

# workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY JUNE 16, 1972 ● No 793 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY ALEX MITCHELL

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But getting rid of the Tories is only the first step. The next step is to elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

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●The railmen voted overwhelmingly to pursue industrial action to get a decent wage.

●The local authority elections swept more than 1,000 Tory candidates out of office in a Labour landslide. That's what working-class families think of the Housing Finance Bill and rising food prices!

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This rapid escalation of the docks war began on Wednesday when the NIRC president Sir

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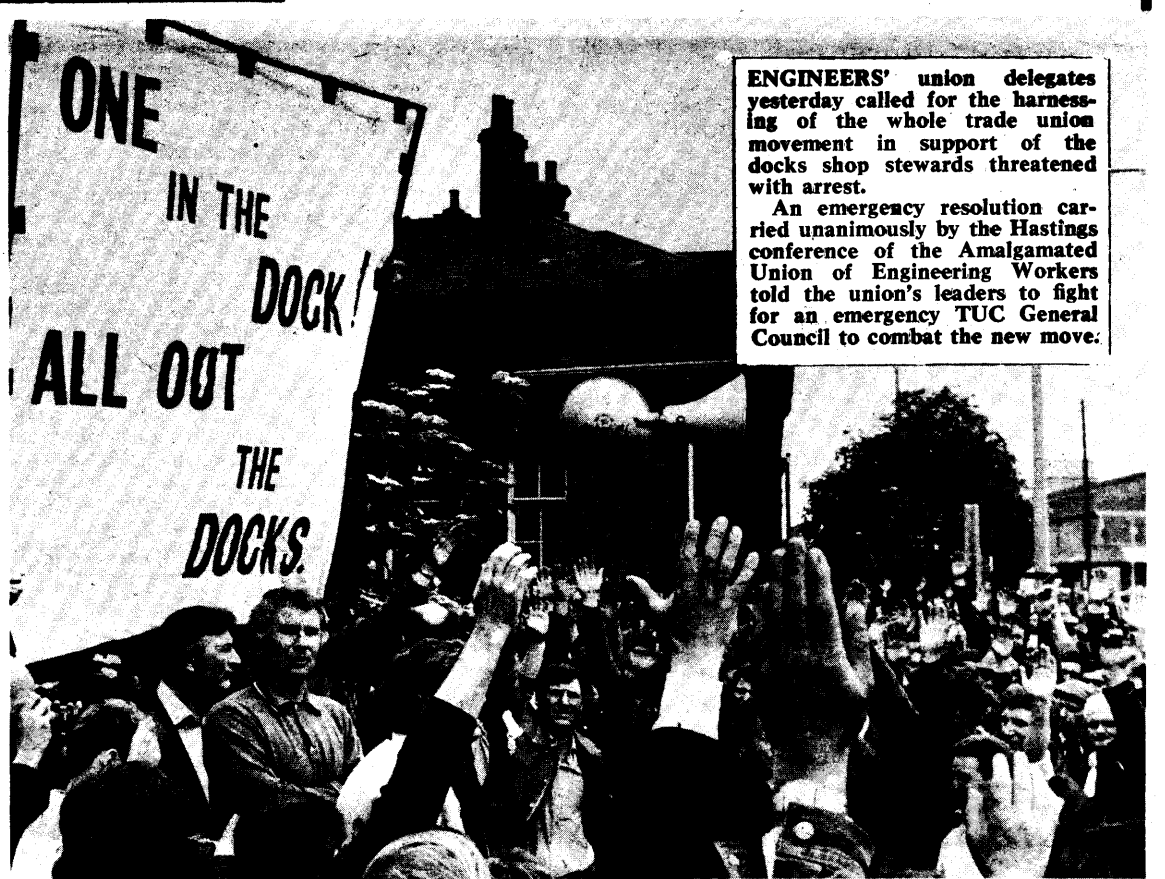
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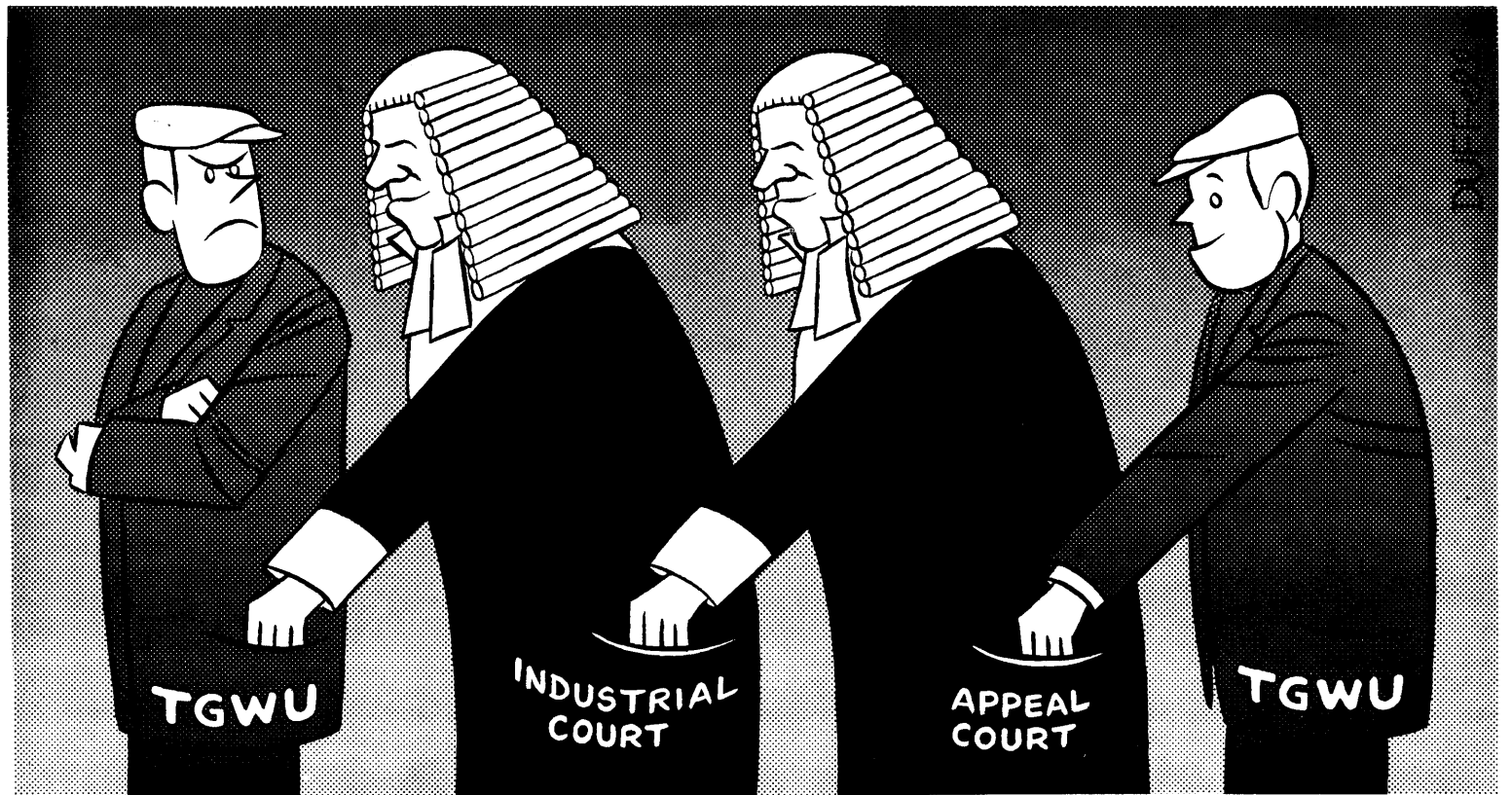
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## Longannet picket freed

MINERS' picket Robert Walker—one of the 'Longannet 13'—was cleared yesterday. Sheriff Principal Charles Jauncey directed the jury at Dunfermline, Fife, to return a formal not-guilty verdict against Walker after Fiscal James Douglas had said there was no evidence against him.

Walker had denied mobbing, rioting, inciting violence, committing a breach of the peace and assaulting policemen outside Longannet power station during the miners' strike. He was discharged. Twelve remaining accused face the same charges.

Jauncey later overruled objections by defending counsel when Douglas pressed Colin Cameron (26), an unemployed draughtsman, to reveal if he was a member of the 'International Socialism' group. Cameron was forced to reveal he was.



## WHAT WE THINK

**MORE unemployment among Britain's portworkers is 'inevitable', says the National Ports Council annual report published yesterday. In the next 12 months the number of dockers to lose jobs through containerization will be at least 5,000, the NPC observes.**

This forecast should be considered with great seriousness by dockers in a situation where three of their London leaders face a threat of jail from the National Industrial Relations Court.

Sir John Donaldson issued his threat in the knowledge that it might aggravate a difficult national situation. That being the case, it is of extreme importance that there is no confusion about what the issues in that situation are.

More than 20,000 dockers' jobs have been lost since the Devlin inquiry into the industry issued its first report in 1965. NPC chairman Philip Chappell said yesterday that the numbers of other portworkers had fallen just as sharply.

Writing in the Communist Party's 'Morning Star' yesterday, Bernie Steer, secretary of the national port shop stewards' committee, and one of the three London men threatened by Donaldson, says the prime cause is 'the continued use of unregistered labour'. But this is only part of the picture.

The decimation several times over of job-opportunities on the docks coincides with—and is the pay-off for—acceptance of the Devlin 'modernization' scheme for the industry. And the responsibility for this rests squarely with the reformist trade union leaders and their supporters in the Communist Party.

The Devlin committee of inquiry needed the backing of the Communist Party to get off the

ground at all when it was set up by Wilson in 1964.

Dockers knew that the real problems of the industry could not be laid at their door. It was the employers who had starved the industry of investment, spending only £200m of their £3,000m profits over 20 years on dock construction and mechanization.

Yet it had been Jack Dash, leader of the CP-dominated portworkers' liaison committee in the Royals, who first called for 'a public inquiry' into the docks. He was later to boast that some of his ideas had been taken up by the committee.

Dash and his friends bitterly fought the Trotskyists who were in opposition to Devlin.

Nationalization was not part of the inquiry's terms of reference, of course. Its report could only therefore be prepared, as our forerunner 'The Newsletter' warned three months before its publication, 'with the sole interest of profitability and efficiency for the big employers'.

Devlin's main proposals were an end to the casual labour system, a reduction in the number of employers, increased mobility of labour and improvements in discipline. Publication of his reports was accompanied by a barrage of glossy leaflets and pamphlets from the Transport and General Workers' Union extolling its virtues.

A broadsheet authored by Harry Nicholas, now a knight and retiring general secretary of the Labour Party, presented it as 'the dreams of our forefathers in dockland'.

P. J. O'Hare, the T&GWU's Liverpool district secretary, assured his members that decasualization carried 'an absolute condition that no redundancy will be caused'.

Every docker can now see that this was just straight deception. And subsequent history also bears out the truth of the Socialist Labour League's warning in August 1967 that 'what the Labour government and Devlin call decasualization is not decasualization at all. Instead of freeing the docker from the casual system it aims to place him in a strait-jacket for the benefit of the private employer'.

Bernie Steer makes no mention of this history in his 'Morning Star' article. He should study it. In his recent CP pamphlet on the docks, Bill Dunn claims that the Party 'works for the strengthening of the trade unions fighting for militant and socialist policies'. This is a lie.

In 1964 the liaison committee prevented a fighting unity between London and the northern ports in a bitter wages struggle. This allowed a T&GWU docks delegate conference to accept the Devlin inquiry.

Two years later Dash drove a wedge between the dockers

and the seamen, preparing the ground for the seamen's defeat and Labour's compulsory wage freeze. In 1967 he and his Party again worked desperately to split London from Liverpool—allowing Phase One of the Devlin scheme to come in.

Is this strengthening the fight for militant or socialist policies? And the same question can be asked about the struggle over Devlin Phase Two, in which Steer was personally involved.

This came to London in September 1970 after 18 months of prevarication and half-day strikes in which neither the CP nor the liaison committee once came out in direct opposition.

Though Steer warned a Royal group mass meeting on March 5, 1969, against the dangers of split shifts and mobility of labour, these warnings were always fudged over with talk of 'if they get their Phase Two'. More often it was 'when'.

This, of course, went alongside deep hostility to the Trotskyists' demands for all-out opposition to Phase Two and a struggle for the nationalization of the docks under workers' control.

An All Trades Unions Alliance leaflet distributed at the March 5 meeting insisted that the real purpose of Phase Two and the Labourites' proposed National Ports Authority was 'a massive programme of rationalization

and modernization based on containerization'.

It called for a united struggle to prevent the redundancies this would cause. Steer now claims that the liaison committee and others at that time 'forecast what would happen if we did not get control of the unregistered labour situation'. He adds that when shop stewards came into being on the docks 'one of the first actions taken on a national scale was on the question of the continued use of unregistered labour'.

This is a damning admission. By itself, the correct demand that registered dockers on the full rate of pay should do dockers' work is purely defensive. And in a situation of rapidly-rising unemployment it can split the working class on craft and trade lines. The fight for nationalization under workers' control is the only way out of this dilemma.

The CP has not fought for this. When the containers issue first came to a head and stopped Merseyside for a week in the summer of 1969, the local Party docks branch issued a leaflet which never once mentioned nationalization. It called simply for 'a national agreement' on containers. And it covered up heavily for the role of the T&GWU leadership in signing a secret agreement with the Containerbase Federation run by Sir Andrew Crichton.

With containerization once again at the centre of the stage today, the T&GWU docks and waterways committee has shelved its demand for nationalization as not an immediate issue. So has Steer's national stewards' committee. Nowhere is it mentioned in his 'Morning Star' article.

It would be a grave mistake if tomorrow's stewards' meeting continued with this policy.

## SOME HARD FACTS ABOUT DEVLIN AND CONTAINERIZATION

## 26 killed in Bangla Desh clashes

AT LEAST 26 people were killed and 80 injured in clashes on Wednesday between police and supporters of the ruling Awami League in Khulna, Bangla Desh.

The country's Inspector-General of Police, Abdul Khaleque said police clashed with members of the Lal Bahini, part of the Labour wing of the Awami League.

Together with Home Minister Abdul Mannan, the Inspector-General was on his way to Khulna to try and restore order. The Khulna police chief said his men had gone on protest strike after the Lal Bahini had taken control of the port.

He said the trouble began when the Lal Bahini undertook a 'purification campaign against undesirable elements'. He said they had been harassing people.

## US balance of payments gets worse

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE BASIC American balance of payments is plunging deeper into the red despite the devaluation of the dollar by international agreement last December.

Figures released by the Washington Commerce Department earlier this week show that the basic account was in deficit by \$3,241m (£1,245m) in the first three months of this year.

This is \$1,267m up on the deficit for the last three months of 1971 and almost as high as the record short fall of \$3,296m recorded in July-September last year.

The basic account of the US payments measures foreign transactions in goods, services,

remittances and long-term private and government capital.

It is therefore the best indicator of the basic state of US trade with other countries. The Commerce Department attributed the fall to a sharp drop in income receipts from foreign direct investment, a slight worsening of the trade balance and a swing to large net outflows of private long-term capital from a net inflow in the previous quarter.

The fall in income from overseas investment is an index of the worsening depression in industry internationally.

The big international companies are reluctant to hold their funds in dollars and prefer to retain their overseas earnings outside the US—contributing to the instability of the world money markets.

The Nixon administration has repeatedly demanded action for the other capitalist countries to bring its payments back into balance.

To break down European and Japanese resistance to this demand Washington is now adopting outright protectionist and trade-war measures.

Japanese exports already barred from the US are flooding into Europe, undercutting home-produced goods in many cases. The increase has been particularly marked in television sets, tape-recorders, cars and ships, according to figures from Tokyo.

In the last 12 months the volume of Japan's exports to Europe has risen by almost 56 per cent (see cars story p. 3) and in some areas, notably ship-

building, exports have virtually doubled.

At the same time, the Common Market is being hit by American protectionist measures and there have been noisy complaints from the EEC commission against Washington's stringent application of anti-dumping laws.

The EEC commission published earlier this week a study designed to show that US tariffs are higher than European tariffs, and that in any case the Market's trade with the US is already in deficit.

The latest victims of US protectionism are British, French, Italian, Swiss and Japanese makers of heavy electrical goods. They are being accused of 'dumping' their products on the American market to the detriment of US manufacturers.

The intensity of the trade war can be expected to increase in the light of the mounting US balance of payments deficit, leading to a still deeper recession and mass unemployment in Europe and Japan.

## VW 6,000 cutback

WEST GERMANY'S giant car firm, Volkswagen, is to cut its workforce by 6,000 and also reduce the number of its white-collar workers by 1,600 before the end of September.

The firm expects to sell 170,000 fewer cars this year than in 1971.

Volkswagen is feeling the full blast of last year's August 15 Nixon measures and the revaluation of the mark, as well as of the intensive competition from the big Japanese carmakers.

Two of the biggest of the latter, Toyota and Nissan, are planning to set up assembly plants in Ireland later this year.

They claim that the intention is to beat a 75 per cent import duty on assembled cars. Both companies deny that they aim to establish a bridgehead for sales in Britain and Europe after Ireland's entry into the Common Market.

But their Irish move is clearly another move in the trade war.

The fall in British-Leyland's profits are another sign of the bitter competition which now rages between the world's giant car firms.

The cutbacks at Volkswagen are bound to be followed by other firms in a desperate effort to cut costs and maintain profit margins.

## Basques in Moscow as CPers' trial continues

THE TRIAL of 22 Spanish Communist Party members is continuing in Madrid. They represent almost the entire Party leadership in Murcia, a southern province.

The police claimed to have completely disrupted Party activities and to have all the duplicating machines, typewriters as well as the documents of the organization.

The public prosecutor is demanding the following sentences for Francisco Martinez Atalaya, responsible for organizing the workers' commissions, and Jose Lozano Morales, secretary of the provincial committee:

For illegal combination, six years each. For distribution of illegal propaganda, six years

each. He is asking sentences ranging from one year to six years for the others on trial.

While this repression goes on, a delegation of 14 Basque businessmen has been conducting five days of intensive negotiation in Moscow.

The delegation represents the 'Group of Engineering Exporting Firms in the Basque Provinces' (AGEX), which organizes the joint interests of 156 engineering firms in northern Spain.

The delegation was invited by the Soviet Chamber of Trade and Ministry of Foreign Trade. The talks have been described as 'extremely warm and cordial'.

## Spain allowed into EEC money talks

FASCIST Spain's bid to enter the Common Market has been strengthened by the decision to allow Spain to attend the technical information discussion on the workings of the currency of the member countries.

This decision was taken without any formal announcement. Since last month, Spain has been sitting with Austria, Switzerland and Sweden in the information sessions at Basle, where the EEC central bankers discuss the mechanics of their new currency arrangements.

These are meetings for countries considering joining the money bloc. Spain wants to join because 85 per cent of its trade is with the EEC countries.

Spain's entry to the monetary council points to closer relations with the Common Market.

Because of its relatively high gold reserves and large tourist trade, Spain is considered a strong currency country.

Prime mover in these new initiatives towards Spain has been the French government, which in

Brussels last week proposed that Spain be part of a free trade area with the EEC, and broadened existing agreements with Spain to soften the effect on Spanish trade of the admission of Britain into the Market.

Franco's confidence in his dictatorship's role in the capitalist reorganization of Europe was expressed by Senor Ullastres, Spanish ambassador to the EEC, at a recent press conference.

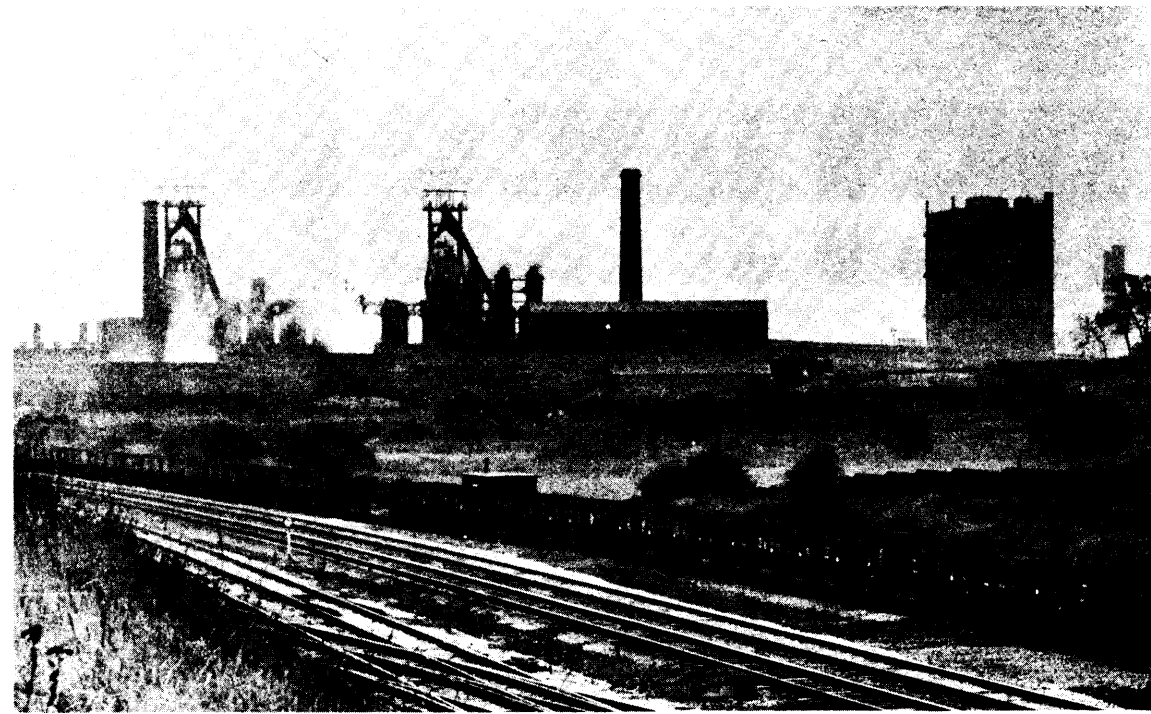
'At each moment we shall get what we want', he said.

Such confidence is backed by firm agreements with the Stalinist bureaucracies over the 'new' Europe.

Last Thursday, there was established in Budapest the Spanish section of the Hungarian Chamber of Trade to represent Spanish Chambers of Trade in Hungary. This follows the setting up of a Hungarian section in Spain last April.

Next autumn, the Hungarian Chamber of Trade and the Council of Local Chambers in Spain are going to organize jointly in Madrid, Barcelona and Bilbao study sessions and exhibitions on the Hungarian economy.

# BSC slashes 2,000 Midland steel jobs



Part of the Stanton and Staveley complex near Nottingham.

THE MIDLANDS engineering industry has been hit by another spate of closures which will throw at least 2,000 men on the dole.

The latest closures are by the British Steel Corporation and Staveley Machine Tools, part of the Staveley Industries Group.

This new surge of redundancies is a further sign of the deep economic recession biting into British industry.

It completely destroys the Tories' persistent forecasts that the economy is 'recovering' and that their deflationary policies are working. On the contrary, Chancellor Barber's measures have made no dint whatsoever in the decline in industrial investment or output.

The new closures come in the wake of other devastating sackings in recent weeks—1,450 redundancies in the Ransome, Hoffman Pollard ball-bearing group, the 1,500 toy jobs at Triang's in South London and the placing of Herbert Ingersoll, Daventry, into liquidation.

The BSC decision is to axe the blast furnaces, the coke ovens and slag plant at the Stanton Works, near Nottingham.

This will cut 1,500 jobs by the end of 1973.

The works is part of the tubes division's Stanton and Staveley Group. One section will be phased out in September and the remainder will be closed over the next 18 months.

The plants produce foundry pig iron and have been a major supplier to the iron foundry industry.

BY ALEX MITCHELL

A BSC statement said: 'Demand has fallen considerably in recent years because of technological developments within the industry. This fall in demand was responsible for the initial cut back in ironmaking capacity at Stanton in the autumn of 1971 when the two Old Works blast furnaces were shut down.'

'A continuing fall in the demand for foundry pig iron is forecast.'

The BSC proposes to concentrate production of foundry pig iron at its Workington Works in Cumberland.

The Staveley decision to close its Archdale works at Worcester is further evidence of the critical situation in the machine-tool industry. Both Archdale and the recently - bankrupted Herbert Ingersoll produce special purpose machines for the motor industry.

The closure will mean another 400 skilled engineers joining the unemployment queues.

A question mark now hangs over Staveley's four other machine - tool companies — Lapointe, Drummond, Asquith and Kearns-Richards.

Ian Richardson, the 'Birmingham Post's' business editor, yesterday praised Staveley's wise decision to close down Archdale.

He wrote: 'What matters much more is that, instead of Archdale's becoming in two months' time a frightening drain on Staveley's cash resources, closure will release significant amounts of cash.'

'All this was taken into account when Staveley forecast last week a further improvement in profits in the half-year to September.'

'That leaves Staveley's shares which have slipped to 115p this week, comfortably below the value of the assets and worth buying for recovery in 1972-1973.'

Thus the grotesque logic of capitalism — closures and redundancies mean greater profit for the shareholders.

## Mersey MPs' plea for Welsh steel

MERSEYSIDE Labour MPs have now joined in the campaign to stop the threatened rundown of the Shotton steelworks in Flintshire, North Wales.

There have been persistent rumours that the British Steel Corporation might want to close down steel making at Shotton and concentrate only on steel finishing, putting about 6,000 workers out of jobs.

Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Walton, has issued a statement saying that Merseyside MPs are 'deeply worried'.

He went on: 'The Ministry of Industry, Mr Tom Boardman, in announcing the future investment of the British Steel Corporation on May 8, excluded the shop plant from immediate plans.'

'It has been suggested that it may be economic for BSC to manufacture steel ingots at the central plant, possibly at Redcar. If this were to take place, this could have a serious effect regarding employment in the area. Redundancies at Shotton would further aggravate the already serious employment difficulties on Merseyside.'

The MPs are trying to get the government to back Shotton in any future BSC investment plans. Management at Shotton has submitted an alternative plan to BSC for the investment of about £50m in two basic steel-melting furnaces which would complete the entire modernization of the works and enable steel making to continue.

Earlier this week, the County Clerk of Flintshire, Mr T. M. Haydn Rees, led a deputation to Welsh Secretary of State, Mr Peter Thomas, to discuss the plant's future.

BSC plans for the future of steel are likely to be considered at Cabinet level within the next few months. Mr Thomas will be putting the case for keeping steel-making in Wales and expanding it rather than concentrating the work on the east coast, as seems possible under one of the alternative plans now on the BSC list.

It has also been announced that BSC chairman Lord Melchett may visit the steelworks to discuss its future with the workers' action committee at the plant.



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MORE INDUSTRIAL NEWS P.10

# LORD COOPER RETIRES

Last week Lord Cooper, the right-wing leader of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, announced his retirement. In this two part series Stephen Johns examines his attitudes and career.

On May 10, 1971, Lord Cooper made a characteristic statement that threw the TUC into confusion.

Through the pages of 'The Guardian' he informed the movement that he was in favour of registering his union—the third largest in Britain—under the Industrial Relations Act when it became law.

The statement mortified TUC general secretary Victor Feather. Cooper had chaired the TUC special conference at Croydon which had passed the first ill-fated resolution of opposition to the Industrial Relations Bill.

Feather had just announced with supreme confidence that any union with doubts over the policy would rush to him for 'help, advice and consultation'. But here was his own chairman saying he would indeed 'go' to the TUC but there would be no veto of any decision to register.

To the naïve in the trade union movement, Cooper's abrupt declaration might have been a shock.

But a look at this man's progress through the G&MWU from the lowest of officials to his exalted position today as ruler of Ruxley Towers—the unions 11-acre baronial seat in rural Surrey—shows that Cooper's announcement was quite in character.

Cooper's earliest recorded utterances seem to prove that the Industrial Relations Bill is for him the crowning opportunity to demonstrate his devotion to co-operation with the state—in the 'national interest', of course.

For it was 13 years ago that chairman Jack Cooper told the G&MWU conference that the union should always do all in its power to co-operate with governments, Tory or Labour:

'We should, as a trade union movement, be willing to look for modest real wage increases instead of demanding substantial concessions which if realized can only aggravate our economic difficulties,' he warned the delegates gathered at Torquay.

'Such a change of attitude would at least provide a positive contribution that the TUC could take at any government as a real gesture in solving the problem,' he said. ('The Times', June 3. Our emphasis).

Years later he was banging the same gong under the Labour government.

In 1965 he was the main salesman in the union for George Brown's incomes policy.

In particular he was an advocate of the early-warning system under which failure to report wage claims would draw the retribution of the law down on the offender.

His union printed an expensive pamphlet titled: 'Why an Incomes Policy'. 30,000 were dis-



Above: TUC's Victor Feather. Right: Lord Cooper with Feather at the TUC Congress in Blackpool, 1971

tributed but to Cooper's consternation the 1966 conference of his union passed a resolution which condemned the pegging of incomes of workers on low wages (ie his own members).

But Cooper and his general council acted fast. They called a special meeting and within months the offending policy was overturned.

'Before we take we must give,' Cooper sung this sweet music to the employers after his victory, 'We as ever must create sufficient to support the standards we want for our members. This means using our heads rather than our brawn.'

In 1966 he was ennobled by the Labour government and as Baron Cooper of Stockton Heath he hacked away at the evil roots of wage inflation in the Lords.

Straight onto the attack he told the House in his maiden speech that 'great mischief has been done by wage drift. We know that the initiative on wages is still on the shop floor rather than at the centre and the greatest problem for us in the trade union movement is to try and bridge the gap and bring a sense of order into the situation.'

But the G&MWU leadership does not always extend the courtesy it lavishes on governments to its members.

Cooper recently raged against Ford strikers in the 'Evening Standard'.

In an article titled 'Champion of the Working Man', the 'Standards' industrial correspondent, Alan Johnson, reported that the Lord was angered by the Ford dispute:

'I am not prepared to allow this union to be milked if we are going to have a strike every year at Ford,' he fumed.

Johnson reveals that the 2,000 G&MWU members at Ford paid £6.50 a year in union 'subs', but had already received £48 in strike pay for fighting their bitter parity battle against the company and the government's wages policy.



Cooper suggested, wrote Johnson, 'that the NUG&MW should levy these men after the strike is over. In the next 12 months they should pay so much a week to repay the union'.

(In fact Cooper can't complain. G&MWU evidence to the Royal Commission on Trade Unions, HMSO 1967, shows that between 1958 and 1964 the union paid an annual average of £17,500 a year in strike pay—far less than it spent on cars for its officials.)

This drive for frugality does not appear however to have penetrated into the heart of the G&MWU machine.

Ruxley Towers (called Cooper Klondike by the capitalist press when it was first purchased), a Victorian pile off the Kingston by-pass, is one of the most palatial of all union headquarters in the land.

There, the full-time officials and their wives can sport in 11 acres of lush grounds, play tennis, swim in the heated pool or take a turn round the nine-hole miniature golf course and, if they

get a little fatigued, they can always retire to the well-stocked bar with plush lounge.

They seem to do very nicely. At least a lot better than the average G&MWU Ford workers who pay for the whole outfit.

## Interests

The one principle behind Cooper's stand in May, when he turned his backside on the whole of the TUC, was his devotion to 'co-operation'—even if it meant putting his own head in the Tory noose.

Or as Cooper himself would put it:

'It is wrong to assume that industrial relations must necessarily always take the form of a trial of strength between employers and unions. Both have common interests—increasing output of goods and services so that real standards of living can be raised.'

But there is another side to Cooper.

His desire for 'common interests' is not entirely self-willed.

Other pressures push him into the arms of Robert Carr—namely those dark figures who scurry about their mischief on the shop floor and haunt the noble Lord.

In our next article we highlight Cooper's concern over the 'great red threat in the unions', his fear of shop stewards and his urging that governments should step in to curb the 'industrial anarchist'.

These fears have been responsible for Cooper's persistent right-wing stance through his career. The irony is that the preamble to the rules of the Gas Workers' Union—the forerunner of the modern G&M—have this to say about trade unionism:

'All members should understand that the interests of all workers are one, and a wrong done to any kind of labour is a wrong done to the whole of the working class, and a victory or defeat of any portion of the army is a gain or a loss for the whole of that army and the union is marching to its ultimate goal—the emancipation of the working class... Workers Unite.'

CONTINUED TOMMOROW

# THERE'S A SCANDAL IN THE HOUSE

The veteran French Stalinist leader Jacques Duclos, who now sits in the Senate, is involved in a curious quarrel with the president of that body, Alain Poher.

He has protested that a sentence which he used during a stormy debate in the Senate was cut out of the printed record. The passage referred to the case of a Gaullist minister who bought an ancient chateau which was later declared to be of historic interest with the result that he received a considerable sum of money to restore it.

Horrified Gaullists protested that Duclos was dragging a minister's 'private affairs' into a discussion about regional development to which the matter was irrelevant. A stormy scene then took place as Duclos tried to make himself heard.

In an exchange of letters with Duclos, Poher admitted

that a phrase had been cut from Duclos' remarks on his instructions. The President of the Senate said that having failed to prevent the excited Duclos from uttering the offending phrase, he decided that the dignity of the official record could best be upheld by assuming that he had not heard it!

Duclos, a great stickler for parliamentary procedure and still regarded as the Communist Party's most accomplished debator, despite his age, has demanded to know by what right Poher censored his remarks.

The action, says Duclos, in a letter to the President of the Senate, 'constitutes a dangerous precedent'. It might do prejudice to the 'parliamentary road' to which the French Communist Party is committed!

Below: Jacques Duclos



# THE BATTLE OF AN LOC

Neither the Americans nor their South Vietnamese puppets are making much fuss about the reported 'relief' of An Loc.

It has taken them the better part of two months to reach what remains of the beleaguered garrison of this provincial capital less than 70 miles from Saigon. Their much-ballyhooed relief column is still firmly bogged down on Highway 13.

## NO JOY

With the liberation forces closing in on Hue and Kontum, there is little joy for the imperialists in this inglorious feat of arms. Especially as it was achieved almost entirely by means of aerial pattern-bombing and helicopter strafing.

About the only person who does find it a cause for rejoicing is several thousand miles from the scene. He is General Vanuxem, a veteran of the devastating French defeat in Indo-China during the early 1950s.

In the extreme right-wing Paris newspaper 'Carrefour' (Crossroads) he penned the following purple passage: 'For the French, An Loc is the revenge for Dien Bien Phu. As at Dien Bien Phu they were less than 10,000 against more than 30,000.

'An Loc should have fallen at the first shock. Two months later, An Loc is still holding out. With the exception of Stalingrad there is nothing to equal this in the history of contemporary warfare.

'An Loc has become a symbol. Under the barrage of shells An Loc held out because of the courage of the Vietnamese. It held out for us, for our liberty, and our honour

and our future.'

Vanuxem's extravagant article is in line with his hysterical anti-communism. Only a few weeks ago, French industrialists were deluged with circulars advertising the strike-breaking services of Ordre Nouveau, the French fascist movement.

## SIGNATORIES

Vanuxem's name was prominent among the signatories—all military and Establishment figures. Like the Bourbons, he obviously learns nothing and forgets nothing. Unlike his old colleague General Christian Marie Ferdinand de la Croix de Castries, who actually surrendered Dien Bien Phu.

The last 19 years have obviously mellowed Castries, who recently turned up at a reception in Paris given by the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris peace talks.

# KEEPING MAO IN PICTURE

An exhibition of paintings being held in Peking is strongly reminiscent of the most Stalinist period of 'socialist realism' in the Soviet Union.

Many of the more than 300 pictures on view feature Mao Tse-tung or highly-stylised workers, peasants and soldiers. There are 17 large oil paintings of Chairman Mao, housed in a separate room with such titles as 'Chairman Mao on Inspection Tour of Fushun' and 'Chairman Mao's Heart is Linked With Ours'.

Mao himself laid down the canons of 'socialist realism' in an article written at Yunnan in May 1942, which now operates as law for Chinese artists. The exhibition is being held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of this article.

An editorial in the 'People's Daily' declares that artists and writers must 'persist in making literature and art serve the workers, peasants and soldiers and proletarian politics'.

The pictures now being shown mark a sharp break with traditional Chinese art and depict everyday scenes in factories, fields and army camps.

Two-thirds of the paintings, it is claimed, are the work of worker, peasant and soldier amateurs and had been selected from a vast number submitted by people all over China.



Stylised Chairman Mao

# VERDICT ON MANCHESTER

Stephen Johns examines the first test for the engineering industry pay claim.

## WHAT THEY WANTED

- A substantial general pay increase and an increase in minimum rates.
- Four weeks holiday plus ten days statutory holidays at average earnings.
- Equal pay for work of equal value.
- All deals without productivity strings.
- Overtime at time and a half instead of time and a third.
- Lay-off pay at average earnings.
- Improvements in payments for shift work.
- A reduction in the working week from 40 to 35 hours.

\*These are the main points of the claim drawn up at the AUEW national committee meeting in April last year. When national action was abandoned, stewards were advised to submit all or whatever part of the claim they thought most important.

Next week the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions will hold what promises to be one of the most stormy annual meetings of its history.

At the centre of the controversy will be the great engineering industry pay claim. This impressive charter of demands for 3 million workers was drawn up over a year ago and, after three months of actual factory-floor struggle, is now on the verge of total collapse.

The debate is likely to focus on the first major battle for the claim which is now all but over in the greater Manchester area.

Quite rightly delegates will view this north-west contest as an acid test of the plant-by-plant strategy first mooted by Hugh Scanlon, President of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, when he came out firmly against national strike action on the eve of the miners' dispute in January.

The right wing in the Confederation will be pressing for a new approach to the employers—a move that would effectively scotch what little fight is left in Britain's major engineering conurbations.

In reply the left will be putting a brave face on settlements already reached in the industry and arguing that the factory and district action was largely worthwhile.

Only one group will be able to observe the squabbling with quiet satisfaction—the tough and ruthless Engineering Employers' Federation.

In the words of the latest

edition of their journal, 'EEF News': 'Nearly five months have passed since the unions took their decision to pursue the claims domestically; there are no signs of any landslide of concessions.'

If Manchester is the test case the employers are right.

Once again this massive engineering complex took the brunt of the struggle. At its peak, over 20,000 workers were involved in 32 sit-ins or lock-outs, which in one case stretched over ten weeks.

What have they to show for such determination? Out of the 250 firms in the local Engineering Employers' Association only five gave in on the three key demands for shorter hours, more pay and longer holidays, and they have been expelled promptly for their weakness.

In total the union claims 50 deals which involve the three points. But most of these are with small non-federated firms and in some cases the concession on hours is minimal.

AUEW divisional organizer John Tocher denies the employers have won a victory.

'No one has been defeated,' he says. 'Nowhere have workers gone back for nothing. We obviously could not have got the type of settlements we did get if it had not been for the district-wide action and the magnificent solidarity of the Manchester membership. We have set the pace for everywhere else. We would not have got the extra holidays otherwise or the moves in the consolidated rate—all on a 12-month basis—without taking this action.'

This may be true, but the Manchester performance is a pale shadow of what the fight

could have been if the campaign for the claim had been fought out at national level. And Tocher admits: 'The real disappointment came with the hard-liners. We have not been successful in getting something off the hours at any of the factories where the workers sat-in.'

Add to this the fact that in some cases the cash settlement has been for a paltry £2, only 50p above the employers' original insulting £1.50 offer, and the full import of the Manchester action becomes apparent.

## FIRST BATTLE NOTE

Unlike the unions, the employers quickly mobilized themselves on national lines. The first battle note was sounded by their President, Denby Bamford. At the EEF annual dinner in January he warned: 'If the unions are out to test the fibre of our unity we should leave them in no doubt as to its durability.'

The spirit was quickly imbibed by their Manchester membership. Where production dropped substantially because of the district work-to-rule they took a decision to lock men out.

Firms who suffered from sit-in strikes were subsidized from national funds at the rate of £5 per-man-week lost for the first two weeks, and £10 for every subsequent week.

Manchester director of the EEA, Michael Fuller, says they knew they were fighting the battle for engineering employers throughout Britain:

'We were standing the racket for the rest of the



Left: workers at H. O. Serk & Co. during their sit-in. Above: Michael Fuller, Manchester director of the Engineering Employers Association.

country so we advised our members not to subsidize a virtual strike and lay men off if production fell very low due to the ban on piecework.'

The claim for hours was decisive in uniting the employers:

'A shorter working week was mad,' says Fuller. 'To a certain extent inflation takes care of money rises. But once you have reduced the working week you will never get it back. We are just going into the Common Market and we already have one of the shortest working weeks in Europe.'

The Manchester results will make it virtually impossible for engineering workers in other areas to win substantial concessions from employers on wages or hours.

Already a trickle of unsatisfactory settlements in the Sheffield area has turned into a flood and in the belated Birmingham campaign a demand for a shorter working week will not even be raised.

In short a once-proud claim is now being dissipated throughout the industry in a series of unsatisfactory deals which barely keep workers wages in pace with the rise in the cost of living. Who is to blame?

Number one culprits must be the national leaders of the AUEW. They were the architects of the claim, but they also led the move to drop it at national level and throw it to the factories. Once this had been done, the outcome we see today was virtually inevitable.

The engineers' leaders backed away from a national fight because they were afraid of its political implications. The retreat began early in January when the AUEW

national executive decided on the abortive strategy of plant-by-plant bargaining. By all accounts it was a unanimous decision attracting the keen support of Maoist council member Reg Birch.

The executive called together the union's policy-making national committee and they too backed the 'new' strategy. The powerful Communist Party faction voted en bloc for scrapping national action.

## A NATIONAL STRIKE

Scanlon's arguments against national action (which came on day two of the miners' strike) were most revealing.

First he hid behind rule. A national strike could only be called without a ballot of membership if it could not be proved that there was time for a vote. If a vote were held what guarantee would there be of a majority? (The miners leaders did not have such qualms over their ballot.)

But then he got down to the nub of the issue. A national strike, he said, would be far more in accordance with present-day practice since the miners had launched one and railwaymen likely to have one.

BUT: These circumstances are generating some sort of general political battle against the government and its wages policy; in fact its whole approach to industrial legislation. Whether or not that is realistic thinking is, in the executive council's point of view, very much open to doubt.

Scanlon knew in fact that a national engineering strike on top of the confrontation on

the coalfields would threaten the very existence of the Tory government. He ran from this enormous political challenge and opportunity. But with him ran the whole Communist Party faction which boasts 21 votes on the national committee.

Only four of the 52 national Committee delegates voted against the executive's proposal.

In adopting this strategy, did Scanlon imagine that the claim in its entirety could somehow be smuggled past employers at local level?

The answer is no. During un-minuted talks with employers Scanlon was asked what his priorities were. He replied that discussion on everything bar pay and holidays could be deferred. (This was revealed when the AUEW president addressed Manchester shop stewards.)

He and his executive must also have known that to throw the claim out to the factories would leave workers in hundreds of thousands of plants—the militant and the weak, the large and the small—at the mercy of employers who were uniting as one ready for battle.

For a moment let us give the executive the benefit of the doubt. How in practice did they back local action?

Manchester were first off the mark. On March 27 a district ban on piecework was launched. But in Sheffield the AUEW district committee was cautioned not to rush into a similar action in support of their brothers across the Pennines.

There was very little agitation, leaflets, meetings, etc on the claim until the north-west struggle was well into its third

or fourth week.

But the cruellest blow of all came on the week starting May 7. Apparently concerned over the lack of local initiative, the AUEW executive members had sat down and drafted a circular to all members. They unanimously singled out the important concessions as being an increase on minimum rates, a general increase and longer holidays.

Concessions on hours were not included.

This had a traumatic effect on the Manchester struggle. Local officials there had been fighting hard to keep the demand for hours out in front.

The employers openly admitted that it was this demand which encouraged their solid determination to resist.

The circular gave the green light to every right-wing factory leadership to break ranks and sign deals. The first to crack were workers at the giant AEI factory at Trafford Park—where Scanlon had served his own apprenticeship.

They went back for £2 . . . and the rot set in. The employers were jubilant. Says Fuller: 'We were naturally pleased about the circular. But I think the decision at AEI really broke the back of the union campaign.'

Was Scanlon and his executive unaware of the impact of the circular on the Manchester struggle? The choice of priorities on the claim is hardly the issue—to deliver a blow to Manchester at this stage would be a set back for the claim everywhere. The dropping of the hours question was just such a blow.

The circular dovetailed exactly with the employers' strategy. In the opening weeks of the struggle they had con-

centrated on getting maximum unity and resistance among the federated firms. This they achieved.

But after three weeks, Fuller says, they changed their target and advised members to get as many settlements as possible on the basis of pay and holidays but not hours. Within a week the union circular was suggesting the same tactics to the strikers.

On evidence the executive appears not only guilty of running away from a national fight, but of failing to support its own plant-level strategy.

The responsibility for the collapse of the claim, however, cannot be entirely unloaded onto the national executive. The AUEW leaders could have been challenged on two occasions by the powerful Communist Party lobby on the national committee. But they were not.

It was the original intention of the Manchester divisional committee to press for national action if talks broke down on the claim. Hence in autumn last year a resolution was drawn up demanding the national committee to press for strike action on the demands if they were rejected.

But in January Manchester delegate Bill Anten, a CP member, bowed to pressure from Scanlon and voted for domestic action.

The way the executive had railroaded the national committee came under fierce attack at the Manchester divisional committee on January 1, but they essentially accepted Scanlon's logic and laid plans for the district-wide work-to-rule.

Later, in the midst of the Manchester struggle, Anten did not press the original Man-

chester resolution at the April national committee meeting. Delegates once again accepted Scanlon's veiled warning that a national strike would incur the wrath of the National Industrial Relations Court which was then busy dealing with the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The Manchester work-to-rule, which involved the key ban on piecework, was duly adopted by the local Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and a mass meeting of shop stewards. On March 1 carbon-copy claims on pay hours and holidays were submitted to employers all over the conurbation and the first sit-in broke out in Stockport two weeks before the official deadline of March 27.

No one can doubt the determination and militancy of the Manchester workers. But predictably the battle was isolated to a number of big firms like Guest Keen, AEI-GEC, the British Steel Corporation, Hawker Siddeley and Ferranti.

In Sheffield a motion on the AUEW district committee to take action with Manchester was defeated by the casting vote of the chairman Herbert Howarth, a CP member.

The executive circular angered the Manchester Confederation members but when they met to discuss it on May 15 they yielded to this pressure and effectively dropped the claim on hours.

At a mass meeting of shop stewards three days later the platform sanctioned a return to normal working providing management offered a satisfactory concession on pay and longer holidays.

They opposed an amendment from the floor which called on the Confederation to reaffirm its original stand and this was heavily defeated.

This meeting revealed an alliance between the local leadership and Bert Brennan, who controlled the substantial shop stewards' vote from AEI, Trafford Park. Brennan swore he would fight it out with his combine until he had won a £3 increase and longer holidays. But days later he went back on his word and signed a deal involving a £2 increase, no extra holidays and, of course, no concession on hours.

The AEI settlement broke the back of the Manchester resistance—a flood of unsatisfactory deals followed.

This was the price Manchester workers paid for their own local leadership's refusal to fight for a national strike,

and against the AUEW executive's retreat.

The story of the Manchester dispute holds one most important lesson for workers. There is no way round the political fight in the unions to expose the treacherous policies of the bureaucracy.

Militancy is no substitute for this campaign. The day the majority of the national leaders backed away from joining the miners in national battle against Tory policy the rot set-in.

At first the CP faction was thrown into confusion by the executive's policies. But ever faithful to the party's policy of courting the reformists, it was soon backing Scanlon and company all the way. Within weeks of the January 10 decision, Arthur Gibbard, leader of the CP group on the national committee, was arguing that to press forward with the national claim would have meant a break with the AUEW President.

At Sheffield they followed the relentless logic of this decision and abandoned district-wide action with Manchester. And on May 15 the Manchester leaders themselves dropped the most important part of their claim rather than come out clearly against their national leadership and carry the fight forward.

Party members like Tocher, the Manchester district secretary Bernard Panter, and his Stockport counterpart Bernard Regan, all fought hard militant campaigns in the early stages of this north-west confrontation.

They went out and attempted to persuade workers, who had accepted deals that did not give the shorter working week, to change their minds. But in the end the opportunism of their own Party policy caught up with them, and they too were forced into a pact with the right and abandoned the guts of their demand.

This is not just a question of political point-scoring. A powerful and just claim has been lost in a miasma of local deals and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions has failed to guard the living standards of its 3 million members.

Those 3,500 men at AEI, Trafford Park or the 6,300 Manchester Ferranti workers will find themselves worse off next year after inflation has eaten away their £2 increase. And that is bread and butter.



John Tocher (speaking) with Scanlon (on his right) at a meeting for AUEW shop stewards

# CREEPING DEATH OF INDUSTRIAL CANCER

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

'The fate of these people seems singularly hard,' wrote Percival Potts in 1775. Potts was a surgeon who worked among London's poor. He was writing about his observations of chimney-sweep boys he had attended.

'In their early infancy they are most frequently treated with great brutality and almost starved from cold and hunger; they are thrust up narrow and sometimes hot chimneys where they are bruised, burned, and almost suffocated, and when they get to puberty, become peculiarly liable to a most noisome, painful and fatal disease.'

The disease he was referring to was cancer of the genitals, caused by close contact with soot over a long period.

Little boys are no longer sent up chimneys, but cancer of various organs caused by working with dangerous substances is still very much an industrial hazard for many workers.

In an article in 'Nursing Mirror' (April 21, 1972), Sir Eric Riches, Emeritus Surgeon to The Middlesex Hospital, London, talks about the concern of many doctors at the growing incidence of industrial cancers.

Cancers can develop from contact with various different substances over some time. The lethal particles can be absorbed through the skin, breathed in, or swallowed.

## BANNED

In many cases the tumor itself does not actually make an appearance until many years later, sometimes as many as 25 years or even longer.

Some of the cancer-producing substances have now been banned.

The manufacture of beta-naphthylamine, which was used in both the dye and rubber industries, was prohibited in 1950 after it was found that 100 per cent of all the workers involved in its distillation contacted cancer of the bladder. It was, still possible, however, to import it until 1967.

However, other substitute chemicals which are still in use are also regarded as dangerous.

What is perhaps not so well known is the risk run by men and women who have to handle many much more common substances. Workers who

have to deal with pitch, tar and mineral oil have all been found to have a high proportion of skin cancers, and concern has been expressed at the growing number of genital cancers in men who have to lean over machines to oil them, getting their clothes soaked in oil in the process.

It has long been recognized that miners can get the dreaded 'dust diseases' such as silicosis and pneumoconiosis. It has been found, however, that breathing in tiny particles can cause cancer of the lungs or other parts of the respiratory system. Asbestos and wood dust have also been found to have this effect.

## PRECAUTIONS

Some chemicals are so lethal that they affect not only the people who actually work with them, but others living nearby who breathe the vapours as they spread out in the atmosphere.

In towns where arsenical sheep dip is manufactured, for example, there has been found to be a disproportionately high number of deaths from cancer of the skin and bronchial tubes.

Thousands of workers face the most ghastly suffering and death as a result of the work they do. The terrible thing about it is that, now these dangers are recognized, a number of simple precautions could be taken to reduce the risks, or prevent them altogether.

Proper ventilation systems, bathing facilities and changing rooms, face masks, rubber gloves, splash guards over machines which have to be oiled, cleaning facilities for contaminated clothing — all simple precautions. But they all cost money. And that is the problem.

Industrialists run their industries for profit, and the health and lives of their workers are as dispensable as their machinery.

As Sir Eric Riches points out in his article, referring to the use of mineral oil in the lubrication of machines:

'If white oil of low carcinogenic toxicity were used and if automatic lubrication could eliminate the manual operation, a further step in prevention would be possible . . . the increased cost is probably the main factor preventing it.'

So thousands of workers lose their health and even their lives in the profit race.

How many workers in industry today have even the most elementary precautions,



Top: a chimney-sweep boy on the streets of London in the early 1800s. Above: brick works; the source of a fine dust which can cause silicosis.

such as those listed above?

The various cancer research organizations make constant appeals for funds. Thousands of pounds are contributed every year to find a cure for what is perhaps the most dreaded disease of all. Among

the lists of donors are to be found the names of some of our top industrialists.

If they were to spend a fraction of what they contribute to such charities on better facilities in their factories and workplaces, the

urgent need for such research would be greatly reduced.

The fight against cancer is just one more reason for getting rid of the capitalist system and running industry for the benefit of the working class.





# THE PEASANTS' REVOLT: A PLAY FOR TODAY

'Will Wat? If not, what will?', a documentary play on the people's uprising of 1381 (called the Peasants' Revolt by less sympathetic historians), is a step forward in documentary theatre.

I haven't seen anything of its quality in London. It's been produced at the Half Moon Theatre, Alice Street, Aldgate, and is written by Steve Gooch and members of the cast.

It has a clear grasp of the situation, leaving the audience to work out all the conclusions for themselves, with clear guidelines as to which way to go; that is. It's not dogmatic and consequently portrays the full importance of the events rather than dealing in obvious bold statements.

Having said this, I must remark that the first half of the show is clearer and fuller than the second. It deals with the build-up to the Uprising; the Black Death and consequent Statute of Labourers, the laws against workers seeking a better wage and the plight of the journeymen in the cities who had no hope of becoming masters of their trade because the existing master had long since, for

motives of self-interest, eradicated competition etc, closed the shop.

One important point is missing. No mention is made of the 'Great Society' or 'Great Company', a catchword at the time and the notion which seems to have motivated John Ball and his followers.

Without this point being established, the Uprising appears as a collection of spontaneous events which became connected by chance, instead of a preconceived and organized movement which stemmed out of the people's oppression and was held together by news passed throughout the country by itinerant (outlawed) labourers and preachers.

This is a clear historical reading of the situation, from the evidence we have available. One scene hints that the journeymen were holding meetings under the guise of being a religious society, to discuss 'how to better ourselves'. The implication is clear, but I only wish we had been allowed to see one of these meetings on the stage.

In the second half the plot against Wat Tyler's life, which makes greater historical sense if seen as a deliberate and desperate plan embarked on by the king and the new bourgeois

Above: a scene from 'Will Wat. If not, what will?'

factions in London, is again shown as more or less spontaneous and not as ingeniously conceived and carried out in order to maintain the *status quo*. Again this seems to be a fault in the reading of the historical situation.

Having picked on the faults, I must return to the excellence of the conception and production of the piece. Everything is there; the Archbishops and Abbots riding on the backs of the workers (literally!). The new bourgeois traders manipulating the boy king by playing him at loaded dice and letting him win in order to keep him in their power.

And even the poet Geoffrey Chaucer, aloof from the proceedings in the true tradition of a bourgeois artist, and yet not managing to glean a line of poetry from the murder of the Flemings while looking on bemused from his window.

We see the plight of the people and their grievances, and hopes in struggle. Finally, and most important of all we see their mistakes and can learn from this portrayal of living struggle.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## DESPERATE

We recently explained the way in which the Supplementary Benefits Commission penalizes 'unmarried mothers' if it is thought they are sleeping with a boy friend. Special Investigators keep watch on their homes and their money can be stopped immediately, even if there is no evidence that the man is giving them anything at all.

'Social Worker' (June 9, 1972), a paper which covers the various fields in which social workers are interested, has the following story to tell.

A 26-year-old woman with two young children had a boy friend who visited her frequently and occasionally stayed the night.

She was warned that the Supplementary Benefits Commission might take action against her. In fact, a local SBC visitor told her they were aware of her association with the man, but that they would turn a blind eye providing he did not stay more than three nights a week. This arbitrary rule was imposed entirely by the whim of the SBC.

Shortly afterwards, however, the woman was involved in an accident in which her leg was injured. Her boy friend stayed with her for a week to help take care of the children.

At once, the Special Investigator called and demanded that she surrender her allowance books. She and her children were thus left completely destitute.

Although he had made little or no financial contribution to the family until then, the man felt he now had a responsibility to help her and moved into the home.

Within a few days, however, he became ill and could not work. Not being married, he was unable to get any sickness benefit for the woman or her children.

In sheer desperation, the couple got married.

As 'Social Worker' points out, all too often the reverse happens.

Lonely women are condemned to living alone, not daring to enter into any relationships with men, or invite them to visit their homes, for fear their money will be stopped. In many cases, potentially stable relationships are destroyed by the Special Investigator before they even get started.

## CLAIMS

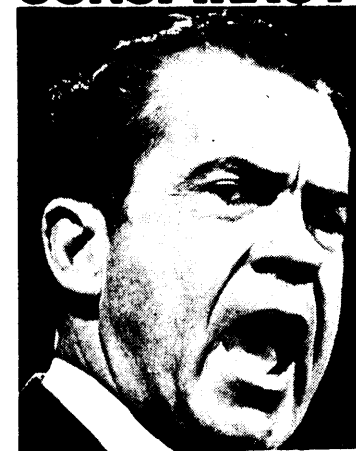
Here is some information that should keep wage claims in the car industry down to a modest level.

Labour Research has just published the salaries of Britain's top motor bosses for 1971.

In the lead is Vauxhall Motor's chairman D. A. Rhea on £67,951 a year, or £1,307 a week.

Next is Lord Stokes of British-Leyland with £46,060 a year, £886 a week. Ford pay Sir Len Crossland £35,956 a year and Gilbert Hunt of Chrysler gets a modest £23,000 a year, £442 a week.

## CONSPIRACY



Prominent Republicans across the United States have been receiving free copies of a new paperback book describing President Nixon as the tool of a leftist international conspiracy.

The author plans to saturate the country with the book before the November presidential elections.

He is Gary Allen, a 35-year-old writer for John Birch publications, a company run by the John Birch Society. He has titled his book 'None Dare Call it Conspiracy'.

Allen believes there is 'an invisible government' controlled by the Council on Foreign Relations. The Council is 'an American subsidiary of a secret international society dedicated to establishing a world government whereby a clique of super-rich financiers would control the world under the guise of socialism.'

The John Birch Society is dedicated to upholding capitalism—i.e. a system where a small clique of super-rich financiers control the world . . .

## BOOKS



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# No basis to call off strike

## says Hull chairman Cunningham

CHAIRMAN of the Hull port shop stewards Walter Cunningham thinks there are no grounds for Wednesday's decision to postpone the national dock strike for six weeks. He was one of the docks delegates at the meeting in Transport House, London, which voted 49-32 for postponement.

Here he talks to Workers Press about the conference.

'Jones said at the conference that if any man was sent to prison he would call a national

stoppage on the docks. Let's hope he means what he says.

'In the past he's been proved a little bit suspect. The situation on the docks today obviously calls for a national stoppage. Certainly until all men on the unattached register are permanently employed.

'The employers have offered an extra £500 severance pay to men on the unattached register, but there's nothing strong enough I can say about that because it's totally unacceptable.

'The conference has given the employers six weeks grace. But they've already had two years.

'O'Leary proposed another six weeks, but what he put to the delegates, god above knows. There's nothing I can see that can justify it.

'The only basis for calling off this strike would be

'1) That tomorrow all the men on the unattached register were permanently employed.

'2) That all container work would be done by dock workers.

'3) That all unregistered wharves and quays would come under the National Dock Labour Board.

'If they haven't got that, which they haven't, there's no basis for calling off the strike.'



Walter Cunningham

## Divorce rate doubles

THE DIVORCE rate in England and Wales more than doubled during the 1960s, the Registrar General's statistical review shows today. Decrees made absolute increased from 23,868 in 1960 to 58,239 in 1970—only 2,000 less than the post-war marriage break-up peak in 1947. New divorce applications in 1970 soared to 71,661, more than 10,000 above the previous record, set in 1969.

GENERATING station electricians in Eire staged a 24-hour strike yesterday.

The strike by members of the Irish Electrical Technicians' Association is over the Electricity Supply Board's refusal to recognize them as a negotiating union.

## Some people wriggling out of fight against Act—builders

BUILDING workers delegates at their conference in Blackpool yesterday called for the recall of the TUC Congress 'to deal with loopholes used by some people' to wriggle out of full opposition to the Industrial Relations Act.

The Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians' conference yesterday passed a resolution calling on the TUC to maintain its opposition to the Act, and to support any union affected.

Delegate Dick Miles of Crawley, Sussex, said the TUC General Council had slipped back from the resolutions passed at the last congress and had weakened in its stand against the Tory government.

When there were bad laws, he said, it was sometimes necessary to go outside the law to defend the long battle which had led to the development of the trade union movement. The TUC should be recalled, he added.

There was loud opposition from some delegates when Dan Crawford, replying for the executive council, condemned any extreme action. The executive had come out strongly against the Act, he said, but legislation—based on a voluntary system—did have a part to play in future industrial relations.

On Monday, TUC general secretary Victor Feather was constantly interrupted by booing, jeers and shouts as he addressed the delegates. The conference was suspended after Feather sat down.

# Inflation panic may force a devaluation

THE 'City Press', the well informed Tory newspaper of the City of London, has begun speculation that devaluation is on the way.

In a front page article yesterday the newspaper said that the government may have to consider 'a planned devaluation of the pound'.

But the article adds: 'This, before the

General Election, would be very dangerous for the Tories.'

Headlined 'Can Heath stop inflation?', the article begins: 'The government's economic policy is bust. They nailed their colours to the mast over the Industrial Relations Act which they said was the "key" to good industrial relations and wage restraint.

'Now by quashing the £55,000 fine on the Transport and General Workers' Union the

Court of Appeal has made the Industrial Relations Act a classic non-event.

'The other main plank in the government's economic policy was to cure wage inflation by a showdown with a major trade union.

'This plank has finally cracked irreparably with the 13½ per cent settlement with the railmen and the inevitable wildly inflationary settlement of the dockers' claim for

over £2,000 a year fall back pay.

'Having tasted blood the miners, railmen and dockers will want equally high increases next year.'

● Yesterday at Blackpool, Labour's Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, said that a summer devaluation was now 'on the cards'.

He said the government may be forced to adopt this strategy because of the 'panic about inflation'.

# NALGO off register

LOCAL government unionists yesterday rejected moves to register them under the Industrial Relations Act to 'improve the Act from the inside'.

The 2,000 delegates at the National and Local Government Officers' annual conference in Eastbourne voted overwhelmingly to throw out a resolution calling for registration

as 'not in the interests of our members'.

The few delegates proposing registration wanted to ballot the union's 400,000 members. Said Mr Ken Forbes from the South Staffordshire Health Service:

'I believe the TUC has been wrong in adopting a policy of non-co-operation. I believe you can improve the Act far better from the inside than from the outside.'

And he added: 'It is

time the trade union movement appreciated, whether it likes it or not, that the Act is on the Statute Book and even if there is a change of government in the near future the Act will remain on the Statute Book.'

Former NALGO president Neil McLean told delegates that their vote would reaffirm the union's policy of complete opposition to government interference in industrial relations.

'This issue is not

about the miners or railwaymen, nor is it relevant to the dockers. It is not really about law and order—it is about our attitude to government interference in the affairs of trade unions.

'There will be no great practical advantage to be gained from registration,' he said.

'There will be no substantial damage caused to our functioning or bargaining effectively if NALGO is not registered.'

# Another round of price rises from August 1?

INDUSTRIAL chiefs yesterday began clearing the decks for another round of even steeper price rises from August 1.

It is on that date that the 5 per cent 'limit' on prices agreed by member firms of the Confederation of British Industry expires.

In a speech in Bristol,

CBI president Michael Clapham said the decision to continue 'restraint' would be approached 'with a deep sense of responsibility'.

'Do we just stop trying?' he asked, before significantly adding:

'There is hardly a manufacturing firm in this country which does not need higher prices to maintain its viability

and justify its investment.'

Clapham warned that the road they were on could lead to the point 'where people's wages have to be collected in wheelbarrows and people's savings have gone up in smoke.'

'Do we accept that they can all impose higher prices on August

1, so that all of us begin adding to each other's costs and pour fuel continuously on the flames?'

The CBI chief, however, refused to commit members to any decision about future policy.

Many workers will also be surprised to learn there was ever a 5 per cent limit on price rises in the first place.

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## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

ABINGDON: Friday June 16, 8 p.m. 'The Grapes', High St.  
NORTH KENT: Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford. 'Why a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.

CROYDON: Monday June 19 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

COVENTRY: Tuesday June 20, 8 p.m. Woodend Community Association Building, Hillmorton Road.

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'.

SHEFFIELD: Wednesday June 21, 7.30 p.m. 'New White Lion', Wicker. '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'.

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'.

# TV



A film to look forward to on BBC-1 on Sunday night is 'The Innocents' with Pamela Franklin and Martin Stephens as the two strange wards of Deborah Kerr in this adaptation of Henry James' spine-chilling story 'The Turn of the Screw'.

## BBC 1

9.20-9.35 Andy Pandy. 9.38-11.55 Schools. 1.00-1.25 Dechrau canu. 1.30 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Bowls and tennis. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Magic roundabout. 4.45 Jackanory. 4.55 Screen test. 5.20 Right Charlie. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

**6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.**  
**6.20 TOM AND JERRY.** Casanova Cat.  
**6.30 THE VIRGINIAN.** To Bear Witness.  
**7.45 IT'S A KNOCK OUT!** Nottingham v Lincoln.  
**8.30 LOOK — MIKE YARWOOD!**  
**9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.**  
**9.20 THE MAN OUTSIDE.** Cuculus Canoruc.  
**10.10 24 HOURS.**  
**10.45 FILM: 'THE BIG STORE.'** The Marx Brothers.  
**12.05 Weather.**

## BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 4.00-5.30 The Wightman Cup. Great Britain v USA. 5.35-6.30 Open University.  
**6.35 CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL.** Young Offenders.  
**7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.**  
**7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.**  
**8.00 THE MONEY PROGRAMME.** Who Owns Britain?

## ITV

11.00-12.15 Schools. 12.55 Wills open tennis tournament. 1.40 Schools. 2.30 Good afternoon! (London). 3.00 Racing from Sandown Park. 3.45 Scotland Yard mysteries. 4.15 Clapperboard. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Land of the giants. 5.50 News.

**6.00 TODAY.**  
**6.30 THE NEW DICK VAN DYKE SHOW.** The Birth.  
**7.00 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.**  
**7.30 THE FBI.** Nightmare.  
**8.30 ON THE BUSES.** The Best Man.  
**9.00 BUDGIE.** King for a Day.  
**10.00 NEWS AT TEN.**  
**10.30 WILLS OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.**  
**11.15 FILM: 'THE KILLER THAT STALKED NEW YORK.'** Charles Korvin, Evelyn Keyes, William Bishop. Lola Albright. Thriller.  
**12.45 EPILOGUE.**

**9.00 GARDENERS' WORLD.**  
**9.20 REVIEW.** Long Live the Whitechapel, Anniversary Quartet.  
**10.10 SPORT TWO.** Racehorses I love... Racecourses I Hate and Alone at Sea... Hallucinations.  
**10.50 NEWS ON 2 and weather.**  
**10.55 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.** Ecology.

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 11.00-3.50 London. 4.05 Zingalong. 4.18 Puffin. 4.22 Jimmy Stewart. 4.50 Flintstones. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.15 Report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.17 Film: 'The Colossus of New York'. 12.30 News, weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.18 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 11.13 News. 12.30 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 11.00 London. 3.55 Weekend. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.40 Out of town. 7.00 His and hers. 7.30 Weekend. 7.35 Sky's the limit. 8.05 FBI. 9.00 London. 11.15 News. 11.25 Film: 'Crossroads to Crime'. 12.35 Weather. Epilogue.

**HARLECH:** 11.00 London. 3.45 Women only. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Woobinda. 5.20 Flaxton boys. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'Charley's (Big-Hearted) Aunt'. 9.00 London. 11.15 His and hers. 11.45 Jason King. 12.45 Weather.

**HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 4.15-4.30 Cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.  
**HTV West as above except:** 6.18-6.35 Report West.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 11.00 London. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 His and hers. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 Shirley's world. 9.00 London. 11.15 Film: 'The Night of the Demon'.

**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Thunderbirds. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Viewfinder. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.15 Name of the game.

**YORKSHIRE:** 11.00 London. 3.45 Jimmy Stewart. 4.10 Calendar news. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Flaxton boys. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 London. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.15 Film: 'The Boys'. Robert Morley, Richard Todd.

**GRANADA:** 11.00 London. 4.05 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.50 Land of the giants. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30

His and hers. 7.00 Film: 'The Pink Panther'. David Niven, Peter Sellers. 9.00 London. 11.15 Avengers.

**TYNE TEES:** 11.00 London. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 London. 3.45 Jimmy Stewart. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 Flaxton boys. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 London. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.15 Film: 'The Rise and Fall of Legs Diamond'. 1.00 News. 1.15 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 11.00 London. 3.30 Kiri. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Cartoon cavalcade. 5.50 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.30 Shirley's world. 7.00 London. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 10.30 In camera. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'Hound of the Baskervilles'.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.00 London. 3.15 Tennis. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Smith family. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 Ivanhoe. 5.50 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.05 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.35 UFO. 8.25 Shirley's world. 9.00 London. 11.15 Hogan's heroes. 11.45 Strange report. 12.40 Epilogue.

## Taxed for giving up 'totting'

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

DUSTMEN in South London have been told they must pay tax on lump sums paid to them for the loss of their salvage rights.

In a test case, the High Court decided yesterday that Lambeth dustman Stephen Geoghegan must pay tax on the £450 lump sum he received from his employers, the borough council, when they ended his 'totting' rights three years ago.

Geoghegan claimed that the payment was compensation for the loss of his salvage rights and



Stephen Geoghegan

that he should not have to pay tax on it. But the High Court judge, Mr Justice Foster ruled it was an emolument from his employment and therefore taxable.

The judge allowed an appeal by the Crown against a decision of Special Tax Commissioners that the payment was tax free. Mr Geoghegan, whose test case was backed by his union, was ordered to pay the costs of the appeal.

## Reinstate or we strike — threat

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

ELECTRICIANS at the Beecham chemical plant construction site near Brehgon, Ayrshire have threatened industrial action from today if five of their workmates are not reinstated.

The 50 electricians are employed mainly by three firms on the site—Smith's, Brown and Neil and Plessey.

They are also demanding parity of pay with workers employed by Humphrey's of Glasgow, one of the main contractors at Brehgon.

At present their basic pay is 60p an hour while Humphrey's workers get £1.05 per hour.

Recently the parity fight has been aggravated by the sacking of five union members—two journeymen and three apprentices, while non-union labour is still employed on the site.

The five were taken on by Brown and Neil after they had applied for jobs offered in a newspaper advertisement on February 15 this year.

The advertisement offered jobs for qualified electricians and apprentices on a minimum contract of one year.

But now the employers say there is no material on the site for the men to work on and have sacked the five after less than four months' work.

The electricians are to meet this morning.

The men are determined to have the five reinstated and to see through their demand for parity with the Humphrey's workers.

## Singer talks

UNION officials and shop stewards again met Singer Manufacturing management at Clydebank yesterday in a bid to settle a four-week strike by 4,500 workers.

The meeting followed eight hours of talks on Wednesday on the claim for a £4-a-week increase, shorter hours and longer holidays.

The strike by Singer engineering workers began on May 9 after management had demanded productivity concessions and refused to negotiate on the hours question.

Production at the giant sewing machine factory has been halted. Management plans to lay-off 700 staff began with notice to 30 last Monday.

But five members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs refused to stay away and are sitting-in.

The latest company offer to the five unions representing the 4,500 workers amounted to £3.25 a week. It is not clear whether management improved the offer on Wednesday.

Yesterday, Alex Ferry, Glasgow AUEW district secretary, said he hoped the strike could be ended this week.

'We had a full day of negotiation yesterday and we are going back in again today,' he said. 'If we don't get it settled this week it will be a long time before we get it settled.'

## Car costs

THE ANNUAL cost of keeping a medium-sized family car on the road now totals £533, according to a schedule of vehicle running costs published by the Automobile Association yesterday.

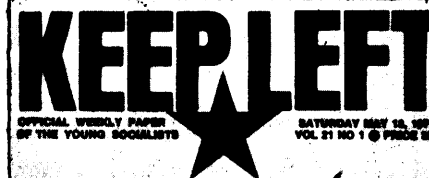
This compares with £496 in February last year—an 8 per cent increase in 15 months. Biggest individual increases, according to the AA, have been servicing and repairs.

## BOOKS



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## 'Conference of the people' for Ulster?

ULSTER supremo William Whitelaw announced in the Commons yesterday that he will immediately discuss arrangements for an early conference 'of the people of Northern Ireland'.

He said the object would be to enable those who hold a wide variety of political opinions to 'exchange views' to see what 'common ground' can be found about the future of democratic institutions in Ulster.

And he added: 'If my conversations show there is also a widespread desire for a plebiscite on the border at an early date, the government would be ready to arrange it.'

Whitelaw was last night meeting Social Democratic and Labour Party MPs John Hume and Paddy Devlin for talks on 'peace' proposals.

The talks and yesterday afternoon's announcement were discussed at a special Cabinet meeting which Whitelaw attended yesterday morning.

On the forthcoming local elections this year, Whitelaw said he would propose to parliament that these should be held under the proportional representation system by means of a single transferable vote.

Referring to the Provisional IRA's peace offer he said it was a sign they were beginning to think politically. 'The fact they would talk without the pre-condition on internment is a most significant factor.'

# Wide backing for Councils of Action

MASSEY FERGUSON shop stewards at Coventry have voted to assist in the building of a local Council of Action and Transport and General Workers' Union workers at Transport House, London, are pressing for a Council to prepare the defeat of the Tory government.

The Massey Ferguson decision was taken at a large meeting of shop stewards.

They welcomed the call of the Coventry Trades Council to set up a Council and agreed to 'associate themselves' with the campaign. The stewards will send a representative to the meeting on July 3 called to set up the council.

The 1/128 branch of the T&GWU, which represents men working at Transport House, Jack Jones's headquarters, have passed a resolution on the Councils:

'This branch, recognizing the grave dangers represented by the National Industrial Relations Court and the Tory government's preparations to destroy the basic rights of the working class, call on our local trades council to follow the lead of Liverpool Trades Council and set up a Council of Action as part of a national campaign to make the Tory government resign and to call an immediate halt to the retreat of the TUC leadership and the Parliamentary Labour Party before the NIRC and of

Labour councils in face of the Tory Housing Finance Bill.

'These Councils of Action must aim to unite all sections of workers in struggle against the government and should therefore include representatives from all trade unions, tenants' associations, all socialist tendencies and other working-class organizations without bans and proscriptions.

'In order to organize and mobilize mass working-class resistance to the Tory plans, the Councils should have the following policy programme:

1. Recall of the TUC to reaffirm non-co-operation with the NIRC and expel the right-wing traitors.
2. Prepare for a General Strike to make the Tory government resign.
3. Clear out the traitors in the Labour Party who vote in parliament with the Tories on the Common Market or who on local councils implement the Tory housing Bill.
4. In this way prepare to re-elect a Labour government pledged to restore all democratic rights lost under this Tory government and to carry out a programme of nationalization of all industry and finance under workers' control without compensation.'

A copy of the resolution will be sent to the Cities of London and Westminster Trades Council and Labour Party and to the Regional No. 1 branch, London and Home Counties, of the T&GWU.

Lambeth Trades Council has already passed a resolution calling for a Council of Action and the founding meeting will be held on Sunday, July 9, at Lambeth Town Hall.

During the Transport House T&GWU discussion a supporter of the 'Militant' group spoke against the resolution and voted against it.

Other union branches have also passed resolutions. They are:

Erith district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Sheffield No 1 UCATTS (building workers) branch; Glasgow Woodside branch of the AUEW.

Its resolution calls on Glasgow Trades Council to build Council of Action.

The resolution reads:

'This Woodside branch will not stand idly by like our trade union leaders and allow the Tory government to deprive the working class of its basic rights.

'As our leaders comply with the legal decrees of the NIRC, the Court brutally demonstrates that the trade unions cannot pro-

tect themselves under this Tory class law.

'Trade unions are the bread and butter of every worker and his family and the guarantee of his hard-earned democratic rights.

'This branch says that the only way to defend the trade unions is to mobilize the working class politically to make the Tory government resign and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

'The crisis facing the working class such as accelerating price rises, the Tory "fair rents" Bill (doubling rents), unemployment near the million mark, decline in standard of living plus further attacks on democratic rights on entry to the Common Market can only be resolved by organizing massive resistance to the plans of the Tory government.

'We congratulate the Coventry, Liverpool and Lambeth Trades Councils on their decision to build Councils of Action in their areas as part of a national campaign to throw out the Tory government.

Dartford Trades Council has been asked to make preparations for the launching of a local Council.

Sheffield AUEW No. 6 branch has passed a resolution saying the building of a local Council was necessary in view of the attacks being made by the Tory government on the trade unions and the working class as a whole.

The branch calls on the local district committee to use its influence in the labour movement to establish a Council.

## Scanlon wants to cool it

BY PHILIP WADE

THE COUNTRY was in a situation where the government was pursuing a line leading to a confrontation with the unions, engineers' leader Hugh Scanlon said yesterday.

The president of the 1.3 million strong Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers made it clear, however, that he would do everything

he could to see such a development would not take place.

He was speaking to top management representatives at an Industrial Society conference—fee £25 per head—on the subject 'Reducing Conflict and Strikes'.

'Such a situation would be disastrous,' said Mr Scanlon. 'I hope wiser councils will prevail.'

'No one wants to

challenge the courts. If, however, trade unions had always accepted the law there would be no unions today. But I only hope that point will not be reached.'

He then offered the Tory government a deal over the Industrial Relations Act.

'I hope the government will have the flexibility to put the Act in cold storage to allow discussion to take place

between the TUC and the CBI.

'Notwithstanding all I have said, a system of conciliation can play an important role. I would hope we could get a degree of understanding between the TUC and the CBI on this.'

He said procedure agreements were needed to avoid strikes. He was not seeking to challenge the right of management to manage.



Scanlon speaking yesterday

## 5,000 docks jobs to go—report reveals

AT LEAST another 5,000 dockers will lose their jobs over the next three years, port chiefs estimate. This became clear at a press conference yesterday to mark the annual report of the National Port Council.

Former merchant banker Philip Chappell, NPC chairman, had refused to be drawn on any estimate of a future run down in the dock labour force.

Reporters had been probing his statement that 'there is an inevitable trend towards a smaller workforce, a trend which applies to the men not only on the quayside but throughout the industry'.

Chappell and the NPC clearly

had a figure in mind, 'but it would be imprudent to quote it today'.

He was referring to the continual work of the Jones-Aldington committee for which the NPC provides the secretariat.

Then someone suggested a reduction of around 20,000 dockers. Clearly taken aback Chappell replied:

'No, no. At least a quarter of that figure.'

Chappell made it clear that all hopes of peace on the docks were pinned on the Jones-Aldington committee.

'Yes, I feel there's a chance of solving the problem; its a long-term problem to be solved in six weeks—yet they should be in a position to report.'

The NPC—of which Jack Jones, general secretary of the T&GWU, is deputy chairman—forecast a 14-per-cent rise in cargo traffic by 1975.

It estimates that of the total general cargo of 60 million tons at least half will remain in non-container form.

Significantly Chappell said of this forecast:

'The emphasis has very much switched to the importance of management in selling these facilities [container] and making them operate at minimum cost and maximum profit.'

With traditional handling methods, he added, one man will be employed for every 750 to 1,000 tons. With containerized

freight the figure rises to 10,000 to 12,500 tons.

The NPC's annual report shows that Britain's ports achieved an aggregate net surplus of nearly £10m more than in 1970.

The return on capital was however under 5 per cent. 'This would be clearly unacceptable in British industry,' said Chappell. There was still some way to go both in cost-cutting and in achieving revenue increases.

'Profit maximization cannot be the port's only objective, but they must be in a strong enough position financially to meet their maturing obligations and provide scope for competitive independence.'

## JUNE FUND NOW £407.78

AT last there has begun to be a change for our Fund. A splendid post of £112.45 has increased our total to £407.78. Now let's do our best to keep up this pace.

A showdown between the working class and this Tory government is clearly on the agenda. This is the time to mobilize workers everywhere and make this government resign.

Workers Press is vital in preparing the leadership for this fight. So make a special effort today for our June appeal fund. Don't waste a moment. Collect as much as you possibly can—add something extra yourself. Post all donations immediately to:

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

## MASS MOVEMENT FOR GENERAL STRIKE

From p.1

Labour MPs who voted with the Tories on the Market legislation in parliament.

But after the lunch break during which the Stalinists and 'lefts' were engaged in horse-trading with the right wing, the resolution was withdrawn.

That same evening in the House of Commons 12 Labourites abstained on a key vote on the EEC Bill thus giving the Tories a narrow eight majority. Had the Labourites voted against the Tories the Tories would have lost their majority and been forced out of office.

Whatever happened to Wilson's 'line-by-line' fight against this Common Market conspiracy of the Tory Party and the big monopolies?

He has made no attempt to expel the right-wing traitors who keep the Tories in power.

How can the working class itself be mobilized to prepare for the Tories to be brought down?

This is the purpose of the Councils of Action which the Socialist Labour League called for in a special Political Committee statement on May 19.

In this urgent appeal to the labour and trade union movement we stated: 'There must be formed Councils of Action in every area, as in the period before 1926, to unite all those fighting against the government on all issues. This is the only way to defend trade unions and it is the key to every anti-Tory struggle.'

'These councils must consist

of all workers' organizations: trade unions, Labour Parties, the SLL, Communist Parties and all socialist tendencies, as well as tenants' committees, co-operatives—in short, all sections of the labour movement.'

The purpose of the councils is to defend the working class against the attacks of the Tory government and to mobilize the masses to make it resign.

Brigshaw has said it. In its way, the 'Telegraph' has said it.

These are the demands of the hour:

- No retreat before the NIRC.
- Victory to the dockers.
- The trade unions must set up Councils of Action in every area.
- Prepare for the General Strike.

## Docks

From p.1

support our action and the rights of our brothers.'

He said the strike would go on until the action against the three men was dropped.

At tomorrow's key national docks shop stewards' committee meeting in Hull, Mr Carpenter said the London delegates would be pressing for an extension of the action.

'It must be pushed further and further, this is our last fight,' he said.

Bernie Steer—one of the three threatened with imprisonment and secretary of the London shop stewards' committee—said the only court he would attend was the centre court at Wimbledon.

By their vote the dockers rejected a call from Maurice Foley, one of their official delegates, to strike when the men were arrested. He was accused of being frightened when he said that he would have to watch his words during his speech.

The mood of the meeting was summed up by the banner behind the platform which read: 'One on the dock—All the docks out.'

Yesterday Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, pleaded with the government to defuse the situation.

'I urge the Department of Employment to make representations to the Court to withhold action against the men involved and allow the TUC and this union to have further talks with other unions and the firm involved.'

## WEATHER

WALES and England, except the extreme north, will be dry and sunny.

The extreme north of England, and eastern and central Scotland will start dry, but clouds with some rain, will spread from the west later.

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Changeable, with some rain at times and sunny periods. Mainly dry in southern England. Temperatures normal but rather warm in the south at first.

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