

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16, 1973 ● No. 999 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY ALEX MITCHELL

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But the reply of the trade union leaders in no way matches Heath's bluntness. Instead of immediately mobilizing in full support of the gasworkers and other sections of workers fighting the pay laws, they have called a Congress . . . in three weeks' time!

Workers Press has been in the forefront of the campaign for such a special Congress. We insisted on its immediate recall when Feather and the General Council entered the Tory trap of the tripartite talks last October.

But instead of consulting their members about the rapidly-maturing political and economic crisis, the TUC leaders turned their backs and marched off to Downing Street to see Heath and big business leaders in the CBI.

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The paper's editorial says: 'The decision by the General Council to call a special Trades Union Congress is not a moment too soon.'

But the Stalinists go on to make no other immediate demands to meet the onrushing Tory attack. To wait another three weeks would be the most abject cowardice.

Are workers in wages struggles to abandon their fight until March 5 to wait to see what the congress comes up with?

Of course not. Yesterday it became clear how the trade union bureaucrats would like to use the special Congress for their own cynical ends.

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So he is telling the miners to hold off for a month during which the Tories will be blasting against the gasworkers, hospital workers and lorry drivers day in and day out in the capitalist Press.

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union leaders are complying with the Tories' timetable for a snap General Election.

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The danger is that this meeting, which will also have delegations from Vauxhall's, British-Leyland, Chrysler's and the gasworkers, will be turned into a talking shop instead of a FIGHTING shop.

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The task of the Labour and trade union leaders must be to create the political and industrial conditions to compel Heath to test this at the polls.

# WHAT NEXT?

## Dangerous delay by gas union chiefs

BY DAVID MAUDE  
OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

GASWORKERS' MILITANCY grew yesterday following Heath's arrogant ultimatum to the union leaders that they must give in.

As Alf Anderson, leader of 250 striking gasmen in St Helens, told Workers Press: 'We realize this is the crunch. The gasworkers are in the front line of the struggle. The government will either have to be defeated, or we will go under.'

But despite Heath's clear ultimatum, the union chiefs continued their dangerous hesitation.

David Basnett, secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said on independent television yesterday lunchtime: 'If the government is prepared to show some flexibility we will talk to them.'

And writing in Rupert Murdoch's 'Sun' newspaper yesterday morning, he said: 'We have not decided to "take on the government". The government has left us no alternative but to use industrial action . . .

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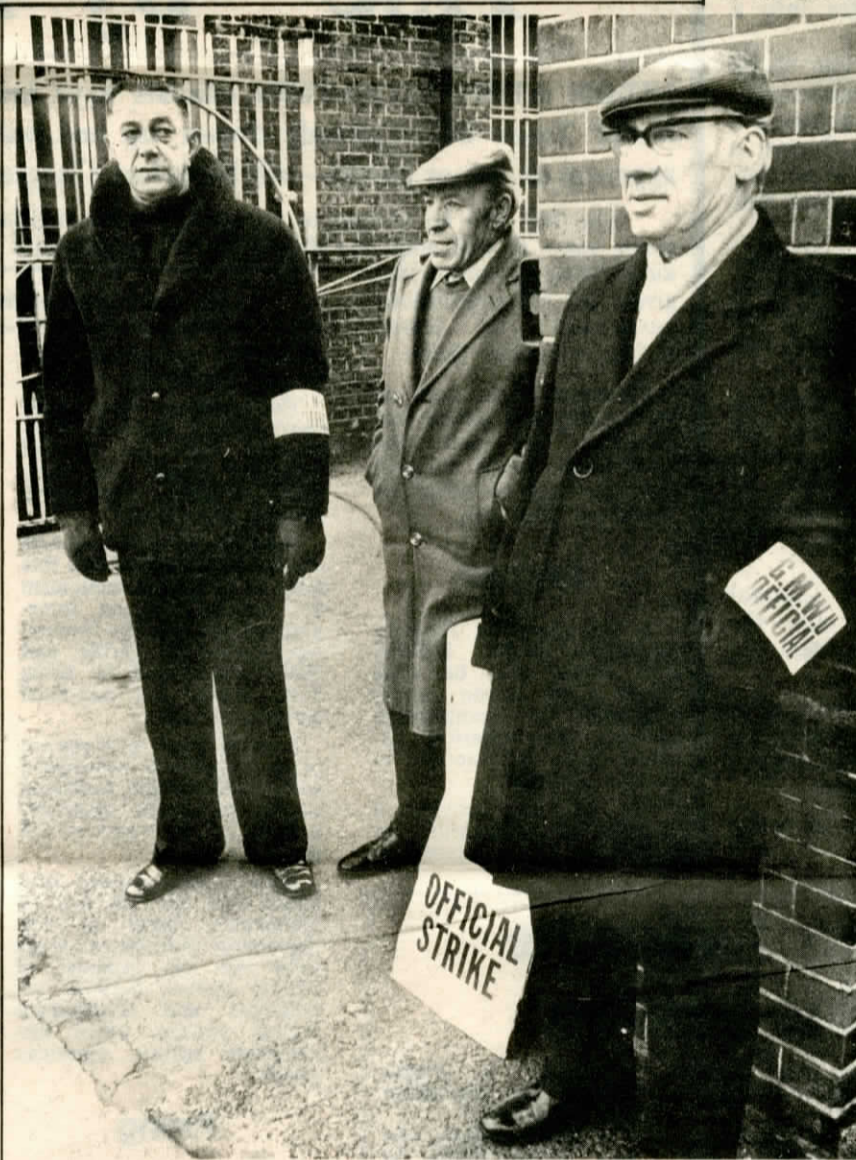
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**SLL**  
**PUBLIC**  
**MEETINGS**

Unite in action to defend basic rights

**JARROW**

SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 18  
7 p.m.

Civic Centre, Jarrow

Speaker: G. HEALY  
(SLL national secretary)

**NORTH KENT**

MONDAY FEBRUARY 19,  
8pm

The Shakespeare,  
Powis Street  
Woolwich

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**WATFORD**

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Trades Union Hall  
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## WHAT WE THINK

# THE TIME TO FIGHT IS NOW

ACCORDING to 'The Times' yesterday Tory premier Edward Heath is 'pursuing the agreed objectives of the community' and is 'supported by public opinion'. Heath himself claimed that 'the country' was behind government policy.

These are brazen lies. The Tory government has no mandate for rocketing prices, soaring rents, state control of wages or Common Market entry. No one 'agreed' to these policies except the handful of profiteers and capitalists which Heath and 'The Times' represent.

Heath's pledge at the 1970 election was to 'cut prices at a stroke' and not to enter the Common Market without consulting the electors.

If he is so confident that 'the country' is behind him why did he not put this to the test by holding a General Election on the question of EEC entry as he had undertaken to do?

Heath's references to 'the country' and 'The Times' talk of 'the community' and 'public opinion' are abstractions. Who are these people? The truth is that millions of men and women are now united against the government as never before as a result of the state pay laws and anti-union legislation which turns every worker into a potential criminal.

Even a Gallup Poll conducted by the 'Daily Telegraph'—and such polls traditionally distort working-class opinion—shows a 9 per cent Labour lead over the Tories, a 3-per-cent rise in a month. The most outspoken opposition to the government was on the prices question.

In the face of this reality, the Tory claims of support in 'the country' amount to a confidence trick to prepare the way for dictatorship. This must be exposed and answered.

Immediately workers must demand that the trade unions and the Labour Party call mass demonstrations all over the country directed against the Tory government. As 'The Times' said yesterday, the government has no room for manoeuvre and is not going to yield.

The demand now must be for a General Election. If the Tories are so sure the people are behind them, then let them put it to the test.

To wait for an election on Tory terms—with scare stories about strikes and a mounting witch-hunt to panic the middle class—would be playing into their hands.

The time for the labour movement to go on the offensive is now.



## Around the world

# Nixon prepares his trade war Bill US tariffs will rise—by law

**NIXON ADMINISTRATION** officials have indicated that the much-feared Trade Bill—already drawn up and only awaiting presidential approval on minor points—will be before Congress by early next month.

The Bill will be unique in recent US trade legislation. For the first time in many years it will empower the country's negotiators to raise tariffs. All prior authorizing legislation has given the US negotiators permission to lower tariffs, not raise them.

President Nixon said on Wednesday this power was necessary so that the government could bargain from strength on behalf of American business.

### Access

In the words of Treasury Secretary George Schultz, this power will be used 'when such action would contribute to arrangements assuring that American exports have fair access to foreign markets'.

The Bill also provides a system of safeguards for particular US markets and

industries threatened with foreign competition.

The system in effect would restrict such imports 'temporarily' while the affected industries 'made the transition to other, more competitive production'.

With unexampled cynicism the US is proposing that this form of crude protectionism be 'policed' on an international basis by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade established to bring down tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade.

Existing trade relations are to be completely overturned with a determined American assault on other countries' barriers to the entry of US goods.

Schultz has already promised that the US will be 'bargaining hard' at the September multilateral trade talks for the removal of import quotas, customs regulations and government buying policies which discriminate against American goods.

### Prong

The Trade Bill is the next prong of the American attack on Europe and Japan.

It stands alongside the devastating 10-per-cent devaluation of the dollar as part of Nixon's economic war against his competitors.

Nixon will certainly not be satisfied with his currency 'bombshell'.

The Americans consider that far too many countries have evaded the full effects of the dollar devaluation by also devaluing.

Nor are they content with the 'floating' yen, which is quite clearly being manipulated by the Japanese government in a 'dirty' manner.

The Tokyo central bank took in over \$200m to maintain the rate on Wednesday.

Japan registered a \$610m deficit on its balance of payments last month—a record low caused mainly by a substantial outflow of long-term capital.

The fact that the yen is still in heavy demand after an effective 13-16 per cent devaluation foreshadows further convulsions on the foreign exchange markets.

There was also considerable selling of dollars for marks on the Frankfurt exchange.

It is clear the dollar devaluation is designed to destroy the remaining obstacles to international trade war and the destruction of fictitious capital on a vast scale.

# Anti-hi-jack deal signed

**FIDEL CASTRO** is working his way back to the good graces of the United States. This is the message of the anti-hijacking agreement between Cuba and the United States signed yesterday.

The agreement is a very one-sided affair intended to deal with planes hijacked to Cuba.

Castro has agreed to bring American hijackers to trial or to extradite them. It is very much to Washington's taste, since Cuba has for long been the hijackers' Mecca.

By falling into line with US demands, no doubt with support from Moscow, Castro takes a step towards normalization of relations which open the way for US business to resume operations in Cuba.

A balance sheet of Cuba's crackdown on 'idlers and absentees' which began in April, 1971 has just been made.

It shows that over 50,000 people had been prosecuted under the law.

About two-thirds had left their jobs without valid reason. The rest were those who neither studied nor worked.

Those convicted are liable for up to two years in a labour camp.

# Stathis Panagoulis to be court martialled

**STATHIS PANAGOULIS**, whose brother is serving a life sentence for trying to assassinate the Greek colonels' leader George Papadopoulos, faces a court martial today on charges of desertion from the army. Last month he was sentenced to 4½ years' imprisonment on charges of plotting to hijack an airliner and kidnap foreign diplomats to bargain for the release of Greek political prisoners.

Mrs Athina Panagoulis, told newsmen her 26-year-old son would be court martialled today.

He is alleged to have escaped abroad and failed to serve in the army at the time of his call-up in 1968.

Panagoulis could be held in military custody rather than in a civilian jail as at present. He has already been put into uniform.

His father and eldest brother are dead, and his

brother Alexandros is in the hands of the military who have severely tortured him.

His friends say Stathis was lured back to Greece from exile in Italy by provocateurs acting for the colonels' regime.

FIFTY students were arrested on Wednesday at the Athens Polytechnic Engineering School after a clash with riot police.

They were demonstrating against instant compulsory call-up for students taking part in demonstrations, protest meetings or boycotts.

# Hanoi bans Labourite fact-finding mission

**NORTH VIETNAM** has banned a Labour Party fact-finding mission, headed by shadow Foreign Secretary James Callaghan, from visiting the country.

Party headquarters contacted North Vietnamese officials in London yesterday in an effort to clarify the situation.

Hanoi has just had Dr Henry Kissinger and his party as honoured guests.

Callaghan sat in a Labour government which supported US policy in Vietnam.

He endorsed Harold Wilson's message to President Johnson in June, 1965, at the time

of bomber raids on oil storage tanks in Hanoi which said:

'Our reservations about this operation will not affect our continuing support for your policy over Vietnam.'

The hypocrisy of 'fact-finding' after millions have been slaughtered as a result of US aggression is paralleled by Callaghan's role in Ireland and over Commonwealth immigration when he was Home Secretary.

He was responsible for the passage of the Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1968 intended to reduce the entry of Asian holders of United Kingdom pas-

ports to a trickle through the imposition of a racial test.

It was Callaghan who sent British troops to Ireland in August 1969 with instructions to carry out a policy of repression.

On a visit he boasted that he 'had very close connections with the police for many years'.

Indeed, he combined a seat on the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party with the post of Consultant to the Police Federation for a number of years.

It is not surprising that Hanoi now considers Callaghan and his friends, Ian Mikardo and Thomas McNally, as undesirable immigrants.

# PAGEANT DIARY

The Road to Workers Power



## Pageant a dress rehearsal for enormous political battles

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN MANCHESTER

THE PAGEANT of Workers' Rights was a revolutionary event and a dress rehearsal for the enormous political battles immediately ahead, Gerry Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League told workers, youth and housewives at Middleton, north Manchester.

He was the main speaker of the first public meeting of the north-west Pageant campaign on Wednesday night.

He reminded the audience that the re-creation of the early struggles of the Manchester working class was taking place in a situation of unprecedented crisis.

The actors leading the campaign had not come to Manchester to win applause or approval.

### Oppressed

'These people are not coming here as individuals, but because as actors they are one of the most oppressed groups of workers under this Tory government. They were the first group of workers to sustain an actual wage cut under the Tories' state pay laws.

'They are part of the new forces in the working class coming into battle and they are here to help prepare the fight against the Tory government which is determined to destroy every basic right of the working class.'

He went on to underline the political importance of the Pageant.

'What we are doing is to take the past of the working class—the bitter political struggle for basic rights—and place it in the context of the present crisis.

'We have to make the working class understand its history, to present to as many workers as possible this history as a living thing by presenting it in today's situation of struggle against the Tory government.'

This, said Comrade Healy, was not merely acting or a cultural event, but a political preparation for bringing the government down and preparing for workers' power.

### Recession

He warned that this was the very perspective facing the working class. The economic crisis was now leading to the greatest recession known to mankind.

The US capitalist rulers had declared trade war on Europe and Asia.

In perhaps the next three to five years the working class had to make up its minds whether to take the power or to face fascism.

'We must speak frankly and say that during the two and a half years of the Tory government time has been criminally wasted.

'On occasion after occasion there has been the opportunity to bring down this discredited Tory government,' he said.

The worst culprits were the TUC leadership, the Stalinists and the revisionist groups like the International Socialists who trailed behind them.

They argued that pressure could make the government change its spots, but the Tories were like a tiger caged in by the economic crisis.

They were forced to rob the working class of all their basic rights.

Only the SLL had warned and warned on this point. Now there was a great danger the working class was walking into the trap of a snap General Election which the Tories were preparing under the most favourable conditions to themselves.

'Now we must say that the battle is in front. It is a revolutionary battle in which enormous political questions are raised.

'Workers cannot take action for a wage increase without fighting to bring down the government because the Tories have made all workers fighting for their rights law breakers.

'We must go out with these young actors into the streets, on the housing estates, in the pubs, in the clubs and say, "Stand up, stand up and fight! Make this Pageant the greatest blow yet delivered to the Tory government."

Pageant director, Corin Redgrave, said that now that

the question of power was posed once more before the working class it was vital they understand their history.

Manchester had been the birth place of Chartism and the scene of Peterloo when workers demanding their basic rights had been massacred by the military in 1819.

### Struggle

This history showed that rights were never won peacefully: they were fought for and cost lives and once the workers had got them they had to struggle every day to keep them.

'This Pageant is a call to action. There is no way out for the working class.

'It must take the road to power.'

Connie Fahey, Manchester tenants' leader reminded the working class that all the rights workers fought for in 200 years have now been declared illegal.

'At the stroke of a pen Heath has made it illegal for your husband to fight for the wage increase.'

Despite fog, snow and ice, a lively audience attended the meeting and a collection of £12.23 was raised for the Pageant.



SLL national secretary G. Healy speaking in Manchester on Wednesday. Also on the platform (l to r) Pageant director Corin Redgrave, meeting chairman Malcolm Tierney and tenants' leader Mrs Connie Fahey. Below: Some members of the audience.



## Sunday sirloin a meal of the past?

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

SIRLOIN is finished as Britain's traditional Sunday joint. The prices of sirloin cuts are now beyond most household budgets.

Mr Richard Cawthorne, managing director of the North Devon Meat Limited, said the problem of falling beef sales was 'adverse publicity'.

Cawthorne must be joking. It's not bad publicity which is stopping housewives from buying sirloin, it's the fact that it is about 90p a lb.

Prices of basic materials and fuel bought by manufacturing industry have risen 16½ per cent in the past 12 months, says the Department of Trade and Industry.

The increase for January alone was 3½ per cent.

'Though there was a continued strong rate of increase in prices of food materials, which accounted for about one third of the increase in the index of all manufacturing industry in January, there were more substantial increases in prices of two important non-food materials, wool and copper,' says the Department.

The provisional price index for home sales of manufactured products rose ¼ per cent in January, about the same as in December.

In both months most of the change reflected increases of about 1 per cent in prices of manufactured foods.

● A house in Kentish Town, north London, bought for £7,000 in 1971, is being offered for sale at £112,000, a Labour MP told the House of Commons this week.

## Docks negotiators haggle over pennies

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

IF THE UNION chiefs are planning to defy state pay control on the docks, they are certainly going about it crabwise and very slowly.

Only in one major port—London—are there serious pay talks under way. And by the time a recommendation is put to dockers, the union will have spent weeks haggling with the employers over pennies.

The 8,000 London dockers involved should get their chance to decide on a fight with the Tories next week.

Currently the employers' wages staff are crouched over their adding machines giving the government's Phase Two formula a final once-over.

Union negotiators want them to squeeze the last fraction of a penny out of the formula—the infamous £1 plus 4 per cent.

The end result of all this arithmetical jiggery-pokery will be made known to the union men as early as possible next week.

Then it will be up to an 18-man committee of lay delegates to decide if it is enough to avoid a clash with the government. The employers believe it will.

But in fact the Tories have already intervened in the nego-

tiations in a bid to hold down the dockers' pay.

In order to bump up the offer, union negotiators asked that the levies the employers pay to the National Dock Labour Board be included in the overall wage bill on which the 4 per cent is calculated.

This would have increased the possible offer from its present £2.60 level to £2.79.

It was at this point that the Department of Employment intervened. No such arrangement would be allowed, said the men from the Ministry.

Yet earnings in the London docks are next to bottom of the big ports league, according to the National Dock Labour Board.

Where the 2,000 Southampton men are earning a gross wage before stoppages of £52.04 a week, Londoners get £45.76. They come only slightly above Liverpool, where a 7,800-strong labour force earns £44.22.

The Liverpool pay-and-hours claim, which has been held up by the pay-control laws since last November, is still making no progress.

Agreement to start a 35-hour week in the port was reached in principle last April, and should have started operating from November 25.

But there have so far been no union moves to force settlement.

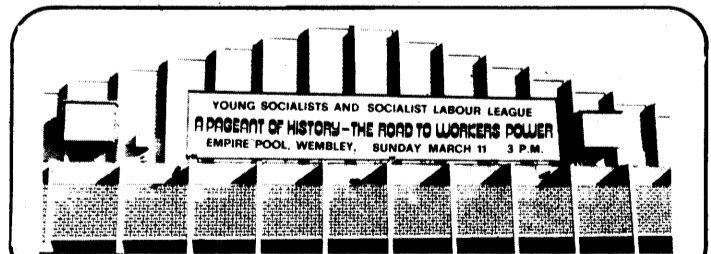
BOOK YOUR TICKET FOR EMPIRE POOL NOW

DEFEND ALL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Defend trade unionism and basic living standards

Unite in action to make this Tory government resign

The road to power is through the building of the revolutionary party



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ADDRESS.....

No. of tickets required ..... Amount enclosed (£1 each £.....)

Complete form and return to: Pageant Office, 34 Hamilton Gardens, London, NW8





# JACK JONES' PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BOARDROOM

Jack Jones, leader of Britain's largest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, is honorary vice-president of the Institute for Workers' Control.

This body has pretensions to being 'left'. Its leading lights include Ken Coates, the revisionist academic associated with the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation.

Through the good graces of Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Coates has recently been readmitted to the Labour Party.

One of Jones's 'left' guises has been to talk about 'participation' and the Institute has proved an admirable sounding board for his 'theories'. In the past few weeks we have begun to get a clearer idea of what, in practice, Jones means when he talks about 'workers' control'.

He and Hugh Scanlon, President of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Unions,

are both members of a special TUC study group which has been looking into Common Market legislation on industrial democracy. When the Tory government received the draft laws from Brussels it passed them onto the TUC.

This apparently formed part of the notorious tripartite haggling at No. 10 Downing Street and Chequers which paved the way for the state pay laws.

Now Jones and Scanlon have reported to the TUC that the legislation should be adopted.

In other words, the trade unions should appoint worker-directors to the boards of public companies which employ more than 500 workers.

This boardroom collaboration is being supported by the Communist Party. It is in line with what the Stalinist parties in France and Italy already practice.

The policy of class collaboration which Jones is now pur-

suing is a total and damning indictment of reformism. At the point when the capitalist system in Britain and internationally is in such a desperate state, the reformists rush to shore it up.

The reformists like Jones and Scanlon are tied hand and foot to the capitalist system. They have no fundamental disagreements with capitalism. They wish it would have 'a more human face'. So when the capitalists system reveals its true, ugly 'face', they have no policy—except class collaboration.

Leaders like Jones are now clearly exposed in the workers' movement for what they are. The Jones-Aldington committee set up after last year's strike in Britain's ports proved this to the dockers.

In this special article ALEX MITCHELL looks at another dimension of Jones's collaboration with the ruling class.

**In case you didn't know, the Transport and General Workers' Union celebrated its 50th anniversary last year.**

You probably didn't notice it—unless you were a trade union bureaucrat and attended the monster beanfeast which the union held at the Royal Festival Hall in London on the Thames Embankment.

Hundreds of officials and shop-floor representatives were brought to London with fares paid to spend a day eating and drinking at their union's expense.

Nobody noticed that the union, in conjunction with the big monopolists, also took the decision to have a lasting memorial to the union's strength—the Ernest Bevin International Study Group Scheme.

It sounds like a one-man desk in Transport House, doesn't it? But, in fact, the group has built up a considerable powerhouse of support. Not, we hasten to add, among the rank and file. The funds are tumbling in from some of the country's most powerful industrialists.

The group's activities include 'the arrangement of short-term educational visits by employees to international institutes concerned with industry or industrial relations and encouraging or undertaking the examination of industrial relations and trade union trading'.

Its first project will be to send a 'large group of British shop stewards to visit and study the International Labour Organization in Geneva'.

What this wretched body of state-financed bureaucrats can tell British shop stewards about 'industrial relations' is not revealed. The whole scheme reeks of a stunt one would expect from Moral Rearmament or the CIA! But this junket to Geneva is being sponsored by both the T&GWU . . . and top management.

The employer who is giving most vocal backing to the group is Lord Watkinson, the chairman of Cadbury Schweppes. He is a former Tory War Minister and the man who said recently that 'the era of cheap food is over'.

Watkinson has this to say about the scheme: 'I have always believed in the concept of a working partnership between employers and employees in industry. I wish it all possible success and we are glad to have had the chance of contributing to it.'

The other major backer is also a former Tory Cabinet Minister in the Macmillan government—Lord Thorneycroft, now chairman of Pirelli General Cable Works Limited, a subsidiary of the Dunlop-Pirelli monopoly.

The others on the group's managing committee make a Who's Who of top management:

- A. J. Nicol, deputy managing director of Joseph Lucas Limited, the company which has just closed down its Fazakerley, Liverpool, plant, making 1,200 workers redundant.

- G. Gilbertson, general manager, personnel, at Imperial Chemical Industries, another group which is in the process of carrying out large-scale redundancies. ICI's chairman is



Above left: Ernest Bevin, who took part in the TUC sell-out of 1926, and would be well pleased with Jack Jones's performance today. Right: Jack Jones, Frank Cousins and Harry Urwin at the monster feast last year in London's Festival Hall.

Michael Clapham, president of the CBI, who helped formulate the Phase One and Two state pay laws.

● D. E. A. Pettit, chairman of the National Freight Corporation. Pettit is a Tory appointee. Lorry drivers at a state-owned subsidiary of the corporation, British Road Services, are at present engaged in a bitter fight in the Midlands to get a £2.50 bonus for working heavy vehicles.

● G. B. Thorley, chairman of Allied Breweries.

Other big financial contributors to the scheme are: Bass Charrington Limited, British-Leyland Motor Corporation, British Insulated Callenders Cables, Delta Metal Company, Dunlop Holdings, English China Clays (Lord Aldington is a director), Ford Motor Company, Arthur Guinness Limited, John Laing and Son, London Brick Company, Rank Hovis McDougall and J. Sainsbury.

The trade union bureaucrats who are serving on the committee with these unrepentant Tories are: Jack Jones; Harry Urwin, the T&GWU's assistant general secretary; Len Forden, T&GWU chairman; and, inevitably, Victor Feather of the TUC.

Jones is on record as wildly enthusiastic about this collaboration with top management.

'This scheme will present an opportunity to many active

trade unionists to study industrial relations' problems in other countries, to learn what they can, as well as explaining our own system from a trade union point of view.

'Ernest Bevin put into practice a deep-rooted understanding that the interests of ordinary workers could be defended and new opportunities created, only through collective organization. That is as true today as it was 50 years ago.'

Jones's reverence for Bevin is understandable. After all, he is walking in his footsteps. But his description of Bevin is quite misleading.

He played his part in the TUC sell-out of the 1926 General Strike as a member of the General Council. A notorious right-winger, he was an enthusiastic member of the war time coalition government under Churchill. As Minister of Labour in 1940, Bevin was in charge of the strike-breaking laws passed during the war.

On the docks, overtime was made compulsory and the Dock Labour Scheme introduced. Appropriately named by the dockers as the 'slave scheme', it involved the direction of labour all over Britain. The regulation 1305 made all strikes illegal and arbitration compulsory.

Bevin, a stout believer in corporatist relations between unions and government, would be well pleased with Jones's performance.

The fact that the union bureaucrats are adopting these corporatist-type positions does not mean that their members are drawn into the same conspiracy. On the contrary,

although Jones accepted the National Industrial Relations Court and paid its fines, his five docks members went to jail in opposition to the Industrial Relations Act.

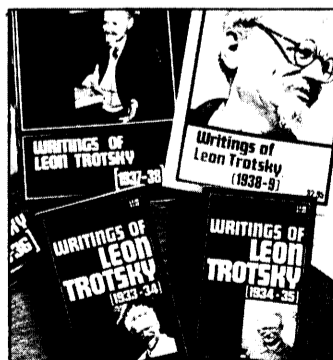
With the same determination, workers must also repudiate the present leadership of the trade unions who

seek the 'peaceful road', the class collaboration role with the Tories and their backers in industry.

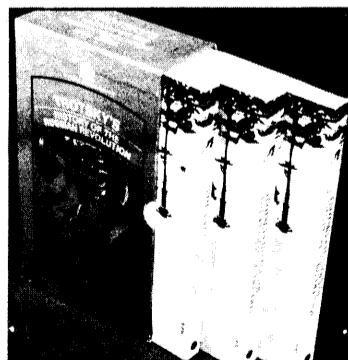
This fight against Jones and company is inseparable from the fight to build an alternative revolutionary leadership in the working class. That is why the most important events on the

immediate agenda for class-conscious trade unionists, their wives and children is the Pageant of working-class history 'Road to Workers' Power' at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Sunday, March 11, and the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party.

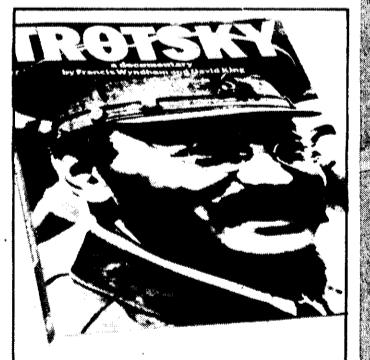
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# CAV

## HOW THE OCCUPATION WAS BROKEN

BY DAVID MAUDE

The sit-in strike at CAV Fazakerley, Liverpool, is over. It was betrayed. After four months fighting against closure the sit-in strikers have left the factory.

To many of them, it seems that all that has been gained from their struggle is a marginal improvement in the redundancy terms they rejected last October. Men and women who formed the backbone of the strike now sit at home with only 11 weeks' pay and a few pounds from the government between them and the dole. They are angry and bitter, as the interviews below reveal.

The Liverpool diesel-pump factory they occupied has been empty for a week, awaiting moves by owners, the Joseph Lucas combine, to shift its machines and materials elsewhere.

Meanwhile those chiefly responsible for betraying the occupation, the trade union leaders, remain in their comfortable centrally-heated offices. And their paid officials and centrist hangers-on on Merseyside remain silent about the lessons of the betrayal.

On Tuesday of this week, shop stewards from all over the Merseyside area should have gathered at a hall in central Liverpool to discuss the fight against unemployment.

The date had been fixed by leaders of the Liverpool Trades Council. Main topics for discussion were to be the threatened closure of Shotton steelworks . . . and the struggle at CAV. But circulars for the meeting never went out and it did not take place.

There are good reasons why the Trades Council leaders do not want to discuss CAV. No other event has so sharply exposed the fake 'left' policies of the council, which one minute is calling for a General Strike, but the next is proving itself incapable of defending a single job.

If anything is to be gained from the occupation, its lessons must be discussed. There can be no serious fight against unemployment in the area unless they are not only discussed, but learned.

Occupation of CAV Fazakerley began on the day the 'work-in' at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders ended. But there was little comparison between the two events.

The CAV occupation was neither a work-in, nor a search for a new employer.

It was a head-on struggle against unemployment, clashing with the entire Common

Market strategy of the Tory government and one of the top 40 companies in the country. From the outset, therefore, big political issues were at stake.

As Paddy Mullane, a CAV shop steward who was to play a leading role in the occupation, said just before the workers sat in:

'We should leave no stone unturned to keep the site open, but the big question is a political one. If we succeed and stop the closure here, it has to be part of the fight for the right to work which can only be carried through by bringing the Tories down and getting a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.'

This was a quite different perspective from that of the campaign to 'save jobs' at UCS.

The Communist Party leaders of the UCS work-in placed the shipyard men in a posture of pleading with the Tories, let 2,000 of them go down the road and ended up selling vital trade union principles for pitiful amounts of cash.

Conducted with fulsome verbal backing from the TUC and Labour Party chiefs, this Stalinist-led campaign was a fraud on the working class.

Paddy Mullane's statement, on the other hand, was entirely genuine. But this kind of thing was not at all popular with the union and Labour leaders.

The CAV occupation began just two weeks after the announcement of Heath's Phase One pay-control plan—the £2 ceiling on wage increases—and at a time when the TUC leaders were desperate to avoid challenging the Tories.

And six days before, Harold Wilson had addressed the Labour Party conference without once mentioning the unemployed.

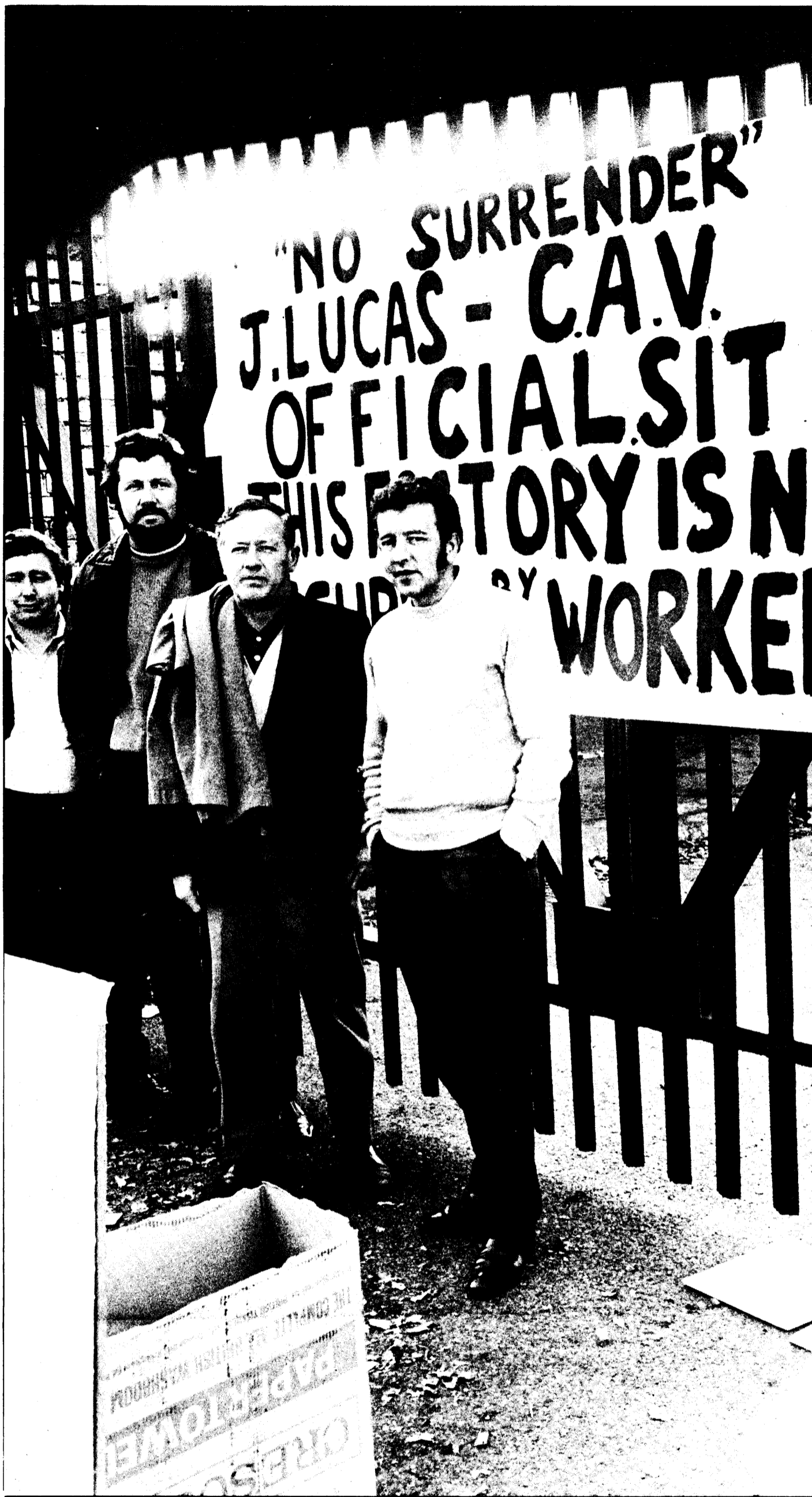
The arch-reformist, Wilson, was no doubt watching the official unemployment trends as given out by the Department of Employment.

When joblessness had topped the 1.5 million mark at the height of the miners' strike in February 1972, he had verbally lashed the Tory job-assassins. But after their hammering at the miners' hands, the Tories had changed tack and the reformists had eagerly fallen into their trap.

The Tories' temporary reflation, of course, was quite the opposite of a concession to the working class.

So when the unemployment figures began to fall (see graph), it was really a preparation for war on working-class living standards, organization and rights.

War was declared when



Above: October 1972. CAV workers at the main gate during the sit-in. The factory now stands empty, awaiting moves by the owners.

Heath put his £2 ceiling to the TUC leaders.

But the reformists preferred illusion to reality. So, like Pavlov's dogs, they went on nuzzling up to the Tories long after the hand that had thrown them a few crumbs became a bunched fist.

Unlike the dying UCS work-in, therefore, the CAV occupation was distinctly unpopular with the bureaucracy.

First of all it was a strike. The workers sat in, threw the

management out and took control. They declared: we're not budging until Lucas decides to stay open or find us 1,200 alternative jobs.

Secondly Lucas's attitude was much too much like the real face of the Tories for comfort.

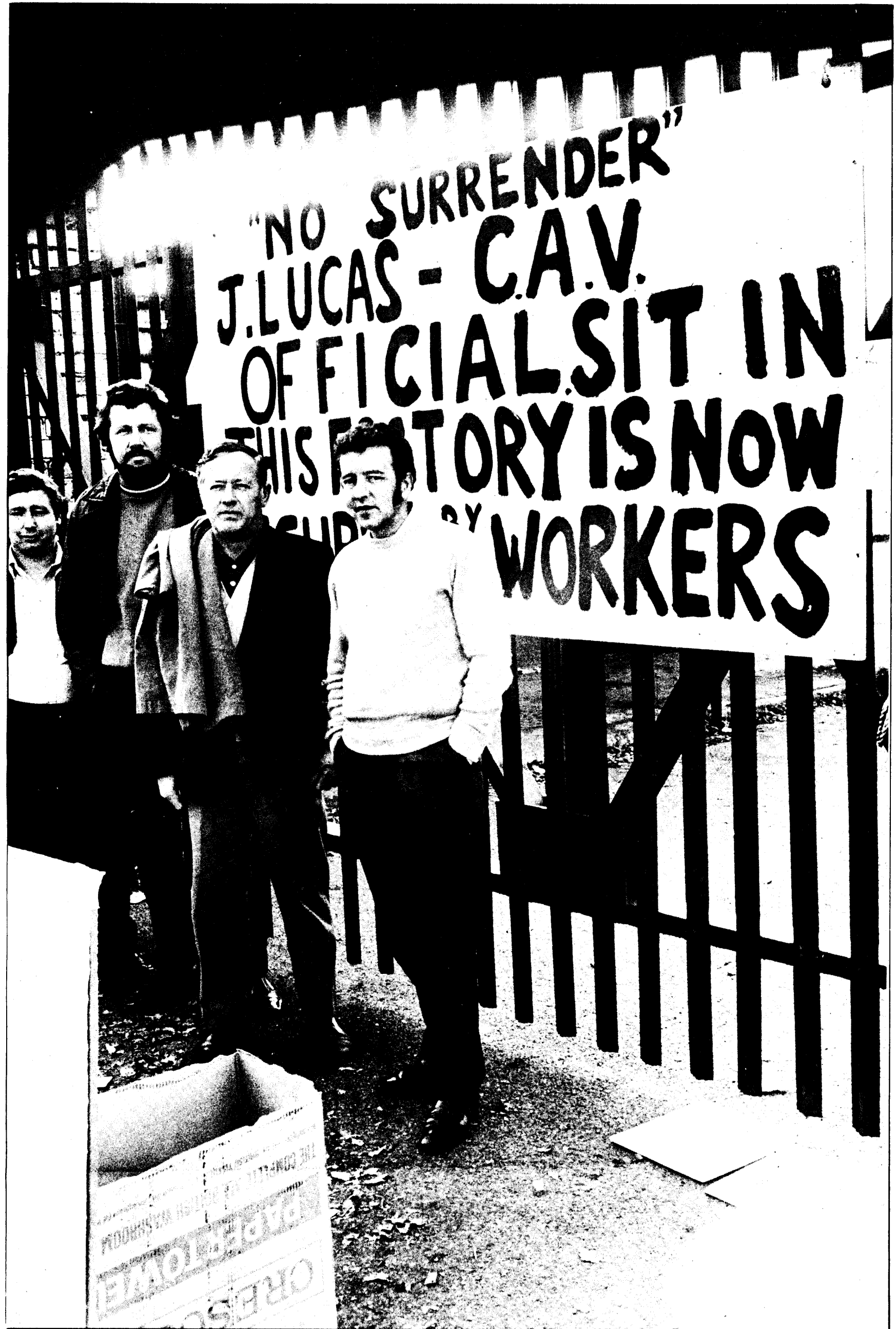
In the face of all the arguments a succession of MPs, union officials and senior stewards could muster, the combine remained adamant for closure. The final ultimatum,

which amounted to a threat to get out of the factory in 30 hours, was typical of its attitude throughout.

So while giving official backing and words of support, the union leaders marked time in the crucial first weeks.

They maintained just a semblance of activity, arranging meetings with Lucas chief Kenneth Corley and the Tories' Minister for Industrial Development, Christopher Chataway, but took no effective action.





Above: October 1972. CAV workers at the main gate during the sit-in. The factory now stands empty, awaiting moves by the owners, the Joseph Lucas combine.



# DER" V. SIT IN IS NOW RKERS

in the south-east, the replacement pump was seriously behind schedule in its development because of a long dispute involving laboratory technicians at Acton, west London, earlier in the year.

Therefore it has a continuing need for components from Fazakerley in order to complete its stocks of the older-type pumps. So when the CAV workers found out about the closure plans, and occupied six months early, Lucas faced considerable losses of both money and markets.

It was the union leaders who let the company off the hook.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' executive refused to support even token strike action against the closure by Lucas workers on Merseyside. The Transport and General Workers' Union leadership refused to instruct driver members not to cross CAV picket lines. Officials of all the member-bodies in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions refused repeated requests to help organize effective blacking action at car factories.

So Lucas was given all the time needed to organize alternative sources of supply and means of delivery.

This foot-dragging set up its own counter-pressure against the occupation.

For after three weeks the occupation committee was forced to close down the Fazakerley site completely, including the smaller Lucas Industrial Equipment factory which occupied the same site at Fazakerley.

This hit Lucas hard. But it had two other effects—cutting off valuable financial backing from LIE and creating a discontented group of laid-off workers there who would later be used to blackmail the sit-in strikers.

Here the role of leadership was again decisive; the blackmail threat could have been dispelled by a determined fight for the occupation as the key to the fight against unemployment in the area.

To explain why this did not take place it is necessary to say something about the nature of centrism in the Liverpool area.

After the lengthy dockers' strike against Devlin in 1967, a wave of militancy swept Merseyside industry. Busmen, lorry drivers and engineering workers all took action to push up their wage rates.

At the same time Merseyside came to the fore in the fight against successive attempts by the Labour government to impose pay restraint; the era of the one-day protest strike began.

But despite a growing rank-and-file consciousness of the betrayals of the Labour and trade union leaders, the centrist leaders of the trade union movement in the area fought desperately to prevent a real break, and with the advent of the Tory government this brought new problems.

The dockers did not win their 1970 confrontation with the Tories. The T&GWU top brass sent them back to work with little gained.

Although Liverpool Ford workers put up massive resistance to the 1971 secret-ballot settlement, they too were forced back to work.

The miners' leaders failed to go all the way against the Tory government. And then came another retreat on the docks, opening the way to a huge cut in the labour force inside six months.

At first, support for the CAV occupation was general in the area.

LIE convenor Ray Reynolds, whose members were soon to be laid off by the occupation, said: 'We have got no alternative but to back this kind of action.'

But there was a significant incident during the first week

of the sit-in.

Although opposition to closures and redundancies, and nationalization under workers' control, is official policy of the engineering unions, a motion calling for nationalization of Lucas was defeated when combine shop stewards in the north-west met at CAV on Tuesday, October 10.

The same motion called for the defeat of the Tories and for the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Its defeat by a three-to-one majority, was important. It indicated that a majority of these stewards thought the struggle against unemployment at CAV, and by implication generally, could be settled in a reformist context.

And it was this fundamental confusion that union leaders and officials fed on in their attempts to undermine the sit-in and come to terms with Lucas.

From this followed the key points in the betrayal of the sit-in strike:

- A one-day strike of Lucas workers in the north-west, to support the strikers, was strangled by the union leaders. The AUEW executive 'sympathized', but refused to support the action.

- 400 shop stewards from all over Merseyside were called together by the Liverpool Trades Council to discuss support for CAV.

The outcome? A demonstration on a Saturday, December 2. No serious attempt was made to win backing for the strike at the three Merseyside factories still using Lucas products — Ford's, Standard-Triumph's and Lucas's Victor aerospace works—or on the docks.

- November 26. A month after the sit-in strikers had first called for blacking action by dockers, senior stewards from the factory were allowed to speak to a dockers' mass meeting.

But, although they were enthusiastically received the dockers' stewards put no recommendation of support and when they finally got round to a blacking decision on December 6, it contained a crucial proviso. This was that other trade unionists in the area must pledge to support them if action was taken in the National Industrial Relations Court. No pledge, no blacking action.

- On December 17, a meeting of CAV and LIE shop stewards called on union officials to organize a meeting of Ford, Standard and Victor works stewards so that the case for blacking action could be put.

This was a powerful reply to the company's attempts to use threats to close LIE to blackmail the sit-in strikers. But the officials ignored the call. By January 5 a LIE mass meeting was called for the factory to be reopened.

The CAV sit-in strike took place in what the Tories' were claiming as a period of falling unemployment. In the period April-June 1971 the seasonally adjusted average for joblessness each month was 834,200, while by September-November it had dropped to 780,800.

And there can be little doubt that this was a powerful factor conditioning the attitude of the centrists and reformist to CAV.

This is a damning indictment.

Instead of basing themselves on the insoluble crisis of the capitalist system, which within a week of the sit-in ending is again threatening the jobs of millions, the centrists, took their lead from the strategic manoeuvres of the Tory government.

Thus the real lesson of CAV is this: the fight against unemployment is now inseparable from the fight for alternative, revolutionary leadership. Only the Socialist Labour League is conducting that fight.



## 'A TRAVESTY AGAINST THE WORKING CLASS'

It would be totally wrong to blame the working class for what happened at CAV, says Jimmy O'Hanlon, an ex-member of the occupation committee at the factory. The blame for the winding-up of the fight against closure rests with 'those in positions of responsibility in the working-class movement, who failed to rise to the occasion and back us.'

A member of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Jimmy is particularly critical of the role played by his own leaders and officials.

But he believes the sit-in strikers were also 'let down terribly' by Liverpool's Labour MPs, trades council and local union officials. 'These people could have helped settle this fight on our terms, but they just walked away.'

Jimmy said of the decision to end the sit-in: 'It is a travesty against the working class, inspired by people I believed in. It's totally repugnant to my beliefs. Now it's time to tell the truth.'

'We weren't fighting for ourselves, but for our families and children who aren't even born yet.'

'What Lucas's have been allowed to do is throw Merseyside on the scrapheap. They've found some area where labour is much cheaper and shifted their operations there.'

'Unless the working class on Merseyside shows the employers pretty quickly they won't stand for this sort of treatment, it could happen again.'

'Our leaders talk about "redundancy". There's no such thing. What they mean is the sack.'

'I've always considered myself a democrat, I really believed in it. But people who tell you you can change quietly are wrong.'

'If a revolution does arise—as I've no doubt it will—I hope the young people who will come along and lead it get all that they deserve.'

## 'DON'T ACCEPT THE BLACKMAIL OF THE EMPLOYERS'

Sit-in striker Jimmy McVeigh stresses that the behaviour of union leaders and officials towards the occupation was 'contrary to expressed trade union policy against closure and redundancies'.

The main lesson for trade unionists all over the country from CAV Fazakerley, he says, must be: 'Intensify the struggle

against unemployment. Don't accept the blackmail of the employers. Fight the union leaders to make them carry out the policy they preach.'

Jimmy condemns the failure of the union officials locally to give the sit-in strikers the backing they were entitled to.

'This led to a dropping-off of support amongst the trade union movement on Merseyside, which is why we went down,' he says. 'They also failed to mobilize support inside the Lucas combine.'

'I believe the reason why the union leaders pulled back was because our fight was against the government, as well as the Lucas combine.'

'They were scared of the Industrial Relations Act. This fitted in exactly with the government policy, which is frightening trade union leaders.'

## 'THIS IS AN EXPERIENCE FOR THE FUTURE'

Jack Bramall, an engineers' union member at CAV, insists that the Lucas combine has won because of the 'lack of support from union representatives and officials.'

'I am disgusted,' he says. 'The officials never gave us a lead or a guideline. This is an experience for the future: you can never accept just words of support.'

'We were fighting for jobs, not just for ourselves. 'What happens to our children? They will be looking for work in a situation where they have had 1,200 jobs stolen from them.'

'For myself, I am going to try and get another job and take up the fight to further the ends of the trade union movement.'

## 'IT'S AGAINST THE TORY GOVERNMENT'

'We need a new and virile leadership in the trade union movement,' says occupation committee member Tommy Dunne. 'The CAV struggle was sold out because of lack of leadership. It was no fault of the people who sat in.'

'The present leaders of the unions do not express the workers' point of view—as has been proved by our experience.'

'It's no good having leaders who say they've got no political ties. The struggle is political. It's against the Tory government.'

'What's more, I believe that movements like the Communist Party turned their backs on the real struggle as far as we're concerned.'

'It's by building the Socialist Labour League and the All Trades Unions Alliance that we'll get a real movement against the Tories.'

aiting moves by the owners, the Joseph Lucas combine.

This was criminal. For there is little doubt that the sit-in strike could have been won quickly. The strikers were in a powerful strategic position.

Lucas had kept its closure plans, which had been in existence at least since April 1972, a closely-guarded secret—and for very good commercial reasons.

Although it planned to replace the type of pump made at CAV with a new type, which would be produced at factories

## PART FIVE

Journalist Fernando Paulo Nagle Gabeira was arrested in Sao Paulo on January 28, 1970, by the Operacao Bandeirantes.

He was tortured in February 1970 at the military hospital of the Second Army and at the OB by two OB units commanded by Captains Mauricio and Albernaz. He was injected with 'truth serum' (pentothal) at the hospital and underwent electric shocks at the OB headquarters.

In February he saw other people tortured at the OB headquarters, at the DEOPS in Sao Paulo and on Ilha das Flores by OB and PE teams under the direction of Captains Mauricio, Albernaz, Homero (in Sao Paulo) and Gomez Carneiro (in Rio de Janeiro).

Various methods of torture were employed, for example, in the case of Corporal José Mariani, the 'dragon chair' (electric chair): the victim is held head downwards while the testicles are crushed. He saw several cases of torture, nearly always involving electric shock treatment.

Mr Gabeira was arrested after being wounded in the stomach, liver and kidneys. He was operated on and cared for at the military hospital and then at the naval hospital.

He was imprisoned in the OB, then at the DEOPS in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, at Ilha das Flores, in the 31st police district, at the Presidio Policial da Penitencia Lemos de Brito on Ilha Grande and at the PE of the Army in Barão de Mesquita.

He did not receive legal aid until after the second month and even then contact with his lawyer was difficult.

Visits from his family were impossible during the interrogation stage and afterwards, on Ilha Grande, rules permitted only one visit a month.

Mr Gabeira was brought before a judge at the military tribunal for the first time two months after the beginning of his detention, but he was not tried. He was released in June 1970.

The torture to which Mr Gabeira was submitted, a combination of physical and psychological factors, was carried out in conformity with a strict 'technique'.

He was twice sent to hospital for treatment of his stomach wound and of a kidney haemorrhage caused by machine-gun fire.

He was held incommunicado for 45 days, without seeing his family, or his lawyer, in a dungeon known as 'surdo' where he was given nothing but rotting food. He says that the lack of a bed caused him to haemorrhage, which in turn prevented him from urinating. In addition, he was subjected to further ill-treatment at the hospital where he was brought for so-called 'medical examinations'.

On January 23, 1972 two peasants were arrested in the municipality of Pindare-Mirim, Maranhao State: Manoel da Conceicao and Luis Dos Santos.

Both were charged with promoting political agitation in the interior of the state. Conceicao is one of the main peasant leaders in Brazil.

The arrests were carried out by the private agents of a sugar-cane plantation owner without any warrant. Both were taken to Sao Luis, the capital of the state, where they had been illegally detained for two and a half weeks. On February 9 they were taken to the barracks of the 24th Cavalry Battalion, located in Sao Luis, where they were interrogated and harassed by a Federal police agent, one naval and two army officers.

Manoel and Luis stated that they had fought, do fight and will go on fighting until the end for the interests of their people against imperialist

# BRAZIL: 'WE WILL GO ON FIGHTING'

BY JACK GALE



Above: Brazil's Costa e Silva and his military dictatorship. Right: murdered peasant.

oppression, the monopolistic bourgeoisie and the archaic latifundia land property system. They are now in the hands of the Military Court of Fortaleza, Ceara, where they have since been transferred.

Manoel da Conceicao has been a peasant leader in Maranhao for many years. In 1968, on the occasion of a peasant struggle to defend the right of land for those who work on it, the police put down the peasant uprising and shot Manoel in the leg and took him to prison where he stayed several days without any medical care. Gangrene set in his wound and because of this he had his leg amputated.

This generated a show of solidarity of peasants, workers, students and other democratic sectors of the population who quickly rallied to his defence. They initiated a campaign to buy him an artificial leg and they held a demonstration in which about 2,000 people turned out to receive him back to Santa Ines, Maranhao.

From that time on Manoel has been constantly persecuted by the military dictatorship.

CONCLUDED





# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY

In its Michaelmas term programme of last year, the Oxford University Labour Club stated under 'Our Political Role' that 'The Club was a founder member of NOLS (National Organization of Labour Students) and is active within the organization. NOLS is a channel through which the Club can influence Labour Party policy,' etc . . .

It also displayed on the front cover the 'famous' Clause IV No. 4 of the Labour Party Constitution.

Now into Hilary, the first term of this year, the new programme drops Clause IV and the heading 'Our Political Role' to 'Club Activities'. The programme now states that 'The Club was a founder member of NOLS and has done its best to avert complete Trotskyite domination of that body.'



Above: Digby Jacks, CP

Speakers for this term, no doubt to help them do their best in their activities, include His Excellency the Israeli Ambassador, Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, Vic Feather (vice president of the Labour Club), Digby Jacks of the Communist Party and finally the International Socialists!

On questioning the Club's trade union liaison executive, Mike McMahon, he said: 'It's changed? I wasn't aware of that!'

## SIGN OF THE YEAR

It is not only in Britain that hospital workers face a struggle for decent wages against a reactionary government. In the United States, one of Nixon's first acts after being re-inaugurated was to cut a pay increase due to 33,000 New York hospital workers.

Meanwhile, over in St Louis, Missouri, members of the Service Employees' Union were on strike recently, with the result that this really classic picket sign was carried outside a city nursing home:

'Our Lady of Perpetual Help'  
ON STRIKE  
Service Employees' Union  
Local 50  
AFL-CIO

## NOWADAYS . .

The recent case, reported in Workers Press, of the Yorkshire miner sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment for poaching, was, as readers remarked, like something out of the 18th or 19th century. But then, if the ghosts of past wrongs are being awakened, it is perhaps because the results of those wrongs are still with us, in the Tory ruling class and its legal powers.

Around the middle of the last century, a Cumbrian who was jailed for snaring food for his family, John Denwood, issued a broadsheet giving his view of the matter, in poetic form. Its first part goes:

'Oppressors of the poor are our police,

Their leaders are our Magistrates of peace.

Far worse than common thieves, yea tentimes worse; Police and cobblers pilfer from my purse;

Nor recompense is left, submit I must,

For idiot Magistrates pronounce it 'just'.

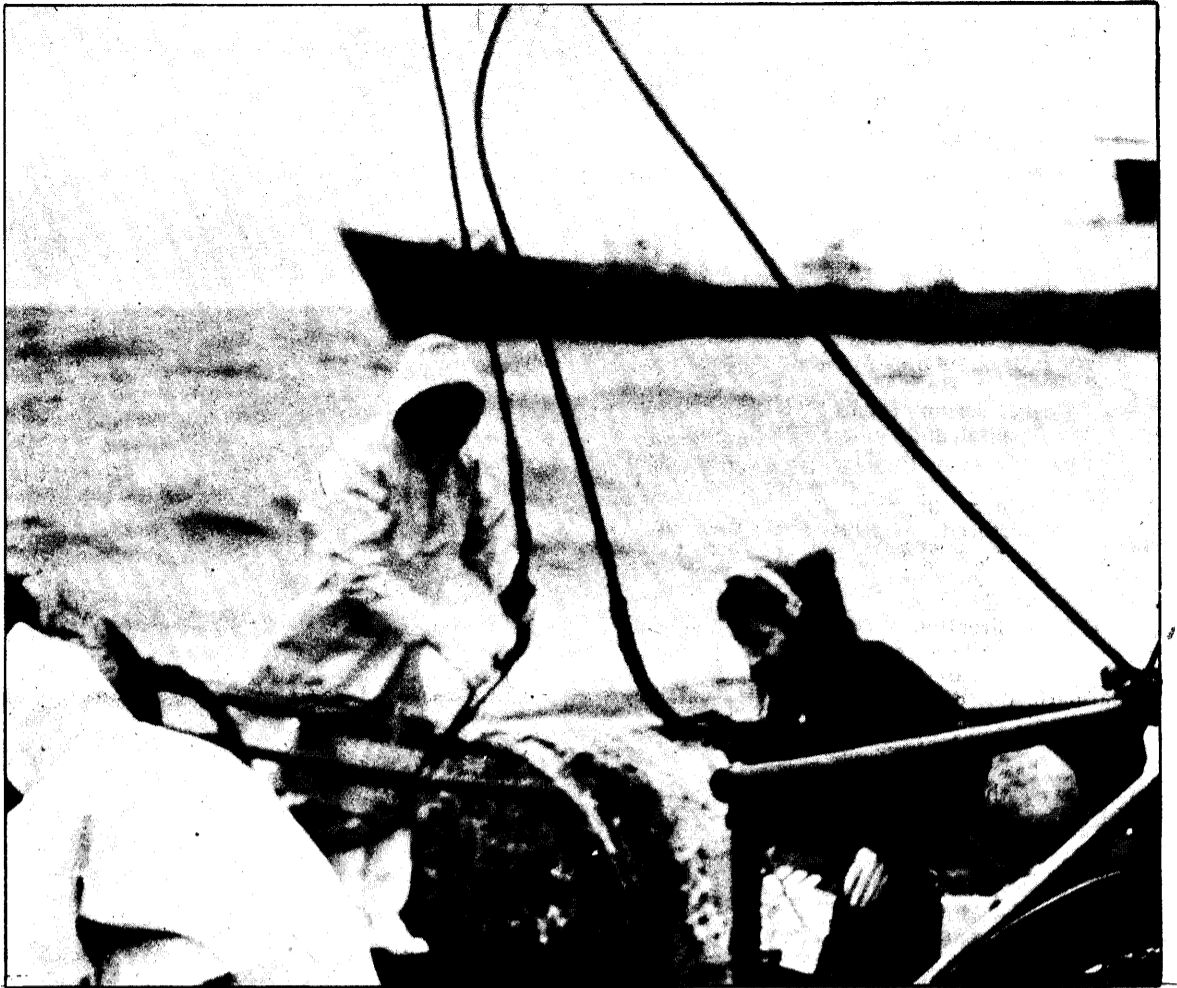
For six long months to jail I'm doomed to go,

When it may please the press-gang of the Law;

Miscalled policemen, these have but to swear,

No matter true or false, and I am there.'

Of course, that's not the sort of thing that happens nowadays . . . is it?



## £20-100 HOUR WEEK

'A Life Apart'. Produced and Directed by Mike Grigsby. Editor Tom Scott Robson. Granada.

The convulsions of the current crises with the capitalists fighting for their lives against economic catastrophe and the working class preparing to fight for their lives against the ruling class and capitalism, provide the sharpest possible context for some remarkable filming shown on the documentary 'A Life Apart—Anxieties in a Trawling Community'.

Within its carefully-defined limits the film revealed the kind of explosive situation, in microcosm, that exists in every industry across the country today.

The trawling industry happens to be one of the most nakedly exploitative in this country (a death risk 40 times higher than in mining; a basic pay of £20 a week for what the owners estimate as a 64-hour week and the deckhands give as a minimum 100-hour week).

Because of this and because it is a relatively small industry—885 men employed on trawlers in Fleetwood, Lancashire, where the film was set—liberal opinion no doubt deemed it a possible comment for the small screen, on balance.

Fleetwood is a grim fishing community. The men are entirely dependent on the owners. The owners are entirely dependent on the men.

Fish makes a 90.4 per cent profit between dockside and shop. But it's a chancy business—a gamble. As the men pointed out: 'We're nothing but casual labour—as good as our last two trips.'

And at the end of their productive life they're thrown on the scrapheap like Skipper Westhead—at sea 52 years—and old Skipper Batty—at sea 56 years.

The dangers are immense: loss of digits and limbs is commonplace (there is no injury compensation); rheumatism is an occupational hazard

—death imminent. The conditions are unspeakable; the work gruelling and back-breaking in icy water, knee deep in dead fish, gutting and cleaning. Clearing the nets this way and that while huge seas roar past threatening to take the men at work 'over the wall'.

All this was shown with film of rare quality and the men, the managers, the skippers, the union boss, the wives—all were allowed to speak for themselves. Apart from a brief introductory word or two, Fleetwood, the trawler men and women made their own hardened commentary.

The role of the union was sourly exposed as a paternalistic sham—a bankrupt scheme (the men are attached—60 per cent) with no leadership but still their only hope.

The wretched, waiting, watching, drab lives of the women, listening for ships' blowers and watching for the next tide, playing darts and bingo, enduring the constant anti-climax of their men's shore leave (72 hours on shore, three weeks at sea) when the first day 'he's too exhausted for anything', the next is spend running round the offices, collecting pay and sorting out paperwork and the third day he's depressed at the thought of the morrow's trip 'everything tastes of the sea'.

And above all the director/producer Mike Grigsby and his editor Tom Scott Robson captured the great contradiction of the working class themselves: the men's sheer desolation and their awareness of wasted lives.

'What's it all for?' asks the old Scot in the pub. 'Nothing—nothing'.

At the same time there is a real ferocity, a hatred of what's done to them, a recognition of the power of the class, especially among the young (with encouragement from the old who realize 'we stood for it—because we had to') who are preparing for the big bust up they know has to come.

We saw the determination in the boy who said: 'If we're out, we lose—but they lose more' and others like him: 'We must stand together—it's the only way.'

Meanwhile the managers

uneasily faced the camera and parried the questions with myth and evasion. 'There's no profiteering in this business,' said one. The only sure investment he said was in something like gilt-edged. No, the men had always provided their own entertainment—after all they went to sea to work.

The men, locked in stifling, ill-equipped, confined quarters on board would bitterly agree with that at least. And insult to injury the employers claim it's a calling—'going to sea', 'there's a freedom about it' and 'it's always a fresh adventure'.

Poison like this seeps from management, keeping men in their place, making sure fresh layers of youth are drawn into the chains that bound their fathers.

The film, with its excellent tight-framed photography by Ivan Strasburg, caught the essential force of the working class in crisis from which there is no escape.

What it could not do was to carry this to the explicit conclusion that there is nothing but a political answer to be made by the class, under the sort of pressures, which in one degree or another are being inflicted by the ruling class in every industry.

To the manager, desperate for secure profits in a hazardous industry which is not reaping the rewards it used to do, 'it's a problem of communication'—a matter to be resolved by 'educating' the men.

But the men have other ideas.

'The ordinary working man in the street has reached a point where he thinks—this is the end. We're not going to be knocked around any more. For him the education is already complete.'

These days, television is not inclined to give anything much away about the real struggles of the hour, the political implications of the classes preparing for war. 'A Life Apart' was significant both for its effort to go against the tide and for its attempt not just to give something away, but to positively illumine the real problems which face the working class and the force with which it intends to tackle them.

BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

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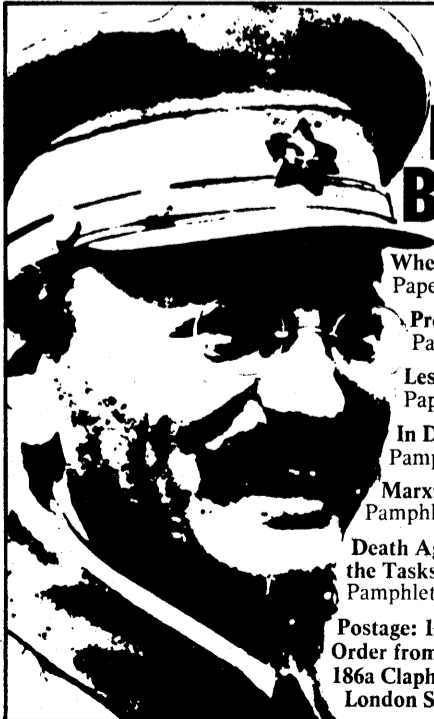
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# Three-line whip against jury system

SIR ROBERT MARK, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, has joined the Tory Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, and the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, in attacking the jury system.

The statement from Scotland Yard forms part of the growing campaign to undermine the present trial by jury system.

This campaign can be immediately traced to the result of the Stoke Newington Eight trial. The state spent almost

## Mark of the Yard joins political campaign on trials

£1m in a six-month trial against eight defendants accused of causing bomb explosions at the homes of Tory Ministers, including Robert Carr, John Davies and Sir Peter Rawlinson.

The bomb attacks began just over a year ago at the time the Tories were bringing forward their hated Industrial Relations Act.

At the end of the trial the jury acquitted four of the defendants, including Stuart Christie, who had maintained all along that he had been framed.

The move by Mark to fuel the anti-jury lobby is unprecedented. He is openly entering the political field and giving arrogant advice against the jury system. He claims that



statistics on acquittals prepared by the Yard's solicitors'

department show a high rate for people with records for serious crimes.

He has asked for further 'impartial and extensive research' into this 'controversial subject'.

If the Tories get their way they will introduce the type of courts now being tried out in Northern Ireland. There is no judge, the accused isn't told what he is charged with and the police give their evidence from behind closed screens.

If the evidence is considered 'a security matter', the accused is taken from the court while the police officer testifies.

# What is an HGV driver?

THE MIDLANDS motor industry remained in havoc yesterday as lorry drivers from British Road Services continued their fight for a £2.50 bonus payment.

Resumed talks will be held at a Stratford-upon-Avon hotel today between BRS management and Mr Alan Law, the Transport and General Workers' Union official in charge of the dispute.

The men are claiming the bonus because they hold the new Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) licence which came into operation on February 1.

About 170 private hauliers are already paying the bonus and so is a BRS subsidiary.

But the BRS management will not pay the bonus because it comes into conflict with the Tories' state pay laws.

Two and a half weeks ago the 1,300 BRS lorry drivers holding HGV licences handed them in to shop stewards.

In this report Workers Press explains the background to the licence.

## Facts behind the BRS bonus dispute



BRS drivers, who could be working, have to keep warm by a brazier.

Licensing Authority that, in the year before the scheme was reintroduced on February 2, 1970, he was in the habit of driving heavy goods vehicles of that class for at least six months.

The Department of the Environment says that applications for HGV driving tests should be made at least six weeks beforehand.

During 1972, 43 per cent of all HGV driving tests resulted in failure.

Surveys showed that the main reasons for failure had remained the same during the three years that tests

have been conducted.

The most common faults, which were particularly marked at road junctions (including cross roads and roundabouts) occurred:

- Through failure to make proper use of mirrors (especially before signalling, changing direction and/or speed and before overtaking).

- In the selection of gears.

- Through wrong positioning.

The requirements of the test are given in a booklet 'Heavy Goods Vehicle Driv-

ing Test' (DLG68) available from Licensing Authorities' offices.

On the day of the test candidates are required to present a roadworthy vehicle and have with them their provisional HGV driving licences as well as ordinary driving licences.

Lorry drivers have to pay for the licences and also for the medical examination which goes with it.

### Rigmarole

As one lorry driver told Workers Press: 'This is the only job I know which you have to pay to get.'

Having been through this enormous and costly rigmarole, the drivers rightly feel that they are entitled to a bonus.

They have been made aware, however, that they have state pay laws to contend with.

There is no way round these laws. The government that brought them in must be forced out of office and all anti-trade union legislation repealed by the incoming Labour government.

## Cambridge students sit-in for reforms

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS at Cambridge University yesterday continued their sit-in in protest against the findings of a report by Lord Devlin, the university's High Steward.

Eight hundred students began the protest on Wednesday following publication of Devlin's report on a sit-in last February. The numbers dwindled yesterday and the remaining occupied building, the economics faculty, may be handed over this morning.

Last February's occupation of the Old School was in protest against the refusal by the university authorities to implement reforms in the structure of examinations proposed by the Economics Faculty.

As a result of the last sit-in, Lord Devlin was invited to conduct an inquiry, the results of which have just been published.

It is an exceedingly reactionary document which, while making verbal criticisms of the university recommends, amongst other things:

- Continued non-recognition of Cambridge Students' Union.
- Rejection of the Economics Faculty proposals.
- Continuation of the disciplinary system whereby university proctors have greater powers than police constables.

He proposes instead a 'student relations officer' and a junior version of the 'Reporter' (an official university publication).

The decision to take this sit-in was made on Wednesday at a packed meeting, the basis being the rejection of Devlin and the implementation of the reforms.

So far there have been several meetings, but little concrete has emerged, apart from support being given to the sit-in by Cambridge Students' Union.

Communist Party Stalinists have done their best to hold back the sit-in at every stage. Proposals made that the sit-in should be linked to the grants campaign, and that the demands made on the university should be non-negotiable, were opposed by CP members on the grounds that they were 'Utopian' and 'little to do with mass politics'.

However, their attempts to block the lectures strike and picket were decisively defeated at a mass meeting on Wednesday night and these are going ahead.

There is much idealistic talk about alternative universities, but so far the concrete demands before the university are:

- End to classing in Part One examinations.
- Rejection of the Devlin recommendations.
- Recognition of Cambridge Students' Union.
- Implementation of the Economics Faculty reforms.

Mike Gradiner, President of the Cambridge Students' Union, says:

'This sit-in is more politically mature than the last one. The main impetus is for long-term commitment to the ideals proposed.'

Dave Pollard, second-year modern languages student, says:

'The political role of the university is to reinforce the ethos of the ruling class. The university will try to get us out. The last time they gave us a court order.'

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

### 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

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

### CASTLEFORD

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25,  
6.30 p.m.  
Castleford Civic Hall  
Ferry Bridge Road  
Speaker: C. SLAUGHTER  
(SLL Central Committee)

### BIRMINGHAM

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

### SOUTHAMPTON

MONDAY FEBRUARY 26, 8 p.m.  
Marlands Hall  
Havelock Road  
opp. Civic Centre  
Speaker: ALAN THORNETT  
(Deputy Senior Steward Morris  
Motors in a personal capacity)

### 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)

### HULL

THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8 p.m.  
'Windmill Hotel'  
Witham  
Speaker: CLIFF SLAUGHTER  
(SLL Central Cttee)

### WEST LONDON

THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8 p.m.  
Lyndhurst Hall  
Grafton Road, NW3  
Speaker: M. BANDA  
(SLL Central Committee)

### LUTON

FRIDAY MARCH 2, 8 p.m.  
Assembly Hall  
Town Hall  
Speaker: M. BANDA  
(SLL Central Committee)

### TOTTENHAM

TUESDAY MARCH 6, 8 p.m.  
Lord Morrison Hall  
Chesnut Grove  
Speaker: G. HEALY  
(SLL National Secretary)



# Gormley makes stand then runs away 'General Strike to force a General Election'

BY ROYSTON BULL OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE MINERS' union leader Joe Gormley yesterday brought the position facing the working class into the open. Either a General Strike or else toe the Tory line. The NUM president spoke at length about the coming political confrontation after announcing that the miners would wait and see what the emergency TUC Congress does on March 5 before deciding their own attitude on their pay claim.

## Pay strike lobby planned

FACTORY delegations lobbying the March 5 TUC from the Reading, Portsmouth and Southampton areas will be demanding a national strike to defeat the Tory government and its anti-working-class legislation, an engineering union leader said yesterday.

Hundreds of workers in these areas have had new pay claims, or the second stages of previous deals, stopped by the Tories' pay-control legislation.

A militant meeting of stewards' committee chairmen and secretaries called by the No 9 district of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions on Tuesday unanimously demanded that the TUC General Council recall Congress and recommend 'a national strike to defeat the wages freeze, the Industrial Relations Act and the Tory government'.

It was agreed to stage a token strike in the district on the day Congress was recalled, and to liaise with local trades councils in making May 1 a total strike.

Pat Fareilly, CSEU district secretary, said yesterday that despite the short notice at which Congress had been recalled, large delegations from factories in the district could be expected to lobby on March 5.

Neither the NUM nor any other union on its own could defeat the Tory pay laws, Gormley said. Either the unions had to unite and bring down the government or else they would have to submit to the £1 plus 4 per cent formula.

The Tories would not alter their policies by persuasion. They would have to be forced out of office in a General Election which the unions could only insist on by means of threatening a General Strike.

The NUM will hold a special executive in two weeks' time to consider their attitude towards the special TUC Congress. But whatever happens there, Gormley said the rejected Coal Board pay offer would still be put to a miners' ballot in the end.

But Gormley is clearly walking away from a repeat of last year's mighty strike by the miners which defeated the government's then wage-control policy.

'For one union to take on the government this year would be damned suicide. Last year the government did not have the wage law behind it,' he commented.

'Government policy will only be changed this time by the result of united trade union action.'

'That calls for all unions to be involved in a general stoppage and for the government to call a General Election,' he added.

'We shall not do it by being mamby-pamby. We should not keep kidding.'

'If there is no feeling within the TUC for a total confrontation with the government, then a lot of unions will have to learn to live with the situation [of Phase Two].'

'I have no doubt that the trade union movement could, if it wanted, cause a General Election within the next few months. If that's what we want, let's do it.'

'If you are determined as trade unionists, you have to do something about it. Being an Irishman, I believe in doing something about it.'

'I don't mind which way we go, as long as we have something definite.'

But Gormley, a prominent

member of the Labour Party executive, quickly explained the reasons for his own less than full-hearted call to arms.

'I am not sure many politicians in the Labour Party would welcome office on the terms of a General Strike.'

Having stated the case clearly, the reformist leader then failed on the crucial test. What kind of leadership will he and his colleagues give to the working class in such a confrontation with the Tories? Answer: NONE.

## TUC already restricting Congress discussion

THE TASK now before the labour movement is to force the special TUC called for March 5 to debate the General Strike and the bringing down of the Tory government as the only way forward for the working class.

Feather and the TUC leaders are trying to prevent such a debate.

Even the Jack Jones motion presented at Wednesday's General Council meeting, which posed the question more sharply than the TUC's own Congress document, merely expresses 'sympathy' with unions on strike against Phase Two.

It leaves the danger of no action at all being decided.

The Jones motion, passed by 14 votes to 12, reads:

'Call a special Congress to unite the movement in opposition to the government's wage control policy and to maintain trade union negotiating rights.'

But it goes on: 'Congress also to consider protest action against rising food prices and VAT.'

The TUC hierarchy is determined to prevent individual motions coming before Congress if it at all can, and leave only the TUC document for debate.

The same tactics were used at the special conference at Fairfield Halls, Croydon, two years ago on the Industrial Relations Act.

The successful Jones motion leaves one re-

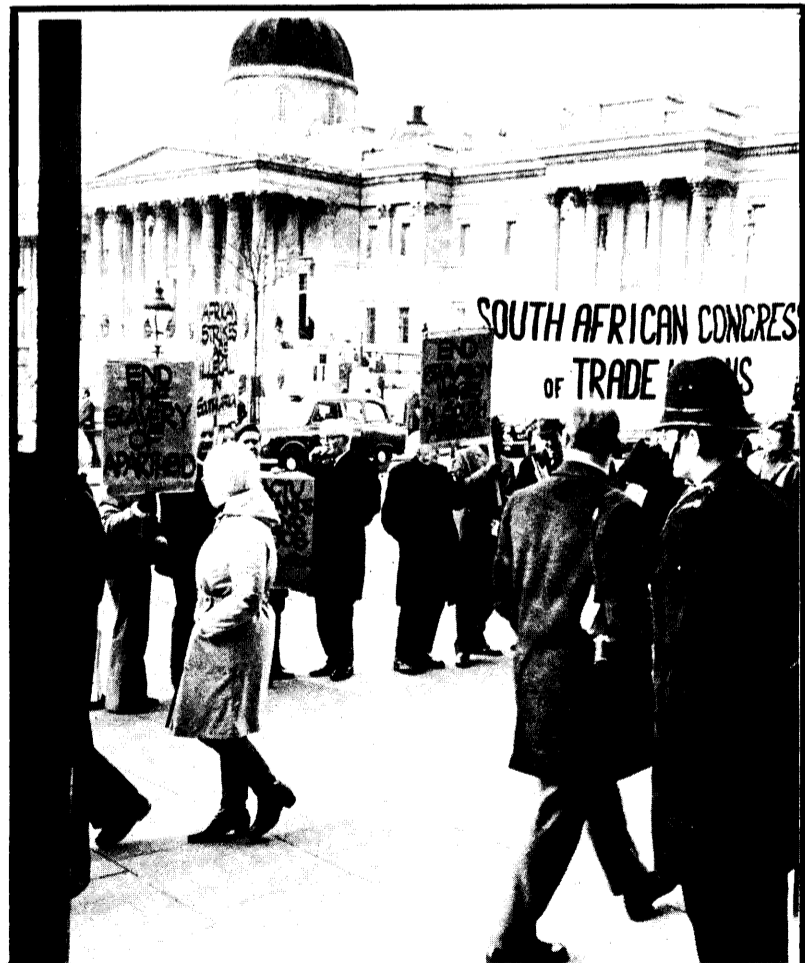
maining opening. It calls for a special meeting of the Congress General Purposes Committee to draw up proposals in addition to those in the Congress document.

To avoid a repeat of the bureaucratic sell-out at Croydon, trade unionists should now bombard the committee with resolutions calling for firm General Strike action to get rid of the government as the only way of getting rid of the state pay laws.

Feather was wrong when he said at his post-Downing Street Press conference that neither the government nor the TUC was seeking a confrontation.

The Tories' arbitrary laws in defence of capitalism are forcing an all-out collision with the working class.

## Union leaders lobby to support South African strikes



TRADE UNION leaders and rank-and-file members picketed South Africa House in Trafalgar Square yesterday in support of the strikes by black African workers in Durban.

After some difficulty, the apartheid representatives in Britain agreed to accept a protest petition signed by

Alan Sapper of ACTT; Eddie Marsden of the CEU; Bill Simpson AUEW; Jack Jones T&GWU; Lawrence Daley NUM; Ray Buckton ASLEF; and Bill Kendall CPSA.

The letter reaffirmed the unions' total condemnation of apartheid and gave full support to the black workers in their fight for human rights.

## BRIEFLY ● BRIEFLY

POLICE ringed a court building at Woodside, Salop, yesterday in a security operation for the appearance of six men accused of conspiring to intimidate workers during the building strike last year. After the hearing, the assistant Chief Constable of Mercia, Mr Alexander Rennie, said summonses were to be issued against another 18 men. The six were arrested last night. They were each remanded on £50 bail to March 15.

FORD pay talks will be resumed today to try and find a way out of the collision course with the state pay laws. The company has offered £2.40 in reply to a £10 claim by the 52,000 hourly-paid workers.

BRITAIN faces a massive upward prices spiral if the British Steel Corporation has to raise its prices by 19-20 per cent, Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Shadow Industry Minister, said yesterday. He told the Commons Standing Committee on the Counter-Inflation Bill: 'If the European Commission is now asking the corporation to raise prices by this amount at the beginning of Phase Two, it will add something like £200m to the cost of industry at a time when the government is declaring it is engaged in a serious war against rising prices. It is obvious that if such an increase in the cost of steel to our users in this country is now injected into the economy... we shall be faced with a massive upward spiral in prices at a time when the government appears to be making the battle against inflation its major theme.'

### CAMBRIDGE

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25

Mawson Hall

Mawson Rd

SPECIAL SHOWING OF 'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM RALLY, 3 p.m.

Speaker: Maureen Bambrick (YS Nat. Cttee)

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