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'They might then float their own currencies or make formal devaluations. This could trigger off a currency war, throwing the whole international trading structure into chaos.'

## INSIDE

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DEVALUATION  
appear today and  
tomorrow

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Tel 01-622 7029

BY ALEX MITCHELL

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But everyone knows that the so-called 'freeze' has been a farce. Those firms which have broken the 5 per cent include some of the country's biggest groups — Ford, British-Leyland and the textile and paint manufacturers.

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He referred to the monetary crisis but once.

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This drew a sour response from miners who know the price of Wilson's productivity — pit closures, massive redundancies and more dangerous working conditions.

The Downing St meeting was made doubly bizarre by the 'Evening Standard' posters which lined the route of the TUC leaders' drive from Congress House to Whitehall.

They shouted banner headlines about the economic crisis.

Nevertheless, Feather and his friends had nothing but smiles for the press and television as they disappeared through the bullet-proof door to see Heath.

## Dangers

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Each day the Tories remain in power the dangers to the working class mount.

Money is being given out hand over fist. But for what? Does anyone seriously believe a British computer industry can be resurrected on £11m, in a trade which is already beset with the sharpest competition dominated by the US and Japan?



Faced with a crisis of historic proportions to their system, the Tories could strike out at any time.

Their present policy is to let inflation rip.

Another expression of this policy was posed on Monday when the Tories doled out another £11m to International Computers Limited, the British computer conglomerate.

To settle the question of value of its currency, the Tories have only one law—the law of exploitation of the working class.

To meet its present crisis this 'law' will be wielded with unparalleled violence.

- End all talks with the Tories.
- Recall the TUC.
- Make the Tories resign.

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## JULY FUND: SIGHTS ARE SET HIGH

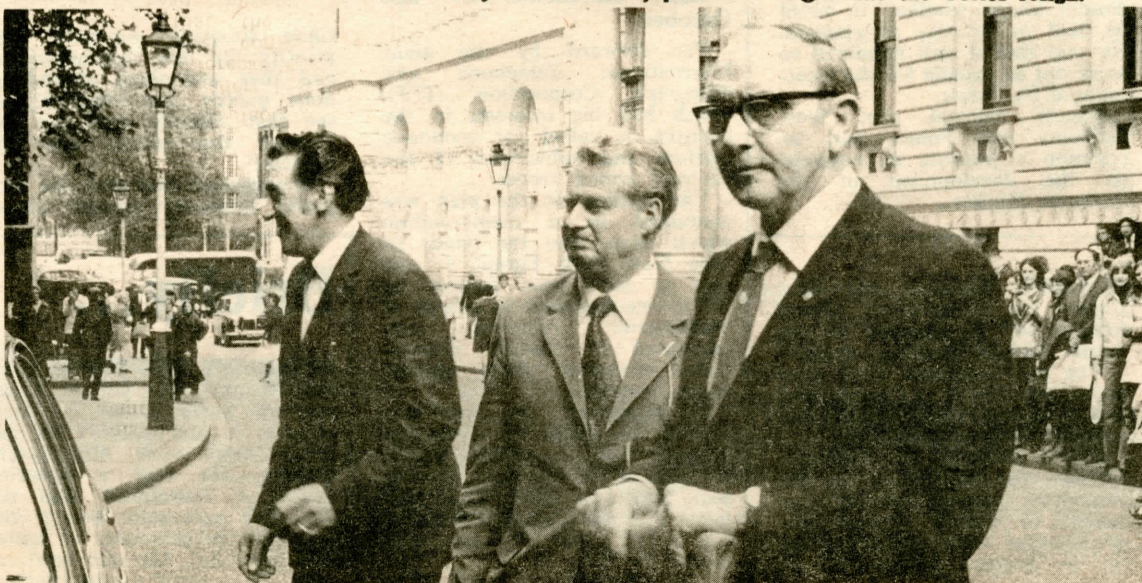
THIS MONTH our sights are set high. We are trying to raise £1,750, £500 more than our target, before our Summer Camp begins on July 22. So far we have £129.37. From your magnificent response each month, we know you will do everything you can.

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# WORKERS PRESS

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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AROUND THE WORLD

# Andreotti will beat law-and-order drum

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

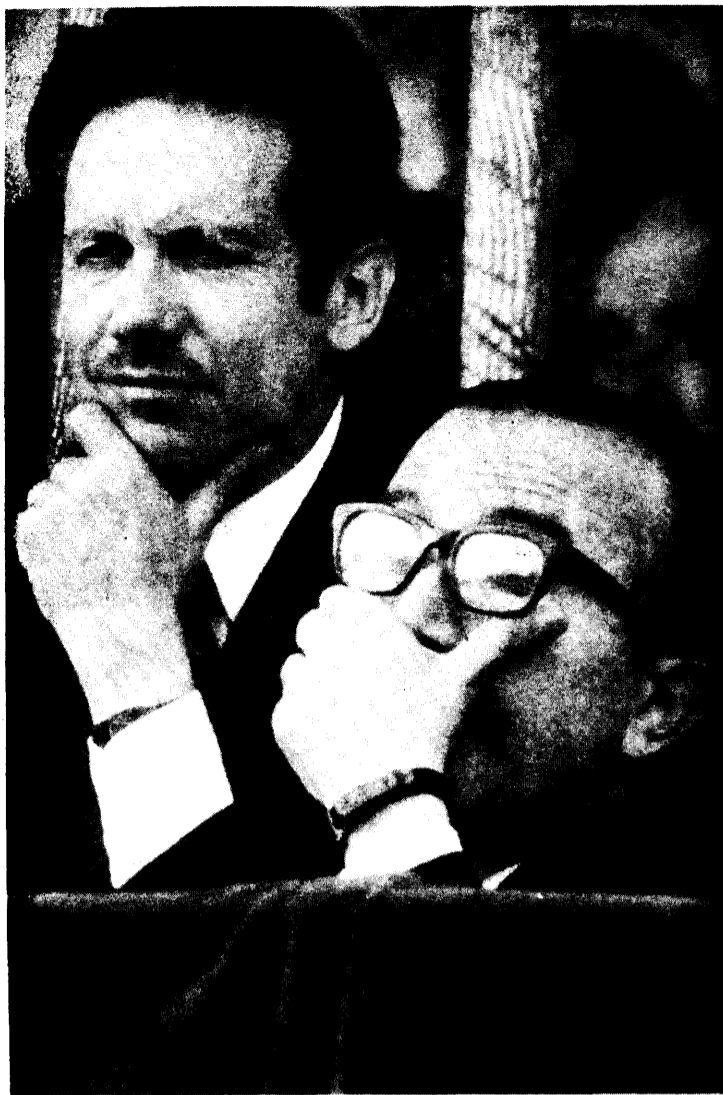
THE NEW Italian Prime Minister, Christian Democrat Giulio Andreotti, presented his governmental programme to the Chamber of Deputies yesterday at the start of a crucial confidence debate.

His government is the outcome of weeks of bargaining since the inconclusive May elections. Composed predominantly of Christian Democrats, it is supported by the Social Democrats and Liberals, as well as by the Republicans who have, however, decided not to join the government.

For the third day running most papers did not appear as journalists continued their strike against the proprietors' decision not to bring out Monday editions in future owing to the high cost of Sunday working. Only Communist and neo-fascist papers were available.

The new government aims to beat the law-and-order drum to restore the confidence of the middle class in the Italian state. It has to face an economic depression with severe unemployment and a militant working class only held back by the Stalinist and reformist leaderships.

● Other details of the programme will be assessed in tomorrow's Workers Press.



Andreotti (In foreground) in pensive mood

## Gollan host to Ba'athist butchers

JOHN GOLLAN, secretary of the Communist Party, has had a meeting in London with an Iraqi delegation composed of two leaders of the ruling Ba'ath Party, two Iraqi CP central committee members and a leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party, which is a pro-Moscow nationalist party.

The Ba'ath Party seized power in 1963 and proceeded to imprison, torture and murder thousands of communists who had supported the previous government of General Kassem.

When the Soviet Union became more closely involved with supporting the Ba'athist regime and assisting the development of the oil industry, pressure was put on Iraqi communists to co-operate with the Ba'athists.

The Ba'ath Party was invited to send a delegation to the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. It was treated with the same respect once accorded to the Kuomintang.

The only difference was that while Chiang Kai-shek butchered communists after he left Moscow, the Ba'athists butchered communists first and were then invited to Moscow!

After the 24th Congress, in May 1971, Vladimir Novikov, a Central Committee member, made a special visit to Baghdad to bring the Ba'athists and the Communist Party together. As a corollary to the 15-year treaty of friendship between the countries two communist ministers entered the government.

Makran Talabani became Minister of Irrigation and Amer Abdullah, Minister of State without portfolio. They were hostages put there under Kremlin pressure to see that the treaty was carried out.

What is Gollan's role in all this? He is no political innocent and the Iraqi delegation's visit was not intended to give much-needed moral support to King St. And the visit was given some prominence in the 'Morning Star'—for whose benefit?

What is certain is that Gollan endorses and supports the wing of the Iraqi Communist Party which has clasped hands with the Ba'athist butchers. If another massacre of communists takes place in Iraq, after the model of that in the Sudan last July, at least the responsibility of John Gollan will be clear.

## Delay in Common Market summit?

TALKS BETWEEN President Pompidou and Chancellor Willy Brandt end today, leaving differences between France and West Germany over monetary policy and the future of the Common Market not fully resolved.

The French want tougher measures to stem international currency speculation as a prelude to closer economic and monetary integration within the Common Market.

The two leaders agreed that the proposed Common Market summit should go ahead, but Pompidou continued to express doubts about whether it could be held in October as planned. He said that it still remained to work out an agenda for the meeting and fix a date.

Brandt claimed that West Germany and France had 'as common a position as possible' on the development of the Common Market.

OVAMBO, Kavango and East Caprivi are to be given 'partial internal self government' by the South African apartheid regime.

The announcement came after prolonged trouble in Ovamboland and mounting unrest among the majority African population.

Prime Minister Dr Balthazar Vorster may be worried by the discontent because he has now agreed to discuss limited self-government with representatives of the Damara people face to face.

# Rain seeds sown by US for 9 years

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE UNITED STATES has been secretly seeding clouds over Vietnam and Laos for nine years 'The New York Times' has disclosed.

The report was based on a series of extensive interviews with civilian and government military sources.

The dropping of silver iodide into clouds is not covered by any international warfare conventions and the US administration has declined to comment.

Some officials questioned claimed the government was trying to change the weather to suit its convenience and one is reported to have said: 'What's worse, dropping bombs or rain?'

The 'Times' revealed that a method had also been developed for treating clouds with a chemical that eventually produced an acidic rainfall which fouled the operation of North Vietnamese radar equipment used for directing surface to air missiles.

The purpose of the rainmaking programme was said to be:

● Providing rain and cloud cover for South Vietnamese units infiltrating the north.

● Tailoring the weather to aid US bombing missions.

● Diverting North Vietnamese men and materials from military operations to keep muddied roads and other lines of communications open.

● 'Spoiling' North Vietnamese attacks in the south.

A primary objective was to prolong the south west monsoon over Laos and North Vietnam which extends from May to October.

The interviews revealed that cloud-seeding was first used by the CIA at Hue in 1963 and then again in Saigon a year later.

The system was extended to the Ho Chi Minh trail in the middle 1960s and the US airforce officially adopted cloud-seeding

## Schumann for Peking talks with Chou

FRENCH Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann flies to Peking today for talks with Chinese leaders. He is the first West European Foreign Minister to make an official visit since the victory of the Chinese Revolution in 1949.

The aim will be to step up co-operation and follow up the cordial relations established between the two countries by General de Gaulle.

The Maoists offered the largest wreath at the late President's funeral and were profuse in their praise for his statesmanship.

Peking sees the Pompidou regime as the champion of 'independence from the two super-powers'. It is less pleased by French support for the European Security Conference which is the main ploy of the Soviet Union's 'peaceful co-existence' diplomacy.

Schumann and Chou are expected to discuss the Vietnam war and the Middle-East situation. France is also aiming to increase trade with China. If the talks go well Chou is expected to make a return visit to Paris within the next 18 months.

as a weapon of war in 1967.

North Vietnam said yesterday that the US had laid new mines across the entrance to Haiphong harbour. Meanwhile American bombers pounded targets near Hue and at Quang Tri.

Heavy fighting was reported from around Quang Tri city, where more than 6,000 South Vietnamese marines and paratroops are within one mile of the suburbs.

North Vietnamese kept up artillery and rocket fire at Hue yesterday, but no ground troops were reported in action.

The 24-year-old South Vietnamese student who attempted to hijack a Pan American airlines jumbo jet said in a letter to President Nixon posted the day before he was shot dead:

'If I get killed, millions of Vietnamese will replace me until we end this inhuman, immoral war. I am resolved to struggle by all means against any foreign aggressors who invade Vietnam; it is now the American invaders.'

# ITT sent Chilean coup plan to the White House

A PLAN to overthrow President Salvador Allende's Chile regime was submitted to the Nixon administration last October.

Put forward by the giant International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT), which had big interests in the country, it called for economic warfare and subversion of the Chilean armed forces.

The outline of the plan was contained in a memorandum which came into the hands of 'The New York Times'. It was said to have been written by ITT's vice-president in charge of Washington relations and addressed to Nixon's international economic affairs adviser, Peter Peterson.

It suggested an economic squeeze on Chile by a ban on imports such as copper and a prohibition of exports. It was sent two days after Chile had taken over the Chilean Telephone Co, which was 70 per cent owned by ITT.

The memorandum said: 'The

Chile situation warrants high priority by the administration and that everything should be done quietly, but effectively to see that Allende does not get through the crucial next six months.'

It suggested that after the proposed measures created chaos,

the Chilean armed forces, backed by the CIA, could take over power.

Columist Jack Anderson revealed earlier this year that ITT had discussed with the White House measures to prevent Allende assuming power after his election.

## Briefly...

PRESIDENT BHUTTO of Pakistan thanked the United States and the Soviet Union for their interest in and support for his Simla talks with Mrs Indira Gandhi. He told a cheering crowd at Rawalpindi that the Indo-Pak agreement was a victory for 'the principles of justice and fair play'. He said relations with China would not be affected.

JAPANESE seamen will be a major problem facing the new prime minister when he takes over today. The seamen's union conducting a 12-week-old strike is holding out for a wage increase of over £17 a month and has turned down an offer which just fell short of this demand. It also wants better working conditions, including shorter hours. The strike is now hitting many sectors of the Japanese economy. About 1,200 ships are tied up, blocking both import and export trade.

## YOUNG SOCIALISTS' REGIONAL RIGHT-TO-WORK CAMPAIGN

### BURY MONDAY

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS ON THE MANCHESTER - LIVERPOOL MARCH

THE MARCH is getting into its stride and morale is high—even though we're campaigning in drizzling rain.

The day began well with a quick visit to the Oldham factory of Mather Platts. The 900 workers there were just back off their two weeks' annual holiday. Convenor Eddie Holland promised to call a meeting of works committee and raise a donation.

But the climax of the day came at Langley—a huge overspill estate for Manchester. The marchers got a great reception from the tenants and scores of local youth followed it to the edge of the scheme. Nearly 100 Workers Press were sold and £2.50 collected.

Later in Bury the campaigners aimed their main appeal to building Young Socialist branches and a good public meeting was held at night with the Bury youth.

Our thanks to Mr Bramah, AUEW district secretary for his £5 donation.

Earlier we saw the first stretch of countryside—about half a mile of moorland sandwiched between Langley and Heyward. But for the most part we campaigned in the endless mill-town streets of the North West.

When we came over the hill past Heyward, Bury appeared almost lost in the mist and drizzle, only the great black hulking mills rose up out of the gloom.

The town was founded on cotton and paper. The first masters to come to this damp and inhospitable moorland, eight miles north of Manchester, were the Peel family.

They exploited the deep and powerful rivers, the Irwell and the Roch and soon the valley was dotted with the dark mills. They founded their empire on dyeing and printing cloth and later—after 'borrowing' ideas from Sir Richard Arkwright—on textile manufacture itself.

The Peels (whose offspring included Sir Robert, architect of the police force) turned the two rivers stinking black.

The textile riches were based on slave labour. Local families were held under contract to the mills—a family of boys and especially girls was prized because the cotton magnates valued female labour above all. The other source of profit was the parish children, bought by the mill owners in centres like Birmingham and London, then shipped by the cart-load to the North West. These defenceless orphans underwent merciless exploitation in the lonely mills of Bury, Bolton and the other cotton towns.

This is history—but in towns like Bury it is impossible to get away from history. Even in its physical appearance the community is still dominated by the 19th and 18th century—many of the same mills still stand and are in use.

While the working class is still deeply marked by past harrowing experiences. There is a great prejudice still against female labour. In one way the bad experiences of the past broke up the working class and destroyed the little community they had. Eventually this produced a sort of conservatism (Bury has a Tory MP) based primarily on a fatal acceptance of exploitation. The reverse of this is an overpowering class identity and solidarity.

And old troubles are beginning again. Both the textile and the paper industry are in their biggest slump since the 1930s. This also affects the allied engineering industry.

The Bury president of the Chamber of Commerce warned recently:

'Profits, unemployment, industrial unrest, inflation and competition have all reared



Youth from the area join the YS Right-to-Work march as it passes on its way to Bury.

## Tenants and youth give big support

their heads to a higher degree than I personally, in the whole experience of my industrial life, have ever before experienced.'

The three big industries have all suffered from slump. The Chamber of Commerce yearly verdict on textiles is:

'Concern was expressed for the future, but the depth of the present depression was never anticipated.'

'Almost every member of our association has experienced short-time working and in weeks when mills have been running full time they have

rarely been able to run at full capacity.'

On paper: 'Not since the mid-1930s has the paper and board industry experienced such depressed market conditions as those of 1971. It was, to quote the "World Paper Trade Review", a year

the industry wants to forget.'

On engineering (which is directly tied to plant production for the paper industry and textile manufacture): 'Unemployment showed an unprecedented rise and new orders were significantly lower.'

It seems doubtful whether any possible recovery in trade will be sufficient to completely restore previous levels of employment and certainly our share of the exports field can only be restored if our competitive position relative to overseas competition is improved.'

The Bury employers openly recognize that their crisis is just a localized version of an international slump in the level of business activity.

In Bury it causes the highest unemployment since the 1930s in January when 984 people were unemployed. The figure was only slightly better in May, when 930 were on the dole with 165 vacancies in the area.

Worse is likely to come. The textile industry has been temporarily reprieved. The government has extended the import quotas on cheap foreign supplies to the end of this year. But in 1973, in preparation for the Common Market, they will come off. Then this decrepit sector of British capitalism faces virtual extinction—only the giants like Courtauld's can possibly survive the competition from abroad.

This, of course, will have a ripple effect throughout the engineering industry—for Bury the Common Market will mean a return of the 1930s.

Paper too is in crisis. The Scandinavian supplies vastly undercut the British products and again the Common Market poses a threat. If the EFTA block is allowed in on equal terms the British paper miller will also be decimated by Norwegian and Swedish imports.

## Coventry trade unionists to build Council of Action

A PUBLIC meeting called by Coventry Trades Council has passed overwhelmingly a resolution to build a Council of Action.

The resolution passed at Monday night's meeting to discuss unemployment in the area states:

This meeting requests that the trades council set up, in conjunction with district committees of unions, a Council of Action. This is to be composed of representatives from shop stewards committees, trade union branches, tenants associations, and unemployed, the Labour Party, Socialist Labour League and all working-class socialist parties and groups; to be united in struggle against the Tory government and to carry out the trade council's policy of:

- (1) Recall the TUC to reaffirm total opposition to the Industrial Relations Act and the National Industrial Relations Court.
- (2) Expulsion of all who collaborate with the NIRC.
- (3) For the TUC to prepare for a General Strike to force the Tories out.
- (4) For the election of a Labour government that must carry out socialist policies, restore full employment, and immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act.

The meeting also resolved to send a deputation to Tuesday evening's meeting of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' district committee and called on everyone to fight for the Council of Action in their unions and factories.

The meeting of some 50 people, passed the resolution after having been addressed by four prominent members of the labour movement.

AUEW district committee member Harry Finch demanded

some straight-talking about where the labour movement was and what it must do. He spoke of the bankruptcy of reformist methods of trying to keep jobs, in the midst of a chronic world economic crisis that made the present level of 1 million unemployed look like a storm in a teacup.

He said: 'Every day the Tory government remains in power means enormous dangers for the working class. They cannot save their system unless they break the power of the working class.'

'The trade union leaders who do the dirty work for the Tory government inside the labour movement must be removed. That means the only way workers can go forward is with Councils of Action to organize resistance to the Tory attacks, force the

Tories to resign, and move toward the taking of power.'

Prospective Labour candidate for Coventry SW, Mrs Audrey Wise, thought she had a more radical critique to make.

'We need a Labour government which tries to link hands with workers instead of betraying them.'

'I shall unreservedly oppose the next Labour government if it tries to run capitalism like the last one.'

She called on the trade union movement to agitate for a national ban on overtime. As for the demand for the right to work 'this slogan upsets me: I agree with it only up to a point.'

Bill Warman, Communist Party executive member and the district secretary of the sheet metal workers' union condemned

the 'shameless betrayal' of the TUC General Council.

'It is something we cannot stand for', he said.

Of UCS steward James Airlie's congratulatory speech to the Tory government last Friday, he said: 'It is not a statement I would care to support.'

While speaking of the 'general crisis of capitalism' he thought the immediate issues were those of increasing wages and a shorter working week.

In the discussion which followed, many speakers expressed the support of their branches and factories for the formation of a Council of Action, and further demanded to know why the previous calls for such a council had been bureaucratically ignored by trades council chairman McClusky.



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# STERLING DEVALUATION THE ROLE OF THE DOLLAR

BY PETER JEFFRIES

Chancellor of the Exchequer Anthony Barber's decision to 'float' the £ represents a new and decisive stage in capitalism's economic and political crisis. It marks the opening of a period which could see the rapid disintegration of the world monetary and credit system.

The Stalinists of the Communist Party and reformists claim that the devaluation decision is purely a British question, the result of Tory 'mismanagement'. It is nothing of the sort. For it reflects and has already seriously intensified the international crisis of imperialism.

As many leaders of financial opinion have noted, it calls into question the entire structure of currencies and credit in the western world.

There can be no 'national' reformist solutions to such a crisis. It is one that demands from the next Labour government the immediate implementation of a socialist programme. Otherwise the jobs and future of millions of workers and their families are in jeopardy.

The decision to float has to be seen in the light of the Nixon measures of August 15 last year. What was the fundamental feature of these announcements? They marked the end of the Bretton Woods agreements which for 27 years, from 1944 onwards, had regulated the capitalist world's financial and trade system.

Last August, when the US President announced that the link between gold and the dollar was broken, he was announcing in effect the opening of a period in which the struggle for world markets would intensify enormously and in which sections of European and Japanese capitalism would be plunged into insoluble crisis.

At their 1944 talks, the capitalists decided that in future two basic principles should regulate their dealings.

● All currencies should be linked to the dollar, which in turn should be linked to gold, at a fixed rate of exchange, \$35 to an ounce of gold.

● A system of 'fixed parities' should be established between all the leading currencies. The value of each currency was established in terms of the dollar and could fluctuate only around narrow limits. Any change in the value of a currency had to be sanctioned by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which acted as 'policeman' in the system.

The aim of these provisions—now gone forever—was to establish some degree of order and regulation in a system

which in the 1930s had collapsed into anarchy.

But as we shall see, it was an aim which could never be realized. The contradictory laws of capitalism continued to operate and have now forcibly asserted themselves in the present crisis.

All those revisionists, like Mandel and the Pabloites, who spoke of a 'new capitalism' wanted to deny the existence of these contradictions. Lacking all faith in the revolutionary potential of the working class of the big capitalist countries, they deserted Trotskyism and confined their attention to the campaign for 'structural reforms'.

But, despite what the revisionists said, far from being a reflection of their strength, the Bretton Woods arrangements indicated the profound weakness of the ruling class in the face of a confident and determined working class.

For what Bretton Woods implied was that capitalism would buy time through inflationary policies. And this has been the post-war pattern. In order to keep its system buoyant and maintain the level of employment, the capitalist class was forced to resort to the printing press.

Over the last 25 years, every major capitalist country, but particularly America, has accumulated vast budget deficits. These have pumped billions of dollars of purchasing power into the system, with no equivalent goods against which his paper money circulated.

Marxists have always recognized that inflation was an economic question, and not a technical matter. The decline in the purchasing power of the dollar and of every leading currency has been a reflection of class forces. And if every banker is now demanding an end to inflation, he is recognizing that a fundamental shift in these relations must take place in favour of the employing class.

The measures which the Nixon Administration were forced to take last August were the outcome of these inflationary pressures which had been operating since the end of the war.

What form did they take? They appeared as a growing external deficit by the American economy with the rest of the capitalist world. And only last week it was announced that this deficit is expected to amount to over \$4,000m for the current year alone.

In the period to the end of the 1950s such deficits did not matter: they were supported by the vast American gold holding which in the early post-war period amounted to over \$30 billion.

Indeed, without the outflow of American money in the period—in the form of Marshall Aid and defence expenditures as well as considerable export of capital by



the American corporations—large sectors of European capitalism would have collapsed after the war.

By about 1959 this situation began to change decisively. Due to expenditures on the Korean war and the large outflow of private capital, the volume of dollars in the hands of foreign governments began to outstrip America's seriously diminished gold reserves. It was from this point onwards that speculation against the dollar began to mount and it became a suspect currency.

The initial response of the American ruling class was to put the squeeze on the colonial and semi-colonial countries, as well as intensify the attacks on the American unions.

Under Kennedy, the aid programme was slashed and some restrictions placed upon the export of capital. But despite the crisis even these limited measures produced in the colonial and semi-colonial countries, they were totally inadequate to meet the depth of the situation.

The next stage in the crisis was centred on Britain. Coming to power in October, 1964, the Wilson government inherited an £800m balance of payments deficit, the result of pre-election Tory inflationary policies.

Immediately the £ was under pressure. The Americans realized that an attack on sterling would rapidly expose the dollar's growing vulnerability. For three years, to the end of 1967, the US tried desperately to support the £. It was an indication of its fundamentally weakened position that its attempts were defeated. In November 1967, sterling was forced to devalue by 14 per cent.

American fears were fully realized. Within a few weeks the dollar was at the centre of the biggest monetary crisis



Top: Henry Morgenthau and J. M. Keynes at Bretton Woods in 1944. Above: Wilson—the devaluation by the Labour government in 1967 meant the defeat of US attempts to support the £.

since the war. Lacking all confidence in its value, speculators rushed for gold.

By March 1968 Washington was driven to suspend convertibility of the dollar. In future only 'official' (government) holders of dollars would be allowed to exchange their holdings into gold at the established \$35 an ounce rate. This system was what became known as the 'two-tier' gold system.

Washington also tried to slow up the crisis through the creation of Special Drawing

Rights (SDR) issued by the International Monetary Fund and meant to be a substitute for the dollar.

But as the Americans knew fully well, such 'remedies' were of an extremely short-run nature. Nothing had been resolved. Gold remained the basis of the system. When the next stage of the crisis reached its peak—in August 1971—it was to do so in a much sharper and more malignant form.

CONTINUED  
TOMORROW



Above: a member of the Tchikao tribe of Brazilian Indians, which have been systematically almost exterminated with the compliance and direct connivance of giant US corporations and the Brazilian government.

# AMAZON TRIBES EXTERMINATED

Where the lush Brazilian jungle led down to a river an Indian girl sat on the bank nursing a child on her breast.

A group of white men suddenly appeared out of the trees on the other side and waded across to her calling to her not to be afraid and smiling.

Then one of them blew off the child's head with a shotgun blast while the others tied the mother upside down by her legs to two trees, slashed open her stomach and abdomen with machetes and left her to die.

Earlier the seven-man expedition came across an Indian village and without warning massacred the entire population using machine guns, shotguns and revolvers.

Meanwhile planes bombarded Indian villages with dynamite or dropped poisoned food.

Nine years after the massacres the Cintas Largas tribesmen trekked through the jungle to the northern Brazilian town of Cuiaba to denounce the authors of these crimes.

So far only one man who participated in the 'Indian hunt' has been arrested.

Brazil has become the principal recipient for US capital in South America.

Successive Brazilian governments have openly connived at the ruthless tactics employed by the giant US corporations to clear the Indians off valuable land and mineral resources.

The judge in the trial of one of the 'hunters', Ramiro Costa,

which has just opened in Cuiaba, said:

'We have never listened to a case where there was so much violence, so much ignominy, so much lack of love for one's neighbour, egoism and savagery and so much depreciation for human life.'

He is almost certainly sincere. Very few if any cases have been heard in the courts against the conglomerate's human-hunters.

And it is doubtful if many of the inmates of Brazil's notorious prisons have a chance to tell of the savage barbarity of the conditions of their detention.

Not only could everything the judge said of the Indian hunters be said of his own government, but that government is the principal author of the Indians' extermination.

# GUERRILLAS TAKE STRUGGLE TO RHODESIA

Mozambique guerrillas are increasingly operating across the border — in Rhodesia.

And the white supremacist government in Salisbury is desperately afraid that after the failure of a settlement with Britain, Rhodesian nationalist groups will link up with the Mozambique freedom-fighters.

A vital trade road through Mozambique linking Rhodesia with Malawi has been mined so often that transport vehicles can only travel in military convoy and even then they are at risk.

The Zimbabwe African Nationalist Union (ZANU) is reported to liaise closely with FRELIMO (Front for the Liberation of Mozambique).

Until FRELIMO stepped up its activities in Mozambique, ZANU and the Zimbabwe

African People's Union (ZAPU) operated mainly in the area south of the Zambesi River border with Zambia.

The change has come about because FRELIMO now controls thousands of square miles of territory around the giant Cabora Bassa dam being built by the Portuguese on the Zambesi 100 miles from Rhodesia's eastern border.

The dam will eventually supply power to South Africa and Rhodesia, as well as Mozambique.

Rhodesia's eastern flank has now become its tensest military area and military activity has been largely switched there from the frontier with Zambia.

New roads and airstrips have been built and the guerrilla threat has escalated to the point where Ian Smith's law - and - order minister Andrew Flemming has drawn attention to it as the most dangerous facing the country.

## ISRAELI CP MEETS

Delegates from 17 foreign Communist Parties attended the Congress of the pro-Soviet Israeli Communist Party in Jerusalem last week. They included Constantin Grichine a member of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

The party, which is mainly Arab in its following, has three deputies in the Israeli parliament. Reflecting Soviet influence, the party called for

the signing of a durable peace between Israel and the Arab countries on the basis of the United Nations Security Council resolution of November 22, 1967.

While accusing the Israeli government of aggression in the June war, the party also denounced what it called the errors of Arab extremists who aided Israel to carry out its plans against the Arab people of Palestine.

## CRACKDOWN ON CHILD LABOUR

Californian state labour commissioner George Miliias has announced a large-scale crackdown on the illegal use of child labour in California's vineyards and fields.

**Concentrated hits**

Employers turn a blind eye to the children, but in return they often put a whole family under a single social security number and a total pay check obscures the fact that minimum wage scales are not being paid.

Miliias said there were 'considerable numbers' of children less than 12-years-old working during the harvest season, usually as part of family units. He said the exact scope of the problem is unknown.

Special six-man teams of investigators are being formed, Miliias said. They will soon make what he called 'concentrated hits' on farming areas

which traditionally have allowed children to work in the harvests.

'We want to put an end to the illegal use of children once and for all,' he said.

'I want to emphasize the attack will be on the abuse of children. We are not opposed to kids working legally.'

In California a child may work from the age of 12 providing he has obtained a work permit from school officials.

**Increased income**

The use of illegal child labour usually occurs when entire families harvest crops at a piecemeal and young children are brought into the fields by their parents in order to increase the family's income.

State labour investigators estimate that up to 30 per cent of the workers harvesting such crops as raisin grapes are children under 12 years old.

## SECRET SURVEILLANCE

The United States supreme court has ruled that the army need not expose in open court the workings of its apparatus for surveillance of civilians.

Four Washington judges concluded it was 'not a matter for the courts to handle'.

Two years ago it was discovered that army intelligence agents posing as civilians were routinely gathering information and taking photographs at public meetings.

The case was taken before the courts by anti-war and civil rights groups.

On at least two occasions in the period 1917 to 1920 the Russian Revolution inspired British workers to form workers' committees as organs to defend their conditions and overthrow the capitalist order. This series by Alan Clinton and George Myers (reprinted from 'Fourth International', November 1967) examines the building of these committees, the 1917 'Councils of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates' and the 'Councils of Action' in 1920.

# THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS

'At the present moment in history . . . it is the Russian model that reveals to all countries something — and something highly significant — of their near and inevitable future.' — Lenin in 1920<sup>1</sup>

'I remember so well what happened when the Russian Revolution occurred. I remember the miners when they heard that the Tsarist tyranny

had been overthrown, rushing to meet one another in the streets with tears streaming down their cheeks, shaking hands and saying: "At last it has happened" . . . the revolution of 1917 came to the working class of Great Britain not as a disaster, but as one of the most emancipating events in the history of mankind.'

Aneurin Bevan in 1951<sup>2</sup>

The overthrow of reactionary Tsardom in Russia, the seizure of power by the proletariat and the setting up of the first Soviet Socialist Republic showed the working class of the world, and especially its revolutionary vanguard, that workers' power could be taken, and kept.

It thus altered the nature and perspective of workers' struggle everywhere. The effect of the Revolution in 1917 was literally world-shattering, and in Britain, as in other countries, the working class and the revolutionary movement underwent complex changes in organization, theories and methods of struggle. The theoretical development of the revolutionary groups, the response of the bureaucracy and other aspects of the many-sided impact of the Revolution require separate treatment in subsequent articles. Here two particularly important episodes in the history of the British working class in the post-revolutionary years have been selected for attention.

Lenin described the soviets as amongst the greatest contributions made by the Russian Revolution to the international working class. From the Paris Commune of 1871 to the Hungarian rising of 1956, all-inclusive local workers' committees have been a vital weapon in the proletarian struggle to defend its conditions, and to overthrow the capitalist order. In Britain such workers' committees have never reached the advanced stage of development attained elsewhere. However, on two occasions at least in the period 1917-1920 workers' committees did spring up in Britain. The Councils of

Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates in 1917 and the Councils of Action in 1920 were inseparably linked with the defence of the Russian Revolution by thousands and millions of British workers. It was a real proletarian internationalism which brought into existence institutions which could have heralded the beginning of a British revolution.

The complex reasons for the failure of revolutionary possibilities in Britain in this period to mature can be seen in these events. The craven betrayals of the right wing in supporting their 'own' bourgeoisie in 1914, in joining the government and in surrendering trade-union rights are well known. The first Imperialist War could only have been carried on with the compliance of the Hendersons and the Thomases. Less often realized is the role of the centrists, such as MacDonald and Smillie, who talked of opposition to the war, but cooperated in the government's schemes for enlistment, and for the direction and control



Ramsay MacDonald



May Day 1917—above: celebrations in Moscow. Similar demonstrations in solidarity with Russian workers took place all over Europe. 70,000 demonstrated in Glasgow. Russian sailors led marchers in Liverpool while in London 50,000 workers took to the streets

of labour. These men were in at the beginning of every revolutionary development to smother it and hand it over to the bourgeoisie. The role of revolutionaries, and especially of the British Socialist Party (BSP) was of central importance but of limited impact. Their theoretical backwardness, their idealist attitude to workers' struggles, their failure to fight for their own leadership, these meant they could not bring forward to a higher plane the revolutionary possibilities that existed in the period.

## FROM FEBRUARY TO OCTOBER 1917

As soon as the February revolution broke out there were demonstrations and meetings of support in Britain. The first demonstration took place on March 24, within days of the news arriving. 7,000 people attended a meeting at the Memorial Hall, Mile End Road, sponsored by Russian refugee groups with the support of the BSP, and the Women's Socialist Federation (WSF). 'During the whole meeting again and again outbursts of boundless enthusiasm filled the immense hall with

unending applause and shouts.' The meeting also indicated its views on the further development of the revolution when it 'expressed its conviction that those who have at heart the cause of the workers and of all the labouring masses in Russia must rally around the Council of Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates for the successful achievement of the work of the revolution in the Republic of Russia.'

There were many more meetings in the weeks that followed. For instance, over the weekend of March 31 to April 1 over 20,000 people expressed their solidarity with the revolution in meetings at the Albert Hall. On May Day 70,000 demonstrators in Glasgow called for 'the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a co-operative commonwealth as the only solution to poverty and unemployment'. Thousands in Manchester cheered and applauded Robert Williams, leader of the Transport Workers' Federation, when he said that 'revolutions like charity begin at home'. In Liverpool 150 Russian sailors headed the demonstration and received a tumultuous reception at the meeting afterwards. In London nearly 50,000 marched in solidarity with the revolution, against conscription, for votes for all and for an immediate peace.<sup>3</sup>

Early in May a Convention

was summoned at Leeds to commemorate the revolution. This was called by the United Socialist Council, a body formed in 1913 by the BSP and the Independent Labour Party (ILP) after they had failed to amalgamate on the instruction of the International Socialist Bureau. On May 11 it issued a leaflet entitled 'Follow Russia', which described the purpose of the Conference as 'to ascertain and pronounce upon the opinions of the working class of this country regarding the developments which have taken place, and are taking place in Russia', so that events would receive 'sympathetic response' making possible 'a real international peace based upon working class solidarity'.<sup>4</sup>

When the convention assembled on June 3 there were 1,150 delegates and 2,000 visitors. Motions were passed saluting the Russian Revolution, calling for 'a peace without annexations or indemnities', and demanding a complete restoration of civil liberties 'in accord with the democracy of Russia'. The mood of the Conference can be judged from this quotation from the report, issued later by the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates, of Robert Williams' speech: 'We want to break the influence of the industrial and political labour "machine"—(cheers)—and this Convention is our

attempt so to do. . . . We are competent to speak in the name of our own class, and damn the Constitution. (Loud cheers). . . . If you are really sincere in sending greetings to Russia I say to you: "Go thou and do likewise" (cheers)'. Philip Snowden was rather put off by this enthusiasm. 'I had repeatedly to appeal to the delegates against applause as tending to waste of time,' he said afterwards.<sup>5</sup>

The most significant event of the conference was the passing of a resolution which called upon the trades councils, trade unions and political bodies represented 'at once to support in every town, urban, and rural district, Councils of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates for initiating and co-ordinating of working class activity in support of the policies set out in the foregoing resolution (i.e. on civil liberties) and to work strenuously for a peace made by the peoples of the countries and for the complete political and economic emancipation of international labour'. These Councils were to defend trade unionism, fight war profiteering, and cater for the interests of soldiers and their dependents. Finally, it was agreed that 'the Convenors of this Conference be appointed a provisional committee, whose duties shall be to assist the formation of local Workmen's and Soldiers' Councils and

generally to give effect to the policy determined by this conference.'

The failure of the Convention to produce many concrete results has often been asserted. We hope to show, however, that the conference was not devoid of results. The reasons for the failure to achieve more were present at the Convention itself. The proceedings were dominated by the ILP. The ILP represented the basic political section of the Labour Party in the period before its reorganization in 1918. Because of its verbal opposition to the policies of the right wing; the ILP attracted into its ranks many working class militants. The leadership of the party had, however, no intention of leading any struggle against the right wing. Whilst willing to indulge in left speeches at Leeds men such as MacDonald, Henderson and Snowden were capable only of being servants to the right wing. Snowden, who spoke at Leeds for 'a peace without annexations or indemnities' and supported all the other resolutions, explained later his real hostility to what had happened. 'It may be, I do not rule it out of theoretical consideration, that Workers' and Soldiers' Councils or Soviets may come to Britain but I am for Socialism coming through parliament and no other way.'<sup>6</sup> It is not just a matter, as Pabloite Ken Coates argues,

Don Regional Conference were 18 from Trade Union Executives, 41 from Trades Councils, 162 from Trade Union branches and three from Local Workers' and Soldiers' Councils. The Conference was broken up by a collection of army officers from Canada and Australia, who said they were acting under orders from their superiors, with the aid of all those 'patriots' who could be enlisted from the local public houses. This caused 'the worst riot London has seen for years' according to one eye-witness, a riot which was carried on with no interference from the 200 policemen present. The South Wales Conference in Swansea on the same day with 125 Trade Union Branch Delegates and 26 from Trade Councils met with a similar fate, as did the Newcastle meeting.<sup>7</sup> The Glasgow Conference, planned for August 11, at which E. C. Fairchild, of the BSP, and Ramsay MacDonald of the ILP were to speak, was banned by the Secretary of State for Scotland on August 10 because 'grave disorder' was expected. Within 24 hours the Glasgow Trades Council organized a protest demonstration of more than 5,000.<sup>8</sup> The Conferences planned for Birmingham and Leeds were also banned by the Home Secretary.<sup>9</sup> Conferences were, however, held in other cities. In Portsmouth a meeting was addressed by Mrs Despard, and at Bristol 100 organizations were represented including seven Trades Councils and 37 Trade Union branches. Further meetings were held in Leicester, in Norwich, where 10,000 workers were represented, and in Manchester, where the 226 delegates scotched the efforts of another group of army officers to break up the meeting.<sup>10</sup>

## THE RUSSIAN PATH

From the regional conferences a national committee was elected and a list of objects drawn up which emphasized the policies already agreed. It set forward the aims of the Council as: 'The consolidation of the efforts of all working class organizations to obtain an ever-increasing share in the wealth produced by the labour of hand and brain together with control over industry.'<sup>11</sup> After mid-August the Councils were ignored by the ILP, and the Labour Party leaders actively opposed them. On July 18 the Labour Party National Executive stated that 'it has nothing to do with the Leeds Convention, and that in our opinion no local organization affiliated to the Party ought to convene Conferences which are not in harmony with the general policy of the Party as laid down at its Annual Conferences.'<sup>12</sup>

Against this, the BSP campaigned vigorously for the decisions of Leeds. Before the Convention itself, the Party set out a correct perspective for its work: 'After the Leeds Conference . . . comes the task of setting the whole working class movement deliberately and determinedly on the path so splendidly laid down by our Russian comrades . . . the workers . . . will gladly cooperate in forming the Workmen's and Soldiers' Councils but the initiator work, the organizing and the leading must be done by the Social Democrats. . . . (The Councils) will soon become strong enough to dominate the towns and districts and determine their future.' However, the BSP's failure to understand the role of the centrist leaders of the ILP meant that it never analysed or fought against them. At the end of the year Willie Gallagher, a member of the BSP, voiced the bemusement of the party at the limited results of the Convention. 'When the Leeds Conference was convened', he

wrote, 'great hopes were held of the work to be accomplished by the committees set up all over the country. Unfortunately this very promising organization has apparently expended all its vitality in the issuing of a few political manifestoes.'<sup>13</sup> Despite this failure to understand what had happened, the events of the Leeds Convention helped the development of the BSP away from a position where it had sought amalgamation with the ILP towards one of opposition to centrism and opportunism.

The Leeds Convention also gave enormous impetus to the shop stewards movement. Many of the leading shop stewards were at Leeds, including Gallagher and MacManus from the Clyde, and Murphy from Sheffield and Peet from Manchester. They reacted to the establishment of Soviets with enthusiasm. They identified them, however, with their own syndicalist perspectives, reflecting the view of the Socialist Labour Party (SLP) that the Soviets were 'in the nature of the Clyde Workers' Committee'.<sup>14</sup> Unlike such sectional workers' committees, however, the Soviets were all-inclusive class organizations. Despite this lack of understanding it was clear that the shop stewards movement gained much encouragement from the Russian example and through it decided to set up a national movement. As J. T. Murphy later expressed it, the shop stewards 'felt their kinship with soviets'.<sup>15</sup>

Two months after the Leeds Convention the shop stewards made their first attempt to establish a national organization at their conference in Manchester. The constitution they established, however, reflected the anti-leadership theories prevalent in the movement and gave no executive powers to any of its ruling committees.<sup>16</sup> The impact of Leeds nevertheless produced an important change in the shop stewards movement. Its support for the soviets rapidly developed towards an identification with Bolshevism and the effect of the October revolution was to lay the basis for the movement to become the industrial wing of the Communist Party.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

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The sixth part of a statement by the Workers Vanguard (Trotskyist) of Greece.

# THE BOLIVIAN REVOLUTION AND THE DEVIATIONS OF THE POR

## The workers' and peasants' government

The crisis of world capitalism created a revolutionary situation in Bolivia. For the bourgeoisie there was no margin for concession—hence their need for dictatorship.

Quite correctly the Trotskyists raised the question of the workers' and peasants' government. But what would be its character? The revolution could not have been anything but proletarian. And this revolution would have created the workers' and peasants' government.

The POR leaders should have made a clear analysis of the revolution—and clarified the character of such a government.

All the more, since by supporting the programme of the trade unions into which the Stalinists had introduced the strategy of the bourgeois-democratic revolution, they should have separated their position on this strategy.

For the Trotskyists, the establishment of the workers' and peasants' government was synonymous with the dictatorship of the proletariat. Its meaning was adulterated by the Pabloites on their slippery road of opportunism. They gave it the meaning of an intermediate government — between the bourgeois and proletarian powers — a sort of Stalinist version of the 'democratic dictatorship of workers and peasants'—the product of an intermediate revolution.

We in Greece, during the events of July 1965, in supporting the workers' and peasants' government as a pseudonym of the dictatorship of the proletariat, had to fight the Pabloite conception of the workers' and peasants' government as an intermediate government prior to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

However, in the same period, the formula of the 'workers' and peasants' government' of a bourgeois type crept into the line of the International Committee via an article of the Hungarian section printed without comment in 'La Verité'.

How did this leap to the theory of the intermediate government come about? Was there perhaps a common logic between the old view of the French section on the 'workers' and peasants' government' of Castro and this adulterated interpretation of the 'workers' and peasants' government'?

Well, the French Organization Communiste Internationaliste has now come into the open. 'Information Ouvrières' of August 26, 1971, stood for 'a workers' and peasants' government of the united workers' organizations... which would restore and broaden all democratic liberties and secure the free struggle of the masses against the bourgeoisie and its state'. As for the workers' and peasants' government, in the

sense of being synonymous with the dictatorship of the proletariat, it was regarded as being no more than the distant music of the future.

That is all. A government of Stalinists and pseudo-socialists, who have proven throughout the world to be the shameless agents of the bourgeoisie and have passed over to open counter-revolution, was supposed to restore liberties and assist the struggle of the masses to overthrow capitalism!



Trotsky: author of 'Transitional Programme'.

This renegation from the dictatorship of the proletariat in the epoch of the death agony of capitalism, when the question of power had appeared on the agenda, created terrible illusions, just like those of the Pabloites about the self-democratization of the bureaucracy, revolutions led by the CP, etc.

The tactic of 'breaking with the bourgeoisie' which according to the Transitional Programme, we can and must demand from the parties of betrayal does not, in any circumstances, mean that agitation for revolution and for a real workers' and peasants' government should be relinquished.

**On the contrary, agitation for the revolution must not only not weaken: it is in fact—together with agitation for soviets—of decisive significance in a correct strategy aiming for a workers' and peasants' government.**

On the other hand, the process of fighting for a pseudo-workers' and peasants' government presupposes replacement of the methodology of civil war with that of pacifism.

'Such a government must break from the bourgeoisie, call on the masses to organize in councils, organize workers' control in production, place all power in the hands of the councils and destroy the bourgeois state machine! Hey presto! The parties of betrayal are turned into organs of revolution. This is really a cloud cuckoo land!

When the Transitional Pro-



gramme speaks of 'a workers' and peasants' government' as an 'exceptionally unlikely possibility', as a 'brief stopping place on the road to the real dictatorship of the proletariat' it does not 'lend itself to presumptions' so historically long-term and ambitious as those of our miracle workers.

It stresses: 'Agitation around the slogan of the workers' and peasants' government retains in all conditions a colossal educational value.' However, the bloc of the French, Hungarian and Bolivian sections of the International Committee advance the slogan of the bourgeois workers' and peasants' government as a permanent central task of the period and subtract the agitation for soviets and for the revolution.

This 'workers' and peasants' government' means disorientation from the conquest of power and, combined with the suppression of the slogan for soviets in favour of the Popular Assembly is tantamount to a refusal on our part to go further than the bourgeois-democratic limits in the spirit of the Permanent Revolution, and adoption on our part of the Stalinist-Menshevik theory of stages and taking the 'Chilean' parliamentary road to socialism (like Pablo).

'Reality does not excuse even a single theoretical error.'

And yet we see here the distortion of the tactic of the United Front which leads to the government of the United Front and from which we expect an impetus to the revolutionary struggle—thus weakening its ability to undermine the treacherous leaders. Here we must also note the underestimation on principle of the significance of an alliance with the poor layers of the countryside.

It is no accident that the slogans for soviets and for a workers' and peasants' government were absent from the programme of the French organization during the May-June days in 1968. Not only because the over-ripe and over-revolutionary situation was most criminally under-



Top: the labelling of a government such as Castro's as a 'Workers' and Peasants' Government' disorients the masses from the conquest of power. Above: likewise Allende's parliamentary road to socialism holds the revolution within bourgeois-democratic limits.

estimated (opportunism is used to under-estimating the revolutionary upsurge and over-estimating the resilience of capitalism), but also because they were disorientated from the basic tasks of the movement which could be summed up as: 'Down with de Gaulle! Long live the workers' and peasants' government!'

From this standpoint the position of the French in 1968 was to the right of the Bolivian organization in 1971.

In conclusion, in Bolivia, as elsewhere, we must struggle for soviets, in which the masses would recognize the organ of leadership which

strikes decisively for power and for a real workers' and peasants' government.

'The organization of soviets', Lenin stresses in his draft for the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly, 'is the only one able to lead the struggle of the class for its total political and economic liberation.' The only one.

We have no need of illegitimate 'Popular Assemblies' of a soviet type which were supported not only by Lechin, Allende, the Stalinists and the Pabloites, but also the 'renovators' of the soviets of 'Informations Ouvrières'.

Greece, December 26, 1971.





Bentley (left), across the breakfast table from Frank Goss, furniture trades convenor at Triangs, Merton.

# THE CRITICS' SILENCE ON THE ASSET-STRIPPER

TV REVIEW

Last Thursday the real face of British capitalism today was shown for 30 minutes on television screens all over the country.

But it promptly dropped out of the picture for all the radical and left-wing TV critics—including that of the Communist Party's 'Morning Star'.

For that reason alone it's worth recalling some of the highlights of 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?', a Thames TV profile of 32-year-old finance entrepreneur John Bentley.

Bentley recently carved up his toy empire, making a sizeable profit for himself and throwing a large proportion of its labour force out of their jobs. This week 1,500 men and women from the Triang factory at Merton, South London, face a future without work.

The Triang deal and its predecessors established Bentley and his company, Barclay Securities, as the foremost asset-strippers in the City of London. Bentley himself has acquired a personal fortune of £2m to £3m.

Asset-stripping is just about the most parasitic technique available to dying capitalism.

It involves feeding off the bodies of ailing companies: centralizing and speeding up production, slashing the labour force and selling off surplus assets, buildings and machinery at a handsome profit.

The Thames profile—from the 'This Week' stable—set out to probe the philosophy behind the technique.

What probing there was was extremely gentle. Most questions Bentley was asked concerned whether he felt anything for the people who had lost their jobs.

Of course, he said. But I can't let it interfere with my business judgement. In fact it's a positive advantage not to be emotionally involved.

The programme opened with Bentley playing squash.

Then we saw him driving his Aston-Martin and then lounging in his plush offices. As a contrast there were brief interviews with some of the Triang workers. Later Frank Goss, the furniture trades convenor at Merton, confronted Bentley across his breakfast table.

Educated at Harrow, Bentley went into the City at 17.

His first coup was to team up with Jim Slater, head of Slater Walker Securities, in a share deal over Scottish Life Assurance. They doubled their money and Bentley bought drug distributors Barclay and Sons.

His first asset-stripping operation was at Dorland's advertising agency—raking £2m into the coffers.

Then came the acquisition of the Mobo toy firm at Erith, Kent, whose 480 workers increased production in the six months after Bentley bought it to turn a previous-year loss of £98,000 into a profit of £100,000.

Their reward was the sack. Bentley had also bought Triang at Merton and Merthyr Tydfil, but the Merton factory was underused and so Erith was closed and production transferred.

The closure of Merton gives Bentley a nicely-concentrated toy factory in the high-unemployment area of Merthyr Tydfil and two London area factory sites available for re-development.

A big danger of this presentation, however, was that Bentley appeared as some special phenomenon.

With the aid of just about every documentary cliché in the book (maps, diagrams, cash-register bells and the like), the director hammered home the message that he was 'a financial genius who is shattering the traditional attitudes of British industry'.

We were told that while at Harrow he once considered joining the Communist Party.

Whether fact or a piece of public-relations footwork to sugar his current activities, the comment is interesting.

Bentley later expressed a certain disgust with those he met at Harrow and then in the City who felt they had what he called 'a basic right to privileges'.

He talked about his asset-stripping operations as if they were altruistic crusades against 'wastage of . . . effort, talent, money, available space, everything'.

Across the breakfast-table from Frank Goss, Bentley enthusiastically developed the chauvinist strands of his philosophy.

The economic difficulties of the country, he said, showed that unless British industry was made more efficient 'some other country will smash us'. (This sequence was filmed the day after the Tories' sterling float.)

'That's why we've got devaluation', he said. 'Every newspaper you care to read will tell you the reason for this is that other countries are worried by the tremendous rise in inflation and the high level of wage settlements in the country.'

Here, of course, we see the individualistic explanation break down; Bentley's attitudes may not be traditional, but they are the only ones possible for the capitalist class today.

'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?' also consistently tended to belittle the Merton workers.

'The men who make toys are not like the men who build ships', said the narrator in a particularly offensive reference to the death of a possible UCS-style occupation.

But Frank Goss gave the lie to the invidious comparison.

'We tried to fight this as amateurs, not professionals', he said. 'We took on professionals as amateurs and got beaten. Next time anyone gets me in a clinch I'm going to come out with my head down and my guard up.'

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## Unity

It's all a matter of unity. Communist Party and right-wing Labourite delegates to Brent Trades Council put up a vigorous opposition the other night to defeat a motion from Chiswick No. 5 branch calling for a local Council of Action.

The motion was unrealistic and premature, they said. Speaker after speaker talked about working-class apathy and politics not being acceptable to workers today, etc., etc.

But such unity can only go so far.

When Stalinist Les Burt began talking about unity with social democrats in the 'fair rents' Bill debate, it was just too much for Ald P. H. Hartley, Brent Labour group leader. Especially when Burt mentioned working-class unity against fascism in pre-war Germany.

As a youth in Germany, Ald Hartley had been a social democrat.

He reminded delegates that in 1932 there was a plebiscite on the Prussian Diet (parliament) and the KPD (German Communist Party) voted alongside the Nazi Party and 'we were defeated'.

The Stalinists, he explained made an 'incorrect political error of judgment' . . . which led millions to the gas chambers!

At a stroke, Stalinism was confronted in Brent in 1972 with a chapter of its own history.

The Stalinists sat in silence.

## Floating ICI

The legal brains at ICI think they have come up with the answer to meet the economic crisis. Now, all transactions have an extra clause written in. It says: 'All charges subject to floatation rates.'

With the rates fluctuating from hour to hour, the computation of this figure on millions of pounds worth of export orders, should make great fun in the accounts department.

## Liberals

Outside a Liverpool police station a crowd gathered recently. Was it to complain about police brutality or something of the sort?

Not at all, the placards stated firmly: 'Keep our police station open', 'Don't chop our cop shop' and 'Hands off our police station', etc.

And who was behind this battle for law and order? The National Front? Wrong again. It was the Liverpool branch of the Liberal Party.

The 'Liberal News' reports that the campaign is being led by Cllr Doreen Jones and she has been whipping up a petition to plead with Reginald Maudling to retain the local police station.

## On the platform

A miserable rally against the French nuclear tests was called last Sunday by CND. The old stalwarts were there—Dick Nettleton and Pat Arrow-smith and, of course, the hairnet and blue stocking crowd from the Communist Party. About 20 of them in all.

The object was to condemn the French testing in the south Pacific and then march off to the French Embassy with the traditional protest letter.

What was astonishing, however, was the fact that they used the platform of John Webster.

Webster is one of the 'characters' of Speakers Corner. He beams his Sunday afternoon blurb with the declaration: 'My name is Webster. I am against socialism. Hitler's variety of Stalin's. Wilson's too.'

Last Sunday he had the tourists rolling on the grass with the comment: 'Workers of the world unite. Workers of the world drop dead, more like it.'

A few minutes after this diatribe the CND-ers were invited onto his platform to plead their case. And they did just that.

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# Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

## West Bromwich won't implement rent rises

LABOUR GROUP councillors were jubilant on Monday night after the West Bromwich, Staffs, town council agreed by a large majority not to implement the Tories' Housing Finance Bill.

The council heard a report from the Housing Committee which said a letter had been received from the town clerk

of the London Borough of Camden setting out resolutions passed by his council.

The Housing Committee said they had consulted the West Bromwich town clerk on the penal sanctions laid down in the Bill if a council refused to implement it. These sanctions notwithstanding, the committee recommended support for the London borough

and the implementation locally of a similar policy to that contained in the Camden resolution.

The resolutions were:  
 ● That in the event of the Housing Finance Bill becoming law, the Council will not impose so-called fair rents nor impose a rent increase of £1 per week;  
 ● That the officers are in-

structed not to make any preparations for calculating fair rents nor for the compulsory £1 increase and no extra staff for these purposes is therefore necessary;

● That the electors of the borough be so informed immediately and the officers be authorized to incur any necessary expenditure;  
 ● That all housing authorities

in the United Kingdom be informed of the council's decision.

The Housing Committee's recommendations were carried by 28 votes to 17. The West Bromwich decision is in sharp contrast to the 'wait-and-see' formula adopted by the national meeting of Labour councillors in Sheffield last weekend.

NATIONAL Union of Vehicle Builders' shop steward at the Rover car plant, Pete Smith, lives with his wife Sue and their two children on the vast Chelmsley Wood housing development, a Birmingham overspill.

He talks here to Workers Press about the Tory 'fair rents' Bill in relation to the offensive against the working class and the sort of leadership required to lead a fight back.

'With this rent Bill they're trying to force people out of council houses into the hands of the building societies to become literally slaves of the capitalist system.

'They'll spend the rest of their lives paying off mortgages. It is a really arrogant policy which reeks of Powellism. His strategy is total free enterprise all down the line.'

Said Sue: 'I think the rent we pay is "fair" enough already; but I feel the government will force even Labour councils to implement the Bill, despite what Labour councillors are saying.'

Her husband disagreed, however. Once a real fight got going, he thought, a really good Labour council would not implement, regardless of the repercussions of the Housing Commissioner.

'A decent roof over your head should be everyone's right,' Sue added. 'When the first houses were built on Chelmsley Wood the council was under Labour control and rents were £4. They went up to £6 under the Tories.'

'And we lived here for two years before there were even any shops opened. There was no infants' school—infants and juniors were all put in the same one.'

With reference to Birmingham council's much-vaunted housing programme, Pete says: 'The council says we've housed everyone—but what kind of housing is this, to be stuck in here to watch TV and be brainwashed. We know there's a chronic housing shortage, but how they've got the nerve to put people in these multi-storey flats you see, I don't know.'

'Even in a rabbit pen you've got the chance to run around.'

'All this stems from the system



Rover steward Pete Smith with his wife Sue and one of their children

## Housing and capitalism

As seen by shop steward Pete Smith

we live in where you're treated just as factory fodder. A gaffer looks after his machine better than his men.'

At this Sue pointed to an advert in the 'Sunday Times' magazine. 'Most people would work better if you treated them like machines,' ran the caption.

'People are turned into machines by mass production,' Pete continued. 'But you can't eliminate that under capitalism. Look at all the fuss over pollution. The middle class have suddenly found the motorway's in their back yard, and they're screaming about it. But for hundreds of years men have been poisoned in the factories and the mines. My father 50 years ago worked in a galvanizing factory. Now he suffers with bronchitis and a bad chest.'

'But the worst pollution is pollution of the mind. Man's mind has been polluted for centuries, but you don't see the UN

holding special conferences in Stockholm to discuss that.'

Pete stressed that the rent Bill could not be separated from the massive financial crisis which is gripping capitalism.

'The floating of the £ can only last until other countries follow suit. What other measures are left? There can't be so many alternatives until the Tories try what they did in 1925-1926—cut wages and increase hours.'

'They're heading for a wages policy for sure.'

What are the prospects for a fight back by the working class?

'There's certainly some hope. You see youth on the TV, pupil power and so on, which four years ago was unthinkable. Perhaps we'll get our lead from them when they reject this society completely. The fight may start from there. You get youth going straight from school onto the dole or the production line.'

'An economic crash will threaten everyone's living standards, but people aren't going to stand for a backward step.'

What does Pete think of the mass retreat by trade union and Labour leaders in the face of the Tory offensive?

'I used to look to some "left" union leaders and think "We've got our protection at the top". It's now clear to everyone that we've been sold out altogether by these people.'

'As regards the Labour MPs, they're just capitalists with a conscience. In the Commons you've got about 50 supposedly "left" MPs, 50 extreme right-wing Tories and the rest are all identical. Where's the opposition? Any opposition has been effectively bought off.'

'I agree we have to build an alternative to these people.'

'You can't be satisfied with the position the Communist Party has got. And as for Kosygin, Brezhnev and Mao Tse-tung, how do they dare to sit around the same table as Nixon, when he's bombing the very life out of Vietnam?'

'Reading Workers Press has explained a lot of things to me. I found it a bit complicated to begin with. I had the basic ideas, and I can say the Press taught me a lot. I can say I've developed politically in a very short time.'

'What I like about the Workers

Press is the way the working class can speak through it, rather than being preached at.

'Perhaps that's one of the faults of the "Morning Star", not that I've read it very much. It never gripped me and made me want to pick up the next issue, like the Press does.'

'It appears as if the "Star" editorial board is completely isolated from reality, from what the working class is thinking and saying.'

'And what they're saying is we won't stand this system for

ever,' Pete concludes. 'We've learnt lessons of the 1920s and 1930s and that will never be repeated.'

'If any revolution comes and they knock it down, there will be another arise and it will be a damned sight stronger.'

### ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

The currency crisis and the working class

LEICESTER: Wednesday July 5, 8 p.m. Queen's Hotel, Rutland St. 'Build Councils of Action'.

PORT TALBOT: Thursday July 6, 7.30 p.m. Progressive Club (Band Club), Talbot Square.

HAVANT: Thursday July 6, 7.30 p.m. Leigh Park Community Centre.

AYLESHAM: Thursday July 6, 8 p.m. The Legion, Burgess Road.

LUTON: Thursday July 6, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Brigade Hall, Lea Road.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday July 6, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Stn).

ACTON: Monday July 10, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Rd.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday July 11, 8 p.m. 'Aberfeldy', Aberfeldy Street, E.14. (nr Blackwall Tunnel).

NORTH LONDON: Thursday July 13, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', Tottenham High Rd. (nr White Hart Lane).

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# Engineers and builders shatter Aberdeen's 'peace'

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

**STRIKE ACTION** on two major national wage claims has shattered the appearance of relative industrial peace prevailing in Aberdeen until recently.

About 1,500 engineers in Aberdeen and Fraserburgh—50 miles to the north—are now in the fourth week of their district-wide strike for the full national claim.

And building workers at three major sites in the city are involved in the campaign of selective strikes for their claim of £10-a-week rise, shorter hours and longer holidays.

A mood of cautious determination prevails amongst the engineers.

'There was some hesitation about coming out to begin with—even though the vote was almost a 100 per cent,' said Brian Adam, foundry worker at Barry, Henry and Cook. 'But everyone is determined to fight it out now. I think the employers will have to make a serious offer soon.'

The final offer before the strike began was £2.25 a week, though local Engineering Employers' Federation secretary John B. Forrest threatened to withdraw this after the strike began.

Local Labour Lord Provost John Smith's attempts to bring the two sides together for talks also aroused little enthusiasm.

'It's more money we want,' one of the pickets at the largest Aberdeen firm involved in the strike, Consolidated Pneumatic Tools, said. 'All the employers have come up with is different ways of presenting the same amount of money.'

Nearly all the men we spoke to have made up their minds to a lengthy strike, lasting over the holiday period and into August.

'It's hard being on strike,' said one apprentice from the small firm of John M. Henderson. 'You have to give things up, like going out and so on. But we're going to stick it out now. It's up to the employers to make the first move. We gave them plenty of time to make a decent offer and I think they're losing more than we are by the strike.'

His friend said: 'We're fighting the government's policy on wages really. It might have been best if several unions had come out together and taken the government on—miners, railwaymen, dockers and engineers. But as far as our strike goes just now, we'll just have to wait and see.'

'Wait and see' seems to be the policy of the local district committee on which the Communist Party has considerable influence. At the meeting which decided on strike action four weeks ago no warning was issued about the developing economic crisis or about the Tories' determination to attack independent trade unionism through the Industrial Relations Court.

District president John McConachie has said that the leadership's decision to call off national action in January was justified.

The main danger facing the strike is certainly not any lack of solidarity and determination. It is the lack of a leadership prepared to explain that the employers' intransigence springs from their determination to keep wages low in the face of the most critical economic situation in the history of capitalism.

The illusion that Aberdeen engineers can win any real victory simply by trade union methods—which flies in the face



Pickets at Consolidated Pneumatic Tools

of the lessons of Manchester—has to be broken down, and a fight taken up against the union leaders' retreat in calling off national action in January at a time when the unity of miners and engineers could have forced the government to resign.

The threat of opportunist leadership also hangs heavily over the conduct of the builders' strike in this area. UCATT leaders have accepted a deal from Peter Cameron Ltd., whose Shell-Mex site at Tullos was to have come out.

The offer accepted was only half the national claim. The 'selective' strikes are now confined to the Michelin site at Altens (Wimpey); the Treetops Hotel site (Alexander Hall); and the New Market development (Myton).

The reformist and Stalinist leaders of Aberdeen's labour movement have been conducting a furious campaign in recent months to create a mood of parochial complacency based on the supposed benefits to the local 'community' of the North Sea 'oil boom'.

But as one CPT picket said: 'You can't separate our fight for decent wages from rising prices and in particular the Tory Rent Bill. It could immediately eat up a good part of whatever increase we win.'

## New talks appeal on Eire pay

EIRE'S trade unionists will be asked today if they will agree to reopen talks on a National Pay Agreement to replace the document they rejected overwhelmingly more than a week ago.

The union mandate for new negotiations will be sought at the four-day annual delegate conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in Salthill, Co Galway.

Talks were proposed last Friday when the National Employer-Labour Conference was recalled by its chairman, Professor Basil Chubb, to consider a further attempt to have another National Pay Agreement.

A mandate from the unions is necessary, however, before the ICTU, which represents the unions at national pay negotiations, can re-open talks with the employers.

The 12-member Employer-Labour Conference working party is scheduled to meet again on July 10 for a week of intense talks.

Proposals for new talks emerged after a series of meetings last Friday between Eire premier Jack Lynch and the

Ministers for Labour and Finance and the Federated Union of Employers; and a meeting of the ICTU national executive.

Later a plenary session of the Employer-Labour Conference was called with such haste that only 26 of the 50 members were present.

Moves for these new national talks coincide with the expiry of the present 18-month national agreement for the first section of workers who came under the agreement in January 1970.

These include 50,000 building workers, 3,000 maintenance craftsmen, over 2,000 men in the motor trade and workers in engineering and electrical contracting firms, sheet metal industries and in a variety of other industries.

The main objections to the previous proposed agreement—rejected at a special ICTU conference just over a week ago by a 5-2 majority—were dissatisfaction over the pay increases, as well as provisions on pay for women workers and the clauses dealing with fringe benefits.

The trade unions also objected to the wide variation on which different groups of workers would benefit from a national agreement.



Robert Powell is in tonight's BBC 2 film dramatization of the life of 'Shelley' the poet.

# TV

## Regional TV

**CHANNEL:** 1.45 Racing. 4.05 Paulus. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Good afternoon. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 F Troop. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Please sir. 7.30 London. 11.45 News, weather. Epilogue.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 6.00 Diary. 11.44 News. 11.47 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. Faith for Life.

**SOUTHERN:** 2.30 London. 3.40 Heckle and Jeckle. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Challenge. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.

**HTV:** 2.15 Racing. 3.45 Ugliest girl. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Dave Cash. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 Coronation street. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.45 Frighteners. 12.15 Weather.

**HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 3.45 Hamdden. 4.15 Miri Mawr. 6.01 Y Dydd.

**HTV West as above except:** 6.15 Report West.

**ANGLIA:** 1.00 Royal show. 1.45 Racing. 3.45 Yoga. 4.15 News. 4.18 Cartoons. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Shirley's world. 7.30 London.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 1.00 Royal show. 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Mrs Muir. 4.40 Magic ball. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Who do you do? 7.30 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 Wrestling.

**YORKSHIRE:** 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Calendar. 2.30 London. 3.40 Dr Simon Locke. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 Coronation street. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30

Blue light. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 1.45 Racing. 3.40 Junkin. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. What's on? 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 University challenge. 7.30 London. 10.30 Shirley's world. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 What the papers say.

**TYNE TEES:** 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Signalman Holmes. 2.30 London. 3.40 Simon Locke. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 Coronation street. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Not so much a theatre. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 News. 12.00 Epilogue.

**BORDER:** 1.45 Racing. 3.40 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Grasshopper island. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 11.45 News.

**SCOTTISH:** 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Animaland. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 R100. 6.30 Melody inn. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 10.30 At odds. 11.00 Wrestling. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Stuart Gillies.

**GRAMPIAN:** 1.45 Racing. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.25 Canadian view. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 Coronation street. 8.00 Department S. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 11.45 Scales of justice.

## ITV

11.05 Will Hay Comedy Film Season. 12.20 Women. 12.45 Freud on Food. 1.10 Bellbird. 1.25 Sean. 1.40 Woobinda. 2.05 Castle Haven. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 2.55 Racing. 3.45 Edgar Wallace. 4.40 Hatty Town. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Fly into Danger. 5.50 News.

6.00 JUNKIN.  
6.25 CARTOON TIME.  
6.35 CROSSROADS.  
7.00 THE SMITH FAMILY.  
7.30 CORONATION STREET.  
8.00 CADE'S COUNTY. Violent Echo.  
9.00 THE MAIN CHANCE. Widow's Mite.  
10.00 NEWS.  
10.30 TONY BENNETT (New Series).  
11.00 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.  
11.45 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. Bill Grundy.  
12.00 CAN BUSINESS AFFORD A CONSCIENCE.

## BBC 1

9.20 Mr Benn. 10.45 Boomph with Becker. 12.25 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 12.55 Disc a Dawn. 1.30 Andy Pandey. 1.45 News, weather. 1.53 Wimbledon 1972. 4.50 Magic Roundabout. 4.55 Starsport. 5.10 Pixie and Dixie. 5.20 Little Women. 5.44 Parsley. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 YOUR REGION TONIGHT. (London only: Nationwide).  
6.15 WIMBLEDON 1972 LADIES' SEMI-FINALS.  
7.25 STAR TREK. By Any Other Name.  
8.10 THE EXPERT. A Clear and Easy Duty.  
9.00 NEWS, Weather.  
9.20 BRITAIN UNDER SIEGE. Part 2 in eight-part series. on World War II.  
10.20 DOWN TO EARTH.  
10.50 24 HOURS.

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 4.30 Wimbledon 1972.

7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.  
8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED. Denis Tuohy talks to William Ross a naval architect and Theosophist.  
8.10 MAN ALIVE. The Biggest Crap Game in the World: Cannes Film Festival.  
9.00 POT BLACK. Snooker Competition.  
9.20 SHELLEY. A biography of the poet by John Elliot.  
10.35 MATCH OF THE DAY. From Wimbledon.  
11.25 NEWS, Weather.  
11.30 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

## Free Ulster prisoners or more marches—threat

ANTI-INTERNMENT demonstrations in Northern Ireland have been threatened for next month unless all men held under the Special Powers Act are released by August 1.

The warning came from the Northern Resistance Movement, the Co. Fermanagh-based civil rights organization, which also demanded the end of the Act. It rejected the idea of a referendum on the future of Ulster as a 'farce'.

The movement gave no details of its demonstration plans.

Anti-internment protests, once a regular feature of the Northern Ireland scene, died out when Ulster Secretary William Whitelaw began releasing interned and detained men.

But the decision by both wings of the IRA to capitulate to talks with Whitelaw has immeasurably strengthened the hand of the right-wing Loyalist extremists.

Ever since they made their ceasefire declarations the Orangemen have been able to step up their demands.

During the past few nights the right-wing Ulster Defence Association has taken to the streets in shows of considerable strength.

Their carefully-rehearsed activities are designed to achieve the greatest bargaining position for the Protestant bourgeoisie in the talks with the Tory government.

On Monday General Robert Ford intervened when the UDA started barricade building in west Belfast.

After several hours of secret dealing—during which Whitelaw was kept informed—it was agreed that the army and the UDA should stage joint patrols. This is an open provocation to the Catholic families who live in the area.

Their movements will now be subjected to continuous harassment by UDA vigilante squads.

HOUSEWIVES paid up to 26 per cent more for fish last year—while for British fishermen it was a bonanza, it was discussed in the annual report of the White Fish Authority yesterday. The value of total fish supplies for the year increased by £16.5m to £102.9m. British landings rose from £64.9m to £80.2m.

AUSTIN Morris shop stewards at Longbridge, Birmingham, are to recommend that car works reject a Measured-Day Work scheme being proposed by management. The offer is for £43.80 a week but it will mean giving up piecework.

# Miners' claim is 'flexible'

MINERS' delegates yesterday unanimously 'adopted' a 'flexible' wages policy setting their union's sights on rises of £5.50 to £7 next year.

A compromise resolution moved by the National Union of Mineworkers' Derbyshire area instructs the national executive to include a claim for a threshold agreement, to take account of rises in the cost of living, in future pay negotiations.

New minimum wages in the industry, the union's Morecambe conference decided, should be £30 on the surface, £32 underground and £40 on the face.

'In the event of an unsatisfactory offer from the National Coal Board,' the resolution says, 'the national executive committee should consult the membership with the view to taking their various forms of industrial action.'

Conference had earlier narrowly adopted the resolution from the union's staff section, COSA, which charged the executive with ensuring members benefit from increases in productivity.

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN MORECAMBE

The key Yorkshire, Scottish, South Wales and Kent coalfields opposed the COSA resolution, and were anxious in the subsequent debate to insist that the target figures must be scrupulously observed.

More than one speaker pointed out that to say rates 'should be' a certain figure, could be dangerous. (The original motion from Kent had contained the much stronger word 'demands'.)

For its part, the executive, in a speech by NUM secretary Lawrence Daly, sought to reserve its position on the call for a threshold agreement.

(Such agreements provide that if, after a certain period of its term elapses, prices have increased more than a previously agreed figure, pay should be adjusted upwards. They are seen by right-wingers on the TUC General Council as a means of 'moderating' wage demands.)

Daly also drew attention to just how flexible the motion is.

'It will be the membership who decide what strategy to pursue if necessary,' he said. The

minimum wage demands had been set down not as firm figures but as desirable targets.

Moving the COSA motion, Les Story argued that jobs could be hit by the 'wrong tactical move' of laying down wage targets in a resolution.

In perhaps the clearest expression of the NUM right wing's current thinking, he said that having thrashed a Tory premier the miners could now expect that the government would extract retribution in insidious ways.

They might 'go cagey', he claimed, on writing off capital debts of the NCB or delay institution of a national energy policy.

In answer, Scottish miner John Phillips said that miners must not be afraid of a confrontation with the Tories.

'Every day,' he said, 'the workers in this country are confronted with the most vicious government of this century.' On a card vote, however, the motion was carried by 171 votes to 141.

Moving the compromise

motion, Herbert Parkin, from Derbyshire, argued that by the autumn of this year the Wilberforce-plus award to face workers would have been eroded by £1.50.

And by next February, taking into account tax, he predicted £4.50 would have been taken away.

Kent miner Joe Burke said that despite the tremendous achievement of the strike, the miners had still left quite a bit behind. The reason for inflation was not wage claims but the crisis of capitalism, he said.

'We must intensify our wage demands if we are to serve the interests of our members.'

Abe Moffat, another Scottish delegate, warned that what had been won was a fight but not the battle. Such fights would continue until the system of society was changed, he said.

'Our claims are just and our claims are necessary.'

Yesterday afternoon, the conference instructed the union executive to submit an immediate claim to cut underground hours by 7½ to 30 a week. Appropriate reductions in surface hours are also to be demanded.

## Seven dockers named by container firm

THE NATIONAL Industrial Relations Court will this morning hear a new action by a container firm against seven London dockers.

But the named dockers indicated yesterday that they would not be attending the hearing. One told the press that the summonses were of little more value than toilet paper.

The Midland Cold Store container depot in East London has been picketed by dockers since early in May.

Lorry drivers arriving at the gate have been told the depot is black and that dockers were claiming the work inside.

Now the company is asking the NIRC to declare the picketing an unfair industrial practice under the Industrial Relations Act.

Bernie Steer and Vic Turner are among those named in summonses. Both men refused to appear before the NIRC over the Chobham Farm dispute.

The other five are Ron Hedges, Eddie Hedges, Derek Watkins, Cornelius Clancy and Anthony Merrick. While some received their summons at dawn outside the depot, others received them at their homes the night before.

One of those named told Workers Press yesterday: 'The summonses are just like any other piece of paper. We don't recognize the NIRC. There will be a picket down here tomorrow and we will carry on.'

Other pickets said they hoped the high-powered Jones-Aldington committee looking at the scope of dock work would come up with some answers to the problem of those on the temporary unattached register.



Pickets stop a lorry outside the Midland Cold Storage depot in East London

## Bitter evening as engineers discuss national pay claim

LEADING Communist Party, International Socialist and Maoist group members stayed silent on Monday when rank-and-file engineers bitterly attacked their president, Hugh Scanlon, for failing to lead a national fight on the union's pay claim.

Scanlon addressed a specially-convened meeting of 500 London shop stewards in an effort to step up the plant-bargaining campaign in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union's No. 8 region.

It was clear from his speech, however, that any intensification of the campaign was only designed as 'pressure' material when national negotiations were resumed.

The AUEW president began by telling stewards he didn't want to hear criticism either of CSEU policy or that of his own union. They had to look at the situation as it was; to do anything else was a negative approach.

Admitting the plant-bargaining campaign had been slow to get off the ground, Scanlon said it had been understandable because the switch from national to local level had been 'revolutionary'.

The real indication that the plant strategy was grinding to a halt came when Scanlon said they had asked for 'exploratory' talks with the Engineering Employers' Federation.

The first speaker from the floor was from Stanmore Engineering in North London. Workers there were evicted from the factory last week after occupying for seven weeks in support of the national claim. They have also been sent dismissal notices.

The steward leapt to the microphone and blasted the executive for its lack of support. They had done everything they could and fought as hard as possible. Now they wanted some assistance.

Another North London shop steward accused Scanlon of being undemocratic in limiting the discussion to the current situation.

The essence of the question was the economic crisis of capitalism and the general offensive against all workers, not just engineers.

In that situation the decision to abandon the fight nationally had been disastrous.

'The whole campaign was a disjointed shambles, because of the lack of local or national leadership,' he said.

'This shameful policy is a continuation of the retreat from 1968 when you sold the past for a productivity deal.'

He pointed out he and thousands of stewards had fought for Scanlon's election.

He said that the recent circular signed by Scanlon had taken the emphasis off a struggle for a shorter working week.

'To say that national negotiations had given us little is surely

an indictment of the leadership. Those who claim that it is mad to assert we should have taken national strike action ignore the whole movement of the working class against the Tories.

'Had the engineers joined the miners and the railwaymen there is no doubt we could have brought down the Tory government. That is the only way workers can defend their living standards,' he concluded.

An enraged Scanlon then launched a venomous attack on the steward.

'The only thing a man of your persuasion has forgotten is the sentence accusing me of being a "lackey of the capitalists",' he said.

The steward retorted: 'If the cap fits wear it, Hughie.'

Scanlon said if the campaign was a shambles it was because 'you won't do anything to make it a success'.

Yesterday's 'Morning Star' made Scanlon's meeting the second, front-page lead with photographs.

But none of the North London stewards' comments was reported, nor the speech by the Stanmore steward appealing for some fight by the national leadership. No mention was made either of Scanlon's announcement about exploratory talks.

Significantly, the two brief reports of rank-and-file speeches stressed the need for more militancy and for 'unity'.

### LATE NEWS WEATHER

**CONTAINER ROW**  
OFFICIAL Solicitor Norman Turner, whose last-minute intervention in the Court of Appeal last month saved three dockers from jail, has again stepped into a picketing case.

He said yesterday he had been asked to brief counsel as friends of the court to assist the NIRC on matters of picketing law at the Midland Cold Storage case today (see this page.)

Mr John Vinelott QC and Mr Robert Alexander had been instructed by him. The case is expected to last three days.

**DULL WEATHER** with rain, drizzle and hill fog over the Midlands, east and south-east England will move away east during the day, becoming dry with sunny intervals.

North-east England and eastern Scotland will be mostly cloudy, but with some bright or sunny intervals.

Western districts of England, Wales, Northern Ireland, central and western Scotland will have showers and sunny intervals. The showers may be moderate or heavy at times in the north-west.

It will continue mostly rather cool.

**Outlook for Thursday and Friday:** Generally rather cool with showers and sunny intervals, but southern areas will become mainly dry with sunny spells on Friday.

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