YS MASS The Newsletter LOBBY says:

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

May 28, 1966

MERSEYSIDE

DOCKERS STOP

IN SUPPORT

OF LOBBY

7,700 strike, 63 ships idle

MERSEYSIDE came to a standstill on Wednesday when dockers in Liverpool and Birkenhead held a one-day token strike in support of the Young Socialists' Lobby of Parliament against the

anti-trade union legislation and the Devlin Report.

work at the port virtually to a standstill'.

and anti-trade union legislation.

waited' to lobby MPs.

stood idle.

'The Times' reported on Thursday that a total of 7,678 dockers were on strike, although 3,028 had reported for duty.

But the newspaper also commented that the strike 'did what the official seamen's strike has so far failed to do and brought

By mid-afternoon only three ships were being manned, another 14 being manned by skeleton crews. A total of 63 ships

The report said that the dockers were protesting against the proposed amendments to the National Dock Labour Scheme

It also reported that Young Socialists and trade unionists from all over Britain, sympathising with the seamen's strike 'also

It was not a matter of also. The dockers, trade unionists,

That morning they had marched together for several miles

The Newsletter -

Who are

the real

splitters?

him,

Young Socialists, along with seamen 'The Times' reporter did not

see, were on a united lobby behind united demands.

in drizzling rain to demonstrate just that.

Support Seamen! No to Devlin

and antiunion laws!

BY NEWSLETTER REPORTERS

EFYING the weather and attempts to split working-class unity, 1,100 Young Socialists, seamen, dockers, students and trade unionists

Socialists' National Commit-

tee, the lobby was a worthy

sequel to the January 26

action, and an answer to

the complete line-up of all

political forces who attempt-

ed to destroy the demon-

stration. The number of

demonstrators swelled to

2,000 as the lobby began.

In the tense situation in the

class war, this mighty march of young and old workers gave

the clearest political expres-

sion of anti-capitalist hatred

The presence of the dockers

and seamen, who are facing the

brunt of the attack by the Wilson

government on wages and conditions, was witness to the political strength and lead given by the Young Socalists and their Socialist Labour League com-

This was further strengthened by the news, given at the meet-

Mersey had stopped — dockers were holding a 100 per cent one-

day token strike in sympathy with

Also recognising this strength, seamen's union officials and un-official elements on the docks

linked up with all the reactionary

forces in an attempt to castrate

All the marchers recognised

the demands made on their banners, placards and in their

slogans as an open fight against the capitalist lackeys—the

'Lift the Emergency—Fight for Seamen's Victory!', 'Seamen,

'Hands off the unions—Make the

bosses pay!', and 'Devlin out—nationalize the docks!', echoed

round the riverside roads as the march, headed by Merseyside

dockers and dockers from all over Britain, moved from Tower

Earlier on the Royal Docks
—Mr. Jack Dash's television-cum-

press conference studio—Liver-pool seamen, who were there looking for support, were warned about 'mixing with these people'

who had organised the demon-stration. (This question is taken

up in the editorial on this page.)

the demonstration.

dockers-unite and

by British workers.

the lobby.

marched on parliament on Wednesday calling for a victory to the seamen's strike and an end to the Devlin Report and anti-union legislation. HOUSE Called by the Young

By Newsletter Reporters

T the House of Commons the lobbyists were let in at a steady pace.

In the lobby Roy Mason, Minister of Shipping and MP for Barnsley, said he would only speak to people from his constituency.

He said the economy of the country would be jeopardised if the government did not takes the Emergency Powers.

'The seamen are trying to establish a 17 per cent increase, and they just cannot do it,' he said, adding: 'My sympathies are not with the employers. In fact they are not anywhere. My allegience is to the economy.

Arthur Blenkinsop, a South Shields MP, could not say if he was against the Emergency Powers or not. He would not vote against the Emergency Powers if they were in the national interest to bring in essential supplies and food.

Ian Mikardo Poplar's MP, threatened to call the police if Young Socialists lobbied him.

Glasgow MP, Garrow, said he would definitely vote for the Emergency Powers and for the Prices and Incomes Bill. He said the seamen should go to a court of inquiry and could not see why they were afraid to do so.

Ioan Lestor, MP for Slough, said she opposed the state of emergency, but she did not know whether she would vote against it because she had not seen the amendments.

South Battersea MP, Perry, said he supported the seamen's claim, but thought it could be negotiated upon before the Emergency Powers were brought in. He thought an offer of a 48-hour week this year and a 40-hour week next year should be agreed.

Angry seamen surrounding him said 'No, you can't feed children on promises.'

The Republican Labour MP from West Belfast, Fitt, said he would vote against the Emergency Powers if he could do so. He had been a seaman for 13 years. He was not sure whether one man could vote against the Powers.

John Mendelson, Penistone, said he opposed penalties on workers, but it did not follow that he would vote against the Prices and Incomes Bill. He said he would be the first to oppose the Emergency Powers. It was he who had arranged the meeting of MPs with seamen's leader Bill Hogarth that afternoon.

Eric Heffer, MP for Walton, Liverpool, said he wanted assurances that the government would not be sending seamen to work on ships before he would vote for the Emergency Powers.

Seamen who had interviewed Heffer said they had received a quarter of an hour's sympathy from Heffer. But they did not want sympathy, they wanted action.

Continued page 4, column 4 ->



their huge banner.

Below: Seamen from all over Britain were also marching at the front of the demonstration. Several are seen with banners expressing the working-class unity of the demonstration.

Above: After over 7,000 dockers brought Merseyside to a standstill in support of the lobby, many travelled to London to lead the Young Socialists' march behind

> there often go unnoticed, even though they deserve some thought. For example, Harold Wilson, after introducing his intention to use Emergency Powers in the seamen's strike, answered a question from Mr. Eric Heffer, the honourable Labour

> > The exchange is worth re-

member from Walton.

of what is said in Partia-

ment, is not exactly a best-

seller, and a number of

things which are said in

THE CASE OF MR ERIC HEFFER ■ ANSARD', the daily word-for-word record

The progress of a radical By Cliff Slaughter

> printing, as an example of how important political changes reveal the real political relationships more clearly than before.

> The 'left' Labour MPs elected in the 1964 and 1966 General Elections have recently received lengthy and sympathetic treatment from the capitalist press. Heffer has often been indicated by the 'political correspondents' as one of the great white hopes of the parliamentary 'left'.

> Let us see how Heffer reacted to the Government's decision to take Emergency Powers:

MR. HEFFER (Liverpool, Walton, Lab.).—If troops are put in the docks, or there is an extension of the use of the Royal Navy, this could lead to a serious crisis among the rest of the dock workers.

Would not the Prime Minister consider whether under the emergency powers would be far better if the Government took over on a temporary basis the running of the shipping industry, with a temporary subsidy until the whole matter can be settled?

MR. WILSON.—My hon. friend, I recall. as a fellow

Merseyside member, played a notable part in the shipping dispute of six years ago when the Merchant Shipping Act was one of the serious questions.

I would hope that if there is

any attempt-and some of these things are not spontaneous, they are deliberately organised by people of political views not represented in the House—to spread this diffi-culty and problem, with which we all sympathise, to other areas of the economy . . . I know my hon friend would be one of the first to use his notable influence to prevent happening. laughter.)

tittering by Opposition mem-bers. I happen to know what he did in the difficult situa-tion of the 1960 dispute. I am confident that he, and everyone else who has influence in the shipping and port areas, will do their utmost to see that no one was allowed to cash in in a political sense, on the diffi-culties which have arisen. (Our

the working-class movement.

emphasis, editor.) Heffer, having made it plain that he is not opposing the taking of Emergency Powers, only suggesting they be put to good use, is gently but firmly told by the ex-Bevanite Wilson just what his duty to the capitalist state is, and how valuable he is in carrying it out.

WHAT WAS ROLE?

Above all he is commended to both sides of the House as man eminently capable of helping out against all those who are fighting to build an alternative political leadership.

As Wilson told the House, Mr. Heffer already proved himself in their respect in the unofficial seamen's strike of 1960. We would like to ask both Wilson and Heffer, just what was this special role in 1960?

Heffer's own development as 'left' has often been commented on in this paper, but Tuesday's parliamentary proceedings shed an even crueller light on it than before.

Way back in the middle 1950s, Heffer condemned as opportunists all those who as Marxists saw the importance of work inside the Labour Party and in parliament. He insisted that only the organisation of the industrial workers themselves could lead to the victory of socialism.

Continued page 4, column 4 🛶

THE Communist Party did everything it possibly could to weaken and split the magnificent demonstration and lobby of parliament on May 25. It was an education and an eye-opener for thousands of Young Socialists and trade unionists on the reactionary role of Stalinism inside Spearheading the Stalinist splitters was Mr. Jack Dash on the Royal Group of docks. On Tuesday, the day before the lobby, he denounced his fellow dockers

> had taken a decision for a one-day strike to join the lobby. For this he earned warm praise from the Tory press. The 'Evening Standard' on the same day devoted an editorial commending

in the northern ports as irrespons-ible 'trouble makers' because they

'Mr. Jack Dash, who has not previously been renowned for his restraint, is to be congratulated on his plea moderation. He warned the dockers that trouble-makers are trying to provoke the more militant, element into hasty action.

Obviously he shares the Prime Minister's fears that political factions may try to spread the stoppage.

The Tories support Mr. Dash because he is playing the role of splitter. Dockers on the Royal Group should take careful note of what the Tory Press has to say because neither Dash nor the Communist Party are going to fight the Devlin report.

They will settle for a few minor amendments.

This is the reason why they bate the northern dockers who are going to fight this report. The sooner the London Liaison Committee gets rid of Dash the better. He supports the T&GWU officials who, with the agreement of the right wing of the National Union of Seamen, are now moving ships in the Royal Group in London. In other words these cowardly officials are breaking the

'The Guardian' of May 26 says:

'The astonishing thing is that the N.U.S. is co-operating in this work... Yet, inevitably, there are elements in the unions who are profoundly unhappy about having "only half a strike".'

The Communist Party and Dash are tied to Wilson. They use left phrases in order to cover this upbut the cover is wearing thin.

Their actions in joining hands with the Tories and right-wing Labour leaders in opposing the May 25 lobby reveals them in the true colours of Stalinism-splitters and disrupters of the labour move-



QUESTION: The Labour government, in its Prices and Incomes Bill claims that it is to control both wages and prices. If this is so, and it brings stable prices, shouldn't the working class support the Bill?

Brown, George Minister for Economic Affairs says his Bill is intended to control prices, but this is in fact a cover up for its real role which is to hold down the level of

Brown proposes to control prices simply by persuading employers that increases may against the 'national interest'.

In fact, price control is impossible in an economy run by a small number of monopolists operating for profit.

Price stability can only be achieved when these firms are nationalized and their production planned for use and not for profit.

How does a firm fix its level of prices?

All enterprises in a capitalist economy are in business to make a profit. That is, they must realise from the sale of their commodities a certain sum (profit) over and above their costs of production (wages, raw materials, plant, etc.).

Competition

Each firm, engaged in a battle with its rivals, must strive to maximise this profit in order to keep in the foreront of technical and technological developments.
Prices are therefore the re-

sult of competition between A motor car firm will, for

example, fix its prices at the highest point possible in relation to those of its rivals. Of course, firms in a monopoly position have more liberty

n raising their prices and in other cases firms may enter into written or unwritten agreements to fix the level of their prices. In other words fluctuations

in the level of prices is part of the functioning of capitalism. There can be no conscious control of prices in a capitalist economy.

Price control is in any case made a mockery by the terms of Callaghan's Budget pro-

His Selective Employment Tax, in which employers in service trades will have to pay 25s. for each worker employed, will bring large increases in prices over a wide range of goods—this at a time when this same Labour government is proposing to hold down the level of carnings through the

force of law.

In any case these Labour leaders have never explained how they propose to get price stability in Britain, which is utterly dependent upon fluctu-ations in international trade

and commerce. For example, in order to try and ease the balance of payments crisis, the Labour government, soon after it took office for the first time in 1964, was forced to place a surcharge on many imported goods which had the immediate effect of raising prices.

Labour control prices?

PETER JEFFRIES explodes the myth

The recent copper crisis illustrates the same point. The increase in copper prices sent a shiver down the spine of the City of London, further weakened the balance of payments and threatened large increases of all goods into which copper went.

Illusion

The present seamen's strike is being taken advantage of by traders and firms to raise the price of many goods. Price stability under capi-

talism is an illusion.
Planned prices are only possible in a planned economy. That is one where the giant monopolists have been taken over, and nationalized under workers' control.

On the other hand the working class must fight the per-nicious effect of increasing prices on its living standards.
This can be done only when the unions, having determined

that any rise in prices is matched by appropriate increases in wages.
This must be the only 'prices policy' for the working class.

the real costs of living, insist

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

RELEASE ABRAM FISCHER



THE International Committee of the Fourth International condemns as an attack on the workers of South Africa. and the whole world, the vicious sentence of life imprisonment pronounced on May 9, 1966, against Abram Fischer, 59-yearold Johannesburg lawyer and member of the Communist Party.

This sentence is part of the ceaseless repression of the Verwoerd government, which oppresses the South African workers on behalf of big capital both native and international.

The Suppression of Communism Act, under which Fischer was convicted, is a tyrannical measure, part of a whole programme of political dictatorship to enslave the workers and peasants.

Verwoerd's government, like Ian Smith's in Rhodesia, and the Portuguese imperialists in Angola and Mozambique, is the hired thug of the international monopolists and finance capitalists in Europe, America and South Africa.



The struggle against Verwoerd's imperialist dictatorship is likewise a struggle against all those who stand behind him.

Fischer will be freed, and the people of South Africa with him, only on the basis of an international struggle of the force which can challenge monopoly capitalism, the international proletariat.

Fischer's 'crimes' were entirely political. The capitalist government decreed that certain political affiliations, such as membership of the Communist Party, themselves made a person liable to life imprisonment.

Fischer could not renounce his politics. Since he was not permitted to carry his political actions out legally, he was compelled to conceal his identity and equip himself with forged documents.

Such actions are the elementary duty of any socialist struggling against the repressive regime. To convict Fischer on these grounds is not the 'preservation of law and order' on behalf of the people, as Verwoerd's government claims, but the brutal and direct suppression of elementary personal liberties.



Fischer and the South African Communist Party conceived of the struggle in their country as one directed towards a national democratic revolution.

The Fourth International has always considered that the national democratic tasks of the bourgeois revolution, in the epoch of imperialism, can be carried on only with the methods of the proletarian revolution, by the leadership of the working class and its own Marxist Party.

Only when this course is taken will the struggle be successful. Further, the struggle requires a strategy of united campaigns by workers in the metropolitan countries, in this case particularly Britain, against the bankers of the imperialist regime.

We know, however, that such leadership and such campaigns must be built in and through the struggle against police repressions like those of Fischer.

The methods of working-class revolution must be used for this defence also.

The International Committee calls upon the workers of South Africa to stand firm in their resistance to the imperialist government, to strengthen their organisation in every area, to rouse the maximum support against the sentence on Fischer, to continue the preparation of armed resistance to the regime, alongside the workers

and peasants of Rhodesia and the rest of Southern

It is the independent organisation and politics of the proletariat which will drive out the

imperialists. Particularly in Britain the campaign must be waged. Behind the smokescreen of a Labour government, thousands of millions of pounds are wasted in South Africa by British capitalists, protected by Verwoerd and providing the basic

support for the Smith regime.

The struggle against these imperialists in Britain is impeded above all by their lackeys in the Labour government.

When we call upon the Wilson government to intervene against the vicious sentence on Fischer, we do it as part of a campaign to expose the social democrats as servants of imperialism, and to build the independent leadership to lead the working class to the smashing of the imperialists at their centre.



It is this struggle that we fight most effectively on behalf of Fischer and all those detained in the South African police state.

All sections of the Fourth International, and revolutionary workers everywhere, must expose by every means the sentence on Fischer and what lies behind it.

Public campaigns and demonstrations to South African legations, all as part of building the anti-imperialist revolution in every country; this is our answer to the Verwoerd regime. The armed struggle of the African workers,

supported by the international proletariat, will bring the freedom of Fischer and the destruction of Verwoerd and his like.

Every publicity, every pressure, every action, by the workers' movement and its allies all over the world, for the release of Abram Fischer. London, May 5, 1966.

Three young American Marxists victims of







GARRETT

anti-communist hysteria

ORE that 40 students rushed to a Detroit hospital to offer their blood after three young Marxists were gunned down by an anti-communist in the Debs Hall local headquarters of Socialist Workers' the Party, on Monday, May 16.

The gunman had earlier shot and killed 27-year-old Leo Bernard and seriously wounded fellow Wayne University students Jan Garrett (22), and Walter Graham (19). Garrett, hit in the neck, thigh and groin, and Graham, wounded in the chest, leg and neck, were rushed to hospital for opera-

Taxi driver Edward Waniolek, aged 40, was arrested three hours after the shooting..

He had earlier left his wife saying: 'I am going to kill some communists.

At Debs Hall he asked to see books by Lenin then ordered Bernard, Garrett and Graham to line up against the wall. Using a pistol and a rifle he shot at them wildly.

KNEW BACKGROUND Waniolek was found by

police in a library adjacent to the headquarters and offered no resistence to arrest.

Police knew already of his anti-communist feelings. A lieutenant in the special investigation bureau had been questioned by the US Secret Service about Waniolek on March 4 this year.

He had told them that

Waniolek had been to the South African consulate in New York saying that the United States was over-run with communists. Waniolek had told the consulate that he was armed and prepared to fight against communists.

Waniolek had given the consulate a six-page declaration as to why he wanted to go to South Africa. The declaration concluded that he had three rifles in Detroit and was returning to the city to begin shooting communists.

Questioned by the special investigations department after this episode, Mrs. Waniolek that her husband had spoken about communists and

against the communist menace". Today's glorified "hero" is the killer in the menace". whipped up over a number of

green beret in South-east Asia. This bloody blow at the anti-war and socialist forces is a terroristic attempt to curb dissent. It is tragic confirmation of the recent warning by Senator Fulbright that the war hysteria whipped up by the all the reactionary forces, beginning with the Pentagon, menaces freedom of speech and the hard-won liberties of the

American people. Taking the official propaganda as a cue and a license, the Detroit murderer armed himself and set out to kill some 'communists".

This super-patriotic supporter of Washington's foreign policy of intervening against

communism" in places like

he applied for admission to Verwoerd's South Africa, sayink he was "armed and prepared to fight against the communists". Unlike the mercenaries hired by the CIA to crush the freedom fighters in the Congo, he was turned down and so took to hunting for victims closer to home. American capitalism and its rulers are becoming increas-

Vietnam and Santo Domingo, is

like many others also a rabid

white supremacist. In March

ingly prone to violence. Over TV and radio, in the press and comic books, violence is shown and glorified day and night. The supreme madness of this system is the stockpiling of nuclear weapons capable of wiping out the entire human race. And Johnson's policy of

escalating the war in Vietnam

made this possibility

The Socialist Workers' Party, as the most intransigent opponent of US imperialism, mourns the martyred Leo Bernard. But it pledges to fight all the more resolutely to advance the socialist cause for which he died. The best way to honour

Leo Bernard is to stand firm and close the ranks against all assaults by the forces of reac-

Defend the right of all Americans to speak out! Build a bigger, stronger anti-

war movement!

Forward to America in a socialist worlda society cleansed of violence where peace, justice, equality and an end to poverty can be

VIETNAM

Political nightmare tor Washington U.S. imperialism faces its

biggest crisis yet in Vietnam. With open civil war between the regime of General Ky and the Buddhists, what remains of the South Vietnamese state machine threatens to disintegrate.

The recapture of Da Nang after heavy fighting is not going to settle anything. In Hué, the Buddhists are firmly in control, while Saigon sees daily anti-Ky and anti-American

For Washington, this situation is a political nightmare. The carefully-prepared truce of April was broken by Ky on May 13, when he decided to fight it out with the Buddhist forces controlling Da Nang.

The plans for elections, which would re-unite the South Vietnam ruling class, now lie in ruins.

Like Diem before him, Ky is an American puppet who came off the string.

Meanwhile, as the South Vietnamese troops are engaged in fighting Buddhists, U.S. forces are left to fight the is being incessantly incited Vietcong on their own.

As the wettest monsoon season for many years is now upon them, the guerillas are

The situation can only be compared to that of China in 1948, with Ky as a miniature Chiang-Kai-Shek. The brutal efforts of the imperialists to use Vietnam as a warning to the rest of Asia that attempts at liberation would be punished have led to the direct opposite.

in a very strong position.

Would-be puppet regimes will look for alternative employers in future.

Johnson has up to now held a middle policy, between those who looked for a means of making some kind of settlement and the advocates of an all-out war to annihilate Vietnam. The present crisis makes this centre position untenable.

If the war is to be stepped up, one side effect would be to draw British forces into the struggle. Now that the taming of Sukarno has ended the danger to Malaysia, Wilson will be pressed by his Washington paymasters to send at least token military backing into the Viet-

nam massacre. On the other hand, it is likely that this policy, which would probably involve China, also, will be rejected.

impossible. Withdrawal means defeat for the Americans. This political crisis has a direct connection with the economic problems of Ameri-

But for the imperialists to disengage in Vietnam is now

can capital. Just when the astronomical expenditures begin to push the U.S. economy through the in-

flationary ceiling, the possibility of a withdrawal of forces from Vietnam will shake industrial confidence still further.

But the prospect of a defeat for the U.S. and their henchmen is above all a political blow for the major imperialist power. It will have profound effects on the struggle in the United States itself, not only of the Negro masses, but of the working class as a whole.

The Vietnamese workers and peasants have opened the way for a basic change in the class struggle throughout the world.

READ

Fourth International

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A Journal of International Marxism Published by the International Committee

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Algeria

by Peter Jay

by David Francis

Kenya-Colonialism and the Lessons of Independence

(iv) American Trotskyism without

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communism for years.

The anti-communist hysteria

years in the United States,

especially since the develop-

ment of the class struggle at

home and the escalation of the

Vietnam war, would have en-

couraged and strenghtened

Waniolek in his murderous

attack on the three students.

CANDIDATE

Bernard, who was married on March 13 this year, had

been a SWP candidate for

Congress in the 1964 elections.

Garrett is the Wayne County

chairman of the Socialist

Workers' Party and national

committee member of the

Socialist

Graham is a Young Socialist

political committee of the

the following statement:

Socialist Workers' Party issued

6 A young socialist anti-war

fighter, Leo Bernard, was slain

yesterday in the Detroit head-

quarters of the Socialist

Workers' Party by an ultra-

reactionary gunman. Two other

Wayne State University stu-

dents, Jan Garrett and Walter

Graham, are in the hospital,

This shocking, tragic and

ominous deed is not an isolated

act. It follows the bombing of

the WEB DuBois Club offices

in San Francisco and the

bombing of the headquarters

of the Berkeley Vietnam Day

The pattern is one of

terroristic intimidation against

the American anti-war, anti-

racist, radical youth and socialist forces. The Detroit

victims were members of the

Socialist Workers' Party or the

Young Socialist Alliance, both

energetic participants in the

protest movements against US

intervention in Vietnam and in

the Freedom Now struggle of

This murderous assault was

politically motivated. It was a

product of the witch-hunt

atmosphere that has been

stirred up and intensified by the "dirty" war in Vietnam. From the White House on

down to the John Birchers and

the Ku Klux Klan, the country

the Negro people.

critically wounded.

Committee.

The day after the attack, the

oung

Alliance member.

Alliance.

Dutt (looking for a time when the British CP opposed Moscow)

L. J. MacFarlane's history 'The British Communist Party', and the forthcoming 'official' version by James Klugmann, have opened up a number of very important questions of Communist history, and have even enticed R. Palme Dutt, founder member and long-time Communist Party leader, out of his den.

He has chosen particuiarly to attack the review of MacFarlane's book which appeared (like all reviews in this journal, unsigned) in the 'Times Literary Supplement' for May 5. The review was in fact empty and lacking in any real knowledge or intelligent comment on Mac-Farlane's book, which is confined to the 1920s.

Obedient

However, Palme Dutt takes up only the accusation in the review that the British Communist Party was of all Communist Parties the most 'passively obedient to the will of Moscow', together with the reviewer's acceptance of MacFarlane's view of Dutt and Pollitt as nominees of the Comintern against the older leadership in the

Interestingly, Palme Dutt assassination.

has already told us in his own
'Daily Worker' review of Mac-sentences following it, the

THE publication of history of the Party on this period, written by James Klugmann, is now ready for the press.

We will not anticipate the book, but we will recall to our readers that Mr. Klugmann, at any rate, is not one of those who has much of a record in resisting 'passive obedience' to

Inaccurate

He was responsible for the most vile and inaccurate publication of the Communist Party since the anti-Trotskyist pamphlets of the war period: i.e., 'From Trotsky to Tito', in which he gave his British readers the full panoply of gory lies about Tito, Trotsky and many others, including innocent victims of Stalinist repression, and even Konni Zilliacus, being agents of monopoly capitalism and fas-cism. No doubt Mr. Klugmann will ardently expound the British Party's 'independence' from the Stalinist bureaucracy.

But we return to Dutt's own letter. One anniversary which has not been so well publicised this month is that of the opening of the first of the Moscow Trials, 30 years ago, in May 1936.

In these trials, scores of Old Bolsheviks were condemned to death or life imprisonment. No evidence was brought against them and they were convicted on the basis of con-

These confessions were flatly contradictory in many respects and in one celebrated case referred to a rendezvous (the 'Hotel Bristol' in Copenhagen) which had ceased to exist years before the alleged meeting of the 'conspirators'.

Zinoviev, Kamenev, Trotsky and many others were 'proved' by these confessions to be implemented in a plot with Hitler and the Nazis to overthrow the Soviet regime, and to this end they were said to have organised sabotage and plots of

Farlane that an authoritative bloody deaths of thousands security organs'.

scrapes the history barrel

BY CLIFF SLAUGHTER

who never even got to the courtroom—all this was not only accepted but actually commended and glorified by the British Stalinist leadership, including Dutt himself, in much the same terms as the much-heralded historian of the Party, Klugmann, faithfully condemned Tito and the 'Titoites' in 1950.

Dutt chooses this 30th anniversary, of all times, to tell us in the literary supplement that the British Stalinists did voice their opposition to the Russians in the International and in Russia.

'Dissent'

He claims that the British Party, apart from dissenting on the colonial question in 1928, and criticising the deification of Stalin ('not that we were opposed to his political line and leadership, Dutt says), at the Seventh Congress of the Comintern, also took up the question of the 'conduct of the

'Two years later, at a meeting of a delegation, headed by Pollitt and attended by other leading comrades, including myself, the international leaders, we were in conflict again over raising questions concerning the conduct of the security organs; and this dispute proved so intense that soundings were made to find support among us for the replacement of the General Secretary; but we all made clear that we stood by Pollitt on this matter.'

How many Party members outside the charmed circle at the King Street headquarters have been told anything about this? Why is Palme Dutt so coy, confining himself to the correspondence column of the 'Times Literary Supplement'?

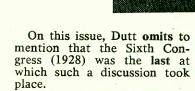
For many years, he and his colleagues condemned as 'Trotskyist' and, by implication, accomplices of fascism, anyone who questioned 'the conduct of the security organs' in the USSR.

Every Communist Party member surely has the right to demand that Palme Dutt discloses exactly what these criticisms were.

After all, D. N. Pritt, in his autobiography, has recently said that he had no regrets for the whitewashing jobs he did for these same security organs.

Come along Dutt, did you protest at the forced confessions, tortures, executions, without trial, the wiping out of a whole generation of the most outstanding fighters in the history of the proletariat? Or did you still agree with Stalin's 'policy and leadership', and decide to push aside your responsibility?

In fact the conduct of the British Stalinists in the 1936-1938 period (the reputed protest was in 1937), was nothing but base subservience to the Stalinist terror and Dutt's claim is a fraud, just like his reference to the Sixth Congress criticisms of the British Communist Party on the colonial



After this Congress, the ritish Communist Party closed its mouth completely, and the dispute was entirely dropped.

It is only raised now, after 38 years, because Dutt is scraping the barrel to find an example of the British Party's 'independence'.

The active performance of the British Stalinists during the Moscow Trials has been fully documented by Brian Pearce in his article 'British Stalinists and the Moscow Trials' ('Labour Review', March-April

Only a fraction of the material from Pearce's article is sufficient to produce real anger at Dutt's recent claim.

William Gallacher wrote in the 'Daily Worker' about the

'Here one sees the Soviet legal system as it really is, the most advanced, the most humane, in the world. . . (Review of Dudley Collard 'Soviet Justice and the Trial of Radek', 'Daily Worker', March 19, 1937.)

Remarkable feat

Gallacher is dead and gone, but Gollan, present general secretary of the Party, made his own contribution in a pamphlet called 'The Development of Trotskyism from Menshevism to Alliance with Fascism and Counter-Revolution'.

In this publication he performed the remarkable feat of producing a list of 'the real Bolshevik Old Guard', to answer the argument that Stalin was attacking the old guard. His list included Rudzutak, Bubnov, Chubar, Kossior and Postyshev, all of whom were either shot or imprisoned by Stalin within the next few

Dutt dutifully drew the Stalinist political conclusions, so ruthlessly acted upon, in the pamphlet, 'The Truth About Trotskyism'; pointing out that it was 'essential to ... destroy the Trotskyist propaganda and influence which is seeking to win a foothold with-Moscow Trials has been fully documented by Brian Pearce in his article 'British Stalinists in the labour movement, since these attempts represent in fact the channel of fascist penetration into the labour

movement'. Andrew Rothstein, writing in the 'Daily Worker' of February 5, 1937, said:

'The criminals have received their well-merited sentences. . . Millions of people have had their eyes opened to the essence of Trotskyism.'

These and many other similar articles appeared for some three years after the early material of 1936, among which was a 'Daily Worker' editorial entitled 'Shoot the Reptiles!' (August 24, 1936.)

Ever since 1956, the Stalinist leaders have excused their silence on the great purges of Stalin on the grounds that they knew nothing about the 'abuses'.

Now Palme Dutt says they actually protested at the time. Thus another question arises: What were the political reasons for remaining silent then and for so long afterwards?

It is an inescapable conclusion that Dutt and his friends let the matter drop because these Stalinist methods defended their kind of politics.

They did accept Stalin's policy and leadership, and were therefore unable to chal-lenge the Stalinist abuses. Only Trotsky and Trotsky-

ism have been able to do that proceeding from the programme: Defence of the conquests of the October Revolution, against the imperialists, and against the counter-revolutionary politics of the Stalinist

Young Socialists and trade unionists

demand free Polish **Trotskyists**

NEWSLETTER REPORTER

■HE scandal of the recent secret trial of Polish teachers and students had to be brought to light through further action within the working-class movement, Gerry Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League, told a demonstration in London last Saturday (May 21).

The demonstration had been called to protest against the jailing of Polish Trotskyists Ludwik Hass, Karol Modzelewski, Kazmierz Badowski, Romuald Smiech, Kuron and others, after a secret trial held recently in Poland.

Over 100 Young Socialists and trade unionists demonstrated with banners, and slogans, demanding the release of the Polish

Trotskyists, from Park Crescent to the Polish Embassy where Comrade Healy, along with Socialist Labour League Central Committee member Cyril Smith, and editor of the Young Socialist paper 'Keep Left' Aileen Jennings, handed a letter to second secretary Mr. Jan Rabs.

This contained the following resolution which the second secretary said he woud send, via the Ambassador, to Prime Minister Wladislaw Gomulka. (The resolution had already been passed unanimously by the demonstrators):

6 This protest demonstration of trade unionists and Young Socialists, meeting in London on May 21, 1966, condemns, as a bureaucratic attack on the international Communist movement, the imprisonment of Ludwik Hass, Karol Modzelewski, Kazimierz Badowski, Romauld Smiech, Kuron, and others. These student and teacher members of the

Polish Workers' Party are charged with no crime, but only with issuing a pamphlet criticising their leaders. As Communists, this was their right and their duty.

The Polish Workers' movement has, in the past, suffered much at the hands of the Stalinist bureaucracy and its policemen. We recall especially the murder in 1938 in Moscow of the entire leadership of the Polish Communist Party, and the imprisonment from 1949-1956 of Wladislaw Gomulka himself.

Like these acts, the jailing of Hass and his comrades is an attack on the international working class and, as such, undermines the existence of the Polish workers' state itself in the face of imperialism.

We demand that these men be released immediately and allowed to fight as com-munists for their principles.9



Comrade Healy said he had explained to the second secretary that the demonstration was not hostile to Poland. It was a demonstration of Communist, Marxist sympathisers who were genuinely concerned about the position in Poland where a secret trial had taken

DISAGREED

He had said that the youth and trade unionists on the demonstration disagreed with the sentiments of another march on the embassy held the previous Sunday in which the anti-Communist, pro-capitalist Polish Socialist Party had participated.

At a meeting before the demonstration, Healy had said that what was happening in Poland was present in Britain. The main difference was that steps had not yet been taken in Britain to stifle the voice of the left by trials and imprisonments.

For the government of Gomulka to hit at the left in a country where reaction in the form of the Catholic church was raising its head was a dis-

'There is a vital principle involved here,' said Healy. 'Once you condone secret trials without adequate legal representation, you have a return to a police state which was in Poland at the time of Stalin.'

Much more had to be done in the campaign to secure the release of the jailed Poles.

ORGANISE MEETING

A large meeting had to be organised at which people prominent in the labour movement opposed to secret arrests, should be invited to speak.

'We have to wage a consistent campaign,' said Healy, 'and tie this up with our own work. Very shortly, if the seamen's strike continues and the struggle develops, there will, no doubt, be a very tense situation. It may well be that members of the working class will be imprisoned.'

LEADERS JAILED

He recalled the 1960 seamen's strike when the 'unofficial' leaders were jailed. The main advantage in Britain was that there was always a trial in such cases.

'But an injury to one is an injury to all. An injury to Polish socialists is an injury to British and U.S. socialists,'

The size of the demonstration, he added, in the face of the campaign for the May 25 lobby of parliament, was a tribute to the work of the Young Socialists in the London

Newsletter Correspondent

THOUSANDS

SLAUGHTERED

LMOST on the same day that news came of the proposed 'peace' talks between Indonesia and Malaysia, the 'Daily Mail' carried a first-hand report which once again confirmed the massacre of Communists only

pondent, Arthur Cook, says that within four weeks in December and January 150,000 people were slaughtered.

When the killing got under way—spurred on by troops from Java, two miles away—every boy over the age of 15 whose father was a known Communist was also killed. This, says Cook, was intended to 'avoid future hatred' among the so-called peace-loving

Japanese engineers building an hotel on Bali told of bodies of men, women and children floating in a village pondsimilar to stories from the mainland where bodies were actually choking up rivers and brooks.

Now there are huge communal graves, already being covered by weeds and the

Cook puts the death toll at one in 17 of the island's 2,500,000 people.

Killed 25

He quotes a 23-year-old youth, employed by the government tourist agency, who admitted killing 25 Communists. It was all very quick. The communists had to be finished,' he said.

When the September 30 coup failed, the massacres began immediately on the main islands. Encouraged by the right-wing elements in the army, Moslem hordes ran riot.

But on Bali, the Hindus said it was against their religion. They said the gods would pinpoint those who had to pay

for their sins. Cook points out that the

Writing from the 'island gods decided to act on the paradise' of Bali, their corressame day that paratroops arrived from Java to kill the Communists in the garrison.

Every single thing connected with the Communists was destroyed. Cook visited a workers' commune near the village of Ubud. It is now a charred ruin and the 600 people who worked it are all

Not on course

The Bali events and, in fact, the whole bloody affair in which half a million Indonesian Communists died, demonstrate the inability of middle-of-the-road rulers like Sukarno to remain on course once the crisis of imperialism deepens. It also demonstrates just

how wrong is the Communist Party's policy of backing such people. Aidit, the Communist Party secretary, who continued this Stalinist policy in playing up to Sukarno, met his death at a summary execution in the Indonesian jungle.
Reaction, in the form of the

right-wing generals, is now re-warded — Wilson's Labour government sent a £1 million gift, and further trade deals with imperialist countries have been arranged.

In return British capitalists hope that the three-year-old 'confrontation' policy will be dropped.

With talk of discussions between Adam Malik, Indonesia's Foreign Minister, and Malaysian deputy premier Tun Abdul Razak, almost fixed, it looks like this period could end.

This would leave Malaysia open to increased exploitation and Indonesia as a fresh area for Western investment and

Statement by Hull seamen's strike committee

Fight for 40-hour week

The Hull branch and disputes committee of the National Union of Seamen gave the following statement to The Newsletter this week:

6 HIS started out as a straight fight against the shipowners, we had no intention of fighting against the government. Our union voted for the prices and incomes policy because we were led to believe it would benefit the lower-paid workers.

Now the shipowners have brought the government into it and they are using the incomes policy against us.

Message to

housewives

British housewives, the Hull

branch of the National

Union of Seamen says it is obvious 'that the RACKET-

EERS are now moving in for a quick kill of the bread-winners' hard - earned

The rising cost of con-

sumer goods, it says, has

been attributed to seamen's strike, and adds:

'Considering that this withdrawal of labour has

only been in operation for

four days [the statement

was issued on May 19], it is

passing strange to us that

this state of affairs could

The government had told

the seamen that their claim

should be kept within the

'norm' of the prices and in-

comes policy.
'But to date they have

taken no action whatsoever

to control the steep rises in

'From a socialist govern-

ment this is indeed strange,

but since the inception of

this policy, it is notable that

the only control which has

been made is in respect of

the wages of the industrial

The message goes on:
.. we feel that it is about

time that this [Prices and

Incomes] Board put as much

pressure on prices as they

do on wages, as this has

been causing great concern

throughout the country.'

workers of the country.'

come about so quickly.'

money'.

prices.

IN A MESSAGE to all

We are prepared to fight the government if we have to. We have no alternative—the government is fighting us.

Wilson has a way out. Under his prices and incomes policy he can give increases to lower-paid and essential workers. But he doesn't want to take this way out.

He has decided to take us on because we are a small union. But we are essential to the economy and we can win the support of other workers.

The Shipping Federation is issuing press statements about seamen earning £1,000 a year. To get this, an A.B. would have to work at least 76 hours a week for a full year!

He gets £14 for a 56-hour week. At 6s. an hour he would have to put in 20 hours overtime to get £6. And these hours can be staggered—a man can work for two hours then be knocked off for two hours. It is up to the skipper how these hours are worked.

Nor do the shipowners tell the public that it is possible for a seaman to work for two or three days on end and get nothing at all!

Seamen can be called for the 'safety of the ship'—such things as cargo adrift, fire or flooding. He can work all night or even two or three days and he may not get anything

We are determined to put an end to things like this and to win decent wages and conditions.9

Method study for GLC sparks

THE Greater London Council called a meeting of all its electricians and mates last Friday (March 13) at Toynbee Hall to explain the time and motion methods to be introduced as part of a bonus scheme.

The head of the time and motion team stated that the unions were satisfied with the scheme and that the Electrical Trades Union in particular was 'pretty keen on this from the beginning'.

On the method of study, he said that works study officers would

that works study officers would attend jobs with a study board, stop watch and two pencils'.

In answer to a question he said that timing would be to the nearest second and would include such things as taking tools out of the toolbox.

Answering another question, he said that no agreement had yet been signed—the scheme was still 'on the table' between the unions and the Greater London Council. Of workers' representatives who had recently spent a week at Esher college, the ETU's education centre, on a week's course on work study, he said: 'Their job is to help us with the study work'!

He added: 'They will also help you to understand what is going

on.

The majority of council electricians, though accepting the bonus scheme, feel dubious about its

One asked why a productivity scheme should be accepted when workers would have less control over the management and any saving from the scheme would probably go to private contractors working for the council instead of to the men. In fact the scheme is not a

question of extra money for the men, but one of an increase in productivity without any increase in basic wages. If scrutinised it can be seen to be on a par with the Devlin Report on the docks and the contracting agreement, which the employers are attempting to impose on all contracting electricians and mates.

GLC electricians must reject this productivity scheme, re-call their representatives; and put in a demand for an immediate wage rise-without strings.



At that time Heffer made very militant.

Contrast then the words

In other words, from the

1950s he had finally got round the classical formula for parliamentary reformist betrayals. It seems from Wilson's reply in the House that on the way Heffer made himself

acceptable to the Labour Party establishment by 'playing a notable part' in the seamen's strike of 1960. His development is a lesson

for the whole movement. Let us hope that the rapid pace of events and the exposure of the Labour government will enable us to sort out all those like Heffer who cover political opportunism with left phrases.

TWO thousand north-east seamen marched through the streets of South Shields last Saturday to show their solidarity in the struggle for the At a meeting after the march, representatives of each

2,000

north-east

seamen

march

Solid for the strike

says Jim Slater

Seamen were there from every port in the north-east from Blyth to Middlesbrough. The South Shields banner headed the march-its first airing since 1926.

40-hour week.

NO RETREAT

The reaction of the seamen to general secretary Hogarth's speech the day before, which had spoken of a compromise settlement, was immediately: No retreat from the 40-hour week!

Newsletter, Jim Slater, an NUS executive committee member. 'The north-east seamen are solid for the strike. It is impossible to change course now. Our target is the 40-hour

of the strike committees pledged full support for a re-

turn to work only when the 40-hour week has been won.

In an interview with The

week. We have no doubt how the strike will end.' When asked about Hogarth's speech, he said: 'The members

will have the last say.'
At the meeting the men were told that the Transport and Salaried Staffs Association, whose members include Minister of Labour Ray Gunter, had voted against a resolution supporting the seamen.

SUPPORT POURS IN

The seamen showed the spirit of their strike when they passed unanimously a resolution pledging support for the TSSA's campaign for a 35hour week!

Resolutions of support have been pouring in, and on Satur-day afternoon the Regional Conference of the Labour Party pledged their suport.

All Young Socialist branches in the area have added their support to the seamen's strike and even though their dona-tions to the South Shields strike fund have so far been refused and returned, the Young Socialist members plan

to raise more money.

Several seamen will be travelling to the May 25 lobby of parliament to seek to change Wilson's attitude to the sea-

All donations for north-east seamen should b headquarters, Mill Dam, South

All labour movement

Twelve Constructional Engineering Union members from the Grimethorpe colliery site, Yorkshire, Hull seamen, students from Hull and Leeds, miners from Glasshoughton colliery, Yorkshire, a shop steward from George Manns, Leeds, a delegate from Rotherham Boilermakers, a shop steward from Shardlows, Sheffield, and students from the Sheffield University Labour, Marxist and Communist

Glasgow seamen, Scottish ETU members, and students from Edinburgh and Glasgow; From the north-east came

Delegates from the Birmingham AEU joined unofficial representatives from Massey Fergusons, Bristol Siddeley's and with Nottingham

employed and shop stewards from the Lucas factory on

London contingent along with students from the West Ham Technical College, young workers from Ford, Dagenham,

Progress of a radical

From page 1

From page 1

people.

Andrew

much play of the slogan, 'The Strike is Mightier than the Vote', all of which sounded

written by Mr. Heffer in a special article written for Tribune' last month, some 10 years later, where he said that he regarded parliament as an instrument for transforming our society into a socialist one.

revolutionary phrases of the

In the house

Joe Harper, Castleford's MP,

asked about the seamen's strike, said it was a matter of

sitting down and waiting for it to end. He said he thought

there was no need for strikes.

Everything could be settled over the table. He did not

know about the seamen's case

until they came out on strike.

only to get food into the country and were in the in-

terests of the people. He was

voting for the Prices and

Incomes Bill, because it was

also in the interests of the

Hogarth was wrong to take on

the state, but added that he

was fully behind the seamen

Smethwick's bearded MP

Faulds thought

The Emergency Powers, were

and would vote against clauses of imprisonment. He was for the nationalization of the shipping industry, and would raise it if he had the chance.

Sid Bidwell, MP for Southall, Middx., said a large number of MPs were opposing Wilson on the question of the seamen, but added: 'Do you want me to make an heroic one-man

Bessie Braddock, Liverpool Exchange, was not available to the lobbyists.

John Rankin, MP for Govan, Glasgow, said he would make up his mind tomorrow on the question of the Emergency Powers, when he had seen the proposals. 'What I say will be determined by what the government tells me; he said.

Croxteth, Liverpool, MP, Ogden agreed that there should be nationalization of the docks. But there were a lot of complicated things about the docks as in the shipping industry. He did not think workers would be able to run industry.

He agreed that no officials of the docks unions had raised the questions of conditions or voiced any opinion about the docks to him.

Joe Cubbin, chairman of the Merseyside Portworkers' Committee, told how workers had run supplies during the war.

Dave Coventry, an AEU shop steward, asked Ogden for his position on the Prices and Incomes Bill.

Ogden said as a whole, he agreed with the Bill. 'We will be putting through amendments to strike out the penalty clauses; it will not stop you from striking for higher wages, No I will not vote against it.

YS LOBBY From page 1

Tower

Hill, seamen's officials inveigled some seamen away from the march, offering them food and free underground tickets across London, along with an invitation to meet their union

A coach was hired later at a cost of £50 by someone anxious to keep Liverpool seamen separate from the people with whom they had travelled to London London. Some seamen took up the

offers. They returned later to the Young Socialist march and lobby. But the whole impact and political significance of the whole day put paid to this minor set back which, in fact, further exposed the political line up between the Communist Party and

the right wing.

After the demonstration, the marchers, drenched by the incessant drizzle, but ready for battle, went on to parliament.

Among those present in the lobby, though not associated with those from the march, was Hogarth, also seeing MPs. He had been forced into his lobby by

pressure from the seamen. In fact, despite the press and TV blackout before and after the lobby, its true meaning had its reactions on all sections of the labour movement, resulting in the splitting tactics of the Communist Party and right wing.

The fact that they failed miserably illustrates, once again, that the only road for the working class is on clear cut Marxist

The lobbyists later went on to a highly successful meeting at the Porchester Hall (to be fully reported next week), speakers included s seamen, dockers, trade unionists and Socialist Labour League national secretary, Gerry Healy.

Reaction of marchers

By Newsletter Reporters

On the march, dockers and seamen-young and old-told News-letter reporters of the conditions they have to work under.

An elderly seaman from Glasgow, who landed in Poole last week and signed off, said:

'This is a fight for survival as far as the 40-hour week is con-cerned. I went back to Glasgow last week and attended union meetings. The men are solid behind the demand for the 40

'This demonstration will defi-nitely go towards helping this.' He told how he worked for five months on a ship during last winter, doing 56 hours a week,

which meant working weekends. Indian seamen on board were resting on Saturdays and Sundays. 'They have a 46-hour week, and they're supposed to be a backward race,' he commented. Seamen, he said, had been told they could not have a pay rise because of competition from

other countries. But he knew of many foreign seamen, like the Swedes, who were on a 40-hour 'How is it their shipowners can afford it, and ours can't?' he

An 18-year-old assistant stew-Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper Published by The Newsletter, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4 Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), r.o. 180 Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4 ard who had been a seaman for two years on tankers said he received £13 a week for 56 hours. He had spent two years of his early training at a school in Gravesend.

'It doesn't mean much,' he said 'It is only meant to discipline you. That's all you are there for

A Merseyside seaman who had been on ships for 25 years and had signed off of a Brazil voyage when the strike began said he received £14 a week.

'Everybody is against the 56-hour week,' he said. 'Nobody likes it. 'I am pleased about this lobby.

It is putting on a good show and also shows we mean business.' A 17½-year-old boy rating from

Liverpool said he received only £23 a month. He had been on ships for 14 months. He was trained at the Alfred Holt school in Liverpool. They just show you how to wash dishes and what will happen on board ship,'

He resented the fact that boys his own age on Australian coasters sometimes received £40 a week-'I've seen a pay slip,'

'They also get a day off when on board, and don't work Satur-days and Sundays,' he added. Another Liverpool youth, who had just completed an eight-week catering course at Gravesend, complained of the lack of train-'The school is just to get some

discipline in you. I didn't learn much at the school, only how to lay a table and things like that.' Both youths felt there would be a crisis if the union leadership came to a compromise over

their demands. Another young seaman, a 17he had been on picket duty every day at the Royal Docks, London, since the strike began. He said he fully supported the demonstration and agreed with it.

A Liverpool man who had been a docker for 32 years said the demonstration was 'for a good cause'—it was telling Wilson not to impose an incomes freeze, but to nationalize the docks and

shipping. He said that £27 million had been earned on the Liverpool

The message of these Young Socialists passing the London Docks is clear.

docks last year.

'What has the docker seen of that?' he asked. 'I only get £15 for working a 44-hour week, but an an average is £12 10s. and a 48-hour week.'

Dockers, seamen and other workers had put Wilson where he is, 'and now he is up against This government is not a Labour government. A Labour government would not do such a

thing to the working man.' There had been a lot of modernisation on the docks—'for the ships, not the men. 'We are still doing hard graft down in the ship's hold, and we

don't get boots or oilskins in bad

conditions,' he said.

There was night work on the docks when men had to be on duty for eight hours. 'We are not supposed to have a tea break, but we do, and we have to sit in the sheds to drink it. There's no canteen, of course.'

Chairman of the Merseyside Portworkers' Committee, Joe Cubbin, said he had met some wartime friends when he visited the Royal docks earlier in the

one lad told me I hadn't changed much. He used to have a full head of hair, but he's bald now, and bent.'
Cubbin claimed that the piece-

work done on the London docks was making men old at 45. This made Merseyside dockers the more determined in their fight for their rights and better wages and conditions against the

recommendations of the Devlin

Commission. An engine room man who had walked off the 'Edinburgh Castle' in Southampton last week with the rest of the crew just before the ship was about to sail said the demonstration and lobby was

'just what we wanted'. He said he was receiving £53 a month for working 56-hours a week in the engine rooms.

'And then they blame us for wanting the 40-hour week,' he A 19-year-old deck hand from the Esso Tanker 'Exeter' said he

and the 28 other crew had walked off the ship three days ago and flown home from Marseilles. His duties not only meant working eight hours a day, but also one night a week. He receives £49 10s a month.

on lobby By Newsletter Reporters from all over Britain were:

AMONG THOSE on the march

societies.

seamen, transport workers, and AEU and ETU members.

Pressed Steel, Coventry, along Leicester, Oxford and Nottingham students. From the north-west came dockers, seamen, students, un-

Merseyside. Royal group dockers, seamen from all sections, tenants, Lambeth Trades Council members and AEU members were in the

and AEU members from Winters' Engineering, Croydon, who are out on strike. The bulk of all the contingents was the Young Socialists,

many of them representing their own unions, universities and colleges.