

SHADES OF 1931?

EXCLUSIVE BY ALEX MITCHELL

VICTOR FEATHER, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon were among a group of trade unionists who went secretly to Buckingham Palace on Tuesday night to have talks with the Duke of Edinburgh on industrial relations. The Duke chaired the hour-long meeting of trade unionists, CBI leaders and representatives from banks and big business.

The aim of the 'study group' is to prepare a conference on industrial relations and management in 1974. The whole exercise is being sponsored by the Industrial Society, a corporatist-style organization which promotes 'harmony' on the shop floor.

The Tuesday night meeting was kept out of all the national newspapers. The Court Circular published each day in 'The Times' and 'Daily Telegraph' contained no mention of the Duke's meeting with the leaders of the working class and big business.

This is very odd: the Circular is supposed to be a detailed and accurate account of the Royal Family's daily activities.

Yesterday's circular says that the Queen, accompanied by the Duke, opened the new session of parliament. It even mentions that on Tuesday night Edward Heath made a visit to the Palace.

But there is no announcement of the tripartite talks between the Royal Family and both sides of industry.

The trade union leaders have also kept quiet about the Royal company they are keeping. Yet those present, apart from Feather, Scanlon and Jones, included Frank Chapple (electricians) and Alan Fisher (council workers) whose members are currently under the Tory wages hammer.

Sitting around the Duke's table with these trade unionists were:

Mr W. O. Campbell Adamson, director general of the CBI, who is currently

working hand-in-glove with the Tories to introduce a state pay plan.

Lord Melchett, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, who is ransacking jobs throughout the steel industry in preparation for Common Market entry.

Lord Sieff, head of the multi-million pound Marks and Spencer group which contributes to Tory Party funds.

A spokesman for the Industrial Society said yesterday the discussion

centred on 'resolving the problems between management and the trade unions'.

It would be naïve and misleading to pass off these talks as simply a social occasion.

In times of national economic and political crisis the Royal Family will come out of mothballs to fight ferociously against the rising militancy of the working class.

In the 1931 economic crisis George V played a crucial role in actually forming the National Gov-



Jack Jones is no stranger to the Duke of Edinburgh or the Industrial Society—they met there at a lunch in 1970.

Feather, Jones, Scanlon at Buckingham Palace

that the Duke's chat with the trade union leaders must be viewed.

The occasion marks an overt intervention by the monarchy to maximize pressure on the labour leaders.

The trade union leaders are being bounced from talks at Chequers, Heath's country residence, to No. 10 Downing Street, to Buckingham Palace.

Before going to the talks with the Duke, Scanlon went to the Café Royal in Regent Street to mingle with executives from major industrial firms and speak on the same platform as Enoch Powell.

What the working class is witnessing today is a right royal mugging of their leaders.

ernment under Ramsay MacDonald.

Writing about the period Geoffrey Trease in 'This is Your Century' says:

'Though a modern sovereign often seems little more than a rubber stamp for the decisions of his ministers, there have been a few occasions like this, when one has felt compelled to take the initiative.

'Earlier that day [July 31, 1931] the King told his private secretary to summon the Conservative and Liberal leaders...

'When MacDonald arrived that night, looking "scared and unbalanced" as the King's private secretary noted, he was surprised and flattered to learn that in His Majesty's opinion he was "the only man to lead the country through this crisis", and that the Conservatives and Liberals had already promised to back him.'

It is in the context of the present economic crisis, much deeper than that experienced in 1931,



Scanlon and Jones on their way to see Heath yesterday.

Downing St: Union chiefs hedge on state pay plan

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

TUC LEADERS returned for more talks with the Tories over state control of wages yesterday showing clear signs that the growing mass movement against any deal was beginning to have an impact.

They entered 10 Downing Street at 3.30 p.m. with no answer to Premier Heath's ultimatum on the control of wages by law.

After a key general council meeting, TUC secretary Victor Feather denied that any ultimatum had been given by the government.

The implication was that the unions were refusing to pick up the challenge laid down by the Prime Minister on Monday to accept merely voluntary control of price rises or have wages held back by law.

After the meeting, which all

TURN TO BACK PAGE

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2, 1972 ● No 910 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

SHADES OF 1931?

EXCLUSIVE BY ALEX MITCHELL

VICTOR FEATHER, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon were among a group of trade unionists who went secretly to Buckingham Palace on Tuesday night to have talks with the Duke of Edinburgh on industrial relations. The Duke chaired the hour-long meeting of trade unionists, CBI leaders and representatives from banks and big business.

The aim of the 'study group' is to prepare a conference on industrial relations and management in 1974. The whole exercise is being sponsored by the Industrial Society, a corporatist-style organization which promotes 'harmony' on the shop floor.

The Tuesday night meeting was kept out of all the national newspapers. The Court Circular published each day in 'The Times' and 'Daily Telegraph' contained no mention of the Duke's meeting with the leaders of the working class and big business.

This is very odd: the Circular is supposed to be a detailed and accurate account of the Royal Family's daily activities.

Yesterday's circular says that the Queen, accompanied by the Duke, opened the new session of parliament. It even mentions that on Tuesday night Edward Heath made a visit to the Palace.

But there is no announcement of the tripartite talks between the Royal Family and both sides of industry.

The trade union leaders have also kept quiet about the Royal company they are keeping. Yet those present, apart from Feather, Scanlon and Jones, included Frank Chapple (electricians) and Alan Fisher (council workers) whose members are currently under the Tory wages hammer.

Sitting around the Duke's table with these trade unionists were:

Mr W. O. Campbell Adamson, director general of the CBI, who is currently

working hand-in-glove with the Tories to introduce a state pay plan.

Lord Melchett, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, who is ransacking jobs throughout the steel industry in preparation for Common Market entry.

Lord Sieff, head of the multi-million pound Marks and Spencer group which contributes to Tory Party funds.

A spokesman for the Industrial Society said yesterday the discussion

centred on 'resolving the problems between management and the trade unions'.

It would be naïve and misleading to pass off these talks as simply a social occasion.

In times of national economic and political crisis the Royal Family will come out of mothballs to fight ferociously against the rising militancy of the working class.

In the 1931 economic crisis George V played a crucial role in actually forming the National Gov-



Jack Jones is no stranger to the Duke of Edinburgh or the Industrial Society—they met there at a lunch in 1970.

Feather, Jones, Scanlon at Buckingham Palace

ernment under Ramsay MacDonald.

Writing about the period Geoffrey Trease in 'This is Your Century' says:

'Though a modern sovereign often seems little more than a rubber stamp for the decisions of his ministers, there have been a few occasions like this, when one has felt compelled to take the initiative.'

'Earlier that day [July 31, 1931] the King told his private secretary to summon the Conservative and Liberal leaders...

'When MacDonald arrived that night, looking "scared and unbalanced" as the King's private secretary noted, he was surprised and flattered to learn that in His Majesty's opinion he was "the only man to lead the country through this crisis", and that the Conservatives and Liberals had already promised to back him.'

It is in the context of the present economic crisis, much deeper than that experienced in 1931,

that the Duke's chat with the trade union leaders must be viewed.

The occasion marks an overt intervention by the monarchy to maximize pressure on the labour leaders.

The trade union leaders are being bounced from talks at Chequers, Heath's country residence, to No. 10 Downing Street, to Buckingham Palace.

Before going to the talks with the Duke, Scanlon went to the Café Royal in Regent Street to mingle with executives from major industrial firms and speak on the same platform as Enoch Powell.

What the working class is witnessing today is a right royal mugging of their leaders.



Scanlon and Jones on their way to see Heath yesterday.

Downing St: Union chiefs hedge on state pay plan

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

TUC LEADERS returned for more talks with the Tories over state control of wages yesterday showing clear signs that the growing mass movement against any deal was beginning to have an impact.

They entered 10 Downing Street at 3.30 p.m. with no answer to Premier Heath's ultimatum on the control of wages by law.

After a key general council meeting, TUC secretary Victor Feather denied that any ultimatum had been given by the government.

The implication was that the unions were refusing to pick up the challenge laid down by the Prime Minister on Monday to accept merely voluntary control of price rises or have wages held back by law.

After the meeting, which all

TURN TO BACK PAGE

What we think

Tories cheer the corporate state

ENTHUSIASTIC cheers greeted Edward Heath when he told the Tory back-bench 1922 Committee that he would act 'with determination and resolution' if the Downing Street tripartite talks collapsed.

The Prime Minister promised 'an entirely new, rational and peaceful method of managing the entire national economy'. To the Tories this means no wage rises, no strikes and no freedom for the unions—all under the direct control of the state.

The 1922 Committee takes its name from the year it was formed. At that time Tory back-benchers felt their leadership was insufficiently aware of developments in the country—especially the growth of the Labour Party among the working class.

Ever since its formation, the committee has met weekly and leading Tory Ministers have been invited to explain their policies and listen to the views of the ranks. The 1922 Committee is the most powerful pressure lobby within the Conservative Parliamentary Party.

Throughout the Heath government, dissatisfaction has been growing among the backwoodsmen who want a tough line on pickets, strikes, immigration and 'law and order'. Now, they hope to get it.

The glorious vista of the corporate state, which they have dreamed about in their clubs for decades, now seems to open up before them. The day of revenge for the miners' strike, they think, is here.

They have little to fear from the TUC

leaders. Like the men of 1926 who waited on Tory premier Baldwin cap in hand until they were kicked out of Downing Street by a flunkey, Feather and company pathetically hope to find a compromise with Heath.

And the 'left' Scanlon spent Tuesday dashing from Enoch Powell to the Duke of Edinburgh, instead of preparing his members for a fight. It is only the determination of the working class to fight for wages that has blocked the moves towards coalition that lay behind the Downing Street talks.

As 'The Guardian' said yesterday: 'It is as much to the credit of the evolution of thinking in Britain—in which Mr Wilson has played an honourable and influential part—as to the present Prime Minister's initiative

that the government, CBI, and TUC have come as far as they have towards voluntary agreements.'

The only factor left out of 'The Guardian's' analysis is the working class. And the 1922 Committeemen are vastly over-optimistic if they think the working class can be kicked into line as easily as Victor Feather and his team.

1972 has seen enormous class battles over wages, rents and the Industrial Relations Act. Only the Labour and trade union leaders have saved the Tories from defeat. The responsibility for the attacks now being prepared against the working class rests squarely on these leaders who have helped this bosses' government to remain in office.

The Tories can and must be brought down.

- No more talks! Mobilize the entire trade union movement behind every wage claim!
- No state control over wages—voluntary or otherwise!

A fight on these lines will create a situation in which the Tory government can be forced to resign and a Labour government returned pledged to socialist policies, including nationalization of all basic industries without compensation and under workers' control.

Trendy Pierre in a 'socialist' link-up

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE RULING Liberal Party is now in a minority in the Canadian parliament following a general election in which it lost 47 seats.

The result is a major defeat for trendy premier Pierre Trudeau who will now have to rely on the support of the 'socialist' New Democratic Party if he is to form a government.

The NDP won ten seats at the election to bring its total of MPs to 32 and now holds the balance between the Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives who now have also as many seats as the Liberals.

Making sure grain cheques don't bounce

TWO OF the largest American banks are hoping to open office in Moscow in the near future and become the first US banks to have a presence in the Soviet Union since 1922.

The banks are the First National City Bank and the Chase Manhattan Bank and at present both are applying for what is termed a representative office which would put them in day-to-day contact with Soviet trading and manufacturing authorities.

The banks' move follows the recent conclusion of a huge trade agreement between Moscow and Washington which is expected to lead to more than ten times the current level of trade by the end of the decade.

Chase Manhattan is involved in financing the Soviet-US grain deals entered into by the bureaucracy in an effort to overcome the effects of the agricultural crisis in the USSR.

Both banks hope to profit from the big Soviet orders for US machinery and capital equipment which are expected to open up in the next few months. Their offices in Moscow will probably be part of a big US commercial complex planned under the terms of the trade deal.

NDP leader David Lewis has said he will not enter a coalition, but secret bargaining between the two parties is already under way. The NDP is particularly eager to gain the portfolios of foreign affairs and the treasury.

These are key ministries because of the relationship between Canada and the United States, which has been demanding a big reduction in Canadian exports since August 15 last year.

Trudeau's chief campaigning point in the election was his 'Canadian dream': the idea of a unified country directed particularly against Quebec French-Canadian separatism.

But this issue is overshadowed by mounting unemployment and rising prices caused by an economic crisis which Trudeau has proved unable to overcome.

Strength grows

The increased vote for the NDP reflects growing working class anger against the anti-union legislation and Trudeau's strike-breaking actions. But the NDP leadership now intends to lead this movement behind Trudeau.

The election has resolved nothing for the Canadian ruling class which now faces the prospect of a weak and unstable coalition which will not be able to stand up to the American economic offensive.



Trudeau with Nixon: Trade war politics part of his downfall?

Allende looks to generals

PRESIDENT Salvador Allende of Chile was yesterday contemplating the reconstruction of a new cabinet to settle with striking lorry owners.

The strike has destroyed all the illusions about 'peaceful and democratic' Chile spread by the Communist Party.

Allende's 15-man cabinet resigned en bloc on Tuesday. The Presidential Press Agency said the resignations were intended to give Allende a free hand in negotiations with

possible new cabinet members.

However, the resignations marked a victory for the Christian Democrat Opposition and the striking employers.

They come after Allende has already conceded to the transport owners' non-nationalization demand and placed his government virtually in the hands of the armed forces.

Chilean generals have the power to take any steps they think necessary to maintain law and order.

Army Commander-in-Chief General Carlos

Prats has said that he will continue 'disciplined support' of the legitimately elected government.

But a section of the army leadership is intent on removing Allende and preparing civil war against the working class.

Allende wants to bring two military officers into his new cabinet. But most members of his own Socialist Party are against such a move. They traditionally adopt a more radical pose to the left of the Chilean CP.

Allende is turning propaganda about the

independence of the Chilean army from politics and a fight to bring socialism through parliament, on its head.

This is a capitalist army whose leadership was trained in CIA military colleges in the USA.

Allende used the Stalinist theory of the parliamentary road to socialism to put the country under military rule.

Now he plans to ratify this role by forming a coalition with the generals. This must mean that his days are numbered as President of Chile.

Paris talks spinning out to November 7

TALKS between the United States and North Vietnam resume in Paris today with the American election only a week away. The United States has been spinning out the discussions on a peace treaty and refused on Tuesday to sign a draft treaty.

The refusal brought charges from Hanoi and Peking that President Nixon did not want an early end to the Vietnam war. The 'People's Daily' described as phoney American claims that they could not sign because of problems with the puppet Saigon regime.

'Everybody knows what sort of stuff is Nguyen Van Thieu. In their mutual relations he has always danced to the tune of the United States and never vice-versa,' the Peking paper said.

Thieu and his government were in no position to block a Vietnam settlement if the United States really wanted one, the Chinese journal added.

Thieu has been speaking out more and more vituperatively against the draft deal.

Yesterday he described it as a sell-out and a surrender and said he would 'never accept a peace that offers South Vietnam to the communists'. He claimed there were 17½ million Thieu's against the deal.

WASHINGTON sources are still spreading the idea that peace is 'just around the corner'. Give us a few more days, they say, and we'll be there... But in a few

more days the situation will have changed completely.

Nixon, probably, will be back in the White House for a second term with a free hand to go on waging the war he has carried so enthusiastically in Indo-China for the last four years.

As Dr Henry Kissinger drags out the talks without committing the United States, this cynical scenario appears more and more likely to be animating Nixon's 'peace offensive'.

He is being aided by Moscow, whose advice to the North Vietnamese is 'keep talking'. The Kremlin leaders are very eager to see Nixon back in the White House, even if it means another four years of war for the people of Indo-China.

Fighting the Tories' rent Act

Fines deadline running out

Walker puts squeeze on: Labourites retreat

BY PHILIP WADE

MANY OF THE Labour councils in England and Wales who originally decided not to implement the 'fair rents' Act are about to change their minds under pressure from the Tory government. Already this week, councils at Eccles in Lancashire and Walsall in the Midlands decided on implementation, after Labour councillors had split on the question, some voting with the Tories.

In Wales, two of the five rebel Labour town halls, at Cwmbran and Ystradgynlais, have gone over to pushing through the rent increases. And now thousands of tenants in the area are faced with the possibility of having to pay back rent from October 1 when the Act came into force.

And the Department of the Environment revealed yesterday that another four Labour councils in England had told the government they would implement the Act.

This massive retreat flows from the fact that the councils have all received letters from Environment Minister Peter Walker giving them 28 days to fall in line or face penalties under clause 95 of the Housing Finance Act.

This clause outlines the powers of the Minister to instruct a Housing Commissioner to take over all the housing functions of a rebel authority, cut back subsidies and fine any councillor who stands in his way.

These letters have had the effect of making certain Labour councils run for their lives rather than put up a fight against the Tories and their non-elected bureaucrats who plan to run the town halls undemocratically.

Apart from Walsall and Eccles, the Labour councils who have just told Walker they will also implement are Carlisle, Don-



laster, Newton-le-Willows and Skelmersdale.

That will leave just six in England and three in Wales who are still refusing—as yet—to carry out the 'fair rent' Act.

The six in England are at Camden, Bedworth, Halstead, Barrow, Conisborough and Clay Cross.

For five of the councils in England, Walker's notice will expire at the end of next week and the week after that for the last of them.

While Labour council after Labour council falls before the Tory 'fair rent' Act, tenants like those in Manchester seen here are fighting on against the rent increases. 'Many more tenants are beginning to see there is a fight with the Tory government,' said Connie Fahey, Willslow delegate yesterday.



Mrs Millie Miller

Lone Camden meets

CAMDEN—the only London borough still refusing to implement the Housing Finance Act—has fixed a special council meeting for next Wednesday to discuss the question again.

The council received its letter from the Tory government on October 16, so it will not have expired by the time the meeting is held.

Led by Mrs Millie Miller, councillors have sought a meeting with Peter Walker on the effects of the Act in Camden.

But, as a spokesman put it yesterday: 'We were told he will not have time to see us before the letter expires.'

At its last council meeting, Camden did not actually re-affirm non-implementation, but did not allow any motion on the subject from the Tories.

Minister's bold claim for slum clearance

TORY HOUSING Minister Julian Amery claimed yesterday that local councils should be able to clear all Britain's slums within ten years.

'The latest housing survey suggests this is a realistic request,' he told housebuilders in London.

He said he based his figures on 700,000 slums being

demolished at 70,000 a year and claimed council house building would replace them.

But these are just the 'official' slums. On top of that are at least 4 million dwellings classed as 'unsatisfactory' but which fit the description of slums.

These are mostly dwellings built before 1914 and have either no bath or wash basin, for example. But Amery, a repre-

sentative of the government consciously setting about the destruction of the very basis of municipal housing with the 'fair rent' Act, left all this out.

But council tenants paying up to £1 a week more since October will be happy to know that Amery thinks the increases 'at last brings council homes within the reach of the poorest'. Work that one out.

Protestants blamed for Hallowe'en deaths

CATHOLICS in Belfast's dock area yesterday were blaming Protestant extremists for the Hallowe'en explosion that killed two baby girls on Tuesday night.

Paula Strong (six) and Clare Hughes (four) were playing around a bonfire when 100lb of explosives blew up in a mini-car parked nearby.

The bomb badly damaged Benny's Bar in Ship Street and about a dozen adults were injured, none seriously. No warning was given to any of the local residents.

Residents reported that three masked men asked children where Benny's Bar was before parking the bomb car—indicating that they knew youngsters were at play in the vicinity.

Two other people killed in the city were 17-year-old Catholic, James Kerr from Twinbrook, who was shot in the Lisburn Road.

A British soldier was shot dead by a sniper in the New Lodge Area.

He was named as Private Richard James Sinclair (18), of the 1st Battalion Queen's Regiment. He came from Alford, Lincs, and was single.

21 firm

● IN SCOTLAND, the 23 defiant Labour councils were given 14 days to fall in line by the Secretary of State. So far, it was revealed yesterday, two, Stewarton in Ayrshire and Tranent in East Lothian, have told the Tories they will change their policy.

But the others seem to be remaining firm, despite the fact that the government can take over their housing powers.

The only difference with England is that a public inquiry has to be held before an authority can be held to be in default.

Notice for all the defiant authorities has long expired. And the seriousness of the Tories' intentions is shown by the fact that they have already fixed inquiries into four councils — those at Glasgow, Falkirk, Lanark and Kirkcaldy.

VAT prices fear

THE IRISH Republic yesterday introduced Value-Added Tax amid widespread fears that shopkeepers will use it as an excuse to mark up prices. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has urged its branches and trade councils to act as price watchdogs. The Irish have adopted a fixed-tier VAT system to replace turnover and wholesale taxes. VAT rates range from just over 5 per cent for food, clothing and other essentials to more than 30 per cent for luxury items.

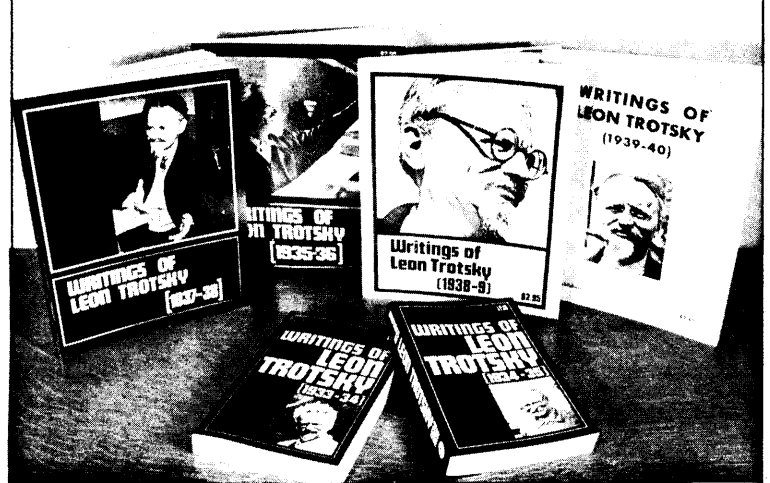
Trawler £7.80 claim

ABOUT 400 trawler maintenance engineers at Hull went on strike yesterday over a demand for a £7.80 pay rise that would give them £40 a week. They have rejected a £2.85 offer.

Writings of Leon Trotsky

1933-1934	£1.43
1934-1935	£1.43
1935-1936	£1.25
1937-1938	£1.25
1938-1939	£1.25
1939-1940	£1.05

These extremely vital writings by Leon Trotsky between the years 1929 and 1940—his third and final exile from the Soviet Union—are now available in Britain from the Paperbacks Centre (see advert below).



This selection is now being reviewed every day on page 8 by Tom Kemp. Be sure of your copy of Workers Press by telephoning our circulation department at 01-622 7029 or filling in the form on page 11.

PAPERBACKS CENTRE

28 Charlotte St
London W1



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

BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS

A TORY WITCH-HUNT ON BUILDING STRIKERS

Robert Carr, the Tory Home Secretary, has already hinted that special police flying squads may be established throughout the country to smash pickets.

This French-style CRS force will be specially armed and trained.

Preparations for this paramilitary development have been going on in the background over the past nine months, particularly since the Saltley coke depot incident, in Birmingham, when police had to bow to the superior strength of miners and engineers.

The campaign to step up physical violence against trade unionists is supported by the Tory Party conference, the financiers of the Tory Party in big business, the Fleet Street Press and several powerful employers' groups.

This week the National Federation of Building Trades Employers sent a dossier to Carr on alleged violent picketing during the recent 12-week builders' strike.

The employers claim to have information on cases of personal violence, injury, arson and damage to buildings and plants.

Where did the federation get its information from? It says that the cases are from newspaper reports and private memoranda from its own members! Building workers will treat these sources of information with the contempt they deserve.

HYPOCRISY

The Federation's 'facts' fall into the same category as the statement by Len Neal, chairman of the so-called 'independent' Commission on Industrial Relations under the Industrial Relations Act. Neal, a former senior full-time official of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said after the builders' strike that money for pickets came from 'dubious sources'.

He went on: 'I am not talking about Red Gold from Moscow. I am saying it is not trade union funds which are being used. It is money being acquired from other sources and I am not prepared to go any further at this stage.'

Neal and the building employers' federation both know there was no conspiracy by the builders' pickets.

As one of the most viciously exploited sections of workers in the country, the men revolted against the miserable offer and stuck out for a £30, 35-hour week. When their craven leadership refused to declare a national strike, they had no choice but to call on workers on all sites to join their fight for a decent wage increase.

In its report to Carr the Federation says it hopes that its dossier 'will assist the government to find ways of removing this threat to the British way of life'.

What barefaced hypocrisy! The 'British way of life' that this Federation wants to preserve is the way of life of exploitation of the working class, unemployment, and soaring cost of living, which results in cuts in the standard of living of millions of workers.



Top: pickets and police at Birkenhead during the builders' strike. Above: Len Neal, chairman of the Commission on Industrial Relations.

It should be remembered that the members of this Federation belong to one of the most ruthless sections of employers in the country. It is they who have been responsible for the biggest land price hi-jack in history.

Take Taylor Woodrow, one of the best known names in the construction industry, which last year celebrated its 50th birthday. The company owns 84.5 per cent of Mytons and also operates Swiftplan F. Gibson and Company (Newcastle), Taylor Woodrow Construction, Taylor Woodrow Property Company, and many others.

In the first six months of 1971 pre-tax profits rose a staggering 60 per cent from £1.7m in the first half-year of 1970 to £2.7m. Chairman and managing director, Francis Taylor, received an annual salary of £35,967 — a mere £720 a week. Many of Taylor's employees would have to

work 20 years to earn as much as he does in a single year.

The company gave £10,000 to the right-wing organization Aims of Industry, £5,000 to British United Industrialists and, for service to the building employers, the Tory Party got £1,825.

Taylor, Sir Robert McAlpine, Sir Kirby Laing are the powerful men behind this witch-hunting report. It is therefore not surprising that there are some startling omissions in their dossier.

- There is no mention of the Federation leaflet which was distributed around the sites stating: 'Police protection may be requested if you want to work and are prevented by pickets.'

- Nor are there details of the police attacks on pickets, particularly the incident at the London Stock Exchange site when a number of men were arrested.

- The dossier does not give details of the elaborate and expensive protection which Federation members used to get around peaceful pickets. In Essex one firm chartered a helicopter to take non-unionists onto the site.

- Encouraged by the employers a number of lorries tried to cross picket lines and in some cases men were injured.

- There is no reference to what happened to Mike Shilcock, chairman of the Charter group in the Midlands, who was assaulted in his home by four right-wing thugs. His arm was broken and he was kicked and punched in the head and body.

What is so dangerous about the Federation's communication with Carr is not the dossier itself. It is the reaction of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians' (UCATT) leader, George Smith. Instead of completely repudiating the dossier, Smith suggested that the TUC should investigate 'violence' which occurred during the 12-week strike.

This is a total evasion of leadership.

In seeking a TUC-sponsored inquiry, Smith is caving in to the witch-hunting tactics of the bosses. Just as Jack Jones has initiated a far-reaching inquiry into so-called violence outside the docks delegates meeting at Transport House, now Smith starts the same reactionary trend in his union.

DOSSIERS

Under the pressure of the ruling class these reformist trade union leaders are being transformed into policemen of their own union members.

The trade union bureaucracy has no fundamental disagreements with the capitalist system; they are part of it.

This is equally true of the Labour Party reformists. As the Federation's dossier went

to Carr a few days ago, Mr William Hilton, the Labour MP for Bethnal Green and a director of the other bosses' organization, the Federation of Master Builders, added his voice to the reactionary clamour for 'law and order'.

Hilton, a Co-operative-sponsored MP, said his outfit was also sending a dossier to Carr and Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan. But, he added, his report would contain constructive suggestions.

'We want to review the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act and other provisions relating to picketing and make suggestion on this giving the official leadership of the unions more authority in such situations.'

'After all, it is the official leadership of the unions that must seek to control situations such as these.'

Like Len Neal, Hilton is a former trade union official. After being Labour Party agent to the late Lord Kirkwood from 1949 until 1952, Hilton became research officer for the Building Trade Operatives.

Since then he has become a management man and, in 1969 became director of the Master Builders' Federation.

When the capitalist system is thrust into crisis these Labour Party reformists and trade union bureaucrats rush to help the master. That is why George Smith says at the TUC congress at Brighton that the trade unions must never regard themselves as an alternative government. That is why Jack Jones works hand-in-glove with Heath and Lord Aldington.

The greatest task of trade unionists today is the building of a revolutionary Marxist leadership which will not compromise with the ruling class and will carry through the fight for socialism.

This task is the responsibility of every class-conscious trade unionist.

ISRAELI INDUSTRY HIT BY STRIKES

BY OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Faced with a wave of strikes in many industries and services the Israeli government is planning to crack down hard on workers' basic rights.

According to Gideon Ben-Israel, the government's chief labour relations officer: 'We are faced with a spiralling situation that is out of control. The government has no alternative but to crack down.'

He was referring to a situation where thousands of workers have walked off their jobs over recent weeks to demand higher wages and fight the rising cost of living.

The strikers range from lorry-drivers fighting a new anti-pollution regulation to doctors opposed to the appointment of a non-physician to head the largest medical insurance scheme.

WORK-TO-RULE

The major ports, Haifa and Ashdod, have been crippled for weeks by strikes and tourists arriving by air have faced the effects of a customs work-to-rule.

Tel Aviv flourmills are closed and the firemen are threatening to strike. Six of Jerusalem's ten cinemas are on strike.

The bulk of the strikes are unofficial—and they are making gaping holes in the collaborationist policy of the leaders of the largest union, Histadrut.

One labour relations expert

says: 'The workers in a given factory have discovered their own power to strike in spite of the industry-wide agreements between the national union and the government.'

Accordingly the government has sought to back the union chiefs' collaboration with legal sanctions. Earlier this year the Knesset legislated to make national contracts legally binding.

FINES

Employers can now sue strikers for damages caused when they strike against the contract: already heavy fines have been imposed on one group of workers, the maintenance engineers of the El-Al airline who struck earlier this year.

While inflation is rising at about 23 per cent a year, wages have not kept pace. The average rise in hourly wages last year was about 17 per cent.

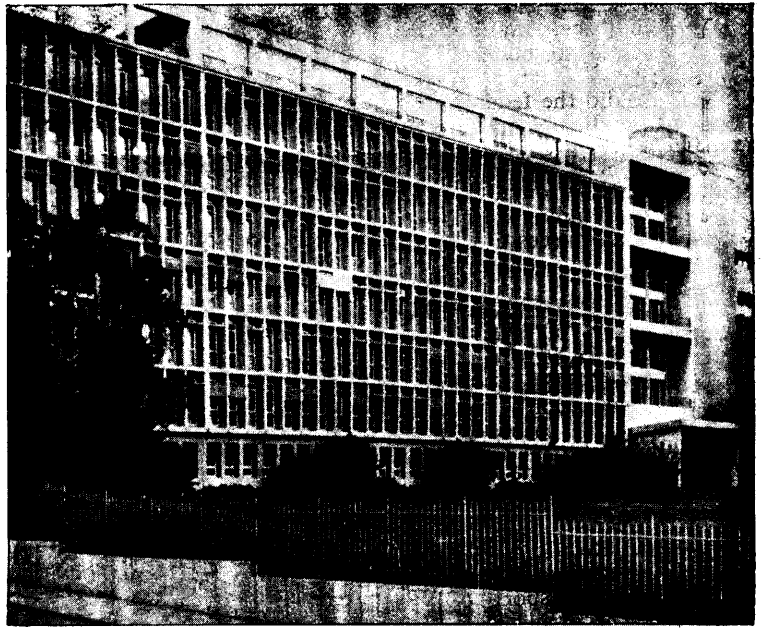
Though the class struggle in Israel at present takes the form of economic conflicts, the wave of strikes spells trouble for the Zionist leaders.

They attempt to feed workers with the illusions of Jewish nationalism and the need to fight the Palestinians as the overriding necessity.

But the more territory they annex and the more the treacherous Arab bourgeoisie loses heart for struggle with Israel the more the working class at home begins to strike its own blows against the government.



Top: Postmen on strike in Israel last year. Above: Golda Meir—the strike wave spells trouble for her government. Right: Histadrut headquarters—the strikes make gaping holes in the union leaders' collaboration.



POLISH INDUSTRY TOLD TO CONSUME LESS

A shortage of raw materials is holding back the achievement of planned increases of production in Poland, according to articles in the Polish Press.

Industry has been called upon to consume less and unfavourable comparisons have been pointed to between Polish and foreign industry. For example, Polish machines are 30 per cent heavier than comparable foreign types. The electrical power industry requires 4.2 grams of fuel to generate 1 kwh while the figure is 3.3 in West Germany and 3.5 in Italy.

The steel industry needs more coke to produce a ton of pig iron than any West European industry.



Workers in a processing plant in Milejowo, Poland.

Sweeping measures are called for to deal with the situation if the growth of industrial production is not to be halted.

The crisis in raw material

and fuel supplies in Poland is another example of the one-sided development flowing from 'socialism in one country' which afflicts all the East European economies.

WASTAGE IN TURKMENIA CHEMICAL PLANTS

The chemical natural resources of the Soviet republic of Turkmenia are going to waste according to Orazmukhanedov, chairman of the Council of Ministers speaking at the September session of the Supreme Soviet.

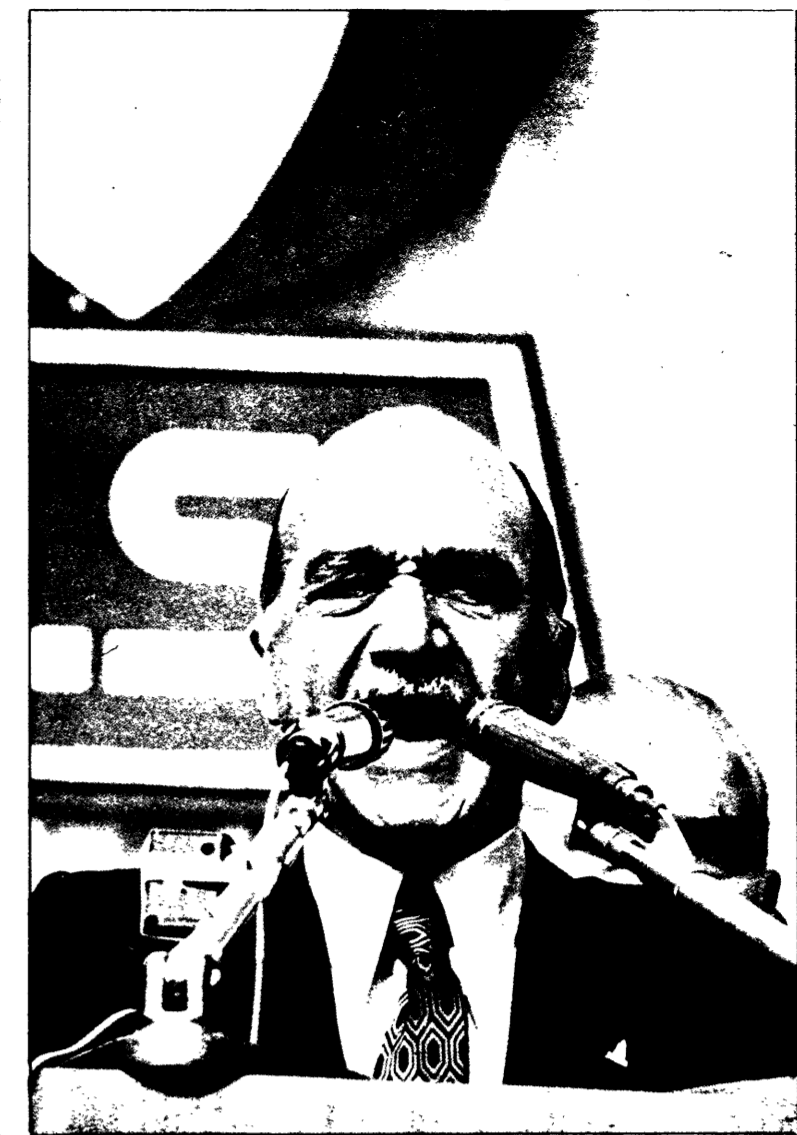
The failure to install comprehensive processing of raw materials means that utilizable chemicals such as magnesium chloride, magnesium sulphate and magnesium bromide are run to waste. The losses amount to hundreds of thousands of tons a year.

It seems that the waste will

continue for some time because an experimental processing plant will not be built to handle the salts until 1974 and it will be some time after that before a complex for the production of potassium fertilizer will come into production.

There are also complaints that the gas deposits containing large amounts of hydrogen sulphide and helium are not being tapped.

So while Soviet agriculture is in crisis, partly for lack of fertilizers and other chemical products, and the chemical industry lags chronically behind the needs of the economy, the bureaucracy is unable to carry out a planned development of available raw material supplies.



Left: The general staff of the Milan fascists in 1944. The Italian working class underwent 23 years of fascist rule before and during World War II and has no intention of undergoing it again, without a ferocious struggle. Above: Present-day fascist leader Giorgio Almirante. Below: Past fascist leader Benito Mussolini.



ITALY: 50 YEARS AFTER MUSSOLINI'S COUP

'Once booming Italy, with its cars, its tourism, its motorways, is this week-end facing the gravest economic and industrial crisis since the end of the war.

Wilkinson is convinced the country faces a major disaster. He quotes Leopoldo Pirelli, president of the tyre company, who says the continuation of the state of crisis is 'beyond the most pessimistic expectations'.

Pirelli's own merger with the British Dunlop company is creaking at the seams as a result of the Italian firm's £9.7m loss this year. Pirelli, however, is not alone.

Mauro Ferri, Minister of Industry and Commerce in the Christian Democrat government of Giulio Andreotti, describes the general economic picture as 'of exceptional gravity', while the Treasury Minister says it is 'grave'.

'Unemployment is rising. Production is stagnating. Inflation is rampant. Strikes are getting out of control and government ministers are warning that the situation has reached "the utmost gravity".'

This was Laurence Wilkinson, the 'Sunday Express' Rome correspondent voicing the views of the right-wing leaders of Italian government and big business last weekend. Wilkinson quotes Italian government statistics showing a £45m trade deficit for September, compared with a surplus last year.

The lira has been under pressure to devalue ever since the sterling float in June—over the past few days the central bank has been

desperately supporting the enfeebled currency to maintain its obligations to other Common Market members.

BLAMING THE WORKERS

At the same time there is growing dissatisfaction in business circles with the performance of the Christian Democrat government—a right-of-centre coalition which has so far proved too unstable to take on the working class.

The feeling in Italian big business is reflected in Wilkinson's article. He blames workers' militancy for the social and economic crisis: '... such is the power of the unions today that no major industrialist dares to stand up to them.'

Premier Andreotti was in the Soviet Union this week and Wilkinson expresses the hope that the Kremlin leaders can be prevailed on to promise a 'let-up of the trouble-stirring campaign ... which has helped bring Italy to this pass'.

In fact, the Italian Communist Party which leads the country's largest trade union organization is dedicated to preserving Italian 'democracy' and has done its best to exhaust militant workers in partial strikes for economic demands.

The Party has a programme of 'structural reforms' which are allegedly going to restore the relative prosperity of the post-war boom, but without overthrowing the capitalist system.

It is openly touting itself

as a coalition partner for a future coalition with the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats. However, the Italian employers are growing increasingly impatient with the post-war democratic forms and are openly calling for strong government.

Prime candidate for this task must be Giorgio Almirante who leads the fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI). Together with other far-right organizations the MSI has recently gone on the streets in a number of cities following its election successes.

There have been bloody clashes between the fascists and workers' organizations in which a number of people have been killed. In the courts the fascists are treated with deference by the judges who in most cases share their hatred of communists and

their desire to crush the unions.

Last weekend the fascists were celebrating one of the key dates in their calendar, the 50th anniversary of the March on Rome which brought dictator Benito Mussolini to power.

On October 28, 1922, fascist bands gathered at three points around Rome in a prearranged coup which brought down the weak Liberal government of premier Luigi Facta. The following evening King Victor Emanuel III invited Mussolini to form a government.

Within three years the unions were crushed, the workers' organizations driven deep underground and the fascist corporate state was fully operative. Big business, which had financed Mussolini's movement, threw itself into an untrammelled pursuit of profit.

The fascists of today are relying on the treachery of the Stalinists and the reformists at the top of the Italian labour movement to pull off a similar coup. They have organized a series of terror bombing campaigns to stampede the middle class into their arms.

Yet their situation is not the same as Mussolini's was. The Italian working class

underwent 23 years of fascist rule before and during the war and it has no intention of returning to those days without a ferocious struggle.

IL DUCE HANGED

It was the workers' detachments of the armed partisans which during the war brought down the fascist regime and finally captured and shot the Duce himself. He ended hanging upside down from a garage roof in Milan.

The only thing that stands between Almirante and a similar fate is the Italian Communist Party. Its leaders fill the heads of their followers with illusions in parliament and democracy and try by every means to blunt the fighting capacity of the working class.

When the fascists held meetings during their election campaign the Stalinists urged workers to keep off the streets and above all not to offer violence in the face of these provocations. Leftist organizations which did try to fight the fascists were denounced as provocateurs.

The CP's position strengthened the fascists because it

did nothing to mobilize and educate the only force which can fight this menace—the working class. Instead the CP relies on the courts and the machinery of the capitalist state to 'curb' the MSI and its sister movements.

This is not simply an error on the part of the Italian CP. It policy accords with the interests of the Soviet bureaucracy which is very eager for better relations with the Italian employers. The Kremlin has signed, for example, a huge contract with Fiat to build a car plant in a town appropriately named Togliattigrad.

Palmiro Togliatti, the then general secretary of the Communist Party, played a crucial role in restoring Italian capitalism after the war, when thousands of armed workers were knocking on the gates of power.

In accordance with the Yalta and Potsdam agreements between Stalin, Roosevelt (at Yalta), Truman (Potsdam) and Churchill, Italy was assigned to the 'western' (i.e. capitalist) sphere of influence at the end of the war. Stalin was meticulous in carrying out his side of the counter-revolutionary bargain.

If Italy was in the US-British sphere of influence,

that meant the Italian workers must be denied the opportunity of overthrowing capitalism. Accordingly Togliatti was flown back to Italy from Moscow to enter a coalition government and put private property back on its feet.

He even tried unsuccessfully to put Victor Emanuel back on his throne, but the proposal was voted down in a national referendum. As Minister of Justice, Togliatti reorganized the police force—today used to break strikes and protect fascist meetings.

He also negotiated a revision of Mussolini's concordat with the Vatican, leaving that key institution of Italian reaction in the commanding constitutional position it holds today.

COMPROMISE WITH POPE

The Vatican is currently challenging the divorce law passed two years ago which gives Italians for the first time a limited right to civil divorce. Under Togliatti's concordat the Church has an almost absolute veto over legislation in such spheres as marriage.

There have even been rumours that the CP, which has so far supported the pro-

divorce lobby, is about to lean the other way in the interests of conciliation with the Christian Democrats.

The Italian employing class is incapable of completing even the basic democratic task of secularizing marriage. Right through the 19th century it quailed and grovelled in front of the Papal power, finally plucking up courage to fight the pontiff only in the 1860s.

But by this time the Italian workers were already emerging as an independent class and threatening the foundations of bourgeois society. Hence the compromise leaving the Pope with the Vatican city and the power to interfere in the lives of all Italian citizens.

Having definitely passed over to the side of the capitalist order in Italy, the Communist Party has become equally incapable of resolving basic democratic tasks, let alone taking the working class to power.

This is the chief danger to the Italian workers for whom the urgent task of building alternative revolutionary leadership is now posed in its full scope. This is the only way that another and even more deadly March on Rome can be prevented.

WRITINGS OF LEON TROTSKY

A review by Tom Kemp. The years 1934-1935 continued

A series of volumes covering Trotsky's writings in the period of his exile from the Soviet Union, 1929 to 1940, is in course of publication by the Pathfinder Press of New York and is available in this country. It is, of course, ironic that the publishing house of the Socialist Workers' Party, which has abandoned Trotskyism and Marxism in any form, should turn to the reverential task of bringing out writings which are a condemnation of their own political degeneration. Many years ago Lenin spoke of those who try to turn revolutionaries after their death into 'harmless icons'. This has, for a long time, been the position of the SWP. Aside from the motives and circumstances of their publication, these volumes provide an invaluable addition to the literature of Marxism which we strongly recommend to every reader. The two most recent to appear in the form of books of over 370 pages for the years 1933-1934 and 1934-1935 are priced at £1.43 each. Four others in a large format, mostly reproducing items directly from the sources in which they were first printed in English, covering the years 1935-1936, 1937-1938, 1938-1939 and 1939-1940, cost £1.25 each. In this article, which reviews the volume for 1934-1935, and in those which are to follow, the attention of prospective readers will be drawn to the problems dealt with by Trotsky in these writings and particular items will be discussed in more detail.

Of importance for today's tasks are the articles in this 1934-1935 collection which Trotsky devotes to the struggle against the centrist groups and parties which had appeared in a number of countries. These met periodically at conferences organized by the International Labour Community, one of which took place in February 1935.

Trotsky made a lengthy analysis of the centrist movement and in particular the origins and evolution of the German SAP (Socialist Workers' Party) which, after supporting the call for a Fourth International, now opposed it all along the line.

In the course of 1934 the Stalinists dropped the term 'social fascist', the Soviet Union entered the League of Nations and the communist parties began to move to the right. As Trotsky summed up the new turn in 'Where is the Soviet Bureaucracy Leading the USSR?':

'The diplomatic retreat before the world bourgeoisie and before reformism; the economic retreat before the petty-bourgeois tendencies within the country; the political offensive against the vanguard of the proletariat—such is the tripartite formula of the new chapter in the development of Soviet Bonapartism'.

Pretext

Dramatic events were taking place in the Soviet Union as Stalin set out to destroy his opponents. One of the first victims was a bureaucratic satrap who may have had ambitions to displace Stalin or have been part of an opposition to him within the bureaucracy.

Whatever Kirov's true role it is now known since the 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union that Kirov was assassinated on Stalin's instructions.

At the time, of course, Kirov appeared to be a faithful Stalinist. The killer was said to be a member of the Zinoviev opposition and Stalin displayed every show of grief. The assassination was made the pretext for the arrest of Zinoviev, Kamenev and a num-

ber of their supporters in the Communist Party.

It opened a new reign of terror which was to culminate in the Moscow show trials and the purges which completed the destruction of the Bolshevik Party and penetrated into every corner of Soviet life. Trotsky and his wife were deeply anxious about the fate of their relatives and friends still living under Stalin's rule.

Trotsky denounced the arrests as an amalgam and warned that the Kirov affair would be used to open up a new stage in the struggle against Trotskyism in the Soviet Union. The further evidence of the degeneration of the Stalinist bureaucracy made it necessary for Trotsky to reply to those who claimed that the Soviet Union had now ceased to be a workers' state and that the bureaucracy had become a new ruling class.

In 'The Stalinist Bureaucracy and the Kirov Assassination' he continued the analysis of the nature of the Soviet Union which is rendered more precise in the important theoretical article 'The Workers' State, Thermidor and Bonapartism'. Both articles are necessary reading for understanding the development of Trotsky's thinking on these questions.

The same can be said for the three other articles on Bonapartism which this volume contains. These are bound up with the question of how the conditions for fascism are prepared which had been completely confused by the Stalinist theory of 'social fascism'.

Most of the contributions in this volume arose directly out of Trotsky's fight to assemble the cadres for new revolutionary parties and a new international. His audience was a restricted one, his aim pedagogic and polemical. While some were printed in the public organs of the movement, others appeared only in internal bulletins and were not always translated into English.

In contrast is the popular article entitled 'If America Should Go Communist' which he wrote for a mass circulation weekly magazine which sketches in broad strokes what would be possible in a Soviet America. It ends humorously with 'one final prophecy: In the third year of soviet rule in America, you will no longer chew gum!'

The most important as well as the most contested of the policies he recommended for the movement was, of course, 'the French turn'. By June,



Stalin at the funeral of Kirov in 1934. The assassination of Kirov was made the pretext for the arrest and trial of thousands of members of the Communist Party.

1935, on the eve of his forced departure from France he was already able to make a preliminary balance-sheet.

By then the Popular Front had come into existence. The Soviet bureaucracy had made a military pact with French imperialism and the French Communist Party had become patriotic defenders of the bourgeois republic.

'To defend the USSR, the bureaucracy pins its hopes upon its political agility, upon Litvinov's diplomacy, the military alliance with France and Czechoslovakia, but not upon the revolutionary proletariat,' wrote Trotsky in his 'Open Letter to the Workers of France'. 'On the contrary, it is afraid lest the French and Czech workers frighten the new allies by their careless actions. It sets as its task to put a brake upon the class struggle of the proletariat in the "allied" countries. Thus the source of Stalin's betrayal is the national conservatism of the Soviet bureaucracy, its outright hostility to the world proletarian revolution.'

Trotsky proclaimed: 'The struggle against war is unthinkable without struggle against one's own imperialism. The struggle against imperialism is unthinkable without the struggle against its agents and allies, the reformists and the Stalinists. It is necessary ruthlessly to purge the working-class organizations, both political and trade union, of their social-patriotic traitors to the working class, whatever be their names: Leon Blum or Thorez, Jouhaux or Monmousseau.'

Decisive

As Trotsky had foreseen, within the next year the French working class was to undertake decisive struggles which might have brought it to power, but for the efforts of these treacherous leaders.

Readers will discover from this volume that in 1935 Trotsky received an invitation from some students at Edinburgh University to stand as Rector. He refused, saying that he could not take part in

elections which were expressly non-political.

He added: 'I would consider it a crime toward the working class and a disloyalty toward you to appear on no matter what public tribune not under the Bolshevik banner. You will find, I have no doubt, a candidate more in conformity with the traditions of your university.'

Such considerations were not taken into account, of course, by one James Reid in Glasgow.

This volume will be found an invaluable guide by those undertaking the task of building a revolutionary party today. It shows how closely Trotsky followed every turn and development in the workers' movement as well as the general world situation. It shows the patience with which he expounded and sought to convince those he thought worth winning for the movement.

In short, like its companions, it is a must for every reader of *Workers Press*.
TOMORROW '1935-1936'.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

TORY PRESS



BEATING THE DRUM FOR HEATH

BY DAVID MAUDE

The Sunday pundits went all out this week to frighten the middle class and bash the union leaders into line behind the Tory plan for state control of wages.

The alternative to a deal—depending on whether you bought 'The Sunday Times', the 'Observer' or the 'Sunday Telegraph'—were said to be the collapse of the government, bloody social conflict or 'a Gadarene rush over the precipice'.

Even the most watery-eyed liberals came beating the drum for Heath.

Gone were the last pretensions to hard-nosed, cynical probing after the squalid truth behind the big-deal nationalism of the politicians. One Nation was the flag, bash the workers the rallying-cry.

Nora Beloff of the 'Observer', whose recent legal action against 'Private Eye' has helped to tighten the restraints on reporters ferreting out and publishing confidential documents, raised the spectre of Enoch Powell.

Some Tory MPs, 'not all of them from the extreme right', she reported, had been quietly urging Mr Powell to drop the immigration issue and make himself available as a credible alternative leader.

Earlier this year he had expressed an interest in this possibility. But, Miss Beloff added with apparent regret: 'The Uganda Asians have revived his almost obsessive preoccupation with race.'

If this one-time Fabian had her doubts about Powell, she had none about Heath and his state pay plan. Hewing to the 'Observer's' editorial line ('It would be a great pity if the tripartite talks... broke down', she wrote:

'If Mr Heath's talks with the unions and employers collapse, as they may this week, there is a serious and imminent risk of runaway inflation, further collapse of sterling, massive strikes, violent pickets—all making Britain virtually ungovernable.'

In a long 'probe' article in the same paper, David Wilson and Frances Cairncross did their best to present union chiefs Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon as the dynamic duo who had forced the talks to the brink of collapse.

('Scanlon, his mind razor-sharp, is the toughest negotiator, the hard professional among a group of men... 'To gasps all round, Jack Jones says he would not mind something like wartime controls [on prices]. And so on.)

Jumping off from this highly fictional-sounding framework, Miss Beloff plunged on to transform the two union leaders from Batman and Robin into the Augers of Approaching Anarchy.

'The Prime Minister,' she wrote, 'is still hoping against



hope that the unexpected toughening up of Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon was only a negotiating ploy.'

All her applause was reserved for Heath. 'What he is now doing, after what Mr Wilson has rightly described as his "U" turn, is to ask responsible trade union leaders to come into partnership with him and to take a genuine share in the management of the British economy', she cooed approvingly.

And Miss Beloff concluded with a final plaudit:

'Mr Heath, having tried out confrontation and discarded it, has now staked his own political reputation on a new kind of partnership within the still elusive concept of One Nation.'

'The Sunday Times' combined length reportage with brevity of editorial analysis in its summing-up of the Downing Street dilemma. But although its leader column devoted just three paragraphs to the subject, this did not prevent the paper coming down hard in the Heath camp.

Just how 'elusive' Miss Beloff's dream might be was suggested by economics correspondent Keith Richardson, who declared:

'If Heath totally fails to find an answer to the inflation problem he has committed himself to solving, either tomorrow or in a few days, then it becomes very difficult to see any level at which the pound could easily be pegged.'

'We would be talking about not merely a fall in sterling, but a trade crisis, an end to the growth strategy, and no doubt the collapse of the government too.'

Faced with this prospect, the frank, forthright and fearless 'Sunday Times' clearly knew where its duty lay. 'It will be disappointing,' said the editorial, 'if union acquiescence in the government's remarkable plan is withheld in the name of an essentially phoney objective [statutory price control]'

It was left to the 'Sunday Telegraph' leader writer to spit fire and brimstone, and to the paper's assistant editor, Peregrine Worsthorne, to express the real gut-feelings of the top Tories, as opposed to the more delicate impulses of their Fleet Street advisers.

The government, said an editorial contemplating the prospect of breakdown, must have the courage of its convictions. 'It must go ahead with wage restraint by compulsion if it cannot be secured by consent.'

The leader continued: 'No doubt compulsion will lead to some bitter clashes. It is no

good pretending that the country's inflationary madness will be cured simply by political edict. These battles will have to be fought.

'Inconvenience or even hardship resulting from a strike will be no justification for surrender...'

'The government, it must be hoped, is preparing all possible emergency measures—against, for example, a power strike. But Ministers will also have the heavier duty of rallying the nation to a sense of where its true interest lies, if necessary by fighting a General Election on this issue.'

The government knew they had no immediate answer to a power strike, he said. For him the issue was far more nakedly one of who holds the power: capital or labour.

Take this passage from his article:

'Old veterans like the free economy do not die every day. Far from it. Such momentous occasions occur very seldom.'

'Might not the trade unions be missing an opportunity of a lifetime if they did not insist on taking over the family lock, stock and barrel. They killed the old boy intentionally because he was rotten to the core and incorrigibly anti-social. The very last thing they want to give him is a quiet and decent burial.'

'They want to put his head on a pike and parade it around the city, as a warning that they are the masters now.'

Worsthorne went on to discuss the possibility of calling an election on the issue of 'Who governs the country, parliament or Congress House?' and the possible outcome of a General Strike.

If the talks break down, he said, the Tories will attempt to pin the blame on the unions. But even as they are doing so 'there will be a power cut, leaving everybody to grab what he can in the dark'.

In such a situation Worsthorne, who a few weeks ago was talking about the implementation of 'policies that should properly be called national socialist' and the need for 'a strong man', falls back on faith in the Tories' ability to wield naked, repressive, ruling-class power.

'One would like to think,' he wrote, 'that the Tories, being *in situ*, would know their way around best—even in the dark. After all, they have had plenty of time to prepare for precisely this eventuality.'

This is the language of a doomed, but desperate class. We may not have been much informed last Sunday. But we were certainly warned.

FRAUD!

International fraud operations running into millions will be the crime of the next decade, according to police chiefs of Britain, the US and Europe.

The FBI claims to have more than 1,000 fraud operators on its files. The so-called 'off-shore' fraud operation is becoming increasingly popular, and the enlargement of the Common Market is expected to encourage this even more.

Already there is a maze of complex interlocking fraudulent companies, some in 'tax-haven' countries and some in the main commercial centres of Europe and the US.

International agreement on fraud laws is so behind the times that it is often almost impossible to untangle.

The first major 'off-shore' fraud was discovered in the US ten years ago. This was a deal involving the sale of land in the Caribbean which proved to be a swamp.

Soon after, a fake science fund was set up, aimed at getting money from American soldiers in Europe.

The most up-to-date method is to have several different bases in different countries and pass the deal around. In 1970 it was found that a property company with headquarters in Luxembourg had moved into Mayfair, London.

When investigations began it was found that the parent company was registered in the Bahamas with a branch in Liberia and sales and management companies in Switzerland. The administrative offices were in London. When investors tried to get their money back they were passed from one country to another.

When Dr Clifford Noe was sentenced to seven years last week for his part in an American off-shore operation, it was revealed that he had been caught because he tried to cheat a City restaurant over the cost of nine meals. His original international scheme was a multi-million dollar affair.

NO PEACE

It seems that the coppers' nark does not always come out on top. On occasions, in fact, he comes out with the worst of all worlds.

One such man is a Mr John Blogg, currently serving three years in HM Prison, Nottingham, for handling stolen property.

But Mr Blogg was also a police informer before he was caught (and that does not mean he was spying on other policemen involved in theft). So when he arrived in Nottingham the word went round.

He thus appealed to have his sentence cut because he was being closely watched and was unable to enjoy the 'light relief' of prison life—such as watching television.

This time the law was not so majestic to Blogg. 'If a man wants to have the benefits that apply to a police informer, it is for him to avoid engaging in criminal activity,' the judge told him. The appeal was dismissed.

COSTLY JUSTICE

A South Wales couple and their 27-year-old son were ordered at Cardiff High Court on Monday to pay £21,451 towards the costs of a trial at which they were cleared.

Roger Jones, his wife Maureen and their son Malcolm were found not guilty last May on charges of conspiracy to defraud and of handling stolen metal. The trial cost £30,000.

Judge Watkin Powell declared that their means were far in excess of the limit for legal aid. Malcolm Jones was ordered to pay costs of £7,625 and Mr and Mrs Jones £6,913 each.

Mr Alun Jones, for the son, said: 'It is perhaps not without note that a person of more public notoriety can be acquitted by a jury and have costs awarded to him.'

BOOKS



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

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

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

SHEFFIELD: Thursday November 2, 7.30 p.m. The Crown, Blackburn Road, 'Victory to the Arthur Lees strike. Defeat the pay freeze. Build the Councils of Action'. Speaker: John Dods-worth of the Arthur Lees strike committee. Paul Littlehales, AUEW district committee. (Both in a personal capacity).

GLASGOW: Thursday November 2, 8 p.m. Partick Burgh Hall.

NOTTINGHAM: Thursday November 2, 7.30 p.m. Thurland Hall, Pelham Street.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday November 2, 8 p.m. Bricklayers' Arms, Tottenham High Road (nr White Hart Lane).

CORBRY: Sunday November 5, 7.30 p.m. Trades and Labour Club.

BASINGSTOKE: Sunday November 5, 7 p.m. The Hop Leaf, Church Street.

BIRMINGHAM: Monday November 6, 8 p.m. Lecture Room 5, Digbeth Civic Hall.

LEICESTER: Tuesday November 7, 8 p.m. Southfields Library.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Tuesday November 7, 7.30 p.m. The Molyneux Hotel, Molyneux Street.

PRESTON: Wednesday November 8, 7.30 p.m. 'Oddfellows Arms', Mount Street.

PRESTON: Wednesday, November 8, 7.30 p.m. Oddfellows Arms, Mount Street.

LIVERPOOL: Wednesday, November 8 7.30 p.m. Mitre Hotel, Dale St (near the tunnel).

MANCHESTER: Thursday November 9, 7.30 p.m. Milton Hall, Deansgate.

CLAPHAM: Thursday November 9, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4.

WIGAN: Sunday November 12, 12 noon. 'Dog and Partridge', Wallgate.

TYNESIDE: Sunday November 12, 7.30 p.m. 'Robin Hood', Wallsend High Street, WALLSEND. 'The Crisis in Shipbuilding'. Speaker: Stephen Johns (Workers Press).

NORTH KENT: Monday November 13, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue, Rochester.

PAISLEY: Wednesday November 15, 7.30 p.m. Paisley Town Hall.



Max Sand, alias Nevada Smith (Steve McQueen) is helped by Pilar (Suzanne Pleshette) when he escapes from a Louisiana prison camp to avenge his parents' murder. 'Nevada Smith' is Thames TV's Thursday film.

TV

BBC 2

- 11.00-11.25 Play school.
- 6.35-7.00 ROSLA AND AFTER. Role of the Teacher.
- 7.30 NEWSROOM. Weather.
- 8.00 EUROPA. A French connection.
- 8.30 WAR AND PEACE. Re-unions.
- 9.15 BACKSTAGE. Sir John Gielgud assesses the influence of designer Gordon Craig.
- 9.25 HORIZON. Shadows of Bliss. The world of high energy physics made accessible to the general public.
- 10.10 NEWS ON 2. Weather.
- 10.15 THEATRE: 'TEN TORREY CANYONS'. By Brian Clark.
- 10.45 DONOVAN. In Concert.
- 11.30 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

BBC 1

- 9.42 Schools. 12.10-12.25 Boomph with Becker. 12.30 Disc a dawn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Pogles' wood. 1.45-2.00 Dressmaking. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 2.50 Nurses in training. 3.15 Jimmy Young asks. 3.40 You don't make any money ashore! 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Magic roundabout. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 John Craven's newsround. 5.25 Yogi bear. 5.45 News and weather.
- 6.00 NATIONWIDE.
- 6.50 TOM AND JERRY. The Bodyguard.
- 7.00 TOMORROW'S WORLD.
- 7.25 TOP OF THE POPS.
- 8.00 SYKES. Eric Sykes.
- 8.30 PETTIFER IN AMERICA. The Turn of the Screwed. Don't get sick in America.
- 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.
- 9.25 COLDITZ. Name, Rank and Number.
- 10.15 MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS.
- 10.45 MIDWEEK.
- 11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS.
- 11.35 ANIMAL DESIGN. Insects and their kin: Living in armour!
- 12.00 Weather.

ITV

- 9.30 Schools. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Diane's panda party. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Joker's wild. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Out of town. 3.25 The mind of Mr J. G. Reeder. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 5.50 News.
- 6.00 TODAY.
- 6.30 CROSSROADS.
- 6.55 DES. Des O'Connor with guest Susan Maughan.
- 7.25 FILM: 'NEVADA SMITH'. Steve McQueen. A young man tracks his parents' killers.
- 9.30 THIS WEEK.
- 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
- 10.30 CINEMA.
- 11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY.
- 12.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.
- 12.15 BEYOND INSTITUTIONS.

REGIONAL TV

- CHANNEL:** 9.30-12.05 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.25 Skippy. 4.50 Elephant boy. 5.20 Dave Cash. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.15 Sport. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Sitting Bull'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Smith family. 11.02 Cinema. 11.35 Frighteners. 12.00 News, weather.
- SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.20 Bugs Bunny. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Junkin. 7.15 Film: 'If Winter Comes'. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Guideline. 11.15 Film: 'The Mad Magician'. 12.35 Weather.
- HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 4.25 Merry melodies. 4.50 Elephant boy. 5.20 Gustavus. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Des. 7.30 Film: 'Funeral in Berlin'. 9.30 London. 10.30 New folk. 11.00 Spyforce. 12.00 Weather.
- ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 News. 4.30 Land of the giants. 5.20 Dave Cash. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Naked Runner'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Operation horse. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Frighteners.
- ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.20 Dave Cash. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Delphi Bureau'. 8.45 Cartoon. 9.00 London. 11.00 Gardening today. 11.30 Film: 'Jazzboat'.
- ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 1.31 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Out of town. 3.25 Women today. 3.55 Harriet's back in town. 4.23 News. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 Phoenix five. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 Film: 'Yellowstone Kelly'. 9.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Champions.
- YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 2.30 Farmhouse kitchen. 3.00 London. 4.25 Cartoons. 4.50 Junior showtime. 5.20 Dave Cash. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 Film: 'The Film Flam Man'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Department S. 12.30 Weather.

SIX HUNDRED workers at the Sheffield tool firm of Easterbrook Allcard are on strike over the sacking of their shop stewards' chairman on Tuesday morning. The management claim she was sacked for bad time-keeping, but workers on picket outside the factory claim she was sacked for union activity. Mrs Sylvia Greenwood, the Transport and General Workers' Union steward who has been sacked, told Workers Press yesterday: 'It's an attack on trade unionism. They don't intend having the union here.' She went on to explain that on Monday workers banned overtime in support of a setters' time-rate claim. They are demanding that setters be paid the £22 union rate.

Socialist Labour League PUBLIC LECTURES

OXFORD

Thursday November 9
Basic essentials of Marxism

Thursday November 16
A theory of knowledge

Thursday November 23
Opponents of Marxism

Thursday November 30
Marxism—the science of perspective

SOUTH OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE
Lake Street, 8 p.m.

PAISLEY

Saturday November 4.
Dialectical Materialism.

PAISLEY TOWN HALL,
10 a.m.

Lectures given by
SLL general secretary
G. Healy

Socialist Labour League

Leeds

LECTURES
THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM

Given by
Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee member)

Building the revolutionary party
Monday November 6
GUILDFORD HOTEL
The Headrow, 8 p.m.

Mill back at work

PAPERWORKERS at John Dickinson's Mill at Croxley, near Watford, will end their month-long strike today after winning a 7p-an-hour increase.

But yesterday a question mark hung over the 20 electricians who had still not received a new pay offer. They have already rejected management's 5½p offer.

The initial electricians' strike led to the factory closing and the 1,000 SOGAT men joining the action for a 19p-an-hour increase.

It was the first strike at the Mill since 1926 and was clearly driven forward by the rocketing cost-of-living. Dayworkers at the plant were on a £20.25 basic rate.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 2.30 Yoga. 2.55 London. 4.20 Lone Ranger. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.15 Peyton Place. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30 Crown court. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 Film: 'Hausers Memory'. 9.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.35 Dick Van Dyke.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Let's face it. 3.00 London. 4.25 Woobinda. 4.50 Junior showtime. 5.20 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 5.45 Cartoon. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Popeye. 7.10 Film: 'The Film Flam Man'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 News. 11.50 Scotland Yard mysteries. 12.20 Revolving chair.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.50 News. 3.00 Out of town. 3.25 Women today. 3.55 Harriet's back in town. 4.25 Elephant boy. 4.55 Junior showtime. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Kings Go Forth'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Spyforce. 12.00 Meditation.

Subscribe! workers press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

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

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

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

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

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

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

Or Full subscription (six days) for months.

Name

Address

Amount enclosed £

I would like information about

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

Name

Address

A savage and inhuman sentence

THE 21-MONTH jail sentence passed on 19-year-old Jacqueline Paddon for taking a friend's baby for 15 minutes is savage and inhuman.

Miss Paddon, an unmarried mother, whose own baby was taken away by the authorities when three months old, has been receiving treatment for mental illness.

The friend whose baby she took — Mrs Doreen Walsh — said Miss Paddon was sobbing and hysterical about the loss of her own baby.

Mrs Walsh, who did not wish to prosecute, pointed out that it was the police who pressed charges. 'Prison is not the place for a girl like her', said Mrs Walsh. 'Locking her away won't help—she needs help for her sad mental state.'

Also serving a 21-month sentence is 23-year-old Pauline Jones who took away baby Denise Weller, last year.

Miss Jones had been abandoned by her boyfriend and had a miscarriage at seven months. She looked after the Weller baby with great care, but was nevertheless sentenced to three years' imprisonment, reduced to 21 months after a public outcry.

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000

Telegraphists incensed as UPW signs behind their backs Downing St talks excuse for job-cutting and speed-up deal

UNION LEADERS have signed a three-year deal with the Post Office which paves the way for a 36-per-cent cut in the overseas telegraphists' grade, in return for flat-rate payments of up to £95 each year.

The deal—agreed by the Union of Post Office Workers' executive over the heads of both rank-and-file members and branch officials—aroused a storm of opposition at London's Electra House overseas cable headquarters when copies began circulating yesterday.

Not least of the telegraphists' grievances was that the executive's main argument for signing the deal was the TUC-CBI-government talks at Downing Street.

Advance warning of the kind of reception the deal would get reached UPW head office at Clapham earlier this week. On Tuesday the executive is believed to have conceded a secret ballot of the grade to endorse its actions.

The deal, which covers Britain's 4,600 overseas telegraph operators (OTOs), was in fact signed last Thursday.

GALLED

This discovery came as salt in the wound at Electra House. Even branch committee members who have previously defended Jackson and the executive were galled to find that they had been overridden on the very day that the branch had formulated a detailed policy on the issue.

A lengthy resolution passed by a substantial majority at last Thursday's branch meeting insisted on four main points:

- No redundancy.
- No speed-up or work-study.
- A shorter working week.
- The impossibility of separating the fight against unemployment on the Post Office from the fight to force the



Jackson: Had to sign

Tories to resign, and to elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

While this policy was being debated at Electra House, Jackson was sitting down with Post Office telecommunications personnel director, R. Davies, and Eric Doyle, of the Post Office Management Staffs' Association. The irreconcilable contradiction between the branch policy and the deal these three men signed is obvious.

The main points of the deal are:

DIVISION of Electra House into separate managerial units, introduction of a new computer for correcting telex messages and, later, automation of all relaying work through a Telegram Retransmission Centre.

UNION CO-OPERATION in work-study techniques and streamlining of the flow of work. HALF-YEARLY PAYMENTS of between £37.50 for second-line OTOs and £47.50 for top operators with additional amounts after the first year for any future measured improvement in productivity.

The UPW executive claims that no OTO will actually be made redundant during the first year, but admits that 500 jobs will be lost as a result of the first stage of the deal alone (sub-division of Electra House and the introduction of the revision computer).

But OTOs insist that this argument is a sham.

In the first place, they point out, it betrays the principle of the fight against unemployment. The number of jobs available is cut, thus making it that degree more difficult for the 800,000 unemployed to find work.

'WASTAGE'

They also claim, secondly, that 'natural wastage', a ban on recruitment and a six-month campaign of disciplinary sackings have been used by the Post Office to create the impression that no one had actually been got rid of.

Like the agreement itself, the recruitment ban was imposed without the consent of the Electra House branch committee. And again like the agreement it came in with the full backing of the UPW executive.

What is left in the background is that the final aim of TRC is to get rid of 1,700 jobs by autumn 1974.

Jackson, his telecommunications assistant secretary Kim McKinlay, and the rest of the executive hope to sell the deal on the basis of increases of between £5 and £25 in the Post Office's original offer of £70 a year all round plus other fringe improvements.

They also say they are satisfied that the share the telegraphists will get of the savings the Post Office makes in the first year are in line with union policy, which is to demand 50 per cent of all wage-bill savings for those who remain at work.

This also is contested by the OTOs. They say official union policy is against bonus payments, and that if any payments are to be made they should be on the basic rate.

But it is Jackson's clinching argument for ignoring the telegraphists' branches and signing that is likely to arouse the fiercest controversy.

A circular sent out to the branches on Monday of this week is worth quoting in full on this point:

Members will know that at the time when this agreement was finalized, the government, the CBI and the TUC were jointly taking part in discussions on a prices and incomes policy.

At the time this report is being prepared, no indication has been received of any agreement. What is known, however, is that the government have been insisting that any productivity agreement of this kind will not be separately paid out of any flat rate figure which might be agreed between the parties.

This would mean that the deal could not operate and that money arising from the agreement would not be paid in addition to any flat-rate payment which might be decided.

If no agreement is reached in the talks with government there is every reason to expect that a compulsory wages policy will be adopted by parliament. In this case too the extra money arising from this agreement would be lost to our members.

The executive council would not take the risk that our members should not benefit in this way. It was therefore necessary that the agreement should be made before the government talks were concluded or before the talks broke down and a compulsory incomes policy was insisted by government.

CASH LOSS

In order to avoid the loss of cash in our members' pockets the executive council gave authority for the agreement to be signed. This took place last Thursday.

Here Jackson, who at the UPW conference earlier this year argued vehemently against bringing politics into trade unionism, directly imports the implications of politics, this time Tory politics, into negotiations over jobs and pay.

The battle over the Post Office's proposals has, therefore, become immediately and directly political. What is at stake is not just jobs or no jobs, but state control over pay or the independence of the unions from the state.

Ports inquiry due out next week

FINDINGS of the National Ports Council inquiry into unregistered ports lying outside the National Dock Labour Scheme will not now be published until early next week.

The inquiry report, which is strongly believed to recommend no extension of the scheme, was delivered to Transport Minister John Peyton on Tuesday afternoon.

A statement from the NPC yesterday said the report was only a preliminary study. Final recommendations would be made by the end of the year.

Although not recommending that non-scheme ports like Felixstowe, Dover, Harwich and Shoreham are forced to register, the preliminary report is thought to suggest they pay 7 or 8 per cent of their total wage bills to the National Dock Labour Board, which administers the scheme. Scheme ports pay 14½ per cent.

Gas-fire pickets demand strike recognition

WORKERS from the Robinsons and Willey gas-fire factory, Liverpool, will today picket their local union headquarters to demand that their recognition strike is made official.

Three hundred of the 400 workforce walked out just over a week ago after management dismissed three shop stewards who were trying to organize the workers into the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Yesterday a full-time official of the union, Frank Housley, attempted to get a return to work. Under his scheme two of the stewards would be suspended on full pay and independent arbitration would examine the case.

The shop stewards' committee immediately rejected Housley's plan and decided to press the rank-and-file demand for reinstatement and union recognition.

Pickets outside Transport House, Islington, Liverpool, today will demand that the union make the dispute official. The Robinsons and Willey workers are seeking support for their fight in the area.

LATEST POCKET LIBRARY

CONTAINERIZATION

The case for nationalization of the docks and transport industry



By Stephen Johns and Ian Yeats

PAMPHLET JUST OUT!

Stephen Johns' and Ian Yeats' timely articles on

CONTAINERIZATION

now put together in a useful pamphlet which makes vital reading for dockers and all workers fighting for the right to work. Available as below 30p

BOOKS



- Moscow Trials Anthology Paperback, 62½p
- MAX SHACHTMAN: Behind The Moscow Trial Paperback 75p
- ROBERT BLACK: Stalinism In Britain Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2
- LEON TROTSKY: Death Agony of Capitalism (The Transitional Programme) Pamphlet 5p
- Class Nature of the Soviet State Pamphlet 20p
- In Defence of the October Revolution Pamphlet 15p
- The Theory and Practice of Revisionism Pamphlet 15p
- Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from: NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG.

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

A GREAT START: £51.02

NOVEMBER'S FUND was given a great boost by a magnificent collection of £51.02 taken for Workers Press at the premier showing of the 'Right-to-Work' film on Tuesday night.

Workers Press was the only daily paper to cover every day each of the five marches from Glasgow, Liverpool, Swansea, Deal and Southampton which successfully arrived at a mass rally at the Empire Pool, Wembley on March 12. Our reporters, themselves, took part and marched all the way.

Workers Press remains in the forefront of the struggle to defend the right to work and to force this Tory government to resign.

Now, after a tremendous effort last month for our Fund, let's keep up this good start for November. Help us go from strength to strength. Don't waste a moment. Start the campaign today. Post all donations to:

Workers Press November Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London, SW4 7UG

Howitt lorries still banned

LIVERPOOL dockers yesterday defied an order from their union leader Jack Jones to lift the ban on the Merseyside hauliers Howitt Transport.

Joint owner Olive Howitt said yesterday that dockers had turned back another lorry. This is despite the National Industrial Relations Court ruling which lifted the ban on transport and General Workers' Union to get the ban lifted.

Ms Howitt said there were no plans to speed up the court's decision to give the union seven days to reverse the ban. 'We are still hoping for a negotiated settlement,' she said.

Howitt's vehicles were banned on Merseyside docks after two of their drivers claimed they had been fired for striking in support of the five dockers jailed in Pentonville by the Industrial Relations Court.

Record prices, rents and days lost

TORY RULE has brought record increases in prices, rents and, according to figures released by the Department of Employment yesterday, the number of working days taken up with strikes.

Workers were on strike for a total of 22,202,000 days in the first nine months of this year alone, the D of E admits. This was well in excess of the figure for any full year since the General Strike of 1926.

1972, in fact, could be well on the way to doubling the total for the previous post-1926 record year, 1971, during which 13,551,000 days were taken up with strikes.

The number of strikes has not grown to any large extent (1,795 in the first nine months of 1972, as against 1,765 in the same period last year).

But the length of strikes and

CAV sit-in want national black

A CALL for the nationwide blacking of all Lucas products in every industry was issued yesterday by shop stewards at the occupied CAV-Lucas factory

The shop stewards' committee issued their call in reply to a statement from the Lucas combine earlier this week that it is to proceed with its closure plans.

Immediate backing came from stewards at the Lucas Industrial Equipment factory which shares the same site at Fazakerley, Liverpool, with CAV.

Contact was made yesterday afternoon with Liverpool dockers and Lucas group factories in the Midlands.

CAV Fazakerley convenor Dave Martin told Workers Press from the occupied plant: 'All Lucas Industrial Equipment and other Lucas Merseyside factories'

supplies and products were blacked on this site as from 11 a.m. today.

'Lucas has a responsibility to Merseyside. They must change their minds on this decision.'

The CAV shop stewards' committee told the company that its reiteration of the closure decision had forced them to escalate their action. The committee called on all trade unionists throughout the country to black all Lucas products.

Dave Martin stressed that the machines in the factory were being kept in running order, because rapid deterioration would follow if they were kept idle for a long period.

'We believe that this factory will remain open', he said. 'If the management cuts off electricity supplies and we are unable to run the machines, then the inevitable deterioration of the plant will be the sole responsibility of the Lucas management.'



Above left: Asian workers on the picket line. Above right: A lorry driver goes through the picket line with an 'Enoch Powell' button in his lapel.

Fleet Street hit by pay strike

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL action by clerical workers on the national Press spread throughout Fleet Street yesterday. Telephonists, secretaries, advertising copy-takers and counter-clerks—all members of the print union NATSOPA—were among those involved.

The action is against the recent pay settlement between the Newspaper Publishers' Association and the print unions, which gave increases of around 8 per cent.

For relatively highly-paid production workers this meant an increase of £5.50 to £6.50 per week. But for clerical staff on lower pay it brought only £2 to £3.

NATSOPA members want to keep the 8 per cent, but with a minimum guaranteed increase of over £4.

A memorandum from the

father (branch secretary) of the Thomson House clerical chapel declared: 'We feel that this is fair and reasonable and find the employers' offer of a £2 minimum derisory. Clearly we have an obligation to our lower paid members to ensure that their standard of living does not fall during this coming period (remember that this is a two-year agreement).'

There was more bad news for Fleet Street yesterday in the journal 'Advertising Quarterly'.

In real terms advertising expenditure fell between 1969 and 1971 from £544m to £518m, a decline of 5 per cent, the journal said.

In a circular to members, NATSOPA general secretary Richard Briginshaw said the union supported Anthony Wedgwood Benn's criticisms of Press chiefs last month.

'This is a national problem for our people and democracy in this country, especially at a time when the Conservative government is planning the dirtiest election ever in this country on a cry of "Who Rules?" We can answer, "Do they or do the Press bosses?'

REGULAR MEETINGS between Mr William Whitelaw, secretary for Northern Ireland, and Ulster's Social Democratic and Labour Party, will be arranged following their Stormont talks in Belfast yesterday.

The six Social Democratic MPs appeared guardedly pleased after two hours of talks with him.

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

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

Striking Asians sacked by Loughborough firm

TWO HUNDRED hosiery workers on strike since Friday for a £5 a week increase on their basic rate of £20.35 have been sacked by the Mansfield Hosiery Company, Loughborough. They are picketing the factory.

Most of the strikers are Asian immigrants and make up the bulk of bar-loaders and runners-on at the factory. They are paid at the rate of £20.35 basic, while knitters, who are mostly white, earn more than £35.

Dhiru Patel, who has been a bar-loaders' representative for three years, said they were told by the National Union of Hosiery Workers that the seven days' notice they had given would make the strike legal if not

official. But now they have been dismissed.

Picketing appears to be having some impact. Mr Patel said that about 95 per cent of work inside the factory had been stopped.

Eighty women workers at another branch of the firm in Loughborough have come out in sympathy and there will be a demonstration today in the town.

The racial aspects of the strike are clearly apparent.

'Only white people are working in the factory now,' he said.

A white resident in the area supported the strikers: 'The cost of living has gone up,' she said, 'and people deserve the right to a living wage.'

Downing Street talks

FROM PAGE 1

bar one of the 37-man General Council attended, Feather commented:

'The General Council view is that these talks are about prices and inflation and in particular about food prices and rents.'

'We are anxious to know what the Prime Minister has to say about other things we have put on the table; like pensions, dividends, mortgages and so on.'

When pressed for an answer to Heath's ultimatum, he said:

'It seems to us that there is a danger of this becoming a dialectical exercise about statutory or voluntary and all the legislative jargon.'

Other General Council members were tight lipped when they left the meeting.

Alan Sapper of the cine technicians said his demand to call off the talks stood. Asked if he pressed the point he replied: 'I am not dumb.'

Feather said that two or perhaps three Council members had indicated that they wanted the talks to end, but that only one spoke out and that no vote on this proposal had been taken.

Feather said that machinery for statutory control of prices did exist but there was no such machinery for statutory control of wages.

The men who stopped the

complete breakdown between the government and the TUC were Hugh Scanlon of the engineers and Jack Jones. They stayed behind after other General Council members had left and met the general secretary immediately before his statement.

Scanlon's proposal — for an approach to the Tories to see what concessions they were prepared to give on the unions' sheet of demands, was substantially the one that carried the day.

After his own union executive meeting on Tuesday, Scanlon said that it would only be possible to say whether a package involving control of wages was on or off if the government replied to these points.

This is an extremely dangerous move that disguises trade union co-operation with state pay control, which the package envisages, as some kind of victory for the working class. It also deflects the growing move among the rank and file to break off all talks immediately.

So long as they do continue the Tories are gaining advantage and preparing their own offensive, which will involve statutory control of wages. This will be allied to a move into Europe and the export of capital and investment to areas where workers are not organized and have low wages.