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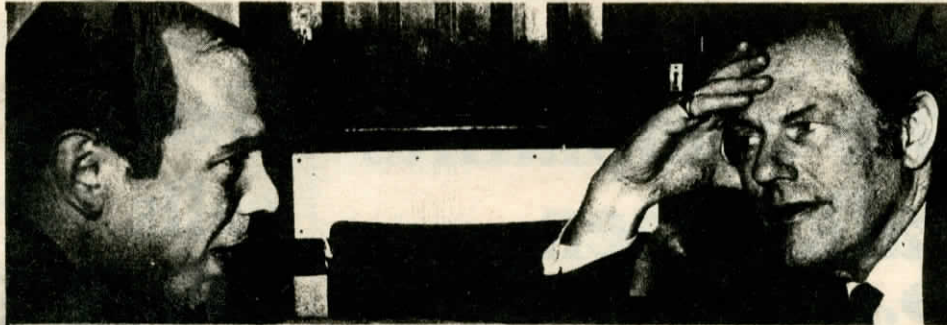
'The Attorney-General and Lord Advocate, in consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions, are considering the evidence given at the public examination and are awaiting the preliminary report of the Official Receiver which is expected earlier next week. I will make a further statement next week.'

The delaying tactics of the Tories are ominous. They have tested the mood in Fleet Street and found that no one there is anxious for a major public scandal involving the business activities of the law-and-order Home Secretary.

Confident of Fleet Street's backing, the Tories appear to have decided to ride out the storm.

They are also certain of the unstinting co-operation of the Labour Party leaders. After Heath's statement to the House, Harold Wilson was immediately on his feet to say that parliament was not in

BY ALEX MITCHELL



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possession of sufficient firm evidence to form a judgement in the case.

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But what is the delay all about? The Tories' top legal brains have been pouring over the transcript all week.

The facts are public knowledge. It all came out at the Wakefield bankruptcy court when Yorkshire architect John Poulson revealed the background of his business ventures.

Maudling was chairman of International Technical and Construction Services and on the board of directors of two other Poulson companies. For a number of years one of the Poulson subsidiaries was almost entirely in the hands of the Maudling family; apart from Maudling, the board also included his wife, Beryl, his son Martin, and his daughter Caroline.

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Maudling was also chairman of the Real Estate Fund of America, an offshore property fund registered in Liberia and headquartered in the Bahamas.

The founder of this outfit was Jerome D. Hoffman who had previously been prosecuted in New York for an alleged mortgage fraud. Following the collapse of

the fund late in 1970 Hoffman was arrested in New York and subsequently jailed for two years.

The Attorney-General, Sir Peter Rawlinson, admitted in the Commons in February that the British end of Hoffman's company was being investigated by the police and the Department of Trade and Industry's inquiry branch. Their report would be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions to decide if any action was necessary, he said.

It now means that the Director of Public Prosecutions Sir Norman Skelhorn has TWO former Maudling companies under investigation.

Maudling is the Tories' leading crusader on law and order and the Cabinet to which he belongs has been engaged in supporting the most harsh attacks on workers and their trade unions through the courts.

Only a month ago the Tory-created National Industrial Relations Court threatened to jail three London dockers who were engaged in picketing.

Yet whereas the Tory courts are only too willing to attack basic rights of workers and their families, they show no such zeal when the men under scrutiny have connections with the top of the Tory Party.

Instead of Victor Feather and the trade union leaders hanging around No. 10 Downing Street talking with these people, they should be preparing for the mobilization of the trade union movement to get this shabby crowd out of office.

Only a General Election can cleanse the air.

We are
whipping
boys on
wages —
govt
workers
see p.12

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workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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WHAT WE THINK

DISMAL REPORT

'LAW cannot stand higher than social reality', wrote Marx. The Younger Committee's bankrupt recommendations on privacy show just how right he was.

It is a dismal report which raises more questions than it answers and evades completely the central question: how is it possible to reconcile the privacy of the individual worker with the insatiable profit lust of the giant corporations and the repressive functions of the capitalist state?

In a class-divided society based on exploitation and colossal inequality, it is Utopian to talk about a general right to privacy let alone achieve it.

One man's right to privacy in such conditions becomes another man's denial of it.

As 'The Guardian' report commented:

'The Committee was clearly conscious of its vain attempts to define what privacy is. And the majority foresaw that to set up such a legal right might force courts into delicate balancing acts, trying to weigh the ill-defined concept of public interest against the ill-defined concept of privacy.'

This dilemma is clearly revealed in the Committee's recommendations on privacy at work and its opinions on the disclosure and misuse of information.

While it calls for the illegalization of 'bugging' and the use of technical surveillance devices under certain conditions, it refuses to adopt a similar criterion to the pervasive industrial practices of employers and security agencies such as intrusive questioning, lack of confidentiality, blacklisting and shop-floor informers.

These practices—some of which are encouraged by the terms of the Industrial Relations Act—should, according to Younger and company, be dealt with under the code given in the Industrial Relations Act!

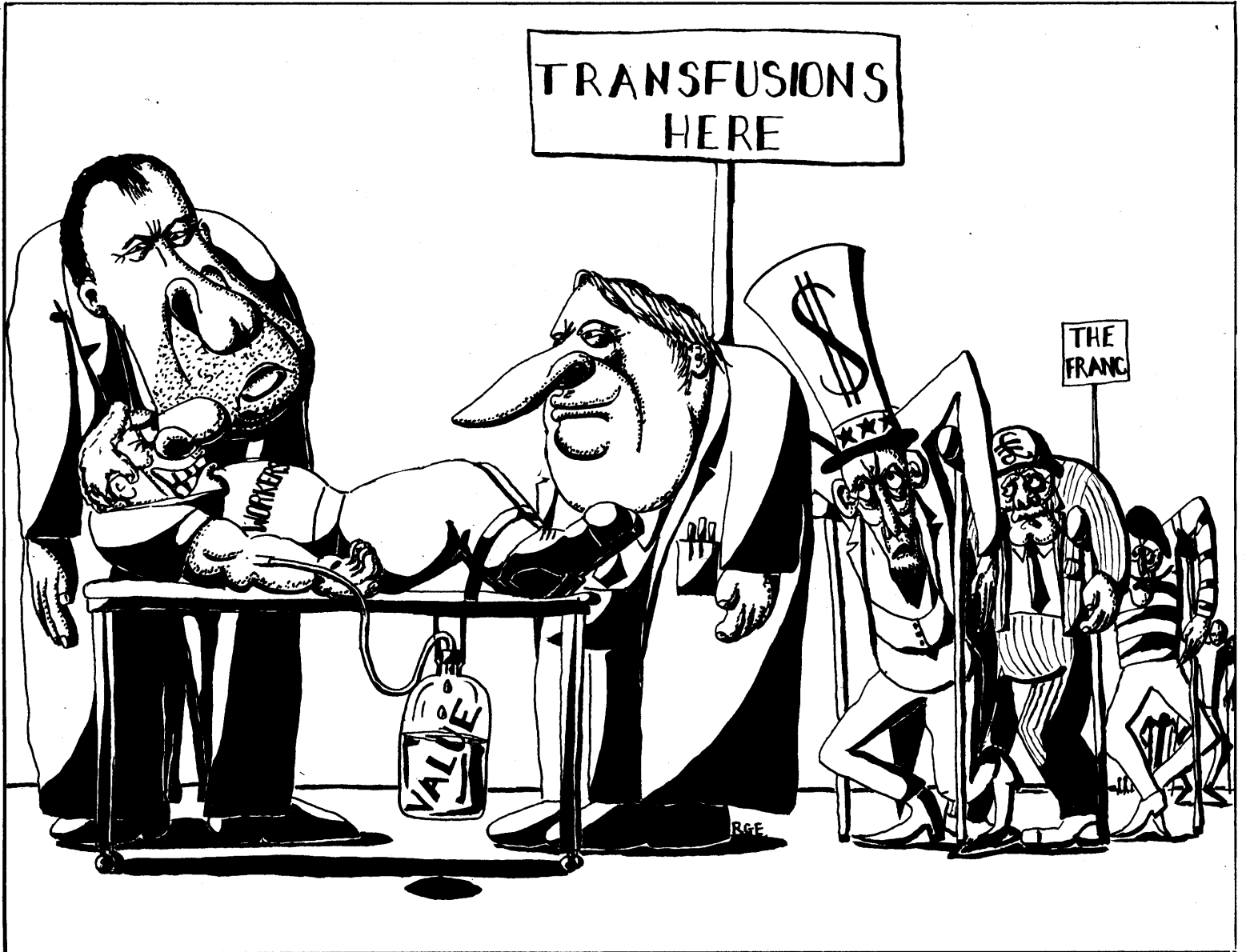
The 'Morning Star' welcomes this recommendation in relation to the use of tape recorders because it would enable the police to prosecute the kind of marks who gave evidence against the dockers in the National Industrial Relations Court.

But this concession to the anti-bugging lobby is more than compensated by the Committee's firm and unequivocal adherence to the principle of confidentiality which is implicit in its proposal for a new tort of disclosure of unlawfully-acquired information in business operations.

This guarantees the power of the big monopolies to plan mergers and rationalizations—and consequent redundancies—with virtual impunity. It denies workers and shop-stewards' committees the right to acquire this information.

Similarly the Committee's terms of reference, which effectively precluded the examination of the prying activities of the police, Inland Revenue and the Ministry of Social Security, is an added indictment of the reactionary anti-working-class bias of this investigation.

The right of privacy for workers will not be guaranteed by parliamentary legislation, as the 'Star' alleges, but only through the revolutionary struggle to expropriate the monopolies and smash the capitalist state.



Bomb complaints as talks open in Paris

By a Foreign Correspondent

THE PARIS talks on the Vietnam war resumed yesterday after a two-month break, with both sides expressing readiness to discuss proposals for a political solution to the war—but with attacks on US bombing in Indo-China.

Chief US negotiator William Porter said before going into the conference: 'We are entirely flexible about the possibility of discussing our proposals or theirs.'

But the Americans have guardedly indicated they expect concessions from the North Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front at the talks as a result of the pressure from their Stalinist 'allies'. This follows Nixon's Peking and Moscow visits and a round of treacherous behind-the-scenes politicking between the three big powers.

Hanoi's chief negotiator Xuan Thuy said:

Toxic chemicals

'If the American side genuinely manifests the desire to negotiate with a view to reaching an agreement, it is necessary that the US should cease all acts of war.' He denounced the massive US bomber attacks on Haiphong in North Vietnam.

NLF delegation leader Mme Nguyen Thi Binh also denounced the 'most violent' US bombing of both north and south and accused the Americans of using shells and bombs loaded with toxic chemicals, napalm and phosphorus. She said all these acts showed the US did not really want to enter into serious negotiations.

ONCOMING South Vietnamese marines were met with tanks in Quang Tri's streets, killing and wounding at least 100 puppet soldiers yesterday.

The more perceptive American advisers had warned the Saigon command that their troops were walking into a trap.

German Institute calls for EEC float

A LEADING West German economics research institute has called for a joint Common Market currency float against the dollar.

'Only thus can initial moves towards an EEC monetary union be protected and promoted,' Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW) says in its current weekly report.

The Institute is headed by Klaus Dieter Arndt, former aide to Karl Schiller, who last week resigned from the Brandt government as Economics and Finance Minister in protest

against Bonn's decisions to impose currency controls.

DIW said it questioned the effectiveness of the controls and called upon the government and the Bundesbank to reconsider them.

This is certainly the growing opinion amongst West German bankers. Nobody is therefore likely to take seriously Bundesbank vice-President Otmär Eminger's statement in the latest issue of the magazine 'Economic Weekly' that the latest crisis was not caused by the dollar and that a European float against the dollar would be 'senseless'.

Kremlin cheers McGovern

JOHN SPENCER

THE choice of Senator George McGovern as Democratic nominee for the United States presidency has been welcomed in the Kremlin.

The Soviet Communist Party daily 'Pravda', in a dispatch from its Washington correspondent, said McGovern owed his success to the convention delegates' desire to pull the Democratic Party out of the rut of the Vietnam war.

The paper said most of the delegates at the Miami Beach convention were people 'thirsting for changes, striving to throw the shameful burden of the past from the party's shoulders'.

Writing before the Senator was formally nominated the correspondent said there were many reasons for his success. 'But the main one is the desire of the majority of delegates to pull the party out of the rut it had fallen into in supporting the US adventure in Indo-China.'

Young Democrats were attracted by his pledges to withdraw all US forces from Vietnam, halt bombings of the north, curb the appetite of the military-industrial complex and carry out a series of social reforms, 'Pravda' said.

These friendly references to the Democratic candidate indicates the Moscow Stalinists are facing both ways in the November electoral contest.

Since McGovern pledged his total support to Nixon's Moscow



McGovern

visit and the policy of detente with the USSR, the Soviet leaders have made it clear that either candidate will be acceptable as president.

The American magazine 'Newsweek' says:

'To the Soviets, the McGovern candidacy has provided an almost irresistible lure with its talk of instant withdrawal from Vietnam and the removal of a large part of the US military umbrella in Europe.'

'In my view,' said one Soviet expert, 'there is nothing Moscow would like better than to see McGovern's foreign policy put into effect.' Yet many Soviet officials seem to be rooting for Nixon. Said one: 'We know him and have just dealt with his successfully.'

'And a Soviet diplomat, recalling Mr Nixon's anti-communist image, noted: "The agreements we reach with him cannot be suspect among the people of America.'

The Soviet position on the election was foreshadowed in mid-June by Moscow Radio Commentator Valentin Yarin.

In a broadcast following Nixon's talks with the Kremlin leaders, he said: 'The positive trends in the activities of Washington's influential circles are irreversible, they do not depend on the results of the election campaign and on whether the Republican leader will stay in the White House or whether a nominee of the Democrats will replace him.'

Clearly the Kremlin thinks it can peacefully co-exist on good terms with either candidate. Nonetheless the Soviet press has so far displayed a preference for Nixon, because they already know him better than his rival.

Heated Preston meeting Scanlon is heckled on pay policy

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PRESTON engineering workers heard Hugh Scanlon excuse last December's climb down by the AUEW leadership at a town hall meeting on Wednesday.

Amid intermittent heckling from some of the 250 present, Scanlon said the union executive had broken off the national fight on their £700m pay claim because it was obvious the employers wanted a strike.

Instead of catching out the Tory backed Engineering Employers' Federation with a nationwide strike by the engineering industry's 3 million workers, the AUEW leadership turned tail before the challenge and opted for plant negotiations.

At one point Scanlon broke into his explanation to shout: 'There are people outside selling the Workers Press who accuse me of being a lackey of the capitalist class.'

Earlier that day Scanlon had been among other members of the TUC economic committee lobbied by several hundred All

Others claimed the TUC had stabbed the trade union movement in the back with its lack of fight against the Industrial Relations Act. But Scanlon said there were 'some people on the General Council of the TUC' who had fought betrayal.

Stung by criticisms the engineering workers' leader blamed the rank and file for any shortcomings the pay fight might have had.

Despite the fact that shorn of leadership engineers had struck, in some cases for up to two months, before being forced back to work on terms which fell far short of national demands, Scanlon said the response from many areas was not what the union leadership had expected.

Pressure from the rank and file and shop stewards for the national leadership to resume a nationwide fight on pay—especially the question of the 35-hour week—is mounting.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' executive, meeting at York today, is expected to be urged by some leaders not to delay in opening talks with the employers.

But the employers clearly believe that they have come out of recent battles quite well and the talks would be at their request.

If they take place, it will be under very different circumstances to the deadlock reached last December. And since neither the AUEW nor CSEU leader is calling for national action, talks are likely to be on the basis of compromises which must still further erode the original engineers' claim.



Hugh Scanlon

Trades Unions Alliance members demanding no talks with Heath about the setting up of a joint TUC-government committee to regulate wages.

Scanlon told the audience that he would oppose any pay freeze, whether voluntary or legal.

Shop stewards accused him of having the 'gall' to call for more unity among engineering workers when he himself had broken that unity with the policy of plant-bargaining.

Lay-offs at GEC Welsh plant

ABOUT 1,600 production workers at GEC's Hirwaun factory, near Merthyr Tydfil, have been laid off after a work-to-rule and overtime-ban in support of a wage claim.

Only about 200 of the factory's 1,900 workers were expected to go into work yesterday since 100 men and women had already been laid-off earlier in the week.

James Cahill, area official of the electricians' union, which represents about 90 per cent of the factory's workers, said they had been pressing for a wage increase since March.

So far, however, the amount offered had been minimal.

He said the workers did not intend calling off the work-to-rule until an acceptable settlement had been reached.

THE BUILDERS' BATTLE



No more
London
sites out

Esso contractors sack 1,200 men in South Wales

OVER 1,200 building workers on strike at the £20m Esso refinery extension, Milford Haven, South Wales, have now been sacked.

The dispute started when 37 men, employed by the main site contractors, Foster Wheeler, were sacked. On Tuesday one of the firm's London directors, Mr J. L. Corlett, said that 1,200 men on strike in their support had been unofficially sacked.

Another 800 men employed by sub-contractors were refusing to cross the picket lines.

On Wednesday, 60 men occupied the site workers' camp for two hours after Foster Wheeler brought in Alsatian guard dogs and closed it down. It was later reopened—but only for one night and the men have now been told they have to vacate the premises.

There were nearly 600 men living in the camp before the dispute began, but many have now left the area. A shop stewards' spokesman pointed out that many of the men have now left the area.

He added that many of the men had no money for other accommodation.

When Foster Wheeler sacked the men on Tuesday, he said, they had sent all their wages, National Insurance cards and tax forms to their home addresses. Some men come from as far away as Ireland and Scotland.

The sacking letters were delivered locally, however. They said:

'In view of your violation of the employment agreement by

withdrawing your labour, your employment with Foster Wheeler is terminated forthwith.'

Foster Wheeler have also refused to give the men travel grants. Although they have now been sacked officially, they are strikers under the Industrial Relations Act and are therefore not entitled to travel grants, says the company.

Many of the men say they will now have to sleep rough if the camp closes.

Scuffles have been regular on the picket lines and police have been drafted in from all over Wales.

Members of the shop stewards' committee have met representatives of tug men working in Milford Haven and railwaymen's union officials at Carmarthen-shire, to ask for their support.

The pickets hope that with assistance from both these sections they can stop supplies to the site more effectively.

A MASS meeting of 300 building stewards and workers from all sites in London were told on Wednesday that no new sites in London were to be brought out next week in their strike.

This, said Len Eaton, of the Union of Construction and Allied Trades Technicians, was to consolidate what had been achieved so far.

Although the aim was to achieve a national settlement, the unions were prepared to negotiate with a single employer.

The meeting, at Fulham town hall, was called by the London Action Committee of Building Trades Unions for a report and discussion on the rolling strike which has so far brought 180 sites through the country to a standstill. The claim is for a £30, 35-hour week.

The meeting was repeatedly congratulated for the steadfastness and militancy shown by the building workers. But calls from the floor for an all-out national strike or even a one-day strike were countered by the argument that the industry was not organized sufficiently to be able to 'pull out all the stops' or that such action would 'expose our weaknesses'.

Appeals for more leaflets, larger collections at the sites and larger pickets were made.

The reformist thinking that dominated the meeting was best answered before it even started—building workers from the World's End site in Chelsea marched behind their banner to the Town Hall singing the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work song.

First Coventry site out

THE FIRST site strike for the builders' national wage an hour claim in Coventry began on Wednesday.

About 45 workers employed by Moss & Sons, are on strike at the 17-storey office block they are building for Coventry Corporation.

Posted up all round the site are official posters stating: 'Offi-

cial dispute—this site on strike for the guaranteed weekly wage of £30'.

One of the pickets told Workers Press:

'I think this has got to eventually become a national strike. I would like to see more sites out than this one—the £20 that we get now for 40 hours for tradesmen is ridiculous.'



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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

The currency crisis
and the working class

WANDSWORTH: Monday July 17, 8 p.m. 'Selkirk Arms', Selkirk Road, Tooting Broadway.

CROYDON: Monday July 17, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd. 'Build the revolutionary party.'

GOOLE: Monday July 17, 8 p.m. 'The Buchanan', Wetherill St.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

SW LONDON: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

W LONDON: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfe-

dale Road, Kings Cross. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

N KENT: Tuesday July 18, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Road, Dartford. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

HULL: Wednesday July 19, 8 p.m. Friends' Meeting House, Percy Street.

PRESTON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. Railway and Commercial Hotel, Butler Street (near railway station).

LUTON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Hall, Lea Road. 'Stalinism and the Tory government.'

SE LONDON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opposite New Cross Station. 'Force the Tories to Resign.'



REVISIONISTS AND NATIONALISM

The way in which the Pabloite revisionists prostrate themselves before petty-bourgeois nationalism is well-illustrated by the July 3 issue of their Canadian fortnightly paper 'Labour Challenge'.

It features, without a word of criticism, the Manifesto for a French Canada issued by the 'Mouvement Quebec Français' composed of trade unions, nationalists, teachers and the Catholic Farmers' Union.

Its principal demand is 'the right of the Quebec people to think, live and work in

their own language'. It states that 'linguistic domination ... constitutes an integral part of the other forms of domination, and provides the key mechanism by which these other forms of domination are maintained'.

Note that it speaks of 'domination', not of exploitation. It calls for the right of the workers of General Motors to work in their own language!

It is an appeal not to the working class to unite regardless of nationality or country, but to all French-speaking people against English domination.

It is written in the true spirit of social catholicism



Nationalist demonstrations to 'Make Quebec French' which the Canadian Pabloites uncritically support and participate in.

which does not admit that the class struggle exists. It invites 'all Quebecois, workers and farmers, administrators and technicians, merchants and industrialists to undertake, starting today, the measures necessary to make Quebec French'.

In other words, the Pabloites are supporting a call for an all-class alliance on the basis of a common language put forward by petty-bourgeois and Catholic nationalists.

Nothing could reveal more strikingly their reactionary tail-ending of the separatist movement in Quebec.

On the back page of the same issue there is an enthusiastic report of the celebrations which attended Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day in Montreal in which the Pabloite 'Ligue Socialiste Ouvrière' and 'Ligue des Jeunes Socialistes' joined under nationalist slogans. The main theme was 'a Quebec free from foreign domination'.

FORTUNES MADE PLAYING MONEY MARKETS

The multinational companies hold vast liquid sums which they seek to use in the most profitable way. They move them from one currency to another on a day-to-day basis according to the state of the foreign exchanges.

Guided by computers which operate as instant ready reckoners, and transmitted by telex or telephone, transactions amounting to millions of pounds are made as a result of slight movements in currency values.

During last summer's monetary crisis Volkswagen are believed to have changed no less than \$500m into German marks. The dollar soon slipped by 12 per cent and \$60m was saved on the transaction.

Big firms in Britain which hold sterling do not hesitate to sell it for a stronger currency at the first sign of trouble. Which ones were most responsible for the run on the pound and forced Anthony Barber to perform his float operation cannot be known for sure.

What is certain is that they included many household names and big contributors to Tory Party funds.

The Anglo-Dutch giant's Royal Dutch Shell and Unilever (Stork margarine, Surf, Walls sausages and a host of other domestic products are made by this firm) are particularly notorious for the scale and swiftness of their currency transactions.

This means not only money saved by getting out of a currency likely to fall, but buying in of currencies expected to rise.

Much of this business is transacted in Eurodollars or US dollars which act as a kind of 'Monopoly' money in which only the profit at the end of the day really counts. A sum may be changed back and forth into several currencies in the course of a morning to reap the benefit of what appear to be microscopic differences in rates.

The computer quickly shows that when multiplied by many millions, a handsome profit can be reaped. Under the Smithsonian agreement, which widened the range of fluctuations for currencies, greater scope was provided for the game.

With the currency crisis reaching a new pitch since the devaluation of the pound, it becomes increasingly frenzied. Everyone on the market fears a complete breakdown of confidence which would knock the board out of their hands.

They want to lay their hands on as much loot as they can before that happens. Preferably they salt away part of the profits in land, gold, old masters or any other hedge against inflation that's going.

RECESSION IN SOUTH KOREA

South Korea's economy is stagnating, there is strong inflation and a balance-of-payments problem. The trade deficit is expected to widen and the inflation to continue.

These are the latest conclusions on that country from Barclay's Bank Economic Intelligence Department.

In an attempt to bring the inflation under control, the government of President Park imposed a credit squeeze last year which brought many bankruptcies. Since then credit has become easier and the inflation has jumped ahead.

The economy of South Korea depends very much upon exports of textiles, 40 per cent of which go to the US. Quotas have now been imposed by the Nixon administration which are now taking effect.

Japan is Korea's other main

customer and source of supply and here again the economic crisis is pressing the country hard. The balance-of-payments deficit is chronic and growing. South Korea is paying \$200m a year to service its big foreign debt of \$2,500m.

The country's economic development plan is running into increasing difficulties. The budget is showing a yawning deficit and arms spending has been increasing because of the supposed military threat from Kim Il-sung's North Korea.

Ostensibly to meet the threat from the north President Park declared a state of emergency last year. It gave the government vast powers to curb strikes, muzzle the press, freeze wages and deal with the mounting social unrest.

The crisis situation in South Korea helps to explain the recent agreement made with North Korea for measures to bring about the peaceful reunification of the two parts of the country.



President Park of South Korea—deficit is chronic, and growing.

THE APRIL REVOLT

A special background series examining the class struggle in Ceylon from 1964 to the present day. Part five.

The April 1971 revolt was only a mild anticipation of social convulsions which are about to take place in Ceylonese society within the severest crisis of imperialism. The great massacre did not solve any of the social and political problems to the satisfaction of the bourgeoisie.

As the aftermath of the April revolt coincided with the decision of the American ruling class to devalue the dollar, a completely new period opened up in the class struggle. The dollar devaluation dealt a mortal blow to all the relationships established by the ruling classes all over the world with the oppressed classes and posed sharply the question of changing traditional methods of rule.

Though Ceylon did not enjoy any economic growth throughout the boom period, the ruling class was able to acquire assistance and aid from the metropolitan countries to 'buy off' working-class militancy. At the same time the expansion of rubber and tea markets prevented temporarily a head-on confrontation with the working class and poor peasantry.

Behind the relative class peace that existed during early 1950s to early 1960s was the relative inflationary boom of the imperialist countries. Once the American ruling class decided to pull out the gold backing for the dollar—provoking an international trade war—the first countries to head for complete economic ruin were the colonial and semi-colonial countries.

Unable to get any more aid from the imperialist masters and faced with a situation of losing all the tea markets, the Ceylonese ruling class must now take up the battle with the working class and oppressed masses and destroy their living conditions and all their privileges.

The only aid they can get now is limited to military aid to suppress the mass upsurge against oppression.

So, the August 15, 1971 decision signed the death warrant of those leaders who, after giving full support to suppress the April revolt, expected to solve the problems of the masses by bringing pressure on the government and thereby dreamt of re-establishing the relationships prior to April.

But there is no room for the ruling class to waver. The present economic crisis, transcending all the previous crises, threatens the whole Indian sub-continent with revolutionary convulsions.

The national liberation struggle of Bangla Desh, by laying the basis to crush the Khan dictatorship in Pakistan imposed a considerable defeat for imperialism and thereby endangered all the ruling classes throughout the sub-continent. As the brutal puppet regime in Cambodia is threatened to its very foundations, the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front started the sharpest offensive since Dien Bien Phu against imperialism.

Within this international context, though the defeat of the April revolt is a victory to the bourgeoisie, revolutionary paroxysms within Ceylonese society intensify.

The struggles of the still

undefeated working class, the resistance of the Tamil minorities in northern and eastern provinces, who are increasingly becoming conscious about their democratic rights, and the struggles of the rural youth after the April revolt, proves beyond doubt that Ceylon has irrevocably entered into the vortex of the Asian revolution.

Following the April revolt the bourgeoisie needs to establish a military dictatorship similar to Suharto, by bloody suppression of this enormous mass movement. It has to legalize the Bonapartist government powers used to suppress the April revolt, to 'control' the workers' and peasants' movement which increasingly threatens to go beyond the limits imposed by the traditional leaderships.

This enormous change in the political situation is expressed by the new alignment of class forces after April. The SLFP has now completely lost its basis in the rural areas; the working class still stands behind the government only because its 'left' leaders are not providing any alternative to the coalition.

DIVISION OF UNP

The UNP itself is openly divided. One wing around Dudley Senanayake tries to exploit the antagonisms between the masses and the government, and to build an electoral basis among rural poor.

The other wing around J. R. Jayawardena, realizing the futility of such efforts, vehemently denounces Senanayake for disrupting national progress by bringing party policies to the centre. According to him, the capitalist parties should now subordinate their party interests to the interests of the 'nation'.

What J. R. Jayawardena advocates is a Bonapartist dictatorship over the ruins of those near-sighted traditional sections of the ruling class itself.

The right wing of the SLFP quite naturally is pleased with the development. They are actually trying to strengthen the right wing of the government to prepare a showdown with the trade unions and the masses.

These new relationships and the government's dictatorial powers have created enormous changes within the working class itself. This has aggravated the crisis of traditional leaderships. These leaders, who are attempting to contain the mass struggles by threatening the working class with the danger of dictatorship, are themselves actually paving the way for a dictatorship. In the guise of preventing the ruling class from assuming dictatorial powers, to crush the trade unions, they themselves are now doing the job of the capitalist hatchet men in the trade union struggles.

Only by providing their ability to control the working class can they now prevent a dictatorship from controlling the masses. This is the essence of their reformist philosophy today.

When the oil refinery technicians' struggle broke out after April, as the first workers' strike against anti-union policies, the 'lefts' actually did play this role.

The strike broke out when their union leader was indicted



Perera's (above) second budget came as a bombshell—waging war against living standards of the masses.

by the government for writing an article for the union paper entitled 'Workers of the World Unite'.

The official organ of the Samasamaja party denounced the strike as a CIA plot and an attempt by the Shell company to take revenge for the nationalization of its operations. But, among those who supplied technicians during the strike were the UAR and Shell company itself.

The strike leaders were jailed for a period and the strike was defeated. But a mounting wave of workers' resistance against the 'lefts' followed and often the bureaucracy used physical violence against militants.

CHANGE OF COURSE

As this antagonism developed, the Communist Party, alarmed by this situation, launched a 'left'-sounding campaign around its daily 'Attha' demanding the government change course towards civil rule.

They said that there was no reason to maintain dictatorial powers because there was no threat from the JVP and asked the government to pay heed to the massive opposition against

those powers.

The government's reply was swift and clear. Apart from censoring the 'Attha' paper, the government decided not to give state advertisements to the paper.

BENEFITS REMOVED

In replying to that, one of the editorials of 'Attha' stated that, if the government did not allow them to maintain the paper as a 'safety valve' for mass discontent, then it would be unavoidable that this discontent would take the form of a revolution!

As the clash between the leaders and the workers reached a high point, the second budget introduced by N. M. Perera came as a bombshell. It exploded violently all the relationships between the Samasamaja, Communist parties and the masses.

It marked a sharp break from previous budgets in that it proposed naked deflationary measures.

The prices of all essentials were raised. The first steps were taken to remove all the welfare benefits enjoyed by the masses since the 1930s by abolishing free medical facilities. Bus fares and postage were put up. By curtailing

imports, drastically, the basis was laid to squeeze the private sector.

The budget also proposed to reserve a large amount of money for military and security work.

As it began waging war against workers' living and working conditions it prepared and strengthened the state apparatus for the impending civil war.

The day after the budget speech Ratmalana railway workshop came to a standstill. Local trade union leaders started a campaign of signatures for petitions against the budget. Some people came forward and openly attacked LSSP officers.

Government back benchers pleaded for a change in the budget proposals. They could not go back to their electorates, otherwise. Some SLFPers placed all the blame on N. M. Perera and demanded LSSPers be sacked from the government.

Within a day, the cabinet decided to reduce the flour prices to the previous level and increase the sugar ration. But it could not achieve anything. The government remained adamant over implementation of deflationary policies.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



POLISH BUREAUCRATS HOUND AN OLD REVOLUTIONARY

BY TOM KEMP

Head of the legendary Soviet spy ring in Nazi-occupied Europe, known as the 'Red Orchestra', Leopold Trepper, now 68, lives in disgrace in Warsaw.

When Trepper warned of the impending Nazi attack in June 1941, culled from the reports of his agents who had contacts even in the German Wehrmacht Stalin dismissed them as nonsense.

Once the invasion had begun, the 'Red Orchestra' provided secret information which was invaluable to the Red Army. Working with genuine businessmen, Trepper set up a commercial firm which did business with the Germans and enabled his espionage activities to be financed!

At the same time he worked closely with the underground apparatus of the Communist Party in Belgium and France

at the head of which was veteran Stalinist Jacques Duclos. The 'Red Orchestra' and the underground CPs had their separate channels of communication with Moscow, the former mainly by radio.

When, after many narrow escapes, the Gestapo at last picked up Trepper in November, 1942, the Nazis proposed a deal. His life would be saved on condition that he continued to send information—false, of course—to the espionage centre in Moscow.

The chief of the 'Red Orchestra' played along. But first, he said, he would have to continue his regular contacts who would otherwise have their suspicions aroused. He used the opportunity to warn the Communist Party's underground, headed by Duclos, that Moscow should take no notice of the information sent out by his transmitters.

A year or so later Trepper was able to elude the Gestapo and go underground until the Nazis were thrown out of France.

Instead of being decorated

and treated as a hero when he was flown back to Moscow, Trepper found himself in a cell in the dreaded Lubyanka prison. He remained in prison for ten years on Stalin's express command. Jacques Duclos and the other members of the Communist Parties who knew his record did nothing to save him.

What manner of man was Leopold Trepper, born of a Jewish family named Drom in a Polish village in 1904, and how did he become the head of one of the most successful espionage rings in World War II?

Trepper spent his youth in Poland, working at various jobs, joining first the revolutionary Zionist youth organization and then breaking completely with Zionism, he became a member of the young Polish Communist Party. Arrested by the police of the dictator Pilsudski he received his first jail sentence for revolutionary activities.

On his release he fled to Palestine, then under British rule. He rapidly became a lead-

ing member of the Communist Party of Palestine, fighting for the unity of Jewish and Arab workers. Imprisoned by the British, he went on hunger strike. Questions were asked in the House of Commons. Trepper was released.

Dedicated to what he understood to be the revolutionary cause, Trepper fled to Germany, but his real aim was to get to Russia. This he did with the aid of the Soviet secret service. He received his education in the party schools and himself passed into the intelligence service. The training was thorough, perhaps the most thorough in the world.

In addition, Soviet intelligence had a great advantage over the intelligence services of other countries, which had to pay for most of the information it obtained. Its strength lay in its connection with the 1917 October Revolution. It could depend upon the support of the members and supporters of the Communist Parties.

As Gilles Perrault, who

wrote the book 'The Red Orchestra' put it:

"The success of the 'Red Orchestra' is explained by the revolutionary experience of the team which headed it, that's all. This explains why its losses were smaller than others and why its results were so much greater."

Trepper's ties were with the October Revolution, not with Stalinism. Had he not already gone to western Europe as head of the spy ring when the purges of the 1930s took place he would almost certainly have been a victim.

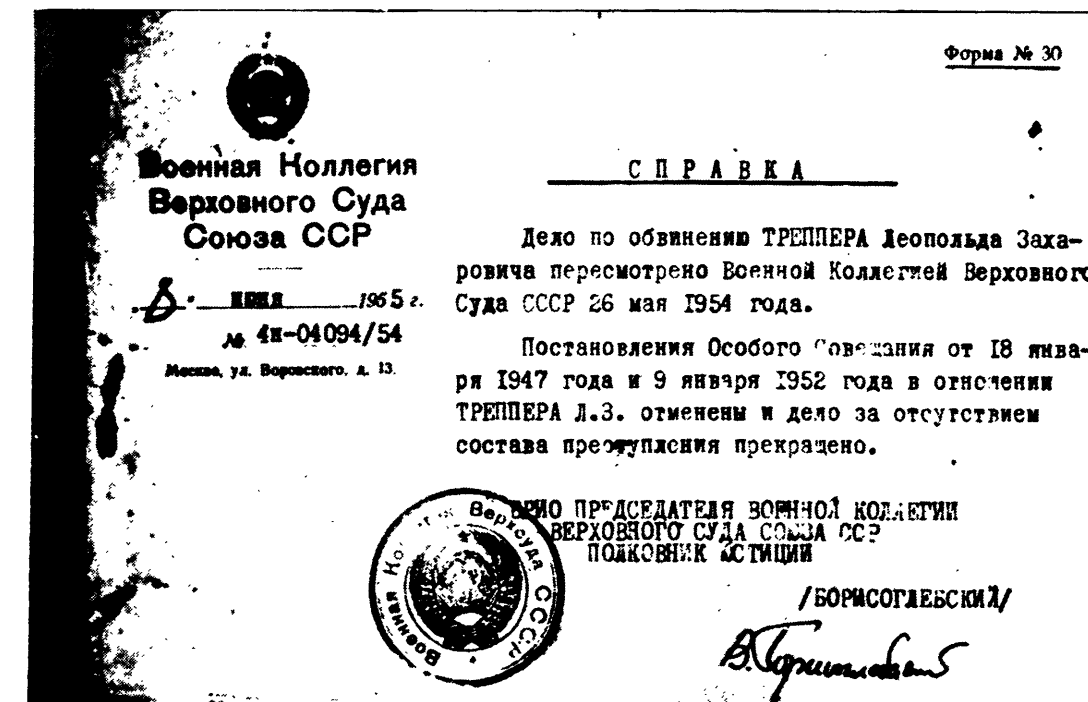
He considered the tasks he carried out to be of service to the revolutionary cause. His experience with the police in many countries as a young revolutionary was invaluable in the years when he headed the 'Red Orchestra'. He saw his work as a continuation of the revolutionary activity he had begun in his youth.

It was the old revolutionaries like Trepper who made the best intelligence agents, superior by far not only to those of the capitalist

countries but also to the new men who had come up under Stalin. Those who joined the 'Red Orchestra' were either inept or they betrayed. And the centre in Moscow, under the control of Stalin, made error after error which cost many lives.

Under revolutionary direction, the ring could have been even more effective than it was and, as was intended in the early days of the Soviet regime, the intelligence service could have assisted the revolutionary cause. As it was, under Stalin, it operated under severe restrictions. He intended to keep it as an arm and instrument of the bureaucracy.

After the war Stalin saw no further use for the man whose warnings he had disregarded in 1941 than to throw him in prison. Trepper did not see freedom again until two months after Stalin's death in 1953. During the events of 1956 in Poland he returned home with his family. Rehabilitated, he became, at last, something of a hero.



Top left: Trepper (standing, second from left) in Palestine, 1929. Top right: at Auschwitz, 1945, addressing 80,000 people at 20th anniversary of its liberation. Above: His rehabilitation certificate

By a government decree Trepper (whose real name was Drom) was allowed to keep the name by which he had been known as head of the 'Red Orchestra'. He became president of the Jewish Cultural Committee in Poland and addressed a throng of 80,000 people from all over the world gathered on the site of the Auschwitz death camp to commemorate the 20th

anniversary of its capture by the Red Army. That was in 1965; but in Poland a sinister change was taking place. The hard-pressed bureaucracy led by Gomulka, who had raised so many hopes in 1956, turned increasingly to anti-Semitism as a means to divert attention from the growing material difficulties with which the country was afflicted.

Trepper defended the Jewish intellectuals who were under attack and wrote a letter to Gomulka in which he 'thanked' him for his 'final solution' of the Jewish question. The reactionary and vicious anti-Semitic campaign of the Polish bureaucracy pushed Trepper into a closer identification with his Jewish origins. He came to the conclusion that he could find peace in his

closing years only in Israel. His sons and his wife, victims of persecution, have already emigrated.

Buffeted by his experiences, isolated and alone, Trepper remains convinced that mankind is going towards communism. For himself he seeks only the calm which he thinks he can find in Israel. He retains illusions even in Polish political chief Gierk, only demanding that he should break with the anti-Semitism which has disgraced Poland in recent years.

Stalinism has not broken the old revolutionary, but it has forced him into a tragic and ambiguous position. He now sees refuge in capitalist and racist Israel as the answer to his problems.

He now has to defend the record of his life not only against the Stalinist denigrators but also against Jean Rochet, head of the French security services, who has accused him of collaboration with the Nazis. He wants to clear his name of that slander. But Jacques Duclos and others who know of his record continue to keep silent.

We salute in Leopold Trepper the courage of an old revolutionary who continues to fight against the bureaucracy. We lay the blame for his present position on that bureaucracy which has broken so many revolutionaries and forced not a few into the arms of reaction.

Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested on May 5, 1920. They were sentenced to die in the electric chair April 9, 1927 and that sentence was carried out a few minutes after midnight on August 22, 1927. In the course of those seven years, one of the most glaring exposés of the nature of capitalist justice is revealed. Reprinted from the 'Bulletin' (April 3, 1972), organ of the Workers League of US. By Nancy Fields.

SACCO AND VANZETTI

Part 6. The defence.

It had been necessary for the state to provide an elaborate frame-up to deal with Sacco and Vanzetti, rather than simply deport (or murder) them as had been done to countless others, because of the growing protests of the working class. Those protests had made it far more difficult to imprison or deport foreign-born workers simply because they read radical newspapers or held socialist opinions.

Following the conviction, it became imperative to turn to the only force which could save Sacco and Vanzetti: the working class. The capitalist press and most of the labour press had kept the workers ignorant of the class battle that was being fought out in the Dedham courtroom.

Moore had been the central figure in the work to popularize the issues of the case before the international working class. Labour organizations in the US arrayed themselves with the defence in its demand for a new trial. Unions of the American Federation of Labour, the IWW, the Communists, Socialists, Anarchists went on record on behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti.

Hundreds of mass meetings were held and attended by thousands of workers. In New York, the International Labour Defence signed up 500,000 workers for the Sacco-Vanzetti Emergency Committee.

The labour and revolutionary press of Europe and Latin America took up the fight against this frame-up. Demonstrations were held in all the capitals of Europe and South America.

As Shachtman noted: 'It was no longer a simple matter of rail-roading two Italian Reds with prejudiced witnesses, prejudiced judge and hysterical jury. Instead, a jury of constantly growing thousands in every part of the world was sitting in judgement against the persecutors of Sacco and Vanzetti.'

However, the slow poison of middle-class treachery threatened to split the defence movement and eventually was to lead to its failure. The liberals, who had said nothing for five or six years, suddenly came out of the woodwork to declare their intention of handling the defence.

It must be emphasized that their complacency had permitted the springing of the trap that was later to kill Sacco and Vanzetti.

Basing themselves on faith in the capitalist system, and because there were still a few loopholes yet to be tried, the liberals demanded that the workers' action be halted. They released Moore and brought in a respectable liberal, William Thompson, to continue the defence.

Thomson said he would dissociate himself with the case if demonstrations continued.

The introduction of Thompson into the case marked the turning point in the tactics of the Boston-based Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee and consummated a split between it and the International Labour Defence.

The former turned more and more toward reliance on the very institutions that had convicted Sacco and Vanzetti in the first place. They demanded the replacement of the movement of the masses by the motions of the lawyers.

Their role was completely treacherous for they helped:

'... To discredit the honest and powerful class support of the toilers, the grimy and despised, the brothers of Sacco and Vanzetti, and leaned instead upon the "thoughtful" editorials, the "impartial fairness" and pious wishes of the liberal journals, which, like the "New York World", dug the knife deep into the hearts of Sacco and Vanzetti at the crucial moment.'

Of course, while the liberals were extolling the virtues of bourgeois justice, the Massachusetts courts continued to taunt the defence for its absurd faith.

Thayer handed down his decision on the motions for a new trial on October 1, 1924. He denied them all. He claimed that the new evidence submitted by the defence was of little consequence since the real evidence that had convicted the defendants was that known as 'consciousness of guilt'.

The defence then appealed to the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. Eighteen months later, it handed down its decision. It ruled that it could not review the merits of the case but could only decide upon the conduct and rulings of the trial judge. They could not find any 'abuse of judicial discretion' by Thayer and stated that: 'He had acted in accordance with those high standards which are the pride of Massachusetts justice.'

Even following the confession by the Morrelli Gang to the crimes, Thayer again refused to grant a new trial. The defence had made its motion on the basis of the affidavits from Department of Justice agents and the confession of Madeiras to the crime.

He dismissed the Justice agents' affidavits on the grounds that 'the American government would never stoop so low as to help frame-up two obscure individuals'. In fact, he went so far as to clear the Morrelli Gang and ignore the Madeiras confession.

The defence attorney was outraged because, despite the fact that he was not a 'long-haired radical lawyer from California', Thayer's decision virtually called him insane. Nevertheless, he and the Defence Committee held firm to their liberal tactics.

The Boston Committee whipped up a campaign of slander against the ILD in the capitalist press in an attempt to discredit it and stop the protests. But 'the militants would not allow the defence to be confined merely to the narrow groove of Massachusetts legal technicalities'.

The International Labour Defence constantly warned of the dangers of the liberals' position and told the workers that they must not be prey to the illusions being presented. It noted that these illusions were being sown for only one purpose: to pacify the working class and 'thereby get some relief from the thundering clamour of the world's millions'.

The ruling class knew it had to proceed with the utmost caution in carrying out the murder of Sacco and Vanzetti. Thus, they created a short reprieve while at the same time reviving the old method of bomb 'plants' in order to draw a picture of the friends of the prisoners as irresponsible terrorists.

At the same time, the police were breaking up protest meetings and arresting hundreds of workers in various cities.



The committee which decided Sacco and Vanzetti had had a fair trial—painting by Ben Shahn

Further, the Secretary of Labour Davis was trying to pass his registration of the foreign-born bills which were clearly aimed at all foreign-born workers for their participation in the Sacco and Vanzetti movement.

Vanzetti himself warned against these liberal illusions and stated:

'I repeat, I will repeat to the last, only the people, our comrades, our friends, the world revolutionary proletariat can save us from the powers of the capitalist reactionary hyenas.'

He rejected the approach of the liberals by stating that:

'... Our case is more than a political case, it is a case of class war in which our enemies are personally interested to lose us...'

On August 27, 1927, Sacco and Vanzetti were executed. It was the treacherous role of the liberals—who joined the movement, diverted it and then deserted it—which served to create enough diversion to pave the way for the ruling class to carry out its execution. It was only the work of the militants that kept the case going as long as it did.

The Sacco and Vanzetti case was not a simple mistake, a miscarriage of justice. It was consciously prepared by the capitalist class in an attempt to serve notice on the entire working class of their raw power. The capitalists plotted and carried out the execution with one single aim in mind: dealing a decisive blow to the labour movement.

The Sacco and Vanzetti case was a class case from start to finish. At his sentencing, Sacco himself said:

'I know the sentence will be between two classes, the oppressed class and the rich class, and there will be always collision between the one and the other. You persecute the people, tyrannize over them and kill them. We try to educate people always. You try to put a path between us and some other nationality that hates each other. That is why I am here today on this bench, for having been the oppressed class. Well, you are the oppressor.'

Vanzetti wrote in one of his last letters to Sacco's son Dante:

'Remember, Dante, remember always these things; we are not criminals; they convicted us on a frame-up; they denied us a new trial, and if we will be executed, after seven years, four months and 17 days of unspeakable tortures and wrongs, it is for what I have already told you; because we were for the poor and against the exploitation and oppression of the man by the man.'

In the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, the capitalist class showed its real face to the world. The mask of 'democracy' was thrown aside. As James Cannon noted:

'Judge Thayer and Governor Fuller stand forth not as exceptional officials apart from all the others, but as the authentic spokesmen of American capitalism. The face of Governor Fuller is the face of the American capitalist class. It is the vengeful, cruel and murderous class which the workers must fight and conquer before the regime of imprisonment, torture and murder can be ended.'

CONCLUDED TOMORROW

THE IDLE RICH AND MUSSOLINI

FILM REVIEW BY IAN YEATS



Unlike other films about pre-war Europe, such as 'The Damned' or 'Cabaret', 'The Garden of the Finzi-Continis' is exclusively about the plight of the Jewish bourgeoisie under fascism.

That it set middle class tongues cooing with delight on leaving the auditorium is doubtless a tribute to director Vittorio de Sica's skill in making his point.

The story, if the film can be said to have a story within the definition of 'plot', is at first glance slight—a frustrated love affair between a young couple in 1939 small town Italy.

But any assumption that its description as the loveliest film of the year might mean endless Scandinavian type vistas in typical de Sica slow motion would be a mistake.

The familiar touches are all there but colour and camera work deployed with great delicacy and skill are its essence.

They are used, together with the responses of wholly believable upper and middle class Jews, to a situation which, though it dominates the action of the film, only really appears in asides to create an absorbing visual essay.

The situation is, of course, the growth of fascism unobtrusively indicated by glimpses of soldiers on the streets, crowds rushing to meetings (always 'off stage') and excerpts from film clips of fascist gatherings.

De Sica's hypothesis is that Jewish members of the Italian aristocracy would have had no objection to Mussolini and, indeed right up to the end, had no objection to him or what he stood for, providing he left them alone.

Further he says that many middle class Jews who could afford to be less remote from reality than the aristocracy were in fact members of the fascist party before the anti semitic laws of 1938-1939 and ran with the hounds for as long as they possibly could.

If many of the Jewish bourgeoisie went like lambs to the slaughter—as the Finzi-Continis eventually did—it was basically because they agreed with il Duce.

The aristocratic Continis locked themselves on their estate—as big as Hyde Park—to avoid the unpleasantness of fascism's anti semitism, the young members of the family inviting gentile friends to parties in the grounds.

While affairs and tennis occupy the young the condition of the garden paths concerns the parents who live in hopes that they will be spared because they have so many lire invested in government securities.

Down the road a Jewish 'tradesman' can't afford to lock himself on his estate—he hasn't got one—counsels his blessings and tells his son that Mussolini is 'better' than Hitler and that at any rate they are allowed to live and have property — 'our basic rights'.

Both groups share a common anxiety about the fate the fascists may have in store for them and bewilderment about why they have been chosen for discrimination. But that is all.

Significantly in view of the post war development of Zionism in Israel they keep up their religions.

In case anyone supposes de Sica is talking about opportunism when he portrays the Jews' willingness to acquiesce and collaborate with fascism he has the Contini daughter, Micol, spit out her venomous hatred of communism early on in the film.

And while Micol and Giorgio (the 'tradesman's' son) could be friends as children it is made clear that social differences between them could never allow them to marry.

The midweek Bloomsbury bourgeoisie left the cinema in obvious horror at such good people being put to the sword but it would be unfair to de Sica's reputation to suggest that it was the only impression he wished to create. The film must stand also as an indictment of Zionism as an agent of capitalism.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

DECLINING CP

Tuesday's 'Morning Star', the newspaper of the Communist Party, carried a bold headline at the top of Page 3 which declared: 'Party and Star are growing.'

Enthusiastically the author, a 'Morning Star reporter', told his readers:

'More than 2,300 people have joined the Communist Party since January this year and, despite February's price increase, more and more people are now helping to raise the circulation of the "Morning Star".'

But on Wednesday all was retracted.

On a very much smaller item on Page 3 this appeared:

'Party and Star':

'In yesterday's "Morning Star" the page 3 headline over the report of Mr Gordon McLennan's speech to the Communist Party executive committee was "Party and Star are growing".'

'This was an incorrect summary of the report which made clear that Mr McLennan had said that "Party membership was increasing in nine districts . . . but . . . this was not yet the position nationally".'

'As far as the Star is concerned, Mr McLennan said that "until the onset of the holiday period the circulation was held fairly steady." There has in fact been some decline in recent weeks.'

HINTS OF CORPORATISM

Oddest story of the week was the announcement by the Industrial Society that it was establishing an 'independent' conciliation and arbitration service. The service is to specialize in small-scale disputes, particularly those at plant level.

First question any trade unionist would want answered is — what is the Industrial Society? Good question. The answer is not so good. Nobody really knows.

The facts are these. The society regularly runs seminars at plush London hotels to which both management and unions are invited.

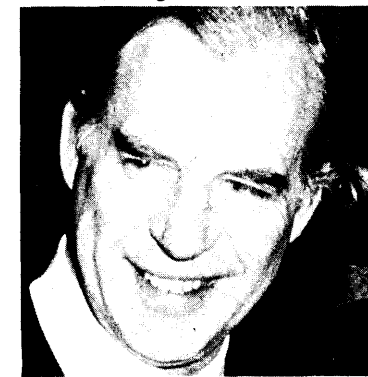
Victor Feather and Hugh Scanlon are regular performers at these discussions. During the passage of the Industrial Relations Act the society staged numerous debates which lent emphasis to the idea that the Act would 'reform' industrial relations and be for the good of all. Many said the

society's line smacked of corporatism.

When the Act became law it switched its line to—how to implement the Act.

Director of the organization is John Garnett whom the Tories selected to sit on the Wilberforce tribunal into the miners' pay claim.

The society is governed by a council of leading managers and trade unionists including W. O. Campbell Adamson, director general of the CBI; Sir John Partridge, chairman of the Imperial Tobacco Group; G. A. H. Cadbury, deputy chairman and managing director of Cadbury Schweppes Ltd; Edward Guinness, chairman and joint managing director of Arthur Guinness; Peter Laister, managing director of British Oxygen; Henry Marking CBE, chairman of BEA, The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph; The Rt Hon Lord Robens, chairman of Vickers, together with Jack

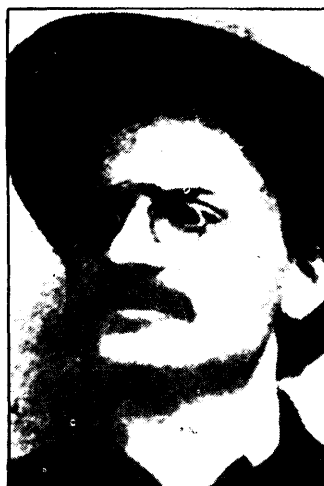


Industrial Society men—Campbell Adamson (top) and Jack Jones

Jones MBE, general secretary of the T&GWU; Lawrence Daly, general secretary of the NUM; Jim Conway, general secretary of the AUEW; Lord Cooper, general secretary of the G&MWU; Jack Peel CBE, general secretary of the Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers' Union; and Lord Delacourt Smith, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union.

How would you like that crowd arbitrating or conciliating on your behalf?

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Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

No Tories council votes for the Bill

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

BARKING Council has decided by 34 votes to 15 to implement the Tories' Housing Finance Bill which will cause council rents to soar.

This decision is a double blow to the working class in the area—it has a vast amount of council housing and the council is totally dominated by Labour Party councillors.

In fact the political composition of the council is 63 Labour and four ratepayers' representatives. There are no Tories at all.

Before the meeting angry tenants gathered outside the council chambers to lobby their councillors. About 50 of them crowded into the public gallery. They heckled the right wingers as they got up one after the other to try to justify their decision to support the Tories' Bill.

Eventually the meeting was adjourned while the gallery was cleared of protesters.

Then the meeting reconvened to take its treacherous vote.

The resolution to implement

which was proposed by the Housing Committee stated:

'That the council, while totally opposed to the Bill, reluctantly concludes that it would not serve the best interests of those it was elected to represent if it failed to implement this legislation.'

If Barking councillors were serving the best interests of those they were elected to represent, they would totally oppose the Bill and join with other sections of the Labour and trade union movement in a massive fight to force the Tories out of office.

Anything short of this is a betrayal of the trust put in them by the working class.

● Before the council meeting a petition signed by 7,000 local residents was presented urging the council not to implement the Bill. The petition said it was opposed to the Bill and would support any councillor who was willing to fight the Tory measure.



Tenants lobby councillors as they entered the chamber to vote for the Tory Bill

Last plea against Walsall closure

CHAIRMAN of the giant Tube Investments company ended his 1971 company report with the stirring remark: 'When the long-delayed recovery takes place, we shall be ready for it.'

Since Thursday, July 2, Walsall, Staffordshire, has begun to realize what 'getting ready for it' means. On that day 1,400 workers at Tube Investments' stainless steel factory were informed that the site was to be closed and that they were to join the 2,500 already on the town's dole.

The Action Committee will meet Lord Plowden today at TI House in Birmingham in a final attempt to persuade him to continue production at the Walsall factory. It is possible that this meeting will finally dispel the remaining illusions about the nature of 'good' employers when their profits are at stake.

Lord Plowden and his 'faceless men' had decided that recovery was only possible if they cut out production at the long-length steel tubing plant recently completed at a cost of £1.6m, and if other production processes were dispersed to different parts of the country.

The present factory has been a major employer of labour in the Walsall area since 1910. In the early 1930s, together with five other companies it became the foundation of Tube Investments. Since that time TI has swallowed up hundreds of firms to become the 80 company-strong, conglomerate empire it is today.

Beginning with the production of steel tubes, TI has branched out into engineering, machine tools, electrical and gas products and cycles. At present, record sales and profits are being marked up by Raleigh Industries as a result of a campaign to convince the American middle class that they can ward off the ill effects of over-eating by riding a bike.

Three years ago the decision was taken to concentrate all stainless steel production at the Walsall factory.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

A new mill—the only one of its kind in the country—was built together with a £250,000 office block which now stands empty.

The fully-automated mill was designed to make long-length steel tubing for nuclear power stations. Incidentally, Lord Plowden was the first chairman of the British Atomic Energy Authority.

With this equipment and the skill and experience of the Black Country workers, the way ahead seemed clear—high profits for Tube Investments and possible increased wages and job security for the workers.

Then came the first rumblings of the world economic crisis and slump. In Britain and Europe governments decided to slash their plans for building nuclear power stations. Nuclear power might make possible unlimited power and energy, but faced with trade war slump, capitalism has no use for it.

Tube Investments, already feeling the effects of slump in machine tools, decided to cut their losses and get out.

Workers from TI Stainless Steel recovered very quickly from the shock of the announced closure. Within hours of the announcement a mass meeting of all workers took a decision to refuse to accept closure. An Action Committee, representing all the unions in the factory, was formed, which immediately put out leaflets seeking the active support of the people of Walsall in the fight.

Action Committee members are very anxious to dispel any ideas that this is a decrepit, ailing factory unable to meet the requirements of modern industry. Like workers at Herbert Ingersoll, the Midland machine tool factory now housing the Official Receiver, the Walsall men speak with pride of the high level of technological development. Albert Pritchard, tool-room shop steward and Action Committee spokesman, told Workers Press:

'Surely in any sensible society even if what we produce was not immediately needed, this modern equipment could be put

on one side until it was, not broken up and destroyed.

'If industry cannot employ modern developments like those at TI Stainless Steel then we shall finish up in this country making plastic bags for other people to wrap their goods in.'

The Action Committee also insists that the closure cannot be blamed on high earnings. The unions have recently established a minimum wage for male workers of £20 a week, and the highest rate is only £32 weekly.

It is also clear that the unions have co-operated in increasing productivity—an estimated 300 jobs have gone in the last 12 months.

The only major strike for many years took place in 1968 over shift allowances. This shut the factory for three weeks. In all, TI seems to have been considered a 'fair' management and its notice boards display the usual pictures (for this part of the Midlands) of groups of long-service, gold watch-earning employees.

The belief that Tube Investments has been a 'good' company to work for still lingers on even after the decision to carry out the ruthless closures. This is reflected in the plans now going ahead to oppose it.

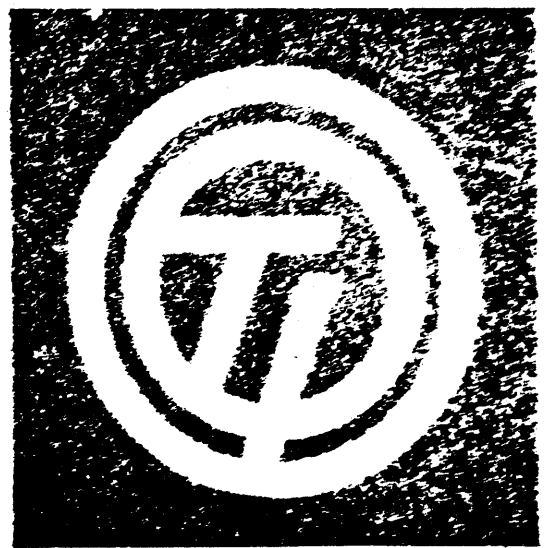
An Action Committee spokesman said:

'Tube Investments have never liked scandals, but they are going to get one now. We may be able to shame them into changing their mind.'

This view that big business and the Tory government could be shamed and persuaded was clearly present at the demonstration held in Walsall earlier in the month.

Great efforts were made to make the demonstration a 'town protest', appealing to all sections of the community, with emphasis placed on the disaster that the closure would produce for shopkeepers and local businessmen.

In the meantime, TI workers have banned all overtime at the factory, have told the management in no uncertain terms that they will not allow any dismantling or removal of machinery and have started picketing other TI factories in the area to gain support.



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BBC 1

9.20 Camberwick Green. 11.00 Golf, Cricket. 1.30 Fingerbobs. 1.45 News, weather. 1.53 Race to the White House. 2.20 Cricket, Golf, Show Jumping. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Monkees. 5.20 Cabbages and Kings. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News, weather.
6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.
6.20 TOM AND JERRY.
6.25 PINK PANTHER.
6.45 THE VIRGINIAN. The Fortress.
8.00 LOOK—MIKE YARWOOD!
8.30 GRANDSTAND SPECIAL: AAA, ASA CHAMPIONSHIPS.
9.00 NEWS, Weather.
9.20 THE MAN OUTSIDE. Bye, Bye, Mrs Bly.
10.10 DAVE ALLEN AT LARGE.
10.55 24 HOURS.
11.30 ALISTAIR MACLEAN talks about his career as novelist.
12.00 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 4.20 Golf, Cricket. 6.35 Show Jumping.
7.15 NEWSROOM, Weather.
7.45 FILM: 'LA KERMESE HEROIQUE' (Carnival in Flanders). Jacques Feyder's satire on bourgeois life at beginning of 17th century in Flanders.
9.40 GARDENERS' WORLD.
10.10 SPORT TWO. Drugs in Action; Open Golf; Test Match.
11.35 NEWS, Weather.
11.40 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

TV

ITV

11.30 World of Their Own. 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 Giants. 5.50 News.
6.00 MONTY MODLYN.
6.30 DICK VAN DYKE.
7.00 THE COMEDIANS.
7.30 THE FBI. The Butcher.
8.30 IN FOR A PENNY. Dan and the Anniversary.
9.00 BUDGIE. Run Rabbit, Run Rabbit, Run, Run, Run.
10.00 NEWS.
10.30 POLICE FIVE.
10.40 THE FRIGHTENERS. Night of the Stag.
11.10 FILM: 'THE SHAKEDOWN.' Hoodlum just out of jail sets up phoney photographic studio in Mayfair in preparation for blackmail.
12.30 SOCIAL WORKERS.

REGIONAL TV

SOUTHERN: 12.55 News. 1.00 Beloved enemy. 1.25 Beverly 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 Bottom of sea. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 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 Name of the game. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. Guideline.
HTV: 2.35 Out of town. 2.55 Remember. 3.20 Grasshopper island. 3.35 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 Comedians.



Budgie Bird (Adam Faith, right) is always in trouble, and this week on Independent channels at 9 p.m. he's looking to Gerald (Arto Morris) to save his skin.

8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 10.30 Cinema. 11.00 Film: 'Black Orchid'. 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 London. 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: 'Abandon Ship'.

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: 'Shock Treatment'.

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: 'The Over-the-Hill Gang Rides Again'.

YORKSHIRE: 1.45 Odd couple. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Kate. 4.00 Sound of... 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Happy house. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 News. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Wages of Fear'. 12.50 Weather.

TYNE TEES: 1.45 Funny face. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 Kate. 4.00 The sound of... 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 Thunderbirds. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30

London. 10.30 Film: 'The Wages of Fear'. 12.50 News. 1.05 Epilogue.

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 News. 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. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 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 News. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Comedians. 7.35 UFO. 8.30 London. 10.30 Hogan's heroes. 11.00 Job look. 11.05 Film: 'The Evil of Frankenstein'.

T&GWU urges white-collar men to return

WHITE-COLLAR workers on strike at British Steel Corporation steel and tinplate plants in West Wales for two weeks have been told by their union leaders to go back to work.

The 1,300 members of the Association of Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Staff section of the Transport and General Workers' Union have rejected a peace formula put to them by full-time officials after talks last week with BSC and a Department of Employment conciliation officer.

T&GWU Welsh regional secretary Tom Jones told the strikers they were 'hurting themselves' to an extent which bothered union officials.

Jones said that he and other officials had tried to persuade the men to return to normal working, especially as BSC wanted a resumption of work before 'meaningful negotiations could begin'.

A total of 4,100 production and craft workers at five BSC tinplate and steel plants have been laid off because of the dispute.

About 100 men have also been laid off by the Rover company at Solihull, Warwickshire, because the plant depends on supplies of pressings from the closed BSC Cwmfelin works at Swansea for making the rear-end structure for the Range Rover.

INTERNAL drivers on unofficial strike for more pay at the Rover plant yesterday voted to stay out. There was no vehicle production for the second day, and nearly 4,000 day and night shift assembly workers were laid off until the works holiday which starts tonight.

The 120 drivers are demanding a higher work grading which would give them an extra £3 a week.

Jobs fear mounting again on Clydeside

THE SUGGESTION is rife in Glasgow that 2,500 men at the Clydebank division of the now defunct UCS are being given redundancy pay totalling £500,000 to induce them to accept the loss of their jobs without continuing the work-in.

One hundred and seventy-six men have already been sacked but only 151 of them are expected to be re-employed by the Texas-based Marathon Manufacturing Co on July 24.

There is even some doubt about this because the men can-

not be taken on until the government's Industry Bill becomes law, allowing Marathon to draw on loans of up to £12m.

As the Clydebank men complete work on ships still being built at the yard, they will be some problems at Clydebank, sacked. Some will be transferred to Marathon's payroll.

But the US firm will not be fully operational for some time. Up to 1,000 men could be on the dole for 18 months and because Marathon will ultimately only need 2,000 men, 500 will lose their jobs permanently.

Commenting on the sacking of 176 men and the decision to pay the redundancy money, Stalinist

work-in leader James Airlie said there could be problems at Clydebank.

He said:

'There have been no compulsory redundancies at Clydebank. Those who are not joining Marathon have been waiting for some time to have their applications for redundancy accepted.'

'I hope the changeover at Clydebank goes as smoothly as the present position. There may but these will be discussed after the holidays.'

'I repeat that we will not accept any compulsory redundancies. It is the wish of the entire workforce that no one will go down the road against their will.'

CAV Acton hear 'final offer'

WORKERS at the CAV vehicle-components factory at Acton, West London, have been called to a mass meeting this morning to hear details of the management's 'final' offer in settlement of the national pay claim.

The offer is identical to that recently accepted by Lucas workers at Birmingham.

It is £3.25 general increase to everyone, plus an additional £1 for skilled timeworkers and an extra 50p for semi-skilled. Unskilled workers would get the flat £3.25 alone if the offer were accepted.

Fringe benefits in the offer include one day's extra holiday this year, and a further day next year. Sick pay would be increased by £1 a week.

Varying amounts—£2.75 for skilled, £2.50

for the rest—would be deducted from the lieu rate and added to the time rate.

The company has offered no further progress towards equal pay for women workers, although at CAV their rate is already 90 per cent of the men's.

Shop stewards' leaders at the factory are recommending that equal sums be paid to everyone on the site. On the present overall figure this would work out at £3.36 each.

But it is not clear whether the management have agreed to this proposal or not, indeed it is highly unlikely they would do so.

In consequence, heated arguments about the offer have been breaking out all over the 2,700-strong site on the eve of today's meeting.

Some skilled groups of workers feel, for instance, that although the principle of increasing the proposed rise to the lower-paid is correct, the money should come out of CAV profits and not out of the skilled rise.

Others point out that £3.36 is far short of the £6 originally claimed.

There is also considerable dissent against the dropping by convenors of the national demand for five-hour cut in the working week.

Meanwhile support has again been growing for the struggle of laboratory workers on the site, who are staging a sit-in strike for the restoration of their previous No. 2 position in the factory's pay structure.

Toil room workers walked out for two

Courtauld's Coventry plants at standstill

PRODUCTION of Courloose and Spanzelle has been brought to a standstill in the main Courtauld's plants in Coventry.

Strikes are in progress at both plants.

The Courloose workers walked out a week ago after a shop steward was sacked. They will not return to work until he is reinstated.

Then this week, 40 Spanzelle workers went on strike over conditions in a new agreement which involves a reduction in the workforce.

The agreement will also mean that production workers will be required to clean windows etc. Next round of talks with management will be on Monday.

EDINBURGH, Glasgow and Ayrshire workers at Distillers Co Ltd plants are considering new offer from management in fifth week of their strike.

THREE THOUSAND workers at the three Lanarkshire plants of Honeywell Ltd struck in support of pay claims up to £9 a week. Management has offered up to £3.

GLASGOW'S Weir Pumps Ltd workers ended their four-week-old strike to go on holiday. Shop stewards urged rejection of management's £2.50 offer, but AUEW divisional organizer John Sherriff urged the 2,500 men to call off the strike.

SSL LECTURES

BIRKENHEAD: Sunday July 16, 12 noon. The Royal Castle Hotel (opposite Lairds). 'The Marxist Method and Building the Revolutionary Party.'

NEWCASTLE: Monday July 17, 8 p.m. Hotspur Hotel, The Haymarket. Lecture given by Cliff Slaughter, SSL Central Committee, on 'An introduction to Marxism'.

Trade in surplus but crisis remains

BY PETER JEFFRIES

THE latest trade figures can give the capitalist class little room for satisfaction.

The £15m June surplus was the first time this year the 'visible' trade figures have been in the black.

They hide the fact that imports fell by £10m over the last month, a sure indication of the squeeze on consumption and even more serious, a continued slump in new investment which depends heavily upon foreign equipment imports.

Exports for the current half year were still running some 2 per cent below the figure for last year. For the April-June period the deficit on 'visible' trade amounted to nearly £80m. The payments figure as a whole was in surplus for this period only because of earning on 'invisibles'—shipping, insurance and banking.

Nor will any broker be fooled by the 'strengthening' of sterling which followed the publication of the trade figures.

For the centre of the currency crisis remains the dollar.

The once mighty dollar remained at its 'floor' level in every European financial centre yesterday and was only prevented from falling below its agreed levels by the support it received from the European central banks.

In other words, the flow of dollars into Europe continues unabated, aggravating the crisis for every Common Market currency.

It is against the development of this unavoidable world crisis that every worker must look at the June trade figures.

15 deaths since Sunday

A TOTAL of 12 civilians and three soldiers died in Ulster since the ending of the IRA ceasefire last Sunday night.

The army say there have been 884 shooting incidents—590 of them involving security forces. They claim to have shot 44 'gunmen'. Up to midday yesterday 41 explosions had taken place since Sunday.

NATIONAL leaders of six unions yesterday demanded a meeting with British-Leyland Motor Corporation chairman Lord Stokes in an effort to stop a deal expected to lead to 350 redundancies. The £5m deal involves plant making transmission equipment for heavy vehicles at Thorneycroft, Basingstoke. It would be sold to the American-owned Eton Corporation.

Longbridge stewards resist MDW plan

SHOP stewards at British-Leyland's Austin-Morris factory, Longbridge, Birmingham, yesterday condemned management tactics in going over their heads with a Measured-Day Work pay offer.

Departmental meetings last Friday carried the stewards' recommendation to reject the offer, which holds out guaranteed earnings of up to £50.25 by November 1974.

The meetings also rejected the idea of further talks on MDW. On Monday, full-time union officials persuaded the stewards to withdraw this ban. But it was reimposed the following day by senior stewards on the workers committee.

In an obvious bid to undermine the stewards' authority, Ley-

Management tries to undermine authority

land hurriedly prepared a detailed statement on its offer which went out to individual workers on Wednesday.

The immediate rises, the statement said, would be between £6 and £7 a week for men and £9 for women. Men would receive a further £1.30 in November, women £1.

MDW would mean a new guaranteed male rate of £44.20 a week, rising over the next 28 months to £50.25, the statement went on. Women would get £35.35 rising to £45.25.

Also included is an offer of £1.10 a week to certain grades of skilled workers and a guarantee of lay-off pay at 80 per cent of the new rates for up to 12 days a year when work is disrupted by disputes outside Leyland's car division.

What the statement does not say, of course, is that for many pieceworkers the offer in fact represents a considerable cut in earnings. Moreover it does not describe the kind of productivity increases which Leyland would hope to exact under MDW.

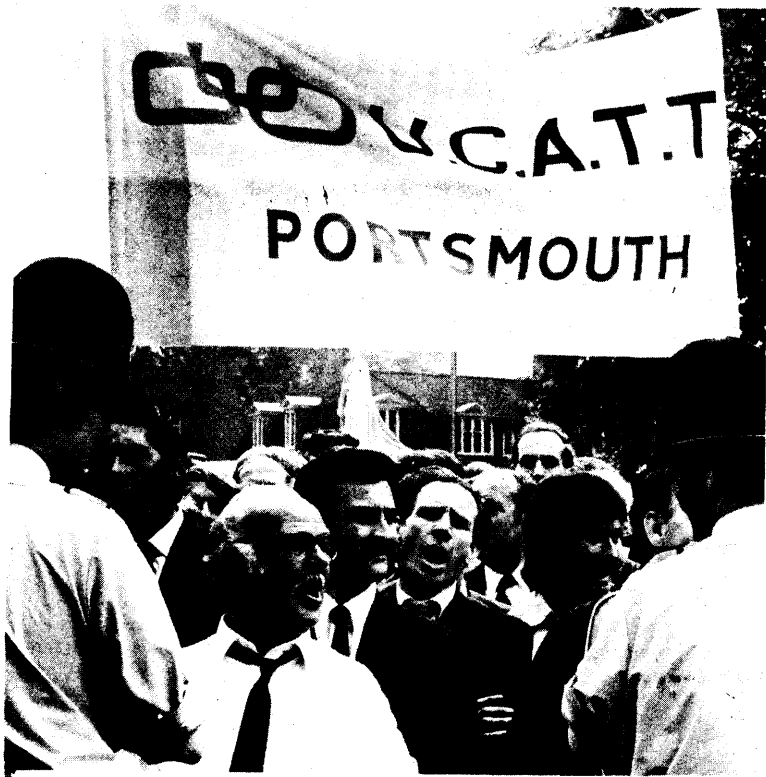
Speaking after a meeting of the Leyland combine stewards' executive in Birmingham, Eddie McGarry, joint chairman, summed up the stewards' attitude to the new system:

'We believe that British-Leyland is trying to take away the authority of the shop stewards', he said.

'This policy will go the same way as the Industrial Relations Act.'

Government workers chant 'Heath out!'

We're whipping boys over pay



SEVERAL hundred government industrial workers erupted into chants of 'Heath Out!' yesterday afternoon while lobbying MPs at the House of Commons.

They were protesting against the recent £1.50 pay offer.

Workers on the lobby came from the royal dockyard, ordnance factories, Ministry of the Environment depots and research establishments and other state industrial centres from all over the country.

Delegations travelled from Rosyth in Scotland, Glascoed in South Wales, Portsmouth and Exeter.

Joseph Jennings, president of the Construction and Allied Trades Workers at Portsmouth dockyard, said that the 200,000 government industrial workers had been used as 'whipping boys' for the Tory government's policy of attempting to hold down wage increases.

Les Chaplen, secretary of all the dockyards' staff, warned that unless there were results from the lobby and from the meeting of union negotiators with the government later this month, there would be guerrilla strike action throughout the whole of the service.

Present basic rates are £17.30 a week for unskilled and £23.35 for craftsmen. The government claims that average earnings range from £20.87 to over £36 but, as Les Chaplen pointed out, take-home pay for craftsmen can be as low as £14 and for labourers even lower.

The government's figures were said by many workers on the lobby to depend on long hours of overtime. Many sections of the service now find it difficult to get overtime to supplement their salaries.

T&GWU may stage container test case

UNION lawyers may initiate a test case against Midland Cold Storage Ltd if the High Court declares that dockers have no right to the work at its Hackney depot.

Midland is currently asking the court's Chancery Division to declare that the work is not dock work as defined by law.

If the company obtains such a declaration, the T&GWU will probably make a counter-application with the aim of highlighting the law as it exists at present.

The union would hope that, whatever the outcome of the case, it could receive the attention of the employer-union committee which is due to report on the port jobs crisis on July 26.

(The committee is chaired by Jack Jones, T&GWU general secretary, and Tory banker Lord Aldington, of the Port of London Authority.)

T&GWU leaders would regard such a test case as equivalent to an appeal from a tribunal decision, of which there have been several recently.

A spokesman said yesterday he thought it would be 'foolish to stop representing our members in the courts, where necessary, just because there's a National Industrial Relations Court in existence'.

It was not clear yesterday afternoon whether shop stewards would be required to give evidence in such a case, or whether they would attend if asked by the union.

Confed to meet EEF on wages

NEW MOVES towards resuming national wages negotiations for 3 million workers in Britain's engineering industry, were agreed in York yesterday.

The executive committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, agreed to meet the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Jack Service, the confederation's general secretary, said:

'The talks will be exploratory to find out if there is any value in going ahead with a bigger meeting. Whether we will talk money or not is anyone's guess.'

'We don't want agreement at any price, it has got to be acceptable.'

The meeting's date had still to be fixed and in the meantime, the campaign to secure agreements at local level would continue, he said.

The president of the confederation, Jack Higham, said:

'We are looking to the Engineering Employers' Federation to be more realistic in their reply on the major items of wages, holidays and equal pay.'

National pay negotiations were abandoned last December when the unions rejected the employers' offer of £1.50 a week extra in reply to their claim for £6 a week more on basic rates.

● See p.3

LATE NEWS WEATHER

A FURIOUS row broke out in the Commons during question time between Fife's Labour MP, Mr William Hamilton, and the Tories. Hamilton began by referring to a weekend speech by Sir Alec Douglas Home in which he had spoken of 'greedy trade unionists'.

'Why do you allow him to talk about greedy and selfish trade unionists?' he asked Heath. 'The Foreign Secretary, above all in the government, should keep his mouth shut in these matters in view of his own party's family record over the generations in Scotland.'

This brought furious shouts from Tories, who chanted: 'cheap, cheap,' but Hamilton persisted:

'So long as the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary continue to castigate trade unionists like this, when Lord Carrington and other members of the Cabinet are seeking to profiteer in the land market and other ways, they will never get the co-operation of the trade unions in any sort of wages policy.'

EXCEPT for a little drizzle in north-west Scotland, all areas will have a warm and dry day, with periods of sunshine. Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Continuing dry and warm.

JULY FUND £558.83 BUT DON'T SIT BACK

YESTERDAY'S post of £108 showed a slight sign of change bringing our fund up to £558.83. But we are a long way from raising our £1,750 target by July 22—before our Summer Camp begins.

It is vital this month we raise our Fund in time. Our expenses are higher than normal due to the holidays. But changes in the political situation demand an even wider circulation for our paper. Workers in every district are looking for a lead to make this government resign.

We are very confident that you, our readers, will respond in every way you can. We urge you all, therefore, not to sit back for a moment. We have £1,191.17 to raise and we are relying on you to do it. So, ask for extra amounts. Raise all you can and post immediately to:

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Union lawyer speaks up

SHOP stewards on Hull and Liverpool docks had acted in direct defiance of the Transport and General Workers' Union in blacking three container firms, the union's counsel told five Law Lords yesterday.

Mr Peter Pain, QC, made this submission on behalf of the T&GWU on the fourth day of an appeal by Heatons Transport (St Helens) Ltd and two other firms. The firms are challenging a Court of Appeal ruling that the union was not responsible for

the action of its shop stewards in calling on union members to black their lorries.

As a result of the Appeal Court decision, fines totalling £55,000 imposed by the Industrial Court were ordered to be repaid.

Pain said that an essential for any strong trade union was that a constitutional position must be maintained under the rules and that when action was taken it must be by those constitutionally empowered to do so.