

PHASE TWO AND THE UNIONS

A SHAM FIGHT OR A REAL FIGHT?

BY JACK GALE

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Twenty-seven delegates meeting in London decided unanimously to strike 'in opposition to the government's pay policy and the offer of an increase of £1.84p'.

The transport union proposal will now go to a conference of all four unions in the ancillary workers' pay fight to be held next Friday.

The National Union of Public Employees' press officer, Mr Bernard Dix, says hospital ancillary workers will fight for their wage increase—'even if it ultimately brings us into conflict with the law'.

These workers, thousands of whom have a basic wage of less than £20 per week, are claiming a £4 increase.

But strike action to gain even a modest demand such as this is already against the law. It is illegal under the Tory legislation which imposes state control of wages. Yet the hospital workers have decided on strike action by ballot.

The working class can draw only one conclusion: having reached the point at which demands for a reasonable standard of living are against the law, then such laws must be destroyed.

This is not an individual question, but a class question. The 10 million workers organized in the unions do not fight for wages as individuals, but through their class organizations—the trade unions.

In order to protect their livelihoods, these millions have no alternative but to break the Tory pay and anti-union laws. And that involves removing the people who made those laws—the Tory government itself.

'Left' talk by itself is not enough. Isolated action and 'left talk' is not only wrong, but dangerous at a time when it is well known that provocations are being prepared.

Heath and the Tories are taking definite steps towards dictatorship in preparation for massive state repressions against the working class and the Marxist movement in the coming struggles.

This is what lies behind the National Industrial Relations Court and the Phase Two legislation. The Tories intend dictatorship by the central government, implemented through courts and the police, to reach into every corner of life.

The future of every party and political tendency based on the working class is tied to the preservation of democratic rights.

That is why a statement from the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League on January 19 called for the unity of all working-class organizations—including the Labour Party, the Communist Party, the International Socialists and the International Marxist Group—in defence of democratic rights.

The defence of these rights and of working class living standards must be turned into an attack by uniting the working class in a general strike

Glassmen start fight against closure

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

WEST MIDDLESEX glass-workers are to start their campaign against closure next Tuesday with a 24-hour protest strike.

The decision was taken yesterday at a mass meeting of 600 workers from the Rockware Glass group at Greenford. Pickets will stand across the work's gate in bid to stop staff entering the plant.

Other workers will join a lobby of parliament which will protest against redundancies in the Greater London area. Spearheading this march will be the printworkers from the occupied Briant Colour Printing, who are facing a High Court order to quit the premises and hand over the company books (see page 3).

Spokesman for the Rockware co-ordinating committee, George Cowley, told Workers Press that Tuesday would only be the start of action.

'The workers are giving us overwhelming support to keep the factory going and we will take any action necessary to achieve this end.'

Mr Cowley said that a sit-in would be considered, but at the present their efforts were being concentrated on getting management to change its mind.

Rockware, owned by the Bailey family, wants to shut the Greenford factory to realize a massive capital gain in property.

The 35-acre site has a book value of £3.5m, but it is worth £10m on current market prices.

'Rockware's land is very valuable. They are sitting on a plum for someone to come along and asset-strip,' said Mr Cowley.

The firm plans to close the factory in 12 months' time, making 900 men redundant.



Some of the Rockware workers leaving their meeting yesterday

Socialist Labour League Public Meetings

Unite in action to defend basic rights

GLASGOW

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11, 7.30 p.m.

Govan South Town Hall, Langland Road

MIDDLETON

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 8 p.m.

Middleton Baths, Middleton, Manchester

Speaker at both meetings: G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

WORKERS PRESS

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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TURN TO BACK PAGE

What we think

Silencing the bankruptcy scandal

IN BOOKS on the peerage, the post of Lord Chancellor is described as 'most noble and dignified'. It has considerable age and influence behind it too.

The first man to hold the appointment was none other than St Swithin, from 826 to 836 A.D. This was before Prime Ministers were even heard of. Today the office is one of the most powerful in the land—the Lord Chancellor is head of the judiciary.

The present incumbent is the Right Honourable the Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, of Herstmonceux of the County of Sussex.

There is nothing very noble, let alone dignified about Hailsham's latest outburst. With his wig and crimson robes in a knot, Hailsham has launched an intimidating attack upon Mr Muir Hunter, QC, who is appearing for the creditors in the Poulson bankruptcy case.

He has told the House of Lords he intends altering the bankruptcy laws. Why now? The present laws have been operating since the 1860s and were codified in 1914. In all these years no one has raised any queries about their use, have they?

During their century-long operation, these laws have probed the reasons for the financial failure of tens of thousands of shopkeepers, builders, electrical contractors and widows.

What's all the fuss about changing the law today? The reasons are simple and straightforward. The Poulson case is tied up with the rich and the would-be rich.

In the half dozen public hearings that have been held, the names of these gentlefolk have tumbled out one after another.

First of all, **Reginald Maudling**, the Home Secretary and deputy prime minister. And when the Fraud Squad was sent to investigate the Poulson empire, Maudling felt obliged to leave his job.

Then there was **George Pottinger**, the senior civil servant in the Scottish office, who received more than £21,000 from Poulson to build a luxurious mansion.

Others followed: **Albert Roberts**, Labour MP for Normanton, and **John Cordle**, Tory MP for Bournemouth, both received hefty payments for services rendered, as did officials of the Coal Board and British Rail.

The links stretched from the top of the Tory Party to the NEC of the Labour Party. **Andrew Cunningham**, Newcastle-based official of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and a member of the NEC, admitted that he took two holidays at Poulson's expense, one of them in Portugal. He has since repaid the money.

The man at the centre of the Labour Party connections is **T. Dan Smith** or 'Mr Newcastle', as he was known. He was public relations adviser to the Labour Party in the 1964 and 1966 elections and later became first head of the Northern Economic Planning Council.

The other name that has crashed onto the deck is **Anthony Crosland**, former Labour Cabinet Minister and the so-called 'theoretician' of the Labour Party. He admitted accepting an antique silver teapot from Poulson after he opened a school in Bradford. ('I tremble to think of the cost', Crosland wrote in gratitude to Poulson).

Who is behind this campaign to hush-up bankruptcy proceedings? The Tories are leading it, of course. They recognize that bankruptcies are the order of the day and will involve individuals who are at the top of the capitalist heap. If the working class were to get to hear of the way these big companies operate . . . that must be avoided at all costs!

But egging on the Tories with great enthusiasm are the Labourites. In last Saturday's 'Daily Telegraph' appeared the following interesting item:

'A campaign to discredit the Poulson bankruptcy proceedings is being mounted by some Labour MPs following the Bar Council's decision to investigate the conduct of Mr Muir Hunter, QC, as counsel for the creditors.

'The MPs, among them Labour frontbenchers, are claiming that alleged gossip is the source of reports of a parliamentary file found among Mr Poulson's papers which, they say, does not in fact exist.

'The main target of the Labour allegations is the parliamentary file which, Mr Hunter said in court on Monday, would be among matters he would be dealing with when the case resumed on March 5.'

Parliamentary file or no parliamentary file, there is no doubt whatsoever that the Labour leadership is petrified of further dramatic disclosures.

Behind the scenes they are piling on every pressure from every quarter to shut down the events in the tiny courtroom in Wakefield. To this extent the case has shown how deeply the Labour and trade union leadership is corroded by the capitalist system.

It is also the most compelling reason why an alternative revolutionary leadership must be built immediately. Forward to the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party!

Nixon starts tougher arm-twisting

US threatens new imports surcharge

BY FOREIGN EDITOR

JOHN SPENCER

UNLESS there is substantial progress in the next two months to overcome the American trade deficit, President Nixon will impose a surcharge on imports.

This Washington announcement marks a new stage in the rapidly intensifying economic battle between the United States and its main capitalist rivals.

It is an ultimatum directed at Europe and Japan, which are currently struggling to avert a second up-valuation of their currencies against the dollar.

Nixon, who is reported to be 'quite disturbed' about the \$6,400m American payments deficit, has for some time been planning a major economic blow against the Common Market and Japan. He has done his best to stoke up the crisis on the foreign exchange markets over the last eight days and force a major currency shake-up.

For the past eight days the German and Japanese governments have been trying unsuccessfully to stem an unending flood of incoming dollars. The Nixon administration has been openly demanding that both countries immediately fix their currencies at a new, higher, rate against the dollar.

In Tokyo, his envoy, William Eberle, in hour-long talks with Japanese trade officials, stressed the need for them to curb exports, take in more imports and adjust their currency, according to Japanese sources.

He drew attention to the recent warning by Nixon's economic adviser Herbert Stein that the US would take unilateral action if international monetary agreement 'is not forthcoming'.

All attempts at agreement in the past 18 months have proved fruitless and negotiations under the auspices of the International Monetary Fund are not even scheduled to begin for another six months.

Meanwhile, by forcing the central banks in Frankfurt and Tokyo to absorb astronomical sums of unwanted and unconvertible dollars, the US is exporting its own inflation on an unprecedented scale.

The Bundesbank has had to buy some \$5,000m as a result of this American pressure, while the Bank of Japan has had to buy on a similar scale. For every dollar taken in, the Bundesbank has to set 3.15 marks in circulation, which means that the German money supply has suddenly been swollen by some 15,000 million marks.

Tighter controls over bank lending—aimed at putting some of this money into 'cold storage'—have been denounced as 'a farce' by leading bankers.

The plain fact is that West Germany cannot control the Euro-dollar market, is getting no assistance from its Common Market 'partners' and is being driven willy-nilly towards up-valuation of the mark.

But even this will not satisfy the United States capitalists. Both the mark and the yen underwent substantial revaluation under the terms

of the Smithsonian agreement 14 months ago. Not only was the agreement flouted by a number of countries, including Britain, but it failed completely to improve the US balance of payments, which is still getting deeper in deficit.

So Nixon's threat to impose a surcharge is deadly serious. Administration officials blandly indicate that there is no real cause for concern as the surcharge will probably be applied only to creditor countries, notably Germany and Japan. This will bring no joy at all to other countries which are in deficit with the United States, or like Britain, have neither a large surplus nor a large deficit.

They are well aware that even if such a surcharge were directed only against Japanese goods it would adversely affect the rest of the world by forcing Japanese exporters to sell their goods elsewhere.

A chain reaction of trade restrictions by other countries is guaranteed once Nixon's threat is put into practice.

He has already shown himself willing to use the weapon of tariffs. On August 15, 1971, a general import surcharge of 10 per cent was imposed to force an up-valuation of currencies against the dollar.

Today the deterioration of relations between the capitalist powers is far more advanced, the stock markets of the world are far shakier and national economies have been more deeply undermined by inflation.

This time it will mean the export of unemployment to Europe on a vast scale, which will lead to the tightening of protectionism around the world and drive the Common Market ruling class to attack European workers even more intensely than at present.

Pompidou pulls a red scare at a stroke

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE'S Georges Pompidou is preparing a presidential coup-d'etat. If the left coalition wins the March elections, he will dissolve the National Assembly and hold a new election until he gets a government of HIS choice.

This warning came in a well-timed descent into the electoral arena in a TV interview on Wednesday. He made nonsense of the Communist Party's professed adherence to the Fifth Republic's Constitution—drawn up in 1958 on instructions from General de Gaulle.

He justifies his plan as forestalling a repetition of the 1968 events which Pompidou called 'a dress rehearsal'.

The ruling class vividly remembers those weeks in May and June when power was in the grasp of the workers and they are determined to do everything to prevent such events recurring. Pompidou used every argument in the anti-communist armoury to pull in votes for the Gaullists as the defenders of property and order. He claimed that even if the Communist Party was defeated, it would call on the masses to act through street demonstrations and strikes, as in 1968.

He accused the communist-controlled CGT union of being party to a plot intended to bring the Stalinists to power through illegal means and to establish a regime similar to those of eastern Europe. 'Events like those of May, 1968, could always recur,' he said 'whatever one thinks, and everyone will do well to reflect on this', said this former employee of the Rothschild bank.

Pompidou knows the French Stalinists well and clearly did not believe a word of what he said about a CP takeover. In fact he counts on the Party to hold back the working class, just as it did in 1936, at the time of the

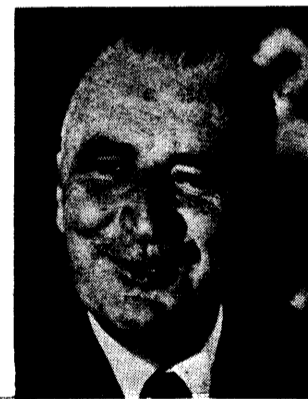
election of the Popular Front government, and again in May-June 1968.

He deliberately used red scare talk in order to rally support for the Gaullists, especially from the middle class and the peasantry.

At the same time he exposed the CP's position of bending over backwards to fit in with the provisions of the Constitution by showing that it made him the real master of the situation, however many votes the left coalition obtains.

CP secretary Georges Marchais plaintively complained that the President's interview was 'an inadmissible interference' in the campaign.

Georges Seguy of the CGT, likewise protested



that he had acted not as a President of the Republic (1) but as 'the leader of a political coalition in trouble'.

What did the Stalinists think that a President elected as the anointed heir of General de Gaulle would do?

Under the Constitution, he is obliged to ensure the continuity of the bourgeois state in the Bonpartist form given it by the 1958 Constitution.

Pompidou understands the Marxist theory of the state better than Marchais and Seguy and makes no pretence at being an impartial arbiter standing above classes.

Marchais is unable to reply to Pompidou because he has always expressed willingness to take office under his presidency and observe the Constitution's conditions.

The President has, at a stroke, exposed the bankrupt CP policy of peaceful,

parliamentary roads to power by stating quite plainly that such a road is closed in any case.

The Constitution enables him to call on the army and the police to maintain the security of the state.

However much the Stalinists are prepared to prostrate themselves and offer guarantees of good behaviour, the French bourgeoisie has no intention of entrusting them with even the semblance of power in the shape of governmental portfolios.

Their reaction to the possibility of a left coalition victory has important lessons for Britain where the ruling class, increasingly obliged to resort to Bonapartist methods of rule, will fight tooth-and-nail to keep the Labour reformists from winning the next election.

Pompidou's statements were shot through with contradictions as he made his appeal as wide as possible.

While accusing the CP of wishing to establish a dictatorship, he also claimed that under the left union programme, there would be a return to the Fourth Republic in which the powers of the President were greatly limited.

With the election campaign only just beginning, further interventions by the President are probable, combined with the whipping up of some kind of 'red scare' to stampede voters into the Gaullist fold at the last moment.

PAGEANT DIARY

The Road to Workers Power



ROUND-UP

Pageant campaign truly joined

THE FIGHT for the Pageant is being well and truly joined. Rehearsals have started, organizing committees elected and support is starting to mount.

In the three areas—Jarrow-South Shields on Tyneside, Middleton in Lancashire and Merthyr Tydfil in South Wales—teams have set up headquarters to prepare for the biggest-ever Pageant of working-class history, to be presented at the Empire-Pool, Wembley.

In these localities workers, housewives and youth are being drawn into the re-enactment of the history of the fight by the working class to win basic democratic rights.

THE TYNESIDE campaign is centred on the fight for one of the first miners' unions and the execution of one of their leaders, Jobling.

AT MIDDLETON the history of the massacre at Peterloo and the rise of the Chartist movement will be recreated.

AT MERTHYR the group will be tracing the legal attacks on the trade unions at the turn of the century which culminated in the Taff Vale judgement and the founding of the Labour Party in 1906.

The teams in the areas have run into the inevitable attacks by the Tories and the right-wing Labourites. These

same people slammed the door in the faces of the courageous Right-to-Work marchers who campaigned from one end of Britain to the other this time last year against the Tory government.

For these reactionaries, the situation today is more desperate because of the worsening economic crisis aggravated by the strength and determination of the working class.

The Tyneside Pageant team has won important support from local workers following a letter in a newspaper by a Tory alderman.

Ald W. Owen wrote demanding that the Labour Party take action to stop the activities of the Pageant supporters. He was particularly appalled when he was told by a Pageant worker that the campaign was 'to fight the Tories'.

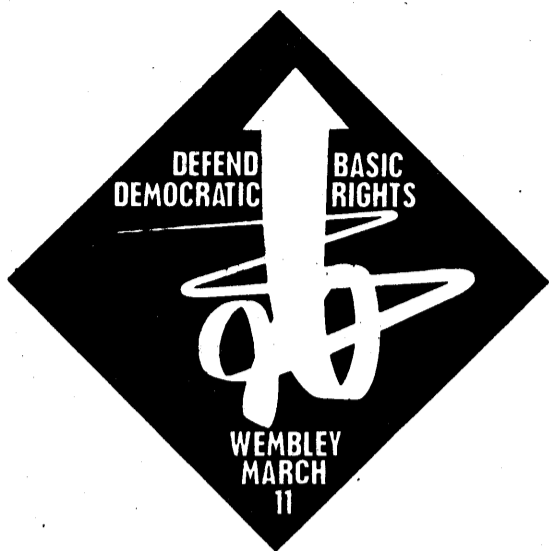
'There is no doubt in my mind that the local Labour Party are setting a dangerous precedent by sanctioning this type of activity,' he added.

But while the Owens are shrieking away, the answer comes from the Wokingham and Bracknell Trades Council. On Thursday night the council voted to support the Pageant and rally and to provide sufficient funds to send a six-man official delegation to Wembley.

Rights won in struggle

The working class won its rights in struggle and can only defend them in struggle. The working class will take up this struggle—that is the meaning of the successful launching of the rehearsals and script-readings this week.

● The Middleton Pageant group has enlarged its composition. Today they will hold a flag-selling day and explain the Pageant, 'The Road to Workers' Power', to high street shoppers. On Sunday night a concert will be staged at the 'Gay Gordon' pub on the Langley Estate.



Briant Colour printers: We're fighting all the way

BILL FREEMAN, leader of the Briant Colour Printing work-in committee said yesterday that evictions or arrests after next Tuesday would be met with a call for a General Strike.

He said yesterday at the Old Kent Road factory: 'We have come too far for any compromise. We will not bow to intimidation.'

Their fight was not just for the jobs of the men and women at Briant's.

It was the spearhead of a fight against the em-

ployers and the Tory government to halt closures and unemployment in the print industry, he said.

'Our work-in is important because it is the first one in print and it is a direct challenge to the concept that you can close down a factory and throw people out of work for economic reasons only.'

Support is flooding in for next Tuesday's mass picket and march on parliament.

NATSOPA, SOGAT and NGA Fleet Street print chapels have either pledged

BY IAN YEATS

backing or are expected to do so over the weekend.

Engineers and electricians have already pledged support.

Trades councils throughout London and in major cities like Birmingham, Liverpool and Glasgow have also sent messages of support.

Shotton steelworkers, Kent miners, Tube Investment workers and students from about 20 colleges

including the LSE are among those expected to send delegations.

A committee room has been booked at the House of Commons and a meeting chaired by Robert Mellish will also be attended by Eric Heffer, Stan Orme and Norman Atkinson.

After Tuesday when the writ against them expires the work-in committee will organize a 50 to 100-strong, round-the-clock occupation of the factory to thwart any eviction attempts.

Said Mr Freeman: 'Any

eviction will not be a simple case of dealing with Briant workers. The vigil will be made up of students and anybody who supports us.'

Of the seven work-in committee members named in the High Court summons, only five remain. SLADE members Mr Denis Broad and Mr Anthony Austin left the work-in before Christmas.

NATSOPA FoC Mr William Sawyer told me: 'I could have had £800 redundancy pay, but no job. I have not come through the last eight months just to drop it now. I am determined to have a job at this factory.'

And NGA FoC Mr John Wickham told me: 'We have seen enough print closures in London and I feel I am helping to stop this sort of thing.'

Bill Freeman summed up the mood of determination at the factory on the eve of next week's decisive clash with the law:

'I am prepared to go all the way. They can put me inside and throw away the key.'

Feather No. 1 Eurocrat to CP joy

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

VICTOR FEATHER, general secretary of the TUC, has been selected as first president of the new European Trade Union Confederation in Brussels. His appointment was announced yesterday following a meeting of the 18-man executive from 14 countries.

Feather's acceptance of the Common Market job is a complete violation of TUC and Labour Party policy. At their conferences last year both bodies overwhelmingly decided to oppose Market entry and not to co-operate with any of its institutions.

The majority for the anti-Market resolution was more than 3 million votes. But Feather has decided to ignore the views of the membership. He is taking a Eurocrat's job in the same way that George Thomson, the ex-Labour Cabinet Minister, and Sir Christopher Soames, became EEC commissioners.

They are seeking links with the Common Market, which is the most reactionary alliance between the big monopolies of western Europe. The Market is being deliberately enlarged so that these monopolists can join hands in a conspiracy to destroy the working class.

This week the Communist Party's newspaper, the 'Morning Star', has reported the Brussels meeting in the coyest fashion. Yesterday, for example, 'A Morning Star special correspondent' reported:

'A new 29 million-strong European trade union confederation was today set up covering 16 organizations from 14 western European countries. Many of them hope that the new organization will open its doors to include members of the World Confederation of Labour and the CGT in France and CGIL in Italy.'



FEATHER... Breaking TUC and Labour Party decisions

'The British TUC are among the advocates of this open-door policy.'

This wretched little paragraph should be read, and re-read. What is the 'Star' really saying? Quite a lot. It is first of all approving the establishment of this new institution for bureaucrats.

By doing this it is tacitly giving support to the Common Market.

Secondly it is pleading with the right wing of the trade union bureaucrats of western Europe to let in the Stalinist-controlled CGT and CGIL.

And thirdly, the 'Star' is handing out political bouquets to Feather as an 'open-door' visionary.

Feather is the man who was most responsible for heading off the struggle against the Industrial Relations Act, who left the postmen and then the miners high and dry, who carried on secret talks with the Tories throughout last year leading to the state pay legislation.

But to cap this, the 'Star' correspondent concludes with this worm-like paragraph:

'Delegates were told that Soviet trade union leader Alexander Shelepin had asked about the possibility of Soviet Union's joining. It is understood Mr Shelepin had denied any such approach was made.'

Whether Mr Shelepin

denied it or not is immaterial.

The fact is that the conference has recorded an informal approach for membership from the Soviet trade unions. Every industrial correspondent in Brussels has reported the Soviet intervention.

Why can't the 'Star' be honest to readers and answer the question: Have the Soviet union asked for membership of the new confederation or not?

The Stalinist Press cannot answer these questions because it is becoming blatantly obvious that a leading section of the British Party is rapidly moving towards acceptance of the EEC.

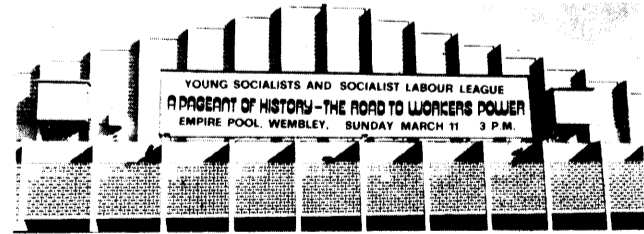
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Vauxhall carworkers are next in line after the Ford men with a big pay claim which is certain to clash with the Tories' pay-control laws. Already, at Ellesmere Port, they have flexed their muscles in a fight with management over discipline. Now they face a much bigger fight—with the government. Two of them talked to Workers Press about the issues involved.

CAR WORKERS SPEAK ON THE PAY FIGHT

PROPOSALS FOR UNION TO PROP UP CAPITALISM

A network of joint company-union committees is outlined in proposals for a new policy for the motor industry, now under intensive discussion inside the Transport and General Workers' Union.

By 1976, the proposals suggest, these committees should be negotiating pay, manning, safety, redundancy and all kinds of fringe benefits right across the industry.

Comprising an equal number of company officials and elected trade union representatives, they are aimed at achieving 'parity of control with capital in the motor industry' and acquiring 'the capacity to determine future development and the equitable allocation of all the resources'.

The proposals—described as a draft 'Policy for the Vehicle Building and Automotive Industry'—have already aroused a storm of controversy on many of the union committees which have discussed them.

In one key area of the Midlands car industry, a special meeting has been arranged so that the issues raised by the draft can be fully hammered out in a week's time. There were angry scenes at a recent Home Counties meeting when supporters of the draft bridled at accusations that it might be welcomed in Franco's Spain.

But however painful it might be for the draft's supporters to admit it, its proposals in fact give off a strong stench of the corporate state.

The main points of the draft document are:

- Minimum basic hourly rates of £1.50 by 1976 and £2.50 by 1980, with improvements in holiday pay, pensions and shift premiums.
- A 35-hour week by 1976 and a 30-hour week by 1980.
- 'The right of co-determination' of line-speeds, manning, movement of labour, hiring and dismissals.

- Shop stewards to be involved with union officials in the negotiation of wages, benefits and working conditions at 'firm, plant or combine' level.
- Permanent, union-financed committees of stewards and officials, representing all the big car factories in Britain, to co-ordinate action with carworkers in the US and Europe.

A lot of this sounds vaguely left wing, and there are indications that the draft document will be supported by at

least a significant number of T&GWU 'lefts' and Communist Party members.

But it is precisely because of this progressive gloss that the proposals in reality are so dangerous.

Nowhere is there a single mention of nationalization under workers' control, supposedly policy of the T&GWU and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Instead there is talk of 'fundamental changes in the management and control of the industry through increasing participation in all the decision-making processes'.

The aim of these changes, the draft document says, is 'to achieve genuine equality between capital and labour by 1980' and 'joint control of the industry, ranging from day-to-day operations to shaping the future development and the allocation of resources'.

In other words, the keynote of the document is faith in capitalism's future. Its admitted objective is to guarantee the capitalist system a seven-year lease of life on the basis of entirely phoney, corporatist-style 'participation'.

This so-called participation is seen as the follow-up to a decade of 'consultations' which, the document quite cynically concedes, 'legitimize the employers' right to operate the policies decided by them' (or, more simply, has helped the employers impose speed-up).

What the document does not say, of course, is that the purpose of participation is to turn the unions into direct policemen for the ruling class; to prop up tottering private enterprise and use workers' own organizations to destroy the basic rights the capitalists are too weak to tackle themselves.

'Parity of control with capital' is a dangerous and thoroughly reactionary illusion.

It, and the car-industry draft document, must be tossed out without reservation. The T&GWU leaders must be told to recall the union's biennial delegate conference to stop the rot, mobilize action in concert with other unions to force the Tories out of office and return a Labour government pledged to nationalization of the industry under workers' control.

'WE MUST REPLACE THE LEADERS'

The biggest danger in the car industry pay struggle this year is the role of the union leaders. That is the opinion of Alan Stanley, an engineers' union shop steward at Vauxhall's, Ellesmere Port.



Worker at Ford's Dagenham on the production line. Above: Alan Stanley, steward at Vauxhall's 'biggest danger is the union leaders.'

'Every section of workers with pay claims in faces the Tories' statutory pay control', he says.

'The aim of these laws, with the Industrial Relations Act, is to smash down the living standards of workers and their families, break up working-class organization and destroy all our basic rights.'

'This can't be done without a head-on collision.'

'Workers are showing bitter resistance to the Tories' plans. They just won't go down without a fight.'

'But time and time again the union and Labour Party leaders rallied round the Tories, to prevent workers bringing them down.'

'This time, if they won't fight, we must replace them with those who will.'

'WE'RE HEADING FOR THE BIG ONE'

Vauxhall workers are going to have to fight for every penny wage increase they get this year, says Billy Wale, engineers' union shop steward at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port factory.

'We're heading for the big

one,' he explains. 'It's not just Vauxhall's but the Tory government as well. There's no way this pay claim can be won without a struggle.'

Billy is convinced the carworkers can win this struggle. When, last week, the management attempted to sack him for allegedly striking a foreman, his fellow-unionists reacted immediately and firmly. Their walk-out in his support was a demonstration of their strength, he stresses.

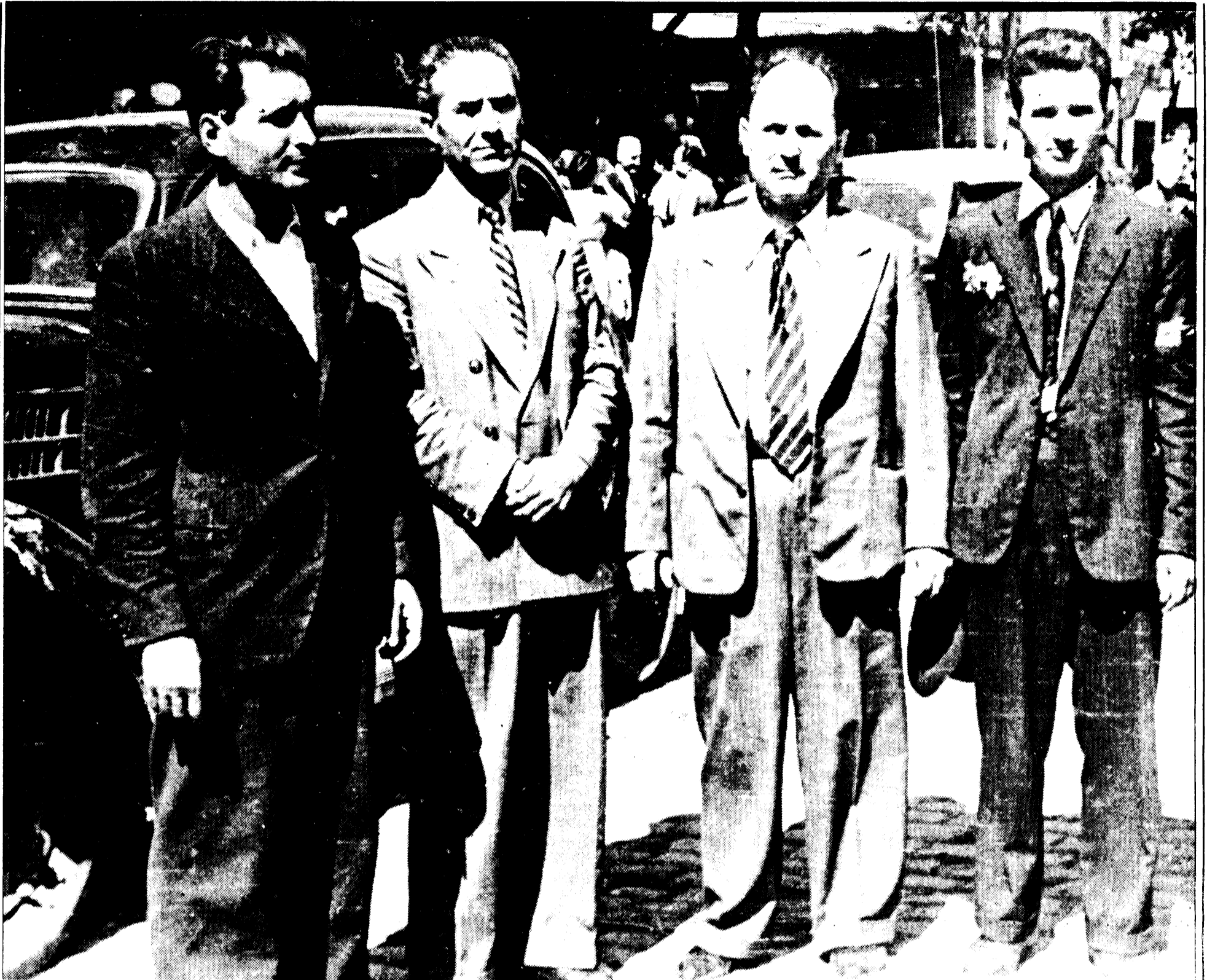
'The feeling on the shop floor is that this may well have been a try-out for the pay claim,' Billy says.

'It was the object of the exercise to take away my shop stewards' card for good, but they've had no success in this regard. Although the members aren't very happy about some of the terms that were negotiated—for instance the joint investigation of labour relations in the factory—I have the right to return to my section after three months. If there's any attempt to interfere with that there'll be trouble.'

Vauxhall management had originally countered strikers' demands for Billy's reinstatement with an offer to re-employ him as a 'new starter' in a different section of the factory, with his card taken away permanently.

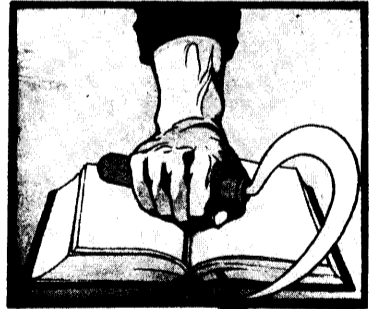
Finally they were forced to agree that he could eventually return to his section as a steward following the investigation. Workers in the section—the axle department—have now agreed to hold in abeyance for three months any fresh election for a steward so that Bill can continue to represent them.

'I think the lads have shown their mettle,' he says.



A PUBLIC RELATIONS JOB FOR NICOLAE CEAUSESCU

BOOK REVIEW



'RUMANIA'S CEAUSESCU' By Donald Catchlove. Abacus-Kent Ltd. Price £2.50.

The 55th birthday of the secretary of the Rumanian Communist Party, and effective master of the country, Nicolae Ceausescu, was celebrated in January with an effusion of praise reminiscent of the Stalin cult.

Newspapers vied with each other to find adjectives which could worthily describe his genius. Factories and party branches lavished adulation on 'Ceausescu the beloved' from whom all good things flow. No less than seven photos of the great leader appeared in the Party daily and the weeklies made it their main feature.

'Through him we feel ourselves rejuvenated and full of a new vigour', wrote one admirer. 'Through him we see the truth of humanism.

'Through him we see the example to follow. Through him—Nicolae Ceausescu, faithful and devoted son of the Party and of the people'.

Donald Catchlove's public relations job, though avoiding such excesses, is in much the same vein. The impression is that the book should have been called 'Ceausescu's Rumania', since all the history of the country seems to find its apotheosis in the rule of the great man.

In many ways, of course, Ceausescu's career did follow that of the devoted revolutionary. He grew up in a poor country plunged into depression and terrorized by the fascist gangs of the 'Iron Guard'. The illegal Communist Party, with probably no more than 1,000 members, was able to organize great strikes and win a strong position in the working class.

Ceausescu, who came from a peasant background, joined it when he was 15 and was arrested for the first time shortly afterwards. From then until 1944 he spent much time in prison. This book makes him out retrospectively to have been a critic of Stalin's policy after the Nazi-Soviet Pact of August 1939.

He is built up to be a 'national' communist and we are to infer that the roots of his later policy are to be found about this time. Above all, however, Ceausescu grew up and was trained in the Stalin school: that was the dominant factor in his politics which this book passes over without a mention. No one rose to influ-

ence in the Communist Party at this time who did not pay his respects to the Stalin cult.

The claim (p. 49) that 'by the time he had actively entered politics, he had evolved his own brand of Rumanian socialism which satisfied most of the Marxist-Leninist precepts and still left room for a strong Rumanian national feeling', is simply how Ceausescu would like to have himself regarded. It can bear no resemblance to reality.

More realistic is the claim that common experience among imprisoned Party members during the war resulted in the setting up of a 'small, nepotistic élite that survived quite strongly for a good 20 years after World War II'. But was Ceausescu part of that élite? We are supposed to infer that he was not entirely with it.

The Rumanian Communist Party would not have come to power without Soviet support. The period after 1944 witnessed a bitter inter-Party struggle between the leaders sent in from their exile in Moscow and those who had remained in the country.

This ended with the defeat and liquidation of the 'Muscovites', but not before Rumania had spent some years as a Soviet satellite. Vast quantities of food, raw materials and industrial equipment were shipped east while the Red Army maintained guard.

This state of affairs did not suit the book of the native bureaucracy, now tasting the fruits of power after long years of struggle, but still dependent on the support of their Mos-

cow masters. How to become more 'independent' was a besetting problem for Party leaders like the up-and-coming Ceausescu.

In 1952 the native wing of the bureaucracy, headed by Gheorghiu-Dej, took power. Within a few years Ceausescu had become a main contender for the succession and after Gheorghiu-Dej's death in March 1965, he came to power.

According to Catchlove: 'Life for Ceausescu, in the ten years between 1955 and 1965, seems largely to have been a matter of supporting Gheorghiu-Dej in the tricky job of extricating Rumania from full Soviet control.' This was done, in fact, according to the purest Stalinist dogma of 'socialism in one country'—the theoretical inspiration of 'national communism'.

This development has been accelerated under Ceausescu in the insistence on national sovereignty and non-interference in dealing with the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries. Rumania is thus able to do its own deals with the capitalist countries, negotiating with the European Common Market and the International Monetary Fund.

This has meant continuing



Rumanian Communist leaders in 1944. Left to right: Apostol, Constantinescu-Iasi, Agin and Ceausescu. Below: Gheorghiu-Dej, predecessor of Ceausescu.

tension between Rumania and the Soviet Union, which became especially acute at the time of the invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968. Ceausescu saw in this a threat to his own policy of making unilateral deals with capitalism. His speeches at this time went close to the brink in provocation.

His gamble paid off. The Warsaw Pact armies did not march into Bucharest. Ceausescu's support as a partisan of national independence increased. The reception of President Nixon followed in mid-1969 and deal followed deal in the next three years.

This is more of a picture book with accompanying text than a serious political history. Some of the points which it makes are valid enough, despite the pro-Ceausescu standpoint from which they are made.

In his internal policy, with its emphasis on discipline and unanimity and its personality cult, Ceausescu's Rumania is cast in the Stalin mould. Its nationalism is no more than the reflection of the national narrow-mindedness of the native bureaucracy, itself acting out the Stalinist theory of 'socialism in one country'.

At the same time, the differences between the Rumanian and other sections of the bureaucracy in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union express the deep crisis in the Stalinist movement.

Ceausescu's rule is no more firmly based—or even popular—than that of the other countries. It faces the growing upsurge of the working class, which we have seen in one country after another since Stalin's death in 1953.

THE ZINOVIEV LETTER

The Tory conspiracy which toppled the first Labour government

The Tories' strategy is laid down in law. With the Industrial Relations Act and Phase Two, they now have the legal basis for destroying the democratic rights of the working class and imposing a corporate state. But they are well aware that, despite the treacherous role of the Labour Party and TUC leaders, these are laws which can only be enforced if the working class is decisively defeated. They are planning for an inevitable confrontation.

On the one hand, the army is testing out its strength on the workers of Northern Ireland. In Britain, the police experiment with new weapons, and the 60,000 volunteers of the Army Volunteer Reserve train for 'home defence' duties.

On the other hand, no less dangerous, the intelligence services step up their activity in spying on the workers' movement. They have already staged the well-publicized 'Angry Brigade' trial; and in the recent Saor Eire case, we caught a glimpse of a Special Branch agent in the act of planting weapons. 'Prepare for Revolution, Comrades! Prepare to occupy your factories!' shriek the provocateurs of the anonymous Militant Trade Union Committee, which resurfaced recently.

The Tories realize that a major confrontation with the working class could force them to call a snap election in 1973. They hope to win it by the well-trying technique of the 'red scare' and are making desperate attempts to collect ammunition for such an election campaign. Adventurist left-wing groups will supply a certain amount. The rest is being manufactured.

Anyone who doubts this should cast their minds back to 1924, when the Zinoviev Letter was published five days before the election which destroyed the first Labour government.

The Zinoviev Letter was one of the most effective forgeries of all time. It was addressed to the Central Committee of the British Communist Party, and supposedly signed by Zinoviev, President of the Executive Committee of the Communist International.

The letter urged the British proletariat to 'show the greatest possible energy' in making sure that trade and diplomatic treaties negotiated between Ramsay MacDonald's Labour government and the Soviet Union were ratified.

But, for the bourgeois voter, the main 'scare' lay in the letter's orders to the CPGB to infiltrate the army and navy:

'... it would be desirable to have cells in all the units of the troops, particularly among those quartered in the large centres of the country, and also among factories working on munitions and at military store depots. In the event of danger of war, with the aid of the latter and in contact with the transport workers, it is possible to paralyse all the military preparations of the bourgeoisie, and make a start in turning an imperialist war into a class war.'

Such prophecies fell on receptive ground. It was a mere seven years since the October Revolution in Russia. The triumph of the Russian Communists, combined with the hardships of World War I, had led to revolutionary uprisings throughout central Europe, to massive factory occupations in Italy, and to a surge of militancy in the British trade unions (e.g. the miners' strike of 1921).

Scarcely one year had elapsed since the abortive 1923 revolution in Germany. And, although the other revolutions had been suppressed, attempts

to reconquer Soviet Russia had totally failed.

All over the world, young communist parties were emerging from the shambles of reformist social democracy, strengthened by the example of the victorious USSR and the advice of the Communist International.

With a sure instinct, the British ruling class sensed the power of the working class behind MacDonald's 1924 Labour government, despite all the efforts of its leaders to make themselves acceptable to the King, the Civil Service and the City of London.

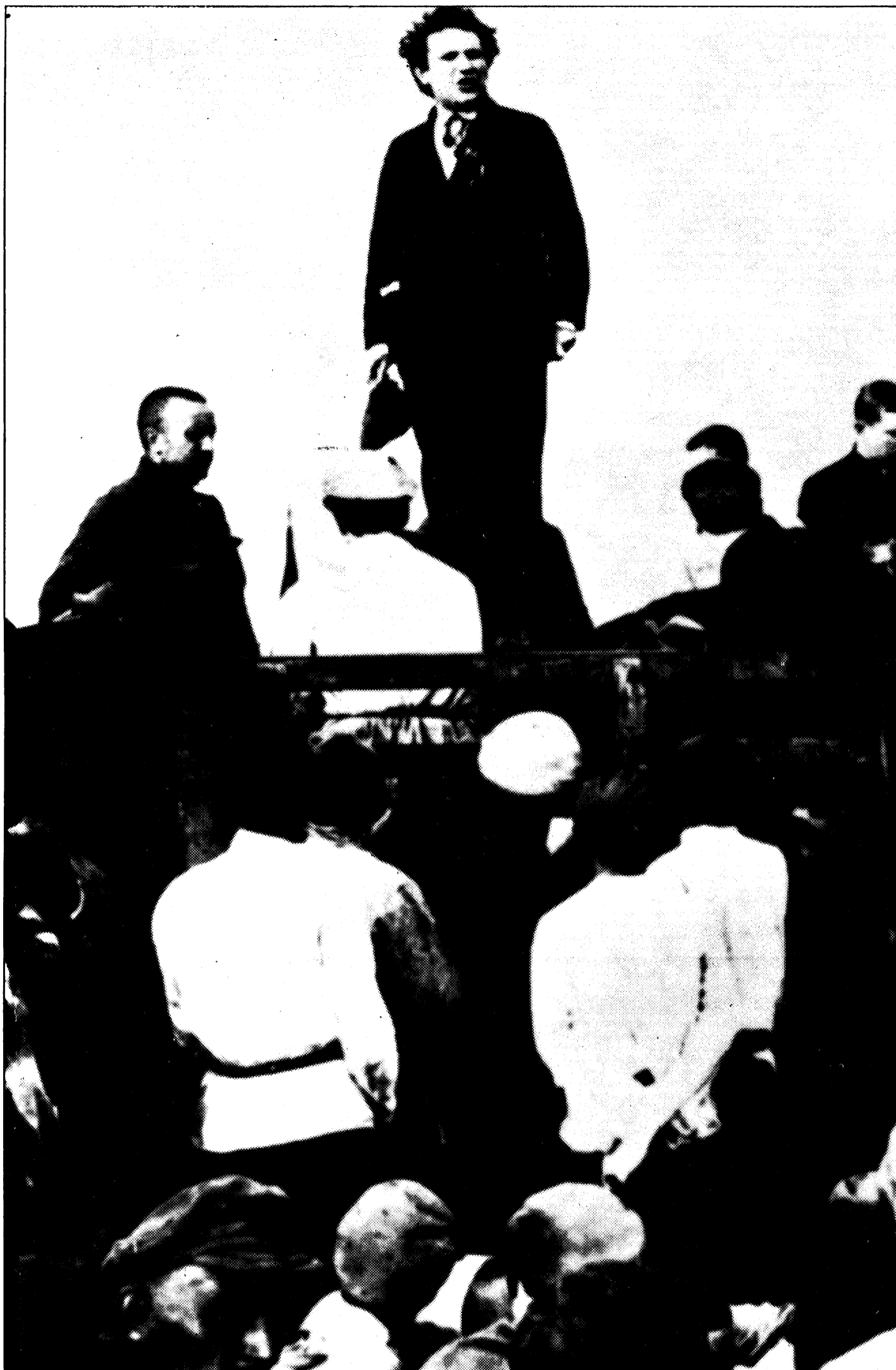
At all costs, the political independence of the working class had to be checked. So, although MacDonald's foreign policy of normalizing relations with the USSR made no more concessions to communism than Lloyd George's 1921 Anglo-Soviet trade agreement (or a whole number of treaties being signed by other European powers), the Tories went into the 1924 election campaign determined to destroy the Labour government.

It was not MacDonald they feared, but the strength of the British working class.

The Conservative Party's election campaign became an anti-Bolshevik crusade. But, despite the efforts of their friends on Fleet Street, allegations that MacDonald was in league with Bolshevism lacked substance—until the Zinoviev Letter appeared to confirm the truth of everything the Tories asserted.

The middle class were convinced that 'civilization' was threatened. On election day they turned out in force, to give the Tories an overall majority with a gain of 161 seats, compared to a Labour loss of 40 seats.

It had taken many years to establish the fact that the letter was a forgery. This is partly due to the weak-kneed attitude of the Labour leaders at the time.



MacDonald refused to investigate every aspect of the affair and made no attempt to consult with the British Communist Party, to whom the letter was addressed. Had his anti-communism not prevented such a step, he could have discovered from CP leaders that the letter contained obvious errors, quite apart from its inconsistencies of style and content.

For example, the heading 'Third Communist International' was incorrect; the name of one of the signatories was misspelt; another signatory, Kuusinen, was labelled 'Secretary' of the International, when he was in fact merely a member of the Secretariat.

All these points could have been established within 24 hours by MacDonald. Instead, in the crucial pre-election days, he confused the Labour Party by his own uncertainty over whether or not the letter might be genuine.

A 48-hour silence prompted newspaper headlines such as 'MOSCOW BOMB SILENCES PREMIER' ('Daily Mail', October 27, 1924).

When MacDonald did at last produce a speech on the subject, Asquith, the Liberal leader, 'could not remember to have read a more distracted, incoherent and unilluminating statement in the whole of his political experience'.

The new Tory government easily stifled attempts at investigation during the next few years. The Tory loyalties of the Press, senior Civil Servants and the intelligence network were naturally reinforced by the class struggles which culminated in the General Strike of 1926.

In 1928, a House of Commons debate on the issue, resurrected by the dismissal of one of the Civil Servants most closely involved in handling the Zinoviev Letter, created a temporary embarrassment for the Tories. But before the day of the debate, they were able to obtain a statement from another leading participant in the affair, which cleared the Tories of having plotted the 'red scare', and appeared to authenticate the letter.

There the matter rested for many years. Only as recently





as 1966 did the 'Sunday Times' Insight team assemble and publish a thorough investigation of the Zinoviev Letter. It is a damning indictment of a Tory fraud, and a valuable warning of the political forces at work in the secret service, the police, and the top ranks of the Civil Service. All these forces conspired with the Tory Party headquarters to topple a Labour government.

Briefly, the facts emerge as follows. On the evidence of the widow of one of the forgers, the Zinoviev Letter was concocted by a group of white Russian émigrés living in Berlin. They passed it on to agents of the bitterly anti-Bolshevik Polish government, which in turn handed it over to a British spy.

This man (probably Captain Sidney Reilly) produced several copies of the letter. He proceeded to distribute them in the manner calculated to do most damage to the Labour government and especially to prevent the ratification of the Anglo-Soviet treaties.

Reilly disclosed the existence of the letter to an ex-intelligence officer working in the City of London, Donald im Thurn. A copy of it went to the chief of British intelligence (MI10), Sir Hugh Sinclair. While another copy (the original letter was never seen in Britain!) was slowly working its way through the Foreign Office, intelligence agents in alliance with the Tories were organizing a public disclosure of the letter at the moment when it would sabotage Labour's electoral chances.

Im Thurn made the first approach to the Tory HQ. He promised to get them a copy of the letter in exchange for £7,500 (which Reilly was to receive). He also contacted 'The Times' and promised them a 'scoop' story. Though he never actually possessed a copy of the letter, his ingenious hints and queries were sufficient to arouse interest in many quarters. The Zinoviev Letter began to circulate several government departments.

On October 24, the 'Daily Mail' received two copies of the letter for publication. Its editor, one of the Tories' most powerful supporters, generously distributed proofs to the rest of the Fleet Street Press. Both copies of the letter almost certainly came from intelligence sources. One informant has been identified as vice-Admiral Sir Reginald Hall, a friend of Sinclair's who had been head of Naval Intelligence during the war and a Tory MP in 1922-1923.

At 3.45 p.m. on October 24, the 'Daily Mail' editor received still better material for a 'red scare' story. Possibly he had informed the Foreign

Office of his intention of publishing the Zinoviev Letter. In any case, the Foreign Office acted with suspicious alacrity. They decided to give 'publication' of the Zinoviev Letter their official blessing and circulated copies of it to the entire Press.

So, as Marlowe of the 'Daily Mail' later recalled, 'the official paper reached one or two of the newspaper offices before my proofs were delivered to them'.

Marlowe was convinced that his own 'scoop' forced the Foreign Office to publish. But there are strong reasons for doubting this, including the fact that all along im Thurn and other intelligence men had schemed to bring about official publication. Evidence of a direct connection here no longer exists.

Yet even if the Foreign Office was not motivated by the activities of Reilly, im Thurn and Sinclair, there is conclusive evidence that the political prejudices of senior Foreign Office officials might have led them to publish the Zinoviev Letter without any prompting from the 'Daily Mail'.

The letter first reached the Foreign Office on October 10, 1924. The permanent secretary at this date was Sir Eyre Crowe. He was instantly convinced of the letter's authenticity, partly because his copy came from the secret service (a department for which the Foreign Office was responsible), but also for political reasons.

Crowe was a Tory who hated the Bolsheviks and feared that the future actions of a Labour government might include the abolition of the secret service, as well as ratification of the Anglo-Soviet treaties. MacDonald was away from London conducting his election campaign. Therefore Crowe had an ideal opportunity of exerting his political influence, guided by his political prejudices, to direct the course of events.

He began by sending the Zinoviev Letter off to MacDonald with his own advice attached. The letter was genuine and for this reason should be published in the Press alongside a protest note from the Prime Minister to the Soviet charge d'affaires in London, he said.

Exhausted by his electioneering (which involved delivering up to 30 speeches every day), MacDonald agreed to this advice. But he stressed in a minute to the Foreign Office that **great care must be taken to establish the letter's authenticity** before any protest was made.

While the origins of the letter were being investigated, a protest note should be drafted and sent to MacDonald for amendments, in case it should be needed.

The draft protest note duly reached MacDonald on October 23 (it was delayed for three days by being sent, inexplicably, to the wrong destination). He made certain amendments to moderate the tone of the intended protest, which Foreign Office officials had drafted in the form of a virtual ultimatum to the Soviet government, designed to wreck the Anglo-Soviet treaties. The amended version arrived back in London on October 24, the day when the Zinoviev Letter reached Fleet Street.

At this point the role of Sir Eyre Crowe deserves close study.

The normal procedure would have been for the Foreign Office to send a final version of the protest note (together with the evidence of the letter's authenticity which MacDonald had requested) back to the Prime Minister for his signature.

Crowe did nothing of the kind. As we have seen, he decided that the Foreign Office should take responsibility for immediate publication in the newspapers of both the Zinoviev Letter and MacDonald's draft note of protest. He car-

ried through this drastic act without consulting MacDonald (who could have been contacted by telephone) or any of his government subordinates in London.

The first MacDonald knew about it was when he opened the newspapers the next morning. For a sample of what he read, we may take the 'Daily Mail' seven-decker headline: 'CIVIL WAR PLOT BY SOCIALISTS' MASTERS Moscow order to Our Reds Great Plot Disclosed Yesterday Paralyse the Army and Navy And Mr MacDonald would Lend Russia Our Money Document Issued by Foreign Office

After "Daily Mail" Had Spread the News.'

Sir Eyre Crowe had given the 'red scare' just the boost it needed. He had his excuses ready. He had been 'forced' to act by the 'Daily Mail' and had judged his action to be in the government's best interests. And despite the fact that Crowe had flagrantly broken Foreign Office rules, wrecking Labour's election chances in the process, MacDonald accepted these excuses. Even during the 1928 debate, he was to deny that Civil Servants might have deliberately used their position to betray the 1924 Labour government.

Reformists such as MacDonald are always the firmest believers in the constitutional niceties of bourgeois democracy. They provide a convenient escape route for Labour leaders who refuse to fight for the overthrow of capitalism. MacDonald's refusal to search out the truth about the Zinoviev Letter was a betrayal of his responsibility, as Labour Party leader, to defend the democratic rights of the working class.

But just as MacDonald was unable and unwilling to defend these basic democratic rights, so the Labour leadership of today is no better. (In the next crisis which faced him, MacDonald rushed off to head a coalition government with the Tories.)

Wilson's own 'red scare' tactics—the 1966 seamen's strike—and his capitulation to the Industrial Relations Act and now the Phase Two legislation shows beyond any shadow of a doubt that he could march in MacDonald's footsteps.

The threat to basic democratic rights is much more sinister than it was in the 1920s. The economic crisis gripping British capitalism is more devastating thus requiring more desperate retaliation against the working class.

The right to organize, the right to strike, the right to picket, the right to black, the right to a decent standard of living, the right to negotiate over wages, the right to decent housing—all these basic rights are now under the Tory hammer.

Inseparable from the struggle to defend these rights is the removal of the Tory government from office and the construction of an alternative revolutionary leadership for the working class.

That is why the Socialist Labour League is staging a massive anti-Tory pageant at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Sunday, March 11, which will present important episodes from working-class history over the past two centuries.

The pageant—Road to Workers' Power—is at the centre of our campaign to transform the SLL into a revolutionary party in the coming weeks.

Join this fight for the revolutionary party. This is the only way to politically deal with the faceless men of the secret police who may be reconsidering a Zinoviev-type stunt . . . or worse.

Much of the information for this article came from 'The Zinoviev Letter' by Lewis Chester, Stephen Fay and Hugo Young. Heinemann, 1967.



Top: Zinoviev. Left: Donald im Thurn, ex-intelligence officer. Centre: Thomas Marlowe, 'Daily Mail' editor, who distributed the Zinoviev letter story throughout Fleet St. Right: Captain Sidney Reilly, the 'master spy.'





'IT'S SOAKING WET AND THE GLC DOES NOTHING'

Fifty families in a London tenement block are staging a rent strike in support of a man who claims the Greater London Council will do nothing about the dampness in his flat.

Mr Ralford Golding (38), who lives with his wife and two children in Richardson House, Haggerston, Hackney, has been forced to live in one room because of chronic dampness.

The walls of one bedroom are black with damp, but he claims the GLC has told him it is condensation.

Mr Golding's two children, David (eight) and Deborah (three), were both ill as a result of sleeping in the room. All the furniture has had to be moved out and a £100 carpet has been ruined.

Mr Golding told me: 'The GLC can send me to prison. I have no money to fight them. I would pay £7 or £8 a week for a good place, but not to live in water.'

'This is one of the most terrible flats I have lived in. It's soaking wet and the GLC do nothing.'

'All they want to do is grab your money. Is it right that a poor man like me has to work

so hard and pay £5 a week for one room?'

The flats were built in 1935 and are the oldest in the district. There are no electric points in the tiny rooms and kitchens also contain the bath.

The rents were raised by 35p in October 1972 and are due to go up again under the Tory so-called 'fair rents' Act.

Mother of four, Mrs Sheila Kennedy (28), is one of the tenants backing Mr Golding in his fight to persuade the GLC to do something about the dampness.

Mrs Kennedy told me they had decided to back him because all the tenants suffered from the building's general state of decay and she said they had all complained at some time or other to the GLC about the conditions.

She said: 'I've witheld my rent several times because these houses are old and sub-standard.'

'My bedroom's damp and the baby's had bronchitis three times. There are draughts everywhere and you've got to towel the ceiling to stop the water.'

'People saw what the GLC said to Mr Golding and they thought "what chance have any of us unless we stand up and protest?"'

Mr Golding claims he was told by the council to scrub

his walls and paper over them.

He added: 'They told me to try and exchange it if I didn't like it, but who would want to move into a place like this running with water?'

Tenants' union leader Mr Chris Wotton (30), told me all the tenants in the block suffered from dampness, overcrowding and lack of electric points. Wiring, he claimed, was obsolete and dangerous.

He said: 'People want to get away from the estate. It's depressing to live here.'

'The buildings are close together and there is not a blade of grass anywhere, so the children have nowhere to play.'

'The GLC keep promising to do repairs, but they don't. A few months ago they stopped the modernization scheme for "budgetary" reasons.'

The tenants have told the GLC they want action by next Monday.

Said Mr Wotton: 'If nothing has been done by then we intend to march to County Hall or sit in at the GLC offices.'

I asked Mrs Kennedy what the tenants will do when the GLC attempts to claim arrears. She told me:

'They'll have a hard job throwing everybody out and if they try to take one person we'll put up the barricades.'

In fact it is unlikely the



Tenants' union leader Chris Wotton. Above left: Mrs Kennedy and family in their kitchen where the bath serves as table. Above right: Mr Golding in his council house where the damp comes right through.

rent strike will go on after February 12. Hackney Labour MP Mr Ron Brown had advised against it and the tenants are likely to concentrate instead on marches and demonstrations.

The strike began on January 29 and by last Monday the tenants were only one full payment in arrears.

Feeling against the Tory-controlled GLC is high and the tenants say the Council is more interested in selling houses off at a profit than in repairing old ones.

Nobody could deny that Richardson House is in danger of becoming a slum and tenants have not been impressed with the efforts of

Hackney's Labour MP to prevent it.

Mr Brown visited the tenement with GLC officials, but nothing has come of it.

Homes such as Richardson House suffer from the cheap housing policies of successive governments but more particularly from the pruning of the GLC modernization programme by the Tories.

Cut-backs in public spending across the board are part of the Heath government's bid to curb inflation unleashed by the crisis of world capitalism.

Despite the protests of small groups of tenants up and down the country in the past two years, slum housing remains. There are no short cuts. A



first step towards better housing and lower rents lies in working to force the Tory government out of office.

Once elected, a Labour government must be forced by mass action to carry out socialist policies, including the nationalization of the land, property and the building industry without compensation and under workers' control.

HOW THE TORIES ATTACK THE RIGHT TO A DECENT HOME

Average council house rents rose by just under 11 per cent in the year up to April 1972, Labour's spokesman on housing Mr Anthony Crosland revealed in the House of Commons this week.

And under the Tory rent Act, Crosland said, unrebated council rents will rise by 24 per cent in the financial year up to this April.

Even if every tenant who is entitled to do so takes up the rebate, the annual increase will still be up to 14 per cent.

Tenants face rises in April and again in October.

Crosland added: 'For private rents there will be still higher increases, often higher than

would occur in the council house sector under the Housing Finance Act and even allowing for the private rent allowance—and all this as a result of deliberate government policy.'

Salford Labour MP Frank Allaun told the House the Tory plans for cuts in public expenditure envisaged a reduction in housing subsidies of £128m a year by 1976.

He said these figures represented a 13-per-cent cut compared with current levels.

Allaun told MPs: 'It is clear that the present government intends to slaughter the council house-building programme and it is on council houses that most working-class families depend as they cannot afford to buy their own houses, particularly at the new exorbitant prices.'

Crosland claimed council house-building was the lowest since 1963.

In 1967, some 203,900 council houses were built compared with 189,000 in 1970, 158,900 in 1971 and 122,800 last year.

The decline in council house-building has gone hand in with the government's plan to force more people to buy their own homes.

In the first nine months of 1972 first-time purchasers rose from 221,000 to 285,000 compared with the same period of 1970.

Mortgages for borrowers under 25 rose from 89,000 to 111,000.

Mortgages for borrowers with incomes up to the average industrial wage rose from 114,000 to 147,000.

Mortgages from all borrowers rose from 393,000 to 519,000.

Few working-class families contributed to the rise and the increases are now almost cer-

tainly near an end with 100-per-cent mortgages no longer widely available and substantial deposits out of the reach of most average incomes.

The cut in council house-building has made housing blackspots even blacker.

In Greater London, which has by far the worst housing problem in Britain, completions of council houses were down by 13 per cent last year.

In the West Midlands they were down by 46 per cent and on Merseyside by 31 per cent.

While council housing has been and will continue to be slashed and more tenants forced into private accommodation or made to buy their own homes, house prices have skyrocketed.

In 1971 house prices rose by 21 per cent and last year by 47 per cent.

Although the Tories issue no instructions to local authorities as to how many houses they should build, the price of land acts as a certain brake.

Many local authorities complain that land prices are as much as 60 per cent above government recommended prices.

Said Crosland: 'The fantastic rise in land values creating vast unearned profits on the one hand and hardship and injustice on the other will prove, when history is written, to be the major scandal of the 1970s.'

By contrast with the slump in municipal housing, private building starts jumped from 167,000 in 1969 to 227,000 last year.

Labourites say that once they are returned to power they will nationalize building land, pour massive cash aid into council house building and 'bash' property or housing profiteers. We'll wait and see.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Disabled

Priorities are being got right in Bolton. The council's social services committee has just drastically pruned the budget for 1973-1974. Items which the committee slashed included facilities for the chronically sick and disabled.

Schemes which got the chop included general repairs and maintenance to Social Services Department buildings estimated at £20,000. This will mean a setback to repairing, decorating and equipping a large number of elderly people's and children's homes.

Home helps are not to receive outdoor uniforms, which accounts for a £2,700 saving, and a £9,000 project for expansion of the Bolton Industries for the Disabled is axed.

At the same time the Lancashire Police Authority is to go ahead with a £728,000 project to build a Bolton divisional headquarters and hostel for the police.

The new premises form part of a big reorganization of the police forces in the area.

The Press



Last Friday night Harold Wilson made the speech in which he warned that the Phase Two legislation contained powers to put newspapers out of business. He said that newspapers which encouraged workers to demand higher wages could be brought before the Tory tribunals—meeting in secret—and then fined unlimited amounts.

Appropriately enough he made the speech at the London Press Club. Copies of the speech were available. It is interesting to note that only 'The Times' and the 'Daily Telegraph' mentioned these dire warnings in their reports of the occasion.

The Press Association, 'The Guardian' and the 'Financial Times' thought the main point of Wilson's speech was something quite different. They carried articles which began:

'Opposition leader Mr Harold Wilson called tonight for a crusade to help the forgotten people.'

'The Press—working hand in hand with MPs, councillors, social workers and administrators—could seek out the needs of the underprivileged.'

This liberal rubbish was in Wilson's speech. But wouldn't one have thought that of overwhelming importance was the Counter-Inflation Bill's hidden clauses which menace the existence of newspapers?

'Court'

Sixty-four Cadbury-Schweppes workers at Bournville, Birmingham, have appeared before the factory's own 'court' in the last 12 months.

Nearly half were accused of theft and the rest of fighting, smoking and other offences. The 'court,' a disciplinary tribunal of two shop stewards and two company officials, recommended dismissal for some and reprimanded others.

The works' newspaper recently reported that thefts at the factory rose to 343 cases last year and said personal property thefts had risen in three years from 100 to 167.

Cadbury-Schweppes declined to comment on the disciplinary system, which has been in operation at Bournville for several years.

But Mr Stuart Cheshire, a Transport and General Workers' Union official, said:

'Doing things this way is better than branding a man a criminal for what might be a momentary indiscretion.'

Every accused employee could have a union official with him at the disciplinary hearings and there was the right of appeal through the union against the tribunal's verdicts, he added.

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TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.35 Se ur beatha. 10.00 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.30 Avventura. 11.00 Croesi'r bont. 11.40 Weather. 11.45 Herbs. 12.00 Motor mouse. 12.20 Outa-space! 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 Football preview. 1.20, 1.50, 2.30 Racing. 1.40-2.10 Skating. 2.50 Rugby union. Ireland v England. 4.40 Final score. 5.05 Basil Brush show. 5.35 News. Weather. 5.50 Dr. Who.

6.15 **WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY.** Music for Everybody.

7.00 **FILM: 'TORPEDO BAY'.** James Mason, Lilli Palmer. A British destroyer trails an Italian submarine across the Mediterranean in 1941.

8.15 **CILLA.** Cilla Black with guests Frankie Howerd and Cliff Richard.

9.00 **A MAN CALLED IRONSIDE.** Achilles Heel. 9.50 **NEWS.** Weather.

10.05 **MATCH OF THE DAY.** 11.05 **PARKINSON.** 12.05 Weather.

ITV

9.00 Time off. 9.55 Return to Peyton Place. 10.20 Sesame street. 11.20 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Osmonds. 12.00 Partridge family. 12.30 News. 12.35 World of sport. 12.40 On the ball. 1.05 International sports special. 1.20 ITV seven. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30 Racing from Wolverhampton. 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Catterick. 3.10 International sports special. 3.50 Results, scores, news. 4.00 Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.10 News. 5.15 Black Beauty. 5.45 Doctor at large.

6.15 **SALE OF THE CENTURY.**

6.45 **FILM: 'LAST OF THE RENEGADES'.** Lex Barker. An Indian and a white man team up to fight villains.

8.30 **THE JULIE ANDREWS HOUR.** Guest Harry Belafonte. 9.30 **NEWS.**

9.40 **MCCLLOUD.** Showdown at the End of the World. Dennis Weaver.

11.00 **RUSSELL HARTY PLUS.**

11.40 **NO MAN'S ISLAND.** Women and Sexuality. 12.25 **A CHANGE OF COURSE.**

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.40 Bonanza. 12.30 London. 5.15 Tarzan. 6.15 London. 6.45 Film: 'The Big Show'. 8.30 London. 9.40 Longstreet. 10.40 No man's land. 11.30 Skating. 12.30 Weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 9.55 Jobs around the house. 10.20 Getting your money's worth. 10.45 Joe 90. 11.10 Cartoon. 11.35 Gus Honeybun. 12.30 Faith for life. 12.35 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 Jobs around the house. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 All our yesterdays. 10.35 Stingray. 11.05 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Cowboy in Africa. 12.25 Weather. 12.30 London. 5.15 Tarzan. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'Caprice'. 8.30 London. 9.40 Longstreet. 10.40 News. 10.45 Spyforce. 11.40 London. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.00 London. 9.55 All our yesterdays. 10.20 Bugs Bunny. 10.30 Once upon a time. 10.45 Grasshopper island. 11.00 Sesame street. 12.00 Osmonds. 12.30 London. 5.20 Bonanza. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'The Spy in the Green Hat'. 8.30 London. 9.40 Persuaders. 10.40 No man's land. 11.30 Skating. 12.30 Weather.

ANGLIA: 9.00 London. 10.00 Hammy hamster. 10.15 Rovers. 10.40 Film: 'She's Working Her Way Through College'. 12.30 London. 5.15 Riptide. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'Siege of

BBC 2 has planned a colourful white-wash job in their 'World About Us' series on Sunday night. It's all about 'Poppa Bilong All', Poppa being Wamp Wan a tribal chief of New Guinea, one of the natives who have gone 'from Stone Age to let Age in 40 years'. The white-wash will cover the intense exploitation of the island's natural resources and natives by the Australian government which rules the island.

BBC 2

8.55-1.30 Open University. 3.00 Film: 'It's a Great Feeling'. Doris Day, Dennis Morgan, Jack Carson. Musical. 4.20 Play away. 4.45 Pets and vets. 5.00 Islands in the clouds. 5.50 Man alive.

6.50 **WESTMINSTER.** 7.15 **NEWS.** Sport. Weather.

7.25 **RUGBY SPECIAL.** Ireland v England.

8.15 **WAR AND PEACE.** An Epilogue.

9.00 **FULL HOUSE.** Including Henry VIII's missing wife, Ravel's septet, Can Anyone Smell Gas?, Ted Walker, Family.

10.40 **FACE THE MUSIC.** 11.10 **NEWS.** Weather.

11.15 **FILM: 'THE REVOLT OF MAMIE STOVER'.** Jane Russell, Joan Leslie, Agnes Moorehead. An ambitious woman struggles to attain wealth.

the Saxons'. 8.30 London. 9.40 Longstreet. 10.40 No man's land. 11.30 Skating. 12.25 At the end of the day.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.15 Jobs around the house. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 Place in the country. 10.40 Thunderbirds. 11.35 Jackson five. 12.00 Skippy. 12.30 London. 5.15 Bonanza. 6.15 Doctor at large. 6.45 Film: 'After the Fox'. 8.30 London. 9.40 Longstreet. 10.40 No man's land. 11.30 Skating. 12.30 Gordon Bailey. 12.35 Shirley's world. Weather.

ULSTER: 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 Thunderbirds. 12.30 London. 5.15 Sport. 5.45 Film: 'Around the World in 80 Days'. 8.30 London. 9.40 Longstreet. 10.40 No man's land. 11.25 Skating.

YORKSHIRE: 9.15 Skilful rugby. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Elephant boy. 11.05 Film: 'The Ladies Man'. 12.30 London. 5.20 Riptide. 6.15 Film: 'The Horse Soldiers'. 8.30 London. 9.40 Longstreet. 10.40 No man's land. 11.25 Skating. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.15 Jobs around the house. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 You and your golf.

10.40 Sesame street. 11.40 Cartoons. 12.05 Arthur. 12.30 London. 5.20 Huckleberry Finn. 5.45 Man from Uncle. 6.40 Film: 'In Harm's Way'. 8.30 London. 9.40 Longstreet. 10.40 No man's land. 11.30 Skating.

TYNE TEES: 9.15 Wildlife theatre. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Joe 90. 11.05 Film: 'Tarzan the Magnificent'. 12.30 London. 5.15 Riptide. 6.15 Film: 'The Sons of Katie Elder'. 8.30 London. 10.40 No man's land. 11.25 Skating. 12.25 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.15 Jobs around the house. 9.40 Getting your money's worth. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Black Beauty. 11.05 Dave Cash. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 Cavalcade. 12.30 London. 5.15 Bonanza. 6.10 Protectors. 6.40 Film: 'The Pride and the Passion'. 9.00 Beverly hillbillies. 9.30 London. 9.40 Julie Andrews. 10.40 No man's land. 11.25 Late call. 11.30 Skating.

GRAMPIAN: 11.15 Jackson five. 11.45 Ron and friends. 12.30 London. 5.20 UFO. 6.15 Film: 'The Mating Season'. 8.00 Partners. 8.30 London. 9.40 Longstreet. 10.40 No man's land. 11.30 Skating.



REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.30-1.00 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Second Chance'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Murderers Row'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Epilogue. Weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 10.55 Gus Honeybun. 11.00 Tomfoolery. 1.00 Talking hands. 1.15 Branded. 1.45 Farm and country news. 1.55 Acres for profit. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.00 VAT 73. 9.30 London. 10.30 Farm progress. 10.55 Weather. 11.00 World War I. 11.30 London. 1.00 Superman. 1.20 Skating. 2.15 London. 3.15 Skating. 3.45 Cartoon. 3.50 Golden shot. 4.40 Aquarius.

5.30 News. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Ambushers'. 9.50 Cartoon. 10.00 London. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.00 VAT. 9.30 London. 10.35 Farming diary. 11.00 Place in the country. 11.30 London. 1.00 Survival. 1.30 Drive-in. 2.00 Bugs Bunny. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'A Matter of Who'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Robbery'. 10.00 London. 12.00 Weather.

ANGLIA: 9.00 VAT. 9.30 London. 10.30 Circus. 10.55 Doris Day. 11.20 Cartoons. 11.30 London. 1.00 Champions. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming. 2.30 Name of the game. 3.55 Match of the week. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Robbery'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.00 VAT. 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterday. 11.00 Citizens' rights. 11.30 London. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Soccer. 3.00 Film: 'Key to the City'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Robbery'. 10.00 London.

ULSTER: 11.30 London. 1.00 Getting your money's worth. 1.30 Jobs around the house. 1.55 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Prince of Pirates'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Will Penny'. 10.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Untamed world. 11.00 Hogan's heroes. 11.30 London. 1.00 Farming. 1.25 Calendar. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'Mozambique'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Trouble With Angels'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Skating. 12.35 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 10.35 Untamed world. 11.00 Time to remember. 11.30 London. 12.55 Saint. 1.50 Jackson five. 2.20 Football. 3.20 Film: 'If Tomorrow Comes'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Donovan's Reef'. 10.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Jobs around the house. 11.00 Doctor in charge. 11.30 London. 1.00 Farming. 1.25 World War I. 1.50 Where the jobs are. 1.55 Shoot. 2.55 Film: 'You're Never Too Young'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Trouble With Angels'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Challenge. 12.05 Skating. 12.35 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.00 World War I. 9.30 London. 10.30 Women only. 11.00 Place in the country. 11.30 London. 1.00 Randall and Hopkirk. 2.00 Sport. 3.25 Theatre. 4.25 Golden shot. 5.20 Aquarius. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'King of the Roaring Twenties'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Farm progress. 11.30 London. 1.00 Getting your money's worth. 1.30 Jobs around the house. 2.00 Sport. 3.25 Film: 'Tarzan's Desert Mystery'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Sons of Katie Elder'. 10.00 London. 12.05 Living and growing.

SUNDAY

BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.00 Avventura. 11.00 Seeing and believing. 11.35 Cut and thrust. 12.00 Handling materials. 12.25 Seventy plus. 12.50 Farming. 1.15 Made in Britain. 1.30 Parents and children. 1.55 News headlines. Weather. 2.00 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 2.15 Cruft's dog show. 3.05 Blue Peter special assignment. Vienna. 3.45 Film: 'That's My Boy'. Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis. Comedy. 5.20 Woodstock.

6.05 **NEWS.** Weather. 6.15 **SUNDAY DEBATE.** Permissive Society.

6.50 **THE NEW BEGINNING.** 7.00 **THE CHOICE IS YOURS.**

7.25 **THE BROTHERS.** Labour Pains.

8.15 **FILM: 'DOUBLE INDEMNITY'.** Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck, Edward G. Robinson. An insurance salesman and the wife of a customer plan an insurance fraud.

10.00 **NEWS.** Weather. 10.15 **OMNIBUS FILE.** Photography.

11.05 **CROSTALK.** Richard Crossman invites Cecil King to talk about Westminster, Whitehall and Fleet Street. 11.45 **Weather.**

ITV

9.30 Service. 10.35 UFO. 11.30 Weekend world. 1.00 Thunderbirds. 1.50 Skilful rugby. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Persuaders! 4.15 Junior police five. 4.25 Golden shot. 5.15 Aquarius.

6.05 **NEWS.** 6.15 **ADAM SMITH.** 6.40 **WIND OF THE SPIRIT.**

7.00 **SONGS THAT MATTER.** 7.25 **FENN STREET GANG.**

7.55 **FILM: 'THE BIG DRAGNET'.** Jack Webb, Harry Morgan. FBI officers hunt a murderer.

9.45 **POLICE ONE FIVE.** 10.10 **NEWS.**

10.15 **COUNTRY MATTERS.** The Higglers. 11.15 **OPEN NIGHT.**

12.05 **A CHANGE OF COURSE.** 12.10 **SCALES OF JUSTICE.** A Woman's Privilege.

BBC 2

8.55-1.05 Open University. 4.00 Man at work. 4.25 Money at work. 5.25 Horizon.

6.10 **NEWS REVIEW.** 6.50 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.

6.55 **DOUBTS AND CERTAINTIES.**

7.25 **THE WORLD ABOUT US.** Poppa Bilong All. Autobiography of a Stone Age chief in New Guinea.

8.15 **THE GOODIES.** 8.45 **CRAIG SHEPPARD.** American pianist plays Beethoven, Bach-Samaroff Chopin.

9.45 **THE VIEW FROM DANIEL PIKE.** A Slight Case of Absalom.

10.35 **THEY SOLD A MILLION.** The Young Generation and Vince Hill with guests Esther Ofarim, Neil Sedaka.

11.20 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

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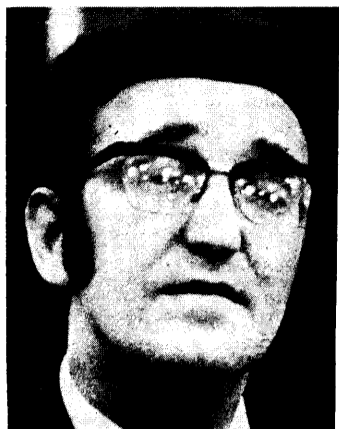
Fighting the Tories' rent Act Clay Cross rebels take experiences to Dudley

Cotton bale bonus strike snowballs

OPPOSITION to the Tory Housing Finance Act has now reached boiling point in the Worcestershire town of Dudley. Tenants packed into a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday and thousands more attended an overflow meeting outside.

Altogether, over 3,500 local workers and housewives heard tenants' association leaders outline their plans to stand their own candidates in forthcoming district elections in wards where Labour councillors have supported implementation of the rent Act.

The Labour-controlled Dudley council has implemented a rise of £1.08, but thousands of tenants on estates in Upper and Lower Gornal, Quarry Bank, Dunns Bank, Walbrook, Brierley



WELLON . . . Rent strike

Hill, and other areas, are not paying the increase.

Frank Haddon, a Labour councillor who opposed implementation, listed those wards in which, he said, tenants should stand against Labour councillors.

Arthur Wellon, finance chairman of the non-implementing Clay Cross council, Derbyshire, told the meeting they were not involved in a simple fight on a



NUTTALL . . . Don't abstain

rents issue, but a '100-per-cent political fight against this Tory government'.

He said that Clay Cross council had declared a total rents and rates strike and 75 per cent of tenants were backing it.

'This is what I think you should be doing in Dudley. This is the next stage you should move into. Stand your own candidates by all means, but above

all, take over completely your ward Labour parties,' he said.

David Nuttall, another Clay Cross councillor, told the meeting: 'One thing we can't do in Clay Cross is abstain. Abstaining is as good as voting for the other side. There is only one way to show the Tories what to do. That is what the gasworkers are doing, what the miners will do and the dockers and Ford workers.'

Attacking the Press for its distortions, he went on, 'At Clay Cross, we read the "Morning Star", "Socialist Worker" and Workers Press. Only these papers tell what is true,' he said to applause. 'One way to fight is to stop buying the Tory Press and buy your workers' papers.'

A Dudley tenant, Mrs Maureen Hickman, also hammered the Tory-controlled TV and Press.

She said that the local 'Express and Star' had tried to ban an advertisement for the meeting. She got tremendous applause when she said that if the ban had not been lifted, the tenants would organize a total boycott of the 'Star'.

WORK STOPPED again in a large part of the Liverpool docks yesterday after a mass meeting of more than 1,000 dockers voted to continue their strike over a pay dispute.

Dockers working the freighter 'Administrator' originally walked off after a claim for a special bonus payment of handling an allegedly dangerously - stowed cargo of cotton bales had been turned down.

The dispute later snowballed as other dockers came out in sympathy and now 12 ships are idle in four docks including the £50m Seaforth container terminal.

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company is refusing to agree to an arbitration panel and has accused the men of breaking negotiating procedure. The employers want a return to work before they begin talks.

The dockers will stay out until Monday when there will be another mass meeting.

Recognition fight at pipe plant

A RECOGNITION dispute has broken out at the North Western Ceramic Pipe company at Todmorden. The company is refusing to recognize two Transport and General Workers' Union stewards.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

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

CENTRAL LONDON (Press and Entertainments branch): Sunday February 11, 7 p.m. London Film School, Langley Street, Covent Garden, WC2. (off Long Acre). 'The next step of the Equity pay claim'. Speaker: David Calder.

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.

TODMORDEN: Monday February 12, 7.30 p.m. 'Woodpecker Inn'. 'Defend Basic Rights'.

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'.

PADDINGTON: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. 'Artesian', corner Chepstow Road and Westbourne Grove, W2.

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. 'Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road. 'Defend basic rights'.

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

WOLVERHAMPTON: Wednesday February 14, 7.30 p.m. 'Little Swan, Horseley Fields.

WINSFORD: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. 'Red Lion Hotel', Winsford, Cheshire.

SLOUGH: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'How to defeat Phase Two'.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'Build Councils of Action'.

KINGSTON: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. 'Liverpool Arms', corner of Cambridge Road/London Road. 'Build Councils of Action'.

LEEDS: Thursday February 15, 7.30 p.m. (please note date change). Peel Hotel, Boar Lane.

SWANSEA: Thursday February 15, 7.30 p.m. Council of Social Services, Mount Pleasant Hill, (near fire station). 'Defend democratic rights'.

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

BRIXTON: Tuesday February 20, 8 p.m. Brixton Training Centre, Control Room. 'No state control of wages'.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday February 20, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Defend basic rights'.

LEWISHAM: Thursday February 22, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club. (opposite New Cross station).

ACTON: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3. 'Forward to the Pageant - The Road to Workers' Power'.

CROYDON: Thursday March 1, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Defend democratic rights'.

Socialist Labour League Lectures

DONCASTER: Sunday February 11, 7.30 p.m. SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL, Westlithgate. 'The Revolutionary Party in Britain'. Lecture given by Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee).

NEWCASTLE: Monday February 12, 8 p.m. FORD ARMS, Shields Road. Lecture 2.

ACTON: Wednesday February 14, 8 p.m. WOODLANDS HALL, Crown Street, W3. Lecture 3.

EAST LONDON: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. OLD TOWN

OFFICES, Poplar High Street, E14. Lecture 3.

NEWCASTLE: Monday February 19, 8 p.m. FORD ARMS, Shields Road. Lecture 3.

SHEFFIELD: Monday February 19, 8 p.m. YS PREMISES, Portobello (near Jessops hospital). 'The economic crisis and the socialist answer'.

SHEFFIELD: Monday March 5, 8 p.m. YS PREMISES, Portobello (near Jessops hospital). 'The Revolutionary Party in Britain'.

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

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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)

NORTH EAST COAST
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 7 p.m.
Civic Centre
Jarrow
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)

BRADFORD
Central Library
Top of Hall Ings.
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22,
7.30 p.m.
Speaker:
Cliff Slaughter
(SLL Central Committee)

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)

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Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

FEBRUARY FUND NOW £186.48 PUSH UP TOTAL THIS WEEKEND

TIME IS slipping by and we are a long way from raising our £1,750 target this month. We appeal to all of you, dear readers—don't leave it to a last-minute effort to complete our total, step up the fight today.

It is vital that we do. The more thousands of workers from every industry take up the fight to defend their standard of living, the more the cowardly reformist and Stalinist trade union leadership do everything possible to avoid a decisive fight against the Tory government.

Workers Press is needed today to build an alternative leadership throughout the trade union and labour movement. Everywhere workers are looking for a leadership that is determined to take this fight forward. We are determined that all sections of trade unionists will be united in common action to make this government resign.

The fight is on. Take up a struggle this weekend for your paper. We need an extra special effort to pull up the figure for this month's fund. We are relying on you. Raise as much as you can and post immediately to:

Workers Press
February Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High St
London SW4 7UG.



Swansea gasmen stop

ONE HUNDRED and thirteen General and Municipal Workers' Union members at Swansea gasworks (left) yesterday came out on a token stoppage against the Tory wage laws.

The men, mostly gas fitters, held a picket at the main gate. Mr Phil Pettican, secretary of Swansea No. 1 branch of the G&MWU, said that the men were not satisfied with the official union policy of an overtime ban and non-co-operation starting next Wednesday. Stronger action was necessary, he said.

The strike yesterday was Swansea gasworkers' way of telling their union leaders this.

A meeting of 130 gasmen's delegates in Southampton has decided to commence immediate industrial action.

From midnight last night men employed in the southern region, from Oxford to Bridport, have been banning overtime and working to rule.

UPW chiefs 'strangle' pay law debate

POST OFFICE union leaders yesterday blocked all discussion of the Tory pay laws by the union's special conference at Bournemouth.

Emergency motions condemning the laws were ruthlessly cleared off the agenda. All attempts to put them back were crushed.

However delegates were allowed to agree a 1p-a-week increase in contributions to raise 'remuneration to active union members'—from branch officer to executive level.

And there was applause when London overseas telephonist John Haylett rose to draw attention to this.

His branch secretary would receive £200 a year extra under the new proposals, Haylett calculated.

'If the government's pay freeze

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN BOURNEMOUTH

is allowed to continue unchanged by the trade union movement, that's £200 more than our members will get.'

He accused the executive of 'strangling' the pay debate.

Delegates also applauded a demand from Stoke-on-Trent postman Alf Flower that the UPW general secretary make a statement on the progress of the union's wage claim—pointing out that executive members had just been voted a pay rise of £8 a week.

The most likely explanation for yesterday's astonishing moves is that the Union of Post Office Workers is trying to do a back-stage deal with the government over its £5 across-the-board pay claim.

One proposal under discussion, I understand, is that the union will accept the £1 plus the 4 per cent Phase One ceiling in return for special treatment under Phase Three.

Tom Jackson, UPW general secretary, has already criticized the TUC for its refusal to talk to the government about Phase Two of its statutory pay controls.

Any move to condemn them, on behalf of the union's 200,000 members, would therefore be extremely embarrassing to the executive's clandestine manoeuvres.

Three branches attempted to break through the bureaucratic stone-walling yesterday.

First they were told their resolutions were 'not admissible' because they were not part of the business the conference was called to discuss.

When they tried to challenge this ruling, from the standing orders committee, UPW chairman Beryl Treble wheeled up the leadership's second-line defence:

'The chairman's ruling is not challengeable,' she declared.

Afterwards I talked to the three delegates involved.

Jim Birnie, from the Edinburgh outdoor branch, had wanted to move a motion rejecting the Tory incomes policy as a 'basic challenge to the rights and ability of trade unions to advance workers' interests' and 'a step to the corporate state'.

His branch's motion also urged the speedy recall of the TUC to unite the trade union movement to defeat the government's policies.

'It's disgraceful,' he said of the platform's decision.

'This would definitely have been carried.'

Jock Cowan, from the Paddington No. 1 branch in London, was 'disgusted' by the block which had been put on his motion.

He had wanted to go to the rostrum to 'deplore and utterly condemn' the Tories' continued attack on working-class living standards.

Jock's branch was 'alarmed at the negative attitude of the TUC and the majority of the trade union leaders, in failing to use the power of the trade union movement to force the government to abandon its wages policy'.

It wanted the UPW executive to consider immediate action against the pay laws.

From Andover amalgamated branch, Peter Curtis was not surprised by the turn of events, but felt the union leadership had to be challenged on this vital issue.

His branch had wanted the executive to 'do all in its democratic power to oppose such iniquitous, totalitarian legislation'.

● Fred Moss, UPW treasurer, estimated the total cost of the union's new financial arrangements at £150,000. The contribution increases will be expected to cover more than half of this. The union's chairman will get £500 a year extra as a result of the proposals.

Ford offer: Walk-out at Halewood

BY ROYSTON BULL OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 5,000 workers at the Ford Motor Company's giant Halewood plant, near Liverpool, downed tools yesterday within hours of the announcement of a derisory pay offer of £2.40 a week.

Earlier in the day union negotiators representing 52,000 hourly-paid Ford workers rejected the company's offer at talks held in Essex.

The offer came in answer to the carworkers' claim for £10 extra a week, plus a 35-hour week and more holidays.

Shop stewards from all Ford plants—about 400 of them—will now meet in Coventry next weekend to decide what action to take in pursuit of the pay claim.

Some shop-floor committees have already called for strike action from March 1 when the new agreement is due to be implemented.

The company's offer is directly in line with the £1 plus 4 per cent pay ceiling set by the government's wage control laws.

The offer, which comes at the end of a two-year deal, is in sharp contrast to the £30m profit just declared by the Ford Motor Company.

Yesterday pay talks between management and union representatives were held at a motel near Hornchurch. A company official commented: 'The talks were brief and to the point. There was not much we could say to each other really.'

Rates: Complaints to Heath



LABOUR leaders of six city councils yesterday pleaded with Heath at No. 10 Downing Street not to go-ahead with the massive rate re-assessments.

Ald William Sifton (above), leader of Liverpool Council, said afterwards: 'I was very pleased with the reception we had. I am convinced that following the meeting we have convinced the Prime Minister of the severity of the measures needed.'

The delegation from Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds and Bristol told Heath the cities were finding themselves 'in a crisis situation'.

FROM PAGE 1

to force the Tory government to resign.

Instead of this, the union leaders talk while every basic right of the working class is taken away.

No call for action came from Wednesday's meeting of public-sector unions.

The leaders refuse to mobilize the entire strength of the working class behind the hospital ancillary workers or any other group of workers in conflict with the government.

Instead workers are left to fight isolated, piece-meal battles because their leaders have no intention of leading a fight against the Tories.

These leaders conduct a dangerous sham fight instead of a real one. In particular,

A SHAM FIGHT OR A REAL FIGHT

they conveniently omit from their 'left' speeches all reference to the international crisis of capitalism, which lies behind the Tory offensive.

It is the trade war launched by the United States and Japan which has forced the European standards, attack wages, create capitalists to come together in the Common Market, forced them to slash workers' living massive unemployment and seek to remove every gain the working class has made over the last 200 years.

This means the only way to win the wages fight against the Tory government and its laws

is to bring that government down. That can only be done by uniting the whole working class in a General Strike. The trade union leaders must be forced to do this.

Such a campaign requires the leadership of a revolutionary party. That is the purpose of transforming the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party this year.

It is the purpose also of our Pageant of Labour now launched in South Wales, Lancashire the north east and London. Hundreds of workers are being involved in re-enacting their own history

—the struggle for democratic rights, for unions, and for a Labour Party—and linking their past with their present struggles.

The culminating rally, which will bring thousands of workers to the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 11, is central to the fight to build a new leadership in the unions and force them to call a General Strike to bring the Tory government down.

It is imperative now for workers to take part in this campaign and to join the socialist Labour League in order to create and build the revolutionary party to end Tory rule for good.