

# VOICE

# OF THE UNIONS

FOR WORKERS' CONTROL OF INDUSTRY

DECEMBER 1970

9d.



'Some dockers think it won't affect us and, of course, at the start they're right. They'll start with some engineering firm down in Devon, then some Pakistanis in Huddersfield, then the London busmen, like in '58. But it will end with you and me because it's us, and all working people they're really out to get.'

BRIAN NICHOLSON (TGWU)  
(Speaking at a meeting of London dockers)

# VOICE

DECEMBER 1970

"Voice" editorial policy is represented by unsigned articles in the editorial column and does not necessarily express the views of the sponsors. All other articles give the views of the authors only.

## Naked class war!

£25 a day fines for unofficial strikers, £5,000 a day fines for unions proposed by the Tory Government. A legal ban on picketing proposed by "red under the bed," ex-Labour M.P., trade union official turned employer, Lord Robens.

These are measures of **naked class war**. If the Government and employers wish to change the "rules of the game" to this extent, then the mass Labour Movement must consider chasing them off the field altogether.

A free trade union movement, as experience in Germany and Russia shows, is the keystone of political democracy in every modern state, the only effective counterweight to the ever-present potential tyranny of big business, finance capital and faceless state bureaucracy. The right **not to work**, at bottom, is all that distinguishes a free man from a slave. Trade unionists who resist the present incomes legislation do not defend sectional interests. They defend the basic liberties of the people as a whole.

There is nothing casual about the words "class war." We do not use them often, and we do not turn them into a cheap slogan by greeting every industrial or political action of working men as another big step in some glorious "class war." But, when the Government decides to attack the very organisations that have been built after nearly two centuries of effort and hard experience, the organisations which give strength to our demands and hopes, then it is clear that the Government has declared "class war" against us.

Strikes against the bill, or pledges—which must be obtained—from the Labour Party or repeal, if passed, are not enough. The Tory Tiger has shown his teeth. Labour must now prepare to draw them, once and for all.

Labour needs not only a defensive strategy against the bill. Labour needs also an offensive strategy to end the evil, venomous power of capital for ever. "Voice" pledges itself to the elaboration of that strategy, to the organisation of the forces to put it into effect.

Those who choose to live by the sword, perish by the sword. This is a warning Edward Heath and his masters would have done better to remember.

## Preamble of the Industrial workers of the world

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, enjoy the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world unite as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

Instead of the conservative motto "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work" we must inscribe on our banners the revolutionary watch-word, "Abolition of the wage system!"

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organised, not only for the struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when the capitalists shall have been overthrown. By organising industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!

## Will they dare cut the N.H.S.?

# Hands off our health?

On 2nd March, 1944, Britain's war-time Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, declared that "Disease must be attacked in the poorest or in the richest, in the same way as the fire brigade will give its full assistance to the humble cottage as readily as to the most important mansion. Our policy is to create a National Health Service to ensure that everybody, **irrespective of means, age, sex, or occupation shall have equal opportunities** to benefit from the best and most up-to-date medical and allied services available." Now, under a Tory Government, the noble idea, expressed by Mr. Churchill in 1944, goes the same way as a previous promise of "Homes fit for heroes to live in."

Two of the proposed Tory cuts are of particular interest to trade unionists. The imposition of higher and probably rising prescription charges. The stopping of sick benefit for the first three days of absence from work.

National Insurance is based on a form of contract like any other insurance. A certain premium is paid in return for a promise of certain benefits, under conditions laid down in the contract. This Tory government simply breaks part of the contract. This action is unfair on all workers paying National Insurance.

It will be most unfair on the one million workers suffering from industrial injuries or industrial diseases. Their ill-health almost exclusively is due to inadequate protection of their health at their place of work. While their employers, with few exceptions, get off scot-free, the worker suffers damage to his health, the agony of pain and discomfort, loss of wages and often permanent damage to his working capacity.

Now he will have to pay more for treatment and, as final insult, will lose his benefit for the first three days of absence from work. This certainly is a most outstanding example of class legislation.

There is no financial justification for cuts in sickness, industrial injury and unemployment benefits. The Annual Report for 1969, of the Department for Health and Social Security, gives the following figures (rounded-up):

Total Payments from Insurance & Injury Fund ..... £2,420 m.  
Total Reserves ... £1,500 m.

Reserves amount to more than one half of the annual expenditure, at 1969 rate.

Where is this money? A leading M.P., well versed in the secrets of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance once told me after he had made sure no reporter was present:

"Well, you and I know very well, it's blown in armaments and other expenditure."

The National Insurance Fund will now have to pay for the proposed "East-of-Suez" policy of this Tory government — unless the trade unions stop this plan.

While this government cuts down on sick benefits, it refuses (just like its predecessors) to enforce to the utmost existing safety legislation at places of work. One day following the cuts in sickness benefits, a government spokesman turned down the proposal for compulsory Joint

Safety Committees which would improve safety, according to factual evidence supplied in a number of Annual Reports of the Chief Factory Inspector.

This outrageous attack on the welfare of the working class must be opposed to the utmost. We must explain to everybody the implications of the proposals, and to forge a strong and effective movement designed to prevent this destructive medical legislation becoming reality.

The official trade union movement must lead this fight. Leeds Trades Council has called upon the T.U.C. "to

mount the strongest possible opposition to these measures; to include a discussion of counter-measures to them in the agenda of the Special Conference of the T.U.C., and to take all other measures available to defeat the intention of this government to destroy the present standards of the social services." This demand should be repeated throughout the trade union movement.

Dr. Herman Grunwald, author of this article, is an active and well-known member of the Leeds Trades Council.

## Times change—Tories don't

The question which poses itself is not: "Should a means test be applied to a social service?" but, "Why should any social service be provided without a test of need?"

—January 1952. Enoch Powell, M.P., and Ian MacLeod, M.P., in "The Social Services: Needs and Means" (Conservative Political Centre Publication).

It remains the belief of the Conservative Party, apart from economic circumstances, that there should be charges in the Health Service. . . . I have always believed in these charges: the economic reasons support the ethical ones.

—Ian MacLeod, M.P. (Minister of Health), March, 1952.

We shall expect that, where the user can afford it, he shall bear more of the cost and the taxpayer less—but we shall give more help to those who need it.

—Anthony Barber, M.P. (Chancellor). October, 1970.

## What is your Xmas gift (to your paper - of course)

To reach our target of £200 we still need another £50 or more with only ONE MONTH to go. Will you be one who will rush a donation to me at 73 Ridgway Place, London, S.W.19? The paper needs your full support physically, politically and financially. Great battles lie ahead. "Voice" will be in the front of the struggle, but we need your help and we feel that those who can will come to our aid. If 100 readers give us the price of a packet of 20 cigarettes, our target will be reached. Will you be one who will go among your mates and ask for this small gesture of appreciation for what 'Voice' HAS DONE and WILL DO?

DON MCGREGOR.

Have a smashing time at Christmas—'Voice' sends greetings to you all but we do need funds badly. Help us make 1971 the best year ever for our PAPER.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
E. W. Edwards (Hayes)	3 0	Stan Mills (S.W.16) ...	1 0 0
E. Shelton (Stockport)	3 0	C. O'Connor (Wigan) ..	2 0
G. Blacklow (Newport)	2 6	W. Dagnall (Bolton) ...	2 0
H. Goodwin and D. Pardue (Liverpool) ..	15 0	D. Pickett (Stoke Newington) .....	1 0 0
W. G. Reid (N.12) ...	10 0	Walter Kendall .....	3 0 0
W. Slater (Blackpool)	1 5 0		
W. Edmonson (Stoke-on-Trent) .....	2 6	Total .....	8 12 0
L. Amor (Reading) ...	2 0	Brought forward .....	141 2 1
P. J. Stone (Romford)	5 0	Total .....	149 14 1

"The old forms of trades unionism are of less force today than they were before the bringing of international relationships of employers and capitalists. Capital and employers have had their day, and have misused their power. The workers must assert their rights . . . The capitalists are making their wealth whilst telling the workers they are driving trade out of the country. Don't let the employer steel our hearts in hatred against the foreign workmen, because the foreign employers are telling their workmen exactly the same thing about Englishmen."

**BEN TILLET**

General Secretary, Dock, Wharf, Riverside & General Workers' Union (1896).

# Wild-cat EMPLOYER

Many years ago the giant Metropolitan Vickers works in Trafford Park, Manchester, was known as the "Big House." In pre-war days, they paid low wages but were easy going. At its peak period, as A.E.I., the company employed about 20,000 workers. These have now been reduced to some 10,000. In more recent years, A.E.I. has been taken over first by G.E.C. and then by English Electric who moved in with the ruthless intention to rationalise the works and discharge thousands of workers as "redundant."

During and after the war when Hugh Scanlon was Secretary of the Works Committee and later Chairman and A.E.U. Convener, organisation, earnings and conditions were greatly improved. However the Management, like the proverbial elephant, stored each hard-won success in its memory and bided its time to retaliate.

## DISCHARGED

The first victim was Benny Rothman, a popular and able

Shop Steward and Works Committee delegate. I will remember seeing him addressing meetings of the men he represented to explain what was happening.

In 1951 he was discharged under circumstances that can only be described as blatant victimisation. In spite of the efforts of the A.E.U. District Committee and the men in West Works and other parts of the factory, he was not reinstated.

In 1964 the Management struck again. Cliff Renshaw, also an active Shop Steward and Works Committee delegate was dismissed. The Union verdict was again victimisation. I remember attending the huge meeting on the crotch which was addressed by District Officials and which was followed by a stoppage of work. But once more we were unsuccessful and Cliff had to find other work.

## HATCHET MEN

English Electric hatchet men lost little time in showing their hand. They caught Frank Parker, Shop Steward and Works Committee delegate for 'B' Aisle using a battery shaver in preparation for a Union meeting immediately after work. The press reporters enjoyed the joke

and made full use of it. But Frank was dismissed on the eve of the annual shut-down and in spite of the efforts of the A.U.E.F. District Committee, reinstatement was rejected by the Company.

It was not until after the fortnight's holiday that the convener and Shop organisations were able to take up the struggle from the inside. Meanwhile two Special Meetings of the Union District Committee were held. At the second, there were 50 A.E.F. Shop Stewards from the factory in attendance.

## MASS MEETING

The District Committee was prepared to call a mass meeting of members at the works to discuss action to enforce reinstatement. But the Convener and Shop Stewards reported that they had already

negotiated and obtained the best possible settlement. This allowed Frank Parker to be re-engaged on his old job, six weeks after his dismissal. He is to have full rights to be elected Shop Steward and Works Committee delegate as soon as he begins work.

The District Committee decided to agree to these terms and they were put to a mass meeting of the men on the following day by the District President and District Secretary with the Convener in the Chair.

The Management's blow has been parried this time. We will be glad to have Frank Parker back in the works and feel sure he will continue to play a valuable part in the works organisation.

A. BLADE.

## BOOK REVIEW

### BIG BUSINESS

The narrowness of British socialism is a myth. Marx wrote most of his major works, Capital included, in Britain. Anarchism, through its leading thinker, Peter Kropotkin, similarly blossomed in a British environment. British liberals and socialists were in the forefront of the supporters of those who fought against Czarist tyranny, and sheltered some of the fore-runners of the Russian revolution, Stepniak amongst them.

James W. Hulse, an American professor, who does not understand socialism at all, has nevertheless, written an interesting book about some of these

early socialists under the title "Revisionists in London."\*

Hulse draws attention to the too much forgotten figure of William Morris, poet and socialist, writes too about Bernard Shaw, and also of Edward Bernstein, founder of "Revisionism."

At 48/- this book is too highly priced for the average reader, who could get better value for money elsewhere. Yet it is a book which ought to be on every public library's shelves. We hope Labour councillors will see it arrives there.

\* James W. Hulse, "Revisionists in London," London, 1970.

## Fun with figures

### UNCOMMON COMMONERS

Big business is once again well represented in the House of Commons.

On the re-assembly of the new Parliament well over 200 M.P.s had clearly identifiable business interests. The overwhelming majority were Tory.

Members of Lloyds .....	46
Investment & Unit Trusts	18
Property .....	21
Business Consultants .....	19
Banking .....	18
Construction .....	18
Textiles .....	14
Accountants .....	9
Stockbrokers .....	8
Pharmaceuticals .....	6
Breweries .....	4
The M.P. with the largest	

number of directorships appears to be Sir John Foster, Tory M.P. for Northwich, with 20, followed by Sir Arthur Vere Harvey, Tory M.P. for Macclesfield, with 11.

The House of Commons was once supposed to represent the "common" people. This month's problem puzzle: what is common about these big business M.P.s?

### CARVING CARR

The Honourable Robert Carr had a wide variety of work experience before he became Minister of Employment and Productivity.

Mr. Carr was a director of

Securicor, the private rent-a-cop firm which, for a price, will rent you up to 20,000 guards armed with coshes, 2,200 vehicles and 750 dogs.

Bob Carr was also a member of the Council of the Institute of Directors, a Director of Metal Closures Group, of Norwich Union Insurance (London board), and of S. Hoffnung and Co.

When M.P.s join the Cabinet, they must resign their directorships, but they may hold on to their company shares.

This month's second problem puzzle: how did these directorships make Bob Carr competent to be our Lord of Employment (and Productivity, too)?

## Harold Marks (D.A.T.A.) v. Lord Stokes (B.L.M.)

### Knockout in round one

In the Glasgow "Daily Record," Lord Stokes spoke up recently. In part he was quite sensible. This is what he said: "We are in the middle of a social revolution. People are becoming better educated. They are thinking. They discuss and query . . . the day when management imposed its will on the workers is gone."

In future we will have management by consent—with participation and co-operation from everyone. But people will have to accept discipline, too—they will have to abide by the decisions in which they participated. This applies to workers, trade unions, and management."

The "Daily Record" interviewer

then asked Lord Stokes questions about strikes in component factories, and added: "Will you buy more components abroad in future?"

Lord Stokes answered: "We are looking everywhere in the world. But we are a British company and we'd prefer to buy in Britain . . . we had to go to

Italy, France and South Africa during the Pilkington strike. We are now buying quite a percentage of glass abroad and it is coming in cheaper than British glass. We are also bringing in tyres from abroad—it's crazy."

### PERSPECTIVE

"Voice asked Birmingham union militant Harold Marks, to comment on what Lord Stokes had to say. Harold's reply puts things into proper perspective.

"The settlement of the strike of production workers at Joseph Lucas's die-casting and plastic factories has meant that all classes of workers there have settled on the basis of the £4 a week the production workers ob-

tained. This has been a very significant breakthrough. Joseph Lucas, one of the largest suppliers of components to the motor industry, may be able to boast of the highest productivity rate in the country but wage levels for all types of workers are lower than in motor car manufacturing.

"One of the main reasons is that the products are sold to British Leyland Motors and the American-controlled companies at low profit margins. The motor car companies resist even the slightest price increases.

"British Leyland constantly threaten to buy their components overseas, and have, in fact, been

buying glass from Italy since the Pilkington strike.

Stokes blames component workers for British Leyland's problems, yet the pressure he himself puts on the component companies is a prime cause of the disputes of which he complains.

"Component workers are subsidising the inefficiency that British Leyland Stewards quite rightly accuse the British Leyland management of perpetrating. What is ironic is that Lord Stokes talks of buying components in Italy and Japan. Neither country is noted for good industrial relations. Trade unionists have got to put this industrial autocrat in his place."

# STOP CARR'S CARRY

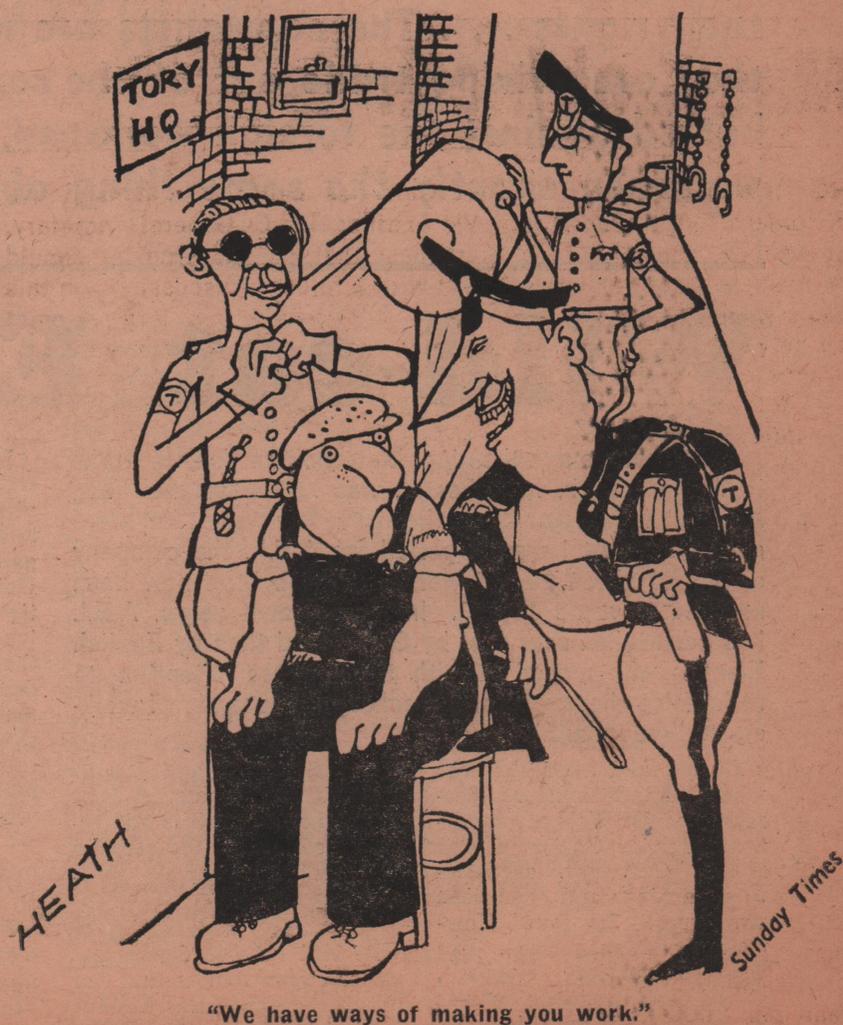
THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY is proud to talk of its stand for "individual freedom" against "state bureaucracy," "Communist despotism" and "socialist tyranny." At the 1970 Conservative Party Conference, Edward Heath informed the delegates that his strategy "was to encourage people to stand on their own feet."

"The single most important service that I believe the Government can perform for the British people is to restore them more and more freedom," he declared. Instead, like the dictators Hitler and Stalin before him, he is mounting an attack on the trade unions which is designed to turn them into yellow company organisations on the lines of those that exist in fascist and Communist states.

The right of the individual to combine with other individuals to bargain collectively over his wages and conditions of employment is the bedrock on which is based the individual liberty not only of the working man, but also of the 30 million members of the labour force, who with their families constitute the whole worthwhile population of Britain. These rights were never freely given. They were won only at the expense of enormous hardship and suffering, of which our father bore the heavy burden.

Foremost amongst the warriors called up by the employers in the past to deny the working man and his union their legitimate rights, were the magistrate and the High Court Judge, the evil oppression of a narrow class law, which dared to masquerade as "justice."

The Conservative Government is trying to take back the very same rights which our forefathers with infinite labour and sacrifice secured for ourselves. The Conservatives want to revive the same class justice that sent the Tolpuddle Martyrs to Botany Bay and despatched the victims of the Peterloo Massacre to their bloody graves.



## What the Bill proposes

### 1. The Bill will outlaw the closed shop

A union card will no longer be a condition of employment anywhere in Britain if the Government has its way. The proposed alternative "agency shop" will require a majority vote of all those in employment (not of those voting) in an externally conducted ballot, before it can be enforced. The dues of those refusing union membership will be paid to charity. The employees concerned will remain outside union discipline and control.

The Bill is intended to enable the employer to gradually erode the closed shop and establish, via the "agency shop," a non-union open shop. Unions like Equity could be totally destroyed by this measure.

### 2. Union agreements made legally binding

Unless express provision to the contrary is made, all agreements will be legally binding. Arrogant employers, against the wish of the unions, will be able to enforce a legally binding agreement via a Government agency, with power to make bind recommendations on the unions.

### 3. Union funds laid open to legal action

The full amount of a union's resources (if unregistered), or a fixed but very large amount (if registered), will be liable in respect of loosely defined "unfair industrial acts" which will be judged by reactionary courts.

### 4. Sympathetic strikes will become illegal

The right to refuse to work with blacklegs or non-unionists, or to refuse to handle scab production will be denied and made actionable as "unfair industrial action." However, sympathetic lockouts by employers, as customary in motor industry, under the title "parts shortage" will remain fully legal.

### 5. Union rule books will be censored

Rules will be made subject to approval and amendment by a Labour Dictator termed a 'Registrar.' Failure to register would leave unions totally unprotected against actions for damages which could run to unlimited amounts.

### 6. Taff Vale protection ended

In 1901 Tory judges twisted the law to make unions, trade union officials, shop stewards and individual members liable to

actions for damages from "injured" employers.

Protection against Court actions was restored in 1906. Conservative legislation proposes to restore the Taff Vale situation of 69 years ago, giving registered unions very limited protection, unregistered unions none at all. The Coal Board claimed a loss of £10,000,000 in an unofficial stoppage earlier this year. Damages (termed "compensation") could run to this figure and above.

### 7. Strike ban by order

In disputes "which may seriously threaten the national health, safety, or economy and/or the livelihood of a substantial part of the community" the Government takes power to ban strikes altogether for 60 days, or until such time as a ballot of those concerned (organised and unorganised alike) has been conducted by an external body. The terms of such arbitrary ballots would be decided, not by the workers concerned, but by a state agency.

### 8. Externally imposed procedure

Where union and employers cannot agree, a state agency, acting on an employer's request, could impose a legally binding procedure agreement, against the will of the union and the workers concerned. This could happen at factory and plant as well as at national level. Failure to observe these "slave agreements" would render the union, its officers, shop stewards and individual members, liable to vast sums in damages (termed "compensation").

### 9. 'Unfair industrial action'

A vast range of customary official and unofficial union activity would be condemned as "unfair industrial action" and make the union, union officials, stewards or individual members concerned, liable for heavy damages (termed "compensation").

### 10. Unofficial action

Unofficial activity will be deemed "unfair industrial action." In case of doubt the issue will be decided by judges and lawyers who in the nature of things know nothing of industrial relations and come from a hostile social class. Massive fines (termed "compensation") can arise here again.

### 11. Going to jail

The Bill dodges the issue but the facts are clear. Anyone (union official, shop steward, and members) refusing to pay fines or judged responsible for the failure of an organisation to pay fines, could go to jail.

# VE-UP

## Many objections

**NO CONSULTATION:** "Robert Carr has called it a consultative document, but it is not," said Vic Feather, T.U.C. General Secretary, on October 9th. The T.U.C.'s request that the Government should re-examine its approach "has met with a refusal. Discussions on this basis would be a mockery of the consultative process patiently built up between the trade union movement and successive governments over the last 30 years," says the T.U.C.

**NO SENSE:** The Donovan Royal Commission spent three years considering ideas like those propounded by the present Bill. The Commission turned them all down and gave excellent reasons. Now the proposals are back again. Why set up the Donovan Commission in the first place?

**LAWYERS WILL GROW RICH:** "Lawyers grow rich whilst honest men starve," the saying goes. The only people besides the employers to benefit out of this legislation will be the lawyers, who will boondoggle everyone with legal arguments, waste time and money handling matters dealt with better, quicker and cheaper by the exercise of plain commonsense.

**CENSOR PRESS:** "Inducing," or supporting a strike will be, in manifold circumstances, an offence liable to heavy penalties. Thus "Voice" and other papers will be threatened with heavy damages for speaking out truthfully in favour of the workers' cause. This is not justice. It is a gross infringement of free speech.

**NOT NECESSARY:** These figures from the International Labour Office prove how the Tory Government is just lying about British working people "hurting" the country.

Between 1964-1968, the average number of days lost in one year, per 1,000 workers employed, due to industrial disputes, were:

Australia .....	392 days lost	Ireland .....	1240 days lost
Belgium .....	186 days lost	Italy .....	1006 days lost
Britain .....	232 days lost	Japan .....	196 days lost
Canada .....	1158 days lost	New Zealand ..	214 days lost
Denmark .....	100 days lost	Sweden .....	24 days lost
France .....	263 days lost	United States	1122 days lost
India .....	854 days lost		

**UNIONS UNDERMINED:** We in the trade unions and the T.U.C. are fully capable of handling our own affairs. The effect of these laws will be to take power over union business at present exercised by the T.U.C. and hand it over to High Court Judges and the members of a notoriously reactionary legal profession. Does anyone believe that this will make for good industrial relations?

## New agencies

**NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COURT—N.I.R.C.** Composed of "members of the higher judiciary," a social elite notoriously hostile to everything the Labour Movement stands for, plus employers, and if they agree to serve, renegade trade union officials.

**LOCAL LABOUR COURTS,** termed Industrial Tribunals, chaired by a lawyer, with employers, and, if they are fools enough to serve, trade union representatives.

The N.I.R.C. will rule on the interpretation of collective agreements, adjudicate claims for damages arising from "unfair industrial action," settle procedure agreements and countless other matters formerly decided by the parties concerned on their own account freely. It will have the status of a High Court.

**COMMISSION FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS — C.I.R.** No longer voluntary, the C.I.R. will now have statutory power and will be entitled to conduct ballots, whatever the views of the unions concerned, examine witnesses on oath, hear evidence in private if requested, and generally act like a petty dictator.

**RULE BOOK DICTATOR:** Unions will have to apply to the Rule Book Dictator, the Registrar, for a state licence to operate. All our hard-won rights are to be transformed into privileges to be handed out only to those who conform to the Tory Government's idea of what is good for them. De-registration will be a constant threat hanging over unions whose policies the Government and the C.I.R. dislike.

## What do they say?

IF the Bill goes through "the penalty for not registering will be to have withdrawn the legal immunity which has been in existence for nearly 70 years and for which our predecessors suffered persecution, imprisonment and deportation."

—Hugh Scanlon, President, A.U.F.

"The Bill seems to ignore the research work in recent years by experts of many different viewpoints . . . It is little less than amateurish to borrow legal regulations introduced in 1935 to promote collective bargaining in a country (U.S.A.) where even now only a third of the work force is covered by collective bargaining."

—Professor K. W. Wedderburn, University of London.

"A crude attempt to import the American system of labour relations at a time when the American system of labour relations itself is undergoing severe strains."

—Victor Feather, General Secretary, T.U.C.

"It seems to me that Mr. Carr and his colleagues have tried to restrict the scope for industrial action much too severely by their broad definition of what constitutes "unfairness" in industrial relations."

—Andrew Shonfield, one-time Economic Editor of "The Observer."

"The document is so restrictive that it is difficult to place in its historical resting place. Certainly, its home is not in the 20th century . . . If the T.U.C. had discussed these proposals with the Government it would have been a conversation between a condemned man and the executioner on the relative merits of axe and rope."

—Draughtsmen and Allied Technicians' Association.

## What to do?

"VOICE" supports all militant action calculated to rally workers against this Bill and to indicate to the Government and to the population at large the intensity of feeling against it. Unfortunately, due to the "no issue" policy on which the Labour Party fought the General Election, most people are not yet aware of the extent to which their basic civil rights are in danger.

We recommend the strike on December 8th, and the proposed stoppage on January 12th. (See Page Six). The T.U.C. also, should issue the call for an official ONE DAY GENERAL STRIKE AND DEMONSTRATION to give force to opposition to the Bill. An enormous public campaign, with T.U.C. and Labour Party in the lead, needs to be mounted to rally public opinion.

"Voice" does not share the illusion, propagated elsewhere, that a one day general strike alone, without the most massive popular support, can FORCE the Government to abandon the legislation. The great strikes in France, in May 1968, we should remember, did not topple de Gaulle. The Government has a majority of 43.

We certainly must fight to stop the Bill. We must also destroy its credibility if once passed into law. HOW?

The Labour Party must specifically undertake to repeal the WHOLE TORY TRADE UNION BILL immediately, as soon as the next Labour Government returns to power.

Once we force this assurance from the Labour Party National Executive, the Parliamentary Labour Party, the Leader of the Opposition, and have it enshrined as policy by the Conference, then the legislation will lose all credibility. Only the most stupid wildcat employer will seek to gain advantage from the legislation if he realises that repeal is imminent.

In the meantime, the organised forces of the working class must try to destroy any effectiveness which the Tory rules might have, if they become law. We must refuse to co-operate with the reactionary proposals, in these ways:

(1) The T.U.C., all 151 affiliated unions, must refuse to sign on

(2) The T.U.C. should levy all unions to finance a £1,000,000 with the proposed new Registrar of Trade Unions.

Fighting Fund, to protect small unions from legal reprisals, to pay for a massive public campaign to beat the Bill.

(3) Every union shall refuse to sign any agreement with "legally binding" clauses.

(4) T.U.C. policy shall be that no union member shall sit on the proposed industrial tribunals on pain of expulsion. If such tribunals are set up nonetheless, they shall be universally boycotted by the trade union movement.

# VOICE BROADSHEET

"VOICE" presents this Broadsheet to help build the working-men's case against the Tory restrictions on our freedoms. Pin this up where other people can read it.

Order extra copies from: "Voice" Newspapers, 73 Ridgway Place, London, S.W.19.

"Voice" is the widest selling rank and file paper in Britain.

## Black list in WFTU

# McCarthyism in Prague?

Czech employees of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) in Prague are currently in turmoil over a McCarthyite witch-hunt which, on November 1st, cost some 10 per cent of the native born staff their jobs and at this moment of writing threatens many others who stand urgently in need of solidarity action from trade unionists elsewhere.

The role of McCarthy in this sad affair, it is claimed, has been played first by Victor Podzerko and second, by his successor as Russian member of the W.F.T.U. Secretariat, Eugene Cherednichenko.

Our story began on August 22nd, 1968, when the Czech staff at the W.F.T.U. voted unanimously, at both union and Communist Party branches, to condemn the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. Six days later, on August 28th, Podzerko found himself in a minority of one, when the W.F.T.U. Secretariat voted to express disapproval of the aggression committed against Czechoslovakia by the U.S.S.R., East Germans, and other Warsaw Pact countries.

That same day, the Czechs at the W.F.T.U. committed a further crime in the eyes of the Russian representatives by affirming their support for the Dubcek government and its endeavour "to fully re-

store the sovereignty of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the implementation of the Action Programme, which we fully support."

### WITHDRAW RESOLUTION

Czech employees at the W.F.T.U. are now being asked to withdraw their support for these resolutions. Seven of the 60-odd native-born staff were fired at the beginning of November, as a result of their refusal. Most are clerical and administrative workers. Some have been on the staff of the W.F.T.U. for almost fifteen years.

Since the original Russian dismissal list, delivered via the Czech T.U.C. to Pierre Gensous (General Secretary of the W.F.T.U.) included some 30 names, more dismissals are expected to follow in the immediate future.

Edvin Chleboun, official Czech representative on the

W.F.T.U. since 1961 was dismissed last year. Expelled with his wife from the Communist Party for opposing the Russian invasion, Chleboun was first given a clerical job in the Czech T.U.C., to counter charges of victimisation, then after a discreet interval, fired.

Unemployed for a while, he has now, with difficulty, obtained a low-paid job in a warehouse near Prague. A similar procedure is being followed with other purge victims.

### CAREER AT STAKE

Louis Saillant, French predecessor to Gensous as W.F.T.U. General Secretary, had refused to bow to the Soviet ultimatum. But Gensous, a candidate member of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party has shown less determination. Amongst those dismissed is numbered Hanka Vorlova, formerly private secretary to Saillant himself.

The position of the remaining Czech employees at this moment is truly tragic. Well paid by Czech standards, with dozens of hungry place-seekers knocking at the door, eager to take their jobs, they are under great pressure to

give way, denounce their own views, justify the Russian occupation, and condemn the "socialism with a human face" which had begun to appear in Czechoslovakia in Spring 1968.

Such recantations should not be accepted at face value, but as what they are, desperate attempts, by frightened individuals, to maintain their jobs and the conditions of economic survival.

The Russian inspired purge of the W.F.T.U. comes at a time when W.F.T.U. is seeking to establish further contacts with unions in the West\*. Workers in Czechoslovakia hope that British trade unionists will remember that union solidarity does not end at the borders of Eastern Europe.

Trade unionists in Britain, by raising their voice in protest, can do much to ease the plight of their brothers in Czechoslovakia. It is our hope that British unions, the T.U.C., will not fail to do so soon.

\*See for example, letter of Gensous to "Morning Star," early in November; article by Sid Harroway in our last issue.

JOSEF HRADILAK  
(Prague).

## FIGHT THE BILL

December 8  
**LONDON DEMO**

TOWER HILL to  
HYDE PARK  
ASSEMBLY at 8.30 a.m.  
MARCH OFF 10 a.m.  
via City, Fleet Street  
to West End.

January 12

The T.U.C. has called a mass rally against the proposed Tory anti-trade union legislation at the Albert Hall on January 12th.

Shop-stewards' organisations have agreed on a massive demonstration of support, in which workers from all over the country will assemble at three points at 4 p.m. and will then march to the Albert Hall with bands playing and banners flying.

The assembly points will be:—

### HAMMERSMITH BROADWAY

for those from West London and beyond;

**NOTTING HILL GATE**  
for those from the North; and

**HYDE PARK CORNER**  
for those from the East.

Start organising coaches and preparing banners NOW.

Arrange for your factory to close for the afternoon so that all workers can join in.

Further information will appear in the trade union Press shortly.

# WORKERS' CONTROL IN THE PITS

## "The Notts' Miners' Next Step"

A rank and file miner's viewpoint, reviewed by Geoff Brown.

The miners, even before the First World War, were in the forefront of the campaign for workers' control of industry. Not so long ago the National Union of Mine-workers was one of the most important and powerful union organisations in the country. But coal has declined and the fortunes of the N.U.M. seem to have declined with the industry. This is made clear by Arthur Palmer, a working miner in the Nottinghamshire coalfield, in his pamphlet, "The Notts. Miners' Next Step."\*

Brother Palmer asks why the mineworker is so low in the earnings table, why conditions in and around the pits are deteriorating and so on. He finds an answer in the decline of militancy within the union itself. "The full-time officials, not being accountable to the rank and file members for re-election, and therefore secure for life once they have made one set of promises in one election, which they can break at will afterwards, have been able to pursue a path of complete co-operation with the National Coal Board."

The resulting day wage structure, the National Power Loading Agreement have created membership apathy. Members feel that the union is working against their interests.

### CUT & DRIED

As Bro. Palmer points out: "Why should members be interested in the union if every-

thing is cut and dried somewhere outside of their control?" The union and the

National Coal Board are in his opinion ruining the industry and with it the livelihoods of thousands of men.

He calls for management accountable to the workers in the industry. But union pressure on the N.C.B. is highly unlikely unless there is a new militancy calling for the enactment of the N.U.M. rule which states that one of the objects of the union is the public ownership of the industry and control by the workers.

This means democratically elected councils of workers

at each pit with "every right to examine plans, working conditions, suggested changes in production before they are instituted, with power to veto if necessary any action of the management."

### DEMANDS

Pit councils should also control appointments and have access to financial information. It is clear that these demands cannot be fulfilled unless there is a fight inside the union for changes in its structure... the most hopeful starting point being regu-

lar re-election of full-time officials.

### CONTROL

Arthur Palmer states that the first step in a workers' control strategy in the coal industry is "TO TAKE BACK CONTROL OF OUR OWN UNION." One wonders to just how many other unions that statement applies. It is our task to ensure that there are enough Arthur Palmers to do it.

\*Obtainable from VOICE Library.

# Voice Library

<b>THEORY AND PRACTICE OF WORKERS' CONTROL</b>	
The Way Forward for Workers' Control (Hugh Scanlon)	1/6d.
A Strategy for Workers' Control (Walter Kendall)	9d.
The Miners' Next Step (Arthur Palmer)	2/6d.
The Way to Workers' Control (Anton Pannekoek)	1/6d.
Steel Workers' Next Step (Sheffield Steel Workers)	1/6d.
Trade Union Democracy (Discussion Paper—Richard Fletcher)	9d.
The Dockers' Next Step (Hull and London Dock Workers' Control Group)	2/6d.
Workers' Control and the Theory of Socialism (Walter Kendall)	9d.
Which Way to Workers' Control? (Alistair Graham)	2/6d.
Four Steps to Progress (Workers' control and the Buses) (Jack Ashwell)	2/6d.
Job Evaluation and Workers' Control (Ray Collins)	1/6d.
G.E.C.-E.E. Workers Take-over	2/-
Workers' Control—Workers' Participation (The British Experience: Discussion Paper) (Walter Kendall)	9d.
The Law versus the Unions (Ken Coates, Tony Topham)	1/6d.
Why Workers' Control? (Lecture delivered at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia) (Walter Kendall)	9d.
The Big Flame and What is the IWC? (M. Barratt Brown and Ken Coates)	9d.

Opening the Books (M. Barratt Brown)	1/6d.
Leninism or Marxism? (Rosa Luxemburg)	2/-
The Breakdown of Stalinist Socialism (Walter Kendall)	9d.
Can the Workers run Industry? (Edited by Ken Coates)	8/6d.
Report of the 1968 Workers' Control Conference	15/-
Productivity Bargaining (Tony Topham)	1/6d.
Co-Determination—A Contemporary Demand	
The Workers' Participation-Industrial Democracy	
Proposals of the German TUC	2/6d.
Socialism and Workers' Councils (Jim Graham)	1/-
How Much More? (Terry Lacey)	1/6d.
Workers' Control—A Book of Readings	
Edited by Ken Coates and Tony Topham	10/-
Report of Chelsea College Conference, Jan. 1970	2/6d.
TALKS ON TAPE AND CASSETTE FOR BRANCH MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS	
Why Workers' Control? (Recording of Walter Kendall's lecture at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, August, 1969 (60 minutes).	
Workers' Participation and Workers' Control in Europe—Recording of BBC Broadcast by Tom Bottomore and Walter Kendall (30 minutes)	Loan fee 5/-

ALL AVAILABLE FROM VOICE LIBRARY,  
73 RIDGWAY PLACE, LONDON, S.W.19.

# AUTOMATION

by Brian Nicholson

(T.G.W.U.)

A challenging yet frightening thought facing workers today is automation. Automation strictly means machines which regulate themselves but automation is widely used to represent technological change as a whole. Industries that now provide tens of thousands of jobs will be slimmed down. Few workers are facing up to this fact. America has already reached the point where white collar workers outnumber manual workers.

Workers prefer to live only for today instead of planning for the future; because of this prospects for this decade are wide open. Members of the Institute of Workers' Control over the years have led the way in highlighting these prospects.

## BENEFITS

How can benefits of technological change be passed on to the workers and the community? Impossible without nationalisation. The more machines the employers own, the greater their profits. What factors are considered when planning research, development and allocating resources to plant and machinery . . . the benefits of the community or private profit . . . ?

Nationalisation in Britain, which the ruling class permitted only in declining or "too risky" industries, has nevertheless directed some of the benefits of technological change to the community. That's why it has been attacked unmercifully in the greatest public relations campaign we have ever seen—but too much of the benefits of technological change even in the nationalised industries go to private capital.

Through lower electricity and coal prices for industry; through interest rates; through revenue which is redistributed as subsidies (G.P.O. telephones, B.O.A.C. and B.E.A. profits, discrimination against the railways).

## CONTROL

Until we achieve a society in which the means of production,

distribution and exchange are owned by the people and controlled by the people; We can achieve a small proportion of that technological change through trade union bargaining and controls on the shop floor. In the factories, docks, transport, etc. This is our job, but it's no good if we lose sight of the long-term objective.

It's for those who believe the only part of the cake workers want is the DOUGH to remember a national minimum wage in itself is only a BARE LIVING wage and it's the LIVING that counts.

National minimum wages are not enough to make workers complacent. Workers can starve in many other ways. If we have no role, no significance and no means of self-expression, etc. it's not only the cake, share or otherwise, it's the bakery. A pity our leaders seem afraid to say it.

## SOCIAL EFFECTS

How can we control social effects of technological change? Redundancy, down-grading and de-skilling, shiftwork, uniformity, monotony; technicians tied by their special skills to one employer; new hazards to health and safety; fewer opportunities for young workers in a locality.

How can we resist the attacks on trade union controls that

often accompany technological change?—measured daywork, job evaluation, work-study. Unions are now aware that these attacks can be reversed into counter-attacks—control bargaining, as Tony Topham calls it.

With the dangers of incorporating shop-stewards into establishments all the more important for shop-stewards to meet across trade union and industrial and national boundaries to give them a theoretical base from which to fight participation (in the bosses' sense).

How can we resist the nationalised industries being milked by the private sector? How can we make workers' control gains and at the same time fight for the extension of nationalisation into other areas? Probably the most important problem for the Labour Party today and one the leadership is running away from.

Technological change can and has always been used to divide the working class; at the same time it can also unify. You today, me tomorrow—the most critical trade union problem, spreading the cash gained by bargaining about productivity over the whole labour force, e.g., one-man bus operation and wages of two-man crews; parity at Fords; the docks productivity and contained agreements; in the wider sense playing off workers on the Continent against

workers in Britain, the spontaneous unity of the capitalist Press and television.

## LUDDITES?

Workers often say: "I'm not a Luddite," but apologetically, Luddites were the heroes of the industrial revolution—the first one, that is. Without the power to organise into trade unions and bargain collectively (it could happen again!) they smashed the machines producing low wages and bad cloth but protected those machines paying good wages and producing good cloth.

Bad enough our children are taught a slanted version of history, we shouldn't fall into the same trap.

On the other hand, automation could be used to produce the things ordinary people are short of, reduce hours and increase the quality of life. Computers could be used for planning the needs of the community and distributing our resources fairly, instead of humming away producing more profits and power for the few.

The Employers sole aim in a capitalist society is to increase profit. If he can increase this profit by reducing wages per unit of output "they're happy," of this we are aware.

How about making the workers happy also? YOU AND ME!

# SEND YOUR VIEWS

## Europe—in or out?

by Geoff Brown

LISTEN TO JACK JONES SPEAKING AT THE T. & G.W.U. REGION No. 1 RALLY EARLIER THIS YEAR:

"There should be an immediate and massive campaign by the trade unions, led by the T.U.C., against entry into the Common Market, on the terms laid down in the Rome Treaty. Even the people who voted Tory didn't vote for the Common Market. The majority of the people as a whole are against it—because they know it would mean a terrible burden on the housewife in increased prices, a threat to jobs due to the free movement of capital and labour and not least a loss of British control over foreign and defence policies. WE WOULD BE RULED BY THE GERMANS AND BY EUROPEAN BIG BUSINESS IF THE ROME TREATY IS ACCEPTED. EVEN CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTERS DIDN'T VOTE FOR THAT!"

## PRICES

I can quite well see that Jack Jones has a real point when he talks about increased prices . . . nobody in the Labour movement wants that. I cannot agree with Jack Jones, however, when he talks about entry into the Common Market causing free movement of capital. Though the terms of the Rome Treaty would encourage freer movement. Nor can I agree that entry into the Common Market would significantly affect British

control over its foreign and defence policies.

Has not France in recent years pursued a foreign policy which has been virtually independent of what NATO has been doing? And further, has not France tried just a little bit harder than most other Western European countries to maintain its independence of the world foreign policy of the United States? Is not France a member of the Common Market?

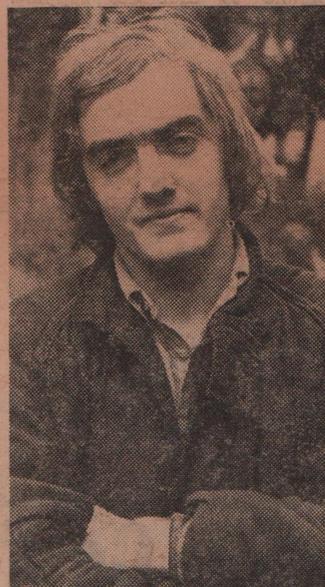
These points are import-

ant. But they are not half as important as the words from Jack Jones's speech that are printed in capital letters: "WE WOULD BE RULED BY THE GERMANS AND BY EUROPEAN BIG BUSINESS . . ."

## INTERPENETRATION

Firstly I would like to say that the interpenetration of capital between the European countries is so great now, that it is becoming clearer day by day that BRITISH BIG BUSINESS is an integral part of EUROPEAN BIG BUSINESS. European Big Business is already running the lives of a hell of a lot of us, and whether we like it or not, capitalist society being what it is, it will run the lives of the overwhelming majority of people in this country . . . whether Britain retains its independence from the Common Market or not. Entry into the Common Market may probably be nothing more than a legitimisation of an economic process that is going on all the time.

My second point is even more important. It seems to me that Jack Jones, by talking about Britain's entry into the Common Market, leading to this country being ruled by European Big



Business already has a strong hold on Britain, and that that hold is growing daily. This is nothing new; but I must confess that I have not noticed that the Labour movement has given very much serious attention to the problem of how it is going to check the growth of this powerful phenomenon.

It seems to me that a first vital step in the necessary process of countering the internationalisation of capital with the internationalism of labour, would be to begin to extend and deepen the contacts between the Labour movement of Britain and the Labour movements of the Common Market countries. Up to now I think it can be justly said these contacts have been of a nominal rather than practical sort.

Amongst motor workers international links have been made because already it is clearly necessary. You have, for example, Ford plants in most of the European countries . . . that's an example of American domination for you. Apparently there are phones in Ford's at Dagenham which when you lift the receiver, put you straight through to Ford plants in Spain or Holland. When that has happened the time has come for the workers to build their own hot-lines for practical international action.

It seems to me that the major hope for the British Labour movement in the fight to combat domination by American Big Business is to forge links with the European Labour movement. Such links would, in turn, do much to help the fight against home-grown big business. There seems to be a better chance of being able to do this if Britain enters the Common Market, for the result of that will be that British labour will have to completely re-think its international policies. The T.W.G.U., for instance, will have to do what it can to work for a new role for the international bodies of which it is a member, bodies like the International Transport-workers' Federation.

WHAT ABOUT IT, JACK?



## STRONG HOLD

I think it is fair to conclude from this that American Big

# Industrial Notes



Send your news to: Ernest Jones, 73 Ridgway Place, London, S.W.19.

## Education

IAN BULLOCK reports

Back in April a public meeting was organised by Brighton and Hove Trades Council and branches of three teachers' unions—two of them Trades Council affiliates—to discuss the failure of Brighton Council to accept their own Education Committee's comprehensive re-organisation plan. This was not the first plan and the Council had been under pressure from the ad-hoc Comprehensive Schools Campaign, another sponsor of the meeting, the Labour Party and the unions for a number of years. Indeed the first public meeting on comprehensive education had been organised by the Trades Council as long ago as 1955.

Teachers' unions were particularly incensed because their representatives had spent many months on the various working parties set up to produce the plan, suspecting all along that it was a time-wasting tactic on the part of the Tory Council.

The meeting was packed—a fraction of course of the people who might have attended, but well beyond the "realistic" expectations of the organisers. Its immediate purpose; to provide a forum for ordinary people to voice their opinions, was well realised and an Action Committee was set up with delegates from the organising bodies and members elected by the meeting.

After the June 18th debacle, the elaborate smokescreen could be blown aside and the stone-walling tactics of the Council gave way to glee that the status quo—11-plus and all—could be preserved thanks to Uncle Ted and Mrs. Thatcher-

Meanwhile, the Action Committee were already planning, as a first step, to organise a petition partly as a means of putting pressure on the Council, but largely to identify, and where possible to mobilise, support. Door-to-door canvassing takes place at weekends, and a factory-gate meeting was held at the industrial estate as well as work inside the branches and workplaces.

The experience so far indicates that while there is a predictable amount of apathy-cum-demoralisation, there is also a huge amount of verbal support and **practically no (articulated) opposition.** This, at least, is one issue where we have majority support. The problem is not conversion of people's minds—although comprehensive education is only our minimum programme of educational advance—it is conversion of verbal support into effective action.

Previously we have concentrated on short pieces, but just for this month we are printing two long articles because of their special quality. We would welcome items both long and short for publication in the New Year. The year 1971 will be a vital one for the Labour Movement . . . we all know why . . . so why not use the facilities that "Voice" offers, and get YOUR news, YOUR suggestions, and YOUR ideas into circulation in the movement. It's up to you. Please help by sending your news to Ernest Jones, 73 Ridgway Place, London, S.E.19.

## Merchant shipping

W. G. REID REPORTS

"Voice" readers unacquainted with the conditions at sea may be unaware of the importance of opposing the penal clauses of the Merchant Shipping Act.

From my own experience in the trawling industry, one of the main uses of the Act has been to suppress strikes. As a direct result of the Merchant Shipping Act trawling has the highest accident rate of all industries. The major cause of accidents is fishing in gale force winds. Trawler skippers' earnings depend on the amount of fish they catch.

They have to drive their men to the limit or else make way for others who will. During bad weather men on deck are crushed while handling the heavy gear or swept overboard by huge waves. Yet any fisherman who refuses to shoot the trawl because he thinks the weather is too bad will be prosecuted under the M.S. Acts and heavily fined or imprisoned.

A factory worker who is told to do a stupid or dangerous task can complain to his shop steward or put on his jacket and go home. A seaman cannot do that. The Arctic Ocean is a long way from a union office.

A few years ago some members of the crew of a Hull trawler were jailed because they stopped work for a few hours on Christmas afternoon.

During the last fishermen's strike in Hull summonses were brought out against two crews (about 40 men) who refused an order to sail. The strike ended before the cases were heard so the summonses were dropped. Threats of prosecution helped to persuade the men to call off the strike before all their demands, including a closed shop and shipboard shop stewards were met.

The Act is based on earlier legislation going back to the

days of the "press gang." Things have altered since then, but the Government still insists on treating seamen as if they were all forced labour in the old sailing ships.

Seamen have always had a raw deal from the Government because they have had so few friends in Parliament, whereas the shipping lines have always been well represented.

### SEAMAN

As far as I know, the only M.P. who has been to sea is John Prescott, the newly-elected representative for Hull East.

The Labour President of the Board of Trade (which regulates conditions at sea) was a miner from Barnsley.

The new Tory Minister of Trade is a former head of Associated Trawlers, so he is hardly likely to be sympathetic.

It is up to the unions to fight the penal clauses. It will be your turn next. Unless effective opposition builds up against the Act the Conservatives will be encouraged to go ahead with their plans to punish other strikers. Any group of workers who call a stoppage for any reason in breach of their agreement will be affected.

For example, this would apply

to construction workers worried about the safety of the bridge they are building or to dockers asked to handle an obnoxious cargo.

It is time for the trade union movement to present a united front and say they will not allow any section of the movement to be discriminated against.

No man must be forced to make the terrible choice between physically crippled or financially crippled.

### AUSTRALIA

Steve Cooper, of Flat 3, 1 Stanley Street, Campsie, N.S.W. 2194, Australia, has written to ask if "any workers in the U.K. power industry are involved in developing workers' control concepts for their own particular conditions?"

Brother Cooper feels that "the cross pollination of ideas between the U.K. and Australia in this field still has more untapped potential." "Voice" agrees with that sentiment, and urges power workers to make contact with their counterparts in Australia.

### STAFFORDSHIRE

W. Edmondson reports that Newcastle (Staffs.) and District Trades Council held a public meeting recently, which was addressed by Norman Stagg, of the Union of Post Office Workers. The subject was "Protest: Tory Industrial Relations Bill."

"Voice" is of the opinion that activity of this sort should be the order of the day for trades councils all over the country. Let us know what is happening on this front in your locality.

Brother Edmondson also sends us the unhappy news that the jobs of 280 North Staffordshire men are in jeopardy. This is because of the proposed closure of the 18-inch mill and the arch plant at the British Steel Corporation's Shelton works.

A B.S.C. spokesman said that the reason for this closure is because it is felt that light steel production can be carried out more efficiently at the B.S.C. mill at Jarrow.

The closure at Shelton is accompanied by the news that two works on Teesside are also being closed down, and their operations taken on at Jarrow. A total of 1,658 men are involved.

# 3rd London Conference on Workers' Control

Sponsored by London Co-operative Society Political Committee and London and Home Counties Workers' Control Group  
Supported by: Socialist Charter, Voice Newspapers, "Target" and "Bus Stop"

## Opening Session

### THE STATE v. THE NATIONS

Over the last 200 years the State has bitterly combatted at every stage the growth of workers' organisations in Britain—the country which gave birth to trade unionism.

From the Combination Acts and the "Document" to "In Place of Strife" and the Tory proposals for legislation, the use of state power against working class aspirations is revealed. Guidelines will be discussed for future action.

## Discussion Groups

### TRADE UNION DEMOCRACY

Workers' Control of the Unions as a first step towards Workers' Control of Industry. Discussion of the E.T.U., T. & G.W.U., N.U.G.M.W., etc., Shop Stewards' Conferences, Wages Militancy and Union politics.

### DEMOCRACY & THE SHOP FLOOR

Shop Stewards' Rights & Workers' Organisation vs. Managerial Prerogative.

### TRANSPORT & THE WORKING CLASS

How far is the working day lengthened by lack of adequate public transport? Why should sections of the working class be made prisoners in their own areas because of inability to afford the fares?

## Final Session

### THE TORY GOVERNMENT & ATTACKS ON THE WORKERS

The assault on the Trade Unions is part of a general attack on popular living standards. Cuts in social services, increased indirect taxation and rents, and charges for school meals, prescriptions, milk, etc. all impose additional burdens on working people, while those best able to pay are given income tax reductions.

- SENNIS AUGUSTINE (T. & G.W.U.)
- KEN BRETT (Asst. Gen. Sec., A.E.F.)  
(in personal capacity)
- NORMAN DINNING (A.E.F.)
- DANNY HARRIS (T. & G.W.U.)
- TED HARRIS (T. & G.W.U.)
- FRED HODGSON (A.E.F.)  
(Editor, "Engineering Voice")
- SID HARRAWAY (A.E.F.)
- WALTER KENDALL (U.S.D.A.W.)
- BRIAN NICHOLSON (T. & G.W.U.)
- JOCK McP QUINN (A.E.F.)

- REG TAYLOR (T. & G.W.U.,  
L.C.S. Political Committee)
- KEITH VENESS (N.U.P.E.)
- BRIAN WILLIAMS (T. & G.W.U.)
- HUGH CASSIDY (A.U.B.T.W.)
- TAFFY EDWARDS (T. & G.W.U.)
- FRED FRANCIS (T. & G.W.U.)
- JOCK JAMIESON (N.U.V.B.)
- BILL JONES (T. & G.W.U.)
- PAT McGLOIN (T. & G.W.U.)
- EDDY WYATT (N.U.I.W.)

## Plus full discussion from the floor

To be held at

**Beaver Hall, Garlick Hill, London, E.C.4**

(Behind Mansion House Station)

**Saturday, 5th December, 1970**

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### CREDENTIALS

5/- from Ron Taylor (L.C.S. Political Committee), 348 Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

To: L.C.S. Political Committee, 348 Grays Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

Please send Credentials for the following delegates (5/- each)

£ : : enclosed.

NAME ADDRESS TRADE UNION

Signed ..... Organisation .....

Address .....