

THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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TODAY ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETING Make the trade union leaders fight the Tories! Force the government to resign!

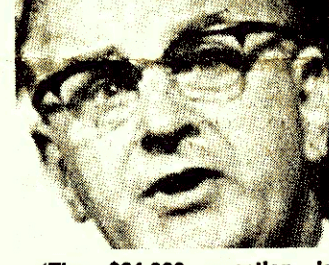
Power men snub govt provocation ELECTRICITY-SUPPLY workers thumbed their noses at the Tories yesterday with a work to rule which hit power supplies all over Britain.

Workers ready to fight Tory law

By John Spencer

WHICH way forward after December 8? How can the full strength of the ten-million-strong trade union movement be mobilized to defeat the Tories and their anti-union law?

What they've said about the anti-union laws



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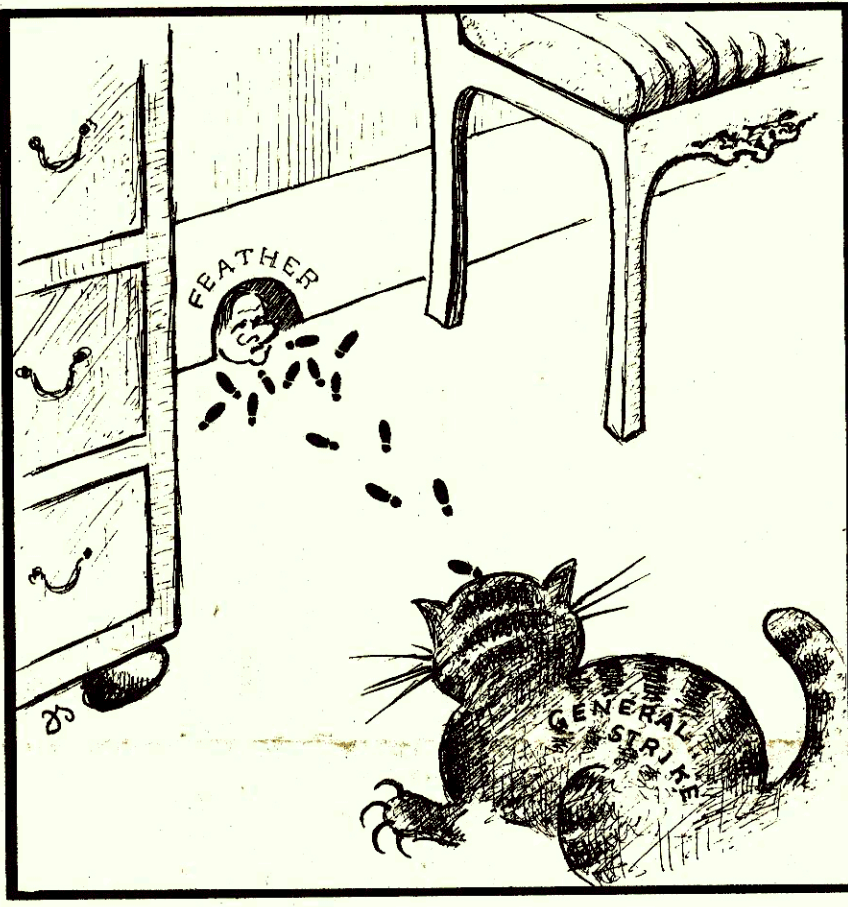
'The \$64,000 question is how we can best conduct the fight against the Tory plans. Resolutions alone are of no avail.' Hugh Scanlon, 'Morning Star', September 8, 1970.

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Prison camp a warning to all trade unionists

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Defends whom? The threat of a general stoppage, he told reporters, would be sufficient to deter the Tories and force them back.

£1,250 Dec. Appeal Fund stands at £124 13s 6d WE GIVE our fullest support to the hundreds of thousands of trade unionists who are out on strike, today, against the anti-union laws.

BEER MUG

BEER MAT collectors — tegetologists — have chosen Enoch Powell's as the face they would most like to see on beer mats in 1971.

Something for everyone at the YOUNG SOCIALISTS GIANT XMAS BAZAAR

Saturday December 12 Corn Exchange Leeds DOORS OPEN AT 11 a.m. Visit Aladdin and his Magic Lamp Toys — Bingo — Books — Raffles — Plants — Can-Can Records — Portraits — Xmas Gifts — Candy Floss — YS Boutique — Bottle Draw — Food Bargains — Lucky Straws — White Elephant — Instant Photo — Babies' Clothes — Punch 'N' Judy — Home-made Food — Fruit Machines — Childrens' Clothes — Alligator's Head — Xmas Decorations — Father Christmas — All the best jumble — Teas & Refreshments — Scarves, Hats & Gloves — Hot Dogs, Hamburgers — Stalls — Sideshow

A new ATUA pamphlet 6d

Just off the press

After December 8th? THE NEXT STEP

ESSENTIAL READING FOR ALL TRADE UNIONISTS AVAILABLE FROM 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.



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... I am sure that Mr Victor Carr and his trade union colleagues need not worry. The real need in the current situation is to strengthen the authority of the democratically appointed trade union leadership.

WORKERS PRESS

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tory government

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Tories and call a General Strike to force them to resign. Between now and January 12 there should be mass demonstrations outside every union headquarters and district office. The demand must be placed firmly and squarely on the union chiefs. Every union leader and every official must be made to say where he stands.

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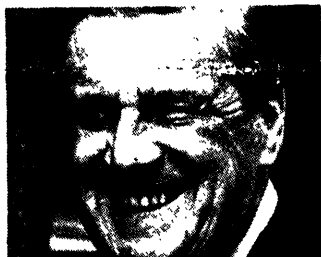
- Force the leaders to fight!
- Demand the TUC call a general strike to force the Tories to resign!
- Build the alternative leadership to reformism and Stalinism!
- Return a socialist government in 1971!

Workers ready to fight Tory law

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'I can knock on the door of Robert Carr and get a more friendly response than I got from Barbara Castle'.
Victor Feather, July 1970.
'If I may say so, talk of a general strike is completely irresponsible in this atmosphere.'
Victor Feather, October 9, 1970.
'Introduction of penal sanctions into relations between employers and workpeople would be unnecessary, irrelevant and unworkable.'
Victor Feather, October 29, 1970.



'The \$84,000 question is how we can best conduct the fight against the Tory plans. Resolutions alone are of no avail.'
Hugh Scanlon, 'Morning Star', September 8, 1970.
'Mr Hugh Scanlon... said yesterday in Wolverhampton that as far as the new trade union legislation was concerned "The Rubicon has been crossed" and the Bill would become law. The consequences would have to be faced by industry.'
'Sunday Times', December 6, 1970.



'We need a massive campaign the like of which has not been seen since the days of the Chartists, to prevent the unions being put in chains.'
Jack Jones, 'Record', July.
'If I could face the bullets of General Franco then I am prepared to go to prison for the rights of the workers.'
Jack Jones, October 12.
'The TUC approach is best.'
Jack Jones, T&GWU 'Record' November 1970.

'TUC chiefs go over to attack.'
'Morning Star' headline September 4.

'The TUC is now showing signs of doing the job it ought to be doing... The TUC is on the right lines.'
'Morning Star' editorial, September 9.

'If you're living in the dreamworld of asking this conference to go on record for a general strike then you're insulting our intelligence.'
Bill Jones, chairman November 14 conference.

'The [Liaison] committee welcomes the TUC decision to organize a campaign against the Tory plans. But it regrets that the TUC did not call for immediate action...'
Liaison committee statement, quoted in 'Morning Star', October 20. (Our emphasis.)

'If [working-class] strength is fully used it can force the government to retreat. This has been shown throughout the history of the trade union movement... This is why the call for industrial action on December 8 was made.'
'Morning Star', November 14.

'You can't expect the TUC leaders to stand up yet. Don't be too critical of the TUC.'
Manchester CSEU Stalinist Bernard Panter, quoted in Workers Press, December 2.

'We are not opposed to TUC policy in its entirety.'
James Hiles, Liaison Committee chief, December 5.



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Thames TV, 'This Week', September 24, 1970.
... I am sure that Mr Victor Feather and his trade union colleagues need not worry. The real need in the current situation is to strengthen the authority of the democratically appointed trade union leadership...
Robert Carr, Tory Minister of Employment, September 12, 1970.

The workers are ready to fight, eager to do battle with Tories, and confident that victory can and will be won.

December 8 proves that the only obstacle to victory is the malignant treachery of the reformist trade union bureaucracy and its Stalinist backers. The Trades Union Congress' impotent protest policy — lunch-time meetings on January 12, a Congress at the end of February and a shower of leaflets in the meantime — is a blueprint for Tory victory and the complete subjugation of workers' organizations under the iron Tory heel.

Accept

TUC 'lefts' like Scanlon and Jones do not intend to lift a finger either. These people, with the enthusiastic and uncritical support of the Communist Party have already accepted that the Bill will become law. They do not support December 8 and they are fully behind the TUC's token campaign.

These 'leaders' are conceding defeat before the fight has begun! At the Liaison Committee conference on November 14 the demand that the TUC call a General Strike was rejected out of hand by the platform.

This was a 'dreamworld', chairman Bill Jones said. Now without a word of explanation, these self-confessed political bankrupts have switched to calling for 'nationwide action of general strike dimensions'. But this unexplained policy switch does nothing to change the essence of Stalinist policy. Committee chairman Kevin Halpin makes it plain that the question of general strike is raised simply as an empty threat.

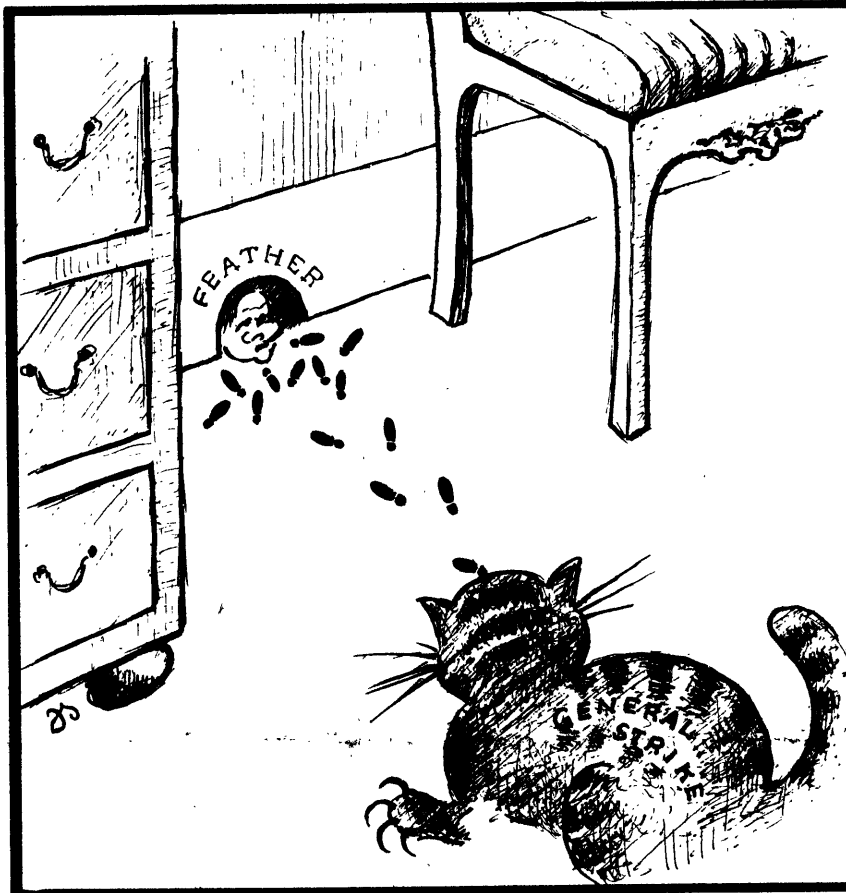
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Is this a Committee for the Defence of the Trade Unions or a Committee for the Defence of the TUC? What is required is not pressure to force the Tories to the left, or even to 'push' the TUC into action.

It is a massive campaign inside the unions on questions of policy and programme, which can overturn the present situation at the top. This means a ruthless exposure of all the vacillations and, above all, a consistent and merciless fight against Stalinism.

A powerful rally-point for the development of this struggle will be the All Trades Unions Alliance conference on December 19. We urge all workers who seriously want to fight the Tory offensive to attend this conference and to read, circulate and popularize the draft Charter of Basic Rights which will be discussed there as the programme for defeating the Tory onslaught.



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Victor Feather, October 9, 1970.

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Behind the re-opening of the internment camps and the reported arrests of militants, claim Sinn Fein, is a new compromise settlement between Lynch and the Tories, based on the 1921 treaty which separated the Six counties from the South.

The Lynch government's emergency measures, the statement claimed, were 'directed against the republican movement. Since there has been no major incident which Mr Lynch could try to justify imprisonment without charge or trial, he has now tried to create a scare situation.'

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

Small wonder that its repressive measures against the republican left are greeted with such enthusiasm both in Stormont and the British Tory press.

Commented the 'Sunday Telegraph': 'That Mr Lynch should now feel strong enough politically to crack down with a firm hand should be a source of relief, not alarm.'

Both the Sunday and Daily 'Telegraphs' have been outspoken advocates of a Tory 'crack down' against the trade unions in this country.

In praising the repressive policies of the Lynch regime, they are giving approval to the same strategy here.

And when the same paper says that 'detention camps are an unpleasant short-term necessity', it is not referring only to Ireland.

Stern

The Lynch measures are, therefore, a stern warning to every British trade unionist.

The Tory anti-union laws are only the beginning of the government's attack on workers' rights. They mean to go all the way, even if it means emergency powers and detention centres on a scale far bigger than Ireland, or even Canada.

£1,250 Dec. Appeal Fund stands at £124 13s 6d

WE GIVE our fullest support to the hundreds of thousands of trade unionists who are out on strike, today, against the anti-union laws. However, this protest, by itself, will not be enough to defeat the government. The trade union leaders must be forced to call a general strike and defend the trade unions against the Tories.

The Workers Press, alone, has called for this political action. Support us now in this fight by stepping up the campaign for the December Appeal Fund. Post all your donations to:

Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

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TODAY ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETING

The postmen have shown the way to defeat the anti-union laws! Make the trade union leaders fight the Tories! Force the government to resign!

Lecture Hall, Central Halls WESTMINSTER 5 p.m.

Speakers:

G. HEALY (National Secretary of Socialist Labour League)

A. THORNETT (Deputy Senior Steward Morris Motors, Oxford)

Chairman: A. WILKINS (ATUA Secretary)

G. CAUGHEY (Chairman Pilkington's Rank and File Committee)

T. SWEENEY (Chairman London Councilworkers' Liaison Committee)

Admission 2s

Power men snub govt provocation

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY workers thumbed their noses at the Tories yesterday with a work to rule which hit power supplies all over Britain.

Cards were being played close to the chest in Whitehall as the government contemplated a 16 per cent output cut within hours of the official power-station bans coming into operation. Spokesmen attempted the difficult feat of stressing firm determination to resist the unions' £5 claim while implying that Chancellor Anthony Barber's weekend troop threats

By an industrial correspondent

were not intended to be provocative. Barber had just been showing the government was aware of its responsibilities, it was said.

Meanwhile in N Ireland, unions and employers announced an interim settlement of the dispute within 12 hours of the workers' action starting.

The 3,000 Six Counties workers called off their work to rule and overtime ban pending a settlement in Britain.

Trains, street lighting, factories, radio transmitters and sections of several cities were hit by selective power cuts.

DISCONNECTED

About 10 per cent of customers in each of the Central Electricity Generating Board's areas were disconnected for varying periods from about 7.30 a.m.

As leaders of the four unions involved went to the Department of Employment later in the day for talks on their claim, CEBG officials were promising to report on the reasons for the rapidity with which the bans took effect.

It was being claimed that workers had gone beyond the bounds of a normal work to rule.

BELFAST eight-man union delegation from Harland and Wolff's shipyard will fly to England today to meet the Norwegian shipping magnate Fred Olsen who wants to buy the stricken yard.

COMMON MARKET countries will not interfere in the Industrial Relations Bill, Minister for Europe Mr Geoffrey Rippon told the Commons.

Mr Alfred Morris (Lab. Wythenshawe) had said it was reported that Mr Rippon would be warmly welcomed in Brussels because of the Bill.

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Visit Aladdin and his Magic Lamp

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Continued from yesterday

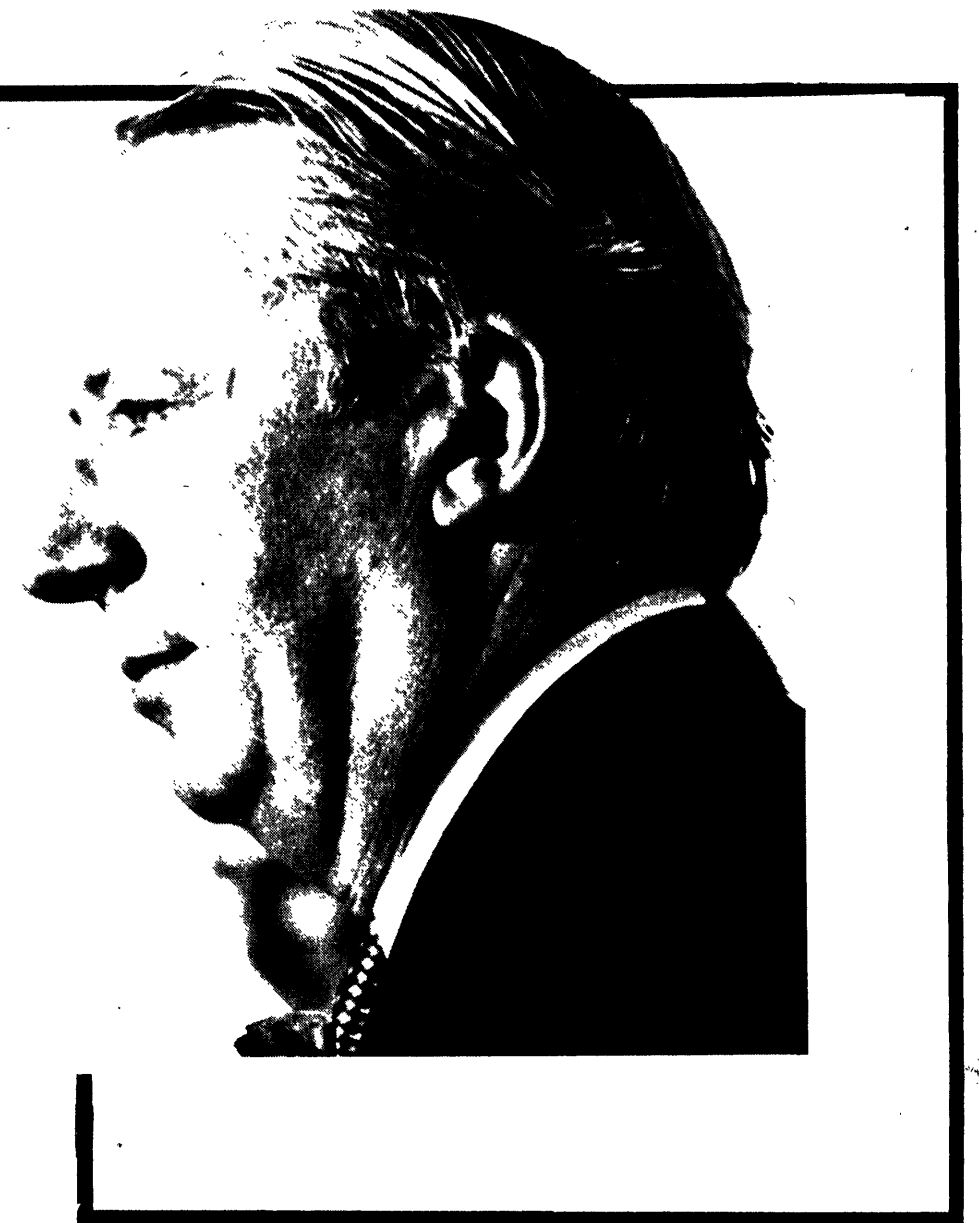
Edward Heath

Part two

Pictures below from George Hutchinson's biography

Profile investigation by Ian Yeats

The Tory Leader



PRIME MINISTER Edward Heath's background is entirely one of petty bourgeois self-help. It is no surprise that this is the philosophy underlying his concept of government.

His father was a carpenter who lived in staid, respectable Broadstairs when Ted was born in 1916.

Ten years later he had become a manager at the local builders where he worked and in 1930 when the owner died he bought the business and set up for himself.

Of the family Hutchinson says: 'They never thought of themselves as poor and by the standards of the time they were not'. In fact in 1926 Heath senior was earning about double the average wage paid to workers.



The baby

Heath senior's fortunes were rising at a time when hundreds of thousands of other men's were plummeting.

1926 was the year of the General Strike; in the next four years unemployment was to rise to two and a half million: the lives of most men were far from 'ordinary'.

Yet Hutchinson describes Heath and his family leading 'ordinary' lives with Ted going for leisurely swims and bicycle rides.

At least one of Hutchinson's comments rings true where he says: 'Up and down the country innumerable boys of a similar background were doing much the same things'. So much for the sufferings of the middle class.

In keeping with this background, in 1926 at the age of ten he won a scholarship to a leading local Grammar School—Chatham House, Ramsgate.

Heath's mother had been a lady's maid and also a strong churchwoman. This almost certainly explains why Heath's interests outside school largely involved singing in the school choir and learning to play the organ.

But he took an early interest in politics, never doubting from the start that these began and ended with the Tory Party. When, in 1933, the

famous 'King-and-Country' vote was given at Oxford, Heath led the opposition in a similar debate at Chatham House and reversed the vote.

In 1935 he went on to Balliol College, Oxford to read PPE.

Characteristically he had to scrape the money together. Some came from his parents and some from Kent Education Committee. A quarter of a century later 'The Times' was to say of him: 'Mr Heath was a self-made man, but he started early'.

At Oxford Heath's Toryism took root. He was active in the University Conservative Association and in the debates society.

Notable achievements in debates included opposing a motion advocating equality of education—he argued this would mean communism—and opposing another motion which was to the effect that the British fascists had forfeited the right to free speech.

In a typically petty-bourgeois way he argued for

porters are middle-class business and professional people.

Of his wide contacts in industry Hutchinson says: 'They are nearly always what might be called the better end of management—really intelligent, hard-working, modern-minded people who feel that in Heath they have someone who understands the problems of large-scale industry in the modern world'.

As 'The Times' pointed out in 1969, Heath represents the businessman's take-over of Whitehall.

For Heath it began on February 25, 1950, when, at the age of 34, he was elected to the House of Commons as the member for Bexley with a majority of 133 over a Labour opponent.

Twenty years later there is no justification for surprise at the content of Heath's Toryism as it unfolds week by week.

While his ideas have been modified by circumstances, the underlying philosophy has not changed since he first stepped onto the national political stage.

As early as 1937, in a debate at Oxford, he displayed uncompromising opposition to Labour plans to extend social services. The cost was too high he said. He is still saying so.

But now he is in a position to do something about it. Momentarily his voice was drowned by the 1950s boom.

A year later Heath emerged as a pro-Churchill Tory with no sympathy for the wish-wash liberalism of Chamberlain and his followers. Britain first and Britain strong was from the beginning built firmly into Heath's policies.

After the war, in 1947, when he went before the selection panel at Bexley, he won the nomination on the basis of his speech filled with condemnation of the Labour government.

It was a government of crisis, debilitated by the dogma of nationalization, a government under which controls multiplied like rabbits and which imposed a strait-jacket on industry.

Heath's determination to abolish Resale Price Maintenance in 1964 was designed, he said, to stimulate competition. In fact it paved the



The gunner

In 1963 Heath had become Secretary for Industry, Trade and Regional Development. By November of that year he was emphasizing that 'firms that did nothing about productivity must be pricked into activity'. He stressed equally that public expenditure could only come from increased production.

Heath's determination to abolish Resale Price Maintenance in 1964 was designed, he said, to stimulate competition. In fact it paved the

way for the giant retail monopolies to drive out the small men.

On February 11, 1964, Heath told overseas bankers at the Guildhall: 'We are not afraid of (monopoly) size' and as a reassurance he added that profits would be there for those with enterprise and effort.

With the economic crisis forcing Labour to take back many of their promises to the electorate, on January 15, 1968 Heath gave the nation a 'tighten-their-belts' warning. He set the objective of a high

level of productivity, with inventiveness and administrative ability. By helping themselves to go ahead they will be helping all of us. By maintaining the economic foundations on which everything depends they will be helping the whole country.'

In 1965 Heath restated his policy list. At the top now were incentives for work followed by the need for more competition in industry and commerce and reforms of management, the need to eliminate restrictive practices and 'redefine' the role of the trade unions, the need to make social and community services more 'efficient', and last, the need to join the Common Market.

The EEC was now seen as a threat to British industry if the country remained outside and a saviour if entry was granted. Only through access to wider markets could the growth of the monopolies be assured.

1965 was a year when an Industrial Relations Bill was mentioned in detail for the first time. In it there were to be provisions for enforceable agreements, a register of trade unions and employers' associations and industrial courts.

Another first for Heath was his expressed intention to impose firm controls to limit immigration.

By 1966 Heath was talking of an economic crisis so severe that it was the greatest any nation could face short of war itself. During the election campaign he said:

'Unless we take action to avert it we are faced with the threat of national bankruptcy'.

That year he had a chance to show what his attitude to strikes would be. During the seamen's strike he pressed Wilson to demand a secret ballot by the union so that those who wanted to go back to work could do so.

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wage, low-cost, high-productivity economy, but he said that increased output should go into the balance of payments and into investment for increasing capacity. He said:

'There will be little left over for consumer or for government spending.'

By 1970 overproduction reflected in a mounting inflation was the dominant issue in politics. But Heath made it clear that he had no intention of harming his big-business backers by tackling prices. In July he said:

'This is already governed by questions of competition.'

Productivity

In other words prices were to find their own levels. This was the only way business could survive. There could be no attacks on prices and through them on profits.

This could only further harm capitalists by robbing them of incentives. But something had to be done. Heath and his party decided, irrevocably, to

get at prices through wages. In future there were to be no more inflationary wage increases. Productivity would, in theory, be the sole criterion.

On inflation Heath said:

'This problem is more serious for Britain than for most other countries because of our poor growth in productivity, our inadequate reserves and substantial overseas debts and the chaotic state of industrial relations.'

'Great firms with household names see their profits squeezed by taxation and their production continually disrupted by industrial disputes; their wage bills soaring in the struggle to keep up with wage inflation.'

Heath came up with policies expressly designed to relieve the burden of taxation on the big companies; policies which meant attacking the welfare state and through it the living standards of the working class; policies which meant attacking the nationalized industries to ensure that only

the most profitable sections survived.

He also came up with policies to deal with wage inflation. Wages were claimed to be industry's single biggest cost and in addition the trash of mainly unofficial strikes were proving an unsupportable burden.

Destruction

Even before the election the importance of a bill to save the capitalist class from economic ruin by destroying the power of the unions had emerged as the most vital plank of Tory policy.

Heath accused Labour of 'abdicating their responsibilities in failing to deal with industrial relations' and he warned:

'We are not prepared to delay our proposals' (for an Industrial Relations Bill).

Most significantly and speaking clearly for the ruling class he represented, he said, 'If the government stood by and did nothing it would lead to economic and political destruction'.

BBC 1

10.25 a.m.-12.25 p.m. Schools. 12.55-1.25 Fo a fe. 2.00-4.00 Rugby Union. Oxford University v Cambridge University. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Animal magic. 5.20 Dastardly and Muttley in their flying machines. 5.44 Magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. London. 6.45 QUIZ BALL. 7.05 2 CARS. 'Strictly Cash'. Part two. 7.25 THE LAUGH PARADE. 'Up in the World'. With Norman Wisdom. Jerry Doonome and Maureen Swanson. A window cleaner on a large estate becomes involved in a kidnap plot.

8.55 POINTS OF VIEW. 9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 'THE STRANGE CASE OF RUDOLF HESS'. An investigation into the unsolved mystery of a man's mind. 10.10 MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS. 10.40 24 HOURS. 11.15 POSTSCRIPT. 11.20 MEDICINE TODAY. 11.50 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except:

6.45-7.00 Heddlu. 10.10-10.40 This world of Wales. 11.52 Weather.

Midlands, E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today. Look East. weather. 10.10-10.40 Contact. (Midlands only.) 11.52 News, weather.

North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North. weather. 10.10-10.40 Wall game. (NE only.) 11.52 News, weather.

Wales: 5.20-5.50 Telewel. 6.00-6.45 Wales today, weather. Nationwide.

TV

Morley. Michael Redgrave. Marius Goring. Michael Rennie and Bernard Miles. War film about the Royal Navy. 8.00 London. 11.15 News. 11.25 Farm progress. 11.55 Weather. Action 70.

HARLECH: 3.00-3.50 Aladdin's cave. 4.18 Women today. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Max. 7.25 Mr and Mrs. 8.00 London. 11.15 People to people. 11.45 Weather.

HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.16-4.18. 6.01-6.35 Report West.

HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 as above except: 6.01-6.18 V dydd.

HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 6.01-6.18 V dydd. 10.30-11.15 Dan sŵyl.

ANGLIA: 2.50 London. 3.50 Granny gets the pool. 4.30 News. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. Police call. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Saint. 8.00 London. 11.15 Conceptions of murder. 11.45 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.49 Horoscope. 4.32 Women today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Origami. 4.50 Flaxton boys. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased). 8.00 London. 11.20 Better driving, weather.

ULSTER: 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Saint. 8.00 London. 11.15 White line.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play school. 1.15-1.45 p.m. Medicine today. 7.05 PROSPECTUS. 'Two Teachers: Three classes'. 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 FLOODIT! RUGBY LEAGUE. BBC 2 Trophy, second semi-final. Wigan or Huddersfield v Leigh or St Helens. 8.50 WHEELBASE. 9.20 MENACE. 'Who's Been Sleeping in My Bed?' With Patrick Mower and Georgina Hale. Suspense thriller. 10.35 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.40 THE CODEBREAKERS. 'Shall Yamamoto Die?' 11.10 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

2.35 p.m. Journey of a lifetime. 2.50 Aladdin's cave. 3.50 Adventures of Robin Hood. 4.17 Hatty town. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Junior show-time. 5.20 Mappie. 5.50 News. 6.02 TODAY. 6.30 THE GHOST AND MRS MUIR. 7.00 THE SAINT. 'The World Beater'. 8.00 INTERNATIONAL BOXING. Cassius Clay v Oscar Bonavena from Madison Square Garden, New York. 8.00 GRADY. Look, I'm Nobody'. 9.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 'OUT OF THE SHADOW INTO THE SUN'. The first filmed assault of the Eiger's north face, 1970. 11.15 PEOPLE TO PEOPLE. 'Bulgaria in January'. 11.45 IDEAS IN PRINT. Michael Nelson talks to Fred Brown, author of 'Secular Evangelism'.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 4.00 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 Survival. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Look-around. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Saint. 8.00 London. 11.10 Gazette. 11.15 News, weather.

Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Saint. 11.15 Faith for life. 11.20 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 2.50-3.50 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 London. 4.55 Hymn for children. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Film. 'The Big Blockade'. With Leslie Banks, John Mills, Will Hay, Robert

GRAMPIAN: 3.49 News. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.25 Wally Whyton style. 4.55 London. 6.00 News and weather. 6.10 Ron Thompson reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 6.55 Westerns. 'The Big Dakotas'. With Gary Merrill and Wanda Hendrix. A shipment of gold sent by President Lincoln to the Sioux Indians attracts the attention of a Confederate agent. 8.00 London. 11.20 Better driving.

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ADVANCE NOTICE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1971. 11 a.m.

ALEXANDRA PALACE

Wood Green London, N22

Young Socialists and All Trades Unions Alliance

GREAT NATIONAL RALLY AGAINST TORYISM

BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

A conflict

of opposites

BY BRIAN MOORE



MacConnachie (ROBERT SHAW) attempts to destroy the enemy. Right: Accompanied by Ansell (MALCOLM McDOWELL), he flees from the helicopter.



'Figures in a Landscape' directed by JOSEPH LOSEY

showing at the Carlton in London

AMONG the current film fare offered in the West End, titles such as 'Swinging Swappers', 'The Wife Swappers', 'Mondo Sex', to name but three, together with the second-time arounders, many of them good films, but filling merely the gaps left by the fall in film production as recession bites, Joseph Losey's 'Figures in a Landscape' stands out with all the authority and dignity of a genuine creative artist.

FILMS

His work has always borne that stamp, and whether you like it or not, and often I find it ponderous and irritatingly incomplete, you are always aware of a worrying or disturbing quality that serious art has, aware of a mind that is restless and inquiring.

The very way he uses a camera compels you to look afresh, to go beyond merely the surface visual impression and experience the complexities and interrelationships of things.

In 'Figures in a Landscape' he has found a form and image that compresses all his earlier obsessions into one central allegory of struggle.

The title itself has a directness and simplicity, a bareness that announces the hypothesis that men conflict with each other and the natural world in order to survive.

We know almost nothing about the two men, whose hands are tied behind their backs, running through a parched and bleached landscape.

They are clearly on the run, but from whom and where, we do not know. The young man is exhausted and it is only from the brutal insistence of the older man that he carries on.

From the way he harangues the boy we learn of a man who is physical, sensual, who understands the natural world with the instinctive cunning of an animal.

He leads the way, directs the route.

He knows there is fresh water about because he 'can smell it'. He seems attuned to escape and survival, practised, professional. In contrast the boy is merely a useless weight around his neck.

Yet they need each other, are indispensable to each other, these two opposites held in unity by the simple fact that both are bound and need the other to cut through the bonds. What they both need is

a knife for their release. They come upon a herd of goats and an old peasant who is their keeper.

'I need you for this,' says the older man, but the young man refuses - horror struck. Alone the older man murders the herdsman, but in vain.

He has nothing on him, no knife or cutting instrument that they need so badly. It is a senseless brutal act, committed without thought, and the young man accuses the older for his stupidity and thoughtlessness.

It is the first time that the young man has asserted himself in any way, asserted himself as a thinker.

The herdsman, who had nothing, is now a corpse that signposts their passing. The older man needed the younger man in a way different from what he first supposed. The ropes round their wrists feel even tighter. They try to cut them on the rocks but without success.

Swooping from the sky, directly over their heads, comes a helicopter. It turns and swoops down at them,

like some huge machine hawk. The two pilots are faceless shapes in helmets and flying suits.

It plays with them almost, diving at them, twisting, turning. They try to run away but it pursues them like a giant horse fly with blood on its mind.

The older man shouts abuse at it, trying to challenge it.

When it finally leaves them alone and hovers watchfully in the air a hundred yards ahead, the older man yells 'If I hadn't been tied, I could have pulled it down out of the air'.

He is outraged at the violation as a thinker.

For him it becomes a personal vendetta; to get the pilot.

The younger man says: 'We would do better to wait till darkness and then travel quickly. Find a village and a knife'.

At night the helicopter wheels away and the two men find a village. There they enter a house where a corpse is laid out for a funeral. They find a razor and free themselves of their ropes.

Then they help themselves to clothes, tinned food and a gun with ammunition. It is at this point they notice the grief-stricken widow of the deceased in a trance that

blocks out their presence and their intrusion.

It is only when the older man takes bread from the corpse that she is aware of them and lets out a piercing cry.

Again they have to escape and again the young man accuses the older of stupidity.

But the older man has other things on his mind. He is determined to go it alone, to take the gun and share the food and make it to the mountains. The young man wants to come with him but the older refuses. He sets off.

Yet when he is faced with a can of food, he doesn't know how to open it and only the

young man has the tin opener and the knowledge to use it. The young man bargains technique for protection. They leave together.

This relationship of opposites is the key and centre of the film. They are polarized as youth and age, as new and old, as force and weakness, as stupidity and intelligence, as ignorance and knowledge, yet they are inseparable.

That inter-relationship is the key to their survival, their interdependence their weapon against the enemy who hunts them throughout the film in the infernal machine and later with the massed troops of an army.

The relationship between the two men changes, develops, now one dominates, then the other, but it is in their struggle to survive that the differences and the unity are revealed.

Driven by the enemy they make for the mountain tops, to the snow, where, according to the older man, they 'will be all right'.

The route involves them in a battle in a plantation with the enemy trying to flush them out with fire.

(This episode is a filmic tour de force, which highlights the blind, wordless, bloody confusion of war, of refugees, of senseless devastations, of loss and cruelty.)

Yet where are they making for? The older man confesses that he doesn't know, that he's never been there before, but has a blind faith that it will be all right when they get there.

And once high up, there is a feeling of safety, as if they have made it. The snow is pure, untouched by man, virgin territory.

The young man runs in it, makes snowballs, washes his face.

They are tired and scared, but they have arrived. Below the enemy is still after them, but the frontier is a few yards ahead.

It is here that a despair creeps into the film, a despair that has been totally absent from the characters' material struggle. Already the unknown is tainted by the known. At

the frontier the sinister figures of another army stand.

The young man approaches them. They say nothing. He has a gun in his hand. The soldiers point their weapons at him. He throws down his gun and advances.

The soldiers relax. Part of the bargain of entry is to go disarm.

Yet the older man cannot give up his obsession. He must have his revenge. He must destroy the helicopter.

Alone he battles it out with it... and is hacked to pieces by its bullets.

The film ends on a long slow aerial shot over the miniature figures in the snow. There is no indication at all of what is on the other side of the mountain.

It's unclear what Losey means by this. Does he mean that there is no real victory over the machine, that it will always win?

Or that past revenges have no longer a present significance?

Or that all struggle is doomed, yet we have to struggle?

I don't think Losey is certain. What I do think is that he has tried to impose an idealist resolution to a very materialist film, which can have no resolution, for struggle is a continuous process.

The uncertainty that he raises and retreats from is fought out on the other side of the mountain in a higher form.

Panthers grasp for dialectics

HUEY NEWTON, Black Panther Party 'Minister of Defence', speaking at New York City Community College to 4,000 youth on November 19, surprised his audience by devoting the whole of his two hours to the need for dialectical materialism as the basis for the revolutionary movement.

'I'm not going to give you what you want, but what is good for you,' he began. He called upon his supporters to reject 'nationalism and empty rhetoric,' and went on, '... the real issue is consciousness'.

Newton insisted throughout on the vital importance of learning the Marxist method.

'Our strategy is armed struggle,' he said; and added that this did not mean 'go and get your guns,' but meant to grasp revolutionary theory as the basis of the struggle.

Manifestation

This turn to basic theoretical questions by Newton is of very great historical significance, not in the sense of Newton as an individual, or the formal correctness or incorrectness of his particular statements, but as a manifestation of the way in which the depth of the imperialist crisis disrupts old forms of consciousness and provides the conditions for a turn to the most basic philosophical problems, thus enabling the youth and the proletariat rapidly to make the decisive advances required to prepare the conquest of power.

Huey Newton speaking at the New York City Community Centre.

Newton's development indicates the speed at which experience of the class struggle in the advanced capitalist countries today opens up this possibility.

Overthrow

Black nationalism appeared to every revisionist and reformist to have replaced the conscious struggle to build the Marxist Party. But as Newton points out: 'What seems to be is not so'.

'In 1966,' he said, 'the Black Panther Party called itself nationalist. We wanted to found a nation, we wanted to run away and we found the enemy wouldn't let us run away. We must run towards him... overthrow him and have a different society.'

'Then we said we were nationalists and international socialists... The Black Panther Party has moved beyond internationalism. We have developed a higher form of Marxism-Leninism... Marxism-Leninism-Pantherism.'

Despite the confusion of the last phrase, nothing will be able to stop the great impetus which Newton's stress on dialectics and philosophy will give to the development of an interest in theory among the Negro and the white youth.

Newton directed their attention away from idealist dema-

gogy and towards materialist analysis:

'Reality is independent of us... Once we realize this we will move to understand and manipulate that world. Our attitudes have no effect on the world. We must know the objective facts and seize power.'

'What is power?... Power is the ability and knowledge to define the external world and harness the force and make it act the way we want...'

'With understanding you can break anything... We must have a correct method to understand the past, the present, and be able to see the future.'

If this outlook is carried through consistently, then there can be no surer death for the bourgeois nationalists and the various reformists and revisionists who support them.

Material roots

Racialism must be fought, according to Newton, not as 'the absolute problem', but by starting with the understanding that racialism exists to justify exploitation. 'It must have material roots'.

Turning clean away from the nationalist emphasis on 'black cultural history' and the 'black studies programmes', Newton went on to insist on the vital importance of the historical les-

sons of the proletarian revolution, again from the point of view of the dialectical materialist method:

'The Black Panther Party observes that in 1917 in the Soviet Union something happened. Society was transformed because Lenin applied practice and theory. We must arrange the facts and come up with a theory. We must test this theory in reality and see if it works.'

Here is the beginning of a truly revolutionary process.

Marxist pedants of the revisionist Socialist Workers' Party variety will no doubt point out the many formal errors in Newton's speech.

Basic theory

But the important point is that after such an intense experience of struggle Newton should raise questions of basic theory and the dialectical method at this level.

It undoubtedly has international significance in indicating the great opportunity of building the revolutionary party and the revolutionary youth movement.

It is also entirely characteristic that, precisely at this point, the revisionist SWP, after hanging on to the coat-tails of bourgeois black nationalism for so long, should now come out

openly against the Black Panthers.

As justification for this they offer a formal repetition of the general case of Marxism against methods of individual acts of terror, together with a condemnation of the Panthers' turn away from nationalism to socialism.

Writing on behalf of the SWP, Derrick Morrison says: 'But since the end of 1968, the Panthers have, to a large degree, withdrawn from the mass struggle for black control.'

'And as a consequence, their defence efforts have lacked the necessary broad-scale organization and education.' ('The Militant', November 27.)

Capitulating

As the statement of the Political Committee of the Workers' League points out correctly, the SWP is criticizing the Panthers on their strongest points, and itself capitulating to the pressure of the ruling class.

What the SWP is objecting to is that the Panthers have begun to break with bourgeois-liberal politics towards the working class. In swinging against them, the SWP now goes farther to the right than ever before.

The Workers' League is absolutely right to point out that this betrayal of Marxism results from the SWP's abandonment long ago of the dialectical method.

What a remarkable confirmation of the dialectic that as this rejection of dialectical materialism delivers them into the arms of the right, so the revolutionary youth make a conscious bid to grasp dialectical materialism for themselves!

IMPORTANT READING

NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS

STALINISM IN BRITAIN

A TROTSKYIST ANALYSIS
BY ROBERT BLACK

Available from New Park Publications
186a Clapham High St., SW4.
Price 24s (soft) 41s 6d (cloth) post inc.



ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Discuss the proposed draft of the Charter of Basic Rights
CARDIFF: Tuesday, December 8, 8 p.m. Cardiff Boilermakers' Club...



Charter of Basic Rights

I THINK the Charter is a good and basic document. Most points are covered and it will identify to women in my factory all the rights that the Tories are now trying to take from them...

COMMENT on the All Trades Unions Alliance's draft Charter of Basic Rights comes today from two members of the Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers, who play a leading role in their respective areas. Rene Hazel is one of the few female shop-floor leaders in the engineering industry...

Burgos 16 case halted Torture claim means secret trial

TORTURE allegations by two defendants are thought to be responsible for the surprise postponement of the Burgos trial yesterday morning. On Sunday evening, Victor Arana, one of 16 Basque nationalists charged with terrorism claimed that his statements to the police had been 'obtained under torture'...

Lon Nol under big pressure

THE MILITARY position of the pro-US Lon Nol regime continued to worsen yesterday as Liberation forces overran a government outpost at Peam Chikang, 40 miles NE of Phnom Penh on the bank of the Mekong River...

QUESTIONED

Police then began to question him on the spot, even though he was in acute pain and cried 'I am dying'. Franco is now considering holding the trial in secret to avoid further publicity about the sadism of his fascist police...

TUC

FROM PAGE ONE On wages, Covent Garden branch wants the council to call upon our national executive committee to instruct the general secretary to press for an early reply to our pay claim...

WEATHER

CENTRAL and N Scotland will be cloudy with some light rain or drizzle. S Scotland, N Ireland and far N England will start bright with frost, but some a cloud area, but it will become generally cloudy from the N during the day...

ORDER YOUR POSTERS TODAY!



2s per poster 30s for 20 £3 5s for 50 Send your orders to: Socialist Labour League, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

Hussein trip means danger for guerrillas

THE HEAVIEST fighting since the September civil war broke out between Royalist forces and guerrillas in several parts of Jordan yesterday.

Canners' claim

PERTH'S three Metropolitan meat works start up today after the end of a six-week wages strike. Meat workers' President Max Burns said the Australian Industrial Commission would immediately 'process' the 1,400 workers' claim.

Jordanian army units launched an attack on commando positions in Ajloun and Jerash in the North, while shooting, which began on Saturday, continued in Amman.

Fighting in the North began when troops shelled the refugee camps at Gaza and Souf, while armoured units advanced on Thaghet al-Ussur and Jerash.

Jordan's King Hussein is in Washington petitioning Nixon for more US aid to prop up his Royalist dictatorship.

The anti-guerrilla campaign could not have been better timed to convince his imperialist paymasters of his loyalty.

Hussein's military tour may well be the prelude to a new offensive against the Palestinian liberation movement.



What they've said

FROM PAGE ONE 'In the longer term, our proposals for a new legal framework for industrial relations will undoubtedly do much to create a more responsible and constructive approach, and will strengthen the hands of responsible trade union leaders.'

W Bengal jute strike 'total'

MORE THAN 200,000 workers in the W Bengal (India) jute industry began a strike yesterday in support of higher bonuses and other benefits.

Called by the five major unions in the jute industry, the strike was described yesterday by officials as total.

Earning £10 less, Lucas men claim

ENGINEERS in the N London factory of Simms Motor Units claim that the Lucas combine is deliberately 'freezing' them out of their jobs by imposing big pay cuts.

Simms was taken over by the motor accessories giant in an £13 million deal 18 months ago. Since then fuel injector production has been moved to other plants in the group.

Mr Fuller was leading a deputation of night-shift workers to see officials at the Department of Employment in London yesterday (below).



'The best way to stop the passage of the Tory laws is to make it clear that the entire labour movement will resist them lock, stock and barrel if the government should ever try to use them... The Tories would be forced to rethink if a significant number of union leaders were to declare etc. etc. Socialist Workers', November 21, 1970.

ROY WILKINSON is a leading member of the AEF in Sheffield. He is a former Communist Party militant, who was abandoned by its leadership after being victimized from Ambrose Shardlow's engineering plant.

It is in this context that Roy makes a particularly valuable contribution to the discussion leading up to the December 19 ATUA conference.

I ACCEPT the points of the Charter 100 per cent. What is involved here is basic human rights. The right to work and live is a basic human necessity which capitalism will not provide for the working class.

Our immigrant brothers in Sheffield are being stuck into ghettos. So when the time comes in the steel industry, racialism will be the main part of the Tory attack.

In the British Steel Corporation the Tories are going to live off all the profitable sections to private enterprise and run down the rest.

The Charter can unify all workers. Unless we can fight to defend the basic rights of workers there is no future.

The Charter is different to anything else that any other political organization has produced. I was part of the pro tem committee when it was set up in 1966 to form a Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions in Sheffield.

Although the movement can best be measured by percentages rather than seats gained or lost, the undoubted benefactor of the swing has been the reactionary (this is purely a comparative term, as it is hard to decide which is the most reactionary party in Australian politics at present) Democratic Labour Party.

The DLP has gained about 5 per cent more of the vote and a total of five seats in the House.

With the government coalition and the ALP expected to be level pegging with 26 seats each this will give the DLP considerable influence in the House.

Percentage-wise the movement of voters has otherwise been absorbed by multifarious bodies, ranging from the Defence of Government Schools group, to the Australia Party.

Virtually the only 'high-light' of the pre-election campaign was the mudslinging match between Liberal Prime Minister John Gorton, and ALP leader Gough Whitlam.

Mr Whitlam could have made much electorally of the government's recent 50 cents (4s 8d) pension increase, but the most this so-called socialist party could offer as an alternative was a vague suggestion that this could be increased by another dollar (9s 4d).

and the working class left without any leadership to fight the Tory bosses in industry and this government. It is at the moment only the so-called unofficial bodies that are fighting for these rights trying to force and shame the men we elected into struggling to defend the unions—the organizations of the workers.

In our branch we have already passed a resolution demanding that the executive council of the AEF call on the TUC to organize a special conference within 1970 to organize a General Strike against the Bill.

I think the working class could bring this government down. I am only one woman motivated with the vision of a socialist society, but all workers will fight for what is theirs by right.

In such a situation we can make people on the shop floor realize what power they have and how to use it for socialism.

In Sheffield the situation has deteriorated a great deal over the last five years. The AEF district committee has not been prepared to fight against victimization and several leading militants have been sacked.

CP officials of the AEF have spent all their time trying to get strikers back to work. A new leadership has to be built round the fight for the Charter.

THE AIR is no longer filled with mud, but there are a lot of people still scratching their heads over the Federal Senate Election results, or at least the reason for them.

Half of the 60-seat upper house was contested. The largest party in the ruling coalition in the Senate, Liberal (Tory), which also holds the same position in the House of Representatives, has dropped about 5 per cent of the votes it had last time.

Its coalition partner, the Country Party has also lost out. But to the surprise and dismay of the Australian Labour Party (ALP) they did not pick up votes dropped by the coalition.

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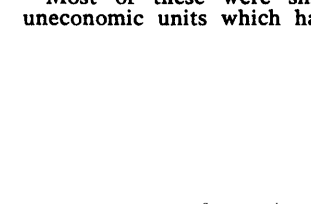
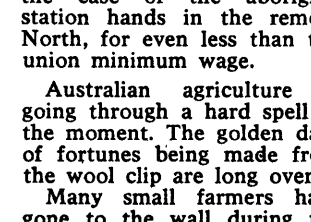
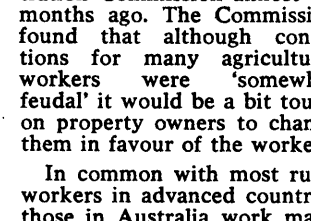
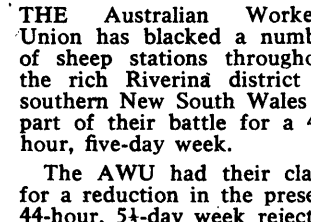
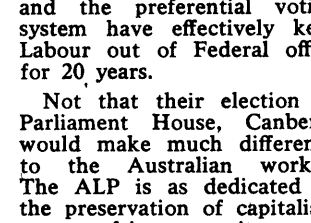
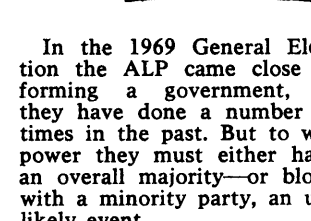
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Mr Whitlam could have made much electorally of the government's recent 50 cents (4s 8d) pension increase, but the most this so-called socialist party could offer as an alternative was a vague suggestion that this could be increased by another dollar (9s 4d).

On the Indo-China war and the unions' fight for a 35-hour week, the coalition parties and the DLP shared the same worm-eaten plank.

Australian LETTER

BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION



The lack of any alternative work, the tied cottage, and other aspects peculiar to rural employment were not, it would appear, taken into consideration by this gentleman.

This cynicism was taken a step further by the 'Sydney Morning Herald' which claimed it would be a pity if the AWU dogma spreads and destroys the generally happy 'give and take' atmosphere of rural work.

This is perhaps supposed to conjure up pictures of the poor, but happy stockman tending his, or rather the boss's, sheep.

A \$4-a-week (£1 17s) increase awarded to building tradesmen this week is hardly likely to keep this militant section of the working class with their heads down on building sites throughout the state of New South Wales.

Eight building unions with a total membership of 30,000 have lodged a strike for a 10 per cent increase (£4 13s), full pay when off work because of accidents, and long service leave. This was backed up in October with a 24-hour strike.

The unions involved had been ordered to a compulsory conference before the State Industrial Commission which gave the findings in their claim.

THE CHARTER OF BASIC RIGHTS The right to a job, to strike and organize, to retain gains made, to fair prices, to welfare benefits and to decent housing. Defend and maintain these rights in a fight to force the Tories to resign.

BIRMINGHAM Sat. December 19 Digbeth Civic Hall, Digbeth 10.30 am For delegates' or visitors' credentials send 5s to Alan Wilkins, ATUA secretary, 53 The Hiron, Styevechale, Coventry.

LATE NEWS

BRANDT: NEXT STOP PRAGUE? W German Chancellor Willy Brandt yesterday signed the treaty placing his government's relations with Poland on a more normal footing.

Yugoslav news agency Tanjug says the E German Ulbricht regime fears that Bonn's 'Eastern train' will soon start towards Prague (Czechoslovakia), with a similar mission to those it recently had in Moscow and Warsaw.

GUERRILLA VICTORY Two communist-led guerrilla battalions yesterday overran the strategic Laotian government outpost at Muong Mok, close to the frontier with N Vietnam.

BEA PROFITS DROP British European Airways made a net profit of £13,300,000 in the seven months to October 31, according to provisional figures released yesterday.

This is £3,400,000 down on the same part of last year—and means that net profit for the year to March 31 will be about £3,500,000 compared with last year's £6,500,000 after taking into account winter losses.

ATOM PAY RISE Average pay increases of 11 per cent were accepted for 13,000 atomic energy manual workers by their unions yesterday.

Craftsmen's average rate goes up from £21 18s 9d to £24 5s 6d and non-craftsmen's from £17 12s to £19 9s 9d.