

DEMAND THAT THE TUC LEADERS BREAK OFF ALL TALKS WITH HEATH

STATEMENT BY THE ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

TOMORROW'S meeting of the TUC Economics Committee must decide to break off immediately all pay and industrial relations talks with the Tory government.

If the TUC leaders do decide to hold further discussions with Heath, they will be trampling in the most deliberate manner on the wishes of millions of rank-and-file union members.

The Tories, their policies in tatters, are now desperately trying to come to a deal with the union leaders against the working class.

In his weekend speech at Altrincham, Chancellor Anthony Barber said that if the 'minefield' of inflation was to be avoided co-operation with the TUC was essential.

'That is why we have asked both the CBI and the TUC to join with us in a combined effort to curb the rising cost of living.

'The leaders of both sides of industry know full well the importance of these meetings. Those who they represent should also be under no illusions as to what is at stake.'

Certainly every conscious trade union member will be under no illusion that the decision to float the pound will mean savage cost-of-living increases and further attacks on his living standards.

Far from attempting to control inflation, the Tory government is now deliberately stimulating price increases in order to undermine the standard of living of millions of workers and their families.

The TUC chiefs are fully aware of this fact. That is why their proposals for 'threshold agreements' with the employers are a fraud. Under such arrangements, wage increases would be limited to a fixed increase over a period of perhaps 18 months and would only rise if the cost of living increased by more than an agreed percentage in the first year.

With prices soaring, such agreements would mean savage reductions in real wages, with union members prevented from fighting by legally-enforceable deals, backed up by the National Industrial Relations Court.

Every union leader who votes 'yes' to more talks at Downing Street is thus playing the Tory game.

After the CBI leaders went to Downing Street yesterday, it was made clear that while they are all too willing to take part in the proposed joint working party with the TUC, they had nothing positive to say about their price-restraint policy being continued when it runs out at the end of the month.

In other words, the employers want unconditional surrender from the union leaders.

Tomorrow's lobby of the TUC's Economic Committee meeting is now more vital than ever.

The All Trades Unions Alliance has consistently called for an immediate recall of the TUC. How can the present policies of class collaboration between the union leaders and the Tories be broken unless such a Congress is held and expels all

those who refuse to break with the government?

Since Chobham Farm, the Stalinist 'Morning Star' has deliberately dropped this slogan. What the King Street Stalinists fear above all is an exposure of their friends Jones and Scanlon which such a Congress would bring.

As usual the revisionists follow closely in the wake of the Stalinists. Last week's issue of the state capitalist 'Socialist Worker' not only declared that Tory inflation was a 'con trick', but called for 'the TUC to stop retreating and start fighting'.

But it consciously avoided any mention of the role of the 'lefts' in the discussions with the Tories and it made no demand for an immediate recall of the TUC to deal with these people.

We therefore appeal to every worker who wishes to fight this rotten and corrupt government: answer the betrayals of these Stalinists and revisionists. Help to make tomorrow's lobby a powerful show of strength against all those who are acting as Tory agents in the working-class movement.

- The TUC must end all talks with the Heath government.
- Recall the TUC immediately.
- Force the Tories to resign.



ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

URGENT—calling all trade unionists

LOBBY

TUC, Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1

Wednesday July 12, 9.30 a.m.
BREAK OFF ALL TALKS WITH HEATH!

RECALL THE TUC!

FORCE THE TORIES TO RESIGN!

Builders march on council

ABOUT 300 building workers from a council site marched to Wandsworth council headquarters yesterday on the first day of their pay strike. The men work for J. Dean (Contractors) Ltd. They were marching in support of the national pay claim which has brought out more than 180 sites throughout Britain. They also demanded that the council end the lump labour system.

Container complaints

DETAILS of the complaints which are to be made today in the High Court by Midland Cold Storage became known in the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday afternoon.

They include intimidation, breach of statutory duty, wrongful procurement of breach of contract and unlawful picketing. An injunction will be sought ordering stewards to stop these activities, plus a declaration that work at the store is not dock work. Damages will also be sought for conspiracy.

● See Law Lords hear case, p.12

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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July 10, 1972

WHAT WE THINK

BRING IN THE JUDGE

'THE TIMES' yesterday produced a leading editorial entitled: 'An inquiry needed.' The top gentlemen down at Printing House Square said:

'It is now clear that there must be a judicial inquiry into the allegations made during the Poulson bankruptcy hearing. Nothing less than an inquiry with full High Court powers will be sufficient.'

Curiously, the editorial does not mention the name of you-know-who, the Home Secretary. Yet it is Reginald Maudling, as chairman of one of Mr Poulson's major companies, who has more than a passing interest in the affair.

(Maudling's wife, Beryl, his son, Martin, and daughter, Caroline, were also directors of Poulson outfits.)

The bankruptcy court in Wakefield has been told that more than £330,000 in 'fees' was lavished on various people, including MPs.

T. Dan Smith, ex-chairman of the Labour government's Northern Economic Development Council, received no less than £155,000. Did the chairman and directors know about these payments?

'The Times' says that 'grave allegations have been made.'

'It is in everybody's interest that these allegations should be investigated as soon as possible so that either they may be disposed of or suitable action taken.'

Is 'The Times' fully aware of the implications of its demand for a High Court inquiry?

It will mean that a leading member of the judiciary will be examining the private business life of the Home Secretary and deputy Prime Minister.

If the cabinet decides on such a course—and it may have no choice—Maudling will almost certainly be obliged to resign.

He could hardly stay as Home Secretary, the Tories' leading 'law-and-order' post, while the High Court was investigating companies with which he was closely associated.

'The Times' can exert its righteous indignation for an inquiry—but it will mean losing their beloved Home Secretary, the architect of internment and the military occupation of Ulster.

Cost of living jumps, unions are attacked so Argentine workers take towns: Military in a crisis

By JOHN SPENCER

A WAVE of occupations, strikes and militant anti-government demonstrations has thrown the Argentine military regime into crisis.

In at least two provincial areas, workers have taken over their towns demanding the resignation of provincial governors and an end to the repression against the trade unions.

The rocketing cost of living, combined with the repressive anti-union measures and growing unemployment, is leading to a head-on clash between the military regime and the powerful Argentine working class.

On Friday, in retaliation, president Alejandro Lanusse froze all trade union bank accounts and demanded that the unions keep out of the political arena.

The unions had threatened the military junta with 'violent revolution' unless they showed respect for 'the will of the people'.

The confrontation followed the take-over of the city of General Roca in the southern province of Rio Negro. The local people set up a breakaway 'provisional government' and broke off relations with the provincial military governor to deal directly with the central government.

They demanded the resignation of Vicente Requiño, an extreme right-wing officer who is the strong-man of the Rio Negro. Requiño sent in the Sixth Mountain Brigade to suppress the uprising.

Brigade commander General Alberto Numa proclaimed, his readiness to put down any further manifestations 'by all means possible'.

Elsewhere in the Argentine, miners took over the town of Malargue in southern Mendoza province and declared that 'there is enough dynamite to blow up the whole locality if our protests are put down with violence'.

The entire region is on strike following the occupation of the town by troops of the National Gendarmerie. The miners decided to take over the town to fight the closure of a local manganese mine.

Student demonstrations and battles with the police have taken place in a number of main towns, including Tucuman, Rosario and La Plata. There have also been strikes in the primary and secondary schools and in the health service.

The Argentine military regime is preparing for a general election in March 1973 and Lanusse still faces a possible challenge from Juan Peron, the 74-year-old former dictator who has lived for many years in exile in Madrid.

The country's shaky economy has been badly battered by the international monetary crisis and the currency is inflating at a rate of more than 20 per cent a year.



Students arrested in Tucuman escorted by troops

AROUND THE WORLD

Hanoi envoy forced into new 'peace initiatives'

XUAN THUY, head of the North Vietnamese delegation, arrived in Paris yesterday to prepare for the resumption of the 'peace' talks on Thursday.

Thuy, who travelled from Hanoi via Peking and Moscow after consultations with the Hanoi leaders, is said to be bringing back 'new initiatives'.

Washington is guardedly hopeful that the new round of talks will lead to what Nixon terms 'serious negotiations' the preparation of a dirty compromise at the expense of the Vietnamese revolution.

The Americans and their South Vietnamese puppets withdrew

from the Paris talks on May 4, and began an intensive round of diplomatic manoeuvring aimed at isolating Hanoi with the aid of the Moscow and Peking bureaucrats.

They are now hoping that the diplomatic pressure, combined with the blockade and bombardment of the North, will have included the required 'flexibility' in the attitude of the North Vietnamese leaders.

Chou En-lai, Chinese premier, made an ominous statement on Sunday demanding that the US government end its war of aggression against Vietnam 'at an early date through serious negotiations'.

This formula, it should be noted, is exactly parallel with Nixon's demand.

There are indications, however, that the long-awaited attack on the old imperial capital of Hue may begin about the same time as the Paris talks open.

The town has been under heavy bombardment from liberation artillery in the surrounding countryside.

At the same time, the thrust of the South Vietnamese puppet forces towards Quang Tri, north of Hue, is causing alarm among some of the more far-sighted US advisers.

They fear that the light resistance so far encountered by the South Vietnamese troops is designed to lead them into a trap and that once in Quang Tri they will be blasted by the liberation artillery.

Lydda survivor admits to shooting

KOZO OKAMOTO, the sole survivor of the three-man terrorist squad which carried out the Lydda airport shootings on May 30, yesterday pleaded guilty to opening fire in the airport customs hall and said: 'I don't know how many people I killed.'

The military court in Sarafand was surrounded by police and Okamoto was led in amid stringent security precautions. He faces a total of four charges, three of which carry a possible death penalty.

The 24-year-old Tokyo University student said the Lydda suicide mission had been carried out by the Japanese Red Army Faction in co-operation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

FOUR areas of Karachi were under a 24-hour curfew yesterday following a weekend of violent battles in the city's streets. The Urdu-speaking inhabitants were demonstrating against a Bill making the local language Sindhi the only official language in the region.

Popular Front agreed

A NATIONAL convention of the French Socialist Party yesterday endorsed the common programme drawn up by Socialist and Communist Party leaders in preparation for the National Assembly elections next year.

The programme was endorsed unanimously at the weekend by a Communist Party convention attended by 1,200 delegates.

It is an attempt to revive the infamous Popular Front of the 1930s which united Socialists, Radicals and Stalinists in sup-

port for the government of Leon Blum.

It contains the most timid reformist measures with the aim of diverting workers' militancy and perpetuating parliamentary illusions. Since the agreement was drawn up, the Communist Party has concentrated on explaining how 'reasonable' it is.

The agreement accepts continued French membership of the Common Market, the Bonapartist presidential system in only slightly modified form and calls for the nationalization of 'key' industries, totalling less than 1 per cent of private capital.

Pentagon papers trial opens

THE TRIAL of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo, charged in connection with the 'leakage' of the secret Pentagon Papers was due to open in Los Angeles yesterday.

The two men are accused of 'stealing, embezzling and converting to their own use' one of the 15 copies of the top-secret history of the Vietnam war. The indictment claims this action

'defrauded' the nation and violated the Federal Espionage Act.

The Pentagon Papers were published by the 'New York Times' and constitute a damning indictment of the total cynicism of US imperialist policy in Indo-China. By prosecuting Ellsberg and Russo, the administration wants to prevent further leakages of similar 'classified' documents.

DECEMBER 3 has been tentatively fixed as the date for a General Election to break the West German parliamentary crisis, according to an official

spokesman in Bonn. The election, a year ahead of schedule, is necessary because the ruling coalition's majority in the Bundestag has fallen from 12 to none.

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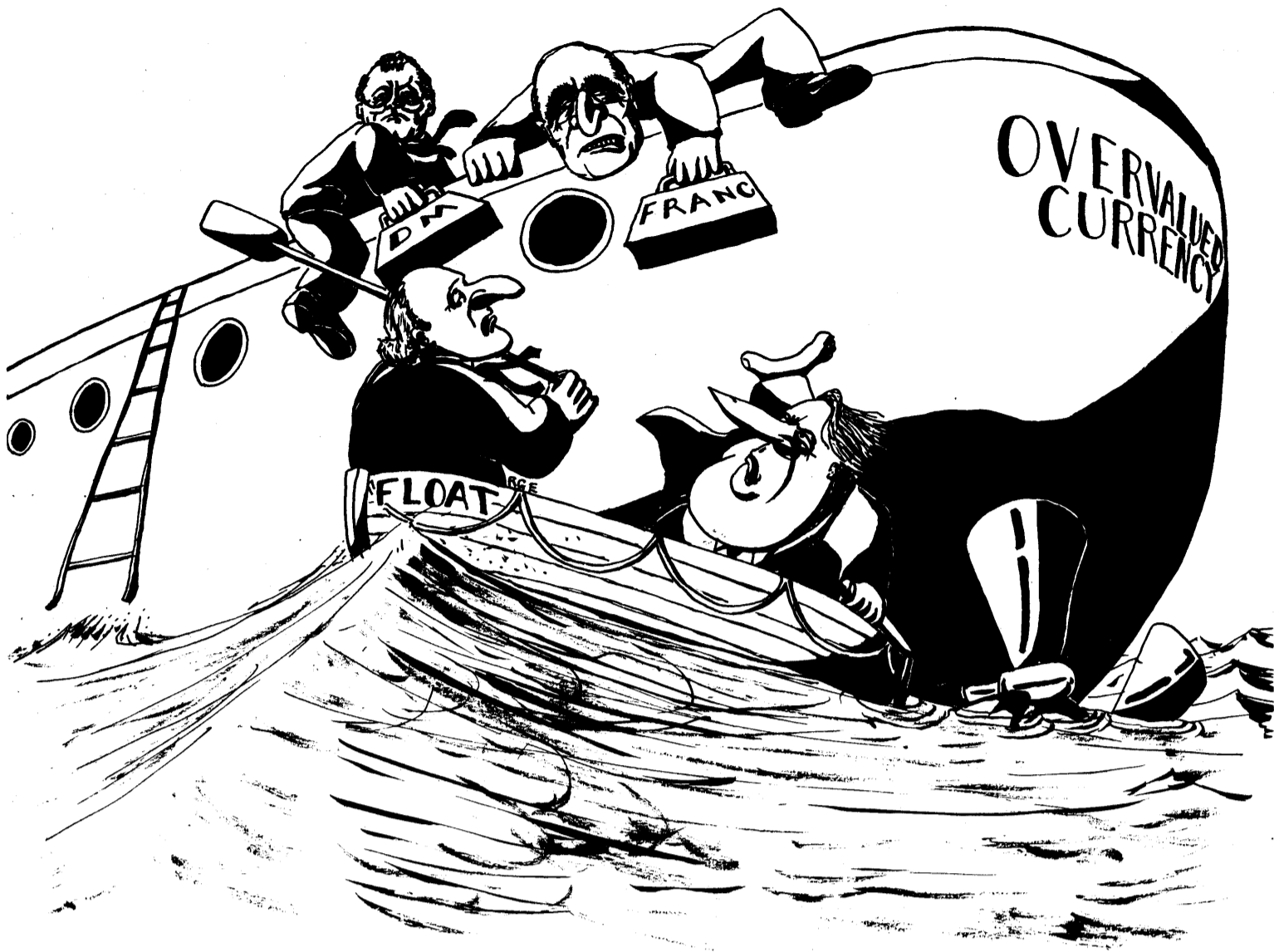
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Get back, damn you, you'll sink us!

Marsh 'should resign'

PRESIDENT of the National Union of Railwaymen Harold McRitchie yesterday attacked British Rail Board chairman Richard Marsh and indicated that his resignation might 'restore industrial goodwill'.

In his presidential address to the NUR conference at Scarborough, McRitchie said:

'It is the present chairman who, during the negotiations, has devalued the currency of indus-

ON APRIL 5, mid-way through the rail dispute, NUR general secretary Sir Sidney Greene called on Richard Marsh to intervene to reach a settlement. He said the unions looked upon Marsh as a 'guardian angel' who might be able to keep the peace.

trial relations at times with Machiavellian deviousness and leads me inescapably to the view that he did not disapprove the government's use of the Act against railwaymen as a means of restoring its credibility lost at the hands of the miners.

'Indeed,' he said, 'the impression persists that negotiations were designed to end short of agreement with a minimal difference between the sides in order that the press, with its scheming capacity for presenting selected information, calculated to draw the mass mentality through preconceived channels, could reveal the railwaymen as blackmailers and deserving of the full rigours of the Act. . . .'

BSC London workers urged to attend lobby

THE WORKFORCE from the Redpath, Dormer and Long steel plant marched through Greenwich, London, yesterday, shouting 'Heath out', in protest against the 100 redundancies due in August.

At a meeting held later a resolution calling on all workers employed by British Steel Corporation to wage a massive campaign against 'this butchery' was passed unanimously.

The resolution also demanded that the Parliamentary Labour Party adopt a policy to restore all damage inflicted by the Tories on the steel industry.

Roy Rawlins, secretary of the shop stewards' committee, who moved the resolution, accused the BSC management of refusing

to invest in steel and of pursuing a policy of 'death by starvation' in the industry.

He said: 'The present government has to go. If they run three years it may be too late.'

In calling for support of the All Trades Unions Alliance lobby of the TUC General Council tomorrow Mr Rawlins said:

'We are not very happy about the postures and gesticulations of the TUC, especially over the Industrial Relations Act. Even the leaders of our own unions are waffling on the subject.'

Earlier in the meeting Arthur Wellard, AUEW official, had called for a half-day stoppage backed by shopkeepers and local government officials for a mass lobby of parliament.

Guy Barnett, Labour MP for Greenwich, expressed concern at the unemployment situation in south east London and said that unless steps were taken 'we may be at the beginning of a descending spiral.'

He had tabled two questions in parliament asking what steps trade secretary John Davies was taking to expand steel markets at home and abroad. He had also seen Lord Melchett and trade union officials.

ASSOCIATED Automation, Willesden, London, yesterday joined the fight for the engineers' national pay claim by starting a one-week strike. They have been offered only 90p in reply to the £5 to £6 claim. At Stanmore Engineering, Queensbury and Wembley, London, workers locked out over the claim have called on the engineers' union executive for a national 'black' on their company's products.



Greenwich, London, steelworkers vote against 'butchery' of BSC

Refinery picket stays

MEN who walked out from construction work on a £20m expansion scheme at the Esso oil refinery at Milford Haven on Friday, decided yesterday to continue round-the-clock picketing outside the works.

The 2,000 workers, employed by the main contractors, Foster Wheeler Ltd, walked out on unofficial strike alleging that 37 men, including the chairman and the secretary of the shop stewards' committee had been unfairly dismissed. The strikers are demanding their reinstatement.

The picketing has almost halted the flow of traffic into the refinery, stopping work on the expansion scheme, which is nearing completion.



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AN ENGINEER RAPS HIS UNIONS' PAY STRATEGY

The executive committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers referred the engineers' pay claim to local level because they were afraid of being drawn into a struggle together with the miners which could have forced the Tory government to resign.

This is the opinion of Brian Hamilton, AUEW shop steward at the turbine component division of Hepworth and Grandages, Yeadon, near Bradford.

At a meeting of over 100 AUEW shop stewards in Bradford recently, AUEW secretary Jim Conway described himself openly as 'a right-winger, a pro-Marketeer, and anti-strike'. 'I don't approve of strikes — they don't achieve anything', Conway told the stewards.

'With a leadership like that we're not going to make any progress at all, particularly in ousting the Tory government' comments Brian.

'Our factory took part in the one-day strikes against the Industrial Relations Bill and attended the mass meeting that was held in Bradford. That strength could have been mobilized to stop the Bill and it could still be mobilized now that people have seen how the Act can be used to send working-class people to jail for fighting for their livelihoods.

'It's obvious that the gov-

ernment would have fallen but for those MPs who voted with the Tories on the Common Market. Jenkins and the others should have been expelled immediately.

'And that goes for Ben Foord, the Bradford MP. Foord should have voted with the policy of the union and the Labour Party. Any MP who is a trade union member and who voted for the Common Market should have been branched and expelled from the union.

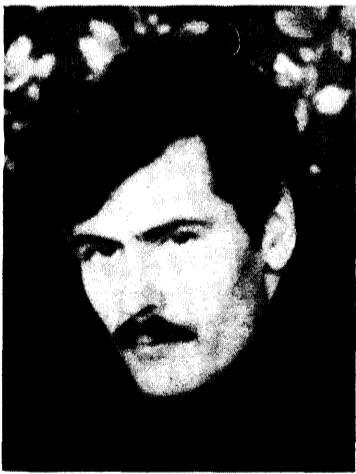
'The only way to force the Tory Government to resign is by the force of the working class. We should get them out now, and not give them time to rally.

'I don't see that there's anything the union can do about the Industrial Relations Act, short of a General Strike.

'"Non-co-operation" sounds good, but when the crunch comes, they can't ignore the Act. The Act itself has got to go. We lost out in the first place by allowing the Act to be passed, but the Labour Party and the unions didn't publicize the effects it would have in order to mobilize against it.

'In March, 1971, there was a move against the Bill, and if its consequences had been really explained, there would have been a tremendous response. But people were kept in the dark by the Labour Party and the trade unions.

'The Labour Party didn't really fight; they themselves had prepared "In Place of Strife". The unions could stop a Labour Party Bill without



Top: engineers from Swindon on the February, 1971 march against the Industrial Relations Bill. Above Brian Hamilton.

calling on their members for action because the unions finance the Labour Party. But they couldn't get the Tories to drop their Bill, because it's in the interests of the people who finance the Tory Party to have a Bill against the workers.

'It's the Labour Party who were the traitors. The Tories aren't traitors to their class. They are not "selling out" the working class—they're carrying out their function.

'Their job is to use us for their own benefit. This is the best Tory government the ruling class has ever had.

'I think the Councils of Action are a good idea, but the problem is getting participation from Labour Party and trade union members. There has got to be a change in the type of people active in the unions.'

CLOTHING WORKERS FIGHT FOR WAGES

The clothing employers have offered a £1-a-week wage increase to date from October and a further 60p in March 1973 in reply to a claim for 'a substantial increase' submitted by the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers.

The union has rejected this out of hand and was meeting the employers again yesterday.

But the union leaders have avoided committing themselves to fight for a definite sum. At the last NUTGW conference, in June 1971, delegates were persuaded to remit to the executive all resolutions for specific wage claims in order to 'leave their hands free'.

Resolutions side-stepped in this way included demands for a minimum wage of £20 for 40 hours, a 12½p-an-hour rise for men and 15p for women, and a six-monthly review of wages plus a 5-per-cent increase on minimum rates over and above the annual increase in the cost of living.

Last month a town meeting of all Leeds clothing workers called for an increase of £5 a week for men and £6 for women.

The vote would have been even closer had not several Communist Party members voted against after an executive board spokesman had warned them 'the mover of this amendment would not deny that he is calling for a General Strike'.

The amendment was moved by Frank Pattinson, chairman of shop stewards at Sumries Clothes Ltd.

They've got to fight

Frank Pattinson told our reporter:

'Nobody expects the union leaders to come back with very much. If they want anything, they've got to fight for it—and that means strike action. But a strike within the clothing industry would be limited.

'Going back to the big strike of 1970—it was a mistake to go back to work before anything had been gained. It paved the way for "split wards"—i.e. 4d (old pence) for men and 5d for women followed by a further 4d and 5d several months later.

'Last year it was the same—£1 in June and 80p in December. The cost of living swallows up the second part before you've even got it.

'Now the employers are trying it again. One employer in Leeds was openly boasting after the 1970 strike that we'd "scuttled back like frightened rabbits".

'Now the floating pound puts all employers in difficulties and as far as I'm concerned the clothing workers shouldn't pay for it.

'As recent Workers Press articles have shown, clothing workers have given the working class a lead in the past. Why shouldn't clothing workers do it again?'

Mobilize other workers

Leeds No. 1 branch had already demanded £6 and £7. An amendment to the town meeting urging a claim of £6 and £7 was defeated by only 94 votes to 73. The amendment also declared: 'If the employers do not meet this demand this meeting expects the executive board to mobilize all clothing workers and to call for assistance from all other workers.'



1970 strike: 'a mistake to go back before anything was gained'

FROM THE FIRST COALITION TO THE SECOND 1964-1970

Part two of a special background series examining the class struggles in Ceylon from 1964 to the present day.

Coalition between the United National Party (UNP) and the Federal Party was the basis of the Ceylonese government of Dudley Senanayake which came to rule in 1965.

During the period of its power, the UNP devalued the rupee, curtailed partially the rice ration and froze aid to the private sector—causing unemployment among the private sector workers.

While applauding warmly these policies the World Bank warned the government about approaching the economic and political problems through old 'democratic' methods. Their 'economic advice' included a suggestion to get rid of the old legislature, and to create one which was not tied directly to the masses.

Though the UNP right wing, especially J. R. Jayawardena, raised the need for a 'presidential system in which enormous powers are concentrated in the hands of the President, the UNP government retreated in the face of the workers' struggles which repeatedly threatened its very existence.

The government resorted to emergency for a larger part of its rule. But it also relied on the counter-revolutionary support of the Samasamaja and Stalinist leaders. As loyal 'oppositionists', they played a far more decisive role than in 1964.

The bankruptcy and weakness of this rotten capitalist rule was clearly expressed by the UNP's inability to legislate two important anti-trade union bills: the National Wages Councils' Bill and the Ramanathan Committee Report (in essence these bills are similar to the Industrial Relations Act in Britain). And the wage freeze policy was repeatedly disrupted by the wages struggles between 1966 and 1969.

MILD CONCESSIONS

Prevented by the 'left' leaders from a united struggle against the government, the workers came out in sectional struggles to defend their trade unions and living conditions.

The plantation workers' strike in 1966, the private sector strike in 1969, the public sector strike in 1968 and the co-operative sector strikes in 1969 were the major pay fights in this period. To avoid a major confrontation with the trade unions, the government had to act against its own wage freeze policy to give some mild concessions to these strikers.

In 1968 in the middle of the public workers wage battle, the leader of the state, J. R. Jayawardena clearly stated it was not merely an economic strike but one that posed a grave threat to the state and private property.

What was the position of the 'left' leaders? The 'Samasamaja' paper in one of its editorials stated: 'The strike should be settled, without provoking more and more sections of the working class into the fight.'

But in 1969, when the UNP

tried to use emergency powers to break the oil co-operative strike, the whole trade union movement pushed the 'left' leaders to take up the fight for a General Strike to defend the trade unions. Instead they organized protest demonstrations and rallies and asked the workers to vote for a coalition government in the next General Election to safeguard the trade unions.

But in the face of the mounting working-class resistance, the UNP withdrew their plans to legislate the two proposed anti-union bills.

While the 'left' leaders were fighting to contain the working class within trade union struggles, all the other sections of the oppressed masses moved against the UNP, on the questions of living conditions and democratic rights.

WORKERS ACCUSED

Exploiting the division between the proletariat and the peasantry created by the 'left' leaders, the UNP tried to build a base in rural areas through its 'food-drive' campaign and often accused the workers of destroying the national income created by the peasantry. But these fraudulent manoeuvres failed because the UNP gave nothing to the peasantry.

The enormous radicalization of rural poor against the UNP regime which was abandoned completely by the 'lefts', who tried to keep the working class confined to the trade union struggles, found its expression through the emergence of extreme petty-bourgeois movements and through electoral support for the SLFP.

The same thing happened in the northern and eastern provinces. The Tamil minorities, realizing their position, pushed the Federal Party to end the compromise with the UNP. So the FP member who served in the UNP cabinet, Mr Tiruchelvam, was forced to resign from his post in the last year of the government.

As the UNP went to the polls in 1970 all the sections of society were about to launch a direct assault on the government.

Realizing the danger of an eruption of mass struggles before the elections, the 'left' launched a campaign against various 'provocative' actions which were supposed to disrupt the democratic set-up of the country and allowed the UNP to establish dictatorship. Each and every independent action of the working class and the youth was branded as a 'provocation'.

During the port strike, which took place a few months before the elections, the LSSP unions openly black-legged and joined with the UNP government to disrupt the strike. The consequences were very serious.

Workers rebelled against the LSSP leadership and some voted against their candidates in the Colombo municipal election held during the port strike. A long-standing LSSP member for Mahawatta (where a large section of port workers are concentrated), Mrs Vivienne Goonewardene faced defeat at the hands of the



Above: following the port strike of 1970, workers rebelled against their leaders. Mrs Vivienne Goonewardene, an LSSPer, faced defeat. Right: N. M. Perera.

UNP.

This clearly showed, how the capitalist agents gained ground due to the reformist treachery of the 'lefts'. But the 'lefts' interpreted this defeat as a result of the 'provocative' and 'premature' actions by the workers.

By sabotaging the independent actions of the workers, the 'left' leaders bound the masses to the SLFP. At the same time they gave promises to the workers that the coming SLFP coalition would restore all basic rights as a first step towards 'socialist democracy'. In this way they laid the foundation for a massive SLFP election victory.

Their betrayal was so great that the SLFP won two-thirds of seats in the parliament.

All power of the cabinet was concentrated among right-wing SLFP members. The 'lefts' got four ministerial posts, but they were incomparable with the positions they held during the 1964 coalition.

For example, the public administration, which was previously tied to the finance ministry, was separated and N. M. Perera got only the portfolio for finance, while public administration went to Felix Bandaranaike.

The SLFP government of 1970 had more support than the pathetic coalition of 1964. To the same extent it was much more arrogant towards the unions. This class arrogance was interpreted by the 'lefts' as its 'modesty', because Mrs Bandaranaike, having an enormous majority inside the parliament, did not exclude them from her cabinet!

CONTINUED TOMORROW



FOR A SOCIALIST HEALTH SERVICE

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The establishment of the National Health Service in 1948 by the post-war Labour government represented an enormous victory for the British working class. It laid the basis for ensuring better health and longer life for millions of men, women and children.

In all the great struggles for the unions and for improvements of living and working conditions, the demand was raised again and again for the protection of health and life, regardless of the amount of money working people could afford.

The Socialist Medical Association has been an active campaigner for a comprehensive national health service since its foundation in 1930. To celebrate its first 40 years, Dr D. Stark Murray, SMA President from 1951 until 1970, has outlined the history of the movement.

'Why a National Health Service?' reveals all the idealism and concern of the professional scientist who wants to place his abilities and training at the service of society, as well as the political weaknesses of the middle classes who see themselves fighting as individuals and not as part of the working class in struggle.

Many doctors at the beginning of the century were watching in despair the effects on the health of their patients of the conditions under which many thousands of poor families lived. All their hard work and dedication was being undermined by the appalling day-to-day conditions of working-class life. Instead of curing and eliminating disease and prolonging life, they were engaged in a constant and hopeless battle to patch up human bodies destined to become damaged again and again.

In addition, enthusiastic young men who had trained for many years in order to alleviate suffering, found themselves spending hours trying to collect money from people who were unable to pay and competing with each other for 'business' instead of collaborating scientifically against disease. As a result, doctors were reluctant to practise in the poorer areas and a survey undertaken in 1912 showed the way in which the bad distribution of doctors contributed to the death rates:

Hampstead had one doctor to 476 people, a birth rate of 14 per 1,000, an infantile death rate of 60 and a death rate from infectious diseases of 0.56; Walsall had one doctor to 2,096 people, a birth rate of 29, an infantile death rate of 133 and a death rate from infectious diseases of

1.52; Bermondsey had one doctor to 4,065, a birth rate of 31, an infantile death rate of 157 and a death rate from infectious diseases of 3.93.

Writing in 1910, Dr Benjamin Moore of Liverpool longed for a time when 'book-keeping, debt collections and bad debts would have vanished like an evil dream, and the doctor would at last feel that he was an honoured member of a scientific profession, with time and interest to study the problems which he had chosen for his life work, instead of being, as he is now, a small tradesman with a declining business'.

Many years ahead of his time, Dr Moore called for 'a real scientific and continued endeavour to deal with the problems of poverty and disease in a way that means eradication from the race and not merely amelioration of the lot of the individual'.

He outlined a scheme for a national service, preventive and curative, in which all doctors would be salaried in a 'unified system of hospitals and doctors no longer in deadly opposition to one another but working for a common cause; in short a modern machine and weapon of warfare against disease, instead of fragmentary and motley museum of survivals from antiquity'.

VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Dr Moore's was a voice crying in the wilderness at that time, but his ideas had a profound effect on a handful of other doctors and he was able to found the State Medical Service Association in 1912 to work for a 'service to be open to every man, woman and child—rich and poor'.

The SMA thought that if it could convince sufficient right-minded people to support its aims, the government could be persuaded to grant such a service without a political struggle having to be undertaken to achieve it.

Lloyd George's famous National Health Insurance System, introduced in 1911, however, did not arise from the propaganda of right-minded people, but out of the whole ferment in the labour and trade union movement. The formation of the Labour Party at the beginning of the century forced sections of the ruling class to consider making various concessions to the working class in an effort to hold back the struggle for real power.

The National Health Insurance System, of course, was limited to as little as the government felt it had to con-

cede. Only general practitioner care and drugs were covered, and then only for those at work who were paying weekly stamps and who were on low incomes.

World War I gave an impetus to the SMA's work. Many doctors returned from the front, having had direct experience of working in a salaried medical service, to find that their 'customers' were on the dole and unable to afford their fees.

To head off growing demands, the post-war government set up a Ministry of Health, which immediately set about drawing up a report.

Many SMA members thought their task was now done and membership began to fall off.

But when it was eventually published, the report was quite different from what the SMA had hoped for. It accepted the principle that 'the best means of maintaining health and curing disease should be made available to all citizens', but put forward no proposals for achieving this fine idea.

Indeed, the main SMA demand, a full-time salaried medical service, was explicitly rejected on the grounds that 'by its adoption the public would be serious losers... whole time salaried service would tend by its machinery to discourage initiative, to diminish the sense of responsibility and to encourage mediocrity'.

The General Strike of 1926 polarized the whole of British society. Large numbers of middle-class people scabbed on the strike and helped to break it, but others who saw the struggle and the poverty and suffering that followed its defeat determined to work for a better and more equitable society.

This was the time when many professional people turned to the Labour Party in horror at the misery they witnessed and the ruthless greed of the capitalist class. They saw the need for a political solution, but they turned to Labour at a time of working-class defeat. They saw the working class not as an independent force capable of overthrowing capitalism and establishing socialism, but as poor, downtrodden people whose lot they hoped to be able to better.

For them, the struggle for socialism was not through the heightening of the class struggle and the expropriation of the capitalist class, but a wonderful ideal for the future which would come about gradually by well-meaning people like themselves doing their bit to make capitalist society more humane.

The best elements in the SMA began to realize that a political struggle would be necessary to achieve their aims. Affected by developments in the labour movement, they began to press for



an organization which would be affiliated to and work through the Labour Party.

The Socialist Medical Association was founded in 1930 in order:

- To work for a Socialized Medical Service both preventive and curative, free and open to all.
- To secure for the people the highest possible standard of health.
- To disseminate the principles of socialism within the medical and allied services.

It became very active arranging meetings, providing speakers, drawing up reports, issuing leaflets and articles. It attempted to establish relations with the trade union movement. A number of its members were elected as Labour MPs.

INTERNATIONAL AID TEAMS

Differences in political ideas caused endless discussions and splits in the SMA. When Sir Oswald Moseley formed his 'New Party', some of his strongest supporters came from the SMA, although he failed to drag it entirely away from the Labour Party.

The organization also became very involved internationally, aiding refugees from fascist Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, collecting money for the fight against Franco in Spain and against the Japanese invasion of China, and even sending medical units to both Spain and

China, complete with doctors, nurses and specially equipped vehicles.

They collaborated with various international medical bodies and close contacts were maintained with medical organizations in the USSR. During the 1930s many middle-class intellectuals were under the influence of the Communist Party and sections of the SMA were no exception, although others bitterly opposed them.

The Stalin-Hitler Pact, which threw so many 'lefts' into political disarray, heightened this split. At the 1940 Annual Conference a resolution was moved which supported the Russian position, and several amendments were tabled opposing German fascism. Conference voted in favour of the resolution, in opposition to the official Labour Party position, but it was later decided to hold a postal ballot of all members and as a result the resolution was heavily defeated.

With the outbreak of World War II all the 'socialists' in the leadership of the Labour Party and trade union movement immediately forgot their internationalism and were soon wholeheartedly engaged in the war effort.

The SMA swung into line behind them. Questions of war-time nutrition, the evacuation of children and the danger of tuberculosis in war time conditions were all explored.

'Better food for the workers means increased man-power,' argued an article in the SMA Journal, 'Medicine Today and Tomorrow', and added that it was not a case of guns in-

stead of butter, but of more guns out of providing butter and other foods to those in the munitions industry.

When the Minister of Health estimated that 'possibly a quarter of a million casualties would have to be dealt with in England within three weeks of the outbreak of a war,' the SMA immediately began advising him how to deal with them, proposing more bomb-proof shelters and that hospitals be organized as a single service to cope with air raid casualties.

The overwhelming electoral majority given to the Labour government after the war ensured that changes would have to be made in the running of society. The working class was demanding such changes and the Labour leaders were under enormous pressure to comply. The introduction of the National Health Service was a priority.

The National Health Service has been described as 'one of the great achievements of the 20th century'. Somewhat of an exaggeration, of course, when compared to, say the complete overthrow of the capitalist class in the Russian Revolution for example, but nevertheless, in its own right, no small achievement.

For the first time in Britain the principle was established that everyone, regardless of income, was entitled to every necessary medical care as a right. The basis had been laid for a longer and healthier life for everyone and the eradication of disease.

In establishing the National Health Service, however, the Labour government came up

against all the vested interests of the British Medical Association representing in the main the older consultants and general practitioners in the better-off areas. The majority of ordinary doctors were in favour of some form of health service.

A BMA referendum showed that 60 per cent of those voting were in favour of a general practitioner service for all, 69 per cent were in favour of a complete free hospital and consultant service, 83 per cent of doctors in the armed forces wanted to work in a health centre after the war, and 89 per cent of medical students were in favour of health centres.

Thus the Labour government had a mandate not only from the voting population, but also from the medical profession to go ahead with all the necessary changes.

But just as the reformist Labour Party leaders were unwilling to challenge the capitalist class for power, in spite of the huge mandate given to them in the 1945 elections, so they were unwilling to challenge fully the BMA opposition.

Dr Murray concedes that Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, 'needlessly gave in to the BMA' and gave them time to mobilize their forces. He goes on: '... in the atmosphere of 1946 when people were ready for great new moves it was strange that Bevan did not see and did not grasp the opportunity to make a complete break with the past'.

It was not, of course, strange at all. For all his 'left'

ment to do more. They were shocked to find the government in fact doing less.

The BMA, however, was no longer kicking very hard against the National Health Service. The retention of private practices, as well as a guaranteed regular income to consultants working part-time within the hospital, was proving very lucrative.

In addition, the Merit Award System was introduced which gives consultants secret bonuses. Specialists in the main hospitals are graded so that about one-third become eligible for Merit Awards. This system was accepted by Bevan on the basis that the scheme would only cost about £300,000 a year.

The SMA, however, was able to point out correctly that this only took into account specialists in municipal hospitals. If all the others were included, as was in fact done, the cost would be about £2m more. However, if full-time consultants were employed instead of part-time, there would be a saving of £12m a year.

Anxious not to antagonize the BMA more than necessary, Bevan ignored these warnings and millions of pounds are today paid out in Merit Awards.

The refusal of the Labour government to introduce the sweeping changes demanded by the working class in 1945 opened the door for the return of the Tories in 1951. One of their first actions was to draw up proposals for cutting back on the health service.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST HEALTH CUTS

The SMA was pitched into a national campaign against the cuts. Protest meetings and petitions were conducted all over the country, but to little avail. The Editor of 'Medicine Today and Tomorrow' was moved to write bitterly ('pessimistically' Dr Murray calls it):

'It is clear that Health Centres, an Industrial Health Service, proper arrangements for the aged and chronic sick, a prompt attack on tuberculosis and other advances depend on the early defeat of this present Conservative government.'

But the Labour Party, which when in government had introduced the first prescription charges, had no real alternative policy to offer. A resolution carried unanimously at its 1961 annual conference calling for the abolition of health charges and the nationalization of all pharmaceutical, surgical and hospital industries was promptly forgotten when Labour returned to power in 1964.

Another resolution at the same conference calling for the abolition of pay-beds in hospitals was narrowly defeated when Bessie Braddock pleaded that the hands of the future Labour government could not be tied in this way. The Labour Party NEC continued, year after year, to oppose resolutions calling for the abolition of pay-beds.

With a Labour government again in office, the 1967 Labour Party conference heard Bessie Braddock promising that 'no Labour government is going to rebuild the financial barrier between the sick and medical facilities which can make them well again'.

As Dr Murray says: 'This pledge was broken almost at once and the SMA found itself once more fighting to prevent a prescription charge.'

There was almost universal condemnation of the proposed charge and Murray points out that 'its only effect was to lower still further the prestige

of a government which, it was clear, could not be expected to carry out a socialist policy if it could so far forget the basic principles which socialists had laid down for the health service'.

Today, the Tory government is once again cutting the amount of money spent on the health service. In order to make the working class pay for the crisis in world capitalism, the Tories are attempting to take away all the basic rights which have been won in generations of struggle. The right to health and life is the most basic of all human rights.

If they get their way, the enormous advances in health which have taken place since the war will be wiped out. They will not, after all, pay out millions of pounds merely to keep people healthy on the dole.

Doctors will once again be reduced to the position of 'small tradesmen with a declining business'.

Science today has the ability to deal with a whole range of illnesses, such as tuberculosis, which only a few years ago were considered invariably fatal. With the money and facilities to enable researchers to carry out the work properly, these and many other diseases could, in a very short time, be completely overcome.

Instead, what research is carried out is either so financially handicapped as to make progress painfully slow, or else turned into its opposite. The abilities and skills of scientists are prostituted and their work turned into the most vile means of destruction, such as in chemical and biological warfare research.

In addition, overcrowded and slum housing, homelessness, unemployment and speed-ups at work are all creating their own quotas of mental a physical illnesses and accidents.

The defence of the National Health Service is the defence of one of the most important working-class rights. Its extension to include the nationalization of the drug and other allied industries, the abolition of all charges and of private practices and pay-beds, the establishment of the medical profession on a whole time salaried basis, the building, equipping and staffing of health centres and group practices and laboratories and more hospitals, proper facilities for the care and treatment of the chronically ill, the aged and the mentally and physically disabled, as well as decent housing and preventive measures in industry—all these advances are dependent on the fight to remove the Tory government from office.

Only a revolutionary leadership in the working class can ensure that this fight is carried through and to ensure that the next Labour government carries out such policies.

Dr Murray, for all his concern, can give no such perspective. All he can suggest to answer the Tories' attacks is that 'there should be a special-interest body inside the Labour Party, looking after all aspects of health and endeavouring to see socialist principles more firmly applied and adhered to more strongly'.

Those doctors and other health workers who understand that the battle against disease cannot be separated from the fight for socialism, cannot remain, like the SMA, firmly tied to the coat tails of the Labour Party with its history of betrayals. A new leadership has to be built in the working class which will not compromise with reactionary elements.

Only the building of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party, leading the working class to take power, can ensure the formation of 'a modern machine and weapon of warfare against disease'.

Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested on May 5, 1920. They were sentenced to die in the electric chair April 9, 1927 and that sentence was carried out a few minutes after midnight on August 22, 1927. In the course of those seven years, one of the most glaring exposés of the nature of capitalist justice is revealed. Reprinted from the 'Bulletin' (April 3, 1972), organ of the Workers League of US. By Nancy Fields.

SACCO AND VANZETTI



Part 3. The Red Scare

The second front of the government's strategy against the working class in the 1914-1918 period involved the whipping up of racialism, national chauvinism and patriotism. These forces were unleashed not only to effect the conscription of workers to fight a ruling-class war, but more working class itself.

The first target of these forces were the immigrants. Between 1897-1914 over 10 million people had come to the US from southern and eastern Europe. The government whipped out the myth that the American 'racial stock' was being diluted by Latins and Slavs in order to justify the passage of racist anti-immigration legislation.

Thus, in 1917, an Immigration Commission appointed by Congress gave allegiance to the notion of 'Nordic superiority'. A law was passed barring Asians, Indians and people from the south west Pacific entry to the US. Literacy tests were established and a strict quota system enforced.

The capitalist press used patriotism to create an atmosphere of hysteria over 'aliens' as being spies for the enemy. This hysterical, jingoistic atmosphere was created for one purpose only: to provide an excuse for attacks on immigrants and to divide the working class.

The government and the press joined together to pave the way for the growth and expansion of the fascist Ku Klux Klan. The Klan served the interests of the capitalists very well by attacking and murdering union organizers in the South and Midwest.

Patriotism was used by inspired mobs of 'patriots' to attack workers' organizations. In 1918-1919 over 300 workers' halls were raided by these fascist goons.

Throughout the war, socialists were imprisoned and hundreds of rank-and-file workers were thrown into prison, simply for their opinions and activities in the labour movement. Labour papers were ruthlessly suppressed or intimidated out of existence.

Furthermore, as Max Shachtman noted:

'Many of those who escaped arrest and conviction under the vicious Espionage Act, were dealt with by silk-hatted bands of thugs who meted out "justice" in the dark of the moon with tar, feathers, horse-whip and pistol.

'Not a single instance of a real crime was ever proved against these victims at home of the war for democracy; it sufficed that their activities had earned the enmity of the exploiters.'

However, these measures were not sufficient to stop the determined march forward of the working class. In 1919, a General Strike brought the ruling class of Seattle to its knees. In Chicago, the Communist Party had been formally launched and proclaimed its support of the Russian Revolution and the principles of Bolshevism.

It became necessary to create more extreme measures to defeat the labour movement and to destroy its most conscious and energetic forces. It was now absolutely imperative to lay the basis for the

'open shop' offensive, the lowering of the rate of wages which had risen during the war and to smash the trade unions.

Thus, the stage was set for a 'Red Scare'. The campaign was developed under the direction of Attorney General Palmer. The brutal Palmer raids were made on hundreds of headquarters, meeting places and homes of so-called 'Reds' throughout the country.

Wholesale arrests and deportation of aliens and citizens were made without warrant or process of law. People were jailed and held without access to friends or counsel. Homes were entered without search warrants and property either seized or destroyed.

Palmer invoked the familiar machinery of provocation and malicious propaganda. Bombs and ridiculously desperate leaflets were distributed by agents provocateur. It is clear that this was done for, as Shachtman noted:

'The bombs never hurt anyone seriously, and the combined efforts of the entire police and detective forces of the country were unable—to this day—to fasten the

The Ku Klux Klan attacked workers' organizations and murdered union organizers in a brutal racist campaign against immigrants and the working class in general.

responsibility for them upon a single individual.'

On November 7, 1919, hundreds of labour meetings and headquarters were raided. All the offices were wrecked and the men and women taken to New York to be placed on the 'Buford' ('Soviet Ark'). The deportees were forced to leave their families behind in a destitute condition.

On January 2, 1920, the most massive raid was conducted in Sacco and Vanzetti's neighbouring area. The raids were particularly intense in Massachusetts because it was highly industrialized, had a large proportion of foreign-born workers, and a credible radical movement.

Galleani, the leader of those circles to which Sacco and Vanzetti belonged, was deported along with hundreds of other workers.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

THE RED-BAITERS OF SCOTLAND

Perhaps you have heard the story already? About the schoolboy who came home late for tea, and shocked his parents by bringing home with him . . . a copy of a left-wing paper!

If you live in England, then chances are you read it in the 'Daily Mail'. Then, you will remember, it all happened in Liverpool.

But by June 25, when the Scottish 'Sunday Post' came up with its version of the chilling tale, the boy, aged 17, and his distraught parents, appear to have moved to Glasgow. We will let the 'Sunday Post' reporter take up the story:

'A 17-year-old Glasgow schoolboy was late for tea. He came home with a newspaper his mother had never heard of. . . . A left-wing publication preaching revolution and the overthrow of our way of living.'

Terrifying, isn't it? Not only, it seems, is some dastardly group of conspirators engaged in a sinister plot to overthrow Scotland's way of living—with its hallowed traditions of low wages, unemployment and slums — but the villains are actually corrupting innocent 17-year-old lads with their ideas!

'It turned out her son had stayed on after school to attend a discussion group held by one of his teachers.'

'They'd been asked to give their opinions on various topics — the Common Market, Ireland, Vietnam.'

'Afterwards her son was given the newspaper.'

'Just one instance of a sinister new influence creeping into our schools and colleges.'

It really is sinister, isn't it? That the youth of Glasgow, who are well-known for their tender, sheltered nature and upbringing, should be exposed to such dreadful influences and activities!

'Asked to give their opinions . . . indeed! Why, at this rate the next thing you know is that the young people will be coming out of school expecting to have some say in the running of their country, expressing their opinions on things like unemployment and exploitation, even expecting to have some say in the running of their everyday life, by having their opinions taken into account in the running of the factories.'

The 'Sunday Post' tells us—supposedly—horrified readers that there are ' . . . disturbing signs that secondary schools and technical colleges are being infiltrated.'

'The Sunday Post has information of at least two schools in the south of Glasgow where there are avowed Marxists on the staff. The same holds for some technical colleges.'

Like the 'Daily Mail' article, which its opening closely resembled, the 'Sunday Post' article is particularly concerned with the alleged activities of the International Socialist group. But whereas the 'Mail' writer was able to spice his article with a number of quotes from IS members and supporters, who appear to have been most helpful in this respect, the 'Sunday Post' reporter appears to have contented himself with the sort of information which could have been quickly and easily obtained by glancing at the back of a copy of the IS weekly paper 'Socialist Worker'. He reports the IS London address, and that they have

TORY PRESS



branches in certain towns—all printed in the paper. It is about the only factual material in the article.

The Schools Action Union and the Young Communist League are thrown in for good measure, and the 'Sunday Post' article also says:

'Another extreme revolutionary group, the Trotskyists, are reckoned to have as many as 20,000 teenagers and young people in this country on their books.'

'They organize football matches, camping expeditions, social meetings, etc.'

Then after some remarks about the Schools Action Union in Edinburgh, allegedly 'exploiting grievances' and 'stirring up trouble' the 'Sunday Post' article goes on to say:

'Another group are planning to recruit youngsters and set up branches on a "Right-to-Work" march for young people from Dundee to Glasgow.'

The implications of an article like this are quite plain — to suggest that left-wing political activity is some kind of 'sinister plot', implying that it should be stopped; and to refer to 'avowed Marxists' being on the staff of 'at least two schools in the south of Glasgow' in such a manner as to suggest that there is something wrong with them being allowed in their jobs.

The implications of the 'Sunday Post' article are that there is something sinister about any political education of young people.

'Often, their converted teachers are in that group of staff which handle subjects now known as modern or general studies.'

'One Glasgow college, for example, has two periods a week of general studies, devoted to group discussions.'

'Current affairs are the normal topic — Vietnam, Ulster, dockers' and miners' strikes.'

Or consider this choice piece:

'Pupils themselves speak of one Marxist teacher as "such a nice man who seems to put everything across fairly".'

'That naturally is part of the technique.'

'They gain the confidence of youngsters and encourage them to stay on after school for discussions.'

'That's when most damage is done—in the teachers' own time.'

'Pamphlets are produced and circulated freely among fifth and sixth form pupils. After-school activities such as debating societies can form the basis of a recruiting campaign.'

And the 'sinister plot' goes beyond the schools too according to the article:

'Youngsters just left school are often at risk. More and more companies who send apprentices to technical colleges on day-release courses, etc., are becoming worried about the influence of some teachers and fellow students.'

And it continues: 'Some companies are finding

the apprentices are returning to the factory full of revolutionary ideas which help foment trouble.'

So there we have it. The employers want the youth as a reservoir of obedient, cheap labour, turned out from the schools and colleges with the right indoctrination to serve the boss, docilely and loyally, and ask no questions.

The youth leaving school are said to be 'at risk' Not from the dangers of unemployment and demoralization, or of being exploited as sweated labour, or from joining the army because they mistakenly think it is a way out, but from the danger of picking up ideas which will encourage them to demand something better from life, and to take up the struggle for it.

That a newspaper owned by D. C. Thomson and Co. should consider this a threat to 'our way of life' is hardly surprising.

Although many of Thomson's publications give Fleet Street or Fetter Lane addresses, the real centre for their production is at Dundee. The company has two big office buildings in the centre of the city, and a large photogravure plant on the Kingsway bypass, to the east of the city.

An article in 'New Society' (November 19, 1970) by a journalist who formerly worked for the firm, said:

'If ever there was a non-union shop it is D. C. Thomson & Co.'

The journalist, George Rosie, also says: 'Wages and conditions inside the firm are, generally, pretty bad, especially in the lower reaches. My starting wage (in 1963) was around £10 a week, which meant that I took away just over £8. My wife, who was doing what is everywhere else a National Union of Journalists job, was earning £6 10s a week after four years with the firm.'

Early in 1970, a 'Sunday Post' man John Duckworth, was sacked a few days after he had joined the NUJ. He was given half an hour to leave the building, and as he was still there 35 minutes later, the police were brought in to escort him out.

Of the 'Sunday Post's' own politics, Rosie says:

'Thomson can be relied upon to support the Royal Family, free enterprise, Rhodesia, and common sense, and to fulminate against socialism, strikes, demonstrators, Harold Wilson, long-haired layabouts and fluoridation, with steadfast fierceness.'

The 'sinister plot' article in the 'Sunday Post' says, in drawing its conclusions:

'Every parent should have a good look at what his teenage son, or daughter, is reading this weekend.' Does this include D. C. Thomson publications?

THE FIRM D. C. THOMSON: 'If ever there was a non-union firm, it is D. C. Thomson and Co. Ever since the General Strike of 1926 it has been fighting a spasmodic and successful rearguard action against the unions.' — George Rosie, 'New Society', November 19, 1972.

THOMSON PUBLICATIONS: Beezer, Twinkle, Topper, Beano, Dandy, Hotspur, Romeo, Jackie, Victor, Hornet, Rover, Bunty, Mandy, Judy, Diana, People's Friend, Red Letter, My Weekly, Sunday Post, Dundee Courier, Evening Telegraph. The company also owns some 24,833 'B' shares in Southern Television.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Pesetas



British PM, Heath

In a recent cartoon in the 'Daily Express' Edward Heath was depicted on the telephone saying: 'Is that the wages office? Could I have my salary in pesetas, please.'

Pretty droll joke, we thought.

But not in Spain. It seems that for the next two days the radio and newspapers were full of the most sober reports that Spanish currency was the finest and most solid in the world. 'Even the British Prime Minister wants his salary in pesetas,' the media declared.

Whoops. . .



French PM, Messmer

Picture the scene. The drawing room of an average bourgeois French family last week. The telly is on. The announcer is detailing the new cabinet formed by Prime Minister Pierre Messmer.

As he says their names, their photographs come on to the screen.

Suddenly, however, the photograph appears of a

nationally wanted sex maniac. News reader hesitates and face of wanted man disappears. A spokesman for ORTF, the state-run television network, says later that it was 'a technical slip up made by one of the technicians'.

Fair trial!

There's an epoch-making court drama which has just caught our attention. Lawyer Yitzhak David is asking the Israeli Supreme Court to state why it would not issue a decree declaring that Jesus did not receive a fair trial when he appeared before the Supreme Jewish Court in Jerusalem about 2,000 years ago. The supreme court is now looking into the case.

Call the Holy Ghost!

Hosts



Reg Birch

The Maoists throughout the Lucas combine should be well pleased. Their bosses are currently hosting one function after another for the chairman's trade counsellor in Britain.

At the Royal Lancaster Hotel on Bayswater Road Mr Peng Jun-min was greeted at an elaborate and costly reception organized by the 48 Group of British Traders.

There were 21 Chinese guests including Mr Feng Youlu, member of the governing council of the China Mechanical Engineering Society. Was Reg Birch there? Or Mike Cooley? This we don't know.

But we do know that the Chinese delegation was later lunched by Mr Ewan McEwen, vice-chairman (engineering) of Joseph Lucas who recently visited Peking with Mr Murray Gramer, vice-chairman (overseas operations) Joseph Lucas.

BOOKS

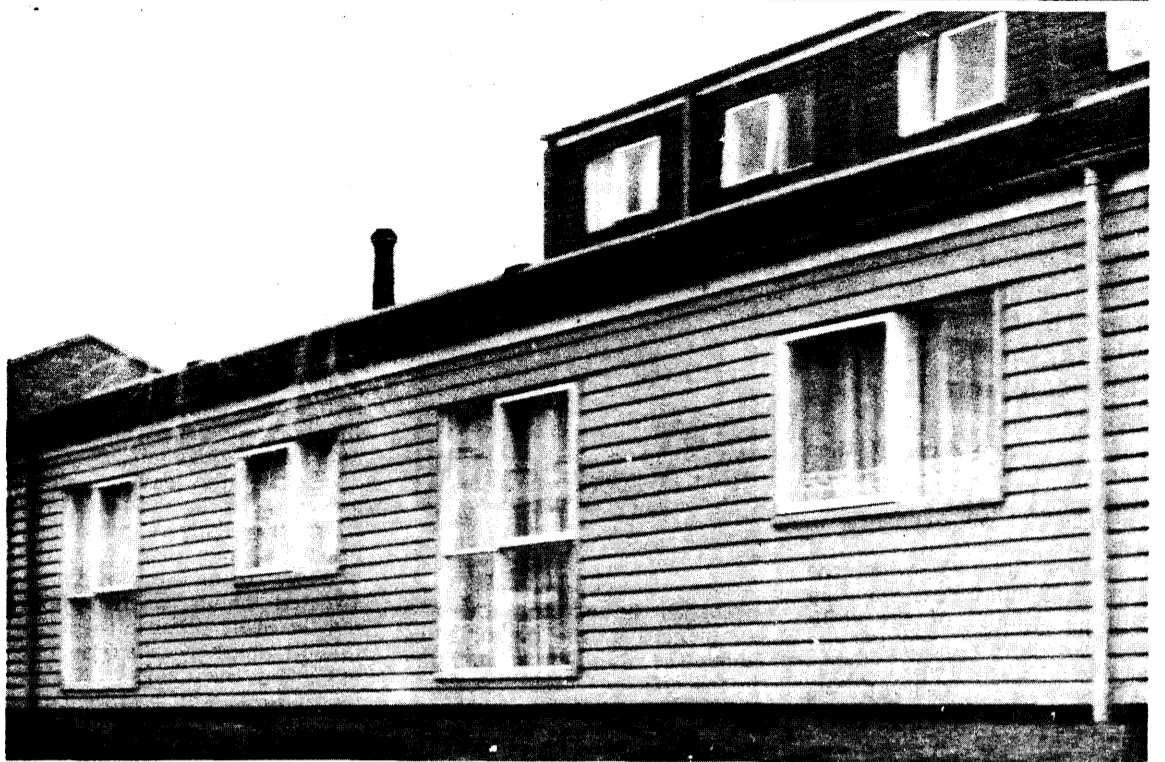


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Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

Council of Action vital to tenants' fight— says Nottm steward



Many Nottingham people thought these were contractors' huts when they first appeared opposite the city's Sneinton Market. In fact these wooden barracks have been provided by the council for pensioners.



Anti-rent Bill demonstrators out in London last weekend

NOTTINGHAM council tenants will refuse to pay rent increases under the Tory Housing Finance Bill when they are introduced in the autumn. But the new Labour council intends to impose 'law and order'.

This emerged after a meeting of the Nottingham Federation of Tenants' Associations which unanimously recommended to some 10,000 members of 14 affiliated Associations that they should withhold the increase.

Federation secretary Les Tomlinson, in proposing the motion, revealed that 200 members of his own Sherwood Association had already pledged not to pay. But the local 'Evening Post' last week carried a warning by Labour council group leader Alderman Eric Foster: 'If they carried out the action they propose they will find themselves up against the law. We believe in law and order.'

So far not a single Labour councillor has opposed this reactionary invitation to the Tories to carry out reprisals against the tenants. But the reaction from tenants' leaders has been rapid and sharp.

Mr R. Coward of the New Radford Association, who chaired last week's tenants' meeting said: 'If Alderman Foster doesn't do something for the tenants in this city he will find himself in the hot seat.'

'We would sooner prefer the present council to help us. And if they change their views, we

will give them support. But Foster's statement was not called for, especially since the Sheffield working party has not yet reported.

'The Labour councillors must come out into the open and declare a policy—they must not hide behind the law.'

'You only have to see what an ass the industrial relations law has proved to be.'

'We are hoping to involve local trade unionists in our struggle as much as we can.'

With no less than three Labour councillors sitting on the works committee of the giant Raleigh bicycle factory in Radford, this is going to be one of the key questions of the day.

Malcolm Wakefield is a Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward at Raleigh and a tenant on the council's new Crabtree Farm Estate.

'The question of Councils of Action is raised', he told Workers Press, 'because tenants' associations on their own can only protest.'

'A Council of Action must bring everybody in.'

'The movement shows its

strength now, but also its weakness, the domination by a right-wing and centrist leadership.'

'If Saltley depot could happen spontaneously, then this is the enormous strength of the working class. But I think there is much more involved in the £1 rent increase than just economics.'

'Has anybody looked at the opposite? This is showing up sharply in the bankruptcy of the recognized leadership. Every time the Tory government has been forced to withdraw because it is not strong enough to carry out its aims, this leadership has rushed in to save it.'

'But if the Tories are weak, the Labour Party leadership is dead, because it is willing to let in the rent increases and the pauperization they will cause.'

The T&GWU branch at the Plessey Telecommunications site at Beeston has pointed the way by calling for the setting up of a Council of Action in the area.

Now Malcolm Wakefield plans to campaign for a similar call from the Raleigh shop stewards' committee.

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CAV site to stop over pay

ENGINEERS at the CAV components factory, Acton, London, are due to strike next Monday for their unions' national pay claim.

But there is growing criticism of the factory leadership's failure to explain the issues in the claim, or to mobilize practical support for laboratory workers who are in the third week of a pay sit-in.

It is felt that the right-wing convenors would like to put the management's last offer of £2.70 to a vote with the alternative of either accept or strike.

Such a move would meet with widespread opposition, however. CAV is part of the Lucas combine and Lucas workers in Birmingham have been offered much bigger sums.

Only one group in the factory has so far failed to back the joint shop stewards' committee's policy of dropping departmental claims to press the national policy.

Last week 200 work engineers abandoned a departmental claim. The storekeepers, however, still insist that they are the lowest-paid workers at Acton and are pressing ahead.

The laboratory dispute now involves skilled workers in the model shop, electrical labs, diesel labs, proving labs and engine and pump-test departments.

Post Offices not helping OAPs

ENGLAND'S Post Offices are not doing enough to tell old people about benefits to which they may be entitled, claims a report published yesterday.

The conclusion was arrived at by Age Concern after 100 spot-checks carried out by volunteers in different parts of the country. Director of Age Concern David Hobman said that the local Post Office is 'an ideal place' to tell old people about their rights.

Yet, although most of the offices visited supplied leaflets about supplementary pensions, two-thirds failed to produce leaflets about dental treatment.

Post Offices should also display leaflets and posters telling people how to claim benefits, the report said. Only half the offices visited had posters or leaflets on display and none displayed all the leaflets which old people might need, claimed Mr Hobman.

London offices were particularly unsatisfactory. Of 13 East London principal Post Offices, none had all the leaflets requested; nine did not have envelopes for supplementary pensions claims and eight had no leaflets on display.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

The currency crisis and the working class

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

BRADFORD: Tuesday July 11, 8 p.m. 'Shoulder of Mutton', Kirkgate. 'Build Councils of Action'.

NEWARK: Wednesday July 12, 7.30 p.m. 'Rutland', Newark. 'Fight redundancies. Build Councils of Action.'

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

SOUTHALL: Thursday July 13, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Bridge Road.

WANDSWORTH: Thursday July 13, 8 p.m. Balham Baths, Elmfield Rd. 'Make the Tories CROYDON: Monday July 17, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd. 'Build the revolutionary party.'

DAGENHAM: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

SW LONDON: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

W LONDON: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

N KENT: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Road, Dartford. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

LUTON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Hall, Lea Road. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

SE LONDON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opposite New Cross Station. 'Force the Tories to Resign.'

TV

BBC 1

9.20 Joe. 12.30 'Steddfof Llan-gollen. 1.00 The Race to the White House. 1.30 Trumpton. 1.45 News, weather. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Vision On. 5.20 Scooby Doo. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 TOP OF THE FORM. Manchester v Stranraer.

7.05 Z CARS. The Wolf and the Sheep.

7.30 TOM AND JERRY.

7.35 FILM: 'MURDER, SHE SAID'. Margaret Rutherford, Arthur Kennedy, Muriel Pavlow. Elderly spinster sees woman murdered on passing train.

9.00 NEWS, Weather.

9.20 ANDRE PREVIN'S MUSIC NIGHT.

10.10 FILM 72.

10.40 24 HOURS.

11.15 VIEWPOINT.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School.

7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.

8.00 THE NEW MASTERS. Frank Lloyd Wright.

8.50 COLLECTOR'S WORLD.

9.20 THE SEXTET. Stoker Leishman's Diaries.

10.35 NEWS, Weather.

10.40 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. The Rolling Stones.

ITV

11.10 Outlook. 12.25 Women. 12.50 Cook Book. 1.15 Bellbird. 1.25 Felix. 1.40 Batman. 2.05 Castle Haven. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Let's Face It. 3.45 Danger Man. 4.40 Once Upon a Time. 4.55 Showtime. 5.20 Full House. 5.50 News.

6.00 THE DAVE CASH RADIO PROGRAMME.

6.25 CARTOON TIME.

6.40 CROSSROADS.

7.05 FATHER, DEAR FATHER.

7.35 FILM: 'SHE WAITS'. David McCallum, Patty Duke. Mark Wilson brings his new wife home but there seems to be a presence in the house...

9.00 CRIME OF PASSION. Manon.

10.00 NEWS.

10.30 TURNING POINT. The Scottsboro Case. First of three documentaries which look at turning points of history.

11.20 THE CRAFTSMEN.

12.00 CRIMINAL ILLNESS.

REGIONAL TV

All Regions as BBC1 except:

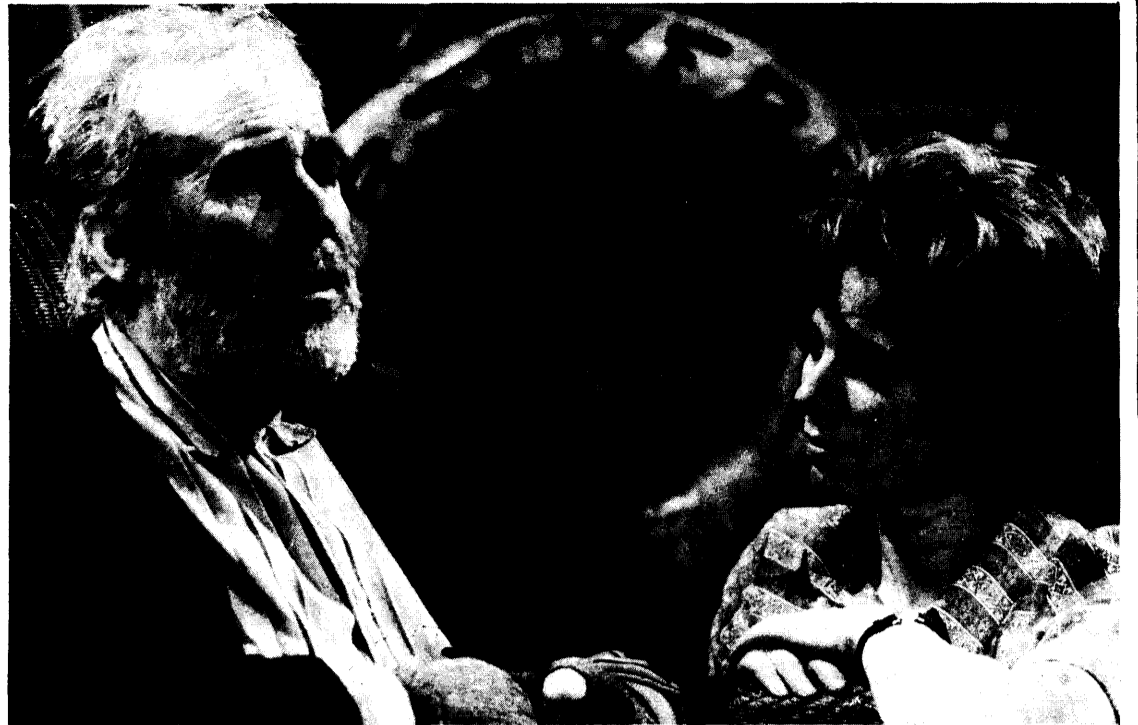
Wales: 5.20 Telewele. 6.00 Wales Today. 6.45 Heddiw. 10.10 The Secret Room. 10.35 Flashback. 11.37 News.

Scotland: 6.00 Reporting Scotland. 11.37 News, weather.

N. Ireland: 6.00 Scene Around Six. 10.10 Quest. 11.37 News, weather.

England: 6.00 Look North, Midlands Today, Look East, Points West, South Today, Spotlight South West. Weather. 10.10 York AD 2000, The Succeeders, Come Inside, On Camera, Jazz West, Brazen Youth, Peninsula. 11.37 News, weather.

SOUTHERN: 12.55 News. 1.00 House and garden. 1.25 Dick Van Dyke. 1.50 Cooking. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Saint. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Grasshopper island. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Film:



'Stoker Leishman's Diaries', by Peter Tinniswood on BBC-2 tonight is another in 'The Sextet' series. Richard Vernon and Billie Whitelaw are tonight's players.

'Tarzan's Magic Fountain'. 8.30 Dear father. 9.00 London. 11.30 News. 11.40 Farming. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.

HTV: 2.30 Yorkshire show. 3.20 Let's face it. 3.45 Junkin. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Odd couple. 7.10 Tarzan. 8.30 Dear father. 9.00 London. 12.00 Weather.

HTV Wales as above except: 4.15 Miri Mawr. 6.01 Y Dydd. 11.30 Sion a Sian. 12.00 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.18 Report West.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15 Miri Mawr. 6.01 Y Dydd. 10.30 Dan Sylw.

ANGLIA: 1.40 Time to remember. 2.05 Mr Piper. 2.30 Yorkshire show. 4.10 News. 4.15 Felix. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 McMillan and wife. 8.30 Dear father. 9.00 London. 11.20 Jesse James.

ATV MIDLANDS: 2.30 Yorkshire show. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Simon Locke. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Kid from Texas'. 8.30 Dear Father. 9.00 London. 11.30 Shirley's world. 12.00 Stories.

ULSTER: 2.30 Yorkshire show. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lidsville. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'How to Murder a Rich Uncle'. 8.30 Dear father. 9.00 London. 11.30 Songs for your delight.

YORKSHIRE: 1.45 Scotland Yard mysteries. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Yorkshire show. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'Guns of Wyoming'. 8.30 Dear father. 9.00 London. 11.20 Spyforce. 12.15 Weather.

TYNE TEES: 1.45 Scotland Yard mysteries. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Yorkshire show. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'Town Tamer'. 8.30 Dear father. 9.00 London. 11.30 Double top. 12.15 News. 12.30 One step at a time.

SCOTTISH: 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Animaland. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Hogan's heroes. 6.45 Film: 'Jazzboat'. 8.30 Dear father. 9.00 London. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Celebrity recital.

GRAMPIAN: 3.37 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Jim McLeod. 6.35 Crossroads. 6.55 Film: 'Man in the Middle'. 8.30 Dear father. 9.00 London. 11.30 Epilogue.

BY OUR OWN REPORTERS

THE LAMBETH Council of Action comprising all sections of the labour and trade union movement was launched on Sunday with a mandate to prepare for the fight to force the Tories out.

A committee of 12 was elected unanimously to prepare a programme of action for the council's next meeting.

The talk of conciliation between the Heath government and the TUC leaders was a smokescreen to cover the Tories' real plans, insisted Trades Council secretary Vivienne Mendelson in opening the meeting.

'If they agree on Wednesday to co-operate in this smokescreen, it will be valuable time lost to the working class', she said. 'The union leaders must be called to account for these policies.'

'We must also call to account those Labour MPs, like Roy Jenkins and others, whose so-delicate consciences would not allow them to vote against the Tories on the Common Market, but which did not prevent them from being in the front rank of the witch-hunt against the left in their own party just a few years ago.'

The biggest danger facing the working class was that with the assistance of these people it would be taken by surprise by the Tories, who were desperately weak, but knew their weakness.

Councils of Action must be set up in every area, but not to sit around and chat. They must prepare for the General Strike.

They should embrace all the tendencies in the working-class movement, Vivienne Mendelson explained, from trade union branches, through tenants' associations to Labour Parties, branches of the Socialist Labour League, Communist Party, International Socialism and other socialist tendencies.

A proposal that the Coun-



A section of the representative audience at Sunday's meeting

Lambeth Council of Action is set up

cil of Action should affiliate to the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trades Unions came from Dick North, of the Lambeth Teachers' Association.

'We hold no brief for the present leadership of the Liaison Committee', he said, 'but we have to recognize that they represent the largest organization of rank-and-file militants organized at their place of work.'

'I believe that so far this organization has acted simply as a cover for left bureaucracy, but that's where the militants are. The only other alternative we have is to try and build up from the base all over again.'

Harry Searle brought backing for the Council of Action from the Vauxhall Gardens Tenants' Association.

The first job was to get rid of the Tory government, he said. The Tories had always been the No. 1 enemy of the working people.

'When the working people of this land get together and fight for their rights, they'll soon know that in the end they can win through.'

Heath's invitation to the trade union leaders was 'only a blind', he said. He hoped the Council would win widespread support for its policies.

Tom Porter, of Lambeth International Socialism, moved the addition to the resolution of 'concrete demands' on the trade union leaders.

These, he said, should be the 35-hour week, no productivity deals, jobs or full pay for all, replace Labour councillors who support the Housing Finance Bill and support for local tenants' associations and their national link-up.

He agreed with previous speakers that the crisis of

capitalism was proceeding 'at a tremendous rate'.

Ken Muller, also of Lambeth IS, said that while he agreed capitalism was in crisis, it was 'ridiculous' to say its collapse was imminent.

The system was 'in steady decline', he said, and neither a Tory nor an incoming Labour government would be able to do anything about it.

Supporting the proposal of affiliation to the Liaison Committee, he said this was simply 'a case of realism'.

He agreed with every criticism that had been made of the Liaison Committee leadership, but thought that the leadership could only be fought from within.

Cyril Smith, from the London School of Economics ASTMS branch, said there was no doubt the working class

would fight, but they were led by traitors who started where those of 1926 left off.

The miners, the railwaymen and the dockers had all badly shaken the Tory government, but at each stage a section of the labour bureaucracy was able to step in. And the CP and IS in the Liaison Committee covered up for this.

The proposal that the Council affiliate to the Liaison Committee, he said, was a proposal that it turn itself into 'a cover for a cover for a cover—a triple blindfold on the working class'.

He urged delegates to reject the proposals and fight to force the Tory government to resign.

The meeting rejected both amendments by overwhelming majorities.

Representatives of the Lambeth Trades Council, trade union branches, YS, SLL, CP, IS and tenants' groups were elected to the committee.

Provocation while Sinn Fein leaders away Tories cheer Wilson's praise for Whitelaw

LABOUR leader Harold Wilson was cheered by the Tories in the Commons yesterday when he praised the Tory Secretary for Northern Ireland, William Whitelaw. Commenting on the Provisional IRA's decision to end its ceasefire, Wilson said no blame could be attached to the army or security forces for the 'latest very grave development'. Whitelaw replied: I entirely agree with you.'

Wilson's crawling endorsement of Tory provocation followed a Commons statement from the Tory supremo on his meeting with Provisionals' leaders last Friday.

He said the Provisionals had 'made demands that I could not accept, but that I agreed to consider. They called on the British government to declare its intention to withdraw all British forces from Irish soil, such withdrawal to be completed on or before January 1, 1975.'

Pending such withdrawal, he said, the IRA wanted all British troops withdrawn immediately from sensitive areas. In addition they had called for a general amnesty of all political prisoners in Irish and British jails, for all internees and detainees and all persons on the wanted list.

Whitelaw hoped it was not too late for the Provisionals to 'think again' about the 'fragile truce', broken on Sunday night by a British military provocation.

According to the IRA 'during the meeting on Friday Mr Whitelaw gave a personal assurance that the wanton killings and internment of people in Belfast by Unionist extremists would come to an end. He assured the Republican leaders that Catholics in UDA no-go areas would be protected by the British army. But while this meeting was in progress, troops arrested two IRA men despite the fact that two British officers arrested in Free Derry were released when the Republican leaders returned from London.'

The statement continues: 'Mr Jack Steele, a member of Mr Whitelaw's office, contacted Republicans on Saturday about the tension in the Lenadoon Estate, Belfast, over housing allocations and it was pointed out the housing authority allocated 16 homes to Catholic families but only four families had moved in because of UDA threats.'

'British army intransigence prevented any more Catholic families being re-housed and the local Republicans decided to defy the army by rehusing Catholic homeless.'

'Mr Steele said the British army would oppose such a move as the UDA would not tolerate it.'

'Twenty minutes later the British army moved its forces into the estate and began to search cars and people. The brutality with which they did so was shown on television and just over two hours later the leaders decided that this provocation should lead to a breakdown.'

'He [Mr Steele] promised to look into the situation but nothing further was heard from him. At 9.15 p.m. the leadership announced the end of the truce and the British forces by this time were involved in offensive operations.'

The IRA communiqué—and the sequence of events—shows that the fighting in Lenadoon was carefully prepared and deliberately provoked by the British army authorities under cover of the ceasefire.

And the army took the initiative when most of the Sinn Fein leaders were out of town attending a Republican protest at Curragh army camp, 25 miles south of Dublin and knew little of the surprise attack in Belfast.

The IRA statement, however, shows that the Provisionals' leaders had complete confidence in Whitelaw's representatives and were hoping to turn the British army against the UDA. They were taken completely by surprise—by an institution they had fought for three years!

The Mid-Ulster MP, Miss Bernadette Devlin said: 'By calling off the ceasefire the Provisionals have played right into the hands of the army on the one hand and the murder squad that Mr Craig referred to as "commandos for special duty".'

The truth is that Miss Devlin is as guilty as the Republicans—Official and Provisional—of playing into the hands of the British army by commending the so-called 'peace with honour' to a confused Catholic working class, instead of denouncing the ceasefire as a breathing space for imperialism and a betrayal of Republican hopes.

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Maudling and Wilson in jovial mood at the ICFTU

A quiet chat between friends

HOME Secretary Reginald Maudling and Labour leader Harold Wilson had a quiet few moments together yesterday prior to the 10th world congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

They chatted in the foyer of the lavish Bloomsbury Centre Hotel.

Maudling's future is under a cloud following revelations made in the Wakefield bankruptcy court about the collapsed Poulson construction and design empire.

In his speech to the congress Maudling said the world was going through a period of change in which 'the possibilities for good and evil are greater than they have ever been'.

He added: 'We see in so many countries the aggressive instincts of mankind letting themselves loose.'

Yesterday John Poulson, the Yorkshire architect who once had the biggest practice in Europe, was reported to the investigation committee of the Royal

Institute of British Architects.

The institute said: 'The evidence given by Mr Poulson raises questions concerning his professional conduct as a member of the RIBA. 'These questions have been referred to the Institute's Investigation Committee to decide whether or not to formulate charges of professional misconduct against Mr Poulson.'

'The disciplinary procedures of the RIBA enable the institute's investigation committee to investigate the professional conduct of any

member and to formulate such charges as it thinks fit for determination by the professional conduct committee.'

Parallel with the Poulson case there are investigations by the police and the Department of Trade and Industry into International Investors Group, a management company run by Maudling to operate an offshore property fund registered in Liberia.

This company also collapsed, although Maudling was no longer connected with it when it went into liquidation.

JULY FUND £374.84 STEP UP THE FIGHT

WE NEED an even greater effort for our Appeal Fund this month. Our total now stands at £374.84 and it is getting very close to our Summer Camp. We must have most of our July Fund raised by then—July 22. We appeal therefore to all of you—rally around immediately. Pull our figure right up.

The union leaders continue their talks with Heath and prop up the Tories' capitalist system. At a time when the Tories are crisis-ridden through and through,

action by the trade union movement would force this government to resign.

The role of Workers Press is more important than ever. All your help is therefore needed to assist us during this holiday period. Start today. Make a very special effort. Collect extra amounts wherever you can. Post these immediately to:

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Danger of split on the docks

LAST NIGHT a group of London lorry-drivers and warehouse workers lobbied Labour MPs and talked to haulage employers in a bid to stop what they feel is a threat to their jobs by dockers' pickets.

The meetings represent a disturbing new turn in the containers row which has once again thrown the shadow of the Industrial Relations Act over the ports.

Edward Johns, leader of the Drivers' and Warehousemen's Action Group, which organized the lobby and the get-together with the employers, says it is 'unfortunate' that there is a conflict with the dockers.

Bernie Steer, a leading steward from the Royal group of docks, was quoted as blaming the possible clash with existing workers on the T&GWU's past recruitment policies. If they had to lose their jobs it would be 'unfortunate', he said.

It is particularly unfortunate, although not accidental, that the demand for nationalization of the ports has now been shelved by both the official and unofficial leaderships on the docks (the latter on the initiative of the London stewards).

What has never been challenged by either side is the idea that there is an inevitable conflict of interests in the first place.

The dockers are fighting the threat of mass redundancy on the docks as a result of rapid changes in technique, the effect of past productivity deals and the gathering world trade slump.

More than 30,000 jobs have been destroyed in the last ten years. Close on 2,000 men are already temporarily without work. The employers claim that one in seven of those they have on their books are surplus to their requirements.

The national port stewards' committee started out with nine demands, including the right to stuff and strip what are known as 'groupage' containers (those which are not handled at source) and the nationalization of the ports without compensation and under workers' control.

This was also the policy of the Transport and General Workers' Union docks and waterways committee.

The London stewards, however, concentrated mainly on a selective picketing policy, hoping to pick off container firms one after the other and force them to take on registered dockers.

WEATHER

THE EAST Midlands, East Anglia and south-east England will be mainly dry but rather cloudy with some bright or sunny intervals, northern Scotland will have sunny intervals and scattered showers.

Wales, Northern Ireland, southern Scotland and remaining districts of England will be mostly cloudy with rain or drizzle spreading from the west during the day. A good deal of hill fog will develop with coastal fog patches around western coasts. Cool.

Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: Changeable and rather cool elsewhere, with rain at times.

Law Lords hear container appeal

BRITAIN'S highest appeal court sat for the first time yesterday to decide whether the Court of Appeal's decision in the container blacking case should be reversed.

Mr Richard Yorke QC, for Heaton's Transport Ltd, Craddock Brothers and Panalpina Northern Services Ltd told the House of Lords appeal court that there was no grounds for quashing the National Industrial Relations Court's £55,000 fine against the T&GWU.

He told five law lords, led by Lord Wilberforce, that there was a prima facie case against the union.

Yorke claimed shop stewards of the union had continued their blacking of container lorries in defiance of the National Industrial Relations Court's orders instructing them to refrain.

He said: 'I am in great difficulties to see on what grounds the Court of Appeal reached its decision except by the admission of new evidence.'

If the court had taken into consideration the NIRC's review of contempt findings showing that T&GWU leaders were urging their officials to call off the blacking he said this was 'completely impermissible'.

Technically the appeal court

was obliged to limit itself to points of law and not to points of fact.

In a day-long submission Yorke said a circular sent out by Merseyside shop stewards authorizing the blacking had been written on T&GWU notepaper by recognized officials and that at least since mid-March the blacking had gone on with the full knowledge of national docks officer Tim O'Leary.

The employers are seeking to establish that the national leadership of the T&GWU is in fact responsible for the actions of its officials and can therefore be penalized for failing to discipline its members.