

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23, 1972 ● No. 849 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

After dock strike confusion

RACISTS PLAN TO SPLIT WORKERS

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

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The first flashpoint will be Smithfield meat market in London.

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The Ugandan Asians are being expelled by the military regime of General Idi Amin, which is backed politically and financially by the Tory government.

Yesterday members of the organization leafleted London docks in a bid to get dockers to join them.

The people behind this move organized a similar campaign from Smithfield in 1968, when a small number of dockers joined the meat-porters and marched in favour of the anti-immigrant views of Tory MP Enoch Powell.

But London docks shop stewards yesterday condemned the latest moves. 'We won't be there,' said one Royal group shop steward. 'It is probably organized by the National Front and they will get no support from us.'

The Smithfield demonstration is part of a national campaign by forces on the right to whip up racist and anti-working class propaganda over the Ugandan Asian issue.

It is designed to coincide with the first arrivals within the next few weeks.

The main aim is to dupe workers into believing that unemployment is caused by immigration and not the Tory government and the big monopolists.

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'Blacks hired and whites fired seems to be the motto of the alien-loving scum who run the system,' it reads.

'Unemployment can easily be handled; send the blacks home and give their jobs to white workers.'

But the first major outbreak promises to be at Smithfield. The campaign there is organized by Danny Harmston and Ron Taylor, two meat porters.

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In 1966 he stood as a candidate for the British Union Movement in Islington. The BUM is noted for its anti-trade union

propaganda and is led by Sir Oswald Mosley, who organized the fascist and pro-Hitler forces in Britain in the 1930s.

After the 1968 march Harmston was reported in 'The Times' as saying: 'Call me a fascist if you like. If being a fascist means wanting to see England back on its feet, then I stand indicted.'

Harmston, a keep-fit enthusiast and an ex-boxer was also a member of the National Socialist Movement, the predecessor of Jordan's British Movement.

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'I don't want any politics,' he said. 'We are ordinary English workers. There is simply no room in this country for these people with a million on the dole,' he told me.

He denied that the Tory government was responsible for the record jobless figures and said he would not vote for any party since they were 'as bad as each other'.

He said: 'There is nothing racist about this. We just want to say enough is enough.'

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the march. But a spokesman for the market superintendent said that only about 10 per cent of the 2,000 workers attended.

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While I was at the market a middle-aged man in a sequined suit brought news that the 'Teds'

would be turning out for the march which starts at Smithfield at 1.30 pm.

The rank-and-file of the labour movement and trade unions must declare war on this right-wing propaganda.

Racialism feeds off demoralization in the working class. The people who bear major responsibility for this are the union leaders who refuse to lead a fight to bring down the

Tory government that creates unemployment, bad housing and poverty.

Workers should resist this campaign to stop them from fighting the main enemy: the Tories and employers who close down the factories and the docks.

Those who march tomorrow will find themselves with the mortal enemies of trade unionism—the extreme right-wing Tories in the Monday Club.

Dockers condemn Smithfield racists

BY IAN YEATS

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But stewards claimed yesterday they were totally opposed to the march and that the Tory politicians responsible for the economic crisis were the men who should be hammered and not the immigrants.

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Bob Moon said: 'If the dockers marched it would be as if we had gone up one blind

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETING LONDON
LESSONS OF THE DOCKS STRIKE

Thurs, August 22, 7.30 p.m.
Lister Room, Town Hall, East Ham High St South.
Speaker: Larry Cavanagh (Liverpool docks steward, in a personal capacity). Adm. 10p.



Harmston, organizer of the 1968 Powellite march.

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AROUND THE WORLD

Moscow buys grain in secret from US

A SERIOUS grain crisis has hit the Soviet Union as a result of a bad harvest and bureaucratic mismanagement of agriculture.

Frequent rain and lack of sun have delayed the harvest by one or two weeks in almost all the cereal-growing areas of the Soviet Union.

In the northern republics of Latvia and Lithuania much of the crop has been flattened by high winds.

In Byelorussia, the westernmost Soviet republic, the harvest is expected to be as much as 25 per cent below expectations.

The newspaper 'Sovietskaya Byelorussia' reported briefly and without explanation that the Agriculture Minister, Stefan Skoropanov, had been dismissed.

The paper also carried a big front-page article by Byelorussian Communist Party chief Pyotr Masherov complaining of farm organization and management failures.

Masherov, a candidate member of the politburo, said the harvest was likely to be only about three-quarters of the planned target for the republic.

To offset the anticipated wheat shortage, which could run to as

much as 20 million tons for the USSR as a whole, the Kremlin has placed very large orders for American wheat.

Since the beginning of the year, the Soviet government has spent close on \$1,000m to purchase grain from the US, according to the 'Washington Post'.

The wheat purchases alone are expected to amount to a fourth of the entire United States harvest.

When the agreement allowing the USSR to purchase American grain was drawn up last year, President Nixon estimated the trade would bring in \$750m over the next three years.

In fact, this figure has already been exceeded and there are certain to be further large orders later this year. The wheat is bought from private firms in the US and the sales are subsidized by the US Department of Agriculture.

The 'Washington Post' raises some questions about the terms of the wheat sales, which appear to favour the USSR, ultimately

at the expense of the American taxpayer.

The question is known to have been discussed at the summit meeting in Moscow earlier this year.

It may well be that in return for political concessions by the Kremlin leaders—including, perhaps, pressure on Hanoi to accept American terms over the Vietnam war—the US has agreed to sell its grain cheaply to the USSR.

This would explain the air of secrecy surrounding the sales, which have not been publicized by the Washington authorities.

Like every other commodity 'peaceful coexistence' has its price.

Unable to overcome the chronic agricultural crisis in the Soviet Union, the bureaucracy is forced to go cap in hand to imperialism for assistance.

They undoubtedly intend to foist the final bill for these transactions on the peoples of Europe, Indo-China and the Middle East.

Arrests follow Chile prices strike

THE Chilean government yesterday declared the whole of Santiago province an emergency zone after a strike by shopkeepers against official price rises had escalated into clashes with police.

More than 70 people were arrested and at least three wounded when the riot squad moved in against demonstrators protesting against the policies of the Popular Unity coalition.

Over the past two weeks the government has raised the price of beef imported from Argentina by 200 per cent. The prices of sugar, coffee, flour, milk, butter



Allende

and margarine have been almost doubled.

There is an acute shortage of basic foodstuffs in Chile due in large part to the failure of the coalition's attempts at agrarian reform. The large estates have been taken under state control in such a way that the owners have been allowed ample time to strip them of machinery and stock.

Attempts by the peasants to forcibly expropriate their landlords have been met with repression by the police and the Communist Party has conducted a virulent campaign against peasants 'taking the law into their own hands'.

The CP leaders are bent on placating the middle class by suppressing the revolutionary upsurge among the peasantry and reducing the agrarian reform to a series of bureaucratic nationalizations.

Through this kind of moderation, the Chilean CP maintains, the middle class can be brought to accept the 'peaceful road to socialism'. Their perspective is virtually a carbon copy of the 'British Road to Socialism', the British CP programme originally authored by Joseph Stalin.

Even on its own terms, the Popular Unity policy can now clearly be seen as a failure which has opened the road to the extreme right.

The shopkeepers and small businessmen courted by the Allende government have turned against it and interpret Allende's 'moderation' as a sign of weakness.

In this way they are driven into the arms of the extreme right and the basis is laid for the crushing of the Popular Unity regime by military force through a rightist coup d'etat.

Sri Lanka censorship

THE Sri Lanka (Ceylon) press yesterday reacted sharply to a Press Council Bill calling for restrictions on the reporting of government activities.

The English-language 'Daily Mirror' said in a full front page editorial that the Bill 'is loaded with a murderous bullet in every clause... and seeks to mow down every known tenet of democracy'.

The 'Sun' English-language daily called on the press to resist the Bill with all its might to stop it becoming law.

Jo'burg rail strike threat

OVER 500 white railway workers in Johannesburg have threatened to strike—and face jail—in support of wage demands.

The South African government has already told railmen to drop their demands in 'the interests of the national economy'. Staff in Natal have already staged a go slow in support of the claim.

No one can remember a strike by white railway workers and the government could invoke the Railways and Harbours Service Act, under which strikers can be jailed for up to a year and fined £200.

If the cost of living increase is not granted by September 8, the men will consider themselves in dispute with the government.

Rogers rebuffed

AMERICAN boasts that North Vietnam will shortly be forced to accept terms to end the Indo-China war are now being soft-pedalled by the Nixon administration.

The White House announced on Monday that Secretary of State William Rogers was expressing a hope—and not making a prediction—when he stated there would be a negotiated settlement before or shortly after the presidential election in November.

Nixon's deputy press secretary Gerald Warren said: 'The secretary was making a general assessment based on his personal appraisal of the situation...'

'He was expressing the hopes of the administration for an early settlement.'

'He was not making a prediction based on any event or any exchange that may or may not have occurred.' Rogers had said that the Soviet Union and China were both in favour of a negotiated settlement in Vietnam and implied they were in a position to force their views on Hanoi.

The National Liberation Front delegation in Paris yesterday dismissed Rogers' remarks as electioneering.

The delegation spokesman, Ly Van Sau, said Rogers had spoken 'just before the Republican convention in Miami with the obvious aim of misleading American opinion'.

What we think

THE DOCKS: ATTACKS ON WORKERS PRESS

COMMUNIST PARTY members in London's dock areas have now begun a campaign, not against the Transport and General Workers' Union leaders who called off the dock strike, but against Workers Press.

They are being assisted in this by members of the anti-communist 'International Socialism' group, which says the Soviet Union is a 'state-capitalist' country.

The Stalinists are seeking in this way to divert attention from their own total abandonment last Friday of the national port shop stewards' committee policy of continuing the strike for the four points on which it was based.

They were led to this position by their uncritical support for T&GWU secretary Jack Jones.

In particular they refused to campaign for the recall of the T&GWU's biennial conference. This permitted the behind-the-scenes dealings of the Jones-Aldington committee to continue under conditions where the T&GWU leaders were not accountable to the union's membership.

It also enabled the T&GWU leaders to organize a reversal of the original strike decision at the docks delegate conference.

Behind this lay the shelving some months ago of the key political demand of the stewards' original nine-point charter—nationalization of the docks under workers' control. Communist Party stewards from London insisted on shelving this and other demands—against opposition from Liverpool and Hull—on the grounds that it could not be achieved under a Tory government. The implication was the remaining four points could.

In fact the Tory government is hell-bent on creating unemployment in order to drive down working conditions and to smash the unions.

Unemployment is the teeth of the Industrial Relations Act. To claim, as the Communist Party does, that job security and full employment can be maintained on the docks merely by using workers' militancy to put pressure on the Tories, is to prepare a sell-out and open the door for mass unemployment.

Tory policies are determined by the crisis of the capitalist system. This crisis is so serious that the Tories cannot afford to retreat. Under such circumstances, no lasting gain for the working class can be achieved simply by 'pressure'.

As Trotsky pointed out in 'Lessons of October': 'Someone may at first glance raise an objection: Ought a revolutionary party refuse to "exercise pressure" on the bourgeoisie and its government? Certainly not.'

'The exercise of pressure on a bourgeois government is the road of reform. A revolutionary Marxist party does not reject reforms. But the road of reform serves a useful purpose in subsidiary and not in fundamental questions.'

'State power cannot be obtained by reforms. "Pressure" can never induce the bourgeoisie to change its policy on a question which involves its whole fate.'

The fact that the ruling class can concede no reforms because of its crisis throws all reformist organizations into crisis also.

The Communist Party would not break decisively from Jones because, like him, it was not prepared for a battle to bring down the Tory government and to solve the docks problem in the only way possible—by returning a Labour government pledged to nationalize all the transport industries under workers' control.

Without leadership workers were left frustrated and—after the docks delegate conference had voted to end the strike—they could see no clear alternative. As we point out in our diary of the docks strike (see page 3), those London stewards who

are under the leadership of the Communist Party failed even to put forward a clear call for a strike in line with the decision of the national port stewards' committee.

This was not due to any 'mistakes', or bad handling of the meeting. It was because the Communist Party does not wish to break from the reformist trade union leaders and lead a fight against the Tory government.

As every docker now knows, the London decision led to a reversal of the earlier unanimous strike vote in Liverpool. The Hull shop stewards' committee had a motion before its Sunday night meeting to go all out for a stoppage if Liverpool stayed out. Hull stewards were confident they could pull out between 300-600 on the first day.

Lord Aldington himself declared, in an interview in last week's 'Sunday Telegraph', that the dockers had been given nothing: 'No, the fact is that we have not made any improvement on our original offer. 'All we have done is to give clear evidence that our original recommendations could and would be implemented.'

Workers learn nothing from such an experience, and this can only strengthen the position of the right-wing reformist trade union leadership.

It is because Workers Press has fearlessly fought to stress the political implications of these events, and to campaign tirelessly for a fight to bring down the Tory government that we are now attacked by the Stalinists and the anti-communists of the so-called IS group.

The renegades of IS support the Stalinists in their attacks on Workers Press because they, too, refuse to call for the working class to bring down the Tory government. They, too, refuse to call for a recall of the biennial conference of the T&GWU to make the leaders accountable to the membership.

The IS advocates of blind trade union 'militancy' are implacably opposed to the introduction of principled politics into the unions.

Again and again International Socialism's paper 'Socialist Worker' has merely called for 'more militancy'.

The dockers have been as militant as it is possible to be. If they now appear to support Jack Jones's line of acceptance of Jones-Aldington it is not because they lack militancy nor because they have faith in Jones-Aldington.

It is because the actions of the Communist Party, supported by their IS hangers-on, have held them back politically from a fight against Jones and a fight against the Tory government.

Dockers know the record of Workers Press. Our sales are steadily on the increase all over the country. Day after day we supported the dockers' fight and defended them against the witch-hunts of the capitalist press.

We intend to continue to build unity of all sections of the working class based on socialist principles. This means unity based on mobilizing the working class to bring down the Tory government.

The Communist Party and the anti-communist International Socialism group fight tooth and nail to prevent unity being established on such a programme.

We are confident, however, that dockers everywhere will support Workers Press against the attacks now being launched against it, even though we will never hesitate to criticize their leaders when necessary.

Again as Trotsky pointed out in 'Lessons of October': 'The party should and must know the whole of the past, so as to be able to estimate it correctly, and to assign each event to its proper place.'

'The tradition of a revolutionary party is built not on evasions but on critical clarity.'

LET THE RECORD SPEAK

— docks strike diary

THE NATIONAL docks strike began officially on July 27 after a delegates' meeting at Transport House.

Port shop stewards' leaders pledged to keep the struggle going until four points were achieved. These were:

- All stuffing and stripping of containers to be the work of registered dock workers;
- Retention and extension of the National Dock Labour Scheme to include all unregistered ports;
- No misuse of the temporarily unattached register (TUR) and no more redundancies; and
- No reduction in the current overall dock workers' register.

It ended on Friday, August 18, when shop stewards in London abandoned the fight for the four points.

Then leading stewards in the port—without doubt dominated politically by the policy of the Communist Party—abandoned their four principles and left the men without leadership. Under these conditions the men had no alternative but to go back.

This is a diary of some of the main events of the strike.

Thursday, July 27, 12 noon. Transport House, London.

Delegates reject interim Jones-Aldington Report. Stewards say strike will go on until four points won.

Bernie Steer, secretary of London stewards' committee, leading Communist Party member: 'We couldn't believe the result. We thought Jones had it sewn up tight. Now we have a national strike and we are leading the movement. Isn't it bleeding marvellous.' ('Sunday Times', July 29.)

Saturday, July 29. 'Morning Star'.

Bernie Steer: 'Make no mistake, Britain's dockers are now involved in the big one. This is the crunch battle. It's either our Waterloo or the employers'.

'The real alternative to the Jones-Aldington report is the programme drawn up by the national port shop stewards which deals with the reality of the situation.

'This is a nine-point programme which raises the need for all unregistered ports to be brought into the Scheme and declares that all stuffing and stripping of containers should be done by registered men.'

Monday, July 31, 9 a.m. Royal group of docks mass meeting, London.

Jim Carpenter, chairman of the Port of London Authority stewards in the group: 'This is the last fight. If we lose this one, we're in trouble.'

Thursday, August 3. Friends' Meeting House, Euston Road, London.

Bernie Steer: 'The next important step in the dockers struggle, is to ensure guarantees from the port employers which we feel would lay the foundation for a solution of the situation on the docks today.'

(Compare with the July 29 statement: 'It's either our Waterloo or the employers'.)

Monday, August 14. 'Morning Star'.

Bernie Steer: 'Every day we have been on strike since the recalled delegates' conference has proved how right the dockers were not to trust the employers. How right we were.'

'Until we can get a secure future in line with the demands of the shop stewards then the strike should continue.'

Monday, August 14. Royal Group mass meeting on the eve of the second recalled delegates' conference.

Vic Turner, chairman of London stewards: 'I think we all realize that this is probably the last major battle we shall be able to conduct. If we do not win this one they might as well concrete the Royal Albert dock in.'

At the same meeting, Bernie Steer: 'Don't let this be a sell-out. If you do the next inquiry will be for a memorial for the industry to bury us all.'

Wednesday, August 16. 12 noon, Transport House, London.

Delegates accept the revamped Jones-Aldington proposals. The vote is undemocratic, the majority represent about one-third of Britain's dockers.

Stewards refuse to concede defeat. At Friends' House, Euston, Bernie Steer reads the verdict of the national stewards' committee:

'Essential guarantees for a lasting solution in the industry are in no way given. The committee are determined the problems in the industry must be solved once and for all.'

'This can be achieved only by guarantees on the four points endorsed at dock gate meetings throughout the ports. We recommend to our members in the ports under our organization the continuance of the strike until our points are met.'

Thursday, August 17. Liverpool and London.

In London no meetings are held. On Merseyside the stewards' policy, decided at Friends' House is put to a mass meeting and carried by 6,000 votes to nil.

Dennis Kelly, Liverpool shop steward and docks delegate,



Vic Turner, Jack Jones, Bernie Steer under the eye of the police last Wednesday.

speaking at the Pier Head, Liverpool: 'In the whole history of the trade union movement I don't think anyone has said chuck the fight when the fight is at its strongest. We're only halfway to ending this battle.'

'... anyone who accepts Jones-Aldington is a lackey of the capitalist system. It is part of the plan to lick our strike, smash our trade union and make us docile workers.'

Friday, August 18, 9.30 a.m. Royal group of docks.

Vic Turner says: Jones-Aldington 'could be the answer if they could get guarantees from the employers, the shipping lines, the cold storage owners and all the other interests. But they can't get guarantees.'

'We came out for job opportunities and you have won some of these by your action.'

(Compare this with Vic Turner before the delegates' meeting on August 14. No talk about concreting the dock in this time!)

Friday, August 18. 'The Times'.

Article by Bernie Steer and Vic Turner: 'The NPSS (national port shop stewards) is determined to do everything in its power to get the four-point policy accepted by the powers that be as a basis for a lasting solution to our industry.'

Friday, August 18, 1 p.m. London dockers' mass meeting, Plaistow.

Vic Turner puts a recommendation not to keep the strike going until four points are won, but to keep out until Monday, while discussions in Liverpool are held.

This is the crunch. After a day's delay when maximum dependency spread in the ranks, after officials had been allowed to put Jones-Aldington propaganda over to the men, the London leaders fail to put the stewards' recommendation to the dockers.

What did Bernie Steer say on July 29? 'It's either our Waterloo or the employers.' And what did he cry on August 14? 'Don't let there be a sell-out.'

Sunday, August 20. Liverpool Pier Head.

Stewards recommend a return after meeting Steer and Turner.

Dennis Kelly says: 'We came out unanimously and we want a unanimous vote on what we are going to put to you today. There has been no defeat.'

Kelly changes fastest of all. Two days earlier he was warning of the disaster Jones-Aldington would cause.

Monday, August 21. 'Morning Star'.

'Mr Steer said he was not disappointed at the Liverpool dockers' "return to work" decision.

'The men have a right to decide for themselves. They listened to what the shop stewards had to say and voted to follow the official line.'

On August 14 he had warned that Jones-Aldington would lead to a situation where the industry would die.

POSTSCRIPT from the so-called 'Socialist Worker' (as always slavishly dragging behind the Communist Party).

Their leaflet issued at the height of the strike said: 'The national port shop stewards' committee is a tried and tested leadership. Its four-point programme is really the minimum solution to the desperate jobs crisis in dockland. It should be supported to the hilt.'

We, however, have given the record of the docks strike in the words of its leaders, particularly Turner and Steer who faithfully followed the Communist Party line limiting demands to guarantees within Jones-Aldington and covering up for the bureaucracy in the union lead by Jack Jones.

They ended up ditching their own four-point policy and a series of mass meetings on Friday, August 18.

The lesson of this strike is that the dockers need a new political leadership that is prepared to fight for the only solution to the dockers' problems: nationalization of the industry, without compensation under workers' control.

This means a fight to bring the Tory government down by organizing mass industrial action and replacing it with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. This is the policy of the Socialist Labour League and the All Trades Unions Alliance.

Jaguar vote to strike on

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

AFTER eight-and-a-half weeks out on strike the assembly workers at Jaguar Cars, Coventry, part of the Leyland group, rejected another pay offer by the company by 646 votes to 397.

The offer represented only a marginal improvement on the company's offer of the previous week, giving slight improvements to some workers in the form of an interim flat-rate payment of £44 and a lump sum payment of £80 to those workers already getting £44.

But included in the terms of the offer was a clause saying that there shall be discussions on a new flat-rate system of payment.

Jaguar workers came out on strike for a straight increase of pay without any strings attached in the form of commitment to productivity deals or Measured-Day Work.

Whatever promises the local officials, Fred Palmer of the Transport and General Workers' Union vehicle section and Andy Boyle of the engineers' union might make to the contrary, the majority of workers saw the opening of discussions on a flat-rate payment system as the thin end of the wedge for MDW.

The company's offer was arrived at after last week's overwhelming rejection of the previous proposals, when national officials intervened and arranged a meeting with Leyland's top management representative, Pat Lowry, the local officials and the stewards.

The offer that came from this meeting was put with the recommendation of the official and the stewards.

'The stewards had massive reservations,' said Andy Boyle, 'but this is not a bad deal. It is the best we could get at this point in time. There has been very heavy hardship.'

An angry questioner asked what was the point of the strike for those workers on the trim track who were already receiving £44 flat rate. 'We came out for nothing if we accept this,' he said.

One of the last points made before the vote was taken was: 'The same union officials stood up last week and told us that this was as much as we could get from the company. In two days they were back in negotiations.'

Leyland workers who have started collections for the Jaguar strike, seeing this as a fight against Leyland's intention to get MDW accepted in all their factories, will have been strengthened by the rejection of these latest proposals.

Mersey docks clerks meet

LIVERPOOL docks clerical workers who are still on strike will hold a mass meeting today to discuss the result of further negotiations between their representatives and the employers.

The 800 clerks—members of the Transport and General Workers' Union clerical section (ACTS)—want further assurances on job security and redundancies.

A fresh dispute flared at the docks yesterday as a result of the clerks' strike.

More than 100 dockers walked off the SS 'Dido' in Huskisson dock, refusing to work under the direction of a non-staff man who had been put in by the employers to replace men on strike.



Lord Aldington who, apart from sitting on a committee with Jack Jones discussing formulas for dock jobs (above), is also a director of English China Clay which over the last year has made over 800 workers redundant

HOW HAPPY ARE THE CLAY WORKERS?

The right-wing leaders of the china clay workers in Cornwall will be happy now that the dockers in Cornish ports have vowed to go back to work after the end of the official dock strike.

But the energy that went into their organized provocations against the striking dockers might have been better spent in organizing against English China Clay, the monopoly company that owns their industry.

Last year ECC made over 800 workers redundant in a spate of drastic sackings at the close of its financial year on September 30.

Now the company has released the trading figures that prompted this. Sales up from £72m to £79m; profits up from £16m to £18m; dividend constant at £3,453,000.

LEADERS?

Where are the bold union leaders on this issue? Against the company that made 800 of their colleagues redundant and now declares increased profits—no action. Against dockers on strike to prevent redundancies in the ports—a protest march and an approach to

Jack Jones.

Lord Aberconway, chairman of ECC, is still justifying the sackings.

'Conservation of cash was an ancillary purpose of the redundancy operation, subordinate only to the preservation of the future health, strength and efficiency of the operation,' he says.

REDUCTION

This seems like a clear invitation to the men's leaders, in case it escaped their attention in organizing the stunt against the dockers, to look to their own actions to preserve the future health and strength of their members, especially bearing in mind the high and growing unemployment in Britain.

But His Lordship reveals more.

In answer to the many shareholders who, learning of the redundancies, wrote suggesting that the dividend should perhaps be reduced, he replied:

'A reduction in dividend is unfortunately not a substitute for an operation to reduce an organization to a size consistent with current and prospective market conditions. The fact is that a proper return on

capital is as essential for a healthy business as is an organization of the right size.'

In plain terms, sackings are preferable to a cut in dividend for shareholders.

It is not hard to see why Lord Aberconway thinks this way.

He personally owns 1,744,273 shares in China Clays—worth today £2.25m—which put £45,000 into his pocket by way of dividend in the last 12 months, and a further 2,489,757 shares as a trustee, worth £3.25m, which paid out a cool £65,000 last year.

As chairman of two engineering companies as well as of ECC, and as a director also of the National Westminster Bank and Westland Aircraft, Aberconway is not exactly hard up.

His salary from China Clays went up 50 per cent last year from £5,000 to £7,500—or £150 a week.

Out of his dividend alone from China Clays, he could have personally paid each of the 800 workers made redundant last autumn £3 per week for a whole year to tide them over. We doubt that he did.

But what is more important, we doubt that the organizers

of the anti-docker stunt asked him to.

The point is this. The real enemy of the china clay workers is not dockers or others on strike but the common enemy of all working men—the grasping capitalist.

If the ECC employees in Cornwall want further proof, Lord Aberconway supplies it.

Last year, the company made a £4,000 donation to British United Industrialists, the virulently anti-union organization which is firmly behind the Tory government.

'THE CAUSE'

The money, Aberconway declared, went 'to further the cause of private enterprise.'

Somewhat less went to the men who were sacked.

'To those in particular who had to be made redundant we give our thanks, our sympathy, and our very best wishes,' His Lordship commented.

FOOTNOTE: One other thing china clay workers do get, apart from their chairman's sympathy when they are sacked, is pneumoconiosis, the disease of the lungs caused by dust.

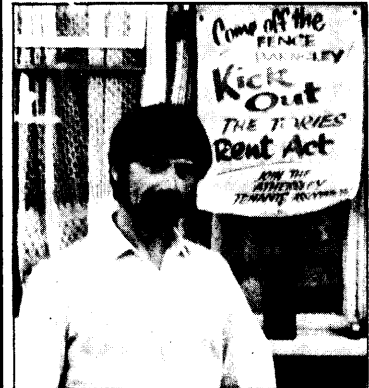
MINERS FIGHT RENTS

Woolley and North Gawber branches of the National Union of Mineworkers have declared that they will support any action taken by the Athersley Tenants' Association, Barnsley, to resist rent increases.

Over 700 Athersley tenants have declared they will not pay the £1-per-week increase imposed by the Labour-controlled Barnsley Council, which is seeking to implement the Tories' 'fair rents' Act.

Labour alderman Brian Varley has said that 'parliamentary decisions are supreme'.

He told tenants: 'It is the duty of citizens to carry out the law.'



Brian Seton: Athersley tenants' secretary

Not a single Labour councillor voted against the rent increases, though two of them did screw up enough courage to abstain.

By contrast, the Athersley Tenants' Association, which has passed a resolution calling for a Council of Action to be set up in Barnsley, is to organize a demonstration against the increases.

NUM branch delegates will attend meetings of the association where the fight will be developed.

ELECTRIC MERGER

The recent spate of mergers and takeovers continues unabated. Imperial Tobacco have swooped on beer with a takeover of Courage and P&O Shipping are moving for Bovis, the building and civil engineering group.

Now a giant combine in the electrical industry is in the offing. Thorn Electrical Industries are in the process of completing an agreed takeover bid for Plessey.

When the deal goes through, it will create Britain's tenth largest company, with sales of £725m and profits of £70m a year.

In addition, Thorn-Plessey will be the fifth electrical group in Europe. The cost of Thorn's bid is likely to be well over Plessey's stock market value of £300m.

The £412m sales of Sir Jules Thorn's empire are in television and lighting, retailed in Britain. Plessey—led by Sir John Clark—sells telecommunications and capital electronic equipment, much of which is exported.

The merger takes place in preparation for Common Market entry. Both companies have been worried by competition from the Dutch giant Philips, which has always been in a position to take over one or other of the British companies.

ARGENTINA— THE SMELL OF OIL AND REPRESSION

'The issue I've raised is not the result of Utopian thinking or political naïveté. It represents the only genuine democratic solution there is: the alternative would be a dictatorship of an unforeseen nature. And we shall reach such a dictatorship within a short time if a solution such as the one I've described is not reached.'

'The problem exists and we cannot avoid it. Let's try to resolve it in a cool-headed manner while we are still capable of reasoning and not in the midst of chaotic situations when irrational factors impose their law.'

—Alvaro Alsogaray, April 22, 1972.

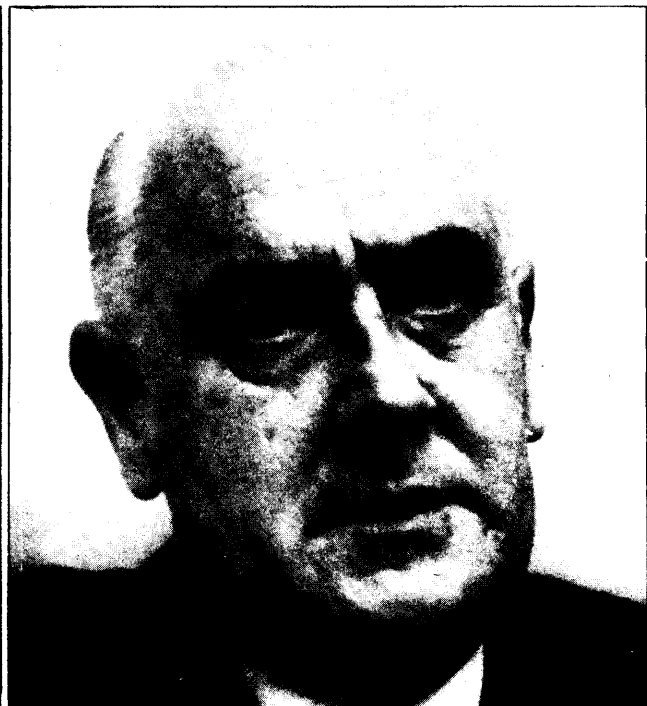
Alvaro Carlos Alsogaray's solution to 'the problem which exists and from which we cannot escape' is the resignation of the two presumed candidates to the 1973 Argentine presidential election: former president Juan Domingo Peron and current president Alejandro Lanusse.

The dictatorship of 'an unforeseen nature' suggested by Alsogaray—three times a government Minister in Argentina—has all the signs of the Brazilian model.

It smells of oil, it smells of Bunge and Born, it smells of Swiss and American pharmaceutical products and other economic pressures.

But since none of these factors could be mentioned publicly (it would threaten the unity of the military), the spectre of a Peronist triumph in the elections was raised instead, along with other ghosts which usually find an echo among the military: the growing power of the General Workers' Confederation (CGT), the politization of the university students and their propensity towards the urban guerrillas and the government's apparent lack of ability to resolve those hypothetical dangers.

The Alsogaray brothers were, in effect, the authors of the June 1966 coup which brought the military government to power in Argentina. A large part of the planning was made in their homes and an astonished journalist heard from the head of the Palermo barracks himself the announcement that the president would be toppled a month later.



The two presidential candidates: Juan Peron (left) in earlier days. Right: president Alejandro Lanusse. Alsogaray is proposing that they both resign.

The friendship between Alsogaray and the economic theoretician of the Brazilian 1964 coup, Manuel de Oliveira Campos, explains the ever-present possibility of an ironist type dictatorship which would evaporate the few remaining freedoms such as the freedom to unionize, freedom of the press and expression of political opinions.

And in that case, if elections were to be held in Argentina they would be like Brazil's, for special echelons and without the opposition participation.

Alsogaray's alternative subtly suggests the cancellation of the elections should Peron present himself as candidate, a possibility which the Peronist grassroots movement is raising as its banner, though Peron has not spoken openly about it.

Key spots

But Alsogaray's suggestion is not new; the same idea was expressed by his brother, Gen Julio Alsogaray (then in charge of the army's First Corps, with headquarters in Palermo) which translated itself into the defeat of President Arturo Illia in the June 1966 coup. It is not by chance that the operation is called 'The Alsogaray brothers' coup'. Julio Alsogaray led the mobile units which took over the key spots in Buenos Aires that evening.

Later he personally offered

the presidency to Lt-Gen Juan Carlos Ongania, after failing to obtain a formal resignation from President Illia.

Later he was Chief of the Army in place of his colleague Pascual Pistarini (a pawn used during the coup but later discarded).

Alvaro lasted longer with the Argentine revolution.

He was the theoretician of Article III in the Declaration of the 1966 revolution which did not revolutionize anything, but which confused everything. Later, perhaps as a reward, he was appointed ambassador to the United States.

Does Alsogaray hope to obtain enough votes to become president?

No. He's not so foolish, and knows perfectly well that in present-day Argentina the political future does not lie to the right. He knows he would come last in any confrontation with Peronist and Radical parties.

It happened to him once before when he only obtained the votes of the aristocratic 'Barrio Norte' (northern neighbourhood).

What does he hope for, then?

First of all to continue in the political limelight and become a candidate during any emergency situation where the decisive arbiter would be the new military sector.

Alsogaray's entire speech of April 22 is directed at the army, whose working he has

known inside out since his officer days. All his advice, admonitions and rationalizations are directed at his ex-comrades; his language is plain, direct, and very persuasive whether on a person to person level, or in TV broadcasts.

It convinces those who are easily convinced since the schemes are simplistic and his language full of technocratic terms.

Fruitless

It is rumoured that his brother Julio can listen to him for hours; he actually thinks for both of them, as well as for many of his followers within the army.

An expert in empty diatribe, this captain-engineer has one thing against him: when he was Economy Minister—a post he held on repeated occasions—all his panaceas turned out to be completely fruitless and his programmes totally incapable of solving the country's fundamental economic problems.

But when he realized that his services were no longer required, as he expected, he became a conspirator and changed from economic theoretician into a pragmatic, if at times pedestrian plotter who finished off the constitutional governments of Presidents Frondizi and Illia.

Alsogaray has the habit of proposing great solutions; the difference now is that he's proposing a solution not only

to the groups supporting General Lanusse—and to Lanusse himself—but the distant Juan Peron, living in exile in Madrid.

His is a combination of proposal and threat: 'If it is not me,' his proposal seems to say, 'chaos will take over.'

'Lanusse the Weak will fall and he will be replaced by some strong guy, as strong as the Brazilians; and then we'll really have to say goodbye to the elections.'

The elections are the key issue.

Although Alsogaray does not 'dot the Is', it is obvious that he doesn't want them to take place unless they lead to a candidate of his choice and possibly himself (he has always been ready to 'sacrifice' himself for his country...)

Alsogaray doesn't approve of Lanusse and Peron, but rejects the latter in particular. Not because he doesn't like him personally (he once worked for Peron), but simply because he's aware that a people's government would postpone for many years the economic and social policies which are his *raison d'être* and that of his party 'Nueva Fuerza'.

The 1966 coup was, in effect, a coup against Peron even when, paradoxically, the exile in Madrid did not oppose the coup and ordered his followers in the army to 'lay-low'.

In the near future there could be another coup to prevent Peronism from taking over.

THE KOREAN DIALOGUE

North Korea's political parties proposed last weekend that a joint conference of all political organizations in North and South Korea be convened as soon as possible to promote Korean reunification.

They said details of the agenda and date and venue of the conference should be decided by mutual consultations.

According to the North Korean central news agency the proposal was made public by 16 political parties and public organizations in Pyongyang, headed by the ruling Workers' Party.

A joint statement issued by the parties said: 'North-South negotiations and dialogue should not be confined to the authorities in power or specific persons alone but be paved broadly by embracing all circles and strata, all parties and groupings.'

The statement hoped for a 'positive response' from the South Koreans.

Stressing that the nation's reunification could not be accomplished by the efforts of a few specific persons alone, the statement said: 'We sincerely propose to all the political parties and public organizations of South Korea to hold a joint conference of all poli-

tical parties and public organizations of the North and South.

'In view of the prevailing situation, this conference should be convened as soon as possible and the detailed agenda, date and venue of the conference may be decided through mutual consultation.'

'To this end, we consider it necessary for the representatives of all political parties and public organizations of North and South Korea to have bilateral or multilateral contacts at any place convenient to both sides.'

Top: Kim Il-sung of North Korea. Right: President Park of the South



PAKISTAN AGAINST STRIKERS

The Islamabad government has activated the Pakistan Essential Services Act against strikers in the telephone and telegraph offices.

The Central Communications Minister, Chulam Mustafa Jatoi, announced last weekend that to prevent 'dislocation' no staff would be allowed to go on strike and those already on strike must return to work within 24 hours.

Earlier he had met representatives of the Pakistan Telecommunication Line Staff Union to discuss their demands.

The Minister said he had tried to be as sympathetic and considerate as possible despite the fact that the union had not responded to his appeal to call off the strike 'in the national interest'.

A TOMB IN NEW YORK FOR RATS AND MEN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SEAN HUDSON

It is officially known as the Manhattan House of Detention for Men. It is situated at 125 White Street in lower Manhattan.

That's about four blocks from City Hall where John Lindsay, the Republican-turned-Democrat Mayor of New York, holds court.

But to the inmates it has a more evocative name. They call it the Tombs.

It acquired this name in the 19th century when the previous building was still standing. To them it resembled an Egyptian tomb with no windows, no light and Bronze Age amenities!

When they put up the new building the nickname carried on—and appropriately so.

It is a 10-storey building whose design is reminiscent of something out of the Third Reich school of architecture.

There is virtually no natural light inside. The corridors and cells are filthy; rats and vermin gallop through the kitchens and recreation rooms.

The prison's public relations department admits that things aren't as modern as they perhaps should be. It was designed during 1933-1934 — 'during the Depression', they say.

The Tombs is what we would call a remand prison. Like Brixton. It is where prisoners are held pending trial or sentence.

And like Brixton defendants are supposed to be held for only about 30 days. In fact it can work out that you spend up to a year behind bars just awaiting trial.

The prison has a capacity of 920, but it now holds 1,400.

The inmates are on charges ranging from petty robbery to murder, although 55 per cent are on drug charges. Eighty-five per cent of them are black or Spanish-speaking.

In October 1970 inmates rioted against the appalling conditions in the jail.

After the disturbance was brutally quelled several of the prisoners were framed and put on trial for attempted murder, kidnapping and coercion. These men are known as the Tombs Seven.

They seized the auditorium for five days and finally won their main demand of seeing Mayor Lindsay.

One of the Tombs Seven, Stanley King, revealed what

happened in an interview with the 'Bulletin', newspaper of the Workers' League.

'On the day before we released the hostages Lindsay went on the air and made a statement to the effect of "let them go, etc., etc."

'We had a meeting with Lindsay after the hostages were released. We went down to the dining room and we had a two-hour conversation with him. And in everything that we asked and spoke of, he was in agreement, even on amnesty, right?

'But the statement which was the catch was "I do not have the judiciary power" to "totally decide whether there should be any indictments or not stemming from this or any other criminal actions".

'They didn't indict in October. Then they came up with a 76-count indictment in January 1971.'

During their long incarceration awaiting trial the Seven and many of their colleagues have been drawn into the study of Marxism.

Classes are held whenever possible.

Stanley King says: 'Here in prison the brothers are struggling to know and they're struggling to learn a lesson that means life.

'A worker is struggling to live. He has the way to struggle if he has a vanguard party that can go places and knows what to look for, how to execute actions that will allow the worker the opportunity to really transform himself and grow.

'The relationship between the prisoners and the working class is that one is employed and one is unemployed.

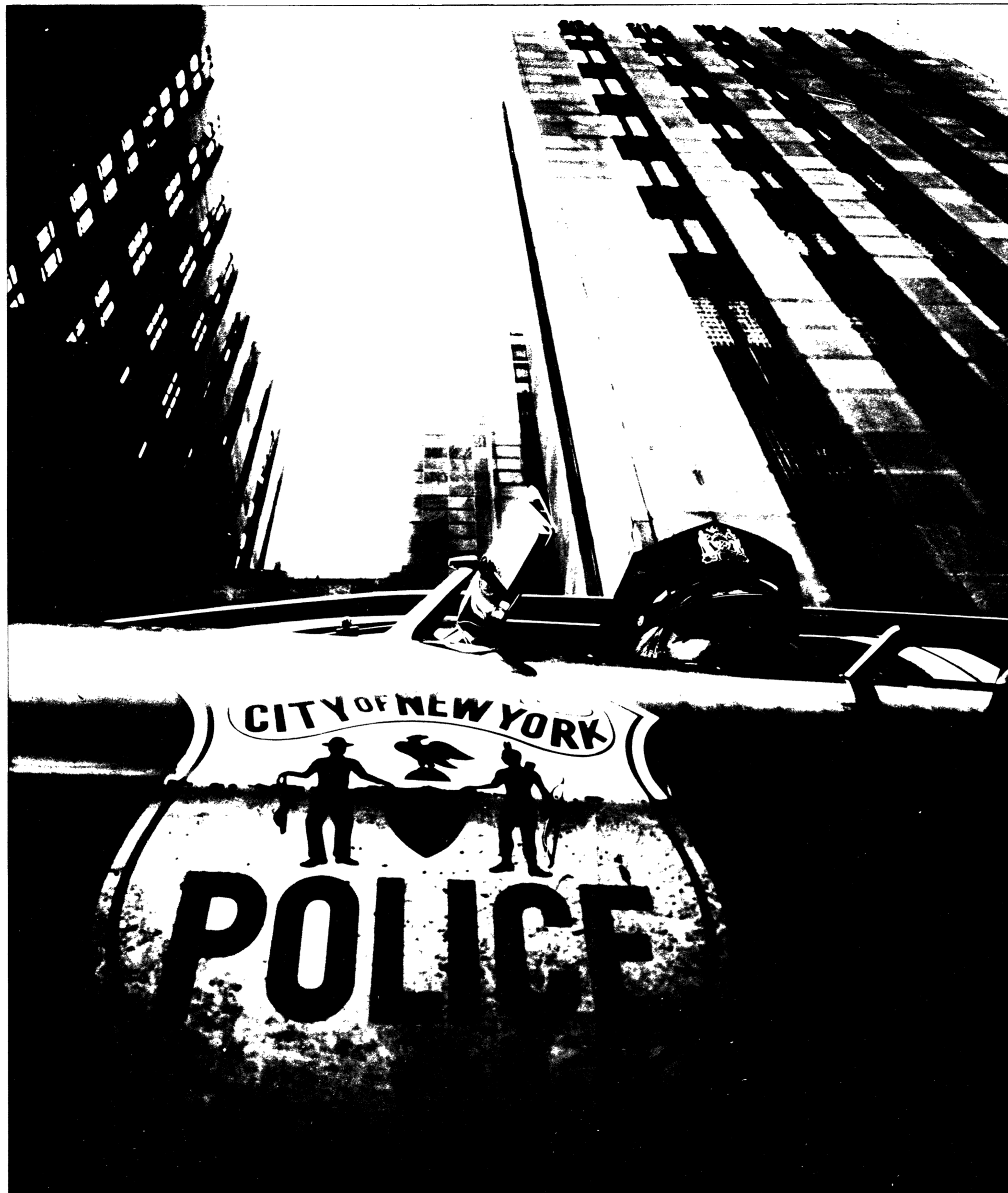
'The system tries to tell you that it's the criminal who tries to steal from you. But in reality the snatching of the goods is by the system.'

The struggle of the inmates to understand Marxism proceeds under the worst possible conditions.

The whole might of the state is bearing down on them at all times. Guards are brutal. They inflame the situation with racialism.

Punishment is of the worst brutal order: the most insignificant misdemeanour can mean isolation and the loss of all privileges.

In this selection of letters the difficulties of grappling with political questions are revealed. We have chosen three for reproduction from the 'Bulletin'.



THE TOMBS LETTERS

Comrades,
My condition is only part of the struggle that other politically conscious people in this country share in.
Overcrowding conditions, excessive bail, repression at the hands of brutal fascist guards, inadequate medical attention, inadequate recrea-

tional and law facilities and the suppression of human dignity.

All this is exposed by the Tombs Seven brothers and they are now on trial for their lives because they dare expose it.
Do you think that reforms should be initiated?

Reforms have been theorized till they have been made to fall on deaf ears. We must change, but change what?

Change the system that allows underemployment, unequal education and housing facilities; also allows racialism, drugs and profit for a few to ride the crest of a seemingly insurmountable wave, while

labour cannot get a reasonable increase in wages; where war is now an everyday term, taxes skyrocket and military expenditures in excess of billions are made to seem reasonable; where the richest nation in the so-called free world allows hundreds of thousands of masses of oppressed to remain ill-fed and poverty-stricken.

Is there any real wonder that there are overcrowded jails, courts and prisons?

Should the system be allowed to function where it jails teachers who strike for better wages or incarcerate men who oppose a morally unjust war?



Left and below right: the Tombs are on the right, the Criminal Courts building on the left. They are joined by a series of fortified footbridges which some call the 'Bridges of Sighs'. Below far left: armed police enter the Tombs in October 1970 to break the occupation of the auditorium which the prisoners held for five days. Above: the windows are blackened so that virtually no natural light can get in. Below left: travel to or from the Tombs is provided by the New York Department of Correction in vans such as these



Should not we be allowed our human dignity and pursuit of life, liberty and happiness?

Or should we just be slave wage earners so that the corporate capitalist monopoly pig can continue to make vast profits off of the blood, tears and sweat of oppressed masses.

Those of us that have become aware of the problem also seek to answer it with a concrete solution.

We must commit ourselves in all walks of life to changing this decadent system of capitalism so that there will be freedom, justice, and equality for all.

Oppressed people unite in the struggle for victory. Power to the Oppressed James Clark, 8th floor co-ordinator.

Power Comrades,
As one of the Tombs Seven, who is now on trial for a 74 count indictment, stemming from the protest of October 2-5, 1970, I take this time to question the so-called public who has protested the slaughter of the Vietnamese people by the racist elements in this country, I question those who march, in the name of peace and justice for all the oppressed people of the world.

My question is this: how do you find it possible, to protest injustice throughout the world, with over 100,000 marchers in New York alone, and yet you can't even find time to attend a trial that is a people's trial?

Yes, we who are incarcerated, within America's concentration camps are studying Marxism and Leninism, changing our outlook towards life, bettering our mental conditions, so that when we no longer to society we are no longer the robbers, rapers, murderers and the abusers of the people.

For we now know what the problem is, and why we have acted as enemies of the people!

There are two systems in play today: one for them, one for us.

Then our comrades say to us, the working class is our salvation! We must have patience, when the working class are fed up with their persecution, then and only then, will justice be served!

But we who are truly oppressed say 'No'. We will not wait until all America is oppressed before we gain our freedom. White America is too contented with their lot to consider our plight.

Are we to wait for our oppressors to prepetrate a unified oppression, before we can be free?

Must all the working class become dissatisfied before the chains of slavery are removed?

These are profound questions. They are asked by us the slaves. What are the answers?

Bro. Curtis Brown

Dear Editor,
I write this letter to ask for the people, the poor people, my people, to render help in these trying times... I have had enough.

I am on the verge of a complete mind-blowing, and when that happens I feel somebody is going to pay.

They are killing and genocide my brothers and sisters. I am a person who keeps my cool. But the time is running out. All I want is revenge.

This concentration camp of this fascist government is upsetting me.

Help me not to do anything out of the way. For if I go and lose my cool now they will win and that is what they want.

Your brother in struggle,
V. S.

From the Dockers' Tanner Strike 1889 to Devlin 1967. An historical series on the organization of the dockers by Jack Gale

DOCKERS IN WAR-TIME

PART 6

Between the General Strike and the outbreak of World War II, the employers held the whip-hand on the docks.

Unemployment among dock labourers in the 1930s hovered consistently between 30 and 40 per cent.

By 1931 dock registers had been savagely reduced from their 1925 figures.

In Bristol the register was reduced by 17.8 per cent, in Cardiff by 33.8 per cent, in Grimsby by 12.9 per cent and in Liverpool by 13.2 per cent. In Newport the cut was 14 per cent, in Southampton 10.1 per cent, in Swansea 16 per cent and on the Tees 7.1 per cent.

The biggest reductions of all were in London and Hull—36.2 per cent and 34.2 per cent respectively.

Only once in the 1930s (in 1937) did total tonnage handled in the docks exceed the 1929 figure. What this meant to the bosses was gleefully explained by one of their representatives:

'During the morning I would tell the foreman that we should need another gang at 1 p.m., and at 12.45 p.m. there would be several hundred men fighting for the 13 jobs on offer.'

When war broke out, of course, dockers were vitally needed. But far from being able to achieve lasting improvements in their conditions, they had even more of their rights lightly thrown away by their union leaders.

The union rule-book was torn up.

Overtime became compulsory. Dockers were often made to work from 8.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m., sometimes for as many as 16 consecutive days.

Piece-rates were often cut—for example in 1942, rates on London docks for unloading petrol cans were cut from 5s to 2s 4d per 100.

Minister of Labour Ernest Bevin's wartime Dock Labour Scheme—introduced in June 1940—placed the men at the mercy of the bosses and the Port Labour Authorities. It was known to dockers everywhere as the 'slave scheme'.

For one thing it meant that men could be directed at a moment's notice from, say, London, to Swansea, Manchester, Hull or Southampton. If they refused, they were suspended without pay.

Conscious efforts were made to split dockers from different ports or even within the same port.

30 STRIKES

For instance the Essential Work (Dock Labour) Order gave a minimum wage of £3 6s.

But Merseyside and Clydeside was placed under the Ministry of War Transport Scheme and got a minimum wage of £4 2s.

And the essential Works Order divided dockers into three categories.

Grade A was required to complete 11 turns per week and got £3 6s minimum. Grade B had to do nine turns and got £2 4s. Grade C had to do six turns and got £1 16s.

Altogether there were some 30 strikes per year on the docks during the war, despite the wartime regulation 1305 which made strikes illegal pending binding arbitration through the Ministry of Labour.

The union leaders consistently sought to betray these struggles as, for example, in the Arbitration Award dispute on the Tyne.

This award, signed in

December 1941 (Tyneside dockers were organized in the General and Municipal Workers' Union), cut the 'lieu' rate which had been established by custom at 23s per shift, down to 16s 4d.

The men struck work during May 1942, but were defeated due to the collaboration of the union leaders with the government and the employers.

Following this dispute the union agreed to a reduction in the size of shore gangs on Tyneside.

When a further dispute broke out in that area in 1944 over the removal of ships' hatches, the union disbanded the local branch and with the co-operation of the employers only allowed back men who agreed not to act against the leaders' 'advice'.

TROOPS

Another major dispute was on Merseyside in 1943 where dockers struck work over the suspension of 34 men for refusing to work more than two hours' overtime. (By a complicated system of local payment, men who worked more than two hours overtime actually got less money than if they didn't work it!)

The Merseyside dockers were also incensed because they had received no wage increase since June 1940.

The Merseyside battle raged around the issues of the port authorities dictatorial powers and a demand for a basic wage of £1 per day. Again this struggle was sold out by the union leaders and the Communist Party.

Throughout the war the coalition government—with the support of the Communist Party—was ready to use troops against the dockers.

Indeed in 1944 a Private Lambert of the Pioneer Corps was sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment for 'desertion' because he refused to scab on striking Cardiff dockers.

As the war drew to its close, the employers sought to tighten their grip on the dockers.

In particular they tried to reduce the piece rates granted during the Second Front campaign and revert to the pre-war rates. Three weeks after VE day, the employers sought to revise tonnage scales to a level below anything paid during the war.

The government, of course, was only too ready to assist the port employers—as they did by introducing the 'continuity rule' in 1944 on the London docks. This gave the employer much tighter control over the dockers in his gangs.

But the dockers were determined to fight back.

March 1945 saw the London dock strike—the biggest since 1926.

The dockers, who had received only 1s per day increase in wages since the war started, were demanding an inquiry into mal-administration of the National Dock Labour Corporation.

Transport and General Workers' Union officials who sought to get a return to work were howled down at mass meetings at Canning Town Hall.

The government brought in 2,000 troops to use on the docks during this strike, which the 'Daily Worker' condemned as 'a tragic dispute'.

It was during this strike that London dockers produced a leaflet declaring that 'Since its inception the National Dock Labour Corporation has been dismissing and suspending hundreds of port workers for the most trivial offences'.

NDLC officials, the dockers claimed, engaged in 'tyranny and continual persecution'.

In the absence of an alternative leadership, however (the Communist Party was solidly against any strikes, as we shall show later), the battle was lost.

But it broke out again in July—this time over the employers' attempts to force the London dockers back to pre-Second Front piece rates.

The men refused to work piece rates and reverted to day work.

During this dispute the London employers suspended over 1,500 men for refusing to carry out piece work.

The Labour government—elected only a few weeks before with massive working class support (particularly solid in the docks areas) sent the troops into Surrey docks.

Union leaders and Communist Party members did all they could, particularly in preventing contact and united action between London and northern men.

Especially active in this respect was the general secretary of the Stevedores' Union—Barratt, a member of the Communist Party.

During this strike a 'Progressive committee' was formed on the London docks with the avowed intention of starting and working in collaboration with similar committees in other ports.

The Stalinists fought bitterly against this committee and after two months the London dockers were forced to return to the old piece rates.

In October 1945, 30,000 northern dockers were joined by London and Tilbury men in a strike for 25s per day and a 40 hour week.

In Liverpool, Hull and London, monster meetings passed votes of no confidence in their union leaders. But, again, these leaders, assisted by the Communist Party, fought to restrain the movement.

It was this strike which Harry Pollitt was to denounce as 'ill-advised' at the Communist Party Congress.

The union leaders collaborated with the employers throughout the war and saved them at the end.

The Labour government, of course, had such overwhelming support from the working class that within one day it could have nationalized the docks, confiscated the employers' profits and legislated the dockers demands for 25s per day basic pay and a 40 hour week. (The shipping lines—particularly Cunard—had made enormous profits during the war, despite the sinkings.)

But the social democrats preserved capitalism and, with it, private ownership on the docks.

The most pernicious role of all, however, was played by the Communist Party. This organization became a conscious strike-breaking force.

After at first opposing the war, while the Stalin-Hitler Pact held good, the Communist Party became the strongest supporters of the Churchill coalition government after Hitler invaded Russia.

At the 1942 conference of the Communist Party, general secretary Harry Pollitt had this to say about strike-breaking on the docks:

'I salute our comrade, a docker from Hull, who was on a job unloading a ship with a cargo urgently wanted.



The Stalinists became the strongest supporters of the Churchill government. They opposed strikes and urged speed-up and productivity

fought against it because he believed that the course of action he was recommending would get what was wanted without a strike.

'What courage, what a sacred spirit of real class consciousness, to walk on the ship's gangway and resume his job.'

'That is not strike-breaking. It sounds peculiar. It can be misunderstood.'

This attitude was not confined to Britain.

In America the 'Daily Worker' proclaimed that strikers were scabs and vice-versa! 'Those who violate the no-strike pledge are scabs and should be so treated.'

TRUCE

This support for the Tories was not restricted to the industrial front.

The Stalinists maintained political support for the Churchill government. In particular they observed the political truce (the agreement by which the main parties agreed not to oppose the candidate of the sitting party in by-elections).

Pollitt told the Communist Party Congress in 1942:

'The stand taken by our party in regard to by-elections has been firm and clear: to support the government candidates whatever their shortcomings.'

'We want to deal with some of the difficulties that are said to stand in the way of our Party members when they take part in by-elections and recommend the people to vote for a government candidate who happens to be a Tory...'

This Stalinist policy of supporting capitalism—particularly by opposing strikes—continued after the war.

It was part of Stalinism's policy of dividing the world with the imperialists and maintaining bourgeois government's in the imperialist half.

In 'The Problem of Production', Harry Pollitt declared:

'Every man and woman, therefore, who is prepared to fight for freedom from want must regard the wartime increase of production, not as a menace to be feared, but as a great ally on their side...'

'We believe that the whole of Britain's productive resources can be far more fully used even under the present capitalist system of production... It demands a complete break with what Mr

Eden rightly called "the economic anarchy of the old days".'

What this meant in practice emerged at the Communist Party's 18th Congress in November 1945, where Pollitt faced criticisms of the Party's role during the dock strike.

Pollitt replied:

'On the dock strike, I took the view that if our party had been compelled to stick its head out in difficult situations during the war and compel our comrades to be stigmatized as strike-breakers, we are not compelled to repeat that in days of peace, but we would examine every dispute on its merits.'

'The "Daily Worker" reported the facts.

'It is true we gave no lead for ten days, but that is no crime, because we considered that strike ill-advised. If some of our comrades were in difficulties in the docks, well, communists are always in difficulties.'

None of the post-war history on the docks can be understood except in the context of the rescue of British capitalism by the reformists and Stalinists.

The deep-felt desire among all sections of the working class to have done with capitalism—expressed in the annihilation of the Tory Party in the 1945 election (while the Communist Party was still calling for a coalition with 'progressive' Tories)—shows that the docks could have been taken away from the employers there and then.

The dockers' struggles since 1945 could not be resolved—and cannot still—apart from the construction of a leadership that is prepared to take away this property from its capitalist owners.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

¹ David F. Wilson, 'Dockers: The impact of industrial change', p. 63.

² Cunard Steamship Co, in the worst year of the war for shipping losses, made a profit of £312,127; Cunard White Star increased its profits to £659,000 and paid £500,000 in dividends.

³ Robert Black, 'Stalinism in Britain', p. 171.

⁴ US 'Daily Worker' June 19, 1944.

⁵ Robert Black op. cit. p. 172.

MOSCOW'S BILLING FOR AMIN

Idi Amin, the blood-thirsty Ugandan dictator and British stooge, is being billed in Moscow as an anti-imperialist defying the British lion.

His decision to expel the 80,000 Ugandan Asians was praised in 'Izvestia' last week as a means 'to place the economy of the country under national control and protect it from foreign domination'.

This thesis was pretty thin when Amin was planning only to expel those Asians holding foreign passports. Now that he has decided to expel all the Asian Ugandan citizens as well it is little short of ridiculous.

Amin and his gangster lieutenants are in any case only interested in the loot. The benefit to the African masses whose political parties and trade unions Amin has destroyed will be minimal.

This is not how 'Izvestia' sees it, however. According to this official Kremlin organ, 'Uganda has lately been the target for undisguised imperialist intimidation and pressure'.

Western propaganda, it says, has been 'trying to discredit the Ugandan head of state', among other things.

And it adds: 'The situation in Africa today is such that there is little hope of achieving anything by the imperialist policy of arm-twisting and of waging a war of nerves against countries that are carrying out social and economic reforms, and conducting vigorous anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist policies'.

Applied to Uganda this is arrant nonsense.

Amin is a product of British imperialism whose 'social and economic reforms' include smashing the workers' organizations, banning strikes and making the country safe for the big British monopolies.

The Kremlin is well aware of Amin's record and its statements are simply an attempt at ingratiation with the Ugandan president.

Since their military advisers were rushed out of Egypt the Soviet leaders have been seeking new friends in East Africa.

Amin is no doubt a suitable candidate to inherit the anti-imperialist mantle of Sudanese general Numeiry.

Like Numeiry he tolerates no 'leftist' nonsense and the Kremlin can deal with him on a strictly businesslike basis.

The fate of the Ugandan Asians or of the Ugandan trade unionists now in prison is of no concern to the Kremlin cynics.

ALLENDE JAILS HIJACKERS

Ten urban guerrillas from the Argentine People's Revolutionary Army escaped from jail last week and forced a hi-jacked airliner to land them in Chile.

If they expected a comradely welcome from the Popular Unity government they were gravely mistaken.

President Salvador Allende's police threw them in jail and he assured Argentine president Alejandro Lanusse that he would leave it to the courts to decide whether to give them political asylum.



Stalinist crisis



Top left: Kremlin supported Amin. Right: Numeiry. Above: hi-jacker jailer Allende

The court in question is headed by Judge Urrutia, a notorious right-winger who recently ordered the Yarur textile enterprise to be handed back to its former owners after workers had taken it over.

Even Allende's own Socialist Party favours giving the ten refugees asylum, but when the Communist Party under-secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, Vergara, was asked about this he said it was not his place to give them the right of asylum.

The Communist Party has been urging Allende to suppress the MIR (Left Revolutionary Movement), the local section of the revisionist Unified Secretariat, with which the Argentine guerrillas are also associated.

They are determined to preserve good relations with the Argentine military regime.

Allende recently visited Argentina and Lanusse paid a return visit to Chile. These relations would be endangered if the guerrillas were allowed to stay.

The Popular Unity coalition has been hailed by the British Communist Party as a vindication of its 'peaceful road to socialism' policies. This now looks more like the peaceful road to the jailhouse door.

KREMLIN WARNS ITS UNPATRIOTIC ACADEMICS

Degrees and titles will in future be taken away from Soviet academics, including university professors and doctors, if their behaviour is regarded as 'unpatriotic and immoral', according to 'Komsomolskaya Pravda'.

This move follows new ministerial instructions on measures providing stricter controls on the award of new academic titles and degrees.

The main purpose of these instructions was to eliminate the practice of 'padding' a thesis and borrowing large chunks of research from previous researchers.

A spokesman for the USSR Culture Ministry was quoted by the paper as saying that action was all too infrequently taken against academics who did not behave in accordance with their position. 'This practice must be corrected,' he said.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

YOUNG DOLE

More than 35,000 North-East youngsters will leave school next year and most of them will go straight on to the dole.

Job vacancies for boys and girls are down by more than 20 per cent in the region, compared with this time last year.

Already 6,451 people under 18 are registered as unemployed in the Northern region and there are only 1,820 unfilled vacancies for them in youth employment offices.

Many of those who left school last year have yet to find jobs. In Sunderland 720 youth are without work, in Gateshead 242, in South Shields 291, and in Newcastle more than 900.

In Gateshead, seven boys already chase every vacant job and the 'careers' officer says things are getting worse.

HOMELESS

By next summer thousands of people throughout the country, who at present rely on cheap overnight lodgings, may be forced to sleep rough.

Workers Press recently reported on the rapid increase in the number of homeless people since the election of the Tory government (see Notebook, August 18).

Other surveys show that the number of beds available for the homeless is just as rapidly declining as the building speculators move in to grab the profits.

Manchester, which had 1,523 common lodging house beds in 1962, now has only 293.

In London, Butterwick House, Hammersmith, which had 750 beds, has been sold for office and hotel development.

The London Borough of Southwark has over one-sixth of inner London's common lodging house beds, but the development of the Hay's Wharf site and the surrounding area means that a mass of cheap over-night accommodation will be lost through the building of offices, hotels and luxury flats.

It is thought that by next summer the problem will have reached massive proportions.

PROPERTY MAN

House prices as we all know are soaring by over 30 per cent a year. But property tycoon Ronald Lyon has no problems where that's concerned.

The head of the large Lyon group of companies, he has just bought a new home for himself. The 3,660-acre Longwood Estate near Winchester cost him the small sum of £3m.

The main house, which he will use as a country retreat, is still being built. It will have six bedrooms and four bathrooms. The estate has 30 other houses and cottages, 2,320 acres of agricultural land and 500 acres of woodlands.

Eighteen months ago, when the lease of his flat in Grosvenor House ran out, he spent £1m on another property in Park Lane.

Mr Lyon also owns two Rolls Royces, an ocean-going yacht and a penthouse in Majorca. He is rumoured not to be a short of a few bob.

WHO HAS CHANGED?

There was quite a party down at the governor's residence in Mauritius the other day.

Sir Len Williams, once the Labour Party's general secretary, was welcoming Hu Ching-jui, the new chargé d'affaires at the Chinese embassy.

Among the sparkling throng at the luncheon was Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the Prime Minister, and other senior government officials.

China came to the aid of the Mauritian government with generous credits when Ramgoolam declared a state of emergency and put down the left-wing MMM earlier this year.

Sir Len was well known during his period as a Labour Party functionary for his hostility to the left, yet he and Hu Ching-jui now seem to get on famously. And it's not Len who's changed.

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Unions must fight for socialism, says Sheffield striker

SEAN COULSTON is a 26-year-old building worker from Sheffield.

He joined the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians at the outset of the building workers' strike and immediately took a leading role in picketing to extend the strike. He is now a member of the five-man Sheffield strike committee.

He told Workers Press:

At this moment things are still not going fast enough to support building workers out six or seven weeks. My aim is to close every site and works and anything concerned with the building trade and materials.

In my opinion dockers and drivers of the Transport and General Workers Union should 'black' all building materials in this country and try to make the trade union movement 100 per cent in the building industry.

If we were 100 per cent now we wouldn't be fighting for £30 for 35 hours. 'If dockers give us their support, let's hope that in the future we can give them ours.'

The Sheffield public works department isn't out yet. But as a fellow building worker I feel it should be; that includes city engineers regardless of who controls the councils, Tory or Labour.

As we all know it's the Tories'

aim to keep wage increases down to 8 per cent, while the cost of living has gone up 22 per cent in the last two years.

In the building trade we're not taking 8 per cent. It is not sufficient to our needs.

Speaking as young blood in the trade union movement—and this young blood is beginning to boil—we must not let our forefathers down. Let's bring back the union to its first role of socialism.

The working class built the trade unions and the trade unions built the Labour Party.

Socialism is Labour socialism. This is another thing we've got to establish throughout the trade union movement once again.

In my opinion all building contractors should be nationalized.

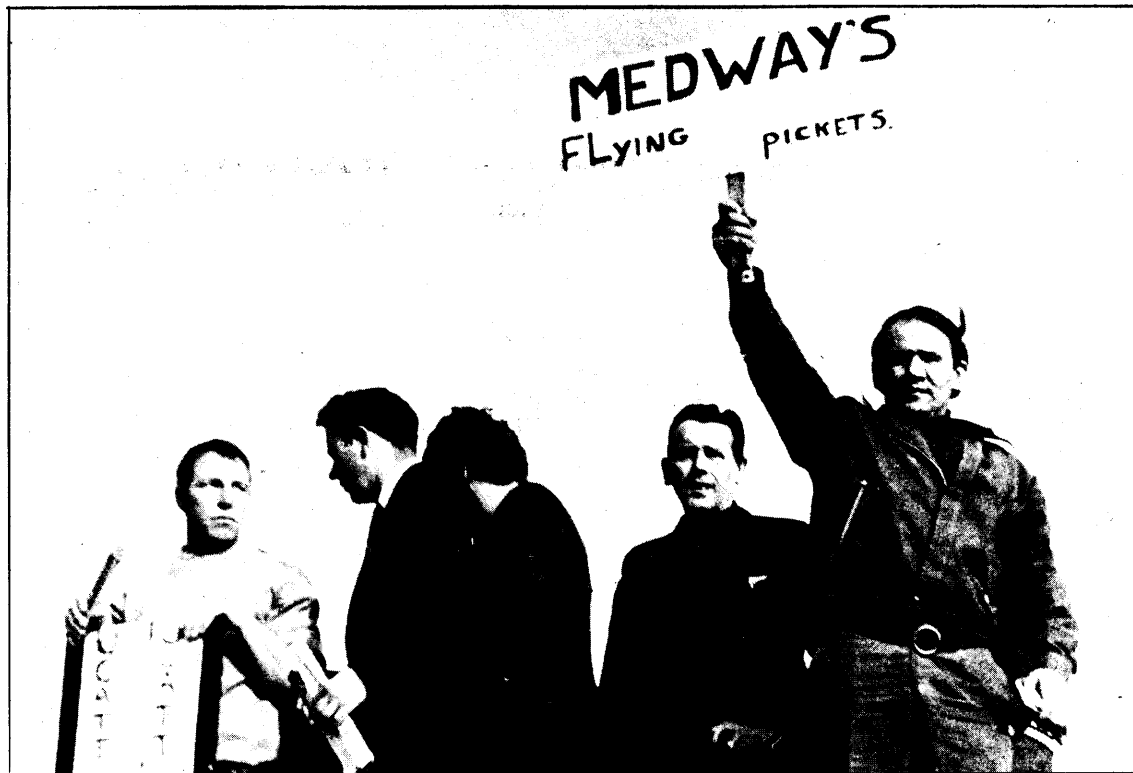
I think it is the duty of the next government to get this done. Personally, I think it is one of the first things that they should bring into parliament.

While the Tories have tried to split us now by bringing up the issue of the public works department, if we were all nationalized we would all be one and this would unify the trade union movement.

Prior to the strike, Sheffield was not thought to be a stronghold of building-industry trade unionism, Sean Coulston recalled.

'But I would like to let other building workers know we're doing a good job', he said. I personally hope for 100 per cent trade union membership when we've won our claim.'

Medway builders spread strike



The Medway building workers' action committee plans to have all sites in the area out within the next two weeks. Yesterday pickets pulled out sites at Sheerness and Upchurch.

Navy workers still out

TWO HUNDRED men at Chatham naval base, who were expected to return to work yesterday are now unlikely to go back until Friday.

The men are on 'waiting time' until safety measures are completed, and are taking the action to back up a national pay claim.

Priority was given to a nuclear powered submarine, HMS 'Warspite', which was undergoing a major refit, but a spokesman for the men said he doubted if any work on the submarine would start until Friday at the earliest.

Talks on UCS work-in

TALKS which could lead to the ending of the 14-month-old 'work-in' at the Upper Clyde Shipyards are to be held in Glasgow this evening.

Shop stewards have arranged to meet representatives of Govan Shipbuilders, who are to take over the Govan and Scotstoun yards, and Marathon Manufacturing Company, who have already taken over the Clydebank yard.

Robert Smith, official liquidator of UCS, is also expected to attend.

The aim is to settle a procedural agreement between the unions and Govan Shipbuilders. A similar agreement with Marathon was signed a fortnight ago.

Prison strike over death

THREE HUNDRED men at Blundeston prison, near Lowestoft, Suffolk, struck yesterday in protest over the death of a prisoner on Sunday.

The protesters allege that the man, a diabetic, died because of inadequate treatment and lack of a proper diet, said PROP, the prisoners' union.

'The strike will continue throughout the day, and the prisoners are demanding the right to be present at the coroner's inquest,' it said.

The union said it would send an observer to the inquest and demand an independent public inquiry into medical facilities at the prison.

Halewood back to work

WORK was normal yesterday at Ford's Halewood plant, where production of more than 600 cars has been lost through stoppages since Friday.

The latest interruption came on the night shift early yesterday, when a number of men on the final assembly line repeated their Friday night complaint about safety.

While company officials were rearranging work schedules to minimize the number of lay-offs,

several hundred assembly-line workers decided to go home about two hours before normal finishing time.

Earlier on Monday, 2,000 day-shift workers had to be sent home because of a walk-out by ten painters who complained about the high noise level in the work area.

A company spokesman said that the day shift was working normally, including the paint shop.

Council reverse on Tory rents law

READERS may remember that West Bromwich town council was one of the few in the country which came out firmly against implementing the Tory government's 'fair rents' Act.

At a special meeting on Monday night however, the majority Labour group blatantly reversed its previous decision.

The resolution passed was in the worst reformist Labourite traditions.

'That the Housing Finance Act, having become operative on August 10, 1972, and in view of the public statements on behalf of Her Majesty's government to the effect that the amount by which the rents of council dwellings will rise as a result of the Act need not exceed, on average, 7½ per cent, this council instructs that as a matter of urgency, an approach be made to the government with a view to the implementation in West Bromwich of a rent increase for council dwellings, having regard to that statement.'

The Tory minority successfully amended the resolution to ensure that the council's officers prepare and present the required material to the Minister to ensure a smooth transition to implementing the Act.

The optimistic figure of 7½ per cent is apparently drawn from a passing reference by Heath in an interview with Robin Day on Panorama: it is an average figure, including Scotland and Wales and rent rises in West Bromwich would very likely be higher than this.

In proposing the resolution, Labour councillor Dr Roy assured all present that he was acting in the best interests of the electorate.

To oppose the Bill was one thing he said. But the situation had to be reappraised now the Bill was an Act.

He stressed that reappraisal did not mean acceptance of the Act, and that the proposal was better than having a Tory housing commission set up in West Bromwich.

Other Labourites were inspired to defend their resolution by condemning the Tories for not having 'had the guts' to introduce it themselves when they were in power.

The disgusted tenants watching this performance were also reminded that the Labour group had every right to ask the Minister to be lenient!

The general sentiment among the 20-odd Labour members who voted for the sell-out (with full support of the gleeful Tories) was that it was 'better to settle for something reasonable, even if we have to bend our principles a little'.

Nine other Labour members walked out of the council chambers before the vote was taken—their abstentions had previously been agreed upon.

Only one, Dennis Bufton, voted against the motion and he will be up for disciplinary action before the local Party executive 'very soon'. According to one executive member the rebel is usually 'a very good solid bloke'.

So will they expel someone who stuck to the party's original position, or will he be allowed to remain in the party?

'Bending' principles had landed the local Labour Party bureaucracy in yet another dilemma which they will have to squirm out of. They will also have to face increasingly strong and organized resistance from the 30,000 tenants in the area.

The treachery of the Labourites is fast increasing awareness that the fight against the Tories and their 'fair rent' Act involves a fight against the leaders of the Labour Party itself.

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TV

BBC 1

9.45 Mr. Benn. 10.00 Robinson Crusoe. 10.25 Play tennis. 10.50-11.00 Noggin and the omruds. 12.25-12.50 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 1.00 Race to the White House. 1.30 Andy Pandy. 1.45 News and weather. 1.53-2.18 Disc a dawn. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Come gliding. 5.20 Little women. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.50 TOM AND JERRY: 'Southbound Duckling'.
6.55 RYAN AND RONNIE. Guest Ken Dodd.
7.25 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: 'The Rebel'.
8.10 DRAMA PLAYHOUSE: 'Sutherland's Law'. Man Overboard.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.
9.25 TOTAL WAR: 'Grand Strategy'.
10.25 DOWN TO EARTH.
11.00 THE RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE. US Elections 72.
11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS.
11.35 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35 Open University.
7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.
8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED... by children from abroad.
8.10 MAN ALIVE: 'The Right Time to Die'.
9.00 FOLLOW THE RHINE: 'Worms to Rudesheim'. Johnny Morris.

ITV

10.50 Film: 'Trouble Brewing'. George Formby. 12.20 Women today. 12.45 Freud on food. 1.10 Bellbird. 1.25 Sean the leprechaun. 1.40 Woobinda. 2.05 Castle haven. 2.30 Tale of a tower. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Dr Simon Locke. 3.45 Tales of Edgar Wallace. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 Little big time. 5.20 Ace of wands. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.
6.35 CROSSROADS.
7.00 WHICKER: 'Within a Woman's World'.
7.30 CORONATION STREET.
8.00 THE BENNY HILL SHOW.
9.00 THE MAIN CHANCE: 'One For the House'.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 TONY BENNETT. At the Talk of the Town with Billy Eckstine.
11.00 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.
11.45 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. Richard Ingrams.
12.00 CHRISTIANITY IN ADVERSITY.

9.25 FILM: 'The Southerner'. Zachary Scott, Betty Field. A migratory worker decides to become a tenant farmer in Texas. Directed by Jean Renoir.
10.55 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
11.00 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.



Gareth Thomas in 'Sutherland's Law', BBC 1, 8.10 p.m.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 2.25 Fiddler on the road. 3.05-3.55 Hadleigh. 4.05 Paulus. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Good afternoon. 4.55 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.10 F troop. 6.35 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 11.45 News and weather in French. Epilogue. Weather.

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

SOUTHERN: 12.55 News and weather. 1.00 Let them live. 1.25 Hot dog. 1.50 Common Market cook book. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Let's face it. 3.00 Danger man. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Get this. 7.00 London. 8.00 FBI. 9.00 London. 12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 3.30 Talking hands. 3.45 Ugliest girl in town. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 On the buses. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.45 Frighteners. 12.15 Weather.
HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 3.45 Hamdden. 4.15-4.30 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.
HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.

ANGLIA: 1.40 World War I. 2.05 Rovers. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 3.15 Referee. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoons. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Horoscope. 3.25 Paulus. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Shirley's world. 4.40 Magic ball. 4.55 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00

London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 London.

ULSTER: 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Viewfinder. 6.35 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 10.30 World War I. 11.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 1.45 Dr Simon Locke. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Matinee. 3.00 Sound of... 3.15 Delta. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Sean the leprechaun. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar news, weather. 6.05 UFO. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Blue light. 11.00 London. 11.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 2.25 Freud on food. 2.45 Seaway. 3.40 Towards the year 2000. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Sean the leprechaun. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Lancashire artists. 6.30 Odd couple. 7.00 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 10.30 Dick Van Dyke. 11.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 1.45 Dr Simon Locke. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Junkin. 3.00 Sound of... 3.15 Calling Doctor Gannon. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Perils of Pauline. 6.30 Shirley's world. 7.00 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Fiddler on the road. 11.15 Wrestling. 11.45 News. 12.00 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Animaland. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Calendar special. 6.30 Band call. 7.00 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 10.30 Festival. 11.00 London. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 McCue's music.

GRAMPIAN: 3.37 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.20 Canadian view. 6.35 London. 8.00 Department S. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 11.45 Scales of justice.

Shipyard engineers stay out



A MASS meeting of 750 engineers at Scott-Lithgow's Ferguson shipyard, Greenock, yesterday voted to continue their 10-week pay strike. Their claim is for more pay and longer

holidays. Many at the meeting were critical of last week's settlement at national level of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' claim.

Sackings firm short of cash

THE NEWALL machine-tool company of Peterborough has just announced a net loss of £600,000 over the last year.

Newall, which has sacked 30 per cent of its labour force in the past 12 months, is now reported to be short of cash.

Only last September the firm rejected a £2m offer from Tube Investments itself now in financial trouble—saying it had 'excellent prospects for the future.'

Now Newall, the latest victim in the continuing slump in the machine tool industry, has arranged with its financial adviser, merchant bankers Lazard Bros, for a full investigation into the group's affairs.

The group's high-precision jiggoring machines, many of which go to the aircraft industry, have sold well. But the grinding machine side of the business, mostly servicing the car industry, has slumped badly.

This is also an indication that motor manufacturers are not re-tooling for the future.

Newall's trading deficit for the

year was £381,000. A further £218,000 was written off to account for the writing down of unsold stocks. Turnover slumped from £6.1m to £3.9m.

This compares with a pre-tax profit of £244,000 for 1970-1971.

Manchester journalists walk out

PRODUCTION of the Manchester 'Evening News' was affected yesterday by a stoppage of 100 journalists.

They held a prolonged afternoon chapel (office branch) meeting during production hours over a pay dispute.

The first two editions of the paper appeared normally, but a management spokesman said only one further edition would be printed.

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Police bid to break site picket

BY PHILIP WADE

FOR THE second day running police yesterday tried to break up a building workers' picket line outside the new Stock Exchange building in the City of London.

Pickets were out early in the morning to try and persuade electricians not to cross their line. But the police moved in swiftly, allowing only four men to man the line.

No explanation was given as to how the number of four was arrived at. Police officers said more would be considered intimidating.

Under the threat of arrest pickets moved away and the electricians went in under police escort. In a few minutes they were out, however, saying they refused to work while building workers were being intimidated by police.

On Monday, police had arrested a picket outside the Stock Exchange, the symbol of capitalism and speculation itself.

Police had approached the pickets and asked who was in charge. The federation steward stepped forward and was promptly arrested for obstruction and assault of a police officer.

'The police are deliberately taking away our right to picket,' a Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians steward from the Fleet Street 'Sun' and 'News of the World' site told me. He had been in a fierce argument with a police sergeant.

'They are making laws of their own where it is our constitutional right to picket. Police have no right to say we can only have four pickets. It is union policy that this site is shut.'

'The police are moving in now after the docks strike is finished. Their hands were a little tied then. But it is also part of the counter-offensive by the employers' federation.'

Pickets produced a leaflet given out by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers. 'Building Wages. The Facts', it screams.

And the last sentence provocatively says: 'Police protection may be requested if you want to work and are prevented by pickets.'

The UCATT steward told me: 'The employers are deliberately encouraging the Lump among building workers. When men go for a job they are told they can work as self-employed without cards or tax.'

'This fight has brought everything to a head, the question of Lump and trade union recognition.'

'What the union leaders don't understand is that this is a fight against Social Security cuts and attacks on the unions like the fines on the Transport and General Workers' Union.'

'Yet some officials seem too embarrassed to really lead workers to understand this. What's involved is the future of any trade union to go into a struggle.'

'Nationalization would be a solution, although it has been shelved by our union. With the nationalization of land, it would work for the benefit of the public.'

'But it has to be socialized nationalization and not controlled by the old management like it is today.'

Other pickets voiced their demand for a national strike.

Said Joseph Elias, a UCATT steward at the Cubitt's, Archway site: 'No one should be allowed to work in this strike.'

'If you put two sticks together they're harder to break, aren't they?'

'The only way I think this can be done is by a national strike. But at the moment some sites are stopped, whereas in East London they haven't.'

'We are fighting the subcontractors the employers and the Tories,' he told me.

The government think they are big shots like the policemen with the government uniforms.

'I'd like to get them out so the building workers can gain some dignity. At the moment we work the hardest and get paid the lowest wages.'

'We work in freezing conditions, in places without proper canteens and washing facilities and they expect us to put up with it all.'

'We're not here to play cricket. We must win this fight.'



Stewards argue with police at the Stock Exchange site

AN IMPRESSIVE demonstration of about 1,500 building workers marched through Birmingham yesterday to a rally at Digbeth Civil Hall.

UCATT regional secretary Ken Barlow and Communist Party member Peter Carter outlined plans to stop all building and civil engineering in the region.

All supplies and cement depots were to be stopped and Birmingham made a 'no go' area. Coach loads of pickets would leave after the meeting to enforce this policy.

Road-blocks would be set up if necessary to stop any cement entering Birmingham.

Barlow insisted that their demands could be met by regional action, despite cries from the floor for a national agreement.

Rank-and-file workers were unable to make a call for a national stoppage from the platform as the meeting ended with a song led by Peter Carter.

The regional stoppage will not be complete, however, as council builders were told to remain at work to finance those who were out.

BUILDING workers 2,000-strong marched through Manchester city centre yesterday to chants of 'Heath out'.

The men, from Bolton, Stockport, Burnley and the greater Manchester area, went on to a meeting at the Haldsworth Hall,

chaired by Bert Smith of the Manchester action committee.

A resolution was carried unanimously supporting the call for a total stoppage of all building workers throughout the country.

Communist Party member Jack Henry speaking on behalf of the London action committee said he hoped that when the strike finished it would be successful—there would be an end to the Lump and malpractices on building sites.

If any changes were to be made, he said, it was in the hands of the rank-and-file: 'Never mind the executive committee'.

The meeting planned for squads of flying pickets to cover all the sites in the greater Manchester area.

Afterwards the men marched off to the Social Security office demanding payment for single men.

WORKERS on strike in Preston yesterday demanded the union leaders call an all-out, national strike for the claim.

Tommy Lawton, UCATT district organizer, warned the men of splits generated by the press. Basic rates had not gone up since June 1971 while house prices had risen 20 per cent.

Men at the meeting called for the rejection of the Lancashire 'Evening Post' for bias and misreporting of the strike.

From the floor, Alan Moon, a member of the strike committee

asked: 'Why don't Jack Jones and George Smith (T&GWU and UCATT leaders) stand up and say it's a national strike.'

'I propose a joint shop stewards' committee like on the docks.'

A union official replied that Jones had sent a message saying the strike would 'escalate to become a national stoppage.'

Preston building workers will join other sections in Lancashire in a march through Bolton tomorrow.

WEATHER

AN ANTI-CYCLONE is almost stationary over the British Isles. Eastern England will be rather cloudy at times, but there will also be some sunny periods.

Central and western England and Wales will have some fog patches at first, followed by a dry day with sunny periods.

Northern Ireland, South-West and central Scotland will be dry, with variable cloud and some sunny intervals. The North and West of Scotland will be rather cloudy with a little coastal drizzle.

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Mostly dry, with sunny spells, but some fog patches at night.

Occasional rain in North-West Scotland and perhaps in Northern Ireland.

Workers Press goes from strength to strength

'THIS IS the paper which tells the truth about our strike,' a docker involved in last week's lobby outside Transport House said.

He waved a copy of Workers Press in front of television cameras and said: 'Why don't you say what this paper says? Why do you put lies over to the public?'

This was but one of the endorsements which Workers Press received during the dockers' struggle over the past few months.

● We were the first newspaper to attend the hearings of the National Industrial Relations Court and explain the real significance of the Tory court.

● It was Workers Press which exposed the private detectives of Eurotec Ltd, who were hired by Midland Cold Storage to spy on dockers and their homes.

● When the police attacked pickets at Neap House Wharf, near Scunthorpe, Workers Press described the strike-breaking activities of the police.

But just as Workers Press

painstakingly followed the court hearings, the jailings, the release and then the national strike itself, today it must come forward again to speak the truth to the working class.

We must unmask those in the labour and trade union movement who sell out struggles and we will fearlessly carry out this job on behalf of the working class. The issues are too grave, the stakes are too high for any covering up or soft-peddalling.

The crisis-ridden Tory government is determined to smash the working class to preserve its own parasitic existence.

Anyone who betrays the working class directly allows this government to continue to function. In Workers Press those responsible for such treacheries must and will be exposed.

We have complete confidence that Workers Press, engaging in an all-round exposure of the capitalist system and its agents in the labour and trade union movement, will build a broad readership in the working class.

Dockers are responding to our no-holds-barred approach to political questions. And so are building workers.

On yesterday's picket line at the St Thomas's site at Waterloo, John Meehan said: 'I think it's important to have a paper like Workers Press every day. We need something to give the facts and put our point of view or we won't get anywhere.'

Workers want the truth about their political struggles. Workers Press promises to give them the truth. Only if we mount such a struggle can a revolutionary political leadership be forged in the ranks of the trade unions.

But to expand the daily paper, to increase our coverage all over the country we require greater financial resource. And that can only come from you—our readers and supporters.

This month's Appeal Fund has reached £833.20. We have nine days left to raise our target of £1,750. Give us your support to carry out the great fighting task ahead.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS
TUC MUST BREAK OFF ALL TALKS WITH HEATH!
MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!
CENTRAL LONDON: Wed, August 23, 7.30 p.m. The builders' fight. Small Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn.
GLASGOW: Wednesday August 23, 7.30 p.m. Partick Burgh Hall (nr Merkland St underground). UCS and the docks.
NEWCASTLE: Wednesday August 23, 7.30 p.m. Hotspur Hotel, Haymarket.
COVENTRY: Wednesday August 23, 7 p.m. Hertford Tavern, Junction Street (adjoining The Butts). 'The builders' strike and the fight against the Tories.'
AYLESHAM: Thursday August 24, 8 p.m. The Legion, Burgess Road. Speakers include Cavanagh Weaver, steward from Wm. Griffiths, Canterbury.
SHEFFIELD: Thursday August 24. Western Works, Portobello. 'The builders' strike'. Chairman: Tal Clarke (UCATT branch secretary). Speaker: Sean Coulston (Sheffield strike committee member). Both in a personal capacity.

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 given by
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 (SLL national secretary)
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 Tuesday September 5
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