

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • MONDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 1972 • No. 877 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TORIES WILL TELL TUC LEADERS

CUT WAGES

By DAVID MAUDE Our Industrial Correspondent

TORY MINISTERS will tomorrow tell TUC leaders: either help us hold your members' wages way below the rise in the cost of living or we will throw hundreds of thousands of them out of work.

For whatever diplomatic sugaring premier Heath and his colleagues use as a sweetener, this is the real ingredient of their talks with the employers and union chiefs at Downing Street.

Heath, Chancellor Anthony Barber, Industry Secretary John Davies and Treasury chief Sir Douglas Allen met on Saturday to plan their strategy for the talks.

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They want real undertakings about agreement to a form of 'voluntary' incomes policy. Their aim is to hold down all future pay increases to a miserly 7 per cent.

At the same time Heath has ruled out any possibility of a trade with the TUC over the Industrial Relations and Housing Finance Act in order to get their co-operation in wage restraint.

Tenants will thus face the full force of the 'fair rents' law, which will eventually double the cost of much council housing, when it comes into operation next week.

And the National Industrial Relations Court, which comes back from its summer holidays the same day, will plunge straight into a heavy programme of union-bashing.

The NIRC has almost 100 items on its case-list. Many of these are unfair dismissal cases, but a significant number concern allegations of unfair industrial practices, the section of the law under which the dockers were jailed and the Transport and General Workers' Union fined £55,000.

The Tories' strategy for tomorrow's talks is not compromise, but the threat of unemployment.

Over the heads of the union and TUC leaders tomorrow Heath will hold the ultimatum that if effective co-operation is not forthcoming, much-needed finance will be withheld from the coal, rail, steel and electricity-supply industries. A rise in Bank rate, which would cut investment and therefore jobs, may also be mooted.

Sir Douglas Allen can no doubt be counted on to remind TUC secretary Victor Feather and his associates of the Treasury forecast that without wage restraint 1.4 million workers will be out of a job by next year.

This Tory arrogance is built on sand.

By the close of trading on the London stock market last week the share index had fallen to 475.1, compared with its May highpoint of 543.6. Company profitability is also at an all-time low. Common Market entry will provoke a major crisis.

Yet instead of fighting the Tories at their weak point—at a point when the working class is at a high point of militancy, strength and confidence—the union leaders seek to make their members pay the price of Market entry.

OR WE PUT UP JOBLESS

**FUND NEEDS
£1,044.94
WITH ONLY
6 DAYS LEFT**

WE CANNOT stress enough the urgency now for raising our Fund. There are only six days left and it will take one of the toughest struggles so far to complete the target.

We appeal to every one of you, dear readers, to take up the fight now before it is too late.

The very high price increases are greatly eating into your wage-packets, we know that. But Workers Press is the only means we have of fighting back against these huge increases, the growing unemployment and all the attacks of the vicious Tory government.

An extra effort is needed to raise the outstanding £1,044.94.

The Fund can be raised if we pull out all the stops. Do not leave a stone unturned. Wherever possible raise extra amounts and send to:

Workers Press
September Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG.

Miners and LP back YS marchers



THE YOUNG Socialists' Yorkshire regional Right-to-Work march got off to a flying start from Leeds at the weekend.

Backing for the marchers has already come in from the Leeds Labour Party, branches of the National Union of Mineworkers at Bentley and Brodsworth collieries and many other sections of the working class.

After demonstrating through Leeds the marchers covered

the eight miles to Bradford at a cracking pace.

Crowds stopped to watch as they came into the town singing the Right-to-Work song and chanting 'Tories out! Racism out! Socialism in!'

At an evening meeting in the Textile Hall, march leader Ray Jaxon said the march was not a protest, but part of a campaign to build and train a new leadership in the working class.

Congratulations to the marchers for their courage and determination came from Barnsley miner Robbie Roberts. The fight against unemployment was now the foremost question in the pits, he said.

Leaders of Wakefield Trades Council, however, are apparently attempting to hamper the young marchers' progress.

Last week the council voted to support the march and set

up a three-man sub-committee, with a £15 budget, to find accommodation for them. Word has now been received that the chairman is trying to veto the decision, and that no accommodation has been found.

The marchers are continuing to fight for and win support in the area. As one of them said about Wakefield: 'We're coming anyway'.

• See p. 12. NE march ends

workers press

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What we think

Stalinism and the trade unions

FOLLOWING the dockers' and builders' strikes and the splitting of the upper Clyde shipbuilders, the Stalinists who lead the British Communist Party are becoming more and more exposed in the workers' movement.

Stalinism is not the product of political 'confusion', as the revisionists claim. It is a consciously counter-revolutionary force, which represents the reformist peaceful road-to-socialism requirements of the Soviet bureaucracy. It sets out deliberately to smash working-class resistance to the Tory government because the Moscow bureaucrats desire peaceful co-existence with Heath and the Tories.

This government remains in office only because of the support it gets from the Labour and trade union leaders. Yet in conditions of deep economic crisis, every major strike struggle becomes a conflict with the government. This is precisely what Stalinism seeks to obscure. In every strike the

Communist Party fights bitterly to prevent the question of making the Tory government resign being raised.

In the recent dock strike, the Stalinists supported the Jones-Aldington talks. And the Communist Party members among the London stewards avoided a clear call to continue the strike after the Transport and General Workers' Union docks delegates had voted to end it.

The Stalinist stewards were determined not to mobilize the working class politically to challenge the union leadership and the Tory government.

In the builders' strike the Stalinists mouthed left phrases as long as the strike was strong. But at no point did they fight the union leadership or demand an all-out national strike. And when the leadership's betrayal confused the rank and file, it was the Stalinists in key areas in London, Leeds and Liverpool who led the call for a return to work.

At Upper Clyde Shipbuilders the

Stalinist stewards' committee leaders, Reid and Airlie, imposed the reformist 'work-in' strategy which has resulted in thousands of jobs being lost. The Ridley 'butcher' plan and the Industrial Relations Act have been accepted by the Stalinists in deals which do not guarantee a single job. The yards have been split and the men confused.

At this point, the Stalinists blame the workers, calling them 'rat-racers' pursuing 'sectional interests' and wanting the stewards to carry out 'dirty work'.

And in blaming the workers, the Stalinists are supported by the revisionists. The International Socialists' 'Socialist Worker' declared on August 26 that the London dockers were 'unworthy of their stewards'.

Yet 1972 has seen tremendous demonstrations of working-class militancy involving miners, railwaymen, dockers, builders, shipyard workers and others. The economic crisis gives such battles the character

of a step in the struggle for political power.

At the same time—as is demonstrated in Ulster—the ruling class prepares for counter-revolutionary dictatorship and therefore every betrayal leaves the working class open to serious dangers.

Reformist trade unionism, however militant, must inevitably compromise with the Tory government. Without revolutionary leadership, trade union struggles cannot win. The central task in the unions today is to replace Stalinist and reformist leadership with revolutionary leadership.

That is why the basis of Trotskyism is the insistence of the Socialist Labour League on the continual training of cadres to understand Stalinism as an international counter-revolutionary force.

Stalinism slaughtered the leadership of the Russian Revolution in the Moscow Trials. It betrayed the Chinese Revolution to Chiang Kai-shek in 1927. It subordinated the

General Strike to the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee in 1926. It delivered the German working class to Hitler in 1933 and the Spanish workers and peasants to Franco in 1937.

Stalinism has not changed. Those who pay lip-service to condemning the crimes of Stalin but who refuse to examine the Moscow Trials and the historical record of Stalinism in order to fight it and defeat it today are little more than liberals.

This is the role of the anti-communist, centrist International Socialist group. By refusing to fight Stalinism, in particular by refusing to raise the question of bringing down the Tory government, they align themselves with the Stalinists in practice in order to keep the working class within the limits of reformism.

It is the task of a revolutionary workers' paper to fight these false policies every day. That is what Workers Press has done and will continue to do.

Spain: Car and shipyard workers out on streets

ARMED POLICE charged 2,000 workers demonstrating outside the Citroën factory in Vigo, northern Spain, at the weekend.

The management claims 1,800 men have returned to work and has demanded that the whole labour-force returns before it will resume negotiations on the workers' demand for a 44-hour week and re-instatement of nine sacked workers.

Workers' representatives say that 800 are working and have repeated that no return to work will take place until the nine men are re-employed.

At least 2,500 workers in other Vigo industries have now been given dismissal notices for refusing to end their sympathy strikes.

About 100 miles north of Vigo, in El Ferrol, Franco's birthplace, fascist police were also in action.

They broke up a demonstration protesting against the pending military trial of eight shipyard workers held in jail since last February's strike.

Marchers carried posters and distributed leaflets reading, 'Down with military courts'.

The mild protests registered by the Danish and Norwegian governments at President Pompidou's support for Spain's entry to the Common Market are expressions of fear that such forthright talk may influence voters to vote 'No' in the referendum to be held in both countries this and next weekend on EEC entry.

The recent disclosure by Seat, the car company jointly owned by the Italian Fiat and Franco's government, that they made £10½m profits last year, in spite of the bitter strike in the Barcelona plant, can only accelerate Spain's entry into Europe.

Marcos arrests opposition politicians and guerrillas

MARTIAL law was imposed throughout the Philippines at the weekend and at least 20 people, including opposition politicians and journalists, were detained in Manila.

President Ferdinand Marcos said the measures were directed against increasing communist subversion: 'I have had to use this power in order not to lose our civil rights,' he said.

'I have prayed for guidance... I am confident that with God's help we will attain a reformed society and a new and brighter world,' Marcos said. 'We must start with the elimination of anarchy and the maintenance of peace and order.'

Marcos is one of the most virulent anti-communists in Asia. His corrupt regime is maintained by huge American hand-outs and strong-arm gangster methods.

The president's own position has become increasingly shaky since his rigged re-election in 1969. Rising prices, industrial stagnation and growing unrest among the population have undermined whatever social base the regime had.

Political terrorism, endemic in the Philippines since the war, has flared up to a new peak in recent months.

Marcos wants to off-load the blame for these developments on the underground guerrilla



Two Maoist guerrillas of the New People's Army captured in Manila

Manila martial law

army which almost ousted him in the early 1950s and has never been completely destroyed.

The Huks, led by the Philippine Communist Party, have gained ground in recent months, according to Marcos' aides.

The most active guerrilla force is a faction of the original Huk movement called the New People's Army, led by pro-Peking Stalinists.

The NPA yesterday claimed Marcos was using the communist

bogy in order to mobilize the army and seize absolute power.

Certainly the scare stories being circulated by government ministers have an unreal air.

One claimed the Huks were planning to use fighter planes to bomb the presidential palace and overthrow Marcos.

Among those arrested in the pre-dawn police

swoops which accompanied Marcos' decree of martial law was Senator Benigno Aquino, leader of the opposition Liberal Party, accused of clandestine contacts with the guerrillas.

Yesterday in Manila troops were posted in newspaper offices and radio stations and were also reported to have moved into the university of the Philippines.

All passengers leaving the country were required to obtain special travel permits from the president's office.

Tension at IMF gathering

NONE OF the outstanding issues between the main capitalist countries are resolved as they gather in Washington for the International Monetary Fund's annual meeting today.

Tension is heightened by reports that President Nixon will open the conference with a 'bombshell' announcement of protectionist measures directed against European and Japanese exports.

According to Pierre-Rinfret, Nixon's campaign adviser on economic questions, the measures could include a 150-per-cent import surcharge on steel, cars and electronic goods.

● See Tanaka's Peking visit p. 12.

Crackdown on Arabs by West German police

THE WEST German government of Social Democrat Willy Brandt has started to crackdown on Arabs working and studying there.

The harassment and detention of Arabs has raised a protest from the Egyptian government. Twenty-five Arabs living in

Munich have been ordered to leave. They include Magdi el Gawhary, a student who helped police negotiate with Palestinian guerrillas after the attack on the Israeli Olympic team.

Following the police announcement the West German National Union of Students accused authorities of persecuting Arabs since the killings.

Egypt has retaliated by saying that unless 'the ill-treatment and the restrictions' imposed on Egyptians in West Germany ceased within 24 hours, Egypt will resort to the same measures.

Relations between Cairo and Bonn were restored recently after seven years and observers are forecasting another 'diplomatic rift'.

In the United Nations a debate on 'terrorist violence' has been brought onto the agenda for the next plenary session following a hotly-contested debate.

Many African and Middle East countries opposed the suggestion of the debate while the Soviet countries abstained.

Opposing the resolution Cuban

ambassador Ricardo Alarcon Quesada said that what the assembly should deal with was the 'criminal' activities of the United States in Indo-China and elsewhere and the violence of the 'slavery of colonialism'.

US representative George Bush said his country and people were 'gratified' by the assembly's action.

MORE TORY WEAPONS AGAINST WORKERS

Part 23 of a series on Picketing by Bernard Franks

The Tories have launched a political offensive against the working class. The Industrial Relations Act is the cornerstone. Other laws also aim to seriously weaken the fighting ability of the working class. These include:

The Immigration Act

This attempts to separate black and white workers into units apart and hostile to each other. Enoch Powell is in no way an 'outsider' of the Tory Party on this subject. On the contrary, he spearheads their racialist attack.

He has long been a keen advocate of the Industrial Relations Act. In February 1969 he attacked the draughtsmen's union's closed shop at Esso's Fawley plant as 'injustice and tyranny which the law at present condones and suffers' adding: 'Who are we to martyr ourselves and our shareholders to resist and expose it.' He forecast Tory legislation to withdraw immunity from enforcement of the closed-shop saying: 'Only when this is done will firms like Esso be free.' ('The Times', December 22, 1969.)

The Social Security Act

Numerous restrictions have already been made in payments of benefit to families of workers on strike and the Tories are threatening more attacks to come.

Under the Act of last year, payment for the first three days of unemployment is abolished and the £4.35 of a strikers' income, including tax rebate and strike pay, previously disregarded, is cut to £1. This means that the income of some workers on strike can be £3.35 short—a blatant case of getting at strikers through their families.

The Act also makes the money paid after a striker has returned to work, to carry him up to pay day, recoverable through his employer. At the time, Minister Keith Joseph described the Act as 'distinctly political, and with distinct political overtones'.

Today, the Tories say the Act did not go far enough, and the unions should be made to pay. The fact is, that in a dispute the Social Security system acts as an arm of the state and the employers to drive the workers back to work.

That strikers' families are the Tories' target was indicated by Keith Joseph, Minister of Social Services, who said earlier this year:

'There is a great deal of resentment from supporters on both sides of the House about payments of public money to the dependants of strikers.'

Some measures the Tories are considering are the enforced repayments of benefits after a strike is over, a ban on welfare payments to strikers after they have rejected arbitration and deferment of tax refunds until a strike is over.

The Night Assemblies Bill

As originally planned, this was to make it a criminal offence to hold any gathering



Kent miners on unofficial strike in 1970 queue for the last money they were to receive till they returned to work weeks later.

of over 1,000 people (later amended to 5,000) in the open air for any period of three hours between midnight and 6 a.m. without first applying to a local authority for consent at least four months before, and without guaranteeing certain financial security.

Wide powers would be given to local authorities to ban such an assembly on the basis of the site being unsuitable. Anyone holding an assembly, giving notice of one or allowing land to be used for one in contravention of the Act could be liable to a fine of £400.

The Bill also provided for a 'code of practice' to be circulated to local authorities by the Secretary of State advising on the conditions which should control the holding of such an assembly.

Even if only aimed at pop festivals as claimed—though the term does not appear in the Bill—it would constitute more discrimination against young people.

However its restrictions are laid down in general terms which could equally apply to trade union or political rallies.

Admittedly, these do not often occur at night; but with entire industries on shift work, or, for example, with the advent of an emergency, the situation could be very different.

Proscribing organizations

An extremely sinister piece of legislation for the entire labour movement this was recently given a formal first reading in the Commons. Introduced by Conservative Ronald Bray, it would:

'Proscribe the establishment

of offices, depots, accommodation addresses or locations within the United Kingdom, by any person or organization whose declared intentions may prejudice, militate against, or be in any way hostile to the United Kingdom and the safety of citizens of the United Kingdom or British Commonwealth.'

Bray spoke of his concern over the proposal of the Palestine Liberation Organization to set up an office in London. Workers in Britain should unreservedly oppose the Bill if indeed it were only aimed at this organization. However, the Bill is in fact couched in the most general terms which would make it available against virtually any workers' organization—union, strike committees, political parties and so on.

All of these are regularly said to be involved in actions endangering 'the country' or 'the public interest', particularly during national strikes or a state of emergency.

According to Section 1. (2) of the Bill:

'The activities to which this Bill applies are the establishment or operation of offices, depots, accommodation addresses or other addresses or locations within the United Kingdom, and any of the following activities ancillary thereto—

'(a) the collecting or obtaining of monies, equipment or other goods or materials for the purposes referred to in this subsection;

'(b) the passing or transmitting to any other person or organization of monies, equipment or other goods or materials for those purposes; and

'(c) any other form of activity intended to encourage, facili-

tate or otherwise promote the collection or disbursement of monies, equipment, goods or materials for those purposes.'

Also (2)-(1):

'A proscribed person or organization shall be liable on conviction to forfeit all monies, equipment, other goods and materials collected or obtained by them for the purposes of Section 1(2) of this Act.'

A proscribed organization would be liable on conviction to a fine of up to £10,000 and

a proscribed person to a fine of up to £5,000 or imprisonment for up to five years, or both.

The fight to defend every strike and nullify these Acts is made first and foremost by the struggle to defeat the Tories and elect a Labour government which will be committed to its repeal and to implementing truly socialist policies.

TOMORROW: REFORMISTS AND STALINISTS



The Night Assemblies Bill was aimed not only at Pop festivals but at trade union and political rallies as well.

BEHIND THE DOLLAR LAND CRASH

BY ALEX MITCHELL

Next month the annual general meeting of Dollar Land Company will be held. At this unusual gathering the accounts for two years, 1970 and 1971, will be presented.

The chairman of the company, John Tyzack, industrial consultant, took over two years ago when the company had no directors at all.

Now he has a couple of partners, plus a battalion of angry shareholders who are confused about the mysterious crash in the once glamour company's fortunes.

One newspaper columnist recently described Dollar Land as one of the longest running melodramas in Britain outside 'Coronation Street'.

The parallel, however appropriate, disguises the intense wrangling that has gone on behind the scenes in a business story which glaringly reveals the way both the police and the Board of Trade (now Department of Trade and Industry) are prepared to let unseemly business behaviour run riot.

Only in the past week has a glimpse of the company's workings been provided by the Ombudsman, the so-called parliamentary watchdog.

In his report he criticizes the departmental authorities for not investigating the company's affairs.

Despite persistent requests, successive government ministers, both Tory and Labour, refused to launch an official inquiry, although it was plain to everyone in the City of London that all was not well inside the embattled company. Even after the Stock Exchange suspended quotation of the shares in 1969, the President of the Board of Trade, Roy Mason, refused to budge.

'FLEECED'

It has now been revealed that even the Ombudsman's report was delayed in publication. It was completed in July, but not published until September 11. The delay has not been explained.

One explanation for its hurried appearance in print might be the revelations made in the House of Commons on August 3 by West Ham North's Labour MP, Arthur Lewis. He alleged in the House that crooked companies had fleeced shareholders of millions of pounds. And he named 'the most glaring ones'—including Dollar Land.

He described it as 'the most notorious'. 'The shareholders were sent entirely false prospectuses and wrong information and from that day to this they have never been given any help, assistance or protection.' The former directors, honourable men, were moved out by 'American gangsters'. They had sought an inquiry, but no action was taken, he added.

Registered in this country, the idea of Dollar Land was to raise money in Britain to buy prime real estate in the United States. At this time—the late 1950s—US property was being touted around as the safest and most lucrative buy on earth.

This was the same concept promoted by Jerome D. Hoffman and his Real Estate Fund

of America, which also crashed spectacularly some years later. (Mr Lewis also named REFA in the House last month as one of his 13 'notorious' companies.)

The company first came to the notice of the authorities in 1960 just over one year after it was floated. A bid was made at a meeting instigated by Edward de Courcy, publisher and company director, to oust the chairman and board of directors.

Their rowdy attack on the board was well received. After all, the company's initial performance was less than satisfactory. Offered in January 1959 at 28s a share, the price slumped to 17s 18 months later. This meant a drop in total share value of more than £1m, a disastrous start for the infant property company.

At the shareholders meeting at Caxton Hall one subscriber said that the profits forecast in the prospectus was 'near criminal'.

The men whose heads were on the block were the chairman, Mr John French, of London and Yorkshire Trust, which floated the company at 28s a share, and directors the Earl of Mansfield, Sir Ernest Lever, Mr Francis Blake, Mr Clarence Hampton and Mr Paul Boggis-Rolfe.

In a circular to shareholders de Courcy said the company had 'stagnated'. There was £400,000 of surplus funds still dormant while unimproved property remained unused. This, he maintained, was in striking contrast to the 'brilliant moves' of then Mr Charles, now Sir Charles Clore. Opportunities to buy property had been mishandled.

However, de Courcy's attempt to unseat the board and have himself and three associates installed in their jobs was defeated. But the board did agree to call in outside accountants to conduct an independent inquiry into the group's affairs.

Those who follow these matters will recall that de Courcy went on in his business career and a few years ago was jailed on corruption charges.

Then followed a series of boardroom putches in which the directors kept coming and going like Jumbos at Heathrow.

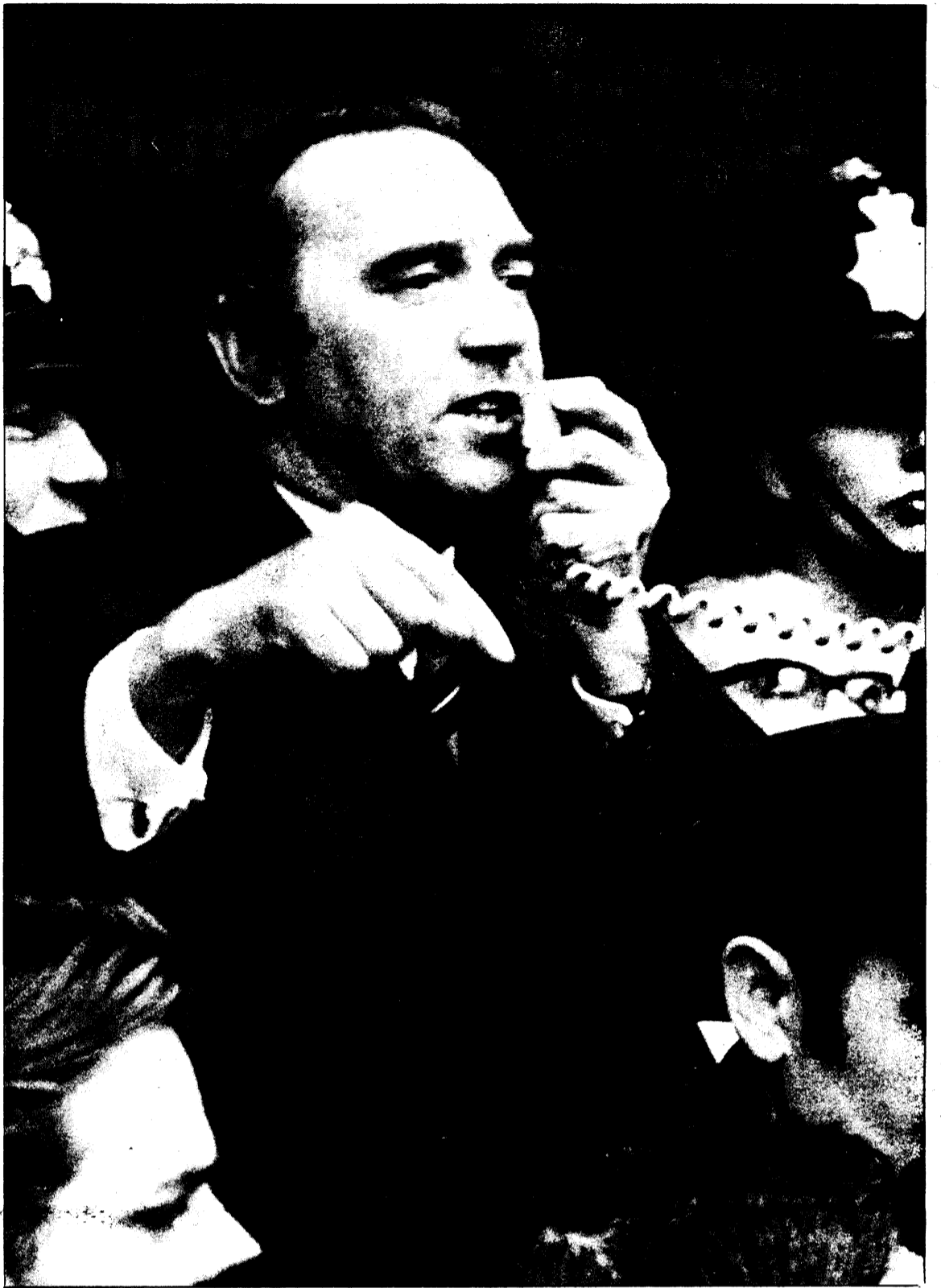
One of the first 'saviours' on the scene was Mr Joseph Tankoos, a Canadian property man. After pouring a modest amount of capital into the group he issued a statement to shareholders astonishing for its frankness:

'But we are not putting Dollar Land into the hockshop business. If anyone thinks the rates are risky, well, I shouldn't be here today to put £200,000 into your company. That's the way I trade.

'I should also tell you that nine-tenths of all the talk in the real-estate business comes to nothing.'

But he went on to remind shareholders: 'We intend to make a great deal of money out of Dollar Land, and if we do you will make a lot of money, too. We are putting £62,500 into the company without hope of recall. And if we do make a great and glorious thing of this, we are stuck with it.'

Tankoos brought with him American property wizard, Mr Elliot Yarmon. Chairman John French was exuberant about



Roy Mason then President of the Board of Trade rejected an official inquiry into Dollar Land

the acquisition of such talent: 'Mr Tankoos and Mr Yarmon expect to make a great deal of money out of their options. If they make money, so will the rest of the shareholders.'

But by 1967 City accountants, Peat, Marwick and property experts, Edward Erdman, had to be called in to investigate the group's affairs.

Following the detailed report, Tankoos and Yarmon resigned. After criticizing the purchase of a number of pieces of US real estate, the report declared: 'It does not seem to us appropriate to reappoint Mr Tankoos and Mr Yarmon as general managers.'

At the next annual meeting in 1969 it became clear why the report was so swift in dealing with the North Americans. Shareholders were told that there was 'a substantial error' in the consolidated balance sheet of the troubled group: Net assets attributed to Dollar Land for the year to December 31, 1967, had been overstated by more than £1m.

Assets were only worth £2.1m and not £3.2m as stated in the balance sheet.

VOTED OUT

The new chairman, Mr A. E. Gottesman—by this stage John French and the rest of the board had been voted out—told shareholders the error was 'due to a misinterpretation made by the auditors, Charles Impey and Company, when they were restating at market value rather than cost the amount of the group's investment in joint tenancies and associated companies.'

By this stage in its ten-year career, Dollar Land, the once

glamour proposition, was regarded as one of the most controversial outfits ever to set up in the property business. It had been plagued with legal actions—one long-running case in the US cost those concerned about \$6,000 a day.

By early 1970, after six years of Labour rule, pressure mounted for an official inquiry.

On February 18, 1970, Arthur Lewis asked Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, parliamentary secretary to the Board of Trade, if she would make an official inquiry into the company's operations. The board was 'considering it', she replied.

On February 22 the Tory 'Sunday Telegraph' reported: 'There is bad news this week for the long-suffering shareholders in Dollar Land. After looking at the evidence and taking legal advice, the Board of Trade has decided not to appoint an inspector to look into the company's affairs. An inquiry is clearly necessary as we have argued strenuously in these columns for many weeks.'

When the then President of the Board of Trade, Mr Roy Mason, an NUM-sponsored MP, rejected an official inquiry, he was not merely slapping down the Tory press. A formal application for an investigation had also come from 100 shareholders who had signed a petition expressing deep anxiety about the affair. The deputation to the board was headed by Mr Lewis who was acting as proxy for a housewife in his constituency.

Two months later, on April 29, Lewis put a question in the Commons to Mrs Dunwoody:

'The Sunday Times' has been mentioned, but 'The Sunday Times', the 'Sunday Telegraph', the 'Daily Telegraph' and all the newspapers

reported to the Board of Trade for years that Dollar Land Holdings never issued company reports and completely avoided the Companies Act. Why does the Minister not take action with regard to the scandal of Dollar Land Holdings?'

She replied: 'Mr Lewis has discussed this case with me and with various shareholders of the company. Board of Trade powers to take action are clearly defined and when we have evidence we will take action.'

Pressure continued until, on June 7, ten days before the General Election, the Ombudsman announced he was making an investigation.

By this stage the share quotation had been suspended for more than a year, no dividend had been paid since 1965 and the last accounts covered only up to 1968. Even these accounts were difficult to fathom; the auditor's report was heavily qualified because they had been unable to get information 'which would have enabled them to form an opinion' of the accounts.

In his report published last week the Ombudsman states: 'Although I recognize that they [the Board of Trade] gave the matter careful consideration at the time, it seems to me that, in the circumstances of this case, the discretionary decision of the department not to appoint inspectors in 1970 reflected an error of judgement.'

When the ruling class wants to take legal action against trade unionists, immigrants or working-class youngsters, it has not the slightest inhibition. The drawn-out controversy of Dollar Land is ample confirmation of the class nature of law and accountability in capitalist society.

FURTHER SCANDAL IN THE FIFTH REPUBLIC

The revelations of government corruption in France by former civil servant Gabriel Aranda have not as yet involved any leading ministers in Pierre Messmer's government. But they have added greatly to the atmosphere of corruption surrounding the Fifth Republic.

After the scandal around Chaban-Delmas and with the prospect of bitter struggle against the working class in the autumn, M. Aranda prepares the ground for strongman activity to 'purify' French politics.

Aranda, who last caused a stir in 1962 when he published a book which purported to show that Mussolini had in fact been a Soviet agent in a communist plot to take over the world, has aimed this blow at the French government out of horror at arms sales to 'fanatical Arab nations' and corruption in the Gaullist party he supports.

He has now accused several members of the Gaullist UDR of using their positions to help business friends get government contracts.

It seems that Gerard Sibeud, deputy for la Drome, used notepaper sent by Aranda's boss, Minister Albin Chalandon, to get planning permis-

sion for a supermarket. Between the ministerial heading and the minister's signature he stuck a statement which he himself wrote, granting permission to start the building.

The affair reached the cabinet and M. Chalandon demanded sanctions, but his colleague, Jacques Chirac, intervened to explain that the affair must be stifled if the UDR was not going to lose a seat in parliament. This is the level of Aranda's tales.

On Monday, Pierre Messmer stated on French radio that he had asked Aranda to appear before a judge if he was so sure of his position.

Christian Fouchet, Gaullist and former Minister, has alleged slowness in pursuing corruption and called for early elections:

'If the present climate is not purified by rigorous action, it will be necessary as soon as possible to call General Elections and give the choice to the people. If not, there is a risk that we shall reach a point when the usual political procedures will not be sufficient.'

Aranda, the man who worked himself up from running a pastry shop to a Stock Exchange financial expert by the age of 29, is stirring up much more with his revelations than they might seem to merit.

Top right: M. Aranda stirring up the affair to cabinet level. Right: Pierre Messmer, French PM.



US STUDENTS FORCED TO DROP COURSES

Education budget cuts throughout the US have forced hundreds of thousands of American youth to leave college for good. In New York alone college vacancies for the autumn term stand at 300,000 because of the numbers of students who have had to drop their courses.

At the same time some major New York colleges have increased tuition fees by \$300, forcing many students already enrolled to leave again.

College enrolment has dropped throughout the country. The national average registration is only 1.3 per cent up on last year's figure—the lowest in the last decade.

In 13 western states, 98,000 students did not register for the term beginning in September. Many others have been forced to drop four-year courses in favour of the less expensive two-year ones.

In Chicago, 12,000 youth at college now have to pay an extra \$30 annual tuition tax. City government sources predict this will bring in an annual profit of \$300,000, which, they say, will be used to bring more guards on to college campuses.

And in California registration for courses in major colleges has dropped drastically and athletics programmes are to be reduced by 15 per cent.

These cutbacks have been accompanied by a rash of justifications from scientists whose 'theories' all lead to the conclusion that some youth cannot learn anyway, either because of the 'wrong' background, lack of intelligence, or because of the well-known 'fact' that minority and black youth are all stupid from birth.

One example of such 'theories' is the report from the Harvard University research team, headed by Professor Christopher Jenck. He received a \$500,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation to study the 'effects of social con-



Above: US students. Those who can't meet the expense, leave.

ditions on a student's learning capacity'.

Jenck's report stated that 'the character of a school's output depends largely on a single input, namely the characteristic of its children.

'Everything else—the school budget, its policies, the characteristics of its teachers—is either secondary or irrelevant. We do not find those [schools] with fat budgets turning out more skilled alumni than those with inadequate budgets.'

Presumably a return to the teaching standards of the log-cabin days of Abraham Lincoln would not have any

effect either. Why not then do away with school buildings altogether — it would save considerable expense!

Such is the logical conclusion of the proposals of US capitalism for the education of the country's youth.

But the deep and revolutionary crisis of the economic system today lays the basis for the development of such reactionary theories among the ruling class. In Germany in the 1930s, Hitler did away with the need for education altogether—he had the concentration camps and the gas chambers.

DUTCH BUDGET

Stringent austerity measures are contained in the new budget introduced in the Dutch parliament last week by Finance Minister Roelof Nelissen.

The discussion inside the cabinet on the Budget measures was so heated that two members resigned in protest against the rundown in education expenditure.

The cuts were part of a package of measures aimed at reducing the budget deficit estimated at £400m.

They will impose a further heavy burden on the working class, which has already been hit by steeply rising prices.

Over the last two years, according to the Dutch Central Planning Bureau, bread has gone up 14 per cent in price, groceries 9 per cent, meat 12 per cent, shoes 23 per cent, clothing 12 per cent and furniture 20 per cent.

Under the Budget, income tax goes up 1 per cent all round, value-added tax rises 2 per cent to 16 per cent on most items and a staggering 4-5 per cent on essentials like food.

The Budget is likely to go through the parliament despite the split in the ruling coalition, composed of various right-wing religious parties. A General Election is to be held on November 29 to resolve the parliamentary crisis.

MEANWHILE IN A BANKRUPTCY COURT IN WAKEFIELD...

BY ALEX MITCHELL

The cast in an amazing court room melodrama will gather in the Yorkshire town of Wakefield today. Shortly after 10 o'clock the county court in bankruptcy will go into session.

Into the witness box will step John Garlick Llewellyn Poulson, a bankrupt architect. After the formalities the QC for the trustees in bankruptcy, Mr Muir Hunter, will resume the relentless interrogation of his adversary.

In the four public sessions held since July, Poulson has given an extraordinarily graphic and frank account of his business activities, which at one time made him the head of the largest architectural practice in Europe.

While Poulson has been describing the rise and fall of his empire, the political repercussions have been felt throughout the country.

Reginald Maudling, the deputy prime minister and Home Secretary, resigned while Edward Heath sent in Scotland Yard's fraud squad to investigate the Poulson affair.

Heath explained to the House of Commons that Maudling had thought it was inappropriate for him to stay as Home Secretary with Commander James Crane, head of the fraud squad, hunting through the files and accounts of a group of companies in which he had played such an important decision-making role.

Although the Tory press wailed and screamed that their 'Reggie' had been hounded from office, it is now clear that their can be no return to power for Maudling in the foreseeable future.

It was announced only a few days ago that Maudling will not attend the Conservatives' annual conference at Blackpool next month, the first he has missed for decades.

Maudling was chairman of Poulson's overseas company and a director of two others; at one stage almost the whole Maudling family—Mrs Beryl Maudling, daughter, Caroline, and son, Martin—were shareholders in various subsidiaries.

After the Commons heard the Prime Minister's statement there was a series of unctuous and sick-making speeches from the Labour Party benches. The Labourites extended their sympathy to Maudling, and James Callaghan even suggested that perhaps the House was acting too quickly in accepting his resignation. In Callaghan's view there seemed no need at all for Maudling to get out.

It is not difficult to see why the Labourites were so over-generous with their understanding. Because if the hierarchy of the Tory Party

has important connections with the Poulson case, so too has the Labour Party.

Take T. Dan Smith. During his evidence Poulson said that more than £155,000 in various fees were paid to Smith.

Mr Muir Hunter had to press Poulson for an explanation of Smith's relationship with the companies. Asked if the vast sum was 'a gift', Poulson replied: 'Well, I haven't got any details, and never have, of any accounts for him.'

Hunter: Mr Poulson, you are under a statutory obligation enforceable by the powers of this court to give a true and fair explanation of your affairs, and you are going to sit there as a former leading architect running an enormous business and say you have no idea as to the purpose and advantage of paying £150,000 to a man over seven years, which is £20,000 a year—You have no idea? Think, try again. What was Mr Dan Smith doing for the Poulson organization? Yes?

Poulson: I can't think of any sir, I just can't. It's no good.

Hunter: Look, you know this man, do you not? You know him quite well?

Poulson: I haven't seen him for—I haven't seen him since 1969.

Hunter: You mean he left the ship when the drink ran out; it that what you are suggesting?

Poulson: No.

Hunter: Mr Poulson, you are not doing yourself justice. The sum you paid to Mr Dan Smith or his companies exceeds the whole of the unpaid income tax for which you are liable in your bankruptcy.

Poulson: I see that now, sir.

Hunter: You mean that you were sort of spending money, as the saying is, like a drunken sailor, caring not what it was for?

Poulson: No, there is no suggestion of that.

Hunter: What you are saying is that you were paying money to Mr Smith for no consideration that you can recall and would you, therefore, like to say that this was a gift as well? All of these were gifts?

Poulson: No, no.

Hunter: Not gifts? You will not say any other reason?

Poulson: Well, I don't know what to say, sir, I just don't know what they were except that they are just absolutely ridiculous.

Hunter: You did, at one stage, say to the Official Receiver that you thought that Dan Smith would recommend you to people and you said: 'It didn't work out, I never got anything out of it.' Nothing positive to show and yet you went on paying him. Had you



any other reason to pay him, Mr Poulson?

(Poulson's reply was inaudible)

Hunter: I think the witness is not feeling very well. Would this be a convenient moment to rise, sir?

The registrar: It would certainly be a convenient moment to rise.

Poulson was taken to a local hospital where his condition was diagnosed as 'severe shock'.

No doubt there was shock also in the top echelons of the Labour Party, to which T. Dan Smith had easy access for such a long period.

At the height of his career Smith was appointed by Harold Wilson as chairman of the North East Planning Council and in the 1964 and 1966 General Elections he was a public relations consultant to the party.

At various times in the 1960s it was rumoured that, like Frank Cousins, Smith would be drafted into the Labour government. Although this remained an unfulfilled proposition, Smith enjoyed the closest relations with the Labour leadership and it was

said that 'Mr Newcastle' had a 'hot line' to Wilson at No 10 Downing Street.

In a nine-day trial at the Old Bailey last year Smith was acquitted of corruption charges involving the Labour-controlled Wandsworth Council.

The leader of the Labour group, Alderman Sidney Sporle was given six years in a separate trial.

Smith, who protested his innocence throughout the case, said afterwards that he would return to the north-east to serve the people of the region.

The other leading Labour figure linked with Poulson is Alderman Andrew Cunningham, the Newcastle-based regional officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

Since 1967 Cunningham has been on the 28-man National Executive Committee (NEC) of the party which is headed by Wilson.

The NEC is the highest policy-making body in the party and Cunningham served as chairman of its all-important finance committee.

and chairman of the Tyneside Passenger Transport Authority—both of which employ members of his union. So he shares the distinction of being both union representative and boss at one and the same time.

A fervent spokesman for law and order, Cunningham also heads the Durham Police Authority. Last week at the quarterly meeting of the police authority two attempts were made to have him removed from office because of the 'bad publicity' surrounding his connections with Poulson.

But chairman Cunningham ruled the resolutions out of order and then stormed out of the meeting.

The resolution seeking Cunningham's removal was made by a local magistrate and backed by 14 other members. Afterwards Cunningham said: 'I have nothing to say. Consult your lawyer.' (?)

If the police authority is concerned about Cunningham, then it can be stated that his union, the giant G&MWU, isn't.

At the most recent meeting of the regional committee a motion was unanimously passed voting complete confidence in their local officer. The passing of the resolution



The cast of Poulson people. Top: Mr and Mrs John Poulson. Above: 'Mr Newcastle' T-Dan Smith. Left: recently resigned Mr Reginald Maudling. Right: Mr and Mrs Andy Cunningham.

wasn't without a touch of the bizarre. Instead of holding the meeting at the union headquarters in Newcastle, members of the committee were ferried in cars to an unknown destination to conduct their deliberations.

There have been demands that Cunningham and his wife, Freda May Cunningham (Mrs Cunningham is a local magistrate), should give up all their public appointments.

Their links with the case are considerable. Cross-examined by Mr Hunter, Poulson admitted that Mrs Cunningham was employed in his office as an adviser on interior

decorating although she had no training in this work; Andy Cunningham drew a salary from the Dan Smith organization; and there were records that the Cunninghams had been on two holidays abroad paid for by Poulson, the one to Estoril, Portugal, costing £256.

When inquiring about Mrs Cunningham's job, Mr Hunter was at his most waspish.

Hunter: To be quite frank about this, was it a sort of sinecure that you created for Mrs Cunningham?

Poulson: No sir.

Hunter: And then during the rest of the year there were increasingly feverish attempts to restructure the business?

Poulson: Yes, sir.

Hunter: And, of course, there was a great shortage of money, was there not?

Poulson: Yes, sir.

Hunter: At a time when the whole business was running

into the ground . . . you thought fit to employ a retired schoolteacher and the wife of an alderman, as an administrative assistant and adviser on interior decoration—is that what you are saying?

Poulson: Yes, sir.

When the last hearing on August 7 was being wound up, Poulson promised the court that he would spend the adjournment sifting through his remaining papers to try to find answers to some of the more baffling aspects of the affair.

The four public sessions held so far have been expensive for the ruling class—one deputy Prime Minister has resigned, two senior civil servants have been suspended, a member of the Labour Party's NEC is being called upon to resign from all public posts, a leading Labour power-broker is placed under a cloud, two MPs, Norman Roberts, Labour MP for Normanton, and John Cordle, Tory MP for Bourne-

mouth, are called upon to account for their business interests.

On previous form, there will be more news from Wakefield today.

ORIGINS OF RACIALISM

PART FOUR: BRITISH WORKERS AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

By a special correspondent

The American Civil War of 1860 was not started to free the slaves. It was the outcome of a struggle between the old plantation-owning oligarchy of the South, and the new vital, capitalist class of the North who wanted to expand their influence, labour supplies and markets.

In the movement for secession, the Southern States were not only defending slavery, they were also breaking up the Union and endangering the future development of industry.

In the course of the war, however, the emancipation of the slaves was inevitable, even though President Lincoln hesitated and dithered, trying not to alienate the slave owners in the border states by declaring the end of slavery.

The British ruling class sided with the South. Their interests were bound up with the cotton trade and the blockade of Southern ports by Federal ships, preventing the exporting of cotton to Britain, filled them with dismay.

Serious consideration was given to the possibility of a British intervention on the side of the South.

A number of prominent trade union and labour leaders were prepared to go along with the government but thousands of workers understood what Marx was to express later: 'Labour cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded.'

In spite of constant propaganda in the press in support of the South, the pro-Confederate stand of some of their leaders, and the enormous suffering of British workers, particularly in the cotton towns, who were being laid off as a result of the Federal blockade, the working class as a whole refused to support the call for British intervention on the side of the South.

ANGRY

'Under these circumstances,' Marx wrote in a report to 'Die Presse', 'the obstinacy with which the working class keeps silent, or breaks its silence only to raise its voice against intervention and for the United States, is admirable.'

'This is a new, brilliant proof of the indestructible excellence of the English popular masses . . .'

The visit to England of J. D. Mason and John Slidell, two representatives of the Confederacy trying to whip up support for the South, who had earlier sponsored a bill in Congress legalizing the return of escaped slaves from the North, occasioned angry working-class outbursts in which workers threatened to flog them if they ever got their hands on them.

It was also the reason for a huge working-class meeting in London at which the following resolution was passed unanimously:

'This meeting resolves that the agents of the rebels, Mason



Lincoln at first refused to arm slaves, but later was forced to recruit them to the Federal Army. Above: part of a Negro battalion.

and Slidell, now on the way from America to England, are absolutely unworthy of the moral sympathies of the working class of this country, since they are slaveholders as well as the confessed agents of the tyrannical faction that is at once in rebellion against the American republic and the sworn enemy of the social and political rights of the working class in all countries.'

UPRISINGS

The meeting also sent a message of support to the American government to declare 'their sympathy with the United States in their titanic struggle for the maintenance of the Union; to denounce the shameful dishonesty and advocacy of slaveholding on the part of "The Times" and kindred aristocratic journals; to express themselves most emphatically in favour of the settlement of all matters that may be in dispute by commissioners or arbitration courts nominated by both sides; to denounce the war policy of the organ of the stock exchange swindlers, and to manifest the warmest sympathy with the strivings of the Abolitionists for a final solution of the slave question.'

In America itself, as earlier in the West Indies, the slaves played a vital part in their own emancipation.

Not only were there numerous slave uprisings before the war, but once it started hundreds left the plantations and made their way North.

They hammered on the doors of the Federal army, demanding to be allowed to fight.

Although Lincoln at first refused to arm them, eventually thousands were organized into Negro battalions, where they served not only as privates but several rose to become high-ranking officers.

They fought like tigers, losing some 68,178 men out of a total of 186,017 serving soldiers.

Thousands more acted as messengers, or spies behind the enemy lines, dug roads and built fortifications.

There were many testimonials to the courage of the black soldiers who knew they were fighting for their whole future.

'It would have been madness,' wrote Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson in 1863, 'to attempt with the bravest white troops what [I] successfully accomplished with black ones.'

At a mass meeting of trade unionists in London in March 1863, Professor Beesly said, to great applause:

'There are two classes of workmen, both infinitely below you . . . in organization and in social position, but still workmen, and therefore irrevocably bound up with you.'

'I mean the agricultural workers of England and the Negro slaves of America . . . The slaveholding aristocracy of the South understand this perfectly.'

'They maintain in the most open manner that slavery is the natural condition of labour, that society is divided normally into slave-owners and slaves . . . I am far from imputing to our upper classes the design or desire to buy or sell you like cattle.'

'But I think the greater part of them even of those calling themselves Liberals, are of the opinion that you have got a great deal more independence and freedom of action than is good for you.'

'I don't pretend to say what modicum of freedom they think ought to be conceded to you, but from what we know of human nature I think we may safely say that if they could fix it now at what they pleased, the next generation of them would discover that even that modicum ought to be still further curtailed and so on, until at length you would differ from Negro slaves in nothing except the colour of your skins.'

'That model Tory, George III, could not bear the idea of

emancipating our West Indian slaves because it savoured of the Rights of Man.'

'He was a particularly stupid man; but even the brutes have instinct, and his instinct told him that if the black labourers got their rights, the next thing would be that the white labourers would be wanting theirs . . .'

The defeat of the South and the emancipation of the slaves did indeed give a tremendous impetus to the development of working-class struggle in America.

On November 2, 1865, in a mass meeting of Boston workers held to celebrate the victory, Ira Steward, one of the leaders of the eight-hour-day movement, proposed a resolution which was passed unanimously:

' . . . we rejoice that the rebel aristocracy of the South has been crushed, that . . . beneath the glorious shadow of our victorious flag men of every clime, lineage and colour are recognized as free.'

'But while we will bear with patient endurance the burden of the public debt, we yet want it to be known that the working men of America will demand in future a more equal share in the wealth their industry creates . . . and a more equal participation in the privileges and blessings of those free institutions, defended by their manhood on many a bloody field of battle.'

STRAINED

The American ruling class, frightened by the growing strength of the trade union movement, seeking to divide the working class and terrified of the unity of emancipated blacks and poor whites in the Reconstruction Period at the end of war, strained every nerve to stir up racialism.

They helped to organize and finance the Ku Klux Klan as an organization led by ex-slave owners, to beat, torture, burn and murder blacks and any

whites who sided with them. They literally drowned that unity in blood.

In Britain, the capitalist class worked long and hard to inculcate racialism into the consciousness of the working class.

But if there is a tradition of racialism in backward sections of the working class today—a heritage of years of imperialist domination of both colonial and British workers—there is also its opposite, the understanding of the international character of the class struggle.

In 1861 Marx pointed out that the 'political spokesmen, jurists, moralists and theologians of the slaveholders' party had already sought to prove, not so much that Negro slavery is justified, but rather that colour is a matter of indifference and the working class is everywhere born to slavery.'

In spite of its enormous sufferings, in spite of the treachery of some of its older and more established union leaders, 112 years ago the British working class recognized the unity of its struggle with that of the black slaves in America.

The racialists today should take warning. The 'indestructible excellence' of the British working class is not dead.

It has shown itself time and time again in the great wave of strikes which have swept the country in recent months.

Postmen, local council workers, miners, engineers, railwaymen, dockers, and now building workers have all come under the Tory attack.

In the struggle to build Councils of Action to fight for the bringing down of the Tories, in the fight to develop a revolutionary leadership to take power, the racialists, the servants of the ruling class, will be defeated.

It is this struggle that the right-wing fears when they talk about anarchy, riot and bloodshed. It is their own defeat which they foresee and which drives them to frenzy.

THE PRIVATE WAR OF GENERAL LAVELLE

For several months General John D. Lavelle of the United States Air Force carried on his own private war against the North Vietnamese.

As commander of all USAF activities in south-east Asia, Lavelle went beyond his orders from the top to attack targets outside the official schedule.

To do this he took advantage of the bureaucratic regulations governing the bombing of the north which are designed primarily to protect the presidential prerogative.

If Lavelle is now being hauled before a Senate sub-committee for showing too much zeal in the air war against the north, this is the primary reason.

Nixon is jealous of his commander-in-chief privileges, which allow him to determine when and where every last bomb dropped in North Vietnam will fall.

Unauthorized genocide is not to be countenanced, only the officially-approved version.

So the Washington committee is rather reluctantly dragging the facts out into the open—and at the same time covering up for the rest of the US top brass in Indochina.

None of this would have happened if Sgt Lonnie Franks, a 23-year-old radar specialist, had not written to his congressman expressing his doubts about the way Lavelle was running the show.

As a result of Franks' efforts, the general was relieved of his command in April and brought back to Washington.

The story which is emerging at the Senate hearings is a bizarre testimony to the incredible bureaucratic murder-machine which the US has built up.

Rigid rules govern the bombing of the north, which can be undertaken on orders from the top. But under certain circumstances pilots are allowed to undertake what are termed 'protective reaction strikes'.

They can attack North Vietnamese air defence installations if they are fired on from the ground or if the pilot gets a warning on his dashboard that an anti-aircraft missile or radar installation is tracking him.

Lavelle had the truly Orwellian idea of the 'planned protective reaction strike'. His pilots simply selected their targets, bombed them and then returned to base where they reported they had been attacked from the ground.

To maintain the necessary secrecy about these missions, 200 men at Udorn airbase in Thailand were employed full-time drawing up falsified reports on the flights to send on to Washington.

True reports were drawn up separately and filed for General Lavelle. Officers above him in the chain of command ought to have known about the deception because of the 'fantastic increase of missions over a short period of time', according to Sgt Franks.

But if they did know, they kept singularly quiet about it. One senator described what had happened as 'a complete



breakdown in the command structure of the seventh air force'.

Lavelle's excuse for his actions was that in December last year the North Vietnamese had begun linking their surface-to-air missiles to their ground control radar net.

Previously the missiles had been guided to their targets by separate radar installations. Lavelle explained that this meant the missile could be sent towards its target without alerting the plane's pilot.

In the labyrinthine jargon of the US murder-machine, Lavelle told the Senate committee that:

'A more logical judgement appeared to be that since US aircraft were under constant surveillance by the air-defence radars netted together with the missile units, the system was constantly activated against us.'

When pressed on whether he had ever explained to higher officers this interpretation 'that radar was activated at all times and that you were therefore entitled to strike,' General Lavelle replied: 'In those words, no sir.'

Two contested November missions took place before this 'netting' and the dispute about them centres on a different question.

Sources explain it this way, using an attack against a MiG base at Quang Lang on November 7, 1971, as an example.

General Lavelle asked for and received permission to carry out what is described as an escorted reconnaissance mission over the base. The permission was necessary because the airfield was in an area that navy, rather than air force, pilots generally patrolled. But the MiGs at Quang Lang had become increasingly active and were viewed as posing a threat to air force planes approaching North Vietnam from the west over Laos.

The reconnaissance mission was flown, the US planes were fired upon and the accompanying escorts attacked the field. That type of mission and response was authorized and is within the rules of engagement that were in force at the time.

Informants say it was always a good bet that reconnaissance planes would be fired on around Quang Lang and that extra escorts were sometimes sent aloft so that the US planes could get in a heavy 'protective reaction' attack after the initial enemy firing had satisfied the rules of engagements.

Lavelle is not alone in his paranoid desire to blow North Vietnam off the face of the earth. It is shared by the entire US command, not least by its commander in chief.

But like the tidy-minded bureaucrats who organized Hitler's 'final solution' to the Jewish question, they believe in doing it by the book.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

MUTINY

One section of seafarers who must often face hardship and danger to earn their livelihood are, of course, the trawlermen. And now it is not only icy seas that they are expected to face to bring back fish—and the owners' profits—but also the 'Cod War' off Iceland.

Seven Fleetwood trawlermen who refused to return to the Icelandic fishing grounds after an incident with a gunboat have been accused of mutiny.

The men were deck hands on the 'Boston Explorer'. Their refusal to return to Icelandic waters came after towing the disabled sister ship 'Boston Attacker' part of the way home. Their trawler returned to Fleetwood.

One of the deck-hands, Raymond Brooks (27) of Back Church Street, Fleetwood, told reporters:

'We are not mutineers. We had been repeatedly harassed by the Icelandic gun-boat "Aegir" while we were fishing and could not go back to the same grounds. We acted in the interests of the crew and the owners.'

But the owners had radioed the boat's skipper instructing that they must carry on fishing. And the deck hands who refused to do so have been reported to the port's disciplinary committee.

What is the position of the Transport and General Workers Union? The union has so far been strongly aligned with 'our' trawler-owners against the Icelanders. Will it now align itself with them against its members who are accused of 'mutiny'?

WITNESS

A nudism scandal involving a priest and a student of religious instruction has brought the downfall of Luxembourg's only woman cabinet minister, Mme Madelaine Frieden-Kinnen.

The affair goes back to August 1969 when a Luxembourg paper, the 'Journal D'Esch', reported that a local priest and religious instruction teacher, Father Francois Raas, practised nudism in public with one of his pupils, Eugene Schauss.

The scene, near a farm where Mme Frieden-Kinnen was staying, was alleged to have been witnessed by the government minister.

Both the priest and the pupil were sentenced on charges of indecent behaviour following the report. But Mme Frieden-Kinnen sued the newspaper for libel and won the case. On Schauss's evidence the court ruled that there was no proof that she had seen

what was going on.

However, the paper counter-attacked by suing Schauss for false evidence. It won the case and the court's ruling established that Mme Frieden-Kinnen could not have failed to see the priest naked.

The legal battle continues with an appeal by Schauss against his perjury conviction. The minister, in her resignation letter, said she could not 'recognize the justness of this legal decision'.

She added, however, that the affair had placed her in a delicate position 'calling into question the credibility of public authorities, either the executive or the judiciary'.

Mme Frieden-Kinnen was in charge of the Ministry of Public Health, Family and Youth Affairs!

THE DEAL

Any idea that the building pay deal agreed by the union leaders last week will enable workers to keep pace with the cost of living must be knocked on the head.

Construction men's standards before the strike were back where they were when the industry's last package deal began in February 1970. And the price rises in store when the Tories enter Europe next year can easily swallow up the proposed new rates.

The two-year deal will bring craftsmen's basic rates by June 10, 1974, to £29—£1 less for 40 hours than union members wanted now for 35. Labourers, at present still rated a miserly £17, would get only £24.60 in two years' time.

The new rates from September 18 will be £26 for craftsmen and £22.20 for labourers.

Next June 25 these will be raised to £27 and £23, with guaranteed bonuses of £2.60 and £2.20 respectively. Militants are correctly describing this as a phoney since men whose incentive bonuses already push their earnings over the guaranteed level will not see a penny extra.

Equally phoney is the much-vaunted 'threshold' agreement due to come into effect next October.

This states that if the retail prices index rises more than 8½ per cent in the period August 1972-August 1973 both craft and labouring rates will be bumped up 20p for each ¼ per cent beyond that level.

Even if the rate of price increases doubled in that time the most workers could expect to get is just over £2. Since this is a once-for-all payment the rate could double again without further adjustment. The deal is therefore a trap.

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Above: Heath with Powell—Tory MP, enemy of unions, welfare services and immigrants.

THE REAL ENOCH POWELL

BY JACK GALE

The minority of backward workers who march behind the National Front shouting 'Enoch, Enoch!'—especially those in the Transport and General Workers' Union—should wake up to the real truth about this man.

For Enoch Powell, Tory MP for Wolverhampton south-west, is not only hostile to immigrants—he hates the unions and the welfare services.

As long ago as February 1969, Powell pledged that a Tory government would legislate to prevent unions enforcing a closed shop.

About this time a group of Powellite Tory councillors in Lambeth joined blacklegs in clearing dustbins during a council workers' strike.

And even earlier—in 1968—Powell was railing about union 'tyranny' when a carpenter was sacked from the Esso refinery in Fawley, after being expelled from the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers.

In December 1969, he launched a vicious attack on striking teachers who he denounced as 'bullies and toughs'.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Holborn and St Pancras South Conservative Association, he declared:

'The teaching profession has dealt a shattering blow for lawlessness and anarchy... here we have the dishonourable method of the bully and the tough who break the rules deliberately and rely on force and numbers to get away with it.'

It was, he said, 'an example of lawlessness, ill faith and indifference to duty'.

This was followed a few weeks later—in February 1970—by a denunciation of the Equal Pay Bill which was having its second reading. This, he claimed, marked 'a black day in the Commons'.

It was about this time that a group of Birmingham businessmen pledged £92,000 to finance a 'Powell for Premier' campaign.

Those misguided dockers who joined in pro-Powell marches against immigration might reflect on the fact that the leader of these businessmen was Marcel Everton—who owns a container hire company.

In August 1970, Enoch Powell declared himself dissatisfied with the Tory increases in Health Service charges. He wanted the services axed.

Writing in the 'Sunday Express' on August 11, he proclaimed:

'Only if the charges result in the corresponding public service itself being reduced, has state expenditure been cut.'

'This might perhaps happen as a result of the full price for school meals; but probably the only true cuts in the whole of health and education are the abolition of school milk and welfare milk.'

'In the same way, it is only if lower housing subsidies in fact result in councils building fewer houses that the state sector will have contracted; otherwise housing will remain half-nationalized as at present.'

In the 'Sunday Express' of January 3, 1971, he openly called for bankruptcies and sackings: 'If the shock of ceasing to inflate causes bankruptcies and unemployment, that is how it has to be.'

Powell's real policy for the working class was spelled out

clearly in that article. He said: 'And people will scream: you're cutting health, you're cutting education, you're punishing the old, you're running down the public services. But where there is will, there's hope, and honest money is to be had at no other price.'

In the 'Sun' of March 5, 1971, this Tory right winger called for an end to old-age pensions:

'I see the automatic old-age pension as something which gradually disappears—certainly as a prime instrument of maintenance of the elderly... the flat-rate benefit is obsolete. It's clumsy and it's wasteful. It's repressive of real saving.'

In the same article, he advocates an end to council house-building and to housing subsidies:

'I see no argument for either subsidized housing or building houses on public account.'

And he wants denationalization of the mines and the railways—at a price to be named by the buyers:

'At the right price there's a big future for a limited coal industry... and the railways ditto... What they are worth now is simply what a purchaser thinks their profits would be worth.'

On top of all this, Powell wants the full restoration of the grammar schools, new selective systems in education and private enterprise universities.

And if any backward workers think this is out-

weighed by his hostility to immigrants, they should remind themselves that Powell's definition is a wide one.

It includes, for example, Irish workers in this country. Powell's policy for Ireland is exclusion of the south and repression in the north.

On April 22 this year, he told Conservatives at Keith, Banffshire: 'The beating of the enemy is the duty of the government.' And he spelled out his plan for dealing with 'the enemy' (i.e. the Irish working class):

(1) Sever or control absolutely all communications, direct or indirect, between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

(2) Re-occupy and thereafter police the area occupied by the 'enemy' (i.e. the Catholic areas).

(3) Restore the police in Northern Ireland in morale, authority and armament, and in much more than their former inadequate numbers.

(4) Require all who reside or travel in Northern Ireland to carry at all times means of identification.

(5) All citizens of the Irish Republic to be classified as aliens.

It was this police state policy which enabled Powell to share a platform with the Ulster right wing Vanguard leader William Craig—who later organized a joint demonstration with the National Front.

Indeed, the National Front is enthusiastic about Powell.

In April 1968, when Powell launched his notorious attack on immigrants, Mr A. K. Chesterton, the Front's policy director—and pre-war lieutenant of Oswald Mosley, announced: 'What Mr Powell has said does not vary at all from our views.'

And Mosley himself, speaking from Seine-et-Oise, said: 'Mr Powell is saying nine years later what I have always said.'

Last week's anti-immigration rally of the right-wing Tory Monday Club was marked by open collaboration with the National Front, which supplied a considerable number of stewards.

The Monday Club, although not counting Powell among its members, is enthusiastic about him. Its current newsletter 'Monday News' says:

'One man remains outside the government who might give it the required addition of strength. Some of his economic ideas are not helpful, but thankfully, these have paled besides the significance of his role as the greatest surviving "national" Conservative.'

'Mr Powell, almost alone, understands the great mysteries of what a nation feels and wants. If the government of "liberal" Conservatives is to survive beyond the next election, some accommodation must be reached with Mr Powell and what he stands for.'

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Strike notice at BSC

BRITISH STEEL craftsmen at Port Talbot, South Wales, have given 28 days' notice of strike action in support of a claim for a substantial wage increase.

The 1,300 men voted overwhelmingly for this move after rejecting, with only about 20 votes in favour, BSC proposals which would have given them about £1.50 a week.

No specific figure was put on the men's demands, however, and militants felt that dangerous emphasis was placed by the platform on keeping strictly to the period of notice. Negotiations have already taken since May.

It is also thought that the negotiating committee may wish merely to pressurize the BSC and not lead an all-out fight for the full claim.

TV

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-7.00 Open University.
 8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. Exit From Wickenburg.
 8.50 OUT OF THE BOX.
 9.25 CONTROVERSY. Economic Growth is Good for You.
 10.40 NEWS ON 2. Weather.
 10.45 THIRTY MINUTE THEATRE. I Spy A Stranger.
 11.15 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

BBC 1

9.38-11.55 Schools. 1.30 Pogles' wood. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-3.55 Schools. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Parsley. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.50 Deputy dawg. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 The Long chase. 5.45 News and weather.
 6.00 NATIONWIDE.
 6.45 TRANSWORLD TOP TEAM. United Kingdom v Canada.
 7.10 Z CARS. Witness.
 8.00 PANORAMA.
 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.
 9.25 THE VIEW FROM DANIEL PIKE. The Short Price Premium.
 10.15 FILM 72. Joan Bakewell interviews John Boorman.
 10.45 MASTERMIND.
 11.10 LATE NIGHT NEWS.
 11.15 PLACES FOR PEOPLE. Toulouse-Irail.
 11.40 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 12.00 Larry the lamb. 12.15 Women today. 12.45 Freud on food. 1.10 Bellbird. 1.25 Enchanted house. 1.35 Skippy. 2.00 Schools. 2.20 Cartoon. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'Kill or Cure'. 4.25 Free-wheelers. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 Bless this house. 5.50 News.
 6.00 TODAY.
 6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!
 7.30 CORONATION STREET.
 8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.
 8.30 LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR.
 9.00 KATE. A Man For All That.
 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
 10.30 CADE'S COUNTY. Black out.
 11.30 DRIVE-IN.
 12.00 PEOPLE MAKE PLACES.



Ben Murphy, whose film career began with one line in Dustin Hoffman's 'The Graduate' now says a lot more as Kid Curry in 'Alias Smith and Jones' on BBC 2 tonight.

Picketing in danger

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE BASIC right to picket is coming in for a three-sided attack—from the Tory government, the National Industrial Relations Court and big employers' associations.

And this pressure is stampeding the gentlemen at the TUC to prepare a new set of instructions aimed at getting trade unionists to toe the picket line.

TUC general secretary Victor Feather has already handed the Tories half the battle by seeming to admit that picketing is some kind of criminal activity.

Speaking last Friday he said: 'The trade union movement has never said and never will say that it is above the law of the land.' After considering reports from various unions, the TUC will produce a booklet on picketing, he said.

Jack Jones, general secretary of Britain's largest union, the Transport and General Workers', has also jumped into this 'law-and-order' clamour. At a press conference last week he talked about finding 'a trade union solution' to the 'problem'. He even dragged in the Tory slander that much of the trouble on picket lines is fomented by 'outsiders'. 'Justice will be done and will be seen to be done within the union,' he added.

Jones has already initiated action against members of his union who vented their anger outside the delegate conference which sold out the national docks strike. Now he is preparing to police picketing. The Tories and the employers will be delighted!

While the trade union bureaucrats grovel before the Tories, the knife is being sharpened. In a major speech last week Attorney-General Sir Peter Rawlinson announced that one inquiry into lawful picketing was continuing. He hinted that new laws might be on the way; in any case, fresh instructions would be given to the police.

When the National Industrial Relations Court resumes from its summer recess, fresh picketing cases are almost certain to be among the early listings. Any action taken by employers against pickets now has the legal backing of the House of Lords which has found that trade unions are responsible for the actions of its members.

Political pressure to attack picketing is also supplied in a dossier forwarded to Secretary for Employment Maurice Macmillan by the Master Builders' Federation. During the bitter 12-week building workers' strike, the employers gathered signed statements which allege 'intimidation' at sites.

In particular the employers are objecting to the 'flying pickets'—groups of men delegated with the responsibility of pulling out



Jack Jones

sites in their area. These travelling teams also worked effectively during the miners' strike in January and February this year.

Picketing, blacking and striking—these are hard-won rights of the working class. They are workers' legitimate means of defence in struggle against the employers and the capitalist class.

● See page 4 for Part 23 of Bernard Franks' crucial series of articles on picketing.

TUC and T & GWU join Tory clamour for new measures



Attorney-General Rawlinson

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HARLECH: 9.30 London. 12.20 HR Pufnstuf. 12.45 Common Market cook book. 1.15 Afloat. 1.45 A place of her own. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Film: 'One Jump Ahead'. 4.10 Tinkertainment. 4.25 London. 5.20 Shirley's world. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'No Love For Johnnie'. 12.35 Weather.
 HTV Cymru/Wales 41 as above except: 4.10-4.25 Cantamil. 6.01-6.22 Y dydd.
 HTV Cymru/Wales 7 as 41 plus: 8.00-8.30 Yr wythnos.
 HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the west this week.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 London. 3.00 Saint. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Brian Connell. 10.55 Journey to the unknown.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.15 Saint. 2.05 Good afternoon. 2.30 Horoscope. 2.35 Women today. 3.00 Film: 'Wake Me when the War is Over'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.40 London. 10.30 Name of the game.

ULSTER: 11.00-12.15 London. 1.30 News. 1.32 Cartoon. 1.40 Schools. 4.00 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Smith family. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Film: 'Kind Hearts and Coronets'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 12.15 Common Market cookbook. 12.45 Corwin. 1.45 Whicker. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Made in Heaven'. 4.25 London. 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 Calendar. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 All our yesterdays. 12.55 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.15 Grasshopper island. 12.30 Galloping gourmet. 1.00 Woobinda. 1.30 Cinema. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Film: 'Go Man Go'. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 News. London. 5.15 Peyton Place. 5.50 London. 6.00 Newsday. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Horror of Dracula'.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 12.30 Alexander the greatest. 12.50 Edgar Wallace. 1.45 Bewitched. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Cookbook. 2.59 News. 3.00 Film: 'Went the Day Well?'. 4.25 London. 4.55 HR Pufnstuf. 5.10 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 Best of friends. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 News. 12.10 Greatest fights of the century. 12.25 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 12.15 Saint. 1.10 Double talk. 1.40 Rodeo. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 Film: 'Wake Me When the War is Over'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Scotland today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 Name of the game.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 12.15 Film: 'Give My Regards to Broadway'. 2.46 Cartoon. 2.57 News. 3.00 Let's face it. 3.30 Dr Simon Locke. 4.00 Skippy. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Country focus. 6.40 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Meditation.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

WATFORD: Monday September 25, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall (upstairs room), Woodford Road (opposite Watford Junction station). Force the Tories to resign.

SOUTH WEST LONDON: Tuesday September 26, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths. Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'ATUA national conference.'

BASILDON: Tuesday September 26, 8 p.m. Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, Laindon. 'ATUA national conference'

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday September 26, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road, Tooting. 'Lessons of the builders' strike.'

LUTON: Wednesday September 27, 8 p.m. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Road. 'Stalinism and the capitalist class.'

HOUNSLOW: Thursday September 28, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Bath Road.

TODMORDEN: Thursday, September 28, 7.30 p.m. The Weavers' Institute, Burnley Road. 'Lessons of the builders' and busmen's strikes.'

Lessons of the building workers strike.

SWANSEA Thursday, September 28 7 p.m.

Swansea Council of Social Services, Mount Pleasant Hill, Next to the fire station.

Speakers: Gordon Carruthers (Chairman of Swansea No. 1 UCATT branch. In a personal capacity).

Jim Bevan (Chairman of Margam AUEW branch. In a personal capacity).

Jenkins' way forward—to crude coalition

ROY JENKINS completes his carefully-orchestrated campaign of self-promotion with an appearance on the BBC programme 'Panorama' tonight.

It coincides with the publication of a book of major speeches he has made in the past few months on the way forward for the Labour Party.

Jenkins, who resigned the party's deputy leadership over the Common Market, has been making a number of important public appearances recently in which he has been giving a radical gloss to his deeply rightist philosophy.

In his final speech on Saturday, a week before the start of the party's annual conference at Blackpool, Jenkins warned against the party becoming solely representative on one class.

Labour's 'biggest danger' at the next General Election is appealing 'solely to class interests and class emotions'.

If the party remains a party of the working class it will cut itself off from many of its potential supporters who do not identify themselves as working class or see their problems in class terms.

He says the 'old idea' of a proletarian battle against an élite of parasites is out of date.

Jenkins is here espousing the purest forms of class compromise.

Having long ago left his own class origins—he comes from a miner's family—Jenkins now seeks to raise the standard of not only compromise, but coalition politics.

Jenkins, the man who led 69 right-wing Labourites into the lobby with the Tories to take Britain into the Six, is a direct ally of Edward Heath.

With the Tories preparing for huge attacks on the working class there is no place in the Labour Party for Jenkins and his hangers-on.

Dockers to strike on rent Act

MERSEYSIDE dockers yesterday decided unanimously to hold a one-day stoppage on October 22 in protest against the 'vicious' Housing Finance Act introduced by the Tory government.

The stoppage was recommended to a mass meeting by both the Transport and General Workers' Union docks district committee and the shop stewards' committee.

Introduction of the hated Act, which will eventually double council rents, is

strenuously opposed by working-class communities on Merseyside.

But this has not stopped the Labour-controlled council from implementing it from Monday, October 2.

Yesterday's meeting also heard a report on the port modernization committee and

the dockers' demand for a 35-hour week, £35 basic pay, increased holidays, average earnings for signing on and increased sick pay.

District committee delegate, Jimmy Symes, told the meeting that agreement had been reached on shifts from 8 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 10 p.m. But the employers had only offered £1 on the basic.

Today the modernization committee will resume discussions and a further report-back meeting will be held.

NE march ends with lively demo

THE RIGHT-TO-WORK march on the north east coast ended on Saturday with a lively demonstration through the crowded Newcastle city centre. Unemployed youth who had marched about 100 miles in seven days from Middlesbrough to Newcastle were joined for the demonstration by local youth and Young Socialist members.

It was a fitting finish to this fight against the Tory government's unemployment policies in one of Britain's most depressed areas.

Only the day before the marchers had come into the city to read the headline on the local paper: 'Christmas dole for 1,000'.

Hundreds of shoppers and youth cheered and clapped as the marchers passed through the streets to a meeting. There, they heard the news that workers from George Clark and North East Marine had donated £10.

This followed the shock revelation on Friday that 1,100 men at the engineering factory would be made redundant.

Cliff Grig, a delegate from Sunderland trades council, said he was proud to join the march and to convey his trades council's greetings.

His trades council had not been able to send a full delegation because of a tenants' meeting organized to fight the £1.20 increases expected under the Housing Finance Act.

'The Labour council has done a deal over our rent with the government,' he said. 'We have to show up the Labour traitors.'

YS Right-to-Work

They are weak and hungry "Tories".

Unity and discipline was needed in the Labour movement and this is what the Right-to-Work march had shown the way forward to.

Dave Jones, YS National Committee member, said the march had been a 'tremendous success'. It had shown all the contradictions of the labour movement.

Workers in the many mining villages they passed through had given full support. Right-wing Labourites, on the other hand, had used their stab-in-the-back methods.

'We also met a whole layer of fake-lefts, people who talk, but have no action to back it.'

'The march put its ideas into action. We have come through as a disciplined fighting force.'

Chapple renews ballot on anti-union Act

THE EXECUTIVE of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union is expected to order a ballot on registration under the Industrial Relations Act when it meets today.

Its 419,646 members are likely to be recommended to vote for a return to the register.

It was always the union's intention to hold a ballot on registration. This policy was changed when the five London dockers were jailed for contempt of the National Industrial Relations Court.

Frank Chapple, EPTU general secretary and president, then wrote to the Registrar asking him to take his union's name off the list as a protest against the jailings.

But at the TUC the EPTU voted against the suspension of the 32 unions who had failed to deregister under the Act. Chapple led his delegation out of the Congress protesting he was not allowed to speak in the debate.

Public Meeting

Banbury

Wages Jobs and the Fight against the Tory government
Thursday October 5, 8 p.m.
Town Hall, Banbury

Speaker: Gerry Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League.

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180b Clapham High Street, London,
SW4 7UG.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press,
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Socialist Labour League

LECTURES
THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM
given by
G. HEALY
(SLL national secretary)

Liverpool

Historical materialism today
Tuesday September 26
AEU HOUSE
Mount Pleasant
Liverpool 1, 7.30 p.m.

Social Security clerks may strike

SOCIAL SECURITY office clerks—now operating a national overtime ban—could take strike action soon if their demands for more staff are not met by the government.

Many offices could reach breakdown point within the next ten days with many of the five million supplementary benefit claimants unable to get money.

Strike action now depends on the outcome of today's talks between the Civil and Public Service Association, the Society of Civil Servants and the Department of Social Security.

The unions' demand for 5,000 more staff has been met with an offer of an extra 1,100. It was rejected as 'miserable' and 'derisory'.

Recruitment, the unions claim, has not kept pace with the growing amount of work which largely results from the Tories' creation of one million unemployed and new legislation aimed at restricting benefits.

Last year, clerks worked 1.7 million hours of overtime, including evening and Sunday work.

The government has recruited 3,200 casual workers. But they have been used at the counters without any real training, say the unions.

During the 1970 election campaign, the Tories pledged to cut-back the civil service. It has succeeded overall to the tune of 13,000 fewer workers.

Strikes could start first this week in areas of high unemployment like Scotland. They will be the first strikes in the civil service.

WAGES

FROM PAGE 1

Last week the power workers' leaders cut their pay demands, precisely in line with the scheme for flat-rate increases discussed with the Tories and employers at Chequers 11 days ago. Then unions representing the government industrial workers agreed to arbitration.

The Tories' hard line is further strengthened by the policies of the Communist Party.

With almost 2,000 more Scottish workers joining the ranks of the hard-core unemployed this month, the Stalinists' refusal to fight the Tories at the upper Clyde shipyards has split the yards, allowed in speed-up and eroded the right to strike.

Those who say that the Tories have been forced to retreat are liars and misleaders. They are playing for time, until the working-class is softened up by the treachery of its leaders.

The working class can, must and will defeat the Tories. But it will do so by settling accounts with the TUC and Stalinist betrayers.

The Tories' arrogant demands for tomorrow's talks reaffirm the urgency of building Councils of Action in each area with the aim of mobilizing the working class to force the Tories to resign.

And they lay added stress on the importance of the All Trades Unions Alliance conference on October 22, the central theme of which will be the building of new, revolutionary leadership.

Japan's urgent need for new trade

Japanese premier Kakuei Tanaka arrives in Peking today to set the seal on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations and the cementing of commercial ties with China.

The visit follows an abrupt turn on the part of both governments following President Nixon's economic measures of last August and the rapprochement between Peking and Washington.

During his visit Tanaka will be accompanied by over 50 Japanese government functionaries and a heavy bodyguard of security men. He will have five days of talks with Chinese premier Chou En-lai and may well meet Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

The rapid moves towards restoration of Sino-Japanese relations come at a time of great economic crisis for the Japanese ruling class, which hopes to gain markets and sources of raw material in China.

They are even prepared to risk complete rupture of relations with Formosa as part of the price of a deal with Peking. The Chiang Kai-shek island regime has denounced Tanaka's visit as 'illegal' and a flagrant violation of the 1952 defence treaty between Formosa and Japan.

For their part, the Chinese Stalinists hope to avert the threat of a resurgence of Japanese militarism by cultivating close relations with Tokyo. Tanaka's visit has been preceded by a series of pilgrimages by Japanese

industrialists all of whom have accepted the 'four conditions' imposed by the Chinese.

THE JAPANESE government is concerned that its growing ties with China should not interfere in its relations with the Soviet Union.

On Thursday, Tanaka took the unprecedented step of sending a personal letter to Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev expressing his desire for close relations with the USSR as well as China

and the United States.

Tanaka said in the letter that Japan 'sincerely hopes' to conclude a peace treaty with the USSR and urged Brezhnev to solve the problem of disputed territories outstanding since 1945.

Japan and the USSR are due to begin negotiations in the near future on a settlement of this and other questions.

yet untapped oil deposits in the China Sea.

Projects for joint exploitation of these deposits are under discussion. To attract Japanese business the Chinese have agreed to float loans for capital development projects overseas.

But if the Peking bureaucracy hopes that the restoration of diplomatic relations and a certain increase in trade will satisfy the appetites of Japanese big business they could be gravely mistaken.

The Japanese are rapidly expanding their armed forces under pressure from the monopolies, alarmed by the loss of markets in the United States. This is an ominous sign that the old plans for military domination of Asia are being revived. And the No. 1 target of such plans has always been China.