

## EDITORIAL

### Where the struggle lies

THE Moscow World Congress for Peace and Disarmament was irrelevant to the fight against the nuclear war danger. As the congress began, Kennedy made his contribution by letting off the space bomb. Imperialism continued its preparation for war against the USSR and China.

The fight which CND has helped to develop, to stop the danger of nuclear war, cannot be separated from the defence of the USSR. Those members of the Committee of 100, who try to argue for unilateral disarmament by the Soviet Union would do well to contemplate the following facts about the destruction and destitution caused by the Nazi invasion of the USSR.

1,710 towns and over 70,000 villages destroyed, 25 million people left homeless; unknown millions killed and total damage amounting to 2½ million, million old roubles!

It was not pacifism that saved the USSR but the Red Army and the revolutionary struggles in Europe and Asia. The Committee might have forgotten this—but the Soviet people have not.

The farcical exhibition in Red Square was proof of this fact. At the same time, of course, it indicated the fear of the Soviet bureaucrats of setting a precedent for demonstrations of any kind. Only carefully organised 'spontaneous' movements can be permitted.

But it was here in London that the real character of the anti-bomb struggle was brought out most clearly last week. While the Moscow congress was sending messages asking Kennedy to alter his policy, a judge was sentencing a young schoolteacher, Des Lock, to 15 months' imprisonment for his activity on behalf of the Committee of 100.

This vicious sentence, on a charge of incitement, was based on statements made at a private meeting at which a Special Branch agent was present.

The Labour movement must give every protection it can to Des Lock and all like him. The silence of the 'official' Labour leaders is criminal.

The fight to end the threat of nuclear destruction involves a struggle with the savage state machine of capitalism. The Labour movement must organise itself to win this struggle.

## Macmillan: dangers from Left and Right

# TORY NEW LOOK

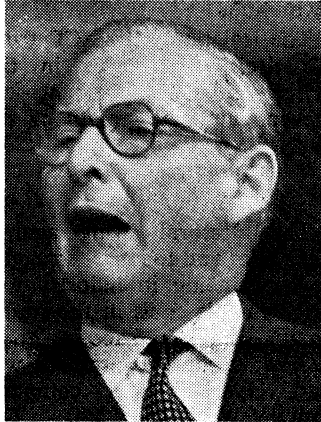
## Trade unions beware anti-labour moves

By Our Political Correspondent

THERE is nothing funny about the Tory crisis. The hard-headed businessmen who manage the Conservative Party are making a desperate bid to retain office at the next General Election. By reshuffling his Cabinet, Macmillan hopes to create, at least until the election, a more 'liberal' public image through which it is hoped to win back those voters who have gone to the Liberal Party in recent months.

Should the Tories win the election they will have a more youthful and ruthless team in the saddle to go to war against the trade unions. If there is anxiety in government and financial circles it is not over Selwyn Lloyd and his confederates who have been chopped, but over the timing of Macmillan's move. They are just not certain that it has come soon enough.

United States imperialism has forced the Tories step by step into the Common Market at the expense of Commonwealth preference. Stubbornly, the old guard around Macmillan have done everything they can to bargain for the best economic relations with the Commonwealth as well as with the Common Market.



Selwyn Lloyd: chopped

### Swing to liberals

What the Tories fear most of all is that with the swing to the Liberals they will be defeated, the Labour Party will come to power with a small majority, while the Liberals will occupy substantially more seats in the House and possibly even hold the balance of power.

This could lead to an unstable political situation similar to that which has existed in France since the end of the war.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Gaitskell would be a bad risk for the capitalists, since it is not at all certain that he could hold off the considerable demands for nationalisation which will undoubtedly arise in the Labour Party and the trades unions when the economic situation grows worse.

### Instability

The Tories are also more anxious about the new Liberal voters. These disgruntled Tories are pushing them further to the Right than they are prepared to go.

In a period of parliamentary instability, Mr. Grimond may not be able to control his new crop of ultra-Right, neo-fascist supporters. The danger of a quickening political tempo involving a swing to the Right and a swing to the Left is considered a dangerous gamble by the Tory Party chiefs.

They want to maintain the

Tory government under a new leadership which will hammer the working class into accepting lower wages and longer working hours.

Fight the trade unions but keep the Tory Party, is the slogan. Avoid a situation in which there could be a swing to the Left that will not be controlled by Gaitskell and a swing to the Right that will not be controlled by Grimond.

It is highly unlikely that the Tory reshuffle will halt the threat of an unstable parliament in the coming years. This conclusion is emphasized by the break-up of the electoral polarization between the parties.

### No policy

Since 1950 almost an equal number of votes have been cast in each General Election for both major parties. The swing to the Liberals has disrupted this beyond repair.

The trend in the by-elections indicates that while Labour is holding its own, it cannot win middle-class supporters because it has no policy to inspire them. If the trend of the by-elections

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## ETU Right Wing planning fresh action

STATEMENT BY THE NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL BOARD

WE are publishing in this issue of THE NEWSLETTER the statement of Frank Foulkes, not because we agree with him and his political opinions, but because his statement is of interest to the Labour movement and should be seriously studied.

THE NEWSLETTER is not in any way justifying the misdemeanours which went on inside the Electrical Trades Union.

On December 14, 1957, we wrote: 'Speedy action is imperative. If Frank Haxell and Frank Foulkes go on "defending" the union in the way they are doing, and the rank and file do not intervene, then the ETU will fall like a ripe plum into the hands of the Right wing.' Unfortunately, we were right.

We were opposed to the court action. The place to settle the affairs of the union, we said, was inside the union.

Amongst the present leaders of the ETU is Mr. Leslie Cannon, who in his evolution away from the British Communist Party collaborated for a brief period with the Trotskyists. As soon as it became known that Mr. Cannon was going fast to the Right, our movement broke completely from him.

### CANNON

Lest Mr. Cannon should have something to say about our publication of Frank Foulkes' statement, we should remind him that in the same issue of THE NEWSLETTER we also said the following:

'Les Cannon resigned from the Communist Party over Hungary, and from that day on the Communist Party machine has done everything it could to destroy Cannon.

'He was sacked from his post at the union's Esher college on economy grounds. But the fact that the rest of the leadership continue to draw what many members consider handsome salaries and profligate expenses suggests that economy may not be the only reason.

'Many think that Cannon was sacked because he had broken from the Communist Party, just as Frank Chapple, who has got on the EC, did not receive the full support of the diehards in the course of his election because he is a critic . . .'

. . . In their fight against Cannon, the ETU leaders have abandoned socialist principles. There was never any attempt to conduct a political struggle against him, to combat his ideas or answer his arguments.

'Nor did anyone dare to suggest that the moment he turned in his Communist Party membership card his abilities (praised to the skies not long before) suddenly and mysteriously vanished.'

Right from the court case last July, THE NEWSLETTER has maintained that what was being organised was a witch-hunt against the unions which was strengthening the Right wing and the employers.

The expulsion of Haxell and others and the treatment meted out to Foulkes are part of this witch-hunt. Almost on the same day that Foulkes was expelled, a confidential circular was sent round to the branches of the union dealing with finance.

We have not seen this circular, but we are informed that it is drawn up by a solicitor. One can imagine its purpose at a time when there is undoubtedly great sympathy for Frank Foulkes.

### WHY?

In the light of all this, how can members of the Communist Party explain the silence of their leadership? Why have they not defended Frank Foulkes and the others? Why have they not given a clear lead against the witch-hunt?

Rumour has it that much more serious matters have still to come out. This may or may not be true. It is said, for example, that it is impossible for the members of the Communist Party's industrial department in King Street to open a cupboard door in case a skeleton falls out.

So far as the ETU is concerned, they are living in a graveyard.

● cont. p. 6, col. 2

## Foulkes: pages 3 & 4

The full statement of the expelled ETU President appears in this 6-page Newsletter

THE first part of this article (THE NEWSLETTER July 7) examined the report to a Communist Party conference by John Gollan, General Secretary of the Party. The *Daily Worker* (June 18) headlined this report 'Why Britain Needs Thousands more Communists', but the Party Gollan leads is not a Communist Party in the true sense of the word.

The communist movement was founded by Lenin and the Bolsheviks to lead the working class in the modern epoch of imperialist oppression, war and workers' revolution. The 'peaceful' and 'parliamentary' methods of the old socialist parties had proved not only ineffective but treacherous, serving to tie the working class behind the capitalists.

Stalinism has returned to the 'parliamentary' method. Gollan concentrates on the number of election candidates and getting more left-wingers on the TUC general council, instead of building a revolutionary party to win the leadership of the Labour movement.

It is very true that the British working class need thousands in a real communist party, a party which organises for the great class battles ahead and fights the traitors in their own movement; but Gollan's Communist Party does not do this.

In Scotland, where thousands of miners will be put out of work, the CP has opposed the real preparation for working-class resistance. Communist

# Marxism in Britain

second of two articles by  
**CLIFF SLAUGHTER**

Party leaders in the National Union of Mineworkers opposed strikes against pit closures, concentrating instead on parliamentary lobbies and calls for a government commission—by the same government which is closing the pits!

Instead of a working class fight against the monopolies as they prepare for the Common Market, we find the CP campaigning in Scotland for a 'Scottish Convention' of all 'progressives'. In London the energies of Party members are diverted into the campaign around the 'Greater London Plan'.

The problem of the CP is not one of size but of its programme. The French and Italian CPs, millions strong, have not been able to lead the workers to power. They all accept the 'parliamentary road to socialism', which blinds the movement to the need for revolutionary preparation.

Once the idea is accepted that, above all, peace with the capitalist governments must be preserved, then peaceful methods of 'pressure' become the order of the day.

**A slow and steady growth**

of influence in parliament, local councils and the trades union hierarchy become the political methods of what was once a revolutionary party.

When the governments of Britain and France fight colonial wars a communist leadership should campaign for strike action, especially by dockers and seamen, to stop supplies in solidarity with Malayan or Algerian workers. Instead, it is 'questions in parliament' and 'peace petitions'.

In France, it went even further, with the 'Communist' MPs voting emergency powers to the French government for the suppression of the Algerian revolution.

The isolation of the CP from the decisive struggles in the British Labour movement will prevent any real growth of the Party.

The electoral swing against the Tories and the mass struggles now beginning in industry will heighten this crisis in the trades unions and the Labour Party. A new Labour government will find Gaitskell and company completely inadequate. The nationalisation of steel, engine-

ering, chemicals, building, etc., will become immediate necessities for the working class, and will rouse the resistance of the capitalists.

**It is in the Labour Party that the decisive political conflict will be fought out, in order to equip the British workers for the struggle for state power.**

Those militants who remain in the CP are isolated right from the start of the fight. Just as Gollan's report makes no examination of the wreckage of the CP leadership in the ETU—and the CP can really carry out no campaign against Byrne and the Right wing—so the conflict in the Labour Party goes on with the CP members completely cut off from it.

We are entering a period when parliamentary methods will be utterly exposed, just as they were in France four years ago.

CP members should draw the conclusions immediately and take their place alongside the Marxists in the Socialist Labour League in the fight against the Right wing in the Labour Party and trades unions.

THE NEWSLETTER SAYS:

## Sack Jordan!

PARLOUR pinks in the Labour Party and around the Communist Party are getting into a 'freedom' dither over the fascist, Colin Jordan. Should he, or should he not, be allowed to continue as a teacher in a Coventry school?

Mr. Jordan is one of the many gentlemen who are now aspiring to be Britain's Fuehrer, which, for the Labour movement, would mean a fate even worse than any brought about by Hitler and his thugs.

The racialsists are extremely busy at the moment because they can visualise some substantial support from the monopolists in the days ahead. The capitalist state in Britain today cannot deal with these fascists.

History has shown that the only way to deal with fascism is through the action of the working class in the struggle to take power and establish socialism. The only people who can fight the fascists are not the police but the working class organised for this purpose.

In areas where there are Labour-controlled councils and educational bodies, the working class should do everything possible to deprive fascists of their means of employment. Anyone who gets up as Jordan does and declares that Hitler was right must become a main target of attack so far as the working class is concerned. He must take the consequences.

We say, therefore, that Jordan should be sacked.

## Fourth International

THE following paragraph should have been included in the report headed Fourth International in THE NEWSLETTER of July 14, in the section dealing with the statement of the Socialist Workers' Party (USA).

**'The majority and minority unanimously commended the invitation recently extended by the International Committee to the International Secretariat to join in forming a Parity Commission that could conduct a common discussion and explore possibilities for the two main sectors of the world Trotskyist movement to begin working together.'**

## LOST TIME

*Before the factory gate  
the worker stopped,  
and saw beaming  
round and red  
in a deep blue sky  
comrade sun dragging  
his coat tails.  
And as he looked round  
he winked  
knowingly.  
'Well chum,' he said,  
'don't you think  
its a dead loss  
to give a day like this  
to the boss?'*

(From the French of Jean Prevert)

# How to fight the Fascists

THE recent publicity given to the activities of Mr. Colin Jordan and his supporters raises once again the question: how to smash fascism? The reply of liberals and reformists of all types is either ignore them or use the law against them.

How effective is this?

At the moment the small fascist groups are not particularly important in themselves. The membership of the National Socialist Party is 35. Neither individually nor collectively are they at all impressive.

But it would be wrong to write them off. There is a growth of racialism in parts of London like Brixton and Notting Hill. There are increasing signs of it in big cities such as Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham, Middlesbrough and Bradford.

## WARNING!

With the spread of unemployment in the textile industry and struggles ahead in engineering, the employers will certainly attempt to split the workers according to the colour of their skin.

This is the significance of the small-time imitators of Hitler. At the moment they are unimportant because big business does not yet need them. But as

the problems of capitalism get worse, big business more and more comes to feel that it cannot maintain its rule by normal 'democratic' methods.

Eventually they may feel that even normal trades union activity can no longer be tolerated and that the working-class movement has to be smashed. At that stage, big business turns to fascism, as it did to Hitler in the 1930s.

by  
**Jack Gale**

Fascism does a thorough job. It tightly controls every aspect of the State machine and destroys every form of genuine working-class organisation. Trotskyists, communists, shop stewards, militants, trades union officials and even Social Democrats are ruthlessly exterminated. Every part of working class life is closely watched and controlled to prevent the emergence of any form of opposition.

The fascists, therefore, are not merely a bunch of distasteful cranks. They are a warning sign of what the decay of capitalism can produce.

Should they, then, be outlawed? Certainly the Labour movement should demand that

they be given no facilities to spread their poison. They should be driven out wherever they show themselves.

But it would be a grave mistake to think that capitalist legality can be any defence against fascism. In pre-Nazi Germany there were many trials of small-time fascist thugs. Hitler himself was imprisoned. But the same people who imprisoned him later handed him the power.

Moreover, those Tories and liberals who now talk of legislation against fascism would have no hesitation in using that legislation against the labour movement—that is, against those people who are fighting fascism.

## EVIDENCE

There is plenty of evidence for that. The infamous American Smith Act was originally introduced ostensibly for use against fascists.

When anti-Tory rent demonstrations were banned in St. Pancras two years ago, the police invoked an act introduced in the '30s as a result of fascist violence. And already one Tory MP has proposed that no meetings at all should be allowed in Trafalgar Square.

The job of stopping fascism belongs to the working class. Any other method only paves the way for it. In pre-fascist

Italy and Germany—as in France today—liberals and reformists relied on capitalist politicians to keep out the fascists.

## DISARMED

They pinned their hopes on King Victor Emmanuel and President Hindenburg. This only disarmed the workers, and when the capitalist class eventually turned to fascism it was precisely Victor Emmanuel and Hindenburg who handed over the power on their behalf.

The Social Democrats—then, as now—were all for 'moderation' in order that 'public opinion' would prefer their respectability to the violence of the fascists. In the revolutionary wave that followed World War I, the Social Democrats deliberately betrayed the working class and opened the door to fascism.

## BETRAYED

In Italy, for instance, workers were seizing factories and industries in September 1920, but the leadership drew back. Then in November 1920 came the first big demonstration of Italian fascism. The failure of working-class leadership provides the opportunity for fascism.

● Another article on fascism will appear next week.

# NOT GUILTY!

## STATEMENT OF FRANK FOULKES TO THE ETU EXECUTIVE

**O**N February 23, I addressed a letter to the General Secretary as follows:

'Dear Sir and Brother,

Please convey my apology to the EC for my absence from the meeting this weekend. As you are aware, I am under my doctor's instructions at the moment.

It has been conveyed to me that one or both of your personal assistants have informed certain press representatives that the EC will suspend me from office during this weekend. If this is the intention of members of the Executive, I would suggest that I should be allowed to state my case against those who have such intention.'

Since this meeting the national Press have made statements about my future and have named Brother Cannon as my likely successor. I trust, therefore, that some of my Executive Council colleagues will have retained an open mind on the subject and that I will be judged on the statement I make today and my answers to any questions you may care to ask me, and not on judgments with which I do not agree.

### BENEFIT UNION

I am still of the opinion that no dispute within this union need be taken to the Courts. If the evidence which was procured for the Court in the ballot-rigging case had been presented to the Executive Council and the membership, I am quite sure a verdict would have resulted which would have been of greater benefit to our union and the movement generally, and the union would not have been disrupted and divided as it is at the moment.

I wish to reiterate what I have repeated many times, that I am not guilty of fraud or conspiracy, neither had I any knowledge, at any time, that the election had not been conducted by those responsible at Head Office in strict conformity with the Rules.

### A PLOT

Between the time the Writ was issued and the High Court case being concluded, I was convinced that the Union and the leadership of the Union had been the victims of a plot and I explained my theory during my evidence.

I quote from pages 59 and 60 of day 32 of the Trial:

Mr. F. Foulkes—Cross-examined. Mr. Gardiner: Is it your case that if the election was being rigged you did not know it?

A. If the election was being rigged?

Q. You did not know it?

A. I did not know it. I do not believe it was rigged by us.

Q. I suggest that not only was it rigged but you knew all through exactly what was being done.

A. I did not know all through what was being done, and I still say the election was not rigged by us.

Mr. Justice Winn: Would you

please tell me, that being the third time that you have used those same words, whether you mean by them, 'I did not know the election was being rigged. If it was rigged it was not rigged by us,' or 'I did not know it was being by someone other than us.' Tell me what those words mean.

A. I did not know it was being rigged by anybody, but suspected it was being rigged by somebody.

Q. Suspected at the time it was being rigged by somebody?

A. No.

Q. Suspected when it was being rigged?

A. Gradually these things have seeped into me as I have seen various things occur at various times.

Q. Then you are not doing yourself credit by the words you used. You do not mean 'I suspected it was being rigged,' you mean 'At some time I suspected that it had already been rigged.' Is that what you mean?

A. I am speaking now, my Lord.

Q. Now you suspect?

A. Yes.

Q. That it was rigged?

A. That it was being rigged by somebody.

Q. Do you care to say by whom?

A. I cannot prove it, my Lord.

Q. Do you care to say whom you suspect of having rigged your

mind at the moment.

Q. By 'rigging', when you give me this explanation you mean fraudulently rigging?

A. Well, I do not know by what means it could be done, my Lord.

Q. When you use the word 'rig' you imply, or intend to imply, fraud of some kind?

A. Yes.

Q. Involving the use of extra ballots with the correct code number on?

A. I would not know that, my Lord. What I had in mind in the first place was the late postings. The other side have got itineraries out, a thing that I would never have thought about. I am giving my feelings now. I did not see itineraries before I came into Court. When I examined the itineraries I find that anyone at our office would be foolish, even if they were so wicked, to do this late posting in certain branches, because there are certain branches on those itineraries that have not traditionally, but for many, many years been opposed to us, to the Executive and to me as a negotiator, the kind of branch that if I sent a letter to them informing them I had been successful in negotiating an increase in wages for them they would look for some sinister purpose. No matter what action

**ON Sunday, July 9, 1962, Mr. Frank Foulkes, General President of the Electrical Trades Union, appeared before the Executive Council of the union, charged with not exercising his authority during the scrutiny of the December 1959 election, conspiring to get the result through the Executive and generally bringing discredit on the union. After a 'trial' lasting four and a half hours, Mr. Foulkes was expelled by seven votes to four. The Newsletter prints here the full statement which Mr. Foulkes presented to the Executive Council.**

election and if you like, by what methods?

A. I could not say the method. I cannot visualise the method; but I would say it has been rigged by Cannon and those people associated with him throughout the country.

Q. Rigged so as to produce a Haxell victory?

A. Rigged to produce a null and void election. I do not think . . . should I proceed?

Mr. Justice Winn: Whatever you want to say, I want to give you every opportunity.

### BYRNE DETERMINED

Foulkes: My theory, or at least my bad thoughts if you like, is that Cannon and the other defendant (I made a mistake here, I meant other plaintiff) did not want Byrne as the General Secretary. Byrne was determined to stand because he had done so previously against me, quite rightly, he is entitled to stand; but during that period and during the whole of the period that I have known the defendants (again I meant the plaintiffs) and all those people surrounding them they have never been very, very friendly. Byrne decided to stand. They decide to adopt him, but they do not want him as the General Secretary.

### SMASH HAXELL

What they want to do is to continue the atmosphere that has been prevalent in our organisation from four years ago when Cannon was discharged from the college because we had to close the college down on financial reasons. I was saying this morning—you can say this is hearsay if you like—but I have had reports from various parts of the country, north, south, east and west, from people who do not meet each other, that Cannon has made statements that he would spend every penny he had to smash Haxell. Now with that kind of thing coming into my mind, who never imagined these things could happen in our organisation, that is the state of my

we take they oppose it.

If anyone was doing this, they must know, if they knew the branches like we know them, that there is going to be a row about that. They must know that the Press will obviously get to know, and so forth and so on. So I, personally, think that somebody other than my colleagues has been guilty of late posting in order to create a tremendous number of votes that were not valid in order to keep this atmosphere going; and they are my honest feelings—only feelings; I cannot prove a thing.

I no longer consider that theory expressed from the witness box to be correct. The Judge found that, in fact, a fraud had been planned and carried out in this office. I am not contesting that finding but I say that I do not know who carried out the details or who planned the overall exercise.

### GROSS MISCARRIAGE

I have been found guilty in the High Court and the Appeal Court refused to alter the Judge's findings. I claim that the Judge's findings in relation to myself and the decision of the Appeal Judges is a gross miscarriage of justice.

It is my contention that I have been found guilty by association. It is asserted that I should have known—I must have known—and therefore I did know. There was not one shred of direct evidence that I did know, or that I had any part in the fraud, or that I was a conspirator.

### TWO DEPARTMENTS

Let us examine the question of 'association'. In the first place, while there has been no strict line of demarcation drawn throughout

tempts by various General Secretaries to interfere in negotiations, I have always with one exception—Contracting—taken exception to such interference. The reason I allowed the Secretariat to conduct negotiations in Electrical Contracting and deal with general questions in that industry was because every second year I am automatically elected to the Chair in accordance with the principles of Whitleyism and traditionally, the Chairman of the NJIC for Contracting does not negotiate from the Chair.

### NEVER INTERFERED

This is the only industry in which our union negotiates where this is so and, therefore, rather than sit in the negotiations as a cypher and, by tradition, be unable to carry out my function as chief negotiator for the union according to the Rules, I refrained from attending meetings of the NJIC for Contracting unless specially asked to do so.

I have never interfered, neither have I had any ambition to interest myself in questions of administration, and there is nothing in the Rules that requires me to do so.

Attempts were made in Court by Gardner, instructed by Brothers Byrne and Chapple, to prove a social relationship between the other four defendants who were found guilty and myself. He repeatedly made assertions that I had lunch in the General Secretary's room with an assembly of supporters. Everyone at this office, including the staff, knows that is untrue. I have never, on any occasion, had lunch in the General Secretary's office, neither have I participated in any discussions which may have taken place there.

The only one of the four defendants with whom I had any



my years of office as the General President there has, in fact, been two distinct and separate departments in the office. In fact, the present General Secretary has been in the office since July last year and although I have tendered advice I do not know, neither have I enquired about, his department's administrative activities.

Although there have been at-

outside social contact was Brother McLennan and that existed long before either of us became officials of the union.

I am, of course, a member of the Communist Party and so were the others, but it is well known that my time as an official of the union is fully occupied and my interest in the trade union movement is such that unfortunately, I have very little time to spend on political work of any kind.

The only evidence on the question of 'association' was provided by Brother Blairford, although Brother Cannon had been engaged for a considerable period in accumulating evidence and interviewing witnesses.

What did Brother Blairford say in the witness box on the subject of 'association'? I quote from page 56 of day 6 of the Trial, commencing at paragraph A when he was under cross-examination by Counsel.

### AT THE TUC

Q. When do you say you had this discussion with Mr. Haxell?

A. It was either 1954 or 1955, I think. It was at the Trades Union Congress, but I cannot remember the exact year.

Q. Where was it?

A. I cannot remember exactly. If I say some place, I am not too sure it would be right.

Q. I am just trying to test your recollection about this.

A. I think it was Southport, but I am not too sure.

Q. What year do you think it was?

A. I do not remember when the TUC was at Southport.

Q. Do you remember the place in which the conversation took place? Was it an hotel, or where?

A. It was in a bar.

Q. That gives us plenty of scope. Do you remember which bar?

A. I am afraid not. I know there were a lot of them, anyway.

Q. I dare say there are. Was anybody else present in this bar when this discussion you say took place?

A. Mr. Foulkes was with us. We drew aside from Mr. Foulkes to discuss this question.

Q. You say Mr. Haxell drew aside.

A. We drew aside from Mr. Foulkes.

Q. So that Mr. Foulkes could not hear what you were talking about; was that the idea?

A. I did not know what Mr. Haxell's intentions were, but in any case he was not prepared to say to me anything in front of Mr. Foulkes.

### ALWAYS TRUSTED

It will be seen from the above that the evidence of Brother Blair-



# 'My future rests in the hands of the members'

ford proves disassociation rather than positive association.

I have always trusted my colleagues and I was convinced they were carrying out their duties in the best interests of the union. I thought they were all doing that, as I was.

On page 47, paragraph E of the Judgement, the Judge found that I had no knowledge of the existence of surplus ballot papers in the office. The Judge says:

**I am prepared to believe that neither Mr. Foulkes nor Mr. McLennan participated in that.**

On the posting of substitute envelopes, he said:

**Their temperaments are, I think, too prudent and if the word is not inept, squeamish for such a crime.**

## TOO PRUDENT

If I am too prudent and squeamish to do these kind of things, surely the same argument applies to me in other directions.

There was no evidence or finding on this aspect of the case and I do not think it was even suggested that I was in any way implicated in the use of surplus ballot papers in any of the branches where they were used.

It is established that I had no knowledge of the surplus ballot papers in the office or the substitute envelopes; that leaves the question of the scrutiny and the meeting of the Executive Council on February 6, 1960.

Up to the time of the trial, I was of the opinion that although Bob Oliver had retired from the service of the union, he had been requested to spend two or three days per week in the office especially to handle the December 1959 ballots. I was under the impression he had exercised complete control over the ballot as he had always done over the previous 30 years according to my knowledge, and that he had prepared all the material for the scrutiny.

## TIME LAG

I interviewed Bob Oliver after the trial and prior to my Appeal, and he has stated to me that if he had been handling the ballot in December 1959 as he used to, 'this would never had happened'. He says Frank Haxell would not have been elected. He continued his statement to me by saying, there was a considerable time lag between the returns arriving at the office and being passed to his department, thus giving the opportunity for substitute envelopes to be used and for a check to be kept of the score by someone other than the staff employed in his department.

He said he started, in his usual way, to write to branches informing them that they had violated the Rules and inviting their comments. This was stopped on instructions from Jim Humphrey. So apart from those branches to whom he had already written and

received replies, the scrutineers could only make decisions on the documents before them, and in the majority of cases where there was a query there would be no explanation or denial from branches in relation to their violation of the rules.

He said five years prior to 1959 there was a surplus of ballot papers in the office and this was done in order that he could supply branches which were short of ballot papers.

## RANG THE PRINTERS

On this occasion (December 1959) the estimated figures gave an automatic surplus and although he knew they were to be delivered to St. Pancras Station, he did not know where they were kept at the Head Office, and his department rang the printers when they received a request from a branch for extra ballot papers.

Even Oliver, who was physically dealing with the ballot, did not know where there surplus ballot papers were kept. The S and N envelopes were also in the office but he did not know in whose care they were placed. They were not in his care.

## SAME MISTAKE

Oliver says the scrutineers made the same mistake they have always made. They took it for granted that the details before them, which were provided by the staff, were substantially correct and only required checking.

They took decisions on queries where the staff concerned were not clear about the acceptance or rejection of a return or where branches had disagreed with letters



Haxell: Not in front of Foulkes

informing them they had violated the rules, or where there had been complaints regarding the conduct of the ballot. He stated that if he was in doubt, he always consulted the General Secretary and feels Jim Humphrey must have

done the same on all the queries.

The two rank and file scrutineers, Brothers Rengert and Shipman, were discharged from the case by the Judge at the request of Mr. Gardiner on the instructions of Brothers Byrne and Chapple. The effect of this was to throw the lime-light on to Brother McLennan and myself.

If the evidence of Brothers Rengert and Shipman on day 22 of the Trial is perused, it will be seen that throughout their evidence they persisted in saying they took all the decisions in relation to the scrutiny of the ballot, and apart from seeking advice on various minor questions of no significance, Brother McLennan and myself played no part in the decisions that were taken.

## MYSTERIOUS LOGIC

The Judge inferred that I had guilty knowledge of the distorted presentation of material to the national scrutineers and he arrived at this conclusion by some mysterious logical process which is not apparent to me. There is no evidence and no finding that I played any part in placing the branch returns in the various files used at the scrutiny. The placing of the branch returns in these files was a physical impossibility as far as I was concerned.

I had not seen the files before the scrutiny, I did not have access to them and I had not had any discussions with any individual about the files. I have never seen the 'all right' file to this day.

I stated in court and my counsel stated so for me, that I was worried about the number of branch disqualifications in the final return. I did not know the exact number of disqualifications but knew there were a great many, but no Judge has said that I knew the proportion of disqualifications for either of the two candidates.

The Judge found that there was a plan to push through the national scrutineers' return by improper procedure at the Executive Council meeting and that I was a party to the plan and took part in carrying it into effect.

There is no direct evidence to show that I was a party to such a plan, only inference based on 'association', and I can assure this Executive Council that I neither knew of such a plan nor did I knowingly assist in carrying any plan into effect.

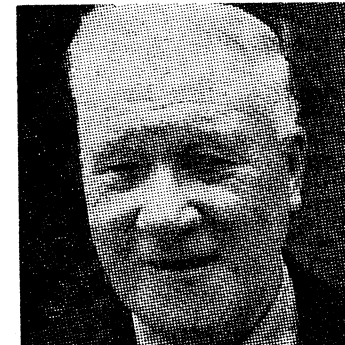
## UNDER MY SKIN

Everyone knows my method of presiding; everyone knows that Brother Chapple had got under my skin on more than one occasion at Executive Council meetings by making insulting remarks and by referring to me in a way which was not conducive to my being

very friendly towards him and, in consequence, as I stated in court, I was vexed with him on this particular occasion.

My method usually, is to allow meetings or conferences at which I preside to conduct themselves and give only friendly advice from the Chair to enable Executive Council members or delegates to arrive at agreed conclusions on the subjects under debate.

At this particular Executive Council meeting I had no know-



Byrne: Had them discharged

ledge of the total number of disqualifications and it was not my intention to keep the number away from the Executive Council. I am not going to place the responsibility anywhere. I admit I may have been guilty of bad chairmanship on this occasion but that is all I would admit in relation to that particular meeting of the Executive Council.

## CRUCIAL ISSUE

After quoting the Appeal Judgment—Hornal v. Meuberger Products Limited—as his guiding factor, Mr. Justice Winn, on page 73 of the Judgement said:

Accordingly, I directed myself upon this issue, which is crucial and extremely grave, the appropriate standard of proof must be very high and the onus wholly on the plaintiffs.

Before a Judge of trial sitting without a jury decides such an issue as this one of substitution he has the lonely task of debating it with his conscience. It goes without saying that the closest study of the demeanour and apparent personality of each witness must play an essential and, indeed, a decisive part in such a determination. (Mr. Foulkes' emphasis—Ed.)

The facts are, that the plaintiffs produced no direct proof whatsoever that I had participated in the fraud or the conspiracy. Like the Appeal Judges, they said that because of my association with the other four defendants I should have known—I must have known—and therefore I did know.

## WITHOUT PROOF

The fact is, I did not know. It is impossible for me to prove the negative, you will have to take my word that this is the

truth, but neither the Courts nor this Executive Council have the right to assume that I did know without direct proof that I had guilty knowledge.

On the task the Judge set himself in relation to the demeanour and apparent personality of myself as a witness, he had less than two days in which to determine my character. During that two days his assessment resulted in the finding that I was a fraud and a liar.

## MUCH LONGER

The members of our union have known me much longer than that and I am quite certain the active membership with whom I have worked for many years and the general membership for whom I have negotiated, will not agree with the finding of the Judge.

Our members will appreciate that I have always concentrated on what I considered to be the most important task in any trade union, that of negotiating better wages and conditions and teaching the members the art of negotiating.

My 47 years' membership—26 years as a full-time official, 17 as the General President—and my belief in our membership and their confidence in my integrity compels me to take whatever action as may be necessary to establish, at least, within the union my innocence of the charges of fraud and conspiracy.

I wish to continue serving the membership to the best of my ability, as I have done for many years, by retaining the position to which I was elected until I retire in two years time in accordance with rule.

## FIGHT FOR REPUTATION

I did not decide to go sick in order to ensure that I would receive my pension. I undertook rest and treatment on my doctor's instructions because I am determined to fight to retain the reputation of honesty and integrity which I have built throughout a lifetime of service in the trade union movement.

I know I am risking my future but am prepared to leave this in the hands of the membership, many of whom know me personally, and have trusted me to negotiate their living standards for many years.

If this Executive Council decide to suspend me from office regardless of my case and a ballot of the members is necessary, I request that such ballot should be conducted by a firm of chartered accountants.

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AS a member of the Socialist Labour League you can fight in the Labour and trade union movements for a real socialist policy. If you would like to join, or to know more about us, fill in the attached form and post it to:

The Socialist Labour League, 186a Clapham High St., S.W.4. I would like to join/know more about the Socialist Labour League

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THE Socialist Labour League and its weekly paper The Newsletter fight for better wages and conditions for the British Labour movement, linked with the struggle to remove the Tories from power, and replace them with a Labour government committed to socialist policies, especially the nationalisation of the basic industries under workers' control.

Because of its principled stand on the need for socialist policies to beat the monopolists and H-bomb war-lords, the Socialist Labour League and its paper have

been subjected to a vicious and a sustained witch-hunt by the Right wing of the Labour movement.

This witch-hunt has spread into a wholesale attack upon militants in the trades unions and Labour Party as the Right wing bows to the needs of the monopolists as they prepare for entry into the Common Market.

The Newsletter has vigorously defended all those under attack by the Right wing and was the only paper of the Left to stress the need to defend the ETU in the light of the coming blows against all trades unions.

The Newsletter is the weapon of the Labour movement in the struggle for socialist policies; the Socialist Labour League is the militant Marxist party that is arming the Labour movement with theory and experience with which to defeat the Tories.

You must read The Newsletter every week.

You must take your place in the Socialist Labour League alongside those socialists whose correct policies have been tested time and time again in the struggle for the removal of the monopolists' government.

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IN the fight for socialism, The Newsletter is playing a vital role. Do you get it regularly? Don't leave it to the chance encounter, fill in this form and send it to:

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# FLN — the split widens

## Ben Bella is gaining ground

By Tom Kemp

**W**HATEVER the immediate outcome of the split in the FLN, the movement can never be the same again. Those outside Algeria who have been its apologists and mouthpieces in recent years will have to take a fresh look at the situation.

The spurious unity has been revealed to the world. Two clearly defined tendencies have crystallised around Ben Bella and Ben Khedda, the former having now the definite support of the best organised units of the liberation army.

In fact there are more than two tendencies in this movement. For the moment, however, the conservative and petty-bourgeois elements — those prepared to carry through to the hilt the Evian sell-out — will stand behind the Prime Minister whatever their private differences.

★

In the other camp, too, there are differences. Responding to the pressure from the peasantry and army, Ben Bella and his friends call the agreement into question. They want to occupy a larger part of the field formerly held by the colonialists, but although they may play with revolutionary phrases, they also want to keep in check the elemental forces which give the Algerian revolution its force.

In the meantime the two camps denounce each other with a vehemence which makes it seem unlikely that real compromise is possible. It is significant that Ben Khedda and his ministers are denounced as 'traitors' and accomplices of fascism, as well as for a personality cult.

★

The army leaders obviously believe it necessary to flatter the people and stress their links with them. They are pressing for a recall of the National Revolutionary Council, in which they hope to put Ben Khedda into a minority and thus form a government of their own choosing.

At the moment it seems that Ben Bella's faction is gaining ground in some of the organisations which form part of this council, notably among the emigrant workers in France, Tunisia and Morocco.

While waiting to see whether such a manoeuvre is possible, or whether it may not come to an open show-down, resolving the dispute by armed force, we can look again at the question of the meaning of the Evian agreements.

A recent book, *The Arab Role in Africa*, by Jacques Baulin (Penguin African Library), in its chapter on Algeria, gives an idea of how wrong 'experts' can be on the Algerian question.

He states that the substitution

### SUMMER BREAK

The Newsletter will appear next week as usual. We will then close down for two weeks for our summer break. The paper will not be published on August 4 and 11.



'French government sympathies lie with Ben Khedda'

of Ben Khedda for Ferhat Abbas meant that 'the nationalist revolution' is now indeed to be followed by a 'socialist revolution'. He catalogues Ben Khedda as a 'socialist revolutionary' and his colleagues as men 'well-known for their socialist and marxist dedication'.

★

What he does not realise is that 'moderate and responsible' bourgeois politicians now take on a socialist, and even a Marxist, colouration as a matter of course. He says nothing, of course, about the social basis of the Algerian leadership, but takes it largely at its own evaluation.

Another book in the same series, *African Profiles*, by Ronald Segal has something to say about the Evian agreement. While correctly outlining its terms, he can yet claim that Algeria 'is now committed to a policy of militant socialism'.

★

People like Segal and Baulin must have a queer idea of socialism; they must, in fact, equate it with something to the right of Mr. Gaitskell as long as it is preached by nationalist leaders. Again, there is not much about the social basis of the movements and leaders described in this book.

At least Mr. Segal must be hard put to it to explain the split in the Algerian nationalist movement if, as he believed, Ben Khedda was prepared to carry through a social revolution.

★

In the meantime it can hardly be doubted that the sympathies of the French government (like those of Fenner Brockway) lie with Ben Khedda. For French capitalism, the solid advantages of the Evian agreement are too important to be lightly jettisoned.

But those who hailed it as a great defeat for imperialism will have to think again, just as the advocates of the FLN will have to make some hasty revisions of their previous estimates.

## Terrible plight of London's homeless

BY A NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENT

**T**HE London County Council, that great lumbering, bureaucratic monster of conservative Labourism, has been registering signs of shock from the recommendations of a research team on the London housing situation. The team was appointed by the LCC itself and no doubt more than a few top bureaucrats are having wishful second thoughts.

The recommendations are far from socialist, but they are sufficiently radical to cause palpitations at County Hall. (The mere fact that the LCC is being urged to take some action will have done that.)

The report, the result of an eight-month survey, proves the lie of the 'affluent society' and shows the conditions of the working class after 11 years of Tory rule.

It says that on April 8 this year there were 3,817 homeless people in the county of London. This is a substantial rise since Christmas when the problem was first spotlighted.

The underlying cause for this terrible situation, the report says, is the rising prosperity of white-collar workers, which results in the lower-paid manual workers losing ground in the struggle for homes.

'Few wage-earning families in London can afford to buy a house out of current income,' the team states. They no longer get the high priority for a council house; in fact they have little chance of getting one.

The main recommendations of the report are:

● Acquisition by the LCC of

homes due to be replaced in the next 20 years.

● A tax on property developers who profit from the housing shortage and planning restrictions.

The LCC immediately stated that the first point, acquisition, would be too expensive. This is a suitable guide to the outlook of the council which is firmly rooted in the society where landlords and speculators are given a free rein.

Thousands of London working-class families are living the most shocking and tragic existences, without homes, split up, forced to stay in undignified 'lodges' as though they were criminals.

The LCC has proved its pathetic inability to take action. Now the Labour movement must wage its own campaign in unions and Labour parties for a show-down with the Cottons and Clores and for a socialist housing and building programme.

SELWYN LLOYD's sacking follows two days after a Treasury statement that no reflationary action is needed to stimulate the economy. It tempered this view by stating that should the American economic situation deteriorate then it had weapons enough — bank rate, special deposits, purchase tax reductions — to remedy any ill effects.

The change at the Treasury, however, is a tacit recognition that conventional methods that have usefully served Tory monetary policy in the past will not be sufficient to deal with the problems now facing them.

Readers of this column are familiar with the symptoms of capitalism in decline, here and abroad — falling profit margins, unemployment, surplus capacity. The disease, far from being controlled, is spreading wider and wider.

The banks can't lend enough of their money. There are no takers. Hire purchase no longer holds the attraction it once did. With an absence of job security, people are loath to take on commitments that would compete with the basic necessities. The finance company, too, is not anxious to make hire purchase easier — it has had unpleasant experience with a vast volume of bad debts which arose out of the last bout of government generosity.

Two bright spots for the businessman have been increasing car sales, and a marginal increase in exports. Car sales, of course, always increase at this time of year, and the manufacturers them-

selves admit that they are not likely to maintain their present level after September.

Increasing costs in Europe have meant that some British manufactures are proportionately cheaper and this has led to the slightly better export figures. But with signs of a world recession, it is doubtful whether this state of affairs will continue.

So Mr. Reginald Maudling enters the scene to change the image of present Tory policies and

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### Maudlin outlook

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prevent further Leicesters in their electoral fortunes.

What can he do? Is the 'guiding light' incomes policy to go? Are reflationary policies to be the order of the day?

Tory policies will be aimed at winning back ex-Tory voters — those that have given the Liberals a new lease of life. It may be that many white collar workers are in that category. A variation of the 'guiding light' is therefore to be expected, so that it will have the power of a searchlight for some industries as, for example, the railways and mines, and of a match for others, as for the nurses, some civil servants and teachers.

So far as reflationary policies

## Tory New Look

from page 1, col. 3

continues then an unstable parliament seems unavoidable, despite Macmillan's Cabinet reshuffle.

Great opportunities are opening out for the Labour Party which cannot be realised under Gaitskell's leadership. The party should not base itself exclusively upon winning the next General Election on right-wing policies which are reactionary and inadequate.

It should prepare now to extend the campaign already initiated by a number of Left MPs to raise the whole question of nationalisation before the electorate. Such demands, however, must not be campaigned for along the lines of the past nationalisation policies of the Labour government. Nationalisation needs to be backed by the introduction of workers' control into these industries and this all-important point must be included in Labour's policy.

### insoluble crisis

This campaign might lose votes at the next election, but it would certainly win them in a period when the crisis gets worse. Labour must, therefore, prepare not just for the immediate future but on the basis that the Tories are now gripped by an insoluble economic crisis which will provide many opportunities for socialism to be introduced in the coming years.

Those MPs who have taken the initiative must now press for a serious nationalisation policy discussion inside the Labour Party and the trades unions.

If this is done, it could mark a turning point for a real Labour offensive to get rid of the Tories and introduce a government pledged to socialist policies.

## City Slants by colin chance

are concerned, it must be remembered that these are only possible by substantial deficit financing, since they imply pumping a vast amount of money into the economy by government spending. Industry itself is not in the mood, at the moment, to embark on heavy capital spending.

Ian Macleod has already hinted that mortgage rates are too high. It is true that he stated that the government had no intention of interfering — but that was before Macmillan's axe fell. Government loans for house purchase and giving local authorities access to the Public Loans Board for approved capital expenditure are the sort of devices that Maudling could introduce to bring back the image of a property-owning democracy.

But it is a very narrow path that the government has to travel by. Excessive government spending could cause a weakening of the pound — and then, of course, the government would start its repressive policies all over again.

The Tories would rely, however, on their sense of timing — of which they have some experience — so that the nasty medicine would come after they have been re-elected.

These are their plans. The Labour Party must expose to the floating voter these policies of expediency — and incidentally adopt some real militant socialist policies of its own.





## Motor union leaders oppose nationalization

From Our Birmingham Correspondent

**T**HE survey of the motor car industry undertaken by leaders of the TGWU, NUGMW, AEU and NUVB has now been sent, with the approval of the executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, to the TUC.

Not only do the union leaders say that they support the motor bosses' plans for entry into the Common Market but also they come out against any move to nationalise the motor car industry.

In the *Birmingham Post* of July 12, the industrial correspondent commented, 'The report favours Britain's entry into the market, but on public ownership of the industry there is a serious risk that if there is too much Government interference, the wholly American owned sector of the industry might switch development to other countries.'

'It would not be difficult for Fords or Vauxhalls to carry out expansion plans in West Germany at the expense of British workers if Government interference is threatened . . .'

This statement is an attempt to frighten the motor workers and the Labour movement from engaging in a struggle for the nationalisation of the motor car industry under workers' control.

It avoids the reality of the struggle going on in the world today between the giant motor monopolies. Huge sums of money have been invested by the motor bosses of Britain and America, both here and abroad. They intend to get their full rate of profit out of these investments.

### INTERNATIONAL

BMC, Rootes and Fords will try and use their new factories in the North and Scotland as a threat to wages in the Midlands and at Dagenham.

Capital investment is international. These same firms would not think twice, if necessary, of using the factories they own abroad in a similar manner, nationalised or not.

If Fords try and expand in Germany, 'under the threat of government interference' then why should not BMC and others attempt the same thing in France and Italy? If we were to follow the right-wing trades union leaders we would never be able to nationalise motors or any other industry, for nearly all, in one way or another, are inter-

nationally linked with foreign capital.

Workers' jobs and conditions remain in constant jeopardy under monopoly capitalism.

Nationalisation of the motor car industry might not prevent Fords and BMC expanding abroad but it would certainly knock a big hole in their power and plans. It would also give direct encouragement to German, French, Italian and American workers to complete the job in their own countries.

These Confed. union leaders agreed to lower rates in the new car factories in the north of England; they agreed to a 3 per cent wage increase; they sat with the motor bosses and signed a 'No Strike Charter' without asking motor workers their views. They collaborate with the Tory government by sitting on NEDC.

### SHAMEFUL

Now they complete this shameful performance by saying to the monopolists, 'We can assure you that your huge multi-million assets will not be touched', just as Gaitskell assured ICI that a Labour government would leave it alone.

These leaders speak only in the interests of the bosses. If car workers are not to suffer big defeats at the hands of the motor tycoons, then the fight for taking over the motor and ancillary trades must be part and parcel of the fight to protect present standards and jobs.

## ETU Right-Wing moves

from page 1

The Socialist Labour League is proud of its defence of the union against the abuse of power of the Communist Party leadership and now against the abuse of power by Byrne, Chapple and Cannon. If there is anyone in the ETU who thinks that they can get away with smearing supporters of the Socialist Labour League about funds or anything else, they are welcome to have a try. Our record is consistent

# Brutal Tory pit policy must be smashed

From BOB SHAW, Our Scottish Correspondent

**T**HE Tory government has announced that it intends to close a further 27 pits and to sack 7,590 miners in Scotland during the next three years. Another 33 pits which are 'on trial' will close if output is not improved, and 6,010 miners will lose their jobs. This announcement reveals the real face of the ruthless drive of the monopolies against the workers.

As a result of the closures some towns will become depression areas and face an almost complete collapse. Some, such as Cowdenbeath in Fifeshire, have already experienced a steady drift away. 2,000 have left this town during the last five years and the drain is continuing steadily.

The Labour movement throughout Scotland is angered by the Tories' brutal and callous policy and there is a fierce determination to fight.

In an interview on television, Alex Moffat, secretary of the Scottish NUM, raised the question of the competition with oil and the import of American coal. Such shifts in policy from one commodity to another are normal to capitalism.

The fact is that if, for instance, coal were found to contain some new substance which could be turned into a source of vast profit, then not only would every pit shaft be working full pressure but new ones would be sunk.

But heavy steel and engineering production has actually declined, especially in Scotland, so that the new production target for coal of 200 million tons must be attained in the most highly efficient way possible. This can best be done in Yorkshire and the East Midlands. All other areas are to be ruthlessly cut.

★

The Tories have other plans for the unemployed in Scotland, thrown out of work by pit and factory closures. They are to be the new labour force for the extension of factories in special areas now being developed.

**In these factories they will be subjected to a scientific exploitation, surpassing that of coal mining. At the Rootes' car factory no man of over 40 is allowed to work on the production line. Moreover, the rates of pay have been secretly negotiated with the AEU top officials and are known to be £8 or £9 below those paid in England.**

In the mid-Scotland area, around Bathgate, a project is planned for which funds are to be raised from Common Market sources. The scheme involves



Bob Shaw

building new factories and expanding a number of new towns and is expected to cost £100 million, most of this to be raised from the European Investment Bank.

**This area is the centre of pit closures and there will be no shortage of labour for manning new factories.**

The fight against pit closures has to be seen not as one of palliatives for the existing capitalist system, but part of the struggle for power in Britain. If there is to be a Tory government or one under the leadership of right-wing Labour, then 'planning' can only mean more unemployment, plus the herding of workers into new and highly-sweated industries.

Mr. Gaitskell was recently given space by the Beaverbrook press in Scotland to state his support for the 'direction of industry'. This demand is also the current policy of the Scottish TUC and is echoed faithfully by the Communist Party.

Along with it goes the demand for the development of 'new towns', also a favourite of Mr. Gaitskell. It is time these old decoys were exposed for what they are—support for capitalism and a tying of the Labour movement, to class collaborationist policies.

★

Miners have had bitter experience of direction of industry and they are reaping a full reward from it now.

It means the worker following the job into new areas and cheapening his labour in the process. There is a new town at Glenrothes close to the now dead pit shaft. All such well-meaning palliatives for streamlining the economy under capitalism aid the monopolists.

Labour must be for a policy which aims at taking the power. Nothing less will suffice to solve the problems of the Scottish miners.

The fight must be against pit closures, not a man to be sent down the road. Each pit closure should be fought by rank and file pit committees built for this purpose.

The lesson of the Alloa miners who fought to save the Glenochil pit in March is that such a rank and file leadership must be built if the closure is to be fought.

## Police tough on sit-down strike

Newsletter Correspondent

**P**OLICE threats were made against strike pickets on Monday in the dispute between 600 car delivery men and the Austin group of delivery agents in Birmingham.

Strikers at one of the firms in the group, the Autocar & Transporters Ltd., Alvechurch, were sitting down in the gateway of the firm to prevent cars being driven away by part-time drivers sent by the agents to collect them.

For over three hours, 50 pickets blocked the entrance. Two policemen tried to persuade the strikers to move, but the men held their ground until a police superintendent arrived and threatened them 'with action' if they continued to sit in the road.

He told the branch secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Mr. William Birmingham, that the strikers would only be permitted to talk to the part-time drivers in an effort to persuade them not to drive away the cars.

BMC bosses were alarmed by the week-old strike because it threatened to hit the export of vehicles. A BMC official said some consignments would undoubtedly miss the ships they were scheduled to be delivered in and that the effect on delivery would become progressively worse.

The strike was over a claim for an increase in the hourly rate for certain intermediate journeys and the demand for a £2 10s. increase in holiday pay. Mr. A. Law, Secretary of the Commercial Group of the TGWU said that individual firms were willing to meet the men's demands but the group committee refused to consider them. He said it had been decided to make approaches to the individual firms to sign separate agreements.

The chairman of the group at first described the strike as 'utterly purposeless' and the demand as 'unreasonable'. On Monday, however, he announced that it was hoped to find a basis of negotiations with the union.

The dispute ended on Tuesday on the basis that the claim for increased holiday pay was to be dropped and a claim for a substantial increase on the basic rates to be negotiated with the individual firms.