

## AUEW AT HASTINGS

# SCANLON MAKES MORE LEFT NOISES



BY STEPHEN JOHNS

HUGH SCANLON yesterday continued the retreat of the trade union leadership before the Tories when he hinted at a possible deal with the government over new procedures to settle disputes.

In his presidential address to the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' annual conference in Hastings, Scanlon disguised an overture to the government behind a barrage of militant phrases.

After a lengthy attack on the TUC's decision to abandon the policy of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act, he offered an olive branch to the Tories.

The government, he said, was now advocating the virtues of conciliation machinery to resolve industrial disputes.

'Certainly this is infinitely preferable to their previous policies,' he added.

But if the new methods were to succeed, they would have to be independent of government, not binding unless both sides agreed nor backed by the Industrial Relations Court.

'It is a contradiction for the government to advocate conciliation and at the same time to operate a legal bludgeon,' he said.

With this overture Scanlon follows TUC general secretary Victor Feather, who became an advocate of Tory policy last weekend when he praised the government's decision to give cash to industry.

Scanlon has his 'left-wing' reputation to guard and is therefore more subtle. But a careful examination of his condemnation of TUC policy reveals it as a phoney.

He charged the General Council with an 'undignified retreat' before the Court and with breaking Congress policy laid down last September.

In a veiled attack on the T&GWU, he spoke of 'pressure from certain affiliated unions faced with injunctions and fines, who were not prepared to make a stand but decided to conduct themselves within the guidelines set by the Act'.

But he made no call for an emergency Congress to stop the collapse before the Tories.

Instead he asked the trade unions to wait until September to set the record straight:

'At the coming Congress of the TUC the General Council has to answer to the movement for its interpretation of Congress policy,' he said.

'Our contention that a definite retreat has been made from the policy decided by Congress can be forcibly expressed there. At

this stage we would hope that a remedy will be forthcoming for what we believe to be a wrong decision taken by the General Council in recent months.'

What is stopping Scanlon? Why wait three months to overturn an unconstitutional decision of the General Council which allowed co-operation with the Act?

At the May 4 General Council that made this fatal move the unions who voted for an immediate re-call were in a 228,603 majority. And the delegates who voted against a special congress were mostly—as Scanlon noted in yesterday's speech—right-wingers who had made little secret of their desire to register under the Act.

Since then the AUEW engineering section, the vehicle builders and a host of smaller unions have gone on record demanding a re-call.

Shop stewards' meetings all over the country have also demanded that the majority exercise their democratic right and stop the abysmal compromises from wrecking the movement.

Beneath the tough 'left' phrases, Scanlon advocates a wait-and-see attitude which gives the Tories three more months to attack the trade union movement. Meanwhile he spreads the chatter of voluntary conciliation through the movement.

Tory soft-soap about voluntary conciliation coupled with the big legal club is no contradiction Mr Scanlon—it is intended to bring trade union leaders like you to your knees. And on yesterday's performance, the strategy seems to be working.

### CONTAINERS ROW

Court order against London dockers blacking container depot see p. 12.

## Tilbury one-day strike as dock delegates meet

The Tilbury dockers vote for action



TILBURY dockers yesterday voted overwhelmingly to stage a one-day strike on Wednesday to coincide with the docks delegate meeting.

The docks delegates meet tomorrow and Thursday to decide whether to go ahead with

Friday's planned national docks strike.

Already dockers at Hull, Liverpool and London have decided to lobby the docks delegates urging all-out strike action.

At yesterday's meeting at Tilbury Green, shop steward

Harry Sage said the Liverpool shop stewards had been strongly critical of the lack of policy or militancy in London in opposition to the large number of men being returned to the unattached register.

He said the Liverpool men also attacked the decision by docks delegates to postpone the strike on a previous occasion.

At the end of his speech Mr Sage emphasized the strike was not against the Industrial Relations Act, though if the Act were used against dockers they would react very strongly.

● Manchester dockers have voted not to take part in tomorrow's national one-day strike. The decision by a mass meeting of 1,100 dockers went against the recommendation of the shop stewards.

## PAPERBACKS CENTRE

28 Charlotte St  
London W1



NOW OPEN  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri  
9 a.m.—6 p.m.  
Thurs 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.  
Sat 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

BOOKS • PERIODICALS • NEWSPAPERS

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • TUESDAY JUNE 13, 1972 • No. 790 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## AUEW AT HASTINGS

# SCANLON MAKES MORE LEFT NOISES



BY STEPHEN JOHNS

HUGH SCANLON yesterday continued the retreat of the trade union leadership before the Tories when he hinted at a possible deal with the government over new procedures to settle disputes.

In his presidential address to the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' annual conference in Hastings, Scanlon disguised an overture to the government behind a barrage of militant phrases.

After a lengthy attack on the TUC's decision to abandon the policy of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act, he offered an olive branch to the Tories.

The government, he said, was now advocating the virtues of conciliation machinery to resolve industrial disputes.

'Certainly this is infinitely preferable to their previous policies,' he added.

But if the new methods were to succeed, they would have to be independent of government, not binding unless both sides agreed nor backed by the Industrial Relations Court.

'It is a contradiction for the government to advocate conciliation and at the same time to operate a legal bludgeon,' he said.

With this overture Scanlon follows TUC general secretary Victor Feather, who became an advocate of Tory policy last weekend when he praised the government's decision to give cash to industry.

Scanlon has his 'left-wing' reputation to guard and is therefore more subtle. But a careful examination of his condemnation of TUC policy reveals it as a phoney.

He charged the General Council with an 'undignified retreat' before the Court and with breaking Congress policy laid down last September.

In a veiled attack on the T&GWU, he spoke of 'pressure from certain affiliated unions faced with injunctions and fines, who were not prepared to make a stand but decided to conduct themselves within the guidelines set by the Act'.

But he made no call for an emergency Congress to stop the collapse before the Tories.

Instead he asked the trade unions to wait until September to set the record straight:

'At the coming Congress of the TUC the General Council has to answer to the movement for its interpretation of Congress policy,' he said.

'Our contention that a definite retreat has been made from the policy decided by Congress can be forcibly expressed there. At

this stage we would hope that a remedy will be forthcoming for what we believe to be a wrong decision taken by the General Council in recent months.'

What is stopping Scanlon? Why wait three months to overturn an unconstitutional decision of the General Council which allowed co-operation with the Act?

At the May 4 General Council that made this fatal move the unions who voted for an immediate re-call were in a 228,603 majority. And the delegates who voted against a special congress were mostly—as Scanlon noted in yesterday's speech—right-wingers who had made little secret of their desire to register under the Act.

Since then the AUEW engineering section, the vehicle builders and a host of smaller unions have gone on record demanding a re-call.

Shop stewards' meetings all over the country have also demanded that the majority exercise their democratic right and stop the abysmal compromises from wrecking the movement.

Beneath the tough 'left' phrases, Scanlon advocates a wait-and-see attitude which gives the Tories three more months to attack the trade union movement. Meanwhile he spreads the chatter of voluntary conciliation through the movement.

Tory soft-soap about voluntary conciliation coupled with the big legal club is no contradiction Mr Scanlon—it is intended to bring trade union leaders like you to your knees. And on yesterday's performance, the strategy seems to be working.

## CONTAINERS ROW

Court order against London dockers blacking container depot see p. 12.

## Tilbury one-day strike as dock delegates meet

The Tilbury dockers vote for action



TILBURY dockers yesterday voted overwhelmingly to stage a one-day strike on Wednesday to coincide with the docks delegate meeting.

The docks delegates meet tomorrow and Thursday to decide whether to go ahead with

Friday's planned national docks strike.

Already dockers at Hull, Liverpool and London have decided to lobby the docks delegates urging all-out strike action.

At yesterday's meeting at Tilbury Green, shop steward

Harry Sage said the Liverpool shop stewards had been strongly critical of the lack of policy or militancy in London in opposition to the large number of men being returned to the unattached register.

He said the Liverpool men also attacked the decision by docks delegates to postpone the strike on a previous occasion.

At the end of his speech Mr Sage emphasized the strike was not against the Industrial Relations Act, though if the Act were used against dockers they would react very strongly.

● Manchester dockers have voted not to take part in tomorrow's national one-day strike. The decision by a mass meeting of 1,100 dockers went against the recommendation of the shop stewards.

## PAPERBACKS CENTRE

28 Charlotte St  
London W1



BOOKS • PERIODICALS • NEWSPAPERS

NOW OPEN  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri  
9 a.m.—6 p.m.  
Thurs 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.  
Sat 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

# WHAT WE THINK

## SECTARIAN STRIFE AND CIVIL WAR

ENCOURAGED by direct rule and protected by the British army, the monster of sectarian strife has raised its ugly head in Ulster.

After five weeks of demonstrating, drilling and barricade-erecting under the benevolent eye of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the army, the counter-revolutionary Ulster Defence Association showed last Sunday what its real policy is by shooting a Catholic youth in the Ardoyne in cold blood.

This provoked a four-hour gun battle which No 2 Paras joined, ostensibly to 'separate the combatants'.

Predictably all the casualties were on the side of the Catholics of the Ardoyne. When the battle ended three more Catholic workers lay dead—all presumably shot by the men who came to stop the fight!

At the same time another IRA 'gunman'—since the Widgery tribunal it has become customary to assume most dead men are 'gunmen'—was killed by 'security' forces in another part of Belfast.

Strangely enough this outbreak of Protestant-Orange Order violence followed a Vanguard rally in Banbridge, County Down, addressed by Enoch Powell, Brian Faulkner, and William Craig.

Not so strangely though the events followed a recent TV interview by Craig on '24 Hours' when he justified the use of weapons—licensed and unlicensed—by the Protestants. Powell, of course, counselled the Protestants not to indulge in 'violent acts', but many Catholics would no doubt want to know what Powell was doing on Craig's platform.

Whatever his reasons, it is unmistakably clear that the Vanguard thugs, under cover of the demand for the army to occupy the 'no-go' areas, are, in fact preparing a joint pogrom against the Catholic minority in collusion with the army.

There will be more Derrys and the massacre of Catholic workers will continue with the active assistance of Orange reactionaries.

From this standpoint no credence can be placed on the UDA report that next weekend the barricades will remain even if it means a serious confrontation with the army.

The army has no intention of clashing with the UDA, which shares the army's hatred for Republicanism.

This hatred has no doubt been compounded by the news that Col Gaddafi of Libya has been supplying the IRA with arms.

Far from being a factor disrupting army plans for 'pacification', the UDA's paramilitary activities fit in perfectly with the army's counter-insurgency preparations for dealing with the Provisional IRA.

They also serve as a trial exercise for future collaboration of the army with such groups in Britain.

That is why, despite intense provocation by the UDA, who put up 100 barricades in Belfast alone, the army took no action.

The army's attitude was commented on with some astonishment by 'Scotsman' reporter in Belfast James Gray:

'Obviously police and troops were under strict orders to avoid a head-on clash with those on the barricades. They have stood back as hundreds of vehicles were hijacked to block roads, not only in Belfast but throughout the Province. . . .

'The low-key approach certainly prevented trouble, but the apparent success of their campaign this weekend is bound to give UDA greater confidence for their major effort.' ('Scotsman' June 12, 1972.)

Is there any need to contrast this with the army's handling of the post-internment situation in the Catholic ghetto?

Behind the masks and the barricades of the UDA there is only one thing: an intense counter-revolutionary hatred of Republicanism which, in the parlance of the UDA leaders, is equated with socialism and communism.

There is nothing progressive about this Ulster version of the Ku Klux Klan. Its methods no less than its policies are thoroughly repulsive and brutally indifferent to working-class needs.

Let the 'Scotsman' speak about the methods used by Craig's 'barricade builders':

'I heard the wife of one motorist plead that they had to get home to a young family miles from where they were stopped; but she was told to get out, or she would be dragged out. There were reports of physically-handicapped people being ordered from their cars.

'A police officer told me a bus load of old-age pensioners were caught up in the turmoil as



Craig in London recently

they returned from an annual outing. Although frightened and with some of them in tears, they were turned off the bus. . . .

'The hospitals authority issued a special appeal to those manning the blocks to give ambulances free passage; but some ambulance drivers had to make long detours. . . .' ('Scotsman' June 12, 1972.)

But the rise of the UDA is not due to any freak of history. There is little doubt that the blind terror of the Provisionals and the needless suffering inflicted upon sections of Protestants by the bombing campaigns have aided the creation of this Frankenstein monster.

At the same time the capitulation of the Official IRA and the Social Democratic Labour Party no less than the bankruptcy of all Labour, nationalist, Stalinist and Republican groups to counterpose a revolutionary socialist alternative to direct rule and to fight for a genuine Constituent Assembly for Ireland, has assisted Craig enormously.

If Craig has won the support of a big section of Protestant working-class youth, he has done so by default. His success is due entirely to the absence of a revolutionary leadership.

The task in Ulster—as in Britain—is not to be mesmerized by the episodic success of the sectarian UDA monster, but to create the instrument which will one day break its neck—a revolutionary party based securely on uniting the Catholic and Protestant workers against the common enemy—British capitalism.

## Thousands of innocents die in Vietnam

AS MANY AS 5,000 innocent civilians were killed by American fire-power during a 1968 campaign in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta during an operation code-named 'Speedy Express'.

A reporter who has studied the campaign says it 'made the My Lai massacre look trifling by comparison'.

Kenin P. Buckley, who has spent four years in Saigon for the magazine 'Newsweek', said 'Speedy Express' was a six-month-long operation by the US Ninth Division in the Delta area. The division claimed that 10,899 'enemy' were killed.

But Buckley points out only 748 weapons were captured.

'There is overwhelming evidence that virtually all the Vietcong were well armed,' Buckley says in an article just published, 'and the enormous discrepancy between the body count and the number of captured weapons is hard to explain—except by the conclusion that many victims were unarmed, innocent civilians.'

Buckley says the appalling civilian casualties were the result of huge US fire-power.

He said that while 8,000 infantrymen were involved, ground contact with the enemy was rare. Thus the division relied largely

on its 50 artillery pieces, 50 helicopters and massive air support.

There were 3,381 air strikes by fighter-bombers, and Buckley quotes an old man as saying one B-52 bomber attack 'ploughed up the earth' in his village—killing many people.

The reporter says that Gen Creighton Abrams, the US commander in Vietnam, has refused to discuss the operation except to say 'the performance of the division has been magnificent'.

Seymour Hersch, the journalist who broke the My Lai massacre story, has now reported that a four-star general has been prematurely retired for carrying out unauthorized bombing raids over North Vietnam.

Gen John Lavelle, who was retired last month, was the US Air Force commander in South-East Asia.

Lavelle (55) is said to have ordered a large number of raids which he described to his superiors as 'small-scale protective reaction' strikes.

A special investigating sub-committee of the House of Representatives armed services committee began hearings on his dismissal yesterday. This is believed to be the first time that a US general has been demoted and sacked.

But it is not the first time that a US general in Vietnam has engaged in bombing and killing which has not been ordered by either the Pentagon or the White House.

Since 1968 there have been a number of reports—difficult to confirm—that generals have staged mini-revolts about so-called lack of firmness by the politicians in prosecuting the war.

Whatever happens to Lavelle, the generals have now effectively won their point.

Neil Sheehan of the 'New York Times' has reported that US military leaders are now being permitted to wage the air war as they want in Indo-China—sealing off North Vietnam's coast and harbours with mines, followed by the 'systematic and relatively unrestrained' destruction of military and industrial targets in the country.

There are restricted zones around Hanoi and Haiphong as well as a so-called buffer area along the China border that is about 25 miles deep, Sheehan reports.

On the other hand, the military commanders are free to strike designated targets within these areas at any time and as often as they want.

## Torture may be allowed by Ceylon 'Star Chamber'

CEYLON'S Criminal Justice Commission, appointed to try people suspected of being involved in the 'Che Guevarist' rising in April 1971, began its first sitting in Colombo yesterday.

According to the Ministry of Justice 8,500 of the 14,000 young people arrested in the aftermath of the rebellion are still held in detention camps, but the Ministry has yet to indicate how many of these will be brought before the Commission.

The coalition government headed by Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and backed by the pro-Moscow Communist Party and the renegade revisionist Lanka Sama Samaja Party, passed the Justice Commissions Bill earlier this year specifically

to strip the detainees of their legal rights.

The Act was passed into law on April 18—almost exactly a year after the alleged offences had been committed.

The parliamentary debate was perfunctory in the extreme and even the majority of Communist Party MPs refused to vote with the government. (The LSSP voted solidly for the Bill.)

Yesterday, at the Queen's Club in Colombo—once the exclusive preserve of the European settlers—the five Supreme Court judges who make up the Commission took evidence from the Attorney-General to decide how many of the detainees are to be tried.

Those who do go before it will probably be charged with waging war against the government and attempting to overthrow it by force of arms. Others charged with lesser offences will be tried by the normal courts.

The Commission can impose a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

The Commission has power far beyond any normal court.

They can summon persons before them without reference to charges and enforce attendance. The hearings may take place in the absence of press or public or both. The normal rights of legal aid do not in practice apply.

Nor do normal rules of evidence: the Commission can 'admit any evidence which might be inadmissible' in ordinary civil or criminal proceedings, including 'a confession or other incriminatory statement to whomsoever and in whatsoever circumstances made'.

In other words, statements extracted under torture or simply fabricated by the authorities have the same status as any other evidence. To make quite sure this evidence is accepted, the

defence is deprived of the right to cross-examine production witnesses.

And in the unlikely event of acquittal the defendant can in any case be detained until the permanent secretary to the Minister of Justice orders his release. If convicted the defendant has no right of appeal.

This Star Chamber parody of a court, which is quite plainly a rubber-stamp for the police and the 'left' government for the specific purpose of crushing left-wing opposition.

It will not stop with the 'Che Guevarist' guerrillas of the People's Liberation Front, however.

The intended victims of this legislation are the workers and trade unionists of Ceylon, who are now becoming increasingly disenchanted with a government which is an open agency of imperialism.

# Right wing routed in actors' union

BY ALEX MITCHELL

THE RIGHT WING in Actors' Equity led by Marius Goring was completely routed at this year's annual general meeting.

Goring and his followers had two resolutions on the order paper seeking crucial rule changes. They were both defeated overwhelmingly.

Even the conservative Equity council was forced to declare itself and oppose the Goring moves.

It was Goring's attempt to change the rules regarding the calling of special general meetings which came in for a particular drubbing.

The resolution put a big financial onus on those wishing to call the meetings and then left it up to the president to refuse the meeting if, 'in his opinion, the motion is frivolous, vexatious, unnecessary'.

Opposing the resolution Stephen Sylvester, the retiring assistant general secretary, referred to some future president, possibly 'this expert', who might claim 'this divine right of president'. (Goring stars in a television series called 'The Expert'.)

He said the effect of the rule change would be to hold members to 'punitive ransom'. He said the right to hold special general meetings was 'one of our most basic freedoms'.

The council believed that the members would throw out the Goring resolution. 'We don't believe you are so gullible as to accept this,' he said. 'We believe you will treat this motion as it so deserves.'

In replying to the discussion, Goring was clearly conscious of the tide of opinion against him.

He said the council of the union—to which he has just been returned topping the poll—had 'twice impugned me' during the conference. He said he very much regretted this.

When someone interrupted and said the vote would show what members thought of his rule changes, Goring snapped back: 'The vote will show what this meeting thinks—which is very little.'

So much for trade union democracy Goring-style!

It was the debate on the nationalization of the industry which completely flushed out the right wing, the Stalinists and the revisionists.

On behalf of 30 members, Malcolm Tierney moved that 'in view of the totally unacceptable level of unemployment and the continued contraction of theatres and studios, we resolve, in accordance with TUC policy on the film industry adopted at the Blackpool conference, that the only solution to this crisis is the nationalization of the entire entertainments industry under workers' control without compensation to its former owners'.



Goring speaks

Equity general secretary Gerald Croasdel attacked the resolution because he claimed it was 'wildly remote from reality'.

Declan Mulholland, who is known to sympathize with the Communist Party, said the resolution 'failed to take into account the membership of this union'. He said it was 'pie in the sky' to suggest nationalization.

He called for unity and a determined fight against unemployment by 'the left, right and centre'. The resolution was defeated by 213 to 159 votes.

Tierney also introduced an emergency resolution calling for the union to terminate the new agreement with the BBC and to break off all contracts because of the BBC's latest policy of wage-cutting and speed-up.

Croasdel opposed the resolution saying there was 'a possibility of a settlement'. He said he had expressed the 'gravity of the situation' to the BBC and the BBC was 'considering the situation most urgently'.

The resolution was defeated 158 to 144 votes.

The biggest blow to the right wing came in the discussion on the Industrial Relations Act.

The Equity Council decided to register without the consent of the members a few months ago. This sparked such antagonism in the rank and file that a special general meeting was summoned at the Adelphi Theatre in The Strand.

At this packed meeting a de-registration move was defeated by several hundred votes. During the subsequent referendum Equity members again voted to register.

But at Sunday's meeting the mood of the membership showed a distinct change, which reflects very much the decisions by the industrial court on the railways and the docks and the belligerent attitude being adopted by the BBC.

The resolution, moved by Tom Kempinski, reaffirmed Equity's 'total opposition' to the Act.

It went on: 'We therefore call on the council of Equity to demand of the TUC that they carry out their responsibility or organize the entire trade union movement in a campaign to defeat the Act in its entirety.'

This resolution was passed by 330 to 200 votes.

It was at this point, late in the afternoon, that the Goring crowd received their most telling setback. Sniffing the times, the ladies with the blonde rinses and furs started to move out of the theatre.

# Print union 'may have to stay on register'

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Print union delegates will be asked in a fortnight to recommend going through the motions of deregistering under the Industrial Relations Act.

But an emergency resolution to be debated at the National Graphical Association's Scarborough conference holds out little hope that the union's name will actually be deleted from the register established by the Act.

John Bonfield, general secretary of the 240,000-strong union, expects the debate on the issue to be one of the most important at the three-yearly conference. With an executive report on NGA structure, he says, it will have 'the greatest impact on the future of the association and its capacity to defend and advance members' interests'.

The emergency resolution reports legal advice that the Registrar of Trade Unions, Robert Farquharson Keith, is likely to reject any deregistration move from the NGA.

Non-registration is fraught with both legal and financial pitfalls for the union. One official estimated recently it could cost it thousands of pounds a year in tax allowances.

In order to bring it formally in line with TUC policy, with which all unions are supposed to comply by June 30, the NGA national council recommends the application to deregister.



John Bonfield

If carried, this recommendation will then go to a ballot vote of the entire membership. Only such a ballot can make a final decision.

## Tories approve ships take-over

THE government yesterday gave the go-ahead for Court Line's £8m takeover bid for shipbuilders Doxford and Sunderland.

A statement from the Department of Trade and Industry said the deal would not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The 'all-clear' decision follows the announcement last week about Court Line having increased the terms of its offer and won the support of the Doxford directors. Court Line will be sending out the formal documents for its bid today.

# World's End reinstatement fight



World's End pickets stopping a lorry yesterday

CUBBITT'S 'World's End' site in Chelsea was at a standstill yesterday as the entire 300-strong labour force struck for the reinstatement of three men.

One of the sub-contracting firms on the site, Barcotts Ltd, has failed to apply a transfer clause in the site agreement whereby any man who is laid off for lack of work is the first to be taken back on when more men are needed again.

Three carpenters were laid off three weeks ago, but last week Barcotts took on new men. Cubbitts appear to be supporting the firm in this stand.

'What is this if not victimization?' asked site convenor Donald Quinn yesterday. 'The firm have made no complaints about the men's work but they are refusing to take them on again. We are not going back till these men are back on the site.'

Two other Cubbitts sites—Surrey Lane and Mondial House—have promised support.

# Pop goes the ultra right

THE Festival of Light is holding its own pop festival this weekend in Chingford just North of London. It will, however, be a festival with a difference.

The unique event was originally planned to take place on the Glebeand, Buckhurst Hill—which surrounds the home of Rector Rev Peter Casswell—on Spring Bank Holiday weekend, but the area was too small.

Another park has been found and 'Christian young people' will, according to the programme, now attend a Youth for Jesus Festival.

There will certainly be pop groups, but it is emphasized that they will be Christian as well as

being professional groups. The programme notes do not make clear what a Christian group sounds like.

In addition to the music there will be lectures and discussions designed to 'examine and deepen faith'.

At 11 p.m., when the activities finish the girls will be packed off in a barn while the boys sleep in marquees or their own tents.

Christ is certainly expensive this year. Tickets for the weekend are going at £1.50 a time. There is unlikely to be a black market.

# BOOKS



Moscow Trials Anthology  
Paperback, 623p  
MAX SHACHTMAN:  
Behind The Moscow Trial  
Paperback 75p  
ROBERT BLACK:  
Stalinism In Britain  
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2  
LEON TROTSKY:  
Death Agony of Capitalism  
(The Transitional Programme)  
Pamphlet 5p  
Class Nature of the Soviet State  
Pamphlet 20p  
In Defence of the October  
Revolution Pamphlet 15p  
The Theory and Practice of  
Revisionism Pamphlet 15p  
Postage 10p per book, 3p per  
pamphlet. Order from:  
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG.

# THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE WORKING CLASS

The survival of British capitalism now depends on one thing: preventing the working class from mobilizing itself politically to bring down the Tory government.

The ruling class is very conscious of this and is bending every energy to prepare to break the strength of the working class before this political mobilization can be achieved.

The role of centrism is to confuse and disarm the working class and thus facilitate the preparations of the ruling class.

For example, we find the International Marxist Group saying, on the one hand, 'don't vote Labour, they're no different from the Tories', and on the other, 'don't devote so much time to attacking the reformist and centrist leaders'.

In both cases it is a way of diverting the working class from the principal task of our epoch, the construction of alternative revolutionary leaderships successfully opposing the reformists and Stalinists.

Returning to Lenin's definition of the political basis of working-class tactics, we must contrast the IMG line with the objective stage of development of the classes and their struggle in Britain, and the stage reached in relations between British capitalist society and the world situation of imperialism.

Just when these international developments — collapse of the Bretton Woods monetary system, accelerating trade war and slump, and behind all this the unbroken strength of the workers both in the advanced countries and the colonial countries — make it necessary for the British capitalist class to attack every basic right of the working class, the centrist turns his back on the defence of these rights and past gains.

## DEFENDING RIGHTS

To the working class in Britain, now threatened with the transition to Bonapartism and disruption of parliamentary democratic rights, the IMG centrist says: these things are only reformist deceptions, pursue the economic struggle! Marxists, on the other hand, as Trotsky pointed out in a similar situation in France in 1935, fight to strengthen the working class by mobilizing it to defend every shred of democratic rights.

Actually it has not taken long for history itself to prove our point against the IMG. According to them, the SLL call for a Labour government coincides with the policy of Wilson and the trade union bureaucracy. We exposed this myth in an earlier article. But

now look at the bedfellows of the IMG!

The IMG's National Committee in its policy document states: 'The task of revolutionaries is to heighten the struggle by increasing at all times the tension between the Labour Party and the trade unions. Such an orientation is now summed up in the slogan "A workers' government based on the trade unions".'

A few weeks after this document was circulated, Heath and Macmillan, building on the assault led by the National Industrial Relations Court, made belligerent speeches (May 13) telling Feather and the TUC that the trade unions' connection with the Labour Party and politics could not be tolerated; they must not oppose Tory legislation but must work in the same way whichever party is in power; their job was to look after the living standards of their members . . . !

We can see clearly from this that the great thing to be avoided, so far as the Tory government is concerned, is that the organized workers should express themselves politically through the demand: Make the Tories resign, return a Labour government. Heath attacks even the mildest TUC criticism of his new law, because he knows that behind even a gesture of defiance stands the threat of political mobilization of the working class.

It is not at all a question, as the IMG claims, of the SLL equating a Labour electoral victory with the coming of socialism. On the contrary, we have explained at every juncture that a Labour government brought into office by an anti-Tory mass movement would be an entirely new situation, in which the mass movement itself, and its direct relation in struggle with capitalist property and the capitalist state machine, would predominate.

The working class, in fact, would go through a rapidly changing series of experiences, with reverses as well as advances, in rejecting the reformist traitors and creating organs of workers' power to resist and expropriate the employing class.

The IMG slogan of 'A workers' government based on the trade unions' is in practice a slogan to prevent the working class from coming to grips with its political past, present and future, and so taking on the Tory government and the ruling class.

This is the aim today of the centrist opponents of the Socialist Labour League. It is in this way that the differences between political tendencies represent life-and-death issues for the working class itself.

One final point is important. In proposing these reactionary policies, the IMG revisionists go back to the origins of anti-Bolshevism. A good example of this comes from the docu-



Lenin fought ideas of the IMG's type when he attacked the 'Economist' ideas of his opponents

ment to which we have already referred, (produced by the Reading and North Hants IMG branch):

'Strip the SLL's formulas of their "left" verbiage and you are left with a social-democratic call for a Labour government as the answer to all our problems. Such a call would not be opposed by Harold Wilson, Victor Feather or any other Labour bureaucrat seeking to counterpose the "political" struggle to the present "trade union" struggle, thereby effectively ensuring that there would not in fact be any struggle at all. We do not counterpose the present form of struggle to some other struggle, but show how the present way in which the working class is fighting against capitalism can be turned into an effective political struggle. In short, what we say is not that the trade union struggle must be abandoned in order to fight inside the Labour Party, or, ultimate horror, "build the party", but that the aims of the struggle of the trade unions must be changed.

'We say "it is excellent that you fight inside the trade unions. It is correct that it is not possible to change the Labour Party. However your present goals are too limited. They must be extended to take up the fundamental questions of the economy and of the state". This for us means posing the question of a workers' government based on the trade unions.'

The revolutionary movement in the 20th century, built above all by Lenin before his death and after that by Trotsky and the Fourth International, has been built on theoretical foundations entirely opposed to everything in the above quotation.

Lenin's 'What is to Be Done?', drawing on Marx and Engels, shows that Marxist theory, originating not just in the experience of the working class but in the development of philosophy, political economy and history, reflecting the whole of the class struggle, is brought into the working-class movement from the outside. The revolutionary party is in constant struggle to break the ideological grip of the bourgeoisie, and does not exist simply to 'extend' the limited trade union struggle.

## STRUGGLE FOR THEORY

It is not a question of 'the present way the working class is fighting against capitalism' being 'turned into an effective political struggle'.

On the contrary, the decisive question is a struggle for Marxist theory and leadership against those who leave the working class in the condition of simply building up the present restricted, reformist forms of struggle.

The revolutionary party starts from the preparation for the struggle for power. Its intervention on every reform or wages struggle is decided by the requirements of this preparation. It is not just a question of the 'present goals' being 'too limited', as the IMG says, but of these limits being a dangerous instrument, effected through the reformists and Stalinists, for keeping the working class out of politics while the bourgeoisie carries through the construction of Bonapartist forms of rule.

Lenin fought ideas of the type put forward by the IMG when he attacked the

'Economist' ideas of his opponents. He showed that the idea of just 'politicizing' the economic struggles of the working class was being used in order to leave the realm of politics exclusively to the bourgeoisie and the Tsarist autocracy.

The 'Economists', very like the IMG today, argued that by taking up political questions of democracy and the struggle against the state, the working class would be diverted from 'its own' struggles against the employers (as the IMG puts it, 'against capitalism itself!').

Fatal as these ideas would have been to the workers' movement in Russia in 1902, they are, if anything, more dangerous today when they are paraded by a group claiming itself to be Trotskyist.

Ever since October 1917, the future of the world revolution, including the fate of the workers' state in the USSR, has depended above everything else on the success of the working-class struggle for power in the advanced capitalist countries.

In Britain today, the struggle against the Tory government and for a Labour government pledged to socialist policies presents Marxists with the great historical responsibility of a revolutionary breakthrough in the advanced capitalist world.

This responsibility will be taken up successfully only by the most thoroughgoing struggle against the centrism and revisionism of the type represented by the IMG: Their revision of Marxist theory and subordination to bureaucracy has finally led them to abandonment of the political, revolutionary role of the working class.

## FASCIST THREAT AGAINST ITALIAN WORKERS

The Italian Social Movement (MSI), with 56 seats in the new National Assembly, is rapidly shedding the mask of moderation it wore during the May election campaign.

The party is headed by Giorgio Almirante, a former aide of dictator Benito Mussolini, and stands openly for the restoration of fascism and the corporate state.

During the election campaign, the MSI claimed to be the foremost defender of law and order against 'anarchy'—strikes, demonstrations, terrorism and the threat of revolution.

It won support from high-echelon officers in the armed forces, from the police and from frightened sections of the middle class and the bourgeoisie.

More sinister, however, was the support it gained among the discontented unemployed and peasantry of the South. Here, as a result of the reformist betrayals of the Communist Party and the Social-Democrats, the MSI made considerable gains.

The result of the election completely failed to resolve the chronic parliamentary crisis which finally brought down the Italian government at the end of last year.

The previous government, a coalition between the Christian Democrats and various smaller parties, broke up in sharp disagreement over measures to meet the economic crisis.

The employers demanded that the government act against working-class militancy, a demand which opened big rifts in the coalition.

It proved impossible to find a parliamentary combination which could agree a sufficiently firm policy acceptable to the bourgeoisie to meet the economic problems of Italian capitalism.

There were also divisions over the proposed divorce law, which would involve abrogating part of the fascist Concordat with the Vatican—an agreement which is still in force.

The election, however, has solved none of the pressing parliamentary problems. The line-up of parties in the new National Assembly is much as before—except that the fascists have made gains.

Giulio Andreotti, the Christian-Democrat premier-designate, is now stumbling around the corridors of power trying to cobble together a coalition from the same forces which have proved incapable in the past of producing any stable administration.

The impasse of parliamentary democracy in Italy is a symptom of the advanced stage of the economic crisis and the insolubility of the problems of Italian capitalism through 'democratic' means.

Almirante has little hesitation in preparing for civil war. In a speech at Florence on June 4, he mentioned the assassination of Milan police chief Calabresi and other terrorist attacks:

'We are witnessing the unfolding of a permanent attempt



Top: Giorgio Almirante, restoring fascism. Above: Giulio Andreotti.

at a coup d'etat which has two targets: the national right and the forces of order,' he said.

The MSI was 'morally and politically' in solidarity with the 'forces of order', he said. 'If the government continues to avoid its obligations, we are ready to take over the state... We will sound the alarm everywhere...'

'Our youth must prepare for confrontation with the communists.'

'I have already been misunderstood on previous occasions, and I want to prevent any misunderstanding now. When I talk of confrontation, I mean physical confrontation.'

These words represent a direct threat to the entire Italian labour movement. The Communist Party is far and away Italy's biggest working-class party and controls the biggest trade union confederation.

Almirante also made it clear that his party stood for strike-breaking and for the reassertion of discipline in the universities and schools.

This is civil-war talk. It was in a series of 'physical confrontations' with the communists and trade unionists after the first world war that Mussolini prepared for his march on Rome and seizure of power.

In this situation the policy of the Stalinist leaders of the Communist Party is criminal betrayal.

Far from mobilizing the workers to defeat the fascist bands in open combat, the CP leaders adopted during the election a stance of ultra-respectability. They hoped by demonstrating their ability to restrain the working class to win a place in some future coalition government.

The energies and fighting capacity of the workers are being thrown away in partial,

dead-end struggles such as one-day general strikes, guerrilla stoppages and protest demonstrations.

At the same time, the CP confines itself to asking the state to take action against the fascists—calling on the very same 'forces of order' that Almirante is now courting so assiduously and with infinitely more success.

The independent organization of the working class to combat fascism is nowhere mentioned by the Stalinist leaders.

At the same time, the various Maoist and anarchist tendencies have turned their backs on the workers within the CP and its unions.

Almirante has only an insignificant parliamentary representation at present, far less than the CP or the Christian-Democrats. But these figures are no reflection of the real relationship of forces.

Behind Almirante stand all the disgruntled policemen and army officers and those growing sections of big business who want a decisive showdown with the workers.

If this cannot be done through the discredited and corrupt parliamentary forms, then the bourgeoisie will turn elsewhere—towards the fascist strong-arm men.

The parliamentary cretins of the Communist Party leadership think that the ballot-box settles everything. In reality what has happened at the ballot box has only posed the old problems ten times more sharply.

For all Almirante's bombast he is still a long way from power. He still has to carry his threats into practice.

But the way is being smoothed for him in the most dangerous manner by the Stalinists.

# MILLIONS IN DANGER AS US BOMBS THE DYKES

BY JOHN SPENCER

By far the most sinister aspect of the current American offensive against North Vietnam is the bombardment of the dykes in the Red River delta.

In the opinion of experts like Yves Lacoste, geography professor at the University of Paris, this could produce a disaster on the scale of an atomic-bomb explosion.

Lacoste points out that the Red River plain, where the majority of the population of North Vietnam lives, is bounded by high mountains which receive a huge rainfall during the monsoon season.

## DYKES COMPLEX

The fast-flowing rivers carry millions of tons of soil and gravel onto the plains, and these are deposited on the river-beds, gradually raising the rivers above the level of the surrounding countryside.

As a result, the rivers run on raised embankments, sometimes as much as 18 feet above the plain. They would inundate the countryside every year, were it not for the fact that since the Middle Ages the peasants have built a complex network of dykes to hold the floodwaters in check.

Apart from the dykes built along the river bank, others are constructed at right angles to contain the floods should the river wall be breached.

There are also dykes along the coast, to prevent the sea from flooding the delta during the frequent typhoons.

A series of breaches opened up simultaneously in the dyke network during the monsoon period could produce more deaths than several atomic bombs dropped on the delta region.

Nixon's aircraft have already begun systematic bombardment of the dykes, using in some cases laser-guided

bombs. These weapons can be delivered on target with pinpoint accuracy.

In many places, however, the US Air Force is adopting an even more dangerous tactic. This involved undermining the river walls by dropping blockbuster weapons on the river bed close to the dykes.

This produces huge craters which can lead to the complete collapse of the river wall, letting loose the full intensity of the floodwaters on the surrounding countryside.

An additional barbaric refinement is to follow the blockbusters with anti-personnel bombs to kill the peasants who gather to repair the breaches.

Attacks of this sort were almost daily occurrences during the monsoon seasons of 1965, 1966 and 1967.

The fact that there was not a catastrophic flood indicates only that the US command carefully graduated the attacks to keep the North Vietnamese at full stretch, retaining the constant threat that the delta would be flooded.

## CALCULATED SORTIES

The bombardments were carefully calculated to coincide with maximum flood levels. On several occasions, large areas were flooded as a result.

This happened at Tien-Lang and Vinh-Bao, not far from Haiphong, on July 27-31, 1966 at the height of Typhoon Ora.

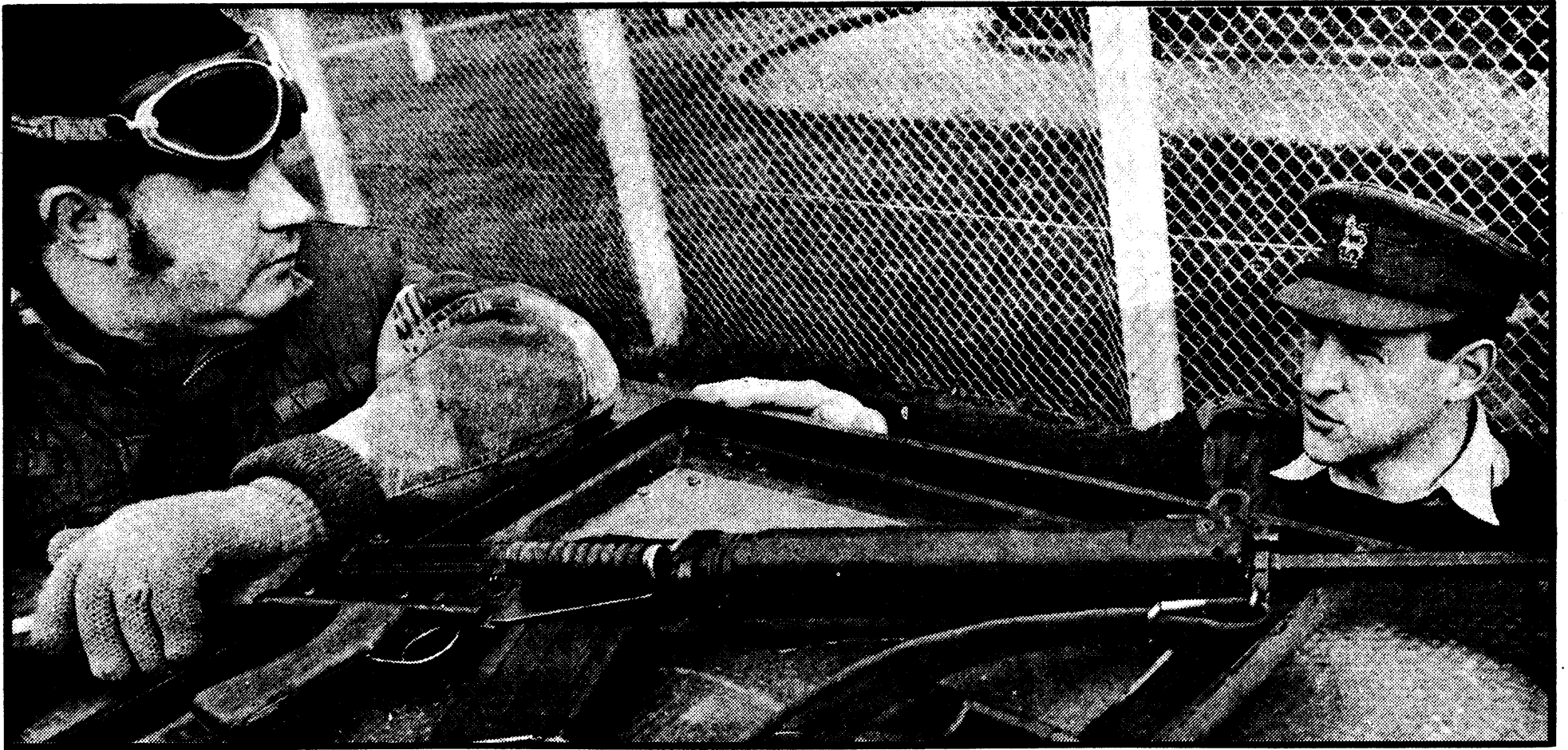
US bombers flew 14 sorties against the sea-dykes and the resulting destruction brought the sea into large areas of the low-lying coastal plain.

Fifteen million people live in the Red River Delta. If the dykes are breached this summer, literally millions could lose their lives.

The Air Force campaign of bombardment is already producing the conditions under which this genocide could occur.



On May 14 the 'Sunday Times' became the first Fleet Street newspaper in Britain to publish an account of the views of Brigadier Frank Kitson, in an article entitled 'The guru of the new model army'. In a subsequent Tory Press Column in Workers Press Alex Mitchell sharply criticized the 'Sunday Times' writers for whitewashing Kitson and his theories of counter-subversion and counter-insurgency. Bruce Page, managing editor of the 'Sunday Times' and one of the authors of the original piece, has attempted to answer the criticisms in this Letter to the Editor. Picture from the 'Sunday Times'.



Dear Editor,  
My attention has been drawn to your article of May 19 concerning the article I wrote with Lewis Chester about Brigadier Kitson and his theories.

There can be no complaint about the manner of your attack. For all that, I must take issue with some of your arguments. (Lewis Chester, incidentally, is out of town. I'm not able to answer for him.)

First, of course, I do disagree quite basically with Brigadier Kitson's ideas, and I'm rather surprised that anyone who read the article could have thought otherwise. However, a reporter's first and most useful function in such a case should be to say what the ideas are, rather than advertise his own feelings about them.

I don't think myself that any reader of the Workers Press articles on Kitson would have gathered any very precise idea of the kind of military techniques Kitson was advocating. All he would have gathered would have been a feeling that Kitson is some kind of old-style militarist—which he certainly isn't—and that the Workers Press disapproved of Kitson the man. If Kitson were indeed the ferocious blimp of your caricature, then I don't think he would be very formidable.

On respect for democracy: well, it seems to me that debates are a fairly important part of any democratic process. (I say, a part. Not even J. S. Mill thought that was the whole of it.) Brigadier Kitson says he's for debate—although personally I'd like to see him make his commitment a bit more consistent. However, on your own account you don't seem to think that debate is even useful. Convicted, I'd say, out of your own typewriter.

On details, you say that Brigadier Kitson was 'the key officer' in Ulster during 'three milestones in British imperialism's savagery there' (what type of milestones are you using round there at the Workers Press?)

● Internment. It's no purpose of mine to speak for Kitson, but I'm fairly satisfied that, for

military reasons, he opposed internment in summer 1971.

● Torture. If I thought there was any evidence that Brigadier Kitson was directly responsible for the 'hood torture' we exposed in 'The Sunday Times', then I'd have said so. I know of no such evidence, and I think even army officers should be considered innocent until it's shown otherwise.

● Bloody Sunday. You're wrong. The Insight inquiry demonstrated, among other things, that Kitson—whose command never had anything to do with Derry—had nothing whatever to do with Bloody Sunday. No evidence has ever come into this office to suggest otherwise. Anyone who can be bothered is quite welcome to come and cross-examine us about this, and examine our evidence. You may know something we don't. But I'm sure we can convince you that we've been true to what we know.

I agree that the issues raised by Brigadier Kitson's writings are too important to be left to middle-class liberals—although, for the record, I'm a middle-class socialist. I don't think, however, that you'll get very far by suggesting to the members of any class that Kitson himself is other than an honourable officer. People who happen to come across him personally won't believe you.

Yours etc,  
Bruce Page,  
'The Sunday Times'.

## ALEX MITCHELL REPLIES

Mr Page's letter is a complete equivocation. It will convince nobody that he 'quite basically' disagrees with Kitson's ideas.

On the contrary, it strengthens the correctness of our original headline that 'Kitson finds friends in Fleet Street'.

Dealing with Mr Page's letter at length becomes a serious and mandatory task, because each month sees a worsening crisis in British capitalism. A big balance-of-payments crisis is forecast in the autumn coupled with a

run on sterling, there is complete stagnation in the economy with a continuing low level of investment, rapid inflation and unemployment certainly swinging back over the 1 million mark.

These are the symptoms which produce great conflict between the working class and the ruling class. And in this situation men like Kitson, groomed for special military tasks, are to be studied with close attention.

Kitson has already given us a glimpse of how he sees the situation developing in his book 'Low Intensity Operations'. We quoted this passage in our articles on Kitson last December, 'The Sunday Times' did not. In the context of this reply, Kitson's words are worth repeating:

'If a genuine and serious grievance arose as such as might result from a significant drop in the standard of living all those who now dissipate their protest over a wide variety of causes might concentrate their efforts and produce a situation which was beyond the power of the police to handle. Should this happen, the army would be required to restore the position rapidly.'

It is precisely because of Kitson's succinctly expressed class views that Mr Page's equivocations won't get through these columns unchallenged.

First of all, he pleads that he is 'rather surprised' that anyone could conclude he supported Kitson's ideas.

We weren't the only people to draw this conclusion of the original article. Most of Mr Page's own colleagues on 'The Sunday Times' thought so as well. We are still forced to this conclusion in the absence of any definite statement by Mr Page in which he explains that what Kitson is talking about amounts to a direct threat to the working class in this country.

Mr Page's refuge is to read us a lesson in journalism in which he says 'a reporter's first and most useful function in such a case should be to say what the ideas are, rather than advertise his own feelings about them'.

This is the crudest form of

idealism. Is Mr Page seriously suggesting that journalists should be spectators on the great panorama of society passing on messages like a vacant cypher?

Operating by this standard Mr Page would feel prepared to uncritically report and publish the views of a Hitler or a Mussolini without changing so much as a full stop or comma of the text.

We know, however, that Mr Page doesn't really believe this. We know because his article—along with most of the others he writes—was paragraph after paragraph of pure Bruce Page giving his personal views about Kitson and the role of the army. How can it be any other way? And it's Mr Page's views that we now want to deal with just as much as Kitson's.

It is quite wrong to say we have presented Kitson as a 'ferocious blimp'. On the contrary, we have always characterized him as very much a contemporary figure just as we were the first to warn that the Heath government was vastly different to the old Tory regimes run by Home, Macmillan and Churchill.

Pathetically, Mr Page returns to his wish for 'an informed debate'. One can only say that during his much-decorated service for imperialism in Kenya, Malaya and Cyprus, Kitson demonstrated no interest in 'informed debates' with the local residents. In the meantime, thousands of workers and their families were killed in these campaigns.

Mr Page's call for a debate is extremely reactionary. It would, you understand, be about whether the army should be used as an auxiliary to the police force in Britain. If the situation continues to develop along the lines that we and Kitson both think, the great debate could be in progress on 'Late Night Line-Up' while workers were being brained with batons out on the streets.

There's nothing 'undemocratic' in our stance. Only a confused liberal approaches Kitson for a debate. We approach him from a class standpoint recognizing what he stands for. In that sense there can be no debate with

Frank Kitson (above) with armoured patrol during his command in Belfast.

Kitson, Heath, Barber, Davis or Lord Thomson for that matter. They are part of the enemy class.

On the points of 'fact' we have difficulty in replying because of obvious legal problems. Suffice it to say that we stand on our earlier comments. On internment, however, it is intriguing to find Mr Page doing a spot of public relations on Kitson's behalf and on Bloody Sunday we have him attempting to completely cover up Kitson's role.

Yet it is a fact that Kitson gave the orders to Lieutenant Colonel Derek Wilford to take the First Parachute Regiment to Derry. It is a fact that General Ford and Kitson discussed the plan (which was authorized by the Tory Cabinets at Westminster and Stormont) and agreed to it.

Their agreement on this strategy caused disquiet in some sections of the army. On January 25, six days before the massacre, Simon Hoggart of 'The Guardian' quoted a worried captain as saying: 'Wading into people as if this were jungle warfare simply isn't on in Belfast.'

Kitson is, of course, one of the army's leading 'experts' on counter-insurgency and counter-subversion and . . . jungle warfare.

Mr Page can't resist a final paragraph to repeat again that Kitson is an honourable officer. (In the original article Kitson was a 'patently sincere and honourable officer'). So were they all honourable men! It was in the name of 'honour' that most of imperialism's deadly campaigns—at home and in the colonies—were carried out.

Mr Page wants to defend the honour of the regiment against the slings of the Workers Press. Fair enough. He's entitled to do that. At least he's more clearly out in the open. Now we await to hear from Mr Chester.

Mr Page informs us he is a middle-class socialist. One can only ask—what type of 'socialists' are they turning out there at 'The Sunday Times'?





## THE MAN WHO RUNS GENERAL MOTORS

BY SARAH HANNIGAN

As its system staggers from crisis to crisis, big business throughout the US is daily stepping up its attacks on working class and union rights.

Joseph Godfrey (above) boss of the giant General Motors auto division, is no exception. In fact, he's a leader in the campaign against union rights.

Last week Godfrey got together in Detroit with another outspoken wage-cut and speed-up man, James Good, economic editor of 'Dayton (Ohio) Daily News'.

Good is a man who has talked long and loud in favour of the recent Dayton Frigidaire speed-up, wage-cut plan. And back in the 1930s, who should get his first start as boss in Dayton at Frigidaire? None other than Godfrey.

Godfrey told Good: 'I am not pessimistic.'

'I think we can solve our problems, but if we don't the auto industry may not be far from being another Frigidaire.'

He was referring to the fact that Frigidaire recently threatened to close the Dayton plant to scare International Union of Electrical Workers' local leaders into acceptance of wage-cuts.

Neither does Godfrey have reason at the moment to be pessimistic—General Motors' profits for the last quarter were the highest in their history.

He went on: 'If a man works 60 minutes an hour, that's full productivity . . .'

'Sure, some people are unsuited for assembly work, and

**US  
ROUND-  
UP**

they should get out. They know what they're getting into.

'They complain, and yet if we closed Lordstown (GM Ohio plant) and then re-opened it, we would get 50,000 applications.'

Godfrey can talk about 50,000 application for jobs in his giant GM sweat-shops—jobs which have driven many men to the verge of breakdown—confident in the knowledge that already six million workers are on the dole. He also knows that high unemployment coupled with redundancy and closure threats are the employers' weapons for attacking wholesale the hard-won rights of the working class.

He says: 'Workers aren't motivated anymore.'

'There are pensions and subsistence pay insurance, workers' compensation—all these high benefit plans take desire away.'

As far as Godfrey is concerned GM would have more highly 'motivated' workers if these fringe benefits were done away with completely, reducing workers to the conditions that provoked the

mass sit-down strikes of the 1930s.

GM's record in blocking all supplementary unemployment benefit pay for the last five years now takes on a new meaning.

Workers in General Motors throughout the US have consistently been cheated of this money, in spite of the fact that it is written in to their contract.

Godfrey sees the smashing of fringe benefits as essential to his campaign of terrorizing workers into accepting all-out speed-up—central to his efforts in 'solving' the problems of the auto industry.

The withholding of supplementary benefits has been an important weapon in the GM 'starve or surrender' policy, now in full swing in the eight-week long strike at the Norwood, Ohio plant.

Since the strike started they have refused to negotiate with United Auto Workers' union leaders.

Referring to the bitter fight in February this year at the Lordstown plant, Godfrey remarked: 'It was political fighting with this shop committee that was behind the fight at Lordstown.'

Godfrey is no fool. He knows well that since last August's decision to remove gold-backing for the dollar and with the collapse of the post-war monetary system—every union fight is a political fight.

In that sense he reflects exactly the feelings of big business throughout the US and the world.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## IMPERIAL WHAT?



The National Graphical Association seems to be recruiting some pretty dodgy members lately. Latest recruit is well known horsewoman, Princess Anne.

Andrew Cunningham, father of the chapel at Cumberland Newspapers, Carlisle, recently presented her with an NGA card before she started the new presses running.

## FLEET SEATS

Keeping track of the ambitious young men in Fleet Street: for a Labour seat. Now his rival on the 'Sunday Times', Bryn Jones, industrial correspondent of the 'Daily Mirror', recently gained pre-selection John Fryer, has won a Labour pre-selection at Harwich.

## NEW MAN

The new president of the Confederation of British Industry is Michael Clapham. He succeeds Sir John Partridge who has become well known to the Workers Press over the past 12 months.

Partridge's departure doesn't mean he will be thrown onto the dole queue or anything like that. He simply returns to his job as chairman of Imperial Tobacco where his salary is about £20,000

Clapham is a 'strong internationalist', says 'The Guardian'. This is no doubt a reference to the fact that Clapham is a deputy chairman of ICI, one of Britain's staunchest pro-Market companies.

## PREPARING

Overheard two Whitehall civil servants talking outside Horse Guards Parade: 'Funny thing happened at work today. Men started to cart in large quantities of barbed wire and store it in the basement. Wonder what it's for?'

His friend: 'Gosh, I can't think.'

## SAYLER



'Sunday Times' journalist, Murray Sayle, got a very fluid start in the Trans-Atlantic single-handed yacht race being sponsored by the rival paper, the 'Observer'.

He spent £140 on alcoholic beverages for friends who went to see him off. It included burgundy, chablis and, as a good Aussie, 35 dozen cans of Fosters.

## BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY:  
Germany 1931/1932  
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87;  
Where Is Britain Going?  
Paperback 37p  
Revolution Betrayed  
Paperback 62p—cloth £1.05  
Problems of the Chinese Revolution  
Paperback £1.12—cloth £1.87;  
Permanent Revolution:  
Results and Prospects  
Paperback 75p  
In Defence of Marxism  
Paperback 75p  
Lessons of October  
Paperback 60p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from:  
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG.

# Labour men issue threat of eviction

Our housing correspondent

**TODAY** in North London a woman and her six young children are awaiting the call of the bailiff's men, sent by the local Labour council to evict them.

In the eyes of Hackney Council, Mrs Helen Vennard's 'crime' is that she has squatted in one of their empty properties since Easter 1971.

All Mrs Vennard wants, as she explained to me, is somewhere to live and bring up her children.

Yet the council, despite promises made in a county court, has up until today refused them any real help. The council's welfare department seems little concerned. It would appear that the council does not recognize Mrs Vennard.

Hackney Council—Labour-controlled by 63 seats to seven—who own the property in Grayling Road, Stoke Newington, want Mrs Vennard out so they can begin modernization work.

As soon as she moved in 14 months ago Mrs Vennard informed the council that she was there.

The next day a Mr Osbourne and his assistant visited her. They stayed some time taking down all the particulars. When they left they thanked Mrs Vennard for her help and said they were doing all they could to help.

As time passed a number of other homeless families moved in to empty properties along the street. All received similar visits from Mr Osbourne.

Over the next eight months the

families lived normal lives with other residents of Grayling Road, receiving occasional visits from Mr Osbourne.

Then in February a change in the council's attitude towards the families took place. On February 21, a new man from the council arrived at one of the squatter's doors. The woman was left with the impression she would soon be rehoused, judging by the man's remarks.

Mrs Vennard was out when the man called at her house. When the oldest child told him her mother was out he walked in and began questioning the child about who lived there.

The next day Mrs Vennard met the man in the house; he admitted he was from the council.

Two days later two sheriff's officers nailed summonses to the doors of all the families, and also to the door of a house in Barrat's Grove, Stoke Newington, occupied by two other squatting families.

One of these last two families had paid £70 key-money to a bogus landlord some weeks previously to get the house. The summons was the first they knew that they were squatting.

On March 9, the summonses were down to be dealt with by the High Court in the Strand. The summonses referred to the families not by name but as Mrs A, B, C, D, and E.

In doing this they were following the emergency procedure adopted in 1969 by a private landlord to regain from hippies a block in Piccadilly.



Mrs Helen Vennard outside the house Hackney Council want to evict her from.

Order 113, as it is known, is used when it is impossible to ascertain the names of those living there.

After the High Court hearing and Order 113 had fallen through, the council proceeded to issue normal summonses. These were heard in Shoreditch county court on May 16.

Mrs Vennard told me that the council representative in the court assured the judge that everyone would be re-housed by the welfare department. It transpired later that the representative was not from the housing department and told Mrs Vennard he couldn't make such promises.

'The council is not interested in us at all now,' said Mrs Vennard. When one of the families went up to the welfare department recently she was not even taken into the office.

'Nobody else seems too bothered either. When one of us went up to see Shelter they said they were backed by the council and couldn't do anything about it.

'With the "fair rents" Bill, homelessness will definitely increase. I must say I expected to see a different attitude from a Labour council.

'Perhaps if we were "profes-

sional" squatters we might get somewhere. The "professionals" make these agreements with the council then end up charging tenants up to £5 a week in rents.

'When this is settled we intend to launch a full campaign against the council—bringing in homeless families from all over.

'If the council wanted to they could solve the homelessness in this borough in five minutes.

'They could move us to another empty house while they do this one up. Eventually we could get on to the housing list and perhaps get a council house. But the way it's going we'll never get rehoused.'

## Behind wage-stop scandal

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

**HARDSHIP** and humiliation are the lot of thousands of families affected by the Supplementary Benefits Commission wage-stop, according to a report published yesterday by the Child Poverty Action Group.

But they do not as the report tends to suggest stem from the insensitivity or meanness of some of the Commission's officers.

They are the direct result of secret, built-in codes of practice which have been cynically operated by successive governments—Tory and Labour—and are now being ruthlessly exploited by servants of the Heath Cabinet.

The CPAG discovered that about 10,000 of the country's wage-stopped families are still living below the poverty line.

In April, the figure dropped from 21,000 because some became eligible for family income supplement. But the numbers are expected to rise again when supplementary benefits increase and rents go up.

The wage-stop is the Commission's mechanism for ensuring that low-paid workers do not get more when unemployed than when they are working.

It is the contemporary application of the workhouse system.

Sick or just unable to find work, the lower-paid are branded as such and the benefits to which they and their families are entitled are cruelly slashed.

More than 60,000 children were found to have been condemned to a life of poverty by these measures at the time of the CPAG's last report in November 1971; the numbers will be back to this level once the Tories have taken away, with the Housing Finance Bill, what they claimed to give in the Budget.

The Supplementary Benefits Handbook, which is the public face of the government's benefit

regulations, claims that the wage-stop is not used to whip people back to work.

But it argues that it would be unfair for those at work to find that unemployed with similar work-experience or capabilities were getting more. In other words, skintight employers are to be subsidized in more human misery.

The secret codes put a sharp cutting-edge on this steely philosophy.

And the CPAG report outlines vividly what this means in practice.

In a wage-stop family, it says, every piece of spending has to be weighed up: a loaf of bread against the rent; the rent against bills piling up. The greatest luxury is an occasional cigarette.

The report, a study of 18 families on the wage-stop, says only three of the families were not in debt.

A Norfolk man had to keep his wife and six children on £20.90 a week. Under the pressure of debts and notice to quit his wife broke down.

Another man was left with about £11 a week to keep his wife and nine children, after paying the rent. The gas was cut off and they had to cook on a highly dangerous second-hand electric cooker.

The report, however, seeks to attribute the hardship and deprivation it describes to the personality defects of administrators.

Commission officers, it says, have been 'considerably less than dangerous in the exercise of their discretionary powers to grant extra payments to meet exceptional needs such as clothing and furniture'.

It adds that some officers appear to have ignored instructions to tell wage-stopped families of other welfare benefits they may be entitled to.

This kind of behaviour is entirely consistent with the loose-leaf 'A' and 'AX' code systems which were thoroughly exposed last year in Bernard Franks' 'Social Security Swindle' (Socialist Labour League Pocket Library no 3, 5p).

Capable of expansion or tightening-up at any time without

need of open legislation in parliament, these lay down strict guidelines for the branding and regimentation of wage-stop families.

For instance, the secret 'A' code states that 'in all cases where a wage-stop restriction is applied, the symbol "(W)" should be added to the statistical symbol on the case paper wallet'.

These and other designations form part of a dossier on each claimant. They follow him or her round from place to place.

Small wonder the CPAG report quotes one family as saying 'They treat you like dirt. One woman was so rude you'd think she was talking to a tramp.'

'Department of Public Humiliation I call it'.

Instructions are given in the 'A' code on how to decide in which category a claimant should be placed.

'It should be decided whether his physical and/or mental capacity raise him above the lesser-paid category of "light labourer" to that of "labourer"', one section says.

A lavatory attendant, says the code, is a light labourer, while someone who digs holes in the road is a labourer. It further explains 'a car park attendant who merely waves cars to a free spot should be regarded as a light labourer, whereas, a car park attendant who has responsibility for collecting cash and issuing tickets, which require more mental facility, should be regarded as a labourer'.

Officers are warned that when discussing earning capacity with each claimant 'his views should be treated with reserve'. They are also told not to give extra help just because the wage-stop reduction is large, or because the general level of benefits have increased.

In the latter case, the code directs that wage-stopped benefits are tied to possible earnings, not to the general level of benefits, so 'the fact that the general level of supplementary benefit has increased is irrelevant'.

This is the secret source of the horrifying facts the CPAG report reveals.

### Subscribe!

## workers press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)  
£10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)  
£5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:  
£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)  
£6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required	MONDAY	THURSDAY
(Please tick)	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for ..... months.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Amount enclosed £

I would like information about

## THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4 7UG.

Name .....

Address .....

# TV

## BBC 1

9.20-9.35 The herbs. 9.38 Schools. 12.00 Cricket. England v Australia. 1.30 Along the trail. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Cricket. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Magic roundabout. 4.45 Jackanory. 4.55 Animal magic. 5.20 Scooby doo where are you? 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

### 6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 **TELEVISION TOP OF THE FORM.** Banbury v Larnie.

7.05 **TOMORROW'S WORLD.**

7.30 **'LILACS IN THE SPRING'.** Anna Neagle, Errol Flynn.

9.00 **NINE O'CLOCK NEWS** and weather.

9.20 **DOCUMENTARY: 'THE WAR WE'RE IN DANGER OF WINNING'.** United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

10.10 **FILM 72.**

10.40 **24 HOURS.**

11.15 **VIEWPOINT.** The Missing Centuries.

11.35 **Weather.**

## ITV

10.20-12.00 Schools. 1.00 Wills open tennis tournament. 1.45 Schools. 2.33 Good afternoon (London and Tyne Tees only). 3.00 Wills open tennis tournament. 3.45 Danger man. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Junior showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.

6.00 **TODAY.**

6.30 **CROSSROADS.**

6.55 **FATHER, DEAR FATHER.** The Cardboard Casanova.

7.25 **FILM: 'GIDEON OF SCOTLAND YARD'.** Jack Hawkins. The working day of a detective.

9.00 **CRIME OF PASSION.**

10.00 **NEWS AT TEN.**

10.30 **DOCUMENTARY: 'HARRY'S OUT'.** Harry is a thief from London.

11.30 **WILLS OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.**

12.15 **EPILOGUE.**

## BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 4.30-6.05 Cricket. England v Australia.

6.35 **OPEN UNIVERSITY.**

7.30 **NEWSROOM** and weather.

8.00 **THE NEW MASTERS.**

8.50 **WHEELBASE.**

9.20 **THE SEXTET.** 'The Gregorian Chant'. By Peter Terson. Six actors in a

series of eight plays. Michele Dotrice, Ruth Dunning, Denholm Elliott, Richard Vernon, Dennis Waterman, Billie Whitelaw.

10.35 **NEWS ON 2** and weather.

10.40 **CRICKET.** England v Australia.

11.10 **THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST.** Richie Havens, Sandy Denny.



The Sextet: (l. to r.) Billie Whitelaw, Michele Dotrice, Ruth Dunning, Dennis Waterman, Denholm Elliott, Richard Vernon. 'The Gregorian Chant', BBC 2.

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 10.20-2.55 London. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Odd couple. 4.55 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Plainsman'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 12.15 Actualities et projections. 12.30 Gazette. 12.35 Weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 12.13 News. 12.17 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 10.20 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Grasshopper island. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Film: 'The Farmer Takes a Wife'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.25 Weather. Epilogue.

**HARLECH:** 10.20 London. 4.15

Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Odd couple. 7.10 Film: 'Three Young Texans'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 12.15 Weather.

**HTV Wales as above except:** 4.15-4.30 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.

**HTV West as above except:** 6.18-6.35 Report West.

**HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales plus:** 10.30-11.30 Dan sylw.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 10.20 London. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Dr Simon Locke. 4.40 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Wild and the Innocent'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 12.15 Who knows?

**ULSTER:** 10.20 London. 4.30

Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lids-ville. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'This is My Affair'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London.

**YORKSHIRE:** 10.20 London. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Cartoon time. 7.10 Film: 'Revolt at Fort Laramie'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 12.15 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 10.20 London. 3.30 The messengers—on camera. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.25 Set of six. 7.00 Film: 'Follow That Horse'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London.

**TYNE TEES:** 10.20 London. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Sean the leprechaun. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'The Siege at Red River'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 11.30 Double top. 12.15 News. 12.30 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 10.20 London. 3.30 Origami. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'Quebec'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 12.15 Late call.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.00 London. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Nanny and the professor. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Strictly Scottish. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Dear Heart'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 12.15 Epilogue.

# Salford tenants demand rents are cut

BY SARAH HANNIGAN  
**SALFORD** Corporation, Lancashire, faces a £100,000 bill for repairs to a 15-storey block of flats, less than five years old.

Originally, the multi-storey Floral Court block in Salford's Bury New Road cost £250,000. A year ago cracks appeared in the brickwork and chunks of brick fell away as the exterior began to crumble.

The block was built by the city's direct works department, which was eventually closed because of its overspending. And the corporation now have to pay almost half the original cost of the building to replace the outside walls, brick by brick.

It is a job which could take well over a year.

Meanwhile angry tenants are demanding a rent-cut for the inconvenience they are suffering.

Scaffolding covers the whole block from top to bottom. A wooden fence erected around the base of the flats completely blocks the view from every flat on the ground floor where most of the tenants are elderly people.

Many of the tenants are worried that the block is dangerous.

Others complain of lack of privacy and say that the scaffolding makes their homes dark,

causing them to burn more electricity than normally.

The tenants have had to put up with this inconvenience for over a year.

Scaffolding was first put up in 1971 when the brickwork first began to crumble. It remained until investigations had been carried out and was then removed.

Two months ago the corporation started to erect new scaffolding, which is still not completed and which has to be tested for safety before workmen can

# Wandsworth mass rents lobby planned

**TENANTS** plan a mass lobby of Wandsworth council, South London, tonight when a vote will be taken on whether to implement the Tory 'fair rents' Bill.

The controlling Labour group is almost split down the middle on the issue. The group's original decision was for non-implementation, so long as they had the backing of London's other Labour councils.

Last month, however, a stormy group meeting reversed this decision. This led to several resignations by councillors from leading positions.

begin their task of replacing each brick with a new one.

A spokesman for the city engineers' department has explained that not enough provision had been made originally to allow for expansion, and contraction of materials and cracks had appeared near windows and at floor level.

There was no danger to anyone in the flats, he said, because the block as a concrete shell which was filled in with bricks.

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**COVENTRY:** Tuesday June 13, 7.30 p.m. 'The Queen', Primrose Hill St.

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Tuesday June 13, 7.30 p.m. Chantry Hall, St Mary's St.

**NORTH KENT:** Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford. 'Why a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.

**DAGENHAM:** Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe

Ave, Barking. 'Fight the Tory rents policy'.

**SOUTH LONDON:** Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

**WANDSWORTH:** Thursday June 15, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Rd, Tooting Broadway. 'Build Councils of Action'.

**NORTH LONDON:** Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Road

(near White Hart Lane). 'Building the revolutionary party'.

**CROYDON:** Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

**LUTON:** Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Lea Rd. 'Stalinism'.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Thursday June 22, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Stn.). 'Stalinism'.

# Cowshed for sale ...only £7,500

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

**IN THESE DAYS** of soaring land and property values, estate agents will seek to turn any piece of real estate into a goldmine.

Deep in the heart of stockbroker Surrey they have come up with what must be their most original idea yet. Couples searching for a home are being offered a stone cowshed for £7,500.

Gazumping knows no bounds even as far as cowsheds are concerned. A month ago it was bought for £4,500 by a property dealer. The difference in prices now is a mere 66 per cent.

The estate agent's brochure enthusiastically describes the shed as a cow-house, with

'possibilities for residential conversion'.

Until last Christmas, animals were still using the shed on Greys Home Farm, opposite a 12th-century Norman Church, in The Street, Puttenham, near Guildford.

A spokesman for the agents said: 'We have never sold anything like this before. We are not in the least bit apprehensive about it. On the face of it, I suppose it seems a lot to pay for a cowshed, but one must think of its potential as a residence after development.'

Buyers are reported to be not a little bemused when they turn up to view the 'property'. One sardonically remarked: 'It comes to something when all my salary will buy me here is a cowshed. They will be offering us semi-detached chicken-sheds next.'

# NOW WEEKLY

# KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS  
SATURDAY MAY 12, 1972 VOL 21 NO 1 PRICE 5P

The eight-page youth paper which leads the fight against the Tory government, for the right to work, in factories, schools and on the dole queues.

Plenty of news, views and features at 3p a copy. Order your regular copy now. Yearly subscription £2.86. Send to Keep Left, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

Please send me 'Keep Left' for one year

I enclose £2.86

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

# Chobham Farm men take fellow unionists to Court

## Leave depot alone—court tells dockers

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE NATIONAL Industrial Relations Court yesterday ordered London dockers to stop preventing lorries from entering and leaving the Chobham Farm container depot.

The court also ordered dockers not to threaten to place a national 'black' on drivers whose lorries crossed the picket line.

The application to the court was made by two members of the commercial section of the Transport and General Workers' Union against three dockers' leaders.

It was the first time members of an unregistered union have gone to court seeking action against fellow trade unionists.

The action was brought by Tony Churchman and William Cartwright—who formed a Manual Staff Association to launch the case—and named the

London joint shop stewards' committee plus Bernard Steer, Vic Turner and Alan Williams. None of the named dockers appeared in court.

The complainants work for London (East) ICD, one of the largest cargo-handling companies in the country which operates the Chobham Farm depot.

Churchman said the dockers' attitude towards him and his colleagues was 'You out, us in.'

Mr B. W. J. Llewellyn, chief executive of ICD, said the dispute was costing the company about £12,000 a week.

Miss Caroline Alton, for the complaining drivers, said the case was 'another facet of the container war.'

'These men are very afraid they are going to be the first casualties.'

Miss Alton said the case indicated massive organization by the docks shop stewards in their move to get ICD to take on registered dock workers.

The picketing had involved not only persuasion. There had been threats of violence, abuse, and threats that in the event of a vehicle crossing the picket line it would be blacked nationally.

The Chobham Farm men had sought the help of the T&GWU without success. 'They consider they are being sold down the river by the union and have come to the court as a last resort,' she said.

NIRC president Sir John Donaldson said that the orders would also bind all those who acted on behalf of those against whom the orders were made, provided they knew of the existence of the orders.

'We mention this because the courts take action against those who disobey their orders and those who assist in the disobedience,' he explained.

Any breaches of the orders, effective until the final hearing of the dispute, should be promptly reported to the Court, said Sir John. The case will come before the NIRC again on June 20.

including strike action if necessary to defeat the Act.

It called on the TUC to set up a joint fund of all unions to assist those unions who may have their funds sequestered. The AUEW also pledged full support to any of its members penalized by the Act.

### WEATHER

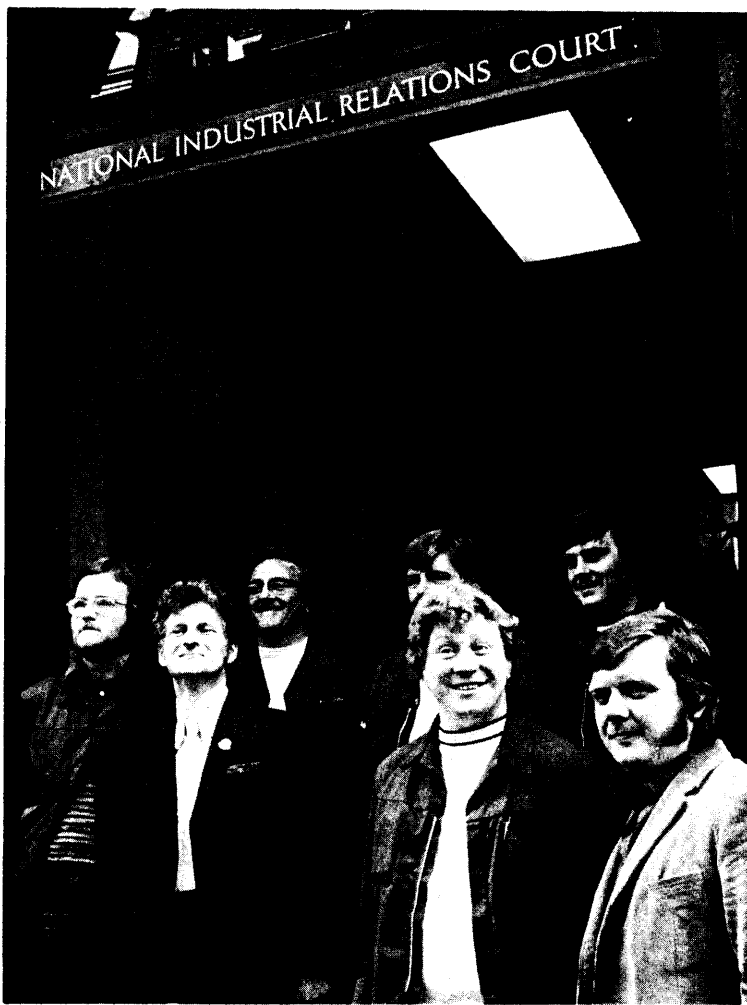
ALL AREAS will have sunny periods and showers which may be prolonged and heavy at times.

Later in Northern Ireland and western Scotland it may become more cloudy with some rain. It will be rather cool generally.

**Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday:** Sunny periods and scattered showers. Probably becoming cloudy with rain in south eastern England. Rather cool.

**NEWS DESK**  
01-720 2000  
**CIRCULATION**  
01-622 7029

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.  
Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.



Some of the depot workers who brought the case to court outside the NIRC yesterday

# Pc describes angry miners' picket at Longannet

A POLICEMAN at the miners' pickets trial said yesterday he thought violent incidents outside Longannet power station, Fife, had been organized by local miners' leaders.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Constable Robert Smith said at Dunfermline sheriff court that in his opinion the incidents on February 14 were organized by the miners' delegates, who were in the centre of the road speaking to workers arriving in cars to enter the station.

On one occasion, he said, he heard Graham Steele, Scottish miners' area secretary and agent, shouting to the pickets, 'Get into them boys'. Steele is one of the 13 pickets who are on trial for 'mobbing' and 'rioting'.

After Steele's arrest, he said,

the pickets seemed to quieten down. 'Graham Steele appeared to be the number one person in charge,' he added.

Pc David Kerr alleged he had twice been spat on from the back and he thought it was the accused Allan Currie. He alleged he was later punched in the kidneys and fell to his knees.

As he got up, he saw the crowd surging forward.

Currie, he said, was at the rear with his head down and arms outstretched pushing and shouting 'Shove the bastards into the road'.

Kerr said he went forward to detain Currie, and in doing so the two fell to the ground struggling.

Currie shouted for help from the rest of the pickets and a number of them came round and shouted at him to let Currie go free.

'They were standing with their feet ready and said they would kick me if I didn't let him go,' said Kerr. Another police constable arrived and Currie came away peacefully, he told the court.

The trial continues today.

## Reyrolle announces 20 p.c. cut

REYROLLE PARSONS of Hebburn, Tyneside, yesterday announced staggering 20-per-cent redundancies among manual workers.

It means that 700 men will be forced on to the dole queues. The company is asking for volunteers and is offering 50-per-cent severance pay on top of the normal redundancy money.

In spite of the increased cash payment, few volunteers are expected, however, due to the already high unemployment situation in the area.

Over the past two years both Reyrolle and Parsons have decimated their labour forces in Hebburn and Newcastle.

As well as redundancies among manual workers, the 80 men in the Reyrolle hydraulics division have been told they will have a 70 per cent cut in their work force. Staff redundancies affecting draughtsmen and clerks still have to be announced.

Yesterday management also replied to the engineers' pay claim and offered £2.72-a-week increase on the basic time rate (CTR) and one day's, extra holiday a year.

## Arms case dropped

THE CASE against five supporters of the Saor Eire (Free Ireland) section of the Irish Republican movement who were said to have plotted in England to steal arms for use in Northern Ireland, was dropped at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Mr Brian Leary, prosecuting, announced yesterday on the fourth day of the trial that the Crown proposed to offer no further evidence against the accused and did not intend to press for a conviction against any of them.

The five charged—an Englishwoman and four Irishmen—were accused of conspiring between September 1 and November 18, 1971, to possess firearms and ammunition and with unlawfully possessing three automatic pistols, five magazines and 56 rounds of ammunition.

They were Patrick O'Sullivan (20), from Cork, Eire, Edmund Petticrew (37), a painter from Hackney, East London, Marjorie June Allen (30), a housewife of the same address, Lawrence McCranles (23), a bricklayer of Chiswick, West London, and Donal De Faoit (25), a hairdresser from Cork.

All five pleaded not guilty to all the charges and Mr Justice Bean yesterday directed the jury to find them not guilty. They were all discharged.

When the case opened last

Wednesday the prosecution offered no evidence against a sixth defendant, Martin Joseph Crawford (20) of Ladbroke Drive, Belfast.

## JUNE FUND NOW £200,77

WE ARE still a long way from raising our target of £1,750 this month. It is almost half way through June, leaving us absolute no time to lose.

The Tories don't rest for a moment. Each day they look for weaknesses and retreats amongst the union leaders in order to defeat the working class. We must redouble our efforts immediately. Our monthly appeal Fund is vital for producing Workers Press.

Your support for our paper has always been magnificent and we are confident that you will never let us down. So raise as much as you can. Post all donations immediately to:

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

## Builders boo Feather: Conference suspended

VICTOR FEATHER of the TUC was booed and jeered during a speech yesterday at the conference of the Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians' Union in Blackpool.

As soon as he commenced speaking there were shouts and catcalls from the militants. His speech was continually interrupted by shouts, jeers and whistling.

Before leaving Feather said: 'This is a demonstration of the sort of thing which brings discredit on the trades union movement.'

'You must forgive them because they don't understand procedures of behaviour at conference.'

Conference was suspended after Feather sat down.



Pickets outside the Chobham Farm depot yesterday

### LATE NEWS

THE AUEW conference in Hastings yesterday unanimously called for the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies as the only way to defend the right to work.

Conference reaffirmed the resolution on the right to work carried at last year's conference.

Moving the resolution Bill Purvis, Middlesbrough delegate, said, 'We have a right to earn a living. But school-leavers—who cannot sit-in or lock the factory gates—are going straight on the dole.'

'The Tory government does not have a policy of employment, but one of unemployment, which they try and use to press home their repressive legislation.'

'The way we'll achieve what we want is to return a Labour government committed to socialist policies.'

The conference also reaffirmed the AUEW policy of non-cooperation with the Industrial Relations Act.

A resolution from the National Executive called for a campaign at district and national level,