

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● TUESDAY MAY 8, 1973 ● No 1066 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

HEATH BAITS PHASE THREE

By Royston Bull

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There is now great danger that the TUC bureaucracy is ready to do a deal with the Tories. The harsh teeth of the pay laws would remain tightly and permanently clamped on the working class in return for some amendments to the Industrial Relations Act.

Such an agreement would give the Tories virtually everything they want. The state control of wages law contains enough penal powers to drive back the trade union movement by means of fines, imprisonment and the full forces of law and order to isolate the militants and smash the working-class's resistance to wage cutting.

Any Industrial Relations Act amendments, or even its complete abolition, would be mere window-dressing for the TUC leaders to claim as a 'victory'.

At the same time, the Tory government has unleashed an enormous propaganda campaign of friendly overtures to the trade union leaders as the latest twist in its attack on the working class and basic democratic rights.

Under its cover the trap is being prepared to bind the unions more firmly with corporate controls.

What the working class must demand to know is why was there a need initially to hold at least two sessions of TUC-Tory government talks in secret and what was discussed?

It is obvious that the enormous working-class resistance to the attacks on standard of living from rising prices and restricted wages has persuaded the TUC that the most cunning tactics are required.

They know that as the working class gains more and more bitter experience of Tory deception over prices and inflation, the more determined workers become not to allow the government to solve problems in the interests of capitalism at their expense.

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TRAP



Hospital pickets are freed

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Ancillary workers at the hospital stopped work between 10 a.m. and 12 noon in support of the two men.

News of the acquittal was greeted by a standing ovation at the National Union of Public Employees' conference at Eastbourne

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

AFTER the snail's pace response of the weekend a good post yesterday.

Socialist Labour League branches include:

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The total is now £11,149.77 and still no sign of a substantial donation. We know that it is under consideration by some Workers Press readers—so please hurry it up if you can.

Post all donations to:
Party Building Fund
186a Clapham High St.
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An invitation to readers: Join the discussion

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At the beginning of February, Workers Press published the draft political perspectives and programme for the party, submitted by the SLL's Central Committee.

On March 11, the greatest day in the history of British Trotskyism so far, over 10,000 trade unionists and their families crowded into the Empire Pool, Wembley, to see the Pageant of History which presented the great struggles of the working class in Britain.

This rally was a gathering together of the representatives of the forces that will build the revolutionary party. Since then we have launched

our £100,000 Party Building Fund (see right).

And in every area the Socialist Labour League is holding meetings and conferences to discuss, amend and improve the resolution on the party.

The task is becoming more urgent every day. The TUC leaders, left and right, have capitulated completely to the Tory state pay laws. Behind the backs of their members—and protected by the Communist

Party—they hold secret discussions with Heath.

We urge all our readers to join us now in the campaign to form the revolutionary party.

Starting on Thursday, Workers Press will publish the views of workers from all parts of the country and all industries on the draft programme for the revolutionary party.

We urgently ask all our readers to study the resolution and to participate in this discussion.

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Radiation and blast can be controlled

'Mini-nukes' will increase war danger

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE UNITED STATES is planning to produce a stock-pile of small nuclear weapons with an explosive power only a twentieth of the smallest existing A-bombs.

The new 'mini-nukes' will be ready for use in Europe in three to five years' time and their presence will vastly increase the danger of a third world war.

The weapons will combine very low explosive power with extreme precision of blast or radiation. Among them is a 'property bomb' which will kill human beings and livestock without damaging buildings.

Using 'smart bomb' techniques developed over North Vietnam, these weapons can be delivered with pin-point accuracy at any range. Some of the bombs are equivalent to as little as 50 tons of TNT.

Available nuclear weapons have in the past seldom been equivalent to less than 1,000 tons of TNT. With the new weapons the size distinction between the smallest nuclear weapons and the largest conventional bomb is completely eradicated.

Once such weapons are made generally available to US forces, it cannot be long before their use becomes a matter of routine, freed from any remaining 'political' control.

The fiction of 'safeguards' over the use of nuclear weapons, the myth that only the commander-in-chief can authorize their use, will become more and more difficult to sustain.

This is why the Pentagon is so enthusiastic about the new bombs: it has long agitated to be given the absolute right to decide when nuclear weapons should be brought into use.

The technology has been available for some years to make small 'tactical' nuclear bombs. But their development in the United States was forbidden by Defence Secretary Robert McNamara.

The Pentagon simply went

ahead and carried out research in secret behind the backs of the Defence Department. Now it has submitted a formal requisition for a 'family' of small nuclear weapons.

According to 'The Times' 'The change is likened by some experts to the revolution which followed the introduction of the machine-gun during World War I.

'One peculiarity is that blast, radiation and fall-out could be varied from weapon to weapon—according to requirement. Thus a bomb or shell could be dropped with no blast, but with prompt and devastating radiation, killing all human life in the area without any other effect on surroundings.

'Alternatively a bridge or installation could be destroyed by maximizing heat and blast, while almost eliminating danger from fall-out.

'A third characteristic is that the weapons will be made of fissile materials with an extremely short half-life so that there would be no long-term contamination of any battlefield through prolonged radiation.'

The Pentagon is planning to make these weapons the pivot of its policy for the reconquest of the Soviet Union, China and eastern Europe on behalf of world capitalism.

The Washington war-mongers are driven by the intense econ-



omic and political crisis of world capitalism.

Their demand for more nuclear power coincides with the Watergate scandal engulfing the Nixon administration.

The Pentagon's man, General Alexander Haig, has been brought into the White House as Nixon's direct deputy, a position of enormous power from which he can push forward the development of militarism and the drive towards nuclear war.

The drive towards nuclear war resulting from the historic crisis of international capitalism endangers the entire future of humanity.

The task of revolutionaries in all countries must be to alert the working class to these dangers and build revolutionary parties to take the power away from the capitalist class.

MAY FUND REACHES £149.96 - STILL TOO SLOW

IT IS much too slow. We are already past the first week of the month and have begun to lose ground in the campaign to raise our target of £1,750 for this month.

Don't leave it to the last week. Step up the fight today and push our total up.

We know that this month we face a tough challenge to raise our special Party Building Fund on top of our Monthly Appeal Fund. But we are sure you will do it.

In this political situation, only Workers Press provides the necessary revolutionary leadership to thousands of workers everywhere. So help up expand in this situation. Use our paper as the centre of our very important campaign to transform the League into the revolutionary party.

Let's press ahead now as fast as possible. Raise all you can. Post every donation immediately to:

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186a Clapham High Street
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Watergate—CIA implicated

in plot

THE CENTRAL Intelligence Agency (CIA) is the latest arm of the United States government to fall under a cloud as a result of the Watergate scandal.

One of the convicted Watergate burglars, Howard Hunt, has testified that the CIA provided help for a break-in at the office of Dr Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist in 1971.

Ellsberg is charged with leaking the Pentagon Papers about the origins of US involvement in Indo-China to the Press.

There have been reports that the CIA was unaware of Hunt's intentions when it supplied him with a special camera, disguises, tools and the use of a Washington house where secret meetings could be held before the raid on the psychiatrist's office.

But the 'New York Times' reported yesterday that the order for the CIA to help Hunt came

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

from Major-General Robert Cushman, then deputy director of the CIA and now commandant of the US Marine Corps.

The paper reported that Cushman, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has told the Federal Bureau of Investigation he takes full responsibility for the CIA's involvement, acting at the request of the President's senior adviser John Ehrlichman.

The CIA is now reported to be organizing an internal investigation to try and save the agency's

reputation (sic). The CIA is barred by law from taking part in domestic surveillance and espionage operations.

One correspondent yesterday described the evidence of CIA involvement as 'probably the most serious allegation made so far' in the Watergate case. It suggested a 'conspiracy of monumental proportions' which could have devastating consequences for the Federal government if proved.

Unlike the White House staff who have been implicated up to now in the Watergate affair, the CIA link for the first time implicates a section of the permanent civil service and not temporary appointees brought in for the President's period of office.

How many more permanent Federal employees are in reality hired criminals at the beck and call of the President? The revelations also link the scandal with the former Democratic administration, which originally put Cushman at the head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Not only was Ellsberg 'bugged' by the CIA, but the White House

made a determined effort to subvert his chances of a fair trial by bribing the trial judge. The judge was called to see Nixon at the height of the trial and offered a post as head of the FBI.

Nixon expressed the hope in his television address a week ago that he could return to the larger duties of the presidency while the courts and the FBI finish the job of apportioning guilt for the Watergate bugging among his subordinates.

But the revelations from the Pentagon Papers trial indicating a White House role in a variety of criminal activities have added to the President's problems and intensified the crisis of his regime.

Yet his critics in Congress are shying away from impeachment—the only way the president can legally be removed from office. They are still pressing without success for the appointment of an independent investigator into the affair.

The latest Attorney-General, Elliot Richardson, is not trusted to carry out such an investigation. Though he has not been implicated in the scandal himself, he is known as a Nixon man and his appointment was widely seen as an attempt to continue the cover-up operation.

Picket protests against Indonesian political prisoners

SUPPORTERS of the Ad Hoc Committee for Indonesian Political Prisoners picketed the Indonesian Embassy yesterday to protest against the continued detention of an estimated 55,000 political prisoners in that country. Most of them have been in prison since the abortive uprising of 1965 in which up to a million communists are thought to have been massacred. The British government last year increased its aid to Indonesia to £11m which is the highest amount given to any non-Commonwealth country. The picket continues today.

Kissinger's Hanoi warning

RENEWED American bombing of North Vietnam is on the agenda unless Moscow can persuade Hanoi to knuckle under to US demands for strict observance of the ceasefire treaty.

Dr Henry Kissinger, currently in Moscow for four days of secret talks with the Kremlin chiefs, is charged with carrying this ultimatum from President Nixon.

According to 'The Guardian' the Kissinger visit 'may be the

last throw in a diplomatic offensive to shore up the January agreements'. If it fails, the paper says, Kissinger may not be able to 'hold the President back' from resuming the bombing.

General Alexander Haig, appointed to the top White House post by Nixon last week, has been one of the strongest advocates of renewed bombing of the north to stop 'infiltration' southwards. Washington claims this is a violation of the ceasefire terms.

Just when labour can force Nixon out

IN THE WAKE of Richard Nixon's speech Monday night on Watergate—loaded with lies and self-serving distortions—the AFL-CIO leadership maintains its stoney silence on this unprecedented political conspiracy aimed against the democratic rights of the American working class.

The Watergate conspiracy exposes the criminal corruption of the ruling class and poses the urgency of a Congress of Labour to prepare an alternative political leadership for the working class through the building of a Labour Party. This is why George Meany and the rest of the labour bureaucracy refuse to say anything on Watergate.

Every worker must take up the fight to force the AFL-CIO, United Auto Workers and all other trade union organizations to immediately convene a Congress of Labour for the purpose of mapping out a programme and strategy to force Nixon out of office, to smash Phase Three and to build an alternative, a Labour Party.

This is the decisive moment to actually hold such a Congress, not only because of Nixon's weakness but because at the very point he is most vulnerable, he is preparing to launch the most vicious and dangerous attacks on the unions and all the basic rights workers have been able to wrestle from the bosses only through over 100 years of struggles.

Never before has the working class in America had such an opportunity to assert its tremendous power—and to assert it politically. Never before have workers faced so many dangers.

Nixon faces the most serious and potentially explosive political crisis in American history. He has been forced to dump or reshuffle most of his inner circle of Cabinet officials and advisers in order to try to rescue his government from the stench of Watergate, but the crisis lingers on.

With their silence, the labour leaders form the main prop today of the Nixon government. They are with Nixon, collaborating in his attacks on workers and the very unions they are supposed to lead. It is their agreement with Nixon's wage controls, and only this agreement, that is responsible for sell-outs like the contract in I. W. Abel's gift to the steel companies of the workers' right to strike.

Faced with these betrayals, workers must realize that Watergate is not just another scandal, that it has nothing in common with the Teapot Dome or the Bobby Baker affair. The break-in and bugging at Watergate and the extensive political spying and sabotage activity of which it was a part represents a sharp break even with the traditions of capitalist democracy which arose out of the struggles of 1776 and the Civil War.

Thus, what the Watergate scandal and Nixon's response to it reveal is far more than the corruption which has permeated capitalism since the days of the robber barons and Boss Tweed.

It has exposed the political



AFL-CIO president George Meany at a White House dinner with one Richard Milhous Nixon, who was throwing the party.

Why is the AFL-CIO silent on Watergate?

preparations of the Nixon government for the confrontation with the powerful American working class which must inevitably occur as the big banks and corporations seek to drive back workers' living and working conditions in the face of an unparalleled international economic crisis.

Nixon's real intentions were revealed when he signed the new Economic Stabilization Act last Monday, a law which got through both houses of Congress with the aid of Democratic majorities.

It was with an utter contempt for the working class that Nixon, just moments before he placed his signature on this document which gives him the power to

control workers' wages, could say to working people in his television performance:

'When I think of this office, of what it means, I think of all the things that I want to accomplish for this nation, of all the things I want to accomplish for you.'

It was with all the cynicism and lying of the American ruling class that Nixon could claim he was taking the 'responsibility' for Watergate upon his own shoulders while openly defending Haldeman and Ehrlichman—two of the finest public servants it has been my privilege to know—and claiming to have known nothing about the involvement of his staff and closest

advisers in the spy mission at Watergate.

What Nixon is preparing for workers in the immediate period ahead includes new wage controls and plans to incorporate the trade union bureaucracy even further in the wage control apparatus, anti-strike laws, a new minimum wage law which will form a cheap labour pool out of the millions of working-class youth, a drive to eliminate those social services and public welfare programmes which have not already fallen to his budget axe and a stepped up 'law and order' campaign to launch new attacks on the democratic rights of workers and their unions.

Watergate is not isolated from these attacks. It was an important part of them in the sense that it was part of Nixon's preparations to shed all the trappings of American capitalist democracy in order to attack all the basic rights of workers.

It is not separate, for example, from the bugging of the headquarters of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters which was recently revealed.

It is not only the exposure of these preparations in the Watergate scandal itself the ruling class fears. It is putting tremendous pressure on Nixon because the continual political crisis of the past weeks has completely disrupted the government at a time when the international economic crisis is rapidly deepening.

As Nixon said in his televised speech:

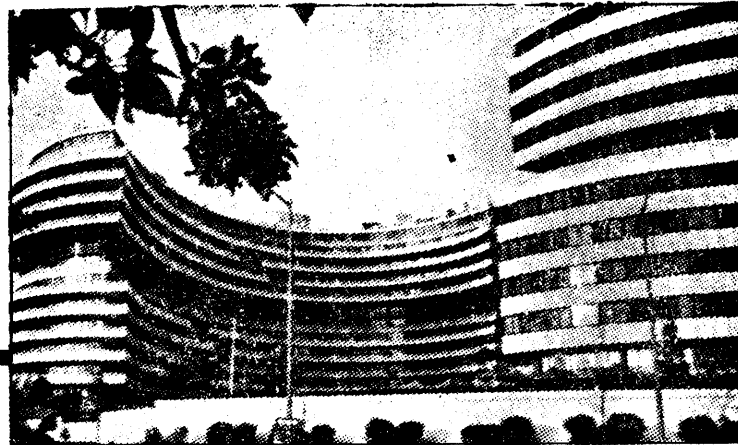
'It is also essential that we not be so distracted by events such as this that we neglect the vital work before us, before this nation, before America at a time of critical importance to America and the world.'

This is the meaning of the warning given Nixon by Henry Ford II that the situation must be resolved one way or another because it is undermining the stability of capitalist rule.

In the face of Nixon's tremendous weakness at this point, in the face of this profound political crisis, in the face of the enormous dangers which face the labour movement, the silence of Meany, Woodcock and the rest of the trade union leadership is criminal.

A new leadership must be built in the unions against these traitors in the struggle to convene a Congress of Labour. This leadership must fight on the basis of the programme of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labour Party to develop a political alternative to Nixon and all the corrupt politicians of the Republican and Democratic parties.

Out of the development of this leadership, out of the actual convening of a Congress of Labour and out of the united action of the labour movement which can force Nixon to resign will be created the conditions for the construction of a Labour Party.



The place where it all began—the Watergate Hotel in Washington.

REPRINTED FROM THE MAY 7

Bulletin
WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE WORKERS' BUREAU

Civil servants may resume pay action

A WARNING that civil servants may resume industrial action against continued 'injustice' under the Tory pay laws was issued yesterday at the annual conference of the Civil and Public Services Association.

In his opening address to the conference, CPSA president Len Lever said that in the overtime bans, work-to-rules and selective strikes the union called against the pay laws, it had been fighting on behalf of the whole civil service trade union movement.

The larger part of this movement, he pointed out, 'chose to avoid the battle either through timidity or self-interest'. Nevertheless CPSA members and those of two other organizations had shown themselves prepared to go it alone.

Lever claimed that the decision to go ahead 'proved to ourselves and to those with whom we have

to deal that we can mount a highly effective campaign of industrial action'.

He said: 'The mandarins of the civil service still have not recovered from the shock. And what is equally important, we are still in a position to resume the action if it should prove necessary.'

Some, he added, questioned whether the action was really effective.

Lever made out to have no doubts.

There had been changes in the Tory government's attitude to Phase Three of the pay laws because of it, he claimed. 'But even more important,' he went on, 'we have served notice to the Civil Service Department that an era during which it idly stood by and allowed the grades we represent to deteriorate to the level of clerical labourers is now dead and buried.'

Yet Lever had nothing to say about why he and the rest of the CPSA leadership called off



One of the low-paid civil servants on picket duty during their recent strike.

their members' fight against the pay laws, nor about the TUC's role in refusing to back their struggle.

Apart from a vague call to 'go on fighting... until victory with justice is won', he had absolutely no perspective to offer the union's members.

The speech was really a cover-up for the TUC, whose Finance and General Purposes Committee told the CPSA rudely that since the civil service unions could not get together themselves, its call for 'co-ordinated action' by all unions against the pay laws would not be answered.

Builders and ATV crew are charged

FIVE building workers have received summonses to appear in a Birmingham court on May 22 charged with unlawfully assembling together with intent to carry out a common purpose in such a manner as to endanger the public peace on February 7, 1973.

Also summonsed are an ATV camera crew. The charges relate to incidents at a Birmingham labour exchange involving attempts to acquire information about lump labour.

Theatre blaze

FAMILIES had to be evacuated from their homes early yesterday as yet another major fire struck two theatres and a bingo hall in Gorbals Street, Glasgow. Last week five children died in a fire which swept a council house in Blackhill, bringing the number of fire deaths in the city this year to 17.

MERSEY EMPLOYERS CELEBRATE RECRUITMENT OF THE 'CASUALS'

Merseyside shipowners will hold their annual meeting today against a background of increased tonnage using the port, but fewer and fewer conventional ships.

At the same time they will be able to celebrate something of a tactical victory against what their annual report describes as the 'rigidities' of the Dock Labour Scheme.

Just over a week ago dockers' shop stewards in the port agreed, after a long battle, to the recruitment of a number of 'casual', supplementary dockers by a stevedoring firm connected with the powerful Ocean Transport and Trading group.

This development, which came too late for inclusion in the annual report of the Liverpool Steam Ship Owners' Association, will no doubt be the occasion for a number of celebratory rounds of drinks today.

For while the firm which has been given the go-ahead to recruit 'casuals', Liverpool Maritime Terminals, itself wanted to recruit permanent registered men, supplementaries are now a major plank in the anti-docker strategy of the shipowners, the majority of port employers and the government.

The annual report of the Liverpool Steam Ship Owners' Association should be read carefully by every docker.

Under the special severance terms recommended by the Jones-Aldington report which ended last year's national docks strike, almost 10,000 jobs have gone from the industry since September 1972.

But the Mersey shipowners, who did not give evidence to the Jones-Aldington committee, are by no means satisfied.

Of the final report they say: 'We felt that it was entirely misleading to suggest that the surplus of manpower comprised only 10 per cent of the total labour force [then 41,000] and we were bitterly disappointed that the report failed to condemn in any way the rigidities of the whole National Dock Labour Board Scheme.'

Under this scheme, the shipowners say, 'employers have been obliged to carry men surplus to their requirements and whom they cannot really afford to carry.'

'One of the main problems in our ports industry is that

the whole system of cargo-handling is changing from labour-intensive operation to a capital-intensive one, and the pace of this change has been and will continue to be quicker than the pace of natural wastage through the normal retirement.'

In other words, a 20,000 job loss in five years followed by 10,000 more in six months is only the start. More and more permanent jobs must be got rid of.

To back up their claims about the changing character of the industry, the shipowners point to the fact that while 355 fewer conventional vessels used the port in 1972, compared with the previous year, their size must have been increased.

In fact the net tonnage using the port increased by 348,000 tons.

Meanwhile the report also contains evidence of the trade war beginning to bite hard.

The expected increase in container traffic through Liverpool, with the opening of the Seaforth terminal in May 1972, failed to materialize.

In the foreign container import and export trade the number of container ships dropped from 877 in 1971 to 680 in 1972, while the net tonnage of these vessels dropped

from 2.8 million tons in 1971 to 2.6 million tons in 1972.

This explains the enthusiasm of the shipowners for the increasing use of 'casual' dockers, who now number one in seven of the labour force nationally.

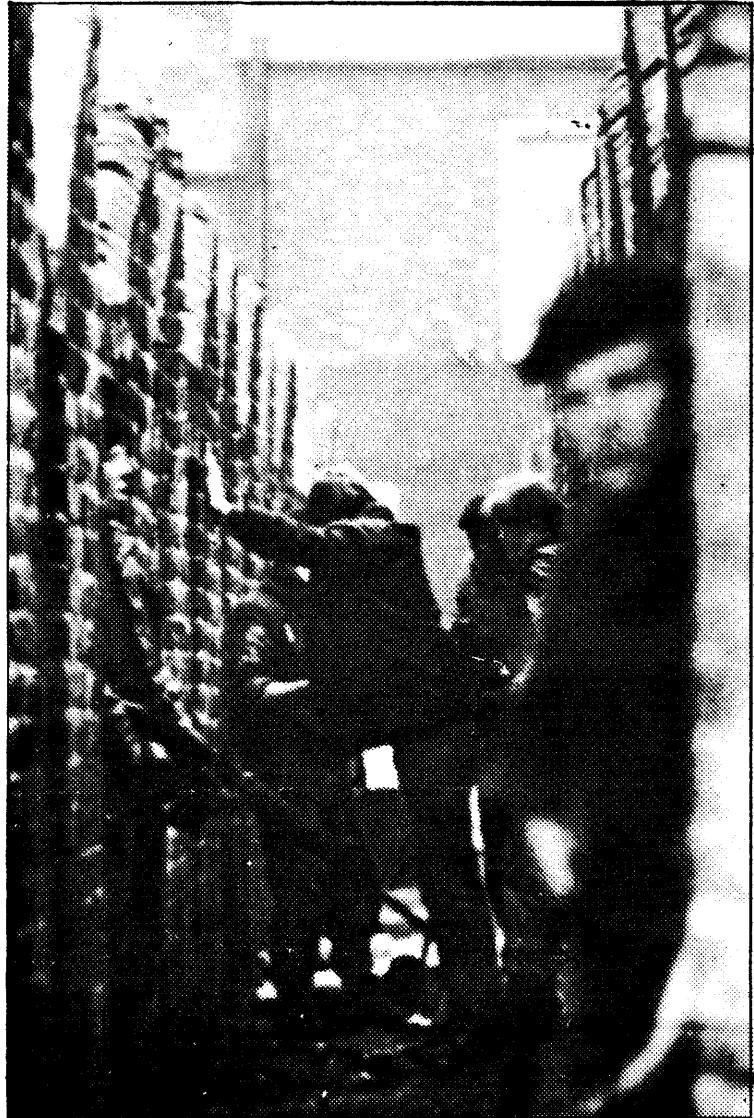
Of the closing months of last year, when the dockers' stewards were still resisting the recruitment of casuals, the report says: 'There was little the shipowners could do except to suffer the frustration of considerable delay in the turnaround of his ships and at enormous cost.'

In the event the situation became so serious that many ships were diverted from Liverpool to other ports at additional cost to the shipowner and the further loss of revenue to the docks company.'

The Merseyside port stewards' committee has said it will make sure the 'casuals' now to be employed by Liverpool Maritime Terminals—expected to be in the region of 100—will soon be made permanent.

The shipowners' report shows that they will have powerful opponents in this fight, which, of course, makes it all the more important to win.

Below: Port of Liverpool.



SHOT IN CUSTODY

This is a not-unfamiliar scene in Ulster. The man with his hands against the wall is Mr Sean Rowntree. Yet one hour after this photograph was taken Mr Rowntree lay in hospital

seriously wounded by British army bullets. His friend Mr 'Mundo' O'Rawe lay shot dead. Both were said to have been shot while they were 'resisting arrest'.

NO ACTION ON CANTEEN PRICES

A worker has sent us a list of price increases at a London engineering plant's canteen. He says items in the price range 2½p-7½p have increased by ½p; in the 8p-12½p by 1p; 13p-17½p by 1½p; 18p-22½p by 2p.

This, he points out, means increases of between 6.5 per cent and 20 per cent in the first group, 8 per cent to 12.5 per cent in the second group, 8.5 per cent to 11.5 per cent in the third group and 9 per cent to 11 per cent in the last group.

His list shows the price increase for one meal:

| | old price | new price |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Soup | 2p | 2p |
| Roast meat | 10p | 11p |
| Potatoes | 2p | 2p |
| Two veg | 5p | 5½p |
| Sweet | 3p | 3½p |
| | 22p | 24p |

This represents a 9.1 per cent increase. Vended tea remains the same at 2p, but vended coffee and chocolate have gone up from 2p to 3p.

Our correspondent tells us that there is a joint production consultative committee on the site, composed of management and unions, but it seems totally incapable of resisting any increase. Neither has any action over the men's complaints been taken by the joint shop stewards' committee.

HEFFER DEFENDS WILSON

Mr Harold Wilson, who walked across the waters to rescue the reverend gentleman Mr David Hathaway from a Czech jail, has found a new defender.

While the House of Commons was convulsed with laughter at the exploits of Harold the Superman, whose achievement was only lessened by the minor detail of Hathaway's release having already been arranged, up jumped Walton, Liverpool, MP Eric Heffer.

'The actions of the Leader of the Opposition were perfectly justified,' he declared.

'He helped in a very difficult situation and it is about time this country accepted the good faith of people who are trying to do a good job on behalf of their fellow citizens.'

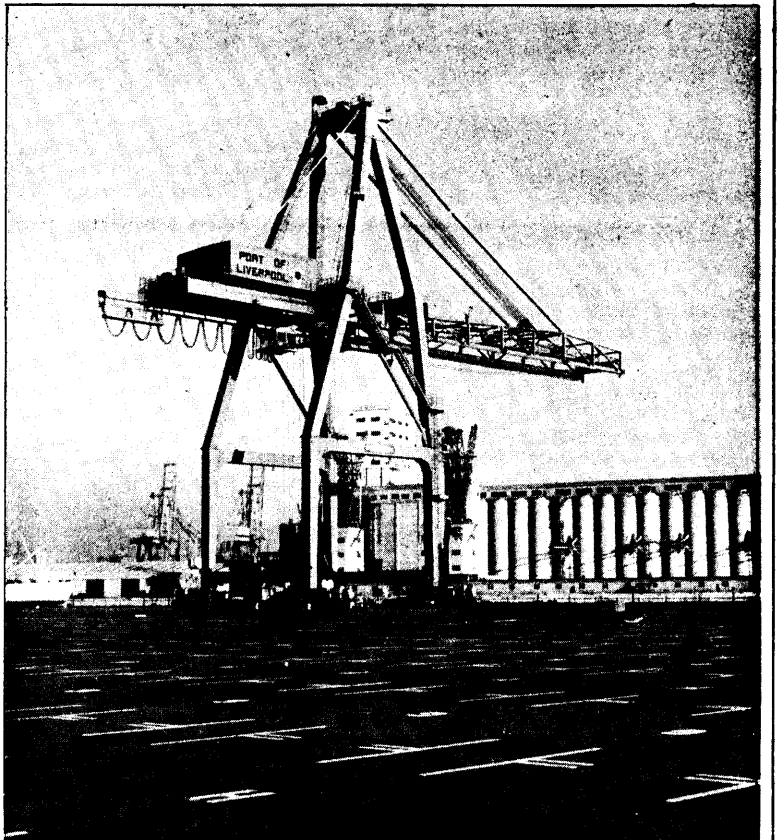
Well done, Eric! Of course, Wilson's 'good jobs' have included trying to pass laws against the unions and using the forces of the capitalist state against striking seamen, not to mention the total failure of his government to take even



Eric Heffer: 'good job'. Above: Harold Wilson.

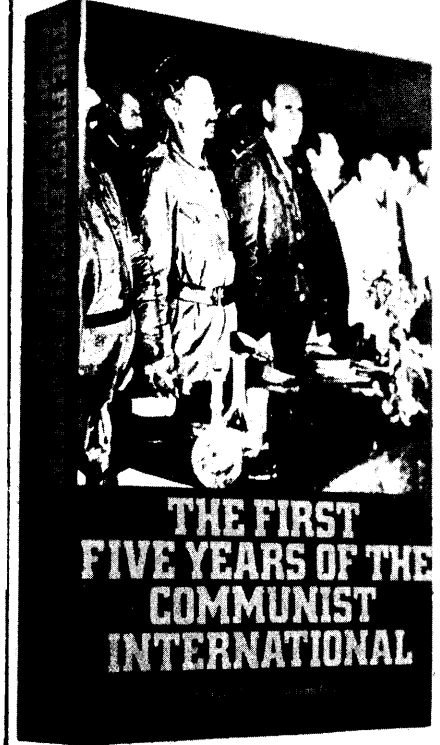
a single step towards socialism, as Mr Heffer himself pointed out in his recent book.

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STALINISTS ACCEPT THE SHAH'S RULE

The Tudeh (Communist) Party of Iran has adopted a position of virtually uncritical support for the Shah and his counter-revolutionary military adventures in the Arabian Gulf.

Tudeh is the official pro-Moscow Communist Party which has long been outlawed and persecuted by the dictatorial US-backed monarchy. Its open support for the Shah's policy is proclaimed in the party monthly 'Dunya'.

The article justifies the recent seizure of islands in the Gulf by Iranian forces which killed or captured the Arab garrisons and proclaimed the islands Persian territory.

There are no grounds for complaint about this action, 'Dunya' says, because the islands were occupied in agreement with the British government who have oil concessions there!

This really is the logic of thieves. The Shah grabbed the islands as a prize for acting as Chief gendarme for imperialist oil interests in the Gulf.

The Tories awarded him what was not theirs to give and the Stalinists justify the transaction by referring to the property 'rights' of imperialist oil monopolies in the Gulf.

'Dunya' also parrots the Shah's line on the naming of the Gulf. The paper says it should be called the Persian Gulf because for centuries it has been Persian.

This ignores the fact that on both shores of the Gulf the predominant population is Arab, not Persian. The Iranian province of Khusistan at the head of the Gulf, for example, is almost entirely populated by Arabs and there is a powerful movement to break out of the Iranian empire.

The population of the south side of the Gulf is entirely Arab. The argument of the Tudeh Party is the crassest chauvinism designed to cover over and glorify the rapacious expansion policy of the Shah.

The same argument is used by the regime to justify Iranian intervention in Dhofar and Muscat and Oman where the Shah's troops are fighting alongside British mercenaries to smash a left-wing revolt against the Sultan.

This intervention is not mentioned, let alone criticized, by the Iranian Party organ. Tudeh is here taking its cue directly from Moscow: a recent issue of the Kremlin propaganda sheet 'Soviet News' appeared with the headline 'Alexei Kosygin pays friendly visit to Iran'.

Kosygin was opening the showpiece steelworks at Isfahan, built almost entirely with Soviet loans and Soviet technology. But Tudeh's grovelling backing for the Iranian monarchy may have other causes as well.

When Iran opened diplomatic relations with the German Democratic Republic earlier this year, the Tehran papers proclaimed that a condition of the exchange of ambassadors was that East Germany should stop the Tudeh Party's activities—particularly the Radio Iran Courier, which broadcasts from East Germany.

The Tehran stories were strenuously denied by the Tudeh Party's representatives and the radio station continued to broadcast. However, since that time, the broadcasts have taken on a far more chauvinistic tone.



Left: The MSI (fascist) conference held in Rome last year. De Lorenzo sat in the Italian National Assembly as an open member of the MSI.

In 1966 he became chief of staff of the Italian ground forces where he stayed until April 1967, when he was quietly eased out of the service with a golden handshake.

Because of his past in the resistance against the Germans, de Lorenzo was painted, particularly by the Communist Party, as a model general.

The Stalinists made him out to be a loyal servant of the constitution, an image which was rudely shattered in March 1967 by the magazine 'L'Espresso'.

The paper revealed that General de Lorenzo had transformed SIFAR from a military intelligence branch into a wide-ranging political surveillance network to spy on prominent personalities.

The revelations led to a considerable scandal, and there are still many questions left unanswered to this day about de Lorenzo's role in the affair.

Attention focussed particularly on the summer of 1964, when the Italian capital was filled with rumours of an impending coup-d'etat.

There were indications that despite having formally vacated the SIFAR job two years before, de Lorenzo was in fact still the real boss of the political spy network.

But the affair was covered up and pushed under the carpet by Giuseppe Saragat, president of the Republic at the time, who wanted as far as possible to avoid spreading the scandal.

De Lorenzo sued 'L'Espresso' and took out writs against some of his fellow generals who publicly criticized his conduct. Not unnaturally, he was unable to clear his name.

Once he had left the military service he felt able to declare his true allegiances, emerging first as a deputy for the Monarchist Party and then as a fascist deputy following the Monarchists' fusion with the MSI.

The de Lorenzo affair confirmed the extent to which the Italian state machine is penetrated by fascists, many of whom occupy the most sensitive and powerful posts behind the scenes.

It exposed also the constitutional illusions cynically peddled by the Stalinists, who praised de Lorenzo as resistance hero while he was burrowing and bugging and plotting to restore fascism.

WHO WAS DE LORENZO?

General Giovanni de Lorenzo, who was buried in Rome last week with full military honours, was the central figure in a fascist plot to take the power in Italy in the early 1960s.

As head of the counter-espionage organization SIFAR, de Lorenzo wielded tremendous power, spying wholesale on politicians and left-wingers and building up dossiers and blacklists.

He later became a deputy in the National Assembly, sitting first as a monarchist

and later as a member of the openly fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI).

De Lorenzo was a fascist deputy at the time of his death and his unrivalled knowledge of the underworld of scandal and blackmail in Italian politics must have been very useful to MSI.

He fought in Mussolini's armies during World War II, first against the French and later on the Russian front. After the armistice of September 8, 1943, he joined the resistance against the Germans.

He commanded groups of partisans in the Romagna and later took on the post of

underground deputy head of the Military Information Centre in German-occupied Rome.

After the war he served for a time as chief of south European operations on the staff of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In 1954 he was promoted to become a general.

Two years later he was appointed to head the Armed Forces Information Service (SIFAR), the military counter-spy organization. He stayed there until 1962.

His next appointment was as head of the para-military force of Carabinieri, responsible for anti-riot activities and for preparing civil war against the working class.

LATIN AMERICA CONSUMES MORE OIL

Latin American consumption of petroleum is steadily outstripping production. Last year 871,000 barrels a year came from Africa and Arab countries.

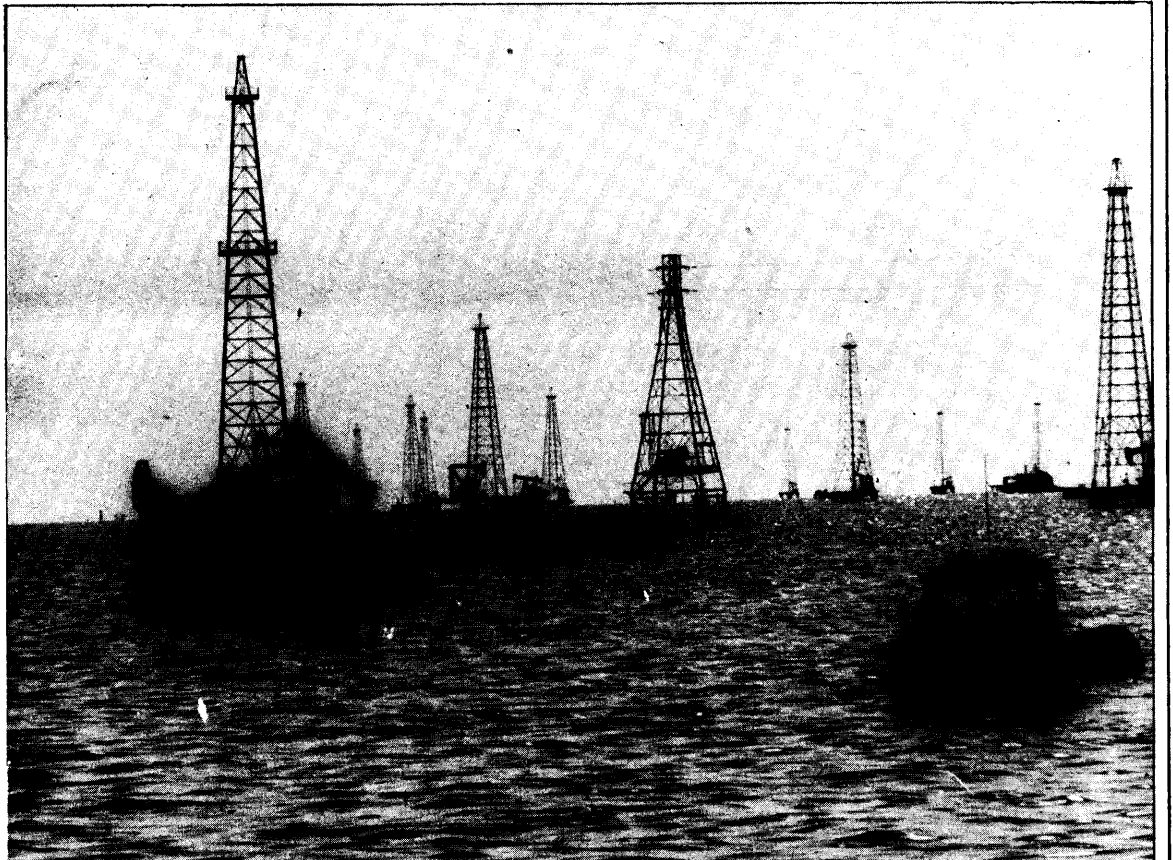
Venezuela still exports considerable quantities of petroleum, production of which is controlled by US corporations which keep up the price.

Attempts are being made to open up new oilfields. Although some new sources of supply are being developed in the Amazon region, Peru and the eastern parts of Ecuador and Colombia, imports are not likely to diminish in the near future.

The Brazilian BRASPETRO concern has signed a 24-year contract for exploration in Iraq, although some new wells are being developed in the country or off-shore.

The deposits opened up in north-eastern Peru are being developed in conjunction with US, French and Japanese companies. Peru remains a net importer of oil.

New oil and gas wells have



been drilled in Mexico, the second largest Latin American producer after Venezuela, but only just covering domestic consumption. In Colombia,

however, the hope of finding large reserves died when the first 16 wells opened proved to be dry.

Unless large new deposits

are found, Latin America is likely to become increasingly dependent upon outside sources of supply controlled by the international oil companies.



NIXON'S THE ONE!

Richard Nixon has all but admitted his guilt by his latest desperate attempt to keep investigators from probing his own role in the Watergate scandals.

But even as he gave instructions that past and present members of the White House staff should refuse to answer questions about any conversations they had had with the President, the first firm allegation that Nixon knew what was going on was made.

'Newsweek' magazine reported sacked aide John Dean as saying that Nixon had previously congratulated him for keeping top White House aides out of the scandal. Dean, in fear of his life, has

vision, buys the service of elected politicians and finances political campaigns.

Monetary speculation, welching on dollar debts, gambling with the fate of whole industries on the stock market and deliberately debasing currencies by anarchically printing more paper money are all 'legal' acts of economic piracy.

Exploitation, and the private ownership of the means of production for profit, forces millions of people around the world to live little better than animals.

The wars and destruction that capitalism regularly plunges the world into make the illegalities of the Watergate and other break-ins insignificant.

The capitalist system is based on violence. The nature of its rule becomes more open in its period of decline and decay.

Nixon's virtual admission that he is involved up to his neck in the perjury, the bribery and the general obstruction of justice that has followed the discovery of the Watergate wire-tapping came just three days after his appalling nationwide broadcast when he tried to wriggle off the hook.

But even as he was drawing up that speech, the President

was consulting a criminal defence lawyer, John J. Wilson, who has also been retained by resigned aides Haldeman and Ehrlichman.

The attempt to brazen things out will still go on, but just in case it doesn't work out, other contingencies have been prepared for.

Richard Nixon's television apology to the American people reeked of dishonesty and cheap practices. As the supreme political representative of the capitalist system, the US President performed, in fact, exactly as one would expect him to.

The essence of his message was that in order to preserve the fair name of democracy, entirely innocent men had to be sacked from their posts.

The whitewash job was of the same shoddy quality as the original Watergate break-in and the subsequent attempts to cover it up with lies, bribery and corruption.

Nixon began by saying how innocent he was personally of any involvement in the affair. Then he said that White House aides Bob Haldeman and John Ehrlichman were 'two of the finest public servants it has been my privilege to know'.

In reluctantly accepting their resignations, he wanted

to stress there should be 'no implication whatever of personal wrong-doing on their part' or on the part of others who have been charged.

But in order to guard 'the integrity of our democratic process, it is essential not only that rigorous legal and ethical standards be observed, but also that the public have total confidence that they are both being observed and enforced by those in authority'.

Therefore, 'in order to restore that confidence', it was necessary that Haldeman and Ehrlichman resign.

But how can the enforced resignations of the two most influential civil servants in the USA, both entirely blameless, restore faith in 'integrity', 'the democratic process', or 'rigorous legal and ethical standards'?

If Haldeman and Ehrlichman should bear 'no implication whatever of personal wrong-doing on their part', then their enforced resignations at what is likely to be the height of their careers is a monstrous injustice.

How can that restore confidence? Even stranger things followed in the television speech. Attorney-General Richard Kleindienst, 'a distinguished

public servant with no personal involvement whatever in this matter', also had to resign because he 'has been a close personal and professional associate of some of those who are involved in the case'.

If the President is to be believed, Kleindienst had to be sacrificed just because he knew well some of the people under suspicion.

But who knows all of the people involved better than anyone else? President Nixon, of course. They were all part of his hand-picked political machine built up over the years.

Kleindienst, in fact, is a comparative newcomer, joining the administration only in 1969.

And who replaces him as Attorney-General? Another member of the same Nixon administration, Elliot Richardson, formerly head of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; formerly Secretary of Defence; a man who knows well all the people in Nixon's entourage just as Kleindienst knows them.

And what responsibility is it of Kleindienst's anyway to bear the burden of resignation if he is innocent? As Attorney-General, he is responsible for the conduct of the Justice

Department. But, as President, Nixon is responsible for the whole White House administration, which is even more involved.

Nixon claimed that Richardson, as 'a man of unimpeachable integrity and rigorously high principle', could re-establish public confidence in the Justice Department.

US commentators immediately pointed out that Richardson



Top: John Mitchell, Nixon's closest associate and in charge of the whole re-election campaign, finally admitted he knew about Watergate. Above: John Dean, high on the White House staff, says Nixon congratulated him for keeping the top White House aides out of the scandal, after his official 'investigation' into it on Nixon's behalf.

'has been on the Nixon team from the beginning', has 'performed loyal services to the Nixon regime', has a record of caving in to the 'White House', over the guaranteed family income reform, over the size of the defence budget and over Nixon's constitutional right to continue the bombing of Cambodia.

Other matters concerning the Justice Department make no sense either. Kleindienst, before he resigned, relieved himself of overall responsibility for the Watergate investigations in order not to jeopardize public confidence in the inquiries.

The man then handling the affair was the assistant Attorney-General Henry Petersen. But the same Petersen was in day-to-day charge of inquiries when the Watergate affair first broke last summer, when he said:

'This investigation has been conducted under my supervision. In no instance has there been any limitation of any kind by anyone on its conduct. Indeed, the investigation by both the FBI and the Grand Jury have been the most exhaustive and far-reaching that I have seen in my 25 years.'

With all that has come out since last summer's abortive

inquiry, Petersen's boast now looks completely hollow. And yet other heads have rolled while he still remains 'to restore confidence in the Justice Department'.

Under Petersen, FBI chief Patrick Gray was ordered to confine his inquiries to the Watergate bugging and not to delve into the financial scandals or all the other allegations of sabotage and espionage.

While working under Petersen, Gray destroyed what might have been vital evidence when he burned secret political files belonging to two of the convicted Watergate spies. Gray has since resigned.

It was Petersen who instructed the state prosecutors at the trial of the Watergate seven. Judge John Sirica reprimanded them for not asking the questions necessary to get to the bottom of the matter. And the chief witness for the state, Jeb Magruder, has since admitted that he gave perjured evidence.

It was Petersen who ordered wire-tapping to stop in the investigation into Teamsters Union connections with the Mafia. In 1971, Nixon pardoned former Teamsters' president Jimmy Hoffa from the remainder of his prison sentence. In 1972, the Teamsters gave solid backing to Nixon's re-election campaign.

Nixon's broadcast went on: 'Who, then, is to blame for what happened in this case?'

A very good question. Where and when was the Watergate plot hatched? Where and when was the subsequent cover-up of the White House staff hatched?

It is inconceivable that the Nixon administration did not know all about it last June when it happened, or that Nixon could not have insisted on every last detail being made known to him within 24 hours of the plot's discovery, if he had wanted.

Nixon's closest political adviser, former Attorney-General, and former director of the Campaign committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP), John Mitchell, swore to a Grand Jury last September that he had no advance knowledge of the bugging incident, discovered in June.

Mitchell himself has now admitted that statement was not true.

Mitchell also said last September: 'Neither the President nor anyone at the White House nor anyone in authority at CREEP have any responsibility for this.' Again, obviously not true.

But that takes the involvement in the whole Watergate affair and the subsequent cover-up directly to Nixon's right-hand man. It was this proximity to Nixon that made Mitchell's resignation so necessary immediately the Watergate scandal was discovered.

But such a torrent of evidence has now poured out indicating corrupt and illegal dealings by Nixon's closest staffmen that Nixon himself is now irrevocably covered in the same mud. It can only be a matter of time before the full rottenness that is at the heart of American democracy is exposed.

During his speech, Nixon, for obvious reasons, never answered his own question about who is to blame for the whole affair. There can be only one answer: Nixon himself.

Instead, he tried to bolster confidence in the capitalist system.

It was the system that has brought the facts to light and that will bring those guilty to justice—a system that in this case has included a determined Grand Jury, honest prosecutors, a courageous judge, and a vigorous free press.

After nearly a year, the full story of the Watergate break-in has still not been told. Only the deliberate obstruction of justice by the 'system' itself has prevented that from happening. It is in spite of the system and because of the

system's crisis that all the filth is now oozing to the surface.

Judge John Sirica and the 'free Press' have operated, it is true. But only after overcoming enormous obstacles from the 'system'.

Last October, CREEP's director Clark MacGregor, said:

'The "Washington Post" has maliciously sought to give the appearance of a direct connection between the White House and the Watergate, a charge which the "Post" knows, and half a dozen investigations have found, to be false.'

Since April 17, when Nixon announced that 'major developments and real progress has been made in finding the truth', the following astonishing developments have come to light, not one of them announced by the President or the investigators working for him:

● The 'New York Times' reported that the President's counsel, John Dean, had supervised payment of more than £73,000 out of Nixon campaign funds to convicted Watergate conspirators, allegedly to keep them quiet.

● John Mitchell and Maurice Stans, former Nixon campaign finance chief, were linked to investigations by New York Grand Jury of an £83,000 contribution by Robert Vesco, central figure in a fraud probe, which was accepted in secret three days after the deadline for the end of undeclared contributions.

● 'Washington Post' reported that CREP engineered a phoney favourable public response to Nixon's decision to mine Haiphong harbour in 1972.

● 'Washington Post' reported that CREP also rigged results of television opinion polls on same issue.

● Judge Byrne at the Pentagon Papers trial in Los Angeles disclosed that two Watergate conspirators burgled the office of psychiatrist of Daniel Ellsberg, one of the defendants.

● Nixon ordered the covert investigation of Ellsberg, of which the burglary was a part, outside normal FBI channels.

● The White House knew of the burglary by its two staffers but did nothing about it, not even reporting it.

● Judge Byrne revealed that the Nixon administration had offered him, right in the middle of the Ellsberg trial, the job as new head of the FBI.

Nixon dealt with none of these issues in his broadcast and tried to sweep the whole thing under the carpet.

It is essential that we not be so distracted by events such as this that we neglect the vital work before us, before this nation, before America, at a time of critical importance to America and the world.

Not content with that, Nixon then tried to justify the whole sordid business.

'I know that it can be very easy, under the intensive pressures of a campaign, for even well-intentioned people to fall into shady tactics, to rationalize this on the grounds that what is at stake is of such importance to the nation that the end justifies the means. And both of our great parties have been guilty of such tactics in the past.'

'In recent years, however, the campaign excesses that have occurred on all sides have provided a sobering demonstration of how far this false doctrine can take us. The lesson is clear: America, in its political campaigns, must not again fall into the trap of letting the end, however great that end is, justify the means.'

Nixon filed out his evasive speech with a nauseating outpouring of nationalist and religious piety about America being the hope of millions all over the world.

'I ask for your prayers to help me in everything that I do throughout the days of my presidency to be worthy of their hopes and of yours.'

It will need more than prayers to fix things up.



THE PLIGHT OF THE BACK STREET SHOP

A series by Bernard Franks
Part seven

As well as its onslaught on the working class, the Common Market stands for the economic extermination of the small trader.

Peasants, small farmers and shopkeepers throughout the EEC are being driven out of business leaving the way for the giant manufacturing, wholesale and retail conglomerates with their insatiable greed for the monopoly of markets and profits.

In France, the suicide rate is now higher in these small proprietor sectors of the Community; in Britain, 7,000 shops close down each year. For everyone gone, another ten are in serious difficulties.

Heads of the large supermarket chains make condescending remarks about there

always being room for the backstreet shop, even while they are planning store sites and local price-cutting campaigns to eliminate the 'independents'.

At the moment these outnumber the retail outlets of the big chains, but such figures are only a small part of the story.

The high price of land and property means that only the multiples with their large, high-turnover stores can afford the best high street sites.

In the back streets, local councils and private developers further aid the retailing groups by forcing the small shopkeepers out of low-rent properties and redeveloping the area to include no store sites or those which are offered at eight and ten times the previous rents. If the big companies don't want them, then they stand vacant.

No one knows better than

the proprietor of a family shop just how much rubbish is involved in the claim of the retail tycoons that the multiple chains are built through the 'hard work' of the owners.

Many small shopkeepers must labour 12-15 hours a day, six and seven days a week, even to survive, never mind 'get ahead'.

He or she must be their own porter—moving and unpacking crates etc.; transporter—especially where fresh food has to be collected in the very early morning from the wholesale market; sales assistant; cashier; and, after the shop is closed for the day, accountant.

In other cases a man or his wife may go out to work to provide the extra cash to see them over difficult times. Small shopkeepers get little credit from their suppliers, so the extra is necessary to pay the bills before the stock can be sold, and the money raised. In fact, credit restrictions have taken a huge toll of the small shops.

The 'freedom and independence' that some small shopkeepers claim to achieve—the right to be his own boss—is entirely non-existent. His hours are controlled by his location, by the hours of other traders, by how well he is doing and by the shopping habits of his customers who may go to work early or get home late.

His finances are controlled by the banks, finance companies and tax officials. His stock is controlled, both in price and in what he may or may not sell, by the wholesalers and manufacturers.

For example, a 1970 Prices and Incomes Board report on price increases in the ice cream industry revealed that two

manufacturers together control 75 per cent of the ice cream market.

Those are T. Walls & Son (owned by Unilever) and Lyons Maid Ltd (owned by J. Lyons & Co Ltd).

The two firms jointly own the company which handles the supply and maintenance of all freezer cabinets for both (Total Refrigeration Ltd).

The report stated: 'Virtually all sales by Wall's and Lyons Maid are made under exclusive supply contracts which require the customer not to stock or sell at the premises specified in the contract, without written consent, any ice-cream products, as defined in the contract, other than those obtained from the manufacturer concerned.'

The specifying of particular premises is mainly a restriction on the family shop, as multiples could still sell different brands at different branches.

It was also found that 'in most cases, customers undertake not to use the cabinet for any purpose other than storage of products supplied by the manufacturer'.

But, the report claimed: '... there is a degree of competition between the two leading companies sufficient to allow the consumer a good measure of protection.'

Finally, in this period when wages were being held down, the Board decided: 'We therefore conclude that their need for the additional revenue sought by the recent price increases is established.'

Another example involves 'zoning agreements' controlling newspaper distribution.

In a case brought before the courts in 1971, the existence of special agreements

The small shopkeeper: Often he works 12-15 hours a day, six and seven days a week, even to survive—never mind get ahead.

between wholesale distributors of Sunday newspapers was revealed.

These prevented Sunday newspapers being supplied outside the area of a particular franchise from the newspaper publishers.

The judge refused a local newsagent a ban on one agreement. The defendants maintained there were no 'zoning agreements' and even if there were, they were not contrary to the public interest.

Enormous power is held by wholesalers through the monopoly of products. Like the three brands controlling 90 per cent of tinned soup; two brands capturing 41 per cent of frozen fish; three brands with 84 per cent of packet soups; two brands selling 93 per cent of scouring powders; two brands with 82 per cent of razor blades, and so on.

In 1970 a market research firm looked into 34 products—accounting for about a quarter of the grocery trade turnover. They found that 60 per cent of this trade is down to 91 brands. Many of these are produced by the same companies.

Franchising, which is the leasing-out by manufacturers and wholesalers of 'product-territories', guaranteeing that no one else within a defined area will be allowed to obtain and sell a particular item, is rapidly being extended in Britain.

It has reached enormous proportions in the USA. One notorious form of franchising is pyramid selling.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

BEHIND SOVIET RESHUFFLE

In the biggest re-shuffle of the Soviet leadership since the fall of Nikita Khrushchev, the heads of the army, the secret police and the diplomatic corps have been brought on to the ruling Politburo.

A plenary session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party on April 27 also sacked two Politburo members known to be critical of the bureaucracy's policy of co-operation with US imperialism.

Newcomers to the 16-man Politburo are Defence Minister Marshal Andrei Gretchko, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and KGB (security police) chief Yuri Andropov.

This brings the chiefs of the three arms which have a decisive role in carrying out the bureaucracy's policy onto its main policy-making body. It makes possible a closer co-ordination in the execution of the leadership's aims and in dealing with any opposition to it.

Gretchko (70) is the first military man to have a seat on the Politburo since Marshall Zhukov was deposed by Khrushchev in July 1957. Gretchko was responsible for putting down the East Berlin uprising in 1953 and in charge of Soviet forces at the time of the invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968.

In April 1969 he visited Prague with the task—brutally carried out—of finally deposing Alexander Dubcek's reforming wing in the Czech bureaucracy and installing Gustav Husak in his place. 'Normalization' was then carried through, backed up by the weight of Gretchko's armed forces.

This experience will be valuable when similar operations in eastern Europe are necessary. He has also been responsible for building up the Soviet Union's nuclear striking force.

Gretchko is a close friend of Party leader Leonid Brezhnev and holds strong ideas on reinforcing the army's prestige and regimenting Soviet youth under its influence.

Gromyko's elevation is more than a reward for long and faithful service. Foreign policy is now in a critical stage with the close ties now being established with the United States and other capitalist countries and the forthcoming Helsinki talks on a European Security Pact.

Gromyko was appointed to the foreign ministry under Stalin and accompanied him to the wartime conferences at Yalta, Tehran and Potsdam. He was Soviet representative on the United Nations Security Council in 1946-1948, executing the tough line of that period.

He continued to move upwards after Stalin's death and became Foreign Minister after



Left: Foreign Minister, Gromyko. Above: Defence Minister, Gretchko. Right: KGB chief, Andropov—The three men brought onto the ruling Politburo.

the disgrace of Dmitri Shepilov in 1957. After accompanying Nikita Khrushchev on most of his foreign journeyings Gromyko's career was apparently unaffected by the Soviet leader's fall. He has been a member of the Central Committee since 1952.

Andropov is the first KGB chief to sit on the Politburo since Lavrenti Beria was disgraced and shot in mysterious circumstances after Stalin's death in 1953.

He was Soviet ambassador to Budapest at the time of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956. Since 1967 he has been head of the security police and a candidate member of the Politburo. The KGB is now being drawn into the formulation of policy, which includes repression of the working class in eastern Europe as well as harsher measures against the opposition inside the Soviet Union.

The significance of these appointments is underlined by the disgrace inflicted at the same Central Committee meeting on the two former Politburo members, Pyotr Shelest and Gennadi Voronov.

Shelest came into the top leadership immediately after the downfall of Khrushchev in October 1964, at a time when he was already the Party boss

of the Ukraine. He achieved a reputation as a hard-liner and was a strong advocate of military intervention in Czechoslovakia in 1968. In fact, rumours are being circulated that he made the decision to invade in August 1968 when other principal leaders were away from Moscow on holiday!

He is said to have opposed the invitation extended to President Nixon to visit Moscow in May 1972 and was relieved of his post in the Ukraine. Although a brutal persecutor of nationalists and opportunists, he has recently been denounced for 'nationalism'.

A five-page article in the 'Kommunist Ukraini' for April launched a strong denunciation of his book on the Ukraine, with the obvious intention of discrediting him ideologically. He was accused of not using a class standpoint, violating Leninist principles and upholding Ukrainian nationalist illusions hostile to the Soviet Union.

Voronov, the other Politburo member dropped, rose to prominence during the Khrushchev regime, being picked out originally by the First Secretary for his knowledge of sheepfarming. For a number of years he was

mainly concerned with agricultural policy and especially with dismissing and demoting those who transgressed Party instructions.

His methods no doubt earned him many enemies and the growing difficulties of Soviet agriculture brought him into discredit even before the end of Khrushchev's reign. In recent years he has been increasingly effaced and his final sacking would seem only to be a formality.

The First Secretary of the Communist Party in the Leningrad region Gregori Romanov has been made a candidate member of the Politburo and, at 50, is the youngest man on that body. He has followed the usual bureaucratic career and has been a Central Committee member since 1966.

He is known to be a faithful Brezhnev supporter and his elevation is a recognition both of his devotion and of the key importance of the Leningrad region.

The latest shake-up would seem to be an attempt to consolidate the ranks of the bureaucracy as it moves into a critical period. It faces increasing economic difficulties in the 'decisive third year' of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. It confronts a hostile and potentially revolutionary working

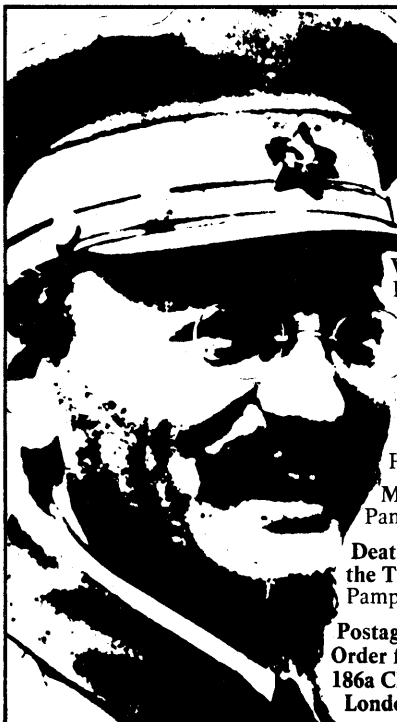
class at home and in eastern Europe. It is engaged in tricky negotiations with the imperialist countries. It has to deal with the consequences of the split with China.

As shown by the sackings of Shelest and Voronov, there are divisions within its own ranks on how to approach these questions. The strains and pressures of the coming period are likely to reveal further splits and lead to a bitter power struggle in the Kremlin itself.

It was significant that great emphasis was laid during the May Day celebrations on the personal qualities of Brezhnev, described as an 'outstanding fighter for peace and friendship among peoples' and a 'steadfast Communist-Leninist'.

He has just been awarded the International Lenin Prize for the Strengthening of Peace among Peoples, which has provided the opportunity for a succession of speeches and articles extolling his virtues.

These fulsome tributes were echoed in East European countries. The bureaucracy needs to focus its loyalty on a supreme figure who epitomizes its own mediocrity. In Leonid Brezhnev they have found their man.



BOOKS BY TROTSKY

- Where is Britain Going? Paperback 37p
- Problems of the British Revolution. Paperback 35p
- Lessons of October Paperback 60p
- In Defence of the October Revolution Pamphlet 15p
- Marxism and the Trade Unions Pamphlet 25p
- Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International Pamphlet 10p

Postage: 10p per book, 5p per pamphlet.
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London SW4 7UG

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

JUSTICE

Otto Kerner (64), a US Court of Appeals Judge and twice Governor of Illinois, and a co-defendant Theodore Isaacs, have been sentenced to three years' imprisonment and fined \$50,000.

In February a jury had found them both guilty of taking part in a dubious race-track stock deal in which Kerner, while Governor, netted nearly \$145,000 profit.

On hearing the sentences, prosecutor James Thompson, who had asked for 'substantial' terms, said that he thought Federal Judge Robert L. Taylor

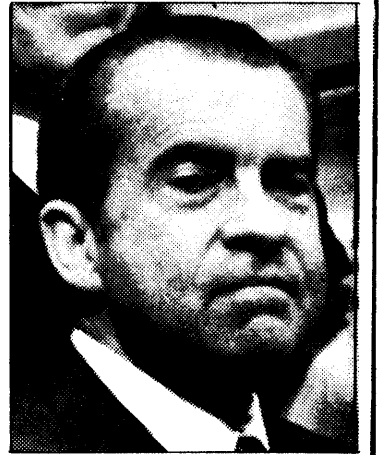
was acting 'out of compassion'. Kerner could have received up to 58 years in jail and Isaacs 48 years.

As it is, neither of them may have to spend even a single day in the cells. The compassionate Judge Taylor sentenced them under a provision which makes them both eligible for immediate parole.

DECENCY

Up to its ears in the Watergate bugging scandal, the Nixon Administration had decided to make a stand for 'decency'.

The FBI has been instructed to crack down hard on pornography which, according to Nixon, is corrupting the youth of America and is largely responsible for the increasing crime rate. He refused to accept the findings of the US Commission on Obscenity and Pornography that the average American porn-fan is 'married,



Corrupting . . .
white, middle class and middle aged'.

Police Lt Dean Olson recently revealed that the Vice Squad has two men whose sole job is to watch obscene films with a view to banning them. He added that there is a long waiting list of policemen applying for the job.

BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.30 Mae gen i air! 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Fingerbobs. 1.45 Ask the family. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Chester races. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Animal magic. 5.15 Time switch. 5.40 Hector's house. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 TOM AND JERRY.

6.55 FILM: 'Angel and the Bad-man'. John Wayne, Gail Russell. A man vows to kill his foster father's murderer.

8.30 THE LIVER BIRDS.

9.00 NEWS. Weather.

9.25 DOCUMENTARY: 'The U-Boat War'. Win the Atlantic—win the war.

10.15 FILM 73 (London only). A look at the career of Lindsay Anderson, director of 'This Sporting Life' and 'If'.

10.45 MIDWEEK.

11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS.

11.35 Weather.

10.15 Regional programmes. Midlands: Pentathlon No 8; East Anglia: On camera: Eldon Griffiths. MP: West: Direct enquiry: medicine; South: Slightly quizzical: All at sea; South West: Peninsula—Three of a kind; North: Northern gardeners question time; North East: Through Northern eyes; North West: Free speech.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.50 Open University.

6.40 INTERACTION.

7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.

7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.

7.35 WHEELBASE.

8.10 MASTER CLASS: GERAINT EVANS. Rehearsal of students in scenes from Verdi's 'Falstaff'.

9.00 POT BLACK. Alex 'Hurricane' Higgins v Fred Davis.

9.25 A PICTURE OF KATHERINE MANSFIELD. In the Life. With Vanessa Redgrave, Jeremy Brett, Annette Crosbie.

10.15 FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCE. The Devil's Fashion. Elizabethan fashion.

10.30 OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. Alquin, Jonathan Kelly.

11.00 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

11.30 OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. Part 2. American blues legend 73. With Boogie Woogie Red, Snookey Pryor, Homesick James, Washboard Willie, Whispering Smith, Lightnin' Slim.

TODAY'S TV

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.40 Bertrand Russell speaks his mind (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Hatty town. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Lunch-time with Wogan. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Harriet's back in town.

2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 About Britain. 3.25 Kate. 4.25 Junior show-time. 4.50 How. 5.20 Arnie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.40 CROSSROADS.

7.05 IT'S TARBUCK.

7.35 FILM: 'Escape'. Christopher George. A master escape artist and adventurer is handcuffed and thrown into the sea.

9.00 SIX DAYS OF JUSTICE. A Clear-Cut Case. With George Waring.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 DOCUMENTARY: 'The Forbidden Desert of the Danakil'.

11.30 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.

12.15 IDEAS IN PRINT.



Pauline Poole (Sarah Brown), a precocious 13 year old from a squalid and overcrowded background, lands a family friend in trouble in Thames TV's 'Six Days of Justice' at 9 p.m.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 4.50 Young eyes. 5.20 Part-ridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Curtain raiser. 7.35 Madigan. 9.00 London. 12.15 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.25 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 12.12 News. 12.15 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.05 News. 12.07 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Tarbuck. 7.15 Film: 'Conspiracy to Kill'. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckle-heads. 5.25 Crossroads. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Try for ten. 7.05 London. 7.35 Banacek. 9.00 London. 12.15 Craftsmen. 12.45 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-5.10 Cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30 O'r cyfandir. 11.15-11.30 O'r wasg. 12.15 World in action.

HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Osmonds. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Cool million. 9.00 London. 12.15 Gordon Bailey. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.50 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 McCloud. 8.50 Cartoon. 9.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.40 London. 2.30 Farmhouse kitchen. 3.00 London. 5.20 Here's Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.15 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 2.30 Craftsmen. 2.55 London. 5.15 Nature's win-

dow. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Newsday. 6.40 Film: 'The Harness'. 8.30 Tarbuck. 9.00 London.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 Police call. 6.35 Protectors. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.15 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.40 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Doris Day. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.10 Meditation.

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Aberdeen strikers demand reinstatement

A STRIKE of 70 maintenance, offal-processing and canteen staff at the Aberdeen Sandilands factory of Scottish Agricultural Industries (SAI) has now been in progress for three weeks.

The plant processes agricul-

tural foods and fertilizers and the strike follows a dispute over 'dirty money'.

The strikers are demanding the reinstatement of two men who were suspended for refusing to do an especially unpleasant job without extra payment.

The suspensions occurred while

talks on 'dirty money' were in progress.

A leading shop steward told Workers Press that the management was intransigent and that he could not say how long the dispute would last.

But the men, he said, were determined to win the reinstatement of their fellow-workers.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

BATTERSEA: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. 'Nags Head', cnr. Wandsworth Road and North Street. 'Report back from May Day'.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Marxism and the trade unions.'

TOTTENHAM: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, High Road, near White Hart Lane. 'Force the Tories to resign.'

WYTHENSHAW (Manchester): Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. 'Cock o'th'North', Portway. 'Report back from May Day'.

KINGSTON: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Norbiton Hotel, Clifton Road. 'Forward from May Day —to remove the Tories.'

WILLESDEN: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Brent Labour and Trades Hall, Willesden High Road, NW10. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

DARLSTON: Thursday May 10, 7 p.m. 'The Nag's Head'. 'Fight the State Pay Laws and Measured-Day Work.'

HULL: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Windmill Hotel, Witham. 'After May Day—what next?'

LEEDS: Thursday May 10, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. 'Building the revolutionary party.'

EAST LONDON: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, E3.

WANDSWORTH: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Kings Arms, High Street, SW18.

WATFORD: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall, near Watford Junction Station. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

TOOTING: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. Tooting Baths, Tooting Broadway, SW17. 'Build the Revolutionary Party.'

SLOUGH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

SOUTHALL: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. 'The Crooked Billet', North Circular Road. 'Force the Tories to resign.'

WEMBLEY: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Copland School, High Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

WOOLWICH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. The Castle, Powis Street, SE18. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

SWANSEA: Thursday May 17, 7.30 p.m. YMCA. 'Defend workers' basic rights. General Strike to Force the Tories to resign.'

BASILDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Barnstaple Community Centre. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

CROYDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

FELTHAM: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes', Feltham High Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

Membership demand £4-£6 wage claim, but...

NUPE leaders set sights on talks with Tories

DELEGATES representing 430,000 public service workers yesterday urged their union chiefs to press for immediate wage rises of £4 to £6 this year.

A serious fight for such rises would clearly involve an all-out fight to remove the Tory government and repeal its state pay laws whatever 'norm' is adopted for Phase Three.

But the National Union of Public Employees' general secretary, Alan Fisher, made clear that the sights of the union leadership are set on talks with the Tories rather than forcing them out of office.

All 500 delegates at the NUPE conference in Eastbourne voted unanimously for a composite resolution setting out a basic wage target of £30 a week for all full-time workers in the public service.

Negotiators should press for a £25 minimum wage this year, the resolution said.

It also declared that in future the objective of all claims should be to raise members' average earnings to those of industrial workers.

Moving the motion, Stan



Alan Fisher

Cross, a Croydon, Surrey, ambulanceman, insisted that the men who keep the sewers and drains open are just as skilled as those on the car production line.

He also stressed another point made in the resolution—the call for a cost-of-living regulator to 'protect the real value of basic pay rates'.

Katie Rogers, a Norfolk hospital shop steward, drew attention to another point made in the motion.

Union members in the hospitals frequently asked why they could not negotiate in step with

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN EASTBOURNE

local authority workers instead of a few weeks behind, she reported.

'This causes apathy—why can't we negotiate at the same time?'

Tony Cross, secretary of the Oxford University branch, criticized the degree to which other sections of the union had supported the hospital workers' strike.

To get the new demands, he said, all sections would have to unite. 'We should all now be going out and demanding and getting this wage increase.'

Fisher's reply to the debate contained no perspective for winning the claim—or the demand for shorter hours and more holidays also passed by the conference.

It accepted the principle of more talks with the Tories and even failed to demand unequivocally the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act.

Yet not a single left wing or Communist Party delegate challenged the NUPE secretary's approach.

The issue, Fisher claimed, was

not whether the TUC should talk to Heath, but what it should say to him.

'The TUC must make it quite clear that it is not prepared merely to discuss whether Phase Three increases should be 8 per cent or 9 per cent or 10 per cent. It must table a whole package which represents an alternative to government policies.'

The package should include: curbs on rents, interest and profits; tight control of prices with subsidies for basic foods, scrapping of rent increases under the Housing Finance Act; the scrapping of laws 'which prevent free collective bargaining and which limit the right of unions to represent their members' interests.

These were the kind of demands that had to be put to Heath if there was to be any purpose in talking to him.

Late yesterday afternoon delegates were considering in private session whether to call industrial action in support of members facing court action for their picketing activities during the recent hospital workers' dispute.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

Merthyr Tydfil

Given by Gerry Healy, National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League

Wednesday May 9

The materialist conception of History

Wednesday May 16

Dialectical Materialism— a Marxist theory of knowledge

Wednesday May 23

Theory and Practice of Marxism

Wednesday May 30

Role of the revolutionary party at

St David's Church Hall, Church Street, Merthyr 7.30 p.m.

Jarrow

Given by Cliff Slaughter SLL Central Committee member

Civic Hall, Jarrow 7.30 p.m.

Mondays May 14 and 21

The Socialist Revolution in Britain:

2. The roots of capitalist crisis: Marxism and the contradictions of capitalism. Britain and the world crisis.

3. The state and revolution. Reformism and revolution in Britain. The fight for democratic rights today means preparing for working-class power.

Basic reading: Perspectives for transforming the SLL into a revolutionary party. Marxist Analysis of the Crisis. Problems of the British Revolution (Trotsky).

Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International, Communist Manifesto.

All Trades Unions

Alliance meetings

TEACHERS' MEETING

The way forward after the NUT conference Thursday, May 24, 7.30 p.m.

Conway Small Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn (admission 10p)

HOSPITAL WORKERS' MEETING

Hospital workers and the fight against the Tory government Tuesday May 29, 7.30 p.m.

Norfolk Room Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, London SW1 (admission 10p)

BUILDING WORKERS' MEETING

TUC must break off talks with Tories! Build revolutionary party! Wednesday, May 30, 7.30 p.m.

Tudor Room Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, London SW1 (admission 10p)

POSTAL WORKERS' MEETING

Break off secret talks with the Tories! Force the Tories to resign! Sunday, June 3, 10.30 a.m.

Conway Small Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn (admission 10p)

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Aberdare occupation ended with bonus guarantees

PRODUCTION workers at Aberdare Cables agreed after an eight-hour meeting with management on Friday night to end their five-week occupation and return to normal working yesterday.

A pay deal agreed some nine months ago gave considerable bonus payments. These were calculated on six months' productivity.

But during the first six months, starting in October, a number of

factors prevented the bonus target being met.

The workers claim this resulted in pay cuts of £9 a week.

Management refused to review the scheme as agreed in April. So the production workers began their occupation.

Last week a deputation went to the national General and Municipal Workers' Union head-

quarters and lobbied MPs, seeking support.

Last Thursday a factory ballot was conducted by the union about the occupation.

On the same day a deputation from the occupation committee led by John Jenkins, G&MWU branch secretary, and Mervyn Fiddler, chairman, met officials from the Department of Employment about a possible meeting with management.

After a second meeting and a move by the management to isolate the production workers outside the plant, a meeting between the occupiers and the management was finally held inside the factory.

As a result, the management have agreed to guarantee seven weeks pay calculated on production during the six months prior to October while negotiations take place about introducing a compensation factor into the bonus agreement.

Easter holidays will also be paid.

The day shift returned to work yesterday morning.

Garage picket acquitted: One fined

KINGSTON engineering shop steward, Phil Penn, has been cleared of obstruction charges which arose out of picketing during a three-week strike at Lankesters service garage last month.

Penn, a panel beater at Lankesters Kingston Road garage, was first arrested on April 6 and charged with wilful obstruction of the footway under section 72 of the Highways Act 1835. This charge was later changed to wilful obstruction of the highway under section 121 of the 1959 Act. No reason was given for the change.

He was again arrested on Friday April 13—along with his brother Terry—charged with wilful obstruction of the highway. His brother was charged with obstruction of a police officer in the course of his duty.

Terry Penn was arrested when his brother attempted to hand

him a wallet containing the strikers' funds.

Both were remanded on bail in spite of a police application to refuse bail for Phil Penn and to ban them both from the area of the strike-bound garage until after the hearing.

During the Kingston magistrates' court hearing last week the case against Phil Penn was thrown out because of contradictory police and prosecution evidence.

Terry Penn was found guilty of obstructing a policeman and fined a nominal £5.

The strike was for recognition of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in negotiations on a new pay structure in the garage and for better rates for apprentices who were being paid 24p an hour.

All Trades Unions Alliance Public Meetings

What next after the miners' ballot? The fight against the Tory government

CASTLEFORD: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Sagar St Rooms. Speaker: G. Healy (National Secretary SLL).

BARNSELY: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Masons Arms. Speaker: Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee).

All Trades Unions Alliance

DOCKERS' MEETING

LIVERPOOL

No supplementary registers. Defend the dock labour scheme! Force the Tories to resign!

A Labour government must nationalize the docks and transport industries under workers' control

SUNDAY MAY 13, 7.30 p.m.

Mona Hotel James Street (near tube station)

Young Socialists Students Society

CONFERENCE

Supplementary cash grants now! Fight rising prices! Defend the right to higher education! Forward to the revolutionary party!

SATURDAY MAY 12, 2 p.m.—10 p.m.

Lecture Theatre A, ground floor Mechanical Engineering Department IMPERIAL COLLEGE, LONDON

Special Branch is bugged in Dublin

TWO MEN, one a post office employee, are to be charged in connection with the tapping of telephones at the headquarters of the Irish Special Branch in Dublin.

And there were suggestions yesterday that the telephones of Government Ministers may also have been bugged.

The charges follow the discovery in a Dublin flat of

cassette recordings and transcripts of police telephone calls.

The police raid on the flat also uncovered transcripts of conversations made by senior Special Branch men—including, it is said, one telephone call made by the Special Branch

head, Chief Superintendent John Fleming.

Urgent talks on the spying are to be held at Dublin police headquarters. The Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, and the Minister for Justice, Mr Pat-

rick Cooney, may be involved in the discussions.

Last December a British agent and an Irish police officer were arrested for handling secret information in the Department of C3—the Irish police section dealing mainly with IRA affairs.

Both men were given prison sentences, but were immediately released and have now left Ireland.

Harland and Wolff jobs in jeopardy

BY WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

THE JOBS of a further 3,000 workers at Belfast's Harland and Wolff shipyard hung in the balance yesterday, as management met to discuss more lay-offs.

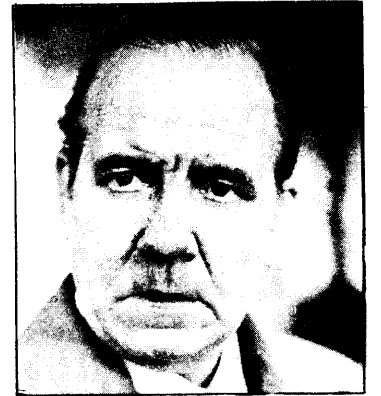
These involve the ancillary workers and outfitters whose work is closely allied to that of the shipbuilding steelworkers — the men at the centre of the dispute.

All shipbuilding at the yard — Europe's biggest — has stopped since the last of the 2,500 steelworkers were paid off on Friday.

The 13-week dispute, which led to an overtime ban by the steelworkers, is over non-payment of bonuses. The men refused an appeal by boiler-makers' president Danny McGarvey to call off the ban.

There is speculation that Tory Secretary for Ulster, Mr William Whitelaw, may intervene in an attempt to end the dispute.

Stormont MP Mr Vivian Simpson, of the Northern Ireland Labour Party, visited Whitelaw last night to discuss the situation at the yard.



McGarvey . . . Thwarted

Exert influence — says SDLP

Reformists take 'full part' in Ulster poll

NORTHERN IRELAND'S Social Democratic and Labour Party is to play 'a full part' in the new local government.

A Belfast conference of the Party's 170 council candidates rejected the abstention policy such as the Civil Rights Association, the Republican Clubs and the Republican Labour Party.

These groups have demanded that successful candidates should refuse to take their seats on the new district authorities.

Other Republican organizations have called for a total boycott of the May 30 poll.

But the SDLP's manifesto says the new councillors 'must be allowed to exert their influence in the newly-created corridors of power'. It goes on: 'We shall not reject the first small advance of reform when it presents itself.'

Stormont MP Mr John Hume declared: 'We are not concerned about abstentionism. We are not going to repeat the mistakes of the 1930s and allow a Unionist misuse of power.'

THREE MEN, two from Northern Ireland, appeared before the Dublin Special Criminal Court yesterday charged with possessing nearly five tons of explosive. They were remanded in custody until May 22.

All three were arrested during police checks in the border town of Dundalk on Sunday. But the charges against the three were unconnected with the deaths of three British soldiers killed by booby trap bombs in Crossmaglen, County Armagh, on Saturday.

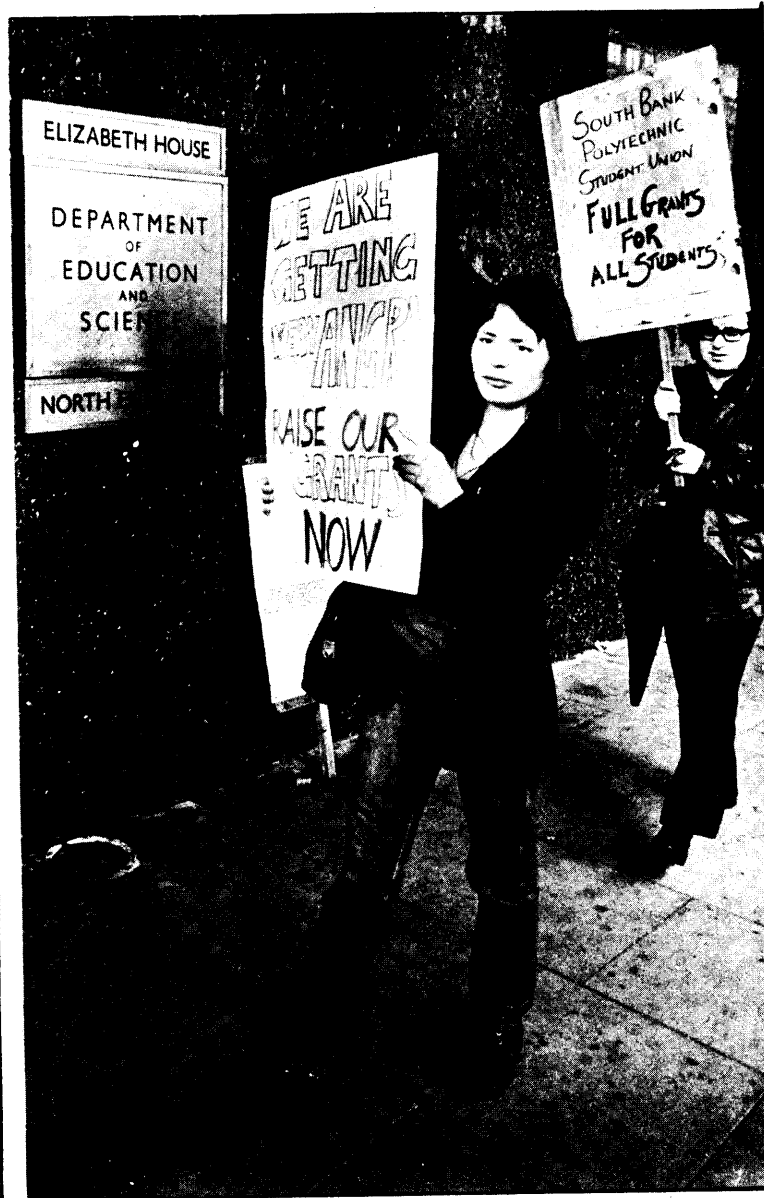
Altogether eight men were arrested in Dundalk and a further two near Blessington, County Wicklow, after detectives raided IRA training grounds.

The arrests are part of the intensified anti-IRA drive by the 'law-and-order' Liam Cosgrave government.



Whitelaw . . . the Tories' Ulster man gets full reformist backing for his poll plan.

Students picket Ministry demanding higher grants



STUDENTS began picketing the Department of Education and Science yesterday as part of the official campaign for higher grants.

They will be there 'all day, every day' until May 21, after which it will be administratively impossible to put any changes into effect.

Digby Jacks, outgoing president of the students' union, was present and handed in a letter to the Department. He said later that he thought the Department was concerned about its 'political image' and that the picketing campaign would be successful.

He said students from all over the country would be joining in.

BRIEFLY • BRIEFLY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS Staff Association is to appeal against the National Industrial Relations Court decision not to investigate its claim to represent telephonists in negotiations with the Post Office in preference to the Union of Post Office Workers.

PHASE TWO pay deal for 500,000 civil servants under which the higher paid had to give up some of their £1 plus 4 per cent increase so that the lower paid could get up to 40p a week more above the norm has been approved by the Civil Service Department.

BRITISH RAIL carriage workers in York walked out yesterday in a dispute over shortage of materials. The dispute was in the building shop where production was stopped after three men were sent home for refusing to work on carriages for which no bonus was payable. The rest of the men walked out in sympathy. The 200 men are calling for an inquiry into the system worked in the shop, as they say they are losing money because materials are not arriving from outside suppliers.

Ford pay fight scuttled?

THE VOTE by 2,000 Ford workers at Swansea to accept the £2.20 Phase Two pay deal throws further doubt on the call for all-out strike action at Ford's 21 plants by the union side of the national negotiating committee last week.

Union officials and shop stewards have dissipated the initial hostility to the Tory pay laws which led to spontaneous walk-outs at Ford plants when first announced.

The engineering union executive meets today to discuss the strike call. The full union side meets again on May 17 and will meet Ford's the following day.

A NEW PAY deal for 26,000 Vauxhall car workers will again be discussed at a joint meeting on Friday. No agreement could be reached when the two sides met last month.

The company has offered an across-the-board increase of £2.40 a week, with fringe benefits for hourly-paid workers at Luton, Dunstable, and Ellesmere Port. They could have two extra days' holiday, if they accepted an increase of only £2.20.

This offer is within the limits of the Tory government's state pay laws of £1 plus 4 per cent.

HEATH BAITS PHASE THREE TRAP

FROM PAGE 1

But sacrifices by workers to help the capitalist system get out of its economic crisis are exactly what the trade union leaders are required to deliver as the only way of preventing the class struggle developing into a revolutionary confrontation.

And this is what they have agreed to do in the secret talks.

The TUC leaders are likely to present some package deal to the trade union movement later in the year inviting 'voluntary' participation in a programme of wage restraint, backed by legal sanctions of course, in return for price 'restraint' and the anti-union law reforms.

Attached to it will possibly be a cost-of-living threshold agree-

ment which allegedly will compensate workers for any rises in prices which their held-back wages cannot cover.

But this will be as big a fraud as the current Phase Two controls which are meant to be as 'fair' in restraining prices as they are in holding back wages.

It is clear that the rate of price inflation will be so high by the autumn that any state controls over wages will inevitably lay the working class open to the most serious defeats they have yet faced in the fight to maintain their standard of living and their basic democratic rights during this crisis of the capitalist system.

Underneath all the Tory soft soap poured out over the weekend about their willingness to discuss every question fairly with

the TUC, the essential truth of the matter remained clear.

The Tories do not intend to allow the trade unions to get back to free collective bargaining, as Commons leader James Prior pointedly spelled out in a speech at Cambridge.

The Tory propaganda offensive is window-dressing in case they need to renew their mandate at a General Election. It also provides a cover for the real treachery being prepared at the TUC-government talks.

The working class must denounce these deceptions and demand that the TUC leaders break off all talks with the Tory government and instead start a campaign for its enforced resignation through industrial and political action.