIS

BY JOHN SPENCER

TRADING relations between the main capitalist powers are deteriorating rapidly and the prospect of all-out trade war is being discussed openly in the financial press.

The sharp exchanges in Tokyo during this week's visit by Tory Trade Minister John Davies mark the latest stage in the downward spiral.

Kakuei Tanaka, the Japanese Trade Minister, cold-shouldered his British visitor, saying he was too busy to spare more than a few minutes to see him.

Davies retaliated with a press conference roundly denouncing Japanese tariffs and warning that Britain would restrict Japanese trade if the Tokyo government did not act to reduce exports.

The 'Financial Times' commented yesterday that 'the dangers of a serious deterioration of international trade relations' were greater now than at any time since the monetary crisis last year.

It added '... there is no disguising the forces pushing a number [of countries] towards protectionism, or the danger that protectionist acts could lead to a chain reaction of retaliation.'

Japan's huge surplus on trade balance is at the centre of the crisis.

Despite the 16-per-cent revaluation of the yen agreed under American pressure at the end of last year, Japan's balance-of-payments surplus continues to grow while the US trade balance has failed to improve.

Washington has demanded in the most imperious terms that Japan take action to rectify this situation or the US will systematically close its markets to Japanese goods.

Already, Japanese steelmakers and textile manufacturers have been forced to accept rigid quotas on their exports to the US, driving the steel industry into its biggest recession since the war.

Last month, the United States began an intensive investigation of complaints about 'dumping' of Japanese goods on the American market and of the Tokyo government's subsidies to Japanese exporters.

As the 'Financial Times' comments: 'The principal targets are Japanese exports, but in the nature of things it is almost inevitable that these instruments,

once brought into play, will be used against goods from other countries as well—that is, primarily against European goods.

Thwarted increasingly in the US, the Japanese manufacturers are desperately seeking new outlets in Europe.

Tanaka's first reaction to the latest US measures was to indicate that Europe took only a 'relatively small share' of Japanese total exports. 'We see the need to expand the share,' he warned.

Now Davies is squealing about the danger of an invasion of Japanese goods undercutting British products.

The next round of the conflict is expected when the Finance Ministers of the ten top capitalist countries meet in Paris for



Davies

three days, starting on June 13.

While the Minister discuss the international monetary crisis, their representatives will be reviewing the balance-of-payments position of members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The trade struggles are intimately linked to the monetary collapse of August 15 last year and are equally insoluble by agreement between the capitalist powers.

Ruthless trade war and massive attacks on the working class in all the major capitalist countries are the outcome of this insurmountable crisis.

New foundation of reaction

THE FOUNDATION had been laid for a new relationship between the two most powerful nations on earth, President Nixon said on his return to America from his Moscow summit.

He told a special joint session of Congress that the journeys to Peking and Moscow had freed the United States from 'perpetual confrontation'.

The US had now moved towards better understanding, mutual respect and point-by-point settlement of differences with both of the major Communist powers.

President Nixon listed all the agreements reached in Moscow, including those on strategic arms limitation, joint space exploration, and the expansion of US-Soviet co-operation in areas of science and technology.

There had also been an agreement to establish a joint commercial commission to complete negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement, with the

final terms expected later this year.

He specifically referred to the intentions expressed in Moscow to proceed later this year with preparations for a European collective security conference.

The essence of this conference would be to prepare to take on the resurgent working class in both Eastern and Western Europe.

Anti-strike move in Norway

THE NORWEGIAN government has decided to use its legal powers to end the country's first ever strike by civil servants which started on May 24.

The strike by 400 of the Civil Servants' Union's 20,000 members is for more pay.

Under Norwegian law the government may ask parliament to end a strike by approving the findings of an official arbitration committee binding on both parties in a dispute.

WHAT WE THINK

DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO WORK

RECENT union conferences have been a severe tax on union members' credibility. Never in the history of human conflict has so much reformist codswallop been uttered in such a short time—by such a disparate assortment of leaders.

First we had Victor Feather imploring the Tories to set up a 'conciliatory service'—a kind of confessional box on the steps of the National Industrial Relations Court scaffold. Then we had Labour's foremost patent-medicine man and faith healer, Harold Wilson, telling us that the answer to all the present troubles on the docks was to call in the man who started it all: Lord Devlin! Now we have the proposal of the boilermakers' union for the TUC 'to call a national stoppage of work' on the question of unemployment.

This motion, for all its militant-sounding phrases is, in fact, no different from the suggestions of Feather and Wilson since it makes no mention of forcing the Tories to resign and replacing them with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. This reformist policy of the boilermakers is based on the assumption that the Tory government is like a stalled car. All it needs is a push in the right direction and unemployment will be solved.

This is also the policy of the Stalinists of the British Communist Party. They believe that trade union pressure has forced unemployment below the million mark and, given sufficient pressure, it could be reduced to nothing by further reflation. So keep pushing, brothers!

This is dangerous nonsense, first, because it deflects workers' attention from the real causes of unemployment and, secondly, because it dissipates the energy of workers in Utopian protests precisely at a time when the Tories are extremely vulnerable to a political assault by the working class. In this sense a strike against unemployment will prove as impotent and as ineffective as a strike against pollution. This kind of 'single-issue' politics plays straight into the arms of the Tories.

Capitalism produces unemployment as surely as it pollutes the environment and endangers the lives of millions. As Marx pointed out to those who, like the boilermakers' leaders, believed that there could be a separate solution to unemployment under capitalism: 'The labouring population therefore produces, along with the accumulation of capital produced by it, the means by which itself is made relatively superfluous, is turned into a relative surplus population; and it does this to an always increasing extent. This is the law of population peculiar to the capitalist mode of production. . . .'

To get rid of unemployment is to prepare to destroy capitalism, expropriate the monopolies and destroy the credibility of union leaders like Danny McGarvey, the president of the Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers, who retreated from the UCS struggle and helped pave the way for more unemployment on Clydeside. The only way to defend the right to work in a society based on low wages and unemployment is to build Councils of Action, embracing unemployed and employed workers, and securely establish the revolutionary party by fighting within these councils for a campaign to force the Tories out and elect a Labour government which will be forced to legislate these cherished rights.

Conflict over oil revenues led to Iraqi takeover

THE decision by Iraq and Syria to nationalize oilfield and transport facilities owned by the Iraq Petroleum Company is the culmination of a prolonged struggle over oil revenues between the big oil combines and the national bourgeoisie.

It comes at a time of crisis in the oil industry, where profits are slumping drastically under the impact of the world monetary and trade crisis.

Iraqi president Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr accused the IPC of 'cutting oil production to a point which was unprecedented in Iraq or any other oil-producing country'.

Iraq has recently moved closer to the Soviet Union, to the extent of taking several Communist Party members into the Cabinet.

The USSR is also financing development of a recently discovered oilfield in North Rumelia, not far from the border with Syria.

This has inflamed the conflict with the imperialist oil companies, who undoubtedly

trimmed their production to put economic pressure on the Ba'athist regime.

In practice, however, the nationalization is not likely to lead to an immediate oil shortage in Europe, which is already glutted with surplus oil as a result of industrial recession.

The decision was naturally greeted with enthusiastic approval by the Iraqi and Syrian masses, who have long watched angrily as the imperialists suck out their national wealth at rock-bottom prices.

But the Iraqi bourgeoisie is not capable of carrying through a thoroughgoing revolutionary struggle against imperialism.

This is indicated not only by their promise to pay compensation for the nationalized installations if the companies settle their outstanding debts, but by their leniency towards French stockholders 'because of the positive attitudes shown by France towards Arab causes'.

In fact, the Algerian government were forced by French intransigence to nationalize their oil and gas fields last year.

Blockade dangers grow

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THE American blockade of North Vietnam—so far unopposed by the Soviet Union and China—is reportedly causing serious problem for the liberation troops fighting in the South.

One of the primary effects of the blockade has been to give Moscow and Peking far more control over the supply pipeline to the Vietnamese fighters.

They are now in a position to determine what happens on the battlefields under cover of the excuse that the US action has made transport more difficult.

It raises the danger that they will choke the Vietnamese revolution in the interests of closer collaboration with Moscow, and underlines the cynicism with which the Kremlin originally greeted Nixon's blockade measures.

US military sources in Saigon say the liberation armies have

in Vietnam

begun pulling back their heavy anti-aircraft artillery from the main battlefields apparently because supplies of ammunition are running low.

The sources said ground fire against US planes around the besieged city of An Loc had fallen 'dramatically' over the last few days, and there was also a substantial reduction of anti-aircraft fire around Hue farther North.

The number of surface-air missiles fired at American planes has also declined, the Saigon sources say. The Americans claim the reason is the blockade and mining of North Vietnamese ports begun over three weeks ago.

'As the missiles are being used they are not replaced' the Saigon spokesman said. They were previously brought to Vietnam on the decks of Soviet and East European ships, he added.

It is clear that the blockade is creating serious problems for without anti-aircraft supplies they cannot challenge the US air supremacy and their troops are exposed to vicious bombing attacks.

The Soviet failure to challenge the Nixon blockade has been followed by lengthy wrangles between Moscow and Peking over port facilities in China.

The vital supplies on the decks of Soviet merchant vessels are now believed to be on their way back to Vladivostok, because the Chinese will not allow them to be off-loaded along their coast.

Overland supplies have not significantly increased since the blockade began, according to the US military.

There is a growing danger that the Vietnamese revolution will become a bargaining counter in the pursuit of 'peaceful co-existence' between Stalinism and imperialism.

IRISH YOUNG SOCIALIST GUNNED DOWN

JIM DOHERTY, a member of the Irish Young Socialists, was gunned down on Sunday, April 30, shortly after leaving the Venice cafe in Belfast's Crumlin Road.

He received one bullet in the spine and, when he turned around, two in the chest and one in the stomach.

This week, for the first time since his critical injuries, Jim has been able to talk about his experience. In this interview with a Workers Press correspondent he describes what happened.

‘I left Clifton Hotel at 12.15 p.m. to leave the girl home. I left the place about 1.30 p.m. or 1.45 p.m. and I decided to go and have a chip at the Venice Cafe.’

I was in the Venice, standing waiting on the order, and the woman who owns the place, in a statement which she gave, said that in one of the boxes at the end was a guy who was staring at me for the whole 20 minutes I was in.

He had an overcoat pulled up to his neck, a gangster hat over his eyes. You could see his hair, fair gingerish hair.

Anyway I got my order and just before I walked out he walked out in front of me.

So I came out and walked 20 or 30 yards towards home.

This guy called me. He says to me that they were after trail-

ing a guy from the Shankill Road. Would I give them a hand?

So anyway I goes up. I understand now this was only to draw me into the light of the cafe.

Just with that one of my mates who had been in the cafe walked out. I was going to call him, but I say to myself—let him go just in case he gets into any trouble.

I turned round to look at my mate. Just then the first bullet hit me in the back, and as I swung around they fired another three which hit me in the stomach.

By then I was half in the cafe and half out. My legs were outside.

My legs felt heavy. I couldn't move them. I was conscious at this. I heard a shout: 'You're all right now, just try to get into the cafe'. I managed to get my legs into the cafe.

A porter from the hospital saw a black Vauxhall car driving up Clifton Street with no headlights.

The porter says it went down Twickenham Street, one of the streets leading to a new housing estate built for people from the strongly Protestant Shankill Road district.

But Jim considers the question



Jim Doherty recovering at his Belfast home

'People are dying here and people are lining their pockets out of people dying'

of who shot him is irrelevant. The important thing, he says, is it was done to keep Protestant and Catholic workers apart.

Jim is dating a Protestant girl and hopes to marry her.

He says that sectarian divisions are deliberately being encouraged, referring to a strange aspect of his own case:

‘The gun used was only a target-practice gun. So why use it except just to injure somebody and so keep the frying-pan hot?’

I am totally against the bombing and the killing of the IRA. On the other hand I'm totally against soldiers for killing and torturing innocent people.

I have read what the Protestants said about the paratroopers in the Woodstock; they came in like animals, wild men, just beating all in front of them.

The only movement is the movement we are in. Socialism is the only opposite to civil war. We have to concentrate on this, going out to Protestants, and telling them what is really happening.

A woman from Crumlin in 1969 on TV said that the only

way it could end would be in a bloodbath—the country finished and the people nowhere to go.

Vanguard has nothing to offer the Protestant people. Craig and Faulkner, what are they going to do about jobs and housing?

With both, it can only lead to civil war. So it is really up to us to start concentrating.

I want this in Workers Press,

because in my opinion Workers Press, along with our own paper 'Youth Bulletin' is the only true paper that gives the facts.

The rest try to bluff it off, to sell more papers to make more money.

People are dying here, and people are lining their pockets out of people dying.

Workers Press is the only paper that prints the truth about the facts in Northern Ireland.

This is an unedited version of Jim's personal views, exactly as he said them. We hope that he will as soon as possible be well and back in the struggle.

Rickets 'rampant' in Bradford

AN INCREASE in the poverty disease of rickets among children in Bradford has been blamed on poor diets and the sunless British climate.

The explanation came from the city's medical officer of health. He was replying to a claim by a former Bradford doctor who said that rickets is 'rampant' in the city.

Dr Kenneth Dawson, in an article in June's issue of 'The Practitioner', said he had investigated 22 cases of rickets while working at Bradford children's hospital.

'I am convinced they were only the tip of the iceberg,' he said in the article. 'I was seeing some-thing like two new cases a week.'

'Rickets is a disease which is generally thought to have been eliminated in this country, but it is certainly rampant in Bradford.' He said some babies suffering from the disease were fed on 'wine and potato crisps'.

Dr William Turner, the city MoH, agreed the disease was on the increase, especially among Bradford immigrants.

'At the moment there are about 40 cases, mostly among children but some in adults... we are doing our best to educate people to improve their diet.'

A recent Birmingham survey among 600 teenaged schoolchildren showed that 4-5 per cent had rickets severely enough to be detected radiologically and 15-20 per cent had clinical and biochemical evidence of the disease.

1,250 laid off at Triumph

A THREE-DAY strike by clerks at the Standard Triumph factory, Liverpool, has halted production of the new Toledo sports car and led to 1,250 workers being laid off.

The production of bodies for other vehicles assembled at Coventry has also been heavily cut.

The decision by the 230 clerks to continue their unofficial strike was reaffirmed on Thursday in the face of hostility from union leaders.

Roy Grantham, general secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs (APEX), had travelled to Liverpool to try and persuade the clerks to call the strike off.

He was shouted down and jostled as he called for a return to work to allow negotiations to continue.

Clerical grades at present receive between £25 and £29 a week. They wanted the rates stepped up to a range between £30 and £40.

Briefly...

● A 42-year-old electricians' union official has been appointed co-ordinator of the industrial advisers with the Department of Trade and Industry.

He is K. J. Griffin, who will be on secondment to the department from Frank Chapple's EPTU. He takes up his appointment on July 1.

● Sean O'Brady, publicity director of the Provisional Sinn Fein, was remanded in custody until next Thursday when he appeared in Dublin District Court yesterday accused under the Offences Against the State Act.

He is the brother of Rory O'Brady, president of Provisional Sinn Fein. On Thursday Rory and Joe Cahill, head of the Provisionals in Belfast, were also remanded in custody on charges of belonging to an illegal organization.

● Tory leader Edward Heath will visit Japan during the second half of September, it was announced yesterday. It will be the first visit to Japan by a British Prime Minister.

Trade and Industry Secretary John Davies, has just returned from a trip to Tokyo where he received a frosty reception from Japanese big-business circles.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Support the dockers and railwaymen. Build Councils of Action

BIRKENHEAD: Sunday June 4, 7 p.m. Royal Castle Hotel (opp. Cammell Laird's).

ACTON: Monday June 5, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road. 'Fight the Tories' rent Bill'.

COVENTRY: Tuesday June 6, 8 p.m. Wood End Community Association Hall, Hillmorton Road.

NORTH KENT: Tuesday June 6, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, 25 Essex Rd, Dartford. 'Engineers' pay claim'.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday June 6, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Ave, Barking. 'Industrial Relations Act'.

SOUTH LONDON: Tuesday June 6, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4.

WEST LONDON: Tuesday June 6, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert',

Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. **GLASGOW:** Tuesday June 6, 7.30 p.m. Room 1, Partick Burgh Hall.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane).

CROYDON: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road.

LUTON: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Lea Road.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Station).

SOUTHALL: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. Parkway Rooms (Rent Office), Racecourse Estate, Northolt.

PRESTON: Thursday June 8, 8.30 p.m. Railway and Commercial Hotel (nr rail stn), Butler St.

COALVILLE: Thursday June 8, 8 p.m. Miners' Welfare. 'Organize Councils of Action'.

MR HYAMS AND HIS EMPTY SKYSCRAPER

By Philip Wade, Housing Correspondent

Right in the centre of London stands a monument to property speculators and financiers all over the world.

From almost any part of London's West End you can see the giant Post Office tower, looking like Britain's answer to the space race. You can invariably see Centre Point as well.

Standing at the junction of Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Street is this 32-storey office block, empty now for seven years.

It is unoccupied because its owner, a certain Mr Harry John Hyams cannot find anyone willing to pay the rent he is demanding, which is put at £1½m a year.

Hyams is regarded as one of the more enigmatic figures on the property scene. He has the unenviable reputation of owning more empty buildings in London than anyone else.

Yet the career of this man, said to be worth about £30m in personal wealth, and the Oldham Estate Company, is no more than a record of the vast fortunes made by post-war property speculators.

In 1945 Hyams was 17 and he went to work for Joe Levy's estate agency. Levy was a friend of his father, who was a bookmaker.

After nine months Hyams quit after some disagreements with Levy and joined one of the older, more established estate agents who specialized in country houses.

A couple of years later he was on the move again to another agency, Dudley Samuel & Harrison. On his first day there he took the entire staff out to an opulent West End restaurant.

It was during this period that Hyams built up his sensitive knowledge of an estate agent's work, the man who so often fixes the big property deals.

LINKS ESTABLISHED

In the middle-1950s Hyams established certain links with a man already established as a property dealer — Felix Fenston.

By that time Fenston was personally worth about £4m. He was the man behind the Empress State Building in Earls Court, the huge BP buildings in the Barbican, and the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington. The public best remembers Fenston as the man who pulled down the St James's Theatre to make way for development.

Hyams spent a great deal of his time with Fenston, finding him lucrative projects to work on for a cut in the subsequent equity holdings.

The relationship couldn't last. Hyams had a personality and character of his own and it clashed with Fenston's. In

1959 Hyams began the moves which were to make him a multi-millionaire.

All his accumulated skill in property development was now brought to bear on an unknown company in Lancashire, the Oldham Estate Company.

The company was a 'shell', a device used by property men in the late 1950s and early 1960s before the Stock Exchange clamped down on it.

A public company was needed to overcome the surtax hazards in a private company, and it was cheaper to buy an existing company with a quotation on the stock market.

A 'shell' was essentially a company whose old business had been sold or was on the point of fading out. The advantages in buying one was the ability to insert private assets into it without giving nearly so much information to the investing public as was required on a conventional floatation.

Hyams first heard of Oldham in January 1959. Within a fortnight he was in the small northern town looking at the Victorian cottages and cotton mills, which stood in the company's balance sheet at £26,611.

BORROWED MONEY

With a few associates he bought up virtually all the share capital at a cost of about £50,000. Some deals were done through the local stock exchange to keep the share quotation alive.

In March 1959, when Hyams took control, Oldham Estate owned properties worth £22,328. By 1967 it was £46,201,053. Today it must be well over £60m.

This astronomical expansion was largely financed on borrowed money. Just £300,000 came from shareholders.

The key to expansion was undoubtedly the decision to link up with Europe's biggest building contractor, George Wimpey, who bought 40½ per cent in Oldham.

Wimpey had enormous financial resources which they were able to bring forward for financing new Oldham projects.

The other two sources of finance for Hyams have been the Westminster Bank and the Co-operative Insurance Society, which owns 10 per cent of Oldham's shares.

Five years ago it was estimated that Hyams himself had made the vast fortune of £27m from property development, a staggering figure by anyone's account.

He is known for one thing above all else: keeping his buildings empty for year after year until they fetch the rent demanded.

Hyams once bought a small shop and office in Oxford Street, London, paying a price which equalled an annual rent of £12,500. His estate agents



Above: one of the few photographs of Harry Hyams, here with his wife.

were told to let at £20,000 and it remained unoccupied for three years.

It finally went for £18,500 a year, which meant the building was now worth £270,000. Producing £13,500 it would have been worth £200,000.

That capital gain far outweighed the loss of interest on borrowed money, which in any case could be set against tax, and the loss of rent. And no rates had to be paid on empty properties in those days.

In all the time he spent amassing this vast property empire, Hyams kept as far away from publicity as possible. It has been and still is, impossible to get near him.

Even his admirers in the bourgeois press find him inaccessible. Hyams the recluse hides away at Ramsbury Manor, Wiltshire, the £700,000 former home of Lord Rootes.

These characteristics were above all the ones that enabled Hyams to pull off the Centre Point coup. And it certainly is a story worth telling.

The story begins on July 17, 1956, when the Labour-controlled London County Council approved a plan to change the entire traffic movement around the busy St Giles Circus.

The idea was to buy up all the properties around the circus and squeeze in a roundabout. By 1958 they had bought several pockets of land and in April of that year the Ministry of Transport agreed a £627,000 grant. Work was due to start at the end of the year.

However, the LCC had become entwined in an enormously complicated legal wrangle with the owners of key plots of land. Only entitled to

offer compensation on pre-war values, they couldn't persuade the owners to sell. And it was already October 1958.

It was at this point that Harry Hyams appeared on the scene. The man who brought Hyams and the LCC together was Lord Goodman, Harold Wilson's solicitor. He also represented Richard Edmonds, chairman of the LCC's town planning committee.

Hyams proposed the following solution to the problem.

Oldham Estate would buy out the people refusing to sell at a price which the LCC could neither afford nor was allowed to pay. He would also buy up the rest of the site not already controlled by the LCC.

Then he would make an unwritten 'land for planning permission' deal so that the LCC would end up with its road and Hyams with his office block.

On August 12, 1959, the planning application went in. By November it had been approved with a strong recommendation 'as it is the key to the road scheme'.

THE 1.5 M GIFT

Over the next year Oldham's agents bought up as much property as they could lay their hands on. Few sellers knew that a 385-foot high office block would soon leap out of the same ground.

By March 1962 all Hyams' properties at St Giles had been given to the LCC and a lease signed with the new freeholder of the entire area.

Under the terms of the lease, Oldham was to pay the LCC the ludicrously-low sum of £18,500 a year for a fixed

period of 150 years. It was most unusual for such an agreement to contain no rent revision clause.

For a 'gift' of £1.5m worth of land, Hyams got permission to build 150,000 square feet of offices, 9,000 square feet of restaurant space, 26,000 square feet of showroom units, 29,000 square feet of shops and 35,000 square feet of maisonettes.

To the £1.5m you could add £3.5m for construction and interest charges giving a total of £5m. If and when it is let for an annual rent of at least £1.5m the building will be then worth a capital sum of about £20m—a cool £15m profit.

The man who was very much a key figure in the deal was the man who has designed more office blocks than anyone else—architect Richard Seifert. He was an expert in squeezing the maximum amount of square footage out of a planning permission. When he had finished with Centre Point, the ratio of its area to the land it stood on was twice as much as that normally permitted in central London.

As for the poor old LCC, it really took a hammering. By the time Centre Point was finished Ernest Marples, then Minister of Transport, changed the road system. Tottenham Court Road and Charing Cross Road became one way and the roundabout project never got further than the surveyor's measurements.

There are now rumours that Centre Point could finally be let and Hyams would have completed the most famous kill of all time.

A CAR A DAY FOR MR BREZHNEV



Brezhnev: Car fancier

Leonid Brezhnev now has a splendid choice of vehicles to carry him to and from the Kremlin each day.

Shortly before leaving Moscow, President Nixon gave a Cadillac limousine to the Soviet Communist Party leader, a car fancier.

A US source said that the vehicle was a regular production model and that a Nixon representative took delivery of it an hour after it came off the assembly line.

President Georges Pompidou of France gave Brezhnev a Citroën-Maserati when he paid a state visit to France last October.

Earlier, it was announced that President and Mrs Nixon had given a porcelain chess set to the Soviet Union's people and clocks to its leaders.

The chess set consists of elaborately-decorated pieces up to seven inches tall on a matching porcelain and walnut chessboard. It bears the inscription 'To the People of the USSR' and the US presidential seal.

The clocks given to the three leaders were encased in glass and various minerals from the United States.

The one for Brezhnev was set in red petrified wood from Nixon's home state, California, premier Alexei Kosygin's was

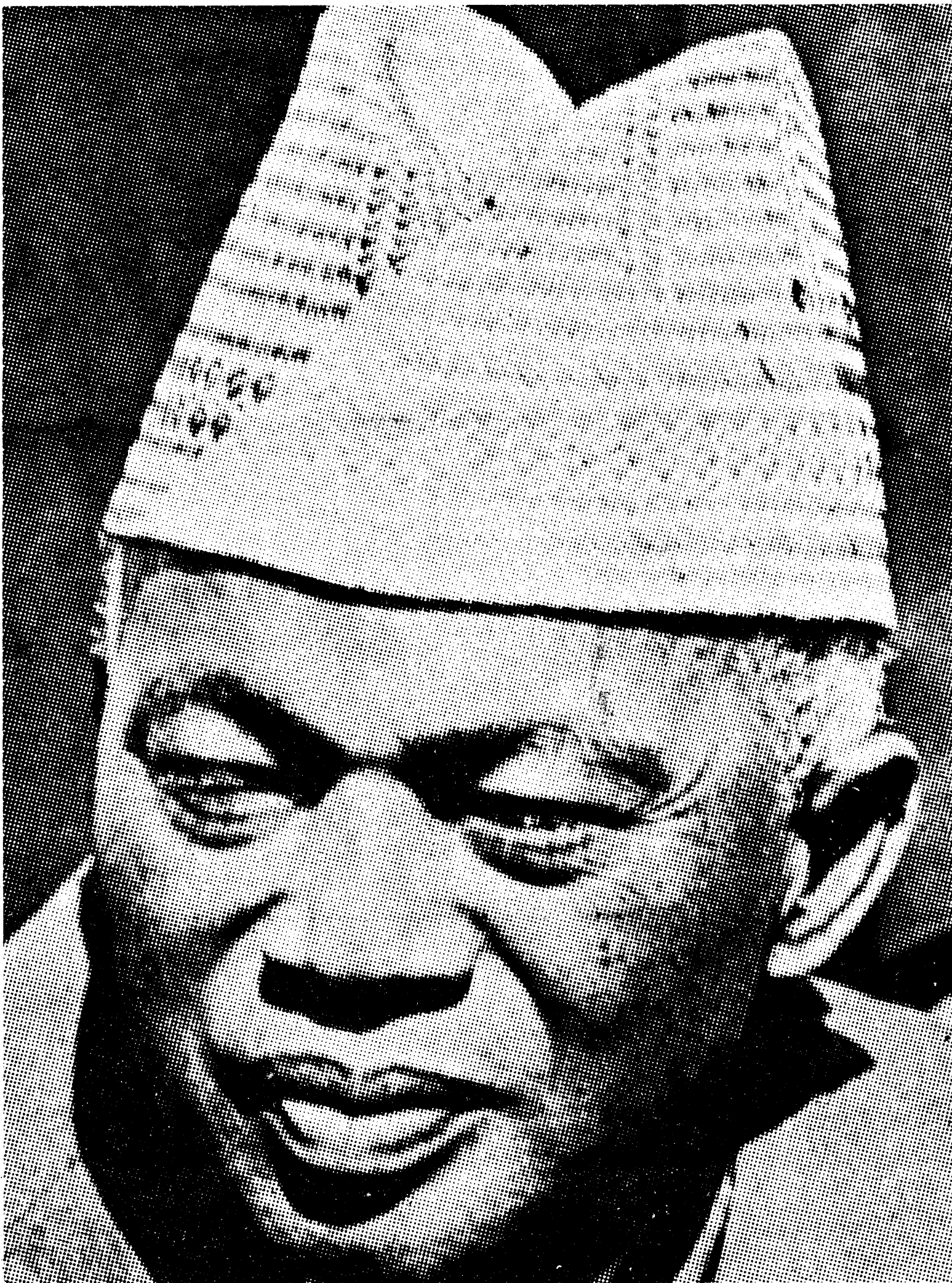


Nixon: Red chessmen

set in green and salmon-coloured granite from Tennessee and President Nikolai Podgorny's in grey, green and tan stone from Utah.

The clocks are seven inches tall and ten inches wide.

The Nixons presented a large porcelain group of birds and flowers on a walnut base with the presidential seal to the wives of Brezhnev and Podgorny and to Kosygin's daughter, Mrs Ludmilla Gvishiani. The premier is a widower.



POWER BID BY ISLAND'S ARMY

The army has taken over in Madagascar following the bitter clashes which began on May 13. The effective power is now concentrated in the hands of General Gabriel Ramanantsoa, the new premier.

His Cabinet, announced on May 27, contains five officers, all in key posts, and five civilians. Ramanantsoa was installed with full personal powers on May 18 by Madagascar's extreme anti-communist president Philibert Tsiranana.

Ramanantsoa had acquired a 'progressive' aura, which made him acceptable at least to the less-militant trade union leaders. Soon after his appointment, the unions called off

their General Strike against the regime, though there were bitter arguments between these leaders and the students whose demonstrations had sparked the disturbances.

The new strongman soon showed his real colours, however. Describing Tsiranana as 'the father of independence' and 'the incarnation of national unity', he refused all demands to force the president's resignation. This had been one of the key slogans of the mass demonstrations in the country's capital, Tananarive.

Tsiranana himself told the populace: 'I am and will remain president of the republic'. However, it seems clear that—for the moment at least—the mainspring of power is out of his hands.

The new Cabinet was announced some days after the appointment of military governors for the six Malagasy

provinces. Ramanantsoa himself took over not only as premier but also as Minister of National Defence and Minister of Planning.

The commander of the National Gendarmerie, Lt-Col Richard Ratsimandrava, became Minister of the Interior; Capt Didier Ratsiraka, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Gen Gilles Andriamahazo, Land Minister; and Commander Joel Rakotomalala, Minister of Information.

The main ministers in Tsiranana's previous Cabinet, some of whom had held office since independence in 1960, have been pushed out by the military, but no representatives from the opposition have been admitted to the Cabinet.

It seems certain that the island, with a garrison of more than 4,000 French troops, will remain firmly tied to metropolitan France. Madagascar

Tsiranana: handed over the power to the military.

has considerable strategic importance—particularly for the white racialists struggling to maintain their hold over southern Africa.

C. L. Sulzberger wrote in the 'New York Times' on May 17: 'Madagascar dominates the Mozambique channel off Africa's east coast and the route of those enormous super-tankers which have been carrying Europe's oil around the Cape of Good Hope ever since the Suez Canal was closed five years ago.'

'Moreover, it is a strategic key to southern Africa and the western and southern Indian Ocean.'

The new regime has plainly set itself the task of keeping Madagascar firmly as a base for imperialism despite the opposition of the workers and students.

PRESTON DOCKERS FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK



BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
Dock work started at Preston in 1179, when the port received its first charter from Henry II. Today it is one of the most highly-containerized ports in the country. Its recent history highlights the issues in the present jobs row.

Since the early 1950s, when the port employed about 450 men, almost 180 jobs have been lost.

Today Norman Wright, leader of the 273 dockers still in work, fears they could face a further 53-per-cent redundancy if current trends continue and the port employers get their own way. But he and his men are determined not to allow this.

Figures compiled by Workers Press show a 4-per-cent increase in the number of

ships using the port last year alongside a 27 per cent decrease in the number of dockers.

Norman Wright calculated that under the present manning schemes, the eight ships a week Preston is now averaging would need only about 88 men to work them.

'If we then included 20 men on warehouse work who could be swapped around to do cargo-handling when there was an overflow of work, this would mean the port only needed 108 men, plus 20 to cover sickness and holidays', he says.

'This could mean a reduction of the working week down to 20 hours, but of course the management are only interested in keeping their profits. They'll never improve our conditions without a fight.'

Already 50 redundancies have been hinted at publicly by the employers, but the dockers know this is by no means the whole story.

With unemployment in the area pushing towards the 6-per-cent mark there are no takers for voluntary retirement. Preston is firmly behind the call for national action. The dockers there have a history of struggle.

The port first gained prominence as a trading centre in the 19th century. The growing cotton trade and the Lancashire coal-pits were the impetus for this growth.

By 1882 the Ribble Navigation Undertaking had been purchased by Preston Corporation for £73,000.

Immediately on purchase they put forward proposals for the enlargement of the docks, which caused the local rate-payers to strongly condemn the move and refuse to pay the extra rates. A government inquiry was set up and this gave the Authority the go-ahead. In 1892 a new wet dock was opened.

The Albert Edward dock was at that time the largest

single dock in the country with a water area of 40 acres.

But with the decline of the cotton trade and the closure of pits the traditional trade of the port has rapidly declined: the export of coal has fallen from 416,198 tons in 1948 to 138,446 in 1971, and the timber trade has fallen in the same period from 86,487 tons to 38,765.

During the period of inflationary boom following World War II, the port authority introduced enormous capital-intensive schemes which have nearly halved the labour force since 1950.

But the enormous increase in productivity over the last decade has come up against the dockers' new sense of power, which they gained in ten-and-a-half week strike in 1969.

When it began, in June 1969, the dockers elected shop stewards for the first time. These men had just seen the number of dockers fall from

385 in 1966 by a further 100, 70 through severance schemes and 30 through retirement and normal wastage. Total trade in the port had risen from 984,235 in 1948, when there were 450 men, to 1,901,120 in 1969.

The strike was no coincidence; it was strictly over the employers' attempted introduction of Phase I of the Devlin 'modernization' scheme.

As Norman Wright says: 'The strike started over rate-fixing, but we knew what it was basically about.'

'The employers wanted to introduce a £11.4p basic rate with a £2 modernization bonus. There would be a make-up to a guaranteed £16, but the employers could make you work overtime and end piece rates to get you to that £16.'

After the strike they got a 40-hour week with a guaranteed £16 even if they went home, and £17 if there was day work.

Just before the strike, the

employers had even tried to introduce Devlin Phase II in the same package deal by offering a 20-per-cent increase with a view to reducing gangs and without any guaranteed wage. No more has been heard about this scheme.

The strike also won a 12½-per-cent increase all round on piece work and the dockers broke an arbitration award which had gone against them. This had reduced manning scales from eight to six men on storing cargo on the quay, and its overthrow is a key component in the present crisis on the docks.

For Preston is, as we have said, now one of the most highly-containerized ports in the country.

Trade by container constituted 1,523,173 tons in 1971 out of a total tonnage of 2,215,152. The container trade has leapt as follows: 1948, 6,025 tons; 1958, 524,189 tons; 1969, 1,240,811; and 1970, 1,502,782. This was despite the

1969 strike.

Since 1969, the dockers have done all their negotiations themselves. They became disillusioned with the Transport and General Workers' Union leadership when it refused to make their strike official.

These days the local T&GWU district secretary, Tommy Irving, is left out of all fights with management. But he has found a role for himself. He acts as chairman or arbitrator between the two sides.

This embarrassing position was highlighted in recent negotiations on the docks; the employers were demanding dockers lift their 'blacking' of container firms and raised the question of the 50 threatened redundancies.

When no concessions were even hinted at, and with the management pointing out that there was no chance of compromise on the issues involved, the shop stewards left the meeting. Irving remained to

talk, but the stewards are still wondering what about.

Preston docks are in no way separate from the general crisis of capitalism.

Their operating surplus has fallen from £231,776 in the financial year 1968-1969, to a deficit of £65,645 in 1969-1970, the year of the strike, and a surplus of £147,495 in 1970-1971.

The borough treasurer blames the strike for this decline. But a ten-week strike on the operating side of the balance-sheet cannot explain the drop by itself.

The strike was only for one-fifth of the year. One-fifth of the trading surplus of 1968-1969 is about £46,000.

But the port lost almost £300,000 in profit from 1968-1969 to 1969-1970. Over £190,000 of the net deficit of £228,631 in the year 1968-1969 is made up of interest charges. At the same time the accounts show that the revenue of the port actually

went up 0.1-per-cent in the same period — highlighting again the relative decline in profits over the period, regardless of the strike.

Norman Wright has analysed some of the figures compiled by Workers Press.

'In 1971', he says, 'the number of ships using the port was 2,867. This was an increase of 116 over the previous year, though 100 dockers left the port.'

'There is now a prospect of massive redundancies on this dock.'

The figures have startled dockers' leaders. They had not realized the enormous increase in productivity that they had allowed on the dock.

Until 1969, a shift had worked for eight hours without stopping, even if this meant transferring from one ship to another. Since the strike they now stop after completing a boat regardless of whether their eight hours has been worked or not.

Above: Preston dockers at the mass meeting which decided to black Containerways, the container firm.

There is also a growing realization that there is no solely trade union solution to the problem. For the road-transport men of the T&GWU have said that they want the jobs which have gradually gone away from them to registered dockers. Yet they do not want to be registered themselves.

Norman Wright says: 'If dockers were doing stuffing and stripping as registered dock work we would increase manning scales and there need be no redundancies for road-transport men or dockers. But the employers can't afford registered dockers, so the different parts of the union are fighting each other.'

'Management are laughing at them. What we should be doing is uniting and fighting against the employers instead of amongst ourselves. But our leaders don't lead.'

AT THE COURT OF MANDEL

FROM ANNA TATE IN PARIS

In 'Left-Wing Communism — An Infantile Disorder' Lenin makes it clear that the Bolshevism 'grew up, took shape, and became steered in long years of struggle against petty-bourgeois revolutionism, which smacks of, or borrows something from, anarchism, and which falls short, in anything essential, of the conditions and requirements of a consistently proletarian class struggle'.

During these few days in Paris my observation of the activities of the Ligue Communiste (the Communist League of Ernest Mandel) leads to the conclusion that the invaluable political lesson signalled by Lenin has been entirely rejected by Mandel's followers.

Comrades of the Workers Press will forgive me if I begin my justification of this conclusion by a comic illustration of a meeting which I attended. The meeting itself was, after all, a circus of centrism, defying more serious description.

The Mandel-Krivine Ligue Communiste has consistently put all its political eggs into the basket of single-issue politics. Unable, in any way, to learn from past mistakes, from the sterility of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign in England or from the capitulationist amalgamations which the group indulged in during the events of May-June 1968 in France, they have, since over a year ago, thrown themselves into a 'Front Solidarité Indo Chine'—Front for Solidarity with Indo-China.

OPPORTUNISM

People of all tendencies from factories, communities, schools and universities are called upon to make common cause against imperialism. The sentiment is fine, the politics those of sheer opportunism. In no way are the demands linked to, nor do they stem from the movement of class forces in France.

The world crisis of capital and the profound effects which it is having on the bourgeoisie and the proletariat of that country are ignored or related to a position of secondary importance in favour of a protest 'solidarity' with the Indo-Chinese people, who with their lives are proving to the world that it is not protest which impedes the barbarism of capitalism.

The only valid solidarity lies in the building of cadres of revolutionary parties in the bastions of capital of the western countries. This Man-

del's followers reject, and in so doing cut themselves off from the mass base of the French working class.

The meeting of the FSI which I attended was part of a 'Day of Solidarity with the Indo-Chinese People' held at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris.

Given that the political justification for the existence of the solidarity front seems to be that of 'consciousness-raising', let me declare with firmness that my consciousness was not raised one iota, that I have seen more relevant analysis in one article of the Workers Press on Vietnam than occurred in three interminable hours of sterile repetition of slogans which might have been picked entirely from the 'Peking Review'.

In fact, it seemed that consciousness was driven screaming with alienation out of the lecture theatre. The meeting, in spite of 'leading' speakers, began with about 40 students in the audience and ended with about a dozen, most of whom were 'cadres' of the FSI. They had, in any event, heard the same dreary denunciations of 'the puppets of American imperialism' many times before. And they had seen the inevitable slides of US atrocities projected as often.

The bankruptcy of this political approach, both to the Vietnam war and to its relationship with the situation in France (which was never mentioned), reminded me strongly of what Lenin had said of the petty bourgeois. For these young 'leftists' are indeed 'driven to frenzy' by an impressionistic appreciation of 'the horrors of capitalism' and they do constitute 'a social phenomenon which, like anarchism, is characteristic of all capitalist countries'.

And, as Lenin rightly stated: 'The instability of such revolutionism, its barrenness, its liability to become swiftly transformed into submission, apathy, fantasy, and even a "frenzied" infatuation with one or another bourgeois "fad"—all this is a matter of common knowledge.'

It seemed also that it was the very barrenness of their activity within the Ligue Communiste, without a real principled theory and practice based in the French working class that had led to a 'frenzied' identification with the more real, heroic struggle of the peasants of Indo-China. Political displacement behaviour which will further isolate the Mandel group from the French proletariat.

The notion of an all-



Top: a Ligue Communiste demonstration—under the banner of the Front for Solidarity with Indo-China. Above: Students take part in a 'Day of Solidarity' call by the FSI.

embracing alliance which the Ligue upholds is also coming in for a battering. Their paper 'Rouge' constantly testifies to the impossibility of opportunistic amalgams based on political and ideological immaturity.

The immaturity is certainly there.

After a certain number of FSI and Ligue Communiste members had been beaten up by the French Communist Party at a demonstration in solidarity with Indo-China on May 10, although the innocent Mandelites had merely been shouting 'Unity for Indo-China' and 'Imperialism—the only enemy', the reaction from the FSI was one of pained surprise and a renewed call for unity.

Their letter to the CP-dominated Vietnam movement reads:

'At this time when it is necessary to create the broad-

est unity in support of the Indo-Chinese comrades, we take the liberty of asking you to clarify your position on these matters and to see that future demonstrations occur with unity. While awaiting your reply, we extend to you, comrades, our fraternal greetings.'

IMPATIENCE

The Ligue Communiste, which unashamedly names itself Trotskyist, would do well to re-read Trotsky on 'Strategy and Tactics in the Imperialist Epoch' where he clearly and absolutely correctly states:

'...you must never dare to merge, mix, or combine your own party organization with an alien one... undertake no such steps as lead directly or indirectly, openly or maskedly, to the subordination of your party to other parties... You shall not mix the banners, let

alone kneel before another banner. It is the worst and most dangerous thing if a manoeuvre arises out of the impatient opportunistic endeavour to outstrip the development of one's own party and to leap over the necessary stages of its development (it is precisely here that no stages must be leaped over), by binding, combining, and uniting superficially, fraudulently, diplomatically, through combinations and trickery, organizations and elements that pull in opposite direction. Such experiments, always dangerous, are fatal to young and weak parties.'

At this stage of history, when the battle against centrism must be fought with strength and determination, the followers of Mandel manifest only impatience and opportunism being themselves caught in the whirlpool of centrist politics.

D. N. PRITT: QC FOR STALIN'S PURGES

BY JOHN CRAWFORD

In their obituaries last week to Denis Nowell Pritt, QC, the Tory papers presented a picture of a successful barrister with an eccentric attachment to the Soviet Union.

The 'Daily Telegraph' spoke of his 'almost quixotic enthusiasm for the underdog, that led him into the bayways of communism'.

A famous defender of colonial leaders like Kenyatta against the oppression of British imperialism, his 'extreme Marxist beliefs' were depicted as a result of misguided liberalism.

In his autobiography, as in his life Pritt cultivated the image of an English gentleman, a shrewd lawyer, but something of an innocent in politics.

And it is in considering this mask of innocence that the mystery of Pritt emerges. For this former Labour MP and member of Labour's National Executive Committee was much more than a 'fellow traveller' of the Stalinists.

Pritt never joined the Communist Party—and never explained why not. In his autobiography, he tells us how he started to read Marxism in 1941, long after his devoted work for Stalinism had begun.

'It was a struggle, but I gradually mastered it, and I think I may fairly call myself a Marxist.' (Vol. 1, p. 292.) He also refers to unspecified 'disagreements' with the CP 'about the war'. (Ibid. p. 299.)

As in other aspects of Pritt's career, it is precisely the appearance of innocence that is most suspicious. For in the period 1939-1941, Pritt actually emerged as one of the leading figures in British Stalinism, second only to R. Palme Dutt.

When the Stalin-Hitler Pact was announced on August 23, 1939, many CP members were shaken and confused. But not Pritt.

'As early as September 6,' he writes, 'I came to the conclusion that I had studied the British press and the speeches of the Soviet leaders sufficiently to get my mind clear about the Soviet-German Pact; and I thought it useful to put my thoughts on record—for my own use or that of friends—and within a week I had ready a duplicated document, about 5,000 words in length, which I sent to a few friends for comment.' (Ibid. p. 195.)

By the beginning of October, Pritt's book 'Light on Moscow' had been published by Penguin, giving the Stalinist 'justification' for the Pact. (An account of this book is given in 'Stalinism in Britain', by Robert Black, New Park Publications pp. 98-101.)

In this difficult time for the Stalinist leaders, Pritt played a vital role in selling the new line to the rank-and-file CP members.

But it had been three years earlier, at the time of the first of the Moscow frame-up trials, that Pritt had made his biggest contribution to Stalin's cause. He writes about his second visit to the USSR (his first was in 1932, in a Fabian delegation) like this:

'While we were still in Moscow, indeed just as we were arranging to go to Yalta, the announcement was made that Zinoviev, Kamenev and some 14 other people were to be

tried for taking part in terrorist conspiracies against the government. My wife said that I ought to cancel my trip to Yalta and attend the trial; I was a bit obtuse about it, not realizing what a "hullabaloo" would be raised in England about the case, for I combined a lawyer's belief in the proper behaviour of courts with a socialist belief that a socialist state would not try people unless there was a strong case against them; and I had not yet grasped how deep was the anti-Soviet feeling of most Labour leaders. So I resisted, and I said I was very tired, and wanted a holiday. My wife seeing all the things I didn't see, insisted, and asked what I thought the English press would say if they heard that an experienced British lawyer, professing to be pro-Soviet, had deliberately left Moscow on the eve of the trial they were blackguarding; so I asked for a ticket to attend the trial. This took me a good deal of time and a good deal of effort to obtain.' (Ibid. p. 109.)

And so Pritt—unwillingly and by accident, he tells us—sat through the performance as Stalin's prosecutor Vishinsky took the former leaders of Bolshevism through their rehearsed 'confessions'.

The trial had started on August 19, 1936. By August 25, the accused had been found guilty of plotting with Trotsky and Hitler, sentenced to death and shot. By early September, Pritt's pamphlet 'The Zinoviev Trial', reassuring the world of the authenticity of the trial, was written and printed.

When, in 1966, Pritt's autobiography blandly maintained its author's contentment with the trial, even after Khrushchev had made it clear that it was a monstrous fraud, many people were surprised. They should not have been.

For Pritt knew as much in 1936 as he did in 1966 that the trial was merely a means of slander and murder by Stalin and his servants. In 'The Zinoviev Trial' he had written:

'It should be realized at the outset, of course, that the critics who refuse to believe that Zinoviev or Kamenev could possibly have conspired to murder Kirov, Stalin, Voroshilov, and others, even when they say themselves they did, are in a grave logical difficulty. For, if they thus dismiss the whole case for the prosecution as a "frame-up", it follows inescapably that Stalin and a substantial number of other high officials, including presumably the judges and the prosecutor, were themselves guilty of a foul conspiracy to procure the judicial murder of Zinoviev, Kamenev, and a fair number of other persons.'

By the time these words were written, Pritt was well aware of the large number of absurdities and inconsistencies in the 'confessions' (there was no evidence) none of which, of course, he mentioned in his pamphlet, or anywhere else. The most famous of these, is the Hotel Bristol in Copenhagen, where the defendant Holtzman declared he arranged to meet Trotsky's son Sedov in 1932.

Apart from the fact that Sedov later proved that he was in Berlin at the time, the Danish social-democrat newspaper had pointed out on September 1, 1936, that the Hotel Bristol had been demolished in 1917. (See Shachtman, 'Behind the Moscow Trial', New Park Publications.)



Published in the same month as his pamphlet, a verbatim account of the trial appeared in Britain with foreword by Pritt. And the most serious omission of this publication, hardly likely to have been accidental, is Holtzman's reference to the Hotel Bristol! (See Joseph Redman, 'British Stalinists and the Moscow Trials', in 'A Moscow Trials Anthology', New Park Publications,

Perhaps the innocent Queen's Counsellor never heard about the inconsistencies in the 'confessions'? They had been widely written about and discussed, however. At least one pamphlet attacking the Zinoviev trial had been read by Pritt, anyway, 'The Witchcraft Trial in Moscow', by the Austrian Friedrich Adler.

In his autobiography, Pritt wrote: 'I had a further remarkable proof of the depth of hostility to the socialist state in the Labour Party leadership. A month or two later, it published a pamphlet, written by an Austrian social democrat, who had of course not attended the trial, describing the proceedings as "witchcraft", and asserting that I had been hired by the Soviet Union to whitewash the trial, and provided with a copy of the dossier in advance to enable me to do so!

'There was not, of course, a word of truth in all this; I had never heard of the trial, or of anything connected with it, until the announcement of it was made in Moscow a day or two before it started. Transport House had not even asked me what the facts were as to how I came to attend the trial, nor indeed communicated with me at all on the matter, and the first I heard of the pamphlet was when someone told me of it some days after it was published.

'I got a copy, and saw that it was plainly libellous of me, and wondered for a time whether it would teach the paranoiacs in Transport House not to be so anti-Soviet if I brought a libel action against them and forced them to acknowledge the truth in open court. But I soon decided not to do so, for a variety of reasons; perhaps the most important was the knowledge that the better elements of the working class—of whom there were of course many in the Labour Party—detest recourse to the courts.' (Op. cit. p. 114.)

In the past 36 years, Pritt and his fellow Stalinists have been similarly 'libelled' all over the world. Never once have they dared to take the matter to court, where they knew their lies and slanders would be exposed.

Pritt's pamphlet and his other efforts to cover up the bloody work of Stalin's murder machine were of vital importance for Stalinism in 1936-1939. Every Stalinist could point to the certificate of authenticity drawn up by the innocent Pritt, an 'independent' Labour MP, and an 'expert' on Soviet law.

In January 1937, the second of the GPU's show trials began, with Radek and Piatakov as chief defendants. A whole book was rushed out, written by the Dudley Collard, called 'Soviet Justice and the Trial of Radek'. Pritt contributed an introduction to this.

In 1956, when Khrushchev revealed that the trials were only part of Stalin's murder campaign in which thousands of communists perished, Collard made a statement renouncing and regretting his book. But Pritt continued to brazen it out, right to the end.

Who, then, was Pritt?

It is pointless to speculate on the precise form of the relationship cemented between the English lawyer and the counter-revolutionary thugs who had usurped the leadership of the first workers' state. But for 40 years, without wavering for a moment, Pritt faithfully followed every twist and turn ordered by his Moscow masters.

There are many Stalinists, reactionary and unprincipled as they are, whose political development can be seen as a perversion of an initial adherence to communism and the Russian Revolution. Pritt's career cannot be understood in this way. Far from being a 'dupe' of Stalin, his studied innocence was part of the most conscious effort to cover up the crimes of the betrayers of the revolution.

Pritt is dead, and others of his generation of Stalinists have ended their lives of treachery to the working class or are about to do so. But a new crop, trained by their predecessors, fight to continue their work.

Pritt came to the fore at the time of the worst defeats and betrayals of the working class, when the struggle for principles was most difficult. The Jimmy Reids and Monty Johnstones face a period of powerful revolutionary upsurge, where Trotskyism is able to win a generation of workers to Marxist theory.

Even with the aid of Stalin's torturers and assassins, Pritt could not break the continuity of struggle of our movement. His successors will work as hard and stoop as low, but they will never be able to stop us.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

DIAL-A-BOSS

Some management genius in the United States has come up with a new scheme to cut industrial disputes.

It's a Dial-a-Boss programme. The idea is that if you have a grouch you pick up the phone and speak to a tape-recording machine. The complaint is recorded and sent to management to be dealt with.

The beauty of the scheme, say the manufacturers, is that it is anonymous. It also means they are speedily dealt with.

Seems to be a scheme to encourage narks of every description.

ODD

Firms that use computers for arranging dates claim the utmost respectability and confidentiality. May be so, but some of the forms one is asked to fill in are a bit odd.

A question listed on one dating agency's form is this: 'Is communism a vice which should be eradicated from the face of the earth?'

CROWNED

One item is certainly not suffering from the general battle in the United States to drive down inflation.

That is the presidential inauguration ceremony. This ersatz coronation cost the American public \$347,000 when President Nixon was 'crowned' for the first time.



Nixon: \$347,000



Roosevelt: 500 bucks

But the figure has been doubled to pay for the next inauguration due later this year—a total of \$650,000 has been set aside for the ceremony—Oh for the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt; his thrash cost a modest \$500.

£2,500 WASH

New gadget on the market is just the thing to stow in your council flat. It is a washing machine which scrubs you, massages you with rubber brushes and dries you with an infra-red lamp. It's a steal at £2,500.

Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

Is Coventry Labour opposition just talk?

By our own correspondent

COVENTRY municipal tenants are watching the new Labour council to see if they are going to implement the Tory 'fair rents' Bill or match their fighting pre-election talk with action.

So far the new council has not made a pronouncement on its intentions. Tenants are beginning to speak out about the question.

Charlie Paynton, a 64-year-old tenant, a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union for 40 years and a Labour Party member, thought the council would announce its plans after the meeting of Labour groups in Sheffield this month.

He said: 'I believe the Labour council will definitely be against putting the rents up. They must defy the Tory government's Bill.'

But at a pre-election meeting Councillor George Parks, the Labour group leader, would give no such guarantee. His whole speech was the usual right-wing 'law and order' stance.

'I can't give you that pledge. I cannot commit my colleagues



Rents are already £4.57—and rising—on Wood End Estate, Coventry. What will Labour do?

before we have discussed and decided on it,' he said.

'You are dealing with questions of law. If you put yourself above the law you invite arrest.

'It doesn't make sense to have all the Labour councillors whipped off the City Council

because they are guilty of offences under the law.

'We shall resist the Bill by all the means at our disposal.'

Charlie Paynton had different views. 'The Tory rent Bill is an attack on the workers. Rents are already £4.57. The council is supposed to do redecorating, but this house has only been done once in 17 years!

'The extra rents aren't going to go to working people for sure and I believe the Labour council will definitely be against putting the rents up. They must defy the Tory government's Bill.

'There should be Councils of Action to unite all workers who are being attacked by the Tory government.

'The Industrial Relations Act is a vicious attack on the working class.

'As for the TUC, they're not uniting the working class against the government. They should be forced to act and the government should be forced out.

'The next Labour government must first restore jobs to all workers at decent wages. They must remove all these Acts like the Housing Finance Act and the Industrial Relations Act immediately.

'They've got to have 100 per cent socialist policies—not 50-50. All the industries must be taken over. The banks as well, because they're only being run by big profiteers.

'I'm totally opposed to the union leaders co-operating with the National Industrial Relations Court and paying over fines to this government.

'If the Tory government goes on getting away with this, every worker in the country will be punished,' said Charlie.

Leo Dooley, an unemployed worker who also lives on the Wood End Estate, said:

'The Tory government is forcing councils to increase rents yearly. I think it can be for no other reason but to crush the workers.

'All the big property dealers will be able to shoot up their rents as a result. It's giving them the chance they have been waiting for.

'The Industrial Relations Act is the way the Tories hope to get complete control over the working class. It's their way of telling the working class what they should do and what they should not do.

'The T&GWU leaders should never have paid that fine. It was not their money to pay. It belongs to the workers.

'These "leaders" ran away from the fight against the Tory government.

'I was hoping on the Common Market issue that the Tories would have been defeated and would have had to go to the country.

'The Labour MPs who voted

with the Tories should have been thrown out, but unfortunately they were not.

'Councils of Action embracing all workers' organizations should force the TUC to call a General Strike to get the Tories out.

'The Labour government should then nationalize the industries and the workers should be given control.

'And those owners of the big monopolies and businesses should get no compensation. They haven't earned anything.

'Coventry Labour council must refuse to abide by this "fair rents" Bill. If councillors are fined they shouldn't pay. The Councils of Action would support them in this,' said Leo.



Charlie Paynton: 'Labour must defy rents Bill'

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'Councils of Action would back fined councillors'

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.10 London. 9.00 Film: 'The Secret of Blood Island'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 Gus Honeybun. 12.10 Rupert Bear. 12.20 Lone Ranger. 12.45 Lidsville. 11.25 Faith for Life. 11.30 Weather.

TYNE TEES: 11.25 Yesterdays. 11.50 Bushboy. 12.15 Arthur. 12.40 Lidsville. 1.10 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 News. 5.45 Train Now Standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Dead Weight'. 10.25 If It Moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Strange Report. 12.20 Church in the Wildwood.

ATV MIDLANDS: 12.35 Horoscope. 12.40 Captain Scarlet. 1.10 London. 5.10 Sala of the Century. 5.40 News. 5.45 Train Now Standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Gorilla at Large'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Dick Van Dyke. 11.55 Who Knows? Weather.

GRANADA: 12.15 Woobinda. 12.40 Secret Service. 1.10 London. 5.10 Guns of Will Sonnett. 5.40 News. 5.45 Train Now Standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Train of Events'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Danger Man.

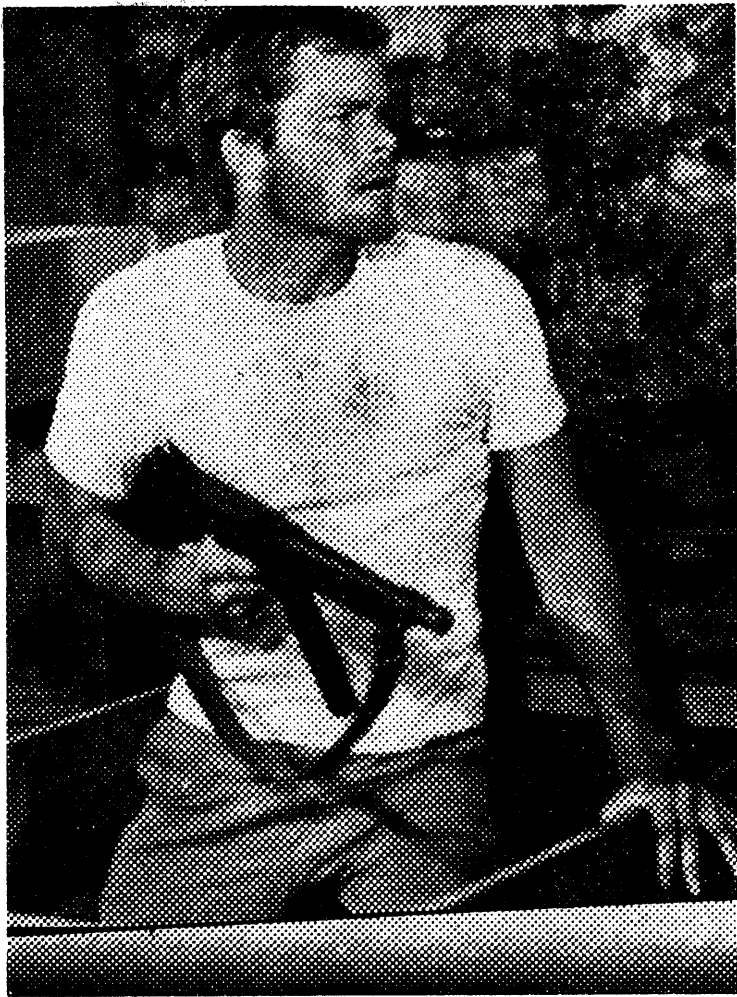
ULSTER: 12.55 Enchanted House. 1.10 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 News. 5.45 Train Now Standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Summer Results. 9.05 Film: 'The Savage Guns'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Theatre of Stars.

HTV: 10.50 Tennis. 11.15 Pippi. 11.40 Sesame Street. 12.40 Farming. 1.10 London. 5.10 Sala. 5.40 News. 5.45 Train Now Standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Columbo: Dead Weight. 10.20 If It Moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 The Prisoner. 12.20 Weather.

HTV Wales as above.

HTV West as above.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 5.10 Sion a Sian. 8.00 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd 1972. 8.30 Bath, a City Preserved.



Doug McClure—'Trampas' of 'The Virginian' series—in 'The Longest Hundred Miles', BBC-1 7 p.m.

GRAMPIAN: 12.40 Yoga. 1.10 London. 5.10 Rovers. 5.40 News. 5.45 Train Now Standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Dead Weight'. 10.20 If It Moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Conference Report.

SOUTHERN: 11.40 Yesterdays. 12.10 Thunderbirds. 1.07 Weather. 1.10 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 News. 5.45 Train Now Standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Brides of Dracula'. 10.30 London. 11.25 News. 11.35 Strange Report. 12.30 Weather. Men for the Ministry.

SCOTTISH: 12.05 Beagan Gaidh-

lig. 12.20 Phoenix Five. 12.45 Tom Grattan's War. 1.10 London. 5.10 The Roadrunner. 5.40 News. 5.45 Train Now Standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: 'Requiem for a Heavyweight'. 10.30 London. 11.25 Liberal Party Conference. 11.35 Late Call. 11.40 On the House.

YORKSHIRE: 11.25 Yesterdays. 11.50 Make a Wish. 12.15 Skippy. 12.40 Lidsville. 1.10 London. 5.10 Primus. 5.40 News. 5.45 Train Now Standing. 6.15 London. 9.00 Film: Columbo—'Dead Weight'. 10.25 If It Moves. 10.30 London. 11.25 Edgar Wallace. 12.30 Weather.

BBC 1

10.00 Wie bitte? 10.40 Weather. 10.45 Trooping the Colour. 12.15 Cricket. 1.00 Grandstand. 1.10 Speedway; 1.25 Canoe Slalom; 1.40, 2.35, 3.05, 3.40 Cricket; 1.50, 2.25, 2.50 3.20 Racing from Kempton; 2.10 3.40 Rugby League; 4.50 Final Score. 5.05 Basil Brush. 5.35 News, weather. 5.50 Dr. Who.

6.15 WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY.

7.00 FILM: 'THE LONGEST HUNDRED MILES'. Doug McClure, Katharine Ross, Ricardo Montalban. Cynical American GI undertakes journey with priest, nurse, seven children and some unexpected passengers in rickety church bus.

8.30 THE BLACK AND WHITE MINSTREL SHOW.

9.15 A MAN CALLED IRONSIDE. 'Check, Mate and Murder' part one.

10.15 PARKINSON. (New Series.) Michael Parkinson interviews.

11.15 ALL IN THE FAMILY. (New Series). US comedy show.

11.45 Weather.

All Regions as BBC 1 except:

Wales: 6.15 Eisteddfod Jiwili yr Urdd: y Bala. 11.47 Weather.

Scotland: 11.15 Scottish Liberal Party Conference Report. 11.40 All in the Family. 12.10 News, weather.

N Ireland: 5.45 News, sports. 11.47 News, weather.

England: 11.47 Weather.

BBC 2

9.05 Open University. 3.00 Film: 'Tummy and the Doctor'. 4.25 Cricket. 6.35 Tutankhamun's Egypt. 6.55 Man Alive.

7.45 NEWS, SPORT, Weather.

8.00 TROOPING THE COLOUR.

8.30 ONE PAIR OF EYES. Lord Caradon — Race Against Time.

9.15 SOUNDS FOR SATUR-

TV

ITV

10.50 Thunderbirds. 11.40 Sesame Street. 12.40 Jackson Five. 1.10 News. 1.15 World of Sport: 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Thirsk; 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Stratford; 3.10 'Acropolis Rally' from Greece, Show Jumping 'Bath and West Show'; 3.55 Results, Scores, News; 4.00 Wrestling from Harrogate; 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.

7.00 NEW SCOTLAND YARD. 'The Wrong 'Un'.

8.00 SATURDAY VARIETY starring Hylda Baker.

9.00 FILM: 'CASH ON DEMAND'. Peter Cushing, Andre Morell. Bank manager's wife is threatened. . . .

10.30 NEWS.

10.40 OPEN NIGHT with Mike Scott.

11.30 SHOWS PROMISE — SHOULD GO FAR with Austin Mitchell.

12.05 IS IT A HANDICAP?

DAY: The 5th Dimension.

10.00 PETS AND VETS.

10.15 THE GOLDEN BOWL. Part 5 Maggie.

10.55 NEWS, Weather.

11.00 FILM NIGHT.

11.30 MIDNIGHT MOVIE: 'THE BAD LORD BYRON'. Dennis Price, Mai Zetterling, Joan Greenwood.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.00 Morning Service. 12.05 Music in the Round. 1.58 Weather. 2.00 Avengers. 2.55 Film: 'No Time to Die'. 4.35 Date with Danton. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Reward'. 9.30 Cinema. 10.00 London. 11.15 UFO. 12.05 Epilogue. Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Farmhouse kitchen. 1.20 Homes of History. 1.35 Farm and Country News. 12.05 Faith for Life. 12.10 Weather.

TYNE TEES: 10.20 Farming. 10.45 Talking Hands. 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Camping and Caravanning. 12.55 Farmhouse Kitchen. 1.25 Farming Outlook. 1.55 Out of Town. 2.15 Jobs. 2.20 Snooker. 3.15 Film: 'Jazzboat'. 4.40 London. 7.55 Film: 'Roman Holiday'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Randall and Hopkirk. 12.15 The Love Unfeigned.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Farmhouse Kitchen. 1.40 Horoscope. 1.45 Yesterdays. 2.15 Sport. 3.15 Film: 'The Mouse That Roared'. 4.40 London. 6.15 Private Views. 7.00 London. 7.55 Film: 'The VIPs'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Spy-force. Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.50 Farmhouse Kitchen. 1.20 Yesterdays. 1.50 Mad Movies. 2.15 Sportsworld '72. 3.15 Film: 'The Canadians'. 4.40 London. 6.15 Private Views. 6.55 London. 7.55 Film: 'Funeral in Berlin'. 9.50 Cartoon Time. 10.00 London. 11.15 Man in a Suitcase.

SOUTHERN: 11.00 Service. 12.00 Weather. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Farm Progress. 1.25 Training the Family Dog. 1.45 Stingray. 2.15 Sportsworld '72. 3.15 Film: 'Noose for a Lady'. 4.35 News. 4.40 London. 6.15 Billy Graham. 7.00 London. 7.55 Film: 'The George Raft Story'. 9.50 Bugs Bunny. 10.00 London. 11.15 Songs for Your Delight. 11.45 Short Story. 12.15 Weather. Men for the Ministry.



Francoise Hardy, BBC-2 Sunday 9.10 p.m.

SCOTTISH: 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Farmhouse Kitchen. 1.25 Yesterdays. 1.55 Seven Seas. 2.55 Zingalong. 3.05 Film: 'Three Men in a Boat'. 4.40 London. 6.05 News. 6.15 Class of '72. 7.00 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Wild and the Willing'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Late Call. 11.20 Randall and Hopkirk.

ULSTER: 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Farmhouse Kitchen. 1.45 London. 3.15 Film: 'The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad'. 4.40 London. 6.15 Billy Graham in Ulster. 7.00 London. 7.55 Sports Results. 7.55 Film: 'State Fair'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Kyung - Wha Chung.

HTV: 11.00 Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Farmhouse Kitchen. 1.45 London. 2.15 International Show Jumping. 3.15 Film: 'The Farmer Takes a Wife'. 4.40 London. 6.15 Private Views. 7.00 London. 7.55 Film: 'Until They Sail'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 11.15 The Avengers. 12.15 Weather.

HTV Wales as above except: 12.05 Dan Sylw. 12.40 Llusern.

HTV West as above.

HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales plus: 5.30 Llusern.

GRAMPIAN: 12.05 Music in the Round. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Farmhouse Kitchen. 1.20 Yesterdays. 1.55 Farm Progress. 2.25 Randall and Hopkirk. 3.20 Film: 'Family Doctor'. 4.40 London. Weather. 6.05 News. 6.15 Billy Graham. 7.00 London. 7.55 Film: 'Destroyer'. 9.30 Odd Couple. 10.00 London. 11.15 His and Hers. 11.40 Kind of Living. 12.00 Job Look.

YORKSHIRE: 10.45 Talking Hands. 11.00 Morning Service. 12.05 Music. 12.30 Camping and Caravanning. 1.00 Farmhouse Kitchen. 1.25 Farming Outlook. 1.55 Calendar Sunday. 2.20 World Snooker. 3.15 Film: 'The Cool Mikado'. 4.40 London. 6.15 Billy Graham in Ulster. 7.00 London. 7.55 Film: 'Roman Holiday'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Division 4. 12.15 Weather.

BBC 1

9.00 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 9.30 Wie bitte? 10.30 Morning Service. 11.30 Boomph with Becker. 11.45 Mistress of Hardwick. 12.10 Bellamy on Botany. 12.35 Profit by Control. 1.25 Farming. 1.50 Hammer It Home. 2.15 Made in Britain. 2.25 Going for a Song. 2.55 Laurel and Hardy. 3.15 Film: 'Man's Favourite Sport'. 5.10 The British Empire. 6.05 News, weather.

6.15 THE ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY.

6.50 SONGS OF PRAISE.

7.25 THE GOOD OLD DAYS. Music Hall.

8.15 FILM: 'THE ROOTS OF HEAVEN'. Trevor Howard, Juliette Greco, Errol Flynn. Man obsessed with preservation of African elephant, believing that their plight reflects mankind's threatened extinction in the nuclear age.

10.15 NEWS, weather.

10.30 OMNIBUS. Dorothy Heathcote — Yorkshire drama teacher.

11.20 KENNETH HARRIS INTERVIEWS JAMES GULLIVER.

12.10 Weather.

All Regions as BBC 1 except:

Wales: 1.25 Farming. 2.55 Spy Trap. 3.45 Top of the Form. 4.05 Laurel and Hardy. 4.25 The Urdd Jubilee Eisteddfod. 6.15 Hen Allorau. 12.12 News.

Scotland: 6.15 Behind the Masque. 6.45 Appeal. 6.50 Songs of Praise. 12.12 News, weather.

N Ireland: News, weather.

England: 12.12 Weather.

BBC 2

9.05 Open University. 1.50 Cricket. 7.00 News Review, weather.

7.25 MUSIC ON 2. Johann Sebastian Bach's six concertos.

8.20 THE WORLD ABOUT US. Song of the Sirens.

9.10 NIGHT CLUB (new

TV

ITV

10.30 Yesterdays. 11.00 Service. 12.05 Farmhouse Kitchen. 12.30 Something to Sing About. 12.55 Out of Town. 1.15 Stingray. 1.45 University Challenge. 2.15 Sports-world '72. 3.15 Jason King. 4.10 Catweazle. 4.40 Golden Shot. 5.35 Pollyfoot. 6.05 News.

6.15 PRIVATE VIEWS.

7.00 STARS ON SUNDAY.

7.25 DOCTOR IN CHARGE. Face the Music.

7.55 FILM: 'CAPRICE'. Doris Day, Richard Harris. Comedy. Industrial designer sells secret formula to rival concern.

9.50 POLICE 5.

10.00 NEWS.

10.15 BEN SPRAY. Cynical young man seeking affection and understanding in contrasting worlds of suburbia and bedsitterland.

11.15 MUSIC IN THE ROUND.

11.45 SHORT STORY. My Secret Husband.

12.15 IS IT A HANDICAP?

series). International cabaret from Paris starring Marcel Amont, Francoise Hardy.

10.10 TUTANKHAMUN'S EGYPT.

10.30 THE LOTUS EATERS. The Fascinating Couple.

11.20 NEWS, weather.

11.25 UP SUNDAY.

EMPLOYERS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE — JONES

By Ian Yeats

AFTER an hour of talks with Tory Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan yesterday, Transport and General Workers' Union leader, Jack Jones, said he had high hopes of a solution to dockland's jobs crisis.

Macmillan urged him to waste no time in getting down to discussions with port employers in the new joint committee on dock labour.

Although he was hopeful some-

thing would come from these discussions, Jones told reporters that: 'The delegate conference really wants to feel this committee is going to have authority and drive, and means what it says, and will not end up like so many other committees of inquiry.'

'We will be trying to find a satisfactory position to report to the conference on June 14.'

The chairmen of port authorities will sit with top-level union officials on the new joint committee and Jones said they were men who wielded 'enormous power in the ports'.

He added: 'Port authorities are licensing authorities for stevedoring companies. And they control everyone registered for dock employment in the port authority area.'

Jones hopes that the chairmen will be able to persuade employers to show 'greater responsibility' in their labour policies.

But their promise to put pressure on employers can be no substitute for the cast-iron guarantees being demanded by the rank and file, particularly in Liverpool.

Workers at present stuffing containers are paid up to a third less than registered dockers, and there are bound to be difficulties in persuading port bosses to pay the higher rates. There are likely to be added problems in persuading terminal operators not directly controlled by the port authorities.

Anything less than a concrete guarantee of jobs will open the door to union collaboration with the employers in their ports modernization plans, which have already sent thousands of men to the dole queues.

Macmillan also asked Jones to influence the tally clerks to call off their strike due to start on Monday. Jones said he was making 'special efforts' to bring about a settlement.



Docks pickets stopping a lorry at Chobham Farm container depot yesterday.

Docks picket fears isolation of railmen

By our own reporter

LONDON dockers were bitter yesterday about the decision to postpone the national docks strike.

A Royal group shop steward picketing the gate of Stratford's Midland Cold Storage depot told me: 'I think Thursday's delegate conference postponed the strike because they could see the port employers were willing to talk.'

'But they've really got to come up with something this time.'

'It isn't money and it isn't holidays we want. It's jobs, jobs, jobs all the way down the line.'

'Unless the employers come up with something concrete we'll all be out on strike in 14 days' time, promises are not enough.'

Sixty lorries a day would normally be queuing to get into the depot. But yesterday only five lorries crossed the picket line.

The steward said: 'We are doing far more damage with our "blacking" down here than they are up at Liverpool.'

'We can't understand why they haven't brought us in front of the industrial court.'

'The dockers have always been a hard nut to crack, and I think they don't want to antagonize us so that they can have a go at the railwaymen on their own.'

MEANWHILE at Chobham Farm depot, T&GWU drivers employed at the terminal yesterday mounted a counter-picket to the dockers urging truckers to cross the picket line.

SOUTHERN Stevedores, on the Royal docks, shut down—throwing 1,250 into the unattached labour pool. On June 23, G. Beare and Son will close, putting 55 tally clerks out of work.

A **MASS** meeting of about 1,000 Southampton dockers yesterday unanimously voted to accept the dock delegates' recommendation to postpone the national docks strike for 15 days.

Their delegates told them that the question of stuffing and stripping of containers did not really affect them at Southampton.

A STRIKE by 140 electricians yesterday halted car production at Chrysler's, Coventry. A total of 4,500 day and night-shift workers have been laid off.

The electricians in the manufacturing assembly plants want separate pay talks outside the overall agreement signed in the two plants last year.

FRANK McMANUS, Westminster MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, has backed the Provisional IRA campaign for a new Ulster based on a nine-county regional parliament.

The scheme was first put forward by the Provisionals last August.

Provisionals to stop talks with the North

THE Provisional IRA said in a statement from Dublin yesterday the fight in Ulster would continue. It added, that secret talks held over the last six months with various groups in the North, including the British government, would cease. The statement, the first since the Officials' ceasefire, said the introduction of special courts had made it impossible for talks to continue.

4,500 locked out at Durham firm

FOUR-AND-A-HALF thousand engineering workers were officially locked out yesterday at Clarke Chapman's Gateshead, Co Durham, works.

The men had reimposed sanctions in support of their pay claim earlier in the week.

The factory had been involved in the area-wide work-to-rule for the claim, which began on May 15. However it had soon been called off for negotiations to begin on a modified claim.

When these negotiations broke down, the men decided to return to the sanctions.

Assistant convenor T. Bickle told Workers Press: 'We are accepting the lock-out.'

'We don't intend to take any action over it other than what we decide with the area officials.'

Brannan strikers face levy cut-off

STRIKERS at Brannan's thermometer factory, Cleator Moor, Cumberland, yesterday marked the first year of their strike.

Preston Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers members who have contributed to the strike fund are appalled by a suggestion being made by Workington district AUEW people that the strike levy be stopped.

Lebanon rebuts Israeli claims

By our own reporter

LEBANESE premier Saeb Salam said yesterday his government could not take action against Palestinian commandos based in the Lebanon so long as they acted peacefully and did not break the country's laws.

Salam was replying to questions on Israeli threats to take strong action against the Lebanon unless the government clamped down on Palestinian organizations.

The Israeli government has said it holds the Lebanon directly responsible for the killing and wounding of passengers at Lydda airport on Wednesday.

The Israeli threats herald new punitive expeditions against the peasants living across the border from Israel.

Their homes and farms have already been attacked in previous Israeli efforts to suppress the commando movement.

Salam claimed that the three young Japanese who carried out the Lydda attack had never been near the Lebanon, contrary to what the Israelis claimed.

LATE NEWS WEATHER

THE Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers will face an 'unfair industrial practice' charge in the National Industrial Relations Court on Monday. The case arises from a 13-week strike by welders at a Hartlepool factory, Expanded Metal Products Ltd. The company, which owns the Stanton works at Hartlepool, will seek an order against the union and three officials.

The AUEW men named in the application are Mr F. P. Richmond, Hartlepool district secretary, Mr R. Barnfather, chairman of the district committee and Mr A. Smith, the welders' shop steward.

BRITAIN'S gold and currency reserves rose by £7m in May bringing the total reserves to £2,744m. Reserves have now risen each month since September 1970, shortly after the Tories came to power. The rise corresponds almost directly to the rise in unemployment.

WEST to North-west airstream covers the British Isles. There will be bright or sunny intervals in many districts, but North and North-west Scotland will be mainly cloudy.

Showers are expected in all areas, the showers being prolonged in North and North-west Scotland, and heavy at times in other districts. Continuing rather cool.

Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Showers heavy and prolonged in places, but also sunny intervals. Rather cool in all areas.

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