



The Newsletter says —

LABOUR: STOP NEW TORY WAR MOVE

WITH their usual contemptuous attitude for Labour opinion, the Tories have decided to test a nuclear weapon underground in the Nevada Desert. Preparations for this test have clearly been in hand for some time and the announcement must inevitably lead to a worsening of international relations. It is an act of sabre-rattling at a time when the danger of war is constantly growing.

The right-wing Labour leaders have once again assisted the Tories in the propaganda groundwork for the test. At the Labour Party conference last October, the impression was deliberately created that the H-bomb issue had receded into the background—at the very time when the test was being prepared.

Frank Cousins and others were a party to this fraud when they should have been leading an all-out fight against Gaitskell, Brown and company. They allowed them to hoodwink the conference in a manner that could only benefit the Tories.

The wishy-washy reaction of the Parliamentary Labour Party was summed up in the *Daily Herald* of November 13 as follows:

'Labour MPs are angry that a nuclear test should be announced without either the Minister responsible, or the Prime Minister, appearing personally in the House.

'Until now nuclear testing has been treated as the most serious of all decisions.'

Presumably the information about the test would have been received much more favourably had Macmillan strolled into the House of Commons and made the announcement.

The struggle against the H-bomb has now reached a stage when it can no longer be left to the Parliamentarians and trade union leaders to make militant speeches at conferences.

The Tory government prepares for war in the same way as the Kennedy administration. For the Labour movement the main enemy now, as in the case of all imperialist wars, remains at home. The struggle against this new test will be meaningless unless it is linked to an all-out fight to bring down the Tory government.

Here is the weakness of the pacifists who have consistently tried to prevent members of the Socialist Labour League, participating in demonstrations, from raising the demand: 'Bring down the Tories'. Those who try to separate the political struggle against the Tory government from the struggle against the H-bomb create nothing but confusion and greatly weaken the fight against the H-bomb.

This fight must now be carried resolutely into the factories and all branches of industry. Token strikes of protest should be organised immediately. Mass demonstrations should be called in all the main cities.

By testing nuclear weapons the Tories are continuing the Cuba crisis. Industrial action designed to bring down the government is the only answer to this new war threat.

All car workers must support Ford militants

By Our Industrial Correspondent

THE American big business puppets at Fords must be defeated if trade unionism is to survive at Dagenham. They can be defeated if the shop stewards appeal immediately to all trade unionists engaged in motor car production to stand firm with them.

A meeting of all shop stewards' committees covering motor car factories should be called without delay. What Fords are doing today, the other employers are going to do tomorrow. Contact should be made at once with the shop stewards of the Fords' factories in Detroit and West Germany.

Prompt action along these lines will give heart to the whole movement and recover the undoubted setbacks of the past few weeks.

The big trade union leaders cannot be relied upon to struggle. These men are looking for a formula which will postpone the strike and then, because of the nearness of Christmas, make it virtually impossible to call one.

Either the fight takes place now or defeat is certain.

It is reported that at its meeting on November 11, the executive committee of the Communist Party had before it a resolution from its Fords' branch. This resolution called for all-out action to defend trade unionism at Fords.

It is clear that Communist Party members at Fords want the full resources of the party in the trade union movement mobilised to defend them in this life and death struggle.

The party executive took a decision instead not to embark on rank and file action but to put pressure on the trade unions to stand firm.

This is the escape clause which in the past has brought defeat after defeat for shop stewards on strike in all parts of the country.

It is true that a few of the smaller unions are prepared to stand firm, but, with the conniv-

ance of big trade unions, Fords have obviously prepared a plan to answer this.

The most important decision was that of the Electrical Trades Union, which has decided to support the strike from Sunday.

It would be a naive person, however, who would place reliance upon Byrnes and Co. to win any kind of struggle.

One thing is certain, the ETU under right-wing leadership is not going to fight for Communist Party shop stewards.

Whilst it is therefore correct to bring the maximum pressure on the trade unions to call an official strike, it is completely wrong if this pressure is not backed up by the readiness of the rank and file to organise their own leadership should the official leaders give up the fight—as they undoubtedly will.

The decision of the Communist party leaders cannot possibly bring the Fords' management to heel.

It is particularly stupid since these leaders have information that the next big attack against their members is now being prepared at London Airport.

It is common knowledge that two leading right-wing trade union leaders are gang-ing up to get rid of the Communist party members from the airport.

A retreat on the Fords question could mean the decimation of the party strength in a number of important factories.

Despite our fundamental differences with the Communist Party, we say that this would be a blow

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STOP PRESS:

The postponement of the Ford strike is the first stage of a sell-out by the trade union leaders.

The longer the strike is put off the nearer it will be to Xmas and the less likelihood of being successful.

The retreat by the trade union side of the Ford negotiating committee is to be expected.

Only national rank and file action by the shop stewards in the motor industry can save trade unionism in Fords.

SLL prepares for big jobs battle

THE North-west branches of the Socialist Labour League held their area conference on November 4. It was the most representative gathering of the League ever held in the area. Over the last 12 months, League membership has increased steadily and all the branches are meeting regularly with full attendances.

Delegates were representative of the majority of the chief industries, amongst them building workers, miners, engineers and electricians.

The discussion centred on a political report made by the secretary of the League, Gerry Healy, who stressed the danger still remaining as a result of the Cuba crisis.

A settlement arrived at between Khrushchev and Kennedy, far from alleviating the threat of a Third World War did, in fact, increase this danger. It was, he said, a settlement which strengthened the reactionary forces in the United States.

He called for all-out action by the Labour movement to bring down the Tory government as the most positive contribution which could be made in defence of the Cuban revolution.

The meeting went on to discuss the activity of the League in relation to the Cuba crisis. All members were active inside the movement and in the organisation of public demonstrations especially in Manchester and Liverpool.

A lengthy discussion took place on the development of the work in a number of industries. Plans were laid for the formation of new industrial factions and the broadening of those already in existence.

The serious unemployment situation on the Merseyside was dealt with by a number of delegates.

A leading building worker pointed out that the Lobby of Parliament could not possibly solve the unemployment problem. In 1959, he said, there were 25,000 unemployed on Merseyside when they went to lobby Parliament.

Since that time some new industries, notably Fords, have moved into the area but the unemployment figures have now reached the high mark of 36,000.

The movement of these industries did not solve the problem of unemployment. It was something which concerned all those workers who are now enjoying employment. The fight against unemployment begins in the factory and not at the Labour Exchange.

Youth speakers stressed the serious problem of unemploy-

THE Lobby of Parliament by Merseyside workers last week showed that such activities are quite useless in the campaign against unemployment.

The established Labour and trade union leaders proved long ago that they are totally opposed to working in the interests of the movement they are supposed to represent.

The House of Commons—where class collaboration is performed with infinite skill by the pin-striped Labour MPs—is the last place to visit in order to win support for the struggle against the Tories.

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Before the lobby, the executive of the Liverpool Trades Council and certain 'Left' Labour councillors passed a resolution in the city council calling for Merseyside to be reclassified as a 'development area'.

The Tories are in full agreement with this. With unemployment steadily rising, they will be happy to 'develop' the area with new factories—and cheap labour drawn from the unemployed.

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The Trades Council executive at the conference before the lobby, drew up a statement of policy on unemployment which did not even call for the fight for the 40-hour week throughout industry.

They called for youth training schemes and left out the demand

How *not* to fight the Tories!

A Merseyside worker reviews last week's lobby of Parliament

that union rates for the job must be paid.

Recently, the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce held a discussion on unemployment, and drew up a policy to deal with it that, on the essential points, was no different from the statement of the Trades Council executive.

On the day of the lobby, the executive urged the demonstrators to see their Tory MPs in case they did not know of the seriousness of the unemployment situation on Merseyside!

On this basis, Merseyside workers might as well disband the Trades Council and send their delegates to the Chamber of Commerce.

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The Tory leader of the City Council leaves for America this week on business and, precisely because of the illusions fostered by the executive of the Trades Council and other 'Lefts', is able to say that he will encourage American business to go to Merseyside.

Such a move would no doubt be greeted with acclamation by the Labour reactionaries—a move that would ensure an intense exploitation of unemployed workers on Merseyside

and worsen the conditions of the 7 million jobless in the US.

The announcement that the Board of Trade has offered to hold talks with Merseyside Labour councillors creates the illusion that the Tories want to help, in spite of the drive against the working class to cheapen labour in order to halt the fall in profits.

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These fake Lefts strengthen the Tories and weaken Labour's chances of winning the coming general election. They help the Tories to create the impression that they are concerned at the increasing rate of unemployment and will introduce measures to halt it.

A plumber who watched the TV report of the London demonstration said it was pathetic to hear the Tory-appealing slogan 'We want work'. The television stressed this slogan, but carefully ignored those marchers who shouted 'Out with the Tories', 'Out with the Fords' bosses' and 'Out with unemployment'.

At the meeting in St. Pancras Town Hall, the Trades Council executive told the meeting they had decided that the march should be conducted under one slogan only: 'We want work!'

Marxists intervened with the demand that it should be 'Out with the Tories' and called for a vote on it, but they didn't get immediate support.

Harold Wilson, Labour MP for Huyton, told us that Labour had led Europe after the war and everything would be fine now if only the Tories had taken their advice.

'We didn't grovel before the monopolies then,' he declared. Someone from the floor shouted, 'No, you do it now!'

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Mr. Crighton of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions unwisely said, 'We must get the Tories out!'

That was it. The slogan was now taken up by the rank and file, to the annoyance of the platform.

The workers see clearly who the enemy is. The feeble leadership tries to stamp on their militancy with useless appeals to that enemy to help solve the problems facing the labour movement.

If the lobby and meeting in London help to further expose this leadership they will, after all, have served a useful purpose.

elements who dare to voice open criticism.

Stalin and Soviet theory

SOVIET theorists seem in no hurry to fill the 'theoretical void' which was referred to at the 22nd Congress of the CPSU a year ago.

While Stalin's influence in a whole number of fields is now denounced more frequently than ever, there is little sign of new theories to take the place of those being discarded.

Mstislav Keldysh, President of the Academy of Sciences, for example, claimed that in the past many regressions from historical truth had been made and the ideological heritage of the classics of Marxism had been belittled. Science, he said, 'has ignored and sometimes still ignores practical economic problems'—once again, as a result of Stalin's influence.

In France, too, the philosophical errors of Stalin are being emphasised more sharply than at any time since 1956, at least by some sections of the French Communist Party.

According to Roger Garaudy, leading Communist philosopher and once the apologist for Zhdanov-Stalin ideas, the critique of Stalin's philosophical errors has now become a principal task.

It is significant that only the philosophical errors of Stalin are being attacked. Nothing is being done either in the USSR or France to examine the roots of Stalin's power and the political consequences of Stalinism. The greater freedom to break from the philosophical teaching of Stalin is necessary today in order to preserve the privileges of the bureaucracy in the USSR and to enable the CP leaderships to retain their hold on the party.

In the hands of Garaudy and others, such operations lead to distortions of Marxism which are as grotesque as those practised by those same people in Stalin's day.

Rents lobby: no help for tenants

Newsletter Correspondent

ABOUT 40 tenants of the century-old Blendon Row tenements in Southwark lobbied Southwark's MP, Ray Gunter, on Monday night. The tenants are demanding that the buildings should be demolished and that the 100 per cent Labour Council should rehouse them.

Mr. Gunter listened politely as tenants told of broken windows not replaced for months on end, unlighted staircases and insanitary lavatories.

Joe Bent, local CP leader and organiser of the lobby, appealed to Mr. Gunter, who is well known for his right-wing views, to speak to the Borough Council on behalf of the tenants and to come and see the flats for himself.

Gunter, of course, promised to do what he could, but many of the tenants were dissatisfied with this answer and with the soft-peddling of Bent, who was shouted down when he declared that the landlord had made some improvements.

Waste of Time

Many tenants correctly felt that the lobby had been a waste of time. Mr. Gunter revealed his real attitude to the problems of the tenants when he was asked if he would be prepared to campaign for support from the local Labour Party for the tenants should they decide to withhold their rent.

He quickly explained that he could not encourage anyone to break the law, even the law of the Tories and landlords.

Asked if he was in favour of the nationalisation of the land and the building industry by the next Labour government Mr. Gunter said, 'Yes, but I don't make party policy.'

All those involved in struggles over housing should now begin to call a halt to the farce of lobbies and delegations and, with the assistance of the local Labour and trade union movement, set about the task of organising a really effective campaign, which will drive straight into the heart of the labour movement and begin to expose and weed out the Labour councillors and MPs who carry out Tory policies.

Some tenants expressed themselves in favour of a meeting of rank and file trade unionists, Labour Party members and tenants, to launch such a campaign.

SLL Conference from page one

ment amongst young people, especially in the Kirkby housing estate.

The conference unanimously decided to do everything in its power to convince the Labour movement of the necessity for the strongest possible action against the Tories.

As one delegate put it, 'The replacement of a Tory government by a Labour government pledged to socialist demands is now a vital question for the whole of the working class.'

Discussion took place on the need to increase the circulation of The Newsletter and other League literature. It was reported that the financial position of the branches was sound, which is a sign denoting the healthy growth of the League in the area.



A view from the left

An occasional column by TOM KEMP

classes. We are also convinced that the National Socialist movement has warded off the threat of the destructive and atheistic doctrine of Bolshevism.'

Here also is a parade of the Red Front Fighters (the paramilitary units of the Communist Party) who, on Stalin's orders, never went into action. And here is Stalin himself, in 1939, shaking hands with Ribbentrop at the time of the Russo-German pact.

Not least important, this book prints the programme of the Nazi party with its demagogic demands for nationalisation of the trusts, profit-sharing, protection of the middle class and so on which find their place in the policies of the fascist groupings of today.

Algeria

ALGERIA remains the classic case of the disaster which follows from supporting bourgeois nationalist movements.

A look around the French left-wing press, including the papers of the various 'oppositions' in the Communist parties, shows a predominance of support for Ben Bella—and, naturally, tacit acceptance of the Evian agreements which ensure French capital a place in Algeria.

The most fulsome support comes from Pablo and his supporters who are ready, it seems, to endorse to the full all the actions of 'brother' Ben Bella.

The so-called 'revolutionary tendency in the French CP' also regards the Tripoli programme as 'socialist', backs Ben Bella and says as little as possible against the Evian agreements.

Nazism

THE recent activities of small fascist groups in Britain have spotlighted the need to understand the social roots of fascism.

The recent Pelican book *A Pictorial History of Nazi Germany* (3/6), based on Erwin Leiser's film, *Mein Kampf*, while leaving much to be desired as an analysis, provides a vivid record of the most powerful fascist movement to date.

Here we see the men who brought together the first groups of fanatical and theoretical racialists who might well have been dismissed as of no significance.

We see them winning mass support in the days of Germany's economic crisis, and with the backing of big business smashing the labour movement and setting Germany on the road to war. The persecution of the Jews, the concentration camps, the gas ovens, are all covered in this photographic history.

Here are the leading industrialists, including Krupp, giving the Nazi salute: 'their aim was rearmament, and they saw that it could be achieved only through Hitler.'

Here are the documents in which the Austrian Catholic leaders declared: 'we are happy to recognise that the National Socialist movement has achieved and will achieve outstanding successes in national and economic reconstruction, and in its social policy for the German Reich and people, especially the poorest

The India-China war

Silence in King Street, patriotic nonsense in The Strand

By **MICHAEL BANDA**

IF war is the continuation of politics by other more forcible means, then the border dispute between China and India must be seen as the extension of the reactionary caste-ridden politics of Indian capitalism into the realm of military aggression, as a forcible attempt to prevent revolutionary China from unifying her territory and defining her frontiers.

The war of Indian capitalism is doubly reactionary. Firstly, it is a war waged against a workers' state; secondly, it is by its very logic a war primarily intended to strengthen the position of the Indian capitalist class vis-a-vis the Indian working class and the democratic movement.

That is why the first victims of the war have been the leaders of the Left wing in the Communist Party who refused to allow the Indian labour move-

democracies with their national bourgeoisies.

'This stage has now been passed. The Bonapartist procurer has played his role. Henceforth the communochauvinists will have to worry about their own hides, whose interests by no means always coincide with the defence of the USSR.'

New International,
Vol. IV, No. 12, Dec., 1938

NO WORD

It is worthwhile noting that neither the *Daily Worker*, nor the executive of the CPGB have yet uttered a word of protest against these infamies.

On October 28, the Chinese *People's Daily* published a 20,000 word article which made an exhaustive analysis of the border conflict.

It showed the close connection between Indian capitalism and foreign imperialism, outlined the history of the dispute, attacked the Yugoslavs and the Dange faction, referred to the need for proletarian internationalism, quoted the precedent of the Chinese Eastern Railway and proposed measures for a peaceful settlement.

The *Daily Worker* (29/10/62) made a short resumé of this important editorial but significantly omitted any reference to proletarian internationalism in general and the Chinese Eastern Railway in particular.

WHY SO COY?

The reason for this coyness is not far to seek. In 1929, when the pro-Japanese warlords of Northern China made an unexpected attack and illegally ousted the Soviet representatives from the strategically vital Chinese Eastern railway, the Soviet Union replied with a swift and effective punitive expedition into Northern Manchuria, which restored Russian control of the railway.

This was a correct decision which helped to strengthen the defences of the Soviet Far East against a projected Japanese invasion.

The *People's Daily* dealt with this precedent in detail, explained how the Chinese CP organised mass meetings and demonstrations in opposition to this anti-Soviet provocation and compared it with the situation on the Indian frontier.

But all this and much more was ignored by the *Daily Worker*. Why? Because the analogy was and is unassailable.

NAUSEA

From King Street to The Strand. Turning the pages of *Tribune* (11/10/62) one is overcome with the same feeling of nausea.

Raymond Fletcher, an ex-Trotskyist, is a consummate expression of centrist, Tribune politics. He combines the outlook of a provincial clerk with the patriotic prejudices of a peasant and the organic deafness to revolution of a parliamentary cretin. His method is that of a Stalinist; his theme: that of a patriotic rascal.

Let me quote two examples of his method. On India he states, 'The Indian balance sheet since independence is not a depressing one.'

What a masterpiece of under-

statement! If 17 million unemployed rural labourers and 48 million landless peasants is not depressing, I should like to know what is.

Again: 'Firstly, . . . it is a member of the Commonwealth that is being attacked and if the Commonwealth ideal means anything at all it means that members help one another in trouble.'

What is the Commonwealth ideal? It is a euphemism invented by the Labour leaders in 1945 to camouflage the grim reality of the Empire, that vast sweatshop which contributes its labour to keep the wheels of British monopoly capitalism turning and which serves as a useful outlet for capital export as well as a source of super profit.

It is a capitalist cartel held together by Imperial Preference, the British Crown and the British Army, Navy and Air Force.

NO IDEALISM

When Harold Macmillan gives unstinted support to Nehru he is not motivated by any idealism about the Commonwealth.

He is concerned about the British-owned tea estates and the hundreds of millions of pounds sterling invested in the Indian economy.

When a pompous philistine like Fletcher asks us to support India he is only trying to provide a sophisticated excuse for British-subsidised intervention against China.

If we want the truth it is no use turning to *Tribune* or the *Daily Worker*.

The first task of British Marxists is to reject and expose the lies, half-truths and distortions of the Tribunites and Stalinists.

Without this, no defence of the Chinese revolution is possible.

AT the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development meeting in Paris in a fortnight's time, Mr. Maudling will be urging that the big industrial countries of Europe re-stimulate their economies, and will refer to his own recent measures as an example of what should be done.

The reduction in purchase tax on motor cars, the increased capital allowances awarded to businessmen and the additional public investment appropriations will mean economic suicide unless there are also buoyant trading conditions in Europe.

The increased amount of purchasing power released by these measures will mean an upward tendency in prices and an adverse effect on the competitiveness of British exports—and on the balance of payments situation—unless European capital keeps in line.

Maudling's measures represent one big gamble. But it is a gamble he has had to take because the danger signs in the economy are too obvious to ignore.

Rising unemployment, surplus capacity of manufacturers, falling profits and a decline in capital investment cannot be allowed to continue if the Tories are to retain political power.

But a wave of a magic wand cannot solve all their problems. Their proposed solution to surplus

NEW TORY MOVES AGAINST THE LEFT

Brooke threatens use of sedition laws

By JACK GALE

THE Home Secretary has announced that the Public Order Act will be amended to give stiffer penalties to fascists—and those who break up their meetings. This action can only rebound against the working class.

Mr. Brooke suggested that action against race-hatred might also be taken under the laws dealing with Seditious Matter. He went on to explain that a person who 'speaks words or publishes matter calculated to provoke a breach of the peace with the intention of stirring up hatred or hostility between different classes of the Queen's subjects is guilty of sedition'.

It is obvious that this legislation can be applied to socialists, strikers and demonstrators, and not just to racialists.

In fact, Brooke himself explained that this legislation applied to the stirring up of hatred or hostility on the ground of race as well as on any other grounds. (My emphasis—J.G.)

Brooke also pointed out that the offence is punishable by fine and imprisonment and that there is no limit imposed on these penalties, which are entirely at the discretion of the court.

Three Months' Gaol

Under the Public Order Act of 1936 three months gaol or £50 fine or both may be imposed on anyone who uses threatening abuse or insulting words or behaviour with intent to provoke a breach of the peace.

Under the 1908 Act, one month's gaol or £5 fine may be imposed on anyone who tries to break up a public meeting.

The government intends to introduce harsher penalties under both these acts.

Mr. Brooke made it clear what he had in mind when he called on members on both sides to support action to 'discourage those who imagine that the right way to deal with speakers whose views they dislike is to resort to violence themselves'.

He said the government would be 'getting into deep waters' if it prohibited known racialists from holding public meetings. They could, he said, rely on the police

to 'deal promptly with any threats to the public peace'.

The Tories' intentions are very clear. Fascists are given the all clear to go ahead with their meetings, the police are waiting for people who try to stop them, harsher penalties are being prepared for 'disrupters' and the Seditious laws, with their limitless penalties, are being kept in the background.

Of course, a few fascists will be arrested from time to time. But how important is that? Wasn't Hitler once gaoled by the very class that later handed power over to him?

There can be little doubt, as unemployed demonstrations start again, as big struggles loom up in the mines and railways, as employers like Fords try to smash shop steward organisation, that this repressive legislation will be used against the working class.

Welcome From Brown

That, of course, does not prevent Mr. George Brown from welcoming the review of penalties and calling for 'wider changes' in the law.

The *Daily Worker* called Brooke's proposal 'some minor change in existing law' and called for—further legislation.

'For the first time,' said the *Worker* editorial of November 9, 'this country has a splendid chance to win a law against racial hatred. The opportunity must not be missed.'

Brooke's statement makes clear what sort of action we can expect from the State. It illustrates, once more, that all those who call for such State action not only spread confusion amongst the workers but also expose them to very grave dangers.



Nehru: support from Indian CP

ment to be manacled to the broken-down chariot of Indian capitalism.

Whatever differences may separate the Trotskyist movement from these comrades we must have no hesitation in welcoming this courageous decision taken in the teeth of a nationwide patriotic frenzy—and a systematic campaign of intimidation and slander against the Left.

On the other hand, the actions of their right-wing colleagues in voting confidence in the Nehru government—and thereby endorsing the arrest of their own comrades—will stink in the nostrils of every class-conscious Indian and Chinese worker.

It is an action reminiscent of German social democracy in the First World War.

Trotsky anticipated the actions of Mr. Dange and company more than 20 years ago when he wrote: 'The growth of imperialist antagonisms, the obvious proximity of the war danger and the equally obvious isolation of the USSR must unavoidably strengthen the centrifugal nationalist tendencies within the Comintern.'

'Each of its sections will begin to evolve a patriotic policy on its own account. Stalin has reconciled the Communist parties of imperialist

City Slants by colin chance

capacity and falling profits is the huge reduction in purchase tax on cars.

This measure is intended not only to help the car manufacturers but also all the component and engineering manufacturers who depend on them, and the steel manufacturers whose production

that world conditions are favourable.

More public investment—amounting to an increase of 10 per cent for the coming year—is likely to send building costs soaring, but this measure, too, is not likely to lessen unemployment, now approaching the 600,000 mark.

Former capital investment had as its object the reduction of costs, that is the reduction of labour costs. Automation and new electronic devices are only introduced where they can make a contribution to profits by dispensing with the need for labour.

New capital investment, encouraged by Maudling's measures, will accelerate this tendency, so that even with increasing production, less labour will be required.

Moreover, the various stimulants prescribed by Maudling are going to cost the Exchequer some £300 million overall, the greater part of this largesse benefitting the industrialists and the middle class.

The government's revenue is less and its proposed expenditure more. You can be sure that it will be the mass of the people who will be called upon, in due course, to make good the difference.

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Stimulation

£ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £

of steel sheet makes an important contribution to profits.

Their answer to the decline in capital investment is to drastically increase tax reliefs to users of plant and machinery. A free gift from the government of 30 per cent new plant means that for every £100 of plant purchased, the manufacturer is in effect only spending £83 17s. 6d.

All his capital expenditure will be written off against profits over a period of not more than seven years instead of 30 years.

Taxation will be much reduced for the capitalist and profits will tend to increase rapidly—provided



Scots militants defy witch-hunt

Newsletter Correspondent

TO a meeting of engineers, ETU members, Young Socialists and members of CND held in Glasgow last Sunday, Alec McLarty, engineering factory worker, announced that the Rank and File Labour Congress had been witch-hunted by the Right wing of the Glasgow City Labour Party (who had 'instructed' Labour Party members not to attend) and by the right-wing leaders of the ETU.

But despite this 'ban', more than a hundred people attended—the majority of them in their teens.

Special invitations had been sent to the Glasgow Committee of the Communist party, but no reply had been received.

Neither would the *Daily Worker* insert an advertisement for the Congress because 'it did not have enough information about the sponsors of the meeting.'

Mr. McLarty pointed out that the *Daily Worker* had been supplied with full details and the delegates could draw their own conclusions from their refusal. In spite of the Communist party ban there were a number of CP and YCL members present.

Roger Protz, the editor of *Keep Left*, who was the main speaker, opened by saying that it was not true that he had said, when last in Glasgow, 'death to Gaitskell'. In fact, he wished Mr. Gaitskell a long and happy retirement from the Labour Party leadership.

This he thought should start as soon as possible—a suggestion that was loudly applauded.

The theme of the Congress was the fight against the witch-hunt and Roger Protz pointed out that this was closely linked with the danger of nuclear war, since to

fight against war we must fight for socialist policies and against the Tories.

Trade union speakers emphasised the danger of unemployment in Scotland and the need to fight within the trade union movement to implement bans on overtime and for a reduced working week.

Young Socialist speakers pointed out that the youth who were unemployed were particularly vulnerable to Tory attack since they were in many cases unable to join trade unions while they were out of work.

Resolutions were put before the meeting expressing solidarity with the electricians of Kincardine in their fight against the Right wing witch-hunt in their union and calling for support for the building of rank and file committees within the trade union and labour movement.

In closing, Alec McLarty said that the significance of the Congress was, that unlike the meetings organised by the official movement, 'a cloud of dust was not blown into the eyes of the rank and file'.

On the contrary, they were able to get down to discussing some of the problems facing the working class and hammering out socialist policies to deal with them.

The Congress cost a total of £40. Donations for expenses had been received from factories, trade unions and other sections of the labour movement. The collection taken at the meeting raised £18.

Fords: from page one

against the working class. If it does take place then the responsibility will rest on the leadership at King Street who operate their policy of peaceful co-existence as one which means class collaboration with the employers.

THE NEWSLETTER and the Socialist Labour League call upon all members of the Communist Party and militant trade unionists not to stand idly by and allow the organisation at Fords to be smashed.

National and international action along the lines that we have advocated will, we are

sure, bring the most heartening results.

● The 70 workers at Fords, including 12 shop stewards, whom the management have refused to reinstate, have now been out of work for five weeks.

The workers have formed a Ford Victimised Workers' Committee which is urgently in need of funds in order to campaign in the trade unions to have their jobs restored, together with Mr. Bill Francis, the shop steward originally victimised.

Donations should be sent immediately to Mr. J. Cross, 28a New Road, Dagenham, Essex.

Pit disaster puts miners out of work

From BOB SHAW, Our Scottish Correspondent

THE tragedy at the Barony pit in Ayrshire, where four miners were killed last week at the pit bottom by an avalanche of mud, has highlighted the problem faced by miners in their fight to protect their jobs.

1,200 men have been declared redundant because of the collapse of the pit shafts. It was while these shafts were being filled in with dirt that the accident occurred.

The Scottish press reported that the shafts used in the Barony pit were of the square type. These are cheaper than circular shafts but, being lined with wood, they are liable to rot and therefore not so safe.

Mining is a dangerous occupation. The danger is heightened by the cheap-jack building of the old coal owners.

When accidents such as this occur, the miner finds that he is not guaranteed other work. The NCB have announced that not all the 1,200 men from Barony will be found employment elsewhere. Those not found jobs at other pits must sign on the dole.

Pit disasters are therefore not only tragedies for the dead but also for the living, who are deprived of a livelihood.

Pits in the Stirling area are being closed, too. 1,420 men are affected here.

In the mining village of Cowie one-third of the men will be thrown out of work. A similar situation faces a number of other communities, some of them fairly large, like Cowdenbeath.

According to a survey conducted by the local council, 17 per cent of families interviewed in the town were either themselves moving or had relatives moving from the district.

DEPENDENT ON MINING

60 per cent of the families in the area are dependent on mining. Almost all those interviewed thought that the district faced a decline in prosperity.

The need for action in the mining districts of Scotland is now urgent.

The leaders of the Scottish NUM should immediately, and unilaterally, call a conference of the areas affected by closures to decide on a policy.

There must be an early reduction in the working shift. All miners thrown out of work by closures or pit difficulties should receive a full wage.

The Scottish NUM should start to campaign for this NOW.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETING Liverpool

G. HEALY

LEADERSHIP AND THE WORKING CLASS

(How to fight unemployment, race hatred, witch-hunts)

Stork Hotel, Queen Square,

7.30 p.m., Sunday, November 18

Admission 1/-

Carron says no to overtime ban

Newsletter Reporter

THE North London District Committee of the AEU endorsed a resolution this week for a campaign to achieve a national ban on overtime while a large number of workers are out of jobs or working short time.

The measure could be a first step towards creating jobs and, in many cases, compelling firms to take on a number of young school-leavers and unemployed workers.

On hearing the decision, however, the Executive Council of the AEU informed the District Committee and the branch which initiated the resolution that the DC cannot use any of its funds for the purpose of such a campaign.

It seems that the DC can agree to such campaigns but under no circumstances put them into action.

This is an outrageous attack on trade union democracy by the executive and in contradiction to AEU national committee policy, which calls upon the union to resist redundancy by every means possible.

William Carron and Co. are determined to prevent any measures which would bring into action the rank and file and jeopardise the amicable relations between themselves and the employers.

Rise for Carron

At the same time Carron ensures that he receives a rise of £9 per week, to the applause of the *Daily Express* which thinks that union leaders should earn equal money along with their counterparts on the employers' side.

It is not accidental that at the same moment as Carron raises extra money for himself he places further restrictions on action by the membership which would begin to challenge his privileged position.

The *Daily Express* is aware that the more money the general secretaries have, the more removed they become from those they should be leading.

The District Committee must find a way of campaigning for this demand regardless of the right-wing manoeuvres.

Sneddon fined for 'assault'

Newsletter Reporter

BILL SNEDDON, leader of the electricians' strike at Kincardine Bridge three months ago was found guilty in the Dunfermline court last week of assaulting Mr. Frank Chapple, right-wing leader of the ETU. He was fined £5.

The incident occurred when a meeting was called by the right-wing executive of the ETU and the striking members were excluded from the meeting.

The man who was appointed steward of the Kincardine Bridge power station site during the last weeks of the strike, Mr. Devlin, was present in court to give evidence for the prosecution against Bill Sneddon.

Another witness for the prosecution was a Mr. Meredith, on the staff of one of the contracting firms on the site. Police evidence was also called.

The activity of the Right wing has so far failed to crush the hard core of the strikers' leadership. They have, on the contrary, fought back with every weapon open to them in the union.

Members of the ETU should demand a rank and file enquiry into the actions of full-time officials and executive members during the strike.

● Money is still needed for the court costs, and contributions should be sent to M. Gillespie, 96 Kinseat Avenue, Grange-mouth, Stirlingshire.

Hull dockers strike

Newsletter Reporter

LAST week 2,000 Hull dockers stopped work over a dispute concerning the collection of union dues in the control buildings.

On Thursdays, pay day on the docks, both the Blue (NASD) and the White (TGWU) unions collect their members' dues.

Last Thursday there was a heavy rainstorm and the Blue union collectors took shelter in the control building.

No sooner had they got their table and chairs inside than they were ordered out. Later they stated that when they refused to go the police were sent for and they were threatened with severe disciplinary action.

Dockers of both unions were furious when they heard this and decided to stop work. The White union always has its table inside the control and yet nothing was said to them about getting out.

During the meeting the Port Labour Officer for the control shouted for the men's books so that they could claim attendance pay. Some of the men did not hear him and when they took their books to him a little later, as is customary after meetings, he refused to accept them.

As soon as news of this spread, another dock immediately stopped work in sympathy.

The dockers went back pending negotiations over the issues between their union delegate, Mr. Jim Ginley, and the National Dock Labour Board.

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