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The breakaway union was formed after the seven-week strike earlier this year, in which the company-recognized General and Municipal Workers' Union repeatedly tried to get an immediate return to work.

Mersey dock employers — made more confident by the support of the Pearson Report on the docks — are plainly taking a leaf out of Pilkington's book when they suspend workers for upholding basic trade union rights.

Yesterday's solidarity action is in the best traditions of the Mersey dockers, who were in the forefront of the fight against the Labour government's anti-trade union laws and were the first to take industrial action against the Vietnam War.

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This is the answer of the NCB and the government to the miners' wage demand and any miners' leader who ignores the Tories' plans is courting disaster. The mouthpiece of big business, the 'Financial Times' (August 18) was very explicit when it editorialized that 'the compromise, marked out by the PIB report on coal prices, satisfies the late Mr Macleod's requirements of "severe scrutiny" and ostentatiously rules out a "no-surrender" sign in advance of the coming wage negotiations.

'But there is no question of bolting the stable door after the horse has bolted. The main issue will now be fought on the wages front... one problem is to make sure that the nationalized boards do not cavort in themselves at an early stage.' (Our emphasis.)

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With less than two weeks to go, the fund is dangerously low. We know you will not let us down. Help us pull this figure around by stepping up the campaign in all areas now.

In the near future we will be announcing new developments for the paper — so send your donations immediately to: Workers Press, Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

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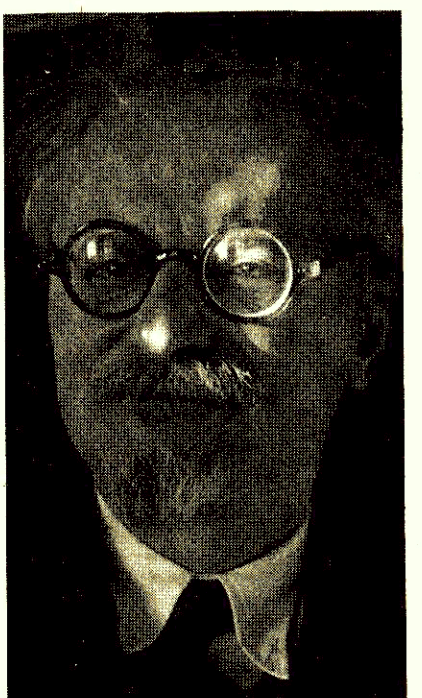
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This means: Forward with the first Trotskyist daily newspaper—WORKERS PRESS

ALSO: The first public showing of the latest Young Socialists' film—'Youth in Action in the Year of Lenin and Trotsky.'

More right-wing pressures in Ulster

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McCullough is only speaking for the most impatient section of the Unionist ruling majority, whipped up over the last weeks by the right-wing ex-Minister William Craig.

Craig and his supporters are pressing for the resignation of Prime Minister Chichester-Clark, the ditching of the promised civil rights reforms and the building up of an extreme right-wing Protestant armed guard—from the most reactionary elements in the middle class in the first place—to discipline the working class in the name of 'law and order'.

Brian Faulkner, Clark's Minister of Economic Development, is now being touted as a possible alternative candidate to Craig. This would, of course, be entirely acceptable to the extreme right, for Faulkner accepts all their basic positions. The talk of intervention and direct rule from Westminster by Maude is intended to give the impression that the Unionists are not going to be allowed to get away with their attacks on the working class, when in fact the British government and its troops are the main strength behind the Unionists, and the Tories are hell-bent on identical attacks in Britain.

In this context, it is necessary to warn against the dangers represented by the talk about a so-called 'united opposition' to the Unionists in Northern Ireland. Gerard Fitt, MP at both Westminster and Stormont, said on Monday that he had been approached to take the leadership of this opposition. This 'united opposition' will

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Trade war—back to anarchy

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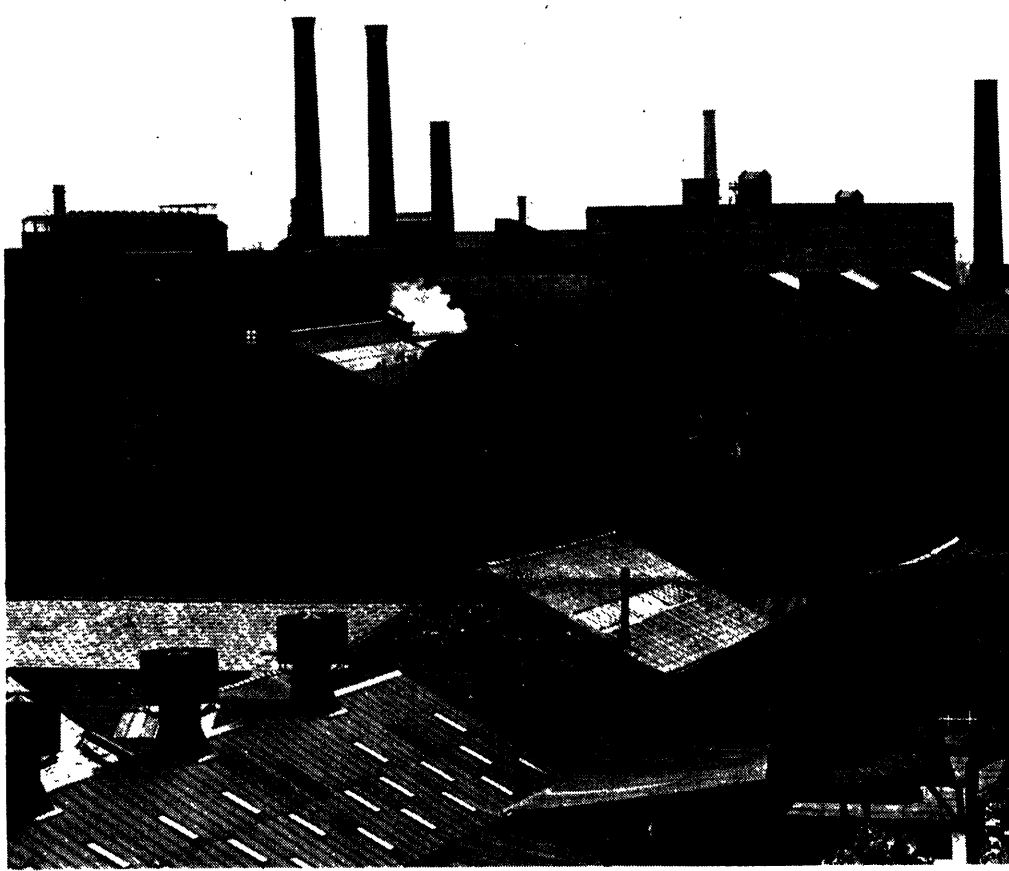
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Trade war-back to anarchy

BY A CORRESPONDENT

of Trade Michael Noble expressed 'grave concern' about the implications of the new US Trade Bill.

Power

The Bill has emerged from the Ways and Means Committee, on which Boggs is the senior Democrat member, and includes provisions to impose quota restrictions on a wide range of imported goods.

It also gives the President power to cut back imports to the average value for 1967-1969 on any commodity where imports made up 15 per cent of the US market.

This follows the complete failure of the talks last month between US and Japanese officials on voluntary control of non-cotton textile exports from Japan.

While Boggs pleads with the 'allies' to shoulder the burden of the US crisis, the latest figures indicate that unemployment in the States will continue to rise as stagnation sets in.

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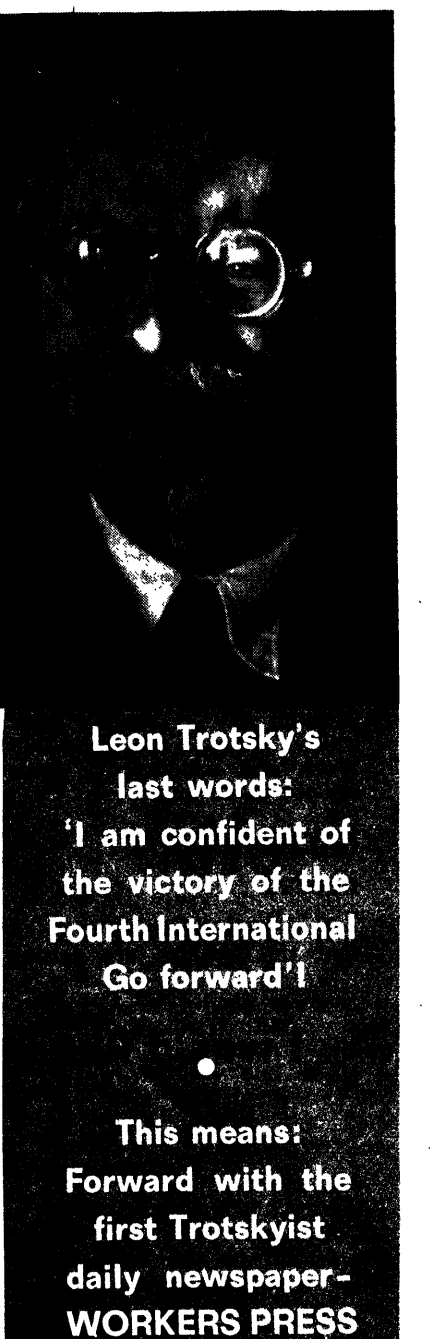
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What we think

Stalinism and Palestine

IT IS HIGH TIME every tendency in the workers' movement declared its position on the betrayal of the Palestinians.

Ever since the creation of the Israeli Zionist state in 1948, there has been a conspiracy between Stalinism, imperialism, the Zionists and the Arab ruling classes to prevent the Palestinians from returning to their homeland.

Driven out of Palestine by terrorist gangs, armed with weapons supplied by US imperialism and the Czech Stalinists, the Arab refugees have never reconciled themselves to Zionist domination of the Middle East.

Stalinism and imperialism have a long record of collaboration in the Middle East against the Arab revolution. In 1948, the Soviet United Nations delegate voted with the United States for the creation of the racist imperialist outpost known as Israel.

In 1956, when the Nasser government was preparing to nationalize the Suez canal, the Kremlin considered supporting the imperialist plan to 'internationalize' it.

And since the 'June war' of 1967, the Soviet bureaucracy insisted with every Arab leader that a 'political' solution must be adopted. In other words, the Zionist state must remain intact.

Nasser's acceptance of the so-called 'US peace initiative' after two weeks of discussion with Soviet leaders in Moscow is the logical outcome of this conspiracy against Palestine and the Arab revolution.

The next step—one that is already under way—is to suppress the Palestinian guerrilla movement, which in its vast majority refuses to accept the deal.

The success of the Rogers plan depends upon the crushing of the Palestinian liberation movement.

Everything from bribes and intimidation to armed force will be used to break their fighting spirit and render Palestine safe for the Zionists and imperialism. Even as Israel steps up its bombing raids on guerrilla positions along the River Jordan, King Hussein is recalling his most right-wing officers from exile and mobilizing crack units in the guerrilla-dominated areas.

The statement earlier this week by Palestinian guerrilla leader Yasser Arafat must be seen in this context.

Addressing a graduation ceremony of Al Fatah guerrillas in Amman, Arafat pledged his movement to resist any sell-out of the Palestinians: 'We are confident that the peaceful solution will not pass, thanks to our guns. There are serious plots, all

• PAGE FOUR COL. 4

Intensification of Labour— A key to government policy

THE EMPLOYERS have never permanently turned against overtime. As Karl Marx pointed out in his work 'Capital', even with overtime rates at time-and-a-half and time-and-a-third, substantial profits can be made.

But the basic policy now is to eliminate overtime by compressing all work into eight hours — as described last week.

This brings a huge cut in take-home pay because with the same amount of work turned out, the worker only receives 40-hour payment.

At the same time as this general policy is being carried out, individual firms and even industries may have problems which can only be solved by demanding overtime working. In the car industry a large influx of orders often means heavy demands on overtime.

Similarly, on the docks, employers are still fighting to get seven-day and shift-working accepted as a long-term policy, and overtime with week-end working as an immediate answer to moving the backlog, and turning ships round faster.

(ii) The amount of work done

The idea that cutting out overtime reduces the actual amount of work done in a day is deceptive.

As can be seen, more work is done in the new eight-hour working day than in the ten-hour working system.

As Karl Marx pointed out about the compulsory shortening of the working day, in his work 'Capital':

'The immense impetus it gives to the development of productive power, and to economy in the means of production, imposes on the workman increased expenditure of labour in a given time, heightened tension of labour-power, and closer filling up of the pores of the working day, or condensation of labour to a degree that is attainable only within the limits of the shortened working day.'

'This condensation of a greater mass of labour into a given period thenceforward counts for what it really is, a greater quantity of labour. In addition to a measure of its extension, i.e. duration, labour now acquires a measure of its intensity, or of a degree of its condensation or density. The denser hour of the ten-hour working day contains more labour, i.e. expended labour-power than the more porous hour of the 12-hour working day.'

In Marx's time increased intensity was mainly attained by 'increasing the speed of the machine and by giving the workman more machinery to tend.'

But as we can see, the 'filling up of the pores of the working day' is exactly what work study, Measured-Day Work and productivity deals set out to do today.

(iii) Extensive rest needed

It is also deceptive to think that the workers are getting

the 'compensation' of a shorter working day (eight hours instead of ten) when overtime is eliminated.

The new system of working eventually forces the worker into a state where he must take extensive rest after work.

In this sense he ends up still doing 'overtime' of two, three or four hours. The difference is that before, it was paid overtime at work; now it is unpaid rest in his own time.

To put it another way, the new system has compressed all the working time into the eight-hour period and squeezed the major part of the rest periods into the after-work time. (Figure 3).

In fact, the worker finds that after such highly concentrated working, he cannot suddenly 'come alive' after two or three hours rest, but needs the whole evening in which to recover.

However there is another alternative which workers in this situation sometimes employ. That is to take their rest periods—which were previously diffused over the week—in a lump amount.

In other words they take time off (say one day a week). We can see from this that 'absenteeism' as it is called is

Fridays', he naturally got massive publicity from employers, government, capitalist press, radio, etc., because he was asserting capitalism's right to 'fill up the pores of the day' as and when it sees fit.

The failure of the Communist Party to immediately expel Paynter for his statements attacking an important section of the working class which was facing immense attacks from the employers reflects the lengths to which the Stalinists go to uphold their theory of 'peaceful co-existence with capitalism'.

(iv) Machines

The figures above only give an idea of the changes in actual working, but with new machines and the re-arrangement of working and the sacking of a section of the work force, tremendous increases in output may result, also the employer saves in lighting, gas, power, etc., on the overtime hours saved and the depreciation of tools and machines is cut, though being used more quickly with the extra work done.

(v) Tea breaks

The cutting out of tea breaks is an essential part of



... impose on the workman the extra expenditure of labour in a given time, heightened tension of labour-power and closer filling up of the pores of the working day.

The workers are told that the new system is an advantage because they can get tea and coffee at any time — usually from a vending machine which replaces the tea-making personnel. This constitutes an immense gain to the employer as it allows continuous working throughout working hours.

At the same time it is an

measure of control over each individual operative than had ever been achieved before.

Under the Labour government's prices and incomes policy this factor has been changed from a secondary to

has found necessary to his own safety and well-being and to replace them with a time conditioned solely by the drive for maximum profits.

It is the object of bodies like the Commission on Indus-

trial Relations and the CIM to extend this concept into every aspect and every section of industry and to ensure that the government's policy of controlling and disciplining workers is taken throughout every firm.

The theories of 'productive work' 'indirect' workers, etc. represent a monstrous imposi-

tion on the working class aimed at brutally driving down standards of rest, safety and protection which have been gained in years of struggle against the employers.

It is the duty of Marxist workers at all times to expose and fight any proposals and agreements based on these systems.

Where a productivity deal has been accepted and these theories are being implemented the Marxist must at all times fight alongside his fellow workers against every new turn of the screws as each system is applied; against cuts in tea and meal breaks, against extension of shift work, against each and every speed-up of a job time, against elimination of workers from the work through overlapping and against the pay freeze associated with Measured-Day Work and other 'productivity' methods of payment.

At the same time he must on all occasions expose the political nature of the attack and show that the only real 'defence' is made in a struggle against the incomes policy, against all attempts to intimi-

date and penalize workers with fines and prison sentences, against any interference in the trade unions by the state, against the whole concept of productivity bargaining, and for the nationalization of the basic industries, banks and finance houses without compensation and under complete workers' control.

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ALTERNATIVE POLICY

An alternative policy must be fought for of regular basic increases in pay without strings to keep up with the cost of living, of wide extension of tea and meal breaks and drastic reduction in working hours—all without loss of pay—on the introduction of any new machinery or 'labour saving' device, this, along with a reduced pace of working can ensure better than any employers' 'guarantee' that redundancies do not occur.

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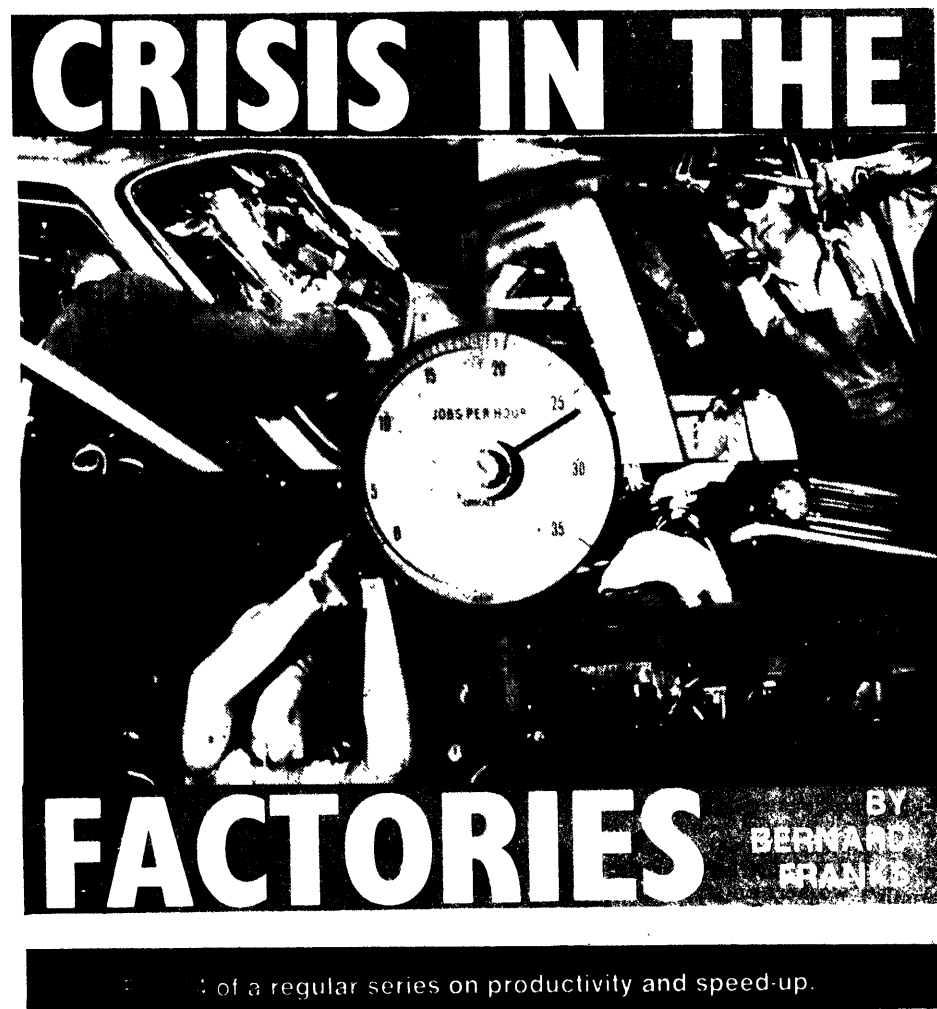
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... of a regular series on productivity and speed-up.

not a casual consideration. As well as being a natural reaction to massive upheavals and closures which leave a question mark over the job of every worker, it is also a well defined protective practice by which large sections of workers physically and mentally defend themselves against the direct and continuous intensification of their labour.

WILL PAYNTER

Therefore in 1967 when Will Paynter, at that time general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, as well as being a member of the Communist Party, attacked S Wales miners for 'irresponsible anti-social behaviour represented by voluntary absence, especially on Mondays and

productivity bargaining. From being a separate and complete break from working for a fixed period, the refreshment time becomes 'incorporated' in the so-called 'relaxation allowance time' which is added to each element of work by work study.

immense loss to the worker, as no amount of tea-drinking while working can make up for loss of a complete break from operations.

Further, although at the early stage of a deal the right to tea at any time may be adhered to, at a later stage

JUST OUT

Germany 1931 1932

Leon Trotsky

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JUST ABOUT DRINKABLE

The tea emitted from these machines can vary from a just about drinkable beverage to an extrusion of an undefined chemical composition which quickly discourages the worker from taking even what right of refreshment are left.

Employers are also aiming at breaking away from the 'hour for dinner' won after many battles by the organized working class and which became standard practice in most industries. Various incentives are being offered to reduce this to 45 minutes or half an hour.

(vi) Shift work

The introduction of new, expensive machinery inevitably means that the employer will insist on shift-work.

He cannot leave such equipment idle for 16 hours a day, or over the weekend. The present drive for shift-working in many industries not normally working this way, will if the government and employers get their way, be extended to all industries and services.

This means that eventually the three or four-shift, seven-days-a-week system.

In effect, the worker working at greater intensity, will be expected to adapt his life to irregular patterns of work, maybe involving a change of shift each week.

(vii) Accidents

This intensified working, along with shifts, is entirely destructive to the human mental and physical processes.

Nothing is built, developed or learned; all work becomes a squeezing out of the maximum of energy, a wearing away, combined with bad living conditions, worsened travel arrangements, problems over rents and mortgages, prices, jobs security, an incredible burden of worry and distraction falls on the worker and his family.

INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS

All this in conjunction with the new machines and methods will lead inevitably to an increase in accidents. The worker is expected to live only for work and even to become enthusiastic about timing his own job and posting in the suggestions box yet newer ways of enslaving himself to the work process.

Finally, although in the early days of time and motion these systems were simply applied as means of intensifying labour, it soon became clear that important 'secondary' advantages ensued.

That as well as getting more labour from each worker, they also exercised a greater

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tv column



Christians at War—Two families in Belfast

BBC 2 Documentary Wednesday August 12



An Orangeman's parade (above) and a children's playground in Belfast.

Guest reviewer
JOHN SPENCER

THE BBC-2 documentary 'Christians at War—Two families in Belfast' (Wednesday, August 12) confined itself, as the title implies, to examining the religious divisions which separate worker from worker in N Ireland.

It reproduced all the glib and misleading newsreel clichés which have become tediously familiar since the struggles in N Ireland began.

Made by two distinct production teams—one of which visited a Protestant and the other a Catholic family in the city—the film conveyed, but could not rise above, the claustrophobic atmosphere in the religiously-divided ghettos.

NO EXPLANATION

But it came nowhere near an explanation of the struggles that are racking Ulster.

The viewer hoping to learn something on this score would have been left as baffled when he switched off as when he switched on.

The unctuous introduction: 'In Belfast, men, women and children are fighting each other in the name of God'—set the tone.

Then we were whisked to the home of Bob Purdy, a Protestant and Master of his local Orange Lodge. He regarded the Catholics as the enemy. While his wife had at one time had Catholic friends, she didn't any more . . .

A WORKING MAN

Purdy—clearly a right-wing Craig supporter—said rather surprisingly that if he were in England he might vote Labour, being a working man.

He criticized the Stormont government:

'It's all right for Major Chichester-Clark up in Stormont—he wants to come down here and see it close to.'

His Orange Lodge colleagues,

Belfast: Holy war or class struggle?



Chichester-Clark

robing up for their July 12 march, claimed the marches were not provocative, 'just a lively tradition'. If anyone tried to stop them they would be tampering with civil rights.

Other scenes showed Purdy's daughter, Madeline, singing songs praising the Black and Tans and toasting the Queen. All good clean Orange fun, except for the lad who had been blinded by shotgun pellets in a fight on the Crumlin Rd.

And then, 'representing' the Catholics, the Canavans of Bay St, all devout churchgoers, living in just the same tiny terrace houses as their Protestant neighbours across the line, hating the British Army, but unable to see any way out.

While no one can deny that confusion is rife among both Protestant and Catholic wor-

kers in Belfast, the film gave hardly a hint of the real causes of conflict: the years of deliberately fostered religious division, the low wages, slum housing, unemployment and sweated labour that are the order of the day in Britain's oldest colony.

PRIEST-RIDDEN

So while the Protestant workers were pictured as bigoted Orangemen, the Catholic workers had to be shown as priest-ridden Fenians.

Much of the 'Catholic' half of the programme—considerably less penetrating even than the portrayal of the Protestant family—was taken up with an interview of the local priest, parroting the emollient phrases of clerical obscurantism.

Alec Robinson, a friend of the Canavans, praised the youth fighting against the troops and admitted that he too had thrown stones at the Army, provoking a certain amount of shock from the BBC's discreet interviewer.

INEXPLICABLE

One thing came over very clearly from the programme. If the events in N Ireland are considered simply as a religious war they become not only inexplicable, but simply absurd.

It has been the conscious policy of the press and television to obscure the roots of the conflict, and this programme did just that.

Without the struggle for revolutionary consciousness in every section of the Irish working class, the employers will doubtless continue to divide

and rule as they have done for 300 years.

OLD FORMS

But the movement of the Irish working class, though it has to pass through these old forms imposed by imperialism, is part of an international struggle involving workers all over the world.

The grip of the Orange

Order and the Catholic Church can and will be loosened, as workers come to see the paramount class interest that unites them against the employers.

This is what frightened Wilson a year ago and frightens the Tories now. And this is why they have to follow the Army in with television crews peddling the threadbare myths of religious war and helping maintain the division of the workers.

IMPORTANT READING

STALINISM IN BRITAIN

A TROTSKYIST ANALYSIS
BY ROBERT BLACK

NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS PRICE 22s.6d

THE HOUSING PROBLEM

WHO SAID that capitalist politicians are insensitive to the day-to-day problems facing the working class?

Workers Press notebook

For shame! Anyone who has followed the tear-jerking saga of the homeless Wilsons will have nothing but contempt for those biased good-for-nothings who think that life at the top is all wines and roses (or booze and peerges).

Caught unawares by the events of June 18, Harold and Mary, together with all their chattels, were unceremoniously hurled out onto the bleak streets of London with nowhere to go except their holiday home in the Isles of Scilly, which unfortunately falls outside the division bell area. What to do?

However, good fortune has smiled on Harold, so rudely dashed from high office. He has

at last moved into a new abode and regained his self-respect.

Of course, it's a mere hovel — just three bedrooms, three reception rooms, two bathrooms and a modest garden — and the price is a little high; about £20,000 for the 20-year lease.

But, like so many other unfortunate families, they have little choice but to tighten their belts and pay up.

At the price, you can't expect the neighbours to be up to much. Just down the road lives former Tory Party chair-



Wilson and his wife during the June election campaign.

man Edward du Cann. He used to live at the Wilsons' shack, but — not surprisingly — found it too small.

Also close are those two notorious Tory tearaways Baroness Elliott of Harewood and Ava, Lady Waverley.

Nevertheless, in the national interest, Harold is determined to stick it out.

And don't think he's the only one with housing problems. In fact, MPs face dilemmas of which most common people are sublimely ignorant.

Take Home Secretary Reggie Maundling, for instance. He's got too many houses on his hands.

Having accepted an offer of one of the ministerial flats at Admiralty House, he is now trying to rent out his former Belgravia residence for £225 a week — £11,700 a year.

Such pin-money will help to supplement his wage packet of £8,500, ease the pain at giving up his directorships and relieve the burden on social security.

No doubt, these weighty problems will be the centre of discussion when Harold and Reggie meet in a few weeks time at a social wedding.

Enoch Powell and Lord Hogg, who have also been invited, will be able to bring their grey matter to bear between the whelks and bitter.

We have not been able to verify the rumour that George Clark has been asked to intercede on behalf of the social needy in high places.

OPPORTUNISTS

THE Communist Party is advertising in the 'Morning Star' for a 'capable and adaptable Party or YCL member' to run the general office at 16 King Street. Adaptability, more scientifically termed opportunism, is certainly a requirement for the job . . .

ONLY
NEED
APPLY

Share and share alike

ANOTHER businessman who may be feeling a little less than totally secure is David Spreckley, managing director of Lansmen's Caravans based in Buckden, Huntingdonshire.

His 33 workers hold more shares in the firm than he does, and could, if they wanted to, sack him.

A co-ownership scheme at the firm over the past five years, involving yearly incentive bonuses paid in shares, had led to this somewhat anomalous situation.

It's hardly workers' control, though. Each worker, if he holds an average shareholding, is worth about 4 per cent of Mr Spreckley and his wife — hardly anything to shout about. But it does give one food for thought.

The miners, who had to suffer the impact of Lord Robens' policies over the years, didn't even have that much say in appointing him, and they certainly can't vote him out. They can't vote him out of the House of Lords, either. He's there for life.

Safe seat

BUT THOSE with an eye for a really secure position — with possibly a place in the House of Lords at the end of it — will have got themselves on the short list for the Tory candidature in St Marylebone, London.

No less than 438 Tory hopefuls presented themselves for selection in this ultra-safe Tory seat, where the Tory majority is higher than the Labour vote.

The former incumbent at St Marylebone was the Right Honourable Quintin Hogg, now Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, formerly Viscount Hailsham.

COAL COMFORT

WILL the Tories depose Old King Coal? — not the pantomime favourite, the real thing — Lord Robens, £20,000-a-year head of the National Coal Board, former Labour minister, director of the Bank of England and one of the board of Times Newspapers.

His Coal Board job, it appears, may be in some danger after what one newspaper called his 'militant anti-policy speeches'.

Not that he actually criticized the Tories. He just didn't like the Prices and Incomes Board's idea of centralizing the NCB management.

After all, the man has been operating Tory policy for years. It would be most ungracious of them to put him out now

after all the pit closures, speed-up, mass sackings, etc.

Anyway, he doesn't think they'll sack him. On the contrary, when his second five-year term of office ends in January, he expects the government either to take him on for another term or 'shake me warmly by the hand and say goodbye'.

If he does have to go away with only a handshake, it won't quite leave him on the breadline, though he claims that 'if you're thinking in terms of vast possessions and so on, I'm not at all wealthy'.

He'll still have his directorship. And if the worst comes to the worst he can always toddle off to the House of Lords and draw £5 a day simply for turning up. But he might just about be able to get by on Earnings Related Benefit . . .

Robens: Old King Coal



Motor employers preparing for strikes

AS BRITISH-LEYLAND shares dipped to their lowest-ever price on the London Stock Exchange, company boss Lord Stokes was putting the finishing touches to his announcement yesterday that the Morris section of British-Leyland is to be merged with Pressed-Steel Fisher.

B-Leyland

FROM PAGE ONE
The labour force, the company claims, will remain 'about the same'—though here again there are no guarantees of redundancy. Asked how the merger would affect wage-rates, a spokesman said wage rates would have increasingly to be considered on a group basis.

'INTENSIFY'

As one senior steward commented: 'This means Leyland want to intensify their drive towards fixed pay structures and a pay system similar to Ford's—in other words a corporate pay system.'

Wage-rates in British-Leyland factories are at present negotiated on a plant basis, leaving very considerable negotiating power in the hands of shop stewards. Almost all the plants involved in the merger are at present paid on piece-work systems, and the company desperately wants to force through a change to a uniform Measured-Day Work system negotiated at group or company level.

Tomorrow's Workers Press contains an important report of talks between British-Leyland and Ford stewards which starkly underlines the need for a principled political fight against the company's Measured-Day Work drive.

Order your copy now from our circulation dept—see advert below.

The resultant unit of over 80,000 is expected to give British-Leyland a stronger hand in imposing Measured-Day Work in the interests of 'greater productivity', i.e. greater profits.

British car manufacturers are of course one of the main sections of employers eager to take advantage of the election of a Tory government pledged to cure wage-inflation and legislate against the unions.

They want the abolition of piece-work in those firms like British-Leyland where Measured-Day Work has been successfully resisted.

It is not just a question of fighting for higher wage-rates against these car employers. For example, the impending wage-demand for Ford workers, rumoured to involve some increases of £14 weekly, will certainly clash with the government's appeal to 'cool inflationary wage fever', and will be resisted with full government backing.

Ford's are faced, like all motor firms in Britain, with fierce competition from European and Japanese firms and with the threat of big restrictions on the US market.

For example, British Ford-made Cortinas have already been excluded by US dealers in favour of the German Ford-made Capri. Only an intensive drive to cut wage-costs, speed up production, and impose factory discipline which improves quality without increased cost, can save any of these British firms, accord-

BY A CORRESPONDENT

ing to their own advisors—like the 'Financial Times' (Tuesday).

In other words, the new Ford pay claim for 'parity' with the highest-paid Midlands workers will find the company operating in much worse economic conditions and in a political situation which demands political policies and leadership to fight the government.

It is all very well for Moss Evans, national officer of the cars groups of the Transport and General Workers' Union, to say: 'The aspirations for parity are still there... I cannot allow the government to influence the facts of the case.'

The facts are that Evans, Scanlon and others were responsible for admitting penalty clauses, retreating on the pay claim, and dividing what was the first-ever united action by Ford workers.

That was a dangerous setback; but to repeat this policy now would be to court disaster. An article by James Ensor in Tuesday's 'Financial Times', obviously based on interviews with the motor industry's bosses, makes very clear that they are contemplating a number of strikes, but that they regard these as necessary overhauls in the imposition of Measured-Day Work and factory discipline.

'Certain strikes'

Ensor even says: 'The proposed government legislation on contractual obligations and union procedures seems certain to produce political strikes in the car plants.'

Hoping for a growth of unemployment in the very near future, and with the backing of the Tories, the carmakers are in the forefront of the employers' decision to try and beat back the wages offensive. They can only be answered by a fight for the socialist nationalization of the industry, under workers' control and without compensation.

It is in this direction that the wages militancy must be turned. All those who argue for an expanding 'high-wage' economy under capitalism, like the Stalinist 'Morning Star' and the 'left' union leaders, would lead the motor car workers into a situation where the difficulties caused by the capitalist world crisis will be used to enforce sackings, wage-cuts and savage factory discipline.

GKN strikers stay out

THREE THOUSAND strikers at the GKN-Sankey motor components plant at Wellington, Shropshire, yesterday rejected their union's call for a return to work.

The mass meeting voted down the recommendation of General and Municipal Workers' Union regional organizer Ron Langstone to go back and begin talks with the management.

G&MWU members felt that this should not be accepted unless the other unions involved agreed.

The union represents three-quarters of the 4,000 GKN strikers, who began their stoppage a week ago. Management has offered to meet less than half of their claim for a 4s 3d-an-hour increase.

The factory's joint shop stewards' committee meets today and a mass meeting is to be held tomorrow. The strike has resulted in a shortage of body-panels at Chrysler's commercial vehicle factory in Dunstable where 350 men are to be laid off from tomorrow afternoon.

The wheel shortage has halted production at Massey-Ferguson's Coventry tractor plant where 850 are laid off with more lay-offs likely later this week.



Ford workers at a recent mass meeting

Stalinism and Palestine

FROM PAGE ONE
directly or indirectly seeking the destruction of our revolution. 'We are determined to turn this country into a graveyard for all plotters. This country will remain the Hanoi of the Palestine revolution.'

Warning that Hussein had stationed four army brigades outside Amman, he called upon the Arab people to carry on the fight against Zionism and its accomplices: 'I am sure that our Arab nation will not leave us alone.'

Arafat's warning should not be ignored. King Hussein plans to visit Nasser this Thursday to seek his approval and support for a crack-down on the guerrillas. If Hussein can get the Israelis to pull out of the West Bank soon, then a joint Israeli-Jordan operation against the guerrillas is certain.

Arafat's appeal for solidarity with the betrayed and embattled Palestinians must be taken beyond the Middle East.

All along, the Stalinists of the British Communist Party—through first of all their 'Daily Worker' and later its successor the 'Morning Star'—have covered up for Zionism.

They hailed the brutal eviction of the Arabs from Palestine and the carve-up of the remnants of Palestine between the Jordanian monarchy and Zionism as a 'further blow at imperialist domination in the Middle East'. ('Labour Monthly', September 1949.)

The record of the Labour 'lefts'—and especially 'Tribune'—is just as despicable. Openly pro-Zionist views are expounded in this wretched reformist journal week after week by writers who pose as allies of the colonial peoples.

In the case of the Stalinists, their pro-Zionism has never prevented them from defending the anti-Semitic persecutions mounted by the Kremlin in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe after the war.

They are both pro-Zionists and anti-Semites—a combination which is by no means rare amongst opportunists within the labour movement. Now the moment of truth has arrived. Arafat's warning and declaration is a challenge to every socialist internationalist. We already know where Gollan, Fletcher and company

stand on the question of the Arab Revolution. They recognize the Zionist, imperialist-created state of Israel, but they deny the right of the Palestinians—as part of the Arab nation—to self-determination. The planned betrayal of the Palestinians has implications that go far beyond the Middle East. Nixon, assisted by the Kremlin and its supporters in the North Vietnamese government, would dearly like to foist a similar deal on the peoples of Indo-China. In its turn, such a deal would prepare for new blows against the working class in the advanced capitalist countries. The Soviet bureaucracy, backed up by its minions in the British and other western Stalinist parties, is prepared to sacrifice everything to the working class and colonial peoples have won so as to reach a lasting accommodation with imperialism, headed by the United States.

Nationalized industries

FROM PAGE ONE
The Tories are worried lest Lord Robens might be inclined to pay too high a price to buy industrial peace in the coming negotiations with the miners and, if necessary, they are prepared to take the miners on.

The government's determination is shared by the PIB which castigated the NCB's 'weak-kneed' attitude in stringent terms: 'We do not think it right to anticipate in price increases the outcome of negotiations on a claim of the size now impending, except in so far as it is reasonable for pay to rise at a rate in keeping with the nation's economic growth.'

Not accidentally the PIB report also calls for a strengthening of the Coal Board's method study branch as well as increasing the powers of supervising staff and centralizing day-to-day management by shake-up of the top management structure.

But this is only one side of the picture of increasing misery and uncertainty. While workers in the nationalized sector are being exhorted to increase productivity and forego their legitimate wage demands, the private sector of industry is being actively encouraged to exploit the most profitable sections of these industries which are being hived off from state ownership.

AUSTRALIAN LETTER

SYDNEY, August 13—The Australian section of the vast international oil industry is still fighting with every weapon at its disposal to maintain its fat profits. (Increase in these profits for the Shell group was 43 per cent for 1969).

A few weeks ago, a wages strike by maintenance workers spread throughout the whole of Australia. Now the industry is fighting an attack by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), which is the equivalent of the TUC, on claims for wage increases based on the ability of an industry to pay.

The claim, which will affect the outcome of the recent dispute, is being heard before the Commonwealth (i.e. national) Arbitration Board, a body of men who sit in judgement on claims by workers.

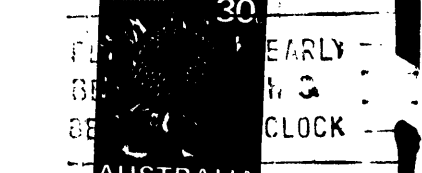
Backing the industry in their claim that profits should bear no relation to wages is the National Employers' Policy Committee and the Commonwealth government. What they really mean when they say that 'ability to pay' should not

be considered when wage claims are being dealt with, is, of course, that high profits should not be revealed, but low or falling profits can always be used as an excuse for keeping wages down.

This reveals the transparency of offers of profit-sharing in industry, Measured-Day Work and any other forms of getting more out of the workers for less in return.

The industry's profitability was completely irrelevant to the dispute, claimed the QC for the oil industry. Which is an honest enough reminder, if anyone needs it, that modern capitalism is more considerate of the well-being of its workers than it ever was.

It is not simply of course how much super-companies like Shell can or cannot afford to pay its workers. Mr Jack Faichne, chairman of the National Oil Industry Committee, expressed the fear of many an Australian boss when he said during the oil dispute that an increase would have a snowballing effect on industries generally.



Federal Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr Bill Snedden, had a very good reason for the government interfering in the case: '... the good of the community' and 'the public interest'.

But he did not rehearse his lines with oil industry leaders too well. While the industry's QC was saying the size of the profit was irrelevant to wages paid, Mr Snedden was still suggesting that the larger the former the larger the latter, when he reminded everyone: 'The worker has to realize that unrest cut into production and the granting of claims in a severe cost pressure throughout the community.' THE GREAT international

brotherhood of capitalism has now linked hands with Papua-New Guinea on the question of 'law and order'.

The Australian government, which administers the area partly as a mandated territory and partly as the gift of a colony from Britain, has just discovered that there is a defect in the present law which does not enable the authorities to take preventive action in potentially dangerous situations. No doubt recent confrontations between natives and police helped them 'realize' this.

Among legislation planned is control of public meetings and a great increase in police powers to search and arrest.

Ulster

FROM PAGE ONE
benches felt that a number of organizations that were self-appointed seemed to be speaking for the people. But none had a vote cast for them in an election.

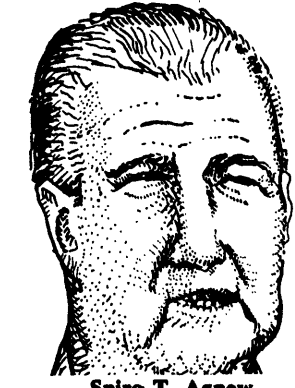
Right at the point where the bourgeoisie reaches the height of its political crisis, and above all the independent mobilization of the working class is essential, Fitt and his friends move to try and confine everything to parliamentary procedure.

Their next move will be to collaborate with some new-found 'progressive' or 'moderate' wing of the Unionists on the pretext of keeping out Craig and the extreme right. They would thus help the capitalist class with a move to the right, and in the inevitable open leadership of elements like Craig and Paisley, meanwhile paralysing the emergence of a real working-class opposition.

This is the classic role of 'lefts', like Fitt, and their Stalinist supporters. What is necessary in Northern Ireland, as in the Republic in the South, is the building of a Marxist movement oriented to the independent action of the working class, carrying out a principled struggle against British imperialism and partition.

All the conditions for building such a movement now exist. All the other tendencies from Fitt and his liberal friends in the North to the 'Green Tories' in the South, are opposed to such a struggle and are divided only on how best to collaborate with Westminster in 'restoring order'.

Agnew: No U.S. withdrawal from S.E. Asia



Spiro T. Agnew

IN A BITING attack on Senate advocates of an early and total withdrawal from Indo-China, US Vice-President Spiro Agnew has declared that the Nixon administration would see the war in Vietnam through to 'an honourable end'.

He denounced proposals to pull out as 'a blueprint for the first defeat in the history of the United States' and accused the supporters of a withdrawal resolution in the Senate of 'not giving a damn'.

Agnew argued that the passing of a resolution calling for the withdrawal of all US troops by the middle of 1971 would undermine the bargaining position of Nixon's envoys at the Paris

'peace talks', which have now resumed after a long recess.

Reassure
Next week, Agnew will be touring the capitals of South Korea, Thailand, Formosa and South Vietnam.

The loud-mouthed Vice-President's new offensive against Senate 'doves' such as George McGovern and Mark Hatfield is obviously intended to reassure pro-US regimes in South-East Asia who fear that Nixon's 'Vietnamization' policy implies the total and early withdrawal of US imperialism.

Chinese arms for Cambodian guerrillas

CHINA yesterday agreed to give free military aid to the Cambodian government-in-exile under Prince Sihanouk, who was deposed by a CIA-inspired coup last March.

The agreement—first of its kind between the two governments—was signed yesterday in Peking.

The aid programme covers 1970 only, as China negotiates all such agreements on an annual basis.

Details of the aid were not released, but it is expected to consist largely of small arms suitable for guerrilla warfare.

The Chinese decision is all the more timely in view of the renewed United States offensive against the supply-routes from North Vietnam, through Laos, to guerrilla-held territory in Cambodia.

The Socialist Labour League will do its utmost in the US next period to warn against the consequences of a defeat for the Arabs, and win workers for class action in solidarity with the Palestinians. This is our internationalist duty.

Down with Zionism and its Stalinist accomplices! Long live the unity of Jewish and Arab workers in the struggle for an independent socialist Palestine!

Lighter jobs report soon

A REPORT on the state of the lighterage industry is expected from the port employers this week.

Since decasualization, 14 firms have closed. At the moment, there are ninety lightermen on the unattached register and heavy emphasis is being put by the bosses on 'voluntary severance'.

Another London wharf closes

THE SHUT-DOWN immediately after the national docks strike of yet another riverside wharf—with just four hours' notice to the 60 dockers involved—shows that the only purpose of the riverside Devlin Phase Two 'modernization' agreement is wharf closures and an end to dockers' jobs.

According to the current issue of 'The Port', the firm—Carron and Continental Wharves Ltd—suddenly found itself insolvent and had to cease operations immediately.

However, dockers on the wharf are adamant that the employers deliberately set out to close the company by not seeking alternative business when an existing contract had ended.

Earlier this month, angry dockers had refused to leave the premises when a notice was posted up at the wharf informing the men—some of whom had worked there for 30 years—that business would cease at mid-day.

The Transport and General Workers' No. 1 docks group has since met to discuss the situation. This closure, which leaves only two other wharves open on the Wapping waterfront, is now being used by the employers as a threat of what will happen if Phase Two is not implemented.

However, most dockers see it—and other closures that have taken place under Devlin Phase One—as an example of what Phase Two is all about.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

BIRMINGHAM: Tuesday, August 25, 8 p.m. The Wellington, Bristol St. Bromsgrove St. Lessons of the dock strike.

Leeds clothing strike ahead

THE NATIONAL Executive of the Tailors' and Garment Workers' Union has rejected a request from its Leeds members to call an official strike to secure the reinstatement of 40 cutters made redundant at the city's John Collier's factory last month.

At a meeting between union officials and John Collier's cutters there was strong criticism of the union.

Many cutters walked out of the meeting in disgust, and those remaining demanded an immediate meeting with the Collier's management over the redundancies.

WOULD SUPPORT

The Leeds and District Clothing Workers' Joint Liaison Committee—representing 25,000 workers—has already declared that it would support an unofficial strike if the union leadership refuse to call an official one.

The committee meets again next Tuesday. This could lead to a major unofficial clothing strike in Leeds.

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LATE NEWS

THORN CLOSURE THREAT
Thorn Electrical management said yesterday that if the sheet metal workers' strike (see page 1, col 6) was extended to electrical and engineering union members on Friday the Gateshead plant would be closed indefinitely. The firm's statement added that the scab labour would have seniority.

POOLS PICKET
Liverpool members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs are to mount pickets outside the Littlewoods pools centre from today.

Appeals are to be made for a ban on deliveries by Post Office workers, who have already refused to cross the picket lines at the Liverpool mail-order depots.

The dispute began last Thursday over the firm's refusal to recognize ASTMS and to reinstate two dismissed planning officers.

LAY-OFF STRIKE
9,000 production workers at Standard-Triumph's Coventry plant are on strike until tomorrow morning because of the threatened lay-offs and the management's refusal to pay a guaranteed wage.

Standard-Triumph men are carrying out their July decision for a complete walk-out—whenever the firm lays off any section because of external causes and without lay-off pay.

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