WITHOUT COMMENT

In recent weeks 23 company chairmen have had pay rises of over 10 per cent, some as high as 50 per cent. These pay increases have received no publicity and have not been abused as inflationary by leading Tories.

To put the 50s rise recently won by local authority manual workers into perspective, look at Lord Kearton, Chairman of Courtaulds. Last year he had £22,525 (£433 a week) and this year he gets £30,025 (£578 a week). His pay increase of £145 a week is more than the increase the council werker gets for a whole year.

Labour Research Department
Fact Service,
November 21

In the next 20 years the population of England is expected to increase by 17 per cent . . .

New Society, November 19

STATE POLL SETBACK FOR BRANDT
Headline, Daily Telegraph, November 23.

BAVARIA RESULT GOOD FOR BRANDT COALITION
Headline, The Guardian, November 23.

BAVARIANS EJECT EXTREME RIGHT
Headline, The Times, November 23

STRAUSS ELECTION SHOCK FOR CHANCELLOR BRANDT
Headline, Daily Express, November 23

ITALY
On the way to a popular front?

THE Centre-Left still rules in Italy, but Right-wingers in the coalition continue to guard against social progress. The London representative of the socialist daily paper, Avanti, and of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), Gino Bianco discusses the prospects of a Left-wing coalition of socialists and communists. " There is no chance at present . . . but the PSI is pursuing a strategy of movement. . ."

by GINO BIANCO

majority has tended to disappear. The reason is that there are always a sufficient number of deputies belonging to the "moderate club" within the coalition prepared to suggest amendments aimed either at cooling down the proposed bill or at delaying indefinitely any decision. In the last resort these people vote against reforms or abstain.

The absolute refusal to replace these volatile votes with support from the Communist parliamentary group inevitably condemns the progressive forces inside the Centre-Left coalition to permanent inaction. The necessary result has been political stagnation.

crusade. These elements are exceedingly dismayed by the joint action of the three big union federations (CGIL, CSLI and UIL), alarmed at the economic situation and deeply concerned with the stability of the *lire*.

Finally, they are incensed by the PSI's readiness to join the Communist Party (PCI) in forming regional and other local administrations, notably in Tuscany and Emilia.

The point is that if the socialists do not enter such alliances with the PCI, many assemblies will be without a majority. Rome would then appoint a prefect to run these regions and municipalities until the next elections, and the whole decentralisation aim would be negated.

It is probably true that the country can be administered more efficiently if the same forces that make up the central Government are in command throughout the whole political apparatus. However the demand for Centre-Left "homogeneity" at both government level and local level (the practice of refusing to push a measure if it can only be passed with Communist support) has been used by the Right-wing of the coalition as a manoeuvre for disposing of any policy aimed at achieving social change.

Confronted with important reforms, even though they are tabled in Parliament by the Government, the Centre-Left

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