

WORKERS PRESS

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

GOVERNMENT PLANS REVEAL

TORY JOBLESS

BY DAVID MAUDE

TORY LEADERS will this week threaten to throw hundreds of thousands more workers out of their jobs unless union leaders agree to help them cut real wages.

In a bid to take full advantage of last week's TUC declaration for co-operation with the National Industrial Relations Court, the government is already mounting pressure for a secret agreement with the TUC which would endanger the pay claims of millions of workers.

They hope to clinch the deal at Thursday's meeting at Chequers—premier Heath's luxurious country house in Buckinghamshire—with members of the TUC General Council and the employers' organization, the Confederation of British Industry. The all-day conference has been arranged to discuss three or four papers, said by 10 Downing Street to be about 'improving the position of the lower-paid' and 'reducing the level of increase in prices', prepared by a joint working party over the last month.

But Heath will also throw in a conversation-stopping Treasury report which says that joblessness could rise to 1.4 million in the next 12 months unless claims are reduced.

He may also refer to another report, from the same source, which says that price rises may soon cut off British firms from home as well as foreign markets.

These reports—carefully leaked to the Tory press for publication yesterday—are followed up today by the Bank of England.

In its quarterly bulletin, the Bank calls for rapid government action against inflation.

Earnings are rising again, it says, and 'there is a great danger that prices will do likewise'. Moves for 'marked and lasting moderation' are urgent. The Chequers talks could 'help towards this'.

The purpose of this stage-managed propaganda offensive is clear.

It is to hand the union leaders, who have already demonstrated their loyalty over the anti-union Act, the whip to push their members into line on wages, too.

The Tories are convinced that last week's expressed opposition to wage restraint at the TUC is so much hot air. And they have good reason for this conviction, because not a single union leader, either right or 'left', objected to Thursday's talks going on.

As a sop to the consciences of some of the 'lefts', Heath will probably offer his guests at Chequers some form of joint 'review' or the workings of the Industrial Relations Act.

This review—on which the General Council would be represented along with the CBI and the government—would form the substance of the backstage deal on pay.

Then the union leaders would proceed half-heartedly into the autumn round of pay claims with the aim of restricting them to the already-agreed norm of 8 per cent.

The immediate intended victims of the deal would be the 1 million local-authority manual workers and the 110,000 power workers.

The Tories know, however, that any such deal with the leaders can only buy them time while they complete their real preparations to hit at the working class.

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THREAT TO WAGES



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Right-wing raise 300

THE EXPECTED 5,000-strong extreme right-wing march against immigration flopped dramatically yesterday when only 300 turned up. Stripped of their Smithfield supporters the marchers from Kent, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, Leicester and a handful of London boroughs were predominantly middle class. Organized by Immigration Control Organization leader Joy Page, fête-day accents could be heard the length of the short column shouting 'Asians out—Enoch in'.

The demonstrators were almost exclusively National Front, with contingents from Colin Jordan's British Movement and the National Independence Party. Letters demanding an end to all coloured immigration were handed in at Enoch Powell's home in South Eaton Place, at Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street.

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On March 22, Workers Press was the only newspaper in Britain to warn about the effect of this.

'British employers,' we said, 'will now join the stampede to take advantage of cheap labour in these countries, using the threat of capital movement to intimidate the workers in Britain through the creation of more unemployment.'

The stampede is already underway.

Latest Treasury figures show that investment abroad in the first half of this year totalled £727m. This is almost as much as the average for a full year in the previous three years.

In other words the Tories have already broken whatever private assurances on unemployment they plan to give the union leaders on Thursday—and the evidence is staring the union leaders in the face.

The upshot of the retreat at Brighton, therefore, is preparation by the union leaders for a

secret pact with a government they know plans misery, hardship and repression for their members.

This is the most powerful possible argument for the building of the revolutionary alter-

native to these cowardly, discredited men—a subject which will be the centre of the discussion at the All Trades Unions Alliance conference on October 22.

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What we think

After Brighton

WHATEVER the Tory papers say, the so-called left of the trade union movement comes out of Brighton in a weaker and more isolated position than at any time since the Heath government was elected.

The latest pundit to join the chorus is Eric Jacobs, the upper-class industrial correspondent of 'The Sunday Times'. Jacobs throws his weight behind the amazing theory that the 'left' emerged as vigorous as ever at the 104th Congress. As usual, there is one striking omission from Jacobs' account—a complete absence of fact to support his conclusions!

He could for example, have examined the position in May this year—the high point of opposition against any co-operation with the Industrial Relations Court.

Then a motion tabled by the engineers (AUEW) on the General Council won a majority in terms of membership of affiliated unions.

Unions with a combined membership of 3.2 million voted for a re-call to conference and re-affirm the policy of boycotting the court. The right attracted only 3 million votes. The majority would have been even greater if unions like the cine technicians (ACTT) and the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) had been present.

But by Brighton, the left's share of Congress support had slumped to one-third. More important, the two big unions, the AUEW and the Transport and General

Workers', were left virtually isolated, attracting support only from a minority of smaller organizations.

Notably the National Union of Mineworkers and NUPE had swung to the right and the Boilermakers' Society had shifted off the fence into the arms of general secretary Victor Feather and the anti-union laws.

The one feeble 'achievement' was the removal of Dyers' and Bleachers' leader Jack Peel. Unfortunately Peel's fall from grace will make not a scrap of difference—the unknown who replaces him, Joe King, is perhaps even more right wing.

But the bare facts give only a glimpse of the fundamental shift of forces Brighton represented. A year ago at the 103rd Congress at Blackpool the union leaders at least paid lip-service to non-co-operation with the Act. Of course the speeches were a charade—a whole section of the movement fully intended to register and still more were preparing to go before the court if necessary. The point was that these leaders were as yet still unable to boast openly of their intentions.

But things did not go entirely to plan. The government used the penal clauses with a rapidity that bewildered the bureaucrats. Equally bewildering was the immediate response of the working class. Unions who wanted to sneak their way into the court's favour were stopped. The climax came in May, soon after the TUC had abandoned opposition to the court—then,

as the figures show, the majority of the movement condemned this surrender and demanded an immediate Congress.

This was followed by the confrontation over the jailing of five dockers and for the first time since 1926 the movement was moving towards a General Strike.

This was surely the time the so-called left could have been victorious. Without question a Congress could have been organized and won the backing of the overwhelming majority of unions and workers.

But the left revealed their true colours. The demands for re-call and opposition to the Act were no more than words—utterly meaningless since they were not backed by determined action. On the contrary, it was Jack Jones, his executive and their Stalinist allies who temporarily broke the resistance of the working class by engineering a return to work in the dock strike.

The tide of militancy was pushed back and the right-wing began to gather their nerve and composure ready for the big offensive at Brighton. There they routed a divided and hopelessly compromised left wing. The battle fought against the General Council by Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones, in fact, was phoney.

Not once was the General Council indicted for its treachery over the Act, not once was there a call to break off relations with a Tory government that had made its anti-working class intentions only too clear

and of course not once was there a call to mobilize the strength of the movement to bring the government down.

The Transport and General Workers' delegation made it quite clear that they would obey the General Council's edicts in the coming year whatever they were.

This kind of formula really exposes the 'left'. Men like Hugh Scanlon do not want to defeat the right wing. They erect a barrage of verbal opposition but continually conspire to create a condition where they will be prisoners of the right wing and so escape the direct responsibility to lead.

In this sense too they are desperately afraid of the mass movement, since it challenges their left phrases and threatens them with exposure, as Jack Jones found to his cost during the dock strike.

Deep in this swamp of opportunism is the Communist Party. It now acts as dishonest broker between the discredited leaders. And at Brighton the CP's role was recognized and rewarded by kind and welcoming words from the anti-communists of the General Council.

Now, in the days of immediate reaction, when the right can trumpet their victory in the Tory press, the revolutionary movement must prepare to fight its greatest and most determined battle.

This should be a war without illusion—no leadership is capable of defending the basic rights and condition of the working class other than a Marxist leadership. This is the lesson of Brighton.

Divisions hang over EEC 10

CONTINUING divisions within the Common Market are plainly visible as foreign ministers from the six members and four applicant countries gather in Rome for a two-day meeting starting today.

French President Georges Pompidou met the German Chancellor Willy Brandt in Munich on Saturday, but failed to reach agreement on a number of outstanding issues to be discussed at the EEC summit on October 19.

Pompidou said after meeting Brandt that he hoped the Rome meeting would be able to work out 'a package of positive proposals' to form a basis for the forthcoming summit.

German spokesman Conrad Ahlers said there was no cause for greater optimism that the summit would take place on time as a result of the Franco-German meeting.

Pompidou has previously threatened to force the postponement or cancellation of the summit unless Britain returns sterling to a fixed parity.

The pound 'float' has seriously disrupted plans for eventual European monetary union and gives British big business some advantage against its European competitors.

Zionists step up terror raids

REGULAR troops and Palestinian commandos in Syria and the Lebanon were on the alert yesterday expecting new and brutal Israeli reprisal raids on refugee camps in the Arab states.

BY JOHN SPENCER

conference on Friday:

'Israel's main objective from now on is the fight against terrorism. The question of peace must take second place.'

Everything points to the preparation of a massive punitive expedition directed primarily against the Lebanon. An enormous force of Israeli troops has massed against the country's northern frontiers, in a strength unprecedented since the 1967 six-day war.

In his speech at Lydda airport when the bodies of the Israeli athletes were flown home, deputy premier Yigal Allon recalled the guerrilla actions of past years in a tone highly reminiscent of previous Zionist preparations for attacks on the Palestinians.

The Israeli press is howling for action to stamp out the 'nests' of Palestinian activity, wherever they are, and the Tel Aviv government is mounting a big diplomatic campaign to clear the way for action against its Arab neighbours.

This explains the calls for action by the 'civilized countries' against so-called terrorism, enthusiastically endorsed by British Labour leader Harold Wilson and others of his stamp.

On the continent a major witch-hunt against Palestinians is already underway with intensified security operations in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy.

Backed by world imperialism, the Zionists are using the slogan of anti-terrorism to inflict further blows on the already battered Palestinian resistance, consolidate their hold on the occupied territories and terrorize the Arab capitalists into further capitulations.

There are already signs that the Lebanese government, at least, is responding to this crude military pressure. A patrol of Lebanese soldiers killed a commando last Friday when they fired on two car-loads of Palestinians, and Beirut is agitating for the Palestinian fighters to surrender their heavy arms.

The massacre of 80 Palestinian refugees in 11 Syrian and Lebanese camps was a reprisal for the Black September organization's operation at the Munich Olympics, in which 11 Israeli team members and five commandos were gunned down by crack Bavarian marksmen.

The Israelis claim the camps are 'training bases' for Palestinian guerrillas.

Israeli spokesmen have made it clear that further action against the Palestinians is being prepared. Abba Eban, the Israeli Foreign Minister, told a press

Puppet troops are badly mauled

HEAVY ground attacks at many points in South Vietnam herald what could be the start of a new liberation offensive in the weeks preceding the American general election.

South Vietnamese puppet forces have been badly mauled at a number of points, notably at Tien Phuoc town, south of the big US base at Da Nang. The Saigon command said government troops had abandoned the town on Friday, after an attack by 3,000 liberation troops backed by tanks.

The attack at Tien Phuoc was only one of a number of actions which inflicted heavy losses on the puppet forces.

Heavy fighting was reported from as far north as the Quang Tri battlefield, through the central lowlands to the Mekong Delta below Saigon.

The capital itself is surrounded by a slowly tightening ring of North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front forces, which have cut all the main roads to within 35 miles of Saigon.

Similar tactics, designed to cut the city off from the rice-growing areas where the crop is being harvested, have already sparked widespread rioting and looting by government troops in Phnom Penh.

Stalinists fuel witch-hunt of Arab guerrillas

THE SOVIET Union and the East European Stalinist states have unanimously condemned the action of the Black September organization which staged the attack on the Israeli Olympic team at Munich.

Prague Radio, for example, said the 'Olympic Games, this symbol of peaceful coexistence and competition, has been the scene of a criminal murder of Israeli sportsmen by the Palestinian guerrillas of the Black September group'.

Sofia Radio claimed on behalf of the Bulgarian team that 'this grave incident is a gross violation of the Olympic traditions, the ideals and principles of peace

and understanding among the youth and peoples throughout the world'.

Hungarian commentators went even further. Budapest Radio said: 'Although the Arab world is obliged to show sympathy towards the Palestinians, such acts of terror prompt even Arab countries to ponder.

'They cannot afford to let a few fanatical terrorists by their acts cause world indignation to frustrate the strivings for a settlement.'

The Yugoslavs demanded that 'the world undertake general action to eliminate violence and terror directed against any country and any people, to cut their

roots and destroy their exponents'.

It added: '1972 should be the starting point of a new approach by the international community to the acute problems of the contemporary world because it has been demonstrated that violence and terror are threatening the very essence of all the noble aspirations of the people of the world.'

The real position of world Stalinism is well illustrated by these words. For them the Palestinians are an obstacle to a dirty deal between Israel and the surrounding Arab states.

It is fear of such a deal which fuels the desperation of the Palestinians and drives them to-

wards acts of terrorism.

This is clear from the Black September statements, broadcast from a number of Middle East transmitters.

These denounce in particular the 'capitulation' tendency among the Arab rulers — epitomized most blatantly by Jordan's King Hussein, who not only disavowed the guerrillas, but denounced them to the Israelis in a message of condolences.

The Stalinists have aligned themselves fully with the November 1967 UN Security Council resolution which completely ignored the just claims of the Palestinian people and seeks a settlement simply on the basis

of restoring the *status quo* before the six-day war.

Marxists have always fought against the methods of individual terror, carried out in isolation from the masses and substituting individual heroism for the action of the working class and the oppressed peoples.

The Stalinists' denunciation of terrorism lacks even the slightest shred of principle.

Their attacks on the Black September organization can only fuel the witch-hunt against the Palestine resistance and assist Zionism in preparations for fresh brutalities against the dispossessed men and women they have driven from their country.



ADDING UP THE HOMELESS

According to one estimation there are now a total of 50,000 homeless people in Britain. No accurate figures exist and the Department of Health and Social Security is proposing a survey of common lodging houses and hostels in London to find out how many people are without a home.

Attempts are being made by various voluntary bodies to ensure that the resulting figures include all those who have no fixed address, but who happen to be in reception centres, prisons, police cells and hospitals when the census is carried out, or who are just living rough.

The survey will not include those who are staying with relatives and friends, in bed-and-breakfast accommodation, or who are squatting with their families in empty houses.

Many of these are families with children over 16, childless couples who are not eligible for local authority temporary accommodations and those families who are terrified that if they apply for local authority help they will be split up, the men separated from the women, and their children taken into care.

Reactions to the proposed survey among social workers and others trying to deal with the ever-growing problem of homelessness have been described as ranging from the 'cynical to the exasperated'.

Numerous 'head-counts' of homeless people have been carried out since Dickens' day,

but little has been done to alleviate the situation.

With a Tory government in power, we can safely assume that the coming survey will be no different from its predecessors.

The present rocketing property prices, while ensuring that the landlords and speculators are having a bonanza, means that thousands of families are being made homeless.

At one time homeless families were regarded as 'problem families' because they were considered to be inadequate, immature people unable to cope with providing proper homes for their children.

Today this attitude can no longer be sustained. As one social worker put it: 'Many people who become homeless are by no means inadequate. They just can't compete in the rat race of present-day prices.'

Merger on the way at Rolls

The 1,000 more redundancies announced by Rolls - Royce recently show that none of the real questions facing the aero-engine firm have yet been answered.

Rolls-Royce has two competitors, both Americans. But the markets are insufficient to sustain all three firms. Not enough aircraft are now being built to maintain adequate production runs all of the time.

Pressure is already building up for the Tories to sanction a merger with either Pratt and Whitney or its rival General Electric to ensure that Rolls does not completely flounder under the impact of American competition.

The speculative question is with which firm would Rolls be better off.

Until recently, Pratt and Whitney had 80 per cent of the civil aircraft market. Its engines were in almost every airliner. It was guaranteed a huge business in spares and large profits.



Then it ran into serious trouble with the monster engine for the Boeing Jumbo jet. Pratt and Whitney are still facing law suits over the deal.

In the recent period, Rolls and General Electric have broken their rival's near monopoly, capturing the engine orders for all three air buses going into production.

Boeing is now also talking about a super-jumbo version of the 747 using General Electric engines, not Pratt and Whitney.

When Rolls-Royce went bankrupt, General Electric approached them with a take-over offer. Pratt and Whitney also approached them, but because of the snags with the jumbo engine, did not have the cash to go through with any deal.



With competition between the three engine firms hotting up, however, it cannot be long before mergers and rationalizations take place.

CONWAY TALKS 'LEFT'

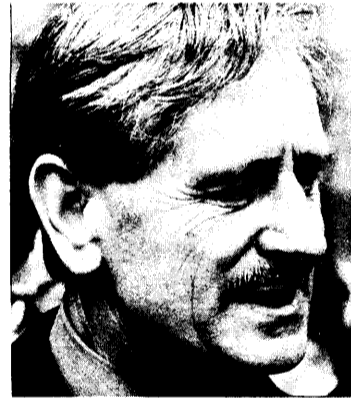
The TUC-CBI conciliation and arbitration service has taken pressure off the Tory government at a time when it should have been maintained, says engineers' union leader Jim Conway.

Writing in the September issue of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' journal, Conway says that the government has persistently sought confrontations with the unions.

He goes on: 'Because of our determination the government was being forced back, but now they have been rescued.'

'The minimum price the TUC should have demanded was a series of amendments to the Industrial Relations Act. The government even made a few encouraging noises, but the end result was that we got nothing.'

This is unaccustomed militancy from the right-wing Conway, who is in favour of British entry into the Common Market.



Top: Jim Conway. Above: Ernie Roberts; both contending the ballot for AUEW general-secretaryship.

After Roy Jenkins MP helped keep the Tories in power in the key Market vote last October, Conway wrote of him: 'He could have pursued Party popularity as too many others have done, but he stood by what he believed to be right.'

Conway's new stance is, of course, entirely unconnected with next month's second ballot for the general secretaryship of the AUEW, in which he faces a straight fight with left-winger Ernie Roberts.



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HIRED LABOUR SPIES AND COMPANY POLICE

Part 11 of a series on Picketing by Bernard Franks

One of the most notorious detective agencies in Britain in recent years was that run by Barry Quartermain, an ex-RAF man who specialized in evicting squatters for local councils in London.

In 1969, families desperate for somewhere to live occupied council-owned houses which had lain unoccupied for months, or even years. The councils, including the Greater London Council, Redbridge and Haringey, called in Quartermain and his team who smashed their way into the premises and ejected the families, including women and children.

One report in 'The Sunday Times' stated: 'At 6.30 a.m. on April 21 Mr Quartermain led his largest eviction raid on three premises in Ilford. After smashing their way into the house a bailiff punched one of the squatters breaking his jaw. Mr and Mrs Fleming and their three children were frog-marched down the stairs and onto the street.'

According to a report in 'The Times' Quartermain conducted divorce investigations using electronic listening devices—a 'bug in the bedhead'—and also specialized in 'investigating agitators and finding the real motive behind a strike'. Said 'The Times': 'In such cases he gets eight or ten of his men on to the client's payroll in strategically-placed jobs.'

Today, the Industrial Relations Act actively encourages this particular breed of hired labour spy once more.

The recent case of men from the firm 'Eurotec' being hired by the Midland Cold Store, East London, secretly to collect evidence against picketing dockers for use in the National Industrial Relations Court confirms the Act to be a series of police state measures against organized workers.

For the Tory government this is the state of things to come.

Acting entirely legally and creditably as far as the Court was concerned detectives Christopher Burch, Garry Murray, a senior partner in Eurotec, and William Laslett admitted to:

- Minute-by-minute surveillance of pickets.
- Telephoning workers and their wives and posing as a freelance news researcher to obtain evidence.
- Secretly tape-recording conversations with workers on the picket line.
- Secretly listening to and recording a conversation in a public house.
- Secretly following workers home and elsewhere on foot and by car.
- Photographing the picket line.

According to evidence, their brief was to ascertain the names and addresses of the persons regularly picketing at

the gates of the company in Waterden Road, to ascertain the affiliations of such persons to any organization, and to report fully on the activities of such persons in the picket line.

Evidence given in court by Murray, concerning photographing, stated:

'All the subjects named above were actively engaged in the picketing. Merrick appeared to be in command. Various photographs were taken of the pickets as they were leaving to visit the BRS establishment down the road, where we assume that they are using their toilet facilities, and these photographs will be available shortly.' (From the transcript of Murray's evidence. This was obtained by Workers Press and published on July 8.)

When asked by the judge who he had claimed to be when telephoning workers' wives, Murray told the court:

'I confirmed I was a freelance news reporter and wanted to find out their feelings. I told them I'd been speaking to their husbands who had given me permission to talk to them.' (Workers Press, July 7.)

The spies in this case obtained information and tested out the picket line by driving up in a vehicle and threatening to go through.

The next step will be to hire thugs who, with police support, will attempt to break the picket lines in true Pinkerton style, on the basis of these being illegal under the new law.

Company police

Mention has previously been made of the Coal and Iron Police and the railway police of the USA. Similar bodies were created by private companies in Britain in the middle of the last century to maintain industrial discipline, chiefly in the ironwork and rail construction industries.

An earlier example was when in 1797 the West India Company created a private river police of 200 men armed with cutlasses. Their duty was to patrol the Thames in rowing boats protecting the company's property and keeping order on the river.

In 1837 the Lanarkshire ironmasters equipped and paid a body of 40 policemen to protect starving weavers whom they were hiring at low rates, from assaults by the workers whose wages were being undercut. The regular workers lost the struggle and ended up by having to work longer hours.

It may have been that the employer gained on the deal, even allowing for the wages of the police; but in general, capitalists are prepared to spend vast sums of money on defeating workers, far beyond the amounts they allege to be impossible to find to pay higher wages.

Engels also writes of a case where, in 1843, a Man-



Top: Eurotec detectives Gary Murray (centre) and William Laslett (left), whose evidence in the National Industrial Relations court led to the conviction of the Pentonville Five. Above left: Henry Ford I.

chester brick-making firm, Pauling and Henfrey, set 12 armed guards—ex-police and ex-soldiers—to guard the premises against strikers. The brick workers themselves obtained arms and attacked the yard as a military operation. A pitched battle ensued. Engels commended the bravery of the strikers and remarked that these workers 'possess revolutionary courage and do not shun a rain of bullets'.

In general, though, British employers have been afraid to develop this system as a coercive force to any great extent, as, following any violence, the continued existence of such a corps on the premises would be taken by the workers as a provocation. Instead, the employers preferred to leave it to the union leaders to dis-

cipline employees on their behalf.

One book that gives an account of how such bodies continued to develop in the United States is 'The Flivver King' by Upton Sinclair. Written in 1937, and read by thousands of Ford workers throughout the world, it has recently become available again. The book tells of the rise of the Ford Motor Company from a back-street shed to a billion-dollar industry.

It tells also of the 'Social Department' with a staff of 50 employed to keep a check on morals and character of employees—the workers called it the 'Snooping Department'.

The book also describes the 'Service Department'. This was under the control of Harry Bennet, an ex-boxer whose job

it was 'to organize and train the 3,600 private police who guarded the gates of the plant, watched the work in every department, reported violations of many hundreds of regulations, and mingled with the men as spies, detecting grumblers, and kickers, union organizers and "Red agitators".'

At one stage, the spy-mania was so bad that three men standing talking together were a 'conspiracy'. The service men searched lunch boxes for seditious literature and 'they even pried open sandwiches in the search!' Sinclair says that such work was not only carried out inside the plant: 'If a labour leader came to town Henry's service department must know where he went and with whom he talked. In other words, Henry Ford's army set up an intelligence bureau, with spies and counter-spies, essential in every war.'

He adds that Ford's army pulled off its share of 'rough stuff' such that a former judge and then Mayor of Detroit could state from his own knowledge: 'Henry Ford employs some of the worst gangsters in our city.' It was this army that along with regular police opened up with gas bombs and machine guns on unemployed demonstrators at the Ford plant in March 1932, wounding about 50 and killing four men.

Ford's extreme right-wing leanings were shown in his virulent anti-Semitic and anti-communist campaigns between 1920 and 1927, launched through a newspaper called the 'Dearborn Independent' and through Henry Ford's own book 'The International Jew: the World's Foremost Problem.'

Today, the mainstay of the Security Service at Ford's of Detroit is 30 ex-FBI men.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



WHY MR DAVIES IS TRYING TO KEEP THE JAPANESE OUT

Department of Trade and Industry officials, recently in Tokyo for trade negotiations with their Japanese counterparts, were unlikely to get any response in their attempts to curb rapidly-increasing exports to Britain.

The talks, led by DTI trade expert Sir Max Brown, followed up Trade Secretary John Davies' visit of three months ago.

UK manufacturers of ball-bearings, polyester fibre and colour TV sets were certainly looking to the mission to bring some respite from the pressure of Japanese competition, which has already caused considerable redundancies in the Ransome, Hoffman and Pollard ball-bearing industry.

But Tokyo is unlikely to grant any worthwhile concessions as she is increasingly forced to look to British and western European markets to compensate for her difficulties with the United States market.

Last December's yen-dollar parity change, together with President Nixon's tougher trade attitude, is likely to cut back a part of the 31 per cent of total Japanese exports which are shipped to the United States. By comparison Europe is as yet untouched; last year barely 7 per cent of Japan's exports went to the Common Market and less than 6 per cent to the European Free Trade Association countries.

Japan's share of all OECD-country exports (all the leading industrial nations) to western Europe was a bare 3 per cent in 1971, hardly any

advance on 1968, whereas its share of OECD exports to the US had risen from 17 per cent to 22 per cent over the same period.

This turn towards the European market is reflected in the latest trade figures issued by the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). Total exports were up 27 per cent from a year earlier. Among major items, machinery, foodstuffs, chemical products and textiles increased sharply.

While exports to the US gained only 5 per cent on the previous year, they rose by almost 50 per cent to Europe.

Anglo-Japanese trade is still small in relative terms. Although the two countries rank third and fourth in the world export league, they do very little business with each other—only 2 per cent of the imports and exports of each.

Up to 1970 the growth of imports and exports was steady and relatively balanced. But last year, with the Japanese economy in recession, their industries found themselves with considerable excess capacity. Japanese exports soared by 50 per cent whereas British exports to Japan edged up by only 8 per cent.

RIVALS

This year the divergence has further widened, with a 34 per cent increase from Japan and only 3-4 per cent in the opposite direction. Here alone is an indication of the relative competitiveness of industry in the two countries.

The Japanese have utilized

the technique which brought them such dramatic results in the US market in the 1960s. This is to concentrate their fire on a very narrow front and to take advantage of the economies of scale to under-price their rivals.

Fear on the part of British manufacturers is perhaps greatest in the consumer-electronics industry. Imports of record players rose by 126 per cent last year and imports of radios and transistors more than doubled.

The colour TV market is still in its infancy, but Japanese penetration has been remarkable. Total imports of Japanese TV sets rose by 264 per cent last year and a further 174 per cent so far this year. Two Japanese companies have been licensed to make large PAL colour sets and anxiety is felt when the UK market for sets begins to level off.

The DTI has been monitoring the situation in 30 other industrial areas including cars, where Japanese imports quadrupled last year and have risen by a similar amount so far this year.

Some attempt has been made by Japanese business to avoid antagonizing the British too much. Efforts have been made to devise 'orderly marketing arrangements'—cartel arrangements whose purpose is to avoid damaging rates of increase in export shipments. But a cartel to control exports of black and white TV sets was dropped when the West German cartel office declared that it would be illegal there.

It is possible that the British delegation to Tokyo threatened some joint EEC action against the Japanese if they stand firm. But there are several

difficulties involved, as the Tanaka government is aware.

First, not every European country has been equally hit by the threat of Japanese penetration. In some cases their industries are better able to compete. Secondly, general policy in Brussels at this stage seems to favour agreements between industries rather than governments.

PROSPECT

Negotiations on an EEC-Japanese trade treaty broke down earlier this year on the very issue of a common EEC safeguard clause.

In any case, as the trade war heats up, so must the divisions within Europe on trade and money questions. The French in particular will be unwilling to take any joint EEC action which will help the British when they have been so critical of the decision to 'float' sterling and the unwillingness of the Heath government to join them in an anti-US trade policy.

Then there is always the fear of retaliation by the Japanese to any British restrictions on Japanese imports. Under considerable US pressure, Japan's import policy has been somewhat liberalized over the last two years. But that policy could easily be reversed at the expense of the British.

With the Nixon administration now making open threats to increase tariff barriers against British exports once Britain joins the EEC, the prospect for British exports looks bleak on all fronts, to say the least.



MOSCOW TAKES CREDIT FOR JAPAN'S DEFEAT

In radio broadcasts marking the anniversary of the Japanese surrender in World War II, Russian speakers have claimed considerable credit for the defeat of imperialism.

It was the victories of the Russian armies in Asia, according to the broadcasts, which laid the basis for the victory of the Chinese Revolution and for the growth of the National Liberation Movements in south-east Asia.

One broadcast by the Russian historian and sinologist Klimov, and beamed in Standard Chinese, Cantonese and Shanghai dialect, praised the role which had been played by the Chinese Communist Party in 'presenting a united front' to Japanese aggression, but said that Chinese attempts to credit Mao Tse-tung with the victory over the Japanese were 'propaganda'.

Klimov claimed that Mao's policies had 'sabotaged national unity and the war against Japan'.

In fact, of course, it was Joseph Stalin who agreed at the Potsdam Conference that Chiang Kai-shek should be ruler of China. Stalin urged the Chinese Communist Party to enter a coalition government under the premiership of Chiang.

Canada tied to US market

A recent national opinion poll whose results have just been published shows that many Canadians feel that their country's economic dependence on the United States is harmful and dangerous.

Canada supplies cheap electric power and raw materials to the USA. Recent editorials in Canadian newspapers have quoted the prices at which Canadian goods are sold on the US market—they are often below world prices.

The controversy has flared up with new force following a statement from the well-known US sociologist Professor Herman Kahn. Speaking to an Ottawa seminar of Canadian government officials, Kahn threatened Canada with the rejection of its raw materials and electronic power if it persisted with its efforts to achieve economic independence. Kahn is known to have close connections with US government circles.



SEAN HUDSON



MUJIB PURGES THE LEFT

Enayetullah Khan, editor of the left-wing Bengali paper 'Holiday', has just arrived in this country from Bangla Desh. In this exclusive interview he describes the fight against corruption and oppression in Bangla Desh.

Conditions in Bangla Desh are bad. The economic crisis has reached critical proportions. Starvation, corruption and jobbery are widespread.

Many people in government and administration are taking advantage of their position and powers. They are indulging in smuggling, in expropriating property for their own personal use by claiming that it has been 'abandoned', and many other forms of corruption.

They are also seeking to use their political powers to hold back or divert opposition to, and resentment at, this corruption. Corruption on such a large scale could not take place without political patronage.

They hide behind a smoke-screen by accusing their opponents of being Chinese or American Central Intelligence Agency men, or even of being collaborators with Pakistan.

There are undoubtedly some collaborators in Bangla Desh and some are being protected by people in power.

Our newspaper from the beginning took up the danger of the government's left-baiting and witch-hunting which was carried out in the name of the sovereignty of the country. They accused us of being collaborators with Pakistan, but it was impossible for that to stick.

Ours was one of three papers banned by the Pakistan regime and our funds were frozen. The government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has

threatened us but we can withstand this because of our record, our principled position and because we are well known. But we are not complacent. We know they would attack us if they felt strong enough.

The government uses the charge of 'collaborator' to behead any revolutionary opposition.

We answered this in an article called '65 Million Collaborators!' We demanded that the government give a clear statement on collaboration and not use it to throttle opposition and to settle political and personal scores.

Our people have suffered occupation and struggled for liberation. This gives them strength. The government cannot crush all opposition.

Recently an editor of 'Haq-Katha' (a paper of 92-year-old peasant leader Maulana Bhashani's tendency) was arrested under the Collaboration Order and is still in jail without trial. How can the government suddenly discover that a man who has been out of jail and running a paper for eight months is a collaborator? He has been jailed because he is critical of the government.

The government has tried to ban four papers: 'Holiday', 'Haq-Katha', 'Ganasakthi' (a paper of a left-wing group) and 'Charanbatra' (an unattached opposition paper).

The Organizing Secretary of the Awami League demanded last June that these papers should be closed down because, he claimed, 'they told lies about the government', and 'maligned our friends' (that is, India and the Soviet Union).

He said: 'If the government doesn't take action, the people will.' This was a threat to use private armies against us.

The government banned 'Ganasakthi', pressurized 'Charanbatra' into taking a softer

line, and they arrested the editor of 'Haq-Katha'. We have survived so far.

The government has created private armies in the form of Lal-Bahini (Red Brigades) which is a wing of the JSL (the trade union organization). They have also got the Awami League Volunteer Force whose members go around brandishing weapons and threatening government critics with extinction for being 'saboteurs of independence'.

But the left forces have substantial support among the working class and peasants and this has repelled the onslaught of the Lal-Bahini, which had total government backing in their attack on left-wing trade unionists last April and May. They found things weren't as easy as they had hoped.

Right-wing trends in the government continue, but they cannot get away with it today because they are basically weak.

The police and army in their present shape are not completely at the beck and call of the government for repressive measures. The police are still weak and unorganized. The army has just fought a patriotic war and so cannot just be used by the government to suppress the people.

There is a balance of terror in Bangla Desh. The experience of armed struggle has given the masses a new confidence and in many cases they have kept their arms.

We were cautious from the very beginning because we saw that dissenters even in the Awami League itself were attacked.

In May the Bangla Desh Chhatra League (the student wing of the Awami League) split. Soon after independence a radical wing rejected the manifestations of jobbery and authoritarianism, the slavish attitude towards India and

Russia and also the underhand dealings with America (which has some excellent allies in the Awami League).

The right wing developed an ideology of 'Mujibism'. The left, led by Rab and Seraj, rejected this and called for the establishment of scientific socialism through social revolution.

In June the factions held separate conferences in Dacca. Mujib attended the 'official' conference, but the 'rebel' conference was much larger.

The lefts carried slogans against the government and against Mujib's alleged complicity with corrupt elements. They warned that if Mujib continued to give patronage and protection to such elements, he would no longer remain father of the nation. Rab declared: 'We called you the father of the nation and we are withdrawing that title today.'

This shows that even within the Awami League itself people are being radicalized and won to the socialist revolution.

The official Chhatra League and the Lal-Bahini planned to break the lefts' conference, but it was too large. The Organizing Secretary of the Awami League—who is also chief of the Volunteer Corps—led a march of the 'Mujibists' and a clash ensued in which he was manhandled. He was rescued by the left leaders.

But later the same day, while the lefts were marching to pay their respects to the monument of the Bengali Language Movement Martyrs, they were attacked by armed members of the Volunteer Corps. Rab received a knife injury.

Resentment is growing even within the camp of the Awami League and they do not spare even their own members

In the early days after independence, right-wing forces in the Awami League—in addition to witch-hunting through the Collaboration Order—launched a programme of physical elimination of the lefts. Thousands were killed in border districts like Babna and Jessore.

This could not be carried too far because of the resistance to it.

But they did use a section of the army and the police, in addition to some Indian personnel, to mop up left elements at Atrai, in the Rajshahi border district.

The leader of one of the 'Marxist-Leninist' groups, Abdul Matin, was arrested and another, Tipu Biswas, was killed. There were many arrests.

The Bangla Desh people are now desperately looking for an alternative leadership, but this has still to take proper shape. However, as the issues become clear, a united left opposition may be around the corner. Already three organizations—Maulana Bhashani's National Awami Party (left), the Bangla Communist Party, and the Bangla Desher Communist Party (Leninist)—have called for democratic left unity.

They have extended this offer to other left groups such as the Krishak Samik Shromik Dal (the Peasant-Workers' Socialist Party) and to the 'rebel' Chhatra League.

As the food crisis gets worse, these groups are already working together on basic opposition issues.

This provides the opportunity for the opposition to unite and to give the people a proper lead.

FOOTNOTE: Workers Press is pleased to publish this interview which, of course, represents the views of Mr Khan's organization.



Left: King Hassan of Morocco, who now carries little weight with the masses.

Almost a year later, in July 1971, following the disclosure of the embezzlement of hundreds of millions of pounds from the phosphate mining industry by government officials, the first attempt to overthrow Hassan and establish a military dictatorship took place.

After the coup failed to gain support from the army ranks, Hassan crushed it, executing ten top commanders without trial and arresting 1,400 soldiers. He then turned to deal with his real enemies.

Hassan placed 193 members of the leftward-moving section of the NUPF on trial on trumped-up charges of conspiracy and sedition. The NF leaders turned their backs on the militants, continuing to plead for a new constitution and fair elections. Meanwhile, the defendants at Marrakesh were tortured and five condemned to death.

In November last year, Moroccan workers showed they were prepared to fight. Dockers at Mohammedia and Casablanca won a 15-per-cent wage increase and the staff of the Royal Moroccan Airlines struck for higher pay. The MUL was forced to reject the fixed-wage increases proposed by Hassan (as much as 25 per cent for industrial workers).

In January, however, while Hassan appealed for the NF to continue its collaboration, he stepped up his attack on the illegal opposition when he arrested Bourkia, a leader of the Communist Party and the editors of 'Souffles', the Maoist journal. A second mass trial, in the interests of 'national unity', was opened at Kenitra.

An attempt to carry the purges into the universities the same month led to a General Strike of students. After clashes in Mohammedia in March, students took to the streets of Rabat on April 7.

Lash back

The monarchy lashed back viciously, arresting dozens of oppositionists and conscripting scores of students into the army. Although the reformist leaders of the students' union panicked and called off the three-month strike, considerable gains were made. These included the right to organize in the lycées, immunity from arrest on the campus and the release of scores of imprisoned militants.

In the NF this growing militancy of workers and students prevented the organization from entering a new government set up under the aristocrat Karim Lamrani. Instead they set up a 'committee to fight repression'. Then they were forced to break off discussions with Hassan's regime, unable to foist such a deal on the militant rank and file.

In April, the conference of the Moroccan Union of Labour passed resolutions condemning Hassan and called for the construction of a socialist society. Hassan replied by calling on the trade unions to pay special attention to the 'problems of political and economic order'.

The nationalist leadership of the Moroccan workers, peasants and students would dearly like to collaborate with Hassan, but are forced to retreat by rank-and-file pressure.

At the same time, however, they refuse to lead a fight for the overthrow of the crisis-ridden, semi-feudal regime and thus open up the door to the dangers of a right-wing military dictatorship.

The urgent question facing the Moroccan masses, as in all other countries, is the building of a principled revolutionary party based firmly on Marxist principles which can fight for the political independence of the masses and prepare the working class to lead the poor peasants, students and unemployed in the taking of power.

HOW THE MOROCCAN REFORMERS KEEP HASSAN IN POWER

Morocco, one of the last countries in Africa to be subjected to colonial rule when divided between France and Spain in 1912, is now in the middle of a period of intense class struggle.

The August 15, 1971, measures of President Nixon, which opened up the trade and tariff war, and the struggle for markets, spelled doom for the feeble Moroccan industries.

All guarantees of a stable price for her phosphates and agricultural produce have been removed at a stroke. As a result the native bourgeoisie has attempted to reduce the workers and peasants to binding poverty, destroying their political rights, parties and organizations.

The unsuccessful attempt to

overthrow King Hassan in August arose from divisions in the Moroccan ruling class in the face of growing resistance from workers, peasants, students and the unemployed to the attacks made in the interest of imperialism.

Masquerade

In July of last year, General Hammou attempted to bring an end to Hassan's absolute rule and establish a military dictatorship. The desperate resurrection of this strategy by Lt Amakrane with the support of Hassan's strongman, General Oufkir, arose from Hassan's failure to stop the forward movement of the masses.

Hassan has maintained his position for so long only by continuing the Bonapartist policies of his father, Mohammed V. Mohammed supported French colonial rule through-

out the early years of the nationalist struggle, only breaking his alliance in 1953, after 17 years of hostility to Istiqlal, the independence party.

But Hassan's pose as a champion of the liberation fighters of Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe, and his masquerade as a sheriff, a descendant of the prophet, Mohammed, now carries little weight with the masses.

Now only the treachery of the opposition leaders prevents the workers and peasants putting an end to Hassan's rule. The leaders of the National Front (NF), which comprises Istiqlal, the National Union of Popular Forces (NUPF) and the Moroccan Union of Labour (MUL) foster the illusions that reforms can be won from Hassan.

Worse than that, they isolate and abet the persecution of the illegal left, the Moscow-

backed Communist Party and the Maoist Liberation and Socialist Party.

The National Front was formed in July 1970. The NUPF, which split from Istiqlal in 1962 under the leadership of Mehdi Ben Barka, ostensibly to fight for socialism, found its way back to the fold, when it formed an alliance with the same group. Then, together with the MUL, under the leadership of the reformist Mahjoub Ben Saddik, they pledged themselves to a programme of minimum demands.

Under the pressure of the masses, however, the National Front was forced to organize a boycott of elections held in August 1970 under a constitution granted by Hassan the previous month. The military took alarm when 45 per cent of all voters abstained in one particular area.

RUSSIA: TROUBLE WITH THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

The growing crisis of the Soviet economy, now in the second year of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, will be a main item at the September 19 session of the Supreme Soviet.

It will probably be preceded by a plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU at which Brezhnev will report on his tour of the agricultural areas, many of which face their worst harvest for years.

The policies required by the Stalinist 'theory' of 'socialism in one country' and decades of bureaucratic mismanagement are taking a heavy toll. The promises of Khrushchev to catch up and outstrip the capitalist countries during the 1970s now look increasingly ridiculous.

Instead, the bureaucracy is driven into greater dependence on world capitalism as it becomes increasingly unable to solve the problems caused by separation from the world market and its own misrule. In all the most technologically advanced fields, with few exceptions, the Soviet economy is lagging badly behind.

Far behind

Its relative backwardness is shown by the pinning down of enormous resources in low-yield agriculture which is now not even able to supply the basic food supply of the population. There are glaring weaknesses in chemicals, plastics, electronics and machine-tools.

The industries closest to the consumer make the worst showing of all. In variety, quality and durability Soviet products are far behind the standards which are accepted as normal in the capitalist world. To establish modern industries in fields such as motors and plastics, the bureaucracy has had to turn for assistance to the big capitalist concerns.

As for competing on the world market, this is quite out of the question for all but a few Soviet products. Soviet industry is outclassed in the production of machinery and machine-tools. It cannot supply consumer goods which are competitive in price or quality with those of large-scale capitalist industry. At the best it can open up some markets in the less-developed countries.

In fact the traffic is mainly the other way. To meet Soviet workers' demands for more and better consumer goods, there are growing imports from Eastern Europe and even from the West.

The bureaucracy cannot even develop the vast natural resources of the Soviet Union, especially in remoter areas like Siberia. For this it requires large quantities of sophisticated plant and equipment which Soviet industry is unable to supply. It needs to make huge investments in transport and other facilities



Brezhnev: agriculture faces worst harvest for years.

in what are largely uninhabited regions.

So it turns desperately to Japanese and other capitalists and proposes joint prospects to open up new oilfields and develop mineral resources.

The much-advertised 'economic reform' which placed more power in the hands of plant managers and gave greater importance to the profits of the individual enterprise has clearly failed. There are signs that the bureaucracy is now turning back to stricter control by the planning organs and may be considering a reorganization of the whole economy.

End to privileges

However the bureaucracy twists and turns it cannot evade the pressures which bear down on the Soviet economy from the world market and reveal the bankruptcy of 'socialism in one country'.

At the same time it faces the demands of the working class for an improvement in the supply and quality of consumer goods and an end to bureaucratic privileges. The harsh measures meted out to dissenters and the bloodless purge of the Communist Party itself through the mass exchange of Party cards indicate that the bureaucracy stands in fear of the coming political revolution.

POLAND: NO NEW SCHOOL BOOKS

More than 80 per cent of Polish schoolteachers have themselves reached only secondary-school level and many schools are dilapidated, overcrowded and lacking in equipment.

Textbooks are in chronically short supply and in many areas secondary schools have set up improvised pavement markets where prescribed texts are sold. In Warsaw there are reports of used textbooks being sold for up to twice as much as the new purchase price, because new books are not available.

This year, as in other years, the state publishing and distribution enterprises have totally failed to meet the demand.

This is the background to the recent plans announced to overhaul the school system. This plan includes the aim of providing the possibility for all 'promising' Polish children up to the age of 18 to complete secondary school, though it does not say on what basis these will be selected.

But Polish education has suffered from 'years of stagnation', according to 'Zycie Warszawy', a leading Warsaw daily newspaper.

About 250,000 of the country's 300,000 teachers lack any higher education. The average teacher's wage is not only the lowest of any other profession, but is even below the national average. It is roughly equivalent to that of an unskilled labourer.

The situation is worse in rural areas, where just over half the population lives. The son of a farmer, according to 'Zycie Warszawy', is doomed to stay at the lower rungs of the educational ladder.

Qualified teachers are reluctant to go to these rural areas, where there is hardly any basic living accommodation for them.

A growing feature of educational life in the towns is the growth of private tutoring, which obviously favours the better-off. Newspapers frequently carry advertisements for private tutors charging 100 or 150 zlotys an hour. This is equivalent to ten hours' pay for the average worker.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

NO UNITY

Several delegations who turned out for last week's Glasgow demonstration against the Industrial Relations Act, called by the Liaison Committee for Defence of Trades Unions, were amazed by the attitude of the organizers.

For instance a group of striking engineers from Scott-Lithgow's at Greenock found themselves refused permission to speak from the platform.

Which provoked strike-committee secretary John Fisher to remark: 'There is no solidarity or unity here'.

Among other workers who were sharply critical of the day's events was Willy Docherty, an engineers' union shop steward from Prestcold and chairman of the Paisley Rents' Action Committee. He raised particularly the fact that the upper Clyde shipyard leaders had pulled no one out.

John Fisher later told Workers Press:

◀ We've been on strike now for three months — 1,100 men. Forty-eight have been arrested on the picket-lines.

We were hoping for assistance here today as we feel we are being isolated, but the Liaison Committee wouldn't let us speak.

As a matter of fact we only found out about the march by chance—no one told us about it—and we came up expecting a big demo against the Tory government. But no one here so much as mentioned the question of a General Strike.

Willy Docherty said:

◀ Our factory sent two delegates to the Liaison Committee conference in London. I was one of them, and despite

the weaknesses of the declaration they put out we supported it.

But these weaknesses seem to me to be basic, because the Liaison Committee seems to be content to either seek amendments to the Act or repeal of the Act. The real question, however, is the removal of the Tories, who are the architects of the Act—and also of the 'fair rents' Act and all other attacks on the working class.

Workers have proved their willingness to struggle over the past eight months, but militancy alone is not enough.

They require a political leadership to unite these militant struggles against the common enemy: the Tory government. The Liaison Committee refuses to raise the political question and therefore provides no leadership. This was seen in the poor response to the September 5 demonstration.

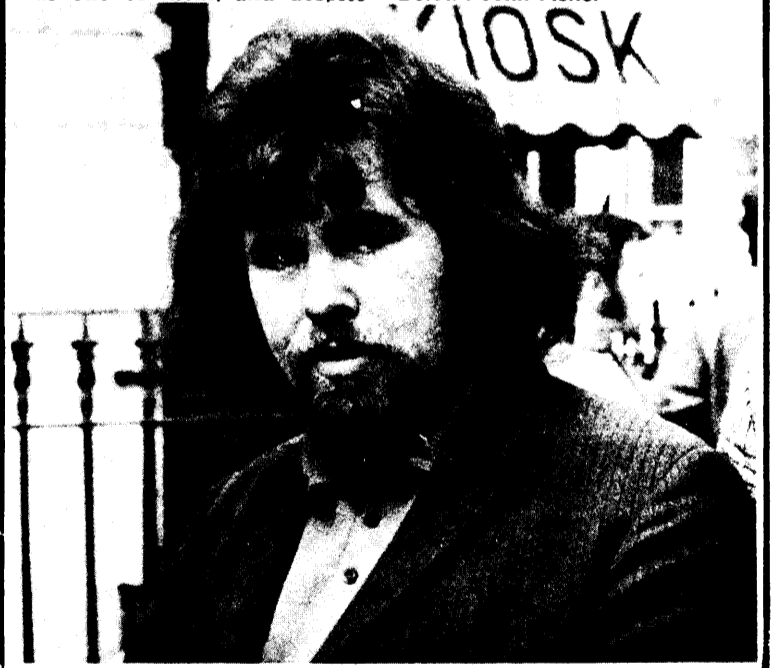
Why weren't the UCS workers on the march?

The co-ordinating committee at UCS say it was because they had other problems. I say that every worker has a problem today and that is — the Tory government.

The UCS co-ordinating committee were not on the march because they were more concerned with signing deals with the Tories at Marathon and Govan Shipbuilders.

I support the demand for a General Strike to defeat the Tories and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Below: John Fisher



BOOKS



Moscow Trials Anthology
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SEA-LAND PLANS INTERNATIONAL JOB CUTS

American - owned Sea - Land, the world's largest single containerized shipping company, is planning a fierce productivity drive against its workers to raise capital for new container developments.

The company, whose containers are a familiar sight to British dockers, are now calling for greater production in the movement of cargo to bring lower rates.

Immediately feeling the blow are Boston dockers, in Massachusetts, where Sea-Land handles at least 25 per cent of the tonnage entering the port there. The company has just announced the ending of its operations throwing hundreds of dockers out of work.

Cut in half

The shutdown announcement came after the company refused to pay the additional \$1 per ton handled to the dockers' pension fund; something specified in the last contract.

Docking facilities at Boston have now been cut in half, with a new container terminal, part

of a \$35m port modernization scheme, being shut down.

Sea-Land's offensive against the American dockers is tied up intimately with the need to raise further capital for a new generation of container ships.

Mr J. Scott Morrison, executive vice-president of Sea-Land, said previous development in productivity had enabled his company to maintain freight prices at 1966 levels in some cases.

Stable rates

But transport in the United States was now suffering from capital starvation, he said recently.

'If there is to be any hope of stable or lower rates in the future, transportation must invest in the 33-knot ships, the electronic classification yards and the computer control systems.

'The regulators seem almost totally unaware of the role of investment in improving the productivity and efficiency of transportation,' Morrison warned.

With the company short of capital, Sea-Land is now opening up the offensive with the dockers' union in America, the International Longshoremen's Association.



NOW PRISON REFORMERS PRAISE THE GUARDS

If there is one thing the middle-class reformers hate and fear — even more than the wrongs they try to right — it is the thought of the overthrow of the capitalist system in which they play the role of loyal protesters.

Such an organization is the Howard League for Penal Reform. Not that it hasn't done some sterling work in connection with trying to humanize an institution which is basically meant to be inhuman. Certainly it has played some part in bringing to light some of the worst aspects of the prison system and in agitating against such barbarities as hanging and flogging.

But prisoners in the jails all around the country are trying now to improve their own conditions. And their uprisings are part of the whole growing struggle of working people to get rid of this oppressive Tory government and defend their basic rights.

The Howard League is getting agitated. Its latest Newsletter points out, quite rightly, that prisons are overcrowded and that the government's solution is to build more prisons rather than to undertake any reforms.

However, in spite of the allegations by some prisoners that the protest demonstrations were sparked off by prison staff determined to show their charges who is boss, the Howard Leaguers praise the warders for handling the situation 'with considerable forbearance . . . which has fortunately prevented ugly incidents'.

The real motive for their concern comes out, however, when they complain that 'many offenders see "the system" as being frequently just bloody-minded. It is on this level as much as the ethical, that safeguards for the accused should be debated: A real objection to tampering with the Judges' Rules is that it makes offenders more cynical and anti-social than before. This can neutralize any deterrent, not to mention rehabilitative, effects of sentences'.

In other words, the real objection to the Tory proposals to take away from arrested people every civil right which has been fought for in the past, putting them entirely at the mercy of the police, is not the suffering involved and the increased dangers of innocent people being railroaded into the jails. It is that some prisoners might turn angrily against 'the system' itself.

And, of course, from hating the system to taking action

Top: 170 prisoners joined this rooftop protest at Peterhead jail, Aberdeenshire.

against it is just one short step—but it is a step which could upset all the comfortable, middle-class ways of the penal reformers.

Unfortunately for the Howard League, however, the Tories are not going to listen to mere pleas. They are out for a confrontation with the working class and they intend to use the police and jails to try to intimidate those militants who dare to stand up for their rights.

The reactionary campaigns being waged on 'law and order' are paving the way not only for the changing of the Judges' Rules, but also to harsher sentences and even the possibility of a return to hanging and flogging.

There can be no fight for prison reform, or to defend any working-class rights, without a fight to defeat the Tory government.

The mass of working-class prisoners, who are often driven to petty-crime out of desperation, anger and frustration, cannot fight it out in the jails. Their struggle is part of the growing movement in the working class as a whole to force the Tories to resign.

But it is just that movement which scares the pants off the Howard Leaguers.

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By Cliff Slaughter

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Socialist Labour League LECTURES

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM

given by G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

LIVERPOOL

Development of Marxism through working-class struggle Tuesday September 12

Nature of the capitalist crisis Tuesday September 19

Historical materialism today Tuesday September 26

AEU HOUSE Mount Pleasant Liverpool 1, 7.30 p.m.

Clash due on Ford men's 11 demands

LEADING FORD shop stewards and officials are expected to clash next week when they meet to discuss future pay-and-conditions policy.

Yesterday a meeting of 300 stewards from all over the country agreed 11 demands they want implemented when the current two-year agreement expires next March.

As expected they called for a big wage increase, a cut in the working week and the abolition of the penalty clauses agreed by their negotiators in 1969.

But demand number ten is likely to be most bitterly contested when union chiefs meet representatives of the combine's joint works committees next Monday.

This is that in future all decisions of the Ford national joint negotiating committee (NJNC) must be referred back to the works' committees to be decided by the rank and file in the traditional manner.

A backlash from the 1970 secret-ballot settlement, this demand will be feared by the officials as an attempt to undermine their power to make deals with the company behind the backs of the Ford workers.

The demands agreed by yesterday's stewards' meeting in Coventry were for:

1. A substantial all-round increase in pay.
2. A 35-hour week instead of the present 40.
3. Four rather than three weeks' holiday.
4. Pensions to be on a par with staff pensions.
5. 100-per-cent of average pay for lay-offs, without penalty clauses.
6. Holidays to be paid at shift rates, rather than at the flat Measured-Day Work rate.
7. Alongside these economic demands go five non-economic:
8. The agreement should last for 12 months only.
9. There should be no freeze on other claims for the duration.
10. Manning levels and line-speeds must be mutually agreed.
11. All NJNC decisions must be referred back to the joint works committees.
12. The principle of *status quo* must apply in relation to any change in work-patterns (meaning that there should be no change in such patterns without prior union agreement).

After a report from the Halewood factory in Liverpool, where 2,000 transmission workers struck on Friday against transfer of work to Europe, yesterday's meeting resolved that plants should consider joint action against transfers.

The meeting also came out against the check-off system for payment of union subscriptions.

An attempt to specify a £10 minimum for the pay demand was defeated by about five to one.

Speke strike in third month

OVER 200 workers have just entered their third month of strike action at the Speke, Liverpool, factory of Manisty Machines—part of the Reynolds Chains group.

Management has just re-opened negotiations with strikers following the recent settlement at national level of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union's claim.

But the offer is only £1.50 in response to the £6, 35-hour week plus fringe benefits claim of the men. Management also sought the replacement of piecework by a shift bonus system.

Despite threats to close the die-casting shop permanently, the offer was rejected by the strike committee who said the shift bonus system would reduce the earnings of about a third of the workforce.

A campaign for support on the Speke industrial estate has just raised £2,000 for the strikers and the AUEW district committee is organizing an area levy.

Protestant-para honeymoon is over Ulster: Paras play it cool

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

IN BELFAST'S Shankill Road area yesterday army patrols were much scarcer than usual as the paratroopers pursued a new low-key approach. This follows the refusal of 150 Ulster Defence Regiment members to work with them.

The long Protestant-para honeymoon — enhanced by the 1st Battalion's murder of 13 Catholics in Derry on 'Bloody Sunday' (January 31) — has broken down as the troops have shown the British parliament's teeth.

Law-and-order tactics also apply to the Protestant 'extremists' of the Ulster Defence Association and there have been several serious shoot-outs in Belfast in the last week.

Today all 13 members of the UDA council are due to meet Vanguard leader William Craig. UDA chairman Jim Anderson commented:

'There is an 80 per cent likelihood that we will establish a common front with Vanguard.'

A statement on Saturday from 150 UDR part-time soldiers said they had agreed unanimously to refuse to carry out their duties until the paras had left the district around their homes.

They said that they would never again work with the paratroopers and warned they would not be responsible for the action of their members if the paras maintained their present tactics.

If the UDR members continue to refuse to carry out duties they could face mutiny charges since they are a British army unit, although recruited locally.

Many of the notorious ex-B-Specials, who were disbanded in 1969, joined the UDR.

Since last Thursday's shooting incidents, in which two Protestants were killed and two others injured, the UDA have been repeating allegations of brutality by the paras.

The two dead men were 30-year-old Bobby Johnson, who it seems was celebrating his first week's pay after nine months on the dole, and Robert McKinney, a textile-mill manager. Neither was a UDA member.

Parliamentary party members of the Social Democratic and Labour Party will meet the Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath at Chequers tomorrow for discussions on ending internment and other concessions that might 'produce a solution to the North's present problems'.

After months of brutal reprisals, torture and terror from the British army—with the full consent of the Tory cabinet—Hume, Gerry Fitt and the other SDLP leaders now make pleas to this cabinet to end internment and solve the 'situation' in Ulster.

Rather than challenge the power of this hated government, the SDLP now aims to give credibility to the so-called peace manoeuvres of the Tory government and its armed forces.

Vanguard leader William Craig uniting with UDA?



Immigrants a buffer against dirty jobs

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

DIRTY JOBS in Britain are being done by coloured workers, while white workers do jobs with more money, according to a race relations expert.

Far from threatening the community, immigrant workers are helping to prop the system up, John Stephens told a joint conference of the University of Keele and Wolverhampton Community Relations Council yesterday.

He is a director of the industrial unit at the Runnymede Trust, an independent research foundation in race relations.

'The ordinary man has gained from immigration,' said Stephens.

'In the West Midlands dreadfully unpleasant jobs are being done by Asians while white elite workers such as toolmakers enjoy high standards and good wages.'

'All the hundreds of small car-component factories which survive on Asian labour are in fact contributing to the prosperity of our elite carworkers at Jaguar or Vauxhall.'

'The National Health Service—and the social structure of the hospitals — survive thanks to

Commonwealth doctors and Spanish and Portuguese domestic staff.'

Stephens claimed that with immigration the white had maintained his position. Without it, a drastic reorganization of the country's workforce would be necessary. This would involve a general levelling out of wages, bringing down the level of the elite workers.

Immigrants are to be found in the unskilled, dirtier and more unpleasant jobs, according to Stephens.

Even when in white-collar work they tended to be at the bottom end of the scale and there was also evidence that immigrants were not fairly represented in smaller firms.

He said it was a myth to argue that the ordinary man bears the brunt of immigration.

'Those sectors of the population who are most fearful of immigration are those unaffected by it,' he said.

'Indeed, it is likely that racism is most vociferously expressed precisely among those sections of the working population who are the most insulated from contact with immigrants.'

Talks on occupied Leyland plant

BRITISH-LEYLAND management will meet union officials and shop stewards from the Thornycroft factory in Basingstoke on Wednesday.

Over 1,200 workers took over the factory on August 15 to prevent Leyland from going through with a deal to hive-off their subsidiary.

The American-owned Eaton Corporation—which paid £2½m for the factory—had planned to sack almost 350 workers on October 1.

Leyland—which also sold the 50-acre site on which the factory stands for another £2½m in a fund-raising operation—announced the deal in June without consultation with the workers.

Thornycroft workers have pointed out that Eaton only has a three-year lease on the factory, just long enough to close it down altogether. They say the occupation will continue until the deal is cancelled.

Two weeks ago thousands of British-Leyland workers struck for the day in several factories in protest against the hiving-off of the sixth Leyland subsidiary since the merger to form the combine.

Yesterday, works convenor at

Thornycroft, Gordon Owen-Jones, said management had cut off the power on Friday night but the workers had since restored it. All Leyland security men had now been withdrawn.

'We are still very confident,' he told Workers Press.

'But I don't expect a great deal to come out of this meeting at York on Wednesday.'

'Leyland's are now having trouble with transmission supplies because of the blacking throughout the combine. I hear they are 45 per cent down at the Leyland plant in Lancashire.'

He added that they were now concentrating on spreading the black and raising financial support for the occupiers.

Briefly . . .

BUILDERS employed by Peter Cameron of Aberdeen will strike again tomorrow following the firm's failure to pay a £30 a week guaranteed wage as specified in a deal signed recently with union officials. The 600 Cameron workers were some of the first to return on the basis of the UCATT's separate company deal strategy.

ASIAN students arriving from Uganda should be given free places in Britain's universities, says the National Union of Students. Local authorities will be pressed to provide grants for students without residential requirements for financial aid.

PETROFINA (UK) Ltd upped prices from midnight on its petrol, fuel and heating oil products. Wholesale petrol prices, increase by 1p a gallon, diesel fuel and burning oil by 4p, gas oil by 0.3 and fuel oil by 0.1p. Floating of the pound made the increases 'regrettably inevitable'.

TEACHERS will soon be able to get 'value-for-money' holidays through the National Union of Teachers' £100,000 project, 'The Professional and Educational Travel Association'. It is being set up by the NUT's wholly-owned subsidiary company, Schoolmaster Publishing Company, and the cost will not come out of union funds.

PROP — the Preservation of Rights of Prisoners—has called on inmates to postpone protest action while Home Secretary Robert Carr considers four demands sent to him on Saturday: 1. Carr's personal assurance that the definition of law and order will apply equally to prison governors, staff and prisoners; 2. An immediate end to disciplinary proceeding, and reinstatement of remission lost by prisoners who had taken part in non-violent protests; 3. Immediate inquiries into all allegations of staff brutality, and an assurance that guilty staff would be dismissed from the prison service; 4. Carr's personal attention to PROP's proposals for reform of the penal system.

FOUNDER PROP member Douglas Curtis (36), now a student at Cambridge University, said he was leaving the executive committee and withdrawing from membership, partly because of the way national organizer Dick Pooley had 'displayed an astonishing degree of irresponsibility on some occasions. We have five members on the national executive and Dick Pooley has been operating without reference to the committee'. Curtis, who was press officer for the group, was paroled from Dartmoor after serving 32 months of a five-year sentence.

SEPTEMBER
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THE FIGHT

AS THE TUC moves rapidly to the right and the Labour leaders form a coalition with the Tories on every major issue, trade unionists everywhere must be warned of the dangers of such actions.

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