

## Clerks defy NUM and join strike Miners run the risk of fighting alone

BY MICHAEL BANDA

HATRED of the ruthless policies of the National Coal Board and the Tory government reached a new pitch at the weekend when 12,500 white collar staff employed by the NCB voted to join the national miners' strike.

The strike enters its second week today with 260,000 workers out. All the signs are that the Tories' plan is to try and starve the miners back.

The decision by the Colliery and Official Staffs' Section of the NUM to join the strike marks a hardening in the ranks of the miners.

The clerks proclaimed their solidarity despite the attempts of the NCB to cajole them to remain at work and despite the pleas of Joe Gormley.

Mr A. Leslie Story, their secretary, said the NUM executive's instruction that the clerks should stay at work was 'unworkable'.

There is a growing weight of support for the strike and we took an 'all-in' or 'all-out' decision. Our wages follow the industrial grades, so we are equally caught up in the strike. I think picketing probably caused people to realize they were in a fight.

The NUM wanted the white collar men to keep running the highly elaborate NCB computer centres and pay offices where wages, pensions and income tax rebates are handled.

The TUC leader Victor Feather is being conspicuously silent as this historic confrontation continues; the leaders of the engineers and power workers by abandoning an immediate pay fight have also played into the hands of the Tories and left the miners isolated in their pay battle.

As the clerks were taking their decision, Wheldale miners at Castleford were unanimously supporting a resolution calling for the mobilization of all workers to force the Tories to resign.

The same meeting voted for the return of a Labour government to bring workers' control of the pits and end all compensation to the old owners.

Meanwhile, on Merseyside, dockers—at a mass meeting—defied their own leaders' advice and decided unanimously to black all coal, abnormal or not, and black all firms trying to break the coal strike.

The necessity for this defiance was pointedly spelled out at Portishead, Somerset, where dockers decided to unload 1,200 tons of coal due in from Belfast.

Presumably informed by higher authority T&GWU docks official, Tom Davis, is reported to have said:

'The shipment is part of a regular monthly consignment to the power station in Belfast, which we regard as normal cargo.'

Mr Jack Moss, aged 57, lodge secretary at one of S Wales' largest collieries, Wyndham and Western, employing 1,250 men and a life-long member of the Labour Party, criticized the TUC for not giving a lead.

He said: 'It is a fight against the government and the TUC should come out and not stand on the sidelines.'

A weekend statement by miners' leader Gormley went a step along the dangerous path to arbitration:

'If [Carr's Department of Employment] want us to come and take part in some conciliation procedure we would have to look at it. Any attempt at conciliation which could lead to a settlement would get me to go anywhere' (Our emphasis).

There is no future for miners under the Tories—only their complete degradation.

Only the resignation of this hated government and the election of a Labour government committed to establishing workers' control in the mines and power stations and expropriating the rest of industry can secure the miners' future.

### What we think

#### TUC winks, 'Tribune' nods

'TRIBUNE' is the paper of the parliamentary 'lefts' in the Labour Party.

Its staff is armed with poisonous pens for attacking the Socialist Labour League and with whitewash brushes for dealing with the right-wing trade union leaders, during a miners' strike as at every other time.

According to the current issue, 'the decision by the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the TUC General Council not to convene a special meeting of transport unions to discuss action to support the miners was reported in some papers as a serious setback to the National Union of Mineworkers. In fact it was nothing of the kind...

The TUC committee decided against such a meeting basically for two reasons: first, because a decision to instruct trade unionists not to cross picket lines would achieve the same purpose; and secondly because such a meeting could leave the leaders of other unions open to legal action by employers affected by sympathetic action, since they could be held to have instigated the blacking of goods.

In other words the TUC is choosing to operate on the basis that a nod is as good as a wink.

And they explain NUM president Joe Gormley's first reaction of extreme disappointment with the decision as due to a misunderstanding.

Only when Victor Feather phoned him later to spell out the decision in full, including the part about not crossing picket lines, did the NUM leaders realize that they had not been left on their own,' the paper explains sycophantically.

All this is so much hogwash, except the declaration that the leaders did not call for blacking of coal because they were afraid.

Gormley is a hardened right-winger—of course he will jump when Feather cracks the whip. The fact remains that union members are expected to do the blacking, without regard to the possibility of being taken to court, while their leaders are avoiding the rap themselves.

The mins DID need the co-ordinating meeting, their leaders DID expect it, and they WERE betrayed by the refusal of the TUC 'inner cabinet' to fight.

In his interview with Workers Press, miners' secretary Lawrence Daly said: 'I could not envisage a short-term struggle ending successfully for us without the support of the other unions—and that is why we will be pressing for that when we expect to meet them tomorrow afternoon [Tuesday, January 11].'

Editor Richard Clements and his team have proved yet again that they are good for nothing except to provide a flimsy 'left' cover for the right-wing leadership of the trade unions and the Labour Party.



More than 300 unionists demonstrated at the now-occupied Fisher-Bendix factory, Kirkby, on Merseyside, at the weekend

### Hundreds on Kirkby demo

SEVERAL hundred workers from all over Merseyside picketed the Fisher-Bendix plant at Kirkby, near Liverpool, on Saturday in support of the 13-day sit-in there against closure.

Taking part were printers, engineers, dockers and ship-repair workers.

Tom Staples, treasurer of the 1,000-strong occupation's fighting fund, commented yesterday that the action had been 'a great success'.

'It was a big boost to our morale to know the breadth of support we have from the labour movement in the area', he said.

At a special meeting of the Liverpool Trades Council on Wednesday delegates were reported to endorse plans for a one-day stoppage throughout the area next week in support of the occupation.

Meanwhile over on the East side of Scotland's industrial belt, 3,500 British-Leyland employees at the Bathgate truck division are striking for a £9 increase.

The Linwood men have rejected a Chrysler bid to get group negotiations going on an 18-month pay-and-productivity deal.

At Longbridge, British-Leyland's Austin plant, 3,200 workers have been laid off because of a strike by 130 women workers in the trim shop.

The women are on strike against Measured-Day Work. They say management is trying to introduce an MDW system to replace piecework earnings.

The strikers are not due to meet again until Thursday. At the Rover plant, Solihull, more than 1,000 men have decided to ban overtime and stage a one-day strike this week. The overtime ban will affect all five components factories in Birmingham.

Peter Nicholas, the senior shop steward, said a management pay offer had been rejected because it was too low.

But the offer would also mean a change from piecework to MDW. Workers at the Triumph car-body plant in Liverpool voted yesterday to end their successful ten-day strike for the reinstatement of two sacked men.

### 20,000 in car pay battles

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

MORE THAN 9,000 car workers will be idle today in the Midlands due to strikes and lay-offs.

At the Ryton-on-Dunsmore assembly plant of Chrysler, 1,500 men have been laid off and work on the Avenger halted. The lay-offs are a direct result of the ten-day strike at Linwood, which supplies Ryton with Avenger body panels.

At Longbridge, British-Leyland's Austin plant, 3,200 workers have been laid off because of a strike by 130 women workers in the trim shop.

The women are on strike against Measured-Day Work. They say management is trying to introduce an MDW system to replace piecework earnings.

The strikers are not due to meet again until Thursday. At the Rover plant, Solihull, more than 1,000 men have decided to ban overtime and stage a one-day strike this week. The overtime ban will affect all five components factories in Birmingham.

Peter Nicholas, the senior shop steward, said a management pay offer had been rejected because it was too low.

But the offer would also mean a change from piecework to MDW. Workers at the Triumph car-body plant in Liverpool voted yesterday to end their successful ten-day strike for the reinstatement of two sacked men.

### Mersey dockers back Jan 26 strike

DOCKERS in Britain's six key ports will strike for 24 hours on January 26 against a threat to their jobs.

The strike call—issued by national port stewards' committee in London last week—was endorsed unanimously by a dockers' mass meeting in Liverpool on Saturday.

They will be striking alongside London, Southampton, Hull, Manchester and Preston.

The jobs threat comes from Tory plans to wind up the 1947 National Dock Labour scheme which gives employment guarantees to registered dock workers.

Dock employers are now believed to have asked the government for an inquiry into the scheme.

They claim 5,000 to 6,000 men will be 'surplus to requirements' by the middle of the year. This is more than 10 per cent of the total registered labour force.

In the main ports, hundreds of dockers have already been placed on the unattached register or put in a position where they

£1,250 Fund  
now £658.90

THIS month your support for the Fund is absolutely magnificent. We certainly start 1972 in a big way.

This growing support reflects the enormous movement now against the Tory government. More and more trade unionists feel Workers Press is their paper as it stands firmly with them in every struggle. We are sure you are looking forward to our expansion to the 12-page tabloid next month.

We must keep up this great effort. Press on with January's Fund and let's try and reach a record this month. Post all your donations immediately to:

Workers Press  
January Appeal Fund,  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG

## Strike stays despite Rhodesia shootings

BY ALEX MITCHELL

### Arrests in Ghana

GHANA'S new military leader Col I. K. Akyeampong has arrested Gen Akwasi Afrifa, leader of the coup which toppled President Kwame Nkrumah in 1966.

Reports from the capital of Accra say that Afrifa is only one of several dozen leading military men and politicians in 'protective custody'.

At his first victory parade, Col Akyeampong said 'In the name of God, we shall prove to the world that Ghana can succeed in administering the affairs of the country'.

Following its coup against Dr Kofi Busia, Akyeampong's National Redemption Council has dissolved parliament and banned all political parties.

Col Akyeampong has set up a government of six army officers and a civilian Attorney-General.

The coup raises big questions about Ghana's future.

The economy is on the decline owing to the slump in cocoa and raw material prices. Last month the currency was devalued by 44 per cent and home prices leapt by almost the same amount.

Ghana is heavily in debt and has a yawning balance of payments deficit.

The new regime faces insoluble problems which found no place in the manuals its members studied at Sandhurst, and are not covered by their apparently religious philosophies.

They are Ludek Pachman, former Czech chess grandmaster; Milan Huebl, former rector of the Communist Party college; and Karel Kincl, a respected radio and television commentator.

According to sources in Prague, the three are among a number of people arrested in connection with the dissemination of 'anti-state' leaflets during 1970 and 1971.

STRIKING African mineworkers at the Shabani asbestos mine 270 miles from the Rhodesian capital decided yesterday to continue their strike in the face of police terror and intimidation.

Last week police opened fire on the strikers, killing one 19-year-old miner and wounding several others.

'The shooting was completely unnecessary and was carried out indiscriminately,' one of the strike leaders said yesterday.

He said the men would refuse to return to work until discussions were held on their pay claim. They are now demanding independent inquiry into the police murder.

It is most unlikely that the Tory-appointed inquiry team currently in Rhodesia will offer to examine the shooting incident at Shabani, one of the world's largest asbestos mines.

Lord Pearce and his so-called commissioners have been made to look ludicrous as the Smith regime shows its vicious hand in dealing with African 'troublemakers'.

Only three stewards out of a meeting of almost 50 voted for complete rejection, and the meeting called in full-time union officials to 'investigate' it.

The job-evaluation scheme is drawn up by Hanley-Walker (Europe) Ltd, an international firm of work-study consultants, whose brief is to prepare a re-structuring of grades without any reference to wages.

However when pressed they are believed to have admitted that down-grading a job could actually reduce earnings.

Great stress is laid by Decca on the need for co-operation of the stewards with the scheme.

So if a worker approached the committee operating the scheme—complaining about his re-grading—convoys have been told they would be expected to inform him that THEY had voted for the new value on his job.

### Speed-up would be stewards' job at Decca

DECCA radar workers are facing a management bid to pave the way for speed-up and redundancies during negotiations on a pay claim.

A meeting of stewards from the combine's S of England plants takes place today; last week they tried for a compromise with company proposals for a job-evaluation scheme which could lead directly to a Measured-Day Work pay system.

Only three stewards out of a meeting of almost 50 voted for complete rejection, and the meeting called in full-time union officials to 'investigate' it.

The job-evaluation scheme is drawn up by Hanley-Walker (Europe) Ltd, an international firm of work-study consultants, whose brief is to prepare a re-structuring of grades without any reference to wages.

However when pressed they are believed to have admitted that down-grading a job could actually reduce earnings.

Great stress is laid by Decca on the need for co-operation of the stewards with the scheme.

So if a worker approached the committee operating the scheme—complaining about his re-grading—convoys have been told they would be expected to inform him that THEY had voted for the new value on his job.

### Powerful support for jobs campaign in car industry

LEADING shop stewards representing almost 100,000 carworkers backed the Young Socialists' Right to Work campaign at the weekend.

The BMC joint shop stewards' committee—covering workers in British-Leyland's Austin-Morris division—agreed on Saturday to support the marches and gave a £10 donation.

It is to circulate all plants in the division encouraging individual unions to give their backing.

In Dundee, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers branch is supporting the campaign and calling on the local trades council to do likewise.

#### YOUNG SOCIALISTS

### Right to work campaign begins

We will be marching from GLASGOW FEBRUARY 5 — LIVERPOOL FEBRUARY 19 SWANSEA FEBRUARY 19 To a mass rally at EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY on MARCH 12

#### WANTED URGENTLY

- Loan of vehicles—road-worthy vans, cars (reasonable hire will be considered)
  - Accommodation
  - Cooking equipment
  - Tinned food
  - Finance
  - Brass/jazz bands
- Please tick box where applicable.

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....

PHONE NUMBER .....

Please complete above form and post to:  
Clive Morris, national secretary  
Right-to-Work campaign  
186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.  
Or phone 01-822 7029.



POLICE arrested four demonstrators on Saturday during a protest against the imprisonment of Pauline Jones, the girl who took baby Denise Weller from her pram.

Scuffles broke out between police and protesters outside Holloway Prison, N London, as the marchers began to chant: 'Free Pauline Jones' and 'Beware Maulding, people-snatcher'.

The demonstration was attended by members of Women's Liberation and the Radical Alternatives to Prison. They are campaigning for Miss Jones to be released on medical grounds.

### W German pits on short time

RUHR coal industry in W Germany has announced the introduction of short-time working during the first quarter of this year.

The Ruhrkohle AG, which runs virtually all pits in the Ruhr, announced yesterday the slackening in industrial demand for coal forced the cut in production. About 130,000 coalminers of the total 180,000 employed will be affected.

## Clerks defy NUM and join strike Miners run the risk of fighting alone

BY MICHAEL BANDA

HATRED of the ruthless policies of the National Coal Board and the Tory government reached a new pitch at the weekend when 12,500 white collar staff employed by the NCB voted to join the national miners' strike.

**What we think**

**TUC winks, 'Tribune' nods**

'TRIBUNE' is the paper of the parliamentary 'lefts' in the Labour Party.

Its staff is armed with poisonous pens for attacking the Socialist Labour League and with whitewash brushes for dealing with the right-wing trade union leaders, during a miners' strike as at every other time.

According to the current issue, 'the decision by the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the TUC General Council not to convene a special meeting of transport unions to discuss action to support the miners was reported in some papers as a serious setback to the National Union of Mineworkers. In fact it was nothing of the kind...

The TUC committee decided against such a meeting basically for two reasons: first, because a decision to instruct trade unionists not to cross picket lines would achieve the same purpose; and secondly because such a meeting could leave the leaders of other unions open to legal action by employers affected by sympathetic action, since they could be held to have instigated the blacking of goods.

In other words the TUC is choosing to operate on the basis that a nod is as good as a wink.

And they explain NUM president Joe Gormley's first reaction of extreme disappointment with the decision as due to a misunderstanding.

Only when Victor Feather phoned him later to spell out the decision in full, including the part about not crossing picket lines, did the NUM leaders realize that they had not been left on their own, the paper explains sycophantically.

All this is so much hogwash, except the declaration that the leaders did not call for blacking of coal because they were afraid.

The strike enters its second week today with 260,000 workers out. All the signs are that the Tories plan to try and starve the miners back.

The decision by the Colliery and Official Staffs' Section of the NUM to join the strike marks a hardening in the ranks of the miners. The clerks proclaimed their solidarity despite the attempts of the NCB to cajole them to remain at work and despite the pleas of Joe Gormley.

Mr. A. Leslie Story, their secretary, said the NUM executive's instruction that the clerks should stay at work was 'unworkable'.

There is a growing weight of support for the strike and we took an 'all-in' or 'all-out' decision. Our wages follow the industrial grades, so we are equally caught up in the strike. I think picketing probably caused people to realize they were in a fight.

The NUM wanted the white collar men to keep running the highly elaborate NCB computer centres and pay offices where wages, pensions and income tax rebates are handled.

The TUC leader Victor Feather is being conspicuously silent as this historic confrontation continues; the leaders of the engineers and power workers by abandoning an immediate pay fight have also played into the hands of the Tories and left the miners isolated in their pay battle.

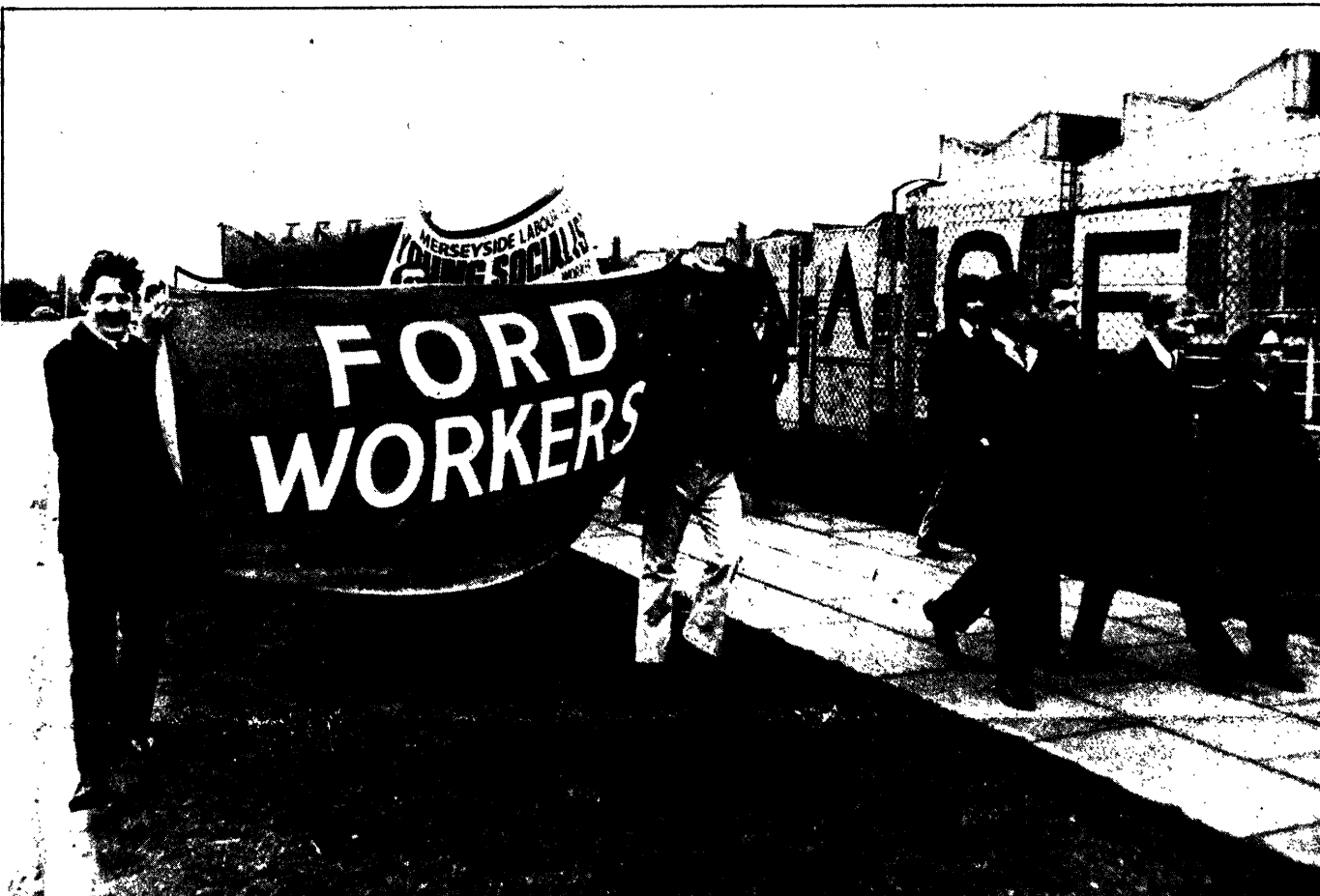
As the clerks were taking their decision, 'Wholesale miners at Castleford were unanimously supporting a resolution calling for the mobilization of all workers to force the Tories to resign. The same meeting voted for the return of a Labour government to bring workers' control of the pits and end all compensation to the old owners.

Meanwhile, on Merseyside, dockers—at a mass meeting—defied their own leaders' advice and decided unanimously to black all coal, abnormal or not, and black all firms trying to break the coal strike.

The necessity for this defiance was pointedly revealed at Portishead, Somerset, where dockers decided to unload 1,200 tons of coal due in from Belfast.

Presumably informed by higher authority T&GWU dock official Tom Davis, is reported to have said: 'The shipment is part of a regular monthly consignment to the power station from Belfast, which we regard as normal cargo.'

Mr. Jack Moss, aged 57, lodge secretary at one of S Wales' largest collieries, Wyndham and Western, employing 1,250 men and a life-long member of the Labour Party, criticized the TUC for not being a lead.



More than 300 unionists demonstrated at the now-occupied Fisher-Bendix factory, Kirkby, on Merseyside, at the weekend

### Hundreds on Kirkby demo

SEVERAL hundred workers from all over Merseyside picketed the Fisher-Bendix plant at Kirkby, near Liverpool, on Saturday in support of the 13-day sit-in there against closure.

Taking part were printers, engineers, dockers and ship-repair workers.

Tom Staples, treasurer of the 1,000-strong occupation's fighting fund, commented yesterday that the action had been 'a great success'.

It was a big boost to our morale to know the breadth of support we have from the labour movement in the area', he said.

At a special meeting of the Liverpool Trades Council on Wednesday, delegates are expected to endorse plans for a one-day stoppage throughout the area next week in support of the occupation.



POLICE arrested four demonstrators on Saturday during a protest against the imprisonment of Pauline Jones, the girl who took baby Denise Weller from her pram.

### 20,000 in car pay battles

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

SCOTLAND'S car and truck industry faces a second week of total shutdown as 10,000 production workers continue their strikes for pay increases of between £8 and £9.

At Linwood, 6,500 Chrysler workers are demanding pay equality with the group's Ryton workers at Coventry.

Meanwhile over on the East side of Scotland's industrial belt, 3,500 British-Leyland employees at the Bhatkate truck division are striking for a £9 increase.

The Linwood men have rejected a Chrysler bid to get group negotiations going on an 18-month pay-and-productivity deal.

MORE THAN 9,000 car workers will be idle today in the Midlands due to strikes and lay-offs.

At the Ryton-on-Dunsmore assembly plant of Chrysler, 1,500 men have been laid off and work on the Avenger halted. The lay-offs are a direct result of the ten-day strike at Linwood, which supplies Ryton with Avenger body panels.

At Longbridge, British-Leyland's Austin plant, 3,200 workers have been laid off because of a strike by 130 women workers in the trim shop.

The women are on strike against Measured-Day Work. They say management is trying to introduce an MDW system to replace piecework earnings.

The strikers are not due to meet again until Thursday. At the Rover plant, Solihull, more than 1,000 men have decided to ban overtime and stage a one-day strike this week. The overtime ban will affect all five components factories in Birmingham.

Peter Nicholas, the senior shop steward, said a management pay offer had been rejected because it was too low.

But the offer would also mean a change from piecework to MDW.

Workers at the Triumph car-body plant in Liverpool voted yesterday to end their successful ten-day strike for the reinstatement of two sacked men.

## Strike stays despite Rhodesia shootings

BY ALEX MITCHELL

### Arrests in Ghana

GHANA'S new military leader Col I. K. Akyeampong has arrested Gen Akwasi Afrifa, leader of the coup which toppled President Kwame Nkrumah in 1966.

Reports from the capital of Accra say that Afrifa is only one of several dozen leading military men and politicians in 'protective custody'.

At his first victory parade, Col Akyeampong said 'In the name of God, we shall prove to the world that Ghana can succeed in administering the affairs of the country'.

Following its coup against Dr Kofi Busia, Akyeampong's National Redemption Council has dissolved parliament and banned all political parties.

Col Akyeampong has set up a government of six army officers and a civilian Attorney-General.

The coup raises big questions about Ghana's future.

The economy is on the decline owing to the slump in cocoa and raw material prices. Last month the currency was devalued by 44 per cent and home prices leapt by almost the same amount.

Ghana is heavily in debt and has a yawning balance of payments deficit.

The new regime faces insoluble problems which found no place in the manuals its members studied at Sandhurst, and are not covered by their apparently religious philosophies.

The strikers are not due to meet again until Thursday. At the Rover plant, Solihull, more than 1,000 men have decided to ban overtime and stage a one-day strike this week. The overtime ban will affect all five components factories in Birmingham.

Peter Nicholas, the senior shop steward, said a management pay offer had been rejected because it was too low.

But the offer would also mean a change from piecework to MDW.

Workers at the Triumph car-body plant in Liverpool voted yesterday to end their successful ten-day strike for the reinstatement of two sacked men.

STRIKING African mineworkers at the Shabani asbestos mine 270 miles from the Rhodesian capital decided yesterday to continue their strike in the face of police terror and intimidation.

Last week police opened fire on the strikers, killing one 19-year-old miner and wounding several others.

'The shooting was completely unnecessary and was carried out indiscriminately,' one of the strike leaders said yesterday.

He said the men would refuse to return to work until discussions were held on their pay claim. They are now demanding an independent inquiry into the police murder.

It is most unlikely that the Tory-appointed inquiry team currently in Rhodesia will offer to examine the shooting incident at Shabani, one of the world's largest asbestos mines.

Lord Pearce and his so-called commissioners have been made to look ludicrous as the Smith regime shows its vicious hand in dealing with African 'troublemakers'.

As the team goes about its 'testing of opinion', the Smith secret police are patrolling the streets of not only Shabani but a number of other towns and villages to suppress any dissent to the Tory sell-out.

The sensitivity of the situation was shown yesterday when Labour's shadow Foreign Secretary, Denis Healey, was refused permission to visit Salisbury.

Healey, a noted right-winger, was in favour of selling arms to S Africa when he was Wilson's Defence Minister. He was also strongly against the suggestion in 1966 that Britain should send troops to put down Smith's UDI.

But even the presence of Healey is feared because he would almost certainly become the focus of powerful anti-Smith sentiment from among African workers and villagers.

### Speed-up would be stewards' job at Decca

DECCA radar workers are facing a management bid to pave the way for speed-up and redundancies during negotiations on a pay claim.

A meeting of stewards from the combine's S of England plants takes place today; last week they tried for a compromise with company proposals for a job-evaluation scheme which could lead directly to a Measured-Day Work pay system.

Only three stewards out of a meeting of almost 50 voted for complete rejection, and the meeting called in full-time union officials to 'investigate' it.

The job-evaluation scheme is drawn up by Hanley-Walker (Europe) Ltd, an international firm of work-study consultants, whose brief is to prepare a re-structuring of grades without any reference to wages.

However when pressed they are believed to have admitted that down-grading a job could actually reduce earnings.

Great stress is laid by Decca on the need for co-operation of the stewards with the scheme.

So if a worker approached the committee operating the scheme—complaining about his re-grading—convoys have been told they would be expected to inform him that THEY had voted for the new value on his job.

### Powerful support for jobs campaign in car industry

LEADING shop stewards representing almost 100,000 carworkers backed the Young Socialists' Right to Work campaign at the weekend.

The BMC joint shop stewards' committee—covering workers in British-Leyland's Austin-Morris division—agreed on Saturday to support the marches and gave a £10 donation.

It is to circulate all plants in the division encouraging individual unions to give their backing.

In Dundee, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers branch is supporting the campaign and calling on the local trades council to do likewise.

## Mersey dockers back Jan 26 strike

BY AN INDUSTRIAL REPORTER

DOCKERS in Britain's six key ports will strike for 24 hours on January 26 against a threat to their jobs.

The strike call—issued by national port stewards' committee in London last week—was endorsed unanimously by a dockers' mass meeting in Liverpool on Saturday.

They will be striking alongside London, Southampton, Hull, Manchester and Preston.

The jobs threat comes from Tory plans to wind up the 1947 National Dock Labour scheme which gives employment guarantees to registered dock workers.

Dock employers are now believed to have asked the government for an inquiry into the scheme.

The Transport and General Workers' Union has called a national delegate conference to review the position, but there is a

growing feeling that dockers face a head-on collision with the Tories over unemployment.

'If anything we underestimate the gravity of the situation,' Birkenhead steward Larry Kavanagh told Saturday's meeting in the Liverpool Stadium. 'The Tories are determined to smash the unions.'

The black will be a blow to Thorn, which exports several truck loads of electrical equipment through Liverpool every week.

They are in a fight whether we like it or not.

The dockers voted unanimously to black all coal movements in solidarity with the miners. They have asked miners to supply details of any lorries seen carrying scab coal and plan to black these firms as well.

The meeting also decided not to handle any products of the Thorn Electrical combine, which owns Fisher-Bendix.

### W German pits on short time

RUHR coal industry in W Germany has announced the introduction of short-time working during the first quarter of this year.

The Ruhrkohle AG, which runs virtually all pits in the Ruhr, announced yesterday the slackening in industrial demand for coal forcing the cut in production.

About 130,000 coalminers of the total 180,000 employed will be affected.

### YOUNG SOCIALISTS

## Right to work campaign begins

We will be marching from GLASGOW FEBRUARY 5 — LIVERPOOL FEBRUARY 19 SWANSEA FEBRUARY 19

To a mass rally at EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY on MARCH 12

WANTED URGENTLY

- Loan of vehicles—road-worthy vans, cars (reasonable hire will be considered)
- Accommodation
- Cooking equipment
- Tinned food
- Finance
- Brass/jazz bands

Please tick box where applicable.

NAME ..... ADDRESS ..... PHONE NUMBER .....

Please complete above form and post to: Clive Norris, national secretary Right-to-Work campaign, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4. Or phone 01-622 7029.

# IRELAND: BACKGROUND

# PART SIX

JACK GALE continues the history of class struggle in Ireland.

'Citizen Marx considered the solution of the Irish question as the solution of the English, and the English as the solution of the European.' Minute of the General Council of the First International, December 14, 1869:

WHILE CARSON and the British Tories were prating about their 'rights' and 'freedoms' and 'ancient traditions' the condition of the Irish working class was not only amongst the worst in Europe—it was amongst the worst in the world.

In 1911 the 'Medical Press' commented on the infant mortality rate as follows:

'According to the latest returns, the death rate in Dublin was 27.6 per 1,000—the highest in any city in Europe, the next highest being Moscow, 26.3 per 1,000. In Calcutta, in the presence of plague and cholera, the rate was only 27 per 1,000.'

An earlier analysis of infant mortality rates (for 1905) showed clearly the class divisions in Dublin: professional classes 0.7 per 1,000; the middle class 2.7; artisans and small shopkeepers 4.8; unskilled workers 27.7 per 1,000.

This high death rate of children in Dublin was closely connected to housing conditions. A government inquiry into Dublin Housing Conditions in November 1903 revealed that 5,322 tenement houses accommodated 25,822 families—or a total of 87,305 people. 20,108 families occupied one room each.

The same inquiry revealed that Dublin Corporation did not enforce its own sanitary laws in the tenements. Surprisingly enough, 13 members of the corporation had direct financial interests in tenement property. Ireland as a whole was being depopulated. Before the famine of the 1840s over 8 million people lived there. By 1910, there were only 4 million. But it was the countryside that was being laid waste. Those who could afford to went to America. Those who couldn't rise to that, came to England. The very poorest, who could afford neither, were forced off the land anyway, flocked into the city slums—particularly Dublin.

In 1910, the wages of an unskilled labourer in Dublin averaged 14s a week for men and 11s for women. The average working week was 90 hours long.

But the working class would not stand for it. From 1907-1908—when Larkin led the Belfast dockers, Catholic and Protestant, in strike after strike—a wave of militancy spread throughout Ireland. This found its organizational expression in the form of the Irish Transport Union in Dublin in January 1909, with James Larkin as its organizer. (Larkin had been repudiated by the Liverpool executive of the Dockers' Union, of which he had been a temporary organizer, because of his Belfast strike activities.)

The Transport Union—an extension of the 'New Unionism' which had emerged from the British 'Dockers' Tanner' strike of 1889—made its appeal directly to the unskilled, unorganized, poverty-stricken workers of the tenements. The Dublin employers were outraged, it was unheard of for such men to make a stand against them!

(Trade unionism was not new in Ireland, of course. In one of his letters, Engels describes how the Dublin Congress of the Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union of Great Britain—in Engels' opinion, the most progressive union of the time—sent Eleanor Marx to represent them at the International Socialist Workers' Congress in Brussels in 1891.)

The leader of the Dublin employers was W. M. Murphy. Murphy owned railway and tramway undertakings in Belfast, Cork and Dublin as well as tramways in London, Ramsgate, Margate and Paisley in Scotland. He also owned newspapers, a big drapery business and was involved in one way or another

1. Quoted in 'History of the Irish Citizen Army'. R. M. Fox, p. 20.

2. Quoted in A. Wright 'Disturbed Dublin'. Wright had no reason to exaggerate—his book was paid for by the Dublin employers to put their side of the 1913 struggle!

3. W. P. Ryan 'Labour Revolt and Larkinism'.

4. Engels' letter to Sorge, August 1891.

## The Great Lock-out begins

in most Irish financial enterprises.

One of the papers Murphy owned was the 'Irish Independent'. Just how 'independent' this paper was, is shown by one of its most famous articles 'Why Oppose Socialism?'

Because, said Murphy's rag:

1. Its philosophy as laid down in the 'Bible of Socialism' (Karl Marx's 'Capital') is based on the materialist conception of history.

2. Because the founder of that doctrine, Marx, was an avowed atheist and bitterly opposed the teachings of Christ and his church.

6. Because socialism would destroy the sanctity of the family and the home, for which the Catholic church has always stood.

12. Because socialism stands

guidance the Employers' Federation presented each one of their workers with the following document:

'I hereby undertake to carry out all instructions given to me by or on behalf of my employers and, further, I agree to immediately resign my membership of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (if a member) and I further undertake that I will not join or in any way support this union.'

On August 21, 1913, the Dublin United Tramways Company issued each of its 100 employees in the parcels department with the following notice:

'As the directors understand that you are a member of the Irish Transport Union whose methods are disorganizing the trade and business of the city,

police—both open and underground.

Every step of the workers' leaders was dogged by intelligence agents. Every strike meeting had its quota of spies in attendance. The Irish State Papers' 'Intelligence Notes' for 1913-1916 (see sections on Dublin Labour Troubles pp. 38-52 and Irish Labour Disputes 1907-1913 pp. 52-55) include the full text of Larkin's and other leaders' speeches at strike meetings.

On the basis of reports collected by spies, Larkin was arrested and charged with '(1) having spoken certain seditious words with a seditious intention; (2) having spoken the words with intention of inciting to riot; and (3) having spoken with the intention to incite to have the shops and the shopkeepers pillaged and robbed.'

sections of the employers had been defeated.

In the early hours of Sunday, August 31, police raided the tenements known as Corporation Buildings, indiscriminately batoning the inhabitants, men, women and children, and smashing up their homes. Later that day, at a meeting in O'Connell St. Larkin was arrested and again police went berserk, charging and batoning everyone in sight. This was 'Bloody Sunday'. About 200 police were hospitalized but many more workers were injured.

On September 2, the Coal Merchants' Association locked out all members of the Transport Union; on September 9, the Master Builders' Association locked out 3,000 men and three days later the County Dublin Association locked out 1,000. When the timber and cement merchants locked out their workers on September 22, the total number of men affected was brought to 25,000.

It was due to this struggle that the Irish Citizen Army was formed. The Irish workers rapidly learned that the only rights they had were those they fought for. Even when rights existed in law, they only existed in practice when backed up by force. The right to picket, for example, was a legal right but attempts to exercise that right led to incidents like the following:

'When the demand for legal rights was made, the police explained that they couldn't distinguish pickets from corner boys and hooligans. So it was arranged to have armlets with the word "Picket" on them to help the police in their dilemma. Also the clause in the Trades Dispute Act granting the right to picket was printed on a handbill and each picket was given one.

'Armed with these safeguards, another picket set out for Jacob's. He walked jauntily, feeling his legal rights assured.

'The policeman on duty looked at him with baleful eye. "What d'ye think you're doing?" he demanded.

"Picketing," said the little man brightly.

"See my armlet!" he pointed to the official badge.

'The policeman gave him a sour look. He pulled out the leaflet and read it with eager confidence. The policeman listened grimly, fingering his club.

"Have you finished?" he asked as the little man paused breathless. "Yes, that's all," was the response.

"Well, take that!"—the club whistled through the air and fell with a thud, raising a lump on the picket's head. The policeman was certainly not going to stand



Above: James Larkin pictured in 1907. Below: A recruiting poster for the Irish Citizen Army.

### To the People of Ireland!

"Our Freedom must be had at all hazards."—Wolfe Tone.

The time has come to practice the advice of Fintan Lalor, namely: to train our hands and our sons' hands, for the day will come when we and they will have to use them. E!

The workers must be disciplined and alert if they are to enjoy the just proceeds of their labour. It has been well said:

### "The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance."

The methods of discipline and alertness and the means of power to train our hands, are provided by

## THE IRISH CITIZEN ARMY.

This organization embraces the full principles of Republican Democracy; its aim is to sink the difference of Birth, Privilege and Creed under the common name of the Irish People. It stands for a Union of Progressive Nationalism with the Democratic forces of Ireland, and its policy is to achieve that, for which

Theobald Wolfe Tone died, and John Mitchel suffered—

## AN INDEPENDENT IRELAND.

Irishmen! Join the Citizen Army NOW and help us to build up an Irish Co-operative Commonwealth.

All inquiries to be addressed to:  
HON. SEC., LIBERTY HALL, DUBLIN.

**Muscail do Whisneach, a Bhanba!**



The scene in O'Connell Street on 'Bloody Sunday', August 31, 1913, during the police baton charges.

for free love, and derides marriage, calling it a capitalistic institution and a tool for exploitation.

15. Because socialism justifies abortion, child murder, regulation of reproduction, prevention of conception, and its advocates proclaim it.

16. Because socialists hate the Catholic church and condemn it as an enemy of workers, whose friend it has been through the ages.

To this end, he dismissed every worker who joined the Irish Transport Union, and under his

5. See Emmet Larkin 'James Larkin', p. 100.

they do not further require your services. The parcels traffic will be temporarily suspended. If you are not a member of the union when the traffic is resumed, your application for employment will be favourably considered.'

Murphy did the same with every worker on the 'Irish Independent'. The Great Lock-Out had begun.

From the beginning, Murphy had the full support of the

6. Fox, op. cit. p. 25.

7. See 'Intelligence Notes' 1913-1916, Irish State Papers, p. 39.

It is significant that it was Larkin, who was organizing a strike, who was charged with sedition. Sir Edward Carson, who organized an armed band against a decision of the House of Commons, and incited army officers to desert, was never charged at all. On the contrary, he was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty. A clearer example of the class nature of British justice would be hard to find.

The employers, however, were determined to get Larkin. Between January and August 1913, there had been more than 30 strikes in Dublin, and key

8. Ibid. p. 42.

9. See Emmet Larkin, 'James Larkin', p. 122.



Irish Citizen Army men on the roof of Liberty Hall.

### BOOKS

- L. TROTSKY: GERMANY 1931/1932 cloth £1.87j  
paperback £1.25
- WHERE IS BRITAIN GOING? 37j
- HISTORY OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTION 3 vols £1.50
- AGE OF PERMANENT REVOLUTION 45p
- REVOLUTION BETRAYED cloth £1.05  
paperback 62j
- PROBLEMS OF CHINESE REVOLUTION cloth £1.87j  
paperback £1.12j
- PERMANENT REVOLUTION: RESULTS AND PROSPECTS paperback 75p
- IN DEFENCE OF MARXISM paperback 75p
- LESSONS OF OCTOBER paperback 60p
- R. BLACK: STALINISM IN BRITAIN cloth £2.00  
paperback £1.12j
- MAX SHACHTMAN: BEHIND THE MOSCOW TRIAL paperback 75p

### PAMPHLETS

- L. TROTSKY: DEATH AGONY OF CAPITALISM (The Transitional Programme) 5p
- CLASS NATURE OF THE SOVIET STATE 20p
- CLASS AND ART 10p
- MARXISM AND THE TRADE UNIONS 17j
- IN DEFENCE OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION 15p

Please tick those books required

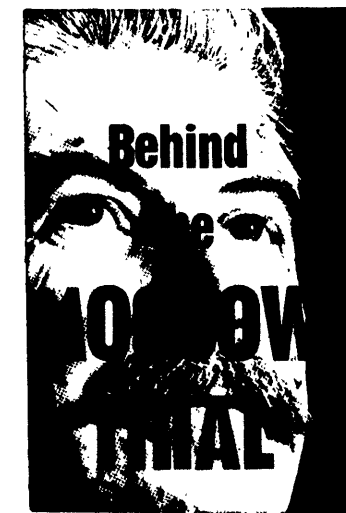
NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Amount enclosed £ ..... plus 3p postage for each pamphlet;  
10p postage for each book.

Complete form and send money to:

New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High Street, London. SW4



### Subscribe!

**workers press**

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

£17.12 for 12 months (312 issues)  
£8.58 for 6 months (156 issues)  
£4.29 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:  
£1.32 for 3 months (24 issues)  
£5.28 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:  
Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London. SW4.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required	MONDAY	THURSDAY
(Please tick)	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for ..... months.

Name .....

Address .....

Amount enclosed £ .....

I would like information about

## THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4.

Name .....

Address .....



### The Stalinist Crisis



# Against the revolution in the Arab world

THE WORLD Stalinist press gave extensive publicity to the recent congress of the Lebanese Communist Party—not because the party has a particularly massive following, but because it is now the only legal Communist Party in the Arab world.

The persecution meted out to communists in the other Arab countries did not stop the organizers inviting representatives from the ruling parties of Egypt and Syria and extending an invitation to further meetings to the Iraqi rulers.

In fact, the congress offered full support to the tripartite federation recently formed between Syria, Egypt and Libya, a federation which is clearly aimed against the socialist revolution in the Arab world.

It was the close collaboration of Egyptian premier Anwar Sadat with the fanatically anti-communist Colonel Gaddafi of Libya which helped smash the left-wing coup d'état in the Sudan last year.

Sudanese Communist Party secretary Abdul Mahgoub was executed in the blood purge that followed, together with the majority of the party's central leadership. Thousands of communists are now rotting in Sudanese jails.

In Egypt itself, the Sadat regime has carried out a ruthless purge of the Nasserite leadership's left wing.

The recent trial of Ali Sabry led to savage prison sentences. Yet the ruling Arab Socialist Union sent Lutfi al-Khuli as a delegate to the Lebanese CP congress with full speaking rights.

Similarly, Suhayl Sukkariah, a member of the Syrian Socialist Arab Ba'ath Party national com-

mand, addressed the congress, praising the achievements of what he termed the 'corrective movement' in Syria under president Lt-Gen Hafez al-Assad.

The Syrian Communist Party is also illegal. Clearly, Stalinist policy in the Arab countries is to abandon every vestige of independent organization of the working class, in favour of complete capitulation to the reactionary national bourgeoisies.

This was reflected even more clearly in the discussion on the Palestinian liberation movement. Gennady Sizov, the Soviet delegate, set the tone for the discussion in a report which stressed the need to support the November 1967 resolution of the UN security council.

This resolution calls for a political settlement of the Middle East question, with Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in the June 1967 war.

Support for this resolution involves the complete abandonment of the Palestinian people's legitimate national demands for the return of their territories snatched by the Zionists.

The final declaration of the congress made it clear that this is indeed the CP's policy. It hit out particularly at the left wing of the Palestinian liberation movement:

'Congress takes a positive stand on the November 1967 Security Council resolution and regards as incorrect the general rejection of a political solution by certain parts of the Arab liberation movement and the provoking of artificial controversies between the political and military struggles.'

In other words, as far as the Stalinists are concerned the Palestinians will have to learn to live with Israel, and their military struggle must be subordinated to the requirements of the Arab bourgeoisie, which will be quite content if the Israelis withdraw to the pre-1967 lines.



Sadat (left) and Gaddafi.

# Chinese purge confirmed

THE FUNERAL of Marshal Chen Yi—Foreign Minister of China—was the occasion for announcing the new leadership of China's ruling group last week.

Since the cancellation of the National Peoples' Congress in September speculation has been mounting about a purge in China's top leadership and the whereabouts of Marshal Lin Biao—the presumed successor to Mao as well as Chen Po-ta, Mao's ghost writer and president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Last week Peking radio announced the new list which omitted almost half of the 25 members of the Chinese CP Politbureau.

Prominent among the omissions were Marshal Lin Chao Po-ta, Yen Chuan (Lin's wife), Huang Yen-sheng, chief of the general staff, Wu Fa-hsien, commander of the air force and Hsieh Fu-chih, chief of public security forces.

The purge of the opposition and the increasingly dominant role of Chou En-lai in the government is connected with the rapid rightward evolution of the Chinese CP after the curbing of the cultural revolution and the exile of thousands of youth to the interior from the towns.

This in turn is linked to a serious crisis in the Chinese economy.

One reason for announcing the new list may well be the fact that the Russian authorities—after some hesitation—have finally identified one of the victims of the Trident crash in Mongolia four months ago as the 64-year-old Marshal Lin.

While obscurity still envelops the causes of Marshal Lin's abortive escape the evolution of Mao's foreign policy indicates that Lin and Chen Po-ta—a veteran Stalin-worshipper—were opposed to the 'ping-pong diplomacy' and were seeking a rapprochement with Russia to strengthen China's armed forces.

# After a lifetime

CHARLES CLARK (90), who worked his time in most of Blaenavon's local pits, stands inside his crumbling NCB cottage.

He is the sole remaining inhabitant of this row of houses, where he has lived since 1914.



## 'The pits make a profit every year until they take their cut. It's time it was stopped'

IVOR JONES believes in coal. That's why he works in the pit as his father did before him.

He heats his home with coal, his wife still cooks on a coal fire. 'Finest thing out', he told me at the Comrades Club in Blaenavon. 'And reliable. Not like this natural gas!'

In 63 years—52 of them down the pit—Ivor Jones has seen Blaenavon's six pits dwindle to one and the trades which once made everything from pit rails to locomotives disappear.

'Blaenavon was the finest town in Europe', Mr Jones boasted with craftsman's local pride.

'It had all the trades here. We had one of the first Bessemer furnaces, and ships sailed the Seven Seas on Blaenavon coal.'

Blaenavon people are hard. They've had to be.

Alexander Cordell based his best seller 'Rape of the Fair Country' on the struggles of Blaenavon workers against the pit owners and iron masters.

That fighting tradition has broken loose again to make Blaenavon colliery the only pit on the east coastfield to pull out its safety men as an added gesture of defiance.

History in Blaenavon is a living force. It is in the mind of every man and woman in the town.

Ivor Jones embodies as much of this history as any man. His mind is set. He has lived and will die in coal. But neither he nor anyone else will be wound down to Blaenavon pit until the miners are paid a living wage.

'It's not 1926 now. People had nothing then. We were walking barefoot. A lot of good men died in those six months. When I started I had three half crowns to last me.

'I think there's more determination now than ever there was then. People are not going to be pushed around any more.

'We wouldn't strike when we needed it. We're right down at the bottom of the pay table. I have to keep myself, my wife and a crippled brother on £16.10.

'We pay £4.15 rent and live on what's left. My brother gets a little from Social Security.'

'We only work five days a week but you have to work overtime. They're counting overtime as wages.'

Mr Jones started in the pits as a boy in 1922. He wouldn't like to go back to those times. Nationalization, he said, was a real gain.

'If rationalization hadn't been brought in after the war there would have been a lot more pits closed and a lot more men on the dole. And the old private owners wouldn't have spent money modernizing the pits and putting in new equipment.'

'But we know now that after nationalization came in we still had the same bosses. They put in new equipment but they took the cost out of us by increasing productivity.'

'And we still have to pay millions of pounds to the late owners. The pits make a profit every year until they take their cut. It's time it was stopped.'

Many miners like Ivor Jones know that when the old coal-owners sold out they put the money they got into coal by-products.

BY IAN YEATS



Ivor Jones at the Comrades Club in Blaenavon.

paying dues to the union since 1926. Where has the money gone?

'We've got no strike pay but our national officials get £60,000 a year for expenses!'

The 400 Blaenavon men have already been warned that their pit could close permanently if they refuse to allow safety men to work.

But the time has come when the miners will no longer go down the pit for starvation wages. 'Ezra's only offered us what Robens promised us two years ago', he said.

'They sell coal at the pit head for £6 a ton but 200 yards down the road merchants are selling it for £14 a ton.'

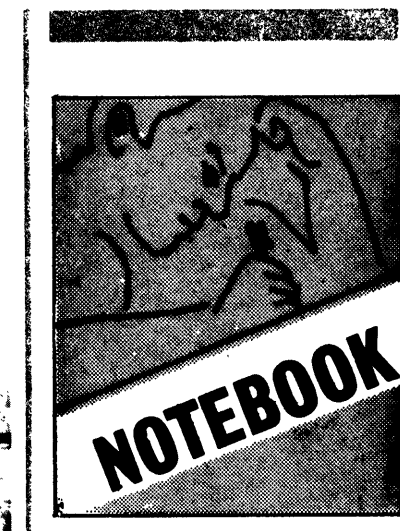
'We are the producers. We are due the best money. Even if they gave us the £9 we asked for I'd only get £4.50 after tax and a lot of the rest would be swallowed by the cost of living.'

The Welsh coalfield is at war. The Tory government is the enemy.

At a crowded bus station cafe across the mountain from Blaenavon the hub-bub of voices stops dead and a radio is turned up for news of the strike. Every head is raised.

Outside, carloads of pickets 60 strong roam the valleys watching the scab lorries trying to move stocks.

If their leaders stand firm there's not a man not prepared to go the whole way.



### Incomplete works

SPANISH publisher Manuel Lara, who made his millions under the fascist regime of Gen Franco, recently had a brilliant idea: why not publish the general's Complete Works?

After doing his sums, it became clear that many millions were to be made by publishing two volumes of the 'Caudillo's' speeches and messages which would find an automatic sale to official bodies, state unions, town-hall libraries etc. etc.

Immediately Lara hired a team of 'scholars' to prepare the Complete Works. When this work was well under way, our humble financier sought Franco's



authorization and caused a furore in the Prado — Franco's official residence.

The chief had seen an outline of the edition and was most annoyed to see that it included his most extreme fascist texts of the years 1934-1936, including his messages to Hitler and Mussolini. It even had the famous Seville speech in which he offered a million Spanish soldiers for the defence of Berlin!

All this was 'unpublishable' said the Prado. Most apologetically Lara had to abandon his lucrative project.

No doubt Lara would be most pained if he knew that Franco's self-imposed censorship arose from the 'Saviour of Spain's' wish not to upset unduly his friends in the Stalinist bureaucracies in Eastern Europe...

### Donald's the threat

ONE OF the main forces working against the transformation of Chile into a socialist state has now been revealed as... Donald Duck.

Duck—who masquerades as a children's cartoon character—is a threat to Chilean reality with his stance as an advocate of bourgeois imperialism, according to a book published recently.

Entitled 'How to read Donald Duck' by the literary critic Ariel Dorfman and Belgian socialist Armand Mattelart, the book reveals that Donald is a danger to a socialist nation and a threat to the minds of young communists.

Apparently a best-seller in Chile's capital Santiago, the work fearlessly exposes that there are more than 'casual reasons' for the lack of parents for the Donald Duck nephews—Huey, Louie and Dewey.

It seems that the 'reasons' are that Duck has a sado-masochistic relationship with the nephews. The writers conclude that this 'aberrant world' is created to shield readers from the 'normal sexuality of children.'

Other important chapters reveal examples of Donald's skin-flint uncle who takes advantage of people to make his fortune.

In the light of this investigation other so-called harmless characters are now being 'investigated'. In some circles Tom and Jerry are being castigated as sado-masochistic.

With the penetrating researches in his pocket, surely President Allende will have no trouble with his 'peaceful' road to socialism even in this period of crisis for the world capitalist system. Who knows where it all might end...?

## TODAY'S PROGRAMMES

### BBC 1

9.38 For Schools, 12.50 Question Why, 1.30 Woodentops, 1.45 News, weather, 2.05 For Schools, 4.15 Play School, 4.40 Jack-anony, 4.55 Blue Peter, 5.20 Man Dog, 5.44 Sir Prancelot, 5.50 News, weather, 6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK, 6.20 ENTERTAINING WITH KERR, 6.45 THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW, 7.10 Z CARS, 8.00 PANORAMA, 9.00 NEWS, weather, 9.20 MENACE: 'The Straight and Narrow', Freddie Jones, Jane Hylton, Rachel Thomas, 10.35 24 HOURS, 11.10 SOUNDING OUT: Stephen Sillis, 11.35 Weather.

### BBC 2

11.00 Play School, 5.35 Open University, 7.05 SEVENTY PLUS: Help at Home, 7.30 NEWSROOM, weather, 8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES: 'The Bounty Hunter', Pete Duel and Ben Murphy, 8.50 CALL MY BLUFF: Duel of words and wit, 9.20 HORIZON: Hou Much Do You Smell? Man's sense of smell in relation to that of animals, 10.10 THIRTY-MINUTE THEATRE. 'They Don't All Open Men's Boutiques', Willis Hall, 10.40 NEWS, weather, 10.45 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

### ITV

10.20 For Schools, 2.33 Riding, 3.00 Houseparty, 3.10 Tea Break, 3.45 Dangerman, 4.40 Rupert Bear, 4.50 Land of Giants, 5.50 News, 6.00 TODAY, 6.20 CROSSROADS, 6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS, 7.30 CORONATION STREET, 8.00 WORLD IN ACTION, 8.30 LAST OF THE BASKETS. 'Good Queen Bless Slept Here', 9.00 THE CHALLENGERS. 'History Doesn't Pay the Rent', 10.00 NEWS, 10.30 FILM: 'CURSE OF THE WEREWOLF', Clifford Evans, Oliver Reed, 12.10 SCIENCE AND RELIGION.

Thirty-Minute THEATRE THEY DON'T ALL OPEN MEN'S BOUTIQUES

YORKSHIRE: 11.00 For Schools, 2.55 One Man Alone, 3.00 Pica Pipers, 3.05 Yoga, 3.35 Calendar News, 3.55 Farmhouse Kitchen, 4.15 Dick Van Dyke, 4.40 Once upon a time, 4.55 HR Purnstun, 5.20 Boffins, 5.50 News, 6.00 Calendar, weather, 6.25 Country calendar, 6.45 London, 10.30 Untouchables, 11.30 Our yesterday, 12.00 Weather.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 For Schools, 3.37 Grampian News, Here's Lucy, 3.40 Junkin, 4.10 Yoga, 4.40 Rupert Bear, 4.55 Rovers, 5.20 Boffins, 5.50 News, 6.00 Grampian News, weather, 6.10 Country News, 6.35 Cartoon time, 6.45 London, 10.30 Grampian News Special, 11.15 University challenge, 11.40 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 9.35 No easy answer, 10.20 Schools, 3.30 Origami, 3.45 Cassie haven, 4.10 Dangleline, Early, 4.55 Simon Lock, 5.20 Boffins, 5.50 News, 6.00 Dangleline, Monday, 6.15 Simon Lock, 6.45 London, 10.30 Aquarius, 11.30 Late call, 11.35 Canadian short stories.

GRANADA: 10.58 Schools, 3.40 Yoga, 4.05 News, Here's Lucy, 4.35 Hatty town, 4.50 Spiderman, 5.15 It's Fun to be Fooled, 5.20 Boffins, 5.50 News, 6.00 Newday, 6.25 This is Your Right, 6.40 London, 10.30 Film: 'Man Without a Body', 11.30 Late call, 11.35 Canadian short stories.

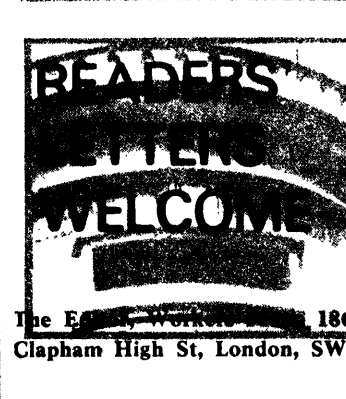
ULSTER: 10.20 Schools, 4.00 Yoga, 4.30 Romper room, 4.50 Ulster News headlines, 4.55 Bush boy, 5.20 Boffins, 5.50 News, 6.00 UTV Reports, 6.15 Lucy, 6.45 London, 10.30 Monday Night with Rev. Billy Magee, 10.35 Film: 'Don't Bother to Knock', 11.30 Late call, 11.35 Canadian short stories.

HARLECH: 10.20 Schools, 3.45 Women only, 4.15 Tinkertainment, 4.30 Superman, 4.50 Robin Hood, 5.20 Boffins, 5.50 News, 6.01 Report West, 6.22 Report Wales, 6.45 London, 10.30 Film: 'The Enforcer', 12.00 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West This Week.

HTV Wales as above except: 6.01-6.22 Y Dydd, 10.30 The Other Half, 11.15 Tales of Edgar Wallace, 12.10 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales plus: 8.00-8.30 Tr Wytunos.





Cliff Jones talks to Workers Press at his Gilvach home

# S WALES Speed-up increases lung disease deaths in pits

**CLIFF JONES' lungs are being eaten away. As the years go by his gasping and choking will get worse until one day he'll have nothing left to breathe with.**

'The biggest thing is tiredness', said Cliff at his Gilvach council home. 'If I went for a walk and went too fast I'd get a dizziness come over me and pains right across the chest. I haven't worked in the pit for three years but I'm still spitting up lumps of black coal dust.

'You just linger on until you die,' said 57-year-old Cliff.

'There's no other work in this valley. You come to a position you don't know what day it is—it's so demoralizing.'

## CAN'T WORK

Cliff is not as full of dust as some. His lungs are only 30-per-cent affected. 'But, he points out, once a man gets 30 per cent he can't work in the pit.

'There's a lad at Cwm now, dying on his feet. He's gasping. I expect any day to hear he's collapsed. But he keeps on because there's no other work round here.'

Far from lessening coal dust in the mines, new machines, introduced in the past ten years—disc-cutters, power-loaders and even electric fans—have made conditions much worse.

Cliff told me: 'The machines cut small coal like cobbles, so the dust is very fine. Now that we've got electric fans the dust is circulated all round the face and up and down the supply roads.'

In the last five years new labour-saving machines have been used to dramatically force up productivity.

As Cliff says, 'it's all such a rush today.'

'Water helps keep the dust down but they won't use enough of it. Often they don't use any at all.'

'Machines are very expensive and all electric down the sides—too much water and they could be knocked out or sink into the pit floor.'

But the price for this ruthless drive for productivity and profits is high in men's lives.

Cliff first went into the pits in 1930. 'It was total darkness. You might as well have shut your eyes.'

'There were 30 to 40 men

**PNEUMOCONIOSIS kills 4,000 miners each year in Wales alone. The rate of incidence of the dread lung disease—caused by breathing in coal dust as you work deep in the earth—has gone**

to a 100-yard face. It was all dry and we used pneumatic drills which blew the dust everywhere. Unless you had a lamp on the pit post you couldn't see a man 12 feet away.

'You were eating the coal as well. By the time you came to the end of your tummy tin it was all black.'

'Before we had the electric fans, men would be working in 90 degrees just wearing vests and their shorts. It's different now. You freeze with all the air.'

'One reason the dust is great today is that a lot more coal is shifted.'

'When we were doing 12 to 15 tons a shift. Now one disc cutter with 39 picks shifts 2,000 tons at the coal face. Accidents were terrific in those times.

'There might be danger but men couldn't see it until a section of roof or something like that fell on them.'

'There aren't so many fatal accidents today, with the machines, and especially steel braces instead of wooden props; but when they happen they're more serious.'

'Men get caught in the conveyor or the cutters and fingers, hands, arms and legs get torn off. The speed of the machines is a big factor in the accidents.'

'Techniques have changed, too, to get the coal faster.'

'They go in for crash packing now—that's bringing down a whole section of the roof at a time—you can imagine the dust that creates.'

Like most miners, Cliff is disgusted at the way men are thrown on the scrap-heap once disease stops them working in the pits.

## £6 BASIC

A miner gets a pension of £1.50 if he lives to 65—and most don't—but if he's put off because of pneumoconiosis he gets £6 basic, sick pay plus £1 for every 10-per-cent additional infection. There are also extra age-related payments between 30p and 70p.

Cliff has three children—three of them working—so he's not about to starve.

His wife has just started work as a relief cleaner at a local school, bringing in an extra £9 a week. £4 of the family's £20 weekly income goes on rent.

'When a man's finished he been down the pit for over 20 years. He told Workers Press how the pressure would really be on the miners in about two weeks.'

'The National Coal Board will start getting tougher about safety of machinery,' he said, 'and the last of our wages will be gone.'

'Everyone knows this is not just against the NCB—but the Tories as well.'

'I make no excuses for the Labour government. It's true they quite correctly nationalized the industry, but it meant that, through compensation, every ton we brought up the old pit bosses got their whack.'

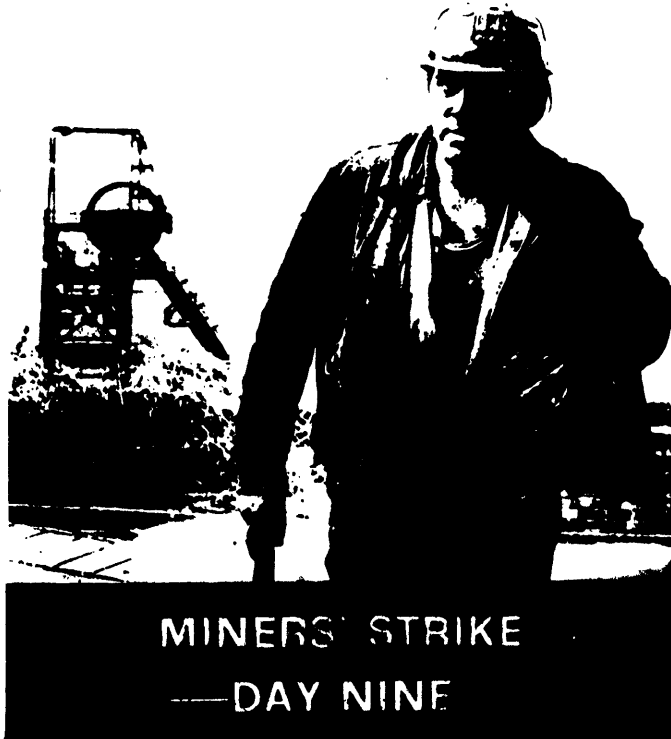
'I think it's exploitation of us on behalf of other industries.'

'It's essential that the miners get the backing of trade union members in other unions. Memories of 1926, when the miners were let down by the TUC and their own leaders, are strong.'

## WELSH MINERS DEMAND SOLIDARITY ACTION FROM THE CREW OF THE COAL SHIP 'ALAIN LD', BERTHED IN CARDIFF DOCKS



Welsh miners demand solidarity action from the crew of the coal ship 'Alain LD', berthed in Cardiff docks



MINERS STRIKE — DAY NINE

# SCOTLAND Power men ready to back strike

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

THE electricity board in Scotland have tried every dirty trick to break the miners' strike by keeping fuel supplies flowing into power stations.

Their desperate action exposes the boast that they have enormous stocks of coal to keep the generators running.

If this was the case why did the Board go to the enormous expense and trouble of hiring convoys of scab contractors to ferry coal by road from Longannet power station, on the north side of the Firth of Forth, to Cockenzie station on the south?

Why also attempt to buy supplies from Scotland's few inferior private mines, and why even bring in fuel from mines that have already been closed but still have heaps of low grade coal at the pit head?

The answer is simple. Mammoth power stations like Cockenzie are fed by 15 train loads of coal a day. With the official rail black on coal movement none of this is getting through.

With such an enormous daily supply to keep stocks constant, those that remain are not going to keep the Cockenzie fires burning for very long.

The key issue in giving the miners' strike its greatest impact has been therefore the solidarity shown by other workers.

And it has largely been the rank and file that has helped the miners in the localities. Most union leaders put the usual 'don't cross picket lines'—instruction.

But men on the ground made sure this vague order was interpreted the way miners wanted—'coal does not move'.

Now from within the power stations there is talk of linking their claim to that of the miners and imposing a work to rule like last year's that caused immediate chaos.

At Edinburgh's militant Portobello power station Ramsay Vickers, engineer's steward, told me he was ready to back the miners.

'In the early days of the strike the Board were hiring every contractor they could lay their hands on. May I add at enormous expense, and of course we have to foot the bill in the end.'

He told me that management at Portobello had approached the station's own drivers and asked them if they could man articulated lorries.

In addition the oil supplies that are used to start up the coal burners have mysteriously doubled since the strike

began. Ramsay thinks they could be used as a substitute for coal.

'There is a lot of sympathy for the miners. Jackson, the postmen's leader, made a good point on TV, he said if we are allowed to be picked off one by one we might as well pack it in. There should be unity and the TUC should organize it.'

'People say "what about the Industrial Relations Act?" but the Act could not be used if we stuck together—it's this very division in our ranks that makes the Act so dangerous.'

'I'm for going the whole hog myself and I think a lot of other people are as well. Every day it's prices up, rent up and of course unemployment up—I don't think the people are going to stand for it—it's not the 1920s and 1930s now, you know.'

His support for the miners is not entirely without an element of self-interest.

The power workers are at present at stage two of their own claim and like the miners they have had years of savage redundancy and productivity.

The biggest department in the industry now is 'management services', the so called efficiency experts whose basic job is to scheme away how to get rid of men whatever the cost.

At Portobello at the present time the engineers are fighting against a bid to merge the mechanical engineers and the electrical engineers.

'Workers are all facing the same attacks. Really it's not the miners' strike, it's our strike—we're all under the Tory hammer so let's get fighting,' was Mr. Vicker's final message.

# What they said then...and now

**'Daily Mirror', May 1926:** 'THE government cannot capitulate. It represents the nation and must refuse to be intimidated into surrender.'

And in another editorial headed 'Rally round the government', the paper said that 'for the average man and woman throughout the country... the call is "Carry on"'. Be prepared to assist in the work of maintaining supplies.

**'Daily Mirror', January 1972:** 'IT WILL be a tragedy if the miners' strike is allowed to drift into a long and savage fight to a finish. A tragedy for the miners and their families. They will face much hardship. They will get no strike pay. A tragedy for the country.'

**'The Times', May 1926:** 'THE efforts to prevent a stoppage of the mining industry have failed. The responsibility rests with the miners because they declined to consider a reduction in wages.'

And in an editorial on May 3, 1926: 'Unless counsels of reason prevail, we are within a few hours of the gravest domestic menace that has hung over this nation since the fall of the Stuarts.'

**'Sunday Times', January 1972:** 'EVEN in the middle of a major war against inflation,

the miners' strike is peculiarly tragic.

'Now that the strike is on, any bargaining to end it will have to start afresh. The offer lapsed when it was rejected. If the stoppage lasts as long as the miners are predicting, some marginal pits are likely to close.'

'Its long-term effect on jobs will be considerably worse than the effect of the futile post office workers' strike.'

**'Morning Star', January 14, 1972:** 'WITH solidarity and unity we can make this a short and successful strike which will win miners' immediate demands. We can also strike a blow against the Tory government which will speed the day when it is defeated and replaced by a government which will take the side of the workers and not the millionaires.'

**Communist Party statement, May 5, 1926:** 'THE Communist Party wants the workers against the attempt being made to limit the struggle to its previous character of self-defence against the capitalist offensive. Once the battle has been joined, the only way to victory is to push ahead and hit hard.'

'Not a penny off the pay. Not a second on the day! Nationalize the mines without compensation under workers' control.'



Ernie Williams is 63. Off work for a year, he has 20 per cent pneumoconiosis



Jack Martin, who has 10 per cent pneumoconiosis, is aged 66

## My face is intact—Sadat

PRESIDENT Anwar Sadat of Egypt last week went on national television to make threatening speeches against Israel... again.

He said he had called off an offensive against Israel last month only because of the outbreak of the Indo-Pakistani war.

'I told you that 1971 would be decisive. I told you I had given my instructions for action. But I had to cancel my instructions.'

'There is no loss of face about this,' Sadat claimed.

## Spiro T on the beat

SPIRO T Agnew, the American vice-president, has announced a £60m programme to fight crime in eight medium-sized cities.

Agnew said the programme could cut serious crime by 20 per cent over the next five years in the cities involved—Baltimore, Atlanta, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, St Louis, Newark and Portland in Oregon.

# It's a fight to a finish' E MIDLANDS

DESFORD colliery employs about 650 miners, and they all voted unanimously to strike for their £5-£9 pay claim.

Tony Blower, aged 36, has been down the pit for over 20 years. He told Workers Press how the pressure would really be on the miners in about two weeks.

'The National Coal Board will start getting tougher about safety of machinery,' he said, 'and the last of our wages will be gone.'

'Everyone knows this is not just against the NCB—but the Tories as well.'

'I make no excuses for the Labour government. It's true they quite correctly nationalized the industry, but it meant that, through compensation, every ton we brought up the old pit bosses got their whack.'

'I think it's exploitation of us on behalf of other industries.'

'It's essential that the miners get the backing of trade union members in other unions. Memories of 1926, when the miners were let down by the TUC and their own leaders, are strong.'

'Last year was the biggest let-down.

'We should have been all out then, but the leadership chickened out. It's given the NCB time to build up stocks and the Tories time to complete the Industrial Relations Act.'

'1926 was like that, too, with government preparing while the TUC sat idle.'

'Acceptance of the Tories' 74-per-cent pay norm, and going into the Comon Market, would impoverish the working class. It mustn't happen.'

Tony thought that in his own union, members had to fight for democracy and vote in the executive every five years—'none of this "in for life" stuff', he added.

'I think Workers Press is giving a very good coverage on our strike, but I'd like it to find out and print where our union subs have gone since 1926.'

'As a single man I'll get nowt', he pointed out. No strike pay. No social security.

'I think that if a section of the leadership tried to compromise there would be a split down the middle of the union, because most lads want a fight to the finish.'

# Right-wing threat after Chilean poll

BY TOM KEMP

CHILEANS went to the polls in two crucial by-elections yesterday, as the 'left' government of Salvador Allende faced a mounting challenge from its opponents controlling the Congress and Senate.

Allende has been forced to switch the socialist José Taha, from the Ministry of the Interior to that of Defence.

This move is now being challenged in the Senate and there is even a suggestion that the opposition will seek to impeach Allende himself.

Former right-wing president Eduardo Frei has returned to Chile after an extended tour in the United States.

While there he was undoubtedly briefed for his next task: to get rid of the Allende government and make Chile safe for the big American corporations which exploited its economy in the past.

One of his hosts was the US ambassador to the Organization of American States, Joseph Jova, who organized a united front of the right-wing Chilean parties when he was

attached to the US embassy in Santiago in 1964.

Frei has also been in contact with Lester Ziffren, chief of public relations for the Kennecott Copper Co, whose holdings in Chile have been nationalized.

The secret files of this company, which were published in a Chilean newspaper, show that Frei guaranteed that the property rights of the US corporations which controlled Chilean copper mining would be respected.

Frei later signed agreements which enabled US firms to increase their profits. The documents also show that he promised tax reductions.

Yesterday's by-elections were Frei's first test.

Government candidates were opposed by a line-up of Frei supporters in alliance with the ultra-right National Party.

The elections took place in a tense atmosphere created by bitter press attacks on both the government and strong-arm methods used by the right wing.

The government's hopes are based mainly in splits in the Christian-Democratic Party, which have followed the party's official line-up with the extreme right.

Meanwhile the Socialist

Party has brought out proposals for constitutional reform which would establish single-chamber government and require the dissolution of parliament.

The document says the majority held by the Christian Democratic and National Parties in Congress no longer corresponds with the correlation of political forces as shown by last year's municipal elections.

It wants the President to have power to dissolve Congress and order new elections.

The problem for the Socialist supporters of Allende is how they can get their constitutional changes passed into law against the opposition of Congress and Senate.

This is the typically treacherous stance of reformists, leaving the real decisions with a right wing which has no intention of respecting any constitutional provisions which stand in its way.

But the deadlock between President and Congress is rapidly moving towards an open confrontation.

Frei's return and the right-wing offensive show the danger of a right-wing coup which will be greatly enhanced if yesterday's by-election results show a government loss.

## LATE NEWS

NEWS DESK  
01-720 2000  
CIRCULATION  
01-622 7020

## WEATHER

A SLOW-MOVING trough is expected to lie N to S over western districts.

N Ireland, S Wales and SW England will be cloudy with occasional rain at first. It will become brighter with some showers later. Western districts of England and Scotland will remain cloudy with occasional rain. Eastern districts will be mostly dry but rather cloudy. Temperatures generally will be near the seasonal normal.

Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Some rain or showers but becoming mainly dry in the E. Temperatures remaining near normal in the W but becoming colder in the SE.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 165a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.  
Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 160b Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

workers press

Meet Editorial Board speakers. Discuss your ideas for the expanded paper

**GLASGOW**  
Monday January 17  
7.30 pm  
Room 1  
Patrickburgh  
Leeson Hall  
(Nr Merland St Tube Sta.)  
Speaker: Stephen Johns

**CENTRAL LONDON**  
Wednesday January 19  
7 p.m.

**WELSH HARP**  
Temple Lane  
off Fleet Street

**SOUTHAMPTON**  
Thursday January 20  
7.30 p.m.  
Conference Room  
Civic Centre  
Southampton

**LONDON**  
Wednesday January 26  
8 p.m.  
Lower Hall  
Brixton Town Hall  
Brixton SW2

**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS**

Make the Tory government resign!  
Return a Labour government pledged to restore full employment and repeal all laws against the unemployed

**CROYDON:** Thursday January 20, 8pm. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd, E Croydon. Support the miners.

**DAGENHAM:** Wednesday January 26, 8pm. Room 11, East Ham Town Hall, East Ham. 'Right-to-Work campaign'.

**E LONDON:** Tuesday January 25, 8pm. All Hallows Hall, Devons Road, Poplar. 'Right-to-Work campaign'.

**SW LONDON:** Tuesday January 18, 8pm. Small Hall, Clapham Manor, Clapham, Clapham Manor St, SW4. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.

**SOUTHALL:** Tuesday January 18, 8 pm. Indian Workers' Association, 18 Featherstone Rd. 'The miners' strike'.

**W LONDON:** Tuesday January 18, 8pm. The Greyhound, Becklow Rd, Acton W12.

**LUTON:** Thursday January 27, 8pm. Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Rd, Luton. 'Right-to-Work campaign'.

**LONDON:** Thursday January 20, 8pm. Town Hall, Edmon-ton. 'Support the miners'.

**SE LONDON:** Thursday January 27, 8 p.m. Room 2, Deptford Engineers' Club, opp New Cross Stn. 'The Right-to-Work campaign'.

Socialist Labour League  
Special courses of lectures  
In line with decision of ATUA November 6 conference to build revolutionary party

Lecture Room 1  
Digbeth Hall, Digbeth  
BIRMINGHAM, 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY JANUARY 18**  
Essential Marxism

**TUESDAY JANUARY 25**  
Economics and Politics

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 1**  
Historical Materialism today

Mid-Hall  
Woodside Hall, St George's Cross  
GLASGOW, 3 p.m.

**SUNDAY JANUARY 23**  
Essential Marxism

**SUNDAY JANUARY 30**  
Economics and Politics

given by  
G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)