

## NIXON INAUGURATION HERALDS

# A NEW ERA OF IMPERIALIST CRISIS

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

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He made this clear at his inauguration ceremony on Saturday in a speech which was hailed by Alabama governor George Wallace—darling of the US rednecks and fascists—as embodying 'the philosophy of the average American citizen'.

The speech reveals that the United States is right at the centre of the world crisis of capitalism. Its rulers, through the increasingly dictatorial Nixon, intend to force the rest of the world to pay for their economic crisis.

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Nixon, who had earlier faced a barrage of rotten fruit and tomatoes from anti-war demonstrators, gave no guarantees about ending the Vietnam war. But he referred specifically to his visits to Moscow and Peking as laying the basis for 'a more durable pattern of relationships among the nations of the world'.

The basis for these relationships, however, is to be radically changed. No longer will America shoulder the political and economic responsibilities of its allies, Nixon indicated.

What this means in practice was made clear at the weekend when three of the largest US airlines PanAm, Continental and American Air lines announced the cancellation of their options on 17 Concorde supersonic airliners. Trans World Airlines is also known to be considering cancellation of its six options to buy.

These cancellations come on the eve of a projected visit to Washington by Tory premier Edward Heath. They are a calculated step in the trade war with the Common Market.

It remains to be seen whether Concorde production in Britain and France can continue following this concerted body blow. The British Aircraft Corporation and its French partners could be left producing as few as 15 aircraft in total.

The Nixon regime's efforts to turn round its balance of payments and its trade talks with Europe and Japan planned for later this year are a clear warning that trade is highly dependent on US goodwill.

Nor does Nixon intend to spare the US workers. He called for 'new ways' to tackle education, health, housing, transportation, environment and welfare problems.

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peace abroad has required turning away from old policies that have failed, so building a new era at home requires turning



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programmes of Kennedy and Johnson.

This means the wholesale scrapping of welfare, health and education programmes and the systematic erosion of constitutional and basic democratic rights won by the working class.

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He can only be answered by building a mass Labour Party based on the trade unions and organized around socialist policies.

The urgency of the fight for the Labour Party in the US is underlined by Nixon's inaugural speech, which must serve as a warning to the workers of America and Europe.

Workers Press reporter Stephen Johns and staff photographer Martin Mayer have been to Rome to report on the annual conference of the MSI, the Italian fascists. In Italy, the first country in Europe to go fascist under Mussolini in 1921, the extreme right wing is on the march again. In a special series of reports, starting

with a picture spread tomorrow, Workers Press will produce the results of their investigation. Who are the fascists? Who backs them? What is the context of fascism within the Common Market? Who is fighting the fascist revival and what are the implications for the British working class?

Some of the 100,000 anti-fascist demonstrators marching through Rome last Thursday ● SEE STORY PAGE 2.



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Party led by 68-year-old Demetrios Partsalides.

The five women defendants include Mrs Zoe Vei, wife of Professor George Vei, of the Athens Technical University.

Workers, an agronomist and an antiquities department official are among the male defendants.

● See Panagoulis trial pages 2 and 5.

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are asking for pay parity with electricians and have imposed sanctions to back their claim. When the firm suspended two millwrights the others walked out in support.

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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# A victory for the blackmailers

## WHAT WE THINK

THE DECISION of the South American Conference of Shipping Lines to retain the meat trade in the Royal Docks and not to move to Southampton is being currently advertised by the employers and union leaders as a victory for 'common sense' and as proof of a 'new spirit' in the docks.

Similarly the return of the City Line boats from Hull to London is also being heralded as the beginning of a 'new era' on the Royal Docks.

It is nothing of the sort. It is a victory for the employers whose ruthless policies, which contained a certain element of bluff, were realized only because of the bankruptcy of leadership of the docks shop stewards' committee and their refusal to fight the Jones-Aldington proposals in a principled way.

It is a situation which will not be the slightest bit affected by the rumoured resignation of Mr Bernie Stear as chairman of the London docks stewards.

As Workers Press—and only the Workers Press—has consistently pointed out, these leaders could, if they had wanted to, make the Royal Docks into 'an impenetrable fortress of struggle against the employers and the Tory government.

After the retreat of the Tories at Pentonville, the docks stewards had the power and the influence to unite the entire transport industry and prevent the loss of a single docker's or lorry driver's job. They could have transformed the transport union into an inferno for the right-wing bureaucrats and reversed the

policy of collaborating with the National Industrial Relations Court.

But these stewards were guided not by the policies and method of Marxism, but by the reformist outlook of Stalinism and state capitalism—both of which categorically reject the necessity and possibility of forcing the Tories to resign.

Instead of fighting the T&GWU leaders on a revolutionary policy and creating a new leadership, they diverted the dockers' struggle into a fratricidal conflict with lorry drivers and co-operated with infamous Jones-Aldington committee in the hope that lost jobs in the docks would miraculously re-appear in container depots.

When the docks strike was concluded they refused to fight for their four-point policy. In the end the national shop stewards committee's ten-point policy was whittled down to one point and the committee collapsed ignominiously.

Meanwhile the employers have completely undermined the National Docks Labour Scheme with massive dilution and are now set for the next stage of their plan: the playing off of one port against another, a policy which is facilitated by containerization and Jones-Aldington.

The retreat has turned into a rout for the stewards and no amount of whitewash can conceal it. If the meat trade has

been kept in London, it is certainly not because the Port of London Authority has opened a new berth, reduced their charges or promised to take over Thames Stevedoring.

The grim fact is that the rate of exploitation in the Royals has now increased to an unprecedented level. Let the 'Port' magazine—subsidized by the employers—speak:

'There is still the question of productivity. But the London team—headed by Mr Richard Butler, PLA Director of Docks, are confident that with the facilities available at four berth they will be able to maintain the tonnages asked for by the Shipping Lines.

'This is 75 tons per gang shift. Over the past fortnight there has been a substantial increase in productivity. It has climbed from around 45 to more than 60 tons per gang shift.'

The increase in productivity takes place in the context of Heath's state pay law and, what is worse, without any increase in manning and no increase in pay since piecework was abolished under Devlin Phase Two. It is difficult to imagine a more damning indictment of reformist and syndicalist leadership.

We can now also understand more clearly why the Vestey Organization withdrew its action against the T&GWU and the National Amalgamated Stevedores and

Dockers before the NIRC over the picketing of the Midland Cold Storage in east London.

As Mr Edmund Vestey so delicately put it: 'We have taken this decision to try to create a better atmosphere in which to solve the present problems. We believe that with goodwill and common sense from all concerned these can be resolved.'

Already encouraged by the retreat in the Royals, employers in Tilbury and other ports are tightening the disciplinary screw on labour. As the shadow of Maplin Sands gets nearer and as Heath's Phase Two goes into operation, the employers will step up their demands for increased tonnages, more productivity and greater discipline. This is not the end . . . only the beginning.

What is now urgently required in the docks is a leadership which will combine the traditional militancy there with the political struggle of the whole working class for the defence of democratic rights and the replacing of the Tory government with a Labour government pledged to the nationalization of the docks without compensation and under workers' control.

We refuse to blame the dockers for their stewards' bankrupt policies. We are confident that the London docks, which have produced outstanding leaders in the past, will once again produce a leadership which will be equal to the political tasks that confront the dockers. But they will do so only through an implacable struggle against Stalinism and revisionist rank-and-fileism.

## 'Popular front' of betrayal

SATURDAY'S march to the American Embassy in London against the Vietnam war brought together a popular front of protest dominated politically by the Communist Party Stalinists.

Contingents on the march, organized by the British Campaign for Peace in Vietnam, included CP branches, sections of the Liberal Party, the revisionist International Marxist Group, anti-communist International Socialism and the Maoists.

Banners demanded that President Nixon sign the draft peace treaty drawn up between Dr Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho.

Police estimated the size of the march at 12,000 by the time it reached its destination.

In a futile effort to differentiate themselves from the CP, the various revisionist contingents held their own rally at Temple Embankment before joining the main march at Trafalgar Square.

There a meeting chaired by veteran Stalinist Solly Kaye heard Lord Soper, Digby Jacks of the National Union of Students, Ray Buckton of the footplaters' union ASLEF and Labour MP Mrs Judith Hart.

Besides appealing for his signature to the man they were denouncing as a warmonger, speakers dwelt on the 'shame' brought to Britain by Edward Heath's support for the Vietnam war.

'If Sweden can dissociate from Nixon, why can't Britain?' one speaker demanded. This line is designed to sow illusions in the possibility of 'pressurizing' the leaders of imperialism into making peace.

It is designed to hide the real and relentless pressure on the Vietnamese revolution from Moscow and Peking. In the interests of 'peaceful co-existence' with the US imperialists, the Stalinist bureaucracies are driving the Vietnamese towards a rotten compromise in Indo-China.

There can be no defence of the Indo-China revolution without a struggle to expose the counter-revolutionary role of Stalinism and to mobilize the working class against the Tory enemy at home.

By lining up with the Stalinists and Liberals in Saturday's popular front, the revisionists have made themselves an integral part of the mechanism of betrayal and confusion directed against the Vietnamese revolution.

## Police guard fascists' congress

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN ROME

ITALY'S main fascist party, the MSI (Italian Social Movement), ended the most significant conference since it was founded in 1946 here yesterday after a weekend of violent clashes between riot police and left-wing demonstrators in the city.

The conference, held in the neo-classical exhibition centre built by Mussolini, was carefully staged to present MSI's 'respectable' front to the Italian middle class.

The sinister 'squadristi', bands of armed thugs controlled by MSI who organize murders of left-wing militants and bomb attacks, were kept strictly to the fringe of the ecstatic gathering.

The focus was on MSI leader Giorgio Almirante. He used the conference as a victory rally for MSI success in last year's election where they doubled their representation in the Italian parliament.

Almirante made an overt overture to the right wing of the Christian Democrats—Italy's main capitalist party—to join with him in wiping out the Communist Party and the trade unions.

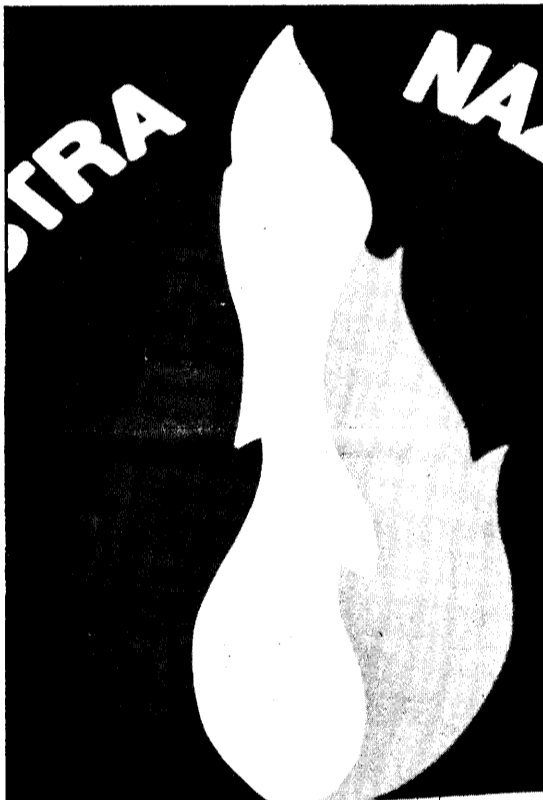
Already significant sections of the Christian Democrats, who control the Andreotti government, are secret or open supporters of the fascists, particularly in Sicily and the south. Even more important is MSI's vast and growing influence in Italian big business, the police, the army and the state institutions.

Police demonstrated their open bias during the four days of debate. Fully armed squads of the para-military Carabinieri surrounded the congress hall. Others mounted a continuous horseback patrol round the perimeter. Police helicopters also circled the exhibition area about four miles to the south of the city.

In Rome itself there was a series of demonstrations and strikes against the congress. The biggest was on Thursday when the Communist Party launched a massive 100,000-strong anti-fascist demonstration from the Coliseum.

The Stalinists, who have the allegiance of the bulk of the Italian working class, were reluctant, however, to organize action against the fascists.

Groups to the left of the Stalinists clashed with riot police in Rome. On one occasion three bridges across the River Tiber



MSI leader Giorgio Almirante under the new 'National Right' banner.

were sealed off while armed police with guns, tear gas and riot shields attempted to stop anyone leaving Rome's main working-class area and the main CP stronghold. Over 100 arrests were made.

The MSI will be well pleased with this protection. The conference went off without any serious interruption and the fascists formally brought the Monarchist Party—containing many landowners—under their wing.

THE BACKGROUND to the conference and the growth of fascism is the deepening economic crisis in Italy. This was highlighted yesterday by a partial devaluation of the lira, which has been under heavy speculative pressure arising out of the country's large balance of payments deficit.

Today the Italian monetary authorities will introduce a two-tier system for the lira. The government will control the exchange rate in the official market, but it will be allowed to float

## Shopkeepers threat to Allende's prices plan

CHILEAN shopkeepers have said that they will not co-operate with the President Salvador Allende's government proposals to deal with food shortages.

Jorge Martinez, President of the Central Chamber of Commerce, has instructed his members to oppose the introduction of ration cards.

Minister of the Economy Orlando Millas has been informed that the retailers have suspended relations with the government.

Shopkeepers and small businessmen are already organizing commando squads to pit against the government's 'price-action' committees.

This confrontation follows the previous conflict between Allende's Popular Unity coalition and the strike by lorry owners in the autumn.

Allende resolved that strike by withdrawing nationalization plans for transport in the south and bringing three generals into his cabinet.

On the eve of elections, he is sure to make concessions to the shopkeepers in keeping with his Popular Front policy of adapting to the middle classes.

His regime has never adopted a socialist policy to deal with the chronic food shortages in Chile and has, in fact, allowed a black-market to flourish.

on a secondary private market.

Other measures against speculation are regulations which reduce from three months to one month the time granted to importers for repayment of imports, and cut to three months from one year the time allowed to exporters for delaying receipt of export payments.

Another measure cuts to one month from six months the maximum duration of bank accounts held in foreign exchange.

## Panagoulis' brother jailed by junta

A TRIBUNAL of four army officers, under the chairmanship of Colonel Eugenios Karahallos, sentenced Stathis Panagoulis to four and a half years' imprisonment on Saturday evening.

Panagoulis and 12 other defendants were charged with criminal

conspiracy, including the kidnapping of the US ambassador to Greece, the hi-jacking of an Olympic Airways airliner and an attempt to free Alexandros Panagoulis.

Alexandros was sentenced to death in November 1968 for his part in a plot to kill the

Greek premier Papadopoulos.

Stathis Panagoulis said he was the only one in the group to be a member of the 'Greek Resistance'.

He had decided to resort to violence because that was the only way to overthrow a regime which had come to

power through violence.

The other sentences given by the court ranged from 15 months for civil servant Miss Theodorou Tsanou to the acquittal of Mr Efsthios Melas, an engineer.

● See page 4 for details of how Greek police caught Stathis.

# MEET MRS CAROLINE THOMPSON

Meet Mrs Caroline Thompson, née Caroline Maudling, daughter of the former Home Secretary. She has just returned from three years in South Africa.

She told a South African newspaper, 'Race Relations Today': 'I have attached great importance in the human values of people who enriched my life with their friendship. On the other hand, I have been saddened by the erosion of race relations in this marvellous country.'

'I hope one day that the privileged half will realize the sincerity of the black man in trying to find his identity, and that he will be accorded his human rights which he deserves as his birthright. I try to be realistic in life. I appreciate why some blacks reject me . . . but politics is not my field.'

Mrs Thompson made a deep impression on her white neighbours. She took the unusual step of paying her maid £12 a week, far in excess of the pittance normally given.

She was surprised to learn that her wages were 'so high'. 'I thought South Africa's millionaires, who spend a lot of money on luxuries, paid their workers adequately.'

Mrs Thompson must have had a very secluded three years in South Africa. Presumably she never heard of the richest South African, Mr Harry Oppenheim, head of Consolidated Goldfields. His workers have no unions and work for slave wages. And Oppenheim is considered a 'liberal'!

'I was brought up in an atmosphere where race prejudice was unknown. I have always accepted people—irrespective of their race, colour or creed—as equals,' she says.

Not so with her father, Reginald Maudling. As Tory Home Secretary he presided over the introduction of anti-coloured immigrant legislation.

He was also responsible for arguing about the 'foreign influence' of former German student leader Rudi Dutschke and had him deported.



Two women servants in South Africa. They are on call six days out of seven, and seven nights out of seven.

## COMPANIES FEAR 'LOW PROFIT' ACCOUNTING

Accountants have caused a few worries with their proposals that company balance sheets must be made up on the basis of inflation.

Many leading companies are justifiably worried about the plans from the Accounting Standards Steering Committee. They fear that inflation accounting, as it is called, would result in, for example, lower profits than those published at present.

At the moment auditors' reports just indicate money earned and make no attempt to show by how much such money was devalued by inflation.

On the stock market, reduced profitability of many companies would lead to major convulsions. As the 'Daily Telegraph' put it: 'Industry has

been understandably worried at the prospect of having its figures exposed as unrealistic, if not misleading in their implied optimism.'

Government departments, says the report, have not been falling over themselves to go over to inflation accounting and the Inland Revenue will not accept the proposed method for taxation assessments.

The draft proposals from the accountants actually do not go all the way. Alongside present figures, it is suggested, companies should produce an additional set of accounts adjusted for inflation.

'It is open to directors,' the draft proposes, 'to comment on the significance of the figures.' On this the 'Telegraph' City editor says frankly: 'It will be surprising if they do not. Some companies, notably in the engineering sector, where capital commitments are often

heavy, will find their conventional profit figures looking pretty sick.'

Then the 'Telegraph' goes on to spell out some of the implications for big business if the accounting methods are eventually changed. 'The normal business response to diminished profitability is to raise prices and no doubt many companies will. For others, it may not be so easy, and they may have to look at dividends or earnings cover, or both.'

In reality, therefore, the new methods have next to no chance of ever getting off the ground, in Britain or elsewhere. Sir Ronald Leech, the chairman of the committee which brought out the scheme, had this to say about the situation:

'Many countries have researched the problem and produced learned reports, but no country has so far succeeded in grasping the nettle.'

## NO RIGGING FOR CLYDEBANK MEN

Marathon Manufacturing, the US company which took over the former Clydebank division of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders consortium, has put off a plan to train men from the yard in rig building at its Texas headquarters.

It has also postponed a scheme for establishing highly-paid flying squads of men prepared to go anywhere in the world at a moment's notice in rig repair or similar work.

Company officials have tried quickly to forestall any suggestions that these moves stem from any standoff in their plans for developing the yard as a centre for building oil rigs.

The idea of training in Texas has been postponed rather than abandoned, they say.

Marathon claims that the delay in the project is mainly because only 86 men have so far volunteered to take part. About 180 would be needed to

make the chartering of an aircraft for the trip worthwhile.

A similar reason is given in the case of the flying squads.

A nucleus of 15 men had come forward for training, Marathon says, but the number needed is about 25.

The company also says that since it already has three such squads based in Texas, there is no great urgency to have one at the Scottish yard.

Union representatives are also anxious to dispel any notion that jobs at Clydebank may be under threat again.

The district delegate of the Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers, Willie Dougan, says that the training project had been agreed when there were difficulties over redundancy at UCS. He claimed that part of the reason the training programme had been cut back was because all 1,250 workers in the yard were fully employed.



## AND NOW . . . THE DRIVERLESS TRAIN

British Rail is to investigate plans for a complete system of unmanned, automatic freight wagons which would roam about the network under their own power.

If carried through—it could be fully operational in about 12 years—thousands more railway workers will undoubtedly lose their jobs.

The 200,000 workers in the industry are already under the hammer with plans laid down by the Tory government.

Only recently secret plans saw the light of day which revealed that a 40 per cent cut in the 11,600 mile network was contemplated.

An even smaller system of 3,800 miles could not be ruled out, it was said.

On top of the 26,000 redundancies at present being discussed, the 'Blue Book' strategy would mean another 26,000 jobs gone.

In 14 years the railway workers have suffered a staggering 60 per cent loss in numbers, through productivity deals and technological developments.

British Rail is now seriously rethinking the automated wagon system — something which potentially could be of great benefit to the working class and society as a whole.

### EXPERIMENT

A successful experiment was carried out in Derbyshire in which automatic methods for loading and unloading the container carrying wagons were simulated.

Overall, to be worthwhile, a fleet of between 10,000 and 20,000 driverless vehicles carrying up to 100 million tons of freight a year would be required.

Vehicles would literally wander about the network using computers to find the space in the timetables. Unmanned depots would automatically remove the container and put it on the back of a lorry.

The very nature of the railway system makes it open for automation, experts point out. Scheduling, route setting and signalling are undertaken centrally.

Already automatic warnings and cab signalling equipment have been developed to assist and if necessary override the driver. It is but a short—and technically, entirely possible—step to removing drivers altogether.

### MISERY

It is obviously possible that the entire BR system could be run from the central control panels of a computer bank. Under the capitalist system, with railways being run essentially for profit in competition with other transport systems, the result will be massive unemployment.

The growth in the means of production stands opposed to the relations of production. Automation can only serve profit and bring misery to workers under capitalism.

Only under a socialist system, where the means of production are under the control of the working class can such technological developments as 'autowagon' benefit society as a whole.

The working week could be reduced for all railway workers while the manual labour they formerly carried out would be performed by the new technology.

# HEATH AIDS THE ARMY OF THE APARTHEID STATE

BY ALEX MITCHELL

**The Heath government is using 'intermediaries' to continue supplying arms to the racist republic of South Africa.**

The deals are kept secret so that the government's middle-class supporters are kept in the dark about the government's collaboration with apartheid.

Shortly after gaining office in 1970, Heath arrogantly announced that arms sales would be restarted. But he ran into a storm of opposition which forced him to tone down his pro-Vorster policy.

Details of the size of the South African armed forces have just been published. Although they might not be totally accurate, they reflect the sharply rising size of the military.

They indicate three trends:  
● Arms are still being supplied by Britain under the counter.  
● The French government is picking up some contracts which would previously have come to Britain.

● The South Africans are becoming more self-sufficient. In other words they are creating their own arms-making industry.

The total of South Africa's armed forces personnel has increased from 44,250 in 1970-

1971 to 109,300 in 1972-1973. in the latest issue of 'The Military Balance'. Commenting on the huge, all-round increase reflected in South Africa's defence forces, a spokesman for the publication said: 'We have long been worried about these figures from South Africa. Your security out there is pretty good and information is very hard to come by.'

The figures published show that the number of French-made AML60 and AML90 armoured cars rose from 300 to 800; and the number of Saracen armoured personnel carriers was estimated at 250. Other armour includes 100 Centurion tanks, 20 Comet tanks and 50 Ferret scout cars.

Another big increase is reflected in naval manpower—from 9,000 (3,000 regulars, 1,250 citizen force and 4,750 trained reserves) to 11,300 (2,300 regulars and 9,000 trained reserves). The publication also shows that the South African navy possessed six frigates but that this number increased to nine this year, with five of this number being held in reserve. There are now three submarines against one last year, ten coastal minesweepers (seven being held in reserve), one escort mine-

sweeper, two destroyers, five seaward defence boats and one fleet replenishment tanker.

Air force personnel estimates have remained constant at 8,000 made up of 5,000 regulars and 3,000 citizen force reserves, and the total number of combat aircraft has increased by three to 166. The numbers of Buccaneer, Canberra and Mirage aircraft remain fairly constant, but the number of Impala trainers—now being manufactured in South Africa—rose from 50 to 75.

There is an unaccountable drop in the number of Alouette 11/111 helicopters from 106 to 60, but this has been partly offset by the purchase of 16 Puma helicopters. Another four have yet to be delivered.

Para-military forces—commandos—are estimated at 75,000. Last year this figure was 78,000, but included 3,000 police, whose equipment included 80 Saracens on loan from the Army.

\* 'The Military Balance' is published in London by the Institute of Strategic Studies.

Below: South African Prime Minister, Vorster and Britain's Heath. Above: South African troops on counter-guerrilla manoeuvres.



# THE TRIAL OF STATHIS PANAGOULIS

BY JACK GALE

The trial of Stathis Panagoulis (26), began in Athens last Thursday. The main charge against him and 12 others is that they tried to organize the escape from prison of his brother Alexandros.

Stathis, the youngest of the three Panagoulis brothers, had found a safe refuge in Rome after Alexandros had unsuccessfully attempted to kill Papadopoulos, the head of the present military regime, in August 1968.

Alexandros, who was a student at that time doing his military service, was arrested, inhumanly tortured and sentenced to death. He suffered three mock executions, was handcuffed for eight months continuously and for four and a half years has lived under terrible conditions in a cement tomb, being tortured on and off at the whim of his bestial guards. (See the statement of Alexandros Panagoulis in Friday's Workers Press.)

On August 6, 1972, Stathis was lured back to Athens by the military police. To achieve this they exploited the young man's anguish for his brother's fate. One or more officers approached him and pretending they were friends, convinced him that they would help Alexandros to escape. But that at that point Stathis would have to be in Athens to take over and help his brother out of Greece.

Stathis fell into the trap. He entered Greece under a false name on August 6. He must have been arrested soon after August 8 when he was last heard of.

Since then he has been kept at the special interrogation centre of the military police, the notorious 'ESA' to the Greeks.

Stathis has been horribly tortured. Over a period of months his screams and moans were heard day and night. To break the resistance of others, the martyred body of the young man was dragged before them and he was tortured again.

For about 160 days no one outside the military centre, neither his lawyer nor his mother, have been allowed to see him.

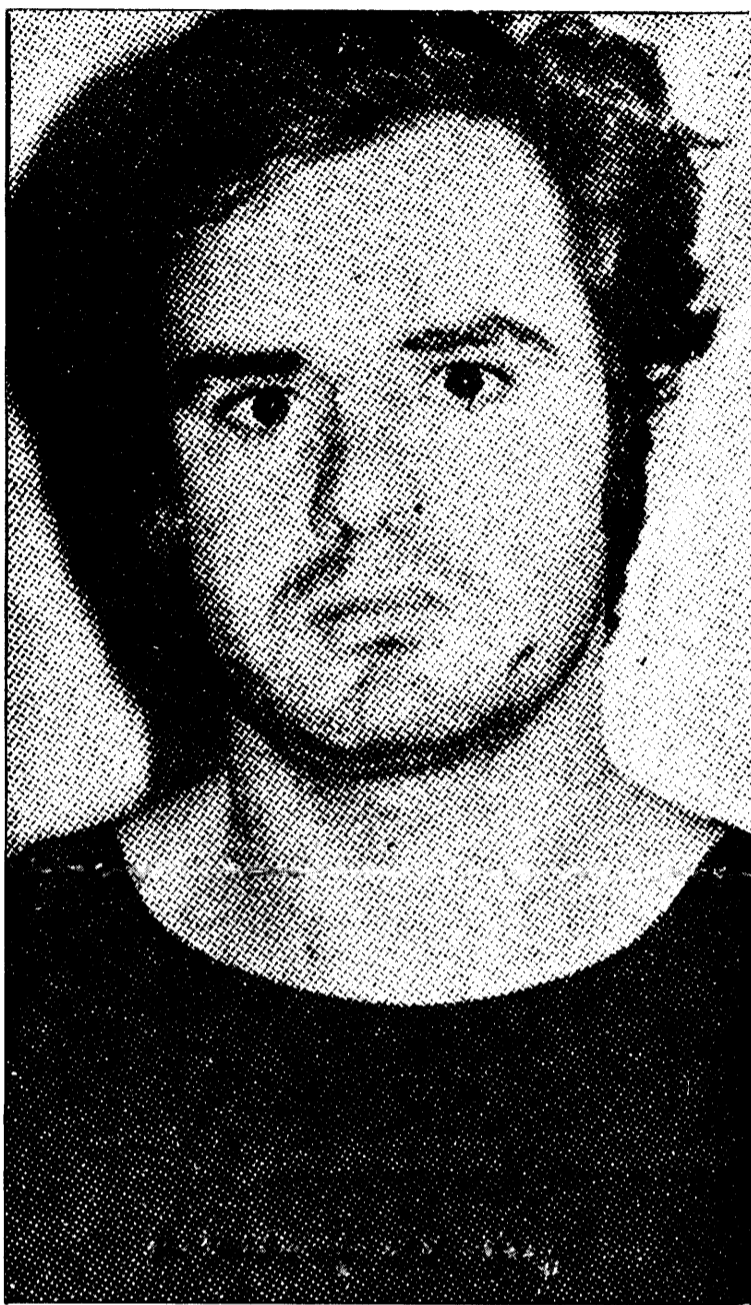
The charges brought against him include, among others, that in 1970 Stathis thought of hijacking an Olympic airways plane. That he had a list of diplomats, copied in the right order from the booklet of diplomats' addresses, by which the military deduced that he wanted to kidnap these diplomats.

Among them, though, is the name of the German Ambassador, Mr Limbourg, whose recall the military regime achieved, with great clamour, months before Stathis' clandestine entry into Greece. He is also charged with the new escape attempt which has existed only in the militarists' minds and was their trap.

Two members of the Panagoulis family are already dead.

The father, a retired colonel, suffered a brain haemorrhage while in the hands of the Security Police, after Alexandros' assassination attempt. He died two years later without having recovered enough to say how he got the brain haemorrhage.

The eldest son, George, an officer who deserted the army immediately after the coup, escaped from Greece but was



Stathis Panagoulis on trial for trying to help his brother escape.

handed back to the military regime and disappeared while in their hands.

There is now only an old mother left in the family house, who, in the hope of seeing her children, spends hours standing outside the prisons.

The 12 other defendants suffer in the first place because Stathis happened to cross their path. Some, like Demetrios Dinou (61), a retired police officer, is supposed to have harboured Stathis when he was hiding in Athens.

Dinou, however, was arrested as a hostage for the return of his daughter, student Evi (21), who had escaped from Greece to evade arrest and shared a flat in Rome with Stathis and Nicos Zambelis, another escapee.

The commanding officer of the military police, a renowned torturer, had rung Evi asking her to return and surrender otherwise her family would be arrested. Her father's and her sister's arrest followed Evi's refusal to return. Both were tortured.

Evi's sister was released some three and a half months later. But the father is still in their hands charged that he had arms hidden in his house, that he was to help Stathis hijack a plane, that he had helped the escape of Nicos Zambelis.

In general the charge for the remaining 11 accused is that they gave refuge to Stathis or Dinou or Zambelis for one or more days. Some are charged with helping the escape of Evi or Zambelis, either by persuading Evi to go or by taking her to a car, or by taking Zambelis away in a boat.

In addition they are all

charged with intending to help Stathis in his thought of hijacking of a plane.

These 11 defendants are: HELEN TSOUKALADAKI (24), Pharmacist. PANAGHIOTIS CHIONIDES (23), Student. MARIA NASTOU (25), Student. DORA TSANOU (34), Civil servant. PANAGHIOTIS KRITIKOS (35), Lawyer. LORNA CAVIGLIA BRIFFA (30), Italian publisher of magazines. THEODOROS KYRIAKOPOULOS (44), Private employee. ARISTIDES FATOUROS (30), Carpenter. (A relative of Zambelis.) SOPHIA GEORGIU (35), Beautician. EFTATHIOS MELAS (37), Electrical engineer. ANDREAS STAVROULAKIS (44), Accountant.

All political prisoners in Greece are beaten and tortured. It is known that Dora Tsanou, in particular, has been horribly tortured.

Stathis Panagoulis spoke up bravely in court, declaring before the five-member military tribunal that he had been tortured during his five-month interrogation by military police.

He also told the court that 'anti-fascist Italy is being tried in the person of Mrs Caviglia'.

Naval non-commissioned officer George Economides, the agent provocateur who implicated Mrs Caviglia in the imaginary plot, appeared in court as a prosecution witness.

The entire British labour movement must demand the immediate release of the Panagoulis brothers and of all political prisoners in Greece.

# BIG BUSINESS OF HEROIN

The news that heroin is being smuggled into the United States sewn up inside the bodies of American soldiers killed in Vietnam underlines the cynical callousness of the traffickers in this murderous trade.

But the heroin trade flourishes not because drugs are some wonderful way to 'individual freedom', as the muddleheads who advocate its legal use would tell us, but because they are big business.

With the measures against production of opium in France and Turkey, south-east Asia is now the world's main centre for the drug (see 'Grim Future for the ex-Vietnam GI', Workers Press December 29).

Opium is used in the production of heroin.

Four hundred tons of heroin is produced annually in Burma, 150 tons in Thailand and 50 tons in Laos. The main trading

centres for the American market—apart from that smuggled direct into the United States by Vietnam veterans—are Hong Kong and Bangkok.

These centres provide two main types of heroin—Grade 3 which is 30 per cent pure heroin and is used for smoking, and Grade 4 which is 95-99 per cent pure heroin and is mainly used for injection.

The Asian farmer will sell opium at \$25 per kilo. It will take \$250 worth to make one kilo of heroin.

But in Bangkok one kilo of heroin fetches \$2,000—eight times its original price.

By the time it reaches the United States it sells at \$20,000—80 times its original price.

And by the time it hits the American streets, one kilo of heroin will bring in \$430,000.

That is 1,720 times the original price paid to the Asian farmer.

The real story of drugs lies in these enormous profits and in human lives destroyed.

# RUCHELL MAGEE: FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE

Throughout long pre-trial proceedings Ruchell Magee, one of the Soledad Brothers, has been denied every elementary right available to a defendant.

At every point where Magee fought to defend himself, he was dragged out of the courtroom to a prepared isolation booth where the trial is piped in.

Magee is fighting for his life with a court-appointed attorney who refuses to carry out the defence Magee wants.

During the proceedings and the selection of the jury, Magee was chained to his chair in the courtroom.

Just before the trial proper was due to begin, Magee was thrown out of court when he spoke to his lawyer. Superior Court Judge Colvin told Magee that if he spoke audibly, he would be removed.

As he was chained down Magee had to speak in a normal voice and the second time that happened the Judge threw him into the isolation booth.

Then his lawyer, Carrow, refused to challenge a juror on Magee's instructions. Carrow said 'Pass' and Magee replied: 'Hell, we do'... and was promptly thrown into the booth again.

Magee—a former co-defend-

ant with the acquitted Angela Davis—is the last of those caught up in the events which began more than two years ago at the Marin County courthouse.

One of the Soledad Brothers, Magee was in the courthouse in August 1970 when Jonathan Jackson arrived with a batch of guns.

As they attempted to escape, police opened fire. In the shooting the kidnapped Judge Haley was instantly killed as were three of Jackson's companions.

Magee is accused of being the man who pulled the trigger on Judge Haley.

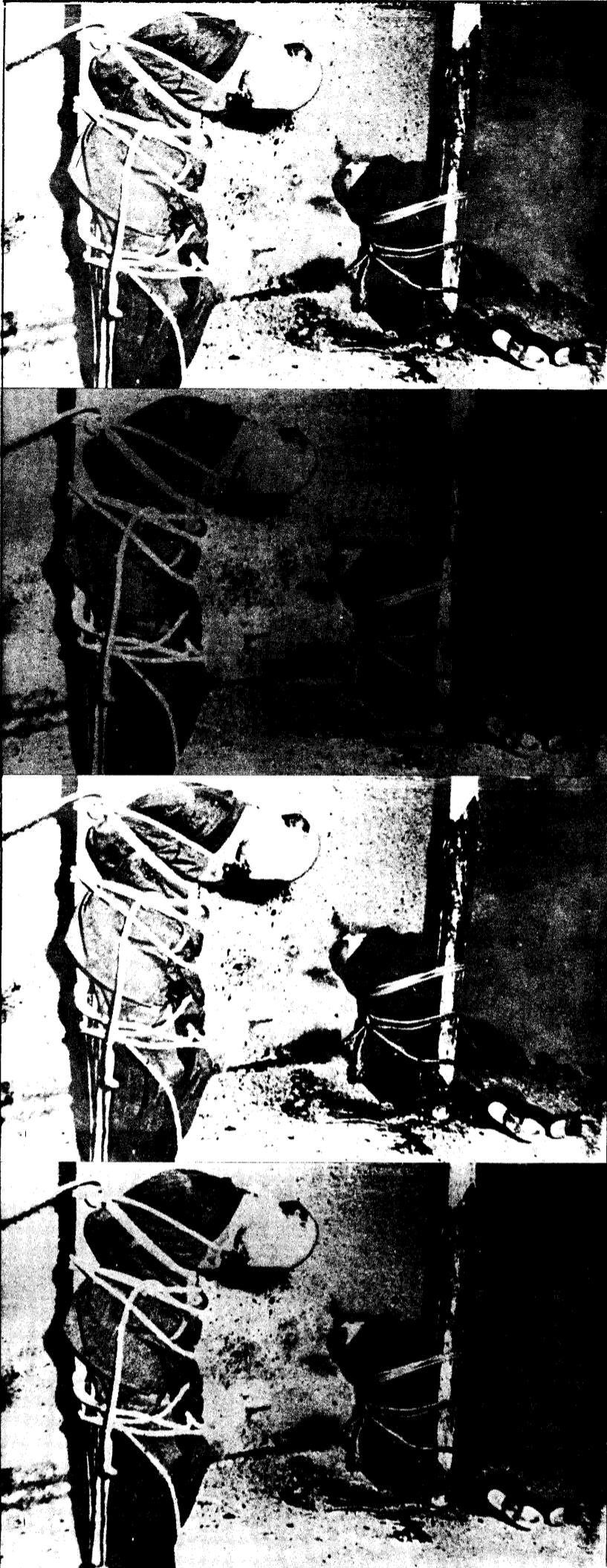
The US Communist Party Stalinists have been doing their utmost to ensure that Magee's defence is made as difficult as possible.

First they made sure the trial was separated from that of Angela Davis. Now the Communist Party's West Coast newspaper, the 'People's World', has refused to say anything about the trial except to acknowledge that Magee exists.

Meanwhile, in the side rooms of the San Francisco court are police armed with M16s and police dogs ready to be used at any moment. Magee himself has said: 'I'm a slave once again'. And that is what the court proceedings mean.

Below: Magee (right) and Judge Haley in courtroom shoot-out.





# THE REIGN OF THE SHAH-IN-

**The recognition of the German Democratic Republic by the Shah's regime in Iran has proved rather embarrassing for the Iranian Stalinists of the Tudeh Party.**

Many of the activities of their organization, including the broadcasting station, Radio Iran Courier, which is beamed to Persia, are located in East Germany.

And taking advantage of this situation, the Iranian Press—which is nothing more than a propaganda machine for the Shah—claims that the GDR has accepted Iranian conditions for recognition.

These, according to Teheran papers, include the East German government's unequivocal support for the Iranian policy in the Persian Gulf; silencing the Radio and preventing Tudeh Party activity in East Germany.

This propaganda is hotly denied by the Tudeh Party and by Radio Iran Courier. They claim there were no such conditions in the recognition of the GDR by Iran.

But the very fact that the two countries are establishing diplomatic relations is an indication of the growing rapprochement between Iran and the USSR and its East European satellites.

The Soviet Union, which shares an extensive border with Persia, is collaborating closely with the Shah's regime: building a major steelworks, aiding the Shah to open natural gas fields and carrying out trade on a big scale.

Cordial relations between the USSR and Iran have not been affected by the Shah's territorial demands on the Soviet government. In fact, the Iranian monarch—as befits the Shah-in-Shah (King of Kings) has claims on the territory of every neighbouring country.

If the Soviet leaders are not concerned about the Shah's territorial claims, they are even less worried about the character of his regime. It is one of the most bloodthirsty dictatorships on the face of the planet.

The Confederation of Iranian students described the Shah as a 'fascist tyrant'.

Last year more than 50 young militants were executed by his firing squads after farcical trials before rigged military courts.

The Shah is the son of an Army NCO who seized power in a coup in 1925. Yet he prides himself on dynastic origins going back over 2,500 years. These phoney claims were endorsed by the majority of the leading world heads of state at Persepolis where the dynasty's anniversary was celebrated with great pomp.

Not only is the Shah's regime particularly brutal, it is also extremely corrupt. The

Shah has a particular down on drug smugglers and in 1969 introduced new laws providing the death penalty for anyone caught smuggling more than 10 grams of cocaine, heroin or morphine or more than 2 kg of opium.

The penalty has since been applied to about 160 Iranians, Afghans and Turks, according to 'The Times'. The victims were tried before military courts. None of the 30 or 40 European drug smugglers who came before the courts were sentenced to death.

There are some Iranians who appear to get away with smuggling on a grand scale, however. Not surprisingly they consist mainly of members of the Royal family.

The Shah's sister, Princess Asharf, was caught at Geneva airport in 1961 with a suitcase full of heroin. And in February last year, a member of the Shah's entourage, Prince Huchang Dawallou (70), was

formally charged with supplying 35 grams of pure heroin to a fellow Iranian middle-man who in turn passed it on to a 'Prince K' in Germany.

Prince Dawallou was staying with the Shah in St Moritz at the time. The warrant against him could not be served as he has diplomatic immunity. He left with the Shah for Persia in the latter's private plane. The Swiss afterwards dropped all proceedings.

The corruption in the ruling circles acts as no deterrent to the western and eastern powers which vie with one another to pay court to the Shah. The Iranian monarch has visited Moscow four times since he took the throne.

Both his sister and Queen Farah have visited Peking. And on his way back from Moscow, President Nixon stopped over in Teheran for very cordial talks with the Iranian head of state.

Last summer the Shah paid

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a private visit to Windsor as a guest of the Queen. The British Royal family was reciprocating the Persepolis celebration, attended by the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne.

The Shah's regime is heavily reliant on the assistance of the US Central Intelligence Agency, which aided him considerably by disposing of the troublesome Dr Mossadeq in 1953.

The CIA went on to establish the ubiquitous secret police force, SAVAK, which runs the terror campaign against the left and keeps the country innocent of any form of democracy, let alone revolutionary thought.

The American government supplies the regime with large amounts of arms and recently sent a team of specialists to demonstrate a number of new weapons which the Iranian army had expressed interest in buying.

The team went on orders from the White House follow-

ing Nixon's conversations with the Iranian monarch in May last year.

The Iranians wanted to buy Navy and Air Force F14 and F15 fighters, not yet in operation even in the US, and also had its eye on some of the 'smart bombs' being used for pinpoint bombing of targets in North Vietnam.

When, on the eve of the American elections, the US President began pouring war material into South Vietnam to thwart any ceasefire moves, much of the equipment was provided by the faithful Iranian ally.

About the same time the Shah declared that his navy would be increased several times over in the next period to look after his interests in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean!

'The Times' noted on November 7: 'The vessels that Iran has taken delivery of, or will be taking delivery of in

the near future, include three destroyers, four British-made frigates equipped with Seacat surface-to-air missiles, 24 fast patrol boats and more than a dozen British hovercraft.

'Britain is also helping to train a marine commando battalion and is selling Iran a 10,000-ton support ship.'

The paper added: 'The purchases are part of a massive arms build-up that is taking place in Iran and which, on the Shah's calculations, will make his nation the biggest military power in the Middle East in five years.'

'Among other equipment that the Iranians are bringing into service are 140 Phantom fighter-bombers and 800 Chieftain tanks. The cost to Iran at the moment is about \$1,300m [about £540m] or about 11 per cent of the gross national product.'

It is against this regime that the young left-wing fighters of Iran are pitting themselves.



The Shah—son of an army NCO. Above: The Shah's regime—last year more than 50 young militants were executed.

## COMMON MARKET WILL RAISE IRISH JOBLESS

Unemployment in the Irish Republic, already running at 70,000, is near certain to escalate dramatically as the effect of Common Market entry begins to bite.

The Confederation of Irish Industry said in a report that the existing rate of economic growth fell far short of what is needed to make significant inroads into the jobless total.

The CII said that instead of rising at the 8.5-per-cent rate set out in the five-year plan which ends in 1978 industrial output must go up by 10.5 per cent a year.

It calls on the Lynch government to provide 10,000 new jobs a year net of redundancies instead of the 7,600 envisaged in the plan.



Lynch: His plan for 7,600 new jobs a year falls well short of CII requirements.

Unfortunately the two objectives are almost in flat contradiction to one another.

A spokesman for the Irish Export Board in London told me that one of the prime effects of EEC entry would be to accelerate the rate of mergers and rationalization which has characterized Irish industry for the last few years.

Side by side with these measures to increase efficiency and beat inflation by pushing down costs, unemployment has risen steeply and is certain to continue to do so.

Productivity has in fact shot up and Irish exports increased by 20 per cent last year alone.

This performance, says the CII, can be maintained but only provided the battle against inflation is waged vigorously.

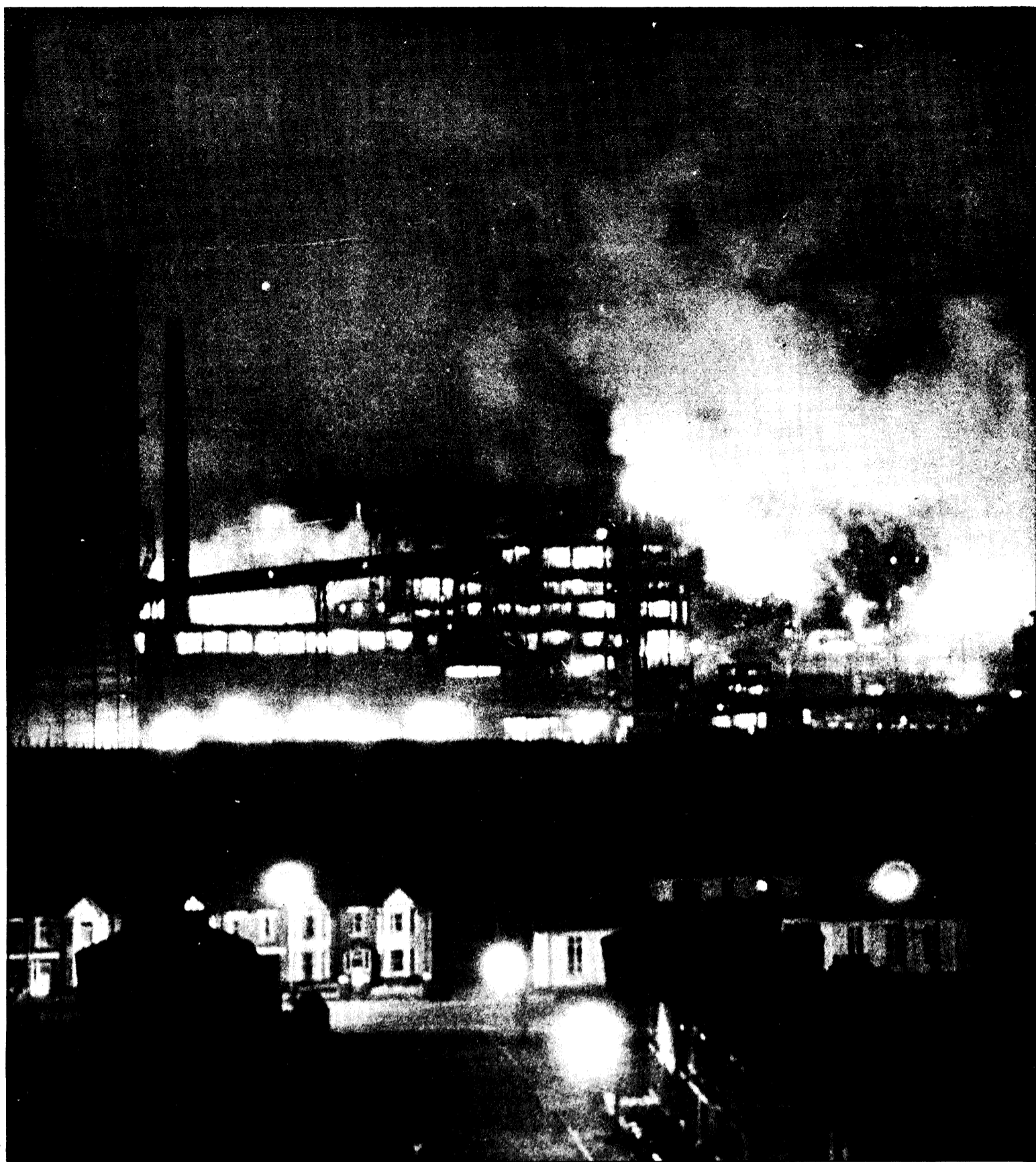
Then 'it will be possible for Irish industry to hold its own on the home market and continue to advance in Continental and British markets'.

Wages and salaries in the Republic are controlled by pay arrangements similar to the Heath state pay plan.

Against industry's trend to shake out labour, the CII says that if the government intends to reduce the jobless, employment in manufacturing must go up at an annual rate of 4.6 per cent instead of the 2.6 per cent implied in the government's White Paper on Ireland's entry to the EEC.

The Confederation says that the White Paper held out the prospect of a rise of 50,000 job opportunities in manufacturing industries between 1973 and 1977.

'Since then, however, the number employed in manufacturing has actually declined while the time in which to reach the target has actually shortened.'



# STEEL PRODUCTION: DOING AWAY WITH COKE

BY IAN YEATS

The British Steel Corporation is looking into ways of doing away with coke altogether in the process of making iron and steel.

But it is, notes BSC's research journal 'Steelresearch 72', a long-term project aimed at new methods of steel-making in the 1980s.

The Corporation's director of research and development, Dr Robert Barnes, says:

'The use of a fully-harnessed nuclear reactor to provide both high temperature reducing gases for iron-making and electricity both for steel-making and following operations is under active consideration.'

Preliminary experiments are already under way.

## Long term

It is, of course, a long-term project, but as with electric arc furnaces, even on a limited scale, once it is developed the process could at least be applied to high-grade, high-cost steels.

However, other developments

in the iron and steel-making process threaten coke more immediately.

In coming to grips with the high price of coke because of the exceptionally strong world demand, the iron and steel-makers are turning increasingly to alternative fuels.

North Sea gas and oil have appeared like manna from heaven.

Dr Barnes notes: 'Encouraged by the oil finds around our shores, research into oil injection into blast furnaces has shown that a considerably greater amount of oil can be used with larger savings in coke than have been achieved before.'

This method has been tested successfully in the No 2 and No 3 blast furnaces at Port Talbot, Wales.

The potential savings per cwt of coke replaced—tonne hot metal per million tons of iron produced is £200,000 on oil and a blast furnace gas credit of £50,000.

Furthermore the use of oil to pre-heat scrap used in Basic Oxygen Smelters has raised the proportion of scrap in the total furnace charge from 30 to 40

per cent, giving an increased output of 10 per cent.

The process is being pioneered at Port Talbot and the Consett works and production trials are under way.

The conclusion to be drawn from these developments is that there is now a concerted move to oust coke as a basic iron and steel-making fuel.

Should any of them come into use in a big way, the effect would be felt on Britain's coalfields.

## Trade war

The record demand for coke is likely to remain high only for as long as US, German and Japanese iron and steel makers are unable to bring the new techniques into mass production.

And only as long as recession continues to allow the so-called developing countries like India to stay in the field.

All the evidence suggests that world excess capacity has brought the major steel producers into the foothills of a cut-throat trade war in which forcing down costs and eliminating competitors in the race

Above: The steelworks at Port Talbot where use of oil to pre-heat scrap metal for steel production is being pioneered. The manufacturing trials are already underway.

for export markets will be central characteristics.

At least 25 million tons of the annual 140 million ton output of Britain's coalfields is used for coking coal.

Already the new methods have drastically reduced the amount of coke needed per ton of iron from 30 to between 11 and 13.

The mining of coking coals is labour-intensive because it is most often found in narrow seams unworkable by large machines.

Most of these coals are found in Durham, South Yorkshire, Kent and South Wales.

Cutbacks in the use of coke is unlikely to lead to further pit closures since coke coal seams are worked in parallel with many others.

But over the next decade there could be a further drop in the number of miners as the more uneconomic seams are abandoned.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## REVIVAL



Numeiry

The 'progressive officers' regime' in the Sudan has been passing some interesting legislation. After butchering the Communist Party leaders, receiving fulsome praise from the Stalinists in Moscow and Peking, Sudanese President Numeiry is getting on with the job of encouraging imperialism in his country.

A distinct, though cautious revival of private investment has occurred following the President's new economic policy.

The British Lonrho group will produce some 30 million yards of cloth together with a Sudanese concern Gulf International. Lonrho is also into a deal to grow 300,000 tons of sugar.

The revival of private enterprise is due to the Development and Promotion of Industrial Development Act 1972 which offers privileges and freedom from custom duties to foreign firms.

For the first time compensation is offered if firms are nationalized—a step taken only if vital public interests are at stake. The export of profit to the imperialist homeland is also permitted as well as the withdrawal of capital in case of liquidation of a company in the currency of the country where it originated.

The latest measures are a continuation of the reaction in Sudan which began with a vengeance after Numeiry drowned a military coup led by the Communist Party in blood.

Unions were outlawed and thousands of CP members driven underground.

Recently the Numeiry regime received praise from Igor Belyayev, a functionary of the USSR's Africa Institute: 'The Soviet Union has always worked for friendship with the Sudanese people and for normal relations in all fields,' he said.

## THEATRE

Caroline Amas (18) was pregnant in Oudtshoorn hospital, South Africa. She was desperately in need of an emergency Caesarian operation.

But a young coloured doctor, Dr Carl Abrahamse was prevented from helping the girl because the operation would have involved using the services of a white theatre staff.

The young mother-to-be suffered for three days then died.

Dr Abrahamse sat beside his patient for three days watching her agony. Dr Roux Cloete, the Medical Superintendent at the hospital said: 'I am not prepared to comment on any individual cases at this hospital.'

## DUST



Truman

Some of the politicians of American imperialism cursed the world for much longer than necessary. President Harry S. Truman was 88 when he died last month.

The durability of the man who gave the orders for the dropping of the Atomic bomb on Japan is shown by the obituary published in the 'Honolulu Star Bulletin'.

It was originally written in 1954 and was set in type, gathering dust until publication date 18 years later.

The editor who wrote it died 12 years ago.

# SLOW DEATH FROM RUBBER DISEASE

## TV REVIEW BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

Man Alive: 'Danger, men at work'. Producer Tim Slessor. BBC 2, January 17.

During the 1930s a number of doctors expressed their suspicions of a chemical substance produced by ICI for the oxidation of rubber. It was being marketed widely, especially to firms like Dunlop's, to prevent rubber tyres from perishing.

In the 1940s it was proved conclusively that the substance, Betathiamine, caused cancer of the bladder. Immediately ICI brought in the most stringent protective measures for its workers; what they failed to do was to publicly alert those firms who provided the market for them.

As a result scores, if not hundreds of workers, particularly in Dunlop's, contracted cancer of the bladder, very often many years after their contact with Betathiamine.

ICI was taken to court and proved guilty in the matter. But this was small consolation to the men who had severe doses of this horrible disease.

'Man Alive' in its programme last week gave us something of an insight into this particular case as well as a couple of others among the rapidly-increasing hazards to health in industry today.

The second case was that of lead poisoning—the recent closure of Enthoven's factory in Southwark after the discovery of dangerously high lead content in the blood of children living in the vicinity of the factory.

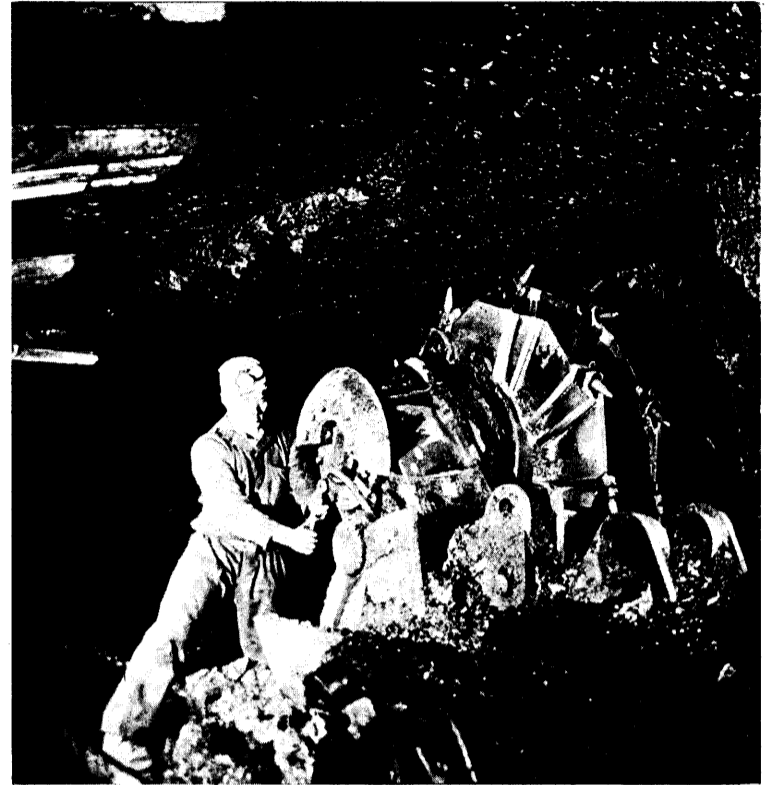
As the programme pointed out, there is an Enthoven factory in Derbyshire still running. A couple of the workers—Mr Fletcher and his son—appeared on the screen despite apparent fears by many employees 'that they would lose their jobs if they spoke up'. Mr Fletcher had already had a bad bout of lead poisoning; he and his son spoke of inadequate inspection and working in conditions of great heat and clouds of lead dust.

The third case was the long established horror of pneumoconiosis, or 'black lung', contracted for years by miners working on the coalface, and the fact that the development of modern machinery and techniques which should improve conditions, are, in fact, creating such huge quantities of dust that this fatal lung disease is on the increase.

If there was ever any previous room for doubt about the horrifying contempt with which the working class is treated by managements and governments alike, the discussion in the last half of the programme among union representatives, doctors, lawyers, safety experts and health mandarins soon wiped them out.

The union leaders, whatever their own shortcomings, represent clearly the last bastion of concern for working conditions and the working men in factories everywhere—although clearly, too, they are heavily responsible in their collusion at all times with right-wing policies at all levels.

Examples were given again and again of 'workers killed, maimed and poisoned' by industries not prepared to risk



Working on the coalface creates huge quantities of fatal dust.

loss of profit or extra expenditure on any process which might alleviate health hazards.

The factory inspectorate was quickly shown for the farce it is—400 inspectors doing the daily rounds through the whole country. It's only a poor sop for the liberal tradition in any case.

The heart of the matter lies with industry and government—plenty of sympathetic noises were heard from James Tye of the Industrial Safety Committee and Dr Spinks of ICI, plenty of outrage from the assistant general secretary of the T&GWU, who explained that 20,000 cases were now being fought out by his union on behalf of men in industrial accidents and with health injuries—although few damages were ever won, he said, for the health cases.

But all the outrage and sympathy is soon deflated when faced with the hard truths on the real action front.

Even the tame solicitor present pointed out that the Robens' Report, the government's only gesture in the direction of industrial disease and the like, had as its basic philosophy the assumption that the root of the trouble lay in the apathy of the working man himself. It was up to him to take on responsibility for his own health, to become aware of the risks he faced in his daily life.

To this appalling revelation the representative from the Robens' Report Committee, George Beeby, explained how disappointed he was that the Report had not in fact come up for government action this year, but how much he hoped it would next year, or at least within the government's lifetime.

From all this it is only too apparent that every worker in the country literally takes his life in his hands in the business of earning his daily living in industry. For all those toxic substances and health risks which have already been revealed, even the dignitaries on 'Man Alive' agreed, there must be hundreds as yet unknown.

With the added threat of unemployment to keep them hard at it, even in the worst conditions, the working men are set up like sitting ducks as a target for indescribable

pain and disease of all kinds—and with utter certainty as long as a capitalist state holds sway and industry can ask any price for production.

## MODELS IN THE CATTLE MARKET

All in a Day: 'The Collection'. Producer Roger Mills. Director Keith Sheather. BBC 2. January 17.

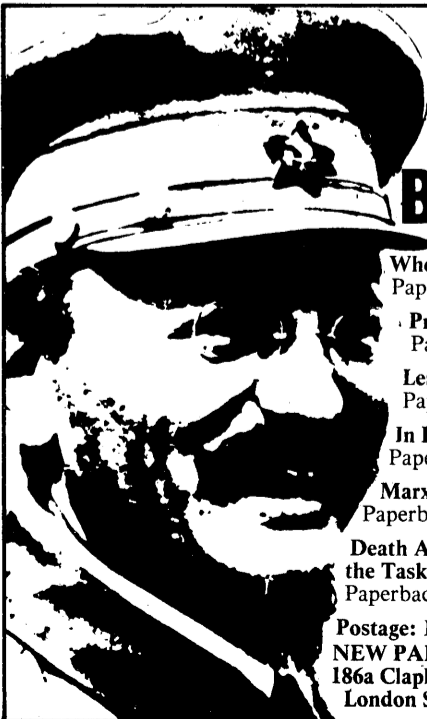
There's nothing like a glimpse into the enormities of the fashion trade and its exploitative extravaganzas, its stench of the rich feeding the rich, to really show us where the degradation about us receives its nourishment.

'All in a Day' showed the first 'exhibition' of a young designer who, in the terms of the day, 'makes it' on his first showing. As model after model contorts and preens in front of the buyers and Press and hangers-on come for the kill, and clothing worth thousands on the market is flaunted, the grisly spectacle only reminds us all the more of the greed and hard cash deals that lie just beneath the tinsel on top. It's nothing more than a cattle market in the crudest terms.

Glasses clink and furs flash—another bargain has been found—a new man to cater to 'the rich or the jet-set'—whatever you like to call it' as one girl reporter whimsically remarked.

And what a pain-stricken business it all is. A reputation is made for six months while the wealthy cash in and buy all the goodies they can—everyone knows that nothing lasts, that a built-in obsolescence infects the fabric of not only the glittering gowns, the gaunt models themselves, but the world they live in.

The craze is to buy, buy, buy—for any day, any market may vanish overnight, any collapse is on the cards. The question of the hour is—what will replace it? There are decisions to be taken by all of us.



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# B.A.T. MOVES FROM UGANDA INTO ZAIRE



The British-American Tobacco Company has just been nationalized in Uganda. But it has opened up in neighbouring Zaire, formerly the Congo. General Amin named BAT for takeover in a nationwide announcement last month. At this time the company had well-advanced negotiations to establish a base in Zaire. Under the investment the company will employ some 5,000 workers on the tobacco farms and produce some 200,000 kilograms a year within four years.



Dockers at Neap House Wharf, where pickets were arrested after incidents with police and two were fined £165 each.

# FAST PROFITS IN PROPERTY

English and Continental Properties are proving to be the fastest-moving company in the real-estate world. Just recently the company was into one of the largest property deals in the history of British capitalism.

It involved the sale of £100m worth of property in the City of London, Wales and in Scotland. The buyers were the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund and the main beneficiaries were Jack Walker and Ramon Green, who have a 49 per cent stake in E&CP.

Both men only entered the property market three years ago. The joint profit of the two men from the latest deal was about £20m.

E&CP has now turned up in Manchester. Last week the corporation announced a £30m outline plan to redevelop 23 acres of the city centre—the biggest-ever single development ever planned.

Work on the scheme is planned to begin in 1974. And the new owners of the derelict railway station, warehouses and car parking land? Why, E&CP, of course.

The ultimate plan is for offices, shops, a few homes and an exhibition hall. 'Our ultimate aim is to provide a site which will become the focus of Manchester and the north-west in an international context,' said Jack Walker.

One thing is sure. E&CP—which also owns the land on which the former British-Leyland gear box factory at Basingstoke stands, are potentially into a real money-spinner.

That should please the Crown Agents—the body mainly responsible for overseas government property interests.

The agents—Jack Walker worked for their solicitors before moving into property—have a 51 per cent controlling interest in E&CP.

An official inquiry began into the Crown Agents—a semi-government body—in 1971 following an investigation into their activities by 'The Guardian'.

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# STRIKE BREAKER CLEARED OF CHARGES

A sheriff's court in Scotland last week cleared a strike breaker who brandished a hammer at pickets on the grounds that his intentions had been 'purely defensive'.

The judgement was apparently in sharp contrast with the treatment of more recent cases involving those on the other side of the picketing situation — the pickets themselves.

For instance two dockers arrested at Neap House Wharf, Lincolnshire, last year were fined £165 each without any suggestion of them brandishing anything.

Thomas McNeil (24), from Perth, however, got different treatment.

Sheriff Harold Ford found him not guilty of committing a breach of the peace outside

the Perth Yarns factory, where he works, by brandishing a hammer and shouting. He also cleared McNeil of carrying an offensive weapon.

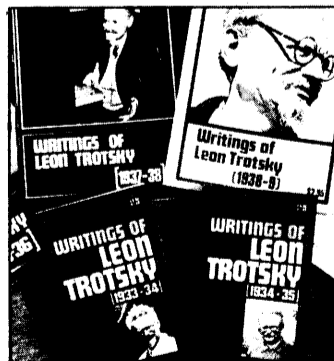
Not that McNeil denied brandishing the hammer.

'When I arrived at the factory,' he told the court, 'I saw crowds of angry looking men forming a barrier across the gate... I was alarmed and to bluff them I took out the hammer and said I would protect myself with it if any man laid a hand on me.'

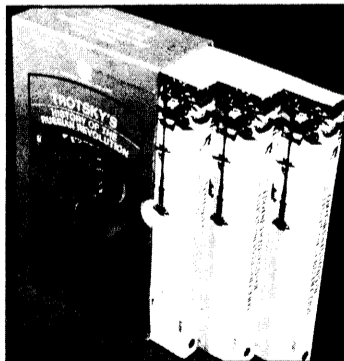
Following this 'purely defensive' statement, McNeil crossed the picket line and went in to work through a strike over promotion.

Ford's judgement appears to hinge solely on his own opinion that McNeil 'thought that pulling the hammer out was a necessary sort of self-protection' — yet another example of class justice.

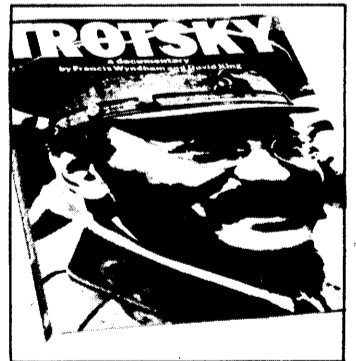
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# Defend democratic rights: Rally at Empire Pool, Wembley Sunday March 11

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN SOUTH SHIELDS

THE 'Road to Workers' Power' campaign has received another enthusiastic reception—this time in the north-east. About 250 trade unionists, housewives and youth packed the Marine and Technical College, South Shields, for the campaign's first public event in the area.

Judging from their response to a grand cabaret sponsored by the Young Socialists and by Jarrow and South Shields Trades Councils, the campaign is going to be a roaring success.

The South Shields cabaret was held last Friday night, after the successful launching of the campaign in Middleton, Manchester.

On Sunday, March 11, working-class families from Manchester, Merthyr Tydfil and Jarrow and South Shields will take part in a monster pageant of labour history at the Empire Pool, Wembley, in London.

For the day Empire Pool will be the scene of unique and spectacular re-enactment of working-class history before workers from all over Britain. The Pool, the largest enclosed auditorium in the country, can seat 10,000 spectators.

The north-east contribution will be the story of the first miners' union—formed in Jarrow in 1831.

One of the miners' leaders, Will Jobling, was hanged and gibbeted after being framed for murder. His body was hung in chains for three weeks on Jarrow Slate in a bid to kill the spirit of trade unionism in the area.

Last Friday night's cabaret skilfully incorporated glimpses of the determination of workers in struggle with working-class contempt for the hypocrisy and decadence of the ruling class.

After songs from Lisa Martin and a side-splitting, though macabre, sketch from Malcolm Tierney and David Hargreaves, compère Peter Armitage read to a hushed audience a letter written by a striking miner from Cowpen colliery to his employer in 1831.

It was a simple but profound expression of the determination of ordinary workers to fight for their rights.

Tom Kempinski and Corin Redgrave ridiculed the scandals and foibles of the Tory government in the white tie and tails setting of a Western Brothers sequence.

Corin Redgrave later joined Maggie Nolan in a take-off of the activities of those rapacious financiers, the asset-strippers.

Kika Markham's rendering of 'Twenty Long Weeks', a song about the 1844 Durham miners' strike, again had the audience cast in thoughtful silence.



## Big response to Pageant



Hector Gowland . . . appeal

About 35,000 men, women and children were evicted from their houses in the Durham coalfield during the course of that strike.

But, as at Middleton, the hit of the evening was the final song, 'The Road to Workers' Power', in which the whole company and

many of the audience joined.

Delegations attending the cabaret included miners from Westoe, Monkwearmouth and Dawdon collieries; boilermakers from the Swan Hunter and other Tyneside yards; a large group of women workers who took part in the successful Barboours' Rainwear strike; strikers from the three-week-old Coles Cranes sit-in.

Jimmy Inskip, secretary of the Westoe lodge of the miners' union, said he was sure that the campaign would win big support from miners in the area.

They had shown their

determination to defend their trade union rights in the case of the Westoe miner who had taken them to an Industrial Tribunal.

The lodge itself backed the campaign by providing the actors with accommodation.

Josie Lloyd, leader of the strike which organized Barboours, said that the pageant campaign was what was needed to make people aware of the scale of attack being launched on them by the Tories.

And Hector Gowland, chairman of the draughtsmen's union members at Coles Cranes, said he would



definitely be at the Empire Pool on March 11. He appealed for financial and other support from local trade unionists.

Tom Kempinski, Corin Redgrave and Lisa Martin seen during rehearsals.

## Students' grants campaign gains strength

THIRTY-FIVE student unions are taking part in the fees and grants campaign which has been escalating since the autumn, the National Union of Students has said.

Twenty-two universities, six polytechnics and one college of art are staging rent strikes aimed at securing a reduction in hall of residence fees and higher grants.

Seven other student unions may decide to join

the campaign in the next few days.

Where rent strikes are being held the students are withholding their money and paying it into a special fund.

The NUS also announced it will launch a new campaign in support of a £20m rise in the level of student grants.

University chancellors as a body have twice appealed to the Tory government to increase grants, but were

told there was no prospect of a further review of the rates.

The Association of University Teachers is also sympathetic to the students' case.

The NUS claims that because of inflation, many students have been reduced to starvation levels and are suffering real hardship.

Writing in 'New Society' this week, Essex University sociology reader Mr Ernest

Rudd said that students were worse off today than they were ten years ago, even though their parents were paying a higher percentage of their income towards their maintenance than they were in 1962.

There would be a major confrontation between students and the government unless something was done to help them soon, said Southampton University's vice-Chancellor Professor L. Gower.

● TOMORROW night the campaign will be launched at Merthyr Tydfil. The cabaret will be staged at the Pentrebach Labour Club, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil, at 7.30 p.m.

● FOR FULL details of the Empire Pool, Wembley, rally and pageant on Sunday, March 11, see the advertisement on page 12. Tickets available from 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

### TODAY'S TV

#### BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.00 Office. 12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45 Animals at home. 2.05 Schools. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Fish. 5.40 Magic roundabout. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 YOUNG SCIENTISTS OF THE YEAR.

7.10 STAR TREK. Patterns of Force. 8.00 PANORAMA.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.

9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'KISSES AT FIFTY'. By Colin Welland. With Bill Maynard Marjorie Yates, Rosemary Dunham.

10.35 COME DANCING. 11.10 LATE NIGHT NEWS.

11.15 CINEMA. Investing in Leisure. 11.40 Weather.

#### ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.33 World War I (London only). 11.00-11.52 Schools. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Alice through the looking glass. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Le Butin de Colombert. 2.20 Cartoon. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'The Three Musketeers'. 4.25 Black arrow. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 My good woman. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.

8.30 BLESS THIS HOUSE. It Comes to Us All in the End.

9.00 CONJUGAL RIGHTS. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 THE SPIRIT OF LONDON. With Carol Channing, Vince Hill, Ted Rogers, David Berglas, The Norman Maen Dancers, Anita Harris.

11.30 DRIVE IN. 12.00 WORLD WAR I. 12.30 EPILOGUE.

### REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.52 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.00 Schools. 2.20 Film: 'Annie Get Your Gun'. 4.15 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Maverick. 6.45 London. 11.30 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.15 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Date with Danton. 11.27 News. 11.30 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Schools. 2.10 Training the family dog. 2.30 House-party. 3.00 Film: 'Sally's Irish Rogue'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Southern scene. 11.00 News. 11.05 Theatre of stars. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Guide-line.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.00 Farm-house kitchen. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Film: 'The Charge of the Lancers'. 4.25 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'How Awful About Allan'. 11.50 Scales of justice. 12.20 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 6.01-6.22 Y dydd. 8.00-8.30 Yr wythnos.

HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 2.00 Dr Simon Locke. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Forever Female'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 11.30 Stories worth telling. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 11.32 Let's look at Ulster. 12.05 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Film: 'For Better, For Worse'. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 ITV reports. 6.15 Smith family. 6.45 London. 11.30 Monday night. 11.35 Branded.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Congo Crossing'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.45 London. 11.30 Yoga. 12.00 Jimmy Stewart. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA 9.30 London. 11.55 Bugs Bunny. 12.05 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Film: 'Please Turn Over'. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 11.30 Evil touch.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Prologue. 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 News. 2.31 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 Film: 'Merrill's Marauders'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the Press. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.25 News. 12.40 Lectern.

SCOTTISH 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 Film: 'Cruising Down the River'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 Lion and dragon. 11.20 Reg Varney.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 12.12 Cartoon. 12.25 London. 1.38 Schools. 3.05 News. 3.08 Film: 'Something to Live For'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Royal clansmen. 6.40 London. 11.30 Odd couple. 12.00 Medit on.

#### BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

7.05 PARENTS AND CHILDREN. There's more to it than tables.

7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.

7.35 LOOK, STRANGER. The Free Miners of the Forest of Dean who earned the right to dig for coal.

8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. How to Rob a Bank in One Hard Lesson.

8.55 CALL MY BLUFF.

9.25 SHOW OF THE WEEK: NANA MOUSKOURI. Guests Julian Bream, John Williams, Matt Monro, Fiona Fullerton.

10.10 AMERICA. The Promise Fulfilled and the Promise Broken.

11.00 OPINION. 11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

# Prices scream ahead

INCREASES in the price of food in the coming period were 'unavoidable', the Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said at the weekend.

Howe reaffirmed what is already contained in the Phase Two legislation—that the Tories will do nothing to hold down the soaring cost of food.

In a speech at Eastbourne he said there must be no illusion about the fact that some increases in costs were unavoidable and therefore that some increases in prices were also unavoidable.

Howe said the government was pursuing a policy of 'firmness and fairness.'

'It is a fight in which we claim the support of all our people,' he added.

The Tories have no such claim

## PRICES ROUND-UP

because they are to blame for the soaring cost of living. It was their decision to 'float' the pound—to devalue it—that has pushed up the prices of all imported goods.

And they have encouraged their supporters in the food monopolies to stage a prices ramp to bring prices into line with Common Market standards.

Lord Watkinson, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes, gave the lead on this when he said 'the era of cheap food is over'. Watkinson is former Tory Defence Minister and member of the Macmillan Cabinet.

FIGURES just released show that there was a rise of 1.5 per cent in the retail price of food in December

—during the first full month of the first stage of the state pay and prices laws.

This compares with a rise of 8.6 per cent for the whole of 1972.

The main increases were in the price of beef, bacon, fish, eggs, lamb, sausages, pork, chicken, cauliflower and tomatoes.

Since these commodities went up there has been a fresh round of increases for ham and sausages announced just before Christmas.

IN LEEDS schoolchildren are being given the Courtaulds-made synthetic meat, Kesp, as part of their school meals.

Nearly 900 pupils are the 'guinea pigs' for this experiment without the knowledge of parents or teachers. Kesp is spun protein from a bean base. The experiment is being supervised by Leeds University.

## Fighting the Tory rent Act

# Legal moves a danger to tenants' fight

FROM PHILIP WADE IN CLAY CROSS

CLAY CROSS Labour group will decide tomorrow night whether to appeal against the £7,000 surcharge faced by councillors for refusing to implement the 'fair rents' Act.

Before that two councillors will travel to London with north-east Derbyshire MP Tom Swain to see Labour Party chiefs who have apparently offered legal advice. It was Swain who urged the group on Friday night to put off any decision on the appeal until the councillors were 'in full possession of the facts'.

The councillors—who are automatically disqualified from office for five years—will ask the district auditor to detail his reasons for imposing the surcharge on them.

Several councillors are deeply suspicious at Transport House's sudden interest in their fight.

With justification they point out that the struggle has been going on for 18 months and that the Party's National Executive has opposed them all along the line.

'It's the first time we've heard from them,' Cllr David Nuttall told me. 'The move is a little late in the day and seems like a face-saver to me.'

Tomorrow's group meeting will be a crucial one in the battle by Clay Cross against the Tory government's 'fair rents' Act.

Some members of the 15-strong group—it includes four Labour Party delegates—favour an appeal to the High Court while another determined section want no more to do with legal battles.

By taking it out of the political arena into the legal jungle, time would be lost and the effect would be to defuse the movement building up in defence of the councillors and tenants' basic rights.

It would hamper moves to mobilize the working class as the only way to fight the Tories and the 'fair rents' Act.

And an appeal would cut the Clay Cross fight adrift from the general offensive against the Tories now being taken up on all fronts in defence of basic rights by the working class as a whole throughout Britain.

The reformist leadership in the Labour Party will run away rather than mobilize miners and tenants who have shown their willingness to defend the councillors.

That is why Transport House is suddenly interested.

What the Labour bureaucrats want to do is kill the Clay Cross fight by tying it up in legal arguments. Clay Cross councillors should double their guard and take the fight out into the open.

## Front is heckled

CHANTS of 'Fascists Out!' and 'Racialism Out, Socialism In!' greeted National Front demonstrators from the sidewalks of Blackburn during an anti-immigration march there on Saturday.

About 300 people—including many young children—made up the National Front contingent. Opponents of the march mustered at least an equal number to heckle as the Front supporters passed through the town centre.

The large force of police mobilized to protect the NF used police horses to crush the counter-demonstrators against buildings.

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Help us therefore with a very big effort for our Fund this month. Time is running out so let us raise as much as possible. Post every donation immediately to:

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## Press takes up 'tougher measures' line

# Tories leak Phase Three diversion

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

THE TORIES are attempting to bludgeon the trade unions into supporting Phase Two of their state pay claim by raising the spectre of a tougher Phase Three.

Yesterday all capitalist newspapers carried front-page articles warning of the Phase Three proposals.

'Sunday Mirror': 'Still tougher pay curbs, coupled

with tighter price controls, are planned by the government from the autumn. I learned authoritatively that this means an even lower limit on wage increases.'

'Sunday Telegraph': 'Far tougher control of wages and prices will be introduced by the government later this year. The proposed limit on wage rises of £1 plus 4 per cent will be cut back drastically in Phase Three.'

'Sunday Express': 'Mr Heath is planning an even fiercer tightening of his clampdown on wages later this year. He is intent on reducing still further wage increases permitted under Phase Two.'

'News of the World': 'Phase Three of the government's prices and incomes policy, due in the autumn, will be even tougher on wages than the planned Phase Two, which starts in April.'

The purpose of this carefully-leaked Tory propaganda is to set up a diversionary debate about Phase Three.

The Tories hope that by some slip of the mind, workers will forget about Phase One, which has just been extended for 90 days, and Phase Two, which comes into parliament this week.

PROTEST against the state pay laws is snowballing.

A summit is being planned of all civil service unions to co-ordinate industrial action to oppose the 'blatantly unjust' pay controls.

Bill Kendall, general secretary of the 200,000-strong Civil and Public Services Association, has asked for the recall of the TUC to fight Phase Two.

Gas workers all over the country are either involved in or threatening industrial action.

About 300 gasmen in St Helens and other Lancashire towns struck last Saturday in support of their wage claim.

In the north-east, shop stewards representing 3,000 manual workers in the industry will ban overtime from today. The ban will hit the three big gas-producing plants at Blydon, North Shields and Hartlepool.

East Midlands workers in the same union, the General and Municipal Workers' Union, have decided to continue their ban on overtime.

'They are very angry and frustrated by what the government is doing to them,' said Alan Wood, the regional organizer. 'Strike action seems to be spreading throughout the area.'

THE NATIONAL Industrial Relations Court has snared its first trade union leader. Alfred Brooks, ex-general secretary of the National Union of Bank Employees, is to become a judge of the court.

The union which he led until last year is one of 32 unions suspended by the TUC for registering under the Industrial Relations Act.

Brooks is among five newly-appointed NIRC members.

## Hull gasmen step up pay action

HULL GAS workers decided yesterday to step up their non-co-operation policy launched in support of their pay claim. Their decision, taken at a mass meeting, will seriously disrupt all the fitting and maintenance working in the city.

They have imposed an overtime ban, a work to rule and are blacking all contract work. The campaign involves about 240 General and Municipal Workers' Union members in the servicing and appliance section.

Although gas production will not be affected, union officials believe that almost all the remaining staff will now be engaged

on emergency work only and that normal services will grind to a halt.

The meeting condemned the decision of the union leadership to call off the one-day protest strike in Hull last week and demanded that the G&MWU national executive re-call the delegates' conference for the industry to decide further national action on the claim.

Len Megson, regional union secretary, said: 'The lads feel that they are being used as pawns for Heath's policy. They want a £5 rise, though even this will leave them among the low paid.'

Some workers at the meeting called for immediate and indefinite strike action. They pointed out that an overtime ban was not going to defeat the government.

One militant shop steward said that the low-paid workers should unite and fight the government pay policy. The gas workers will meet again next Sunday.

ABOUT 1,200 men from Stoves Limited, St Helens, are on strike in protest against redundancies which they say are in breach of negotiated procedures.

The men went on strike last Thursday and they are to meet today at the Rainhill Labour Club to decide on future action.

Today's meeting will be addressed by Jack Higham, general secretary of their union, the National Union of Domestic Appliances.

Sixty-one of the work force were given their notice with one week's notice in lieu despite stewards' requests for negotiations.

But management decided who was to be sacked, despite the usual procedure of last in, first out. Stewards told Workers Press that management gave a verbal agreement in June 1971 that there would be no redundancies for three years.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AND SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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1842

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