

WORKERS PRESS

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

WILSON WARNS OF UNLIMITED FINES BY SECRET COURTS

'Further erosion of the freedom of opinion'



PHASE TWO LAW CAN GAG PRESS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

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As Workers Press reported a week ago, the editors of Fleet Street have been to 10 Downing Street and agreed to restrict news of workers' defiance of Heath's corporatist legislation.

Speaking to the Press Club in London last Friday night, Wilson pinpointed the Tory attack on the Press: 'The Press itself—and it should not have been left to a politician to point this out—can, under a Bill now before parliament, and supported by practically the whole Press, be called before either or both of two new administrative tribunals, meeting in secret, enunciating their own laws, laws which will never be put before parliament for approval.'

'These tribunals are expressly authorized to prosecute those it considers to be in breach of the laws it has made and seek in the courts financial penalties literally unlimited in amount against the Press or any section of it.'

Wilson went on: 'It is not difficult to envisage circumstances in which a Press undertaking... might feel it right to take action which could lead to the closure of newspapers and a further erosion of the freedom of opinion.'

Wilson's warnings are correct—they echo what Workers Press has been saying in relation to both Phase One and Phase Two laws. At the same time as the right of wage negotiations and the right to a decent standard of living are whipped away, the right of the Press to condemn the laws and to encourage workers to defend their rights is also threatened.

But we have to ask Wilson what he and the Parliamentary Labour Party are proposing to do to stop these laws getting on the statute books. Read what political correspondents were writing in Saturday's capitalist newspapers:

'THE TIMES': 'Labour's wrath at the government measures against inflation will be disclosed as an exercise in controlled militancy when the battle on the Counter-inflation Bill is fought out in the com-

mittee stage beginning on Monday. Shadow Ministers are no more desirous than the government to delay the passing of the Bill.'

'THE GUARDIAN': 'The Opposition does not intend to obstruct passage of the government's Counter-inflation Bill through the committee stage which starts on Monday. There will be no attempt to filibuster the Bill. This policy... was being described as "controlled militancy".'

'DAILY TELEGRAPH': 'The Opposition has devised a programme which has the approval of the government for a 45-hour committee stage over two weeks. The intention of the Opposition is obvious—not to delay proceedings and be held responsible for prolonging the "freeze".'

In other words, the Workers Press article of ten days ago is absolutely vindicated: Wilson and his friends will not impede the Tory timetable of getting laws for the three-year control of wages onto the statute books.

The open collaboration of the Labour Party leadership is in line with the co-operation they afforded the Tories on other pieces of anti-working class legislation:

- The Industrial Relations Act.
- The European Communities Act (69 Labourites led by former deputy leader Roy Jenkins voted with the Tories to take Britain into the EEC and thereby saved the Heath government).
- The direct rule in Northern Ireland Act and the so-called 'fair rents' Act.

A week ago—on January 29, 1973—we told of a conspiracy between Heath and Fleet Street editors to play down the growing working-class opposition to the Phase Two state pay law. Now Harold Wilson says the Press not involved in this conspiracy and supporting workers' wages struggles could be taken before the Phase Two tribunals and fined so heavily they would have to close down.

PRESS CHIEFS MEET HEATH

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POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Derry massacre march in...

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● Sir Lew Grade's ATV has just announced it will not transmit a film on Irish patriot Michael Collins.

● Sir John Donaldson, president of the National Industrial Relations Court, has warned industrial correspondents and the BBC about their risk of committing contempt of his court.

● The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, has banned publication of a 14,000-word article by the 'Sunday Times' on the Distillers Company and thalidomide.

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But in the course of that struggle the Wilsons and the Feathers must also be exposed as reformists who are unable and unwilling to defend these rights.

Inseparable from this double-edged battle is the campaign to transform the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party in the coming weeks.

Last Saturday Workers Press published the draft political perspectives of the Central Committee for the party.

This is the way forward for the working class. If the legal attacks on the trade union movement at the turn of the century forced trade unionists to build the Labour Party, today's more repressive measures call for revolutionary action.

This is the next stage along the Road to Workers' Power, the title of the pageant of working-class fight for basic democratic rights which the SLL and the Young Socialists are presenting at the Empire Pool Wembley, on Sunday, March 11.

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Nixon tooling up for trade war while flattering Heath

EDWARD HEATH'S visit to Washington can have left him with few illusions about the intentions of the United States towards Europe. He learned that the Americans have not yet finalized the details of their strategy in the forthcoming trade and monetary talks with their overseas competitors.

But the fate of Concorde, the development of the international monetary crisis and the continued spate of denunciations of European trade practices by Washington officials leaves in no doubt the general lines of this policy.

With a balance-of-payments deficit of over \$6,000m last year, the United States is in no mood to compromise with the Common Market.

Nixon's aides have already expressed their opposition not only to the common agricultural policy and the formation of industrial agreements with non-EEC states in Europe, but

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

also to the preferential trade agreements with former colonies of EEC countries and to the ambitious plan for a Mediterranean free trade area.

They have indicated that all these issues—together with the question of further upvaluations of European currencies and the shouldering by the EEC countries of a larger share of military costs in Europe—must be treated as a single entity with the main aim of making Europe accessible to American manufacturers and bankers both as a market and as a sphere of investment.

Heath's 'partners' in the Common Market—the French

in particular—have always regarded Britain as a Trojan horse for the United States. De Gaulle long opposed British entry into the EEC on just these grounds.

Their fears will have been confirmed both by Nixon's flattery of the Tory leader and by Heath's sycophantic groveling to the US.

Though Heath was careful not to make any concessions on trade questions which might have offended his EEC allies, he was also plainly angling for some continuation of Britain's 'special relationship' with America.



HEATH . . . Trojan horse?

Heath's position is further confirmation of the extreme weakness of British imperialism and its absolute inability to play any independent role. Entry into the Common Market has settled none of the basic historical questions facing the British ruling class.

The Tories want to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. But this is not a tenable position. Nixon will stay on 'good terms' with Heath only as long as he can hope to use Britain as a means of undermining the Common Market and destroying the prospects for capitalist monetary union in Europe.

Kaunda keeps his border patrolled

RHODESIA lifted its border blockade on Zambia yesterday, but the Zambians scorned the move as a trick and announced that their own blockade, imposed three days ago, would stay in force.

Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda adamantly denied that there had been any deal between himself and Ian Smith, the white supremacist Rhodesian premier.

In announcing the ending of the blockade, the Rhodesians had hinted that Kaunda had backed down on his policy of aiding black nationalist guerrillas who have launched a new series of attacks into Rhodesian territory.

The Rhodesians closed the border on January 9, promising that it would remain closed until they got 'satisfactory assurances' from the Zambian government that they will no longer permit terrorists to operate against Rhodesia from their territory.

Kaunda emphatically denied sending any assurances: 'I want to say to the whole world in a very solemn manner that I have given no undertaking to Mr Smith and at no time have I been in contact with him, either directly or indirectly,' he declared.

The fact that Zambia is keeping the border closed would appear to strengthen Kaunda's denials. If Smith has unilaterally reopened the border, it is a considerable admission of weakness by a man whose regime is becoming less and less secure.

Nixon lets the dollar slide

BY AN ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE UNITED STATES will not intervene in international money markets to prop up the dollar. This was the unmistakable message from Washington as the European and Japanese capitalists prepared for another week of financial crisis.

The dollar has been extremely weak for days and European and Japanese central banks have had to take in very large amounts of the US currency to prevent their own currency being revalued.

In Germany, one of the dollar-holders' prime targets, the government was forced on Saturday to introduce stringent exchange controls to maintain the mark parity.

In particular, the Bonn government has decided to block non-authorized foreigners from dealing on its stock markets—an attempt to keep out Euro-dollars from West Germany.

This will throw even more of a burden on the yen, which is regarded as the most vulnerable currency of all. The fear that revaluation may be imminent has already created panic conditions on the Tokyo stock exchange, and more than £7,000m was wiped off share prices last week.

The governor of the Bank of Japan has warned in an unprecedented statement that an upward revaluation of the currency is not ruled out. Until now the idea has been stoutly resisted by Japanese officials.

With no intervention either from the US or from the International Monetary Fund (which has also indicated it will stand on the side-lines) the stage is set for a currency crisis from which only the US can benefit.

It appears that President Nixon has decided to put an end to the 13-month-old Smithsonian currency realignment agreement which has signally failed to reduce the American balance-of-payments deficit.

The Smithsonian system has been crumbling for months—at least since Britain floated the pound last year.

Since then, most of the European countries have either floated or introduced 'two-tier' foreign exchange systems in an attempt to protect their parities.

But with more than \$60,000m of unconvertible paper in the Euro-dollar market alone, there is no practical way the governments can prevent the threat to their parity every time there is a crisis on the markets.

The United States' action in standing aside from the crisis on the money markets is an unmistakable declaration of war on its competitors.

Devaluation of the dollar would increase the competitiveness of US goods abroad and make it even more difficult for foreign manufacturers to sell in the already protected US market.

It is a means of throwing the burden of economic crisis onto Europe, which can only intensify the class struggle and increase the likelihood of major commercial crashes in the near future.

Illegal print shop found in Madrid

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

SPANISH political police claim they have smashed the Communist Party's propaganda machine. They say they found an illegal print shop in Elipa, a Madrid working-class district.

CP members have been arrested and thousands of pamphlets on the struggle in Spanish industry seized.

The repression has also spread through the universities. Valladolid campus in Castile has now been closed down by the authorities.

Mass students meetings were broken up violently last Thursday and Friday after the Dean described his 'desire to protect the right to education'.

Barcelona students demonstrated through the centre of the city against the closure of the university. Groups threw Molotov cocktails at the armed police.

Three hundreds research workers at the Supreme Council of Scientific Research in Madrid organized a pay protest on Saturday.

The East European Stalinists continue to weaken these struggles by their continued fétting of Franco's police chief Iniesta Cano.



THE PROBLEM of the drastic shortage of housing in 'democratic-socialist' Chile was highlighted by a recent newspaper advertisement: 'I'm not a foreigner, but I still need somewhere to live.' Despite the promises of the Popular Unity government to provide 'a roof for every family', many are left like the family above while foreign residents with dollars get housing. Landlords are refusing to accept the inflated escudo. Its official rate is 46 to the dollar, but on the flourishing black market, this ranges from 250 to 300.

Allende's new 'left' allies

THE CHILEAN Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has announced that it will participate in the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

These Castroite 'revolution-

aries' are to support the candidates of President Salvador Allende's Socialist Party and the Movement of the Christian Left.

MIR leader Miguel Enriquez, justified the abandonment of the 'armed struggle' by the need to protect the Popular Front government against threats from more bosses' strikes.

Enriquez warned of the danger of 'the splintering of the armed forces and the defeat of the working class'.

The MIR, the ideal of centrists internationally, now finishes up in the camp of General Carlos Prats, weeks after the cynical attacks by Allende against 'greedy, striking workers, worse than the Yankee millionaires'.

EEC Commissioners meet British food chiefs

THE COMMON Market's Agricultural Commissioner, M. Lardinois and his director general, M. Rabot, last week attended a two-day top-level conference of British agriculturists and food trade leaders.

It has been revealed that the informal conference, held at the Civil Service College, Sunningdale, Berkshire, was convened by Tory Agriculture Minister, Mr Joseph Godber.

Among leaders in Britain's food industry who attended were Sir James Barker, chairman of Unigate; Mr Kenneth Durham of BOCM-Silcock Ltd; Mr John Sainsbury, chairman of J. Sainsbury Ltd; Viscount Trenchard, chairman of Unilever; Viscount

Watkinson, chairman of Cadbury Schweppes Ltd; and Mr G. S. Roberts, chairman of the Agricultural Division of ICI.

Leading civil servants present included Sir Alan Neale, permanent secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, and Sir Con O'Neil, chairman of the intervention Board for Agricultural Produce. On the farming side were Mr Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union and his deputy, Mr Richard Butler.

NEWS DESK

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CIRCULATION

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THE BOWRING DYNASTY TURNS TO THE EEC

C. T. Bowring and Company, the world's largest finance, insurance and shipping group, has appointed a new chairman.

Mr Edward Bowring is to take over the two-century-old firm from Mr Ian Edward Bowring Skimming, who died suddenly on January 20.

The new chairman of the £150m group was previously joint deputy chairman and chief executive of C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings, the company responsible for all Bowring's insurance broking and reinsurance broking both here and overseas.

He was born in California and in the 1939-1945 war he served with the 143rd (Kent Yeomanry) Field Regiment RA, finishing as second in command of his regiment. He commanded a field battery through the 1944-1945 campaign in France and north-west Germany and was awarded the Military Cross and mentioned in despatches.

Solicitor

After the war Bowring qualified as a solicitor and was a partner of Cripps, Harries, Hall & Co, and was in private practice until 1955 when he joined C. T. Bowring & Co (Insurance). Until last year he

was President of the Insurance Institute of London.

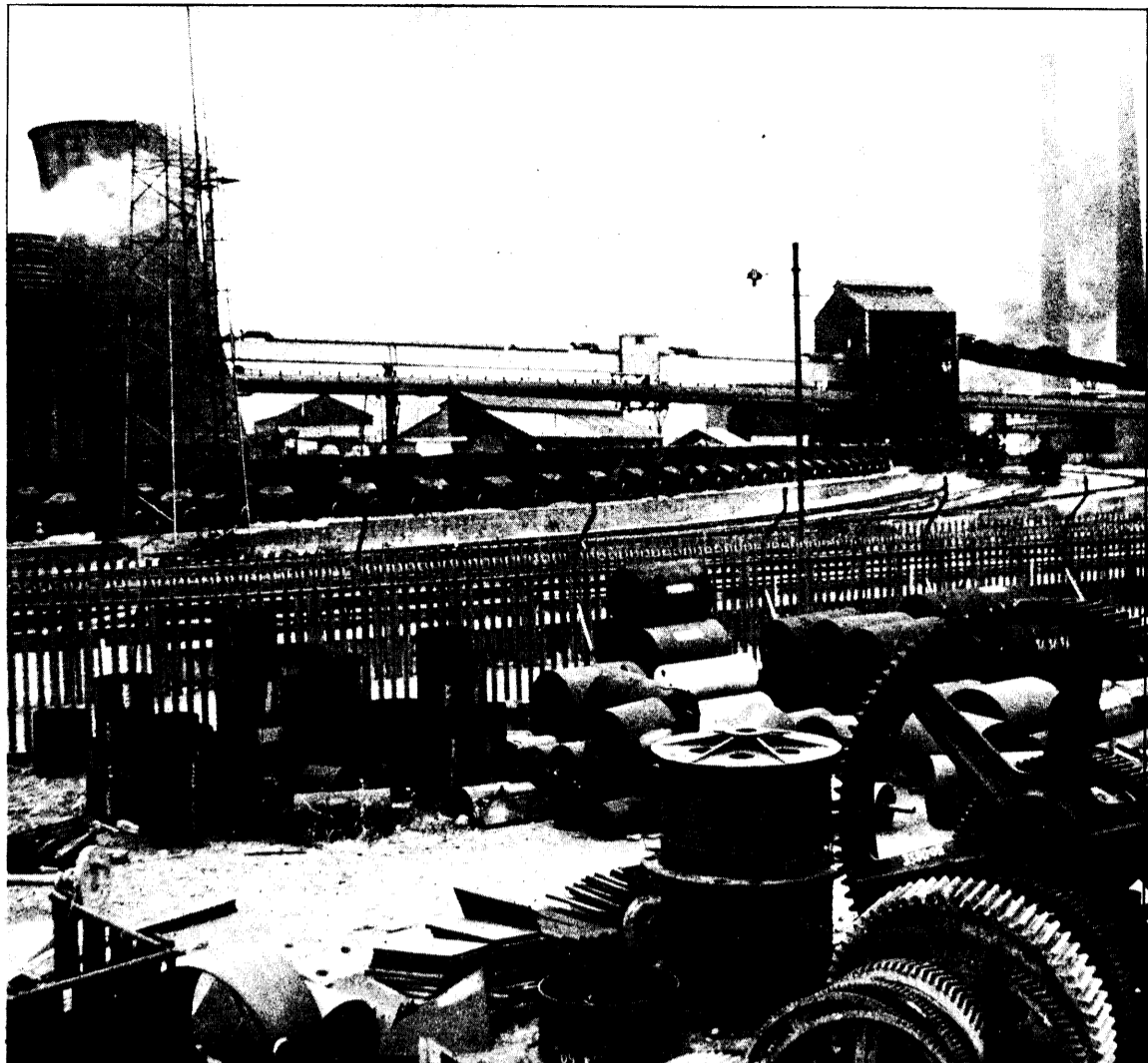
Bowring has a long association with the county of Kent, having been brought up as a boy in the village of Goudhurst.

Since moving to his family firm in the City in 1956 he maintained his contact with the country by first being Deputy Commandant of the Special Constabulary in Tunbridge Wells, later Commandant and finally Commander of the Special Constabulary for the whole of West Kent.

Business

He resigned from the Special Constabulary in 1971 as, he felt unable to give as much time to the service which he, because of his business duties and the fact that he had been appointed President of the Insurance Institute of London, felt it required.

At the end of last year Bowring's became the first major British company—it ranks 30th in 'The Times' league table—to obtain listings on the Common Market stock exchange. In recent years the company has made a series of sweeping takeovers: Bowmaker, a leading credit finance company, and Singer & Friedlander, a merchant banking house.



WORKER-DIRECTORS AT BRITISH STEEL

The British Steel Corporation has altered its rules regarding worker-directors. From now on the employee directors can sit on the board of BSC and still hold union office.

This has been agreed following a two-year study by both the BSC and the TUC.

Until recently the 16 BSC directors from the shop floor had to relinquish union office once they joined the board. 'They were seen as individuals, rather than representatives bridging the gap between management and shop-floor workers,' one newspaper report said.

The TUC-BSC study showed, however, that by giving up union office the 'proletarian' director 'lost touch with the men he was supposed to represent and became increas-

ingly embedded in the management structure'.

One of the worker-directors, John Slater, has just received an enthusiastic write-up in one of the northern newspapers.

This is perhaps unfortunate, because it is in this area that the BSC 'reorganization' is going to have a devastating effect.

The paper describes him as 'one of the rare breed of bosses—the employee-director' and emphasizes his humble beginning as an apprentice.

He is now a director in the corporation's general steel division.

Since the renationalization of steel there have been more than 30,000 jobs lost. What has Slater, a so-called workers' representative, to say about that?

'There have, of course, been very bad times when we have been involved in decisions to close steelworks that we know personally.

'But we have managed to establish much closer liaison with union officials,' he added.

'The whole scheme is a good one and should be adopted by nationalized and private industry because more worker participation is on the way.

'I can see the time when workers will be involved in all decisions. I won't use the phrase "worker's control" because it's too well used in the past. Let's just say participation.'

In Slater's statement is contained all the dangers of the slogan 'worker-participation' and 'workers' control' when it is used by types like Jack Jones and Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

By workers' control these individuals mean, literally, control of workers. They mean a style of corporatism in which labour bureaucrats carry out the functions of capitalist managers and foremen.

WAGE PLEA BY TEXTILE WORKERS

The textile union has timidly tabled a pay claim for its 6,000 workers in the Oldham area.

Included in the claim for a 'substantial all-round increase' is a guaranteed minimum earnings clause of £20 a week for adult workers.

The £20 claim is only marginally above the national assistance minimum.

But even this meagre demand from one of industry's most exploited sections of workers is outlawed by the state pay laws.

Has the union informed its members of this situation? Is it mobilizing in a campaign for wage justice? Not at all.

Mr Joe King, general secretary of the National Union of Textile and Allied Workers, said last week that he was expecting negotiations to go ahead.

He says the claim was tabled before the announcement of the Phase Two proposals. 'We appreciate we shall now have

to take this into account,' he added.

He most certainly will! The new legislation forbids any increases above the £1 plus 4 per cent laid down by Heath.

Any union or section of workers who defy this state 'norm' face unlimited fines and even imprisonment.

● The right wing will have a very difficult time trying to control the Oldham workers if their indignation breaks out.

Mr John Foster, a researcher at the Department of Politics, at Strathclyde, has just given a lecture in praise of the part Oldham workers played in founding socialism.

Foster says that the fight for socialism was particularly powerful in northern towns like Oldham during the 70 years from 1790 to 1860.

The fervour of the working-class movement in the town during 1834 was such that a senior army officer firmly believed that two companies of infantry were insufficient to deal with an uprising, Foster added.

He was opposed to the court procedure, however, because 'it could take six to eight weeks to get the case entered in the lists. And County Court fees are very heavy. The result is an unsatisfactory order which defers payment initially.

'In the end the amount of arrears has grown so large that it becomes almost impossible for people to pay up.'

He said that arrears were already steadily rising to £50 and £90 in some cases.

On his advice the committee agreed to pay the 5 per cent commission.

FOOTNOTE: Councillor B. Wright opposed the increased fee for the bailiff. He said it was against the 'freeze' imposed by the Heath pay laws!

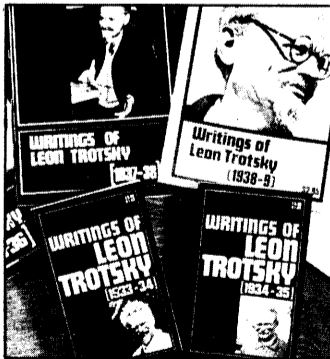
CALL THE BAILIFF

The Chadderton Council, near Manchester, is to pay its bailiff a commission of 5 per cent for rent arrears he collects for the council.

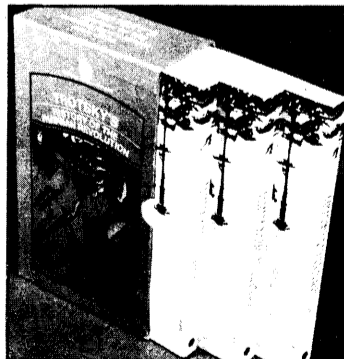
This followed an ultimatum to the council by the bailiff that unless his fee improved, he would not do any more business for them.

Mr R. Greenwood, the treasurer, told the finance committee that the only alternative was to get another bailiff or try to recover the arrears through the County Court.

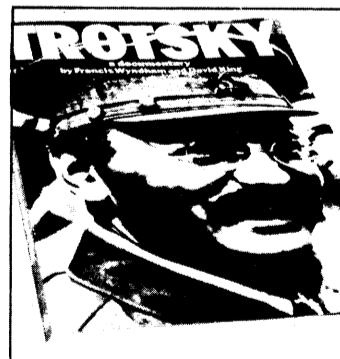
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LANCASTER EMPLOYS AN EXPENSIVE PR MAN

While students up and down the country are finding it impossible to manage on inadequate grants, their universities are also feeling the effects of economic crisis. While inflation worsens, both the government and other sources of cash are getting tighter.

Take Lancaster University—one of those bright new places thrown up in the 1960s to usher in the Wilsonian 'technological revolution'.

Recently it was reported that a large number of Lancaster graduates could not get jobs.

Opportunities for further research are not so good these days, either. One of the university's science lecturers complained to Workers Press the other day: 'I've got some really excellent students, doing first-class work, and I simply can't get grants for them!'

What made him particularly bitter was an advertisement he showed us, which the university is intending to publish shortly. It is headed 'Information and Press Officer', and invites applications from suitably-qualified persons for this new post.

The salary will be in the range of £4,000 to £6,000 a year.

Not bad for what the university usually refer to in their internal publications as a 'period of financial stringency!'

As Workers Press readers will remember, there was a bit of trouble up at Lancaster last year, over alleged political victimization of left-wing teaching staff. Enough trouble in fact, to cause a long strike by students, industrial action by some teaching staff, and a bad reputation for the Lancaster University authorities among students and many university teachers throughout the country.

The inquiry commissioned to look into the Lancaster situation, was conducted by Labour councillor Tom Taylor, of Blackburn. It produced a report which was described by Lord Greenwood of Rossendale, (former Labour MP Anthony Greenwood, pro-Chancellor of the university) as a 'model of clarity'.

In fact, the Taylor Report was rejected both by the students' union and by the academic staffs branch of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), and the two combined to produce a detailed counter-report.

The Council of the University, however, over which Lord Greenwood presides, refused to discuss this detailed report and preferred Taylor's. On page 7 of the Taylor Report, among his recommendations, comes 'Item 4: appointment of an Information Officer'. Cllr Taylor emphasizes: 'It is vital that the post be filled by a first-class man of wide experience.'

He also recommended that the Information Officer should have charge of a new official university newspaper.

The advertisement says: 'The person appointed will be responsible to the vice-Chancellor.'

Besides maintaining relations with the Press, TV, radio, etc., he must also possess the personality to establish good relations with senior and junior members of the university', and must 'understand issues of academic policy'. He'll certainly have his work cut out!



CP BACKS WELSH NATIONALISM

BY IAN YEATS

Members of the Communist Party are backing the setting up of a separate Welsh TUC. A special conference of delegates from trade unions and trade councils will be held at Llandrindod Wells a week today.

Prime movers of the plan are the Welsh sections of the National Union of Mineworkers and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Communist Party Welsh executive member and Welsh NUM secretary Mr Dai Francis told me:

'I don't think we, as Welsh workers should be precluded from the same rights and privileges as Scottish and Irish workers.'

I asked Mr Francis if anything specific had prompted the plan. He told me:

'It was the struggle the miners had 12 months ago and the tremendous support we got from trade unions and trades councils.'

'All Wilson and, what's that other fellow's name, Feather, could do was to suggest to our leaders that they meet the government for an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation. I think that means that they wanted a compromise.'

This idea that the English TUC, and indeed the Labour Party, does not care about Welsh workers (and presumably workers generally since any 'compromise' would have applied equally to all miners) is central to the move to form a breakaway congress.

T&GWU leader Mr Tom Jones—not, in fact, a CP member—made the point in relation to Welsh workers' other big current fight—against steel redundancies.

He admitted in his Cardiff office: 'The TUC steel committee has failed miserably. The

feeling in Wales is that the English TUC has more or less said "yes" to the closures.'

In the same vein there are major criticisms of full-time officials who are responsible for implementing British TUC policy.

Mr Francis told me that they had called on the Welsh Regional Council of Labour to back them during the coal strike, but he claimed the council—comprised of trade union officials—refused to act.

Both men stress that it is rank-and-file action at the grass roots which alone gets results.

This leads us to another concept held out to workers as having the potential to guarantee they will not be sold short in their struggles with employers.

Tom Jones put it this way: 'The transport workers and the miners want to set up a democratic TUC for the whole of Wales and it will be the rank and file who take part in its affairs instead of full-time officials.'

With the closure of pits, railways and steelworks and almost no new industry coming into the Principality, Mr Jones claimed support for nationalist elements was growing.

He said Welsh workers would fare no better under a Labour government than under Heath. He told me: 'Labour, Conservative, it's all the same. It does not matter which. It is all state capitalism!'

Plaid Cymru (Welsh nationalist party) general secretary Mr Dafydd Williams said they were delighted about the move to set up a Welsh TUC.

Political parties, as such, will not be participating in next Saturday's conference at Llandrindod, but their members will.

When the assembly finally meets at the Hotel Metropole, it will include communists,

nationalists, Tories and Labourites.

British TUC general secretary Mr Victor Feather sent a circular to all affiliated Welsh organizations on January 24 advising them to boycott the conference.

The circular said that the 'sponsors' should be summoned to their respective union headquarters and asked to defer any action until the General Council had completed its examination of regional machinery.

There was 'no case', it declared ominously, for 'unilateral action', but went on to admit that in some circumstances there might be a case for an all-Wales trade union body.

Mr Francis said there was no possibility of the conference in one of Wales' traditional towns being called off. He added: 'I don't think Vic Feather was within his rights to tell us to call it off.'

It is no longer a surprise that virulent nationalist sentiments of this kind come from a Party which has shared platforms with the Scottish nationalists and has marched with the National Front on anti-Common Market demonstrations.

But the fact that they come from the Communist Party presents such a danger to the working class.

There is no doubt that a mood of doubt and cynicism about the performance of the next Labour government has been present for some time in industrial South Wales.

But instead of trying to carry this frustration and questioning forward into the discovery of revolutionary Marxist politics, the Stalinists are throwing their weight behind something that can only lead to demoralization.

By backing Welsh nationalist sentiments, they pander to the most backward ideas of the

Welsh middle class.

The setting up of a Welsh TUC can only split and weaken the British working class just at the moment when it needs to stand united against the attacks of the employers and the Tory government.

The prospect of Wales, or Ulster or Scotland faring any better in a UDI situation is a lethal fantasy.

These nations are inextricably caught up in the teeth of the world capitalist recession and the sole hopes of workers everywhere lies in their ability and determination to destroy that system.

There is not a shred of a suggestion that even if the separatist dream could be brought to life, all industry would be nationalized in a socialist economy under workers' control and without compensation.

On the contrary, their policies are tied mainly to halting the rundown of the Welsh economy and summoning all those who regard themselves as Welsh—workers and employers—to try to build it up again.

Capitalism and the closure of obsolete plant in the pursuit of profits is an international phenomenon.

The Communist Manifesto is clear: 'The working man has no country'.

The way forward for Welsh, Scottish, Irish and English workers lies in building the revolutionary Marxist Party which alone will enable the working class to take power.

This is the only way to defeat the attacks of the Tories and the cowardice of the Labour and trade union reformists.

Communist Party attempts to throw a spanner into that development by channelling grass-roots militancy into futile nationalist demands must be fought and destroyed.



INTRODUCING ... TITO'S PHASE TWO

Phase Two of the Yugoslav 'stabilization' scheme comes into operation today with an outcry against sharp meat price increases. Under Phase One workers' wages were cut.

Trade union chiefs, under rank-and-file pressure, have demanded that those responsible for the price rises be called to account. The Yugoslav government has promised to act.

It went into emergency session last Thursday night and declared that the price rises of up to 50 per cent could jeopardize its entire anti-inflation programme.

WAGE CUT

Nearly a million workers in Yugoslavia had their wages cut by up to 25 per cent in order to pay off the accumulated debts of their factories and offices.

The cuts took effect on January 1 and companies which tried to evade their full effects by paying extra bonuses have been sternly ordered to get the money back from their employees.

The salaries of office staff and non-productive workers (this is the coy name which conceals a multitude of bureaucrats) have been frozen in an

effort to spread the burden and appease the workers.

But leaders of the Federal trade unions have declared the 'stabilization' programme is hitting workers hardest, forcing down their standard of living.

They had originally promised full co-operation with the 'stabilization' scheme, but are now hurriedly back-peddling, indicating growing working-class anger at the attack on their living standards by the Tito regime.

The Federal government spokesman told a Press conference that the price rises would be cancelled because they were imposed before national guidelines for permissible increases under the stabilization programme.

Belgrade trade union chief Ilija Dobric told Federal and Republican union leaders: 'The workers are shocked and discontented. I do not have the courage to face them.'

Mr Marijan Rozic, Federal trade union secretary, demanded that those responsible be taken to account: 'The workers demand explanations about who is carrying out the price policy and how.'

'It is impermissible to freeze personal incomes and at the same time allow the inflation of prices and living costs. Personal incomes are already burdened enough and it is not realistic to place the entire load

Tito: Phase One meant that nearly a million workers suffered up to 25 per cent wage cut. Phase Two means further price increases.

of stabilization on the consumer,' Rozic declared.

The increases, announced last Wednesday, caused shock and confusion among consumers and institutions when they took effect.

INFLATION

Firms, managed under Yugoslavia's self-management system, feared they would have to close their workers' canteens. Hospital spokesmen said that patients might have to go home for lunch, while restaurateurs predicted massive drops in business.

Local officials, asked for an explanation of the increases, said they had been given authority by the Serbian government and although increases were to average 20 per cent around the Republic, the exact amount was left to them to determine.

They said much of the increases would go to producers to stimulate domestic production, while the rest would go to taxes and retailers.

The stabilization programme, which enters a new phase today is intended to slow the rate of inflation which for the past two years has averaged over 16 per cent a year.

ONCE AGAIN ITS THE FUEHRER CULT

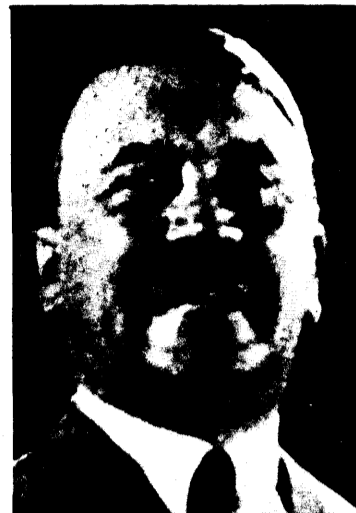
The Hitler cult lives on in West Germany 28 years after the once all-powerful Fuehrer had shot himself in a bunker under the ruins of Berlin.

Among thousands of comfortably off and mainly middle-class Germans there is a profound nostalgia for the glories of the Third Reich when Germany was on the road to world conquest. The glamour of the uniforms, the marching feet and drums dies hard and is recalled in secret meetings in private houses or deep in the forest.

All the old insignia are brought out; the uniforms of the SS, the Nazi elite force, are donned and middle-aged men hoarsely sing out the marching songs which inspired them in their youth. The corps which was once a state within a state in Hitler's Germany, and ruled conquered Europe by fire and sword, is still recalled with pride by these fanatics.

They hope that their day will once again dawn and that the swastika will fly over a re-born Reich goose-stepping out once more to conquer the world. Not without reason, they claim that they have support and protection from within the existing establishment.

The man who believes he is Hitler's son is not so optimistic. He fears being ostracized if his relationship to the dictator who spread death and suffering throughout Europe



Hitler: out come the uniforms

became known. The story goes that Hitler had two children by his mistress Eva Braun, a daughter in 1941 and a son in 1943.

The reporter who claims to have tracked down Hitler junior says that he only learned of his parentage five years ago. His memories of his father were of 'a very kind man in many ways'. After being adopted by an Austrian couple as a war orphan, details of his childhood came back to him, he says, following a mental breakdown.

Whether his story is true or not, it demonstrates once again the fascination which Hitler's demonic personality still has: More dangerous, however, is the fact that as long as capitalism survives it will be capable of producing other Hitlers.



THE OLD SCHOOL OF FALSIFICATION

The visit of Chancellor Willy Brandt to Communist Party secretary Leonid Brezhnev was the occasion for smiles and conviviality all round—at least that was the impression which the Tass photo distributed to the foreign Press seemed to show.

The smiles were broad and there was no shortage of cigarettes—or alcohol. Three bottles of wine (or beer) made an appropriate centre-piece for the photo.

In the same scene as depicted for 'Pravda' readers the broad smiles had been toned down and the bottles had disappeared altogether. A campaign against alcoholism is currently being waged in the Soviet Union which would not have been assisted by giving a summit meeting the air of a drinking party.

The art of doctoring photographs has long been practised by the Stalinists. In one famous case Trotsky was erased altogether from his place in front of a platform from which Lenin was speaking. In a more recent one Dubcek, the Czech leader, was erased from a group photograph which had previously been published—leaving only his foot.



STEEL

Part three. East Moors: Fate sealed

BY IAN YEATS

On January 14 the public heard for the first time that the linchpin of all the plans to save East Moors Works, Cardiff, was dangerously close to being knocked out.

Guest, Keen and Nettlefold chairman Sir Raymond Brookes announced that his company might drop its plan to build a new rod mill in the city.

The mill was to be an extension to the existing GKN

re-rolling plant at East Moors, which takes virtually all the steel made in the neighbouring British Steel Corporation furnaces.

Although the new rod mill would not employ extra men, the action committee at the doomed BSC plant had hoped that the expansion in the demand for steel it would bring about would at least justify the new mini-steel works announced by the corporation.

There is even some doubt about that because in his statement at Cardiff City Hall,

BSC chairman Lord Melchett said the mini-mill, employing 500 men, would be built in the first instance by GKN or, failing that, BSC.

GKN has shown little enthusiasm to build the new super modern plant equipped with electric arc furnaces.

Worse, Brookes has now said that unless Cardiff is given development area status—which means government subsidies for the company's rod mill—it may not be built.

And if it is not built, he added, there would be no need

for the new steel works and GKN might consider abandoning its re-rolling activities in the city altogether.

If all this came to pass, instead of the 4,100 men due to be sacked over two years as a result of the shut down of BSC's open-hearth plant at East Moors, up to 8,600 men could be thrown onto the dole.

It would be difficult to disguise the size of such an employment disaster not only for the city, but for the 'valley' travel-to-work areas as well.

The hopes of both the East Moors works Action Committee and the City Corporation are pinned to the flimsy prospect of the new mini-works and an expansion of the GKN plant which it services.

The Action Committee is basing its strategy on co-operating with the City Action Committee to win development area status for Cardiff.

With 5 per cent, or 7,500, unemployed in the city, Cardiff already benefits from intermediate area status.

Development area status would kill two vital birds with one stone. First it would give GKN the necessary state subsidies it wants to maintain its operation and open the new

rod mill.

And secondly, both Committees hope it would provide the enticement to industry to settle in the town.

Committee leaders told me they were not considering anything militant such as a sit-in to halt the closure of the existing works.

The works has still not received formal notice of closure and the run down seemed likely to be phased over three to five years, they say.



'The whole thing might be done without any redundancies at all,' Mr T. Davies, the chairman, told me.

East Moors is a first generation works and Mr Davies told me there were men there who could remember it opening in 1937.

This means that during the next three to five years there are certain to be a large number of men eligible for early retirement.

OPTIMISTIC

Natural wastage could claim 1,000 men. 500 more will be employed at the new mini-works. And the giant BSC plants at Newport and Port

 British Steel Corporation.
General Steels
Division
**East Moors
Works** 





Talbot are expected to absorb up to 1,000 workers.

But even if these optimistic forecasts were all to be realized, there would still be 2,000 men out in the cold and the prospects for them are bleak.

Hence both action committees' insistence on top priority being given to the attainment of development area status for the city.

Part of the 220-acre East Moors site will eventually be cleared by the Corporation for industrial development and in addition it has just opened two other estates at Forest Farm and Pentwyn.

The problem is that these developments take place against a backcloth recording the gloomy fact that since 1969 almost no new industry has gone to Cardiff and some firms have actually closed down.

Whether recession will allow the Corporation's dreams to come to reality, therefore, is more than debatable.

But there is an alternative plan—although one which will do nothing to help displaced steelworkers.

Town Clerk Mr Stewart Lloyd Jones told me he hoped to see the city develop all the

services appropriate to a regional capital.

He said Cardiff's future prosperity hinged on an expansion of the white-collar sector, which already employs 74 per cent of the town's labour force.

In the next 20 years the Corporation looks forward to a doubling and trebling of the university and technical college student populations.

In 1973 and 1974 the government and British Rail are expected to provide new office jobs for 3,700 men.

On the surface, with 3,700 new jobs in service industries, plus 2,000 more from new manufacturing industry moving onto the industrial estates, the future looks bright.

All, of course, hinges on the course of the slump and none of it solves the problem of workers made redundant from manufacturing industries.

Manufacturing and extractive industries are in steep decline in Wales and more redundancies are still to come.

In the past decade 26,000 jobs in the mines and 13,000 in manufacturing have been axed, giving Wales unemployment figures until recently running at double the national average.

As the Town Clerk admitted, of the 4,000 to be sacked from East Moors works, there will be a 'very substantial hard core with steelmaking skill'.

Said Mr Lloyd Jones: 'For them and their families to see the bottom drop out of their existence is stark tragedy.'

It certainly is. Many of them must, without any shadow of doubt, join the 7,500 others on Cardiff's dole queues.

For the time being the works' 20-man action committee, representing all trade unions in the plant, intends to explore, responsibly, every possible avenue of either saving it or alleviating the worst effects of shutdown.

Said Mr Davies: 'We don't want to hold a gun to anybody's head.'

The opening salvos of the committee's campaign will be directed almost exclusively at pressurizing the Secretary of State for Wales and the Tory government into granting the coveted development area status.

In addition it will use the time between now and eventual closure to 'challenge' all the BSC's proposals for the future of the works, in a last-ditch bid to force a change of heart.

This will include taking up the Corporation's offer to scrutinize their books.

In this they will be helped by the town action committee, which includes Labour MPs James Callaghan, George Thomas and Tory MP Michael Roberts.

But if the worst comes to the worst and 4,100 men are made jobless, the situation will be extremely grave.

And if GKN carries out its threat to withdraw the re-rolling operation from the city, axing the mini-works plan, Cardiff would approach being declared a disaster area.

FATAL BLOW

Not only would 8,600 jobs be directly lost in the iron and steel plants, but contractors, hauliers and dependant engineering plants would also suffer carrying possible redundancies up above the 10,000 mark.

The docks too, already drastically run down, would be dealt a fatal blow.

South Wales ports director Mr T. S. Roberts disclosed that a third of Cardiff docks revenue and a quarter of its business depends on the steel works.

BSC's open hearth plant at East Moors in Wales. Its shut-down will put 4,100 men onto the dole over the next two years.

900,000 tons of coal and over 9 million tons of foreign ore pass over the quays each year.

There is, of course, no likelihood that the East Moors works will be saved however many arguments are brought to bear to 'challenge' the BSC's decision.

The open-hearth steel-making process is irretrievably doomed and the East Moors works is based on its seven open-hearth furnaces.

According to BSC's general steels division in Cardiff, these furnaces produce 9,000 tons of iron and 17,000 tons of steel a week.

By comparison modern Basic Oxygen Converters at the giant Spencer works near Newport turn out 5,000 tons of iron and 7,000 tons of steel a day.

This stark illustration of the obsolescence of the East Moors plant has sealed its fate. No amount of pressurizing anybody will change these facts.

On January 11 the Communist Party's 'Morning Star' reviewed 'Imperialism and the Accumulation of Capital' edited by Ken J. Tarbuck. The book is a selection of writings by Rosa Luxemburg and Nikolai Bukharin. Workers Press will be reviewing the book in the near future. First, however, we must deal with the 'Star' review. Tom Kemp writes:

MR BELLAMY'S SCORN FOR MARXISM

Only the twisted mind of a Stalinist hack could have produced the review of a book containing writings of Rosa Luxemburg and Nikolai Bukharin which appeared in the 'Morning Star' for January 11.

It begins with a reference to 'Rosa Luxemburg's argument of 1911 and 1921'. The author, Ron Bellamy, an economist in the University of Leeds, apparently does not know that Rosa Luxemburg was murdered in 1919!

Bellamy makes the routine comparison between Luxemburg and Lenin on the theory of imperialism, without bringing out Rosa's own attack on the revisionists contained in her 'Anti-Critique'. The reason is that Bellamy is a revisionist himself and his evocation of Lenin is completely spurious.

In fact, like the Stalinist movement as a whole, Bellamy has abandoned Lenin's characterization of the epoch of imperialism as one of wars and revolutions. Instead he speaks about 'neo-colonialism', 'state monopoly capitalism' and 'the unity of all anti-monopoly currents'.

A CHANGED CAPITALISM

Like Bauer and the Austro-Marxists whom Rosa Luxemburg so vigorously attacks, he has explicitly abandoned the idea that capitalism is driving towards any kind of collapse or 'breakdown'. As he puts it, conserving a minimum of Marxist phraseology:

'The general crisis of capitalism [?] and the relation between two systems, rather than cataclysmic slumps and the "breakdown" of capitalism have provided the actual context of real political struggle over the past three decades.'

Rosa Luxemburg's errors, though real enough, were being compared with the revisions of Bauer and Bellamy. Both accept that capitalism can overcome its crisis and Bellamy that capitalism has changed into something different from that conceived by 'classical Marxism' as well as by 'Lenin, Luxemburg, Bukharin, Trotsky'—according to Bellamy.

At a stroke Bellamy junks all that old stuff in favour of the latest Kremlin-inspired nonsense intended to justify the Stalinist bureaucracy's search for 'peaceful co-existence' with imperialism.

In fact Bellamy heaps scorn on Marxism in every sentence. He denigrates Bukharin's contribution to the theory of imperialism, just as he does Rosa Luxemburg's. He should read Lenin's preface to Bukharin's 'Imperialism and World Economy' once published by the Communist Party's publishing house and then suppressed when Bukharin was

first disgraced and then murdered by Bellamy's mentor, Joseph Stalin.

Bellamy then has a gratuitous dig at what he calls 'the theoretical and practical bankruptcy of modern Trotskyism', which, he says, is not 'mitigated by identifying the hand behind the ice-pick (see Penguin's glossy picture-book "Trotsky")'.

Since Bellamy jumps to try and discredit a book which was absolutely necessary in order to answer—as it does brilliantly—the half-century of lies and terrorism directed against Trotsky and Trotskyism by Stalinism, he will presumably not object if his own responsibility for this dirty history is mentioned.

As late as 1957, Bellamy answered Communist Party members, concerning the death of Trotsky, with the GPU slander that the assassin was some member of Trotsky's own circle, blinded by personal jealousy in a love affair!

The dispensers of such lying concoctions are as much 'the hand behind the ice-pick' as was the assassin himself. And this is what Bellamy does not like about the book by Wyndham and King: it identifies Stalinism as the killer of Trotskyism and the betrayer of the October Revolution.

Bellamy's attempt to pose as the defender of Marxist 'orthodoxy' would be ludicrous if it were not so serious, so typical of that brand of intellectual who puts himself completely at the service of the bureaucracy. It was this same Bellamy who opened discussion at the Economic Advisory Sub-committee of the Committee of the Communist Party in October 1972.

The speech he gave, published in the January edition of 'Marxism Today', is worth brief reference for an insight into the devious mind of a Stalinist hack.

Bellamy opens with a series of abstractions, the point of which becomes clear only later. His purpose is to turn certain basic Marxist concepts into their opposite, in order then to be able to justify the latest requirements of the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy in the Kremlin.

According to Bellamy, there exist 'potential productive forces' and the capitalist owners take decisions whether to use them or not, and if they do, they introduce 'changes in the actual production relations'.

CARICATURE OF MARXISM

Lenin long ago explained (building on Marx and Engels) that historical materialism unearthed basic objective processes in history which 'do not first pass through consciousness'.

Now along comes Bellamy to explain that the capitalists' decisions are the actual means by which the economic basis of history is changed:



Rosa Luxemburg: Mr Bellamy chooses to leave out Rosa's own attack on the revisionists.

'It is men in production relations, possessed of interests, who have decided to use the potential available to them, and thus established a new, and different, set of relations between themselves. Given that they have interests, the decision is not voluntary, but necessarily consequent upon those interests. That, it seems to me, is the way in which the famous law of conformity of production relations to productive forces operates.'

If this was Marxism, it would correspond exactly to the caricature made of it by every bourgeois critic. But why does Bellamy want to make such an elementary mistake? It is in order that he can picture the capitalists of today as men who take decisions about how to develop the economic system, and whose decisions can then be influenced in the 'right' direction, i.e. that decided by the Stalinist bureaucracy. He says:

'If therefore, to take a modern example, the new productive forces require for their utilization new forms of divi-

sion of labour between countries [Lenin and Trotsky thought they required socialism and the abolition of the barriers of the nation-state] and therefore new forms of co-ordination, to say that is not to say what forms that co-ordination shall take.'

TRADE PACTS WITH USSR

To cut a long story short, this rigmarole is leading up to Bellamy's real point: the British capitalists are looking to the Common Market for 'new forms of co-ordination' to utilize the 'potential productive forces'. What they ought to be doing is turning to trade pacts with the USSR!

What a travesty of Marxism! Instead of an objective analysis of the contradictions of imperialism to form the basic political perspectives of the working class, Bellamy starts from the counter-revolutionary requirements of his masters, the Kremlin bureaucracy, and mutilates Marxist economics to fit the bill.

Yes, the book on Trotsky evidently needed the discredited old men in King Street as well as their hangers-on like Bellamy in the universities. They try to cover up the crimes of the past by an audacious forgetfulness which enables them to attribute to others the same faults of which they themselves are guilty.

As always a faithful time-server of the Stalinist bureaucracy, Bellamy is contemptuous of theory and regards reprints of works by Luxemburg and Bukharin as 'antiquarian revivals'.

Despite mistakes, both made important contributions to Marxism. The reason why their works are only just being reprinted is nothing to do with antiquarianism but comes about because they were suppressed during the Stalin era. Only in recent years has a complete edition of Rosa Luxemburg's works been published in the German Democratic Republic where, at least, such 'antiquarianism' has become respectable.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

CONTINENTAL

Charming thought from the Rev K. P. Bullock, the vicar of Ainsworth. He is critical of Britain's entry into the Common Market. In his latest parish journal he lashes the politicians who are 'crawling after the Continentals'.

DEATH BY NATURAL CAUSES

'Death by natural causes' was the verdict of a Salford coroner in the case of Augustus Naziebenegua Bandle (33), a Nigerian who died within a day of being refused admission to hospital.

An inspector at the Regent Tyre Co in Broughton, Bandle did not go to work on January 10 because he felt unwell. He complained of stomach pains and the following day developed an excessive thirst. On Friday morning his doctor diagnosed influenza and prescribed some tablets.

Later on Friday, January 12, Bandle became rambling in his speech and told Mrs Ann Feeney, who lived with him, he thought he was going to die.

The senior house officer at Salford Royal Hospital, where Bandle arrived by ambulance just before 4 p.m. explained this by saying that a high percentage of people who presented themselves at hospital felt sorry for themselves. 'His temperature was slightly below normal and his pulse was up a little, but blood pressure was all right and he looked reasonably well. Respiration was normal too and I formed the opinion the fast heart beat was related to the influenzal type of illness.'

Bandle died at home at 4.30 p.m. the following day of pneumonia due to influenza.

The house officer, Dr A. J. Banks, told the court: 'I am sure that if he had been kept in hospital he would have died because of the very rapid and virulent virus.'

And this was implicitly accepted by the coroner, who declared the hospital's diagnosis that Bandle did not need hospital treatment 'correct' on the grounds the influenza could not have been detected at the time the diagnosis was made—just 24 hours before he died.

PACT

In the backwoods of north-east Scotland two groups of political nonentities have recently been engaged in apparently insignificant discussions which are, in fact, a warning to the Scottish working class. Sixteen members of the Scottish Liberal Party and the Scottish National Party have signed a motion calling for an electoral pact between the two parties.

The proposal is that the Liberals should not challenge the SNP in ten seats, while the SNP would not oppose the Liberals in seven. The corporatist undertones of the deal are reflected in the motion's statement that the pact is necessary to secure a parliament 'which could defend the national interest'. Both parties claim to put 'Scottish interests' first.

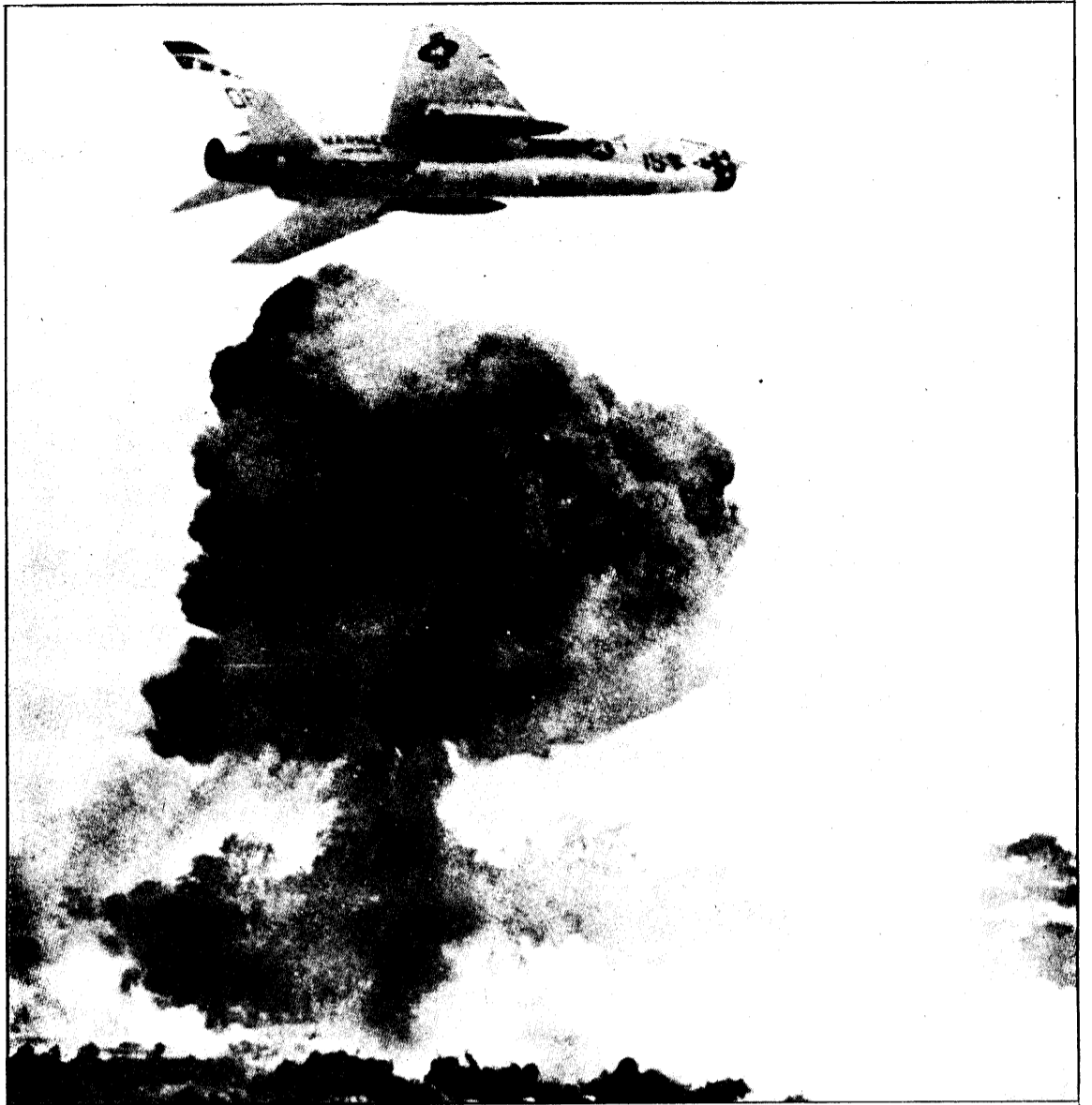
The first test of the support the SNP and the Liberals can mobilize in Scotland will be in the forthcoming by-election in Dundee to fill the seat vacated by Labourite European Commissioner George M. Thomson. At present both parties are running candidates.

Any alliance in Dundee or elsewhere could only be based on the attempt to channel similar forces to those which the Liberals mobilized in some recent English by-elections, and to marry them to any demoralized or confused sections of workers taken in by the SNP's policies.

This utterly reactionary movement is spending large sums of money on an advertising campaign claiming that the administration of the North Sea oil 'boom' by a Scottish government would result in higher pensions, better wages and full employment.

Labour and Communist Party leaders in Scotland only succeed in giving some credence to this movement by promoting similar illusions concerning the oil 'boom' and by participating in events like the recent Scottish Assembly.

The Scottish working class, locked in a life-and-death struggle with the Tory government to defend basic rights won in decades of common struggle with their English brothers against the British capitalist class will not be misled by these reactionary diversions.



CAPITALISM'S LAST RESORT

TV REVIEW BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

Deep in the bowels of the earth under Nebraska in the American mid-west a crew of American army technicians and scientists man the strategic headquarters.

They control not only the powering mechanisms of 1,000 missiles planted in position across the earth, but the nuclear submarines, the aircraft and all the power which lies in wait for the moment when the red telephone, sitting at the heart of these headquarters and elsewhere, is lifted to give the orders for a full-scale nuclear war.

There are 46 of these bases, all identically equipped and manned, but in the event of such a war, there is also the possibility that, built so far underground though they are, the bases could be wiped out.

To cover this eventuality there are a fleet of planes (of which one is always flying) which are each manned by a crew of four—three radio operators, two maintenance men, a battle staff of 11 and a steward.

These planes constitute the area of last resort and can command and launch all the missiles and any remaining power that may exist in such a state of disintegration.

Each plane is in direct touch with the President's plant. Each plane has its red telephone and its red box which is sealed and available for unlocking by only two keys.

In the red box, in code lie the President's orders for battle. And everywhere that the President travels, so too travels one man who carries this code in its constantly changing form. A few hundred yards from their deadly aircraft the crews sleep, eat, and work on average a 74-hour week.

Theirs is a very special task. At very frequent intervals exercises are engaged in—all aircraft are taken up and flown for a time (they are capable of 10,000 miles without refuelling) to determined points, always on the alert for the signal from the President which may come to alter their purpose and destination.

These extraordinary elaborate procedures and mechanisms—and others like them—were shown on Alistair Cooke's penultimate episode of 'America' on Sunday night. They are the means by which the United States, the largest capitalist power of them all, protects not only all her property, her loot amassed in its various shapes over the years, but her position in international politics, her prestige, her status—if you like, her image.

In other words a great web of myths and realities so interwoven that the Americans themselves are hard put to make clear what it is they would like everyone to see them to be doing.

What they are doing, of course, is making certain that if the United States senses threats and receives them from other quarters of the globe then those in power are equipped to retaliate with the last possible means—the possibility of unleashing world destruction. It's a very simple matter in the ultimate sense. And no amount of propaganda can obscure it.

Alistair Cooke is an adroit old liberal and has long been a significant ambassador for the US in his broadcasts and journalism over the years.

With immense affability and charm he conducted this programme as if he were running a dinner party. The smiling host took us through the past in easy fashion and showed us the democratic origins of the monster means of warfare which have been developed.

The Americans abolished their army after the War of Independence 160 years ago. They had only a 'citizens' army' which meant every man with a rifle on his mantle, every man for himself against marauders, lawbreakers, and, in particular, the Indians who created such a disturbance over the white man's invasion and property-grabbing that the US Cavalry had to be born.

Several million deaths and many thousand-broken treaties later the Indians were put in their proper place—under the white man's boot.

The Marines, that legendary body of killers, grew out of

the need to stem piracy on the high seas at a time when the US didn't want to be interrupted in the business of raping nearby landscapes, exploiting and building colonies in central and south America, pushing trade ever upward.

Mr Cooke revealed all this in his friendliest manner. He did everything possible to detract from the vicious content of what we were really seeing—he even made the Nuclear War Museum into a fun place for the children and with a broad sweep of his pen across the face of American history did his best to establish the best of all liberal stands—a 'rational' good-humoured view of it all tinged with a little moral concern.

With attractive filming and a reassuring compilation of international history of this kind, we are clearly intended to feel that despite the horrors which exist all's well and everyone is in control of affairs.

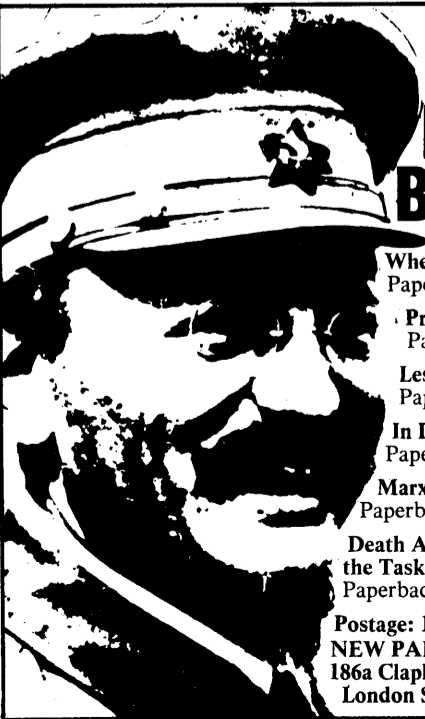
That this last is true is patently obvious to anyone who understands the momentum of today's crisis.

But liberal propagandists like Cooke are dangerous. They gloss over, in all sorts of subtle ways, the real stuff of American capitalism, the major threat it represents at all times.

History is made into a game, an entertainment for a passing hour or so—only the smashing away of these seductive and manipulative techniques can reveal what lies beneath, can allow history to teach us how to destroy the system which gives rise to militarism and war.

The problem is not, as Cooke tried to persuade us, a moral one at 'Los Alamos Laboratory where 50 per cent is pure research being undertaken and 50 per cent military research'. It is not a moral problem in that gross abstract sense that scientists like Einstein come across formulas like $e=mc^2$ and it happens to mean, in our terms, Hiroshima.

It is a problem that can be solved only by the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.



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BREAD MONOPOLIES PROSPER WHILE YOU EAT CRUSTS

In a month's time the Ranks Hovis McDougall group, Britain's largest flour milling and bread combine, will ask the Tory government for permission to raise the price of bread by 1½p.

Formality

If the Tories stay true to form, the application is a mere formality. It will go through like greased lightning. Last week the Ministry of Food and Agriculture gave the go-ahead for increases in the price of all frozen fish and meat.

The big fish marketing firms—Bird's Eye and Findus—start their round of price increases today.

The move by the bread monopolies, however, will have an across-the-board impact on the standard of living of the working class, as bread is a staple diet.

RHM, which produces two main bread lines, Mother's Pride and Nimble, has grocery interests such as Bisto, Paxo stuffings, Energen and Scott's Porage Oats.

The last financial year was a record one for the company; all divisions except flour milling announced higher profits. Trading profit rose 17 per

cent and dividends to shareholders 13 per cent.

Indeed, the company did so well that it is to make a bonus-free share issue of one new share for every four already owned.

The trading profit over the past six years is as follows:

1967 £22.7m
1968 £27.5m
1969 £29.4m
1970 £30.5m
1971 £32.9m
1972 £38.6m

But despite this position of record profitability, the chairman, Joseph Rank, spoke darkly in his annual report that 'margins on the standard loaf have caused concern'.

He then went on to announce that 'selling prices must inevitably be increased'.

Allegiance

The annual accounts also show the extent to which the company is firmly committed to the Tory Party.

It gave £4,500 to the right-wing Economic League and £5,000 to Aims of Industry. These two organizations are notorious for their allegiance to the 'free enterprise system'.

While the working class is bearing the brunt of the bread price rises, Rank and his colleagues on the board of directors will be doing very nicely thank you.

They paid themselves a staggering £310,000 last year.

And with inordinate generosity to themselves, they have launched a share incentive scheme to allow directors and senior management to buy shares on preferential terms.

Rank paid himself a salary of £41,700. Share dividends brought his salary up to £52,000.

In other words, Rank's salary is about £1,000 a week. Or £25 an hour—assuming he works a 40-hour week. This is about 40 times more than he paid the average employee who received only £1,256 in the year.

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THE REAL FACE OF HEATH'S 'ONE NATION'

When the Tory government was campaigning in the 1970 General Election its manifesto was called 'A Better Tomorrow'.

For a handful of people in money-lending, property speculation, asset-stripping and banking, this, of course, has been realized.

But for the vast majority of people, particularly the youth, the elderly and the lower-paid workers, the Tory election slogan has proved to be an utter fraud.

Among those doing very well out of the Tory government's policies is Sir Charles Hardie, the chairman of BOAC, and a director of the country's largest merchant bank, the Hill Samuel Group Limited (a big contributor to Tory Party funds).

He also has lucrative chairmanships at the British Printing Corporation, Metropolitan Estate and Property Corporation Limited and the Vokes Group, while he is a board member at BEA and is a director of the Royal Bank of Canada, British American and General Trust, the Melbray Group and NAAFI.

This little lot manages to rake in fees of up to £70,000 a year.

When his daughter, Alexandra, was holding her coming-out ball a few weeks ago, Sir Charles and Lady Hardie hired the Café Royal in Regent Street for the event.

This beanfeast cost £25,000. The flowers alone cost £3,000.

There's no doubt that the Hardie family are savouring the Tories' 'A Better Tomorrow' today.

Not so, however, Mrs Mary McCoy. On Christmas Eve she was found dead in her Halewood home, near Liverpool. There was no food in the house. A coroner's inquest was told that Mrs McCoy had choked to death eating cardboard.



A better tomorrow

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TODAY'S TV

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

FEBRUARY FUND REACHES £27.80

LET'S MAKE a very special effort for this month's Fund. We do not have a day to waste as February is a short month, with only 28 days. Start today and raise as much as you can.

Our campaign, to defend basic democratic rights now under attack by the Tory government, is well under way. In Manchester, Merthyr Tydfil, Jarrow and London, young actors, together with trade unionists and their families, are re-enacting the working-class struggle for basic rights. These vital episodes will be produced as a magnificent pageant at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 11.

We are confident that workers in their thousands will attend our rally. This history is vital for today's struggles.

Keep Workers Press out in front in this decisive fight. Help us raise everything possible for our February Fund. Post all your donations immediately to:

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

Minister warns rent rebels

A TORY Minister has warned Welsh councillors to toe the line on the rent Act—or else. The threat is aimed at the two local authorities at Merthyr Tydfil and Bedwas and Machen which are refusing to implement the Tory Act and thereby increase council rents.

Speaking in the House of Commons last Friday, Mr David Gibson-Watt, Minister of State for Welsh Affairs, said the councillors were financially liable for their actions. The appointment of housing commissioners did not absolve them from responsibility for loss of revenue.

'They should delude themselves no longer. The responsibility for the financial effects of their failure is theirs, and theirs alone,' he declared. 'If any of them thought they were free of the danger of surcharge and disqualification, they should think again.'

Turning to Mr Ted Rowlands, Labour's MP for Merthyr, Gibson-Watt went on: 'The default of the council which you have supported is causing considerable concern to ratepayers in Merthyr Tydfil.'

'Your own front bench, who have not even turned up today to

support you, do not support the line you have taken.'

The Tory attack on the councillors defying the Act—they can be fined and removed from local government office—is a sharp warning to the rebels and local tenants.

As with the Industrial Relations Act, the Tories mean business. They have fined the two largest unions in the country more than £120,000, they have jailed five dockers and now the Clay Cross councillors face court debts of almost £700 each.

The rent fight must not be regarded as a single issue. It must be taken up by the whole labour and trade union movement along with the fight against steel closures, the fight against unemployment, the fight to defend basic democratic rights.

At the centre of this campaign must be the removal of the Tory government from office.

Small firms' new burdens

GOVERNMENT activities—such as Common Market entry and Value Added Tax—are placing an ever increasing burden on smaller firms, according to the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

'Commerce International', the Chamber's official journal says that although many small firms supported the introduction of

VAT, the tax needs constant attention, adding to administrative burdens.

EEC entry subjected the smaller firm not just to an increased number of official and unfamiliar regulations and requirements.

There would also be the new rating revaluation, as well as a relentless snowball of regulative requirements.

Socialist Labour League Public Meetings UNITE IN ACTION TO DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

CLAPHAM
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 8pm
South Island Library
South Island Place
Stockwell, SW9
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

WATFORD
MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm
Trades Union Hall
near Watford Junction stn
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

NORTH KENT
MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm
The Shakespeare,
Powis Street
Woolwich
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

GLASGOW
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 7.30pm
Govan South Town Hall
Langland Road
nearest underground
Govan Cross
speaker: G. HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

London

ACTON
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 8pm
Woodlands Hall,
Crown Street
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

WANDSWORTH
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 8pm
Wandsworth Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

MIDDLETON
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 8pm
Middleton Baths,
Middleton, Manchester
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

MEDWAY
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 8pm
Aurora Hotel
Brompton Road
Gillingham
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

SLOUGH
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 8pm
Britwell Community Centre
Long Furlong Drive
Britwell Estate
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

DAGENHAM
THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8pm
Manor Park Library
Romford Rd/Rabbits Road
opp Rabbits Pub
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

BIRMINGHAM
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 7pm
Digbeth, Civic Hall
Digbeth, Birmingham
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight rising rents and prices
Defend basic democratic rights
Force the Tories to resign

WIGAN: Monday February 5, 8 p.m. Market Hotel, Mesmes Street. Speakers: Frank Kelly, UCATT, Bill Lyons, AUEW, Ray Hudson, UCATT. (All in a personal capacity.)

LONDON TEACHERS' SECTION
Monday February 5, 8 p.m.
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square
London WC1.

SOUTHAMPTON: Tuesday February 6, 8 p.m. 'The Star', Hinkler Road. 'Build a Council of Action'.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday February 6, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Inflation and state control of wages'.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday February 6, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Crisp Street Market, E14. 'Defend basic rights'.

SHEFFIELD: Wednesday February 7, 7.30 p.m. 'Dog and Partridge', Trippett Lane.

SKELMERSDALE: Wednesday February 7, 8 p.m. Quarry Bank Community Centre.

WOOLWICH: Wednesday February 7, 8 p.m. 'The Castle', Powis Street, SE18. 'Defend basic rights'.

LEEDS: Thursday February 8, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane.

HACKNEY: Thursday February 8, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall (opposite Town Hall). 'Build Councils of Action'.

WILLESDEN: Thursday February 8, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, High Road NW10. 'Victory to the NLF. Down with Stalinism and imperialism'.

BASILDON: Sunday February 11, 5.30 p.m. Barnstable Community Centre. 'Defend basic rights'.

WANDSWORTH: Monday February 12, 8 p.m. 'King's Arms', Wandsworth High Street. 'Fight rising rents and prices'.

WATFORD: Monday February 12, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall (downstairs), opposite Watford Junction station.

CLAY CROSS: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. Social Centre, Derby Road. 'Fight rising rents and prices. Defend basic democratic rights'.

COVENTRY: Tuesday February 13, 7.30 p.m. Wood End Community Building.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Defend basic rights'.

CAMDEN: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Lessons of the rents fight'.

HARROW: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. Labour Hall. 'Defend basic rights'.

TOOTING: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. 'Seikirk Hotel, Seikirk Road. 'Defend basic rights'.

OLDBURY: Wednesday February 14, 7.30 p.m. 'The Bulls Head'.

LIVERPOOL: Tuesday February 20, 7.30 p.m. AEU House, Mount Pleasant.

BBC 1

9.38-11.55 Schools. 12.00 Office. 12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45 Animals at home. 2.05-3.55 Schools. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Yao. 5.40 Wombles. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 YOUNG SCIENTISTS OF THE YEAR. 7.10 STAR TREK. The Omega Glory. 8.00 PANORAMA. 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather. 9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'SONG AT TWILIGHT'. By Willis Hall. With Colin Blakely, Peter Sallis, David Walker. 10.40 COME DANCING. 11.15 LATE NIGHT NEWS. 11.20 CINEMA. NOW. 'Akenfield' in Suffolk. 11.45 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.33 World War I (London only). 12.05 Mr. Trimble. 12.25 Alice through the looking glass. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr. and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Schools. 2.20 Cartoon. 2.30 Good afternoon! 3.00 Film: 'The Woman's Angle'. Edward Underdown, Cathy O'Donnell, Lois Maxwell. 4.25 Pardon my genie. 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. Tea for Two and Four for Tea. 9.00 THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Five Hundred Carats. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 THE WILD, WILD WEST. The Night of the Feathered Fury. 11.30 DRIVE-IN. 12.00 WORLD WAR I. 12.25 CHANGE OF COURSE.



Colin Blakely plays a football team manager in BBC 1's 'Song at Twilight' play tonight at 9.25.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University. 7.05 PARENTS AND CHILDREN. Parents Talk Back. 7.30 NEWS. Weather. 7.35 LOOK, STRANGER. Farmer Cox Goes to Market. 8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. Six Strangers at Apache Springs. 8.55 CALL MY BLUFF. 9.25 SHOW OF THE WEEK: NANA MOUSKOURI. Guests Scott Walker, The Little Angels of Korea. 10.10 AMERICA. The More Abundant Life. 11.00 OPINION. 11.15 NEWS. Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.52 Schools. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.20 Film: 'The Adventurers'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Maverick. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Date with Danton. 10.30 News. 12.35 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.10 Training the family dog. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Film: 'Dual Allibi'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Southern scene. 11.00 News. 11.05 FBI. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.00 Farm-house kitchen. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Film: 'Behind the Headlines'. 4.25 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'Cross Current'. 12.10 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.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Saint. 3.55 Romper room. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Russell Hartly. 11.30 London. 12.00 Big question.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 3.00 Film: 'Mister Cory'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Stories worth telling. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Film: 'Young Wives Tale'. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.40 Film: 'Life at the Top'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Foxfire'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calender, weather. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 Yoga. 12.15 Ugliest girl in town. 12.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 11.55 Bugs Bunny. 12.05 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Film: 'Don't Panic Chaps'. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'O. Henry's Full House'.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Prologue. 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 News. 2.31 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 Film: 'Follow That Horse'. 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: 'The Floating Dutchman'. 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. 12.13 Cartoon. 12.25 London. 1.38 Schools. 3.05 News. 3.08 Film: 'The Nebraskan'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Royal Clansmen. 6.40 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Meditation.

Half a million workers to clash with Phase Two, but

'Lefts' abandon state pay fight



HUGH SCANLON

AS 500,000 WORKERS move towards open defiance of the Tory state pay plan, TUC leaders have said they are not prepared to take on the government.

And the denial came from the very men who are supposed to be leading the fight—Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon.

After the TUC economic committee meeting at the weekend both went on record with the view that the idea of the entire trade union movement

BY IAN YEATS

taking on the government was 'not possible'.

General secretary Victor Feather had warned earlier at the joint TUC-Labour Party Press conference that although they would campaign for their 'alternative' counter-inflation plan, 'it will not be against the government'.

Now the so-called 'lefts' join hands with the TUC right wing in an unprecedented act of political cowardice and treachery.

Despite exaggerated reports in the Tory Press, TUC 'backing' for unions which defy the pay law amounts to no more than 'examining any request

by unions for advice and support'.

And it is clear that even the process of examination will not be sympathetic.

Feather said that before committing themselves the TUC would look at the financial position, the industrial strength and the 'willingness to have a scrap' of unions which requested help.

Since only the biggest and most strategically-placed unions can hope to challenge the government by themselves, and since their leaders have already said they won't, the TUC's advice is a foregone conclusion.

While the TUC prepares to sit out the operation of the most vicious state pay laws the British working class has ever known, inflation is forcing whole sections of workers into battle.

BRS men determined to win

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 25,000 Midlands car workers in nine big plants will be laid off today following the failure of talks between Transport and General Workers' Union officials and British Road Services.

One thousand BRS drivers are demanding a £2.50 bonus for holding new Heavy Goods Vehicle licences.

They are turning up at work at their depots, but they have handed their HGV licences to shop stewards and cannot move car components and vehicles in the Midlands car industry.

Renewed talks between the two sides have been called for Wednesday. After Friday's meeting T&GWU district officer, Alan Law, said grimly: 'We have made no progress.'

BRS management is refusing to grant the bonus because it infringes the state pay laws.

Harry Shorter, secretary of the 5/38 branch of the union, told Workers Press yesterday: 'If the government does step in, we will have to take them on.'

At the Walsall depot lorry drivers angrily insisted that their dispute was being distorted by the Tory Press.

Shop steward George Palmer said articles about drivers receiving £43 for 40 hours were absolute lies.

'We can drive a vehicle 40 feet long, yet our basic wage is just £24 for 40 hours. The most bonus we can get is 20p a day and to get that we have to virtually break all traffic conditions.'

Mr W. J. Lea, another driver, added: 'I drive a 32-ton lorry. I get £33 gross for 50 hours' work. And here's my pay slip to prove it!'

SHOTTON will become the Jarrow of the 1980s if the steelworks closes, Ald William Sefton of Liverpool Corporation told a conference at the weekend.

The conference of 30 local authorities, trade union leaders and representatives from the CBI heard Chester's Tory MP Mr John Temple say that there was little chance of the finishing plant staying open once steel-making ceased.

He warned that all 7,000 jobs could be lost and Mr Morley Smith, chairman of the Welsh region of the CBI, said the repercussions of shut-down would be 'unbelievable'.

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2,500 march behind Clydebank rent rebels

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 2,500 trade unionists, housewives and tenants marched through Clydebank on Saturday in defence of the 13 councillors refusing to implement the Housing Finance Act.

The councillors have voted to defy a court order issued by the Court of Sessions, thus placing them-

selves in line for fines and imprisonment.

Cllr James Reid, of UCS legend and a member of the Communist Party's national executive, said:

'If a hair on the head of any councillor is touched,

then the whole working class of Scotland will be part of the battle. We are answerable to no court, only the court of the working class of Clydebank.'

David Skinner, one of the rebel councillors from

Clay Cross, said: 'In the event that the High Court judges decide to disband the council, we will still be there and will have to be physically ejected because we were elected by the people.'

He urged the Parliamentary Labour Party 'to get off their backsides' and defend councils not implementing the Tory law.

Vauxhall pickets fight Mersey 'licence to sack'

FROM PAGE ONE

pany said it would take him back on full pay from February 1 as a 'new employee', even though he worked there for eight years.

As a 'new starter' Mr Wale would be subject to a six-month probationary period.

He would also have to accept a transfer to another part of the factory and lose his shop steward's position.

The statement from the plant manager, Mr Bob Walker, ended

with this threat:

'Any further disruption in production arising from this incident will result in management withdrawing the offer to re-employ W. Wale.'

In other words, management was pointing a gun at the works committee's head and saying—accept it, or else!

Mr Wale told Workers Press yesterday the terms were 'not

on'. 'They are a licence to sack, aren't they?' he added.

At a mass meeting of about 5,000 engineers at the Liverpool Stadium last Friday, full support was pledged for his immediate and unconditional reinstatement.

Gerry Russell, AUEW divisional organizer, will attend a shop stewards' meeting tonight to report on the latest talks with the management.

Motor stewards walk out of 'farce' meeting

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

A MEETING of the Birmingham automotive group of the Transport and General Workers' Union decided on Saturday to call on the TUC to mount a campaign in support of the Ford and Vauxhall wage claims.

The final resolution said that the Tory state pay laws should be ignored in pursuing both these important claims.

The motion was put to about 140 T&GWU shop stewards by full-time officials.

Stewards leaving the Digbeth Town Hall told Workers Press the whole meeting was 'a farce'.

One Lucas steward said: 'The basis of the discussion was a 28-

clause document which had previously been issued to the T&GWU's 1,300 stewards in the Birmingham motor industry.

District secretary George Evans, and national official Ken Grant made it clear that no resolutions could be put to the conference. These, they said, must come through union branches.'

A Rover steward said afterwards: 'They talked about getting reforms and that the past strength, built up in the boom, would be enough to get us through.'

'The conference was

just talk—talk about getting improvements in job-security, wages and conditions.

'No mention whatsoever of a fight against the Tory pay laws, no question of mobilization in support of sections now in dispute like the British Road Services lorry drivers. Just talk about using strength.'

Many stewards walked out in disgust.

One of the five Rover stewards, Pat McQuade, said:

'I've listened for an hour. We've been told nothing. If that's militancy, then we are wast-

ing our time.

'I'm disgusted with the whole affair. The feeling of Rover stewards is for maintaining free collective bargaining and we will not allow it to be taken away.'

'But it seems to me they have given up the fight.'

The meeting also decided to send delegates to car plants in Europe to study pay and conditions.

The first visit would take place within six months and reciprocal visits from West Germany, France and Italy will also be organized.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AND SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

PAGEANT OF HISTORY

THE ROAD TO WORKERS POWER

DEPEND ALL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, DEMAND TRADE UNIONISM AND BASIC LIVING STANDARDS, UNITY IN ACTION TO MAKE THE SOCIAL GOVERNMENT DESIGN THE ROAD TO POWER IS THROUGH THE BUILDING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

TICKET 21