

AS SHARE PRICES PLUNGE DOWNWARDS ECONOMIC STORM CLOUDS GATHER

BY DAVID MAUDE

MASS LAY-OFFS and huge price increases—this is the grim prospect facing the working class during the next few months as British capitalism fights for its life. Suddenly the most sober of economic commentators are talking darkly, as the 'Financial Times' did yesterday, about the possible 'collapse of the present economic system'.

Faces are longest among those who formerly laughed most hysterically when Workers Press—the only newspaper to do so — maintained consistently that the crisis of capitalism is insoluble without the severest defeats being inflicted on the working class.

Some of the gloom generated in the Fleet Street press over the last few days is doubtless calculated: its purpose is to put pressure on the union leaders—who meet Tory premier Heath tomorrow—to aid the government and the employers in holding down wages.

But the Tories' shrewdest advisers know from last week's TUC that the General Council needs little persuading. Their fear is real. It is that the economy will suffer a major crisis before reaching the imagined haven of the Common Market.

The London Stock Market refuelled these fears yesterday, with the share-price index down again after its shock 12.9-point fall on Monday.

There is now every indication that the 'bull' market which started in early March 1970 is finally over. (A bull market is one in which aggressive buying of shares predominates because investors believe company profits are on the increase.)

The market reached its peak of 534.6 on the index on May 19, 1972.

But confidence sagged as dockers stepped up their 'blacking' campaign despite the £55,000 fines imposed on their union, and the railwaymen made clear they, too, were not intimidated by the National Industrial Relations Court.

By the end of June, after a bad forecast from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research and the intervention of the Official Solicitor to stop the jailing of three London dockers, the index slipped below the 500 mark.

The NIESR forecast brought home the realization that the March Budget, which had ostensibly aimed at a 3-per-cent growth in investment, had not worked out like that.

Figures from the Department of Trade and Industry on June 14 confirmed that investment this year looked like being 3 per cent less than in 1971. The 1971 figure was itself 7 per cent below that for 1970.

Then on September 9 came hard DTI figures for April and June of this year, which showed that total investment, at £334m, was 10 per cent lower than the worst fears of the NIESR.

'The Sunday Times' quoted five leading brokers, who all predicted an end to the bull market. It noted that many brokerage firms were getting out of the London Exchange and channelling

ing funds abroad—one example was Slater Walker, which has opened up a £6m property investment firm in Hong Kong.

The main question facing the Tory government as it tries to whip the union leaders to heel is that, as the 'Financial Times' let slip yesterday, 'the real rate of return on capital invested in the UK has been dropping sharply'.

In fact the pre-tax rate of profit of companies quoted on the Stock Exchange fell by half — from 11 per cent to 5.8 per cent — between 1964 and 1970. All the efforts of the Tory government have not reversed this trend.

These are life-and-death questions for British capitalism.

Whatever deal Heath wrings

from the TUC on wages tomorrow, it can provide no more than a temporary fillip to the market. The growing trade war and the relentless militancy of the working class cannot be halted by gentlemen's agreement.

The employers no longer have the remaining resources of Empire with which they held onto power in the 1920s and 1930s: today it is all or nothing.

As all the conditions for the worst crisis since World War II are prepared, the working class must prepare also. This is the purpose of our call for the construction of Councils of Action, to lead the fight to force the Tories from office. And this will be the central theme of the All Trades Unions Alliance national conference on October 22.

Sit-in threat on Stanton jobs lobby



Pits rescue at a price

INCREASED efficiency and productivity will be one of the conditions imposed by the government for rescuing the National Coal Board from its financial difficulties, Industry Minister Tom Boardman said during a visit to Bedwas colliery, Caerphilly, yesterday.

Boardman, who is on a three-day visit to Wales, said that ultimately the government expected the industry to stand on its own feet. He claimed that the unions had already accepted that future wage claims could be related to increased productivity.

SIXTY workers from the Stanton and Staveley Ironworks, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, picketed the British Steel Corporation yesterday in protest against the closure of the iron-making department involving 1,500 redundancies.

Yesterday afternoon a delegation from the picket was in talks with a BSC spokesman. The redundancies are due in about a week and stewards said that a sit-in is on at the works. The sit-in would involve maintaining the ovens ticking over, but nothing would be produced at the factory.

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1972 ● No. 867 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

AS SHARE PRICES PLUNGE DOWNWARDS ECONOMIC STORM CLOUDS GATHER

BY DAVID MAUDE

MASS LAY-OFFS and huge price increases—this is the grim prospect facing the working class during the next few months as British capitalism fights for its life. Suddenly the most sober of economic commentators are talking darkly, as the 'Financial Times' did yesterday, about the possible 'collapse of the present economic system'.

Faces are longest among those who formerly laughed most hysterically when Workers Press—the only newspaper to do so — maintained consistently that the crisis of capitalism is insoluble without the severest defeats being inflicted on the working class.

Some of the gloom generated in the Fleet Street press over the last few days is doubtless calculated: its purpose is to put pressure on the union leaders—who meet Tory premier Heath tomorrow—to aid the government and the employers in holding down wages.

But the Tories' shrewdest advisers know from last week's TUC that the General Council needs little persuading. Their fear is real. It is that the economy will suffer a major crisis before reaching the imagined haven of the Common Market.

The London Stock Market refuelled these fears yesterday, with the share-price index down again after its shock 12.9-point fall on Monday.

There is now every indication that the 'bull' market which started in early March 1970 is finally over. (A bull market is one in which aggressive buying of shares predominates because investors believe company profits are on the increase.)

The market reached its peak of 534.6 on the index on May 19, 1972.

But confidence sagged as dockers stepped up their 'blacking' campaign despite the £55,000 fines imposed on their union, and the railwaymen made clear they, too, were not intimidated by the National Industrial Relations Court.

By the end of June, after a bad forecast from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research and the intervention of the Official Solicitor to stop the jailing of three London dockers, the index slipped below the 500 mark.

The NIESR forecast brought home the realization that the March Budget, which had ostensibly aimed at a 3-per-cent growth in investment, had not worked out like that.

Figures from the Department of Trade and Industry on June 14 confirmed that investment this year looked like being 3 per cent less than in 1971. The 1971 figure was itself 7 per cent below that for 1970.

Then on September 9 came hard DTI figures for April and June of this year, which showed that total investment, at £334m, was 10 per cent lower than the worst fears of the NIESR.

'The Sunday Times' quoted five leading brokers, who all predicted an end to the bull market. It noted that many brokerage firms were getting out of the London Exchange and channell-

ing funds abroad—one example was Slater Walker, which has opened up a £6m property investment firm in Hong Kong.

The main question facing the Tory government as it tries to whip the union leaders to heel is that, as the 'Financial Times' let slip yesterday, 'the real rate of return on capital invested in the UK has been dropping sharply'.

In fact the pre-tax rate of profit of companies quoted on the Stock Exchange fell by half — from 11 per cent to 5.8 per cent — between 1964 and 1970. All the efforts of the Tory government have not reversed this trend.

These are life-and-death questions for British capitalism.

Whatever deal Heath wrings

from the TUC on wages tomorrow, it can provide no more than a temporary fillip to the market. The growing trade war and the relentless militancy of the working class cannot be halted by gentlemen's agreement.

The employers no longer have the remaining resources of Empire with which they held onto power in the 1920s and 1930s: today it is all or nothing.

As all the conditions for the worst crisis since World War II are prepared, the working class must prepare also. This is the purpose of our call for the construction of Councils of Action, to lead the fight to force the Tories from office. And this will be the central theme of the All Trades Unions Alliance national conference on October 22.

Sit-in threat on Stanton jobs lobby



Pits rescue at a price

INCREASED efficiency and productivity will be one of the conditions imposed by the government for rescuing the National Coal Board from its financial difficulties, Industry Minister Tom Boardman said during a visit to Bedwas colliery, Caerphilly, yesterday.

Boardman, who is on a three-day visit to Wales, said that ultimately the government expected the industry to stand on its own feet. He claimed that the unions had already accepted that future wage claims could be related to increased productivity.

SIXTY workers from the Stanton and Staveley Ironworks, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, picketed the British Steel Corporation yesterday in protest against the closure of the iron-making department involving 1,500 redundancies.

Yesterday afternoon a delegation from the picket was in talks with a BSC spokesman. The redundancies are due in about a week and stewards said that a sit-in is on at the works. The sit-in would involve maintaining the ovens ticking over, but nothing would be produced at the factory.

US tries to starve Vietnam

THE UNITED STATES is following a deliberate policy of starving out North Vietnam by blocking food imports as well as military supplies.

This is revealed in an Associated Press report for September 3, which states: 'The Seventh Fleet disclosed that one of its vessels had intercepted and seized 2½ tons of rice that it said the Chinese had tried to float ashore from a freighter in waterproof plastic and burlap sacks.'

After inquiries from Anthony Lewis of the 'New York Times', the Pentagon confirmed that the US navy was under orders to stop food and anything else discovered off North Vietnam.

'The policy is to interdict all supplies going into Vietnam by sea' a top Pentagon official said.

Prior to the blockade in May, 38 per cent of total seaborne North Vietnamese imports consisted of food.

In the opening weeks of Nixon's administration, his

intelligence experts analysed North Vietnamese imports and concluded:

'The importance of food imports can hardly be overstated; even with them, North Vietnam has been forced to strictly ration food-stuffs.'

In fact, even before the blockade was imposed—according to Nixon for the purpose of keeping out tanks, artillery and other advanced offensive weapons supplied to Hanoi by the Soviet Union and other com-

munist countries—the bulk of this equipment was being shipped overland via China.

Since the North Vietnamese ports were mined, US analysts have admitted that the action has had only marginal effect on the influx of military supplies.

The main purpose of the action, clearly is to starve the North Vietnamese into submission though for obvious reasons the US war criminals are extremely reluctant to admit this openly.

Tenuous deal 'saves' summit

BY OUR OWN REPORTERS

LAST-MINUTE efforts appear to have saved the European summit meeting of the enlarged Common Market, which has been in doubt for some weeks.

This follows parallel meetings in Rome of the Foreign and Finance Ministers of the full and prospective members of the European Common Market.

French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann said after the Rome meeting of Finance Ministers, at which a measure of agreement was reached, that a final decision would be made at the cabinet meeting on Friday.

The main obstacle to the summit has been the tough French line on economic and monetary union and opposition to the floating of the pound. Other countries have been more ready to seek a compromise with the United States.

The unchecked growth of inflation, behind which is the strength of the working class, has forced the governments of Europe, despite their deep-seated antagonisms, to reach a certain measure of agreement about how to proceed.

They cannot afford an open split at a time when the working class is pressing forward and the US government is hard at work shovelling its economic crisis into their backyard.

Even so, the agreement reached at Rome is mainly of a technical kind which enables talks to go on. It consists of no more than a project for a European Monetary Co-operation Fund to co-ordinate central bank action, support countries with balance-of-payments difficulties and keep currencies within a special system of narrow margins.

Its inspiration is obviously the International Monetary Fund. The big question is how far it can support the monetary systems of Europe against the dollar.

Italy and Belgium as well as France, want a body with much wider powers than those sketched out at Rome.

President Nixon was holding a council-of-war in the White House on the trade issue while European countries were trying to sort out their differences.

Presidential spokesman Ronald Ziegler said that there had been an overall review of the trade talks with European countries, but claimed that there had been no shift in policy.

He denied reports that the President was running out of patience and was ready to back protectionist measures.

Our plight... by Black September

IN A WILL written a few hours before they launched their Olympic raid last week, the Arab guerrillas said the world respected only the strong 'and we will not be strong enough through words, propaganda and publicity, but when we put death in the place of life'.

'We are neither killers nor bandits... we are persecuted people who have no land and no homeland', went on the will, released by the Black September organization this week.

The raiders had not expected the Israeli government to agree to the release of 200 Arab prisoners, but declared 'we are serious and will carry out our operation'.

The commandos said they had nothing against the German people and apologized to the world's youth taking part in the Olympics.

'We are asking them to know that there is a people with a 24-year-old case... it would do no harm to the youth of the world to learn of our plight only in a few hours.'

They said they did not want to kill innocent people but would 'do everything for the sake of the persecuted'.

They had not wanted to write a will, they said, because 'we want to live'. They urged fellow commandos to continue the fight.

'We do not want to destroy the world, but to make the world understand the reality of the horrible rule represented by the Zionist occupation of our homeland'.

● Arab League Foreign Ministers met for three days in Cairo to discuss the Munich affair and the Israeli air strikes against Syria and Lebanon. The Foreign Ministers are setting up a tenation committee to decide on whether to call on an Arab summit to map out a joint strategy against Israel.

Kissinger meets Soviet leaders

Bomb pressure on talks

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

WITH his envoy Dr Henry Kissinger in Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders, President Nixon has again intensified the bombardment of North Vietnam.

US jets over Hanoi destroyed a key railway and road bridge to cut supply lines linking the North Vietnamese capital with China. The bridge over the Red River was hit by laser-guided bombs on May 10, but had since been repaired.

In the south, liberation forces entrenched at Quang Tri have stopped a South Vietnamese task force advancing on the city with a barrage of artillery shells and mortar bombs. The puppet troops came to a halt several hundred yards short of their objective, despite heavy bombardment of the liberation forces by B-52 bombers.

The puppet troops are vainly trying to fulfil President Nguyen Van Thieu's pledge last June to recapture all territory lost to the liberation forces by September 19.

Elsewhere in South Vietnam there were battles at Tien Phouc town, south of Da Nang, which was captured last Friday in a daring assault by the liberation troops.

In neighbouring Cambodia, the Penh government forces lost further ground to the liberation troops yesterday. They were forced to abandon three strategic points on the road linking the Cambodian capital with Saigon.

Phnom Penh is running desperately short of food as the government defence line crumbles and last Friday many troops

were involved in serious food riots. Three days ago, an entire battalion of 400 men simply disappeared and may well have gone over to the liberation side.

Vietnam is high on the agenda of Kissinger's talks in Moscow, which take up where the Nixon-Brezhnev talks left off.

The North Vietnamese have repeatedly denounced these contacts and fear the prospect of an enforced settlement being imposed as a result of Soviet and Chinese pressure.

Le Duc Tho, the North Vietnamese chief representative at the Paris talks on Vietnam, returned from Moscow on Monday without having seen Kissinger. But he left open the possibility of a meeting with the US envoy in the next few days.

His return to Paris coincided



Kissinger: Vietnam on agenda

Meir hints at fresh attacks against Arabs

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER ISRAELI demand for international measures against the Arab guerrillas came yesterday from Mrs Golda Meir, the country's premier, speaking in the Knesset in Jerusalem.

She said: 'We cannot exonerate justice-seeking states from their responsibility to act against the terrorists within their borders and it is possible to take measures which have not so far been taken to silence Arab terrorism.'

Meir confirmed that Israeli security men were present at the shoot-out on Munich's Furstentbrunn airfield in which 11 Israeli hostages and five guer-

rillas died. But she claimed they had taken no part in the operation, beyond appealing in Arabic to the guerrillas to lay down their arms.

She hinted strongly at further action against refugee camps in Lebanon in Syria, saying:

'It is our duty to combat terrorism and strike at it everywhere where our hand can reach it. We will fulfil this duty with all the power we have.'

Israeli forces remain massed along the Syrian and Lebanon frontiers and the Arab states are expecting a massive attack.



Golda Meir

Franco preparing for student unrest

FRANCO'S Minister of Education Villar Palasi has accepted the resignation of the rector of Madrid University, José Botella, who was unable to act with the necessary stringency during the student upsurge against Franco last year.

Under a decree signed by Franco during the university holidays, academic life was placed under the direct supervision of Palasi who now appoints rectors and is in charge of a new dis-

ciplinary council with power to expel any rebellious students.

In this way Franco is preparing for student opposition which will break out when the university term starts in October.

The preparation of the predominantly Stalinist student leadership has been to champion the entry of Spain into the Common Market as the best way to get democratic reforms in Spain.

The nature of these 'reforms' can be seen from the latest attack on the Basque nationalist movement. The Bayonne headquarters of the Basque nationalists, Anei Artea, have issued a statement of concern over the fate of 25-year-old Eustakio Mendizabal.

A leader of the clandestine Basque movement, he was sentenced to a month's imprisonment on August 24 for illegally entering France.

Mendizabal was taken from his cell in a French jail near Bayonne in the early morning of September 7 and has not been seen since. It is very likely that he was 'passed over' to Spain.

Spanish ships blacked by Italian port workers

PORTWORKERS belonging to Italy's three main trade union confederations voted in Genoa yesterday to boycott all Spanish ships this week as a gesture of solidarity with Spanish political prisoners. The boycott was given immediate effect and portworkers refused to unload two newly-docked Spanish boats—the 'Valle De Orozco', with a cargo of kaolin, and the 'Cabo Santa Maria', with a mixed cargo.

'No retreat on our claim'

Builders slam 'leaked' proposals

BY PHILIP WADE

BUILDING WORKERS yesterday slammed the proposed new wages deal which would only give a £26 basic immediately, last for 26 months and offer nothing on a cut in the working week.

Delegations from London sites lobbied a meeting of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians' executive meeting yesterday demanding no retreat on the full claim for a £30, 35-hour week and a third week's holiday.

Tomorrow there will be a mass lobby of builders—many in their 12th week of strike action—at the employers' London headquarters in Cavendish Street when union leaders meet to discuss the proposals.

The employers met yesterday to discuss their attitude to a deal fixed up at several informal meetings—mostly at last week's TUC—between the two sides. Chief union negotiators met on Monday and the Transport and General Workers' Union leaders meet today.

Under the proposed deal, a guaranteed bonus of £3 would be paid from May 1973, although the basic rate would stay at £26 until the following October when it would rise to £28.

Also in October 1973, a cost-of-living clause would be introduced. Then in June 1974 a new minimum guaranteed earnings level of £31 would be introduced. Finally, the deal would expire in November 1974, 26 months from now.

On the key question of hours, nothing at all is conceded, except talks at the end of 1973!

Clearly builders will move to throw out this rotten compromise for what it is. There is no substantial movement on the claim for an immediate £30 basic rate.

In 26 months time, in fact, the rate will still be £2 short of the demand. And the proposed length of the deal is completely unacceptable in conditions of rapid inflation and Common Market entry.

On August 8, Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians' officials failed to turn up to sign a deal only giving a £23 basic and which contained a no-strike clause in relation to the guaranteed bonus.

The movement of the rank-and-file building workers prevented such a compromise going ahead and will undoubtedly do the same this time.

The demand must go out to the union leaders, led by George Smith, to stop the retreat and call an all-out national strike for the full claim.



The helicopter being used by Essex building contractor Bill Regan to fly non-unionists over a builders' picket line at Basildon. See story p.12.

Shipbuilding gloom

IN ITS DYING breath the Labour-inspired Shipbuilding Industry Board warns the Tories that British shipbuilding faces a tough future.

Lamenting the end of its four-year existence, the last SIB annual report—issued as a White Paper—says: 'It seems a pity that this accumulated experience will no longer be available.'

Chairman Sir William Swallow ends his term of office with a plea for strong government aid for the declining shipbuilding industry.

'The immediate future is one of financial stress while contracts involving losses, mainly due to inflation, are worked through.

'This industry is going to continue to require access to capital it can reasonably afford to service if it is to maintain a competitive position and improve its scope for employment.'

But Swallow is whistling in the dark. He has completely misunderstood the intentions of the

But still reformists make plea for aid

BY ALEX MITCHELL

Tory government in regard to Britain's outmoded shipbuilding industry.

One of their first acts on coming to office was to axe the SIB and thereby cut off government grants to private and semi-private shipyards.

The Tories know what they are doing. They're going into the Common Market. And to achieve this paramount political objective on behalf of the big capitalist class, they are willing to run down shipbuilding.



Sir William Swallow: Whistling in the dark

In just the same way as steelworks are being shut down one after the other to integrate steel production in the Common Market iron and steel policy, so shipbuilding is being 'rationalized' too.

The Tories' hostility to the feather-bedding role of the SIB was made dramatically clear when the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee issued its annual report on August 31.

The committee, a watchdog

body over public expenditure, sharply criticized the SIB's spending programme.

The committee said that the many millions distributed by the SIB had been wasteful and had not assisted in making the country's shipbuilding industry competitive.

By December 1971 grants and loans made by the SIB to UCS totalled £21.2m. Harland and Wolff had received £22.5m plus £7.5m from the Northern Ireland government.

Commenting on these monumental reformist policies Swallow suggests that the SIB needed more time before the loan-giving would take effect.

● A fresh warning on the bleak future facing British shipbuilding has been made recently by the head of the European Council of Large Ships.

Dr Jurgen Krackow told 'The Times' that growing world competition made a reduction in the European shipbuilding industry inescapable.

He added: 'There will be no room for lame ducks.'

The Council hopes to negotiate an agreement with Japan early next year to limit west European and Japanese shipbuilding, but Dr Krackow warned that they were facing competition not only from Japan, but from America as well.

German shipbuilders have insistently demanded heavier subsidies, but in return the government is demanding drastic rationalization to maximize efficiency and eliminate duplication of facilities.

The formulation of common shipbuilding policies within the Common Market is certain to hit Britain hard with its small and largely out-of-date yards.

Briefly . . .

POST OFFICE Engineering Union is inviting applications for the £7,215 a year post of general secretary, after the death of Lord Delacourt-Smith. The appointment is expected to be made by the national executive council in December. It will be subject to endorsement by the union's annual conference next year.

Cheng remanded in custody

CHENG TZU-TAI, the stateless architect taken unconscious from an airliner at Heathrow airport, London, last week, was remanded in custody for a week at Bow Street yesterday.

Cheng, who was convicted in New York of conspiring to assassinate Gen Chiang Kai-shek's son, appeared in connection with extradition proceedings initiated by the United States.

Cheng's solicitor, Benedict Birnberg, made no application for bail, but asked for legal aid.

Cheng fled to Sweden while on bail in America and was on his way back to the US from Stockholm when he was taken off the plane at Heathrow.



PAPERBACKS CENTRE

28 Charlotte St
London W1

BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS

NOW OPEN
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
9 a.m.—6 p.m.
Fri 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

OMS — THE SCABBING PATROL

Part 13 of a series on Picketing by Bernard Franks

The 1926 General Strike was betrayed by its leadership. The TUC leaders backed down when they realized they must either do so or contest capitalism's right to rule.

And the Communist Party, under the dictates of Stalin, failed to expose the inevitability of the TUC's leaders' betrayal, and to build an alternative leadership to contest capital's right to own, never mind operate the means of production and exchange.

Inevitably, such a basic deficiency meant a total lack of organizational preparation and centralized planning to win the strike. Instead, it was left to the workers, on a trial-and-error basis, to set up strike committees and Councils of Action, defence squads against violence by blacklegs and systems of communication and control after the strike had started.

The way these tasks were being successfully carried out and improved right up to when it was called off, testifies to the huge reservoirs of skill and ingenuity within the working class.

Those who are impressed by the turn-out of police, troops and blacklegs in the General Strike tend to forget the major boost to morale of these forces given by the wholesale defection of the workers' leaders.

Wholly different is the situation where the working class has a decisive, theoretically and practically trained and tested Marxist leadership. In that case, as the Russian Revolution showed, it is the forces of capital which can face defeat—in will and spirit as well as physical conflict—whatever their apparent invincibility in terms of military establishment and armour.

But only in one or two isolated demands did the British Communist Party bring the lessons of the Russian Revolution into the General Strike.

The capitalist class, however, had already formed its strike-breaking organization by September 1925, nine months before the strike! This was the Organization for the Maintenance of Supplies (OMS). The name was probably chosen because of its similarity to On His Majesty's Service so as to engender the right patriotic flavour.

The development of the organization had gone on for some time in secret when the first public announcement to the press noted the movement towards a strike situation and added 'numerous suggestions have since been made from various quarters for organizing those citizens who would be prepared to volunteer to maintain supplies and services in the event of a General Strike.'

It seems therefore, that the time has come to announce publicly that such an organization has already been con-

stituted and is at work in many metropolitan boroughs while steps are being taken to create corresponding organizations in the principle centres of the kingdom.

The OMS immediately began drawing up a register of potential strikebreakers. Five categories were called for: Special constables (under 45 years of age); workers to maintain public services; transport drivers; messengers and cyclists; and an unclassified group who would do clerical work or anything else not requiring technical skill. ('The General Strike'. By Julian Symons.)

Created as a body allegedly separate from government control, the OMS was headed by such 'independent' figures as Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Jellicoe and ex-Viceroy of India, Lord Hardinge. It was also claimed to be 'non-party and non-political', but in view of the number of known fascists who eventually joined, had to deny any connection with the British fascists.

On April 30, 1926, the King declared a State of Emergency and on the first day of the Strike, May 3, the OMS began recruiting and formally handed control and its scabs' register to the government. Sections of the middle and upper classes signed on as blacklegs and got themselves photographed at least in the proximity of goods and transport, though as often as not—by their own later admissions—they inadvertently wrecked more operations than they effectively carried out.

The aristocrat and writer Osbert Sitwell wrote: 'As day by day the situation grew worse, I found myself utterly out of sympathy with the self-congratulatory "Aren't we all splendid!" attitude of the exasperated and now embattled bourgeoisie. To be a porter for a time, would be easy, I considered: For a TIME, but not a LIFETIME. Only as a holiday romp did it afford the contrast that might make it seem pleasant.'

When considering the 'volunteers' from his own class he wrote of 'The thug-militia of St James' Street, the bands of young, steel-helmeted club-men.'

Throughout the Strike the OMS received the protection of the police and armed forces often with a massive show of armour. Even so, where Councils of Action and strike committees were properly organized, the OMS was effectively countered and all work and movement of transport brought to a halt.

The 'Specials'

'We were some 2,000 at the Inns of Court off the Strand. Each of us was given a yellow truncheon, and the sergeant of police then gave us instructions on how to use it in case of need. He said: "You must thrust the point of it into the pit of the opponent's stomach as with a bayonet. This will bring the victim's head forward and you will crack him over



Ladies of high society helping to feed the scabs manning the OMS food depot in Hyde Park.

the back of it". It was as simple as that! (Report on briefing special constables during the 1889 docks strike.)

The modern Special Constabulary was specifically formed to support regular state forces in containing and breaking up demonstrations and other actions by the working class. Its history is one of coercion and attempted violent suppression of Luddites, hunger rioters, reformers, Chartists, Fenians, suffragettes, the unemployed and workers on strike.

Made up of part-time volunteers considered responsible citizens by the capitalist class, its members are given weapons, uniforms, training and police powers at times of local and national emergency. At other times they may have regular police duties, doing so many hours a week to fit in with their normal occupation, assuming they have one.

In 1285, under the Statute of Winchester, 'Hue and Cry' was made a statutory obligation on all men.

By this they were bound to leave whatever they were doing and give chase to any offender. Failure to do so would mean trial along with the wrongdoer.

As early as 1643 an Act of Parliament authorized Justices of the Peace to swear in citizens as special constables who could be called on at any time to suppress 'riot and tumult' and keep the peace. This Act served as the basis for recruitment for over 150 years. For example, 200 such constables were involved at the Peterloo Massacre in 1819, 'hissing and assaulting speakers already in custody'.

In 1831, the modern specials were created. JPs were given wide powers to nominate and appoint as many constables as they deemed the situation required. The constables were granted normal police powers, were issued with staves and 'any other such articles or weapons which the authorities might consider it expedient for them to have'.

For the first time they received payment for expenses and 'financial loss'. 'Nomination' meant compulsion and anyone refusing service could be fined £5. In theory this was police conscription and anyone could be forced to break up a strike or a political meeting.

In practice, mainly shopkeepers, gentlemen's sons, army pensioners and businessmen were called on. In times when the working man had no vote the JPs often found the

simplest thing to do was to swear in all those on the electoral register. This would ensure a superior type of constable properly concerned about the rights and protection of property.

In 1835 the voluntary principle was introduced as ensuring an even more reliable force. In 1839 a register of citizens to be available for duties against reformers and Chartist agitation was drawn up. Cutlasses and pistols were also made available by the government, which on a magistrates decision could be used to equip the force. The largest recruitment ever was in 1848 for the Chartist petitioning of parliament when 170,000 specials were sworn in.

For all major strikes the force was called on. But they often did not find things as simple as the constable in 1889 made out. Especially hated by the working class, the specials were often singled out for 'special' treatment by rioters. Many times magistrates have had to withdraw them entirely in favour of regular forces. At Huddersfield in 1837 and at Dewsbury in 1838 they turned and ran from angry Chartists, although detachments of the Metropolitan Police were there to back them up.

Tom Mann wrote of the Liverpool strike of 1911: 'Backed by over 7,000 military and special police the local authorities were determined to provoke disorder. Mounted and foot police were sent out in large numbers to the centre of the city and these made many uncalled-for attacks on peaceful pedestrians, riding them down and clubbing any young men who happened to be near. Naturally, people resented this and retaliated, and this is how riots were caused.'

Ronald Seth, from whose book 'The Specials' the quote from the 1889 docks strike is taken also states the following on the General Strike of 1926: 'Members of the Ranelagh and Hurlingham Polo Clubs were also sworn in. Dressed in sports jackets, riding-breeches, boots, spurs and solar topees, swinging business-like riding crops they could often be seen mounted on their ponies making their way to an incident to help restore order.'

He adds that the London Rifle Club formed the special constabulary at Bunhill Row and St Bartholomew's Hospital Students Union signed en bloc to patrol Hyde Park milk

depot. The Harlequins Rugby Club joined the specials and was selected to serve with the Special Branch of the CID. 'Some attended strikers' meetings—mostly docks—secretly taking notes.'

Another description is given by a special who was taken with others in lorries and rushed to an address somewhere in north London:

'Upstairs in a bare room furnished only with a table and a few upright chairs we found a pathetic-looking bunch of "workers" seated around the table running off "subversive literature" on an old Roneo, the walls were decorated with communist posters and on the mantelpiece was a plaster bust of Lenin. We smashed the Roneo, disconnected the telephone, and bundled the lot into lorries en route for the Yard. Happy days!'

Similar schemes for recruiting additional part-time police exist in other capitalist countries. In the USA, for example, Pinkertons and Company Security Police as well as private gunmen have been able to get sworn-in as sheriffs' deputies, so putting the official seal of the law on any act of thuggery they are required by capital to carry out.

Today in England the specials work closely with the regular police force in traffic and crowd control to get practical experience of police work. In Ireland they have a long and bloody history of vindictive suppression of the Irish working class. In general their role was long ago exemplified by Henry Salt in his 'New Form for Swearing-in Constables'.

NEW FORM OF SWEARING-IN CONSTABLES

'Dost thou accept the old
creed of coercion
In England, as in Ireland,
tried and true?
Dost thou regard all freedom
with aversion,
And hate her name?'—'I do.'
'Wilt thou respect, court,
venerate the classes,
Whate'er they seek to com-
pass, good or ill?
Wilt thou molest and vilify
the masses
In word and deed?'—'I will.'
'Swearst thou to wield thy
truncheon for the Tory;
To smite and curse, and
wound, and overbear?
Then seize and persecute
with lying story
Some injured wretch?'—'I
swear.'

CONTINUED TOMORROW



US STEELWORKERS SPEAK OUT

An opposition group has been formed within the United Steelworkers of America.

The group, known as Rank and File Team (RAFT) is critical of United Steelworkers' President, I. W. Abel who, it says, has changed nothing during his years in office. Abel has been union president for eight years. Before that he was secretary-treasurer for 12 years.

In an interview in 'Bulletin', weekly paper of the Workers League, the chairman and secretary-treasurer of RAFT, Bill Litch and Ed Mann, say the main issue facing union members is preservation of jobs. More efficient production methods are sweeping jobs away.

The new basic oxygen furnaces can produce 250 tons of steel in one hour, compared with 280 tons in four or

five hours in the new furnaces.

In Lackawanna, Bethlehem, 18,000 jobs have dropped to 8,000 since these new furnaces were introduced.

Litch and Mann are sceptical of Abel's statement at the Democratic Convention in favour of the formation of a Labour Party.

Abel, say the Rank and File leaders, is 'part of the system and he doesn't want anything to change'.

They go on: 'The company can't make a penny of profit if they don't have the labourer's hands there to make that profit. Let's face it. If you had a brand new piece of machinery sitting there on the floor, it couldn't do anything by itself.

'Then why are we made to believe that the industry has to have everything and the working man nothing?'

As the international trade war hots up, the whole world economy is threatened and American workers, like their brothers everywhere, face massive recession.

The only way to fight back is through the construction of a Labour Party pledged to nationalize basic industry and solve the jobs crisis by reducing the working week and producing jobs for everyone at a living wage.

Opposition groups within the American unions can only progress along this road.

Increasing pressure from the employer to reduce jobs

Top left: Abel. Right: Bill Litch, chairman, and Ed Mann secretary-treasurer of RAFT.

and squeeze more profit from those left in work can now only be resisted through a political programme.

The RAFT spokesmen described what was happening:

'A lot of people are confused. They think they're talking about production. But they're not, they're talking about productivity. In other words, get more out of the hired worker.'

'But you've got to remember most of us in basic steel are in old plants, we're older and the equipment we work with is junk, worn out, and now they want us to produce more.'

GROWING SUPPORT FOR FARINAS

Support is growing among American trade unionists for Juan Farinas, jailed for opposing the Vietnam war.

Farinas is at present confined in the Federal prison in Danbury, Connecticut, where he has been for six months, for violation of the Selective Service Act.

The latest issue of the 'Bulletin', weekly paper of the Workers League, contains a number of letters from trade union organizations supporting Farinas' appeal for parole.

These include: The Joint Board Fur, Leather and Machine Workers' Union; the Lakes States District Council No. 4 of the United Shoe Workers of America, AFL-CIO; Local 1199 Drug and Hospital Workers' Union (Farinas' wife, Helena, is a member of this union); The Retail Clerks' and Store Employees' Union, Local 1361; the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 981; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Local 10.

Leon Sverdlove, General President of the International Jewellery Workers' Union, has also written to the 'Bulletin' declaring his support for Farinas.

Farinas' opposition to the Vietnam war was not based on pacifist grounds. He did not refuse to serve in the army, but distributed political literature against the war.

This was why he was jailed for two years, when over 60 per cent of men convicted of draft violations last year were given probation rather than prison sentences.

Right: Farinas' family - wife Helena and daughter Mariana.



SCRATCHING CHINA'S BACK

The British crown colony of Hong Kong on China's southern coastline provides America with facilities for one of its largest bases in south-east Asia.

And of all the countries which maintain spy rings in the cosmopolitan international crossroads, the network of the Central Intelligence Agency is the biggest.

None of this is altogether surprising, but perhaps the news that the British authorities keep a look out for clandestine activities directed at China is.

In return for Chinese cooperation in nipping in the bud anything likely to disrupt Hong Kong's banking and commerce, the British government keeps careful track of Chinese nationalist activities hostile to the Peking government.

Diplomatic sources allege there is an unspoken agreement between the two sides which amounts to 'If you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours'.

It is not only Chinese nationalists the British authorities keep under surveillance. They, naturally, also give short shrift to Soviet or eastern European spy rings trying to use the colony as a base.

Two Russians were arrested on July 23 for suspected anti-Chinese activities and ordered to leave the country along with a Chinese businessman.

And while controlling Chinese nationalist activity so as not to upset the current detente between China and America, the colony is used as a base for imperialist espionage work throughout south-east Asia.

WHO OPENED THE DOOR FOR TORY RENT ACT?

BY PHILIP WADE

Over a year ago the Tory government introduced its White Paper 'Fair Deal for Housing'. It marked the beginning of their attempts to change the course of history as far as council housing was concerned.

Today it has become law in the form of the Housing Finance Act and the first £1 rent increases are due on October 2.

The so-called opposition to the legislation by the Labour Party turned out to be a fraud from start to finish. Only a handful of Labour councils say they will not implement it, while 340 say they will. Their collapse before the Tories represents a gross betrayal of the tenants.

Since 1919 there has been some form of municipal housing in Britain. The basis of it has always been subsidies to local councils to build houses and cushion tenants from the full effects of a market rent.

As such it was a gain for the working class, one that was developed rapidly in the inflationary boom years following 1945.

In the last quarter of a century, some 4.4 million council houses were built in Britain, four times as many as were built between the wars.

Out of the total housing stock of 19 million dwellings in Britain, up to 30 per cent are council or new town properties.

In essence, the rents of these properties, as far as the working class was concerned, were not at giveaway levels. Nevertheless, they were cheap enough to be affordable. More important, however, the tenancies were fairly secure and evictions were rare. There were no Rachmans chasing tenants around demanding rents with menaces.

The Housing Finance Act is designed to put an end to all this. Subsidies to local councils will be withdrawn and market rents established for every single tenant.

When next month the first increases have to be paid it will only be the beginning of a process which will end when the 'fair rent' double the present one, is reached.

Many have forecast that thousands of tenants will be driven out of council property, unable to afford the new rents which will rise as wages rise, acting therefore in conjunction with the Industrial Relations Act.

Like all their other measures, the Tories have been driven forward in this attack on housing by their need to resolve the world economic crisis now

tearing the heart out of British capitalism at the expense of the working class.

The extra £500m in rents they hope to net will be used — they hope — to help refinance and restructure the ailing British economy which does not have the resources nor the incentive to reinvest from its own capital funds.

As soon as the Tories' intentions became clear, tenants all over the country spontaneously formed associations and revitalized old ones as forms of organization for the fight.

These associations developed in the only way they could, given their nature and limitations. A campaign began of petitioning, lobbying and agitation to build up the associations.

But the first time in the life of any of these associations, they were facing a political question on a national scale. And it was not simply a housing question as such, but one which involved the whole strategy of the Tory government since it took power in June 1970.

FAILURE

But at this point the Communist Party and the revisionist International Socialists stepped in to ensure that the movement did not go beyond protest at the Tory Bill.

This perspective was, of course, doomed to failure. And it is now necessary to draw some lessons from this campaign in order to draw out a real perspective for tenants.

Exactly 100 years ago, the co-founder of the Marxist movement, Frederick Engels condemned reformists and revisionists for misleading the working class on the question of housing.

In a series of three articles written against reformists in the German labour movement he said:

"Whoever declares that the capitalist mode of production, the 'iron laws' of present-day bourgeois society, are inviolable, and yet at the same time would like to abolish their unpleasant but necessary consequences, has no other recourse but to deliver moral sermons to the capitalists."

He pointed out that many with pretensions as socialists seized upon the 'housing question' in order to sidetrack and avoid the main question to be resolved in order to settle this issue once and for all: the overthrow of capitalism and the establishing of socialism.

Engels showed how there could never be any solution to housing shortages, high rents



and squalid overcrowding under capitalism. As far as the Marxists were concerned capitalism 'settled' these questions by the gradual economic levelling of demand and supply, a settlement which reproduces the question itself again and is therefore no settlement."

In its incessant drive for profit, capitalism could never satisfy fully any wants as far as the working class was concerned. Profit-seeking meant the destruction of working-class housing to make way for commercial development. And the rate of construction of new dwellings never kept pace with this loss.

Says Engels: "Whence the housing shortage then? How did it arise? . . . It is a necessary product of the bourgeois social order. . . it cannot fail to be present in a society in which the great labouring masses are exclusively dependent upon wages. . . in which improvement of the machinery continually throw masses of workers out of employment."

In a society where workers are crowded together in masses in the big towns at a

quicker rate than dwellings come into existence for them under the prevailing conditions; in which, therefore, there must always be tenants even for the most infamous pig sties; and in which the house-owner in his capacity as capitalist has the right . . . also the duty of ruthlessly making as much out of his property in house rent as he possibly can.

"The housing shortage is no accident; it is a necessary institution and can be abolished together with all its effects on health, only if the whole social order from which it springs is fundamentally refashioned. That, however, bourgeois socialism dare not know. It dare not explain the housing shortage as arising from the existing conditions." (Emphasis in original).

This being the case, the duty of all socialists in the fight against the 'fair rents' Bill has been and still is to unite tenants with the rest of the working class around a fighting perspective of bringing down the Tories and returning a Labour government pledged to socialist policies in order to open the road to the taking of power.

The Communist Party, which presumably would claim to follow Engels, and the International Socialists, have been deeply involved in tenants' associations during this campaign.

Yet far from struggling for a development of a revolutionary consciousness among tenants, these tendencies have proven once more how hostile they are to Marxism and to the fight for socialism.

PROTEST

And it is their responsibility that most tenants' associations still remain isolated and the Labour bureaucracy has not been challenged politically for its gross betrayal of the movement.

Hostile to the conception of building a revolutionary party, the Stalinists, covered from the left as usual by the IS, have attempted to deliver a mortal blow to the tenants' movement on the altar of protest, protest and more protest. The Stalinists, with their



self-created, self-appointed National Association of Tenants and Residents, have for many years been deeply involved in the tenants' movement.

From the beginning, they attempted to resurrect the discredited and treacherous perspective of 'Kill the Bill'. It was an attempt to limit the fight to the Housing Finance Bill and to put pressure on the Tories to drop it.

It was the same methods the Stalinists — backed by IS — employed in the campaign against the Industrial Relations Bill when they at all times opposed the Socialist Labour League's demands for the TUC to lead a General Strike to bring down the Tories as the only way to defeat the Bill.

In their pamphlet 'Homes before Profits', the Stalinists elaborated their pernicious, reformist line.

The Communist Party says the Tory Rent Bill can and must be smashed. If the 300 Labour councils take this stand (defying the Act), then backed by the trade unions, the tenants and the labour movement, this Tory legisla-

tion can be defeated. Like the Communist Party, the centrists in the International Socialists have played a role of preventing the development of independent working-class action.

MILITANT

Protest politics will always serve to keep the bureaucracies of the labour and trade union movement intact because no challenge is offered to their existence.

Their pamphlet on the 'fair rents' Bill was full of militant-sounding noises about rent strikes, direct action, solidarity and so on and so forth.

Nowhere, however, was there a strategy for a fight to bring down the Tory government. In fact, the IS, as is well known, is opposed to this perspective.

It would involve the mobilization of the working class to secure the return of a Labour government, pledged to socialist policies and present the revolutionary movement

with an opportunity to break the class from social democracy. IS prefers the working class to be a force which can be pushed around in order to achieve reforms, in a situation where the Tories are actually destroying the reforms of the past.

That is why the IS end up in their pamphlet with a demand that the 'objective should be one of forcing the Tories to retreat on the Housing Finance Bill by united action.' (My emphasis.)

No amount of protest will move this Tory government, which has its own historic task of destroying every basic right of the working class won over centuries of struggle.

As the Act comes into force, thousands of tenants will undoubtedly refuse to pay the increases and launch rent strikes instead. But there is a grave danger that these forms of action will be isolated and smashed by the Tories, encouraged by the feeble gestures made against the Act by the Labour Party.

The central question still remains the downfall of the Tory government. While the

Tories are in power there can be no successful defence of basic rights. The same government has shown, over Northern Ireland and Bloody Sunday and the jailing of the five dockers by the National Industrial Relations Court, that it is prepared to establish a Bonapartist dictatorship in Britain to maintain its offensive against the working class.

No one can doubt the determination of the tenants to preserve their rights. But they cannot win this battle alone.

Councils of Action must be built in every area now in order to mobilize the tenants, trade unionists and all sections of the class in a campaign to force the Tories to resign.

With the miners, railwaymen and dockers, the conditions were developing where this government could have been made to resign. Only the cowardice of the trade union and Labour leaders — backed up by the Stalinists and revisionists — prevented such a process developing.

Preparation must go ahead now to bring all tenants' associations into these Coun-

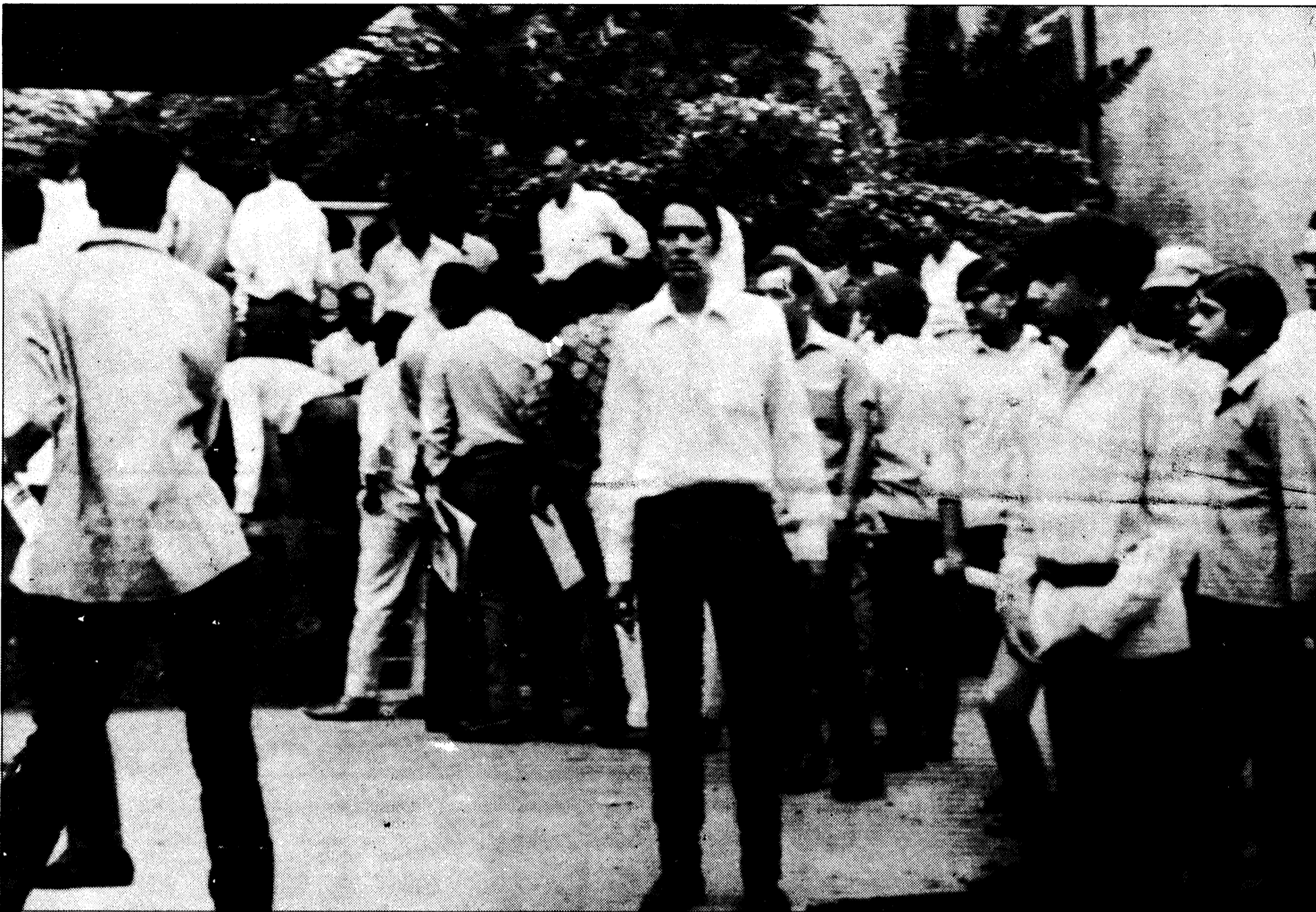
tenants have shown no lack of determination in fighting the Bill. Left: tenants lobby at the House of Commons. Right: march to support Greenwich council who decided first, not to implement the Bill, but later retreated.

cils of Action in order that a unity in struggle against the common enemy can be forged. Protest must go. In a year of struggle against the rents Bill it has proved nothing more than a blind-alley form of struggle.

The Councils of Action must fight for the TUC to call a General Strike when the rent increases are imposed which will not end until the Tories resign.

A Labour government must be returned committed by the mass movement organized around the Councils of Action to socialist policies of expropriation.

Of necessity this must include: the nationalization without compensation of the land, building industry, building societies and insurance companies. With the repeal of the Housing Finance Act these measures would lay the basis for a true socialist housing programme.



BEHIND ANTI-IMMIGRANT CAMPAIGN IN LEICESTER

Leicester is a city with a Labour-controlled council — but one which has agreed to implement the Tory 'fair rents' Act and is currently putting all its energies into keeping out as many Ugandan Asians as possible.

It is also a city where the National Front claims to have one of its largest branches with over 100 members.

Council leader Edward Marston is a typical Labour product of the post-war boom years, but in a radically-changed world his brand of politics has become fuel to movements like the National Front.

With the threatened influx of large numbers of Ugandan Asians, the council has gone to the lengths of taking space in all major Ugandan Asian newspapers explaining to immigrants that the city is a far cry from the land of their dreams.

Labour and Tory councillors joined forces to impress upon officials of the Ugandan Asian Resettlement Board who visited the city last week that their town was bursting at the seams.

The councillors told Board chairman Sir Charles Cunningham that any great influx of Asians could only heighten Leicester's social problems and they called for compulsory direction of refugees.

Lord Mayor and lifelong Labour Party and trade union bureaucrat Edward Marston is the leader of the keep Asians out of Leicester campaign.

His comments to the press last week were indistinguishable from those of his Tory counterparts.

'We would like to see some form of direction. This is the only hope of a solution to the situation.'

Tory Alderman Kenneth Bowder said: 'We think that power of direction is the only realistic way of solving this problem.'

'We are going to employ every means of persuasion and possibly some degree of control.'

Resettlement Board officials were shown a semi-detached house where it was claimed 14 Asians would be living shortly.

Afterwards Sir Charles surprised no one by saying: 'From what we have seen today it would seem that everything should be done to discourage as many [Asians] as possible from coming to Leicester.'

Leaving elementary school at 14 to become an apprentice bricklayer, Marston became a self-made man at a time when capitalism's opportunities for all really appeared to be on offer in seeming perpetuity.

The boom took the edge off the class war and Marston went into these years firmly — as a foreman bricklayer with the Co-op.

His sense of public as opposed to class responsibility



Top: In Kampala, Uganda's capital, Asian people wait for news of their future. Above: Amin, Uganda's military ruler, who issued the expulsion order.

carried him through every office locally in his union, the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers, until, in 1950, he wound up as district president.

His performance in the union was repeated in the local Labour Party of which he is now the leader.

The same high sense of public duty took him onto the Building Trades Advisory Council, onto the local river authority, to boards of school governors and the executive of the British Market Authorities.

The trust and regard in

which officialdom held him was most marked in 1966 when, after the Home Office recommended local councils to set up 'war committees', consisting of not more than three members, Marston was one of those chosen at Leicester.

It was not a regard universally shared by workers in the town and during his term as chairman of the housing committee tenants at a meeting on the Mowmacre Estate shouted him down when he tried to justify high rents with the excuse that there was a heavy deficit in the housing subsidy.

And in January 1970, half way through his first term of office as Lord Mayor, the city bought Marston a new, £13,800 Rolls-Royce.

There was a public outcry at this, but not only did Marston keep the car: in a speech the same month to the city's Retail Credit Association he complained: 'Many thousands of people are living beyond their means.'

After his lifelong career in the Labour and trade union bureaucracy he has become an outspoken advocate of policies which might make even some Tories quake.



Trotsky (left) who explains the need to educate young workers, with Lenin and Kamenev

YOUNG WORKERS AND STATE POWER

REVIEW BY SARAH HANNIGAN

'The Position of the Republic and the tasks of young workers'. By Leon Trotsky. Report to the 5th All-Russian Congress of the Russian Communist League of Youth 1922. A Young Socialists Pamphlet. Price: 15p.

What distinguishes Marxism very clearly from the revisionist and reformist tendencies in the working class today is the understanding that the fight for state power is central to the workers' struggle to protect their basic rights and living standards.

It was this understanding which characterized Lenin and Trotsky and the Bolsheviks during the revolutionary upheavals which led to the October Revolution in Russia in 1917.

But the fight against revisionism, as exemplified in particular by the Mensheviks, did not end with the taking of state power in 1917.

As Trotsky explains in his speech to the Fifth All-Russian Congress of the Russian Communist League of Youth in 1922, the need to educate young workers in an understanding of state power was, if anything, more important after the revolution than before it.

Society

Because after the revolution a young worker in the factory could no longer depend on a primitive, almost instinctive understanding of his role in society, but had to 'become aware of the building of the whole soviet society in order to grasp his position in the factory or workshop'.

And he explained: 'While previously he passed along a tested road from the particular to the general now this road alone is insufficient for even the first steps, for on this empirical road the Menshevik mimics of socialism can catch

him, those people who repeat a supposedly old formula, but do so in a new situation where it acquires a directly contrary meaning.'

Preparation

For the Young Socialists who have just published this pamphlet for distribution to young workers, unemployed and immigrant youth and school students, the struggle against today's 'Mensheviks' is to drive home the need for a fight to force the Tory government to resign as part of the preparation for building a revolutionary party to take the power.

Trotsky goes on:

'It must, however, be said that the Mensheviks have taken a great step (which can be called a step forward in as much as it is a step towards clarity) in their latest platform. The Mensheviks openly state: "The salvation of Russia lies only in capitalism, the development of the productive forces can be only on capitalist lines."

'They therefore demand the handing over of it not all then at least the majority of factories and works to the capitalists. They of course promise for all that, that they will defend for the proletarians the eight-hour working day against future capitalists, whose go-betweens they represent.

'But in order to give them the opportunity of fulfilling their "socialist" role, just one small detail must be permitted: we must hand back the works, factories and mines to the capitalists.'

Just as today's revisionists and reformists, in order to perform their 'socialist' role, must above all refuse to challenge the Tory government and allow the reins of state power to remain in the hands of the most reactionary Tory government workers in this country have ever experienced.

The Mensheviks in 1922 called for young Russian workers to strike against the

harsh factory conditions which, the Soviet state was then passing through.

But they did this in a situation where, of course, the whole relationship of class forces had changed completely.

'In passing through now the stage of primitive socialist accumulation—and we are only just hardly beginning to leave behind the devastation of the civil war, when scarcely a glimmer of hope for accumulation could be observed—the working class is compelled to strain its energies.

'Here there is, of course, no class exploitation inasmuch as we are talking about enterprises belonging to the working class, that is our principal enterprises. But there is here the straining of energies by the working class and by its youth, maybe an excessive straining of energies, but directed towards raising the level of its own well-being.'

Vanguard

The speech takes up many other points which are of vital interest to all workers, young and old, who are coming forward today to carry on the revolutionary struggle for working-class power which was begun 55 years ago in the October Revolution.

It is a 'must' for all Young Socialists fighting today to build and establish Councils of Action for the fight to remove the Tories and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. As Trotsky says:

'The coming years will be the years of learning. They must become the years of intensive work of young workers as the vanguard of the working class, both in education and self-education. This struggle which lies before us is extremely hard . . . Let me appeal to you all the most sensitive layers of the young proletariat and advanced peasantry: learn, get yourself teathed on the granite of science, get tempered and prepare to take over!'

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

QUALITY

After the Festival of Light, more good news for God. Piet Koornhof, South African Minister of Immigration, has reaffirmed the country's ban on atheist immigrants.

'I will not admit anybody who says he is an atheist,' he said during a ceremony to mark the naturalization of 47 recent arrivals in the bastion of white supremacy.

'South Africa is a Christian country. We are seeking quality, not quantity,' the Minister added. He's keeping God's Own Country safe for God.'

UNDERPAID?

Britain's managers are complaining they are bottom of the European wages scale. David Young, of International Business Consultants who have just published a survey of salaries of top men, said: 'I am convinced and have become steadily more convinced that as a country we are underpaid.'

'We are a low-wage economy and low wages breed low productivity and low ambition.'

The survey shows that last year there was virtually no growth in the real incomes of executives.

Since they came to power in 1970 the Tories have tried to push the wages ceiling down from 15 per cent to 12, 10 and finally 6 and 7 per cent. Led by the miners, a number of major unions successfully undermined these efforts and won substantial pay increases.

But although the executives are complaining about their cash rises, in fact they figured among the highest at 10 per cent.

The INBUCON survey says that inflation wiped away the increases almost immediately, leaving a residual growth of only a ½ per cent. It follows that anyone who received less than a 10 per cent rise last year took a cut in living standards because prices continued to rise at more than that amount.

To men on £20 or even £30 a week, such a rise has posed serious difficulties. The effect on anyone earning less than £20 or on a pension will have been catastrophic.

But Britain's top men don't fall into any of these wage categories. A middle-range

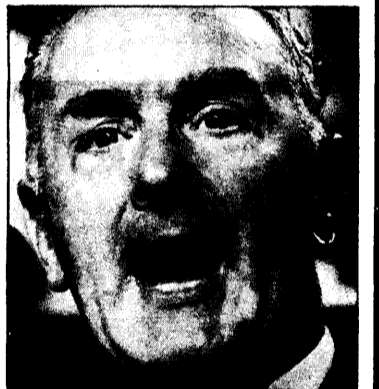
executive can earn £4,420 a year or about £90 a week and those above him will be earning anything up to about £10,000 a year—£200 a week. Yet they're still griping.

DITHERING IN BRIGHTON

One of the stories going the rounds at Brighton last week concerned the delegation of the National Union of Journalists, whose right-wing leadership was defeated recently in its bid to get the union registered and the NUJ expelled from the TUC.

Far from having learned anything from the drubbing it received at the re-call annual conference, the right wingers continued their brazen contempt for the union's rules and proper procedures by refusing to cast the NUJ's 27,000 votes in favour of composite five.

The delegation had left its decision on the motion advocating non-payment of fines and non-use of the facilities set up under the Industrial Relations Act until after the speeches had been made explaining what was involved.



Hugh Scanlon

Having listened to Hugh Scanlon, Harry Urwin and the rest, the delegation split three to two in favour of the motion. General secretary Ken Morgan, however, promptly began to find reasons for not casting the card vote, despite the clear majority.

Observers heard the clear demand of 'vote, vote' being urged on the general secretary as Morgan continued to dither and protest. Before the situation was resolved, the voting was over. The NUJ had abstained.

BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY:
Germany 1931/1932
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½
Where Is Britain Going?
Paperback 37½p
Revolution Betrayed
Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.05
Problems of the Chinese Revolution
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £1.87½
Permanent Revolution:
Results and Prospects
Paperback 75p
In Defence of Marxism
Paperback 75p
Lessons of October
Paperback 60p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from:
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG.

SPECIAL ATUA MEETINGS

CENTRAL LONDON :

Inaugural meeting of the entertainments and press unions.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 7 p.m.

'The crisis of technology and unemployment.'

SHAFTESBURY HOTEL
MONMOUTH STREET,
WC2.

Speakers: Roy Battersby (ACTT. In a personal capacity).
A London docker.

KENT:

WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 8 p.m.

'Victory to the Creffield workers. Defeat the anti-union laws. Make the Tories resign.'

THE GEORGE AND DRAGON
SHIPBOURNE ROAD
TONBRIDGE, KENT.

LIVERPOOL :

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 10.30 a.m.

'Crisis in the car industry. Fight for the right to work.'

STORK HOTEL
QUEEN'S SQUARE

Speakers: Alan Thornett (deputy senior steward Morris Motors, Oxford. In a personal capacity).
Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee).

SWINDON:

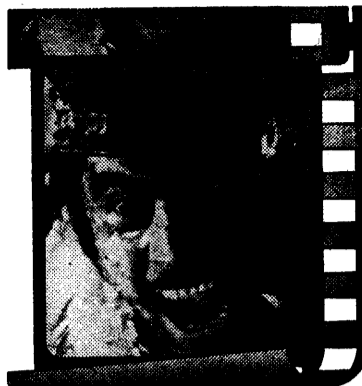
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 7.30 p.m.

'Join the fight to force the Tories to resign'

LOCOMOTIVE INN,
FLEET STREET

Speakers: Tim O'Sullivan (senior night steward, Morris Motors, Oxford, in a personal capacity). Member of the Swindon building strike committee. Representative from the Thornycroft (Basingstoke) occupation.

Glenn Ford and Anne Francis in the 1955 film 'Blackboard Jungle' on BBC 2 tonight. Ford plays the teacher Richard Dadier who finds he is battling against tough teenage pupils and cynical colleagues when he takes up a post in a New York slum school. Quite an outspoken piece of social comment when it was made. And it launched rock 'n roll with its theme song 'Rock Around the Clock'.



BBC has prepared special new sub-titles for Kurosawa's classic 'The Seven Samurai' on BBC 2 tomorrow night. The print is 45 minutes longer than any other version shown in Britain. Toshiro Mifune plays the crazy professional warrior who is hired by villagers to defend their crops and women against marauding bandits. He is able to recruit only six more Samurai men because the village is so poor. In Western terms, this theme later became 'The Magnificent Seven' with Yul Brynner and company.

TV

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.45-2.35 Racing. 3.20 Racing. 4.05 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 Paulus. 4.25 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 F Troop. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sounds great. 7.30 London. 11.25 News, weather.
WESTWARD: 1.45 Racing. 2.35 Open house. 3.10 Racing. 4.06 News. 4.08 Gus Honeybun. 4.10 Paulus. 4.25 London. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sounds great. 7.30 London. 11.28 News, weather. 11.31 Faith for life.
ANGLIA: 1.45 Racing. 3.40 Houseparty. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 London. 8.55 Politics. 9.00 London. 11.30 UFO.
SOUTHERN: 12.55 News, weather. 1.00 Let them live! 1.25 Hot dog. 1.50 Common Market cookbook. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Danger man. 3.55

Houseparty. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 London. 5.20 Road runner. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 London. 11.30 What the papers say. 11.45 News. 12.00 Shirley's world. 12.30 Weather.
ATV: 1.45 Racing. 3.10 Horoscope. 3.15 Women today. 3.40 Shirley's world. 4.10 Rupert bear. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Best of Please sir! 7.30 London. 10.30 Julia. 11.00 London. 11.30 Stories worth telling. 11.35 O'Hara, US Treasury. Weather.
ULSTER: 1.45-3.45 Racing. 4.00 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Dick Van Dyke. 7.30 London. 10.30 Songs remembered. 11.00 London. 11.30 World War I.

BBC 1

9.45 Mr Benn. 12.30 Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan. 1.00 O Gwmpas y Byd. 1.30 Andy Pandy. 1.45-1.53 News. 3.35 Mastermind. 4.00 The Mole. 4.10 Play School. 4.35 Adventures of Parsley. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.50 Deputy Dawg. 4.55 Laurel and Hardy. 5.20 Joe and the Gladiator. 5.45 National news.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.
6.50 TOM AND JERRY.
7.00 ANIMAL STARS.
7.25 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE.
8.10 SOFTLY, SOFTLY: TASK FORCE.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.
9.25 TILL DEATH US DO PART. New Series.
9.55 EUROPEAN SOCCER SPECIAL.
10.45 MIDWEEK.
11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS.
11.35 Weather, regional news.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-7.00 Open University.
7.30 NEWSROOM.
8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED.
8.10 MAN ALIVE.
9.00 BETJEMAN IN AUSTRALIA.

ITV

11.00 The ghost train. 12.25 Women today. 12.50 Freud on food. 1.15 Bellbird. 1.25 Sean the leprechaun. 1.40 Woobinda—animal doctor. 2.05 Castle haven. 2.30 Good afternoon! 3.00 Tales of Edgar Wallace. 4.10 Hatty town. 4.25 Little big time. 4.50 Ace of wands. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.
6.35 CROSSROADS.
7.00 THE SMITH FAMILY.
7.30 CORONATION STREET.
8.00 MISS GREAT BRITAIN 1972.
9.00 VAN DER VALK.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 TONY BENNETT. At the Talk of the Town.
11.00 A CLASS BY HIMSELF. New Series. 'A Rolls is a Rolls is a Rolls'.
11.30 FILM: 'FIVE DESPERATE WOMEN'.
12.50 OVERCOMING LONELINESS.

LIA. The Land of the Golden Fleece.
9.25 FILM: 'THE BLACKBOARD JUNGLE'. Glenn Ford.
11.10 NEWS ON 2.
11.15 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 London. 10.30 Hogan's heroes. 11.00 London. 11.45 Mod Squad. 12.40 Epilogue.
SCOTTISH: 1.45 Racing. 3.10 Tomorrow's horoscope. 3.15 Women today. 3.40 Shirley's world. 4.20 Rupert Bear. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 Whicker. 7.30 London. 11.30 What the papers say. 11.49 Late call. 11.55 Sounds like McEvoy.
GRAMPIAN: 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 News. 3.03 Dangerman. 3.55 Cartoon time. 4.10 Rupert Bear. 4.25 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.35 London. 7.00 Me and the Chimp. 7.30 London. 11.30 Police news. 11.35 Hawaii five-o. 12.30 Meditation.

Let working-class papers print—call from trade unions

SUPPORT is mounting in the campaign for a special dispensation for the Workers Press, 'Morning Star' and other working-class papers in the event of strike action stopping the national newspapers.

Members of the Park Royal No. 2 Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers engine ring section have unanimously supported this campaign.

Their resolution states: 'In the event of strike action resulting in the stopping of the newspapers, we ask to ensure that news and the views of the working class can be circulated and communications can be maintained.'

'We ask that special dispensation be given to the Workers Press, "Morning Star" and other papers in the labour movement.' Copies have been sent to the 'Morning Star', the executive committees of the print unions, the electricians' unions as well as the AUEW executive and the Workers Press.

Engineers in both the Coventry Nos 25 and 73 AUEW branches have passed resolutions to the executive council urging them to approach the print unions for a special dispensation for the Workers Press and 'Morning Star' in the event of a future print strike.

Coventry building workers in the city's Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians central branch have also called for the dispensation of the two papers recognizing the role of working class papers in combating the lies of the Fleet Street press.

Damage warning to Ulster

AS ULSTER'S power crisis continued, a government Minister warned yesterday that the electricity workers 'could do more harm than the IRA'.

David Howell, parliamentary under-secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that if the strike by power station workers continued, it could bring widespread economic disruption to Ulster, which was 'something which the IRA, with all its bombs and guns, had never achieved'.

The power men's walk out began on Monday in protest at paratroopers guarding one of Belfast's main power stations.

Meanwhile, Captain Austin Ardill, deputy leader of Vanguard, claims there is complete unanimity within the newly-formed 'Loyalist Council' and that this will mean 'closer co-operation with the security forces from now on'.

The 'Loyalist Council', headed by William Craig, includes the Ulster Defence Association, Vanguard and the Loyalist Association of Workers.

Yesterday talks began at Chequers between Tory premier Heath and leaders of Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labour Party. Heath has countered the SDLP's threatened boycott of the Whitelaw 'all-party' talks scheduled for September 25-27, unless internment is ended. He is suggesting a pre-arranged timetable for a 'gradual phasing out' of internment while retaining a system of special courts to try 'hard-core extremists' held under the Special Powers Act.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

COVENTRY: Wednesday, September 13, 7.30 p.m. Hertford Tavern, Junction St, off the Butts. 'The Crisis of leadership in the trade unions.' Speakers: Alan Wilkins, Rolls-Royce shop steward and Des McCarthy, builders' shop steward (both in a personal capacity).

GLASGOW: Wednesday September 13, 7.30 p.m. Partick Burgh Hall. 'Stalinism, UCS and fighting the Industrial Relations Act.'

MEDWAY: Wednesday September 13, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue, Rochester. 'Defeat the anti-union laws. Force the Tories to resign.'

PRESTON: Wednesday September 13, 8 p.m. 'Railway and Commercial', Butler Street, near railway station. 'Victory to the builders'.

WANDSWORTH: Wednesday September 13, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road, Tooting Broadway. 'Fight racialism. Force the Tories to resign.'

ABERDEEN: Thursday September 14, 8 p.m. Trades Hall, The Adelphi. 'Victory to the builders. Fight the Rent Act.'

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday September 14, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opposite New Cross Station. 'For the Tories to resign.'

TOTTENHAM: Thursday September 14, 8 p.m. St Anne's Hall, Lissbury Road, off St Anne's Street. 'Lessons of the dockers' and builders' strike.'

WILLESDEN: Thursday September 14, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW10. 'Withdraw troops from Ulster.'

SWINDON: Sunday September 17, 7.30 p.m. 'Locomotive Inn', Fleet Street. 'Join the fight to force the Tories to resign.'

Subscribe! workers press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)
£10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)
£5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:
£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)
£6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required MONDAY THURSDAY
(Please tick) TUESDAY FRIDAY
WEDNESDAY SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for months.

Name

Address

Amount enclosed £

Powell mixing up his figures

BY IAN YEATS

THE METICULOUSLY stage-managed marches against immigration organized by the National Front and other extreme right-wing groups have at least pleased Enoch Powell — their champion.

Speaking at Ramsgate yesterday he tried to bask in some reflected glory that at last his anti-immigrant crusading had found a response. 'Even in the still inner chambers of government,' he claimed, 'public anger and alarm made themselves too audible to be ignored.'

Audibility was, of course, the racist marchers sole aim. National Front organizer Martin Webster told Smithfield meat porter Ron Taylor that low numbers on their first joint march did not matter. 'There are enough to make a show,' he said.

These were the people Powell almost certainly had in mind yesterday when he described hundreds of thousands of our island population quaking with dread and fear at the alien invasion.

How the few hundred on the London marches came to be transformed into hundreds of thousands is a considerable arithmetical feat — especially from the man who persistently claims to be setting new standards in truthfulness.

He said: 'Hundreds of thousands of Britons live in perpetual dread, they dread for themselves, or they dread for

the future or they dread for both.'

Numerous people 'live in actual physical fear, fear of the conditions immediately around them and of the oppression of discomfort and intimidation inflicted upon them either heedlessly or deliberately'.

The only people who live in dread and fear in Britain today are the ruling class. And their anguish is directed at hanging on grimly to their profits and privileges.

Challenging this minority of speculators and hoarders is the working class. When Powell tries to spread his anti-immigrant policy in the working class, he does it from the standpoint of preserving Toryism.

High-speed train low-speed pay

ASLEF, the footplaten's union, yesterday demanded higher pay for its members working on British Rail's new 125 mph super train. The ASLEF men, essential if trials of the new train are to continue, are demanding higher manning and training rates.

The ASLEF members are demanding the extra money because of the extra responsibility and productivity brought about by the introduction of the high speed train.

Yesterday the union's executive agreed unanimously not to continue trials on the Derby-based project.

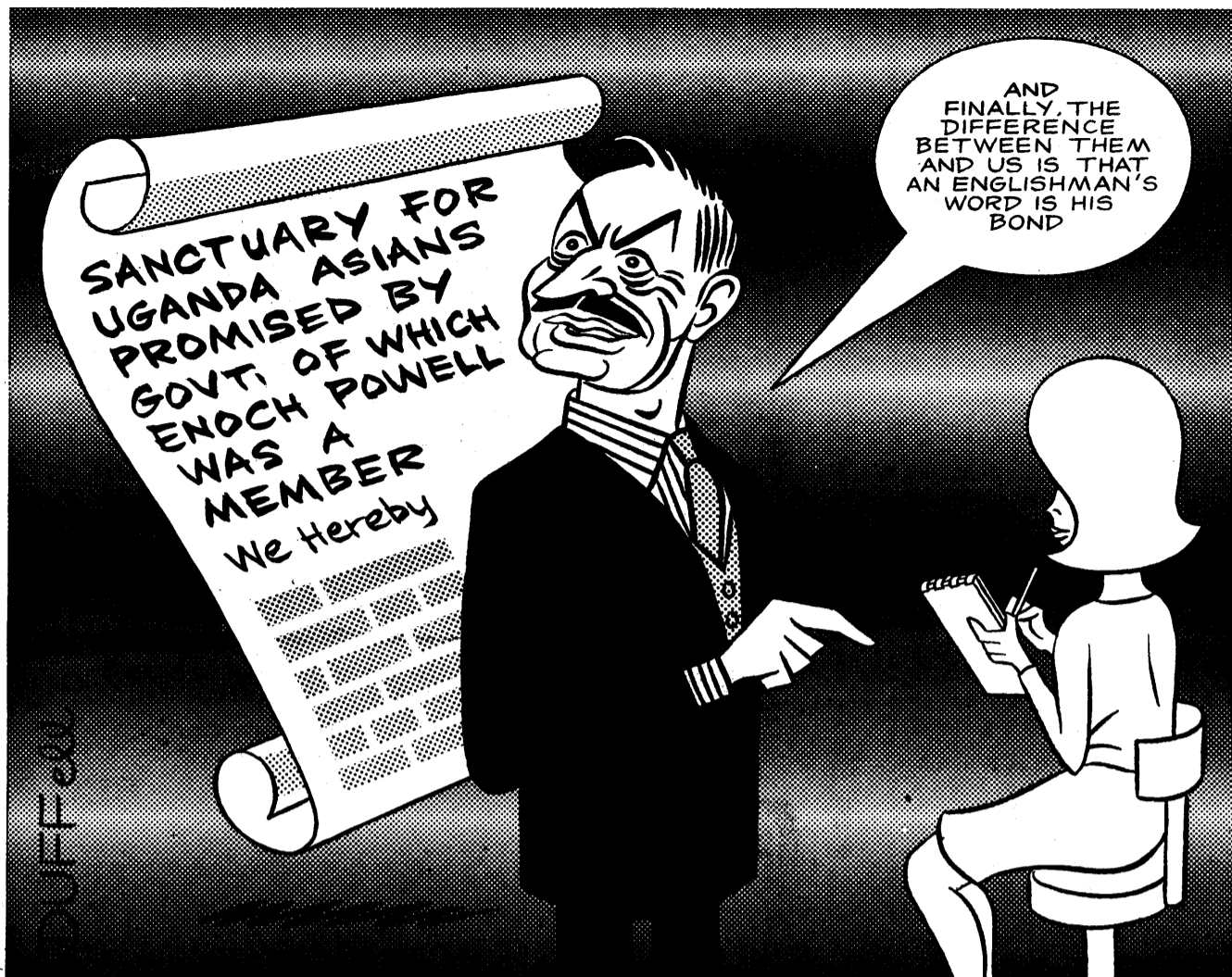
General secretary Ray Buckton said: 'The main reason for our not lifting the ban is the procrastination in getting the agreed meeting on the pay question.'

The union now wants to see 'some positive offer' before again considering the ban.

British Rail had been counting on a quick settlement of the pay and conditions claim so that high speed passenger services between Leeds and Edinburgh could be introduced early next year.

Briefly ...

PLESSEY, the electronic and communications giant, yesterday announced a £20.7m pre-tax profit. Chairman Sir John Clark announced that Plessey was recommending a final dividend to shareholders of 5 per cent, making a total for the year of 10 per cent, the same as last year. Plessey, a big contributor to the Tory Party, has suffered a slight 3 per cent drop in profits on the previous years. This was due to poor trading in many areas, Clark said.



A nauseating change of name

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WHEN ANGELA DAVIS was arrested on framed-up charges of murder, kidnap and conspiracy, an Angela Davis Defence Committee was set up in Britain to raise money for her defence and to arouse public support for her release.

As was her own defence committee in the United States, the London-based group was a tool of the Communist Party.

It did not fight for the release of Davis in the working class or the trade unions. Indeed, politics were erased from the campaign so as not to offend the middle class which was drafted on a purely liberal protest basis.

Throughout her long trial neither Davis nor her lawyers once raised the political character of the judicial attack on her by the Republican administrations in Washington and California.

In the event, the prosecution also dropped a red-baiting strategy and tried to convince the jury that she was caught up in the Marin County Court escape attempt through her love of George Jackson.

Their frame-up failed and Davis was released. As she left court she pledged herself to fight for the liberation of all political prisoners.

Such a declaration was entitled to be taken at face value. And last month Jiri Pelikan, director of Czech television in the Dubcek era and Central Committee member at the time of the Russian invasion, wrote an open letter to Davis asking her to honour her declaration.

He was appealing on behalf of the Communist Party members who have been framed and jailed by the puppet Husak regime. They include Milan Hubl, Central Committee member and rector of the party university; Jaroslav Sabata, Central Committee member and psychologist; Alfred Cerny, regional Party secretary in Brno, member of the Central Committee and worker; Jaroslav Litera, secretary of the Prague city Party committee and worker; General Vaclav Prchlik, member of the Central Committee and of parliament; Karel Bartosek, historian; Peter Uhl, teacher; Jiri Lederer and Vladimir Nepras, journalists; Ota

or to fight for their demands or to protest against the dismissal of comrades, against production schedules and bad working conditions. The Workers' Councils, formed in 1968 and dissolved in 1969, have been defined by the party leadership as "instruments of counter-revolution". Isn't that absurd for a so-called "working-class" state?

In his final appeal to Davis, Pelikan says: 'That is precisely why you, Angela, and the millions of people who supported you and believe in a more just socialist society with more freedom, can no longer be silent about the violation of human rights in the countries that call themselves "socialist" and by their behaviour discredit socialism more than any reactionary propaganda.'

'I assure you, Angela, that not only I but many other people are waiting for a reply, or better still for you to act.'

It is now a month since Pelikan's letter was published. Has Davis acted? Has she denounced the Czech Stalinists and their mentors in the Kremlin for their policy of jailing and terrorizing 'dissidents'.

Not only has she refused to condemn the trials, but she has gone off to Moscow to flaunt herself with the jailers and executioners. Last week she was granted a doctorate at a Moscow University. This week she's in East Germany being paraded around.

It comes as no surprise to find in yesterday's 'Morning Star' an item regarding the Angela Davis Defence Committee buried in two paragraphs on page 3.

The article (in full) says: 'The Angela Davis Defence Committee, founded in Britain in 1970, is to be retitled "The Angela Davis Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners".'

'Any funds left over after the approval of the final accounts for the former, will be used, subject to the wishes of Miss Davis and her advisers, for the new committee.'

This is a nauseating and cruel stab for the Czech working class and for the Party members now harassed by Stalinist terror.

This newly-constituted committee is a fraud. It should be retitled, for the Communist Party's benefit, 'The Angela Davis Committee for Defence of Certain Political Prisoners'.



Davis flaunting in Moscow with spacewoman Valentina Tereshkova

Krizanovski, teacher in the party school.

In his letter Pelikan asks: 'Do you, Angela, consider this situation normal in a country that calls itself "socialist"? I have read about and seen on television the many messages of solidarity you received in prison and after your release. I was proud to think that there were people who were not indifferent to the fate of others; at the same time I had to think with sadness and bitterness about my friends imprisoned in Prague who cannot receive expressions of solidarity and are deprived of moral encouragement.'

'It is not only a revolt of intellectuals or young people as it is sometimes asserted by western left-wingers to justify their silence or hesitation. Four weeks ago in Prague the congress of the "normalized" trade unions (purged of more than 50,000 cadres since 1969) annulled the decisions of the preceding congress, including the right to strike.'

'The workers are not allowed to have independent trade unions

We'll throw deal out

GLOBE CONSTRUCTION company is continuing to airlift non-unionists over a building workers' picket line in Basildon, Essex. (See picture p. 3.)

At 7.40 a.m. the helicopter yesterday flew in over the housing estate at Laindon Links and landed in the middle of the site where 172 private houses are being built. Four men jumped out and the machine took off, making three more trips.

Bill Regan, ex-RAF pilot, chairman and managing director of the firm, first used the helicopter on Friday and it is costing him £100 a day to avoid the strikers in this way.

The 12-strong picket line yesterday was again powerless to prevent the operation and could only voice open wishes that the machine would fall out of the sky.

Transport and General Workers' Union militant Brian Sanderson spoke to Workers Press

Says picket at helicopter site

about the strike and the proposed new deal offered by the employers.

The only weak link in our fight has been the leadership. Building workers have given their all and they have rallied tremendously throughout.

Our leaders have secretly thrown in the towel and they will come back and say 'We tried our best lads'.

On Thursday I think they'll try to accept whatever's going. But the building workers will throw the whole thing out again. We will not be dictated to by our negotiators.

They have never seen pounds given to building workers. The employers have always slung bags of pennies across the table and Smith [UCATT general secretary] and Kemp [T&GWU national

building officer] have jumped on it and said: 'Sort it out lads'.

These men will have to be shaken up and made to conform to our wishes, or we must have a complete change of leadership.

Perhaps the Tories will use the Industrial Relations Act against us because they are the same people stopping us getting the £30 claim. But builders will rise to the occasion like the dockers and the railwaymen. We must win the fight for trade unionism in the building industry.

Nationalization? It's about time that happened. And we have to nationalize land, not just building. I've been in this game 15 years and it needs a good shake-up so that plans can be laid for those who work in it.

Although I've never been



Brian Sanderson

strong politically, this Tory government must go. But it would be no use having a Labour government like the last one which laid the lines down for the Tories' Industrial Relations Act.

We have to form ourselves into committees and see a Labour government doesn't overstep the lines and stays responsible to the men who put them in power.

● See new deal story p. 3.

Tenants condemn Tories' Rent Act

OVER 100 Bransholme tenants brimming with hostility to the Tory Housing Finance Act and to the Labour leaders who refuse to fight it crowded into a Hull All Trades Unions Alliance meeting on Monday night.

They supported a resolution condemning the implementation of the Act by the Labour council and demanding the expulsion from the Labour Party of councillors who continued to collaborate with it.

The meeting called on the TUC to mobilize the working class to defeat the Tories and elect a Labour government pledged to a policy of repealing the Act and nationalizing all land, building firms and building societies without compensation and under workers' and tenants' control.

It demanded a pledge from all trade unions in the city that if any tenants were evicted for non-payment of rent a strike would be called.

Speakers condemned the shelving by the Trades Council of the call for a Council of Action. They also attacked the executive for postponing a mass tenants' meeting, which the full Trades Council meeting had supported, until October 3.

The meeting elected a 14-strong committee of tenants and housewives to carry forward the rents fight. A meeting and demonstration will be held next week and campaigns are planned on other estates.

A VOTE of no confidence in the Port Talbot Labour council was carried at a meeting of over 500 tenants on Monday.

The council has voted to implement the Tories' Rent Act.

Leaders of the Port Talbot Tenants' Association reported that a meeting with Labour mayor Jim Warren had resulted only in evasions on how to fight the Act.

But the Tenants' Association Committee itself failed to put any proposals for action to the meeting. Vice-chairman Trevor Copely merely stated that the Act could be defeated by 'solidarity and militancy'.

Mersey: Not going back until demands are met

BUILDING strikers in the Merseyside area yesterday voted at a mass meeting in Liverpool boxing stadium not to return to work until their full demands are met.

More than 8,000 strikers staged a demonstration march through central Liverpool before the two-hour meeting.

There was widespread traffic chaos in the city as the marchers—accompanied by a girls' pipe band and a brass band—made their way to the stadium.

A loudspeaker relayed speeches to several hundred who could not get inside.



Some of the builders who cornered their union secretary yesterday

Smith confronted by angry strikers

GEORGE SMITH, general secretary of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, was forced into an unprecedented face-to-face confrontation with some of his members yesterday.

About 40 building workers turned up at the union's Clapham headquarters to demand no sell-out of their £30, 35-hour week claim at Thursday's pay talks.

After 45 minutes kicking their heels outside their own union office, Smith appeared on the steps and was immediately surrounded by hostile builders.

'We've been kicked out of our building and we're not having it any more,' one shouted at Smith, amid repeated cries of 'sell-out'.

Smith then read out an agreed executive statement on Monday's meeting of the union side of the national joint council which explained nothing.

But he refused to reveal any

details of the latest offer and added heatedly: 'I've not been in any discussions with the Tories about wage norms.'

In another angry exchange he shouted: 'I have to assess the situation as it is nationally,' to which the retort was: 'You've never been near a picket line. We're not going back without the £30 for 35 hours.'

Many builders yesterday expressed bitterness at the way the lobby was organized. Some men only knew about it 30 minutes before the scheduled time and said many more could have turned up if they knew about it.

The Stalinist-led London action committee seems to be trying to wind the militancy down. Although a lobby of Thursday's talks has been called for 1.30 p.m. at New Cavendish Street, no demonstration through the streets has been fixed.

Shot Belfast men 'completely innocent'

TWO BELFAST civilians shot by British troops last week were 'completely innocent', a Shankill councillor said yesterday at the start of an unofficial public inquiry.

Councillor Hugh Smith said statements would be collected from about 200 local residents. He said he hoped the inquiry would force Ulster Secretary William Whitelaw to initiate an

official inquiry.

'The people of this area have demanded an inquiry to clear these civilians' names. I think I can get enough evidence, I am sure, to state that both these men were innocent.'

It was gunning down of these men which has led to the first open hostilities between the army and the Ulster Defence Association.

LATE NEWS WEATHER

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000

NORTHERN and eastern England and north Wales will be rather cloudy with some showers. Southern England, the Midlands and south Wales will be cloudy at times but mostly dry.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will become cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle.

In north east Scotland the rain is likely to be moderate and continuous for several hours before brighter, showery weather spreads from the north. It will be rather cool.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

I would like information about

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4 7UG.

Name

Address

SEPTEMBER FUND HAS REACHED £200.86

THE FIGHT is on for our September £1,750 Fund. We are determined to raise as much as possible now and not leave it to a last minute rush.

The enormous inflationary crisis throughout the capitalist world is coming to a head. The only solution for the capitalist class is to fight back in the most brutal way against the working class.

Workers Press is determined to prepare workers everywhere for these onslaughts. More unemployment, wage-cuts and the end to all trade union rights is just a small slice of what this Tory government has in store.

Such a situation propels us forward to fight even harder for our monthly Fund. Our paper alone can provide the leadership to defeat these vicious attacks. We urge you all—don't waste a moment. Raise all you can and post immediately to:

WORKERS PRESS SEPTEMBER APPEAL FUND
186a CLAPHAM HIGH STREET
LONDON, SW4 7UG