

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 1972 ● No. 879 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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But it was by no means easy going. Workers Press is a political newspaper which fights for the building of the revolutionary party as the leadership of the working class.

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Now, we are on the threshold of the most important six months in the history of the working class and the trade union movement since the end of the war.

During these vital months the Tories plan to enter the Common Market, preparing for it by raising rents, prices and unemployment. None of us can afford to sit back for a single minute.

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It would be a party in which hundreds of new cadres would be recruited and trained as a result of their present-day experience with the Tory government. It is these cadres who

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There is now overwhelming evidence that the government is completely committed to driving down wages and letting prices rise. All sections of the capitalist class at home and abroad are demanding this policy.

At the International Monetary Fund conference in Washington, Treasury officials around the top Tory economics minister Anthony Barber are talking about the need for a legally enforceable incomes policy.

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He was echoed by President Nixon, who warned that the US economy would not be allowed to suffer because of difficulties in Britain and Europe. He called for an 'orderly' conduct of our internal economic affairs. (See p. 2.)

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# TALKS WITH TORIES

DEMAND THAT THE TUC LEADERS  
BREAK OFF ALL  
TALKS WITH HEATH

Our demand on July 17 this year

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'We went to let them know they could be facing the same situation in the near future,' Dave Arnold, convenor of the 340 workers involved in the sit-in, told Workers Press. 'The whole of the industry is going

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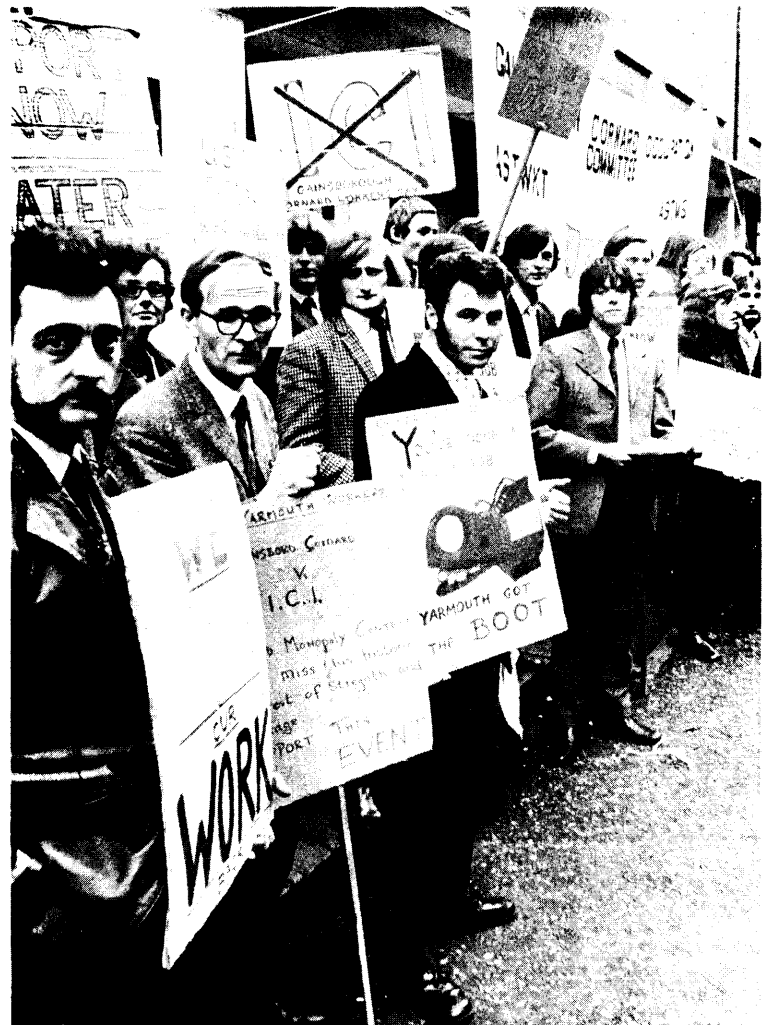
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# Citröen plant still halted

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PRODUCTION was at a standstill yesterday at the Citröen factory in Vigo, northern Spain, despite the return to work of large numbers of strikers. Over 1,000 carworkers are still defying management and police threats. Sympathy strikes in the shipyards are also continuing.

Workers in the Santo Domingo plant, who ended their strike yesterday, sat on their jobs with arms folded.

A military tribunal began the interrogation of two militants of the terrorist Catalan Liberation Front in Barcelona on Monday.

Carlos Soler, a 22-year-old taxi driver, and Ramon Lopez, a 33-year-old textile worker, were arrested last May with seven other members of the Front on 28 charges of terrorism and the murder of a Civil Guard.

Both Soler and Lopez have been tortured and Lopez is suffering from a badly-bruised spine. The military attorney has called for sentences of 205 and 185 years respectively. However, it is probable that the men will be given death sentences.

The Liberation Front is a Maoist tendency which is fighting for the independence of Catalan speaking regions—Catalonia, Valencia, the Balearic islands and Roussillon—through 'armed struggle'.

Barcelona's civil governor has claimed that the arrest of the nine guerrillas has broken up the group.

In Bonn, Prince Juan Carlos, his wife, Sophia, and foreign minister Lopez Bravo, are on a four-day official visit to western Germany.

The visit, described by the Spanish press as 'the first Spanish-German summit since Franco met Hitler', is connected with a new treaty between Bonn and Madrid which will protect the considerable investments of German finance in the Spanish tourist and chemical industries.

# What we think

UNION CHIEFS would be unable to continue their treacherous talks with the Tories for a minute without help from the Stalinists of the British Communist Party.

Prices, rents and transport costs are all on the increase. Even to cross the threshold of Chequers in this situation, as they did again yesterday, the TUC leaders need a safety-valve for workers' growing anger. The Stalinists oblige.

Yesterday's 'Morning Star' discovered a 'danger . . . that the government will try to smuggle through the old discredited and detested wage restraint in a new form of disguise'.

The paper pointed out that although the TUC conference earlier this month opposed wage restraint in any form it did not totally reject the possibility of accepting an incomes policy.

If this discovery serves to alert even one Communist Party militant to the real nature of the Chequers talks, Workers Press will be happy. But we feel bound to point out certain additional facts.

# CP's left cover for Chequers talks

Voting on the resolution referred to by the 'Star' was unanimous and there were no amendments, addendums or additional emergency motions.

This means that every Communist Party member in the conference voted for the motion in question. It means that not a single CP union leader lifted a finger to amend the motion.

True the 'Star' wagged a warning finger the following day, when it was all over, saying the motion should really have called for the TUC-Heath talks to be broken off.

But what happened on the day itself?

Eddie Marsden, the constructional engineers' leader and a member of the CP executive, said there was 'considerable worry' in the movement that wage restraint could be the outcome of the talks. But neither he nor any other CP member fought for the demand that the talks be broken off.

What is more, the Party and its fellow-travellers at the Congress had already participated in a squalid manoeuvre to

ditch from the agenda the one resolution which could have focused opposition to the talks: a move from the cinema technicians for a campaign to bring the Tories down and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Two days after the TUC debate on economic policy, Marsden reported to a meeting of the Party executive that Congress had totally rejected wage-restraint or any talks with the CBI and the government on restricting wage increases.

'It did not, however, call for the breaking off of talks with the government', he said. This could provide a loophole for the right wing to manoeuvre. 'But', he added soothingly, 'vigilance and readiness to take militant action by the movement can frustrate such manoeuvres.'

This is where the construction of a 'left' cover for the talks, the building of a safety-valve, begins.

Earlier in his report Marsden had waxed eloquent about how successes (?) in the TUC were 'a tribute to the validity of . . .

the British Road to Socialism', Joseph Stalin's\* 1951 blueprint for class-collaboration in Britain.

Then he started to take the heat out of the demand that the TUC-Heath talks are broken off—and to let the union chiefs off the hook—by saying that militant action will be used.

So by yesterday the 'Star' was able to drop the demand for the talks to be broken off, under cover of an editorial statement that they could be cancelled if TUC secretary Victor Feather so wished.

This is Stalinism in action. It demonstrates the real, counter-revolutionary nature of the 'British Road to Socialism'. And it proves that those in the Communist Party who want to fight the danger of an incomes policy cannot do so unless they break from these utterly treacherous politics.

\*As Nikita Khrushchev told the East German Socialist Unity Party conference in 1963, it was Stalin himself who first proposed the 'British Road'.

## Terse warning by Nixon at IMF

# Europe must toe line . . . or else

PRESIDENT Nixon's speech to the capitalist world's finance ministers in Washington is a further demonstration of America's unbending stance on monetary and trade questions. Addressing the International Monetary Fund's annual meeting, Nixon made it clear to America's competitors that they must fall into line with US demands for a new economic order tailored to Washington's requirements.

Behind the highflown phrases about making history is the crudest threat of massive economic retaliation against European and Japanese capitalists unless they agree to shoulder the burden of the international crisis.



The President's speech was in marked contrast with the strained optimism of the IMF's director-general Pierre-Paul Schweitzer, who called for an increase in Special Drawing Rights ('paper gold') allocations within the framework of the Bretton Woods system.

Nixon wants a complete overturn of the present monetary set-up which he claims is biased against American interests: the rest of the world must accept a completely new system or face economic war with the US.

Nixon's terse conclusion contained perhaps the most ominous threat: 'Later this week Secretary Schultz (the US Treasury Secretary) will outline a number of proposals which represent the best thinking of my economic advisers—I commend these to you for careful consideration.'

The strained relations between the US and the rest of the world were demonstrated from the floor when delegates heartily applauded Schweitzer while giving Nixon no more than a perfunctory burst of clapping.

Schweitzer, whose re-election next year is being opposed by the United States, has become a symbol of the struggle between Europe and America.

In his speech Nixon specifically linked the monetary question with trade and employment and warned other countries against taking protectionist measures to hit America's exports.

He made great play with the fact that America was the only industrial nation which did not owe much of its post-war growth to the expansion of world trade.

'We want our working men and women and our businessmen and women to have a fair chance to compete for their share of the expanding world trade between nations,' he said.

Referring to the Bretton Woods monetary agreement of 1944, Nixon said: 'A generation ago we deliberately set out to help our former enemies as well as our weakened allies so that they could gain the economic strength which would enable them to compete with us in world markets.'

'Now we expect our trading partners to bring about equal competition.' Later he said: 'I will not condone the export of jobs out of the United States caused by an unfairness built into the world's trading system.'

This refers to the Common Market's agricultural protection and non-tariff barriers to which the US has taken such sharp exception over the last year.

Instead of exporting jobs, as he puts it, Nixon is in reality talking about the export of unemployment.

Nixon has given nothing away at the Washington meeting: his speech is a declaration that the economic war goes on and that Europe must bear the brunt.

# Heavy, wet grain weighs on Soviet agriculture

LATEST reports from Moscow indicate that the late grain harvest in Siberia, Kazakhstan and the southern Urals which was counted on to make up for the disastrous crop in other areas is itself threatened by mismanagement and bad weather.

The traditional wheat-growing areas of European Russia have already produced a stunted, scorched crop, forcing the USSR to buy more than \$1,000m-worth of grain from the US, France and Canada.

The Kremlin leaders had hoped that the harvest in the Asian wheat areas, which ripens later, would offset the losses in the west.

Earlier this month, the Communist Party secretary himself, Leonid Brezhnev, toured local party organizations to exhort low-level managers to greater efforts.

His trip appears to have been wasted: reports in the Soviet Press paint a picture of chaos, mismanagement and demoralization in the areas where the harvest is now in progress.

A front-page article in the CP daily 'Pravda' on Monday told

of wet grain lying in the Siberian fields with workers hesitating to thresh it, of shortages of dryers at grain elevators and of trucks wasting time in line because of poor scheduling.

Siberian grain was up to 12 days late in ripening, 'Pravda' said, and as soon as the harvest began, it started to rain.

Wet grain at harvest time means a great risk that the grain will spoil, however abundant the crop.

In the virgin lands of Kazakhstan, 'Pravda' said, wet snow had fallen and the harvesting had to be stopped with 85 per cent of the wheat lying in stooks in the fields. The paper accused workers of holding back because the grain was 'heavy and wet'.

It said top speed was essential because of the threat of further snow.

'Pravda' blamed bad organization for the lagging harvest. Wet grain was being sent direct to elevators which had no drying facilities. In other cases, wheat was piling up at railway sidings because less than half as many wagons as required had been provided.

Around Chelyabinsk in the southern Urals less than one-third of the harvest is in. Chaotic transport conditions are partly responsible: in the Kizilsky area, only 78 of 300 available trucks were in use and many had broken down.

Less than half the 255 tractor-trailers allotted to the Agapovski region were in use. Spare parts outlets are jammed with vehicles: in one case a truck needed in the fields was sent more than 100 kilometres to fetch a single ball-bearing.

'Pravda' said a fleet of 11.5 ton trucks was unaccountably sent on a 1,200-kilometre errand to pick up lumber when the vehicles were needed to carry grain. In exposing these instances of bureaucratic mismanagement, the Kremlin leaders are plainly seeking scapegoats for the overall failure of their agricultural policy.

But while local inefficiency plays its part the prime responsibility for the grain crisis lies in the criminal policies of the centre—above all the pursuit of 'socialism in a single country', which lies at the root of Stalinist agricultural policy.

## Pressure here to follow Norway

BY IAN YEATS

YESTERDAY'S 'No' vote to Common Market entry in Norway has prompted British politicians to renew their demands for some similar test of public opinion here.

Labour's Anthony Wedgwood Benn has called for a referendum and Enoch Powell has said that many Britons will feel envious of a country where the public has the means of seeing their wishes respected.

In a heavy 75-per-cent poll final figures showed that 52.5 per cent had voted against Norway's entry and 47.5 per cent in favour.

With the exception of 12 MPs the minority Labour government of Trygve Bratteli backed Common Market entry, so will now resign.

The Bratteli government had the support of the trade unions, the Conservative Party, at least



A Norwegian button badge saying 'No' to the EEC

half the parliamentary opposition and all Norway's businessmen.

But as the votes poured into the Oslo counting centre on Monday night, it became clear that the farming and fishing community and large sections of Norway's industrial areas were giving the thumbs down to entry.

The 'No' vote means that Norway will almost certainly have to devalue the kroner to maintain her export position in the face of stiff competition from the EEC countries.

The outcome of the referendum poses Norway with a formidable political crisis.

Under the Constitution, parliament cannot resign until the next election in September 1973.

As an added complication, most of the opposition favours EEC entry and would therefore be in no position to form an alternative government.

The Norwegian vote is expected to influence a similar referendum due to be held in Denmark next week.

A 'No' vote there would also involve a devaluation, since exclusion from the Common Market will entail Denmark losing the important British market for bacon and dairy products and therefore being unable to finance the balance-of-payments deficit it has run for the past decade.

Immediately the result was known, Prime Minister Jens Otto Krag ordered the stock exchange to shut until October 2 when parliament reassembles after the summer recess.

The decision to close the exchange followed a run on the kroner triggered by devaluation rumours.

Pro-Market politicians in both countries claim the effect of staying out will mean severe fiscal restraint at home, coupled with unemployment and depressed living standards.

## Turmoil at Tyne yards: Boilermakers out

THE 700 draughtsmen in the Tyne shipbuilding yards of Swan Hunter were back at work yesterday. On Monday they held separate meetings to consider a management pay offer and took the rest of the day off.

Meanwhile the strike by Swan Hunter's 3,800 boilermakers entered its fourth week yesterday with

no sign of a break in the deadlock.

They are demanding a 17 per cent, £4.72 a week cost-of-living rise and last week rejected pleas by their union president Dan McGarvey to return to work.

To complete the unrest at Swan Hunter, shop stewards representing 8,000 outfitting and ancillary workers earlier this week

turned down on a majority vote a cost-of-living pay offer of £1.50 a week.

However, they ruled out immediate strike action and decided instead to forward their claim to the next stage in negotiating procedure.

But with the boilermakers still out on strike, local union leaders' plans to elaborate a common pay policy in Tyne shiprepair yards—with prospects of

the same in shipbuilding—have had to be shelved.

In any case, the scheme fostered by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' Tyne-side committee has not had the co-operation of the boilermakers' union.

While all the other unions on the district committee met shiprepair employers in February, the boilermakers were absent.

Discussions centred on agreeing a common wages front for all Tyne ship-repairers with all skilled trades on the same basic rates. All unions were to discuss wage settlements under the banner of the district committee.

But the boilermakers—who have always enjoyed a higher rate of pay than other trades—have been unable to accept the flat-rate system.

# Electricity prices up again

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

ELECTRICITY prices should rise 'at the first opportunity', says the Electricity Council in its annual report yesterday. It is expected that the increases will come early in November when the CBI's so-called prices 'freeze' is discontinued.

Informed sources have already speculated that domestic charges will go up by only 2 per cent—as a public relations gesture—while industrial users will have their bill raised by 15 per cent.

This huge increase in the industrial sector will mean a sharp rise in costs throughout industry which will in turn be passed on to the consumer.

In a simultaneous release the Central Electricity Generating Board shows a profit of £9.4m for 1971-1972 while the council's annual report discloses that the electricity supply industry as a whole in England and Wales lost £23m. The main reasons, says the council, were an unparalleled succession of cost increases and government-requested price restraint.

The board reports that sales were 8 per cent below its forecast and called for a 'settled framework' within which 'meaningful pricing progress' could be made.

The annual report says: 'Whilst it is accepted that an upward revision of prices on the scale required cannot be implemented all at once, the council firmly believed that a movement in

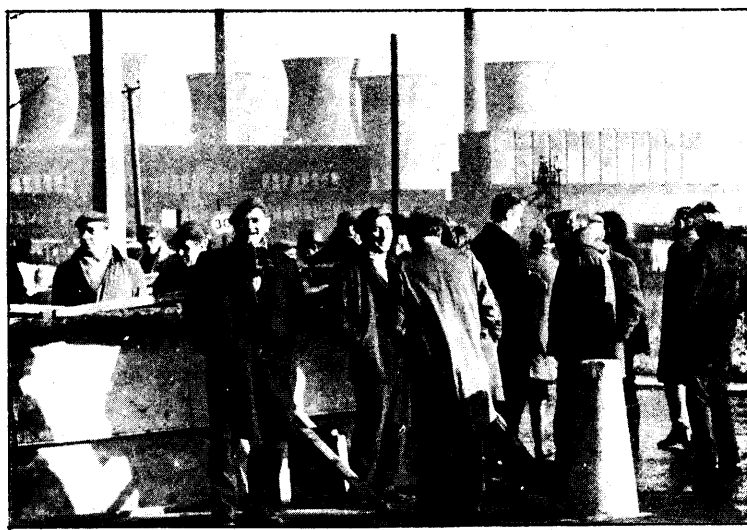


Electricity Council chairman Sir Peter Menzies who presented yesterday's report

that direction needs to be made at the first opportunity so that the discipline of working to financial targets can be restored, the morale of management maintained and further developments can take place with sensible corporate planning and coherent marketing policies.'

It also says that a £165m claim was made to the government during the year for compensation for loss due to price restraint, but no sum has yet been agreed.

And in another part of the report the CEBG, which operates the major power stations in England and Wales, says the indus-



Miners pickets at a power station blamed by CEBG. Meanwhile operating profits are wiped out by gigantic and crippling interest charges

try was virtually in a 'state of siege' during the miners' strike.

The board says that if the industry again became embroiled in other parties' disputes it would have thrust upon it a very different role from its traditional one of public service.

'During the strike no NCB coal was moved to power stations, but miners picketing them obstructed the highway and so cut off supplies of other essential materials. The industry was virtually in a state of siege.'

'The board had no dispute with the NUM or the NCB, but the miners singled out electricity supply as a vital public service and deliberately hampered its operations as a means of exerting pressure towards acceptance of their demands for increased wages.'

'It was an intolerable situation for the electricity supply industry, a nationwide service, to become a battleground or arena for a dispute in which the indus-

try itself had no part, burdensome for electricity consumers and potentially damaging to the industry's prospects in an increasingly competitive energy market.'

The report pays a handsome tribute to the employees, who worked on in power stations during the strike, thus inflicting greater hardships on miners and their families. The report says the staff showed 'resource, tenacity and ingenuity'.

'Quite irrespective of the miners' strike and its repercussions, fundamental reappraisal of coal's place in the energy picture was already overdue at the beginning of 1972.'

Complaining about increased costs, the council's report blames the rise in coal prices by the NCB as the largest individual increase to the CEBG's costs.

The price of coal supplied to power stations had increased by 9.2 per cent overall, adding about £25.8m to the 1971-1972 fuel bill.

## Interest charges are to blame—not the miners

And the further 7.5 per cent increase imposed by the NCB in March would cost the CEBG an estimated £27m during 1972-1973.

There is a further punchline in the council's small print. It shows that all the area boards belonging to the electricity council made operating profits. The losses were only incurred after interest charges were allocated.

Just as the NCB is cast into debt each year by huge repayments to the original owners, so the electricity industry is also bloodsucked by the banks and insurance brokers.

At yesterday's press conference the Electricity Council chairman, Sir Peter Menzies, said the price problem was 'most acute'. He revealed that Industries Minister Tom Boardman has asked the council to delay the increased charges.

The minister has asked for the deferment until after the outcome of talks between the government, the TUC and the CBI.

But Sir Peter warned: 'A major part of the unpalatable truth is that at some time, and it ought to be sooner rather than later, electricity prices must be put right.'

'Domestic electricity prices have over the past few years increased by considerably less than other prices.'

'So we are now in a situation where electricity for most of our domestic consumers is being sold to them below cost.'

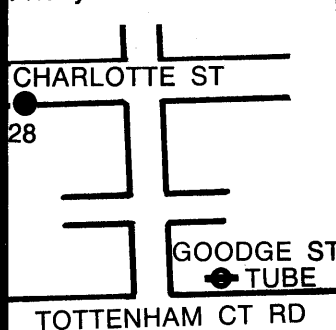
Domestic electricity prices had been subjected to severe restraint for a period which had already been too long, he claimed.

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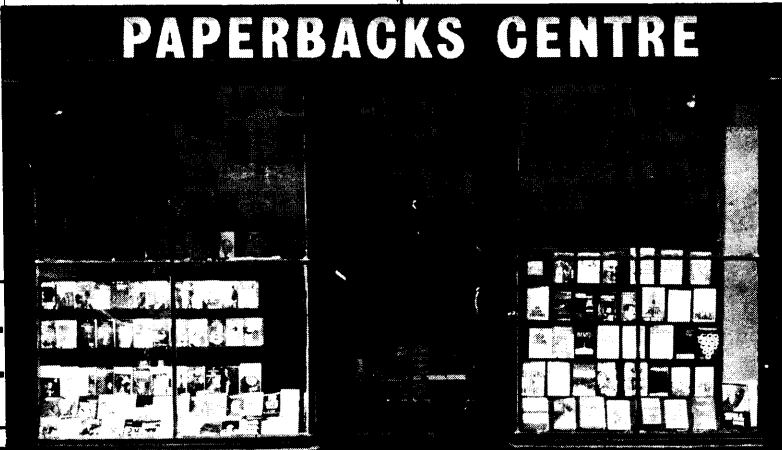
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# THE BETRAYAL AFTER THE GENERAL STRIKE

Part 25 of a series on Picketing by Bernard Franks

The questions raised by the dockers' action over containerization are vital to all workers. The continuous elimination of jobs by modernization and automation is not an isolated development peculiar to the docks' industry, as workers in steel, engineering, shipbuilding, railways, the Post Office and practically every other industry are finding.

However, the 'lefts' have abandoned any struggle with the ruling class in defence of jobs and are supporting TUC discussions with the Tories on how to police the working class while jobs and wages are attacked.

The get-together in the shadow of the Industrial Relations Act has a certain parallel with the situation of 1927. Then, the Tories had barely passed the vicious anti-union Trade Disputes and Trade Union Act when the TUC took up discussions with the employers in the notorious Mond-Turner talks—so named after their joint promoters—Sir Alfred Mond, head of ICI, and Ben Turner, TUC president.

Even evidence of Sir Alfred Mond's fascist leanings could not dissuade the TUC from collaborating with employers to bring about 'rationalization and greater efficiency in industry'.

Walter Citrine, the TUC's secretary said at the 1928 Congress: 'Supposing that the statement had been true, and that he had associated himself with fascism, would that have been a logical ground on which to break down discussion?' (Trades Union Congress report, 1928.)

Now the situation of the working class is different. The crisis is more fundamental, with wider ramifications than in 1928, when the workers had suffered an overwhelming defeat two years earlier in the General Strike, as opposed to their immense and undefeated power, for example, as shown in the recent miners' strike, the rail ballot and the dockers' action to defend their right to work.

The Communist Party's role in attempting to give validity to the actions of the 'lefts', in attempting to discredit the Young Socialists 'Right-to-Work' marches, in opposing and inhibiting the setting-up of Councils of Action to lead the struggle against the Tories and in shelving the demands for nationalization and workers' control of industry—instead, replacing it with a call for more militancy against the Industrial Relations Act—constitutes a dangerous programme for the working class.

The International Socialism group, too, considers that:

'The prime duty of a picket is to be effective ON THE STREET, to be at the forefront of the immediate struggle. He is of little use to our cause behind bars, or attracting fines which could drain union funds. If we cannot win the battle on the picket lines, we shall certainly fare no better in the bosses' courts.' ('Why We Must Win the Picket-line Fights', 'Socialist Worker', March 11, 1972.)



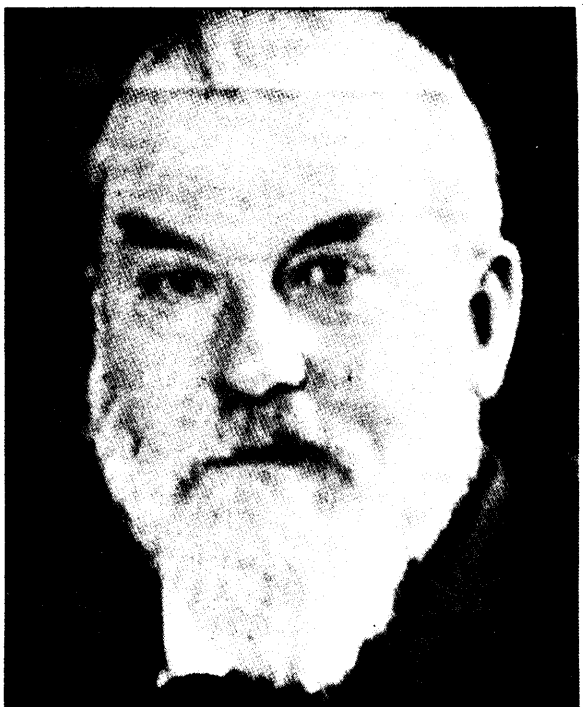
Top: containerization and automation. Above: Walter Citrine.

In this period of capitalist crisis, when a major political offensive is being launched against strikers, pickets and the unions, allegiance to militancy alone invites defeat.

Firstly, since the Tories have now directly placed the full power of the state acting through the courts, police and Industrial Relations Act behind every employer—however tin-pot or bumbling—any struggle which does not have a political basis in linking all other workers to force the Tory government to resign stands in danger of being isolated and overwhelmed.

Secondly, the attack on jobs based on modernization and automation cannot be solved by militancy to force employers to hand over jobs. On this basis alone the most militant section of workers may successfully end up with the lion's share of the dwindling number of jobs, but this will be as much at the expense of fellow workers—and fellow trade unionists—as that of the employers.

Without nationalization of industry under workers' control and without compensation, the employers are always in a position to use machines to eliminate jobs instead of using them to shorten hours and improve employment, wages and conditions.

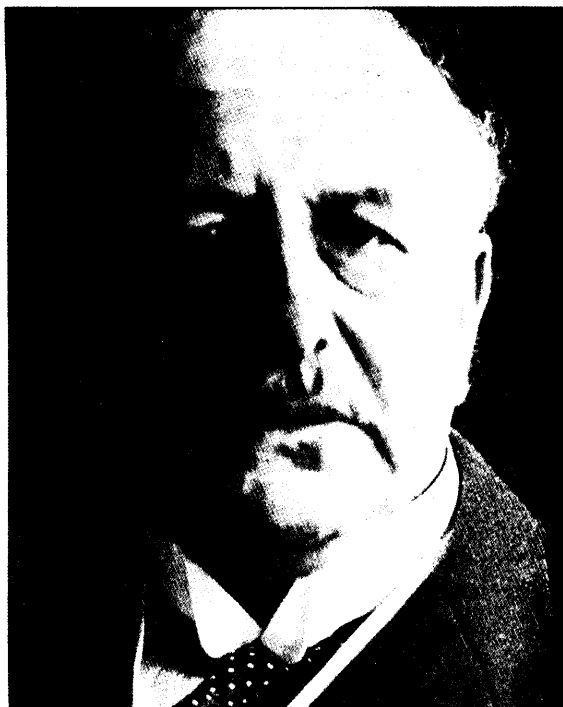


Above: 1927. Ben Turner, TUC president and Sir Alfred Mond, head of ICI

The nationalization demand, unites all workers in the industry on the basis that employers unable to use the great advances of science and technology for the good of the working class must have these means of production taken from them to be owned and run by the class better able to do so.

For the class-conscious worker the present situation requires:

- The need to show the political nature of strikes, rent and welfare struggles brought on by the Tory government's action to solve the crisis at the expense of the working class; the need to show that a is not in any way a purely propagandist undertaking. The use of injunctions, of spies and informers for the NIRC and the 'fair rents' schemes, the backing given to company unions and the police harassment of picket lines are all now a fact, a part of every struggle.



- The need to expose the treachery of the reformist leadership, that union leaders consorting with Heath and the employers, and Labour leaders consorting with the Tory politicians, are not going to lead a successful struggle on behalf of workers.
- The need to fight for nationalization of industry, land, and the banks without compensation and under workers' control.

Sit-ins and occupation of factories, offices and sites constitute an important step in this direction as they are a direct challenge to the bosses' ownership and control of the means of production; more so than picketing alone which leaves the boss in charge, if not in operation. This does not apply to 'work-ins' which, even if successful, would merely confirm the workers' right to be exploited for the continuance of the employers' profit and the employers' right to cut the workforce and which can produce the strange

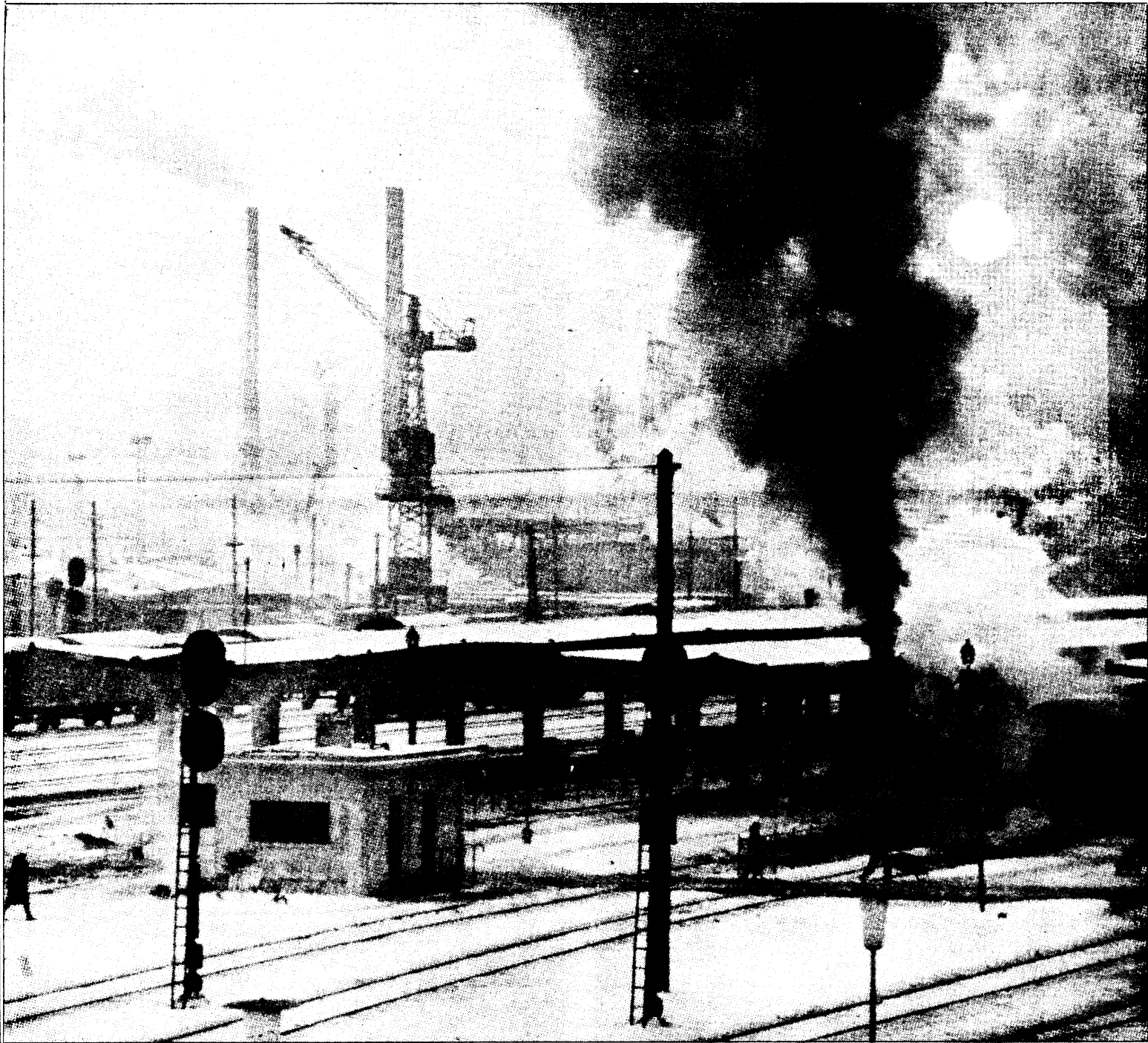
situation of workers completing the boss's contracts without him paying any wages at all.

- The need to build Councils of Action which will unite the working class in the General Strike to defeat the Tory offensive and bring to power a Labour government pledged to implementing socialist policies.

Stalinism is no longer in such a position to betray the working class as it did with its subservience to the trade union leadership in the General Strike.

The Socialist Labour League's determination to construct the revolutionary party with its daily paper and its consistent struggle for political consciousness and Marxist theory in the workers' vanguard is itself the major factor in prohibiting the repetition of such actions.

**TOMORROW: COUNCILS OF ACTION**



# RUMANIA MOVES FOR MONETARY PACT

BY JOHN SPENCER

**The** adherence of Rumania to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank is an important milestone in the economic relations between the East European Stalinists and imperialism.

The Rumanian application has been welcomed by all the big capitalist countries which dominate the Bank and the Fund. Rumania is thus certain of joining Yugoslavia in IMF membership . . . with all that this implies.

The Stalinist leaders of other East European countries, notably Poland and Hungary, are reported to be considering similar action, though they have so far been restrained by the Soviet Union.

By contrast with these two countries Rumania has tended to follow a more 'independent' course over the last few years, though it remains a member of the Warsaw Pact and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the Soviet-dominated trade bloc.

## STATUS

Rumania's leader Nicolae Ceausescu has tried to keep his distance from the Soviet Union by maintaining cordial relations with China and by leaning towards the Common Market, with which Rumania enjoys preferential trading status.

This allows the bureaucracy to free itself to some extent from the impositions of the Soviet Stalinists who have always subordinated the East

European states to their own bureaucratic requirements.

In the past this has created big problems for the East European economies, where certain industries have been developed disproportionately to provide for Soviet requirements while others have been artificially held back.

Ceausescu and his fellow-bureaucrats, like their counterparts all over Eastern Europe, subscribe to the basic Stalinist thesis that 'socialism' can be built within the confines of a single country.

In reality this is a reactionary Utopia: cut off from the centres of industrial development in the metropolitan capitalist countries, the states of Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, cannot overcome the inherited backwardness of both industry and agriculture without the working class in the west taking power.

The 'theory' of socialism in a single country has become a cover for the pursuit of its own interests by a bureaucratic clique, which has usurped control of the workers' state apparatus and disfranchised the working class of political power.

Acting in their own bureaucratic interests, the Stalinists constantly endanger the gains of the working class and their counter-revolutionary policies threaten the very existence of the workers' states as such.

Rumania's lack of a developed industrial base is compounded by the mismanagement of the bureaucracy, which is unable to call into play the workers' independent capacity for struggle.

So in order to secure the illusion of a greater degree of independence from Moscow, the Rumanian Stalinists are forced to make major concessions to the imperialists. Joining the World Bank and the IMF is one of these.

The Bank and the Fund were founded at the Bretton Woods international monetary conference of 1944. The Soviet Union did not take part. The IMF was set up to regulate the capitalist monetary system established at that conference on the basis of the dollar's link with gold.

## CONVERTIBLE

Member-countries contributed money to a central treasury to assist countries with balance-of-payments difficulties and at the same time they agreed to abide by IMF rules in trading and exchange relations.

These rules include as a prime requirement that countries' currencies must be made convertible one with another and that the member-countries must try as far as possible to maintain their currencies within established parity limits.

This meant that in order, for example, to rectify balance-of-payments deficits, IMF members were expected to curb consumption at home in order to reduce imports and bring their currencies in line, by such measures as wage-freezing, increased taxation or credit squeeze.

The primary purpose of these rules was to maintain the supremacy of the dollar as the symbol of US imperialism all over the capitalist world and



**Top:** Modern petro-chemical plant, though most industry lags behind the West. **Above:** Ceausescu

to open up all the member-states to the penetration of imperialist trade and capital.

In the so-called developing countries this was backed up by the activity of the World Bank which became one of the main agencies for inflicting 'aid' on the colonies and semi-colonies of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The Bank, currently headed by Robert McNamara, former Vietnam aide of ex-President Johnson, channels investment under various disguises from the metropolitan countries into the underdeveloped countries, which, since World War II have acquired a crippling burden of debts.

The Rumanian Stalinists hope to acquire 'aid' in the form of low-interest loans from the Bank—the burden of interest payments to be borne by the Rumanian working class.

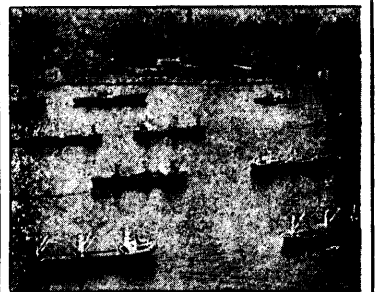
**CONTINUED TOMORROW**

## BANKER SAYS ANOTHER YEN REVALUATION IS 'INEVITABLE'

Amid rising foreign pressure for a revaluation of the yen, the Japanese government has released balance-of-payments figures showing a \$560m surplus for August compared with only \$402m in July.

These figures are down on last year's level and are distorted by the effects of the prolonged seamen's strike which delayed many export and import items.

But they show that the 16.8 per cent yen revaluation enforced last December has failed to slash the surplus by anything like the amount demanded overseas.



**Idle ships in seamen's strike.**

Shigeo Horie, former president of the Bank of Japan, has said that another yen revaluation is inevitable and the opinion is echoed in circles close to the Finance Ministry.

Horie said the Common Market countries, with co-operation from the United States, could be expected to reinforce pressure on Japan for a yen revaluation. Another revaluation would not be desirable for the Japanese economy, but it would be more advisable than economic isolation, Horie said.

Major business interests are opposed both to the prospect of revaluation and to any effective alternative measures to cut exports and reduce the payments surplus. Industry firmly rejects export taxes, farmers are opposed to increased import quotas for foodstuffs and small businessmen are blocking government moves to streamline the distribution system and open up internal markets to foreign goods.

Many sections of heavy industry, already badly hit by the December measures, are firmly against another revaluation. Hirokichi Yoshiyama, president of Hitachi Ltd, Japan's largest heavy electrical company, said recently that 'all means' should be used to resist a further revaluation.

Yoshiyama favours 'orderly marketing' as the best way to avoid revaluation, but government circles say the 'orderly marketing' organization set up by the big employers has done nothing of substance to regulate exports and does not plan to.

The big business organization Keidanren denies the charge, but its critics say that what is done is too little too late. The latest balance-of-payments figures are certain to weaken the proponents of 'orderly marketing' and strengthen the demand for an early yen revaluation.



# THE MEANING OF TORY LAW AND ORDER

BY ALEX MITCHELL

There is an unbeatable barometer to gauge the political temperature at Tory party conferences. You simply turn to the section on the agenda which is headed 'Freedom under the law'.

The title to this section is deliberately ambiguous. The public-relations advisers to the Tory Party feel that 'Freedom under the law' creates a better impression with the middle-class voters than 'law and order'.

But 'Freedom under the law' or 'Law and order', the message is the same. It is the section of the conference agenda where the hangers and floggers are permitted to give voice.

## SOFTEN UP

The debate is traditionally slotted on the morning session of the first day. This year the Heathmen—he has a rich coterie of well-salaried young men who now work fulltime on the government's and his own image—have put law and order immediately after a heart-warming discussion on the environment and the quality of life.

'The idea,' said one conference-watcher from Fleet Street, 'is to soften up the television audience with a debate which shows the Tories as the party with humanity. This will get in the afternoon papers with glamorous pictures of Peter Walker. And then, when nobody's watching, they'll let the hounds out to bay about law and order.'

This year's agenda contains no less than 71 resolutions dealing with the subject of criminals, hooligans, vandals, terrorists and, in the same category, strikers. This is more than the number last year and, more importantly, the vehemence of these reactionary demands now extends to include industrial conflicts.

For example, the Tories of Southend East have firm views on this subject: 'This conference is disturbed by the growing tendency of authority to bow to the excessive demands of vociferous pressure groups such as the Chobham Farm and Liverpool dockers, and to its apparently turning a blind eye to the blatantly illegal acts of organized groups such as Ulster rents strikers.'

Brent East is also in the forefront of this new anti-worker offensive: 'That this conference calls upon Her Majesty's government to en-



sure that whenever trade union officials act illegally, particularly during the course of industrial action, the police be instructed and encouraged by the Home Secretary to ensure that prosecutions take place, and not allow the law to be flouted wholesale, as it was during the miners' dispute.

The dockers come in for a hammering from the rednecks of Cheadle: 'That this conference views with deep concern the apparent retrogression in the enforcement of law and order as exemplified, *inter alia*, by the non-prosecution of certain dockers' leaders, and requests Her Majesty's government to adopt a positive policy in this respect, as pledged before the 1970 General Election.'

Separate resolutions from Wokingham and Wrexham call on the government to 'remain utterly firm' in the face of strike action and to introduce new laws to deal with these 'undemocratic groups'.

The Attorney-General Sir Peter Rawlinson, has already given backing to these sentiments by equating picketing with 'violence'. In a speech to a meeting of Wimbledon Tories last Thursday, Rawlin-

son said picketing had now become widely interpreted 'as a licence to intimidate and destroy'.

'If violent picketing or "heavy picketing" was to become an accepted feature of Britain's industrial scene, then we should have taken a long step along the road to anarchy,' he said. And he added that the government had done and 'will do all that it can to avert such a danger'.

Twelve constituency parties want hanging reintroduced. These resolutions come from some of the hairiest Tory patches in the country—Ormskirk (that's Monday Clubber Harold Soref's seat), Truro, North Cornwall, Dover and Deal and The Wrekin.

Then there is a barrage of opinion supporting the birch. South West Hertfordshire wants the government to birch under 18 year olds for offences of physical violence and vandalism, while Nantwich discreetly wants to introduce a 'physical deterrent' for young offenders.

There is an eccentric body of opinion in the party that believes that prison life is some sort of luxurious vacation. Ashton-under-Lyne wants

the government 'to reverse the tendency to pamper criminals', Hackney South and Sureditch calls for 'Spartan conditions' in prisons while Truro urgently asks the government to cut 'all forms of luxury' at prisons.

## ON THE BEAT

There is a bizarre intervention by Carmarthen. In the midst of these other wretched suggestions, the gentry of Carmarthen turn up with an idea that's as romantic as Dixon of Dock Green and just as old-fashioned. They want the conference to urge the government 'to bring back policemen on the beat', as it feels that the rise in crime 'is due not only to lack of discipline at home and in school, but to lack of policemen patrolling on foot'. 'Ullo, 'ullo, 'ullo!

On a more sinister note, Harwich, an unregistered port, calls on the government to immediately recruit substantial numbers of special constables to assist the police. This is the language of the ruling class as

Left: Harold Soref, Monday Clubber and leading law and order exponent. Above: Premier Heath receives a standing ovation at last year's Tory conference in Brighton. Below right: Ex-Home Secretary Anthony Barber. Maudling won't be at this year's conference.

it builds up its forces in preparation for a General Strike. Of course, not all the law-and-order motions will be debated on the floor of next month's conference. It is stage-managed much better than that. One of the broader resolutions has been chosen to go before conference; it is the Liverpool-Kirkdale Conservative Association one which reads:

'That this conference views with the greatest concern the increase in this country of crime, lawlessness and vandalism. It urges the government to take all action possible to reduce crime and to strengthen the law and its enforcement in order to protect law-abiding citizens and to safeguard the freedom and rights of the general public.'

This resolution is a monumental hypocrisy. The Tories have never been interested in



safeguarding rights. They and their ancestors have pillaged and murdered throughout the colonial world for centuries. They have stolen land, raw materials and even traded in slaves in pursuit of their profiteering.

Today they lash out at every basic right that the working class has ever won: the Industrial Relations Act seeks to 'take away the right to strike, the right to picket and black and the right of trade unions to be free of state control.'

Every Northern Ireland worker knows what the Tory brand of 'freedom under the law' means. It means that your right to vote is taken away, military rule, imprisonment without trial, torture and the prospect of being shot in the back, particularly by British 'paras'.

## SMOKESCREEN

And when the Tories speak of 'vandalism', they make no mention of the social vandals

who are stripping the assets of industry in the pursuit of huge profits. Nor do they mention the rich gents who leave new buildings vacant for years on end waiting for rents to rise and rise before letting them.

The debate is a propaganda exercise against the majority of the people in this country—the working class—whom the Tories fear. It is designed to set loose a series of red herrings about so-called soccer hooliganism, disorder and anarchy to win over the easily frightened middle class. Behind this smokescreen the Tories want to make further attacks on the rights of tradé unionists—their right to picket for one.

But they also want to prepare the climate for their amendments to the Criminal Justice Act which will mean an end to the police caution and will bring in the ruling that a judge may comment to the jury in his summing up that a defendant has declined to give evidence.

The man putting the Liverpool-Kirkdale resolution is Mr Michael Tinne, a retail clothier educated at Eton. Tinne is one of the thrusting

City of London Tories styled along the lines of Peter Walker. In 1969 he was appointed managing director of Jessel Securities, the high-flying financial conglomerate which has considerable interests in Europe and South Africa. (A member of the Jessel board is none other than Toby Jessel, Tory MP).

Tinne left the Jessel stable last year to start his own firm. After his speech and the short debate there will be a reply from the Minister responsible for these matters. He is, of course, the new Home Secretary, Robert Carr. Certainly law and order is a familiar subject with this Minister. Before joining the Heath Cabinet he was a director of Securicor, Britain's largest private police force.

Reginald Maudling, until recently Home Secretary and deputy prime minister, was to have replied to the debate. He was forced to resign from public office because Scotland Yard's fraud squad has been ordered to investigate the Poulson affair with which Maudling had business connections. Commander James Crane's inquiries are continuing.

MARTIN MAYER





Top row left to right: Ben Barka, murdered in 1965; King Hassan II; Mohammed Oufkir. Bottom row: Dlimi; Figon; Antoine Lopez, agent for Air France.

# DEATH OF AN ASSASSIN

By our foreign correspondent

**The mysterious death of Mohammed Oufkir, after the recent attempted assassination of Morocco's King Hassan II, has again spotlighted the murder of the country's opposition leader Ben Barka in 1965.**

Ben Barka was an exile in Paris. As secretary of the Tricontinental movement in Havana, and champion of anti-colonial movements, he was on his way to see material for a film on the struggle in the colonies on October 29, 1965, when he was stopped by two individuals who asked for his papers.

They asked him to accompany them. He did so and was never seen again.

## Round-up

After Ben Barka's party, the National Union of Popular Forces, had won 69 out of 144 seats in the general elections in 1962, Oufkir, as Director General of Security, began to organize a special brigade of political police which soon discovered a plot—the NUPF was plotting to kill the King and establish a Republic.

NUPF members were rounded up, imprisoned and tortured. In the trials which eventually followed eight NUPF leaders were condemned to death. One of them was

Ben Barka who had managed to escape to Paris.

Oufkir moved quickly against all opposition. In March 1965, he sent his tanks in against students and workers. Casablanca students started a protest against government cut-back measures.

Students and unemployed workers joined in a peaceful demonstration through the town centre. Government tanks and machine guns were lined up and hundreds were murdered.

## Amnesty

On April 23, Hassan II called an amnesty. Did this include Ben Barka? Speculation was rife that the king wanted to negotiate a government of national unity with him—speculation which was soon cut short by the kidnapping.

A week after Ben Barka's disappearance Oufkir—who was now a general and Minister of the Interior—was in Paris. On November 3, he dined in the Moroccan Embassy with his protégé, Dlimi, director of Security, at a function with French officials.

French police denied any responsibility for Ben Barka's removal and the French government began a huge public-relations campaign hoping to build up their image as an anti-imperialist government.

On November 9, de Gaulle

wrote to Ben Barka's mother promising that he would act as rigorously as possible. Soon, he denounced Oufkir and Dlimi.

This was the beginning of a police hunt which led to several deaths, weeks of discussions in the courts—and no action against those really behind the kidnapping.

It was revealed that the kidnapers were Voitot and Souchon, police agents who, it was claimed, acted independently of their departments. They were helped by Antoine Lopez, an agent for Air France at Orly airport as well as a member of the French SDECE, the Service for Documentation and Counter-espionage.

A crook, Figon, announced that he had details which he was prepared to sell to the police or newspapers.

On January 17, 1966, he was found shot dead in his flat by police who had hoped to arrest him. It was stated officially that he had committed suicide.

Meanwhile, a petition of extradition was sent to Morocco against Oufkir and Dlimi. De Gaulle withdrew his ambassadors from Rabat and Morocco withdrew theirs from Paris.

Whilst de Gaulle strove to maintain a radical posture, the collusion of police, counter-espionage and the French underworld was exposed. A head of police, Caille, a journalist, Bernier, one of the heads

of the Documentation service, Leroy-Finville, and the gangsters, Boucheseishe and Leny, emerged as the plotters.

On January 19, de Gaulle replaced SDECE Chief General Jacquier and reorganized the service by putting the military in charge.

After numerous declarations from state officials police investigations, the trial finally began on September 5 with the prospect of hearing 217 witnesses, including Prime Minister Pompidou and Minister of the Interior, Frey, but without the main protagonists, Oufkir and Dlimi.

The tedious public hearings dragged on until on October 19, Dlimi suddenly appeared in Paris 'to defend the honour of his country'.

This gave an opportunity to abandon the first trial on the basis that the questioning of Dlimi would bring to light new evidence.

## Absent

Nineteen months after the disappearance of the Moroccan oppositionist, the second Ben Barka trial began with the same magistrates but a different jury. Also conspicuously absent were the civil lawyers who were conducting the prosecution.

There had been five of them: three—Pierre Stibbe, Thorp and Michel Bruguier—had died in the six months between the

first and the second trials, in February and March.

The surviving lawyers demanded that the trial be postponed once again in order to reorganize the civil prosecution. This was refused; they resigned and there was no civil prosecution in the second trial. Dlimi's statement amounted to a defence of Morocco and a claim that no Moroccans had been involved in removing Ben Barka.

The only surprise in the second trial was the verdict. Lopez was condemned to eight years and the policeman, Souchon, to six years for kidnapping. Dlimi was absolved completely as also were the majority of the accused. However, the heaviest penalty—life imprisonment—was reserved for general Oufkir, a Moroccan police agent, Ctuki and all others who had not been arrested.

Bourgeois justice in France had discovered a new line in its hypocritical pursuit of the murderers of Ben Barka—you set free the criminals you catch and you sentence the ones who are beyond reach.

Relations between France and Morocco warmed up and before his death. General Oufkir was often to be seen in Lyons receiving treatment for an eye-disease at a specialist clinic. The sentence of life imprisonment was still valid but the French police did not want to know.



# THE 'MORNING STAR' AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

BY TOM KEMP

The worsening crisis of world capitalism has caused the pundits of the Communist Party some embarrassment. By exposing the role of reformism it blew holes in the policy of peaceful co-existence. It undermined the theory of 'state monopoly capitalism' which provided the basis for the peaceful road to socialism through an 'anti-monopoly coalition'.

In the last few months the 'Morning Star' has tried to remedy years of neglect of the economic crisis and put its readers straight with a series of articles by John Purton, described as 'a lecturer in economics'.

For the most part these articles go over well-tried ground, tracing the development of the gold standard as the basis for economic dealing between countries in the 19th century, its break-up in the inter-war period and the establishment of the International Monetary Fund at the end of World War II.

## HAVOC

The main fact about the gold standard is that it was never in a true sense international. It worked as long as Britain conserved her international financial hegemony, which she did with increasing difficulty down to 1914. As is often pointed out, the gold standard was a sterling standard, regulated in practice by the Bank of England and the City of London.

World War I created international monetary havoc. The gold standard was suspended. Inflation sapped the European currencies. The rise of the dollar and the decline of the pound sterling as international currencies dominated the inter-war period in monetary history.

Britain returned to the gold standard at the pre-war parity in 1925 under the pressure of the City of London. This handicapped British exports because the pound was now over-valued. In any case the strain of trying to look the dollar in the face proved too much. Sterling was forced off gold as a result of the 1931 crisis.

The gold standard of the 1920s differed from that of the pre-1914 years. It was only an international standard and it was no longer based on the hegemony of the City of London. The pre-war relationship between Europe and America had been reversed. When the Stock Market broke in New York in the autumn of 1929, the whole world was soon plunged into the worst depression in the history of capitalism.

In his account Purton does not emphasize these aspects sufficiently. A more serious criticism is that his treatment



of international financial developments is not connected at all with the class struggle. You would not know that the return to gold forced the ruling class to depress wages, especially those of the miners, and that this precipitated the General Strike of 1926.

Nor would you know how it was that capitalism survived the crisis of the 1930s. That would involve asking dangerous questions about the role of Stalinism, in Germany to begin with, then in France, Spain and other countries.

At the Bretton Woods conference held before the end of World War II the allied countries, under the leadership of the United States, drew up a plan for the regulation of international monetary relations aimed to prevent a return to the chaos of the 1930s. The discussions and debates revealed big differences between the United States and Britain — the other capitalist countries were either in the enemy camp or too weak to have any real say—in which a compromise favourable to the former was worked out.

What Purton does not bring out is that the capitalists and their financial experts feared a return to the 1930s—a post-war slump—under conditions in which the working class was powerful and able to overthrow capitalism. If they did not in fact do so, the Stalinists as well as the reformists were to blame.



Architect of the Bretton Woods agreement, John Maynard Keynes

If Purton would investigate the position of the Communist Party he would find that it welcomed the Bretton Woods agreement and put forward policies to solve Britain's balance of payments problem within the context of a reformed capitalism. The national reformist perspective which lay behind these policies was not abandoned, but only took a different form in the 1950s and 1960s.

The illusion that there was some 'solution' to the balance-

of-payments problem by cutting overseas military expenditure, East-West trade and so forth was always present. The Communist Party was thus unable to track the path of the coming crisis in the world monetary system and when it assumed an open form it tried to minimize its significance.

## NO ANALYSIS

Purton is thus set to work to 'explain' the monetary crisis as though it existed as a thing-in-itself on some purely 'economic' plane. Thus no reckoning has to be made with Communist Party policy at any stage.

That certain 'facts' about the international monetary crisis have now been forced upon the attention of the 'Morning Star' is only a belated recognition of reality and not a sign of any political change.

Indeed, Purton's articles are no more than a commentary with not even any deep analysis of the phenomenon he describes. How are they related to the basic contradictions of capitalist production, beginning with its basic unit, the commodity? We are not told.

From the way in which he presents the crisis, the reader derives the impression that it arose from a flaw in the monetary system. When he talks about 'basic weaknesses of the system' it is only certain aspects of the monetary mechanism which he describes. That is to say the existence of 'hot money' which moves almost instantaneously from one monetary centre to another to make profits or avoid losses and which disrupt balance of payments and exchange rates.

At one point he speculates that an increase in the price of gold 'would help to diminish the crisis in the international monetary system, though not to cure it, because it stems from the powerful conflicts involved in the world economic crisis of capitalism'.

Later he says: 'Trade and currency wars, arising out of the uneven development of capitalism, will make it very difficult to re-establish monetary harmony in the near future.' This leaves the way open for a solution to these difficulties, if not in 'the near future', than at some later date.

This kind of looseness is not merely stylistic. It reflects the difficulty which the Stalinists have in adjusting themselves to an economic situation which they did not foresee and which they would have preferred to do without.

If what Purton tells us about the international monetary crisis is true, it does not leave the reformist perspective of 'The British Road to Socialism' with a leg to stand on.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## FOOTBALL

Friendly relations between the revisionist, 'state capitalist' International Socialism group and the Stalinist British Communist Party have reached a new pitch.

In what must have been one of the most bizarre football matches of the season a team from the IS paper 'Socialist Worker' thrashed an 11 turned out by the 'Morning Star' 3-0.

Only the IS, acting in the best traditions of English liberalism, could have thought up such an event.

Anti-Marxists to the core, the IS have abandoned the defence of the Soviet Union, designating it 'state capitalist' in line with the anti-working-class prejudices of the petty bourgeoisie.

Yet the IS has inevitably found a road to the same Stalinists who presumably are a capitalist party, according to the logic of the 'theory' of state capitalism.

After all, both the Stalinists and the IS are opposed to the construction of a revolutionary party in Britain based on the theory and practice of Marxism to lead the working class to the taking of state power.

In this context, a get-away-from-it-all sporting fixture between the two groups is entirely understandable.

## LUXURY DOCKS

It seems the south end of Liverpool docks is to go the same way as closed-down sections of the port of London. Somebody, somewhere in the property game is going to clean up.

One plan—submitted to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company and other interested parties by estate agents Crarc Ltd—would cost £125m.

The planners believe, however, that finance for the residential accommodation would be relatively easy to come by. This is presumably because profits from the development would be equally certain in a city which such a desperate housing shortage.

Any idea that the dockers

and other workers whose jobs are threatened by the south end closure would be the main beneficiaries are immediately dispelled by a glance at the plans.

They are for: luxury flats fronting King's Dock and Queen's Dock; a maritime museum at Albert Dock; offices and a car park at Salthouse Dock; a sports complex at Duke's Dock; a marine zoo and aquarium at Queen's Dock; a metropolitan council chamber near Canning Dock . . . and, oh yes, a housing project at Coburg Dock.

The question is, what is Harry Wall OBE, the retired Transport and General Workers' Union official who sits on the MD&HCo board, going to say about this and other development plans?

## UNFORTUNATE

Always ready to rush to the defence of Zionism, the Labour leaders as usual jumped into the breach when the Israeli embassy in London received some explosive letters recently.

Indeed, nothing will prevent these discredited men coming down against the cause of the Palestinian peoples expelled from their homeland. Not even the fact that the Labourites were once on the receiving end themselves.

In 1947 eight bombs, made up from powdered gelignite, a pencil battery and a detonator, were sent to Arthur Greenwood, Minister without Portfolio, John Strachey, Food Minister, John Freeman, then financial secretary to the War Office, and Sir Stafford Cripps, the President of the Board of Trade.

Other recipients included Major-General Sir Edward Spears, former British Minister to Syria and Lebanon and Sir Harold MacMichael, High Commissioner in Palestine from 1938 to 1944.

Posted in Italy, they had been sent by Zionist terrorists in Palestine. The bombs were all defused or exploded by experts, but Sir Edward had the unfortunate experience of slicing his envelope open before spotting the wires.

## BOOKS



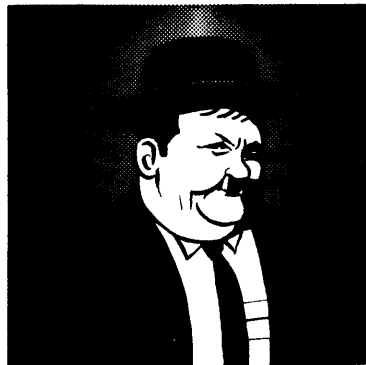
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## BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35 Open University.  
**7.30 NEWSROOM.** Weather.  
**8.00 MUSIC ON 2.** Film of Ravel's 'L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges', text by Colette.  
**9.00 BETJEMAN IN AUSTRALIA.** Tasmania: Still Partly Unexplored.  
**9.25 WAUGH ON CRIME.** In Which Inspector Waugh Settles an Account.  
**9.55 MAN ALIVE.** The Bronx is Burning.  
**10.45 WAR AND PEACE.** Preview.  
**11.20 NEWS ON 2.** Weather.  
**11.25 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.**



Laurel and Hardy provide 20 minutes of laughs at 5.00 on BBC 1 today

## BBC 1

9.38-12.00 Schools. 12.30-12.55 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 1.00 Dechrau canu. 1.30 Andy pandy. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.50 Schools. 3.00 A chance to meet. 3.35 Mastermind. 4.00 The mole. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Adventures of Parsley. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.50 Deputy dawg. 5.00 Laurel and Hardy. 5.20 Joe and the gladiator. 5.45 News and weather.  
**6.00 NATIONWIDE.**  
**6.50 TOM AND JERRY.** Mouse Trouble.  
**7.00 ANIMAL STARS.** Seals.  
**7.25 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE.** Trek.  
**8.10 SOFTLY, SOFTLY: TASK FORCE.** Surveillance.  
**9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.** Weather.  
**9.25 TILL DEATH US DO PART.**  
**9.55 INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL BOXING.** Light-Heavyweight Championship of the World. Bob Foster (USA) v Chris Finnegan (GB).  
**10.45 MIDWEEK.**  
**11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS.**  
**11.35 DON'T JUST SIT THERE.** Preview of autumn television programmes.  
**12.10 Weather.**

## ITV

9.30 Schools. 12.05 Rupert Bear. 12.15 Women today. 12.45 Freud on food. 1.10 Bellbird. 1.25 Hatty town. 1.40 Woobinda. 2.05 Castle haven. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.55 Racing from Newmarket. 3.35 Theatre of stars. 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.** The Weekend.  
**7.30 CORONATION STREET.**  
**8.00 THE PATHFINDERS.** Into the Fire. New dramatized documentary series telling the story of the RAF Pathfinder Force.  
**9.00 VAN DER VALK.** Blue Notes.  
**10.00 NEWS AT TEN.**  
**10.30 ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.**  
**11.25 A CLASS BY HIMSELF.** Restoration Comedy. John Le Mesurier.  
**11.55 TALES OF EDGAR WALLACE.** Play back. Barry Foster.  
**12.55 PEOPLE MAKE PLACES.**

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**GLASGOW, TONIGHT: Wednesday September 27, 7.30 p.m.** Partick Burgh Hall. 'The UCS betrayal and the ATUA conference'.

**NOTTINGHAM: Wednesday September 27, 7.30 p.m.** The Lion', Clumber Street. 'Lessons of the builders' strike.'

**LUTON: Wednesday September 27, 8 p.m.** Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Road. 'Stalinism and the capitalist class.'

**HOUSLOW: Thursday September 28, 8 p.m.** Co-op Hall, Bath Road.

**TODMORDEN: Thursday, September 28, 7.30 p.m.** The Weavers' Institute, Burnley Road. 'Lessons of the builders' and busmen's strikes.'

**CENTRAL LONDON: Sunday October 1, 7.30 p.m.** Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth Street, WC2. Speaker Corin Redgrave.

**Lessons of the building workers strike.**

### SWANSEA

Thursday, September 28 7 p.m.

Swansea Council of Social Services, Mount Pleasant Hill, Next to the fire station.

Speakers: Gordon Carruthers (Chairman of Swansea No. 1 UCATT branch. In a personal capacity).

Jim Bevan (Chairman of Margam AUEW branch. In a personal capacity).

# TV

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 9.30-11.55 Schools. 1.45-2.35 Racing. 3.10 Racing. 4.15 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 F troop. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sounds great. 7.30 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.55 News, weather. Epilogue.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 12.05 Wonderboy and the tiger. 12.20 Gus Honeybun. 2.35 Open house. 4.23 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.53 News. 11.58 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.30-12.05 London. 12.50 News. 12.55 Wildlife theatre. 1.20 Hot dog. 1.50 Freud on food. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 London. 3.45 Cartoons. 3.55 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.25 London. 5.20 Road runner. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 London. 11.55 What the papers say. 12.10 News. 12.20 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 12.20 Superman. 12.45 Five to one. 1.45 A place of her own. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Racing. 3.40 Scotland Yard mysteries. 4.10

Tinkertainment. 4.25 London. 5.20 Gustavus. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 On the buses. 7.30 London. 10.30 Miss HTV West. 11.25 London. 11.55 Football. 12.50 Weather. **HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except:** 4.10-4.25 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd. **HTV West as above except:** 6.15-6.30 Report West.

**ANGLIA:** 9.30-12.20 London. 1.45 Racing. 3.40 Cartoons. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30-12.20 London. 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Women today. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 London. 5.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Please sir. 7.30 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.55 Stories worth telling. 12.00 O'Hara.

**ULSTER:** 11.00-12.20 London. 1.30 News. 1.32 Cartoon. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Racing. 3.45 Sound of Gina and the Mario

Three. 4.00 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Dick Van Dyke. 7.30 London. 11.55 World War I.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 12.20 Common Market cook book. 12.50 Saint. 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 London. 2.55 London. 4.15 Cartoon time. 4.25 London. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 London. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.55 Blue light. 12.25 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 12.20 Grasshopper island. 12.35 Galloping gourmet. 1.05 Supercar. 1.30 Audubon wildlife theatre. 1.55 Racing. 3.40 World fishing. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 News. London. 5.15 Peyton Place. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 Smith family. 7.30 London. 8.00 Nichols. 9.00 London. 11.55 What the papers say.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.30 London. 12.20 Alexander the greatest. 12.50 Saint. 1.44 News. 1.45 Racing. 2.10 Bellbird. 2.25 Racing. 3.45

Forest rangers. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.25 London. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 London. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.25 News. 11.40 Mod squad. 12.40 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 12.20 Hilda. 1.20 Jimmy Stewart. 1.45 Racing. 3.30 Horoscope. 3.40 Women today. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 London. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Scotland today. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 Hogan's heroes. 7.30 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 8.55 Prospect for Scotland. 9.00 London. 10.30 Alexander the greatest. 11.25 London. 11.55 What the papers say. 12.10 Late call. 12.15 Sounds like McEvoy.

**GRAMPIAN:** 10.58 London. 12.15 Saint. 1.05 Woobinda. 1.38 Schools. 2.50 Cartoon. 2.57 News. 3.00 London. 4.00 Katie Stewart cooks. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.35 London. 7.00 Me and the chimp. 7.30 London. 8.00 Cade's county. 8.55 Prospect for Scotland. 9.00 London. 10.30 Hawaii five-o. 11.25 London. 11.55 About flowers. 12.00 Meditation.

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## Devonport dockyard men stay away

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

**STRIKE ACTION** hit Plymouth naval base, Britain's biggest, for the second successive day yesterday as thousands of Devonport dockyard employees stayed away from work.

But officials of the two unions involved, the engineers (AUEW) and the transport workers (T&GWU), said they were not instructing the men to strike, but added that those who did would be officially recognized and entitled to strike.

An AUEW official said this was because the men were supporting the national pay claim for a substantial increase for 200,000 government industrial workers. The claim has now been referred to arbitration.

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## Guerrilla sentenced to death

AN ISRAELI military tribunal has sentenced to death an Arab guerrilla fighter who tried unsuccessfully to place a firebomb in the central bus terminal of Netanya.

The sentence was passed in the hospital of Ramla prison where the guerrilla, Jum'ah Mahmud Khalil, is recovering from severe burns. He was injured when his bomb exploded prematurely in his hands.

Khalil, a 25-year-old teacher from Bayta at-Tahta in the Nablus area, was found guilty on three counts: being a member of Fatah; carrying a fire bomb and attempting to place it in the bus terminal.

The military tribunal decided to impose the death sentence in line with a previous trial where a saboteur was sentenced to death. The prosecution had only demanded life imprisonment as Khalil's bomb had injured nobody but himself.

The savagery of the court-martial sentence is part of the Zionist witch-hunt against the Palestinian fighters which has taken on great intensity over recent weeks.

WEST GERMANY and the Soviet Union are planning to co-operate in the construction of a giant steel plant north of Leningrad which would export part of its output to the west.

Among the firms with an interest in the deal are the German steel companies Thyssen, Korf and Salzgitter. They would supply the technology for the plant, which is to use the modern direct reduction process.

The first stage of the plant's construction is likely to cost up to £50m. It will meet a growing need for sponge iron in the West German steel industry, producing several million tons a year and exporting much of this to Germany.

AUEW's Manchester divisional organizer John Tocher: Perfect right to refuse to operate piecework system which is unacceptable



# Pay parity fight affecting Massey-Ferguson

OVER 1,000 Coventry Massey-Ferguson assembly workers are likely to have no work when they return from a two-day holiday today.

The production crisis at the main assembly plant at Coventry has developed since a pay dispute at the Manchester factory cut off the supply of components.

Two weeks ago 600 of the 1,200 Manchester workers were suspended for refusing to operate a payment-by-results system and reverting to their basic day rates.

Union negotiators had previously accepted a general pay increase of £3.57½ a week for workers at Manchester on con-

dition that a joint working party investigated complaints by pieceworkers that their earnings were up to £6 below those of Massey-Ferguson workers in the Midlands and £4 down on those in Scotland.

But, say union spokesmen, the company refused to agree to any changes in the piecework system so they banned all piecework and refused to operate the Measured-Day Work system.

Management then suspended the 600 men involved until they returned to 'normal' working.

A further 100 Manchester workers not involved in the dispute have been laid off. Lay-offs also began last week among the

5,000-strong workforce at the Coventry plant and the company have announced that there is little hope of work for the 1,050 assembly workers when they return from their two-day autumn holiday today.

Commenting on the dispute, Manchester divisional organizer of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, John Tocher said: 'We will not accept this sort of ultimatum from any employer. Employees have a perfect right to refuse to operate a pieceworking system which they find unacceptable.'

Company officials have insisted that the workers must return to 'normal' working before further negotiations can be held.

## Builders walk out over pay award

BUILDING workers from Briant's sites in Birmingham are on official strike over the implementation of the national pay settlement.

Prior to the strike labourers were receiving minimum guaranteed earnings of £30 for 40 hours, including £10 guaranteed bonus. Now the company is offering £31.

In announcing the settlement the National Federation of Building Trades Employers said that every worker would receive £6 extra in his wage packet as a result.

Pickets at Briant's ATV site in Birmingham told Workers Press yesterday that they were determined not to return to work until the company paid up.

Ken Barlow, full-time official of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, said: 'We do not intend to tolerate this attitude of Briant's.' The strike, which according to UCATT shop steward Jimmy Lindsay involves 1,000 workers, has been made official by the union's regional committee.

Contrary to reports in the local press, all the company's sites are completely shut down apart from the ATV site. There only subcontractors and six blacklegs are working.

# BREAK OFF ALL TALKS

FROM PAGE 1

British Industry, the government and the TUC means.

After he first met the TUC, W. O. Campbell Adamson, director-general of the CBI, admitted bluntly that the employers had an 8-per-cent guideline for wage increases in mind.

Since then pressure from the boardroom and the international financial community has hardened attitudes. The current figure for wage increases is 6 or 7 per cent—lower than the present increase in the cost of living.

And what about the famous bid to drive down the cost of living?

These are the facts. Retail prices have suddenly started to increase at a faster rate than before. The underlying wholesale prices have been increasing throughout the year. In February they were increasing 5 per cent, last month they were increasing 7.8 per cent.

These price rises of course ignore the vast increases in other important items like rent. Most workers will have £1 taken out of their pockets when the new Tory rent Act comes into operation next week.

Worse is bound to come.

● The Electricity Council is pressing for a 15 per cent increase in the price of power supplied to industry (see p. 3).

● Big rail fare increases are inevitable to meet British Rail's expected £40m deficit this year.

● The Road Haulage Association wants to increase rates by 10 per cent and

● British Steel Corporation is also lobbying for a 15 per cent increase.

These are all basic industrial costs and commodities—the effect will be a swingeing all-round rise in the cost of living.

The Tories are therefore lying when they say prices have been, or will be, kept down.

But yesterday's talks prove that despite all this evidence, and despite the fact unemployment will go on rocketing upwards over the million mark, the union leaders will go on co-operating with the Tories.

They say that this is because they want to help the lower paid. Again this is a lie.

The Tories, too, know that the union leaders will not be able to hold wages back unless the working class is seriously defeated.

This is the real meaning of the talks. They are to buy this government time to create the conditions for an offensive against workers.

As they slide deeper into economic crisis, the Tories will attempt to hit the working class

with mass unemployment, rocketing prices, wage freeze and the Industrial Relations Act.

The TUC knows very well that the employers and the Tories want wages down. Phoney talk about the lower paid is designed to fool all those workers fighting hard to keep their standards to give up their struggle and spare their leaders more embarrassing battles with Heath.

It is exactly this situation that the TUC leaders are conspiring to produce together with the most discredited government of the century.

One can safely predict, therefore, that despite the phoney friendship at Chequers yesterday the next months will be ones of bitter class struggle. The pace of this battle is not dictated by the TUC or even the government, but by the economic crisis as the big guns of the international capitalist community demonstrate every time they fire a salvo at wages.

There is only one demand the working class can make—that the TUC break off all discussion with the employers and the Tory government immediately.

The task now is to prepare workers for the coming battle. The TUC leadership is clearly incapable of doing this.

A new leadership must therefore be built. This will be the central question at the All Trades Unions Alliance national conference on October 22. All workers who want to defend their basic rights must attend this vital meeting.

## Hospital staff out

About 400 hospital workers in Gloucester yesterday began walk-outs designed to disrupt hospital efficiency, without endangering patients, over a pay dispute.

The workers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that the campaign was intended to encourage nation-wide action by the low-paid hospital staff.

## Secrets Act report out on Friday

THE REPORT of a committee headed by Lord Franks which reviewed the operation of the Official Secrets Act is to be published on Friday.

Reginald Maudling, as Home Secretary, set up the committee in April, 1971. Its principal task was to investigate the operation of Section 2 of the Act of 1911 which makes unauthorized communication or receipt of any official information an offence.

Prosecutions, however, may be brought only with the consent of the Attorney-General.

Maudling's action came after the 'Sunday Telegraph' had been acquitted of charges brought under the Act, relating to the Biafran war.

There had also been considerable parliamentary disquiet about the effect of the Act, particularly in relation to the acquisition of information of an official nature which might not necessarily be communicated to anyone else.

## POCKET LIBRARY

### Why a Labour Government?

A reply to some centrist critics

By Cliff Slaughter

A series which appeared in Workers Press in June, 1972 is now available as a pamphlet in the Socialist Labour League Pocket Library.

'WHY A LABOUR GOVERNMENT? A Reply to some centrist critics.' By Cliff Slaughter Price 5p

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The Ulster Dossier The Social Security Swindle which includes the All Trades Unions Alliance Draft Manifesto and the Charter of Basic Rights.

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## Marchers meet miners

THE YOUNG Socialists' Right-to-Work campaigners yesterday marched the 12 miles from Huddersfield to Wakefield, nearing the halfway stage of their trek through Yorkshire.

After a meeting with young workers in Huddersfield, on Monday night, the marchers set out for Dewsbury and then Wakefield where they were due to meet local miners.

Throughout the route they received a good response to their demands for action to remove

the Tories and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Shop stewards from the ICI factory at Huddersfield are also to meet the marchers.

Unemployment throughout the area is consistently high, with over 1,500 workers out in Huddersfield and over 1,000 in Wakefield. Latest figures reveal that in the area as a whole the percentage of hard-core jobless is above the national 3.6 average.

Today the marchers set out for Hemsworth.

## SEPTEMBER FUND NOW NEEDS £895.53 ONLY FOUR DAYS TO GO

WE'RE GETTING dangerously close to the end of the month and we still are a long way from reaching our target of £1,750. There's not a moment to lose. Every donation must be rushed in immediately. We must make our target in time.

We know it is a tough, uphill struggle this month, but we feel that behind our paper is your enormous determination to fight the Tory government. The latest round of rent increases, the huge price rises and the large-scale unemployment, we know, is greatly affecting all our readers.

But we also know you will never give up the fight. This is what makes us confident that in the next four days you can and will turn the situation around for our September Fund. So, wherever possible, try and raise extra amounts; take a collection at work, raise money everywhere you can. It's not too late and we know you will do it! Post every donation immediately to:

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## Registered ports: T & G is vague

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

IN A TOP-LEVEL memo to the National Ports Council, official dockers' leader Tim O'Leary appears to have abandoned the demand to bring all Britain's ports under the National Dock Labour Scheme.

The O'Leary report represents the official position of the Transport and General Workers' Union on the future of the docks.

Its recommendations are bound to anger militant dockers who demand the immediate inclusion of ports like Felixstowe under the scheme—a move which would force them to employ registered dock labour only.

The seven-page report is the T&GWU's response to the government backed inquiry into the non-scheme ports which is being steered by the NPC. An appendix, which contains the union's views on individual ports, is being kept secret.

In the published document O'Leary makes no mention of nationalization of the docks industry which is his union's policy. Instead he proposes the creation of super-port authorities based on large ports which would control smaller ports within their area.

O'Leary says: 'It is intended that when the area that the major ports will have control of is agreed, that these in total will cover the entire coast line of the British Isles and that there will be no "gaps" left unallocated in which future dock developments could take place that would repeat the dangers and mistakes of the past.'

Within the port 'areas' O'Leary proposes a flexible labour force that can be moved from port to port on a day-to-day basis to smooth out surpluses and shortages of labour.

This is also likely to be unpopular with dockers who oppose this kind of nomadic working arrangement.

On the key question of the extension of the National Dock Labour Scheme the memo is decidedly vague.

It talks of giving the recognized port authority the right to close facilities where pay and conditions are 'in conflict with the major port authorities'. But again it is not clear whether this means facilities must employ registered dock labour only.

Elsewhere O'Leary proposes

allowing employers in smaller ports to operate with registered dock labour released on contract from existing and recognized port employers.

Other employers with a permanent labour force outside the Scheme will be able to open what is described as a 'limited register' if they give evidence that pay and security of employment is equal to that given to registered dockers.

But again there is no specific mention whether such conditions will be statutorily enforceable—as they are under the Scheme.

The report ends with this promise:

'The intention should be clear that at an early and specific date—only registered dock workers are employed on dock work at agreed rates and conditions.'

The promise of an inquiry into the non-scheme ports and the broad future for the dock industry was one of the main weapons used by the T&GWU leadership to call off the recent dock strike.



**THE WIFE** of Mr Cheng Tzu-tsai, the Taiwanese taken unconscious from an airliner at London airport three weeks ago after extradition from Sweden, won permission yesterday to remain in Britain for 48 hours to see her husband. He was alleged to have been involved in an assassination attempt on Chiang Kai-shek's son, Taiwan's premier, when he visited New York.

● For a full interview with Celia Cheng Tzu-tsai, see tomorrow's Workers Press.

# THE MAUDLING MEMO

## It angers Poulson and the ex-Home Secretary

BY ALEX MITCHELL

REGINALD MAUDLING, the former Home Secretary, wrote a memorandum in January 1970 in which he stopped payment of all overseas income to Mr John Poulson, the head of the giant architectural and building empire.

Maudling, who was then chairman of Poulson's overseas subsidiary and a member of other Poulson companies, wrote that 'nothing passes to Mr Poulson without my authorization'.

When asked about this document in Wakefield Bankruptcy Court yesterday, Poulson said, 'I recall that.'

At a previous hearing Poulson told the court that he and his solicitor had seen Maudling in London in August 1969 to demand payment of £70,000 which he was owed.

Maudling acknowledged the sum of money but didn't pay.

Poulson flared up yesterday at certain passages in the Maudling memorandum.

Mr Muir Hunter, for the debtors, quoted Maudling as writing: 'He [Poulson] attended all our board meetings. His staff administered our finances and he personally approved all payments.' Poulson interrupted: 'That is not correct. I didn't see the payments.'

Mr Hunter: Mr Maudling is mistaken?

Poulson: He certainly is. I don't see how I could have gone to all the board meetings. I never saw the accounts. That is ridiculous.

Mr Hunter said the 'whole question' of the relationship between Poulson and International Technical and Construction Services was raised.

Mr Hunter: Surely you must see the first question is what was the true relationship between yourself and ITCS?

Poulson: We were acting as consultants for which we could claim fees. I am not a principal of ITCS. I was their consultant and did work, and I expected to be paid for it. That is why I rendered accounts. I am amazed that they have never been paid.

Before flying to the United States yesterday Maudling appeared angry about the revelations made during the bankruptcy hearing.

'I don't get a chance,' he said. 'They can say what they bloody well like about me and I don't get a chance to reply.'

Maudling's solicitors have issued a statement about a letter read at Monday's hearing in Wakefield in which Poulson said to Maudling that deputy Sheikh Khalil El-Khoury of the Lebanon 'wants paying' and ITCS, the company Maudling chaired, 'can make the arrangements'.

The solicitors said: 'Mr Maudling wishes it to be known that no action of any kind was taken in regard to the proposal that business should be done with deputy Sheikh Khalil El-Khoury and the matter was not pursued.'

Evidence was produced at yesterday's public hearing that Christmas gifts of turkeys, drinks and flowers were sent to councillors, local government officials and their wives.

Mr Hunter produced a bundle of documents which contained lists of Christmas presents.



'They say what they bloody well like about me and I don't get a chance to reply'—former Home Secretary Reginald Maudling yesterday.

One list was called 'Cheer to Middlesbrough Office 1966'. One column was headed turkeys and the other drink.

He said that of each column about half were either aldermen or councillors or local government officers.

Mr Hunter said he had another list for 1966 on the notepaper of the Edinburgh office which provided bottles of whisky to be sent to borough surveyors, borough architects, hospital secretaries 'and so forth'.

There was a list of ladies to whom flowers were to be sent in 1966. Mr Hunter said there were three pages of names. They included a wife of a chief justice, the wife of an alderman, the wife of a senior National Health Service officer and the mother-in-law of a senior officer.

Mr Hunter: In what circumstances would Middlesbrough send a turkey to an alderman?

Poulson: I have no idea.

Mr Hunter: Assuming a turkey cost £10 in 1966 there's £110 worth of turkeys here for one office.

Poulson: They would not be that price.

Mr Hunter: You would not send an alderman less than a £10 turkey.

Poulson's reply was inaudible.

Mr Hunter: I would have thought there was not an alderman or councillor in the north-east corner of England that Mr Poulson does not know.

Mr Hunter said that he had a letter from Mr R. P. Wilson who was in the Ministry of Social Security.

He said the letter was about a test certificate for a car and he went on:

'This is a car provided at your expense and registered in your name and provided to a serving officer of the Ministry of Social Security.'

Asked why he supplied the car, Poulson said, 'I have no idea.'

Mr Hunter: Was it a fee?

Poulson: It would not be. This man could not do anything.

Mr Hunter: Don't be so sure. Do you remember you used to have terrible difficulty getting people to put stamps on National Insurance cards. Could it be a help?

Poulson: No, sir.

Turning to the involvement of Andrew Cunningham, a leading figure in the Labour Party and

the General and Municipal Workers' Union Mr Hunter produced evidence of a third holiday for the Cunninghams paid for by Poulson.

At previous hearings evidence was given of two holidays abroad by the Cunningham family, one of them to Portugal. At Monday's hearing Hunter disclosed that Cunningham had refunded the money—amounting to some £640—to the trustee in bankruptcy.

Mr Hunter, continuing cross-examination: Do you remember I asked you about Mr Cunningham's holidays and you said there were three jobs but only two holidays? Do you remember, you provided and paid for a holiday at the Carlton Hotel, Bournemouth, for Mr and Mrs Cunningham and their family.

Poulson: No, sir, but I obviously did.

Mr Hunter: Mr Cunningham in the event couldn't go, so Mrs Cunningham took a friend. That was in July 1968.

Poulson: Yes.

Hunter: Did they take a third holiday for the third job? A special account was opened at the Carlton Hotel for the accommodation of Alderman Cunningham and his family at your expense?

Poulson: I can't remember.

Mr Hunter: Why should you pay for an alderman and a trade union leader to go and have a holiday at your expense? There must be some explanation?

Poulson: There is no explanation.

The debtor admitted that he had been a general commissioner of the Inland Revenue and had sat as a commissioner up to the last two years.

Mr Hunter: Did you sit in judgement on your fellow taxpayers when you were owing Her Majesty £200,000 odd?

Poulson: No, I had paid most of that back at that time.

### Public Meeting

## Banbury

Wages Jobs and the Fight against the Tory government

Thursday October 5, 8 p.m.  
Town Hall, Banbury

Speaker: Gerry Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League.

### Socialist Labour League

LECTURES  
THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM  
given by  
G. HEALY  
(SLL national secretary)

## Liverpool

Tuesday October 3  
MUNICIPAL ANNEXE  
Dale Street, Liverpool  
7.30 p.m.

## London

Nature of the capitalist crisis  
Sunday October 1  
Historical materialism today  
Sunday October 8

EAST HAM  
TOWN HALL  
Lister Room  
Barking Rd, 7 p.m.