

Nixon's Vietnam speech

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His immediate subject was the Vietnam war. After months of hesitation, the President came down firmly on the side of fighting it out to the bitter end.

Not only did Nixon refuse to set a deadline for the total withdrawal of US troops, he made it clear that there would be no more limited withdrawals after the current pullback of 60,000 men has been completed on December 15. Nixon warned that any further retreats would only lead to the collapse of the puppet Saigon regime, which has proved completely incapable of putting troops into the front line to fight the National Liberation Front. Desertion rates are as high as ever.

'Massacres'

Nixon referred in blood-curdling terms to the fate of the North Vietnamese landowners and pro-French government bureaucrats after the collapse of French Indo-China in 1954:

"For the South Vietnamese, our precipitate withdrawal would inevitably allow the communists to repeat the massacres which followed their take-over of the North 15 years ago."

The loss of South Vietnam is, however, only the beginning of Nixon's worries. The real meat of his speech came later when he dwelt on the consequences of withdrawal from and defeat in Vietnam:

"This would spark violence wherever our commitments help maintain peace—in the Middle East, in Berlin, eventually even in the western hemisphere." (Our emphasis.)

U.S. problems
But in deciding to fight it out, enormous problems, both political and economic, are created inside the United States itself.

The anti-war movement will grow, bringing in more and more youth and workers and thus changing the character of the campaign from pure middle-class protest to a serious challenge to US imperialism.

The inflationary strain on the dollar and the economy will grow, sharpening up still further the tension between the working class and the big monopolies.

Nixon knows this. But he has no choice.

Though the imperialists have their backs to the wall, they will fight to the very end, with every weapon they have at their disposal—political, economic and military.

The Campaign, fundamentally a middle-class protest movement, has been brushed aside by the emergence of the working class into big struggles.

The CND leadership was never able to make any turn to the working class and accordingly now finds itself completely isolated from the new forces entering the class struggle.

By Robert Black

The imperialists' debt to the social-democratic and Stalinist bureaucracies in this period of deepening crisis is truly considerable.

The Stalinist betrayal of the French General Strike of 1968, their repressive policies against the Czechoslovak working class since August 1968, and the Kremlin's brutal suppression of the anti-Stalinist opposition on the Soviet Union itself—all these acts assist imperialism as it comes under the blows of a re-awakened working class.

In Britain, the Labourites carry out a similar policy.

They exert all their energies in attacking the working class to stave off another round of crisis in the British and world capitalist system—all at the behest of the international, and principally, US bankers.

Nixon's speech is the voice of international capital rallying all the forces of reaction against the working class.

It makes the building of the revolutionary party in Britain as part of the Fourth International all the more urgent.

Tenants' court protest

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They had wanted to discuss the rumours with Mrs Barbara Castle, but were told by officials that she was not at the Department.

It was suggested that they put their case to the Whitley Council, which negotiates the wages of nurses.

"We have heard strong and reliable rumours that we are not going to get our pay rise next year, and we are concerned about this because we are not going to be 'done' again," commented the leader of the delegation, Sister Patricia Veal.

CLOSE-DOWN THREAT AT A.E.C.

By our own correspondent

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The management tried to get the workers to produce them inside the plant, but these and some coming from another factory were blocked.

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That is also why the whole group should support Standard.

C.N.D. to drop Aldermaston march

THE CAMPAIGN for nuclear disarmament is to replace its Aldermaston March with 'serious political entertainment' in Easter 1970.

Its annual conference, which took this decision over the weekend, showed just how far this protest organization has declined since the beginning of the decade.

CND now claims 2,211 members and is in financial difficulties.

Nostalgia about the days when tens of thousands turned out for the Easter marches

predominates over any serious attempt to revive its corpse.

As West Midlands delegate Howard Chaney pointed out at the conference:

"The demonstrations are pitifully small. Nobody takes any notice."

He told delegates they should very seriously consider winding up the organization.

Other speakers proposed changing the name to 'Cam-

Big business demands crack-down on wages

By our industrial reporter

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To back this line, they demanded the ending of government controls over dividends. Most of the heat in their exchanges with Castle is clearly generated by the big employers' hatred and fear of the ever growing movement amongst low-paid workers.

They see the pay concessions offered to the dustmen, miners and firemen as a series of surrenders.

Since workers have already smashed their way through the incomes policy, they are highly sceptical of proposals to re-activate Part Two of the present Act and are calling for tougher measures.

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They had been agreed earlier by union and local authority representatives.

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A.T.U.A. meetings

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'Labour government and the trade unions'

Thursday, November 6

8 p.m.

Duchess of Wellington

General Gordon Place

Woolwich

WILLESDEN

'The Common Market'

Thursday, November 6

8 p.m.

Willesden Trades and Labour

Hall

High Road, N.W.10

LUTON

'Labour government and the trade unions'

Thursday, November 6

8 p.m.

The Cock

Park Square

COVENTRY

'Crisis in motors—

what next?'

Thursday November 6

7.30 p.m.

Sydenham Palace Hotel

Cox Street

LEYLAND

'Crisis in Motors'

Friday, November 7

8 p.m.

Broadfield Arms

Leyland Lane

MANCHESTER

'The fight against productivity deals'

Monday, November 10

8 p.m.

The Wheatsheaf

High Street

off of Market Street

PORTUGAL

Fascist election farce exposed

By a foreign correspondent

FACTS published on Portugal's recent 'general election' have revealed how much Prime Minister Dr Marcello Caetano's election victory is really worth.

Every one of the 130 seats has gone to the government party, the National Union, which is also the only legal party in Portugal. But that is only part of the story.

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Thus out of a grand total of 23 million Portuguese subjects, only 2,300,000 were allowed to vote and of these only half in fact did so.

Some opposition candidates were barred from standing on the grounds that their ideas were 'contrary to the established order'.

This was the fate of the seven candidates of the Socialist group in Mozambique. The fascist regime built by Salazar continues.

This election farce will deceive nobody.

THIRD TUBE STOPPAGE

LONDON'S tube guards are expected to strike for the third time in as many weeks on Friday.

At the same time, London Transport and union representatives are to meet again to continue their talks on a productivity deal for all 13,000 Underground workers.

These were adjourned on Monday with no conclusion reached about the guards' mileage pay claim.

VAUXHALL MOTORS

Luton stewards reject plan

By David Maude

MANY OF Vauxhall's 10,000 laid-off workers at Luton and Dunstable have been recalled to work today, but continuing shop-floor opposition to the company's pay and productivity proposals makes it extremely unlikely that full production can be resumed by the end of the week, as has been claimed.

Engineering union shop stewards at Luton have now joined those at Ellesmere Port in opposing their national executive's instructions to accept the deal.

They have called a mass meeting of their members for Friday.

Although the union's Ellesmere Port members have now been recalled to work, the dispute over press shop pay is still going on.

Operators are refusing to set their presses unless paid a better rate and there is little prospect of normal production being achieved until their demands are met.

MORE TALKS

Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers executive councillor Arthur Harsey has called for further talks with the management this week.

National Union of Vehicle Builders members are still laid off from the Merseyside plant.

Even if assembly is restarted at Luton, Vauxhall is still by no means certain of maintaining a sufficient supply of axles and gearboxes from Ellesmere Port.

Despite an overwhelming vote against the productivity deal by the Luton AEF stewards, the union's district committee was circulating a letter at the weekend insisting:

"The present round of negotiations are finished. No useful purpose can be served in prolonging a situation that cannot be altered."

'ACCEPTED'

District secretary Arthur Sjojen has instructed stewards not to call a meeting on Friday on the grounds that the deal has already been accepted by the union's leaders.

At Ellesmere Port, as reported in Saturday's Workers Press (November 1), stewards are alleging discussions between the management and members of the Wirral and

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Reject hours offer says miners' committee

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The NCB's refusal to grant the 40-hour week including the 20-minute meal-break for surface workers was the main issue left unresolved by the recent fortnight-long miners' strike.

The committee is angry at the executive's manoeuvrings to prevent another strike.

The coming pithead ballot has been organized so that the rejection of the hours offer means rejection of the wages offer, which the miners would otherwise accept.

Hours alone

The committee wants the ballot arranged so as to confirm that the membership is prepared to strike on the hours issue alone.

But miners must be wary of the policy outlined by the action committee.

It says "... we have the right to ask our area executive committees and area council meetings to give authority for official leaflets to be issued which will spell out why the men should vote against acceptance."

This request is directed to the very bodies which told the miners to go back to work with the hours question unresolved!

Handing back

That the committee has said it will go ahead with its campaign whether or not the area councils co-operate is not the main question.

The committee is giving the initiative, which it undoubtedly holds at present, back to those who worked with TUC general secretary Vic Feather to halt the strike.

A committee spokesman said:

"We feel sure that if all the facts are made known the miners will vote against acceptance."

This is not the issue. Miners are well aware of the facts of their claim.

What miners demand from the action committee is not information, but a new leadership which will fight the Coal Board and the Labour government not only over hours, but over low wages, speed-up, closures, and the other big issues affecting miners.

Asian Ministers in London talks

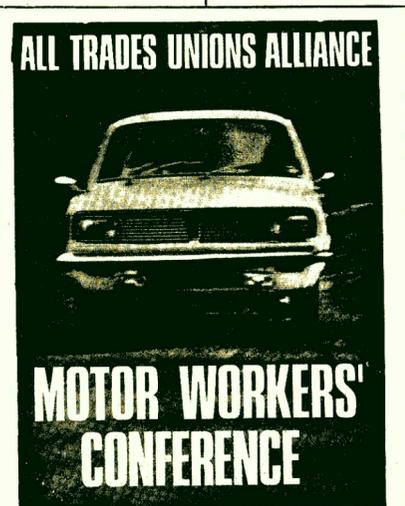
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They are looking to Britain for more help or guarantees of support to maintain their rule on behalf of imperialism.



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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

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IN AUGUST 1969, the British Communist Party published a 60-page booklet by Betty Reid entitled 'Ultra-Leftism in Britain'. Though she touches on the activities of anarchist and 'Maoist' groups, Reid's main concern is to discredit Trotskyism in general and the Socialist Labour League in particular.

Starting today, the Workers Press will publish five extracts from a larger work dealing with all the main principled differences between Trotskyism and Stalinism.

The extracts we are publishing here will deal with five specific issues raised by Reid's attack on the Fourth International:

1. The Popular Front and the Transitional Programme of the Fourth International.
2. The Second World War: The Stalin-Hitler Pact.
3. The Second World War: 'The Big Three'.
4. British Trotskyism today: Stalinism and the Revisionists.
5. The fight for alternative leadership: The Stalinist record—and ours.

REID'S REFERENCE to 'that famous Trotskyist "unconditional defence" which incorporates in it the necessity for overthrowing the government' (p. 48) is a cheap attempt to slander the Fourth International as an anti-Soviet movement.

On page 32 she alleges that by unconditional defence of the Soviet Union Trotsky meant 'the only way to defend it was by the overthrow of its government'. On the same page she also refers to 'Trotsky's so-called "unconditional defence" line'.

Trotsky never made his defence of the USSR conditional or dependent on the overthrow of Stalin.

In fact, as Reid has to admit, Trotsky's firmness on this question drove him to a split with the Schachtman tendency in the Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party of the USA.

Time and again the same question has come up: has the development of the bureaucracy and the killing of all the old Bolsheviks destroyed everything created by the revolution of 1917?

Trotsky answered firmly in the negative, as we do today. With Trotsky we defend the Marxist position that despite the terrible ravages of Stalinism, the bureaucracy has not been able to overthrow the property relations established by the October Revolution.

Political power

The working class lost all political power under the rule of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

The Soviets were turned into tame instruments of the bureaucracy, the statutes on workers' control of production were either revoked or trampled on by the managerial caste that owed its privileges and power to Stalin.

But despite all these tremendous setbacks for the working class, capitalist property relations had and have not been restored.

Within the framework of nationalized property, state central planning and the monopoly of foreign trade, the bureaucracy won for itself social privileges approaching those of the ruling class of the capitalist states.

But the bureaucracy did not become a ruling class by so doing.

It distorted the property relations established by the Revolution, it stole vast sections of the surplus product of the working class for its own private consumption (not investment), but it was not able to abolish these same property relations.

A Soviet bureaucrat, however exalted, remained but a bureaucrat—and then only if Stalin permitted it.

Last analysis

In the last analysis, the bureaucracy remained a section of the Soviet state and labour movement corrupted by imperialism and thoroughly rotted inwardly by the infiltration of class layers and elements hostile to the 1917 Revolution.

That same process of corruption and middle-class infection has also deeply corroded the western workers' movement.

In the Soviet Union, it took place several years after and not before the conquest of power. Until either imperialism or the bureaucracy restored capitalist property relations in the Soviet Union, Trotsky stood for unconditional defence of the USSR against imperialist intervention and internal restoration.

Reid in this context refers to the split between Trotsky and Schachtman that developed after the signing of the Stalin-Hitler Pact.

But she avoids relating this split to its historical context, for to do so would involve an analysis of the Pact and its role in demoralizing whole sections of the revolutionary

and workers' movement at that time.

Reid also presents Schachtman's position wrongly—again betraying her profound ignorance of Trotskyism. He was not a supporter of the theory that Russia had reverted to state capitalism and that the bureaucracy were a capitalist class.

Schachtman held the bureaucracy to be a new type of ruling class, based on collective property relations, the theory of 'bureaucratic collectivism'.

But far worse than mistakes and omissions is her failure to quote from a single document of Trotsky's on the class nature of the Soviet Union and the stand taken by the Fourth International in its defence. To do so would immediately expose all her slanders against Trotsky's 'so-called' unconditional defence.

Schachtman

In his struggle against the Schachtman group after the outbreak of the Second World War, Trotsky underlined his position many times over:

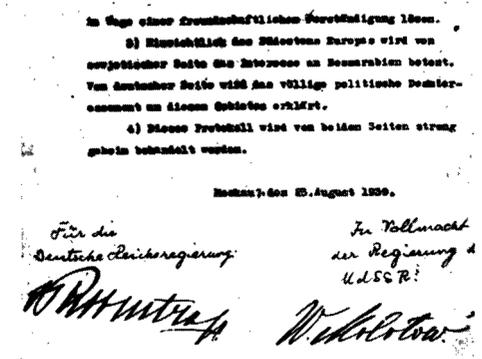
... let us suppose that Hitler turns his weapons against the East and invades the territories occupied by the Red Army. [Unlike the Stalinists, Trotsky always warned that the Pact with Hitler only postponed the Nazi onslaught against the Soviet Union.] Under these conditions, partisans of the Fourth International, without changing in any way their attitude toward the Kremlin oligarchy, will advance to the forefront, as the most urgent task of the hour, the military resistance against Hitler. The workers will say: "We cannot cede to Hitler the overthrowing of Stalin; that is our own task." (In Defence of Marxism' p. 24-25).

Where is there any reference to the defence of the USSR being conditional on the overthrow of Stalin, Mrs Reid?

On the contrary, Trotsky



Molotov, who thought 'fascism was a matter of taste', seen arriving in Berlin on November 12, 1940, to confer with Nazi leaders. He was given a Nazi salute and guard of honour.



A copy of the Stalin-Hitler pact signed by Ribbentrop and Molotov showing section 2, which outlines the proposed carve-up of Poland (see text).

2 The Second World War: The Stalin-Hitler Pact

by Robert Black

states that the most urgent task is its defence against Hitler, despite the Stalin regime and its oppression of the working class.

On page 35, he returns to this same point:

"We are completely and wholeheartedly for an independent (of Hitler as well as of Stalin) Soviet Ukraine. But what to do if, before having obtained this independence, Hitler attempts to seize the Ukraine which is under the domination of the Stalinist bureaucracy? The Fourth International answers: Against Hitler we will defend this Ukraine enslaved by Stalin.

Unconditional

"What does 'unconditional' defence of the USSR mean? It means that we do not lay any conditions upon the bureaucracy. It means that independently of the motive and the causes of the war, we defend the social basis of the USSR, if it is menaced by danger on the part of imperialism."

From this statement it is crystal-clear that Trotsky sub-

ordinated everything, including the self-determination of the Ukraine and the removal of the Stalinist bureaucracy, to the defence of the USSR.

In an interview on February 14, 1940, Trotsky returned to this theme:

"... you will see clearly where I stand in relation to this grouping of forces: on the side of the USSR entirely and unconditionally; before all against imperialism—of all labels; after that—against the Kremlin oligarchy which facilitates with its foreign policy the preparation of the march against the USSR and with its domestic policy debilitates the Red Army."

Yes. Well over a year before the Nazi invasion, Trotsky warned the Soviet and international working class of German imperialism's designs on the USSR. Following Hitler's conquest of Poland, Trotsky gave this prophetic warning:

"To picture it as if the new western boundary of the USSR were a permanent barrier to Hitler's road eastward violates all proportion. Hitler solves his tasks by stages. On the order of the day now is

the crushing of Great Britain. For the sake of this objective it is possible to sacrifice something. (Writings of Leon Trotsky (1939-1940), p. 15).

The march eastward presupposes a major war between Germany and the USSR. When the time comes for this war, the question as to what meridian the struggle will begin upon will have only secondary significance. (November 1939.) (our emphasis).

Stalin could only 'defend the Soviet Union by diplomatic and military means.

He signed pacts and occupied territory (such as parts of Finland and Poland and the Baltic states) but he was unable and unwilling to summon that greatest defence of all: the revolutionary potential and capacity of the international working class.

This meant unleashing that force the bureaucracy feared as much as any imperialist intervention. It was in this sense that Trotsky spoke of the bureaucracy defending and even extending the revolution (as with the change in property relations in east Poland and the annexed parts of Finland) by counter-revolutionary methods, methods which only alienated the working class from the Soviet Union and communism.

Following the defeat of France by Germany, Trotsky again, and for almost the last time, raised his voice in defence of the Soviet Union and against the policy of Stalin, which placed it in pawn to the goodwill of Hitler:

"In spite of the Kremlin's territorial seizures, the international position of the USSR is worsened in the extreme. The Polish buffer disappeared. The Rumanian buffer will disappear tomorrow. Mighty Germany, master of Europe, acquires a common frontier with the USSR.

... Her victories in the West are only preparation for a gigantic move toward the East. In the attack on Finland the Red Army, decapitated and demoralized, again by Stalin, demonstrated its weakness before the whole world. In his coming march against the USSR, Hitler will find support in Japan."

Persecuted

This is how the meagre and persecuted forces of the Fourth International prepared for the defence of the Soviet Union against the Nazi offensive. How did Reid's Stalinists, both in Britain and the Kremlin, match up to this challenge?

For nearly two whole years, from August 1939 to June 22, 1941, they pretended to their own members and the working class all over the world that there was no such danger.

And we shall prove it. But first let us expand a little on Trotsky's reference to Stalin's purge of the Red Army forces.

What was the extent of the military purge begun by Stalin in June 1937?

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"Delegates have spoken here with pain in their hearts of many innocent victims among prominent Party officials and statesmen. Such prominent army leaders as Tukhachevsky, Yakir, Uborevich, Kork, Eidemann and others were victims of the repressions."

"They were military men who had great services to their credit, especially Tukhachevsky, Yakir and Uborevich, who were outstanding soldiers." ('The Road to Communism', p. 346.)

Evidently Stalin felt he could do without their services. Not only they, but literally thousands of other Soviet military leaders, the cream of the Red General Staff, were murdered in the years between 1937 and 1939.

In this period the Red Army lost three of its five Marshals, all 11 of its Deputy Commissioners for Defence, 75 of its 80 members of the Military Soviet, all its military district commanders who held that post in June 1937.

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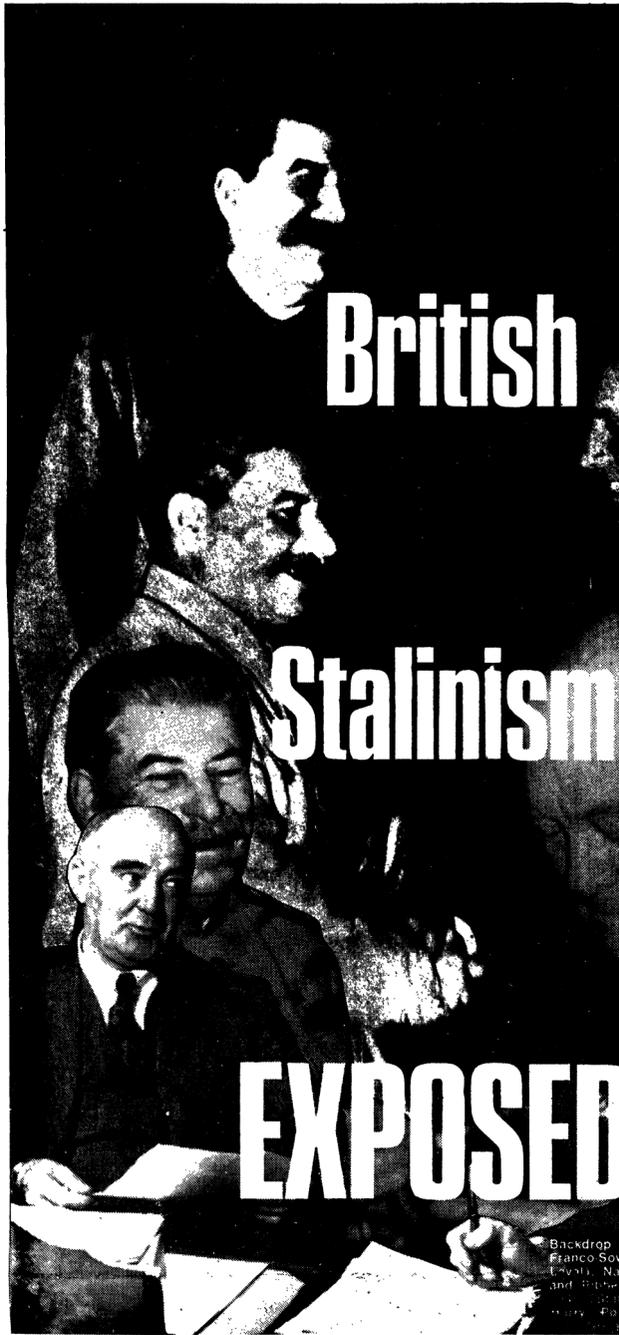
"Ideological differences of opinion had hardly influenced the Russian-Italian relationship, [as we have seen] and they did not have to prove a stumbling block with regard to Germany either. There exists for Russia no reason why she should not live with us on a more normal footing. And from normal the relations might become better and better." (p. 2.)

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he expressed a desire to foster better relations with Germany.

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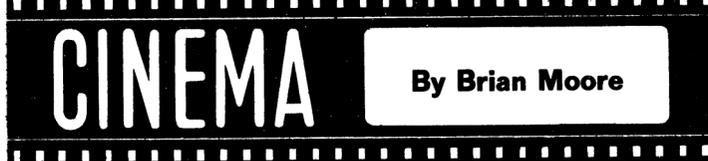
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LETTER



Selling points

such a film financed in this country, and this is all the more reason that 'Adalen 31' should be put on general release here and shown at local cinemas throughout the country.

This is a film which must be seen and should be widely shown.

The producer Bo Widerberg made the film with the assistance and participation of Swedish workers who were actually in the strikers' march and he is quoted this week ('The Guardian', October 28) as saying:

"I went to endless pains to do as they wanted, not what I wanted. When we filmed the procession which ends with the shooting of five workers, they kept on interrupting. 'No, No,' they'd say, 'that man wasn't killed there. It was a little to the left of that tree—and he was hit in the leg, not the arm.' They really felt it was a piece of history that had to be accurate. So it was—the only piece we possess as a matter of fact."

As Brian Moore says, it would be impossible to get

film will show a profit.

In this they are speculators, gamblers at the tote, with no more guarantees of the mythical jackpot than any other gambler.

And in this sense their choices are haphazard and uncertain and today there is a good deal of confusion about which film actually does make money.

In the old days of Hollywood studio productions with their contract stars, along with a generally high audience attendance at local cinema houses, there was a certain stability, a certain predictability.

But since the breakdown of the studio system and the ad-

because it is at that point that you come slap up against the big monopolies.

Last week I tried to sketch out some of the difficulties of film-making in this country, but left out the whole problem of film distribution.

There are two major cinema circuits in this country. That is to say the actual bricks and mortar of theatres are owned by two monopoly chains.

In effect two men decide what is to be shown at your local cinema.

Their considerations are, of course, financial; whether the

B. JACKSON raises some important questions when she says that 'Adalen 31' should be put on general release,

B. Jackson.

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vent of independent production units the guarantees are less secure.

The money isn't sure any more, not since 'Tom Jones', which grossed millions of dollars, was turned down for general release by one notable distributor in this country.

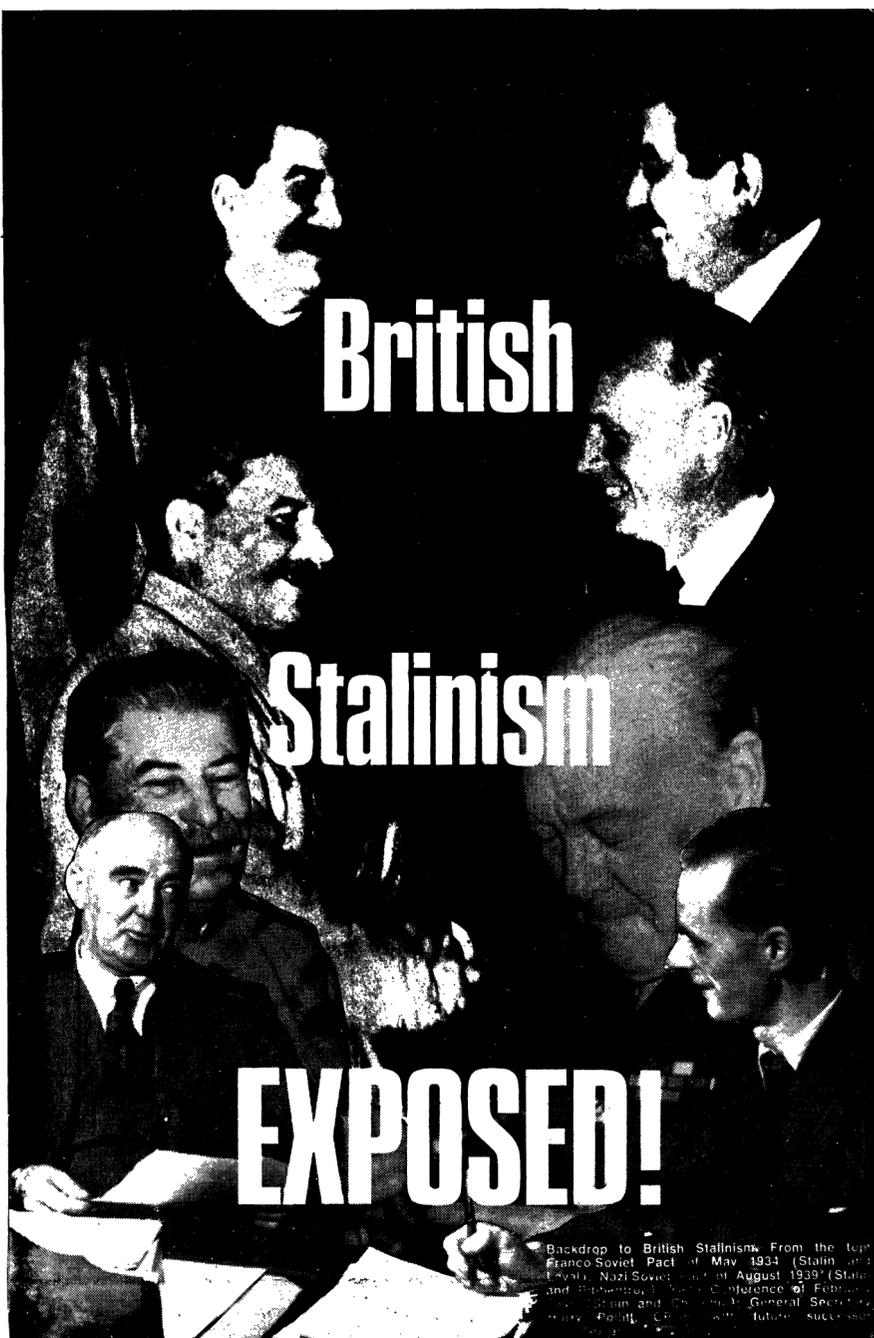
In this atmosphere of speculation and doubt the choices swing from the capricious to the pedestrian and many good films have fallen foul of this and have never been released.

Recently the two most notable films which suffered this fate were 'The Bofors Gun' and 'Charlie Bubbles'. They've had a limited art house release, but no more.

There have been many more that have never been shown anywhere.

Reviewing films for this column I am acutely aware that the most interesting ones that I've seen, 'October', 'Adalen 31', even 'Easy Rider' will not be shown in all probability outside of London, whereas the reactionary rubbish like 'Che' and others will be blazoned across every local from Glasgow to Penzance.

Anyone in any doubt about the class position of the moguls of the film industry should glance through the



British

Stalinism

EXPOSED!

Backdrop to British Stalinism: From the top, Franco Soviet Pact of May 1934 (Stalin and Franco), Nazi Soviet Pact of August 1939 (Stalin and Ribbentrop), and the influence of February 1941 (Stalin and Molotov), General Secretary of the Party, Comrade Molotov, future successor...

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Did not Molotov state after the pact had been signed that 'fascism was a matter of taste'? Even as Nazi and Stalinist diplomats completed the final

trade papers, 'Cinema Today' and 'Weekly Kinema'.

There you will find an astounding panorama of vulgarity and money-grabbing.

Apart from the stills of 'motion picture premieres' showing not incidentally the actors or the directors, but the dinner-jacketed financiers and heads of film corporations posing glassy-eyed with their wives or starlets, you can thrill to the published box office returns of the latest epic, or read the penetrating reviews of latest releases assessed frankly and unashamedly in terms of their 'grossing potential'.

Each review ends with 'selfing points', meant to guide the trade from the point of view of promotion. The categories fall into Star, Title, Sex, Violence, Topicality etc, all of course hard-selling points.

So the work of creative people, whatever their talent, is reduced to the level of a dog food commercial.

'Adalen 31' is assessed as 'art house only'. Comrades should bang on their local cinema managers' doors and insist that 'Adalen 31' be shown.

All letters sent to the Workers Press describing the

details of the Pact (which above all allowed for the Nazi annexation of Poland and the release of German forces for war in the west) the International continued to churn out the old popular front, anti-Nazi line.

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position in the weeks following the signing of the Pact.

In neither case, support for the British ruling class or for Germany, was there an independent class line.

Though the new line on the war brought the CP into conflict with the British ruling class, it did not reflect a genuine turn to the left or a break from the thinking behind the popular front.

Stalin's diplomacy had changed the allies of the bureaucracy. British Party policy, after an internal conflict, followed suit.

This change of line can be traced very accurately in the Stalinist press of the period.

'Challenge' (YCL journal) for July 29, 1939:

'All of the world's young people understand how serious the times are. They see the need to stop Hitler's threat of aggression.'

'Daily Worker', August 19, 1939:

'New Nazi pact threatens Poland' [This Nazi pact was not the one being negotiated by Stalin for the partition of Poland, it was a pact projected between Hitler and the Nazi 'Protectorate' of Slovakia.]

'Daily Worker', August 21: [Two days before Stalin-Hitler Pact] 'Never has the need been more urgent for a great wave of popular pressure here in Britain to force the Chamberlain government to GET ON WITH THAT PACT.'

So up to August 23, 1939, the British Stalinists knew of two pacts, the one projected between Slovakia and Hitler and aimed against Poland, which they opposed, and another between Britain and the Soviet Union, which they supported.

All this, they believed, was in line with Stalin's popular front policy of supporting the anti-German imperialist powers.

Hitler Pact

News of the Pact between Stalin and Hitler on August 23, 1939, did not deflect the British Communist Party from its previous policy.

The 'Daily Worker' for that day attempted to present the Pact as an anti-Nazi blow struck by Stalin (the same argument used two days before to justify an anti-Hitler Pact between Chamberlain and Stalin).

The Pact was 'a demonstration before the world of the decisive power of the Soviet Union and of the results which can be achieved by a genuine stand against aggression.'

(Within a week Hitler's aggression against Poland had begun.)

'Challenge', under Gollan's leadership, took up this line on August 26:

'Let Chamberlain and Daladier fly to Moscow and open up direct conversations with the Soviet government...'

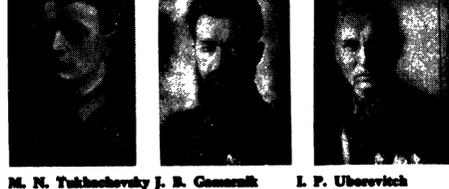
So the leaders of British and French imperialism were still invited to sign a Pact with Stalin, even after he had concluded a deal that would within days bring about war between the two imperialist camps!

The thoroughly opportunist leaders of the Party in Britain wanted it both ways.

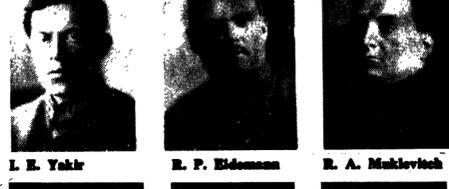
They wanted to serve Stalin by backing his Pact with Hitler, calling it a blow against fascist aggression, and at the same time, go on backing their own ruling class against Hitler as if nothing had changed.



A. I. Yegorov S. Ordzhonikidze S. S. Kamenev



M. N. Tukhachevsky J. R. Gamsakhurdia I. P. Uborevich



I. R. Yakir R. P. Eidemann R. A. Maklakov



J. I. Alkasin V. M. Orlov I. A. Khalopya

Stalin murdered thousands of Red Army chiefs (some seen above), in the years prior to Hitler's invasion.

If the British Communist Party had known the full terms of the Pact, they would not have been so eager to present it as a blow against Nazi aggression.

Its first section was made public at the time. The first article was the most important:

'Both High Contracting Parties obligate themselves to desist from any act of violence, any aggressive action, and any attack on each other, either individually or jointly with other powers.'

This gave the Nazis a free hand against Poland, the details of whose partition were set out in a secret protocol only revealed after the war (and never denied by the Kremlin).

'2. In the event of a territorial and political re-arrangement [of the areas belonging to the Polish State, the spheres of influence of Germany and the USSR shall be bounded approximately by the line of the rivers Narew, Vistula and San.'

Carve-up

Unaware of this plan to carve up Poland, the 'Daily Worker' of August 25 claimed: 'Poland can be saved!'

The next day, the same paper asserted 'under the hammer blows of the Soviet government, the Berlin-Tokyo-Rome Axis of fascism was yesterday visibly being broken to pieces.'

Things were moving in the entirely opposite direction. Protracted negotiations between Molotov (who visited

on the same day with the pledge: 'If fascism loses war upon



During the Soviet occupation of Poland the peasants (above) divided up the land. The bureaucracy was forced to extend the property relations of October 1917.

Ukrainian peasants (below) welcome the advancing columns of the Wehrmacht. 'liberation' were soon to be shattered by the fascist dictatorship. Trotsky wholeheartedly for an independent Soviet Ukraine. But... against Hitler we



Berlin to see Hitler) and the Nazis led to the drafting of an agreement between Stalin and the Axis, with the view of forming a four and not three power pact; with the Soviet Union as the fourth member.

'Article 3. Germany, Italy, Japan and the Soviet Union undertake to join no combination of powers which is directed at one of the Four Powers. The Four Powers will assist each other in economic matters in every way and will supplement and extend the agreements existing amongst themselves.'

In the same (August 26) issue of the 'Daily Worker', Pollitt wrote in his usual brash style, completely impervious to the contradictions of his Party's position:

'I have not the slightest idea of how long the talks have been going on, and care less.'

He then tries to link up Stalin's pact with Hitler to the purges in a way which comes very close to the truth:

'Spies'

'If the Soviet Union had not dealt so firmly with the spies, wreckers and Trotskyists, it would not now be in the position where Ribbentrop is compelled to fly to Moscow to sign a pact...'

But what was the main charge levelled against the Trotskyists in the Moscow Trials?

That they sought to come to power and sign a pact with Hitler.

Now that Stalin had done just this, the Trotskyists have to be presented as the opponents of such a policy, i.e. only when the opposition had been crushed could Stalin commit the ultimate betrayal of lining



The cynical carve-up of Poland was a political rearrangement of the areas between the USSR and Germany.

up the Soviet Union with the incarnation of anti-communism, the Nazi regime in Germany.

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Advertisement for Brian Moore, featuring the name 'Brian Moore' and the word 'Points' in large letters. The text is partially cut off on the left side of the page.



Backdrop to British Stalinism. From the top: Franco-Soviet Pact of May 1934 (Stalin and Lavali), Nazi-Soviet Pact of August 1939 (Stalin and Ribbentrop), Yalta Conference of February 1945 (Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt), and the General Secretary of the Party, Comrade Khrushchev.

position in the weeks following the signing of the Pact. In neither case, support for the British ruling class or for Germany, was there an independent class line.

Though the new line on the war brought the CP into conflict with the British ruling class, it did not reflect a genuine turn to the left or a break from the thinking behind the popular front.

Stalin's diplomacy had changed the allies of the bureaucracy. British Party policy, after an internal conflict, followed suit.

This change of line can be traced very accurately in the Stalinist press of the period.

'Challenge' (YCL journal) for July 29, 1939:

'All of the world's young people understand how serious the times are. They see the need to stop Hitler's threat of aggression.'

'Daily Worker', August 19, 1939:

'New Nazi pact threatens Poland' [This Nazi pact was not the one being negotiated by Stalin for the partition of Poland, it was a pact projected between Hitler and the Nazi 'Protectorate' of Slovakia.]

'Daily Worker', August 21: [Two days before Stalin-Hitler Pact] 'Never has the need been more urgent for a great wave of popular pressure here in Britain to force the Chamberlain government to GET ON WITH THAT PACT.'

So up to August 23, 1939, the British Stalinists knew of two pacts, the one projected between Slovakia and Hitler and aimed against Poland, which they opposed, and another between Britain and the Soviet Union, which they supported.

All this, they believed, was in line with Stalin's popular front policy of supporting the anti-German imperialist powers.

Hitler Pact

News of the Pact between Stalin and Hitler on August 23, 1939, did not deflect the British Communist Party from its previous policy.

The 'Daily Worker' for that day attempted to present the Pact as an anti-Nazi blow struck by Stalin (the same argument used two days before to justify an anti-Hitler Pact between Chamberlain and Stalin).

The Pact was 'a demonstration before the world of the decisive power of the Soviet Union and of the results which can be achieved by a genuine stand against aggression'.

(Within a week Hitler's aggression against Poland had begun.)

'Challenge', under Gollan's leadership, took up this line on August 26:

'Let Chamberlain and Daladier fly to Moscow and open up direct conversations with the Soviet government...'

So the leaders of British and French imperialism were still invited to sign a Pact with Stalin, even after he had concluded a deal that would within days bring about war between the two imperialist camps!

The thoroughly opportunist leaders of the Party in Britain wanted it both ways.

They wanted to serve Stalin by backing his Pact with Hitler, calling it a blow against fascist aggression, and at the same time, go on backing their own ruling class against Hitler as if nothing had changed.

If the British Communist Party had known the full terms of the Pact, they would not have been so eager to present it as a blow against Nazi aggression.

Its first section was made public at the time. The first article was the most important:

'Both High Contracting Parties obligate themselves to desist from any act of violence, any aggressive action, and any attack on each other, either individually or jointly with other powers.'

This gave the Nazis a free hand against Poland, the details of whose partition were set out in a secret protocol only revealed after the war (and never denied by the Kremlin).

'2. In the event of a territorial and political re-arrangement [!] of the areas belonging to the Polish State, the spheres of influence of Germany and the USSR shall be bounded approximately by the line of the rivers Narew, Vistula and San.'

Carve-up

Unaware of this plan to carve up Poland, the 'Daily Worker' of August 25 claimed: 'Poland can be Saved.'

The next day, the same paper asserted 'under the hammer blows of the Soviet government, the Berlin-Tokyo-Rome Axis of fascism was yesterday visibly being broken to pieces.'

Things were moving in the entirely opposite direction. Protracted negotiations between Molotov (who visited



The cynical carve-up of Poland was agreed. The Stalin-Hitler Pact read: 'In the event of territorial or political rearrangement of the areas belonging to the Polish state, the spheres of influence of Germany and the USSR shall be bounded approximately by the line of the rivers Narew, Vistula and San.'

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On September 9, 1939, 'Challenge' was still calling it 'a war loosed upon the world by Hitler and the Nazis.'

Its anti-German line became even more strident:

'There is no-one who does not feel a thrill of pride in the people of Britain today... Dominant in the minds of everyone is the thought that fascism must be defeated... Today we march to finally destroy fascism. No-one flinches from the task.'

On November 4, a month after the Party had swung behind the new Kremlin line that Britain and France were the aggressors, and not Hitler, Gollan now wrote the following about the 'victim' [of] brutal Nazi aggression' in an article entitled 'Stop the War Now':

'The case of Poland cannot be compared with that of Czechoslovakia, China or other victims of Nazi aggression... In 1939, Poland is attacked again. Who fired the first shot makes no difference to the fact that it is an imperialist war. An end to the war now means a victory for the progressive forces [previously the defeat of Hitler meant just the same thing].'

Then Gollan used the very arguments employed by Chamberlain after Munich to justify the annexation of Poland by Hitler:

'That peace will or will not strengthen Hitler by the addition of more territory is simply not the issue. The reality of the situation is not the restoration of the old Polish state, not an ideological crusade against Hitlerism. These are simply excuses for continuing the war... Reality and the interests of the people demand an end to the war now and an immediate peace conference.' (Our emphasis.)

Earlier, on October 7, Gollan's YCL had called for the acceptance of Hitler's 'peace' proposals, which, of course, included the continued occupation of Poland and Czechoslovakia by Nazi forces:

Peace proposals

'Think it over — because we've got the chance to end the war before it has really started [Warsaw lay in ruins, with thousands dead or in concentration camps]. The chance of a lifetime... Peace proposals are talked of following the recent German-Soviet agreement. The war in East Europe has been brought to an end by the strength and initiative of the Soviet Union [and the Nazi Panzer Units].'

'To continue the war under these conditions is now a deadly menace to the peoples of all countries.'

The 'Daily Worker' was just as cynical.

From its 'Warsaw cries for aid in her agony' (September 25), the paper swung behind the Hitler peace plan on September 30:

'Peace offer to Europe... To talk of war to the end, which means the slaughter of the youth of Europe, would be sheer madness.'

The position of the Fourth International on the defence of the USSR arose out of the anti-Soviet witch-hunt following



During the Soviet occupation of Poland the peasants (above) divided up the lands of the Polish nobility. The bureaucracy was forced to extend the property relations of October into its conquered territories.

Ukrainian peasants (below) welcome the advancing columns of the Wehrmacht. However, these illusions of 'liberation' were soon to be shattered by the fascist dictatorship. Trotsky wrote: 'We are completely and wholeheartedly for an independent Soviet Ukraine. But... against Hitler we will defend this Ukraine enslaved by Stalin.'



Berlin to see Hitler) and the Nazis led to the drafting of an agreement between Stalin and the Axis, with the view of forming a four and not three power pact; with the Soviet Union as the fourth member.

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'Spies'

'If the Soviet Union had not dealt so firmly with the spies, wreckers and Trotskyists, it would not now be in the position where Ribbentrop is compelled to fly to Moscow to sign a pact...'

But what was the main charge levelled against the Trotskyists in the Moscow Trials?

That they sought to come to power and sign a pact with Hitler.

Now that Stalin had done just this, the Trotskyists have to be presented as the opponents of such a policy, i.e. only when the opposition had been crushed could Stalin commit the ultimate betrayal of lining

the world, the YCL fully supports the policy of the CP, which declares it will do all in its power to ensure a speedy victory over fascism.'

But the Soviet bureaucracy did not want a speedy victory over fascism! It wanted a Nazi victory over Poland, and if necessary over France and Britain.

The British Party was soon to be made aware of this brutal fact.

Even as late as September 23, Gollan stuck to the popular front line of backing British imperialism and its allies against Germany:

'Poland has fallen victim to brutal Nazi aggression [sanctioned by the Pact with Stalin]. Nazi aggression must be defeated by all the resources of the British people and the peoples of the Empire.'

That was Gollan on September 23, 1939.

the signing of the Stalin-Hitler pact.

Middle-class intellectuals such as Schachtman had been prepared to defend the Soviet Union while its ruling bureaucracy allied itself with 'democratic opinion' in the USA and other imperialist states ranged against Germany.

All the purges of the opposition had not provoked a revision of Trotsky's thesis that the Soviet Union was a degenerated workers' state.

With the shift in Soviet diplomacy away from the USA towards Nazi Germany, Schachtman and others in and around the Trotskyist movement bent to 'democratic opinion' by not only rejecting the pact but the defence of the Soviet Union as well.

Schachtman was never able to explain how diplomacy changed property relations (though it could certainly jeopardize them).

Trotsky insisted that the Second World War was an imperialist war insofar as it involved a clash between the imperialist interests of the two major groupings.

Clash

But when and where the Soviet Union clashed with either of the two groups of imperialist powers, or capitalist states controlled by them, the nature of the war was determined by the socialist property relations in the Soviet Union, and the Fourth International (as we have already proved in the quotations) stood and fought for the victory of the Red Army in such clashes.

Unlike Stalin, the Fourth International pursued a class line; both before the war and throughout it, both before and after the Nazi invasion of the USSR.

At no time between 1939



Demoralized and decapitated by Stalin's purge of the Red Army, thousands of Soviet troops in Finland were either captured, or died from hunger and cold when supply lines were cut in 22 below zero weather during Kemi River battle.



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Stalin murdered thousands of Red Army chiefs (some seen above), in the years prior to Hitler's invasion.

B.B.C.-1

9.15 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 12.25 p.m. Apna Hi Ghar Samajhiye. 12.55 Maes A Mor. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News and Weatherman. 2.05-2.50 Schools. 3.45 Representing The Union. 4.20 Play School. 4.55 The Singing, Ringing Tree. 5.15 Wild World. 5.44 Babar. 5.50 National News and Weather.

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8.50 The Main News and Weather.

9.10 The Wednesday Play: 'All Out For Kangaroo Valley'.

10.20 24 Hours.

10.50 Association Football.

10.40 Weatherman.

All regions as BBC1 except at the following times:

Midlands and East Anglia: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Midlands Today, Look East,



Weather, Nationwide. 11.42 News Summary, Weather.

North of England: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Look North. Weather, Nationwide. 11.42 Northern News Headlines, Weather.

Wales: 10.25-10.45 a.m. Dysgu Cymraeg. 6.00-6.45 p.m. Wales Today. Nationwide. 6.45-7.10 Heddidi. 9.00-9.05 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of Plaid Cymru. 9.05-9.10 Clive Lythgoe plays Gershwyn.

Scotland: 2.30-2.50 p.m. Modern Studies. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. 10.50-11.05 Sportsreel. 11.05-11.20 Made In Britain. 11.20 Epilogue. Scottish News Headlines, Weather.

Northern Ireland: 10.25-10.45 a.m. For Schools. 6.00-6.45 Scene Around Six. Nationwide, Weather. 11.42 Northern Ireland News Headlines, Weather.

South and West: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Points West. South Today. Spotlight South-West. Weather, Nationwide. 8.50-9.00 The Main News. 9.00-9.05 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of Plaid Cymru. 9.05-9.10 Clive Lythgoe plays Gershwyn. 11.42 News Headlines, Weather.

B.B.C.-2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School. 7.00 a.m. Expecting A Baby. 7.30 Newsroom, Weather. 8.00 Man Alive. 8.50 Know Your Onions. 9.10 Rowan and Martin. 10.00 Peter Sarstedt. 10.30 Man Of Two Worlds. 11.20 News Summary, Weather. 11.25 Line-Up

All regions as above except Wales: 8.50 p.m. John Glynne Rides Again. 9.00 A Party Political Broadcast on behalf of Plaid Cymru. 9.05 Gustavus. 9.10 as London network.

I.T.V.

11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.35 p.m. Schools. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Tingha and Ticker Club. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 News. 6.00 Calendar. 6.30 Hogan's Heroes. 7.00 Joker's Wild. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Saint. 9.00 Special Branch. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Sez Les. 11.00 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 Late Weather.

5.50 News From ITN. 6.03 Today. 6.35 The Saint. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 It Takes A Thief. 9.00 Special Branch. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Sez Les. 11.00 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 The Papers. 12 midnight Miscellany.

Yorkshire

11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Paulist. 4.30 Survival. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today At Six. 6.30 Police Call. 6.35 Castle Haven. 7.00 The Legend Of Jesse James. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Saint. 9.00 Special Branch. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Face The Press. Li-Col Colin Mitchell. 11.00 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 Late News Extra. 12.02 a.m. 'Doubting Your Doubts'.

10.58-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.38-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.05 Katie Stewart Cooks. 4.30 Anglia Newsroom. 4.35 The Romper Room. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 News. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Survival. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Adventurers. 9.00 Special Branch. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Sez Les. 11.00 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 Reflection.

Tyne Tees

11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.09 North East Newsroom. 4.11 News Headlines. 4.13 Torchy. 4.30 Freud On Food. 4.53 North East Newsroom. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today At Six. 6.30 Police Call. 6.35 Castle Haven. 7.00 The Legend Of Jesse James. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Saint. 9.00 Special Branch. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Face The Press. Li-Col Colin Mitchell. 11.00 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 Late News Extra. 12.02 a.m. 'Doubting Your Doubts'.

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Anglia

11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.01 Hatty Town. 4.13 Westward News Headlines. 4.15 Open House. 4.41 The Gus Honeybun Show. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 National News. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure Hunt. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Saint. 9.00 Special Branch. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Sez Les. 11.00 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 Faith For Life. 11.51 Weather.

Grampian

11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.20 Scotland Early. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 National News. 6.00 Scotland Now. 6.35 Peyton Place. 7.30 Survival. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Baron. 8.55 Police News. 9.00 Special Branch. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Scotland. 11.00 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 Late Call.

Westward

11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.01 Hatty Town. 4.13 Westward News Headlines. 4.15 Open House. 4.41 The Gus Honeybun Show. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 National News. 6.00 Westward Diary. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure Hunt. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Saint. 9.00 Special Branch. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Sez Les. 11.00 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 Faith For Life. 11.51 Weather.

Scottish

11.00-11.57 a.m. Schools. 1.40-2.55 p.m. Schools. 4.20 Scotland Early. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Lift Off. 5.20 Sexton Blake. 5.50 National News. 6.00 Scotland Now. 6.35 Peyton Place. 7.30 Survival. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Baron. 8.55 Police News. 9.00 Special Branch. 10.00 News At Ten. 10.30 Scotland. 11.00 Professional Wrestling. 11.45 Late Call.

'Interchangeability' behind pay offer

Building workers face hard 'no strings' fight

BUILDING EMPLOYERS have been told by leaders of the industry's three main unions that their 'final' offer for a pay and productivity deal covering one million workers is unacceptable.

Work to rule could shut off electricity

POWER STATIONS could be shut down this week as electricity supply workers continue their overtime ban and work-to-rule which started on Monday.

The power workers' action is in support of a wage claim affecting 150,000 men.

They are demanding a 20 per cent wage increase, an extra week's holiday and more pay for shift-work.

An employers' offer of a 6 per cent increase has already been rejected by union leaders.

The action will be stepped up on Friday when power workers are expected to lobby talks between employers and unions.

National threat

Leaders of the four unions in the industry have told the generating boards that official action will be taken throughout the country if the claim is not conceded.

Birmingham power workers have already called for a one-day strike to press the claim.

Scottish steelworks halted

RESTRICTED working by 250 workers could close down the British Steel Corporation's steelworks at Ravenscraig, Lanarkshire.

The men, members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, restricted normal working in the basic oxygen steel-making shop and slabbing mill and halted steel production at the weekend.

Their action, against the advice of union officials, follows the rejection of a wage claim.

The management has refused to allow the departments to operate under restricted working and has advised the men to work normally or go home.

Nickel strike causes world metal crisis

INDUSTRY in the advanced capitalist countries is now facing one of its gravest raw-materials crises since the end of the war.

Protracted strikes at the Canadian nickel mines, which are largely responsible for world supplies of the metal, have reduced the flow of nickel to almost nil and have begun to imperil factory production in vital industries.

In Britain, government departments, nickel suppliers and the Confederation of British Industry are now keeping in daily touch.

Nickel is a versatile alloying element and is one of the few metals untreated by substitutes. The most common application is as an additive to steels to increase strength and toughness.

Nickel steel is vital in aircraft engines and, since the Korean war, has been increasingly specified by industry for its products and components.

CUT BACK

The prospect is that over the coming months car manufacturers will start cutting down on chromium-plated trim, perhaps painting bumper blades.

Process plant contractors are considering delaying their installation programmes; refineries will have to reduce

The new deal would give them major productivity concessions and tie workers to minimum earnings increases of only £3 10s. over the next three years.

It was scheduled for signing last weekend.

Delegate conferences of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Building Trades Union over the last few weeks, however, have come out overwhelmingly for the rejection of the deal.

Offer

In return for clauses guaranteeing 'interchangeability of labour', abolishing the industry's present disputes procedure and introducing unspecified 'new principles for incentive schemes', the employers are offering craftsmen a basic wage of £16 11s. 8d. rising to £18 2s. in November 1971.

Labourers would get £14 1s. 8d. rising to £15 8s. Craftsmen's minimum earnings would be £17 11s. 8d. now and £20 2s. in 1971.

The labourers' minimum would be £14 8s. 8d. going up to £17 2s.

But the employers only intend these minimum figures for those not earning bonuses. Overtime and bonus earnings would thus be calculated according to basic rates and not the minimum earnings level.

At the last of the seven woodworkers' delegate conferences, held in London last weekend, a unanimous call for rejection of the offer was linked to demands for a £20 minimum plus 33 per cent bonuses by February next year.

Mereside building workers are holding a mass meeting tomorrow week to launch a campaign for a £20 basic wage for 40 hours.

Hard line

Faced with shrinking order-books and the probability of a difficult winter the employers seem determined to take a hard line against such demands.

Encouraged by the example of the miners and the dustmen, however, building workers are certainly preparing to fight back.

But the lessons of last year's sell-out over the cost-of-living 'penny' must be learned.

The union leaders would like to concentrate solely on the inadequacy of the pay offer and leave out of account the strings' the employers want to impose.

Such an approach would be highly dangerous.



The employers' offer has been thrown out and some building workers are now demanding a £20 basic.

Glasgow dustmen return

GLASGOW DUSTMEN have returned to work following an agreement on a pay increase tied to productivity similar to the deal negotiated by the Scottish Commercial Motormen's Union (SCMU) in Edinburgh a fortnight ago.

From M. Shaw

The SCMU also led the negotiations in Glasgow, although the men on strike were mostly General and Municipal Workers' Union members, who were in opposition to the national award agreed at the National Joint Industrial Council.

This means increases of approximately 33s. per week.

To be decided

The SCMU agreement would mean a 33s. 4d. increase plus 24s. productivity bonus. SCMU are also claiming a 7s. differential for drivers.

The agreement between SCMU and Glasgow Corporation has still to be endorsed—or otherwise—by the Department of Employment and Productivity.

Mr Alex Kitson, SCMU general secretary, has stated that no redundancies would result from the productivity agreement.

'Should the DEP put a freeze on this increase we will just sit back and wait. After all, we have nothing to worry about. The rise is being backdated from September 29', he said.

Glasgow dustmen must continue the struggle to build a new leadership in both the SCMU and G&MWU which will unite in action around the programme of the All Trades Unions Alliance.

72,000 communists in Indonesian prisons

ACCORDING to Antara, the Indonesian News Agency, about 72,000 Communists are still held in detention there.

Chief of Staff General Maraden Panggabean was quoted by the Agency as saying that all the imprisoned Communists were arrested at the time of the 1965 coup.

Under the military dictatorship which came to power following the collapse of the left-wing coup, at least half a million communists were murdered.

Luton stewards

● FROM PAGE ONE

West Cheshire district committee about a disciplinary memorandum circulating in the plant.

They see this as yet another move to force acceptance of the productivity deal.

DIRECT ATTACK

Mr David Hegland, Vauxhall's £65,000-a-year US chairman, has also opened up a direct attack—claiming that 'a handful of Northerners, including Communists, Trotskyites and leftists' are preventing men from returning to

Australian Tory premier challenged

By a political correspondent

DAVID FAIRBAIRN, Minister for National Development in the outgoing Liberal-Country Party cabinet under Prime Minister Gorton, announced on Sunday that he would contest the election for the Party leadership.

Fairbairn had earlier made it known that he would not serve in a government headed by Gorton, whom many lead-

ing Australian Tories blame for their party's poor showing in the recent general elections.

The elections for Party leader, and therefore for Prime Minister, are due to take place on Friday.

It remains to be seen how far the revolt has spread from the ranks into the leadership.

Taft-Hartley threat in General-Electric strike

DESPITE a court of appeal ruling that its bargaining methods were unfair, the General Electric company, the fourth largest combine in the US, refused to back down over its 'take it or leave it' offer to the trade unions.

The strike of its 147,000 workers is now in its second week, and there have already been clashes between pickets

and non-union blacklegs. Some of GE's plants are very poorly organized and the company claims that work is proceeding normally in its aerospace and computer sections.

GE managed to nullify the adverse court ruling by announcing that it would appeal to the United States Supreme Court, a move that could postpone a final ruling for at least months and most likely several years.

Right now the battle is being fought out on the picket lines.

Nixon has stated that he will invoke the Taft-Hartley Act if the strike threatens the production of essential war materials—a development that seems quite probable if there is no rapid climb down by either the unions or GE.

Westinghouse moves to invest in France

Workers' Press correspondent

WESTINGHOUSE have now joined Ford in the scramble to take advantage of the new French government's change

of policy towards US investment in France.

Westinghouse's 20 million dollar European investment programme hinges largely on the success of its negotiations with the French government over its purchase of the £60 million electrical firm Jeumont-Schneider.

Clinched soon

Latest reports on the talks indicate that the deal could be clinched before the end of the year.

Other firms on Westinghouse's shopping-list include the Belgian firm ACEC.

This latest deal will equip Westinghouse to take on its main rivals in Europe, who include not only another US firm, General Electric (currently hit by a national strike) but the Weinstock GEC-EEA combine and the new

LATIN AMERICA

Nixon warns of massive aid cuts



President Nixon

By Robert Black

LAST WEEK'S speech by Nixon on the subject of overseas aid indicated the real depth of the crisis in the US economy.

Kennedy's 'Alliance for Progress' is now in ruins.

'I offer no grandiose promises and no panaceas', Nixon declared. 'For years in the United States we have pursued the illusion that we could remake continents... but experience has taught us that is not so.'

Neither did Nixon make any concrete offers of aid. Instead he warned the ruling classes of Latin America that they were now on their own:

TRADITIONS

'We have learnt that economic and social development is not the product of one nation, but something profoundly rooted in the traditions of each country.'

The US ruling class does not lightly make such decisions.

Much of its wealth is concentrated in Latin American regimes dependent on US military and economic 'aid' for survival.

But as in the case of Vietnam, the sheer depth of the crisis in the US economy, with inflation eating away at profit rates and the value of the dollar, forces Nixon to consider a change of tactics.

Recent strikes in Argentina and unrest in several other states have underlined the highly unstable nature of nearly all the Latin American regimes.

The sharpening of the class struggle in the United States will help to create the conditions for building revolution and was promptly suspended from publication.

The rumour originated from a proposal by Tran Van Don, engineer of the 1963 coup which overthrew Ngo Dinh Diem, that a Third Force' government should take power after the departure of the US troops.

Panic in Saigon over U.S. split

THE SPLIT in the US ruling class over Vietnam continues to create panic in the ranks of the Saigon regime.

The new strategy of 'Vietnamization' which, it is intended, will replace the US war effort, has created a rift within ruling circles around President Thieu.

As leader of the puppet regime, Thieu has proposed an 'austerity' plan, involving a check on government and army corruption.

Those most deeply involved in the numerous rackets based upon the flood of US military 'aid' are now anxious about Thieu's anti-corruption drive, designed to whip up popular support for the regime as the US troops depart, does not undermine their own positions of wealth and power.

Panic buying

It was also reported over the weekend that panic-buying has begun in Saigon.

One daily paper reported rumours of an impending coup and was promptly suspended from publication.

The rumour originated from a proposal by Tran Van Don, engineer of the 1963 coup which overthrew Ngo Dinh Diem, that a Third Force' government should take power after the departure of the US troops.

N.L.F. delegation in Moscow

THE HEAD of the South Vietnam National Liberation Front, Nguyen Huu Tho, arrived in Moscow on Monday for extensive talks with the Soviet government.

The NLF delegation is expected to stay in the Soviet Union for at least two weeks. Important issues are obviously being discussed, though official reports have not yet indicated the object of the visit.

Young Socialists
GRAND XMAS BAZAAR
Saturday, Nov. 29
Canning Town Public Hall

doors open 12 noon
Can you sew? knit? paint?
make something for our Bazaar?
give something towards our bazaar?
Have you a tin of grocery? jumble?
Help us make this the best bazaar ever held!
Help us raise the money for our daily paper—
THE WORKERS' PRESS

Firemen

● FROM PAGE ONE
mittee, commented that 'the London men's grievance has not yet been settled' and warned that action might be taken in the future.

The deal is estimated to give London men £4 10s. extra a week and provincial firemen £3 10s. increase of some 10 per cent.

Basic rates, however, are up only 4 per cent—the rest being made up by the payment at premium rates of two hours of the men's 48-hour week and of the extra eight-hour 'bonus' shift.

This does not meet the requirements of the London men, who want a two-hour reduction in their week.

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