

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1973 ● No. 990 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

CIVIL WAR IN ULSTER

THE SPATE of killings in Belfast have revealed the desperate bid by British imperialism and the Protestant bourgeoisie to provoke civil war on an extensive scale.

The sectarian fanatics of the Ulster Volunteer Force are stepping up their campaign of assassinating Catholic workers encouraged by the repressive actions of the Lynch regime south of the border.

To seek a mandate for even tougher action against the republicans and the Irish working class, Lynch has decided to hold a General Election later this month.

He is expected to run a vicious 'law-and-order' campaign to obtain a massive mandate to attack workers and their unions.

During the recent outbreak of assassinations — there were nine last weekend—the British army has done nothing—except step up harassment in the Catholic ghettos.

The Tories Ulster Secretary, William Whitelaw, has played the part of the proverbial Nero—fiddled with his White Paper while Belfast erupted.

But behind the mask of bored and cynical indifference the British imperial establishment has been feverishly preparing to utilize the new wave of fighting to impose its rule more effectively on the Ulster working class.

These attacks are inseparably tied to the plans of Heath to implement permanent state control of wages, gag the left-wing Press, censor TV and integrate the unions into the state in Britain.

The more the crisis in Britain intensifies the greater the repression in Ulster.

Heath is determined to liquidate the Ulster resistance as quickly as possible so he can



LYNCH: February 28 poll

devote his attention to the problems of the Common Market, the trade war with USA and Japan and the opposition of the British working class.

This explains the army's sudden activation over the weekend and the insensate—but premeditated—murder of unarmed civilians in Belfast.

This is Derry again, but with a difference.

In 1972 the Heath government was preparing for the miners' strike and it believed that a judicious mixture of repression and the promise of constitutional guarantees would smash the opposition in Ulster. Moreover the pound was still able to look the mark and the franc in the eye.

Contempt

Today the Tories have failed to squash the Catholic working class despite the betrayals of the Official IRA, the Social Democratic and Labour Party and Stalinist civil-righters. The White Paper is treated with contempt.

The border plebiscite will be ignored and the pound is in mortal danger from Nixon's trade and monetary offensive.

What is more Catholic and Protestant workers are now

beginning to realize that they no longer fight alone.

Unlike 1916 and 1921, they are being joined by the big battalions of British labour who are coming into decisive conflict with the Tory government.

It is only in this context that it is possible to understand the strategy of White-law in Ulster. Far from conceding anything to the working class the Tories are preparing for military dictatorship.

The White Paper is only a fig-leaf for their dictatorial ambitions which are clearly spelled out by the reactionary Loyalist 'Newsletter' (February 5, 1973):

'Should the Secretary of State be in charge of the country or should it be the General?... No one can possibly welcome the thought of a term of military government, but if it could lead to a saving of life the decision to put it into operation cannot be shirked.'



'It is not enough to tell the people to keep calm when the evidence of their eyes tells them that their homeland is being systematically wrecked and when they know they walk in mortal danger...'

'Freedom, first from the IRA, but also nowadays from the illusions and futility of politicians and statesmen who still imagine that a White Paper can end war.'

The continued existence of the Tory government in office is the greatest threat to Irish and British workers alike.

It is the chief source of the increasing agony, misery and carnage in Ulster—if the Tories remain in office much longer then the establishment of military dictatorship in Ulster is virtually inevitable.

We have no reason to exaggerate on this issue. We

WARNED about internment—and internment came.

WARNED about direct rule—and direct rule came.

WARNED about the probability of a massacre—and the Derry massacre occurred only two months later.

We were right not because we are crystal gazers, but because the Socialist Labour League and Workers Press base their prognosis on the scientific method and principles of Marxism and the class struggle.

Political task

To frustrate the military-Bonapartist plans of Heath and to get the Tories out of government, and the troops out of Ulster, however, is inseparably tied to the task of politically strangling the reformist-Stalinist leadership in the unions and the Wilsonite traitors in the Labour Party.

They are the main buttresses of repression in Ulster and corporatism in Britain.

To defeat this reactionary conspiracy and to secure the liberation of Ulster from imperialism now means the transformation of the SLL into a revolutionary party, which will lead the struggle to defeat the Tories and elect a Labour government which must be forced to withdraw troops from Ulster immediately.

8,500 docks jobs lost in six months!

PORT employers' chairman Donald Redford announced yesterday morning that 8,500 dockers have applied to leave the industry since last September, under special severance terms agreed by the Jones-Aldington committee. This represents a cut in the labour force of more than 20 per cent inside six months—an aim the employers had not previously expected to achieve until late next year. Redford, who sat on the Jones-Aldington committee with union leaders, revealed yesterday that he had forecast at least 7,500 men would go. This exposes Jones-Aldington as a Trojan Horse for the employers. But the Tories may have to pay £32m for the jobs cut.



● Full story page 12.

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 1973 ● No. 990 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

CIVIL WAR IN ULSTER

THE SPATE of killings in Belfast have revealed the desperate bid by British imperialism and the Protestant bourgeoisie to provoke civil war on an extensive scale.

The sectarian fanatics of the Ulster Volunteer Force are stepping up their campaign of assassinating Catholic workers encouraged by the repressive actions of the Lynch regime south of the border.

To seek a mandate for even tougher action against the republicans and the Irish working class, Lynch has decided to hold a General Election later this month.

He is expected to run a vicious 'law-and-order' campaign to obtain a massive mandate to attack workers and their unions.

During the recent outbreak of assassinations — there were nine last weekend—the British army has done nothing—except step up harassment in the Catholic ghettos.

The Tories Ulster Secretary, William Whitelaw, has played the part of the proverbial Nero—fiddled with his White Paper while Belfast erupted.

But behind the mask of bored and cynical indifference the British imperial establishment has been feverishly preparing to utilize the new wave of fighting to impose its rule more effectively on the Ulster working class.

These attacks are inseparably tied to the plans of Heath to implement permanent state control of wages, gag the left-wing Press, censor TV and integrate the unions into the state in Britain.

The more the crisis in Britain intensifies the greater the repression in Ulster.

Heath is determined to liquidate the Ulster resistance as quickly as possible so he can



LYNCH: February 28 poll

devote his attention to the problems of the Common Market, the trade war with USA and Japan and the opposition of the British working class.

This explains the army's sudden activation over the weekend and the insensate—but premeditated—murder of unarmed civilians in Belfast.

This is Derry again, but with a difference.

In 1972 the Heath government was preparing for the miners' strike and it believed that a judicious mixture of repression and the promise of constitutional guarantees would smash the opposition in Ulster. Moreover the pound was still able to look the mark and the franc in the eye.

Contempt

Today the Tories have failed to squash the Catholic working class despite the betrayals of the Official IRA, the Social Democratic and Labour Party and Stalinist civil-righters. The White Paper is treated with contempt.

The border plebiscite will be ignored and the pound is in mortal danger from Nixon's trade and monetary offensive.

What is more Catholic and Protestant workers are now

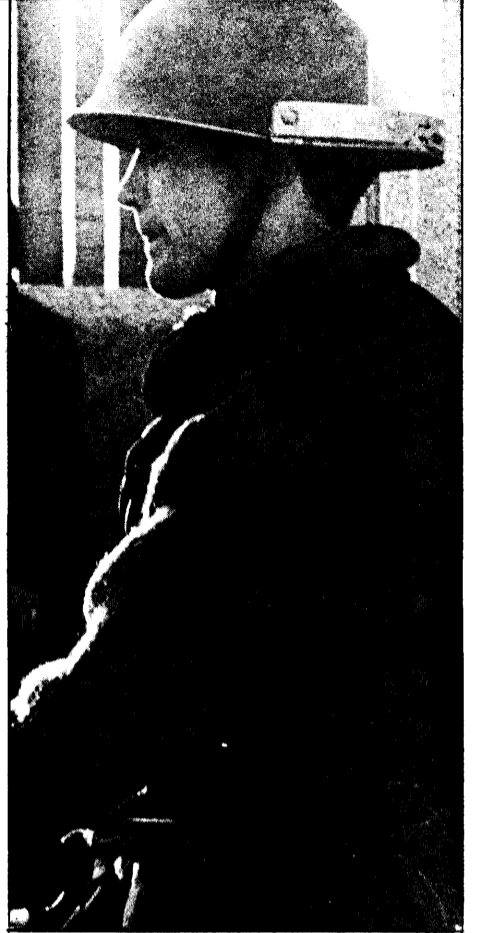
beginning to realize that they no longer fight alone.

Unlike 1916 and 1921, they are being joined by the big battalions of British labour who are coming into decisive conflict with the Tory government.

It is only in this context that it is possible to understand the strategy of White-law in Ulster. Far from conceding anything to the working class the Tories are preparing for military dictatorship.

The White Paper is only a fig-leaf for their dictatorial ambitions which are clearly spelled out by the reactionary Loyalist 'Newsletter' (February 5, 1973):

'Should the Secretary of State be in charge of the country or should it be the General? ... No one can possibly welcome the thought of a term of military government, but if it could lead to a saving of life the decision to put it into operation cannot be shirked.'



'It is not enough to tell the people to keep calm when the evidence of their eyes tells them that their homeland is being systematically wrecked and when they know they walk in mortal danger ...

'Freedom, first from the IRA, but also nowadays from the illusions and futility of politicians and statesmen who still imagine that a White Paper can end war.'

The continued existence of the Tory government in office is the greatest threat to Irish and British workers alike.

It is the chief source of the increasing agony, misery and carnage in Ulster—if the Tories remain in office much longer then the establishment of military dictatorship in Ulster is virtually inevitable.

We have no reason to exaggerate on this issue. We

WARNED about internment—and internment came.

WARNED about direct rule—and direct rule came.

WARNED about the probability of a massacre—and the Derry massacre occurred only two months later.

We were right not because we are crystal gazers, but because the Socialist Labour League and Workers Press base their prognosis on the scientific method and principles of Marxism and the class struggle.

Political task

To frustrate the military-Bonapartist plans of Heath and to get the Tories out of government, and the troops out of Ulster, however, is inseparably tied to the task of politically strangling the reformist-Stalinist leadership in the unions and the Wilsonite traitors in the Labour Party.

They are the main buttresses of repression in Ulster and corporatism in Britain.

To defeat this reactionary conspiracy and to secure the liberation of Ulster from imperialism now means the transformation of the SLL into a revolutionary party, which will lead the struggle to defeat the Tories and elect a Labour government which must be forced to withdraw troops from Ulster immediately.

8,500 docks jobs lost in six months!

PORT employers' chairman Donald Redford announced yesterday morning that 8,500 dockers have applied to leave the industry since last September, under special severance terms agreed by the Jones-Aldington committee. This represents a cut in the labour force of more than 20 per cent inside six months—an aim the employers had not previously expected to achieve until late next year. Redford, who sat on the Jones-Aldington committee with union leaders, revealed yesterday that he had forecast at least 7,500 men would go. This exposes Jones-Aldington as a Trojan Horse for the employers. But the Tories may have to pay £32m for the jobs cut.



● Full story page 12.

Durban strikes spread to public sector

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

STRIKE action among workers in Durban, South Africa's largest port, spread yesterday to the public sector, bringing some essential services to a halt.

About 3,000 municipal workers walked out, affecting road works, cleansing operations and other services. They joined several thousand other workers who have stopped work during the last four weeks in a major strike wave.

Black workers in South Africa have no right to strike, and the Durban workers have defied threats and intimidation by the police and continual harassment by the authorities to press home their demands.

At least three-fifths of the black workers in South Africa earn less than the official poverty minimum. They have had to bear the brunt of rampant price inflation.

The municipal strikers said they were demanding an immediate increase of 10 rand (about £5) a week. Their average weekly wage at present is about 13 rand, though by working vast amounts of overtime some manage to raise this to 25 rand.

The strike began in the City Engineers' department and spread to the electricity workers. An excited crowd gathered to urge African clerks to strike.

Strikers stopped a refuse truck and chased its crew with sticks and clubs.

They refused to listen to an African labour officer who tried to tell them that a special meeting of the city council was being held today to decide on wage increases.

A municipal official said the government's Labour Department had been called in and the city's policy and finance committee was holding an emergency meeting.

The strike action has been steadily growing over the past four weeks affecting at least 20,000 workers in Durban.

US lets currency slide in trade war skirmishes

Dollar pressure on yen and mark

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE DOLLAR made a moderate recovery on the Frankfurt foreign exchange yesterday when the market opened for the first time since the German government imposed new currency controls.

In Tokyo the flood of dollar selling shrank to a mere trickle as dealers waited for the opening of the west European markets. But in both markets there was great nervousness and uncertainty about the future.

Trading in Frankfurt was described as 'quiet and hesitant', while Tokyo was said to be 'anxious'. Both the Japanese and the German currencies were under heavy pressure last week for revaluation against the dollar.

The United States government, which took

no measures to prop up the dollar through last week's heavy selling, tried on Friday night to persuade the Germans to 'float' the mark.

George Schultz, President Nixon's Treasury Secretary, was rebuffed by the Germans, who instead imposed the new stringent controls. Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt said the French would have 'hit the roof' if the mark had been allowed to float.

Strong pressure is also being applied to the Japanese. US ambassador Robert Ingersoll warned in Tokyo over the weekend that unless Japan altered the entire pattern of its trade with the US 'in the next few months' the administration would be in serious difficulties 'in its efforts to liberalize trade'.

William Eberle, Nixon's chief trade troubleshooter, is arriving in Tokyo tomorrow to rub this message in. The US ultimatum to both countries is unmistakable: revalue your currency or face even more vicious trade war measures.

The only question is, how long can Germany and Japan hold out? All the indications are that the crunch must come very soon. The Japanese central bank chief has already hinted that Tokyo will shortly have to bow to the inevitable and revalue whether it likes it or not.

And in Germany the currency restrictions—which virtually outlaw foreign purchases of German shares, direct foreign investment in Germany and borrowing abroad by German

firms—can only be a stop-gap measure. They effectively cut off the German stock markets from foreign sources of funds and could well precipitate a sharp fall in share prices.

The measures, according to Reuters, were 'generally regretted in West German business and banking circles', though, like Finance Minister Schmidt they asked: 'What else could we do?' The measures sharply reverse the traditional West German policy of maintaining open frontiers to monetary movements.

In view of their general unpopularity and the difficulties they will create for big business, the measures cannot be maintained for long without a real risk of convulsions on the stock exchange.

But as soon as they are removed, West German capitalism will once more be exposed to the full force of the dollar influx and of US pressure to revalue.

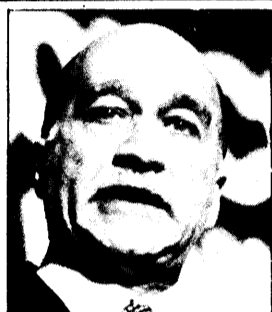
Almirante calls mass demo

LEADING Italian fascist, Giorgio Almirante has called for massive demonstrations of the National Right against the Andreotti government's 'culpable inertia and the insidious manoeuvres of the left'.

At a central committee meeting of the National Right on Sunday, he condemned 'the concurrent political offensive of the Communist Party and the offensive of hooliganism and

terror of leftist extremists'.

The Argentinian ex-dictator Juan Peron left Rome and crowds of enthusiastic supporters from the National Right yesterday en route to Rumania,



Almirante

Lone Valpreda witness: Deportation to death?

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THE French government is threatening to deport the last remaining witness in the notorious 'Milan 16' bomb case back to Italy, where his life will be in danger from the police or the extreme right.

Sergio Ardaud fled to France after he accused Milan police chief Calabresi of assassinating the anarchist rail worker Guiseppi Pinelli.

Police said Pinelli 'jumped' from a window in Milan police headquarters while undergoing interrogation over a bomb explosion which killed 16 people in a Milan bank in December 1969.

After the attack, a group of left-wing militants were rounded up in Italy and accused of the killings.

There was no evidence at all to support the charges and it

became known that the killings were, in fact, the work of the fascists, backed by the CIA and the Greek secret service.

Ardaud is the only witness to see fragments of the bomb police alleged was used in the attack. This 'evidence' was destroyed by police after experts had challenged it.

A series of other witnesses important to the case have disappeared in mysterious circumstances, died or 'committed suicide'.

Pinelli committed suicide. Armando Calzorari, who knew about fascist involvement in the outrage, also committed suicide.

Uso Lenke, who implicated leaders of the extreme right disappeared into a psychiatric hospital.

Another witness, the taxi driver Rolandi, died of a 'heart attack' after admitting he

received £35,000 for implicating the principal accused Pietro Valpreda.

Five left-wingers who had launched a counter inquiry died in a motor accident and lawyer Ambrosini, yet another witness, committed suicide in hospital.

Eventually public pressure and total lack of evidence forced the Italian police to declare accused Valpreda, innocent, but three years of ill-treatment in jail have so weakened his health that he may die.

This would leave only Ardaud. It is highly likely that if he was sent back to Italy he would suffer the same fate as the other witnesses.

Ardaud has led an orderly life and has worked regularly for two years in France and the deportation move has all the marks of a deal between the French and the Italian authorities.

● A support committee for Ardaud has been established at 33, rue des Vignoles, 75020 Paris.

General welcomed

BELISARIO VELASCO, general secretary of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party, has given his support to the participation of the military in President Salvador Allende's government.

Velasco told a party meeting last Friday that the armed forces were a vital factor 'for the maintaining of a climate of peace for the elections next March, which are vital for the economic and political future of the country'.

The latest decision from the General Carlos Prats-Allende cabinet vindicates this notorious right-winger.

All demonstrations have been banned in the centre of the capital, Santiago.

Scapegoat found for crop crisis

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE DISMISSAL of the Soviet Minister of Agriculture, Vladimir Matskevich, and his replacement by Dmitry Polyansky is being interpreted in the bourgeois Press as one of the biggest shake-ups in the bureaucratic apparatus since 1965.

It follows the disastrous failure of the 1972 harvest, which has made it necessary for the USSR to purchase vast quantities of grain abroad. It seems that the outgoing Minister—who is apparently being appointed to another unspecified job—is being made the scapegoat for the harvest results.

The latest statistics demonstrate just how serious these are. Not only is the grain harvest very low, but the potato crop is also heavily down, with the worst results since 1963. The crop is 25 million tons less than the

record potato harvest of 1968, which was about 100 million tons.

Farm production as a whole is down 4.6 per cent on the 1971 figures and productivity per head was 3 per cent down on the previous year. These figures serve to underline the extent and seriousness of the crisis, for which the 'Morning Star' Moscow correspondent blames the weather.

The bad weather undoubtedly played a part, but it does not explain the spate of sackings in the administration.

Matskevich's is not the first head to roll: in August last year, the Byelorussian Agriculture Minister was replaced. Three days before Matskevich's sacking the Soviet Press announced the dismissal of a high agriculture bureaucrat, Shevchenko, for 'violating state discipline'.

It may be that Matskevich was connected in some way with Shevchenko's activities. Public criticisms have also been levelled at the Minister for Water Economy, Yevgeny

Alexeyevsky, who is responsible for canals, irrigation and farm land improvement and reclamation.

The government daily 'Izvestia', in a report on the failures of a giant experimental farm at Podolsk in the Moscow region, blamed Alexeyevsky's Ministry for milk losses. The experimental milk farm at Podolsk has been automated with imported East German machinery so that one man can milk 1,000 cows through the use of one control panel.

The farm had a planned annual yield target of 11,000 tons, but could not achieve this due to faults of the two ministries, 'Izvestia' reported.

The Water Ministry had not provided a promised irrigation canal and the Agriculture Ministry had failed to produce the required number of prize milkers to the farm.

'What is the reason for postponing the date of the irrigation channel... and how and when will the Ministry of Agriculture supply the farm with high-yield cows?' the paper asked. The 'exposure' of this situation in Podolsk could foreshadow shortages of milk for consumers.

Certainly, prospects for the 1973 harvest do not look promising. Once again snowfalls have been below average, leaving the shoots of winter wheat exposed to the biting frosts. In addition, the bureaucracy is relying heavily on an increase in the summer crop.

Florentyev, the Russian Agriculture Minister, indicated at the weekend that 7.5 million acres of land had not been sown with winter crops 'owing to unfavourable weather conditions'.

He added that farmers in the Soviet Far East and the Urals had been unable to plough 4.3 million acres, presumably because of frost. This indicates that the

schedules for the 1973 harvest are already getting way out of gear.

Commenting on the situation yesterday, the New China News Agency said that Soviet CP chief Leonid Brezhnev was no better than the late Nikita Khrushchev at running agriculture. It noted that when Brezhnev came to power eight years ago, he blamed Khrushchev for the state of Soviet agriculture.

The agency said both Matskevich and Polyansky—whose appointment it described as a demotion—had been made scapegoats by the 'Brezhnev clique'.

It recalled that Khrushchev had to dismiss six Ministers in succession in order to absolve himself of the responsibility for the failure of the crops.

'Khrushchev's trick did not deceive the Soviet people in his time. Presumably Brezhnev will fare no better by repeating this trick of Khrushchev's', the agency said.

The National Health Service is under attack. Along with all the other rights which the Tory government is trying to take away from the working class, the right to medical treatment when needed, regardless of cost, is being steadily undermined.

The introduction of the Health Service by the Labour government in 1948 was a great victory for the working class. It was the culmination of a fight which has been waged by socialists and trade unionists, particularly the miners, for many years to ensure that working men, women and children need not suffer or die because

they cannot afford the treatment they require.

That victory was not achieved without a great deal of stubborn opposition from powerful vested interests.

Aneurin Bevan, the Health Minister, left a loophole in the Act which nationalized the medical service which, because of the more rapacious need for profits today, is being exploited to the full by the Tories and their supporters in the British Medical Association.

Consultants today lead a double role: they run their own surgeries where they see private patients and charge whatever

prices they like. But at the same time they also work part-time in the NHS hospitals and earn huge sums. The salary increase given to consultants in 1970 was in itself more than the entire weekly take-home pay of hospital porters and domestics.

Patients have to wait longer to see a consultant or to undergo operations they need because the doctors are busy seeing private patients part-time during the week. Hospital registrars and junior doctors have to work longer hours and take more responsibility than their experience sometimes justifies because the consultant is not there all the time.

Other hospital staff who are underpaid by the NHS—such as nurses, radiographers, physiotherapists, pharmacists, laboratory technicians and others—have to spend hours of their time every week looking after private patients. Although the consultants get paid for each service carried out for the private patient, the ancillary staff get no extra.

In the middle of this situation have jumped the businessmen eager to get their hands on the 'health market'. In this article a special correspondent examines the companies and Tory personalities behind this private attack on the NHS.

Tories' 'private' attack on National Health Scheme

PROMINENT Tories are involved in the private health insurance schemes which are the spearhead of the attack on the National Health Service (NHS).

The main such organizations are the three major provident societies, British United Provident Association (BUPA), the Western Provident Association and the Provident Association for Medical Care (Private Patients Plan).

Between them they insure about 2 million people; BUPA alone covering about 1½ million. Their joint subscription incomes amounted in 1971 to £24m, an increase of 20 per cent over the previous year, and equal to 1 per cent of the total government estimates for the hospital service in 1972-1973.

All the societies provide private treatment in nursing homes, private beds in NHS hospitals and consultants' fees. Most of them pay for some kind of post-hospital convalescence.

BUPA runs a whole string of its own private nursing homes. It also has a nursing agency, supplying part-time nurses either for home nursing, or to work in understaffed NHS hospitals, who then have to pay their wages, which are considerably higher than usual, as well as BUPA's hiring fee.

In co-operation with the Institute of Directors, BUPA also has a health check-up scheme where, at a cost of £37 for men, and an extra £10 for a special screening service for women, subscribers can have a thorough medical examination.

Over 400 companies send their top executives for this check-up regularly, which not only enables them to offer it as an extra 'perk', as well as keeping an eye on the general health of their staff, but they also get tax benefits for the costs involved.

The main advantage for the private patient, however, is the fact that he or she can jump the queue and get treatment or surgery with hardly any delay.

NHS patients sometimes have to wait months or even years for 'non-urgent' operations which the private patient will get within days or weeks. 'Non-urgent', of course, means that while the patient will not actually die, he could spend a considerable length of time suffering discomfort and various dis-

abilities until the operation is finally performed.

Evidence given to the House of Commons Sub-Committee on Expenditure in March 1972 cited waiting times for 'non-urgent' operations (see table).

While private medical treatment is undoubtedly quicker—it could be available for all if private practices were abolished altogether—most private nursing homes do not have the laboratory and other facilities available in the main NHS hospitals.

BUPA's private nursing homes will only take straightforward cases and pass on more complicated ones to the NHS hospitals anyway. So NHS is expected to provide the more costly and highly specialised treatment, while the private homes take the ordinary 'run of the mill' patients and charge them.

For anything between £30 and £90 a year for a family

	Private patients	NHS patients
Cataract operation	2 weeks	over 1 month
Tonsillectomy	2 weeks	18 months
Gynaecological operations	1 week	12 months
Hysterectomy	2 weeks	4 months
Vasectomy	2 weeks	2 years

of four, subscribers get little more than the promise of a private room and quicker treatment.

At the same time, the continuation and expansion of the private insurance schemes means a worsening of NHS facilities.

Money paid for private beds in hospitals does not go to help the hospital service, but is taken straight in by the Treasury. Only about 60 per cent of private beds are ever in use at any one time, while the waiting list for NHS beds grows longer year by year.

In fact, if there was no waiting-list scheme for NHS treatment, it has been suggested that many consultants would invent it in order to persuade as many patients as possible to agree to come to them privately.

So who are the men behind the private schemes?

Listed among them are some very interesting individuals:



Young nurses and doctors have to deal with both NHS and private patients. But none of the money from private treatment goes back into hospital facilities or wages.

President of the Western Provident Association is Sir John Partridge, chairman of the Imperial Tobacco Group and a director of National Westminster Bank. He also participated in the recent tripartite talks between the Tory government, the CBI and the TUC.

Two of WPA's vice-presidents are Sir Wilfred Anson, a former director of Imperial Tobacco, and Sir Reginald Verdon-Smith. Sir Reginald is chairman of British Aircraft Corporation (Holdings), deputy chairman

is currently serving a two-year jail sentence in New York for fraud.

IIG was itself wound up in 1971 with large sums of money owing to various investors.

One other director who should be mentioned is Timothy Raison, Tory MP and a member of the House of Commons Expenditure Committee which reported in 1972 that private practice is good for the National Health Service.

A Labour member, Mrs Renee Short, who was chairman of the Committee, accused the Tories of using their majority to reject all criticism of private practice.

BUPA has 16 governors, most of them businessmen with directorships in various property and investment companies.

The president is Sir Andrew Rowell, a former director of the Clerical Medical & General Life Assurance Society, which, with BUPA, works closely on some schemes.

Among the members of its Medical Advisory Committee are Sir John Richardson, a consultant physician to the Metropolitan Police and London Transport, Sir Ian Fraser, a senior surgeon and a director of the Provincial Bank of Ireland, and a number of other prominent medical men.

It should be no surprise that, with so many Tories active in these schemes the Conservative government is anxious to help them in every way. Successive Tory administrations have shown their hatred for the National Health Service.

They hate the idea that the working class has won certain rights. For them, workers

exist only as a source of profit—from birth to death, every breath a worker takes, every action he performs, must be made to add to wealth.

Though successive Labour governments since the war have refused to abolish private practices or to nationalize the hugely profitable drug industry (they were the first to begin cutting down on expenditure on the health service and introduce prescription and other charges), the NHS has brought tremendous improvements in the general health of the working class.

The Tories bitterly resent this. They want to destroy the health service altogether and force patients back to reliance on private schemes.

Of course only those who can afford it get the treatment they need; those who can't have to suffer.

Just as the Housing Finance Act is designed to break up the council housing schemes and force tenants on to the open market, so by giving more and more preference to the various insurance societies and cutting down expenditure on the National Health Service, the Tories want to drive workers and their families to having to rely on private insurance.

But the working class will fight for its rights—the right to medical treatment not the least amongst them.

Much of the information for this article has been supplied by Labour Research Department.

STRIKE WAVE STIRS IN ISRAEL

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Israeli working class has succeeded in doing what Al-Fatah never has — in a series of determined strikes they effectively closed airports, sealed off docks and held up the postal services for days on end.

As such, they are beginning to pose an even greater threat to the continued existence of the reactionary Zionist leadership than the Palestinian guerrillas.

At last, the old myths of 'one people' with common interests based on the accidents of birth and religion, are beginning to break down under the reality of the class struggle, intensified by the international crisis of capitalism.

Caught in the same crisis which is tearing apart the economic and social fabric of every capitalist country in the world, the Israeli government, like its counterparts in the west, is being forced into a position of having to attack the living standards of Israeli workers through rising prices and unemployment.

Like their fellow workers elsewhere, the Israeli workers are fighting back. In strike after strike they have wrung concessions from the employers and are going on to demand more. Hardly any section of industry has remained unaffected.

In textiles, workers who were previously employed solely on a daily basis have won the right to monthly status after 13 years in the job, with all the increased job security and other benefits which go with it. They have also gained increased severance pay.

Workers in the canning industry recently won the right to monthly status after 13 years, increased severance pay and better travel allowances.

Increases

In the metal industry workers won increased fare allowances, the right to double-time payments for work on the sabbath and national holidays, much increased severance pay and the promise of at least four weeks' notice instead of the previous two.

In view of the dangerous and debilitating nature of their work, employees have previously had the right to spend eight days a year on full pay in a rest home after 11 years' work. This has now been increased to ten days after 12 years.

Agreement has been reached in the wood industry on better pensions and family allowances, and the employers have had to agree to increased payment towards holiday rest homes.

Employers in the plastics industry have been forced to pay full wages for any religious holiday that falls on a sabbath and also for the traditional six days of mourning following a death in the family. They will also now pay 75 per cent of travel costs.

In the bakeries, workers will now get four shirts a year, two

pairs of shoes, four pairs of trousers and four hats. This compares with their previous allowances of one pair of shoes and two pairs of trousers. They will also be entitled to nine days in a rest home instead of the previous seven. Better severance pay rates were also won.

One of the most popular strikes was that of the 1,200 employees of Elite Limited, one of Israel's biggest companies, which owns ten factories manufacturing coffee, chocolates and sweets. The strike lasted 53 days. There were sympathy demonstrations in many of the workers' districts. Factory committees in other companies levied a day's pay from all their workers for the strike fund. Local kibbutzim organized holiday camps for the strikers' children.

The outcome of the struggle was a 40 per cent rise in wages, together with better fringe benefits and the lowering of the wage differential between men and women by 50 per cent back-dated to January 1972.

Investigations are now underway to prepare for the implementation of equal pay in the near future.

In addition, the workers won the right to three weeks' salary a year severance pay from the first day of work up to 12 years. From the 13th year they will now automatically become monthly workers.

The struggle for the end of the day-labour system and for better severance pay has been a recurring theme in many strikes, indicating the terrible lack of job security faced by thousands of Israeli workers.

The fact that these rights are being won has not only increased the fighting confidence of the working class, it is also a sign of the growing crisis facing the Zionist leaders.

If they are to perpetuate their aggression against the Arab peoples, prepare to grab more Arab land and subdue those Arabs now in Israeli-occupied territories, they cannot afford to fight on two fronts. For the time being, at any rate, Israeli workers must be appeased when they put up a determined fight. But the cost of appeasement is rapidly becoming unbearable.

No more than their counterparts in the west can the Zionist leaders afford to go on making concessions to the working class. In fact, in an economy which is largely dependent on handouts from sympathizers abroad, Israel is in an even more vulnerable position than many other capitalist countries. Businessmen are finding it hard enough to make ends meet at home these days without sending large sums of money to Israel as well.

Even Israel's largest backer, the United States, may well be on the look-out for improving relations with some of the Arab regimes and cutting down the amount of money now channelled into Israel to help prop her up as an efficient Middle-East 'police force' against the spread of the Arab revolution.

Like the Tories in Britain,



Hardly any section of Israeli industry has been unaffected. Above: striking dairy workers in Tel Aviv.

the government of Israel will sooner or later have to start on a policy of taking away from the working class those rights which have been won in struggle.

This explains the growth of emotional propaganda about anti-Semitism in the USSR. Of course, the Russian bureaucracy has long used anti-Semitism for its own interests, and in doing so not only plays on the most backward trends which still exist in the Soviet working class, fostering nationalism and covering up their own rotten role in the disruption of the Russian economy, they also add grist to the Zionist mills.

But anti-Semitism is nothing new there and the Zionists have managed to live with it for many years without too much of an outcry until now.

At the same time, more and more stories are being circulated in Israel about alleged atrocities committed against Jews in the Arab countries.

Zionism, also, can only survive by appealing to the most backward nationalism, both in the Israeli working class and as a means of whipping Jews abroad back into financial and moral support. Only the threat of extermination at the hands of alleged bloodthirsty Arabs can keep Jewish workers loyal to the Zionist leaders and elicit from them more and more sacrifices.

It is no accident that the Six-Day War in June 1967, when Israel invaded Egypt on the grounds that she faced imminent extermination unless she took action first, followed hard on large demonstrations of Israeli workers against unemployment.

A number of prominent Israelis have since admitted that it was all a fraud. Mordecai Friedman, manager of the Netivei Neft Oil Corporation in Sinai, which was part of the territory occupied by Israel during the war, revealed that he had been asked by the

War Ministry several months before the war started to take charge of the Sinai oil resources after the land had been annexed.

Even leading members of the Israeli army today laugh openly at the idea that Israel faced any real danger in 1967. As Dr Matatyahy Peled, a former major-general in the Israeli army, told the newspaper 'Ha-arretz' last year:

'The thesis that in June 1967 danger threatened Israel, a danger of annihilation, and that the state of Israel fought for its physical existence is a bluff which was engendered and was developed after the war . . . In May 1967 no danger whatever of extermination threatened Israel, neither individuals, nor in its entirety. The Egyptians concentrated 80,000 soldiers in Sinai and we mobilized hundreds of thousands of men against them.'

Sacrifices

In an even greater crisis now than in 1967, the Zionist leaders have to use the 'Arab threat' again to demand greater sacrifices from the working class and their backers abroad.

What makes the situation even more ironic is that the Israeli government is a 'Labour' government whose Prime Minister, Mrs Golda Meir, is not only a friend of Harold Wilson, but was recently a guest at the meeting of the Second International in Paris. Together with the Histadrut, the Israeli TUC, they are caught in an intolerable contradiction.

On the one hand they have to agree to making some concessions to Israeli workers if they are to maintain any hold at all over their followers and leave their hands free for dealing with the Arabs.

On the other hand, as the defenders of Israeli capitalism, and as the representatives of

imperialism in the Middle East charged with holding the line against the anger of the Arab masses, they have to ensure that no unity can be built between Israeli and Arab workers, and also to hold the Israeli working class back from making the sort of demands which would undermine the existence of capitalism altogether.

The Histadrut places great importance, therefore, on its ability to negotiate national agreements covering whole industries, which appear to offer a few extra benefits to the workers. In this way they hope to prevent widespread strikes which would bring the country to a standstill.

The more far-seeing employers also realize that certain minimal concessions have to be made at this stage.

Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, general-secretary of the Histadrut, recently let the cat out of the bag for a moment when, speaking at a special meeting of the Knesset (parliament) called by extreme right-wing parties to debate 'The social ferment and its effects on labour relations and on the economy', he said:

'The policy of Histadrut is directed, and upon my responsibility, towards ensuring a minimum wage and improving conditions for the low-income brackets. This is the first time that a minimum wage has been introduced . . . as a vital condition for the signing of any labour agreement.'

'We have so far signed agreements in almost all industries and in some of the service branches — collective labour agreements affecting 250,000 workers who will, for the first time, enjoy social benefits closely similar to those of the monthly workers . . .'

'This is being done with the active help of the employers both in the building trade and in industry.'

'The Histadrut incorporates private capital in its enter-

prises. Both the Histadrut and the labour movement have always favoured encouraging capital investments... In the present situation, it is a fact that profits are rising in all branches of the economy, including industry.

It was the employers who throughout the years insisted that the Histadrut base its wage policy on the state of economic viability of enterprises and branches of the economy. And now, this year, we proposed to the employers that, in order to prevent incidental wage hikes springing from sudden economic fluctuations, the question of workers' participation in profits be separated from the overall wage policy. (Our emphasis.)

At the same time as the Histadrut willingly helps the employers keep wages down to the minimum, which they can get away with in the face of an increasingly militant working class, a recent meeting of the Histadrut Council expressed its 'profound anxiety' about the plight of Jews who, it alleges, are suffering in Arab countries.

Ben-Aharon told the meeting that acts of repression and persecution are perpetrated against them and many are thrown into prison merely for being Jews.

'The Jewish people will not forget its brethren in the Arab states,' he declared passionately, 'until the last of the Jews there leaves for Israel.'

The Council issued a special appeal 'to the nations of the world and to the workers and their organizations to take action to save the Jews of the Arab countries, to free them from slavery, and secure them their liberty and the right to emigrate for Israel.'

Discrimination and hostility against some Jews in Arab countries may well exist, fanned by the state of semi-war with Israel, but the Histadrut Council had no word to say on the jailing and torture of hundreds of Arabs in Israel merely for being Arabs, nor on the plight of those Jews from the Arab countries who had emigrated to Israel only to find that poverty and discrimination were still to be their lot.

Harassed

A number of such young Jews who banded together in a protest movement calling themselves the Black Panthers, have been subjected to continuous harassment, police brutality and imprisonment.

For all its best endeavours, however, the Histadrut cannot hold back the Israeli workers. And the unions have been forced to begin a campaign to organize Arab workers in Israel to prevent them being used as cheap labour to undermine the existing wages and conditions.

The Histadrut estimates that



'Black Panthers' demonstrate in Tel Aviv. Above: Golda Meir and Nixon

there are now more than 75,000 Arab workers in Israeli unions. As a member of its Executive Committee recently commented: 'We learnt during this organizational campaign that the basic problems are similar among the Jewish workers and the Arab ones.'

So the war drums have to be beaten again. Once again Israeli workers are being exhorted to make sacrifices so that the state of Israel can survive. Zionist sympathizers abroad are being asked to dig still deeper into their pockets to defend the 'Jewish homeland'.

The government has recently announced the largest defence budget in its history. Letter-bombs threaten Jews around the world—although, strange to say, only one of them has actually reached its destination with much publicity, while bombs directed against Arab guerrilla fighters claim their toll in injury and death all too often with hardly a mention in the capitalist Press.

Desperate attempts by Palestinian guerrillas to bring the plight of their people to the attention of the world by terrorist methods are met by even greater terror as Israeli planes bomb and strafe Arab villages and refugee camps, killing hundreds of men, women and children. As in 1967, brutal aggression is covered by the excuse of the battle for survival.

Yet it is true to say that those war preparations are also directed against the Israeli working class. They will be the next victims of Zionist aggression unless they are able to break from the reactionary racialism of Zionism and recognize their true allies in the Arab masses struggling to free themselves from imperialist exploitation.

Of course, the Zionists are aided and abetted by the Arab leaders who lump the Jewish workers in the same camp as their Zionist rulers and reject the idea of a democratic secular, socialist, multi-national Palestine.

Time and again, however, they have shown that their support of the dispossessed Palestinian people is confined to little more than rhetorical speeches.

Egyptian students who recently tried to call President Anwar Sadat's bluff in demonstrations demanding less words and more action against Israel are paying the price today in the closing of the universities and the jailing of many of their colleagues.

The only way forward for Israeli workers is the building of a revolutionary Trotskyist party which will turn the present aggression of Zionism into a civil war against the Israeli ruling class and—together with the Arab workers and peasants—go forward to the establishment of a socialist Palestine within a federated Arab socialist republic of the Middle East.

MARCHAIS WOOS THE CHURCH VOTE

Many priests were among 800 people at a French Communist Party meeting in Eure-et-Loire to hear leading figure Roland Leroy call on Christians to vote communist in the March elections.

Leroy recalled the late Maurice Thorez policy of the 'hand stretched out to the Catholics', first put forward in 1936. He welcomed the changes which had been taking place in the Catholic Church and cited with approval a substantial section from the document adopted by the Assembly of Bishops meeting at Lourdes last year.

The passages he cited, besides calling vaguely for social justice, pointed out that some Catholics were using the vocabulary of the 'class struggle' as a means of understanding the situation in which they found themselves.

Leroy clutched at these threads to claim Christian sanction for the CP's common electoral programme with Francois Mitterand's Socialist Party and the 'left' Radicals.

He insisted that the programme guaranteed religious freedom and that the educational system would be based on respect for all beliefs and would not teach an 'official philosophy'. In the question period he repeated an assurance by CP secretary Georges Marchais that priests would be able to keep their teaching jobs.



Maurice Thorez: 'hand stretched out to the Catholics'

In fact Marchais made a big concession to the church. He has found a form of words which make it appear that while priests could continue in the educational system, they would not be able to do so as representatives of the church.

Leroy reinforced his appeal to Catholics to vote for the common programme by insisting on the communists' love of country, evoking at the same time Joan of Arc, Victor Hugo, Jean Jaurès and Louis Aragon!

Whether this fawning on the priests will win many votes is far from certain. In areas where the church's political influence is strongest even mild men like Leroy and Marchais are still represented as wild Bolsheviks with knives between their teeth. There is no doubt that the faithful will be told to vote for right-wing candidates.

M. FAURE ROCKS THE COALITION BOAT

All is not well between the French Communist Party and its 'left' Radical partners in the electoral coalition based on the common programme of the left.

This appears so from a comment in the CP's daily 'L'Humanité' on a statement which the Radical deputy Maurice Faure made to the Paris evening paper 'France-Soir'. In it he said that his supporters still remained faithful to the basic ideas of the Radical programme drawn up by Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber called 'Heaven and Earth'.

This was a programme for the reform of capitalism adopted before the Radicals split, one part moving towards the Gaullists, while the fraction to which Faure belongs joined forces with the Socialist Party and the CP.

'L'Humanité' asks how Faure can still support this programme and put his name to the common programme of the left. It also finds it peculiar that Faure should say of it: 'We certainly have no illusion that all this is possible in a miracle of 24 hours. It will require five years!'

The Radicals intend to put a brake even on the mild reform measures proposed in the common programme. But Faure has let the cat out of the bag too soon for the CP's liking.

Unfortunately, 'L'Humanité' does not say who this Maurice Faure is, with whom they have

entered into such a close political relationship. In fact he is an old-line politician from the days of the Fourth Republic who controls an important newspaper, 'La Dépêche du Midi', and has financial interests in a number of big firms.

He holds directorships in companies operating in Cambodia and Africa as well as in France. During May 1958, when General de Gaulle took power by the favour of the army and settlers' revolt in Algeria, Faure was Minister of the Interior!

Until 1967 he was opposed to any kind of political understanding between the Radicals and the Communist Party. Not to put too fine an edge on it, he was pronouncedly anti-communist and approved American intervention in Vietnam.

However, to conserve his seat in the 1967 elections he needed the votes of Communist and Socialist Party electors in the second ballot. He thus made a purely opportunist shift towards the left alliance of that period, which has led him now to support the common programme—with all the reservations that his article in 'France-Soir' hinted at.

This is the kind of ally which the CP, for reasons just as opportunist, has been angling for. It now has to find some way of warding off criticism from its militants who want no truck with careerist capitalist politicians like Maurice Faure. Hence the hypocritical little piece in 'L'Humanité'.

POLITICAL PROFILES

By LEON TROTSKY
Paperback. £1.00 Illustrated

Sharp pen-portraits of leading figures of the Second International in Russia and Europe, for the first time published in an English edition. The translations were first commissioned by the Young Socialists' paper 'Keep Left' Their enormous success has led to the completion of the translation of the whole book, which is the first part of Volume 8 of Leon Trotsky's 'Works' published in the Soviet Union in 1926. It provides the most vivid picture available of the historic figures of the Second International, their strengths and weaknesses, written by an observer who was also a participant in the daily struggle of the European and Russian working class.



Now available from New Park Publications
186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG



STEEL

Part four. Ebbw Vale. Return of a Labour government.

BY IAN YEATS

In the crisp dawn of October 30, 1937 'A' furnace at Ebbw Vale steelworks, South Wales, was blown in for the first time since 1929.

Earlier, in January 1936, lorries, excavators, dumpers, cranes and bulldozers tore down the obsolete 19th century furnaces to make way for what was to be the most modern strip mill in Europe.

When it opened on September 30, 1938, as the first shift went to work, the bells at Christ Church tolled and retolled in endless peals as a token of the community's thankfulness that work had once again returned to the valley.

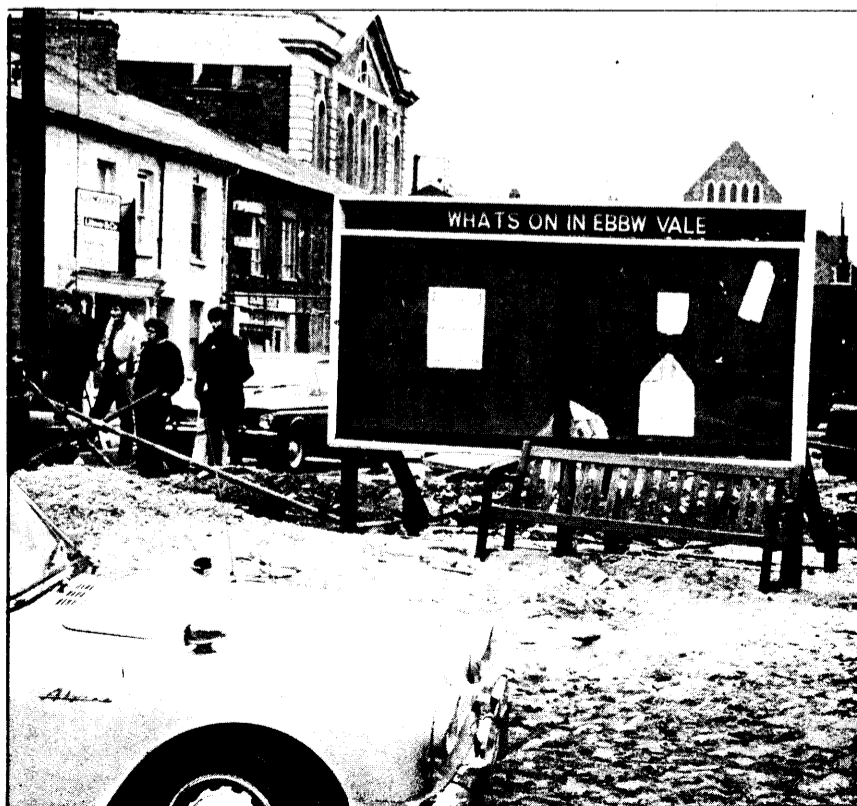
The long years of slump and closure in which grass and weeds covered the steelworks and rabbits multiplied where bars and rails were once rolled appeared to be over.

Today men who never

dreamed that they or their sons would ever return to the hunger and rags of the 1930s are faced with the dole once again.

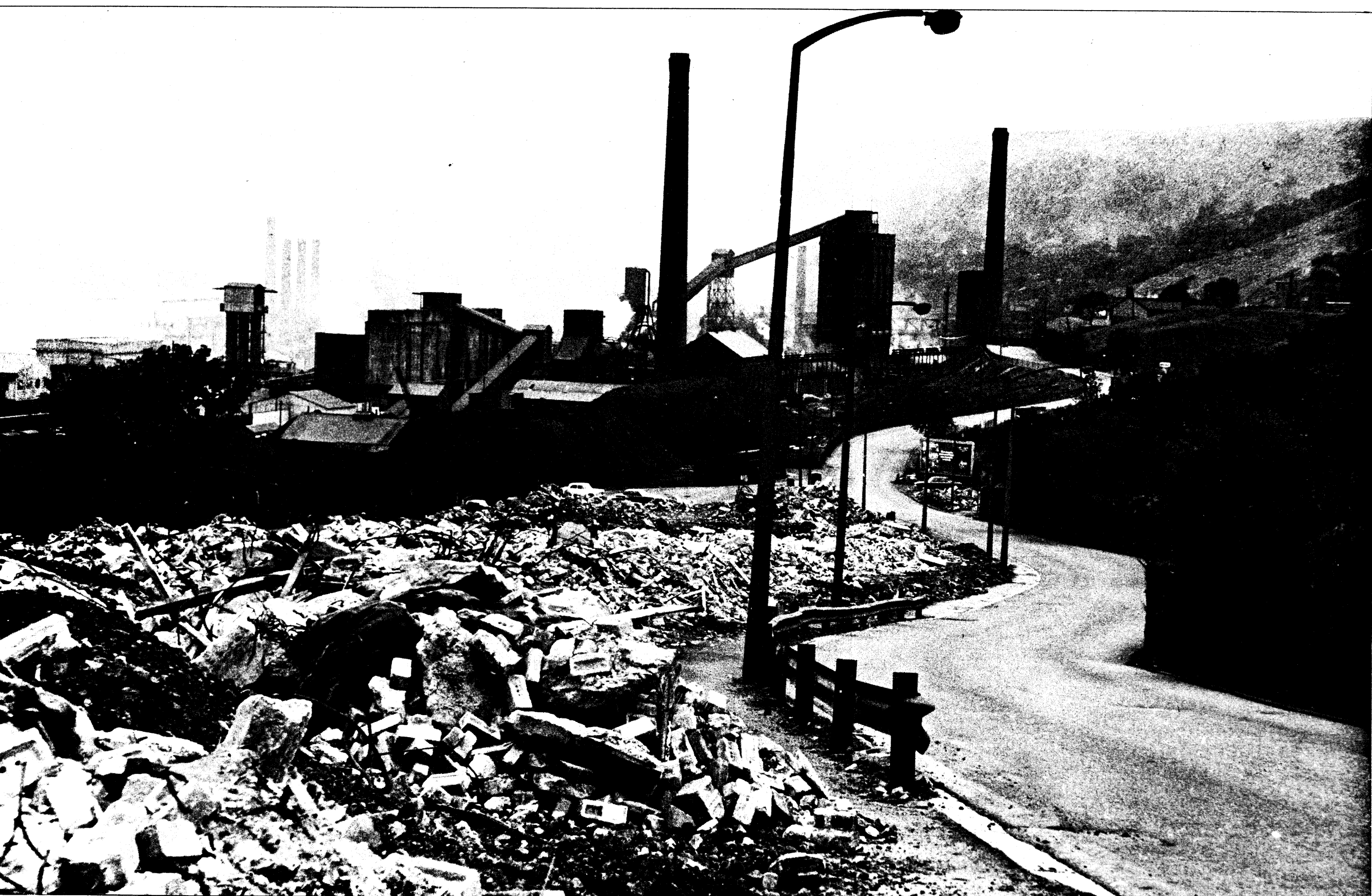
The British Steel Corporation's statement that steel-making will be ended at Ebbw Vale by 1975 is the third time workers' livelihoods have been seriously threatened within living memory.

The furnaces were blown out in 1911, 1929 and now finally, and irrevocably, in 1975.



Ebbw Vale town centre. A community built around steelmaking, it is now threatened for the third time in its history. Above: The steelworks.

Ebbw Vale iron-works. With the 1975 closure, the valley's steel industry is facing a major crisis. The community, built around steelmaking, is now threatened for the third time in its history. The closure will mean the loss of thousands of jobs and the end of an era for the valley.





Ebbw Vale had been an iron-making centre since 1789. With the transition to steel in the 1860s the town was in the vanguard of the new developments.

But by 1911 the disadvantages of the Welsh hill plants as centres of steelmaking were already apparent.

In 1911 Ebbw Vale was turning out steel bars for £4 12s 6d a ton, but Belgian steel could be bought at South Wales ports for £4 9s.

A large factor in the expense of the top town's steel was their distance from ore supplies which had to be imported, landed at the coast, and transported by rail up the valleys.

RESTARTED

The 1911 closure affected not only the steelmen, but Newport, Monmouthshire, dockers, miners, coke oven workers, limestone quarry men, builders and engineers.

Newport Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the works committee, argued that the works could be restarted

profitably if a tinplate works was built to feed sheet steel into the expanding home motor industry.

The plant and the Bessemer furnaces were opened in March and April 1912 and continued at full blast throughout World War I and the reconstruction which followed up to 1920.

Throughout the 1920s the phenomenon first seen at the turn of the century of high-cost British steel manufactured in myriad small and expensively located sites—losing out to US and German companies—again reared its head.

This time the crisis was compounded by the worldwide crisis of capitalism which escalated throughout the 1920s to the ultimate financial and economic collapse of 1929.

By the mid-1930s Ebbw Vale's owners had learned the lesson of their high-cost location and Sir John Beynon showed little enthusiasm for reopening the works which was now the lone survivor of South Wales's famous top-town iron works.

Anticipating that the slump would end sometime and with

Hitler and Mussolini already on the rampage in Europe, the Welsh tinplate makers were looking for a cheap site, close to ore supplies, for a new integrated works.

Sir William Firth, chairman of the Richard Thomas Company, the largest of the Welsh tinplate makers, announced he would build such a works—not in Wales but at Redbourne, Scunthorpe, a town chosen by the Tories for current expansion.

Against all market logic, Firth gave in to the Welsh tinplate lobby and a political campaign led by Aneurin Bevan to site his new works at the bitterly distressed Ebbw Vale.

Thirty-four years later the very same factors which led the owners of 1911 and 1929 to question the future of steel-making at Ebbw Vale have once again emerged to ring its death knell.

For over 100 years the almost wholly working-class community of Ebbw Vale has been held at the mercy of the ebbs and flows of market conditions.

Each time the steelworks has closed, hunger, poverty

and even death have appeared in the town.

In 1911 and 1929 when world recession hit steel, some of the town's then 45,000 population could find work at the pits.

In 1973 only 700 of the town's 13,000 working population work in coal. Of the rest, 9,000 are directly connected with steel, plus at least 1,000 others in associated trades.

The loss of even the planned 4,500 jobs is serious enough. The closure of the entire plant would be an unimaginable disaster.

Work in extractive and heavy manufacturing industry has been leaving the valleys of the South Wales coalfield for more than a decade.

Unemployment in the area, which includes Ebbw Vale, Brynmawr, Tredegar and Aber-tillery, is 5.3 per cent, or over 1,000. There are about 40 vacancies.

DETERMINED

Ebbw Vale, in conjunction with Tredegar, has opened a new industrial estate at Tavar-narbach. So far the only taker is the government, which is planning an advance factory. There is no sign of any industrialists wanting to move in.

Not all steelmen come from Ebbw Vale. 70 per cent live in the town, 20 per cent travel from Tredegar and about 8 per cent from Brynmawr—an isolated hamlet 1,200 feet above sea level on the edge of the Brecon Beacons and barely visible under dense low cloud.

With the ruin of not just one but four communities imminent, the determination of the steelmen to fight is understandable.

Action Committee leader Colin Hudson told me at his Ebbw Vale home: 'Unless we get guarantees of alternative employment, we'll stop the plant. A lot of the lads are pushing for a strike and they couldn't afford to ignore us at this point of time.'

Labour council chairman Mr Harry Evans is also a steelman. He says: 'We're not going to take this lying down. We as a council will move heaven and earth to prevent the government and the BSC killing Ebbw Vale.'

As at Shotton in north Wales, the men at Ebbw Vale are unaccustomed to industrial action and there has been no major strike since the war.

More than that, the town is steeped, almost smothered, in the reformist traditions of the Labour Party begun by Tom Richards and carried on by Evan Davies, Aneurin Bevan and now Michael Foot.

It is this which lies behind Harry Evans' remark: 'The council have said they'd do their utmost to bring this Tory government down, but really we've done very little because the only real indicator of mass dissatisfaction is at the ballot box.'

And Colin Hudson's: 'Even if we have a strike here, and I'm not saying I'm calling one, I wouldn't like to say it would be to bring down the government. The only way to change this government is by election.'

But at this stage, the workers' response to the enormous crisis which has hit them like a bolt from the blue is understandably confused and even contradictory.

With 3,000 jobs lost since 1960, only 1,400 of the 9,000 jobs at the steelworks are held by men over 55 and the majority of the younger men are on the heavier steelmaking side which is to close.

There is no other work and no alternative but to fight. Mr Hudson knows that, and despite his regard for the rule of capitalist law, he can still say: 'But we are not going to give in just to go on the dole.'

The action committee presided over by Michael Foot has three lines of defence, all of which are almost certainly doomed to failure.

As Foot put it in the Tory 'Western Mail', whom he thanked for the opportunity. **FIRST** they will seek to persuade BSC to change its mind and modernize the steel-making side of Ebbw Vale. **SECONDLY** they will plead at least for the retention of the hot mill.

THIRDLY they will ask for guaranteed alternative work.

None of these things is probable or even possible.

Understandably the works' action committee still has some confidence in the power of negotiation.

Until the Tories and their banker friends leaned on him to see sense, BSC chairman Lord Melchett had reprieved Ebbw Vale in 1970 and promised the retention of at least 8,000 jobs. Why, asks the action committee, can't he do it again?

Because this time Tories' recognition that slump and trade war is a permanent phenomenon is forcing them to play for keeps. The entire industry is to be restructured—whatever the social cost.

As Mr Hudson himself admits: 'Economically BSC has been strangling the Ebbw Vale works. It hasn't put any capital investment in over the last six or seven years.'

As at Shotton, the committee is talking of impressing the Tories by pushing up output. But compared with the hoped-for economics from the government's master plan, an extra 500,000 tons would be chicken feed.

Mr Hudson almost symbolizes the confusion inevitable in the process of a group of workers being torn brutally from everything it has ever known.

He told me: 'We don't want a strike here. But we're not lacking in guts. If it goes to that, we'll take them on.'

'If the government and BSC force Ebbw Vale to a confrontation, I would expect the general secretaries of the steel unions, Davies, Scanlon, Jones, Chapple and Smith to back us with a national strike.'

'We can't do any more. We've had first-class labour relations and we've co-operated with them on productivity and no strikes. We've done whatever we've been asked and now we're being ignored.'

'We couldn't move from Ebbw Vale if we wanted to with a million on the dole. But why should a community that's been in the steel industry for 35 years move?'

Mr Hudson asks another important question: why should men be thrown aside as if they worked in private industry when their employer is the state?

He says: 'If nationalization works as it is meant to work, it is a good thing. But as it has worked it's only been of assistance to the business people. The nationalized industries have been run like the businesses.'

He said nationalization should benefit the nation, the workers in the industry and incorporate the principle of the strong helping the weak.

'The first thing we've got to do is go for the return of a Labour government, but I think it must be the Labour government as it was originally intended. I think they have got to take their minds away from profit.'

At Ebbw Vale, behind the reformist platitudes of men like Foot, is an underlying primary will to fight because workers know there is no other way to keep their families' bread buttered.

That is why Mr Hudson concludes: 'If this government is prepared to make a stand which takes away the right to work at Ebbw Vale by confirming the BSC decision, we will take them on and I would expect the TUC to confront the government.'

CONTINUED TOMORROW

THEODORAKIS: CONFUSION REIGNS

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Mikis Theodorakis, the Greek composer whose latest song cycle, 'The Bitter Motherland', was given its world premiere in the Albert Hall, London, on January 30, is a bear of a man. He is immensely tall, heavily built, with just a suggestion of a paunch, has long, wavy black hair and a lined, passionate face.

He looks a proud, even arrogant man. He is liable in argument to explode with great gusts of energy, even though he is known to have suffered from tuberculosis. Indeed, spontaneous vitality informs much of his music, more than melancholy or elegiac moods.

For all this, despite his immense stature or indeed because of it, his present political position is completely indefensible and could simply lead the Greek working class to yet more defeats and betrayals in their struggle against the colonels' regime.

This is not to say that Theodorakis himself is not a heroic man. He was first tortured in 1942 at the age of 16 and has known and survived the barbaric conditions of imperialist prisons and concentration camps for much of his life. He is dedicated to the liberation of the Greek people and his music reflects his deep-felt identification with them.

For 30 years or so he was a member of the Greek Communist Party. After the colonels' coup of April 21, 1967, he broke with the leadership of the Party as he thought, rightly, that they, the Stalinists, had been directly responsible for the coup by failing to prepare and arm the Greek working class.

Involved in the Patriotic Front, he remained a Stalinist in the leadership of the interior bureau of the Party, that section opposed to the dogmatic pro-Soviet line of Koliyannis and grouped around the former partisan leader, Partsalides, sent to jail himself on January 29 by an Athens court.

LACK OF STRATEGY

In London last week for the premiere and to publicize his book, 'Journals of Resistance', Theodorakis issued a statement on his reasons for resigning from the Greek CP, or its interior bureau. His statement, however, simply reveals that he remains no different from Togliatti or any of the present Italian CP leaders he so professes to admire.

Theodorakis said 'certain international circles' are taking advantage of his resignation, so he was going to clear out the confusion. As in his book, he rightly sees the basic subservience of the Greek junta to the demands of US imperialism—though he never uses those terms.

His idea is that the interior bureau of the Greek CP did not remain 'unconditionally attached' to the Soviet Union like the Koliyannis section, but 'continued to believe in the international communist movement'.

His statement goes on: 'This movement has remained true to the traditional viewpoint,



Greek police in action. Above: Mikis Theodorakis being greeted at Paris airport by Melina Mercouri.

and for this reason it suffers from repeated divisions and at the same time cannot follow the mass revolutionary movements, especially those of the developing countries, and of youth which are seeking direct and dynamic forms; their characteristic points are spontaneity, originality of choice in the field of organization, formless cohesion and lack of a common revolutionary strategy on a universal scale.'

In noting all this down uncritically, Theodorakis is, of course, once again disarming the Greek working class by pretending that its spontaneous development and action will be sufficient to overcome the extreme right. It is a consciously anti-Marxist and anti-Leninist attitude.

He goes on to say in this written statement that his own role in the leadership of the interior bureau has convinced him that the international communist movement no longer expresses revolutionary change and that, because of its close connections with the socialist countries, it has entered into an era which exercises a paralyzing effect on revolution.

Naturally, as a reformist he does not call a spade a spade or even a shovel. What he would be correct in saying is that Stalinism is counter-revolutionary and has been viciously and brutally so, whether in the Soviet Union or elsewhere, since the struggle

against Trotsky and the Left Opposition.

Like all Stalinists seeking to discover a reason for their break with the Party they have slavishly followed for decades, Theodorakis speaks as if the counter-revolutionary nature of Stalinism were some new phenomenon suddenly alighting out of the skies 'in the last two years', as he puts it.

Still consciously sowing illusions among the working class, the composer says that the experience of the Greek people, both in the past and the present, shows that 'the forces of revolutionary change' have 'not had any specific direct revolutionary help from the Soviet Union or the other socialist countries, or from the international communist movement'.

TRADE WITH COLONELS

Quite the contrary. As Theodorakis knows only too well the Stalinists betrayed the Greek Revolution after World War II, shot Greek workers and handed them over to first British, then US imperialism. And now, all the Stalinist countries are falling over backwards to trade with the junta while heroic Greek workers and intellectuals are still tortured in jails and camps.

Theodorakis remains a disillusioned, pessimistic upholder of the false doctrine of 'peace-

ful co-existence'. He writes of '... the confrontation of the two super-powers which excludes today—and in my view in the near future—the possibility of profound revolutionary change, at least within the zones of strategic influence'.

And, at a Press conference on January 29, the composer said: 'I would not sacrifice myself for a system like the Soviet system to be established in Greece—I say this because I have been struggling for 30 years for this system to be established there and I know that if it were I would be one of the first victims. Of course that doesn't mean I don't recognize the positive sides of the system!'

He said some poetic things about freedom. He even said Partsalides was as much a symbol of resistance to the Greeks as Winston Churchill was to the British!

But, above all, he peddled the myth of the popular front as a force to defeat the Greek junta and, just like the Stalinists, said King Constantine ought to return.

Now Theodorakis knows full well that if the colonels had not seized power according to the NATO plan, then the King, as a continuing part of his anti-democratic actions, would have got his generals to do the same, as they couldn't tolerate the inevitable victory of the Centre Union in the elections.

He said that he was still hostile to Constantine, but added 'we would not lose anything' by his return.

He even suggested that Konstantin Karamanlis, premier from 1955 to 1963 and leader of the rightist Radical National Union, would be yet again acceptable as leader! The man who continued to fill the jails, presided over the killing of Lambrakis, rigged the elections with the help of Papadopoulos in 1961 and is virulently anti-working class.

Theodorakis believes Karamanlis—whom he claims to have fought and still is fighting—has the confidence of the US, EEC, NATO, most of the

Army officials (as if that were a great seal of approval) as well as the support of 60 per cent of the Greek people.

He talked of popular unity—the possibility of the left parties being organized on a new basis through equilibrium of powers and mutual compromise 'so that we have a period of time that will not lead us directly to socialism or real democracy, but a period that will permit these powers to go on to their purpose'.

LAPSING INTO IDEALISM

Theodorakis knows full well what this means. And he knows, as he said it, that the crisis of working-class leadership was the real crisis that gave birth to the colonels' junta. But he refuses to draw the necessary conclusions from this, deliberately hiding behind Stalinist slogans or lapsing into poetic idealism.

Or saying: 'I have stopped believing in the parties and personalities. They want to put themselves on top of the masses—it is difficult, but I hope that it will be a day when we will have direct democracy.'

At the end of his Press conference, after pouring out this appalling mixture of self-justification, he said that the struggle was a common struggle. 'Freedom will not come only by the Greeks or the Argentinians but by all—together. Maybe we must create a new International!'

But the freedom that Theodorakis talks about is the freedom of the middle class and the petty bourgeoisie to establish their little Utopias. It does not mean the smashing of all the state institutions—certainly not the monarchy or the expropriation of monopoly capital—under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

His 'international' is a call for an amalgam of centrists of every hue which is a diversion from the world revolutionary party under the banner of the Fourth International.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

LUNACY

With living costs rocketing, share prices falling and industrial trouble looming, the 'get-away-from-it-all' movement among the idle rich has reached new heights of silliness.

It seems that BOAC has started up a special reservations list for flights to the moon—and that 114 people have put their names down for the trip.

Pan American already has a similar list in the US, which is even better subscribed. Some people in both countries wanted to put down cash deposits.

To pile nuttiness onto silliness, one man on the BOAC list wanted to continue his journey to Mars, while another has expressed the desire to take his dog to the moon.

But these eager lunatics—in the most literal sense—seem destined for disappointment. As Jack Cowley, BOAC reservations officer, commented cryptically, airlines have got their hands full at the moment with the much-troubled Concorde and their existing fleets and routes.

YACHTING

If you haven't already succumbed to the subliminal sex in the TV adverts and put down your first deposit on one of those summer package holidays in the sunny south, it's worth looking at a lovely little package offered by the Heron Corporation.

All you need to enjoy the privilege of swanning round the Med in your very own luxury cruising yacht is life-jackets for all the family and . . . £175,000.

Heron, which normally concentrates on property development, petrol retailing and vehicle distribution, is sufficiently confident that Heath's pay-control law is going to be 'fair' to the right people to have launched a new subsidiary, Heron Marine, to handle the yacht trade.

It claims to have contracted £1.75m worth of business already.

David Laurent Giles, the company's general manager, is quite open about the whole thing.

Heron's potential customers.

he says, 'are people who have £1m in the bank'. And he's confident that there are enough of them around to make a go of the package. Meanwhile at Butlin's . . .

GIFTS

The gift of an antique silver coffee pot to Labour Education Minister Anthony Crosland recalls another experience of a Labour minister.

It was mid-way through the Labour government, shortly after the setting up of the Shipbuilding Industry Board. This generous body lavished millions of pounds into private shipbuilders' hands.

The Labourite in question was a junior Minister. He was invited to go along with his boss to the launching of a ship at one of the country's leading private yards.

After the ceremony, an executive of the company pinned a magnificent brooch on the wife of the Minister. He then turned to the junior Minister's wife and gave her one—a smaller one.

Both were a cluster of diamonds. Outrageously expensive.

The junior Minister's wife regathered her cool, took the brooch off her dress and handed it back.

Great was the consternation in the Ministry.

As a result of the incident the junior Minister had his knuckles rapped by his boss and his senior civil servant told him that his wife's attitude was 'not helpful' in dealing with the shipbuilding companies.

He was not invited to any other launching.

Below: Crosland



STALINIST STAB-IN-THE-BACK

In a desperate attempt to cover up for its masters in Moscow the United States Communist Party has mounted a witch-hunt against Trotskyism in the anti-war movement.

The January 20 issue of the Party's paper, 'Daily World', carried an article by hack 'theorist' Mike Zagarell, author of the book 'Trotskyism—the Inside Job'.

The article was headed 'Problems in the Peace Movement: Trotskyist Friends of Nixon's Treachery'. It attacked the Pabloite organization, the Socialist Workers' Party (SWP) and its youth section, the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA).

The article opposed these organizations because they have been waging a campaign in their Press against the 'peace treaty' in Vietnam and against the Stalinist 'Sign now' campaign.

The SWP's position on this question is not consistent: it makes certain correct criticisms of the Stalinists while at the same time politically trailing behind the Communist Party in the anti-war movement.

In fact on the very day the 'Daily World' was attacking the SWP its members were taking part alongside the Communist Party in what it termed a 'united-front' demonstration under the slogan 'Sign now'.

Clearly the purpose of Zagarell's attack is to hit at the basic principles of Trotskyism which are defended consistently in the United States only by the Workers League.

Zagarell is more at home with crude slander than with reasoned polemic. He refers to 'Trotskyite Nixonists' and calls for their expulsion from the anti-war movement:

'The Trotskyists have been declared renegades throughout the world peace movement. Of all the nations in the capitalist world, our peace movement in the US has the greatest res-

ponsibility. It is time that we began to examine new and higher standards in the peace movement.'

A little late in the day, perhaps. Although it has not brought peace to Vietnam, the aim set by the Stalinists for the 'peace movement'—the signing of the Paris treaty—has taken place.

The Stalinists apparently consider that with the Vietnam 'problem' out of the way, they can return to their real task—defending the Soviet CP and peddling slanders against Trotskyism.

In his article Zagarell says: '... the main argument of the Trotskyists is that the Vietnamese are selling out. The Trotskyites are embarrassed to attack the Vietnamese freedom fighters directly.'

'So they try to use anti-Communism, particularly anti-Sovietism, to hide their longstanding hatred for the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) and the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of South Vietnam.'

'They do this by implying that the Vietnamese don't want to sell out, but they are under "pressure" from the Soviet Union. But try as they may to hide their position, anti-Sovietism, their full position slips through.'

This is a particularly crude example of Stalinist thought-processes. Zagarell makes no real effort to disprove the SWP's charges against Moscow.

This would be difficult, because they are attested to by almost every bourgeois observer—and by the North Vietnamese and their allies themselves.

To pick one example of the many instances of the kind of crimes Zagarell is trying to cover up, it is not necessary to cite Nixon's visit to Moscow or the blatant remarks of Soviet officials in Hanoi quoted in 'Newsweek'.

Let us simply quote Prince Norodom Sihanouk, whose book 'My War with the CIA', written jointly with Wilfred Burchett, was published earlier this week.

Le Duc Tho and Kissinger after the signing of the Vietnam treaty. Now US Stalinists try to cover-up the fact that pressure to sign was put on the North Vietnamese by the Soviet Union and China.

Sihanouk leads the Cambodian National United Front which has control of the greater part of Cambodia, leaving only the capital, Phnom Penh, and a few provincial towns in the hands of the US puppet regime.

He describes the Soviet Stalinists' treachery in Cambodia and their support for Lon Nol's puppet regime correctly as a 'stab in the back for the NLF' in neighbouring South Vietnam.

'Premier Kosygin was very emphatic that I prevent Lon Nol and Sirik Matak from stabbing the NLF in the back. We, in fact, had done our best by tackling the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak coalition, the Saigon forces and the American air force without outside help.'

'What more could he ask? And who is stabbing who in the back now? Lon Nol and Sirik Matak never stopped their betrayal of the NLF, but, nonetheless, the Soviet Union rewards them.'

'Not only do the Soviets keep an embassy in Phnom Penh and maintain diplomatic relations with the traitor regime, but they send medical and surgical equipment to patch up the troops of Lon Nol, who we have put out of action, so they can attack us again.'

'In October 1971, the Soviet Union renewed a financial agreement with that same Lon Nol regime which premier Kosygin assured me he would "never forgive". I am now, in 1972, with the NLF; our troops fight side by side.'

This is how the Soviet Union 'aids' the struggle of the Vietnamese. As Zagarell says, the 'peace movement' could certainly do with 'new and higher standards'. It could start the clean-up by asking the US Stalinists why they are covering up for Moscow's betrayals.

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

Where is Britain Going?
Paperback 374p

Problems of the British Revolution
Paperback 35p

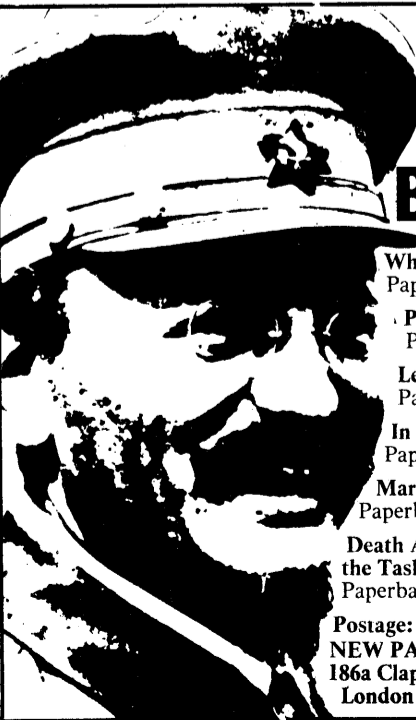
Lessons of October
Paperback 60p

In Defence of the October Revolution
Paperback 15p

Marxism and the Trade Unions
Paperback 25p

Death Agony of Capitalism and
the Tasks of the Fourth International
Paperback 10p

Postage: 10p per book. Order from:
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG



TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.30 Schools. 12.30 Ar y trywydd. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Andy Pandy. 1.45 Ask the family. 2.05 Schools. 2.50 Sixteen plus. 3.15 Rolf Harris. 3.40 Dat at the office. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Scooby-doo. 5.10 John Craven's news-round. 5.15 Vision on. 5.40 Wombles. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 **TOM AND JERRY.** Blue Cat Blues.
6.55 FILM: 'THE IRON MAIDEN.' Michael Craig, Anne Helm. Comedy.
8.30 WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LIKELY LADS? I'll Never Forget Whatshername.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.
9.25 DOCUMENTARY: 'THE LONGEST DRINK.' The Story of a city's water.
10.15 FILM 73. **10.45 MIDWEEK.** **11.30 NEWS.**
11.35 VIEWPOINT. Hail, Gladdening Light. **12.00 Weather.**
12.02 MEDICINE TODAY.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 This week (London only). 11.00 Schools. 2.05 Mr. Trimble. 12.25 Pinky and Perky. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Lunchtime with Wogan. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 About Britain. 3.25 Kate. 4.25 Junior showtime. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 I dream of Jeannie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. **6.40 CROSSROADS.**
7.05 FATHER, DEAR FATHER. In All Directions.
7.35 COOL MILLION. Now You See Her, Now You Don't.
9.00 LOVE STORY. A Face of Your Own. **10.00 NEWS.**
10.30 DOCUMENTARY: 'WHO BEAT THE ALL BLACKS?' But Good Old Sospan Fach.
11.15 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.
12.00 A CHANGE OF COURSE.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.50 Open University.

6.40 OFFICE. To file—or not to file?
7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY. **7.35 COLLECTOR'S WORLD.**
8.05 INTERNATIONAL TENNIS. Commercial Union Masters Tournament.
9.00 PLAY 'HOME.' By David Storey. Royal Court Theatre production with John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, Dandy Nichols, Mona Washbourne, Warren Clarke.
10.25 LEAP IN THE DARK. No 2. Telepathy, precognition.
10.50 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST.
11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.



Trendy marketing executive Jeffrey (Anton Rodgers) takes his landlady's daughter Sarah (Angharad Rees) to a discotheque in 'A Face of Your Own' at 9.00 on Independent channels.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 4.20 Lottery. 4.25 London. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Film: 'Johnny Reno'. 9.00 London. 12.00 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.20 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 11.57 News. 12.00 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Junkin. 7.05 London. 7.35 McCloud. 9.00 London. 12.00 News. 12.10 Weather Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Try for ten. 7.00 Film: 'Guns of Wyoming'. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London. 12.00 Time to remember. 12.30 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil.

6.01-6.15 Y dydd. 12.00 World in action. 12.30 Weather.
HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 About women. 3.00 London. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoons. 5.35 Wind in the willows. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Film: 'Copper Canyon'. 9.00 London. 12.00 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Osmonds. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 McCloud. 9.00 London. 12.00 Ian Phelps reports. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 McCloud. 8.30 Father, dear father. 9.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Here's Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00

Father, dear father. 7.35 McCloud. 9.00 London. 12.00 Scotland Yard mysteries. 12.35 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 2.30 Collecting on a shoestring. 2.55 London. 5.15 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.35 Smith family. 7.05 London. 7.35 Film: 'Honeymoon With A Stranger'. 9.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Prologue. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Kreskin. 3.00 London. 5.20 Jackson five. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 McCloud. 9.00 London. 12.00 News. 12.15 Scotland Yard. 12.40 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Adam Smith. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 McMillan and wife. 9.00 London. 12.00 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.35 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Doris Day. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Father, dear father. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 McCloud. 9.00 London. 12.00 Meditation.

Subscribe now!



Do you get **WORKERS PRESS** regularly? If not, why not take out a subscription now?

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)
 £10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)
 £5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:

£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)
 £6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:
 Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required (Please tick)	MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY
-----------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------

Or
 Full subscription (six days) for months.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Amount enclosed £

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

BRIXTON: Tuesday February 6, 8 p.m. Brixton Training Centre (corner of St Mathews Road and Brixton Hill).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLAPHAM: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths,

Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Defend basic rights'.

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

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

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

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

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

I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.

Name

Address

'Lefts' included in policy switch

TUC accepts Common Market corporatism

THE TUC has taken major strides towards accepting the Common Market and the corporatist style of trade unionism which exists in countries like West Germany and Italy.

Later this week TUC leaders will travel to Brussels to attend the founding conference of the new European Trade Union Confederation.

At the same time hints have emerged from major union offices that British labour leaders are preparing to accept the concept of worker-directors on the boards of major British companies.

The 'Financial Times' labour editor remarked yesterday:

'This marks a major switch of policy, particularly for some left-wing union leaders such as Mr Jack Jones of the transport workers, who have traditionally believed that the functions of management and unions should be kept separate.'

The acceptance of participation on the boards of big monopolies is in line with EEC legislation on 'industrial democracy' which was released last month.

This suggested that the unions should appoint workers to the boards of all public companies with more than 500 employees.

The Tory government asked the TUC to consider this proposal.

Jones and Hugh Scanlon of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers were members of a special working party which has recommended acceptance of the principles of this class collaboration with the employing class, the class enemy.

Yet all of the discussions went on in secret and without the consent of the

membership. And the talks about EEC legislation are in complete defiance of TUC and Labour Party conference policy which was overwhelmingly in favour of a boycott on all Common Market bodies.

Workers Press can reveal that the worker-director scheme has the support of the British Communist Party.

It is in line with the practices of the Stalinist parties in France and Italy. There have been secret negotiations going on between the leaders of big business and the trade unions for this policy to be quickly implemented.

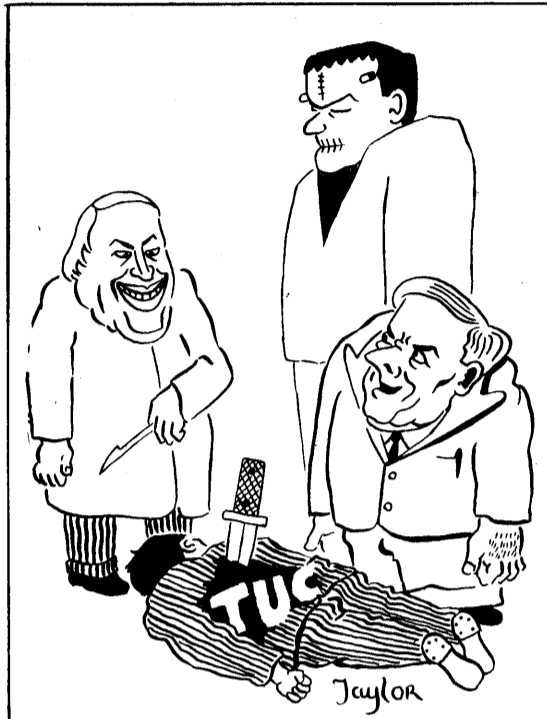
It forms part of the Tory strategy to smash the independence of the trade union movement and to draw its leaders ever more closely to the state.

That was the meaning of the Industrial Relations Act and its notorious court: this is the meaning of the treacherous scheme to put trade union stooges in the board room.

We can also reveal that some monopolies have already begun selecting trade union representatives for these posts—and there are Stalinists among the names suggested!

● Mr Jack Peel, right-wing general secretary of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers, will be nominated for a senior post in the European Commission's social affairs department.

His acceptance of the £9,500-a-year job is in recognition for his consistent advocacy of trade union support for the EEC.



Neow, my faithful Victor, we have more parts for my corporate monster.

Shopworkers stage London pay rally

USDAW, the Manchester-based shopworkers' union, will stage a big rally in London tomorrow in protest against the state pay laws.

General secretary Mr Alf Allen and president Mr Dick Seabrook will address members at a meeting in Lincoln's Inn Fields before a march and lobby of parliament.

Yesterday an order came into effect banning wage increases for about 80,000 Co-operative workers, mostly USDAW members.

The order holds up a £1-a-week increase which the workers should have been receiving since January 1 as part of a long-term pay agreement signed in May 1971.

It covers between 50,000 and 60,000 shop assistants and about 22,000 workers in radio and television servicing, cafes, restaurants and

laundries.

The move by Employment Secretary Mr Maurice Macmillan followed an announcement by the London Co-operative Society that it intended to pay the increases in defiance of the Tory law.

In the face of this legal attack by the Tory government, the best defence the USDAW

leadership has suggested is a test case against the laws in the Bow County Court, London.

This miserable diversion is aimed at channeling off the anger of the membership away from politics and into the legal arena.

Members at tomorrow's rally, who have to put up with appallingly low wages, are expected to give the right-wing leadership a rough reception with their political demands for industrial action against the Tory laws.

SLL LECTURES

DONCASTER

Sunday February 11
The revolutionary party in Britain.

Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter.

SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL
Westlithgate
7.30 p.m.

SHEFFIELD

Monday February 19
The economic crisis and the socialist answer.

Monday March 5
The revolutionary party in Britain.

Young Socialist Premises
Portobello
(near Jessops Hospital)
8 p.m.

Lecture 2
1924-1933—The Left Opposition's struggle against Stalin

Lecture 3
1933-1938—From the German defeat to the founding of Fourth International
given by TOM KEMP
(SLL Central Committee)

ACTON

Wednesday February 7
Lecture 2
Wednesday February 14
Lecture 3

Woodlands Hall
Crown Street, W.3. 8 p.m.

EAST LONDON

Thursday February 8
Lecture 2
Thursday February 15
Lecture 3

Old Town Offices
Poplar High Street
E.14. 8 p.m.

NEWCASTLE

Monday February 12
Lecture 2
Monday February 19
Lecture 3

Ford Arms
Shields Road, 8 p.m.

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

London

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Workers
Press
MONTHLY
APPEAL
FUND

FEBRUARY
FUND NOW
STANDS
AT £65.62

WE ARE now at the sixth day of February and it is a slow start so far for this month's Fund. We have only 28 days this month to complete our £1,750 target. Let's press on with the fight.

As civil war breaks out in Ulster, serious dangers face the working class. British imperialism will ruthlessly try and crush all those who fight back to defend themselves against this system.

Workers Press was the first daily paper to speak out against British troops in Ulster. Our paper has been in the forefront of the struggle against the Tories and all their attacks.

Fight back today with Workers Press. Help us raise our Fund early this month. Collect as much as you can. Post all donations immediately to:

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

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

FILM BAN: ITV BLACK OUT

ITV SCREENS were blacked last night between 8 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. in protest against the political ban on the World in Action film, 'The Friends and Influence of John L. Poulson.'

The black became certain at midday yesterday when both the film and television shops at the Grenada headquarters at Manchester decided to support their film union colleagues in London.

The screen black-out is the first time industrial action has been taken by members of the ACTT to disrupt commercial networks in protest against government censorship.

The hour-long film on the bankrupt Yorkshire architect was to have been shown a week ago, but the IBA, a stooge body of the ruling class, arbitrarily banned it.

Clydebank rents deadline

A HIGH COURT order instructing Clydebank council to implement the Tory rent Act expires today.

Tory Secretary of State, Peter Walker, has said that tenants of Clydebank's 9,000 council houses must pay up to 75p a week more.

But on the very day the Court of Sessions ordered them to implement the Act, Clydebank council voted 13 to 8 against.

From today they are in contempt of court and could be faced with unlimited fines and imprisonment.

Officials say that the court's most likely first step could be to instruct the town council's full-time staff to levy the increases.

There would be immediate opposition from tenants, who demonstrated their feelings at the

Pressure on rebel councils

BY IAN YEATS

weekend in a 2,500-strong march through the town.

AT CLAY CROSS, Derbyshire, a full meeting of the council last night was expected to pass a resolution urging tenants to withhold their rents.

Council leader Mr Arthur Wellon told me: 'The rent and rates strike which began a week ago has got off to a good start and it moved into top gear this weekend.'

The council has taken Labour Party advice and decided to appeal against the £6,985 surcharge slapped on them last month in lieu of arrears.

The effect of these legal manoeuvres can only be to postpone the inevitable head on clash with the Tories.

Last night's meeting was also expected to vote to withhold its payments from the Public Works Loans Board.

Because the council refused to operate the rent Act it received no housing subsidies this year.

Mr Wellon told me: 'We shall deduct from our payments to the Board what we feel we should have had in housing subsidies. We are determined to keep rents down in Clay Cross.'

The Board is a Treasury body and is owed between £1½m and £1¾m. The council repays £180,000 a year.

AT CONISBOROUGH, Yorkshire, the 15-strong Labour council's fight against the rent Act hung in the balance yesterday.

Tory auditor Mr. F. Hoolsworth has now finished his examination of the authority's books and some councillors are worried about the extent of their personal liability for arrears.

The council's 2,000 households owe about £14,000.

Voting at yesterday's meeting was expected to be close. At the last vote it was seven—six against.

Yesterday's decision will be ratified at a special public meeting of the council tomorrow.

AT BEDWAS and Machen the Tory commissioner Mr E. Lewis arrived yesterday and the first rent increases of 85p a week will be levied next Wednesday.

Labour Council chairman Mr W. A. Richards told me: 'We have gone as far as we can go. Now it's up to the tenants.'

A special meeting of the town's 1,700 tenants has been called for tomorrow night to discuss the situation.

8,500 dock jobs lost—in six months!

Port bosses' Trojan horse

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE JONES-Aldington report has done its job—it has slashed the docks labour force by more than 20 per cent inside six months and handed the employers a dangerous weapon for attacking

dockers' organization and fighting strength.

These facts emerged forcefully yesterday as employers' spokesmen announced the numbers of men who have left

the industry under the report's special severance terms.

Yesterday's post brought in the final applications for severance on these terms, which can yield up to £4,000 for men over 55 or

'unfit for most forms of dock work'.

By mid-morning the total number of applications received since last September, when the terms came into effect, had reached 8,533. The estimated cost to the government rose towards the £32m mark.

Where there were 40,500 registered dockers nationally at the end of the national dock strike last year, there will be only 32,000 once all the most recent applications are cleared.

The port employers yesterday made two vital admissions about this swingeing cut in the labour force:

- That it takes them close to their strategic aim of a 9,000-man cut by the end of 1974—with 23 months to go!

- That their own secret plans at the time the Jones-Aldington report was published provided for a cut of exactly this order. In fact, despite the report's soothing claim that the 'essence of the present problem' was a temporary surplus of 1,650 men, the employers were counting all along on ridding themselves of 7,500.

Yesterday's announcement of the final tally was made by Donald Redford, chairman of the National Association of Port Employers and a member of the Jones-Aldington committee.

Exuding satisfaction, he told reporters that the main question now facing the industry was 'to get everything in balance'.

And he laid heavy stress on the efforts of the National Ports Council, the National Dock Labour Board and NAPE to assess and meet the requirements of those ports where severance has now produced labour shortages.

It is at this point that the attack on dockers' organization comes in.

Redford revealed that there are now more than 2,000 'supplementary' dockers nationally, and that there has been no case since last September in which the National Dock Labour Board has turned down a port's request to open a supplementary register.

Supplementary-registered men enjoy none of the job-security provisions of the Dock Labour Scheme, which protects dockers on the permanent register from the sack.

The employers' chairman attempted to deny yesterday that these men are 'casual workers'. But he was forced to concede that they can, in fact, be sacked at a week's notice either from the Dock Labour Board or their individual employer.

The breakdown of those who have applied to leave the industry is: London, 2,500; Liverpool, 2,809; Hull, 360; south coast, 317; Manchester, 360; Preston, 133; Tyne and Wear, 204; Bristol, 162.

Dangerous money-spinner from the Industrial Society

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

THE ANTI-UNION laws, under which five workers have already been jailed, had not undermined basic trade union rights, the corporatist-style Industrial Society said yesterday.

At the unveiling of their new booklet, 'The Industrial Relations Act in the Courts', authoress Joan Henderson said that one of the main troubles was that the main unions had refused to co-operate with the Act and the National Industrial Relations Court.

Head of the Society, John Garnett made it clear that they were against trade union refusal not to observe the law.

He said it was a challenge to democracy to argue laws should be broken. 'That is right for tyranny and not for a democracy,' he said.

Mr Garnett, an ex-ICI executive, added that Society, which has many leading trade unionists on its governing body, believed unions should register.

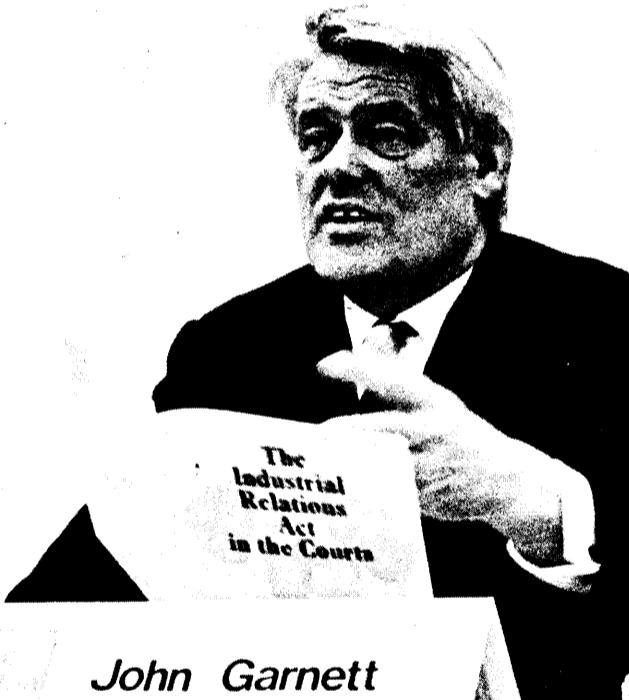
He said that recourse to the NIRC should be the 'last resort' for managements, but that now the Act had become the law of the land, it had to be recognized.

The 40-page booklet, which reviews all of the important cases to come before the court, promises to be another massive money spinner for the Society.



Joan Henderson

Industrial Society chief John Garnett with authoress Joan Henderson and her booklet 'The Industrial Relations Act in the Courts'.



John Garnett

Their earlier work on the anti-union laws, 'The Industrial Relations Act at Work', grossed over £50,000 with sales of 70,000.

The policy of the Industrial Society is strictly at variance with even the TUC's milk-and-water opposition to the Act.

The first booklet and this latest publication are designed to explain the workings of the Act to industrialists.

Mr Garnett said yesterday that this was not designed to encourage them to use the Act. He could see no serious difficulties between the Society and the trade unions over this policy.

Union leaders who are on the Society's governing council include Jack Jones of the transport workers, Jim Conway of the engineers and Lawrence Daly of the mineworkers.

Other evidence of union support is afforded by the Society's Westminster office.

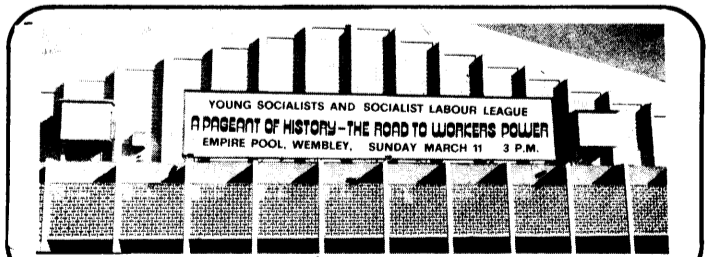
The transport workers, the general and municipal workers and the public employees all contributed to a £136,000 fund for the building which will be officially opened in April by the Queen mother.

DEFEND ALL DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Defend trade unionism and basic living standards

Unite in action to make this Tory government resign

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



SUNDAY MARCH 11th 3pm
PAGEANT · RALLY · CABARET

I would like to take part in the Pageant/come to Empire Pool. Please send me further details.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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

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