

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY DECEMBER 22, 1972 ● No. 953 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

ANOTHER 'BLACK DAY' FOR TRADE UNIONISM

£69,250 SNATCH

BY JACK GALE AND DAVID MAUDE

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The fines, imposed because of the union's refusal to admit Sudbury engineer James Goad into branch meetings, are likely to be paid over by the end of this week.

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If he was turned away once more, he could start a new contempt action in the court.

Donaldson yesterday emphasized that the nominal value of the stock to be sold did not mean that the court was increasing the fine. Nevertheless, the union faces a £5,000 bill for the Commissioners' costs, about £78 for the costs of the sale and also the legal costs incurred by Goad.

£100 change

An expected balance of about £100 from the sale is expected to be paid back to the union.

Richard Southwell, appearing for the commissioners, said that theoretically it was possible for them to seize typewriters or other union property, but they wanted to fulfil three requirements in the method by which they took the money.

These were speed, cheapness and choice of a method that would cause as little hardship to the union as possible.

Meanwhile, a lawyers' magazine suggested this week that the AUEW could risk further legal action from right wingers within its ranks for 'dissipating union funds'. The 'New Law Journal' declared:

'It seems to us that if the rule book of the AUEW resembles in any way the rule book of most

other unions there might be grounds for a dissenting member or branch to consider an action against the union for dissipation of union funds.'

Quite clearly preparations are going on behind the scenes for further attacks on the union by the bourgeois courts assisted by Tory or right-wing Labour provocateurs among the membership.

Under these circumstances, the call by the Merseyside Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineer-

ing Unions for a one-day stoppage on January 19 of 500,000 Merseyside workers in engineering, shipbuilding, docks and building trades must be supported.

But it has to be said that this is not enough.

For while these savage attacks on the working class are being unleashed, the TUC leaders are crawling back to Heath. It was announced yesterday that the Prime Minister has agreed to meet the TUC economic com-



The men who seized the fine. The two sequestrators leave the National Industrial Relations Court after hearing that they must organize the sale of £69,250 of the engineers' assets.

COURT TAKES ENGINEERS' CASH IN 15 MINUTES



President Sir John



Evangelist James Goad

mittee at their request on Thursday, January 4.

Although the TUC leaders claim to want such a meeting to protest at rising prices and government interference in wage negotiations, the Tories will clearly use it to lay down the line on phase two of their wages control policy. It is expected that Tory plans include extension of wage control by a further 60 days.

This step by the TUC leaders is a betrayal of the hundreds of thousands of workers who struck work this week to protect their unions against the Tories.

It is a betrayal also of trade union members like the farmworkers, hospital ancillary workers, gasworkers and Post Office workers who are fighting for wage rises now.

These leaders must be told immediately: 'No talks with the Tories!'

The only way to defend living standards and trade union rights built up over 200 years is to call a General Strike to force the Tories to resign. That must be the demand from every union branch and every workplace.

Fine Tubes

This is the third Christmas that the Plymouth Fine Tubes strikers, their wives and their 53 children, have spent on strike with very little money.

These men have waged a bitter struggle for the most basic right a worker can possess—the right to belong to a trade union.

Strike committee members have travelled over 100,000 miles to sustain their fight.

This Christmas is the hardest of all. It has imposed a great financial burden. Now the 37 strikers face the rest of the winter with a depleted strike fund. January is always a difficult month to raise money to further their fight.

Yet they are determined to fight on. This is a struggle the working class cannot afford to lose. That is why the Socialist Labour League and the Workers Press wishes to make a special appeal to all trade unionists to take collections in their factories and branches for the Fine Tubes men in order that their heroic and determined action can be carried forward. All money should be sent to:

Fine Tubes Treasurer
c/o 65 Bretonside
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What we think

Stalinist responsibility for terror bombing

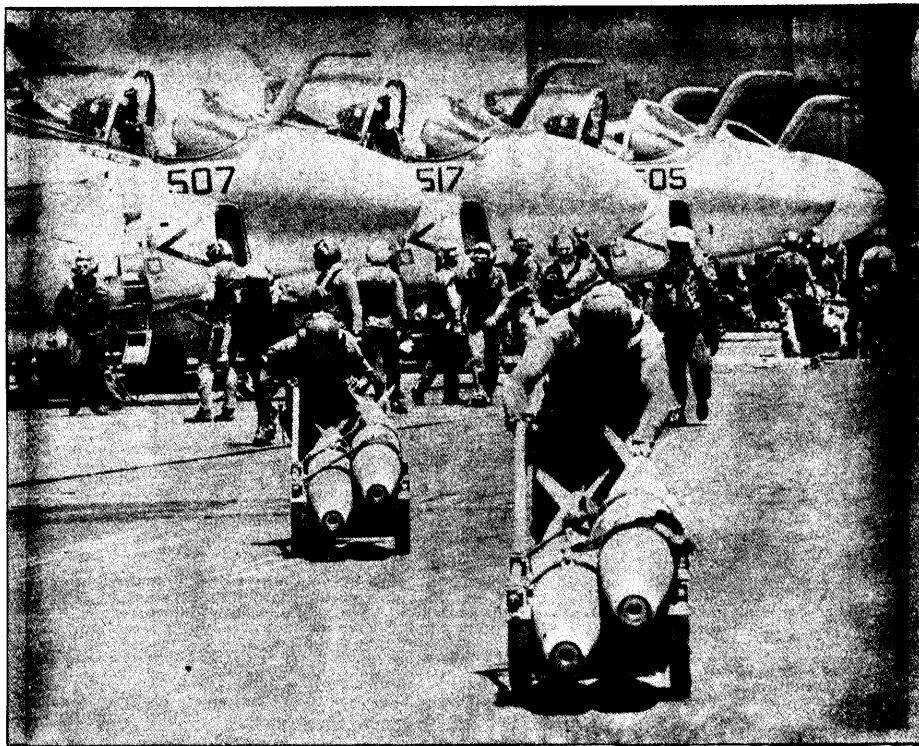
THE TERROR-bombing of North Vietnam is an unequalled act of savagery and barbarism by President Nixon and the US war-machine. Thousands of civilians have been killed by the pattern-bombing B52s since the Americans cynically terminated the secret 'peace' talks in Paris.

The intensity of the bombing is unequalled since the US Air Force destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki with atomic weapons at the end of World War II. The reason for the bombing is simple: the Vietnamese people have refused to bow the knee to the armed might of the United States. Nixon has decided they must be exterminated.

This treatment is being imposed on the Vietnamese people as a warning to all those who want to fight against imperialism and exploitation and liberate themselves from the tyranny of capital. No worker should be under any illusion that imperialism—British as well as American—will try to mete out the same barbaric treatment on workers fighting for their basic rights here in Britain and in the United States.

The savagery of the American attack against the North is paralleled only by the criminal treachery of the bureaucrats in Moscow and Peking. Reuters' correspondent reported from Washington that Nixon is 'confident there would be no serious backlash from the Soviet Union or China over his decision to resume full-scale bombing of North Vietnam—the most intensive in history.

'Despite expressions of condemnation from Moscow and Peking, US officials said they believed the two major communist powers would exert behind-the-scenes influence on Hanoi to try to break the impasse reached last week in the Paris peace talks . . . The Soviet and Chinese reaction to the renewed bombing was described here [in Washington] as relatively mild, indicating a cautious approach and a desire to co-



US airmen trundle their deadly loads towards waiting planes.

operate in efforts to reach a settlement of the war.

'And as the new US bombing campaign went into its third day, quiet diplomatic contacts were said to be in progress between Washington, Moscow and Peking.'

There were even reports in Washington that Soviet ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin was informed in advance by Dr Kissinger that the US was planning to

relaunch the bombing campaign following the breakdown of the Paris talks.

What price peaceful co-existence? Is this not simply another name for class-collaboration and betrayal on an international scale? The elementary duty of socialist revolutionaries is to defend the Indo-China revolution and aid its victory by every possible means. Yet the Stalinist bureaucrats in the Kremlin and in Peking have turned their backs on the heroic Indo-Chinese fighters to em-

brace the butcher Nixon and collaborate in liquidating the revolution.

The collapse of the secret Paris negotiations has shown that there can be no peace in Vietnam until imperialism is driven out and its agents removed from office. Vietnam is the highest point of the world revolutionary struggle. It demonstrates the ruthless barbarism of the imperialists when their power and wealth is endangered.

It shows above all that peaceful co-existence is a reactionary Utopia, a scheme for lulling the masses and disarming them at the time of greatest danger to the revolution. This is true not only in Vietnam, but in every other corner of the globe. How can there be peaceful co-existence between the exploiters and those they exploit? Isn't capitalist society always maintained by 'bodies of armed men'?

In line with the treacherous perspective of the Moscow bureaucrats, the British Stalinists are still campaigning for pressure to be applied to Nixon to sign the nine-point draft treaty on Vietnam. They want the Vietnam agreement signed because the continuation of the revolutionary struggle in Indo-China is a serious obstacle to better relations between Moscow and the imperialists.

This is a betrayal of the Vietnamese revolution and a negation of the fundamental socialist task of international solidarity with the Vietnamese struggle. It is not the task of socialists to put pressure on imperialism to be more genteel or less barbaric.

The task is to expose the violent character of imperialist rule and prepare the working class to overthrow the imperialist system. This is why real solidarity with the Vietnamese workers and peasants involves relentless struggle against the Tory government and the British ruling class.

Those who spread illusions about the possibilities of peaceful co-existence and peace treaties between the revolutionaries and the counter-revolutionaries are aiding the imperialists and duping the workers.

German coal giant takes £93m nosedive

WEST GERMANY's biggest coal combine, Ruhrkohle AG, continued its nosedive into the red this year with losses expected to total up to £93m.

At a Press conference announcing the company's annual report for 1971, company executives said they expected 1972 losses of between 600 and 700 million marks.

The losses have occurred despite huge subsidies from the federal government and the North-Rhine-Westphalia state administration. The company was saved from certain bankruptcy by government intervention earlier this year.

Ruhrkohle was formed at the end of the 1960s by pooling the coal-mining interests of the Ruhr industrialists. They merged their interests in order to rationalize the coal industry at the expense of the miners.

Many miners have already been sacked, but another 8,000 sackings were announced at the end of last month to be put into effect in the coming period.

The situation at Ruhrkohle is not the only headache for the German industrial barons. They face the influx of cheap steel from Japan, which is creating problems for such giants of industry as the Mannesmann combine.

Their exports have been hit by the imposition of quotas in the United States to protect home manufacturers. At the same time, British entry into the Common Market means a cut-throat contest for the European market with the British Steel Corporation.

The continental steel manufacturers have already demanded that the BSC raise its prices on Market entry. They are also collaborating to build more modern and competitive plant to meet competition from abroad.

The Ruhr is the heartland of the Common Market and its decline is an index of the depth of the problems facing the European employers.

The Ruhr barons of the past provided the money and backing for Bismarck and Hitler. Today they are fighting ferociously against the claims of their workers for higher wages.

Tomorrow they may turn once again to the extreme right to 'solve' their problems by radical measures against the working class.

Two Germanies sign deal

THE TREATY between the German Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic was formally signed in East Berlin yesterday. It only remains to be ratified by the two governments.

This treaty effectively consecrates the division of Germany resulting from World War II. It is the fruit of two years of hard bargaining in which the bureaucracy of the Soviet Union, mentor of the German Democratic Republic, has accepted the approaches made by Willy Brandt in pursuit of his Ostpolitik.

The German Democratic Republic has gone through a process of rapid industrialization in the past ten years, making it the most economically advanced country in the COMECON (the eastern bloc equivalent of the Common Market). But, with only 17 million people, it is dwarfed by the capitalist German Federal Republic of which Brandt is Chancellor.

The West German monopolists need markets in the east as they face growing competitive pressure on the world market. They hope to penetrate and eventually re-absorb the DDR in which the old Junker landlord class has been wiped out and the means of production have been nationalized.

The treaty is a step along this road which, at the same time, consecrates the division of Germany into two states. The bureaucracy sees the treaty as a step in a worldwide agreement with imperialism which will enable it to maintain its rule.

It has won a concession in the shape of the recognition of the government of the DDR which next year is likely to be admitted to the United Nations. A joint commission of the two Germanies will be set up to deal with border problems.

At present the two countries are separated by a heavily-defended frontier in the east intended to stop people leaving the German Democratic Republic for the west. West Berlin is surrounded by the famous wall erected in 1961. It is not likely that the treaty will result in these barriers being removed.

50 years of Soviet Union 'celebrated'

FIFTIETH anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Soviet Union began in Moscow yesterday when President Nikolai Podgorny addressed a meeting of 5,000 Soviet and foreign guests in the Palace of Congresses.

He told them: 'This is the greatest date in the history of our country—after the Bolshevik Revolution'. The bureaucracy uses such occasions to indulge in self-praise while pretending to celebrate revolutionary occasions.

Moscow is decked out with red flags and portraits of Lenin, but there is no mention of Josef Stalin, the bloodthirsty autocrat

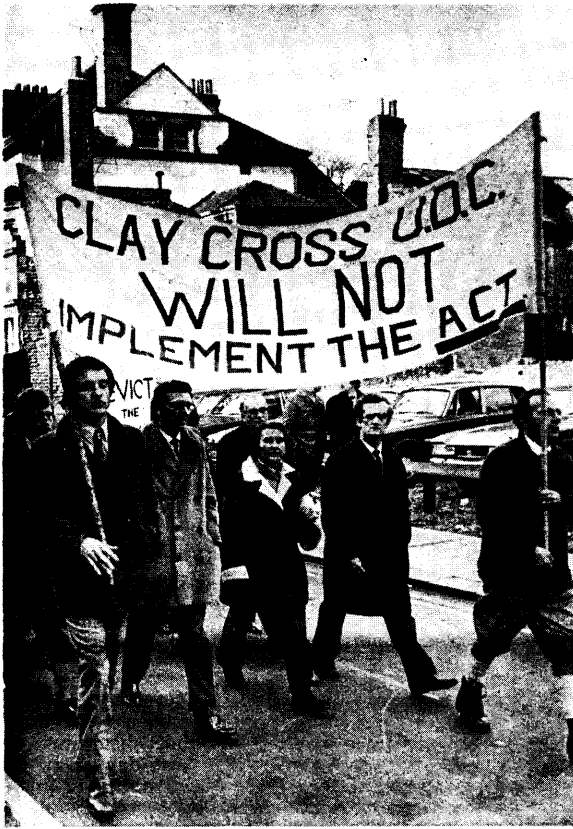
who ruled the Soviet Union for almost 30 years of its existence. This notable omission underlines the fact that the bureaucracy is able to give no account of its origins or history.

While it entertains its 'friends' and hangers-on with banquets, sight-seeing and the inevitable set speeches, it has to face the most serious crisis in the planning system since the death of Stalin.

Its inability to organize the planned economy, to solve the agrarian problem or to satisfy

consumer expectations is a consequence of the policy of 'socialism in one country', which it took over from the departed dictator.

That the Soviet Union has survived is no credit to its policy or a result of its stewardship. It reflects the strength of the planned and nationalized economy made possible by the Revolution of 1917 and the confidence and courage of the working class which must complete that revolution by throwing the bureaucracy off its back.



A march in Clay Cross

Labour Party NEC will not back rent rebels

They're in for a nasty shock!

says Clay
Cross leader

BY PHILIP WADE

LABOUR PARTY leaders have been warned they are heading for 'a nasty shock' following their decision not to back up councillors who are penalized by the Tories for not increasing rents.

'They have entirely misjudged the situation and the mood of the tenants,' Clay Cross council leader Arthur Wellon told me from his Derbyshire home yesterday.

He warned that there was bound to be a big 'shake-up' throughout the entire Labour Party, with people being thrown out of positions if they did not fight.

Clay Cross is one of the 20 Labour councils in Britain which refuses to implement the Tory Housing Finance Act. The district auditor has already been to the Derbyshire town and presented a £7,000 bill—the rent which should have been collected.

On Wednesday, the Labour Party's national executive decided a future Labour government would not reimburse councillors hit by surcharges or fines for not putting rents up. A move to refer the policy back was defeated 16 to 5.

This decision by the Labour right-wing showed

complete contempt for the party's conference decision. The Blackpool conference carried a resolution—against the NEC—specifically instructing a future Labour government to repay councillors hit by the Tories.

In effect, the NEC has disowned Labour councillors fighting the Tory plans to smash municipal housing.

'In my opinion they've been splitting hairs all along,' added Cllr Wellon. 'If they wanted to they could legislate not to recognize the fines if they're imposed.'

'Their decision is certain to fragment the labour movement. And it is a sad thing the Tory laws have brought this about,' he added.

'Throughout our fight we've had no leadership either from Transport House or the Parliamentary Labour Party. If that carries on we could be in danger of losing the next election,' he warned.

A number of pro-implementing Labour councillors have just lost nominations for next year's elections in North Derbyshire. Cllr Wellon said this sort of clear out could soon be taking place throughout the entire country.

BRIANT COLOUR

SPECIAL REPORT by Ian Yeats

WORKERS at Briant Colour Printings, Peckham, south London, are on the brink of a major setback. For six months 120 men and 30 women have worked in at the doomed factory in one of the longest and most determined struggles in print trade history.

Now they are being asked to accept a deal which falls far short of their original objective of saving all the jobs at the factory.

FIRST only about 40 of the total 150-strong workforce are to be employed by buyer Mr David Brockdorff if the deal goes through.

SECOND there are to be no unofficial strikes for two years.

THIRD Brockdorff has made it clear that he wants no pay demands for two years although national agreements will be honoured.

FOURTH there is to be maximum goodwill and productivity from the slashed work force to make the factory pay.

A spokesman for the work-in committee refused to comment on the deal yesterday, but it is significant that they walked out of a joint union-Brockdorff Press conference at the Connaught Rooms on December 13.

Despite Brockdorff's offer, which is expected to be laid before liquidator Mr P. Granville White any day now, we understand that the work-in at the Old Kent Road factory is going on.

The Joint Chapels Negotiating Committee, led by Mr Bill Freeman, has been under heavy pressure from print union officials to accept the deal.

NATSOPA, the NGA, SOGAT and SLADE have been paying out sums ranging from £15 to £25 a week in dispute benefits and it has been clearly intimated that such payments cannot be made much longer.

The print unions feel Briant Colour is now 'cold' in the public mind and the Brockdorff offer is very much a last chance. If the work-in goes on against their advice, we understand they would be near certain to review their backing.

They have been concerned about the deteriorating chances of a settlement for some time and took the negotiations with Brockdorff largely into their own hands.

Brockdorff and the unions have expressed satisfaction with the 'framework agreement' which they say leaves no important issues outstanding and opens the door to an immediate start on



Inside the factory during the early days of the work-in.

restoring the factory to profitability.

Brockdorff (42) has his headquarters at what used to be the web-offset division of Electrical Press in Walthamstow until he bought and revived it last January.

This summer he bought Northern Colour Printers and turned a £60,000 loss into a profit of similar proportions.

He makes his money by buying up 'ailing' businesses, trimming the workforce and insisting on maximum productivity from those who remain.

The only 'concession' Brockdorff has made is a promise to re-employ workers sacked from the factory as quickly as possible over the next two years.

The print unions have offered to try to find the sacked men temporary employment.

Five days after the work-in began, on June 21, 1972, we said:

'Once the liquidator has completed his business, nothing short of a political fight will convince

any new employer that he must use the plant for printing purposes or employ the existing workforce at their present pay.'

On August 11, 1972, we warned:

'In a similar situation at UCS, workers were eventually forced to accept a four-year, no-strike pledge and the disappearance of

trade union conditions in order to find a buyer. Briant Colour workers must examine what happened at UCS in order to avoid the same dangers for their own work-in.'

After six months those dangers now loom imminently.

On September 15, 1972, after talks with the liquidator, we said:

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MINERS FACE THE COURT

The miners' union's first brush with the Industrial Relations Act ended in what might appear to be stalemate this week, with Westoe lodge, Durham, accepting an industrial tribunal finding that one of its members no longer owed a £3 penalty for working too much overtime.

Lodge members sent James Sim to Coventry last year after he exceeded an agreed limit on the amount of overtime which would be worked.

They refused to talk to him after he refused either to pay the £3 penalty or to attend a meeting to discuss the case. A rope man at the time the lodge took its action, Sim had to go onto lower-paid work as a sweeper.

ACCEPTED

Sim complained to the industrial tribunal that the lodge's action constituted an unfair industrial practice under the Tories' Industrial Relations Act.

After hearings spaced out over a number of weeks, the tribunal found in his favour. It ruled that he no longer owed the lodge the £3.

The tribunal failed, however, to award compensation for the period Sim's earnings were affected by the sanctions against him, and this may be one reason why, at a special lodge meeting on Sunday, its findings were accepted.

Lodge secretary James Inskip, who appeared before the tribunal, described the findings as 'well reasoned'.

Inskip also expressed complacent underestimation of the anti-union Act itself. The lodge accepted that Sim no longer owed it £3, he said, 'but I cannot make the men talk to him if they don't want to'.

More dangerous still, the case is a precedent for co-operation with the National Industrial Relations Court itself. Headquarters spokesmen for the National Union of Mineworkers have consistently held that Inskip's appearance at the tribunal represents no breach of union policy.

SLUMP

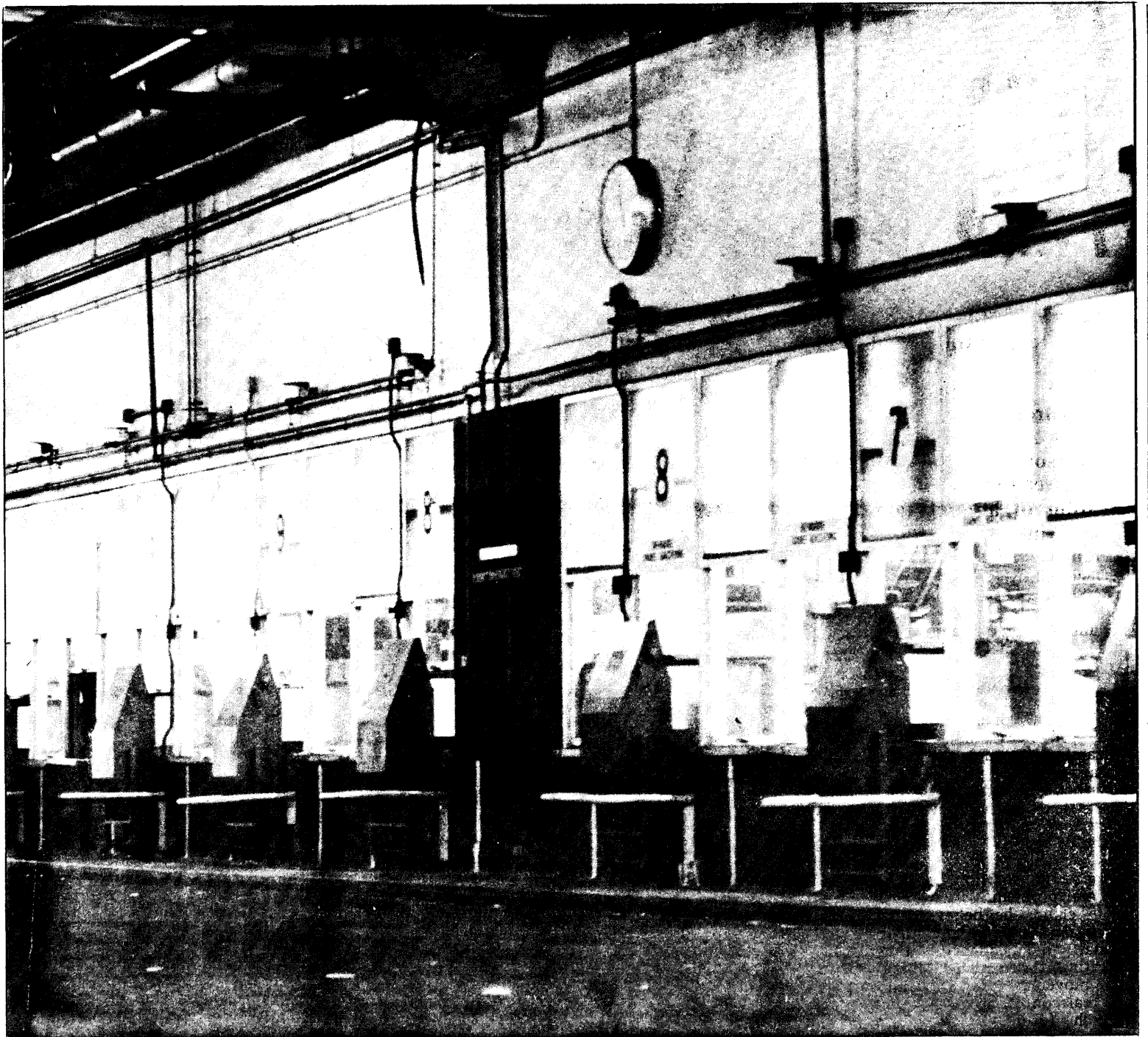
The union is much less happy about a development in the Midlands, where 17 miners transferred out of Cannock Wood colliery have initiated a NIRC case against the National Coal Board.

The men, who now work at Littleton Colliery, Cannock, and Lea Hall, Rugely, say their wages have slumped £15 because of the transfer. They claim the NCB has breached a collective agreement.

But the NUM's disquiet about their action seems to be less on principle, than on a conviction that they have little chance of winning the action.

A preliminary hearing in the NIRC has been arranged for January 16. The main issue on that occasion is expected to be whether a union branch can take such action, or whether it has to be a national approach.

Things may look like stalemate from Durham, but the legal trap is being sprung on the unions regardless.



Deserted dispatch bays on Fleet Street last Monday when engineers brought the Tory Press to a standstill.

THE BOSSES PRODUCE A SCAB NEWSPAPER

On Monday and for the third time this year during a national newspaper strike a group of Fleet Street journalists who claim to be solely motivated by their concern for 'freedom' have put out a scab newspaper.

But the latest eight-page stop-gap newsheet is a paper with a difference—it is financed and published by the virulently right-wing Aims of Industry.

The organization was formed after the war by big-business interests opposed to nationalization and ever since it has fought a series of poisonous campaigns aimed at defending private enterprise.

The outfit threw its money and organization behind last Monday's publication, a paper called, unsurprisingly, 'Free Enterprise News'.

Shock waves of working-class unrest, particularly over the Tory anti-union laws, have forced them to decide the time has come to organize the Street's right-wing and provide them with the means of public expression.

With the collapse of commodity values and currencies in world markets spurred on by the crisis of overproduction and competition, the capitalist class is moving rapidly toward taking its destiny directly into its own hands.

For the time being 'Free Enterprise News' is only a temporary measure. More important is the incursion of big business into the Street and its attempts to set up a directly partisan corp of writers first

to influence and then to gain complete control of the media.

This issue's front-page story slams Monday's strike of printing trade engineers in support of the AUEW as 'yet another step in the chain of events which poses a major threat to freedom of communication and opinion in Britain'.

Of course, the threat they are really worried about is not to 'freedom', but to the rule of capital.

The chain of events they refer to has confronted them more sharply than at any other time since 1926 with the question: who rules Britain—the capitalists or the working class?

Aims of Industry not only does not want to see the ruling class deprived of the means of pumping out its lies and distortions, it wants the campaign against the working class and all its organizations stepped up.

Lower down the anonymous front-page article it says the media are becoming 'news-papers and television for union extremists and the Free Communications Group.'

Significantly the same claim was made at the beginning of this month by Eire Justice Minister Desmond O'Malley when he dismissed the entire governing body of Radio Telefis Eireann for giving publicity to 'subversive and illegal organizations'.

The nine-man committee has been replaced by new controllers widely believed to be no more than puppets of the Fianna Fail government.

This is what Aims of Industry wants in Britain. This is the purpose of organizing Fleet Street's backward and bank-

rupt right wing.

'Already', says the article, 'we have seen newspapers forced to leave out material because of a possible strike.'

Their fear of the working class and its power is a mixture of paranoia and reality.

For instance, the article goes on to say: 'We had the unaccountable decision by "The Sunday Times" not to carry Aidan Crawley's article on extreme left influence in the trade unions.'

But as everybody who reads the capitalist gutter press knows, articles on the influence of extreme left-groups are two a penny.

And thousands of contributors to the nation's publications receive rejection slips every day—are they all the victims of a red plot to control the media? In nine cases out of ten there are more fundamental reasons.

There is, of course, yet another consideration. Most newspapers, including 'The Sunday Times', employ wherever possible and practical their own staff reporters on major series. So why should they use an outside man?

In any case, since Crawley's idea was 'rejected', 'The Sunday Times' has published a number of articles on the 'extreme left' and we know from personal experience that the editors would laugh outright at any suggestion that they could be intimidated into not publishing such material.

Few, if any, in the working class and its organizations have noticed that the capitalist Press ever had any difficulty in lashing out at them.

What concerns Aims of Industry is that they do not lash out hard enough and they

can see with every passing day the growing strength and confidence of the working class.

They know that entry into the Common Market can only make more intense the determination of the working class to fight and to defeat the masters of capital and their state machinery of exploitation and repression.

Aims of Industry says: hit out at all those who show the slightest sympathy for the policies of the organizations and leaders of the working class.

Infiltration of the media by 'left extremists', the article concludes, is 'a matter of urgency to be dealt with by government, the political parties, the television and radio authorities and by democratic trade unionists'.

They pointedly lump together Tory, Labour, Liberal and trade union 'moderates' in a corporate front against the 'extremists'.

Their conclusion is forthright. What is needed, they say, is a 'really free communications group that will oppose infiltration and blackmail of the media and campaign for free opinion at all times'.

In terms of a definition of 'free opinion' it is significant that the first article on the first page of the first issue of the new paper bases itself on the lie that 'The Sunday Times' consciously rejected an article for fear of industrial repercussions.

Nevertheless it remains true that big business has moved in to organize its supporters in the media to turn all the big guns of Press, radio and television against the working class and its organizations.

BRAZIL: MORE GUNS AS PEASANTS STARVE

BY JUAN GARCIA

The Foreign Minister of Brazil, Mario Gibson Barbosa, has just returned from a diplomatic tour of Africa in which he consolidated the progress already made in the creation of a joint task force in the South Atlantic.

Operated by Portugal, Brazil and South Africa, this force will defend the interests of imperialism in general and of the three police-states in particular.

One role for Brazil, sketched out by Barbosa, is the protection of the Portuguese 'over-seas provinces' in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.

Barbosa stated more than once that Brazil would be more than willing to serve as mediator between Portugal and these African countries to find a 'peaceful solution' to the colonial problem.

He claims he believes that Portugal should grant them formal independence, thus placating the national liberation movements, while retaining real control.

Such formulations are in keeping with a particular aim of the government of Garrastazu Medici—to inherit the African colonies of Portugal.

Many other good reasons for a South Atlantic 'peace-keeping' force have been found in recent months.

In August, Colonel Hermes Araujo, on a visit to Brazil from Portugal, stated: 'The West is unaware of the danger to the South Atlantic, concerning itself only with the defence of the North Atlantic.'

This followed an earlier warning from Foreign Minister of South Africa, Edgar Muller, that the General Staffs of the armed forces of Brazil and South Africa should urgently get together to study the defence of the South Atlantic.

Only a fortnight ago, Captain Gerard de Castel Baja



Brazilian peasants from the poverty stricken areas in the north east of the country—many live in sub-human conditions.

commander of a French fleet whose flagship is the helicopter-carrier 'Jeanne d'Arc'—engaged currently in joint manoeuvres with the Brazilian navy—stressed the strategic importance of Brazil:

'The closing of the Suez Canal has turned the South Atlantic into a vital area for the transport of petroleum and thus the Brazilian navy is an important element in the protection of the new international route.'

To fulfil its new military

requirements, the Brazilian government intends to spend \$250m revamping its navy.

That sum is part of a \$1,100m budget for the three branches of the armed forces: an outlay which is equivalent to an \$11 per capita outlay in military spending while less than \$3 go to education and \$2 to public health.

In some Brazilian states, 400 children out of every 1,000 die before they reach their first birthday.

According to government statistics 23 million Brazilians suffer from a disease known as 'amarelao', caused by worms which live near excrement and penetrate into the human body through contact with the sole of the foot.

In 1971, some 250,000 cases of leprosy were recorded.

It is completely in keeping with the parasitic nature of world imperialism and its puppet-state in Brazil that military expenditure is increased while millions starve

and live in sub-human conditions.

The naval re-equipment programme includes the purchase of six Vosper Thornycroft frigates and 25 minesweepers. Well beyond the budget set out in Brasilia, it is thought that NATO member-countries are offering 'extra-official' aid. The Heath and Pompidou governments particularly have expressed the need to include Brazil in discussions on the extension of the Treaty into the South Atlantic.

INSURANCE PARAGUAYAN STYLE

Employees of the state-run Port and Navigation firm in Paraguay have accused the management of making discounts from their wages in order to pay for insurance policies.

The President of the navigation service has apparently signed a contract with the Alliance Insurance Co under which all the employees of the state agency will take out life-insurance policies.

But they were not informed of the agreement until they spotted the extra deductions made from their wage packets.

The policies are in fact useless, given that no one knows what the benefits are and no receipts have been issued for 'premiums' paid.

The contract was eventually signed by a small number of men which grew when threats

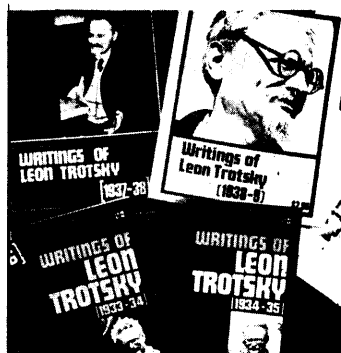
were issued by head of personnel relations Tomas Gimenez.

Gimenez holds office in the ruling Colorado Party which has an infamous reputation for graft and corruption in the service of United States corporations and their local patron, Alfredo Stroessner.

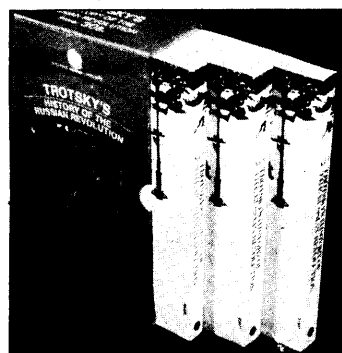
Another favourite source of income are the compulsory subscriptions to official publications paid by state employees. Stroessner boasts that sales of government literature show that his regime is popular.

Anyone who thinks such malpractices are the preserve of distant 'banana' republics has only to await the numerous special taxes which will appear after Britain's entry into the EEC, apart from the compulsory donations British workers already pay to the Monarchy and other well-stocked funds.

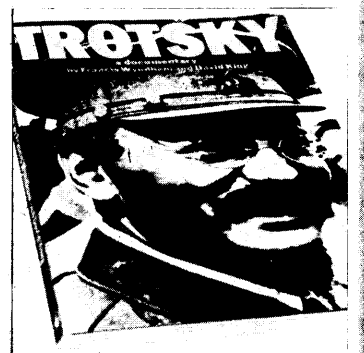
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PRICES: A GROCERS TALE

Stephen Johns investigates the cost of living this Christmas.

The people feeling the full backlash of the Tory prices fraud are that largely blameless section of the retail community—the back-street grocer.

The Tories find it useful to cultivate the myth that the small shopkeeper, who deals direct with the working-class consumer, is somehow responsible for prices.

The family grocer is an easy target, always on the spot to receive a complaint. The supermarket is an anonymous place. The hand that alters the price-tag is invisible—shoppers who question policy will be referred to head office. And the agitation usually ends there.

In fact the small grocer is

powerless. His prices are dictated by the big food combines (some of them with their own massive retail chains) and he survives against the supermarket only by staying open for incredibly long hours to catch off-peak custom.

He is, in fact, a fast disappearing breed of businessman. In 1967 there were 94,500 across-the-counter grocers. The number now is around 60,000 and the forecast for 1979 is 20,000.

The multiples (Fine Fare, Sainsbury, Tesco, etc) control the largest chunk of the market, with 43 per cent of turnover compared with the truly independent grocer's 20 per cent. By 1979, according to LINTAS the marketing agency, multiples will have swallowed 77 per cent of turnover.

The people who share the control of prices, therefore, are the supermarket chains and the food monopolies. In some cases the two sectors have merged into one vast organization. Hence Cavenham's, controlled by the high-flying financier Jimmy Goldsmith, markets the Bovril range of foods (Bovril, Marmite, Ambrosia rice etc), slimming breads (Slimcea, etc) AND runs the biggest private retail chain in Britain—Allied Suppliers—bought last January from Unilevers.

The Cavenham's retail empire, with the Wrights and Moores Stores interests added, has around 2,200 retail outlets and a turnover of over £300m a year—higher than any other grocery chain and three-fifths of the massive £535m annual

sales of the entire Co-operative Wholesale Society.

LUCRATIVE

The meteoric rise of Cavenham's and Goldsmith (staked by the King of Financiers, Jim Slater) is in sharp contrast to the decline of the corner-shop. Goldsmith bought his retail empire in less than two years and the transaction has proved extremely lucrative. Profits for the 32 weeks to November 11 were announced earlier this week at £11.16m compared to the £1.8m for the corresponding period of 1971—before the retail chain was added to the group.

Cavenham's and the other

big boys, like Associated British Foods, which controls Fine Fare, are the shadowy giants that the Tories never name. Yet they do control price by board decision.

The annihilation of the back-street grocer will be completed by entry into Europe. The death blow to the small independents will be Value Added Tax (VAT). Apart from making prices rise 'at a stroke', this innovation, borrowed from European capitalism, will present formidable administrative problems to the small man who cannot employ thousands of administrative staff like the multiples to work out the new rates.

Danny Doolan, who runs a small grocery shop in Islington, north London, thinks he may well be among the first crop of victims—especially after April when VAT becomes law.

Danny, who keeps open until midnight, told of his bitter experience under the so-called price freeze and the Tory government.

There have been a lot of price rises since the freeze. I have not noticed any big difference—sausages, cooked

meats have all gone up. The figures in 'The Grocer' and 'Shaw's Guide' speak for themselves.

The reason is simple—how can a price freeze work if the foods from abroad are outside control? Almost all the processed stuff we sell has some foreign food in it, so it's got to go up.

I think the government is basically trying to brainwash people over this freeze. People don't know much about prices, they don't know who calls the tune on prices, they just see the shopkeeper like me. But I can't do a thing about prices—it's all controlled by the big firms.

The big supermarkets have more of a chance. They have some power, but they don't really make, the concessions they could. There are just the odd price offers to get people into the shop, then the pressure goes on to make people buy more than they want to.

People are getting so punch drunk about prices that they don't bother to ask or question a price. They just accept it. I tell people when they go into supermarkets to keep a check on the price lists when

they get the bill—but people never do—it's too complicated for them or too much trouble.

The small shopkeeper is really finished. He can't compete against the supermarket. They order in bulk and they get concessions off. The small man can't do anything like that.

The small businessman everywhere is going under. You can see that we are following developments in places like America where the small man has been killed.

CREDIT

But this is only Tory policy. They don't have any interest in bokes like me. They look towards the big groups and the bankers in Zurich for their support. I can't understand shopkeepers; they are supposed to be Tory, but the Tories don't do them any good!

The effect on the ordinary person of the government policies is very noticeable. I notice it because I can study life in my shop. There is still the

appearance of some affluence, but it's all on credit.

Take the Christmas shopping, for example. Most people do it through the mail order firms—that's all on credit. The whole thing is resting on this debt. It looks prosperous, but it's not underneath.

But the real crunch for us and the buying public will come after we go into the Common Market. This VAT will cripple us. I can't work out the tax on the goods properly—I don't have the time or the staff—I've got to open all hours of the day now to get by. The whole thing is really designed to suit the big chains and the companies. The Common Market will mean they will get bigger and bigger at our expense.

And, of course, the public will not necessarily benefit. How will these big groups use their power—for themselves or for others? I can guess the answer to that one.

I have spoken to most of the small shopkeepers round here. They say that it's just not worth it after VAT. Most of them say they will pack up and get out before April.

This will have a bad effect.

I pity the old. For example, an old girl can come in the shop and you can help her to get what she wants and advise her. Some other times she will find she hasn't got enough, so you'll say 'All right darling, that's OK—you won't get that from the supermarkets. There's no credit there, even to the starving.

We've heard about the so-called freeze—I'd rather call it the squeeze, because that's exactly what is happening to people, they are being squeezed. When people begin to find themselves only £2 or £3 above the bread-line, then they really begin to get worried—and a lot are in this position now.

As for the old—I don't know how they live. One old girl I know is over 80. She went to get a job and they told her at the Labour Exchange she was too old. But, like she said, how can she manage? She puts half her pension in the meter.

It's the old, old story of the fight between the rich and the poor. But if you're rich you can just get richer, and if you're poor you're out. Things will stay like this unless there is a big change.

There is a big change. Tomorrow, Prices and Ireland—Britain's warning.

The supermarket—the hand that alters the price tag is invisible. Above left: Danny Doolan, small grocer—his prices are dictated by the huge food combines.

and so on—some of them really have to scrape to keep up appearances.

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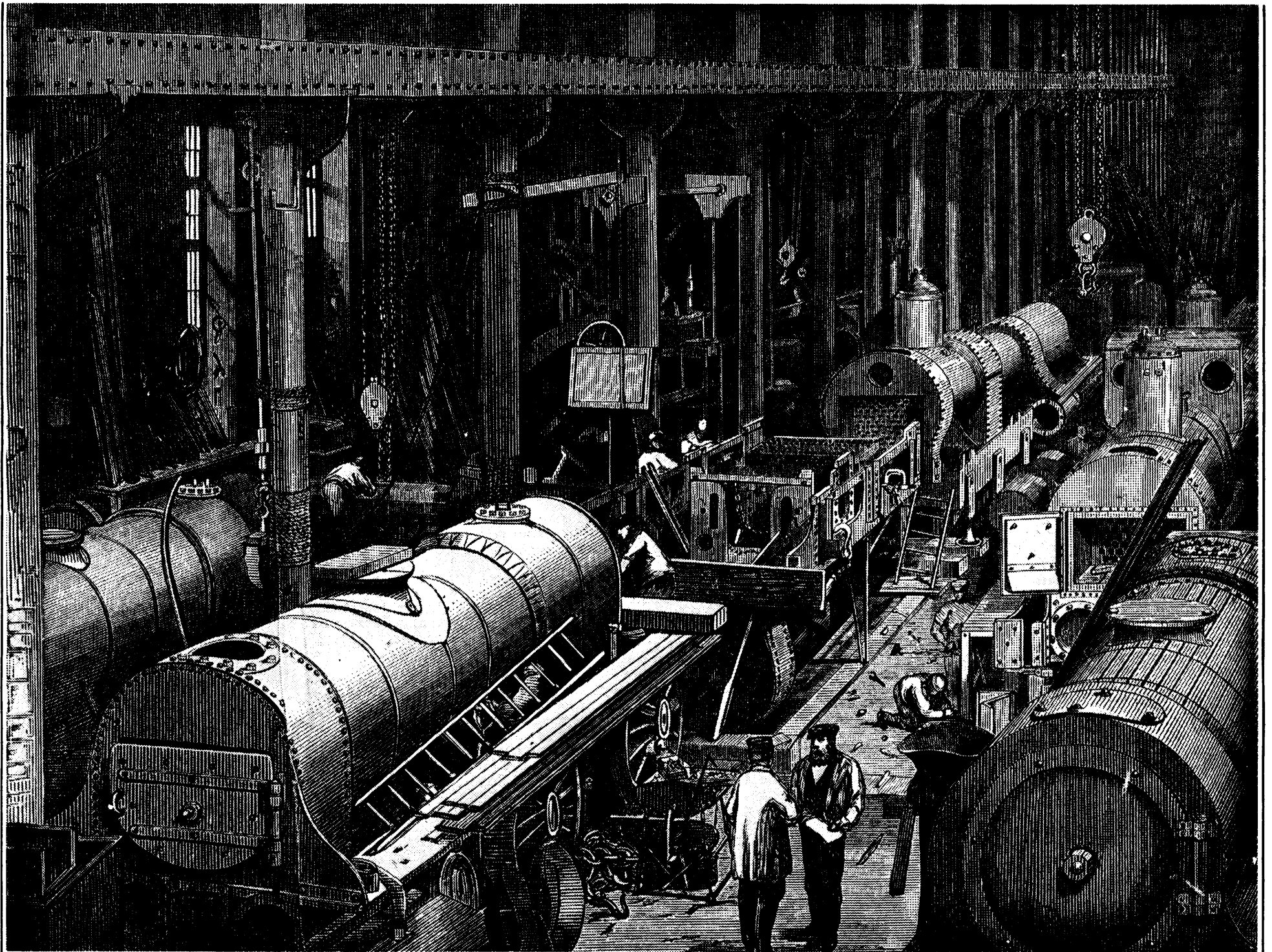
As for the old—I don't know how they live. One old girl I know is over 80. She went to get a job and they told her at the Labour Exchange she was too old. But, like she said, how can she manage? She puts half her pension in the meter.

There is a big change. Tomorrow, Prices and Ireland—Britain's warning.

SHOE-STRING

The signs of poverty are already there. More people are asking for stuff on tick. They can afford fewer luxuries like ice-cream and cakes and after the Common Market things will really begin to bite. The price rises I think are going to put a lot of fresh foods beyond the range of people.

It's not just the working class that is feeling it either. A lot of middle class have moved into Islington because of the property speculation. But they come in the shop and some of them are living on a shoe-string. They have the mortgage to pay on a house inflated in price, a car to run,



The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is today in the forefront of the struggle against the Tory government's Industrial Relations Act. Here a special correspondent highlights important and significant episodes in the history of the engineers' fight to build their union against the employers, their governments and their courts.

HOW THE ENGINEERS BUILT THEIR UNION

Part two: The employers on the attack and the first lock-outs to the recovery in the mid-1850s, when Britain was the 'workshop of the world'.

Determined to stamp out redundancy in the light of recent experience when the financial resources of the union were exhausted in contributions for the maintenance of unemployed union members, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (A S E) adopted an aggressive policy with regard to control over conditions of work.

The ASE faced an early test of its strength in the lock-out of 1852, the first of three lock-outs in the history of engineering unions.

In April 1851, the 1,500 engineers employed by Hibbert and Platt Oldham at the largest engineering factory in Europe

went on strike against imposed overtime, the increased introduction of apprentices and piecework. Platt announced certain concessions on all the issues, boosting the confidence of the ASE to make the demands an object of national policy.

Throwing down the gauntlet to the masters the executive council sent circulars to all branches, instructing them to refuse to work systematic overtime after December 31, 1851. The ASE entered the struggle without making adequate preparations, the leaders expecting the employers to be deterred by the prospect of confronting a formidable organization like the ASE and consequently expecting them to be eager to grant terms to the advantage of the craftsmen.

At the end of November 1851 the union offered arbitration and an independent inquiry

as the best means of settlement, but was immediately rebuffed by the united opposition of the biggest employers in the London and Manchester areas, organized for a showdown in the 'Central Association of Employers and Operative Engineers'.

A witch-hunt led by 'The Times' was launched against the ASE and its aims, equating the engineers' demands for full and regular employment with those of the co-operative socialists' workshops set up in Paris and elsewhere in France during the 1848 Revolution.

Thus Lord Shaftesbury, the philanthropic friend of the factory children, congratulated the employers on the eve of the lock-out for their 'bold, manly and righteous course of resistance to the Louis Blanc conspiracy of the mechanics and engineers'.

Lord Cranworth, to whom the Society leadership had naively looked as a possible arbitrator, declared unequivocally the real intentions of the masters to crush the ASE, then the largest and most organized body of workers in the country.

'We must take leave to say that we alone are the complete judges of our businesses; that we are respectively the masters of our own establishments; and that it is our firm determination to remain so,' he said.

After locking out their employees on January 10, 1852, the masters then presented the 'Document' which contained demands for full control over hours and terms of labour, outlawing trade union interference in such matters.

The employers followed the precedent set by the master tailors and master builders who used the weapon of the 'Document' to force a return to work after the great strikes of 1833.

Wilting before the threat of the employers' charter to end effective trade unionism, the ASE's executive council re-

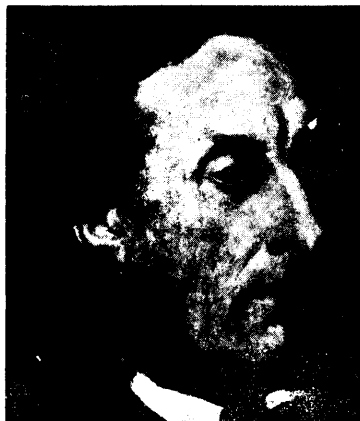
duced their demands in March and offered to withdraw them completely if the employers withdrew the hated 'Document'.

The employers refused and after a solid, four-month strike, which had virtually bankrupted union funds, the ASE had to admit defeat. There were bitter lessons for the future. It had been assumed that their numerical and organized strength would be sufficient to win the required aims without recourse to strike action.

William Newton, the engineers' leader, reflected after the event: 'It was never intended that the expressed intentions of the circular should be carried out by anything approaching a strike,' admitting that the employers took the initiative to provoke the conflict on their own terms.

Motivating the employers was the uniform determination to stamp out at its birth the first formidable amalgamated body of workers since the federated unions of the early 1830s, regardless of the costs in the short term, even in the expanding market conditions of 1852.

The employers' stand did not achieve its purpose, namely the disintegration of the ASE. In the boom of the 1850s most masters learned to recognize the propriety of avoiding costly disputes.



Lord Shaftesbury—congratulated the employers on the lock-out.

Shop floor of Stephenson steam-locomotive factory during the 1850s when Britain was the 'undisputed workshop of the world' and the ASE led struggles for improved conditions and pay.

Similarly, the industrial expansion provided opportunities of regular employment and an increase in real wages for skilled engineering craftsmen, and at the same time the conditions for recovery of trade union organizations.

A new pattern of relations was established in the mid-Victorian boom years after 1852 when Britain was the undisputed 'workshop of the world'. While the machinery of consultation and negotiations brought mutual arrangements, the strike weapon was never established in principle, the 'model' ASE using it sparingly in practice.

However, it would be a mistake to regard the years from 1852 until the upsurge of industrial and political unrest of 1866-1867 as years of quiescence in which the ASE as the 'new model' union was obsessed with the accumulation of funds and the paying out of benefits.

On occasions, when employers tried to introduce 'illegal men' into the workshop, the threat and the use of strike action and the tactic of 'passive resistance' was adopted to protect conditions.

In this period of relative peace between the classes, the machinery of existing law was often used against trade unionists. The ambiguity of the 1825 Act on the law of picketing gave wide discretionary powers to magistrates to take action against workers, indicting them for the alleged offence of threatening or intimidating behaviour against employers and 'scabs'.

The notorious Masters' and Servants' Act secured convictions against any worker who, by leaving his place of work, thereby broke his contract with the employer.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

'EXPERT'

Guess who was at Buckingham Palace last week — Brigadier Frank Kitson. He follows in the footsteps of other recent callers like electricians' leader Frank Chapple. Kitson is the army's 'expert' on counter-insurgency. He has a number of controversial theories including the use of the army to 'restore the situation rapidly' if the working class challenges the ruling class.



Kitson received a military honour for his work in Northern Ireland and was then appointed head of the Infantry Training School at Warminster. One can only speculate about the type of discussion he enjoyed with Herself and the Duke.

TRADITIONAL

The French CP is above all a party of tradition and order. And nothing could have been more traditional than the elections to the Central Committee at this year's Congress.

Re-elected were old Stalinist stalwarts Benoit Franchon (69) and Jacques Duclos (77).

The Party federation from Val-de-Marne continues to be over-represented, continuing the tradition begun by Maurice Thorez when he was head of that region.

Secretary Marchais comes from the Vale-de-Marne, as does Charles Fitermann, his secretary, and Marcel Trigon, the mayor of Arcueil, both newly-elected to the CC.

PROJECT

Joe Kenyon, leader of the Claimants' and Unemployed Workers' Union, has found a job. But he is to continue as the 'union's' leader, despite the fact that he is earning close on £40 a week with the Batley Community Development Project.

Kenyon (57), a former miner, founded the Claimants' Union with the aim of assisting the unemployed to obtain their full benefits at the dole.

The Batley project is being organized by York University and... the Home Office. 'We are trying to develop community activities and get people involved in play groups, pensioners' clubs and community associations,' Kenyon said.

TORY VICTIMS

The ultra-Tory 'Evening Standard', owned by the multi-million pound Beaverbrook Press, is currently featuring one of its sickening Christmas pantomimes.

It began on Saturday when the 'Standard' noted the plight of Mrs Elizabeth Mosley, an 89-year-old pensioner who had her life savings—£30—stolen from her.

The idea, of course, was to get more stories on the money sent to Mrs Mosley by readers. Then the 'Standard', the supporter of every anti-working class measure of the Tory government, could pose as the defender of the poor and weak.

Sure enough Tuesday's paper pictured Mrs Mosley holding up the money.

No one belittles the plight of Mrs Mosley or begrudges her relief at being saved from a poverty-stricken Christmas. But the trumpeting of the Tory Press barons is appalling. While they focus attention on their own good samaritan role, a recent survey found that 100 old people will die of hypothermia (loss of body heat) over Christmas. These are the unrecorded victims of Tory rule.



LIFE (AND DEATH) ON THE OCEAN WAVES

BY A GUEST REVIEWER

'The Poseidon Adventure' is a suspense melodrama about an attempted escape by ten passengers out through the hull of a capsized ocean liner. At a deeper level, it is about a conflict between passive Christian acceptance and a pragmatic, do-it-yourself philosophy advocated by a preacher who is prepared to fight God if he has to.

As an adventure, the film is passable entertainment, mainly because of the novelty of a giant liner upside down in the water through the bowels of which the passengers have to clamber, pursued by the ever-rising waters in a bid to locate the propeller-shaft where theory has it, the steel plating of the hull is less thick than elsewhere.

The melodrama that goes with the frantic search for ducts and passageways not blocked by fire or water is less tolerable. A lot of predictable hysterics, tough-talking, and maudlin last farewells to dying comrades which the dialogue (Stirling Silliphant and Wendell Maes) frequently renders farcical.

Example: a rather pathetic girl folk-singer (Carol Lynley) cradles the head of her dead

guitar-playing brother saying 'Please wake up, George', or something similar. Whereupon a perceptive haberdasher (Red Buttons) says: 'He's dead, Nonnie.' To which the girl replies, after suitable pause for thought: 'Did you like his music?'

The other drama, in which the unorthodox preacher (Gene Hackman) takes on just about everybody, God included, in a bid to will his shipmates to fight for survival, despite the fact that all repeatedly seems lost, is more plausibly interesting except for the final scene. The reverend decides that a steam-jet blocking their path is a direct challenge from God and swings into action shouting abuse at the Most High... only to come a cropper.

The vicar's main line of argument, both before and after the shipwreck, is that God is not someone to pray to but is a somewhat mean outsider who is sympathetic to those who are prepared to fight for themselves.

'Be strong' is his constant advice.

It is a harking back to those good old American virtues of honest, hard-working pragmatism, which have become quite a feature of recent Hollywood films under the influence of US capitalism's decay.

His main opponents are the 'let's die quietly' line of a fellow parson; the conservative 'let's all stay in our places until help arrives' line of the purser;

the conformist 'let's do what everyone else is doing' line of the dumb cop (Ernest Borgnine); and the general timidity of everyone else, the little ten-year-old boy excepted.

Virtue (struggle) is eventually rewarded and the party are saved, but at a depressingly high cost in 'sacrifices'—the three best of the survivors all get killed—claimed by the vengeful God. The moral is: nothing worthwhile is ever achieved without great sacrifice.

Paradoxically, the ship's company only got into their watery plight in the first place due to that other good old American get-up-and-go virtue of sheer commercial ruthlessness.

The ship capsized because the owners refused to let the captain slow down and correct the boat's ballast.

But this aspect is never subsequently developed in the film and the point is suitably softened for Hollywood consumption by making a greasy foreigner called Linarcos the grasping capitalist who snarls 'Every minute's delay is costing our company money'.

Gene Hackman, is superb as the somewhat implausible man-of-action preacher, not too loony, but not too sane either. As a piece of acting, it is as good as his obsessional cop in the 'French Connection'. It is almost good enough to make the film worth seeing—but not quite.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign
Support the Engineers

DAGENHAM: Thursday December 28, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, corner of Fanshawe Ave/Longbridge Rd.

WATFORD: Monday January 1, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall (upstairs), Woodford Road, opposite Watford Junction station.

LIVERPOOL: Thursday December 28, 8 p.m. 'The Mitre', Dale Street.

CENTRAL LONDON (Press and Entertainments branch): Sunday December 31, 3 p.m. Inns of Court Mission, Drury Lane/Broad Court. 'The Common Market'. Speaker: John Spencer (Workers Press).

ACTON: Monday January 1, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Crisp Street Market, E14.

WEST LONDON: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, King's Cross.

BRACKNELL: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre.

LETCWORTH: Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. Trades Hall.

TOTTENHAM: Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayer's Arms', Tottenham High Road.

WOOLWICH: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road.

BBC 1

9.40 Sky at night. 10.00 Desert crusader. 10.25 Before the event. 10.50-11.00 Huckleberry hound. 11.30 Smiley gets a gun. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble mill at one. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 Droopy. 2.00 Cradle of England. 2.30 Film: 'Miracle on 34th Street'. Maureen O'Hara, John Payne. Is there really a Santa Claus? 4.00 Clangers. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Crystal Tipps. 4.40 Jackanory playhouse. 5.15 Record breakers. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 **NATIONWIDE.**
6.50 **THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW.**
7.15 **THE VIRGINIAN: MEN FROM SHILOH.** With Love, Bullets and Valentines.
8.30 **DAD'S ARMY.** Round and Round Went the Great Big Wheel.
9.00 **NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.** Weather.
9.25 **INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING.** Dunhill International Show Jumping Championships.
10.15 **THE SPINNERS AT CHRISTMAS.**
10.50 **LATE NIGHT NEWS.**
10.55 **FILM: 'VIVA MARIA.'** Brigitte Bardot, Jeanne Moreau. Two women become involved in the Mexican revolution.
12.45 **Weather.**

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.
7.05 **SEARCH FOR THE IDEAL.** Reflections on Neo-Classicism.
7.30 **NEWSROOM.** Weather.
8.00 **MONEY AT WORK.** The Poverty of Nations.
9.00 **FILM: 'UN HOMME ET UNE FEMME' (A Man and a Woman).** Directed by Claude Lelouch, with Anouk Aimee, Jean-Louis Trintignant. Love story set against the Côte d'Azur and the Monte Carlo rally.
10.50 **FILM NIGHT.** The Golden Age of the Hollywood Musical.
11.20 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.
11.25 **POEMS AND PRINTS.** The Welsh look wryly at themselves and others.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Let's face it. 3.00 Film: 'The Over the Hill Gang Rides Again'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.30 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Report. 6.35 London. 8.30 Film: 'The Last Safari'. 10.00 London. 11.18 Film: 'Taste of Fear'. 12.40 News, weather.
WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 Rovers. 9.55 Gilbert and Sullivan. 10.45 Let them live.

11.10 Jackson five. 11.35 Last stand. 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 11.15 News. 12.40 Faith for life.
SOUTHERN: 10.00 Torchy. 10.15 Film: 'The Rebel'. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Galloping gourmet. 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Weekend Christmas Special. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by

day. Scene SE. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 London. 11.15 News. 11.25 Film: 'Frankenstein'. 12.40 Weather. Guideline.
HARLECH: 12.05 London. 1.00 Let them live. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'Foreign Exchange'. 9.00 Larry's Christmas party. 10.00 London. 11.15 Who was Maddox? 12.15 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 4.25-4.50 Stesion cantamil. 6.016.18 Y dydd. 10.30 Outlook. 11.00 Sports arena. 11.35 It's Charlie Williams. 12.20 Weather.
HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West.

ANGLIA: 10.30 Jake's scene. 10.55 Holy land. 11.20 Joe 90. 11.50 Cartoons. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 3.30 Dick Van Dyke. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'Along Came a Spider'. 10.00 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Charlie Williams. 11.45 Film: 'The Trunk'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 10.45 Royal Marines. 11.05 UFO. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.20 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'The Last Safari'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Film: 'Topkapl'. Weather.

ULSTER: 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Women today. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Randall and Hopkirk. 4.23 News. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'The Mystery of the Wax Museum'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Spectrum. 11.45 Partners.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 Let them live. 10.00 We need each other. 10.50 Funky phantom. 11.20 Gilbert and Sullivan. 12.05 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Jimmy Stewart. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'Danger Route'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Film: 'A Raw Wind in Eden'. 12.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.30 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Paint book. 12.05 London. 3.25 Smith family. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.30 TV funnies. 4.50 London. 5.15 Turnbull's finest half hour. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30 Doctor at large. 7.00 Anna and the king. 7.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'King Kong v Godzilla'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Kick off. 11.45 Theatre macabre.

TYNE TEES: 9.35 Make a wish. 10.00 We need each other. 10.50 Ugliest girl in town. 11.20 Gilbert and Sullivan. 12.05 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Yoga. 3.00 London. 3.25 Danger man. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Me and the chimp. 5.50 London. 6.00 today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'Gold of the Seven Saints'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Film: 'Foreign Exchange'. 12.30 News

BORDER: 11.35 Bath, preserved. 12.05 London. 2.00 Love American style. 2.30 London. 3.25 Danger man. 4.25 Jackson five. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'Danger Route'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Parliamentary report. 11.45 Film: 'House of Mystery'.

SCOTTISH: 10.05 First principles. 10.50 Katie Stewart cooks. 11.15 Sky hawks. 11.40 Phoenix five. 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 3.30 It takes a thief. 4.25 Nanny and the professor. 4.50 London. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Protectors. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 Film: 'Danger Route'. 10.00 London. 10.30 Friday night. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Cimarron strip.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Cowboy in Africa. 12.02 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Dick Van Dyke. 2.30 London. 3.25 Shirley's world. 3.55 And mother makes three. 4.20 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson at teatime. 6.30 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'Pardners'. 11.15 Film: 'Shock'. 12.21 Meditation.



Jeanne Moreau and Brigitte Bardot as Maria I and Maria O'Malley II in tonight's World Cinema presentation on BBC 1—'Viva Maria'.

ITV

9.30 Some great painters. 10.00 Film: 'Go Man Go'. Dane Clark, Sidney Poitier, Patricia Breslin. Story of the Harlem Globetrotters. 11.35 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Happy house. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Time was... 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Junkin. 3.25 Marcus Welby, MD. 4.20 Adventures of Gulliver. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 Nanny and the professor. 5.50 News.
6.00 **TODAY.**
6.35 **CROSSROADS.**
7.00 **THE PROTECTORS.** The Bodyguards.
7.30 **LARRY'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.** Larry Grayson with guests Mike and

TV

Bernie Winters, Noele Gordon, Rod Hull, Heathmore, Lionel Blair and his dancers.
8.30 **FILM: 'HONEYMOON WITH A STRANGER.'** Janet Leigh, Rossano Brazzi. A woman tries to prove the man claiming to be her husband is an imposter.
10.00 **NEWS.**
10.30 **IT'S CHARLIE WILLIAMS.**
11.15 **IT MATTERS TO ME.**
11.25 **MCCLOUD.** Dennis Weaver.

SLL LECTURES

TODMORDEN
Monday January 8
'The economic crisis'
Monday January 22
'Stalinism'
Monday February 5
'Trotskyism'
THE WEAVERS' INSTITUTE, Burnley Road,
7.30 p.m.
SHEFFIELD
Monday January 8

HULL
Wednesday January 10
Stalinism and Trotskyism
Wednesday January 24
Marxist theory and the revolutionary party
WHITE HART HOTEL
Alfred Gelder Street
(near Drypool Bridge)
8 p.m.
Marxism and the revolutionary party
FORRESTERS HALL
Trippett Lane, 7.30 p.m.

TOMORROW: On pages 10 and 11 Details of four days' TV viewing over the Christmas period

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Wide support at Kent Council of Action

ORPINGTON and Sidcup Council of Action recently held its first delegate conference centred on the struggle against rising prices and rents.

Secretary Phil Hunter, from the Sovex factory, explained the history of Councils of Action dating back from the 1926 British General Strike and Councils set up in Russia before the 1917 Revolution.

Laurie Smith, conference chairman and delegate from the Erith district committee of AUEW, spoke of the fight for leadership inside the labour movement and the need to mobilize the working class in support of the engineering union's struggle against the £55,000 fines imposed for defying the Tories' Industrial Relations Act.

A member of St Paul's Cray Tenants' Association spoke bitterly of the betrayal of Labour councillors throughout the country in refusing to stand out against the Housing Finance Act.

He saw the setting up of the Council of Action as 'a miniature TUC in this area' because of the refusal of the present leaders to fight the Tory government.

A lively discussion followed involving trade unionists, Labour Party members and shop stewards. Represented at the conference were several members of Ward Labour Parties, the AUEW district committee, major factories in the area, such as Klinger's, and from the main political organizations in the locality.

The conference agreed to plan a campaign against rising prices in the area and also passed the following resolution:

☾ This meeting of Orpington and Sidcup Council of Action calls on all workers in the area to support the struggle of the AUEW against the attacks and fines imposed on them by the Industrial Relations Court. Defence of the stand made by this union is in the vital interests of all workers. Resolutions and sympathetic action are essential to further this struggle as is the demand that the TUC brings into action the whole of the trade union movement in support of the engineers and bring down this Tory government. ☽

Lowthian to retire

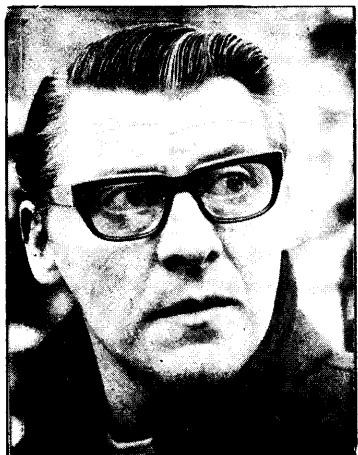
MR GEORGE LOWTHIAN, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers for 21 years, will retire next month on reaching the age of 65.

Carlisle-born Lowthian has been secretary of the builders' section of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians since the AUBTW became part of the new union last year.

He has been a member of the TUC General Council since 1951 and was chairman in 1963-1964.

THE ASSOCIATION of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs yesterday withdrew its application to the industrial court against Horizon Holidays, the west London travel firm which dismissed four union members engaged in a recognition dispute.

Union secretary Clive Jenkins told the court that after 'friendly, civilized and orderly'



Albert Crawley



Joe Hennessey



Tom Staples



Mike Reynolds

Trade unionists are adamant

We will not allow the Tories to trample on our rights

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

WORKERS all over the country have shown they are prepared to come out and fight the Tories and the capitalist Press has been forced to eat its own words.

There were no stories about the 'great revolt' in the Press yesterday morning after Wednesday's series of massive strikes against the £55,000 fines imposed on the engineers which shut down major factories and docks in the north-west, the Midlands and London.

But the occasion provided an opportunity to examine past policy on the campaign against the Industrial Relations Act and the National Industrial Relations Court.

At Liverpool one question overshadowed the 1,500-strong demonstration—were protest politics enough?

Workers, including many members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, made two important points. They criticized the engineers' leadership for not calling national strike action and condemned heads of other unions for failing to support the campaign.

ALBERT CRAWLEY, T&GWU shop steward at Dunlop, Speke, said about 2,500 workers from the AUEW and the T&GWU had supported the action.

'The men have responded to this call. We should have been told to come out by our leaders alongside the AUEW,' he said.

AT VAUXHALL's 10,000 workers were on strike. JOE HENNESSEY, shop steward, said: 'This campaign must be just the beginning. I think our executive should have got off the fence and given us a directive for a complete stoppage and I think the T&GWU leadership should have got off the fence too.'

TOM STAPLES, AUEW shop steward at Clohurst (formerly Fisher-Bendix) said: 'The call was to defend our union. This is exactly what we are doing and will go on doing. In my opinion this campaign has been a success, because it has proved to the Tories that the working class will not allow their rights to be trampled on.'



Dave Martin



George Stratton

MIKE REYNOLDS, shop steward at Lucas aerospace, where 2,000 failed to show up for work, including the staff, said: 'We are 100 per cent behind the policy of the union. We identify ourselves completely with the national committee decision of total non-co-operation with the Act.'

GEORGE STRATTON, divisional organizer of TASS, the technical section of the AUEW, said: 'One way to hit this government and the court is to make sure that whatever fines are

imposed, the cost of the strikes which result from those fines is ten times greater.'

DAVE MARTIN, a member of the CAV Fazakerley occupation committee, said: 'This fight is as important as our fight for the right to work. They both involve the rights of the whole working class. But I think this one-day strike and protest action is inadequate. Only a General Strike and the removal of the Tories will solve the problem for good.'

Graduates' job prospects are at a new low

EMPLOYMENT prospects for graduates are worse now than at any time since the 1930s, claims the Hull University annual report.

Two years ago, less than 3 per cent of Hull graduates were likely to be still seeking jobs six

months after leaving, but now more than double this figure is normal.

The number of employers who have visited

the university to recruit students has dropped drastically and only half the number of interviews between prospective employers and

undergraduates were arranged compared with a year ago.

The Hull report comes at a time when Department of Employment figures forecast a worsening situation for graduates.

Cut-backs planned in student accommodation

MAJOR CUTBACKS in student accommodation at universities and polytechnics are proposed in a report from the House of Commons Expenditure Committee.

The Committee—made up of six Tory MPs and three Labour MPs under the chairmanship of Tory Mr Niel Marten—recommends that over the coming period home-

based students at universities and polytechnics should be increased. To encourage this they say that 'no further purpose-built accommodation for students should be made'.

Another sweeping change proposed in the report is that the current £106m a year for mandatory grants to degree-level students should be transferred from local education authorities to central government.

Local authorities, it says, should retain powers to award discretionary grants to students,

but the Department of Education should lay down detailed guidelines for their application.

The report suggests the establishment of a National Careers Advisory Service to help students, schools and universities.

It wants to see a major shake-up in the whole structure of higher education through the creation of a Higher Education Commission. This would bring under the same administrative and financial umbrella the present separate autonomous university sector and the local-authority financed polytechnic sector of higher education.

Mentioning the recent sharp rise in graduate unemployment over the past few years, the report suggests the setting up of a new Manpower Council, made up of local Department of Employment representatives, employers' organizations, trade unionists and academics.

This Council, say the MPs, would cut the 'mis-match' between the output from the universities and polytechnics and the needs of the labour market.

Action in Acton against picket-breakers

MANUAL workers at CAV (Acton) are taking action against office workers who crossed the picket line on Monday when 2,800 workers were on strike against the fine on the AUEW.

Manual workers at the plant struck 100 per cent and 60 per cent of the office staff joined them.

These workers are angry at people who, they say, are all too willing to take any increase which is won by trade unionism but are slow to defend it when it is attacked.

One tele-controller has been told that any instructions he announces over the monitoring system will be ignored.

Another section has had its heating cut off, no escalators there are in operation and work from it has been blacked.

discussions with company chief Vladimir Raitz, the members had been reinstated.

Both ASTMS and Horizon had agreed to collaborate with a Commission on Industrial Relations inquiry—ordered by the court last week—into the recognition issue.

Jenkins said afterwards that he expected no recriminations from the TUC about his decision

to lodge the application, or to collaborate with the CIR.

Both these actions fell within the category of self-defence, he claimed, since the CIR inquiry had been initiated by Employment Minister Maurice Macmillan. Such self-defence was sanctioned by the TUC.

The TUC had been told informally before the application was lodged, Jenkins said.

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WE'RE almost there. Another great last-minute effort and we will complete our Fund by Monday.

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Banzer claims Castro plot

GENERAL Banzer's military dictatorship in Bolivia claims a Castroite-Chinese plot to assassinate him has been foiled. Interior Minister Mario Adett Zamora says Castro gave \$300,000 to finance the operation, code-named 'Loto Rojo Tachai'. The assassins were four foreigners linked with the National Liberation Front—the body founded by guerrilla leader Che Guevara, who was captured and brutally murdered by the Bolivian army in 1967.

More strikes planned against fines on AUEW Engineers will fight on

TENS OF THOUSANDS of engineers are planning to continue their strikes against the massive fine on the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

More one-day strikes will hit Merseyside, Tyneside and Leeds in the New Year and in Liverpool a call for national action was narrowly defeated.

A demand for the leadership of the engineering union for all-out strike was narrowly defeated at a key Merseyside shop stewards meeting with members of the Communist Party voting against.

The vote at the Liverpool engineers' shop stewards' quarterly meeting was 34-32 against

Stalinists obstruct action

a call for the executive council of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers to organize a national stoppage and to campaign for an emergency conference of the TUC.

Communist Party stewards said a demand for a national strike would 'confuse' matters. They said that shop stewards had to start from the situation as it was and that there would not be support for a national stoppage.

An amendment was passed giving support to the one-day strike of all Merseyside workers called by the Merseyside Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Movers of the national strike call pointed out that it encompassed the one-day action and added they were prepared

to move another resolution to come out on the 19th.

Over 3,000 Merseyside car workers at the two Triumph plants went on strike yesterday against the fines on the engineers' union.

The timing of their walk-out—which began with the night shift on Wednesday night—means the factories will not re-open as usual today.

A company spokesman said that the Christmas holiday would normally have started with the shutdown today, but the one-day strike meant closing down a day earlier.

So the Triumph workers began their Christmas holiday on Wednesday night and production will not resume until next Wednesday morning.

At their quarterly meeting 300 Belfast AUEW shop stewards passed a resolution pledging full support to the union's executive in opposing the fine. Earlier eight branches in the city passed similar resolutions.

Thirty thousand engineers on Tyneside will be called out on strike over the fine on January 8. The strike decision has been taken by the AUEW district committee, but it may also affect other workers.

The Newcastle and Blyth Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions is convening a meeting of its 1,500 shop stewards to decide whether to join in the action.

Engineers in Leeds are to strike on New Year's day after a unanimous decision by the AUEW district committee on Wednesday night.

Swansea district committee of the AUEW decided on Wednesday to call a one-day strike of 8,000 workers on January 5.



Asian hosiery workers on their picket line.

We want our jobs: Asians stick out

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

THE ASIAN workers at Mansfield Hosiery's Loughborough mills will not call off their two-month strike until a firm agreement can be reached on the training of a number of them as knitters.

At the same time, strike leaders have made a plea for unity with the white workers at the mills.

A meeting yesterday morning rejected the recommendation in the Robinson report on the dispute which dealt with the recruitment of 41 non-Asian workers as trainee knitters by the company during the strike.

Former Labour Minister Kenneth Robinson said the company should place the 41 job vacancies in a pool which would be competed for on merit by the Asian workers and the new recruits.

'We want a reasonable number of Asian workers trained as knitters,' said Benny Bunsee, the strikers' spokesman, yesterday.

He said the strike committee had moved from their original demand for the sacking of the 41 trainee knitters.

'We did regard them as strike-breakers and scabs,' said Bunsee, given a vote of confidence by the strikers following an attack on him by Kenneth Robinson.

'But we don't want to create any division between black and white workers,' he added. 'We don't want to provoke any strikes by white workers against us. The strikers want to work together with the other workers in the mills. That is our main aim.'

More talks between the strikers, union leaders and management will take place at the Department of Employment's Birmingham office today. If any agreement is reached, it is understood the return to work will take place on January 2.

MI5 man on Official Secrets charge

A MEMBER of the British security service, MI5, appeared in a Dublin court yesterday charged with offences under the Irish Official Secrets Act.

He is John Wyman of Swan Walk, Chelsea. Wyman and a senior official of the Irish security were charged with possessing and passing secret information prejudicial to the state.

Wyman was charged that between August 1 and December 19 he obtained official information from Patrick Crinnion when he was aware or had reasonable grounds for believing that the communication of such information would be in contravention of the Act.

He was also charged that he did, in a manner prejudicial to the safety or preservation of the state, between August 1 and

December 18, attempt to obtain documents containing information relating to matter or information which would or might be prejudicial to the safety or preservation of the state in contravention of the Act.

Crinnion was charged that on December 19 at the Burlington Hotel car park, Dublin, he did in a manner prejudicial to the safety or preservation of the state have in his possession or under his control, documents containing information relating to matter, information which would or

might be prejudicial to the safety or preservation of the state, in contravention of the Act.

He was further charged that between August 1 and December 19 at the Phoenix Park police headquarters he wrongfully retained in his possession official documents and that he communicated these documents to Wyman.

During their brief court appearance Detective Inspector Patrick Doocey said both men were arrested on Wednesday night in Chancery Street, Dublin.

DPP to get 'rail leak' report

THE SCOTLAND YARD report into the 'railway leak' case is likely to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions before Christmas.

CI Department, the political police, have completed their inquiries into the 'Railway Gazette' and 'The Sunday Times', who published a secret

report on plans to cut the rail labour force by about 20,000 men.

The Yard report is believed to contain the name of the person who is said to have handled the photocopy of the report.

During the inquiry the editor of 'The Sunday Times' was threatened with the Official

Secrets Act and there were allegations of phone-tapping. The police have been accused of tapping the phones of the 'Railway Gazette' to get this information—a charge they deny.

The DPP will have to consider if any offences under the Theft Act could be sustained in connection with the photocopy.

In London the Prime Minister's Department and the Ministry of Defence refused to comment.

BRIEFLY • BRIEFLY

NATIONAL Industrial Relations Court yesterday dismissed an appeal by Ronald King, London regional secretary of the Telecommunications Staff Association, against an industrial tribunal decision. King complained the Post Office has not fully informed its staff of its rights under the Act. He said the Post Office regional director refused him an interview about aspects of the Act.

Sir John Brightman, who chaired the three-man court, said that although the TSA had registered under the Act, neither the

Act nor the Code of Industrial Practice required employers to recognize 'every single union which workers like to form and register'. The court has still to give judgment on the TSA's main application for recognition by the Post Office.

GOVERNMENT called in £440m from the big banks yesterday in another bid to halt the growth in money supply. The measure follows the £220m already frozen by the Bank of England and will hit investment. This will make the government's 5 per cent growth target more difficult to achieve.

30,000 steel jobs cut in ten years

AT LEAST another 30,000 steelworkers will lose their jobs in the next ten years under plans announced yesterday for rationalizing the ailing British steel industry.

Production will be concentrated in five centres, and outdated plant will be run down. Up to £3,000m will be spent in ten years by British Steel Corporation, most of it on a new

7 million ton plant at Lackenby.

BSC has sacked 27,000 since nationalization and announced another 20,000 redundancies. The 30,000 mentioned yesterday are on top of these figures.

Eric Varley, Opposition spokesman on steel, said the Tories were 'concealing a lot of the true facts behind the situation.'

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