

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY JULY 21, 1972 ● No. 823 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## Dockers and transport drivers must

# UNITE TO SAVE JOBS

STATEMENT BY THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF  
THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

**NO DOCKER can tolerate the loss of even a single job amongst transport drivers or container workers, no transport driver or container worker can tolerate the loss of a single job amongst dockers.**

Unity of dockers and transport drivers against their common enemy—the employers—is a basic principle.

It is the key to the present tragic and dangerous situation of picketing and counter-picketing as rival groups of workers scramble for a shrinking pool of transport-industry jobs. Responsibility for the scramble rests squarely with the worthless reformist policies of the union leaders and their Stalinist hangers-on of the Communist Party.

More than 20,000 jobs have been lost by registered dockers over the last seven years. The non-registered labour force in the industry has shrunk by at least an equal amount. Yet the leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which organizes the vast majority of workers in both sectors, led no fight against the ruthless rationalization, speed-up and breakdown of established working practices which made these massive cuts possible.

They eulogized the Devlin report of 1965 as the dawn of a new age on the docks, signed agreements behind their backs enabling container operators to staff their depots on the cheap and fought desperately to hand the port employers the conditions they needed to exploit containerization to the full.

On the roads, they led no fight against the tachograph and other measures which helped haulage firms pare their payrolls down to the absolute limit.

At no stage did they struggle seriously to win the benefits of the changes in technique for their members through full nationalization of the ports and road-haulage without compensation and under workers' control.

Dockers, container workers or drivers who came into conflict with these policies found themselves in conflict with the Stalinists, too.

All along the line the Stalinists covered up for the T&GWU chiefs. In 1965, it was Jack Dash and his Liaison Committee that helped boost the Devlin report. It was Dash and his committee in 1967 and 1969 who guaranteed the implementation of both phases of Devlin 'modernization'.

Today, with thousands more jobs in the industry threatened with extinction the T&GWU chiefs and the Stalinists have again put the struggle for nationalization on the shelf.

Workers in every section of the industry are thus cast adrift

in a torrent of technical change without a policy. The result? Picketing and counter-picketing, with the employers and the Tory government cackling up their sleeves on the sidelines.

Behind the dockers' courageous and determined fight to defend their livelihoods lies a situation where more than 1,600 nationally have been forced onto the temporarily unattached register. (TUR).

Over and above this, the employers say one in every seven dockers who are attached to an employer are really surplus to their needs. They plan to get rid of up to 10,000 men over the next three years.

Instead of mobilizing his union's strength to defeat these plans, Jack Jones, the T&GWU secretary, sits down comfortably with ex-Tory Party chairman Lord Aldington to work out how they can persuade his members to disappear peacefully.

Meanwhile the Stalinists take the heat off Jones by organizing a campaign to force individual employers to give dockers jobs which are at present done by and large by members of their own union.

This can now be seen as a cynical diversion.

The number of jobs dockers can hope to win this way is pathetically small. Some reports say that as few as 500 are involved nationally.

But such is the nature of the technical revolution in the industry that, as at UK Cold Storage in Dagenham today, employers like Ford are able simply to shift their contracts out of the area altogether rather than con-

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## Let history judge Stalinism

From next Monday Workers Press will be publishing an important series of articles on the rise of Stalinism, the purges and repression of the Stalin era and the reason for the bureaucratic degeneration of the Soviet Union. The articles begin with an examination in detail of the first independent analysis of Stalinism to come out of the Soviet Union, Roy Medvedev's 'Let History Judge'. They show both how what is valid in Medvedev's work confirms what Trotsky said about Stalinism at the time and how it falls short of what is required.

Make sure that you place your order for the Workers Press now. Tel. 01-622 7029.



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## Dock pickets judged today

BY PHILIP WADE

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dockers, including Mr Turner and Mr Steer.

Last month Mr Turner and Mr Steer narrowly missed being committed to Pentonville prison when they defied court orders relating to picketing and blacking of the Chobham Farm depot, Stratford.

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SIR John Donaldson, president of the National Industrial Relations Court, will give judgement today on whether seven London dockers should be committed to jail for contempt of court.

The men accused of breaking the court's July 7 order are Vic Turner, Bernie Steer, Derek Watkins, Anthony Merrick, Cornelius Clancy, Ronald Hedges and Edward Hedges. All the men refused to attend court.

On July 7 the court issued an order against the seven calling on them to stop blacking nationally firms crossing their picket line outside the Midland Cold Storage depot in Hackney. Shortly before the end of yesterday's day-long hearing Mr Robert Alexander, on behalf of the Official Solicitor, said there was insufficient evidence to commit to prison four of the seven

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● See Page 12.

# What we think

## PRETENDER

## EMBRACES

## PRETENDER

WE HAVE previously commented on 'Oz' man Richard Neville's servile adulation for James Reid, Communist Party leader of the so-called upper Clyde work-in. Now he's at it again.

In his £75-a-week column in the Beaverbrook 'Evening Standard', the drop-out Neville says:

'I have occasionally been moved by political oratory, such as by Jimmy Reid in Glasgow, but he was speaking not to me, but for me.'

In a previous column in the same newspaper, Neville wrote rapturously about Stalinist Reid:

'Gone was the cheap left sectarianism and the dank rear-vision party bureaucracy. No trace of forelock wrenching, inferiority or the mystical belief that some people were born to rule. After 16 weeks . . . they have claimed to have shown not only that they can run an industry as well as the government, but better. . . .'

Neville went on:

'It was difficult not to be swept along by the collective joy of the men and women in the audience. Especially as the crowd roared approval of Reid's closing declaration that it should be the intention of everyone of them to make this earth as nearer to paradise as human ingenuity will allow.'

It is now 12 months since this appalling rubbish first appeared in print, and yet Neville is still touting the stained colours of Reid.

Yet what is the 'paradise on earth' which Reid and his Stalinist colleagues have wrought on Clydeside? The four-yard policy has been abandoned and the 'not-a-man-down-the-road' policy is a cruel farce. At least 2,000 men have lost their jobs in the Tory 'reorganization' of the yards.

When Tory Trade and Industry Secretary John Davies recently announced that a measly hand-out would be given to the new Govan Shipbuilders, the bare remnants of the old UCS, James Airlie, Reid's main henchman on the Clyde, declared that that was 'a statesmanlike decision'.

Airlie went on: 'In our opinion they [the Tory government] have lived up to their responsibility for this industry and also for the community as a whole. Regardless of the differences we have had in the past, we have to say the government has taken the correct decision and we welcome it and congratulate them.'

The aghast man from 'The Guardian' later said in his article that 'it must be one of the warmest comments ever passed by a communist on a Conservative government'.

But just as Airlie's warm embrace of the Tory government is no accident, Neville's embrace of Reid is no accident either.

Neville is consciously hostile to the working class. He regards the working class with contempt and as a bunch of 'hard hats'.

He identifies with Reid's views so closely because he sees Reid manipulating his audience with reformist and Utopian rubbish.

But this sort of patronage of the working class cannot be sustained. When the masses start to march, Reid and Neville, along with all the pretenders, will be swept aside.

# US banks back the dollar

## to buy time

### But the high point of crisis is yet to come

THE US central bank has intervened on the foreign exchange markets for the first time since August 15 in support of the dollar. The move came on Wednesday when the US central bank sold German marks to keep the dollar within the limits agreed in last December's reshuffle of major currency values.

This operation was undertaken by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York which acts on behalf of the US central banking system.

Although the Japanese monetary authorities welcomed the move as a return to dollar convertibility and a restoration of the pre-August 15, 1971, situation, it is nothing of the sort.

Much nearer the mark was Bonn's reaction which expressed scepticism that the US support operation could last very long in view of the smallness of American monetary reserves.

An Economics and Finance

Ministry spokesman said that the US action might in fact create more difficulties by lowering American exchange reserves still further.

The Americans were forced to ditch the Bretton Woods \$35-an-ounce gold system because almost 25 years of combined inflation and balance-of-payments deficits had eroded US gold holdings and at the same time pumped a mass of unwanted, unbacked dollars into the European banking system.

Nixon was forced to suspend convertibility of the dollar last August because the means to support it were no longer there. And this still remains the position.

The most likely cause of the short-run change in US policy is Washington's reaction to the meeting of Europe's Finance Ministers which ended in London earlier this week.

Faced with a considerable economic and political crisis, it is clear that Europe was not

prepared to give in immediately to American pressure for a series of revaluations of the Common Market currencies against the dollar.

The American banks also are determined to make sure that when any European revaluations take place, they will not be the ones left holding the unwanted and devalued dollars in the Euro-dollar market.

The Americans are trying to buy a little time, knowing that the high point of the crisis is imminent. In the coming weeks the latest half-yearly US balance-of-trade figures will be published. Already the financial press is speculating nervously on the size of the deficit.

Whatever its size, it can only lead to renewed speculation against the dollar and increased pressure on the Europeans for a revaluation of their currencies.

In other words, events are moving not only towards another major currency crisis, but also a series of revaluations which will mean a full-blown trade war.

# Expulsions mark turn to right in Egypt



Sadat, Gaddafi and Assad of Egypt, Libya and Syria, who combined with the blessing of the Stalinists

**PRESIDENT** Anwar Sadat's moves to oust the 20,000 Soviet military personnel from Egypt are the culmination of a marked turn to the right since the death of Gamal Abdul Nasser in September 1970.

The Soviet leaders stood by while Sadat purged his administration of left-wing nationalists like Aly Sabry and former war minister General Mohammed Fawzi.

The trial of these men, who were given long prison sentences, was followed by the brutal massacre of Sudanese communists in July.

Carried out by Sudanese president Jafaar Numeiry with Sadat's active assistance, the bloodbath drew only token protests from the Soviet leaders.

Top Soviet dignitaries appeared at Egyptian state parades while across the border Sadat's allies

BY JOHN SPENCER

were executing the leaders of the Sudanese working class.

One reason for the Sudanese massacre was the CP's opposition to the reactionary plan to federate Egypt, Libya, Syria and the Sudan.

Egypt, Libya and Syria are now federated, with the approval of the pro-Soviet faction within the Syrian Communist Party, which joined the government earlier this year at the Kremlin's urging.

The Soviet leaders have pursued a consistent policy of alliance with the nationalist bourgeoisie at the expense of the independent movement of the working class.

The Egyptian leaders have maintained this alliance so long as it suited their purpose. But they are now moving to-

wards an accommodation with imperialism. Sadat's complaints about Soviet unwillingness to supply advanced arms are a smokescreen to get closer to the United States.

The clearest indication of this is his new-found cordiality towards Saudi Arabia, the classic client state of the international oil monopolies.

Since the 1967 war Sadat's bombastic calls for war with Israel have fooled nobody about the fact that he has no intention of undertaking any such thing.

Reuter reported yesterday that US officials in Washington saw the ousting of the Soviet advisers as 'a golden opportunity to move towards eventual peace in the Middle East'.

They consider that the decision could well open the way towards a resumption of Arab-Israeli settlement talks aimed at a territorial deal between the two sides.

# Ceylon revolt leaders in court

**THE TRIAL** of 41 people accused of plotting last year's abortive April uprising in Ceylon is due to begin tomorrow in Colombo.

Among those who will stand trial are Samuel Dias Bandaranaike, nephew of former premier Solomon Bandaranaike, Rohan Wijeweera, leader of the outlawed People's Liberation Front (JVP) and Susil Siriwardene, a former leading civil servant.

A number of the accused have said they will conduct their own defence when the trial opens at the Old Queen's Club, once the exclusive preserve of the white settlers in Ceylon.

The trials are being staged under the Justice Commissions Act, recently rushed through the parliament. The Act deprives the accused of most of their legal rights and allows the court to sentence them to life imprisonment without possibility of appeal.

Ceylon premier Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike has returned to Colombo after visiting China at the invitation of the

Maist leaders. Earlier this month China announced a massive interest-free loan to her 'united front' government.

Meanwhile the pro-Chinese Communist Party has split down the middle. A section of its central committee claims to have expelled general secretary N. Shunmugathan who is in China.

# Essen rally Yugoslavs put on trial

**THREE** Belgrade university students are on trial in Yugoslavia accused of attending the International Rally of Revolutionary Youth in Essen, West Germany, last July.

The three — Milan Nikolic, Pavlusko Imsirovic and Jelka Kljajic—are charged with 'association against the people and the state' and have been under arrest since January.

A Tanyug news agency dispatch on the trial says: 'It is alleged that they organized an "illegal group" and established links with foreign students and groups with a hostile attitude towards Yugoslavia and whose aim was to revive the Fourth International.'

'The prosecutor maintains that Imsirovic, as the representative of this group, attended the so-called international Trotskyite congress in Essen last July.'

'At the time of their arrest, the accused were found to be in possession of illegal documents, brochures, translated extracts from Trotskyite journals and such like.'

'According to the indictment the three intended to found in Yugoslavia an illegal Trotskyite party with the aim of overthrowing the socio-political system. The accused deny nearly all the charges.'

This report gives the lie to all those revisionist tendencies which picture the Tito bureaucracy as having broken definitively from Stalinism.

It also makes nonsense of the book 'From Trotsky to Tito' written by British Stalinist James Klugmann as part of the Kremlin's campaign against Yugoslavia after 1949.

The Yugoslav Communist Party leaders reserve their bitterest hatred for those who fight for the political revolution in the deformed workers' states.

● **JAROMIR LITERA**, former secretary of the Prague Communist Party Committee, was sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment on charges of subversion in Prague yesterday.

Mr Littera, a leading party theoretician in the liberal era of Alexandr Dubcek in 1968 and 1969, was accused of producing a clandestine chronicle, courtroom sources said.

Josef Stehlik, a former Communist Party worker in the Central committee apparatus, was sentenced to two years in jail.

Mr Rocak, a qualified worker, and a Mrs Svobodova, said to be a secretary, were both given suspended sentences of one year's imprisonment.

# THE BUILDERS' BATTLE

## 'You have to have an all-out strike because of the industry's nature'

Dear Editor,  
The aim of the building workers' action—as well as fighting for the £35 claim—is to stop the lump contract system. To do this there must be no compromise whatsoever on the claim.

A man on the lump would not work for less than £50. If he got £35 and cards stamped, holiday pay and shorter hours it would be an incentive to work direct.

In my opinion the way the union is fighting for the claim it will linger on for months. The people who were out first on strike will be the people who suffer most.

Everything should be stopped and the industry brought to a halt. If possible the sale of houses should be stopped on new estates.

Workers in building materials production should be asked to come out in sympathy.

The way the strike is going

now it is not affecting the employers' pockets at all. All building sites should be picketed. No materials or machinery should be brought on or off the site. You have to have an all-out strike because of the nature of the industry.

In the Bletchley development centre on a Wimpey site the job has stopped and the site picketed. But Wimpey have simply moved their machinery to another site. Now they'll wait for a settlement and by then they'll have made a fat profit on the building of houses somewhere else.

The union organizers at Bletchley told us we could please ourselves. If we didn't want to come out on strike we could move to another site.

One union official—believed to be a Communist Party member—said: 'We're coming out on strike Monday morning. If you want to carry on work there's plenty of work for bricklayers

so I'll advise you to go to Shanley's.'

It is hopeless to think that you can get the wage claim without everybody out. The unions will probably try to settle for wage increases like the last time—1s 6d an hour spread over three years!

The Post Office workers had no money, but they went on strike. Our union officials think they're sitting pretty. You get a few men on strike and a few working. Even if they'd only worked to rule we'd be better off than we are now.

These actions of the union leaders are in line with the sell-out of the TUC in backing down over the Industrial Relations Act. They're just Tory puppets.

The building workers will be left in the cold unless they fight to build a new leadership in the unions.

Bedfordshire building worker

DRIVERS from Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff and Stoke lobbied their union leaders yesterday to make sure they did not accept tachographs ('spies in the cab') at their meeting of the National Trade Group at Transport House.

When after four hours of discussions the question of tachographs had not come up, the lobbyists stormed into the meeting and put their case.

They received an assurance from Trade Group Secretary Ken Jackson that it was still union policy to oppose their introduction.

They claim that transport employers have been putting on increasing pressure for the acceptance of these devices and they are afraid the union officials will accept them for a concession on wages.

But Ron Riley, a shop steward at Harold F. Ward Ltd, Birmingham and a member of the powerful T&GWU 5/35 branch said:

'The workers won't have them at any price. It's worse than having a foreman in the cab with you. It can check every gear-change you make and even how hard you brake.'

Below: A little light relief on the lobby yesterday when Japanese transport union members on a trip to Britain posed with lobbyists

## Basingstoke workers sold off by B-Leyland

OVER 350 workers at British-Leyland's Basingstoke heavy transmission subsidiary still face the sack as a result of Lord Stokes' decision to sell the company to an American firm.

The 50-acre site on which Transport Equipment Thornycroft stands has been sold to a property company for £2½m. The factory itself has gone to the Eaton Corporation of Ohio.

Eaton has only taken a three-year lease on the site and plans immediately to sack 350 workers, ending all non-transmission work at the factory.

The deal—presented as a *fait accompli* to the workforce—is due to come into effect on October 1.

Meanwhile the revisionists of the International Marxist Group are seeking the support of Basingstoke's small shopkeepers in a 'campaign' to keep the factory going.

That was one of the ideas discussed at a local Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions meeting this week. Other bankrupt proposals put forward included a petition of all Basingstoke residents.

For a full report of the Thornycroft story see next page.

## Two Preston sites join builders' strike

THE £1m SHEPHERD'S Market Hall site in mid-Preston which would have been finished in six weeks has been hit by the building workers' selected site strike campaign.

The 46 men still working on the project began picketing the site yesterday.

Another site now on strike is the Guild Hall project. Construction work is being conducted there by John Turner and company plus other sub-contractors.

Alan Moore, a picket at the Market Hall site, said: 'We should have had a national strike. This time we're going to squash the lump.'

'The Charter Group have backed down. They gave the union leadership a lead, but now they've dropped back to union policy. We've got to get the Tories out to get a Labour Party back. It's the only way we'll keep jobs and get our money. We need more left wingers in the Labour Party.'

Another one of the pickets said: 'If we don't get these wage increases this time, there'll be no union left.'



## Flexibility deal keeps Courtauld at standstill

PRODUCTION of Spanzelle is still at a standstill in Courtauld's Main Works, Coventry.

The 44 workers on strike are refusing to work under a new agreement which requires total flexibility of labour.

It forces production workers to do all forms of cleaning—from windows to toilets—during waiting time and means that eight jobs will be lost in the plant.

The workers were prepared to return under the old agreement, but the management is determined to enforce the new deal.

Many workers believe this is also the basis of negotiations for a deal including all Transport and General workers on the site. This, they say, has the obvious danger of more redundancies.

Local T&GWU officials have been criticized for not making the strike official. They are using the excuse that seven days' strike notice had not been given.

Present stocks of Spanzelle have been loaded and transported by T&GWU members since the strike began.

Workers in the Courtauld plant on the same site, who struck when a steward was sacked for smoking, returned to work when he was reinstated with a fortnight's suspension.

## Smiths' men 'not happy' with deal

AFTER 18 weeks the strike of 70 toolmakers at Smiths Industries, Cricklewood, North London, is over.

Full work will resume after the holiday period on July 31. The terms of the settlement are a basic increase of £2.40 for everyone, plus a merit rating for the highest-paid workers of £1 to £1.50.

A bonus payment of £1 will be paid immediately, with additional bonus increases of 50p after the first month and a further 50p after the second month.

A strike committee spokesman said the maximum increase anyone could get would be £5.90.

The management refused to make any concessions on shorter hours.

The original claim was for a domestic increase of £6, plus the AUEW national claim of £6 and a 35-hour week.

Further negotiations on bonus improvements will take place within two months of resuming work. The men also agreed to a clause which they had rejected earlier that they use their own tools.

Many of the strikers were very reluctant to accept the settlement. A meeting on Tuesday of all the toolmakers lasted almost

all day while AUEW officials tried to assure them that the settlement was the best they could get.

Hints were also made that the district levy which has been sustaining the strike for several weeks would not go on indefinitely.

The final vote to accept the settlement was 44 to 16 with several abstentions.

'Most of the lads are not entirely happy,' a spokesman said, 'but we have done the best possible and finally had to accept the advice of our negotiators.'

The settlement of course, is in line with many other recent settlements in the engineering industry where the employers are prepared to make minimal cash concessions, but will not budge on the important question of shorter hours.

After 18 weeks on the picket line the Smiths' toolmakers are tasting the fruits of Scanlon's abandonment of the national claim in favour of plant-by-plant bargaining.

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# LEYLAND STARTS TO HIVE-OFF

BY PHILIP WADE

**British-Leyland is going full ahead with a deal involving the sale of land to a property company, a factory to an American company and redundancies for hundreds of workers.**

Union officials and shop stewards are extremely disturbed about the nature of the deal at Leyland's Basingstoke heavy transmission plant of Transport Equipment Thornycroft.

Last month officials of the engineering and transport unions were called in by Thornycroft management and presented with a list of shocks.

It will double unemployment in the Hampshire new town. At the same time the deal has raised about £5m in cash for the financially-troubled British Leyland.

The company had sold the 50-acre factory site union men were told. The buyer—a property company. The factory itself had been sold to the Eaton Corporation of Ohio.

The American firm—specialists in designing and manufacturing transmissions—would take over operations from October 1. About 350 of the 1,100-strong labour force would be made redundant immediately.

Procedure was torn to shreds on the spot. Last December a new agreement was reached with the company on redundancy procedure following a bitter strike against sackings the previous June.

## Immediate strike

The opening paragraph had stressed that in the likelihood of further redundancies the position would first be discussed at local level with the trade unions.

The workers at the plant immediately struck back on hearing the news. A work-to-rule has been launched and last week one section had a sit-in strike in protest against the deal.

The powerful British-Leyland combine shop stewards' executive committee has promised support for any action the Thornycroft workers may take in defence of their jobs.

The plant has been established in Basingstoke for about 25 years. It became part of British-Leyland when Lord Stokes' Leyland Motors group merged with BMC in 1968. But it is clear that virtually since the merger the company has been stepping into deeper and deeper financial waters.

British-Leyland's debts to Barclays Bank — its main source of working finance — have grown to the mountainous figure of £100m. And Barclays are getting impatient and demanding the overdraft be reduced.

Last February the 1971 returns announced showed a £32.4m profit before tax. But the Stock Market wiped almost £5m off Leyland's shares when the company said it was having to raise £51m from existing shareholders.

In the first six months of the current financial year Leyland have reported a profit drop of £2m compared with 1971.

## Scattered empire

For those reasons Stokes has been trying to tighten up and rationalize his scattered empire. Last year the marketing set-up was transferred from Lausanne in Switzerland to Berkeley Square, London.

In September 1971 Leyland announced 200 redundancies at another subsidiary in Grantham, Yorkshire. The workers at Aveling Barford were involved in the production of earth-moving equipment.

The Thornycroft deal shows, however, that Leyland is now moving into the new field of raising finance through property deals.

As the journal 'Engineer' put it last month: 'British-Leyland, in a spate of selling off companies which it no longer requires, seems to have found a way of both having the cake and eating it. This could well be repeated in the future as more companies are hived off to provide cash and boost profits.'

First the land itself. The 50 acres have been sold for just £2½m to a recently formed property company, English and Continental Property, who, in turn, are owned by a holding company.

The majority shares in E&CP are further owned by a company called Four Millbank Investments which in turn is largely controlled by the Crown Agents. The Crown Agents act on behalf of the government in the buying and selling of property all over the world.

The four directors of the company include Mr A. H. Wallis, a director of finance of the Crown Agents. Two other directors have large personal shareholdings in Four Millbank Investments.

Not surprisingly the purchase of such a large slab of land—even though it is zoned for industrial use—has focused the eyes of property men all over on what E&CP might do with it.

'Possibly one of the choicest sites for redevelopment to emerge thus far along the new M3 motorway slicing through the South of England,' was the way 'Property for Business' described the purchase on June 21.

'Located half a mile from the M3 and an equal distance from the Basingstoke town centre, the site could be sensitive planning-wise due to its improvement position at one



of the town's entrances,' it added.

But the real question facing the workers in Basingstoke is what is to become of Thornycroft's, now sold to the Eaton Corporation for £2½m?

The Agreement between Leyland and Eaton provides only for the employment of those workers engaged in the heavy transmission side of the Thornycroft business. It will continue to supply this component to Leyland.

Other activities will be transferred to different factories in the combine, with the loss of 350 jobs.

The point, however, is how long will Eaton Corporation maintain production of any sort in Basingstoke? For they have only taken out a three-year lease on the site from the property company at £95,000 a year.

Three years is about the time needed to run down and eventually close a plant like Thornycroft's. Will the American firm, therefore, ever renew the lease?

The firm will be remembered by engineering workers in London particularly as the owner of the ENV factory in Willesden which they completely closed following a long and bitter strike at the plant in 1967.

Phil Eynon, Transport and General Workers' Union regional officer told me earlier this week: 'It will double unemployment in Basingstoke from October 1.'

'As far as we're concerned Leyland can unscramble this deal. We're certainly not accepting it as a *fait accompli*.'

He warned that if Leyland got away with such a deal in Basingstoke, the same could happen throughout the combine.

'They might have sold the land and the factory, but they haven't sold the bodies of



The AUEW executive has demanded an immediate meeting with Lord Stokes (top), British-Leyland chief, to tell him, according to the AUEW's Reg Birch, that 'they will not tolerate' such a deal. Executive councillor Birch (above), also said he was in favour of official backing for Thornycroft workers in whatever action they took to 'unscramble' the deal.

men. We might be forced into a situation in October where we have to strike to stop the deal going ahead,' said Mr Eynon.

## Refusing redundancies

Yet Mr Pat Lowry, Leyland's director of industrial relations, had poured scorn on the unions' allegations that Leyland had made millions out of the deal when he met officials earlier this month, Mr Eynon added.

But the union side was refusing to accept any of the proposed redundancies. 'Basingstoke could become just another commuter town the way it is going,' he added.

The machinations around the Thornycroft plant show on the one hand Leyland's desperate financial position and on the

other their intention to unload their troubles on the backs of their 200,000 workers through sackings and closures.

Posed with fierce competition from the Common Market and Japan, Leyland's troubles can only escalate.

Lord Stokes is now saying to Thornycroft workers that he has the right to determine that they go on to the dole queue. Because of the crisis of British capitalism in face of the world economic recession his firm cannot guarantee jobs. What is posed, therefore, is the fight for a return of a Labour government through the forced resignation of the Tory government. And the demand must be that British-Leyland is nationalized by a future Labour government under workers' control and without compensation to guarantee the right to work.

## PRISON AND HOSPITAL STRIKERS FINED

Prison guards at Attica penitentiary, New York State, are among 7,000 state employees whose wages are being docked to penalize them for illegally going on strike.

The penalties are being levied under New York's Taylor Law, which requires that any public employee who goes on strike should lose two days' pay for each day of the stoppage in addition to being placed on probation for a year.

The workers staged a strike over Easter weekend at mental hospitals, juvenile training schools, prisons and other institutions. The strike followed the collapse of a tentative pay deal between the state and the Civil Service Employees' Association, which represents 140,000 of the 185,000 state employees.



Governor Rockefeller

Governor Rockefeller's Office of Employee Relations announced that two days or four days pay would be taken out of pay packets to be



Above: Negotiating inmates of Attica penitentiary, New York state, during a violently suppressed prison revolt, in which 26 prisoners were killed last year

distributed on July 19 and July 26. The 7,000 are the largest number ever penalized under the Taylor Law.

The prison guards at Attica, Elmira and Auburn jails refused to cross picket lines of striking members of the Association. They could lose up to \$180 each.

The wives of Elmira prison guards asked the governor's office to postpone the fines because many families in the area are still recovering from losses due to the recent disastrous floods.

But a spokesman for the Office of Employee Relations said the request could not be granted because the Taylor

Law stipulated that fines must be collected within 90 days of a strike.

The Office spokesman said he could not estimate how much pay the average striker would lose. However, a typical mental hospital ward attendant would lose \$54 for each day off the job out of a normal bi-weekly pay of \$268.

During the Easter strike, the New York authorities sent state troopers and volunteer strike-breakers into prisons and hospitals to maintain essential services.

Attica prison was the scene of a violently suppressed prison revolt in which over 26 prisoners were killed.

## US THREATENS THE COFFEE PRODUCERS

The United States may drop out of the International Coffee Agreement if the four main coffee-producing countries continue to disregard established quotas, a government official announced in Washington this week.

The threat is the latest in a series of attempts by the US, the largest coffee-consuming country, to force down prices of the commodity. The four largest producers—Colombia, Brazil, Ivory Coast and Portugal—have agreed un-

officially to abide by quotas consistently lower than those under effect under the International Coffee Agreement.

Their action follows last August's dollar devaluation, which slashed the prices paid to the producers.

The prices are fixed in dollar terms. By restricting their quotas, the producing countries, some of which rely almost exclusively on the crop, are trying to force up the price.

Their desperate position finds no sympathy in Washington. One official commented: 'The United States is very concerned about the situation but there is little it can do but drop out of the agreement if

these countries continue to violate quotas set under the pact.'

He said the quota violation had caused a rise in world coffee prices and could eventually lead to increases in domestic coffee prices. This would interfere with President Nixon's attempts to hold down prices at home, he added hypocritically.

By opting out of the Agreement, the US buyers obviously hope they will be able to play one producing country off against another and force the price down again. Even if it means ruining some Latin American economy, the sacred American coffee-pot must be kept on the boil.

## SWISS BANKING SHAKEN BY FLOATING POUND

BY JOHN SPENCER

Swiss banking has been severely shaken by the repercussions of the Tory government decision to float the pound.

The scope and swiftness of the moves by the Swiss authorities have spread unaccustomed shock and dissatisfaction in the banking community which dominates Swiss capitalism. Almost all sectors of banking have been affected by measures taken by the government and National Bank which have radically changed the basis of their affairs.

The Swiss authorities' aim was to prevent a huge inflow of unwanted foreign capital into Switzerland — which has long been an open haven for foreign funds in times of international monetary crisis.

The British decision to 'float' on June 23 came after a week of pressure on sterling, during which the Bank of England had to spend heavily from its reserves to keep the currency at its agreed level. The central banks of France and West Germany joined in this futile bid to support the pound.

### UNLOADING

By suspending the pound's fixed rate against the dollar, the Tory government has been able to limit the outflow from its own reserves. However, the move immediately exposed the dollar and holders of the US currency began to unload their funds all over Europe.

To maintain the fixed exchange values of their own currencies and prevent a dollar devaluation, the European central banks were forced to buy in dollars to keep the price up.

Their intervention failed to stem the inflow of dollar funds, and country after country has introduced or tightened exchange controls to keep out the dollar flood.

For France and Germany this experience was less traumatic than for Switzerland, which prides itself on having avoided such controls. But to the Swiss National Bank the thought of heavy intervention on the foreign exchange market to prop up the dollar was anathema after its experience last year.

Leading capitalist nations agreed in Washington last December on a substantial dollar devaluation and an all-round currency realignment. But earlier the Swiss had to take in large quantities of dollars during much of 1971 to support the exchange rate.

Cabinet ministers said on several occasions following the sterling float that a new dollar inflow would risk unsettling the franc and increasing inflationary pressures in Switzerland, where prices have been rising sharply over the past year.

When sterling was floated, the National Bank initially reacted by withdrawing totally from the foreign exchange

market for ten days, during which the Swiss franc in effect floated while the dollar was almost continuously below its official Zurich floor.

It then tried intervening again to support the dollar, but as dollars began to move into Switzerland the bank quickly found that this was doomed from the start. The Swiss cabinet rushed out a series of controls on foreign exchange movements and on investment of foreign capital in Switzerland — acting without consulting the country's powerful commercial banks.

In recent years the banks have come to expect that the government would consult them in advance about new arrangements affecting their activities. These have generally taken the form of 'gentlemen's agreements'.

They were particularly upset about the ending of free capital movements, which bring them in a considerable 'invisible' income. The Banker's Association gave grudging support to the government's action, but demanded that the measures be made more flexible or removed altogether as soon as possible.

It described them as 'far-reaching and severe' and said the government 'decreed them on its own responsibility and without taking advice from the banks'. It would be regrettable, the Association said, if this dose of government control lasted too long and prejudiced Switzerland's reputation as a world financial centre.

Switzerland has long been used to upholding the free movement of international currencies, to the great profit of the country's bankers. But when the government saw fit to move, it did so in such an all-embracing manner that Switzerland overnight had more controls than many other European countries.

### DISRUPTION

Government restrictions on buying property and securities denominated in Swiss francs immediately caused a fall in stock prices. Banks were hardest hit because their areas of operation were curtailed. But engineering and chemical shares also slumped.

Probably the toughest of the government's new measures is the 'negative interest charge' on foreign funds deposited in Switzerland. It means depositors of funds from overseas will have to pay an 8 per cent levy every year on the funds they bring in.

Ironically, the measures which have caused so much disruption among the gnomes of Zurich have had little effect on the dollar inflow. So desperate are dollar-holders to dispose of their funds that an 8 per cent levy is no barrier.

In any case, they now face equally stiff exchange controls if they put their funds into France or West Germany. Meanwhile, however, the Swiss banking tradition has suffered its most serious blow ever.



# CZECH FRAME-UP TRIALS BEGIN

BY JOHN SPENCER

Thirteen opponents of the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, among them former officials of the Communist Party, are standing trial in Prague on charges of subversion.

The charges, under Article 98 of the Penal Code, carry sentences of up to five or ten years imprisonment.

They relate to 'offences' allegedly committed during the November presidential election campaign last year.

The defendants, some of whom have been in prison since that time, are said to have circulated leaflets pointing out that citizens had the constitutional right to delete the names of candidates on the printed ballot paper.

In its mention of the trial, from which the public is barred, the official news agency Ceteka said the defendants 'were accused of disseminating illegal leaflets in 1970 and 1971, especially in connection with the election, with the aim of disrupting the consolidation process of our state'.

Apparently it is sedition in Czechoslovakia to remind citizens of their constitutional rights.

One of the chief defendants in Prague is Jiri Mueller, a former student leader, who was twice expelled from Prague's technical university for organizing student protests against the Warsaw Pact invasion.

In 1969 he chaired the Prague Student Parliament, which refused to give support to the stooge leadership of Gustav Husak, the Kremlin appointee who replaced Alexandr Dubcek when the latter was driven from office.

Mueller has several times fallen foul of the Stalinist authorities, who refused him permission to take a higher degree at the university.

In the same court accused with Mueller are Jan Tesar, a young historian, and Rudolf Battek, a sociologist. Two other young men are accused with this group of defendants.

The court is also trying in her absence Mrs Jean Kavanova (née Edwards) the widow of a prominent Czechoslovak diplomat. She now lives in England, though retaining Czechoslovak citizenship.

Another trial in the same courthouse groups together Jiri Littera, former secretary of the Prague Communist Party organization, and a number of 'associates'.

Littera played a prominent part in organizing the clandestine 14th congress of the Czechoslovak Party after the Warsaw Pact invasion.

The Congress, held at Vysocany, a workers' suburb outside the capital, has been a thorn in the side of the usurping Husak leadership.

It was held two days after the invasion and roundly condemned the 'gross violation of our state sovereignty' by the Soviet armies.

Husak and his supporters later staged another congress, after extensive purges, to reverse the decisions of the 14th congress; but even with the 'expert' assistance of Soviet secret police advisers it has taken Husak four years to purge the party to his satisfaction.

The Prague trials are being held under semi-secret conditions, with the public excluded from the court.

In essence, however, they are show trials, designed to intimidate the opposition to

the Soviet occupation and the puppet Husak regime.

The Kremlin's Czechoslovak stooges have made repeated pledges about not returning to the era of show trials. But the court process now under way in Prague makes it clear that these pledges were a sham.

They are not the first political trials to be staged in Czechoslovakia since the August invasion four years ago.

But for the first time they bring together key figures from the Dubcek period who, though repeatedly victimized by bureaucratic measures, have not so far been brought into court.

Many of the defendants in the current trial were held in prison for a period in 1969, before the government decided to release them with a warning.

This was the case with Rudolf Battek, who was originally held in October 1969, after his immunity as a member of the National Assembly had been lifted by decree.

Jan Tesar was imprisoned at the same time, though both were later released. Clearly the bureaucracy at that time did not feel secure enough to move directly to show trials.

Another big wave of arrests, which led to over 300 convictions on charges of 'crimes against property' and 'crimes of violence', followed in a s demonstrations in January 1970 on the first anniversary of the suicide of Jan Palach.

Palach, a Prague student, burned himself to death in a terrible protest against the Warsaw Pact invasion.

## SECRET POLICE 'EXPERTS'

Shortly after this demonstration there arrived in Prague two Soviet 'advisers' who had been at the centre of the preparations for the Slansky frame-up trial of 1953.

The two men, cynically described as 'party historians', were Alexei Beshkanov, who served as a leading officer in the Soviet secret police in Czechoslovakia from 1951 to 1957, and Vladimir Bovarski, who helped direct the purges and trials of the early 1950s.

Their first targets were the extreme left wing of the opposition. They claimed to have uncovered a 'Trotskyist plot' involving 19 youth, members of the Revolutionary Socialist Party.

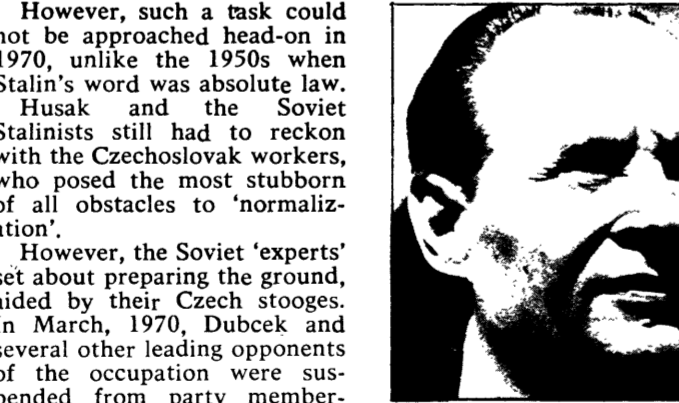
These young revolutionaries were accused of being part of an 'anti-state tendency' and being 'anti-socialist'.

But one defendant, Jan Frolik, told the court: 'Never in our discussions did we consider the possibility of a capitalist restoration. On the contrary our only aim was to help socialism. Our criticism was not directed against the socialist system, but against certain action and certain methods.'

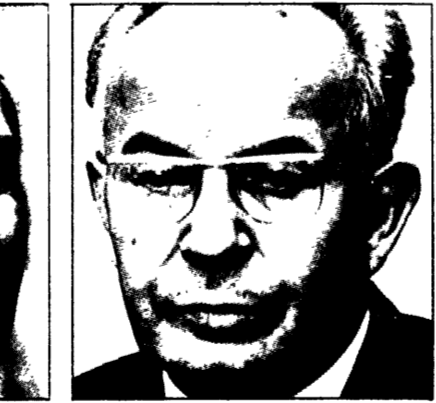
Their trial, in March 1971, was conducted in great secrecy. No quotations from the 'seditious' material they were alleged to have distributed was released.

Peter Uhl, the 29-year-old leader of the group, was sentenced to four years and the others to lesser terms.

It is now clear the job of the Soviet secret police 'experts' was to bring all the elements together for a major frame-up trial of the Dubcek



Top left: Jan Palach. Bottom left: the old Stalinist method of falsifying photographs—Dubcek and President Svoboda in Wenceslas Square in April 1968, and the same picture retouched and reissued to omit Dubcek who was the centre of the 'liberalization' which brought on the invasion. Top right: tanks in Prague, August 1968. Above left: Dubcek. Right: Husak.



Top left: Jan Palach. Bottom left: the old Stalinist method of falsifying photographs—Dubcek and President Svoboda in Wenceslas Square in April 1968, and the same picture retouched and reissued to omit Dubcek who was the centre of the 'liberalization' which brought on the invasion. Top right: tanks in Prague, August 1968. Above left: Dubcek. Right: Husak.

However, such a task could not be approached head-on in 1970, unlike the 1950s when Stalin's word was absolute law. Husak and the Soviet Stalinists still had to reckon with the Czechoslovak workers, who posed the most stubborn of all obstacles to 'normalization'.

However, the Soviet 'experts' set about preparing the ground, aided by their Czech stooges. In March, 1970, Dubcek and several other leading opponents of the occupation were suspended from party membership.

This was accompanied by attacks in the press ominously comparing them with the oppositionists of the 1920s and 1930s who were purged by Stalin in the Moscow Trials.

In May, hardline Stalinist MP Zdena Dohmalova demanded tough action against the opposition in parliament: 'Why have the counter-revolutionary and anti-socialist forces not been punished up to now?' she asked.

In a speech two months later, Husak reassured the ultra-Stalinists that the opposition would not go unpunished:

'As Gottwald [the old Czech Stalinist leader who staged the Slansky trial] used to say, "brother or not come down from the pear tree". The weight of the law will strike



Top left: Jan Palach. Bottom left: the old Stalinist method of falsifying photographs—Dubcek and President Svoboda in Wenceslas Square in April 1968, and the same picture retouched and reissued to omit Dubcek who was the centre of the 'liberalization' which brought on the invasion. Top right: tanks in Prague, August 1968. Above left: Dubcek. Right: Husak.

the violator of the law and this could not, as a matter of fact, be otherwise.'

This led to speculation in western papers about a possible trial being prepared in Prague. The French paper 'Figaro' named Jiri Hochmann, Jan Tesar, and chessmaster Ludek Pachmann as likely defendants in such a trial.

The prediction was clearly all too accurate, only the timing was wrong. The bureaucracy had to wait almost two years before fulfilling 'Figaro's' prophecy.

In the process it cynically 'updated' the charges against Tesar in order to make it



Top left: Jan Palach. Bottom left: the old Stalinist method of falsifying photographs—Dubcek and President Svoboda in Wenceslas Square in April 1968, and the same picture retouched and reissued to omit Dubcek who was the centre of the 'liberalization' which brought on the invasion. Top right: tanks in Prague, August 1968. Above left: Dubcek. Right: Husak.

seem he was being tried for acts unconnected with the August events.

It was not until July 1971 that the first of the threatened men were actually brought to trial. The first victim was Vladimir Skutina, a former commentator for Czechoslovak television.

He was sentenced to two years' jail for 'slander and agitation' in Prague then tried in a provincial court on charges of 'incitement and defaming the Republic'.

The provincial court awarded him an additional two years and two months in prison.

He was also banned from working in the mass media for a further three years after his release. He was convicted on the basis of two unpublished pamphlets against the 1968 invasion.

To rub home the significance of this trial, the Czech Communist Party chose the same week to readmit a number of hard-line Stalinists of the Novotny era, including the former Minister of the Interior at the time of the Slansky frame-up.

Following the presidential elections in November last year, the Stalinists rearrested a number of their main 'targets', including the majority of defendants in the present trial.

They joined others who were already in the cells, including Pachmann.

But the bureaucracy was still biding its time before bringing them to trial. One of the most significant pointers to what it was waiting for came at the recent conference of the Czechoslovak trade union organization.

The secretary of this body told the hand-picked delegates that the purge in the unions was over the hump. It had been hard going, but he could finally announce that all the 'incorrect' decisions—such as the restoration of the right to strike taken in 1968-1969—had now been annulled.

This, in reality, was the green light for the Prague trial. Now it was impossible for the workers to legally protest or lift a finger against the attacks on their former leaders.

Strikes or demonstrations against the frame-up could be treated with the 'full rigour of the law', as Husak had repeatedly warned.

On the basis of the indictment against the present defendants it is not possible to judge whether they actually carried out the acts they are charged with.

## WITH THE AID OF PROVOCATEURS

The secrecy of the trial and the flimsy character of the charges, however, makes it extremely likely that the charges are a fabrication, no doubt built up with the aid of provocateurs.

The accused are said to have distributed over 70,000 leaflets—not an easy task for people who must have been under constant police supervision in view of their previous spells in jail.

They must also have known that the police were simply waiting for the least indiscretion to bring them before the courts.

The Prague Stalinist press is already condemning the defendants before the trial is over. 'Rude Pravo', the Communist Party newspaper, published the following dispatch earlier this week after the trial's opening:

'The remnants of the defeated right have not come to terms with the fact that our society under the leadership of the party has successfully overcome the unfavourable results of the crisis years of 1968-1969.'

'Several defeated rightist exponents . . . are continuing activities aimed against the basic principles on which we are building our socialist society.'

It added: 'The leading representatives of our party and state have several times stated that nobody in Czechoslovakia will be persecuted for their political opinions and convictions.'

'They have, however, several times stressed that differing political opinions and convictions do not authorize anybody to undermine with impunity the laws for which entire generations of our nations fought and died.'

'Those who are blind to the success which our people have ever more convincingly achieved under the leadership of our party, and who are deaf to the demands of the

majority of our citizens to establish a firm legal order, and who with blind incorrigibility wish to harm our society, must count on the fact that they will come into conflict with our laws and will also be held fully responsible for their criminal activities.'

Right down to the invocation of 'ever more convincing successes' achieved under the muzzles of Soviet guns this is the authentic language of the secret judicial frame-up.

The trial has already provoked protests both inside and outside Czechoslovakia. An open letter from the Citizens' Freedom Movement in Prague calls upon US Communist Party member Angela Davis, who was recently the victim of an attempted frame-up in California, to attend the Prague trials and use her authority to demand entry visas for foreign journalists to attend them as well.

It says: 'Your victory over a seemingly all-powerful bureaucratic machine . . . is to us a source of inspiration in our own struggle.'

And it ends: 'Unlike you, the defendants cannot hope for moral or material support from their countrymen because any public expression of sympathy with their cause would automatically result in police measures against such sympathizers.'

Miss Davis' reaction is not recorded, but the defendants can certainly expect no assistance from the leaders of the British Communist Party, who claim to oppose the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

On Tuesday the 'Morning Star' simply printed a full Reuter report of the trial without comment of any kind. The paper made no demand for the release of the prisoners or for an end to the frame-up.

This is in line with the CP leaders' attitude during the Slansky frame-up of 1953.

At that time, for example, Monty Johnstone, now the party's leading 'liberal' wrote: 'Slansky, former general secretary of the Czech CP, and 13 associates were found guilty of spying and sabotage for the US and its satellites. Many people were shown to have acted as spies in the labour movement since the pre-war days. Such activities can and must be rooted out in this and other countries whenever this takes place; through the vigilance of the workers the movement is rendered stronger and healthier.'

The shamefaced British Stalinists of today prefer to hide behind the 'objectivity' of press agency reports.

However much they try to hide, they remain accomplices in the crushing of the Czech opposition.

# LET THE RECORD SPEAK

## THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE AND THE DOCKERS STRUGGLE

By David Maude  
Part two

Socialist Labour League policy following the May 1962 docks pay settlement was to step up the campaign for nationalization of the docks without compensation and under workers' control.

The 9 per cent increase wrung from the employers after threats of an indefinite national strike might have blown a hold in the Tory government's pay pause, but the Tories remained in power, determined to claw back their friends' money in terms of profits.

In the Rochdale report published in September of that year, 'The Newsletter' saw a bid to smash the 1947 Dock Labour Scheme, which gave dockers an at least partial statutory title to their jobs, a strengthening of the employers' disciplinary powers and the replacement of casual labour by something even more unacceptable. All this, the paper stressed, was merely a prelude to large-scale mechanization on the employers' terms.

Lord Rochdale proposed the formation of a National Ports Authority to co-ordinate the plans of the port employers and their big-combine customers, a reduction in the number of employers, permanent employment on a weekly contract basis, shiftwork and the restriction of the 1947 Scheme to merely keeping the register of those employed in the industry.

These proposals lay in the background of all the struggles of the following year, until, in October 1963, Transport and General Workers' Union delegates gave the employers their first strategic loophole.

On October 29 a docks delegate conference, called to review a strike threat issued the previous month, accepted the employers' proposals for a '40-hour basis' for pay-rates. The deal was to come into force from July 27, 1964.

'The Newsletter' pointed out that the deal was accepted against advice that it gave the employers a definite advantage to introduce unfavourable conditions. (The union's claim had been a straight one for a 40-hour week. This had adamantly been refused by the employers.)

One effect of the agreement was to lift the previous ban on Saturday working after 10 a.m. Another was to prepare the ground for separate, 'mutually satisfactory' 40-hour agreements in each port, with in the background the menacing proviso that there should be greater mobility of labour.

Commented 'The Newsletter':

'The port employers grant the 40-hour week with one



Coachloads of dockers from northern ports travelled to London in July 1964 to lobby a T&GWU docks delegate conference for £15 basic wage

hand. The other holds the axe which can ruthlessly chop off the jobs of thousands of dockers.'

By January 12, 1964, Liverpool dockers were reading in their Sunday papers that after secret talks an agreement was likely to be concluded between T&GWU leaders and their employers that week which would decasualize the port in line with the Rochdale plan.

### DEAL REJECTED

This proposed deal was rejected by the dockers at a mass meeting early in February.

But little more than three months later, 'The Newsletter' had to sound the alarm against dangerous 'strings' on a second 40-hour week deal. Although dockers had never been consulted about these 'strings', the paper said, union officials appeared sympathetic to employers' insistence on 'reasonable' overtime, improved time-keeping, mobility of labour and the making up of short-handed gangs.

Such concessions were rapidly blocked by the rank and file as a nationwide movement began to build up for a £5 11s increase in the then £9 9s basic wage. (The T&GWU had submitted a claim for a 'substantial' increase in April.)

Mass meetings in most ports declared for the £15 basic — nominally a T&GWU target since 1962—and on July 17 Merseyside, Manchester and Hull docks staged a one-day token strike in support of the demand.

T&GWU officials, however, announced that the demand was 'unrealistic'. Eventually the union quantified its claim at £10 14s (a rise of just £1 5s).

On the day of the July 17 strike several coachloads of dockers travelled from the northern ports to lobby a T&GWU docks delegate conference, but were met in London with open hostility from docks members of the Communist Party.

Two Merseyside dockers' leaders who went to the Royal group of docks were harassed by Party members in attempting to put a resolution calling for support for the strike. The Royals men did not want to fight, the CPers claimed.

However, when the resolution was put the whole area of 8,000 men struck, and 3,000 more came out at the Surrey docks.

During the two weeks that followed the London delegates to meetings of the national rank-and-file committee opposed every suggestion for further action.

While they themselves would like to see a £1 5s rise, they said at one meeting, most London men would be delighted with 12s. The following week they fell back on the T&GWU leadership's argument that a strike could damage the Labour Party's chances in the forthcoming General Election.

The following month the 'Daily Worker' (now the 'Morning Star') which had remained almost silent during the T&GWU's back-door manoeuvres with the employers on decasualization, attempted to justify the Party's position with a scurrilous attack on the northern dockers.

It was the article's central theme that dockers throughout the country were in no shape to fight the employers because of the continued existence of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers in the north.

After presenting a distorted account of the 1954 'prison break-out' we have already described, it called for a campaign against non-unionism (a euphemism for getting rid of the NAS&D).

Meanwhile it covered up for the T&GWU's attempts to trade away hard-won conditions by praising 'the breakthrough on the 40-hour-week front'. While many weaknesses remained in the T&GWU, the article said, there were signs of a more realistic approach to dockers' needs than during the authoritarian reign of right-winger Arthur Deakin.

### ELECTION STRATEGY

In the weeks preceding the General Election the T&GWU leaders continued to put off a decision on action, despite a shabby succession of offers from the employers; their final bid was 12s 6d.

The CP continued its splitting tactics. At the end of August Jack Dash and his Liaison Committee called a two-hour demonstration in the Royals, without notifying the

northern ports so that it could be a national action.

The committee also issued a statement which provoked sharp disagreements with the north, that if no satisfactory increase was granted there would be no increase in productivity that year.

In other words, the CP was making its own contribution to the right-wing reformists' election strategy, by helping the T&GWU hold off strike action against the employers' provocative offer.

A 'Newsletter' editorial in mid-September came out in total opposition to this approach:

'The wages and working conditions of dockers must be made an election issue and the labour movement should support an immediate strike by dock workers to enforce these conditions.'

'Labour candidates should then be instructed to defend the action of the portworkers by explaining the reactionary policies of the employers. If the dockers retreat now then they will suffer a most serious setback.'

'To fight is to convince. Without a showdown now every employer in the country will take advantage of the weaknesses of the official leadership of the trade unions, and redouble their attack after the election is over.'

'These are the reasons why "The Newsletter" supports immediate action by dock workers. Far from weakening a possible Labour government it will greatly strengthen it.'

That this was no wild-eyed policy of political suicide, far removed from the real feelings of the working class, was quickly demonstrated.

On October 5, just ten days before the election, T&GWU secretary Frank Cousins went to Liverpool. As he arrived to address a meeting at the city's Boxing Stadium, he was met by hundreds of dockers gathered under a banner saying 'There are no scabs on Merseyside, Frank, they're all in Transport House.'

Jeers and hoots of derision greeted him inside when he called for the negotiation of decasualization terms.

With the Labour win at the polls Cousins was to disappear into the Cabinet as Minister of Technology.

The port employers, however, remained adamant despite the change of government.

Once again strike notice was handed in by the T&GWU. But this time Minister of Labour Ray Gunter, no doubt with the expert advice of his Cabinet colleague, promised a court of inquiry.

This was to be with the Devlin committee, and by October 31 'The Newsletter' was already warning:

'Something is going to be cooked up for the portworkers at this court of inquiry and we are convinced that it will mean the recommendation of the proposals for decasualization under a new guise.'

### AWARD ACCEPTED

Before the inquiry was a 32-page document from the port employers laying out detailed proposals for the reorganization of the ports. The document was spawned in discussions over at least two years between Cousins and the employers.

And significantly, sitting next to Lord Devlin on the committee was Sidney Ford, the right-wing miners' union president who had presided over the loss of some 100,000 jobs in the pits.

By mid-November 1964 the first of the committee's jobs had been cleared out of the way: the T&GWU docks delegates had accepted its award of a 19s 2d increase in the basic rate, plus a 5-per-cent rise in piecework prices.

So after seven months of prevarication dockers had ended up over £4 10s short of what the T&GWU paper, the 'Record', had declared was not an unreasonable target two-and-a-half years earlier. And they had done so through a division of labour between the T&GWU right wing and the Stalinists of the CP.

The 'Daily Worker' gave credence to the inquiry by describing its award as 'high' and a 'vindication of the dockers' fight'.

As the paper was saying these things there were 60,000 dockers. Today there are little more than 40,000. The Devlin inquiry paved the way for Devlin, and the CP, as we have seen, paved the way for Devlin.

<sup>1</sup>November 7, 1963.

<sup>2</sup>May 16, 1964.

<sup>3</sup>'The Dockers' Big Opportunity', August 11, 1964.

<sup>4</sup>September 19, 1964.



## BOOK REVIEW



'Industrial Britain. South Wales'. By Graham Humphrys. David and Charles, £4.75.

# END OF WELSH UTOPIA

REVIEWED BY  
IAN YEATS

Graham Humphrys' 'South Wales' in the 'Industrial Britain' series ends on the now-familiar and therefore tedious plea for more investment in the principality.

He couples it with an equally-tedious plea for yet another 'plan' involving a complicated 'shuffle' of service industry personnel out of south-east Wales to the west to make room for other office workers lured to the area from London.

Prudent, government-guided investment, mainly in light manufacturing and mainly on Severnside, would open up a 'new era of success and prosperity for the region'.

There is nothing original in this. Successive governments and the Welsh lobby have been urging the same thing since Wales was first given special area status in 1946.

The only difference is that this Utopian pipe-dream is being peddled in vastly different circumstances today. It is not merely that notions of restructuring have less chance of pulling regional economies out of the mire—there is no chance.

One of the few merits of Humphrys' book, which could feasibly be ended at two expanded first chapters, is that it shows, unintentionally but plainly, that in South Wales restructuring and modernization has shot its bolt.

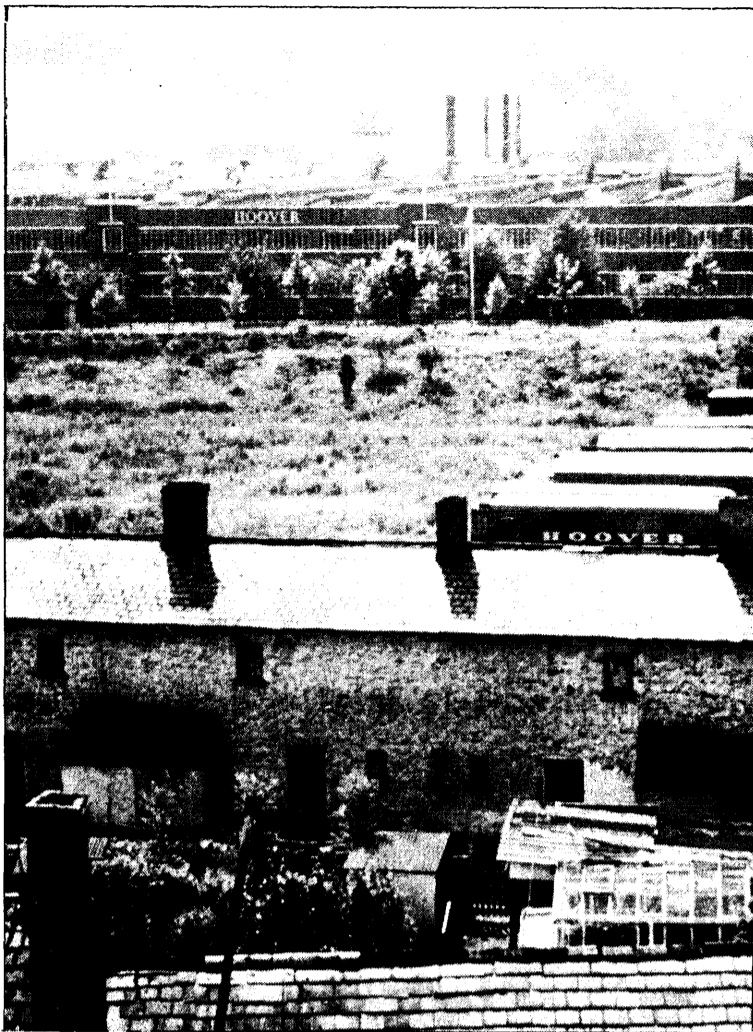
Of great significance for the character of nationalization under capitalism, 90 per cent of the rationalization of coal, steel, railways, bus services, police, fire-fighting units, schools and hospitals was ruthlessly carried out by state industries or public bodies.

Of 300 pits taken over by the Labour government after the war, in 1970 only 52 remained employing less than 40,000 of the original 100,000 miners.

Of 20 small steelworks and 20 small tinplate works taken over in 1946, only five and one respectively are left, augmented by two new steel works turning out 75 per cent of the region's total output.

If anything, this process was intensified by the 1964 Labour government and local Labour and trade union bureaucrats have connived at massive closures and redundancies over the years almost without even a whisper.

Without workers' control and outside a socialist economy, successive government's



Top: Ironworks cottages and the Hoover Limited washing machine factory at Merthyr Tydfil. Above: Alcan-Booth Aluminium works, Newport.

were forced to follow in the footsteps of private employers—themselves fending off pressure on profit margins—by maximizing internal economies of scale.

Small firms compelled by the Board of Trade to set up in Wales rather than the Midlands or south east England clustered on industrial estates to reap the benefit of economies of scale.

Outside the estates only the biggest private firms moved into the area, attracted by government 'carrots' and cheap labour—Alcoa, Alcan, Hoover, Ford.

The process of cost-cutting through rationalization in the state-owned manufacturing industries and the world monopolies had its counterpart in Wales in publicly-run services. Bus and train services were slashed to a bare minimum while giant schools and hospitals were built which entailed valley people in travelling considerable distances.

Although he doesn't say so, Humphrys' industrial survey leaves little doubt that a point has now been reached in the principality where, unless there are to be major closures of plant and services, the pruning has to stop.

The 'planners' have largely abandoned the old, obsolete, century-old iron working 'top towns' at the head of the valleys. Much of the south east coalfield is in the same category and the communities are destined at the most to become forest encircled dormitory towns.

Surgery complete, Severnside—Newport, Cardiff, Port Talbot, Swansea—is poised for

growth. Humphrys himself has some anxiety about the prospects. But this is quite unrelated to the real cause for worry—recession.

To him the problem is that Wales only accounts for 1.8 million people, or 4 per cent of the population of Britain. Mass production industries are unlikely to be attracted by such a tiny market.

In addition, out of a total of 700,000 workers, only 200,000 do not work in mining, metal manufacture and services—a labour force which would be soaked up by only a handful of large factories.

His doubts emerge again in his description of the likely future of mid-Glamorgan, which includes the Rhondda and a hefty chunk of South Wales population. He notes that in the past 30 years only 4,000 new jobs have been created.

Empiricism dooms such studies to the purely descriptive. But for Marxists able to draw their own conclusions, some chapters of the book provide a useful insight into the point of no return many sectors of the economy—including South Wales—must now have reached.

Under present circumstances, Severnside will never get off the ground.

Worse, the very forces of centralization, rationalization and modernization which put it there must now turn into their opposites. As recession tightens its grip, giant enterprises will come crashing down with consequences far more disastrous than any tiny strip mill closing.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## SOLUTION

A Tory ex-councillor and leading Midland Orangeman has revealed that he is arranging for guns and money to be sent to Protestant extremists in Ulster 'if the need should arise'.

Sidney Forster is visiting Northern Ireland to meet heads of the Ulster Defence Association to plan the operation. He also declared that UDA sympathizers could start drilling in Birmingham to go to the province if necessary.

He said one of the men who had offered money for arms was another Birmingham ex-city councillor.

Forster is an honorary deputy grand master of the Loyal Orange Institute of England and treasurer of the institute's West Midlands Province. He made clear in an interview with the 'Birmingham Post' that his weapon-collecting activity would be done in his capacity as an Ulster Loyalist, not as an Orangeman.

There were, he said, men drilling in Liverpool and Glasgow to go to Ulster if necessary; on a smaller scale, this could be organized in Birmingham.

'Don't forget, Birmingham drilled in a hall I won't name in 1912, in Carson's time. There is a movement to start again if the need arises.'

And his 'solution' for Ulster? 'Either the British army must put an end to the no-go areas, or it must move out and leave it to the Protestants.'

## BACK IN CLASS

In many parts of the country a schoolchildren exchange system operates. That is to say, children from Europe come here to spend a term while some of the home-grown products go off to the lycées for a season. The idea is to let our children see how the other half live.

What a rude introduction to English life for 14-year-old Muriel St Cyr of Lyons in France. She arrived at her first day at Moor End secondary school, Erdington, Birmingham, wearing new blue jeans and a blue smock.

She was promptly sent home for 'dress irregularities'. She had to change into dress etc.

That'll teach the French to try to undermine our civilization!!

## SILENCE

One of the features of the present economic crisis is the spirited attempts by some financial writers still to maintain that things aren't as bad as they seem. Well, although the hacks might be unaware of the crisis, the investors certainly are not.

Do you realize, for example, that last week the London stock market had its quietest trading for 16 months. It was the lowest for a normal five-day trading since the despondency which hit the market in the aftermath of the Rolls-Royce collapse.

## BREAK

There have been a number of mysterious getaways from Prince George's county jail in Maryland, USA. But Sheriff Don Ansell has just 'modernized' one special cell. The windows have been replaced with steel plate. Who is the celebrity being penned there? Arthur Bremer, the man accused of shooting George Wallace. He's one that the Maryland cops won't let get out.

## NEW PATTERN

The £320m Joseph Lucas group is to import a comprehensive range of electrical parts for Continental cars in Britain—nearly one in four cars now sold in Britain is foreign-made.

Chairman Sir Kenneth Corley foreshadowed these moves in an interview in February with the 'Birmingham Post':

'There is a new pattern of parts replacements. We shall have no inhibitions in dealing with other firms' replacement parts or distributing them.'

Ignition equipment and regulators are to be bought from Ducellier in France—40 per cent owned by Lucas—and from Magneti Marelli in Italy. The range will be extended by degrees to include Fausto Carollo of Italy.

The company hopes that by early next year most foreign car electrical parts will have been included in the scheme.

# BOOKS



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## White-collar men accused of racial victimization

GENERAL and Municipal Workers' Union members at P. B. Cow Industrial Polymers Ltd, Streatham, South London have accused departmental managers of trying to use a white-collar union to get backing for 'racial victimization'.

The accusations have risen out of a dispute this week at the Cow factory—part of the Allied Polymer Group—over the reinstatement of a coloured press-shop worker who is a G&MWU member. He had been cleared by the APG board of directors of a charge of assaulting a foreman.

Press shop workers had struck work two weeks previously when the director for labour relations at Streatham had upheld a decision to sack the man.

According to procedure, however, this was changed to suspension on full pay when the G&MWU shop stewards challenged the decision.

The stewards were then called to meet the directors, who found that the suspended worker had no charges to answer. When this was disputed by the managerial staff, a government conciliation officer was called in. He upheld the findings of the directors.

The white-collar Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs threatened to strike if he was reinstated.

The man returned to the factory at 6 a.m. last Monday morning and when the managerial staff arrived two hours later they demanded he be sent off the premises. The G&MWU shop stewards insisted he stay and the staff walked out.

Early in the afternoon, the local ASTMS official arrived and pledged official backing for the managerial staff. Later in the day, however, the strikers asked to meet G&MWU shop stewards and called for negotiations over a new procedure in the event of victimization disputes.

No agreement was reached but they returned to work.

Workers at the factory are critical of ASTMS for their support for the staff in this dispute. One worker told us:

'This dispute which has so-called official backing raises questions for us about ASTMS and racial victimization.

'It wasn't just a union question. This is seen by the fact that some staff who are not ASTMS members walked off supporting them to have this worker kept out.

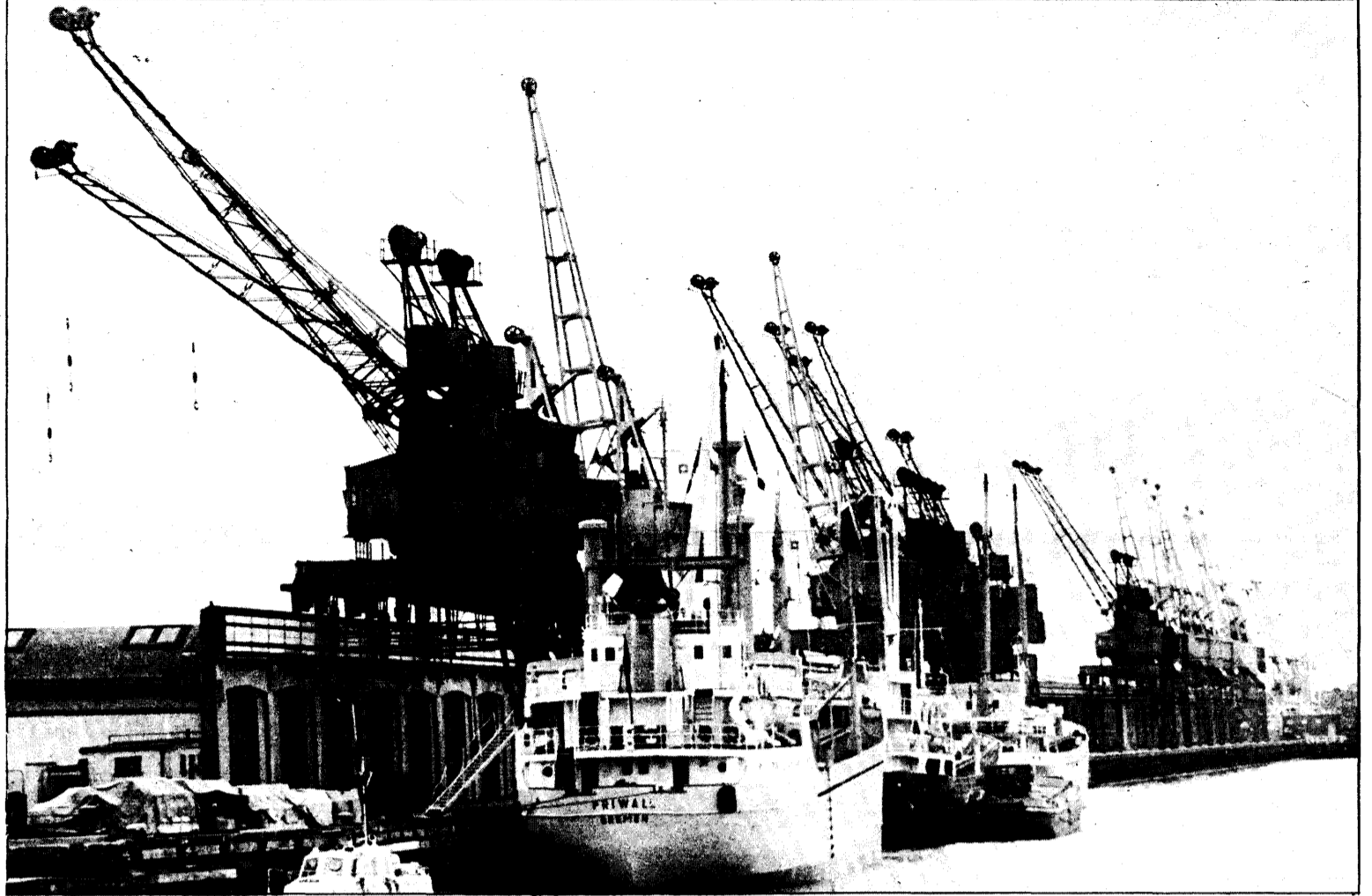
'We claim the departmental managers are using the union machinery to victimize militant workers and this is not the first time this has happened.

'Last year they wanted to sack a bloke for allegedly abusing a foreman and the union appealed to management to change dismissal for suspension. The ASTMS union disagreed and when the decision was reversed they went on strike.

'At that time the departmental managers were not in the union and then they all joined.

'We feel they decided to join the union not to fight management, but to fight us.'

## Hull dockers' jobs and working conditions threatened



## MPs' committee attacks the Dock Labour Scheme

BY DAVID MAUDE  
Our Industrial Correspondent

**HULL dockers' jobs, working conditions and wages are all seriously threatened by the report of a House of Commons watchdog committee published yesterday.**

The Select Committee on Nationalized Industries has been investigating the running of the British Transport Docks Board, which controls 19 ports including Southampton, Hull, Newport and Garston.

### Disappointment

It says that Hull, whose deficit worsened from £800,000 to nearly £1m last year, is the Board's major disappointment. And it recommends that troubles in the working of the 1947 Dock Labour Scheme there should receive urgent, top-level government attention.

The report will clearly fit neatly into the port employers' strategy for using the present jobs crisis in the ports to attack the Scheme, which gives dockers at least a partial statutory title to their jobs.

Its timing is surely not accidental. With the Jones-Aldington report on the port jobs issue due in just a few days' time, its conclusions are assured of maximum publicity.

Chief among these is the idea that there are 500 more dockers at Hull than are needed.

There are currently 2,800 registered dockers in the port. The committee is thus as good as recommending an 18 per cent redundancy.

It is here that the attack on working conditions and wages comes in.

The situation at Hull is exacerbated, the report says, 'by the failure of the local Dock Labour Board to allow the excess labour to be put on the temporarily unattached register. This would at least halve the unnecessary extra cost.

'At a port like Hull, already losing part of its traditional trade for reasons outside its control, the increase in costs arising from overmanning in slack times and the refusal to operate a supplementary list in busy times serve to drive away yet more trade to other ports or to private wharves outside the scope of the Dock Labour Scheme.

### Control

With one indiscriminate sweep, the MPs who staff the Select Committee are here obviously calling into question the principle of joint union-employer control of the Dock Labour Scheme and proposing a cut in the pay of hundreds of men.

They are also opening the door for a return of the bad old days of casual labour before the Scheme came in in 1947.

The dockers fought hard to escape from these conditions. They are not about to return to them on the say-so of a bunch of Westminster MPs.

(The report betrays considerable ignorance about the working of the Dock Labour Scheme. The purpose of the temporarily unattached register, for instance, is not to provide employers with a 'supplementary list' of dockers available to their every whim, but to alleviate hardships caused by short-term fluctuations in the trading situation.)

The Select Committee goes on to praise the success of Southampton, which last year improved

from a deficit of £900,000 to a surplus of £500,000.

Success there encouraged good industrial relations, the report says. Good industrial relations assured a reliable service which, in turn, bred more trade.

Loss of trade at Hull, it says in contrast, accentuated the need to reduce the numbers employed.

This led to a bad state in labour relations. In turn, this had led to increased handling costs and loss of reliability of service, losing the port more trade.

### Attack

The report says: 'The solution may be to take Humberside and the labour force as a whole and to concentrate on developing facilities where conditions are most favourable.

'The local patriotism found in the ports must accept larger loyalties.'

This last is entirely in line with the plans of many port em-

ployers, haulage operators and warehousing firms, who have been busily developing private berths along the river where they use non-Scheme labour at much lower rates of pay than the dockers command.

As such it represents yet another attack by the Select Committee on the Scheme.

Among the report's recommendations is a suggestion that the British Transport Docks Board should operate (for a management fee) ports with no real prospect of solvency, but which are needed in the national interest.

To some extent, there are similarities here with the recently-legislated Harbours (Loans) Act.

This provides for loans to port authorities which are experiencing financial difficulties, as a result of high capital costs or other causes. These are to be administered under stringent controls over the authorities' policies, including their labour policies, by the National Ports Council.

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# TV

## BBC 1

9.45 Camberwick Green. 10.00 Casey Jones. 10.25 Tennis. 10.50 Tin Tin. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 12.55 Eu Tyb A'u Tebyg. 1.30 Fingerbobs. 1.45 News, weather. 2.25 Racing. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Monkees. 5.20 Ask Aspel. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News, weather.

**6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.**

**6.20 TOM AND JERRY.**

**6.30 THE KINKS AT THE RAINBOW.** With The Mike Cotton Brass and Joe's Lights.

**7.15 THE VIRGINIAN.** The Death Wagon.

**8.30 LOOK—MIKE YARWOOD.**

**9.00 NEWS, Weather.**

**9.20 ROYAL INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW.**

**10.30 DAVE ALLEN AT LARGE.**

**11.15 NEWS.**

**11.20 SUMMER TALK** (New Series). Current Affairs programme chaired by Robin Day.

**12.05 Weather.**

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 6.05 Open University.

**7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.**

**8.00 GARDENERS' WORLD.**

**8.30 THE ENTERTAINERS.** Series of film reports by Trevor Philpott.

**9.20 THE BEETHOVEN SYMPHONIES.** Otto Klemperer conducts the New Philharmonia Orchestra: Symphony No 1 in C major and Symphony No 2 in D major.

**10.30 SPORT TWO.** John Snow, poet and cricketer.

**11.10 NEWS, Weather.**

**11.15 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.**

## ITV

11.30 Communities. 12.25 Women. 12.50 Freud on Food. 1.15 Bellbird. 1.30 Dan. 1.40 Bush Boy. 2.05 Castle Haven. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 This Week. 3.45 Delta. 4.40 Happy House. 4.55 Land of the Giants. 5.50 News.

**6.00 MIDSUMMER MONTY.** Monty Modlyn.

**6.30 THE NEW DICK VAN DYKE SHOW.**

**7.00 THE COMEDIANS.**

**7.30 THE FBI.** The Hero.

**8.30 IN FOR A PENNY.**

**9.00 MAN FROM HAVEN.** (New Series). A man out to make a fortune.

**10.00 NEWS.**

**10.30 THE FRIGHTENERS.** Old Comrades.

**11.00 FILM: 'THE RETURN OF MR. MOTO'.** Henry Silva. Japanese detective investigates losses of oil company.

**12.30 THE COMMON MIND.**

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 2.15 Mark Twain. 3.05 3.05 Hilda. 4.05 Happy house. 4.20 Puffin. 4.22 Jimmy Stewart. 4.50 Flintstones. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 News. 6.00 News, weather. What's on where? 6.15 Report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 10.35 Film: 'Masterson of Kansas'. 11.55 News, weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 10.32 News, weather. 11.55 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 12.55 News. 1.00 Enemy. 1.25 Hillbillies. 1.50 Cooking. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Kate. 3.55 Weekend. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by

day. Scene south east. 6.30 Who do you do? 7.00 In for a penny. 7.30 Weekend. 7.35 Sale. 8.05 FBI. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Patient Vanishes'. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. Guideline.

**HTV:** 2.35 Out of town. 2.55 Remember. 3.30 Grasshopper island. 3.55 Enchanted house. 3.45 Women. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Woobinda. 5.20 Flaxton boys. 5.50 News. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 In for a penny. 7.30



Ray Davies leads The Kinks through a three-quarter hour show on BBC 1 tonight, recorded at the Rainbow in London

Comedians. 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 Film: 'The Big Chance.' 12.10 Scales of justice. 12.40 Weather.

**HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 4.15 Cantamil. 6.01 Y Dydd.

**HTV West as above except:** 6.15 Report West.

**ANGLIA:** 1.40 World war I. 2.05 Mad Movies. 2.30 London. 3.15 Survival. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoons. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Giants. 5.50 News. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads.

7.00 Glamour 72. 7.35 Comedians. 8.00 Combat. 9.00 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Film: 'Night Must Fall'.

**ATV Midlands:** 3.10 Good afternoon. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Happy house. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 In for a penny. 7.30 Persuaders. 8.25 Comedians. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Night Holds Terror'.

**ULSTER:** 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Cowboy in Africa. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Viewfinder. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sale. 7.30 In for a penny. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 10.30 Comedians. 11.00 Film: 'Murder Ahoy'.

**YORKSHIRE:** 1.45 Odd couple. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Kate. 4.00 Sound of. 4.05 Calendar. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Happy house. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 News. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'I Remember Mama'. 12.55 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 2.20 Cook book. 2.45 Saint. 3.40 University challenge. 4.10 News. Peyton place. 4.40 Happy house. 4.50 Skippy. 5.15 Funky phantom. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30 Riptide. 7.25 In for a penny. 8.00 Protectors. 8.25 Comedians. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Wicked as They Come'.

**SCOTTISH:** 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Animaland. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Happy house. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Cartoons. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Love, American style. 6.30 In for a penny. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 Helen McArthur. 9.00 London. 10.30 In camera. 11.00 At odds. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Marcus Welby.

**GRAMPIAN:** 3.37 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Happy house. 4.55 Rumble jumble. 5.20 Bush boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 Jesse James. 8.00 Hawaii five o. 9.00 London. 10.30 Hogan's heroes. 1.00 Job look. 11.05 Film: 'Night Creatures'. Road report.



Devastation wreaked on Hung Dong village in the Nghe An province by US bombers on April 10 this year

# 'Timed raids catch people'

A DOCUMENT produced by the 'Commission for the Investigation of US Imperialist War Crimes in Vietnam' says that hundreds of provincial and district capitals, villages and hamlets were hit continuously and intensively since Nixon resumed bombing the North.

And US plans resumed bombing near Hanoi and Haiphong on Tuesday after a week's break due to bad weather.

The report accuses the Americans of using CS gas in bombs and of poisoning thousands of people. Air-raids were timed to catch people assembling for work or sleeping at night 'for maximum killing efficiency'.

It said that nearly 3,700 mines were sown near North Vietnam's ports and river mouths when Nixon announced the mining operation in May. Since then about 2,500 mines and magnetic bombs have been dropped.

It says that the Americans will be held responsible for damage done to North Vietnam's

dykes and river system by bombing.

American actress Jane Fonda has accused the US of bombing the northern textile centre of Nam Dinh, although it has no military objectives. The city's vital dyke system had also been damaged by bombs.

THE National Liberation Front for South Vietnam has issued a statement for the 18th anniversary of the Geneva Agreements in which it says that they have been systematically violated by the United State imperialists 'with a view to turning South

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Vietnam into a neo-colony and military base of the USA and perpetuating the division of Vietnam'.

The NLF calls for the US to end its aggression and its 'Vietnamization of the war' policy and to stop its support for 'the dictatorial and bellicose regime of Nguyen Van Thieu'.

It says that the Americans should seriously negotiate at Paris and accept the seven-point proposal it has put forward.

It concludes: 'Acting upon venerated President Ho Chi Minh's statement, the South

Vietnamese people and the People's Liberation Army are determined to dash forward, step up the general offensive and concerted uprising, defeat all the US-puppets' counter-offensives in order to defend and enlarge the liberated areas and carry on the fight till the USA quits and the puppets topple'.

Different language was used by the London district committee of the Communist Party, which celebrated the occasion yesterday by paying a call at the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square.

## North counter-attack at Quang Tri

HEAVY fighting continued around Quang Tri as North Vietnamese troops made counter-attacks with tanks during the night. The South Vietnamese began a new drive into Binh Dinh province which was occupied by the north during the Easter offensive.

Saigon admitted losing 837 killed and 2,367 wounded in last week's fighting. American casualties amounted to eight killed and 26 wounded.

Dr Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's special adviser, held secret talks with North Vietnam Politburo member Le Duc Tho

and the chief negotiator, Xuan Thuy, on Wednesday and further talks are expected to follow.

The North is insisting that there can be no settlement without a change of government in Saigon, which means that the Americans must abandon their ally President Nguyen Van Thieu.

## AFL-CIO rejection of McGovern a step forward

THE AFL-CIO trade union confederation will not endorse Senator George McGovern, Democratic candidate in the presidential elections.

The decision, taken at a three-hour executive meeting on Wednesday, was announced by George Meany, AFL-CIO president.

He said the organization, which has 13.6 million affiliated members 'will refrain from endorsing either candidate' — McGovern or President Nixon.

The executive voted 27 to 3 on the decision which marks a historic break with previous policy. The union bureaucracy has had close ties with the Democrats since the 'new deal' period of the 1930s under Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Meany said the unions' maximum effort would be to elect congressmen favourable to the labour movement.

A minority of AFL-CIO unions have already backed McGovern and one union executive, the Teamsters, has endorsed Nixon.

However, the AFL-CIO executive decision remains of great importance—it demonstrates conclusively that building a Labour Party based on the trade unions is more than opportune.

That Meany can talk of defeating both bourgeois candidates without mentioning the question of the Labour Party only demonstrates the crisis within the bureaucracy, which has always opposed a break from the big business parties.

But the decision to break with the Democratic nominee lays the basis for a big political development within the US trade unions.

# July jobless UP!

UNEMPLOYMENT leapt by 34,105 last month to a July high of 868,196 — 40,000 greater than at the same time last year.

The figures coincide with the announcement that in the 11 months ended in May this year Britain's exports were plunging downwards at the rate of 8 per cent.

The total of wholly unemployed now stands at 795,210 and the prospects for the winter, with a continuing spate of redundancies, look bleak.

There are 19,266 school leavers registered as unemployed and 28,610 adult students—a rise of 10,880 and 26,800 respectively.

The situation was worse in Ulster. Total unemployment rose to 45,335 or 8.7 per cent—a rise of 5,758.

Tory Ministers claimed yesterday they were 'baffled' by the upward jobless trend and suggested the figures might be a 'freak'.

## 'Float' aided trade figures

BRITAIN'S balance of payments will probably not deteriorate so much as was originally forecast because of floating sterling, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said in a report published today.

A report supplement, taking into account the sterling float, said in view of the uncertainties no precise forecast could be made. But the balance of payments would probably show a smaller deterioration than was at first thought.

Much more significant were figures showing that the actual volume of exports had fallen since the middle of last year, whereas the volume and value of imports had continued to grow.

The favourable effect of the 1967 sterling devaluation now seemed completely to have disappeared, says the report.

MR REGINALD MAUDLING, who resigned as Home Secretary after the inquiries into the Poulson bankruptcy case issued the following statement to the Press Association yesterday:

'I have seen the reports in some of today's newspapers about inquiries into the Real Estate Fund of America Group.

'I have not been in any way concerned in these inquiries and I have not been approached by the police, but I understood from the Attorney-General at the end of last week that I might at some stage be asked to make a statement in the capacity of a witness.'

# Unions tell LP: Repeal Act

RESOLUTIONS before this year's Labour Party conference call upon the next Labour government to immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act and to withdraw from the Common Market.

These are among 455 resolutions on the agenda at the annual conference in Blackpool from October 2 to October 6.

The biggest voting block at the conference, the Transport and General Workers' Union, 'welcomes pledges made on behalf of the Labour Party, by the National Executive Committee, and the Parliamentary Labour Party that the Act will be completely repealed in the first session of the new Labour government'.

Ominously, however, the re-

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

solution goes on to 'further welcome' the secret discussions now going on between the Labour Party executive and the TUC 'on the clear basis of voluntary reform'. These talks are aimed at resuscitating Labour's 'In Place of Strife' policy which was previously crushed by the trade union movement.

In contrast to the equivocation of the T&GWU, is the resolution by the AUEW's technical and supervisory section.

It declares total opposition to the Act and calls on the PLP 'to declare immediate and complete repeal of the Act and the restoration of trade union rights as a prominent part of its programme for the next General Election'.

THE constructional section of

the AUEW produces the main anti-Common Market resolution, though it is confined to completely nationalist precepts.

It declares complete opposition to the Market 'believing that the Treaty of Rome fundamentally denies national independence to the British people'. It is a resolution which Enoch Powell, were he present, would support.

Hertford and Stevenage CLP says simply: 'This conference is resolutely opposed to entry into the Common Market on any terms.'

There are signs of strain in the Party over the question of the Jenkinsites and their continuous support for the Tories over Market entry.

No less than eight resolutions call for the resignation or ex-

pulsion of Labour MPs who defy conference or Party policy and vote with the Tories or abstain. ON questions relating to the Party's programme there is a strong swing by constituency parties towards nationalization policies.

Several calls are made for resuscitation of Clause IV as a guiding principle of the Party and there are 14 pages on housing and public ownership of land.

These resolutions, many of them demanding the expropriation of private landholders, are an answer to the Tory speculators and the government's proposal to double council rents.

Although the document is already being characterized as the most 'left' for many years, not a single resolution calls for a political fight to force the Tories out of office.

## Detectives give minute-by-minute picketing report

BY PHILIP WADE

PRIVATE detectives from Eurotec — described on their notepaper as 'Investigators Extraordinary' — again gave evidence for Midland Cold Storage against picketing dockers in the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday.

At an earlier hearing they revealed how they followed dockers to pubs and to their homes and taken photographs of them on the picket line. One had said that posing as a freelance 'news researcher' he taped conversations he had with dockers' wives.

Yesterday the court heard evidence from Mr Garry Murray, the firm's principal, giving virtually minute-by-minute accounts of the activities of the seven dockers over a period of seven days.

At one point on July 18 the detectives carried out a 'test run', to see if dockers would follow them.

'We left a depot in our radio patrol car and noted that R. Hedges very quickly jumped into his BMW car and followed us,' said Mr Murray's statement.

They were followed for two miles and after they had used their radio telephone their pursuer left them.

But it was clear that dockers knew who they were for the following day a driver was warned by dockers not to go into Midland's Security Office.

'Don't go in there, there are police and private detectives' was what they shouted at the

driver. They were referring to Mr Laslett and myself,' Murray's statement said.

Two other detectives took part in the operations. They were Mr William Laslett and Mr Christopher Burch who has recently returned from an army training camp.

On one of the days Eurotec itself sent a vehicle down to the picket line. The driver spoke to the pickets and was handed a leaflet.

'This states quite clearly that anyone entering the depot will be blacked nationally,' Murray's evidence said.

The Eurotec vehicle bore the name 'Your Move'. 'I like Mr Murray's name for his car,' remarked Sir John.

When the hearing began Mr Marcus Edwards, counsel for Midland, produced sworn affidavits relating to detailed allegations of continued picketing and threats of blacking by the seven dockers.

Reports from 'The Times', 'The Guardian', the 'Sun' and the 'Morning Star' were produced.

Mr Robin Bray, a director of the firm, said in his statement that the pickets were carrying on in the same way as before the order was made.

Business was almost at a standstill and few lorries were getting through. He confirmed that his business would close at the end of next week.

Mr John Henry Jones, a supervisor employed by the company, gave written evidence that he had joined a rival picket line which encouraged drivers to go through.

He said he had seen how the pickets were organized and noted the numbers of the lorries turned away.

Steer and Turner made only short visits to the picket line. He had not seen them take part in stopping vehicles. They were always together, he said.

Jones said he had seen two other respondents, Mr Clancy and Mr Watkins, on separate days taking the lead in the organization of the dockers' picket line.

(CASE PROCEEDING)



Picketing by container workers at Royal docks, London, yesterday

## Mersey port strike move

MERSEY dockers' stewards will call for a stoppage throughout the port today in support of 1,600 men in dispute with A. E. Smith Coggins over manning.

Smith Coggins is one of the big four employers in the port currently engaged in 'exploratory' merger talks. The firm is insisting it has the right to employ unregistered labour on clerical jobs.

Low Lloyd, local docks secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said it appeared to him Smith Coggins had been 'most bloody-minded'.

Meanwhile in London yesterday, lorry-drivers' pickets spread out to four London docks groups with what the Port of London Authority described as a '100 per cent' effect.

Tilbury, Millwall, the India and the Royal docks were blanketed with pickets who prevented the arrival of most lorries. Unloading was proceeding as normal but few shipments got away from the dock gates.

Pickets at Tilbury claimed they had drawn up a 24-hour rota for the next three weeks.

A meeting of transport drivers' stewards yesterday evening was expected to threaten an even harder line, but demand talks with the dockers' leaders as well.

## UNITE TO SAVE JOBS

FROM PAGE 1

cede the dockers' demands.

At Dagenham the result is that both dockers and container workers lose out.

Without a policy for united action here, the appearance of dockers' pickets at a container depot is as it was vividly described by one of the London men whose job is threatened:

'All we see is the dockers arriving and, bang, we're about to lose our jobs.'

This is the answer to the Stalinist smear against Workers Press that it is 'pro-container worker' rather than 'pro-docker'. What the Stalinist policy has done is breached the traditional solidarity of dockers and other transport workers; that solidarity in which picket-lines by either group and for whatever reason were sacrosanct.

But there are no grounds for complacency by drivers and depot workers, either. While they are picketing their employers are preparing to hit them with the same technological rod they have already used on the dockers.

Today a Lykes-line vessel carrying more than 30,000 tons of containers and loaded barge-units arrives in the upper reaches of the Thames at Gravesend.

The rapid development of barges and even airships as a cheap, rapid means of transport will cut out many thousands of drivers' jobs.

Entry into the Common Market will bring with it further cuts as non-stop Continental

lorries and cross-Channel tunnels get under way.

It is dazzlingly clear that a united struggle is needed, but it is equally clear that the demand for nationalization under workers' control requires the removal of the Tory government and cannot be implemented immediately.

The Transport and General Workers' Union must, therefore, be forced to fight for the following policy:

1. No redundancies among either dockers, transport drivers or container workers.
2. A shorter working week. Maintenance of all workers whose jobs are threatened on full pay until the industries can be nationalized and planned on socialist lines.
3. Abolition of the TUR. Full rates of pay for all dockers. Work-sharing with no loss of earnings where there is insufficient work.
4. Recall the T&GWU biennial delegate meeting to adopt and plan the fight for these policies. This will mean

● FIRSTLY, mobilizing the strength of the union, in united action with the rest of the trade union movement, to force the Tory government to resign. SECONDLY, it will mean the placing of an emergency resolution before the TUC and Labour Party conferences demanding the return of a Labour government which will immediately fully nationalize the ports and road-haulage without compensation under workers' control. July 20, 1972.

### WEATHER

SOUTHERN England will be rather cloudy, with isolated showers and coastal fog patches. The Midlands, Wales, central and south Scotland, and Northern Ireland, will be dry and sunny after the dispersal of early morning mist and fog patches.

Eastern Scotland and England will be rather cloudy with coastal fog patches, but will become dry and sunny inland during the morning.

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### FUND

## A LEAP TO £1,130

A GREAT effort on your part yesterday raised our July Fund by £140.27 making a total now of £1,130.72. But we still have £529.28 to collect by Saturday. We could do it—it's up to you!

We must raise our target in time. We know you are putting up a magnificent struggle to collect this amount. This month we have asked you to try and raise it nine days earlier, before our summer schools begin and you are almost there.

Let's therefore make a great last-minute spurt. It could be a record—£1,750 raised by July 22. Go into action straight away. Collect some more if you can. Rush every donation immediately to:

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