

As monopolists scream for more attacks

Prepare for Tory war on unions

By the Editor

THE REAL PURPOSE of Barber's budget—the most vicious in post-war history—is not to reflate the economy, but to lay the basis for the implementation of the anti-union laws in the Spring, restore profit rates in industry and enter the Common Market as soon as possible.

In anticipation of such an onslaught the City went delirious.

'Prices of leading industrial shares,' said the 'Sun' reporter, 'soared last night after news of the tax cuts reached the city.'

'Dealers' switchboards were jammed with calls from would-be buyers—even after the Stock Exchange had closed for the night.'

'The budget,' said 'The Guardian,' 'did wonders for Conservative and business morale.'

Not since the election triumph in June had anything quite like this been seen.

Leered

No wonder Barber smiled and Heath leered while Labour back-benchers hurled obscenities at them in the chamber!

No wonder then that Rippon and Common Market negotiators agreed to speed up the negotiations and dropped some of the objections to British entry. (See page four story, col. 9.)

And no wonder too that the Tories and the National Coal Board were prepared to postpone a showdown with the miners at this crucial hour for a mere £38 million (less than half of the original claim)!

Those who wish to crow about the miners' wage increase as a 'great victory' would do well to ponder on the chastening thought that 25% of the £3 a week increase at least will be swallowed up by Barber's budget.

We confidently predict that nothing at all will be left after Barber's spring budget.

Rubbing hands

The Tories and their big business friends and backers are rubbing their hands at the prospect of a massive increase in unemployment, not to mention the impoverishment and material and spiritual degradation of countless workers and their families which this budget is bound to entail.

The cut in income tax for workers, when considered against the prospective increase in food prices, rents, school meals and prescription charges amounts to a gratuitous insult.

And yet this is not enough to save big business from collapse.

The City Editor of 'The Daily Telegraph', for example, is completely dissatisfied with the size of the Barber axe.

'In economic terms yesterday's autumn budget is a non-event, with the particular goodies—income tax and Corporation tax cuts—already gobbled up in yesterday's nine-point rise in the Financial Times index...'

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BY STEPHEN JOHNS

They also opposed any delay by their union in achieving parity with miners in areas like Kent and Nottinghamshire under the National Power Loading Agreement.

After this decisive rejection to the Robens offer the Scottish area council may ask miners to vote against acceptance.

This, said NUM secretary Lawrence Daly in an interview with the Workers Press yesterday, would be unconstitutional in the strict sense, since it went against the national executive's own advice to accept the offer.

Not disciplined

But he added that under the 'new liberal regime' in the union, area councils who did recommend against acceptance would not be taken to task.

Presumably therefore in places like S. Wales, Kent, Yorkshire and, of course, Scotland, the area leadership could ask their members to vote against the Board's offer of £3 and £2 7s 6d in place of the demanded £5.

At Tuesday's national talks the NUM national executive voted by 13 to 11 for acceptance.

But this, said Mr Daly, did not indicate that the 11 were in favour of area official strikes.

A tougher Scottish motion asking the NEC to sanction strikes in areas where miners had voted by a simple majority for withdrawal of labour, attracted only six votes, plus the support of Mr Daly, who has no vote.

Mick McGahey, Scottish miners' president, two Communist NEC members from Yorkshire, Dai Francis, general secretary of the Welsh miners, and Joe Burke from Kent all voted to sanction strike action.

'But as a whole the NEC voted against the resolution decisively showing they could not agree to localized strikes—though I myself was prepared to support these and made this clear.'

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The vote follows employers' refusal to pay a 15 per cent wage claim from the powerful IG-Metall trade union.

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Lynch's future hangs on wage freeze policy

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BY A
CORRESPONDENT

Haughey may well take over the government.

In the background of the crisis are Ireland's worst economic troubles since the war.

Thousands of workers have pushed up their wages through militant action and there are big wage demands in the pipeline.

Lynch's Prices and Incomes Act is a feeble attempt to stem the tide of working-class struggle.

At the same time, unemployment is rising as industrial development stagnates.

Unresolved

The fighting in N Ireland has raised once again the unresolved question of unifying Ireland, posing Lynch with further problems.

His government, based on subservience to British imperialist domination in Ireland, is breaking up under the combined hammer-blows of the working class and its dependent economic position.

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Five-power force East of Suez

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Provision of a submarine is also under consideration.

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The extra cost of such a force would be between £5 million and £10 million.

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But the conditions under which they return—similar to those in other boroughs which have conceded the pay demand—need to be very critically examined by strikers.

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Although the winning of the 55s at Tower Hamlets is a victory, especially against a council prepared to call in troops to scab, a return to work opens up the danger of leaving those remaining on strike without a similar gain.

This, when added to the tactics, can open the way to confusion at the critical time now when a sell-out could be attempted on the basis of the inquiry's findings.

It is high time the union leaders abandoned the sectional strikes and instructed all its members to come out on an indefinite strike.

Despite efforts by union leaders to freeze the council workers' dispute while the Scamp inquiry is on, more men in the North and in the W Country came out yesterday.

Nearly 500 BLACKPOOL corporation workers today staged a one-day strike in support of the pay demand halting work on the dismantling of the illuminations.

Hundreds of them demonstrated outside the town hall as councillors arrived for their monthly meeting, then packed the public gallery to hear the council discuss the dispute.

In BRISTOL 300 workers at Bristol University came out in sympathy with the 5,500 council workers on strike in the city. They included porters, kitchen staff and cooks.

PORTSMOUTH corporation have asked the unions to consider an offer of an extra £2 a week as an interim basis for the strikers returning to work pending a national settlement.

'We are backed by the best part of the citizens of Oxford,' he said.

And this was fully borne out by the march itself.

In fact there was considerable support not only for the demonstrators' 'What do we want—55 shillings!' slogan, but also

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October Fund: Two days to go and £308 1s 4d to raise

WE ARE relying very much on a last-minute effort by all our readers to complete the fund.

We are sure you feel, as we do, even more determined to maintain the six-day paper in the face of the new proposals by the Tories ruthlessly to cut the social services and increase the cost of living.

Time however, is running out. There are now only two days left and there is still over £300 to find. It will need a big sacrifice from all our readers if we are to complete the total on time.

We are sure you will not let us down. But don't leave it too late. Post all donations immediately to:

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

TUC still holds back union law opposition

BY DAVID MAUDE

A PARALYSIS, which not even Tory Chancellor Anthony Barber has so far succeeded in shaking, grips the leaders of Britain's 10,000,000-strong organized labour movement.

Trade union general secretaries are being advised by the Trades Union Congress to oppose all unofficial action against the Tories' proposed Industrial Relations Bill.

One-day

In a letter which yesterday's TUC General Council meeting unanimously agreed, affiliates are strongly advised 'not to support in any way the activities of unofficial bodies who may be arranging conferences or demonstrations or recommending stoppages of work.'

'We're making for unity—unity of action', TUC general secretary Victor Feather told journalists later.

Unity of what action?

No date

The TUC is organizing a one-day conference on November 12 for executive representatives from all 149 unions in membership 'for the purpose of discussing the campaign'.

It is arranging a series of regional conferences the first of which will take place in December and the rest not until next year.

Trades Councils who are already arranging meetings on the Bill are advised not to hold them until early next year.

And there is still no date set for the special congress already decided by the General Council.

This will now probably not take place until mid-March.

Even the 'national demonstration' arranged for the Albert Hall—capacity only 6,000—on January 12 is to involve no stoppage of work.

Stipulations to be included in the 'demonstration' is to be in the evening.

Feather claimed yesterday that there was no discussion at the General Council meeting about the December 8 one-day stoppage—a crushing indictment of the council's so-called 'lefts'.

And when asked if the TUC would in the future consider

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Attempt to bring all Croydon out

STRIKING CROYDON council workers marched through the shopping centre yesterday.

At a mass meeting afterwards they voted to call out all Croydon council manual workers in support of their claim for 55s an hour.

Stewards undertook to clear this with the three unions concerned by 5 p.m.

The stewards reported that at a meeting with the council committee on Tuesday evening they had been told there would be no local offer.

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talking about a minimum rate of £20.

'Robens seized on this and said he would consider it if we recommended acceptance of the offer to the men.'

'To get cash to pay the increase Robens asked if the NPLA parity agreement could be postponed for a year until

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The 500,000 Baden-Wuerttemberg workers are the first to vote in favour of a strike.

IG-Metall, however, has said it will call further negotiations before calling a strike.

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Despite unanimous Fianna Fail support for his new Prices and Incomes Act, designed to hold down wages, three of his 73 Fianna Fail supporters in the Dail have said they will vote against Lynch in a confidence motion to be voted shortly.

The Fianna Fail has a majority of six, and if the three rebel MPs vote against the confidence motion, Lynch will be forced to resign.

His chief rival for the Fianna Fail leadership, Charles Haughey, was recently acquitted on a gun-running charge. If Lynch goes,

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Concede

'It must immediately be conceded,' he said.

In both the council workers' strike and the mini-budget, the Tories had chosen to take on the very lowest paid of the working class.

'This is why car workers are giving you every possible support in your fully-justified claim,' said Power.

United

The political trend was such today that workers had to be more united than ever, Transport and General Workers' 5/55 car branch secretary Tony Bradley told the meeting.

'Fifty-five shillings is not enough,' he said. 'It should be more than doubled.'

George Green criticized the fact that some Oxford council employees are still working—only T&GWU members have been called out so far—but drew attention to the widespread support for their case in the town.

Backed

'We are backed by the best part of the citizens of Oxford,' he said.

And this was fully borne out by the march itself. In fact there was considerable support not only for the demonstrators' 'What do we want—55 shillings!' slogan, but also

• PAGE FOUR COL. 4

October Fund: Two days to go and £308 1s 4d to raise

WE ARE relying very much on a last-minute effort by all our readers to complete the fund.

We are sure you feel, as we do, even more determined to maintain the six-day paper in the face of the new proposals by the Tories ruthlessly to cut the social services and increase the cost of living.

Time however, is running out. There are now only two days left and there is still over £300 to find. It will need a big sacrifice from all our readers if we are to complete the total on time.

We are sure you will not let us down. But don't leave it too late. Post all donations immediately to:

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

TUC still holds back union law opposition

BY DAVID MAUDE

A PARALYSIS, which not even Tory Chancellor Anthony Barber has so far succeeded in shaking, grips the leaders of Britain's 10,000,000-strong organized labour movement.

Trade union general secretaries are being advised by the Trades Union Congress to oppose all unofficial action against the Tories' proposed Industrial Relations Bill.

One-day

In a letter which yesterday's TUC General Council meeting unanimously agreed, affiliates are strongly advised 'not to support in any way the activities of unofficial bodies who may be arranging conferences or demonstrations or recommending stoppages of work.'

'We're making for unity—unity of action,' TUC general secretary Victor Feather told journalists later.

Unity of what action?

No date

The TUC is organizing a one-day conference on November 12 for executive representatives from all 149 unions in membership for the purpose of discussing the campaign.

It is arranging a series of regional conferences the first of which will take place in December and the rest not until next year.

Trades Councils who are already arranging meetings on the Bill are advised not to hold them until early next year.

And there is still no date set for the special congress already decided by the General Council.

This will now probably not take place until mid-March. Even the 'national' demonstration arranged for the Albert Hall—capacity only 6,000—on January 12 is to involve no stoppage of work.

There is to be no march. The 'demonstration' is to be in the nature of a sit-in.

Feather claimed yesterday that there was no discussion at the General Council meeting about the December 8 one-day stoppage—a crushing indictment of the council's so-called 'unity of action'.

And when asked if the TUC would in the future consider

• PAGE FOUR COL. 7

Attempt to bring all Croydon out

STRIKING CROYDON council workers marched through the shopping centre yesterday.

At a mass meeting afterwards they voted to call out all Croydon council manual workers in support of their claim for 55s an hour.

Stewards undertook to clear this with the three unions concerned by p.m. The stewards reported that at a meeting with the council committee on Tuesday evening they had been told there would be no local offer.

The council has been informed that there will be no emergency work of any description carried out by strikers.

This means there will be no more clearing of 'health hazard' piles of rubbish and in the case of frost, no gritting of any roads.

BLMC conference off

A WORKS conference called by British-Leyland's Morris Motors Cowley, Oxford, management to discuss introduction of Measured-Day Work was called off indefinitely yesterday.

The unions involved abandoned the conference after a boycott by Transport and General Workers' stewards.

The T&GWU 5/55 branch issued a statement to explain the boycott.

While accepting that the terms of the Morris 1000 dispute return-to-work formula

agreed by national trade union officers at York included a statement that a works conference would be held as soon as possible, the stewards insisted that they could not accept that the company could push aside all the references that their members have had in procedure for many months.

It cites five references waiting for attention at works conference level and 39 references outstanding at the works manager and branch levels of procedure.

DEP prepares attack on telecommunications jobs

A ROUTINE meeting of Post Office Workers' Union leaders in London today is expected to discuss a 14-per-cent pay offer which could have far-reaching implications for telecommunications workers throughout Britain. The proposed increase, which the Post Office says is its 'final' offer, is for overseas telegraphists at London's Electra House cable headquarters.

Last year, the OTOs struck for several weeks over—among other things—the GPO's refusal to make a productivity payment for reactivation of the automatic message relay system OTRU.

The GPO now claims to have 'costed' OTRU, and is offering exactly the same money rejected before the strike. Meanwhile, one Electra House militant told Workers Press earlier this week, 'the productivity package is going helter-skelter'. BERNARD FRANKS today analyses the implications of this package.



ELECTRA HOUSE, LONDON

A STRING of meetings and committee reports organized in the form of an inquiry by the Department of Employment on aspects of the Overseas Telegraphs section of the Post Office has resulted in proposals for major attacks on jobs in all sections.

This is no surprise. Realizing that developments in the science of communications—including automation—could lead to the winding-up of a large number of jobs, the DEP used its examination of the 1969 overseas telegraph operators' dispute as an excuse to recommend the latest productivity measures.

This is a first step towards reducing the work force at Electra House, the international telegraph centre in London.

The DEP report was published in secrecy and discussed privately between management and unions. A leading union member who published the report for the benefit of his members was warned by the management and harshly disciplined by his union.

The fact that absolutely nothing has been done about the complaints of the workers involved shows that the inquiry was a fraud, simply aimed at getting inside information on working methods to enable productivity schemes to be put into operation.

Workers' complaints to the DEP were of bad conditions (especially poor ventilation in offices), excessive overtime, low pay, poor training, harsh discipline and arrogant management.

The DEP was told that workers were on a duty system which could give a man up to 32 different immediate bosses within a year.

Men were transferred from place to place with no proper

consultation, and overtime had progressed from heavy to excessive owing to the shortage of trained operators. (On May 1, 1969, there was a deficiency of 846 OTOs in the operations rooms which had an authorized complement of 3,643.)

The report found that the basic pay of the main grade of OTOs was £19 3s 6d for a 43-hour week, but overtime could run to many hours.

Discipline is described as similar to that used in military establishments. One of the more contemptible aspects of this was that a man's training at his job could be deferred as punishment for misdemeanours.

Keep wages and conditions low

One remark in this report is extremely significant because it shows why it would pay management deliberately to keep wages and conditions as poor as possible:

'Managements could well be glad of the current operator shortage because it might thereby avoid future redundancy problems following increased mechanization and ultimate computer working.'

It was also considered that: 'The incremental scale by which a man's basic pay is determined by his age was unfair. Furthermore, a time-span of 15 years was far too long to wait for maximum pay.'

The report also commented on 'deficient union representation'. However, the DEP claimed that many complaints have been 'overstated' and could not agree that conditions were 'deplorable'. Instead of rectifying the situation, a series of productivity measures was proposed.

DEP recommendations were that Electra House should be divided into a number of self contained units and that a com-

plete abolition of demarcations and grades should be brought about on the basis of job evaluation.

We are not suggesting that jobs should be allocated to different grades on a more logical basis; we are on the contrary suggesting a complete abolition of grades.

There would be no OTO, no P & TO, no clerical officers, no postmen, no traffic men each with their separate hierarchies. All these we would replace with a single category for all employees (both staff and management) within the overseas telegraph department.

This would result in 'one common category of telegraph officer'. After 16 meetings and 18 committee papers of the DEP working party the report of May 1970 reiterated the original findings. It also underlined the fact that manning 'determined by specialist studies to assess job loading' meant the introduction of time-and-motion methods.

Direct implications that workers were lazy were made where the report says: 'We saw no evidence of excessive loading and there seemed an unduly high incidence of lack of work and of social activities. From our experience of observation in industry and commerce we would judge the overall level of performance as 45 in the 80-100 work-study scale.'

As 100 in the 80-100 scale purports to be normal working and 80 is reckoned to be a minimum acceptable standard, the workers concerned must have been doing less than no work at all to get a 45 rating.

Slandering claim

In fact, this malicious and slanderous claim contrasts dramatically with the £130.4 million profit made by the telecommunications section of the Post Office in 1968-1969.

It is also in flat contradiction to a recent article in the 'New Scientist' on Technology in the Post Office (August 13, 1970) which explained:

'Local telephone calls and trunk traffic are growing at 8 per cent and 14 per cent per year respectively. Telex traffic is even more vigorous—15 per cent expansion for inland services and even faster on overseas routes.'

It added: 'One of the great strengths of the telecommunications side of the business has been the way in which productivity has risen—at an impressive 8 per cent a year over the last five years.'

The employers are determined to boost productivity even more by setting work-study standards which will force everyone to work at a gallop.

Work-study experts see switchboards by the current operator as good subjects for time study. They claim that every working motion can be analysed and new movement patterns established, tied to time standards, so that all 'wasteful' actions can be eliminated.

Even unpredictable conditions, like the length of messages can be 'rationalized' by fixing an 'average' length and basing standard hourly performance on this figure.

The work-study method considered by many consultants for this type of work is the methods-time-measurement (MTM) system which fixes the time standards to a thousandth of a second.

The system of payment advocated by employers and government for productivity deals is Measured-Day Work which ties a very high—and continually increasing—performance rate to a fixed level of pay.

The setting of such standards at Electra House is planned to start in Spring 1971 and spread over to the end of 1972.

The report states: '... we are advised that the new standards will of themselves not lead to the kind of staffing economies and flexibility envisaged in the DEP report as contributing towards the justification for a "substantial increase" in pay scales then obtaining.'

Gradual reduction

In other words, job reductions and overtime cuts will not even be considered as allowing for a rise for those remaining.

If the employers are trying to keep up some pretence that productivity working will benefit the workers, this is only because they want to bring about a gradual reduction to suit their own convenience as speed-up and automation take over.

Virtually, their attitude is 'fit into our arrangements until we find it convenient to kick you out'.

Why are the employers so keen to get productivity deals in now? Over the period 1968-1973, the Post Office is investing a massive £2,700 million in new equipment the majority of which is being spent on the telecom-

munications section. A programme which will replace 700 old exchanges and add 2,500 major extensions to existing exchanges is in hand.

Other innovations include: ● Installation of automatic test equipment which sends test signals through the circuits and prints out a docket showing which item is faulty.

● Constant improvement in satellite design, particularly the increase in channels brought about by the invention of the multi-access system in enabling more and more earth stations to connect with each other simultaneously through the same space station.

● Use of digital computers for fully automatic circuit and message switching.

● Increasing use of coaxial cables which can carry a large number of circuits in a small diameter tube.

● Continued change over from manual to automatic exchanges.

● The building in London of a new £7 million international switching centre, Mondial House, which will connect up subscribers to numbers in all parts of the world.

The equipment for Mondial House is expected to cost about

£10 million and will ultimately be able to connect 200,000 calls an hour using more than 20,000 international lines via cables and satellites. It is expected to be the main switching centre in Britain with, eventually, a total staff of 2,000.

In external field operations greater productivity is expected from the use of prefabricated manholes and joint boxes and a variety of new equipment for handling and jointing cables.

This includes changeover from lead-sheathed to plastic-coated cables. A team which could lay 100 yards of lead cable can now lay 600 to 800 yards of plastic cable.

Three men with a mole plough can drive a tunnel and put in a cable and its plastic ducting in one operation.

Eliminate jobs

Research is also being conducted by the Post Office into microwave radio to provide a base for using higher frequency bands, use of the pulse code modulation system which transmits speech, vision and computer data in the form of coded trains of pulses that can be sent long distances or switched as often as may be needed without loss of strength or quality, and use of new visual telecommunications systems such as view-phone and contravision.

Cotton production undermined education system

THE PHYSICAL and industrial starvation of Egypt by British colonialism was carried over into education.

Educational starvation was such that any significant advance by Egypt in this field can be dated only from Britain's formal expulsion from the Canal Zone after the fall of Farouk.

Attendance at school multiplied five times within the decade following the removal of British soldiers in 1956.

Nasser's government introduced formal compulsory education from six to 12 years old and by 1970 over three-quarters of six-year olds were beginning to enter schools.

But the system of semi-colonial cheap labour fastened on Egypt by Britain and France cut deeply into compulsory education.

The need to destroy cotton-leaf worm forces some 15 per cent of even urban children to leave school for periods in order to help their parents attend to this pest.

CHEAP LABOUR

The system of a cotton monoculture serving imperialist interests removes some 40 per cent of rural children for long periods from school for the same reasons.

The total effect on education of this and other factors related directly to the cheap labour and peasant-proprietor system of cotton farming may be summed up in the fact that under 50 per cent of the children in school age are actually at school.

This is the 'spiritual' measure of semi-colonialism, just as its physical measure is a life-expectancy of 50 per cent less than normal life-span in an imperialist 'democracy' like Britain.

Because of the persistent struggle of Egypt's workers and fellahin, 'independence' has involved at least a considerable improvement in education—compared with its almost non-existent level under British rule.

This includes university education, in which expansion has been rapid, especially since 1956.

University enrolment now approaches 100,000—by far the highest anywhere in Africa—and many times the combined total of university attendance in all British, French and Belgian colonies put together.

CONTRADICTION

But even here there is a contradiction between education and the capacity of the economy to absorb graduates—a contradiction directly due to the industrial starvation of Egypt by semi-colonialism.

This conflict between higher education output and industrial intake is one of the reasons for the political militancy of the university student.

But it is militancy which is, as usual, either dissipated or abused by the regime. This will go on

so long as the militant is isolated from the working class and peasant struggles against imperialism.

Particularly fatal elements in many of the student protest movements are Arab or African nationalism, non-alignment or neutralism.

The two are clearly related to each other, both being at heart expressions of the policy of a helpless, chronically-frustrated aspirant petty bourgeoisie or even bourgeoisie which cannot possibly play an independent role—either in domestic or foreign policy—because of its absolute ordination to imperialism.

'NEUTRALISM'

The semi-colonial bourgeoisie tries always to make superficial deals with the bureaucracy of the USSR or China in order to raise its bargaining power vis-à-vis its real masters: the western powers. The concept of 'neutralism' is built up into a creed of 'Third World'-ism in order to glorify this double-dealing and to mask the economic as well as political and even military dominance of the West.

There is no Third World somewhere between the countries in which there have been social revolutions and the countries in which there is capitalism.

The fact that there are Stalinist bureaucracies in countries which have had social revolutions, whether these bureaucracies be of the Brezhnev, Maoist, Tito or Castro type, does not mean that the international working class is going to follow the petty bourgeois radicals who call themselves International Socialists and throw the revolutionary infant out with the Stalinist bathwater.

Stalinism is not a product of the social revolutions in these countries, but of their absence in other countries. It is a continuation inside the workers' states of the imperialist system surrounding, penetrating and corrupting these states.

BUREAUCRATIC

This bureaucratic creature of the imperialist isolation and encirclement of the workers' states prop for the Nyereres, Kaundas and other semi-colonial agents continuing the line of the late Nasser.

Without Stalinism, these gentlemen would have the greatest difficulty in getting their bogus 'Third World'-ism accepted inside their own countries.

At the same time, all Stalinist groups—not only that of the Kremlin but also that of Tito, in particular—have expounded and condemned the concept of non-alignment. They have there-by strengthened the ideological hold of the Nassers of Africa and elsewhere in side tracking anti-imperialist revolutionary

Experiments are also being conducted into the use of light to transmit sound, using a cable comprising hundreds of hair-thin glass fibres contained in a tube.

Each glass fibre would carry thousands of times more information than the conventional telephone wires and several times more than coaxial cables.

Telecommunications workers should have no illusions that these developments mean thousands more jobs.

To operate these systems the Post Office needs to eliminate jobs. The 'New Scientist' article previously quoted explains:

'The Post Office expects that the number of calls in 1973, the end of its next five-year period, will be 50 per cent above the present 27 million a day; there will be 18 million telephones in Britain, 50 per cent more than now.'

The aim is to raise productivity again, so as to handle all the work that these figures entail without taking on extra staff.

This involves making exchanges automatic, among other things, and by the end of this year nearly 99 per cent of customers will be served by automatic exchanges.

'That does not mean that operators will disappear: some will be needed to cope with faults, mis-dialled calls, enquiries, and so on, although the intention is to reduce their numbers to a minimum.'

This is the real basis for productivity deals in the Post Office. The aim at Electra House is to cut the labour force, probably by a half at least, with a possible complete shut-down when Mondial House is in full operation.

It would be extremely wrong for OTOs to see this as something which only affects their own section or even telecommunications alone.

The creation of the Post Office as a corporation in 1969 was the onset of a Labour government plan to rationalize every section of the Post Office, with some of the heaviest attacks of all against the postal section.

These range from introduction of automatic postal coding sys-

tems and the new parcel handling operations down to postmen being issued with hand trolleys so that they can handle a greater weight of mail.

Every one of the proposals is aimed not at improving the service nor at making the job a better one for the postmen, but at seeing how many jobs can be eliminated.

The Tories are intending to push ahead ruthlessly with this programme and, if they are given the chance, will use every aspect of their anti-union, anti-strike scabs charter to back it up. More and more they are hinting that the telecommunications section in particular should be returned to 'private enterprise'.

Unions help employers

Where do the union leaders stand in this situation? The disciplinary action against the OTOs' branch secretary Ron Beak for seeking to keep his members fully informed of events which would affect their condition and livelihoods should make this clear.

In a letter to 'The Times' in January last year, Tom Jackson, head of the union of Post Office Workers expressed his executive's support for the employers' plans to eliminate jobs.

Part of his letter, in which he actually refers to the union's support for job-cutting as 'impressive' reads as follows: 'Our organization has always welcomed technical developments inside the services in which our members work. We have, for instance, years ago operated to the maximum possible extent with the introduction of Subscriber Trunk Dialling, which reduced enormously the need for telephone operators. Our record in the postal side of the business is equally impressive. We have always welcomed developments which would reduce the size of the labour force.'

'It is the policy of our union so far as posts are concerned to seek a gradual reduction in the number of staff employed on the basis that those left in the service will be better paid as a result.'

'We are one of those rare examples of a union which is prepared to face change and has policies designed deliberately to reduce the labour-intensive nature of the Post Office.'

Later on he makes it quite clear that he knows what the employers' plans will mean for the overseas telegraphists: 'We always have before us in our union the remembrance of what has happened to the inland telegraph service. This section of the Post Office was once composed of the cream of Post Office workers. It was a grade to which many aspired.'

'Now, however, as a result

of mechanization and automation, many who took what they thought to be promotion, now find themselves in a job which is badly paid by comparison with others and which has little or no promotion prospects.

'What happened to the inland telegraph service will surely happen to the overseas telegraph service, for the principles involved are the same. The only difference is that mechanization and automation will take place on an international scale whereas in the inland service it came early simply because the distances involved were less.'

This letter was sent to 'The Times' shortly before the strike in January 1969, in which thousands of postal workers struck against low pay and the government's productivity swindle.

In the September issue of the Post Office Engineering Union Journal, general secretary, Lord Delacour Smith writes that the POEU 'has done a great deal to raise productivity' and that 'one real contribution to higher productivity over the next few years would be to examine critically the out-of-date structure of grades which the industry has inherited on its telecommunications side'.

This of course, is what the employers' plans to introduce job evaluation are all about anyway.

The Tories made it abundantly clear at their conference that they are going to boost big business by unleashing a major attack on every section of the working class.

By their way, productivity deals and Measured-Day Work are going to increase production, wage freeze and cuts in public spending are going to provide the mass, and anti-union laws and mass unemployment are going to enforce this programme to the hilt.

A united fight is needed by all Post Office workers against a massive attack on jobs and conditions. The Tories' plans to squeeze the nationalized and public industries and lop off profitable sections to hand over to private shareholders must be defeated.

Total opposition to productivity dealing and a fight for workers' control of every aspect of employment and management is the only way to stop sackings and guard against misuse of new technical developments.

Workers in the telecommunications section have set up a separate union to represent their interests, but it is wrong to avoid a fight to throw out the existing union leadership.

These unions are the rightful property of the working class; they must be purged of reformist and opportunist officials and an alternative leadership must be built.

This will fight for a revolutionary socialist alternative to 'private enterprise', it will defend the jobs and rights of the working class and will accept that it is possible for the working class to fight and force the Tory Government to resign.

INTEREST PAYMENTS
The interest payments on Post Office telecommunications borrowing were £80.5 million in 1968-1969. The charge by the government on money it has loaned has risen from 5 1/2 per cent in 1963 to 9 1/2 per cent in 1969-1970. At present the Post Office is borrowing £200 million a year to finance its developments in the telecommunications section.

BBC 1

9.38 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 12.30 p.m. **Representing the union.** 'Productivity bargaining'. 1.00-1.25 Swyn y glac. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.20 Play are you? 5.44 Magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. London.

6.45 THE DOCTORS.

7.15 TOP OF THE POPS.

7.45 BACHELOR FATHER. 'A Little Learning'.

8.15 MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW. With guests Edward Chapman and Clodagh Rodgers.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 PLAY FOR TODAY. 'The Lie'. By Ingmar Bergman. With Frank Finlay and Gemma Jones. The story of the marriage and life of Anna and Andrew Firth.

10.50 24 HOURS.

11.35 CHILDREN GROWING UP. 'One Step At A Time'.

12.00 MIDLIGHT WEATHER.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except:

Midlands. E Anglia. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today. Look East. weather. 12.02 News, weather.

North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North, weather. 12.02 News, weather.

Wales. 6.00 Wales today, weather. Nationwide. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. 7.45.

8.15 Week in week out. 12.02 Weather.

Scotland. 2.30-2.50 Around Scotland. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland, weather. Nationwide. 12.02 News, weather.

N Ireland. 6.00-6.45 Scene around six, weather. Nationwide. 12.02 News, weather.

SW, South, West. 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Points West. South today. Spotlight SW, weather. 12.02 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.

7.00 p.m. KNOW HOW.

7.30 NEWS ROOM and weather.

8.00 FIRST ELEVEN. 'La Femme en Chemise'.

8.15 THE MONEY PROGRAMME.

9.00 LOOK, STRANGER. 'The Man Who Invented a Cow on the Hebridean Island of Lulng'.

9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK. Johnny Cash Show.

10.05 FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT. '90 Years in the Cause of Architecture'.

10.55 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

11.00 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

11.00 a.m. Schools. 2.55 p.m. Racing from Newmarket. 4.17 Origami. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Flipper. 5.20 Maggie. 5.50 News.

6.02 TODAY.

6.35 PEYTON PLACE.

7.05 ON THE HOUSE. 'Thank You Fred Spooner and Goodbye'.

7.35 THURSDAY FILM. 'Night People'. With Gregory Peck and Broderick Crawford. Espionage in post-war Berlin.

9.30 THIS WEEK.

10.30 CINEMA.

11.00 THE AVENGERS. 'The Positive-Negative Man'.

12.00 MIDLIGHT THE CORRIDORS OF POWER. Ivor Mills talks to Dr Michael Winstanley, ex-Liberal MP for Cheadle.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL. 11.00 London. 3.10 States of Jersey lottery. 4.00 Puttin' on the Ritz. 4.25 greetings. 4.40 Origami. 4.25 Wendy and me. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Cheaters. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Beneath the 12-Mile Reef' With Robert Wagner and Terry Moore. 9.00 London. 11.00 All our yesterdays. 11.25 News, weather.

4.30 London. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 On the house. 7.05 Film: 'Girl on the Run'. With Erin O'Brien and Edward Taylor. 7.30 Crime thriller. 8.30 Department S. 9.30 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 NYPD. 11.40 Weather. Action 70.

HARLECH. 11.00-4.10 London. 4.15 Women today. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 6.00 Movie: 'The Inspector'. With Stephen Boyd and Dolores Hart. A Dutch police inspector undertakes to help a Jewish

girl return to the Middle East. 9.00 London. 9.30 Beggars opera. 11.10 Tales of Edgar Wallace. 12 midnight Weather.

HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.16-4.18 Report West. 6.16 Sport West.

HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 and HTV (Cymru) colour channel 42 as above except: 5.20-5.50 Dilyn-dodyn. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.

ANGLIA. 10.58-4.15 London. 4.30 News. 4.40 Fatus. 4.50 Joe 90 5.15 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'Scott of the Scotts'. With John Mills and Harold Waterson. Captain Jack on an expedition to the Pole. 9.00 London. 11.00 Prisoner. 11.55 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 London. 3.35 Demicalization. 3.49 Horoscope. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Fireball XL2. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'Thunder in the Heavens'. With Lon McCallister and Peggy Ann Garner and Edmund Gwene. Story of a young boy's love for music. Scotland. 11.00 Unouch. abies, weather.

ULSTER. 11.00-4.15 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Joe 90. 5.20 London. 6.00 ITV report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 News. 7.35 News. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Love American style.

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 London. 4.30 Matinee. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar. weather. 6.30 Saint. 7.25 'Flight to Tangier'. With John Fontaine. Jack, Palace and Corinne Calvet. 9.00 London. 11.00 Avengers. 11.55 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.15 London. 6.01 Six-one. 6.30 News. 6.50 Right. 6.30 Man from Uncle. 7.30 Film: 'Something to Live For'. With Jim Milland, Joan Fontaine and Teresa Wright. A man finds himself in trouble when he tries to help an alcoholic. 9.00 London. 11.00 This is... Tom Jones.

TYNE TEES: 11.00 London. 4.10 News. 4.15 Lone ranger. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.01 Police call. 6.35 Jack McCall—desperado. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.00 Um, thirty challenge. 11.30 Late news. 11.45 Epitogue.

BORDER: 1.38 London. 4.10 News. 4.12 Sailor of fortune. 4.40 Wind in the willows. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.15 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00 Mr and Mrs. 7.45 The Long. Long Trailer. With Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. A honeymoon couple buy a super-streamlined mobile mansion. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.35 News, weather. It takes a thief. 11.55 News, weather.

SCOTTISH: 11.00-2.55 London. 3.40 Dating. 3.50 Horoscope. 3.55 Women today. 4.15 London. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.15 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.30 High living. 7.00 Um, thirty challenge. 11.30 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58-4.10 London. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Cartoon. 4.20 Telephone game. 4.50 Floris. 5.15 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00 Comedy: 'The Gishin Boy'. With Jerry Lewis and Shirley Bassey. A three-rare magician causes havoc on a US tour of Japan. 8.30 Making machines. 9.00 London. 11.00 Making whoopee.

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Name

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Productivity drive behind pit pay offer

HEAVY STRESS has already been laid by National Coal Board chairman Lord Robens on the productivity aspects of the new NCB pay offer accepted by miners' leaders on Tuesday night.

In return for proposed increases some 18 per cent overall below the claim submitted from the National Union of Mineworkers' Isle of Man July conference, the union's executive has agreed to continue co-operation in improving efficiency and reducing absenteeism.

The coal industry labour force has been halved and hundreds of pits closed over the last ten years with the assistance of variations on this policy.

On the strength of the proposed settlement, about which Britain's 292,000 miners will be balloted within the next month, the Coal Board now hopes to maintain next year's output at its 1970 level—despite the continuing rundown of pits and jobs.

Robens confidently says the Board does not plan to ask for a further increase in coal prices, because 'we hope to ensure that this settlement is recouped through increased productivity'.

Yet NUM general secretary Lawrence Daly, in what can only be construed as a clear invitation to his supporters to accept the new offer, says:

'The average miner sees the bird in the hand is worth more than two in the bush, and will try for more later.'

What is the Coal Board's answer to the miners' £75,000,000-a-year claim: for a £20 minimum for surface workers, £22 for underground day-wage men and £30 for National Power Loading Agreement face-workers?

If accepted by the rank and file—55 per cent of whom recently voted to strike against an offer only 10s less on average—pay for the 92,000 surface and underground workers would rise by £3 a week from November 1.

This would establish new basic minima of £18 on the surface

By an industrial correspondent

and £19 underground. All 67,000 men working on mechanized coal faces covered by the NPLA would get an extra £2 7s 6d—bringing rates in the Kent and Nottinghamshire wages districts up to £30 a week.

But the Coal Board has asked the NUM to postpone for 12 months implementation of an agreement to bring NPLA rates nationally into parity with Kent and Nottinghamshire by December 1971.

At present, in Wales, Scotland, Durham and Cumberland, the NPLA rate is up to £2 15s 6d a week lower than in the two counties mentioned above. And 18,500 under-21 miners would, if the offer is accepted, still only be earning between £9 10s and £16 10s a week on the surface and £10 4s and £17 18s underground.

Miners in S Wales 83 per cent are quite understandably demanding a coalfield conference to discuss the situation.

'I don't think 10s is going to alter the mood of the S Wales miners', said Cwm colliery lodge secretary Bryn Williams. It is one of the first reactions to Tuesday night's announcement.



Young Socialists Weekend School discusses vital issues facing working class

Socialist Labour League Central Committee member CLIFF SLAUGHTER addresses the school.

'THE MOST dangerous mistake we can make today is to look at things and continue in the old way.' This was the serious warning issued by Socialist Labour League central committee member Cliff Slaughter at the Young Socialists London Area Weekend School on October 24 and 25 at Margate.

Opening discussion on 'How to fight the Tories and their attacks on the working class', Cliff Slaughter made clear to a large youth audience the changes taking place in which 'millions are thrown into the field of struggle'.

Importance

This was the first YS weekend school for the London area since the election of a Tory government in June and Cliff Slaughter stressed its importance in relation to a struggle for a qualitatively deeper theoretical understanding of workers' needs in the present situation.

'The worst blow you can aim at the working class today is to devalue the role of theory,' said Cliff Slaughter.

'When Heath says to the assembled political forces of

ruling class that they are going to change the course of history, that means making decisive changes to the advantage of the ruling class.

'Anyone who thinks the terms are the same after the Tory victory as they were before is living in a fool's paradise,' he said.

Cuts

Describing the Tory attacks on the health services and the cuts in public expenditure by £50 million he said:

'If there are basic reasons in the structure of society which makes them do this, then you cannot change their minds by an appeal or a protest.

'Our responsibility is to fight for the unity of the whole of the working class. We can do it. We are the biggest youth movement fighting with a daily paper.

'The Tories have brought into their cabinet men taken out of the biggest businesses and given top ministerial positions.'

He said, the government depended on the working class being continually led by the reformist bureaucracy in the labour and trade union movement.

'We depend on breaking the working class from these leaders. Our task is to unite the working class in action to force the Labour and trade union leaders to fight the Tories' anti-

union laws. They must not be let off the hook nor allowed to delay the fight until next year.

'Bigger things are in the wind than just another wages fight—it is a political fight. We are talking about politically organizing the working class in action against the anti-trade union laws.'

Warning of the dangers of what the Tories had in store for the working class, Slaughter stressed that the ruling class was prepared to do away with millions to defend what they had got.

'Either we allow them to do that—and they are out to lay the foundations to what Hitler and Mussolini did—or we must win.'

The YS anti-Tory rally at Alexandra Palace on February 14, 1971 would be a rallying call to all those in the working class who wanted to do just that.

In conclusion, he said, 'We are the most decisive movement in the working class. We made up our minds long ago, on the basis of Marxist theory and the crisis of capitalism, that in the fight against Toryism you have to go to the end.'

Appeal

In a special session on the Alexandra Palace rally, an appeal was made for members to come forward for YS recruiting teams to build up the London branches, especially in E London where troops had been moved in on the previous day to break the council workers' strike.

Special guest speaker at the weekend school was playwright John McGrath, well known for his two recent films 'The Bofors Gun' and 'The Reckoning'.

Speaking on 'Politics and the Commercial Cinema', he explained how, from his own experience, films are taken out of their context for the manipulation of people's thinking.

This, he said, was carried out in a more and more sophisticated way and more subtly by capitalism as its problems increase.

'One or two people have tried to take advantage of the bit of liberalism allowed by the film industry; they rarely succeed,' he commented.

Answering a number of questions and opinions on his latest film 'The Reckoning', John McGrath said that the film had attempted to assess the role of an acceptable rebel within capitalist society and to show how he is used by it.

John McGrath's talk at the London Weekend School is the third successful venture of this kind where top producers, writers and directors have spoken on their work.

Previous guest speakers have been Kenneth Loach and Tony Garnett, Roy Battersby and David Mercer.

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

ALEXANDRA PALACE
Wood Green
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Young Socialists and
All Trades Unions Alliance
GREAT NATIONAL
RALLY AGAINST
TORYISM

BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

scientific world

PHARMACY AND FRAUD

THE 'SUNDAY TIMES' exposure of the Great Drug Fraud—the racket in which chemists sell substitute versions of drugs when asked to prescribe proprietary brands—raises as many questions as it answers.

The basic mechanism of the operation is that chemists can buy cheap supplies of drugs produced overseas—Italy and Hungary are common sources—and give these to patients who are prescribed more expensive versions of the same drug.

The chemist can then—if he wishes to defraud the National Health Service—reclaim the cost of the more expensive drug, plus a 10 per cent commission, from the department.

The chemist makes an illicit profit out of the NHS, defrauding the exchequer. And the patient gets a drug which may or may not be comparable with what was originally prescribed.

Chemists are not allowed to substitute one drug for another. They must hand over to the patient exactly what is written on the prescription form.

The big drug companies spend millions of pounds every year, flooding doctors with diaries, blotters, free samples, expensively printed booklets and visits from salesmen, in order to make sure that when a doctor writes a prescription he writes the name of their product on the form.

Patent

The drug companies can do this because, in most cases, they take pains to patent their products and are extremely sensitive to attempts at imitation.

The fact that the illicit market in substitute drugs is uncontrolled and that some of the products circulating on this 'black market' are substandard is not the point.

If Italian drug companies can make acceptable substitutes for the products of the big drug monopolies—and no one, not

even the drug companies, denies that many of the substitutes are sub-standard—and if these can be sold at much lower prices and still leave a profitable margin, then there is clearly something more fundamentally wrong with the drug situation.

When the Attlee Labour government formed the National Health Service just after the war, it left the drug manufacturers in a very privileged position.

Because of the prescribing rules and the private enterprise method of drug dispensing through chemists' shops, the drug companies flourished as never before.

They could—and in many cases do—charge very high prices for their products, prices which were paid by the NHS and which had to be paid if the rules were to be observed.

Foreign firms

The emergence of foreign firms which were prepared to breach the rigid patent specifications has posed a serious problem for the drug companies.

Over the years they have waxed extremely fat on the profits from the NHS and they are in the uniquely profitable situation of supplying a captive market which is hedged about by restrictive rules.

Of course, these rules do function to protect the patient against sub-standard drugs.

The Dunlop Committee on Safety of Drugs tests the standard proprietary preparations and passes them as fit for use. This is obviously an important safeguard. But it is no safeguard against the exorbitant prices many of the monopolies charge for drugs.

In fact, the arrangements made by the Attlee government were part of a calculated compromise which allowed the important reform of the creation of an NHS without antagonizing too much the big capitalist interests with a finger in the medical pie.

The demand for nationalization of the drug industry has repeatedly gone before Labour Party conferences, and has repeatedly been ignored by Labour governments.

This is not accidental. The reformist conception of the NHS stopped short in holy awe on the threshold of private property.

But the demand retains all its force.

In a situation where the Tories are systematically pruning the social services in the interests of the 'national economy', it becomes more and more clear that big capital is using the social services as a perfectly legal means of making huge profits.

A nationalized drug industry serving the NHS would substantially reduce its cost, allow the operation of really rigid quality controls and standardize prescription throughout the service.

It would vastly improve and cheapen the NHS and remove all risk of abuse along the lines of the Great Drug Fraud.

Reminder of what arms sales may mean

BUCCANEER AIRCRAFT supplied by the Wilson government to the S African government had created havoc in rural areas of SW Africa, a United Nations trusteeship committee was told on Tuesday.

Acting secretary of the SW Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), Andreas Shipanga told the committee the aircraft had bombed villages and attacked guerrilla fighters.

SWAPO's president Sam Nujoma alleged that the area had been reduced to a police state with more than 1,000 'patriots' in jail.

People had been removed from their lands and thrown into concentration camps. Even their water supplies had been poisoned, he alleged.

SW Africa was formerly a German colony, grabbed by S Africa on a League of Nations mandate after the First World War.

The United Nations has refused to extend the mandate, but confined itself to platonic resolutions. In 1968, the UN resolved to rename the territory Namibia.

At Tuesday's session, Nujoma accused Britain, France, W Germany, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland of giving support to the S African apartheid regime and aiding the oppression in SW Africa.

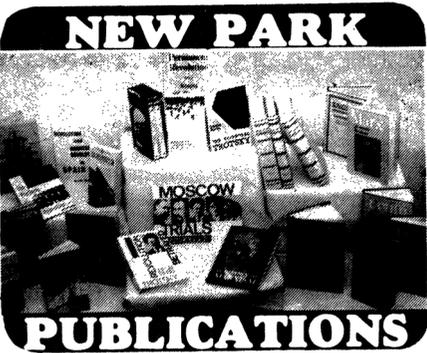
SWAPO, he said, was fighting not only against S Africa, but indirectly against the western countries.

Acting secretary Shipanga also spoke of the collaboration between Israel and S Africa.

S African Jews, he said, were being encouraged to go to Israel to fight the Arab Revolution and, in return, the Israeli 'top brass' were helping S Africa.

Heath's Tory government is now preparing to sell tons of arms to the S Africans.

SWAPO's revelations are a timely reminder of the dreadful reality of oppression and murder that lies behind these deals.



Send a self-addressed envelope for a free booklet to: 186a Clapham High St, SW4.

Help the Young Socialists make their GRAND XMAS BAZAARS a great success

If you are able to sew, knit, paint and can make goods for our bazaars. If you can give us jumble, gifts, tins of grocery. Please contact Young Socialists Bazaars, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

THE BAZAARS ARE AT:

LONDON Saturday, November 28
Plasbet School (nr East Ham tube)
Doors open 12 noon

LEEDS Saturday, December 12
Corn Exchange Leeds
Doors open 12 noon

PUBLIC LECTURES Elements of Marxism

The importance of Marxist philosophy in the building of the revolutionary party.

Lectures by G. HEALY

(National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League)

DAGENHAM Monday November 2
OXFORD Thursday October 29
Thursday November 5

Kay's Restaurant 271 Ilford Lane Ilford. 8 p.m.
Northgate Hall Oxford 8 p.m.

Lectures by M. BANDA

(Editor of Workers Press)

ACTON Thursday October 29
Thursday November 5
Thursday November 12

BLACKFRIARS Monday November 2
Monday November 9

'Kings Head' High Street Acton. 8 p.m.
Friars Hall Blackfriars Road SE1. 8 p.m.

Three lectures by C. SLAUGHTER

(Central Committee of Socialist Labour League)

BIRMINGHAM Monday November 2
Monday November 9
Monday November 16

SHEFFIELD Sunday November 1
Sunday November 15
Sunday November 22

Digbeth Hall Birmingham. 7.30 p.m.
Crooksmoor Vestry Hall Crooksmoor Rd, Sheffield 6. 7.30 p.m.

Lecture by G. HEALY in Glasgow

Wednesday November 4
Wednesday November 11
Wednesday November 25

Partick Burgh Hall (nr Merkland St tube) 7.30 p.m.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 6-DAY WORKERS PRESS

The Workers Press is now being published on six days a week. The production of the extra Monday issue will be decisive at this time when the Tories are planning an all-out onslaught against the working class with their anti-union laws and attacks on wages and living conditions. Only Workers Press has fought for revolutionary leadership inside the working class in order to force the Tories to resign.

We thank all our present subscribers for their support, which has helped us make this big step forward, and urge all new readers to become regular subscribers.

Money outstanding on present subscriptions will be credited to the new rates. When these subscriptions expire, readers will be notified and the new rate will then apply.

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£6 10s for six months (156 issues)
£3 5s for three months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates will be:

£1 for three months (24 issues)
£4 for 12 months (96 issues)

PLEASE DON'T DELAY. TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY NOW TO TAKE OUT A SUBSCRIPTION OR EXTEND YOUR EXISTING ARRANGEMENT.

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Days required MONDAY THURSDAY
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Or Full subscription (six days) for months.

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Dentists warn on rickets

THE Chancellor's welfare cuts would mean the return of rickets and soft teeth in children and general deterioration of dental health throughout Britain, the dental group of the Socialist Medical Association claimed yesterday.

'It is a well-known fact that children do not receive enough milk during school holidays and if they get none during the school term then calcium deficiency diseases will increase,' said a spokesman.

'We call on the Labour Party and the TUC to hold demonstrations in every town to mobilize the population against this Dickensian setback to the welfare state,' he said.

Mrs Thatcher disagrees

TORY EDUCATION Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher claimed yesterday that Britain's schoolchildren will not suffer from the meals and milk charges announced in yesterday's budget speech.

Speaking to the Association of Education Committees Conference at Scarborough she said that the government will be at pains to ensure that 'vulnerable' children will not be hurt by the plans to cut education spending.

'The Tories plan to increase school meal prices in two stages—to 2s 5d from April next year and a further 5d in 1973—and abolish free milk for schoolchildren over seven.

WEATHER

EASTERN and central districts will have variable cloud amounts. Western districts of England and Wales will be rather cloudy with occasional drizzle, accompanied by hill and coastal fog patches. N Ireland and W Scotland will be cloudy with rain at times, accompanied by hill and coastal fog patches.

E Scotland and NE England will be rather cloudy but mainly dry. NE Scotland will be clear at first, but become cloudy later with occasional drizzle.

In most places it will be rather warm.

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Mostly cloudy with rain at times, chiefly in the N. Temperatures near normal, but rather warm in the S.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

'No anti-union laws' 'Force the Tories to resign'

SE LONDON: Thursday, October 29, 8 p.m. Artichoke Pub, Camberwell Church St, Camberwell Green.

DEAL: Thursday, October 29, 8 p.m. Pier Hotel, Beach Street. 'Miners Must Win'

CORRY: Thursday, October 29, 8 p.m. Nag's Head.

ACTON: Monday November 2, 8 p.m. Acton Co-op Hall, Acton High St.

E LONDON: Wednesday, November 11, 8 p.m. Festival Inn, Kerby St (near Christ St Market), E14.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE CONFERENCES

Support Pilkington glassworkers and their right to strike! Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8

COVENTRY: Keith's Club, Cox Street, 3.30 p.m.

NEWCASTLE: Royal Turk's Head Hotel, Grey Street, 3 p.m.

SHEFFIELD: Crooksmoor Vestry Hall, Crooksmoor Road, 2.30 p.m.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15

GLASGOW: Partick Burgh Lesser Hall, near Merikland Street underground, 7.30 p.m.

LONDON: Woodlands Hall, Crown Street, Acton, 7.00 p.m.

Speakers will be from the Pilkington Rank and File Committee

LATE NEWS

GROMYKO DISCUSSES SE ASIA WITH HEATH

The Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko ended his series of talks with the Tory government in London yesterday when he met Prime Minister Edward Heath.

After two hours of talks, Gromyko had lunch with Heath. Later he attended a reception given by Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Home and gave dinner at the Soviet Embassy for the Tory leaders.

High on the agenda during his talks with Heath was the question of Indo-China.

Agreement not off ground

ICI 'closure' threat tied to speed-up

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP WARNING of ICI's intentions was given by a report in the local Teesside press entitled 'Invest or Die'.

This report was based on a speech by Mr Harvey-Jones, ICI heavy chemical division chairman, who threatened that: 'ICI as we know it may disappear if something is not done'.

CAMERA IN THE COURT

Students object to inquiry chief

DURHAM STUDENTS' Union has protested at the appointment of Mr Kenneth Oxford, assistant chief constable of Northumberland to conduct an inquiry into photographs taken by police at Durham Magistrates' Court last week.

Mr Dick Ayre, Union president, said this was because some people considered Mr Oxford's report on the demonstration at the Springboks' Swansea rugby match last year as unsatisfactory.

Ayre said he had made a statement to Mr Oxford because he had started the complaint into the installation at the court last Wednesday of a hidden camera.

This was used by police to photograph people who were not involved in any of the cases being tried.

The inquiry into the incident is being held at the request of Durham chief constable Mr A. G. Puckering, who has been asked for a report by the Home Office.

Did he have in mind the dispute at ICI's Wilton site on Teesside?

About 1500 engineering and plumbers' union members recently rejected a Weekly Staff Agreement and claimed £7 10s without strings.

Agreement

The WSA agreement, based on job evaluation and flexibility, is designed to reduce labour and increase speed-up.

Six hundred members of the Electrical Trades Union were meeting today to consider the WSA agreement.

The only way ahead for them is to join with the other unions in a fight for a wage increase without strings and to get the deal thrown out in the sections where it is already accepted.

Tory war

FROM PAGE ONE

1971 helps company liquidity. But it is a small drop in the bucket against the background revealed today that the "financial deficit" of commercial and industrial companies was about £900 million in the first half of 1970, an increase of £400 million on the financial deficit in the first half of 1969.

This situation will be greatly aggravated once investment grants are abolished.

If the 'Telegraph's' warning about the indebtedness of British industry is serious, then the investment position of industry, faced as it is with European and US competition, is beyond redemption.

Mr John Partridge, Confederation of British Industry president, at a luncheon in the N Midlands yesterday described it as 'especially serious' and well below predicted levels.

The predicted level for 1969-1970 was 27.1 per cent. The actual rise in the level of manufacturing investment was 8.7 per cent.

In 1969 it was to be 10-15 per cent higher than 1968; in fact it turned out to be a negligible 5.1 per cent.

According to this spokesman for the monopolies, investment in 1971 will probably decrease.

These figures speak more eloquently than all the Tory propaganda about the real state of the economy and the inevitability of much larger and more swingeing attacks on workers' living standards and employment in the very near future.

Objective

The social and economic policies of the Tories are subordinate to one major political objective: the smashing of the independence of the trade unions as a pre-condition for wage cuts and increased productivity.

As 'The Guardian' editorial stated yesterday: 'Unless the government really expects to break the back of the wages offensive... the outlook for industry, and for profits in particular, is glum.'

Barber's budget is only the beginning. The Tories propose to strip the working class of everything it has fought for—nothing less.

There can be no evading this struggle. Either the Tories are forced to resign or working-class conditions will be thrust back more than a century.

WE URGE all workers to step up the struggle inside the unions against the anti-union laws and social service cuts by flooding their executives with resolutions calling on the TUC to organize a one-day general strike immediately.

WE DEMAND of the 'left' and trade union MPs in particular that they employ every stratagem of the parliamentary game to delay and oppose the passage of the hated anti-union laws and support every manifestation of trade union opposition.

Force the Tories to resign!



WORKERS AT Omes electro-forging works in SW London yesterday voted to continue their stubborn six-week strike—still not made official.

The stoppage began after management refused to recognize negotiating rights of the factory convenor and shop stewards' committee for AEF clerical members.

The decision, it is alleged, broke an agreement which had been in operation for 12 months.

'They are anticipating the government's anti-union laws,' one striker told Workers' Press.

'They want to by-pass the shop-floor organization and work directly with the full-time officials.'

Workers at the firm's Colnbrooke plant, who also came out over the issue, have now returned and are operating a work-to-rule and blacking work from the Barnes factory.

AEF officials met the management for discussions yesterday, though the union executive has still not made the strike official. The strikers will meet again on Friday to hear the results of the talks.

Donations should be sent to: J. Walker, Omes Strike Committee, Waterman's Arms, Barnes, S.W.13.

Oxford

FROM PAGE ONE

for the chant of 'Tories out!'—which drowned the mid-morning traffic noise when the strikers reached the Oxford Town Hall.

A few begonedons scurried indoors as the marchers passed.

A worried-looking scout rushed to close the heavy studded gates of pukka Christ Church and even a group of bird-brained debutantes in Carfax Square got the message.

'I think they want some more money,' one squeaked.

The Tories may think they are good with a razor. But the class they are trying to cut is determined to wake up their dreaming spires.

The government's target is the low-paid workers—who are the next? asked one car worker's placard on yesterday's march.

'Give 'em the money, Barber!'

Steel plant to close

OPEN-HEARTH steel-making is to end on November 28 at British Steel Corporation's Port Talbot works. This follows the installation of a basic oxygen steel-making plant, which has boosted output.

About 750 men will lose their jobs by the end of January. Management-union talks on the closure have been going on since last January.

Shell strikers still out

CONSTRUCTION workers at Burmah Oil, Ellesmere Port, were back at work yesterday after striking on Tuesday in solidarity with workers at the Shell site at Carrington, near Manchester.

About 750 Shell craftsmen voted on Tuesday to continue their 14-week-old wages strike even though some of their stewards and union officials urged them to return to work.

Gas masks

RESPIRATORS to give protection against CS gas have been provided for possible use by the fire brigade in the Houses of Parliament, the under-secretary for Environment, Mr Paul Channon, announced yesterday.

Minority 'Mundo Obrero' published Moscow conspires against Spain CP

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

PARALLEL with their ever-closer collaboration with the Franco regime, the Soviet bureaucracy is also backing a Spanish Communist Party splinter group which defends the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia.

NO HOPES

RHODESIAN premier Ian Smith answered a Tory invitation to open talks on a settlement of the UDI dispute, by saying: 'I still believe there is little chance of a settlement.'

Stubborn strike at electrical firm



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Pit pay

FROM PAGE ONE

The two-thirds ballot rule may also be abolished when the miners meet in July next year for their annual delegate conference.

It may even be revised at a special conference, an idea that is being mooted in some quarters.

'I think this rule is out of date and it hampers us in our fight to get the miners better wages and conditions. It ought to go and I would support moves to get rid of it. I expect resolutions to this effect in July,' said Mr Daly.

This expectation is again likely to be borne out as the

TUC still holds back

FROM PAGE ONE

some form of national strike action to defeat the Bill, he said that this was a 'hypothetical thing', he was not a 'crystal-ball gazer', 'it's not ruled in and it's not ruled out'.

In a statement on Chancellor Barber's cuts, the TUC General Council announced themselves 'shocked by the regressive nature of many of the government's proposals...'

'Following so soon after the proposals on industrial relations the government's economic measures can be seen to form part of a clear pattern,' the statement said, 'one which by conscious intent reverses much of the progress made over the years in the struggle to create a just society.'

But no action has yet been considered—even joint action with the Labour Party—by the union leaders.

Medals cancelled

THE United States Army is cancelling two medals awarded to a general for deeds of valour which never took place.

An Army spokesman in Saigon said yesterday that action was being taken to rescind the Silver Star and Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to Brigadier-General Eugene Forrester because of 'administrative difficulties'.

Last week two conscripted soldiers told how they had been ordered to dream up citations and invent suitably heroic deeds so the general could 'win' the medals.

See tomorrow's US round-up for fuller story.

More join

Yesterday, miners at two of Yorkshire's largest collieries joined the strike.

At Brodsworth and Barnburgh collieries, near Doncaster, 674 men stopped work.

Men at Kilmhurst and Goldthorpe collieries stopped work on Tuesday. Overtime bans are being operated at Cadeby and Maltby.

The Yorkshire area headquarters of the union is calling a special meeting of the area council at Barnsley to discuss the new offer.

In S Wales a coalfield conference has been called at Porthcawl to consider a recommendation to be drawn up by the executive of the S Wales miners when they meet in Cardiff.

AGITATED

The Carrillo group in the leadership of the Spanish Communist Party is closely tied to the 'liberal' Republican wing of the bourgeoisie.

This leadership is becoming extremely agitated by the friendly relations opening up between Soviet and E European Stalinism and the Franco regime in Spain.

When the Polish Stalinists sent coal to break the Asturian miners' strike last year, Carrillo's group protested.

The split also reflects the growing fighting spirit of the Spanish working class, which is organizing illegally despite Franco's repression and has unleashed an unprecedented wave of strikes.

These developments are symptomatic of the crisis in the Stalinist camp caused not only by Czechoslovakia, but by the Soviet bureaucracy's own attempts to woo Spanish big business.

At the same time as it supports the Lister group against Carrillo's 'official' party, Moscow is moving closer to full diplomatic relations with Spanish fascism.

The Madrid monarchist paper 'ABC' carried an interview last week with Spanish Foreign Minister Gregorio Lopez Bravo—a leading light in the powerful Catholic secret society Opus Dei.

'CORDIAL'

Bravo recounted his meeting at the United Nations with Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet counter-part.

The meeting, described as 'very cordial', covered the establishment of consular and trading relations between Spain and E Germany, and the two men also discussed the repatriation of Civil War exiles in the USSR.

On relations with the Soviet Union, Bravo said: 'It would not be rational to draw the line at maritime agreements, since these are only a means to trading relations, and these have not yet been arranged between us.'

Moving rapidly towards EEC entry

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE FIRST PHASE of negotiations on Britain's application to enter the Common Market has ended in Luxembourg with both sides agreeing to speed up the timetable for the remaining negotiations.

The chief negotiator for the Six, Walter Scheel, said on Tuesday night the aim is to have the British membership agreement initiated by the end of 1971.

The main political decisions must be taken several months in advance of this date, he added.

Tory negotiator Geoffrey Rippon has approved in principle the document submitted by the Six as a basis for negotiations. The document lists the main outstanding points as:

1. The overall transition timespan for the adjustment of the British economy to the community system.
2. The solution of problems stemming from Britain's financial, economic and monetary situation.
3. The need for a global approach to the problems involved in the transition arrangements.
4. The Six ask Britain to present its position on protective measures for New Zealand farmers and Commonwealth sugar producers as early as possible.

Transition

Rippon has accepted that there should be one transition period for both industry and agriculture, as the French negotiators have insisted.

He has also agreed to accept Common Market rules



Negotiator Rippon

for pricing eggs, bacon and milk—all of which will mean steep price rises for British housewives in the coming period.

Other food prices will also rise—by as much as 25 per cent—when plans go through to turn over British agriculture to an import levy system by 1974.

Abolish

The Tories have agreed to abolish the farm price subsidy and impose a levy on imports from non-Market countries.

Scheel welcomed this declaration of intent to raise the cost of living with the remark that it was the 'first practical step in the creation of an enlarged community'.

Unspoken condition of all the Common Market talks is that the Tories forcibly attack living standards and discipline the trade unions.

This they are only too willing to do, as the budget and anti-union plans clearly indicate.

Ceylon move to abolish Senate

CEYLON'S House of Representatives has voted by a two-thirds majority to abolish the 30-member Senate.

This move has been sharply criticized by the opposition United Federal Party, which voted against the Bill with the Federal Party.

The government has agreed to drop a clause increasing the number of appointed MPs in the House of Representatives from six to eight.

If the Bill is defeated in the Senate it will be reintroduced in the Lower House after six months.

If it then receives a two-thirds majority it will become law without Senate approval.

Martial law after Ecuador kidnap

ECUADOR was clamped under martial law yesterday as armed police and troops hunted for air force chief General Cesar Rohon Sandoval, kidnapped after a dinner at the British embassy in Quito.

The dinner had been attended by British defence staff chief Sir Charles Emsworth.

The air force chief was kidnapped outside his house, bundled into a car and driven off at high speed.

Ecuador's president, 77-year-old Jose Velasco Ibarra, replied by decreeing martial law and a night curfew.

Student strike in Venezuela

STUDENTS throughout VENEZUELA struck on Tuesday and yesterday following army occupation of Caracas University, in the Venezuelan capital.

Barricades were set up in a number of towns. Police made dozens of arrests.

Students and teachers throughout the country have refused to recognize the dictatorship 'National University Council' set up by the government to bring 'order' to the campuses.

In Sao Paulo, BRAZIL, police arrested over 50 people on Monday.

They are to be tried for 'subversive propaganda' following a distribution of leaflets.

More join

Yesterday, miners at two of Yorkshire's largest collieries joined the strike.

At Brodsworth and Barnburgh collieries, near Doncaster, 674 men stopped work.

Men at Kilmhurst and Goldthorpe collieries stopped work on Tuesday. Overtime bans are being operated at Cadeby and Maltby.

The Yorkshire area headquarters of the union is calling a special meeting of the area council at Barnsley to discuss the new offer.

In S Wales a coalfield conference has been called at Porthcawl to consider a recommendation to be drawn up by the executive of the S Wales miners when they meet in Cardiff.

Thirty underground workers at a Maesteg, Glam., colliery, who came out on strike on Tuesday were still out yesterday, but the remainder of the 600 men at the colliery are continuing to work.

At Bargoed colliery between 40 and 50 miners are out over a local wages dispute.

Three thousand Scottish miners continued their strikes at six Scottish collieries yesterday.

The collieries affected are: Monktonhall, Midlothian; Polkemmet, W Lothian; Polmaise and Manor Powis, Stirlingshire; Bogside, one of the Longannet complex of mines; and the joint collieries of Kinnell/Valleyfield.